

*Dance the Quickstep: Burgundy 2020 (Dec 2021) by Neal Martin*

## Vintage 2020

*I caught up with winemaker Frédéric Weber at this Beaune-based producer, and he made a selection for me to taste, since I did not have time to go through their 70-odd cuvées. As usual, Weber was armed with plenty of useful information about the growing season. “The 2020 vintage was warm and dry,” he explained. “The winter was humid and warmer than usual. Bud break was sooner than 2011, in the middle of March, and for the first time we started de-budding on April 14. The flowering was observed around May 8–9 in Meursault and Puligny, and mi-fleuraison was May 15. From June to August, the average temperature was hot, but the main factor was not the heat but the dryness. In this respect, I can’t say that the clay soil suffered less than the limestone. We had 1.7°C higher summer temperatures, 300 more hours of sun and 200mm less rain than average, but 2020 is closer to 2016 in style, with high maturity. You had to taste the berries to find the right order for the harvest. A north wind accentuated the drought, and the Pinot Noir suffered more than the Chardonnay, though I did no effeuillage [de-leafing]. I decided to start picking on August 19, the earliest since 1731. In 2003 it was two days later, but that was a very hot vintage with a two-week heat wave, whereas in 2020, you had high maturity and slow concentration. The hang-time was 84 days – you don’t really get the 100 days any more. We picked only in the morning and rented a refrigerated unit to keep the fruit cool. It was important to harvest the Pinot Noir sooner, and it was cropped around 28hl/ha, less than expected as there was less juice inside the berry, while the skin was thick and the pips were rich in tannins. So we did a short 10- to 12-day maceration, just punching down the cap at the end of fermentation. The balance is good between alcohol (13.0°–13.5°) and high levels of tartaric, pH around 3.5 and 3.6. The color is like a Syrah! The Côte de Beaune has around 30% whole cluster while the Côte de Nuits has around 50%. Also, there is a huge difference between the terroirs, and much more energy. The big surprise is the right, as the profile is so classic. For the whites, I racked with a lot of lees in barrel to protect the natural freshness and natural acidity.” The highlights in this range were a superb Meursault-Charmes and two great Chevalier-Montrachets. Overall, I preferred Bouchard Père’s whites to reds, the latter perhaps showing slightly more confit-like black fruit instead of red, though I did very much admire the Chambertin, Bonnes-Mares, Le Corton and Nuit Saint-Georges Les Cailles.*

### Beaune 2020

The maiden 2020 Beaune Village comes from a vineyard that was regrafted in 2015 and 2016 with Chardonnay over Pinot Noir. It has a light honeycomb and orange zest scented bouquet. The palate is well balanced with a touch of toffee apple on the entry, maybe a little low in acidity with a slightly honeyed finish. Fine, but probably for early consumption. **86-88 points**



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### Meursault Les Clous 2020

The 2020 Meursault Les Clous has a fresh bouquet with lifted yellow plum and white flower scents - very pretty. The palate is well balanced with a fine bead of acidity, taut and fresh, quite tangy towards the finish that just needs to show more tension. But this is enjoyable.

**88-90 points**

### Beaune Clos Saint-Landry Premier Cru Monopole 2020

The 2020 Beaune 1er Cru Clos Saint-Landry Blanc 1er Cru has a lively lime cordial scented bouquet with touches of Clementine and a touch of saffron, quite playful. The palate is well balanced with a fine bead of acidity, good weight with quite a bit of extract on the peachy finish. Probably more for early drinking. **88-90 points**

### Meursault Le Porusot Premier Cru 2020

The 2020 Meursault Les Porusots 1er Cru has a refined bouquet with touches of Clementine, peach skin and a light waxy aromas, hints of pressed white flower emerging with time. The palate is citric on the entry, touches of Clementine and limoncello, a dab of spice towards the finish. Fine, although the Bouchères has a touch more elegance. **90-92 points**

### Meursault Perrières Premier Cru 2020

The 2020 Meursault Les Perrières 1er Cru has a detailed nose with citrus fruit and flint aromas unfolding in the glass. This has a "steady" feel to it, aromatics that don't wish to create too much of a fuss. The palate is balanced with good weight, fine acidity, quite saline but like other Perrieres, it is missing a bit of tension and mineralité on the finish. **90-92 points**

### Beaune du Château Premier Cru 2020

The 2020 Beaune du Château Blanc 1er Cru has a light and fresh apple blossom and orange pith scented bouquet, just a hint of camomile in the background. The palate is medium-bodied with a zesty opening, fine acidity, quite lively with a touch of stem ginger towards the finish. This is worth seeking out. **90-92 points**

### Meursault Genevrières Premier Cru 2020

The 2020 Meursault Les Genevrières 1er Cru has just a touch of reduction on the nose, but there is clearly good fruit concentration here, a light waxy aromas emerging with time. The palate is well balanced with a honeyed texture, lightly spiced, riper than the Charmes but without quite the same delineation. **91-93 points**

### Meursault Les Bouchères Premier Cru 2020

The 2020 Meursault Bouchères 1er Cru has a perfumed, quite floral bouquet with yellow flowers and light peach skin aromas. The palate is well balanced with a fine bead of acidity, tensile, saline and quite intense towards the finish that shows a little more elegance than other cuvées. Very fine. **91-93 points**



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### Meursault Les Gouttes d'Or Premier Cru 2020

The 2020 Meursault Les Gouttes d'Or 1er Cru has a more complex bouquet than the Bouchères with lanolin, dried honey and hazelnut aromas that unfold in the glass. The palate is well balanced with a zest opening: pink grapefruit, orange zest and a touch of spice, this has good weight on the finish. Fine. **91-93 points**

### Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru 2020

The 2020 Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru has a well-defined, tightly-packed bouquet that demanded some coaxing from the glass. The palate is well balanced with fine acidity, maybe just a bit too straightforward on the mid-palate but with a pleasant waxy-textured finish. Drink over the next 12-15 years. **91-93 points**

### Meursault Charmes Premier Cru 2020

The 2020 Meursault Charmes 1er Cru has the finest aromatics of Bouchard Père's Meursault with delineated, very focused citrus fruit, walnut and light white flower scents. The palate is very well balanced with a fine acidic spice, a clever touch of reduction with very good persistence on the finish. Bon vin. **93-95 points**

### Montrachet Grand Cru 2020

The 2020 Montrachet Grand Cru is very well defined on the nose with Clementines, crushed stone, a touch of grapefruit and petrichor. It unfolds beautifully in the glass. The palate is well balanced with a slightly waxy opening, a judicious touch of spice, quite tangy towards the finish with a long ginger-tinged aftertaste. Powerful, for certain, but I might just prefer the Chevalier La Cabotte in the long-run. **93-95 points**

### Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru 2020

The 2020 Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru offers vivid scents: pine nuts, hazelnut, a touch of lanolin and plenty of citrus fruit that burst from the glass. The palate is very well balanced with fine poised, quite bright and energetic with a judicious touch of spice towards the finish. This is very promising. **94-96 points**

### Chevalier-Montrachet La Cabotte Grand Cru 2020

The 2020 Chevalier-Montrachet La Cabotte Grand Cru, which was undergoing its élevage in foudres, has a very sophisticated bouquet with mineral-rich citrus fruit, hints of hazelnut and lanolin. The palate is well balanced with fine acidity. There is a little more density and concentration compared to the regular Chevalier-Montrachet and though there is a patina of oak to be subsumed, this will surely age with style. Excellent. (Readers should note that no 2021 will be produced due to frost and there will just be a tiny amount of Chevalier-Montrachet.)

**95-97 points**

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### Savigny-lès-Beaune Les Lavières Premier Cru 2020

The 2020 Savigny-lès-Beaune Les Lavières 1er Cru has a deep colour. It has an attractive, mulberry and tertiary scented bouquet with a touch of wild mint. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, fleshy red berry fruit, fine depth with a soy-tinged finish. Probably early drinking. **87-89 points**

### Beaune Clos de la Mousse Premier Cru Monopole 2020

The 2020 Beaune Clos de la Mousse 1er Cru, a monopole on dense clay soils, offers dark chocolate infused red fruit on the nose. The palate is medium-bodied with grain tannins, slightly tarry in style with that dark chocolate resurfacing towards the chalky-textured finish. Fine.

**87-89 points**

### Beaune du Château Premier Cru 2020

The 2020 Beaune du Château 1er Cru has a lively bouquet with brambly red berry fruit, wild mint, just a light garrigues-like scent. The palate is smooth and pliant with fine acidity, quite mineral-driven with touches of citrus peel and black pepper furnishing the harmonious finish. Very suave. **88-90 points**

### Beaune Les Teurons Premier Cru 2020

The 2020 Beaune Les Teurons 1er Cru comes from 2.3-hectares on steep slopes that is rich in limestone. Black plum, dark chocolate and touches of date comes together on the quite plush nose. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit, flecks of white pepper with just a light bitter edge on the finish. Enjoy this over 12-15 years. **90-92 points**

### Gevrey-Chambertin Les Cazetiers Premier Cru 2020

The 2020 Gevrey-Chambertin Les Cazetiers 1er Cru has a melange of red and black fruit on the nose, well-defined with white pepper and clove scents. The palate is medium-bodied with the stem addition quite apparent on the peppery entry, fine depth, even if I am seeking more red fruit on the finish. **90-92 points**

### Nuits-Saint-Georges Les Porrets-Saint-Georges Premier Cru 2020

The 2020 Nuits Saint-Georges Les Porrets-Saint-Georges 1er Cru has a high-toned, cassis scented bouquet with just a hint of camphor. The palate is very smooth and harmonious, quite sorbet-like with black cherries and boysenberry fruit. I appreciate the structure here, quite sensual in style with black pepper on the finish. **90-92 points**

### Volnay En Chevret Premier Cru 2020

The 2020 Volnay Les Chevrets 1er Cru comes from a small parcel close to Les Caillerets. It has a well-defined nose with dark berry fruit, a touch of mint-chocolate and violet. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, fine acidity, silky smooth in texture with a slightly confit-like finish. Give this 3-5 years in bottle. **90-92 points**

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### Volnay Les Caillerets Ancienne Cuvée Carnot Premier Cru 2020

The 2020 Volnay Les Caillerets "Ancienne Cuvée Carnot" 1er Cru has a lively dark cherry, cranberry and mint-scented bouquet with light figgy aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit, a little chewiness on the entry but there is fine acidity and a cohesive peppery finish. It seems to firm up in the glass, implying it will require some bottle age. **90-92 points**

### Clos Vougeot Grand Cru 2020

The 2020 Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru has a ripe redcurrant and kirsch scented nose, quite rich and opulent in style. The palate is powerful and dense, quite sturdy with a grippy, slightly dry finish. I would just like to see more elegance in this Clos de Vougeot - a bit stocky at the moment. **90-92 points**

### Echézeaux Grand Cru 2020

The 2020 Echézeaux Grand Cru, which comes from En Orveaux, is fresh and delineated on the nose, touches of mint and dark chocolate infusing the dark berry fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe, quite dense tannins. This is quite a "compact" Echézeaux, grippy and spicy, just missing a little elegance on the finish. **90-92 points**

### Volnay Clos des Chênes Premier Cru 2020

The 2020 Volnay Clos des Chênes 1er Cru ripened a little later than the other Volnays this year. The nose is fresh and nicely delineated on the nose, scents of black cherries, bilberry and a dash of white pepper. The palate is medium-bodied with fine delineation, gentle grip, quite peppery with a Pommard-like finish. Noble. **91-93 points**

### Volnay Taille Pieds Premier Cru 2020

The 2020 Volnay Taillepieds 1er Cru has a lovely spicy bouquet with clove and white pepper scents infusing the dark berry fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with fleshy ripe tannins, taut and crisp, quite spicy and grippy towards the finish. Good potential. **91-93 points**

### Nuits-Saint-Georges Les Cailles Premier Cru 2020

The 2020 Nuits Saint-Georges Les Cailles 1er Cru is more complex on the nose compared to the Les Porrets with greater mineralité and tension. The palate is medium-bodied, the whole bunch a little more apparent and lending pepperiness with black pepper, firm grip on the finish. It's just a little "serious" at the moment. **91-93 points**

### Beaune Grèves Vigne de l'Enfant Jésus Premier Cru 2020

The 2020 Beaune Les Grèves Vigne de L'Enfant Jesus 1er Cru has a lovely, sensual red berry, rose petal and mulberry scented nose that has fine delineation. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannins, a little more tension than the Les Teurons with a saline finish. This is a well crafted Beaune. **91-93 points**



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### Le Corton Grand Cru 2020

The 2020 Le Corton Grand Cru has a perfumed nose with red berry fruit, orange zest and a touch of white pepper. The palate is smooth on the entry, quite dense black fruit laced with black pepper that leads to quite a dense finish that will require some bottle age. **91-93 points**

### Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru 2020

The 2020 Chambertin Clos-de-Bèze Grand Cru comes from purchased grapes that Bouchard harvest themselves. It has a fresh black cherry and boysenberry jam scented bouquet, just a touch of warm alcohol here. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, quite dense and lightly spiced. It feels quite muscular towards the finish where I would like to see more light amongst the shade. A bit dense and brawny. **91-93 points**

### Bonnes-Mares Grand Cru 2020

The 2020 Bonnes-Mares Grand Cru, which has 50% whole bunch, shows quite a lot of stems on the nose, black pepper and clove plus brown spices infusing the dark berry fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-boned tannins, lightly peppered with quite a refined finish not unlike the Chambertin. This constitutes one of the best reds from Bouchard Père this vintage.

**93-95 points**

### Chambertin Grand Cru 2020

The 2020 Chambertin Grand Cru, picked 30 August, has a lovely, complex and well-defined bouquet with brambly red berry fruit, white pepper and clove. The palate is well balanced with a fine spine of acidity, tensile and energetic with a touch of white pepper and clove on the finish. This is a very impressive Chambertin. **94-96 points**