



BOUCHARD PÈRE & FILS

FONDÉE EN 1731

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B U R G H O U N D . C O M[®]

THE ULTIMATE BURGUNDY REFERENCE

Vintage 2020: Reds

Winemaker Frédéric Weber is always a wealth of detail regarding the intricacies of the growing season and regarding the 2020 vintage, he explained that "bud break began super-early, which is to say on the 14th of April, which in all the years that I have been doing this I have never seen before. We did suffer some shatter after the flowering in chardonnay but not really in pinot. The summer was extremely hot and very, very dry and the signs of hydric stress were everywhere, in fact we started to see stem lignification by the end of July! There was, happily, not much disease pressure and véraison, which was disparate, was largely finished in most vineyards by the end of July as well. Remarkably, for the season as a whole, it was fully 1.7° C warmer than the long-term average, with about 200 ml less rainfall than average. While it's true that the north wind helped keep the nighttime temperatures cool, it had the associated negative effect of constantly drying everything out. Ultimately, we chose to begin picking the pinot on the 19th of August and the chardonnay on the 25th. There was a lot of sorting required to eliminate either wilted or sunburned fruit. There was evidence of the heat stress in the fruit because while there were excellent sugar maturities, and the stems were mostly lignified but the seeds were still mostly green and super-tannic. Between the less than completely ripe seeds and the ultra-thick skins, we vinified quite softly. Moreover, we had to resist the temptation to extract more as many fermentations began almost immediately followed by a 12-to-15-day cuvaison. Yields for the pinot were in the 25 to 28 hl/ha range with a normal number of berries but with lots of shot berries and not much juice in them. This made for very high solid to liquid ratios, which is another reason why we chose to vinify cautiously. Yields were much better for the chardonnay though by no means high as they averaged 38 hl/ha, which is about normal for us. Potential alcohols were actually pretty reasonable considering the high warmth of the season as the pinot came in between 13 and 13.5% while the chardonnay was slightly higher at between 13.5 to 13.7%. The malos finished very early, in fact basically most wines were done by the end of November. Because there wasn't much potassium in the fruit, the tartaric acid didn't precipitate so we finished with excellent pHs when it would have been more intuitive to expect higher pHs given the growing season heat. This is to say that the reds averaged about 3.5, though interestingly, the Côte de Nuits was higher at 3.6 while the Côte de Beaune was more in the 3.4 to 3.5 range. To me these numbers are reflective of the fact that the Côte de Beaune suffered more hydric stress than the northern Côte and within the Côte de Beaune, Volnay and Beaune really baked. Moreover, the Côte de Nuits benefited from a bit more rainfall so overall, there was less hydric stress. The whites had classic pHs at between 3.2 and 3.25 and I firmly believe that 2020 is genuinely great vintage in white that reminds me of 2008 or 2014. As to the reds, they are still changing for the better and it's not an accident that we have bottled very few wines to this point and we very likely won't start until April and I expect to finish in June."

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2020 Bourgogne Pinot Noir

Notably ripe aromas include those of red and dark raspberry, earth and a touch of spice. The racy, bright and delicious middle weight flavors possess an attractive mid-palate texture that contrasts somewhat with the dusty, mildly rustic and austere finale where a hint of edginess slowly emerges. **(86-88)/2024+**

2020 Monthélie Les Duresses Premier Cru Domaine

Very earthy and sauvage-inflected aromas of dark cherry and soft wood lead to round and fleshy but punchy middle weight flavors possess very good richness while culminating in a dusty, even chalky finish that exhibits a touch of youthful austerity.

(88-90)/2027+

2020 Savigny-lès-Beaune Les Lavières Premier Cru Domaine

(From a huge 3.85 ha parcel purchased in 1909). Ripe and fresh aromas consist mostly of poached plum and black raspberry that are laced with hints of spice, earth and violet. There is both very good volume and density to the attractively textured medium-bodied flavors that exude evident minerality on the palate coating, youthfully austere and bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. **(89-91)/2028+**

2020 Beaune Du Château Premier Cru Domaine

(The first vintage for this wine was in 1907 and the heart of it is composed by Les Aigrots though there are as many as 16 other 1ers included, that comprise a whopping 26 ha, depending on the vintage; in 2019 there were a total of 17 1ers). There is touch of mocha to the mostly purple fruit and warm earth scented nose. The almost lavishly rich and opulent middle weight flavors possess a suave and round flavors that, somewhat curiously given the richness, concludes in a youthfully austere finale.

(89-91)/2027+

2020 Beaune Les Marconnets Premier Cru Domaine

(From a 2.3 ha holding). Bright, fresh and ripe black pinot fruit aromas are suffused with cool earth and subtle spice wisps. The sleek and more intense medium weight flavors exude evident minerality while delivering fine length on the youthfully austere, chiseled and sneaky long finale. **(89-92)/2028+**

2020 Beaune Les Teurons Premier Cru Domaine

(From a 1.7 ha parcel). A more deeply pitched nose features notes of poached plum, cassis and dark cherry. The appealingly textured middle weight flavors possess a refined mouthfeel thanks to the fine-grained tannins shaping the balanced, long and nicely complex finale. Note that this is sufficiently structured to reward a decade of keeping yet the mid-palate is supple enough to allow this to be approached on the younger side.

(90-92)/2030+





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2020 Beaune Clos de la Mousse Premier Cru Monopole Domaine

(A 3.37 ha monopole of Bouchard that required 7 generations for the family to acquire all of it). Pretty and cool yet definitely ripe aromas reveal notes of various dark berries, violet and rose petal. The suave and seductively textured medium weight flavors possess very fine density while the youthfully austere and moderately firm finish makes clear that this will need at least a few years of bottle aging first. **(90-92)/2028+**

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

(From a 4-ha parcel). This one of the more floral-suffused wines in the range with its hints of violet, rose petal and lavender that add touch of elegance to the very ripe poached plum scents that presently lack a bit of freshness. There is verve and freshness on the palate of the dense, voluminous and punchy flavors that coat the palate with dry extract that also serves to buffer the firm tannins shaping the powerful, serious and mildly warm finale. Note that my predicted range offers the benefit of the doubt that the nose will recover better freshness. **(90-93)/2032+**

2020 Volnay Clos des Chênes Premier Cru Domaine

(From a .80 ha parcel in the lower section of the vineyard). A ripe, airy and cool mix consists mainly of red and dark raspberry, anise and an equally pretty mix of floral elements. There is both excellent volume and vibrancy to the sappy, powerful and muscular larger-scaled flavors that brim with minerality on the serious, long and built-to-age finale. Patience absolutely recommended. **(90-93)/2032+**

2020 Volnay En Chevret Premier Cru Domaine

(From a .25 ha parcel that is in the upper portion of the vineyard by Caillerets). Very ripe aromas include those of mocha, black cherry coulis and subtle spice wisps. The rich, supple and fleshy medium weight flavors conclude in a moderately austere finale that offers good persistence but not the depth of the best of these Volnay 1ers. **(89-92)/2028+**

2020 Volnay Taille Pieds Premier Cru Domaine

Enough wood to notice surrounds the equally ripe aromas of mocha, black raspberry and spicy poached plum. The super-sleek, dense and wonderfully energetic medium-bodied flavors brim with both minerality and dry extract that helps to buffer the firm tannins shaping the youthfully austere, chiseled and sneaky long finish. **(90-93)/2032+**

2020 Volnay Les Caillerets, Ancienne Cuvée Carnot Premier Cru Domaine

Very ripe liqueur-like aromas of various black berries are nuanced by plenty of spice and floral elements. There is excellent underlying tension to the beautifully textured medium weight flavors that also brim with sappy dry extract and minerality, all wrapped in a bitter pit fruit finale that offers impressive persistence. This is definitely atypical but the intrinsic class of a fine Caillerets is still present. **(91-93)/2032+**

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2020 Pommard Premier Cru

(From Les Chanlins and Les Combes). A slightly fresher nose features pretty violet top notes to the earthy coulis of black pinot fruit scents. There is fine mid-palate density and evident power to the bigger-bodied flavors that exude a bracing salinity on the youthfully austere, firm and moderately rustic finale. Patience suggested. **(89-92)/2030+**

2020 Pommard Les Pézerolles Premier cru Domaine

(From a .30 ha holding). A hint of port-like character is present on the very ripe aromas of mocha and roasted plum. The port-like character is also present on the palate of the middle weight flavors that lack the same energy on the sappy and noticeably warm finish. This isn't for me and I would be inclined to drink this on the younger side.

(87-89)/2026+

2020 Pommard Les Rugiens Premier Cru Domaine

(From Rugiens Haut). A fresher mix is comprised by notes of both red and black cherry, dark raspberry, earth and a violet top note. There is fine volume and intensity to the bigger-bodied flavors that flash good minerality on the firm, powerful and focused finale. This could use better depth, but more should develop in time. **(89-92)/2030+**

2020 Le Corton Grand Cru Domaine

Ripe aromas of red and dark currant, earth and a hint of the *sauvage* give way to dense, powerful and quite serious broad-shouldered flavors that terminate in an austere but not really rustic finale that flashes excellent minerality and length. This muscular and very much built-to-age effort will need at least a decade of cellaring to unwind.

(91-94)/2035+

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

(Planted in 1956 and has some pinot beurot and pinot gris intermixed with the pinot). A relatively floral-suffused nose offers up notes of red raspberry, black cherry, warm earth and similar hints of the *sauvage*. There is good vibrancy but not the same density or muscularity to the medium-bodied flavors that deliver good persistence on the balanced finish that could also use better depth. **(89-92)/2028+**

2020 Nuits-Saint-Georges Les Cailles Premier Cru Domaine

(From a large 1 ha holding). Slightly riper aromas are composed of black cherry liqueur, anise and a hint of spicy herbal tea. There is a lovely sense of underlying tension to the refined if not especially dense middle weight flavors that deliver excellent length though once again, they could use better depth. Note that my projected range assumes that more complexity will progressively develop over time. **(90-92)/2032+**

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2020 Gevrey-Chambertin Les Cazetiers Premier Cru Domaine

(From a .30 ha holding). A cooler and slightly less ripe nose features notes of pretty red cherry, raspberry, pungent earth and a hint of spice. There is again very good underlying tension and delineation to the mineral-driven flavors that possess a muscular yet refined texture while delivering excellent length on the notably firm finale. This is somewhat less 2020 in style. **(91-93)/2032+**

2020 Échezeaux Grand Cru Domaine 2020

(From domaine-owned vines in En Orveaux; like the Clos de Vougeot there are normally two *cuvées*, one domaine and one *négociant*). Spicy liqueur-like aromas speak mostly of various dark berries, in particular raspberry, along with hints of sandalwood and exotic tea. The fleshy, generously proportioned and seductive medium-bodied flavors conclude in a lingering if youthfully austere finale. This is really quite pretty and a wine that should repay extended aging. **(91-93)/2032+**

2020 Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru Domaine

(from domaine-owned fruit in two similarly sized parcels – one at the top in Les Plantes Labet and the other at the bottom of the slope though the bottom was recently pulled up; note that there are often two *cuvées*). A more floral-suffused nose freely offers up an array of rose petal, violet and lavender that add a touch of elegance to the earthy red and dark pinot fruit scents. There is an interesting mouthfeel that is at once caressing but powerful with notably better mid-palate density and fine length. This markedly structured effort is very promising. **(91-94)/2035+**

2020 Bonnes-Mares Grand Cru Domaine

(From a .24 ha mix of two-thirds *terres rouges* and one-third *terres blanches*, though at present it). Here too the nose is overtly floral in character with its layered blend of red and dark raspberry, warm earth and discreet spice wisps. There is again very fine mid-palate density to the slightly bigger-bodied tension-filled flavors that flash evident muscle and power on the moderately austere, firmly structured and impressively long finish. Patience strongly advised. **(91-94)/2035+**

2020 Chapelle-Chambertin Grand Cru

(From purchased grapes in Chapelle proper). Notably ripe yet wonderfully fresh aromas of black fruit coulis, fennel, star anise and violet are trimmed in an interesting hint of garrigue. There is both fine mid-palate density and verve to the very rich but nicely detail middle weight plus flavors that possess a highly seductive texture, all wrapped in a lingering, firm and balanced finale. **(92-94)/2032+**



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2020 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru

(From purchased grapes). Moderately generous wood and menthol fight somewhat with the exuberantly spicy black cherry liqueur-like aromas that are cut with lovely floral wisps. There is excellent concentration to the bigger-bodied and more powerful flavors that are blessed with ample amounts of sappy dry extract that does a fine job of buffering the firm tannic spine shaping the complex, balanced and hugely long finale. Excellent. **(93-95)/2035+**

2020 Chambertin Grand Cru Domaine

(From a .15 ha parcel on the southern end near the top just under the tree line). A very ripe yet still reasonably fresh nose combines notes of liqueur-like red and dark berries, discreet floral and just slice fennel hints. There is exceptionally good density to the opulent, indeed almost thick, flavors that deliver reasonably good length if more limited depth on the slightly awkward finish. This should eventually harmonize but it will need at least a few years of cellaring to do so. **(91-94)/2035+**