

January, 17th 2022 – Tasted by Charles Curtis MW

Vintage 2020

Beaune Domaine 2020

This blend across a number of different village-level lieux-dits in Beaune has a nice citrusy edge. In 2020 the grapes were picked only in the morning because of the heat. The richness of the year comes through in the ripe apple and hazelnut aromas and in the breadth on the palate, but the balancing acidity is actually quite interesting. Lovely wine at this level. **Score 92**

Beaune du Château Premier Cru Domaine 2020

This Beaune premier cru is blended across five different lieux-dits totaling 10ha, including Les Aigrots, Les Tuvilains, Les Teurons, Sur les Grèves, and Les Sizies. Fermented and aged with 15% new casks, which marks the wine a bit at this point. The fruit character is more ripe apple and butter than citrus; all the same, the wine has good freshness to bring it into balance on the palate. The wood should fade with time, making this a wine for mid-term cellaring at least.. **Score 92**

Meursault Genevrières Premier Cru Domaine 2020

Bouchard is the owner of two parcels of Genevrières that total 2.65 ha: 1.65ha on the thin soils of the steeper part of the slope that gives a more mineral result, and another hectare below that in deeper soils. The combination produces a classic Meursault with a ripe apple fruit, notes of butter and hazelnut, and a rich, dense structure but always (even in 2020) a pleasantly saline minerality. **Score 94**

Meursault Les Gouttes d'Or Premier Cru Domaine 2020

The grapes for this wine are from the half-hectare on the border with Porusot. Despite its mid-slope location, this ripens late. The fruit is pressed as whole clusters and fermented in cask, with no more than 15% new. Rather surprisingly for the vintage, there is a lovely green apple and citrus fruit on the nose here and surprising freshness on the palate, although the wine never loses its typical Meursault richness and density. **Score 94**



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Beaune Clos Saint-Landry Premier Cru Monopole Domaine 2020

At mid-slope underneath the Montagne Saint-Désiré near the southern extremity of the appellation, Bouchard has almost two hectares on this relatively flat site with marly soil that ripens fruit well. There is a nice balance between the apricot and citrus tendencies on the nose, which is less marked by the wood, yet still reveals spice, hazelnut, and brioche notes. The texture is dense without being in any way heavy. **Score 94**

Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru Domaine 2020

At the very top of the hill planted on white marl, this four-hectare parcel is typically the last one to be picked - there is the elevation but also a wind that is always blowing here. The nose has a pronounced lemon peel and green apple fruit with a delightful, saline minerality. There is not a lot of oak spice or malo notes - only 20% new wood is used for the fermentation. On the palate, there is a laser focus and impressive finesse. With time it opens to show a lovely depth and complexity. Really top. **Score 95**

Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru Domaine 2020

This is truly a classic of the house, which owns a total of 2.3ha spread over all four terraces of Chevalier. Each parcel is vinified individually to produce this magnificent wine that shows lemon peel and mineral notes on the initial attack, but continues to open up aromatically on the nose and on the palate, revealing rich flavours of marzipan, butter and beeswax. This is richer than the producer's Corton-Charlemagne, and lingers delightfully on the very impressive finish. Superb wine, not to be missed. **Score 96**

Part of Top Meursault and Montrachet 2020 en primeur wines

Montrachet Grand Cru Domaine 2020

This wine has everything. Bouchard farms 0.89ha of well-positioned vines in Montrachet – south of Ramonet on the Puligny side (and north of the first DRC block in Chassagne). The grapes are pressed slowly as whole clusters before fermentation in cask (only 15% new) to accent the purity of fruit. The exquisite aromas range from citrus and green apple, to riper apple, apricot and peach, with hints of chamomile, cream and bitter underpinned with a firm minerality. This vintage truly has an impressive depth of flavour and persistence on the palate. **Score 98**

Beaune du Château Premier Cru Domaine 2020

This admirable premier cru red is a blend of all of the domaine parcels in Beaune premier cru - a whopping 17 different terroirs covering 26ha, each vinified separately, with an average 20% whole-cluster and ageing in 20% new casks. There is a lovely, dark, plummy fruit on the nose with a bit of spice and smoke. The texture is silky and supple, with decent acidity, even if it lacks a bit of density on the mid-palate. A well-balanced, classical example of Beaune premier cru. **Score 92**



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Beaune Les Teurons Premier Cru Domaine 2020

The domaine-owned parcel here is 2.3ha in size on pure limestone soil, facing due east. This is among the most early-ripening parcels. The grapes produced a wine with super-ripe aromas of red and black fruit, with a pronounced saline/mineral edge and a prominent floral tone. The texture is round and full-bodied, with somewhat assertive tannins that will help the wine to age gracefully for 10-15 years. **Score 92**

Beaune Clos de la Mousse Premier Cru Monopole Domaine 2020

This 3.3ha monopole is on a fairly cool site with deep clay soils on an east-southeast facing terrace that is fairly flat. The grapes are given a cold soak before fermenting with a proportion of whole clusters and ageing in cask (one-third new). The result has an approachable cherry fruit with floral nuance on the nose and a texture that is silky, subtle, soft, and very pleasant.

Score 92

Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru Domaine 2020

Produced with fruit purchased from the same parcel each year, which is located at the top of the slope just under the tree line. In 2020, the grapes were picked on 29th August and were treated to the customary vinification: half whole clusters, very gentle pump-overs, and ultimately two winters in cask, half new. The result is lighter than this producer's Chambertin, with a bright raspberry and red cherry fruit aromas tinged with floral notes. There is plenty of finesse, although it is lacking perhaps a bit of the density one expects in this appellation. **Score 92**

Gevrey-Chambertin Les Cazetiers Premier Cru Domaine 2020

From the 0.26ha domaine parcel not far from the road that goes to the Clos St-Jacques. The grapes are given a long fermentation with half added as whole clusters prior to ageing 12-14 months in cask (45% new). The wine has a very pretty red cherry fruit with a peppery edge, a distinctive floral note and a hint of smoke. The texture is fresh and lean, but the Gevrey tannins are surprisingly firm. This should age extremely well. **Score 93**

Nuits-Saint-Georges Les Cailles Premier Cru Domaine 2020

Bouchard has one hectare of vines in premier cru Les Cailles, very close to Les St-Georges. The stone soils at the top of the slope and the small combe combine to produce a wine with silky, fragrant aromatics and an almost savoury note on top of the lovely, ripe cherry fruit and floral notes. Aged in 30% new wood, Frédéric's team is also experimenting with fermentation in glass carboys. Delicious and slightly exotic. **Score 93**

Echézeaux Grand Cru Domaine 2020

There are two bottlings; this one comes from the 0.39ha domaine parcel in the Combe d'Orveaux exposed to the south. It is, however, a very cool site, and the wine has a lovely, rich mulberry fruit, with a pronounced floral character on the nose and a very silky texture with lots of finesse and fresh acidity. Elegant and stylish, this wine should be approachable young but also age gracefully. **Score 94**

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Le Corton Grand Cru Domaine 2020

This magnificent parcel is 3.55ha in a long strip below the wood of Corton and above Clos du Roi and Renards, right on the limestone. The grapes are one-third fermented as whole clusters and then aged in 25% new casks to produce a very aromatic nose with expressive red and black fruits, floral notes, pepper and spice. On the palate the wine is tightly wound, with firm tannins but lots of finesse and a fine acidity that carries this to an impressive finish. **Score 94**

Bonnes-Mares Grand Cru Domaine 2020

The domaine-owned parcel of 0.26ha is on the Chambolle side in the middle. Only the two-thirds on terres rouges is in production, the balance of the vineyard has been replanted. The wine is made with 50% whole-cluster for a three-week cuvaison followed by ageing in 30% new wood. The result has a sweet blackberry and plum fruit with a distinctive aroma of violets and a lovely sweet quality on the palate. Supple and approachable but not lacking substance. **Score 95**

Chambertin Grand Cru Domaine 2020

Bouchard owns a 0.15ha parcel at the top of the slope along its southern border - a very cool site that is among the last to ripen and delivers a wine with very low pH and lots of structure. The aromas are both red and black fruit in character with a pronounced saline/chalky edge. The fruit is mostly destemmed and vinified with a proportion of whole clusters prior to ageing in cask over two winters (50% new). The wine has a lovely density and plenty of structure yet it is not lacking in fruit. A marvellous success. **Score 95**

Clos Vougeot Grand Cru Domaine 2020

Bouchard owns two parcels - one is very well placed, high on the slope next to the wall that separates it from Echézeaux. The other, less favoured, was not used in the domaine bottling. After a slow fermentation with a substantial percentage of whole clusters, the wine is aged in 50% new casks to produce this very aromatic wine, with ripe black cherry and bramble fruit with a suggestion of rose petals. The texture is structured and dense, yet mouth-fillingly rich as well. **Score 95**

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

Bouchard has nearly four hectares of this, perhaps the greatest site in the Beaune appellation. On a modest slope with east-southeast exposure in the heart of the terroir, this has produced a sophisticated, elegant wine in 2020, fermenting out to barely 13.5% alcohol with a pH between 3.5–3.6. The fruit is supremely luxurious and lush, yet underscored with plenty of nuance of spice, smoke, earth, and leather. The texture is dense and powerful yet superbly elegant — a triumph. **Score 95**