

December 2021

## 2020 Vintage

Team Bouchard began picking as early as 19th August, two days before their 2003 date. All the reds were picked first, the whites from 24th, and all finished by the end of August. Picking was only done in the mornings, with refrigerated containers to keep the grapes cool, and a major team on the sorting table to remove wrinkled grapes.

Yields for the reds varied between 10 and 35 hl/ha with an average of 28 hl/ha, while the whites averaged a close to optimum 38 hl/ha. Degrees were not exceptional, between 13.2 and 13.8% in red, with good acidity as a by-product of the hydric stress. Frédéric Weber notes that there were many small pips, plenty of tannin, so he opted for more whole bunches, light extraction, shorter vatting time, with no sulphur until a month after the malolactic fermentations. The sulphur has not yet been adjusted since, and the wines have not yet been racked. They may well be given an extended élevage.

There were good juice levels in the white grapes, better balanced, with most wines hardly above 13% alcohol with good pH thanks to the tartaric acid. Frédéric used his warm vintage protocol, which is not to clarify the juice much, to do most of the fermentation in vat, finishing off in barrel, and to privilege oak from the Allier rather than Vosges. The Chevalier-Montrachet la cabotte cuvée had just been racked and so was not offered for tasting.

## White

### 2020 Beaune

**87-89**

A new cuvée this year, from Prévoles. Part has been replanted in chardonnay and some 25 year old vines have been top-grafted. Lemon and lime colour with a cheerful bouquet. A little waxy lanolin which is quite pleasing. Light to medium bodied. Tasted: November 2021

### 2020 Meursault Les Clous Domaine

**90-92**

Mid lemon colour, a little bit of reduction, attractive volume here from this plateau site, the fruit offering some depth of flavour with lively tension. Ripe apple with a citrus tint, long and pleasing. Very good. Tasted: November 2021

**2020 Beaune du Château Premier Cru Domaine**

**90-92**

Mid lemon yellow. Some waxy yellow fruit on the nose, less finesse than the Meursault, though with agreeable plump fruit, a whiff of coconut and some good lime infused acidity. Not at this moment displaying a natural gracefulness though. Tasted: November 2021

**2020 Beaune Clos Saint-Landry Premier Cru Monopole Domaine**

**91-93**

Fine fresh pale lemon. The bouquet has a delicacy yet with intensity that is very classy. This site really does work well in white. There is nothing like the weight of a Clos des Mouches but there is a striking elegance with an underlying tensile strength. Pure ripe lemon notes to finish. Tasted: November 2021

**2020 Meursault Les Bouchères Premier Cru Domaine**

**91-93**

Fine lemon and lime colour. The bouquet shows some weight along with nuances. This is firm on the palate, predominantly white fruit, a little citrus touch at the finish, some greengage, yet also with floral notes. Good grip at the relatively long finish. Tasted: November 2021

**2020 Meursault Le Porusot Premier Cru Domaine**

**92-94**

Full yellow colour, with a light reduction that will soon disappear. Plumper than the Bouchères yet kept in balance by just the right acidity. I enjoy the way this opens out on the second half of the palate, a longer finish than Bouchères. Structure is the order of the day! Tasted: November 2021

**2020 Meursault Les Gouttes d'Or Premier Cru Domaine**

**90-92**

A similar pale lemon colour, but the nose is a little richer with some yellow plums. Some orange zest as well, a blossoming middle, the finish is as yet less expressive with acidity and fruit still waiting to integrate. Tasted: November 2021

### **2020 Meursault Genevrières Premier Cru Domaine**

**92-94**

Fine lemon and lime colour, with a detailed elegant bouquet and a sense of class all the way through to a slightly richer bouquet. The Bouchard 2020 Genevrières certainly has the detail, with a mix of white fruits, a little apple and also some citrus. A fine Genevrières for the medium term. Tasted: November 2021

### **2020 Meursault Perrières Premier Cru Domaine**

**93-96**

Pale lemon colour. Here the bouquet is the most backward of the Meursault 1ers crus, but the wine builds beautifully on the palate, gaining in flesh and with a powerful underlying stoniness. Discreet but fine with significant intensity and a saline touch at the finish. Tasted: November 2021

### **2020 Meursault Charmes Premier Cru Domaine**

**91-94**

Served last among the Meursaults, as Frédéric Weber likes to use a little more new oak for his Charmes (one new barrel in two) and it shows a little. In fact the oak rather dries out the wine on the palate for the moment but there is all the necessary fruit so this should come back together. Slightly more tropical notes here. At the moment not quite together but time is on its side. Tasted: November 2021

#### **5-Star Wine**

### **2020 Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru Domaine**

**95-98**

Pale lemon colour, considerable concentration on the nose, not yet much detail. Oof, there is a really impressive wealth of fruit here, taking the upper hand over the terroir for the moment but there is so much still to come. 20% new wood. The stones are waiting! Really very long, a majestic Corton-Charlemagne in the making. Tasted: November 2021

### **2020 Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru Domaine**

**94-97**

A blend from the four terrasses. This has a beautiful nose, all the class with a certain extra opulence. But it is lifted, ethereal up front, a little more opulent behind with yellow plums and a light banana touch. The 2020 Chevalier-Montrachet from Bouchard certainly comes across as riper than some but still extremely pleasing. Tasted: November 2021

**2020 Montrachet Grand Cru Domaine**

**96-98**

Excellent fresh clear lemon yellow. Very backward, very promising. Just little traces of all sorts of things, a little bit of oak, a little bit of citrus, a wealth of ultra-pure white fruit and of course the extraordinary intensity and persistence of this great vineyard. So many nuances to follow, I think this will be a great example. They made the perfect choice of picking date, I suspect. Tasted: November 2021

**Red**

**2020 Savigny-lès-Beaune Les Lavières Premier Cru Domaine**

**87-89**

Cooler spot with more clay has marked the vintage less than some. Rich dense dark crimson purple, heady dense dark raspberry notes. Retains freshness on the palate though still dark fruit. Slightly firm finish. Tasted: November 2021

**2020 Beaune du Château Premier Cru Domaine**

**88-90**

Very dark black purple, this is soft and luscious with blackberry and blueberry notes, not too much tannin, nor too much acidity. Tasted: November 2021

**2020 Beaune Clos de la Mousse Premier Cru Monopole Domaine**

**90-92**

Like the Savigny Lavières, Clos de la Mousse is another spot with cooler clays. Very dense purple. Some plums on the nose, a little rounder, with good acidity behind, more red fruit notes emerge beneath. This shows considerable promise. Tasted: November 2021

**2020 Beaune Les Teurons Premier Cru Domaine**

**90-92**

The Bouchard holding is up slope on the limestone, the first vineyard to be picked. Rich intense purple. There is a good energy to the bouquet, as much red fruit as black, a fine thick texture of ripe fruit with some attractive oak. This Teurons is riper than the Clos de la Mousse but was picked in good time. Tasted: November 2021

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

**91-94**

This is a free draining soil, but deep enough that it did not dry out during the parched summer. Dark purple black, one of the more sunshine laden bouquets but with a joyous plump fruit on the palate refreshed at the back by a little useful acidity. Good length, no undue heat. Tasted: November 2021

### **2020 Volnay En Chevret Premier Cru Domaine**

**91-93**

Next to their Caillerets but less limestone. Black centre with purple rim. There is a lovely class to the bouquet, Frédéric Weber considers the bouquet to be similar to Caillerets but a little more massive and less fine-boned on the palate. Raspberry dark cherry and plum, some tannins here at the back but the fruit rides over them. Very promising. Tasted: November 2021

### **2020 Volnay Les Caillerets, Ancienne Cuvée Carnot Premier Cru Domaine**

**92-95**

Absolutely black centre to this with a massively concentrated bouquet, thus far hiding the detail. Inky depths. I would like to see this again after racking. The wine is not destabilised on the palate and the concentration is certainly exceptional, fresher at the finish. There is certainly an awful lot of wine here: buy it if you want a wine for 25 years time! Tasted: November 2021

### **2020 Volnay Taille Pieds Premier Cru Domaine**

**91-93**

Another black colour with purple rim. The bouquet wants to offer some elegance despite the massive concentration of the vintage. Succulent dark raspberry, a glossy character also on the palate, firmer tannins behind for sure. Medium plus length and the useful acidity which picks out points of red fruit. Tasted: November 2021

### **2020 Volnay Clos des Chênes Premier Cru Domaine**

**92-94**

Very dense purple, old vines on white marl, this usually needs picking later but not this year. Plenty of energy, to the dark fruited bouquet. Very intense, now raspberry and blackcurrant notes, lively finish. Medium plus length, this has some grace. Tasted: November 2021

**2020 Le Corton Grand Cru Domaine**

**92-94**

The Bouchard 2020 Corton has coped well with the drought. Vinification included 40% whole bunches, slightly higher than the other Côte de Beaune vineyards. Deepish colour with a more crimson edge. The stems show with a slightly smoky nose. A brooding powerhouse but it is also light on its feet with an interesting complex mix of red and black fruit, plus the more open structure from whole bunch. Tasted: November 2021

**2020 Nuits-Saint-Georges Les Porrets-Saint-Georges Premier Cru Domaine**

**87-90**

Dark purple, Inky depths on the nose, heady plums, some sun dried cherry and a suggestion of raisins. As is true across the range the palate shows a fresher aspect than the nose, but this has still gone a little far for me. Tasted: November 2021

**2020 Nuits-Saint-Georges Les Cailles Premier Cru Domaine**

**89-91**

Rich intense black purple. There is a huge density of fruit and flavour but the tannins are firm and a little dry. This may well come more into balance after the racking. Tasted: November 2021

**2020 Gevrey-Chambertin Les Cazetiers Premier Cru Domaine**

**92-95**

Lovely purple, not super saturated like the rest. Some proper elegance here and the whole bunches (50%) come to the fore. Grown on marl at the top of the slope, which helps provide the elegance. All in red fruit, fine tannins, enough acidity stretches out very nicely at the back. Tasted: November 2021

**2020 Echézeaux Grand Cru Domaine**

**93-95**

From En Orveaux, a usefully cooler site, making a pleasingly ripe wine but with good detail too. Look for aroma rather than body here, and this certainly has a floral note, while the stems infuse the finish and open this out very well. Tasted: November 2021

### **2020 Clos Vougeot Grand Cru Domaine**

**93-95**

Just from the upper section of the vineyard. Dark purple, one of the inkier noses where the fruit concentration outweighs any use of stems. Significantly weighty, dense sturdy dark fruit, some black raspberry, slightly drier tannins but that is Clos Vougeot normal. Very different in style to the Echezeaux but promises well for the longer term. Tasted: November 2021

### **2020 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru**

**92-96**

Purchased grapes, but from the same plot each year and Bouchard can choose when to harvest, which was 29th August in 2020. Dark colour, 30% whole bunch, a suave intensity of fruit, very backward, not overdone, with a little coconut sweetness alongside the dark raspberry. It is a little too massive to display its quintessential elegance yet, but I think that lies beneath and will come out after racking. There may yet be more of an up-side to my conservative score. Tasted: November 2021

### **2020 Chambertin Grand Cru Domaine**

**94-97**

The last plot to be picked at the domaine because it is up against the forest. Just over 50% whole bunch vinification. Fairly deep purple, not black, at the moment it is the power that shows through, followed by a stricter structure than the Clos de Bèze. Plenty of power, but the tannins are well balanced. The best quality here is the exceptional length. Tasted: November 2021

### **2020 Bonnes-Mares Grand Cru Domaine**

**94-98**

At the moment the top of the Bouchard plot is not in production, so this is all from the terre rouge terroir. A rich imperial purple. The whole bunches come out on the nose but they prevent any inkiness settling in. This is beautifully orchestrated, nuanced, multi-textural, silky and then matt in alternation, very long, with a superb quality of dark red fruit. Tasted: November 2021