



Burgundy 2013 – By Neal Martin

The 2013s from Louis Latour were the only ones that I did not taste in Burgundy this year. They were tasted at their agency office in central London where Bruno Pépin was present. He told me that they faced the same challenges as other growers in 2013, though he was thankful that his Corton Clos du Roi was one that was untouched by hail, though Volnay en Chevret lost 40% of production and Pommard Epenot 50% to 60%. Of course, he had to spray against disease by hand and by tractor. His fruit reached 11.8 to 12.2 degrees potential alcohol for the red, and 11.6 to 12.2 degrees for the white when he commenced picking on October 1, the first time that they have started in this month since 1987. Bruno also told me that they picked over nine days instead of the usual 12, expediting the harvest because of the inclement forecast.

2013 Batard Montrachet Grand Cru – 89/100

The 2013 Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru has a more reserved, less reductive bouquet compared to the Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet. The palate is fresh on the entry with noticeable vanilla oak and a nicely poised, quite concentrated finish that relies just a little too heavily on the wood.

2013 Chambertin “Cuvée Héritiers Latour” Grand Cru – 88/100

The 2013 Chambertin Grand Cru is muted on the nose at first, although it unfurls nicely with black cherries, raspberry with just slight tinny scents in the background, replaced by forest floor/undergrowth scent. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, fine acidity, but lacking real complexity toward the finish for such a prestigious vineyard.

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “La Grande Montagne” 1^{er} Cru – 85/100

The 2013 Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru la Grande Montagne has the prettiest and most intriguing bouquet of Louis Latour's '13 with fine definition and light limestone scents. The palate has a waxy texture with moderate acidity but it lacks real fruit intensity on the finish.

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot” 1^{er} Cru – 86/100

The 2013 Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru Morgeot has a slightly muffled lychee and citrus nose, some wet-wool aromas emerging with time. The palate is balanced, but simple, with light walnut notes and a rather attenuated finish.

2013 Chevalier-Montrachet “Les Demoiselles” Grand Cru – 89/100

The 2013 Chevalier-Montrachet “Les Demoiselles” Grand Cru has a pointed mineral-driven bouquet with hints of lemon curd, wet wool and a touch of clear honey. The palate is balanced with orange cordial and fresh lime on the entry. There is decent weight here with a dash of white pepper on the finish. Fine.

2013 Corton Charlemagne Grand Cru – 91/100

The 2013 Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru, picked on October 8 has a lifted citrus lemon and orange-sorbet bouquet with fine delineation. The palate is fresh on the entry with decent weight, cohesive in the mouth, with light bitter lemon and granitic finish. I actually find more complexity here than in the Montrachet.

2013 Château Corton Grancey Grand Cru – 92/100

The 2013 Chateau Corton Grancey Grand Cru possessed the most impressive nose of the Corton 13's from Louis Latour: blackberry, undergrowth and candied orange peel, a convincing undertow of minerals. The palate is medium-bodied with gentle tannins, sappy black fruit and lightly peppered finish that linger in the mouth. Enjoy this over the next decade.

2013 Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru – 88/100

The 2013 Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru has a pleasant reduction on the nose – very Coche-Dury! The palate is fresh on the entry with crisp chalky tannins, impressive depth of fruit and, despite the foursquare finish, it has a certain charm.

2013 Echézeaux Grand Cru – 93/100

The 2013 Echézeaux Grand Cru has a very pure bouquet with macerated small red cherries, kirsch, hints of vanilla and wild heather. It has the panache that you seek from this vineyard and the oak is nicely integrated. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, well-judged acidity and fine balance. This is a stylish Echézeaux that feels long and tender on the finish, with fine tension and precision.

2013 Meursault “Perrières” 1^{er} Cru – 88/100

The 2013 Meursault 1er Cru Perrières is much more reticent on the nose compared to the Poruzots. The palate has a candied entry with orange sorbet and apricot notes, good depth in the mouth with a fine line of acidity, although it does not really get to grips with the mineralité of the vineyard on the finish. It's a joyful Meursault but not a top-drawer Perrières.

2013 Meursault “Poruzots” 1er Cru – 89/100

The 2013 Meursault 1er Cru Poruzots has a light apple-blossom and cinnamon-bark bouquet that unfolds nicely in the glass. The palate is lively and sorbet-fresh on the entry. There is impressive weight in the mouth with plenty of apricot, lime and orange sorbet notes on the long finish. Fine.

2013 Meursault “Château de Blagny” 1er Cru – 87/100

The 2013 Meursault-Blagny 1er Cru Château de Blagny has a reserved, chalky bouquet that is not intense but nicely focused. The palate is fresh on the entry with lemon curd and mango notes, soft in the mouth with a fine line of acidity and lemongrass furnishing the finish.

2013 Montrachet Grand Cru – 89/100

The 2013 Montrachet Grand Cru has a strict, wet granite and dewy green-apple nose that opens with aeration. The palate is fresh on the entry with a keen line of acidity. It is nicely balanced and focused, although it does not possess the complexity of its peers.

2013 Pommard “Epenots” 1er Cru – 87/100

The 2013 Pommard 1er Cru les Epenots has a fragrant bouquet with redcurrant raspberry preserve scents. The palate is medium-bodied with rather raw tannin on the entry. The acidity is nicely judged with a light, slightly “skeletal” finish. Drink this over the next 4-5 years.

2013 Romanée-Saint-Vivant “Les Quatre Journaux” Grand Cru – 91/100

The 2013 Romanée-Saint-Vivant “Les Quatre Journaux” has a very floral bouquet with violets and lily scents augmenting the perfumed red fruit that is designed to flatter. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, quite edgy in the mouth with satisfactory depth and quite structured toward the more Richebourg-like finish. It needs a little more clarity and detail, although there is respectable length.

2013 Volnay “En Chevret” 1er Cru – 85/100

The 2013 Volnay 1er Cru Chevret has a slightly herbaceous bouquet, a little “skinny” for a Volnay, but redeemed by quite attractive, wilted rose-petal scents. The palate is raw on the entry with hard tannins. It feels a little disjointed in the mouth with some attenuation toward the finish. This feels compromised by the travails of the season.

2013 Vosne-Romanée “Les Beaux Monts” 1er Cru – 90/100

The 2013 Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru les Beaux Monts has a rather conservative, tertiary bouquet for a les Beaux Monts with scents of blackberry and cassis, granitic scents underneath. The palate is medium-bodied with a supple texture, a taut line of acidity, impressive density here and finish akin to a les Suchots. Fine.

2013 Chambolle-Musigny “Chatelots” 1er Cru – 88/100

The 2013 Chambolle-Musigny 1er Cru les Chatelots has a sense of “confidence” on the nose that was perhaps lacking in some of other Louis Latour reds. There are attractive, quite mineral-rich black and red fruits here, also tree bark scents underneath. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit and a gentle grip, blackberry pastille and a light marine note on the finish. Fine.

2013 Chassagne Montrachet “Les Vergers” 1er Cru – 86/100

The 2013 Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru les Vergers has a very muted bouquet at the moment that feels constrained. The palate is ripe on the entry with sherbet lemon and spice, but it lacks complexity and persistence on the finish.

2013 Corton “Clos du Roi” Grand Cru – 90/100

The 2013 Corton Clos du Roi Grand Cru has a slightly withdrawn bouquet at first, gradually unfolding with blackberry and wild hedgerow scents. The palate is better with fine, sappy red berry fruit and a keen acidic thread with raspberry and wild strawberry fruit. There is a pleasant spicy note that surfaces toward the finish that prolongs the length in the mouth, although it does not quite reach the complexity of the best Cortons of the vintage.

2013 Corton-Perrières Grand Cru – 88/100

The 2013 Corton-Perrières Grand Cru does not quite possess the focus of the Clos du Roi on the nose: blackberry and briary at first and then decayed autumn leaves. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy red berry fruit: raspberry and red currant at first, quite a noticeable saline tincture and a gentle caressing finish. The palate deserves a better nose.

2013 Nuits Saint Georges “Les Damodes” 1er Cru – 86/100

The 2013 Nuits Saint Georges 1er Cru les Damodes has a rather candied red cherry and marmalade-scented bouquet that unfolds nicely in the glass, although it is missing a touch of complexity at this stage. The palate is medium-bodied with plumper tannin than the Volnays, although the finish feels very conservative and does not really “fan out” like other les Damodes ‘13s.

2013 Puligny Montrachet “Sous le Puits” 1er Cru – 86/100

The 2013 Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Sous le Puits has a taut grassy, limestone-scented bouquet that lacks some intensity but at least it is clean and focused. The palate is fresh on the entry with bitter lemon and crab apple notes however, it cuts away far too quickly on the finish.