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NEAL MARTIN



WILLIAM FEVRE  
GRANDS VINS DE CHABLIS

## William Fèvre 2014 Vintage

### -PREMIERS CRUS-

**89-91 pts. Vaillons Domaine** The 2014 Chablis 1er Cru Vaillons comes from 3.5 hectares located in the heart of Vaillons and it is where William Fèvre's harvest always begins since it's one of the earliest maturing parcels. It has a leesy, well-defined nose with plenty of green apple and citrus fruit. The palate is more rounded in the mouth, especially compared to the Montmains, harmonious and I suspect it will be more approachable than many of Fèvre's 14s. This is fine and should drink well over the next 5 to 7 years.

**89-91 pts. Fourchaume** The 2014 Chablis 1er Cru Fourchaume is located in Vaurorent, eight parcels that are selected for two different bottlings, the other labeled "Vaurorent" (see separate note). The nose is backward and sultry, clearly not wishing to come out and play like the other Premier Crus. The palate is fresh and mineral on the entry with just a touch of bitter lemon. It is nicely balanced, perhaps not quite as long as the Chablis Vaurorent, but lingers nicely in the mouth.

**90-92 pts. Montmains Domaine** The 2014 Chablis 1er Cru Montmains comes from three parcels in Butteaux, Les Fôrets and Montmains. With 40% of the crop vinified and matured for 6 months in used oak, it has a strict and linear, oyster shell-tinged bouquet that is nicely defined. The palate is linear and strict with piercing acidity. This is very penetrating in the mouth, slightly saline with a tingle of lemongrass on the finish. This should be very fine once in bottle.

**91-93 pts. Montée de Tonnerre Domaine** The 2014 Chablis 1er Cru Montée de Tonnerre, which is vinified in 50% barrel and 50% stainless steel for six months before maturing in stainless steel only, comes from three lieux-dits with the Premier Cru. It has a very precise, harmonious, feminine bouquet that gently unfolds in the glass, just a touch of shucked oyster shell in the background. The palate is medium-bodied with crisp acidity, a mouth-watering salinity in the mouth that compels another sip. This is a very well crafted Montée de Tonnerre.

**92-94 pts. Vaurorent Domaine** The 2014 Chablis 1er Cru Vaurorent, which head winemaker Didier Séguier described as "a baby grand cru," was a little cloudier than the Fourchaume in the glass. It has a complex nose with a touch of grilled almond and dried apricot, well defined but just a little sultry at the moment. The palate is relatively rich on the entry compared to the other Premier Crus and this lends roundness and suppleness in the mouth. It gently builds with great precision, hints of lime and apricot flourishing on the peacock's tail of a finish. This is one of William Fèvre's best wines this year.

~GRANDS CRUS~

**89-91** pts. **Vaudésir Domaine** The 2014 Chablis Grand Cru Vaudésir has a complex bouquet, touches of hazelnut and grilled almond infusing the citrus fruit, a little richer than the Bougros at the moment. The palate is crisp and fresh with a fine line of acidity, although it does not quite possess the tension, the electricity of the finest examples that I have tasted from the vintage. Perhaps saving something for after bottling? Let's see.

**91-93** pts. **Les Preuses Domaine** The 2014 Chablis Grand Cru Les Preuses comes from two parcels, one steep and east facing and the other southwest-facing on the flatter part. This is quite reserved at the moment, austere and backward, sultry even with light granitic/flint scents that emerge with time. The palate is more generous, you might argue more "Preuses" with dried apricot and orange zest, good weight on the finish but without the pizzazz of the nascent Vaudésir at the moment.

**91-93** pts. **Bougros Domaine** The 2014 Chablis Grand Cru Bougros, is vinified 60% in used wood where it matured for six months before being transferred to stainless steel. It has a showy, generous bouquet with dewy Granny Smith apple, freshly sliced pear and chalk-scented nose. There is no holding back here. The palate is fresh and crisp, very harmonious, not powerful as such, but displaying admirable precision on the finish. I would agree with Didier Ségieur in that this forms one of the more approachable, less-challenging Grand Crus.

**93-95** pts. **Valmur Domaine** The 2014 Chablis Valmur Grand Cru comes from south-facing vines. It has a crisp, slightly austere, stony bouquet that suggests more cellaring will be necessary compared to Bougros. The palate is fresh on the entry, very well defined with hints of orange sorbet and citrus fruit, a fine line of acidity and boundless energy toward the focused finish. This cocks a snook (sneers) at the Vaudésir at the moment. Superb.

**93-95** pts. **Les Clos Domaine** The 2014 Chablis Grand Cru Les Clos is 70% vinified in oak barrels for six months before maturation in stainless steel only. It has a very precise but powerful bouquet with lemon rind and flint scents, though it takes time to really open up. The palate is fresh and crisp with lime and apricot on the entry. The acidity is sharp and penetrating, gently building toward an intense, bitter-lemon finish that is elegant and refined. This is very impressive.

**93-95** pts. **Bougros Côte Bouguerots Domaine** The 2014 Chablis Grand Cru Bougros Côte Bouguerots has an extremely focused, mineral-dense bouquet that is "vrai Chablis." There is a strong marine influence here. The palate is fresh and vibrant with lemon zest, lime, minerals and a crescendo of power toward the finish. Around 70% is vinified in oak and matured for six months before transferring into stainless steel, and this fills out, adds volume to the finish. There is a pleasant bitter note right on the finish. This should be superb.