

Inside Burgundy

Review of the 2016 Vintage in the Côte d'Or

Louis Latour

Most wines were blended tank samples, prior to bottling. A few had been bottled. Harvest began on 20th September, a mix of red and white from the start, finishing with Corton-Charlemagne.

White Wines

Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru, La Grande Montagne **91**

Fullish yellow (...) Lemon and lime notes at the finish, good length.

Meursault-Blagny 1er Cru, Château de Blagny. **90**

Fine pale colour. The bouquet is slightly nutty with some greener notes, a good weight of fruit on the palate, some tension, not too weighty. Still some heat at the back, but this will be a good, reliable Meursault.

Meursault 1er Cru, Genevrières **91**

Pale colour, grassy nose with a touch of verbena, some weight of fruit. This opens out very well on the palate, a good centre ground, good fruit to acidity ratio and some length.

Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru, Les Chalumeaux **90**

Pale colour (...) This is quite stylish, fine boned, with a nice tingling finish.

Chevalier-Montrachet, Les Demoiselles, Grand Cru **91-95**

Fullish yellow, a rich waxy buttery nose, certainly some oak. Then the fruit comes up behind. Rich, perhaps a little heavy, but there is a fundamental core of rich white fruit. I think the wine is going to win out over the oak treatment.

Bâtard-Montrachet, Grand Cru **91-93**

Full mid yellow, rich heady nose, a little bit of pineapple, quite powerful (...).

Montrachet, Grand Cru **93-96**

Fullish yellow, touch of reduction, but there does seem to be some majesty here. A little bit of bacon on toast, a mix of the reduction and the barrel. Then coconut. This has broad shoulders, enough to put up with the slightly sweet oak. There are many layers of flavours across the palate, a tiny hint of green but that is good too.

Corton Charlemagne, Grand Cru**91-93**

Clear bright colour, fine steely nose, quite full on the palate, slightly sweet oak notes, some herbal touches and a little bit of heat at the back. Plenty of intensity though.

Red Wines**Aloxe-Corton 1er Cru, Les Chaillots****90**

Bright mid purple. Fresh and lively fruit. Excellent concentration of fruit on the palate, just 12.5 hl/ha, a few tannins but well woven into the fruit, some crunch at the back, impressively long finish.

Beaune 1er Cru, Vignes Franches**90**

In bottle. Fine glowing medium purple. Lovely summer pudding fruit, lively dark redcurrants and some blackberry, very attractive. Middleweight, agreeable graceful finish, good wine.

Volnay 1er Cru, En Chevret**91**

Bright mid purple, not completely clear. There is both density and class to the nose, robust red fruit without betraying Volnay, quite a significant mouthful of fruit, muscular but this works. Quite a few tannins, this should evolve well.

Corton, Clos de la Vigne au Saint, Grand Cru**92**

Quite rich purple, strong redcurrant and raspberry fruit notes, not subtle but quite punchy. Good density through the middle, slightly less present at the end of the palate, but this is a respectable middleweight Corton.

Corton, Clos du Roi, Grand Cru**90-93**

Medium deep purple with lighter rim. There is power to the nose but not at this stage clarity. Middleweight, a slightly dry finish.

Corton Perrières, Grand Cru**92**

Rich full purple, quite plump dark red fruit with a slight nutty element. Fairly thick textured, a few tannins behind, muscular bit not without charm.

Corton Grancey, Grand Cru**92-93**

The various different plots which make up this 'house blend' of Corton are vinified separately and assembled when the wine is taken out of barrel. Darkish red purple, a real sense of concentration to the nose, tightly wound. Then much more supple on the palate with very good length, correct tannins, a little bit of fresh acidity too. Good length.

Nuits-St-Georges 1er Cru, Les Damodes **92**

Glowing mid purple. Dark cherry kernels, quite lifted. This has very good intensity, classy fruit which contains both red and black notes, good hillside freshness to it. Long fresh finish.

Vosne Romanée 1er Cru, Les Suchots **90-93**

Bright glowing purple. The nose is discreet but the concentration of fruit is relatively explosive in the mouth, dark and juicy, then firm tannins behind.

Vosne Romanée 1er Cru, Les Beaux Monts **92-94**

Medium deep purple, the nose needs to be fresher but that can be sorted out before bottling. Quite weighty on the palate, good depth to this, dark fruit, not much overt acidity but enough to balance the tannins. Not together but potentially very good.

Vosne Romanée 1er Cru, Les Petits Monts **93-95**

Not the deepest in colour but certainly a very classy lifted heady Vosne nose. Very fine, not overdone. This carries through on the palate, with a little sweet oak behind, attractive berry fruit, just enough acidity. Clearly the most exciting of their Vosne 1ers crus.

Echézeaux, Grand Cru **91-94**

Good bright middling purple. Some elegance to the nose, quite a lot of oak, then some depth of quality. Middleweight, lacks the racy lacy detail of the very best examples, but potentially a good wine.

Charmes-Chambertin, Grand Cru **92-94**

Rich dense dark purple with vibrant rim. Bright vibrant dynamic nose, with quite an explosion of fruit, very much in the style of the vineyard, lots of energy some tension to the dark raspberry fruit, just a note of wood which intrudes at the back. Otherwise very good.

Romanée St Vivant Grand Cru, Les Quatre Journaux **94-97**

Very pure dense purple, a nose of great quality and precision, this is a substantial, vibrant Romanée St Vivant. It offers a huge wealth of really classy fruit, which surges across the palate, quality and density both very impressive. Pretty persistent at the back, the vineyard is in control here. Great density again at the finish, tannins present but overlaid by the front, enough acidity.

Chambertin, Grand Cru, Cuvée Héritiers Latour **92-95**