



Tasted in Beaune
with Jean-Charles
Thomas,
14 December
2022.

On 2022...

"The weather was nice, no maladies and we harvested in good temperatures but not hot. There was some 'deception' in the reds – they were heterogenous, some were perfect, and others were behind in maturity – the same in white but on a lower level. Volume was okay too – I think they will start tasting well quite quickly – helpful with the low stocks!"

On 2021...

"Oh yes, much lower volumes than in 2016 – Charlemagne brought 8-9 hl/ha for example but losses were one to two-thirds less. Like in 2017 we have lovely fruit but not the power of other recent vintages – but despite the problems of the growing season we have nice clean wines – we bottled a number already as the volumes were so low – they are almost garage wines with such low volumes. I'm sure 20-30 years ago that the wines made from these grapes would have been mediocre but today we have more precision. We did shorter elevage in order to best keep the fruit – for both colours. Probably all will be bottled by February-March."

The Wines...

The usual story at this producer – good but never quite great reds – but on the other hand, this producer knows what to do with their simply excellent and often great whites – they are worth your time to make a special search.

Burgundy-Report

Bill Nanson

Vintage Report
2021



MARSANNAY ROUGE 2021

This just racked today. Some aromatic concentration but still a little tight. Hmm, this sits very well on the palate – broad, mobile, cool fruit. A jump in finishing intensity – a super finish – more than very good!



ALOXE-CORTON "Domaine Latour" 2021

Domaine – Almost a month in bottle. Silkier, slightly chalky, lovely fruit. I like the modest structure here – open, faintly reductive today but with lots of mouth-watering red fruit. Fine finishing intensity again – lovely.



GEVREY-CHAMBERTIN 2021

The Maison assembly of different plots. This nose is more direct, there's a precision to this fruit with a floral accompaniment. Extra depth and clarity of flavour – here we have something excellent. Good structure and persistent in the finish. This could be excellent!



BEAUNE 1ER CRU "Vignes Franches" 2021

A roundness to this aroma, very cushioned red fruit in style. Broad and much fresher than the Gevrey – but the flavour melts in juicy style. Today I have a preference for the Gevrey but this finish is impressively long.



VOLNAY 1ER CRU "En Chevret" 2021

A width of smoke that overlays the supple, darker-red, fruit. Still some gas here. The tannin more overt and drying – a wine of obvious structure today yet always with some higher-toned floral elements. More Pommard than Volnay style. Wait 5 years – as a starting point. Not yet bottled.



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MARSANNAY BLANC

2021

Good width of aroma, slightly cushioned with a good perfume. Direct, precise, delicious wine of fine complexity – simply excellent – almost chalky finishing. I'm not the biggest fan of Marsannay Blanc but here's a wine that could convert me! Not yet bottled.



PERNAND-VERGELESSES 1ER CRU

“En Caradeux” 2021

A pretty, cushioned, perfumed nose – very inviting. A more structural shape – open, mouth-filling with a small frame of tannin in this texture too. An impressive finishing intensity that you can almost chew! Keep 3 years before testing – but this is super. Recently bottled.



MEURSAULT-BLAGNY 1ER CRU

“Château Blagny” 2021

Ooh – that's a good one – a slightly toasted depth of aroma with some modest extra width from a more perfumed fruit. Direct, mineral and mouth-watering. There is silk to the texture here too. A wine of cool fluidity and precision – it's certainly excellent – it's potentially even better than that. To be bottled next week.



MEURSAULT 1ER CRU

“Goutte d'Or” 2021

‘Almost good for 2021!’ A more classic width of Meursault aroma – faintly spiced with an almost ginger component. Fuller, with excellent texture, a more layered wine – lots of concentration but still open in style. A bit more élevage needed in the middle where the wine lacks a bit of interest – but not in the finish – a great start and a great finish here – so a wine with lots of potential...



PULIGNY-MONTRACHET 1ER CRU

“Sous le Puits” 2021

Broad and also of depth – filling in the gap with appealing freshness – that's a really super nose. Supple but cool, fluid, silky textured – even a touch of salinity. Simply excellent.

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PULIGNY-MONTRACHET 1ER CRU

"La Garenne" 2021

A narrower aromatic – but with such finesse – 50% new oak – but I don't see it! Also a classically fresh Puligny of energy and tension – slowly adding extra dimensions of flavour as the wine moves and melts over the palate. Finishing more modestly in terms of power but not in terms of ultimate length – it's a much calmer finish. Very good wine! Bottled one month ago.



CHASSAGNE- MONTRACHET 1ER CRU

"Cailleret" 2021

Some weight of aroma to balance the freshness – less width than many but there's an ease and purity to this nose that's very inviting. Oh – mineral, cool flavoured, there's some structure but more of an architecture to the shape. Slowly melting delicious flavours over the palate – silky-smooth with some finishing floral extras. Ooh – such great potential here – as a minimum it's excellent but I suspect there's even more to come! One week in bottle.



CORTON- CHARLEMAGNE GRAND CRU 2021

Yes – there's a classy width of aroma here – faintly toasty. I love this – it just melts over the palate – faster, and less obviously powerful than the Caillerets but with a little extra 'something.' If Corton-Charlemagne can have finesse – it's here. What a beautiful drink, already! Bravo!



BÂTARD-MONTRACHET GRAND CRU

"Clos Poirier" 2021

Here is an impressive volume of aroma – generous and inviting – lovely precision here. Full, generous, a wine of layers and power but never heavy. Lots of concentration here. The finish has concentration too, ending with a haunting, moreish, length. That's a very classical, richer Bâtard but with no lack of energy and freshness. Simply excellent Bâtard – so a great wine then!