VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

By John Gilman

Issue 66 (November - December 2016)

The 2015 Burgundy Vintage: A Very Ripe and Heterogeneous Year



William Fèvre Chablis Champs Royaux 2015

The nose is pure and stylish, wafting from the glass in a mix of apple, a touch of tangerine, flinty minerality and spring flowers. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and juicy, with fine focus and impressive backend grip and energy. A lovely example.



90+

William Fèvre Chablis Domaine 2015

The bouquet is deeper and more refined, wafting from the glass in a mélange of lime, green apple, a touch of oyster shell, chalky soil and fruit blossoms. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very nicely balanced, with a good core, fine focus and impressive length and grip on the vibrant and nascently complex finish. This is really a serious example of AC Chablis this year!



92+ POINTS

William Fèvre Chablis Montmains Domaine 2015

The bouquet is quite minerally in profile (particularly for a 2015), wafting from the glass in a mix of apple, pear, white flowers, a touch of anise, complex minerality and white flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite racy, with a fine core, lovely focus and grip and a long, vibrant and complex finish. This is really good.





William Fèvre Chablis Vaillons Domaine 2015

The bouquet delivers a lovely blend of pear, tangerine, chalky soil tones and a topnote of orange blossoms. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and really rock solid at the core, with impressively racy acidity, lovely focus and balance and a long, vibrant finish.





William Fèvre Chablis Fourchaume 2015

The 2015 Fourchaume from Domaine William Fèvre is flat out delicious, jumping from the glass in a vibrant blend of pear, apple, chalky soil tones, lime blossoms and just a whisper of pastry cream in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and generous on the attack, with a fine core, very good focus and grip and very impressive backend mineral drive and lift on the long finish.





William Fèvre Chablis Montée de Tonnerre Domaine 2015

The 2015 Montée de Tonnerre chez Fèvre is absolutely stellar and it is a pity there will not be a customary quantity to go around to a thirsty world this year! The wine has cut, grip and an electric personality that is very rare in this vintage, as it soars from the glass in a blaze of lime, apple, a touch of tangerine, crystalline minerality and a topnote of citrus blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and driven by a blade of minerality, with a rock solid core, laser-like focus and great grip on the very long, vibrant finish. Great juice.





William Fèvre Chablis Vaulorent Domaine 2015

The 2015 Vaulorent from William Fèvre is equally superb, offering up a deep, pure and nascently complex bouquet of pear, lime, orange blossoms, chalky minerality, a touch of paraffin and a topnote of dried flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and nicely primary in personality, with a rock solid core, impeccable focus and grip, bright acids and a very long, focused and classy finish. Another stellar bottle in the making!



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William Fèvre Chablis Bougros Domaine 2015

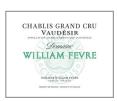
The vineyard of Bougros can often produce a more forward grand cru, but the 2015 from Domaine William Fèvre has plenty of cut and grip to go along with its beautiful fruit tones. The wine wafts from the glass in a classy mix of golden delicious apples, pears, lemon, a hint of the acacia blossoms to come, chalky minerality and just a whisper of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure, with a great core, fine mineral drive and a very long, vibrant and racy finish.





William Fèvre Chablis Vaudésir Domaine 2015

The 2015 Chablis "Vaudésir" from Domaine William Fèvre is another lovely bottle, with a touch of exotica on the nose this year, but an utterly classic palate impression. The bouquet delivers a constellation of pear, lime, a touch of passion fruit, chalky minerality and apple blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with lovely purity on the attack, bright acids and fine backend mineral drive on the long and racy finish. Fine, fine juice.





William Fèvre Chablis Valmur Domaine 2015

The 2015 Valmur from Didier Séguier is utterly classic in profile and one of the most reserved and racy wines in the cellar this year. The top flight bouquet delivers a fine array of pear, beeswax, just a touch of tangerine, chalky minerality, white flowers and a whisper of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and impeccably balanced, with a fine sense of reserve, a rock solid core, lovely soil signature and superb backend cut and grip on the very long and minerally finish. This will need some time to blossom, but will be one of the wines of the vintage.





William Fèvre Chablis les Preuses Domaine 2015

The wine is gorgeously complex on both the nose and palate out of the blocks, soaring from the glass in a blend of apple, pear, beeswax, chalky minerality, a touch of tangerine and a topnote of dried flowers. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, young and very mineral in profile, with a superb core, laser-like focus and a very, very long and racy finish.





William Fèvre Chablis Bougros Côte de Bouguerots Domaine 2015

Given how superb the 2015 "regular" Bougros is this year from Domaine Fèvre, I have very high expectations for the Côte de Bouguerots and they were not disappointed! The bouquet is deep, complex and very refined, delivering a fine constellation of green apple, pear, lime, crystalline, chalky minerality, spring flowers and a bit of flintiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is very pure, full-bodied and utterly svelte in profile, with a rock solid core, great cut and grip and outstanding focus on the long, pure and seamlessly balanced finish. This is young and absolutely stunning!





William Fèvre Chablis les Clos Domaine 2015

Due to the hail damage in the domaine's smaller parcel in this vineyard, overall yields were only thirty-five hectoliters per hectare in 2015, but the wine has turned out utterly brilliant and is the best of the range this year at Domaine William Fèvre. The bouquet is very pure and nascently complex, delivering a magical blend of apple, pear, flinty minerality, white flowers, wet stones and a youthful topnote of citrus peel. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, racy and very, very minerally, with a great core, laser-like focus and stunning length and grip on the vibrant and still quite primary finish. The complexity here is going to be outstanding.

