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BURGHOUND.COM®

THE ULTIMATE BURGUNDY REFERENCE

In This Issue – 149 Producers 1,034 Wines Reviewed

2021 and 2020 Côte de Beaune Reds . . . . . 4 - 151

En Plus – More Current Release Burgundy 152

Current Release California and Oregon Pinot Noir . . . . . 153 - 171

En Plus – Two Mini-Horizontals: DRC (2000) and Méo-Camuzet (2011) . . . . . 172 - 174

Statement of Principles

It is important that readers understand how I collect and evaluate the information that is reported in the pages of **Burghound.com** (the tasting notes and information are the sole responsibility of the author).

- I am personally responsible for all of my business expenses without exception. This includes airfare, hotels and effectively all of my meals. The purpose is as clear as it is simple: No conflicts of interest. *I do not accept nor do I seek any subsidy, in any form, from anybody.*
- Sample bottles are accepted for evaluation and commentary, much as book reviewers accept advance copies of new releases. I insist, however, that these sample bottles represent the final wines to be sold under that particular label.
- Finished, bottled wines are assigned scores as these wines are market ready. Wines tasted from barrel, however, are scored within a range. This reflects the reality that a wine tasted from barrel is not a finished product.
- Wines are evaluated within the context of their appellations. Simply put, that means I expect a *grand cru* Burgundy to reflect its exalted status.

While the concept of *terroir* remains a controversial issue in the opinion of many people, it is not controversial to the Burgundian mindset—or to me, either. I attempt to convey, where appropriate, how certain wines are particularly good, or particularly bad, at expressing their underlying *terroir*. This is admittedly a difficult thing, rightly open to discussion among the Burgundians themselves, never mind an outside observer such as myself. Nevertheless, it is fundamental to great Burgundy. Mere "hedonism" is just that: empty pleasure seeking. Burgundy can deliver so much more—if it is asked.

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A Brief Word About Scores:

Numerical scores are endlessly debated among wine lovers. Inevitably, critics tend to emphasize certain characteristics at the expense of others. What follows is an explication of scores at **Burghound.com** and the underlying taste values they reflect.

Simply put, Burgundies that emphasize purity, elegance, overall balance and a clear expression of the underlying *terroir* are rated more highly than Burgundies that don't deliver these qualities. Other important characteristics include typicity, richness, balanced extraction, length and harmony. For example, a Volnay should taste like a Volnay and a *grand cru* should deliver a *grand cru* drinking experience.

The score is a summation of the taster's thoughts about a wine. It does not actually express those thoughts. Clearly, a mere number cannot fully represent the nuanced, detailed impression conveyed by a tasting note.

Please note: Wines are scored based on their expected quality at peak drinkability. Many grand crus that will, I believe, "be" a 92 may not necessarily taste like a 92-point wine when young, thanks to the prominent tannins or general inaccessibility. Wines rated 90 points or above are worth a special effort to find and cellar. Wines rated 85 or above are recommended, **especially among regional and *villages*-level wines.** There will be relatively few 90+ point wines, simply because there are relatively few outstanding and superlative wines. Finished, bottled wines are assigned specific scores as these wines are market-ready. Wines tasted from barrel are scored within a range. This reflects the reality that a wine tasted from barrel is not a finished, market-ready product.

95 – 100:	**Truly incomparable and emotionally thrilling.** A wine/Champagne so rated is as good as it gets. By definition, it is reference standard for its appellation or variety.
90 – 94:	**Outstanding.** Worth a special effort to purchase and cellar and will provide memorable drinking experiences.
85 – 89:	**Good to High quality.** Wines that offer solid quality in every respect and generally very good typicity. "Good Value" wines will often fall into this category. Worth your attention.
80 – 84:	**Average to Good quality.** The wine is "correct", displays no noticeable flaws and will provide pleasing, if straightforward, drinking.
76 – 79:	**Barely Acceptable quality.** The wine is not worth your attention nor is it a good value.
75 and Below:	**Don't Bother.** A wine with noticeable, irremediable flaws.

Estimated Maturities:

Estimating a window of when any pinot-based wine will be at its peak is an extremely difficult thing to do with precision. The time frames that you see after the score is my best estimate as to when any given wine will likely be at its best. This is of course simply an educated guess about how the wine will evolve and assumes that the wine will have been responsibly shipped and stored, which as long-time collectors know is not always the case. Just as importantly, the time suggested windows are based on how I personally prefer my Burgundies and pinots. This effectively means that for reds, there is still obvious freshness and vibrancy remaining to both the fruit and the flavors and while the tannic structure will be largely resolved, it by no means suggests that a completely smooth palate will exist devoid of any firmness. Especially tannic and or concentrated wines will necessarily have longer windows for obvious reasons. For whites, the windows are designed to indicate that point at which youthful fruit has passed into secondary nuances with more fully developed complexity as well as when the textures have rounded out and the sometimes pointed acidity has mellowed. Important note: what the estimated maturities do NOT suggest is how long a wine will remain structurally sound and still capable of providing some enjoyment as many Burgundies are capable of remarkably long periods of graceful decline even in less successful vintages; however, beyond a certain point they will have passed their peaks and should be drunk, no matter how intellectually interesting they may be. As with anything this subjective, there is no substitute for your own experience and I offer these estimated maturities as a general guideline, not gospel and as the saying goes, your mileage may vary according to your personal preferences.

Issue 90 Producer Index

Côte de Beaune:

Adélie
Amiot et Fils, Guy
Angerville, Marquis d'
Armand, Comte/Clos des Epeneaux
Bachelet, Jean-Claude
Bachelet-Monnot
Ballot-Millot & Fils
Belland, Roger/Joseph
Bellene, de
Bellene, Roche de
Bitouzet-Prieur
Bize, Simon
Blain-Gagnard
Boillot, Henri – Domaine
Boillot, Henri – Maison
Bonneau du Martray
Bouchard Père & Fils
Boudier, Jean-Baptiste
Bouley, Pierrick
Bouzereau, Michel
Boyer-Martenot
Buffet, François
Buisson-Charles
Camus-Bruchon & Fils
Champy
Chandon de Briailles
Chanson Père et Fils
Chartron, Jean
Chenu Père & Filles, Louis
Chevalier Père et Fils
Clerget, Y.
Clos de la Chapelle
Coche-Dury
Colin, Bruno
Colin, Joseph
Colin, Marc
Colin, Philippe
Colin, Simon
Cornu, Edmond
Courcel, de
Croix, des
Cyrot-Buthiau
Dancer, Vincent
Drouhin, Joseph
Dubreuil-Fontaine
Dussort, Sylvain
Ente, Arnaud
Follin-Arbelet
Fontaine-Gagnard
Gagnard, Jean-Noël
Gaunoux, Michel
Germain et Fils, Henri
Girard, Jean-Jacques
Girardin, Vincent
Giroud, Camille
Glantenay, Georges
Gros, A.-F.
Guyon, Antonin
Harbour
Heitz, Armand
Huber-Verdereau
Jadot, Louis
Jobard, Antoine
Jobard, Rémi
Labet, Pierre et François
Labruyère-Prieur Sélection
Lafarge, Michel
Lafon, des Comtes
Lafouge, Jean et Gilles
Latour, Louis
Latour, Vincent
Latour-Giraud
Launay-Horiot
Leflaive, Olivier
Leroux, Benjamin
Mallard, Michel
Maltroye, Château de la
Marsannay, Château de
Matrot, Thierry et Pascale/ Pierre Matrot
Meurgey, Pierre
Meursault, Château de
Mikulski, François
Moine, Lucien Le
Montille, de
Montille, de - Kosher
Moreau, Alex
Moreau, Benoît
Morey, Caroline
Morey, Pierre
Morey, Sylvain
Morey, Thomas

Morey, Vincent et Sophie
Morey-Blanc
Morey-Coffinet
Morot, Albert
Niellon, Michel
Pacalet, Philippe
Parent
Pavelot, Hugues
Pavelot, Jean-Marc & Hugues
Pavillon, du
Pillot, Fernand et Laurent
Pillot, Jean et Jean-Marc
Pillot, Paul
Pommard, Château de
Pousse d'Or
Prieur, Jacques
Prieur-Brunet
Prudhon et Fils, Henri
Prunier-Bonheur, Pascal
Ramonet, Jean-Claude
Rapet Père et Fils
Rollin Père et Fils
Roulot
Roux Père et Fils
Senard, Comte
Thomas-Collardot
Tollot-Beaut
Violot-Guillemard, Joannès
Voillot, Joseph

En Plus:

Lafarge-Vial

California Pinot Noir:

Adelaida Cellars
Ampelos Vineyard
Bravium
Co^lluvial Wines
Kendric Vineyards
Madson Wines
Rochioli Vineyards and Winery
Thomas T. Thomas Vineyards

Oregon Pinot Noir:

Appassionata Estate
Belle Pente
Brittan Vineyards
Broadley Vineyards
Bryn Mawr Vineyards
Carabella Vineyard
Chehalem
Coeur de Terre Vineyard
De Ponte Cellars
Et Fille Wines
Ghost Hill Cellars
iOTA Cellars
Lavinea Winery
Love & Squalor Wine
Pike Road Vineyards
Reustle-Prayer Rock Vineyards
Roco Winery
Stoller Family Estate
Utopia Vineyards
Winderlea Vineyards and Winery

Progress Reports:

#1 – Domaine de la Romanée-Conti 2000 Vintage Horizontal

#2 – Domaine Méo-Camuzet Mini- 2011 Vintage Horizontal

The CÔTE DE BEAUNE – The 2021 and 2020 Vintages

2021 Summary – Back to the Future (with all of the problems that suggests)

As was the case in the Côte de Nuits, the same two words seemed to emanate from the mouths of almost every grower among the 125+ that I visited in the Côte de Beaune regarding the 2021 vintage: *difficile* and *compliqué*, neither of which presumably needs translating! This has, in a way, become a common theme because when you consider the growing seasons of 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2016, every one of them presented their fair share of challenges, even if those challenges were not necessarily all cut from the same cloth.

While *vignerons* in the two Côtes might have used the same verbiage to describe the challenges of the growing season, the results, and especially the volumes, were not at all the same. This is because the Côte de Beaune is more precocious than the Côte de Nuits, which means that bud break occurs earlier. When a severe early season frost occurs, as was the case in 2021 (the nights of April 6, 7 and 8), it inevitably engenders more damage because the vines are always more advanced in the Côte de Beaune. However, this isn't the only reason that more damage was done. It's also because the Côte de Beaune has much more chardonnay planted, which is virtually always more precocious than pinot noir. Add the two together and it largely explains why the Côte de Beaune was crushed and the Côte de Nuits, while certainly damaged, did considerably better from the standpoint of yields. By contrast, when a severe frost occurs later in the season, as was the case for example in 2016 (April 26 and 27), both Côtes suffer more or less the same levels of damage.

Before I address those challenges that were specific to the Côte de Beaune in more detail, I always like to get right to the point regarding wine quality in my vintage summaries. As was the case in the Côte de Nuits, the short answer is that quality is highly, even frustratingly, variable, ranging from the awful, to the acceptable, to the excellent and in a very few cases, to the genuinely sublime. But due to what I described above about the Côte de Beaune being more advanced, and thus suffering more frost damage, the quality is even more variable. The good news though is that when the wines are good, they're terrific as a brief glance at the Burghound Côte de Beaune Selection charts immediately below will confirm.

I would further observe that 2021 is the kind of vintage that I absolutely love, at least stylistically speaking. Otherwise expressed, 2021 is a burg geek's vintage par excellence. The best wines are superbly fresh and transparent as the underlying terroir is wonderfully clear; indeed, it's at the core of each wine. In fact, I would go so far as to say that the terroir is so crystalline in 2021 that even those who doubt its existence might well be persuaded to reconsider their convictions. Outstanding transparency though is not all there is, as the wines are strikingly refreshing and tension filled. In fact, one of my favorite Burgundian sayings when describing especially appealing or interesting wines is "*le premier verre appelle le deuxième*" or the first glass calls for the second; 2021 is the epitome of that sentiment, at least when they are of sufficient quality, which unfortunately is not always the case.

While I have in a sense already given away how the rollercoaster ride that was the 2021 growing season concluded, this mostly happy ending was anything but assured. It is not by accident that some *vignerons* described it as, "the growing season from hell," because it saw just about every misfortune possible, even if they weren't evenly distributed from one commune to another. For example, Blagny was absolutely devastated whereas Monthélie, which is not so far away, was largely spared. Or another example is that the southern portion of Beaune was hit extremely hard while the northern portion much less so. Savigny did reasonably well yet the Hill of Corton, its immediate neighbor, was basically wiped out. And when I say devastated, I'm talking single digit yields in terms of hectoliters per hectare. But the key takeaway is that while there was at least some frost damage everywhere, some communes were much harder hit than others.

A severe frost, even if it was the worst problem, was far from the only one but at least the trauma came and went quickly. This would not be the case for most of the other problems because there was cool weather for much of the summer, light but frequent rain, a generally poor flowering, severe attacks of both mildew and oidium (powdery mildew), an equally vicious attack of *mange-bourgeons* (bud eating caterpillars) plus a heavy storm just before the harvest that unleashed a devastating attack of botrytis. It's honestly hard to pack more problems into a single growing season! As if a bitter cherry on the *vignerons'* growing season cake was necessary, in many cases the yields in 2021 were even smaller than they were in 2003 and more than a few domaines said they were their lowest ever. While definitely a painful 'silver lining' of a sort, some of the more philosophical growers freely admitted that it was a good thing that yields were so low because if not, sufficient ripeness levels would never have been attained given the cool and generally wet conditions. As one seasoned grower told me, "Better a little of something good than a lot of something awful." Quite so.

As such, picking dates are more deceptive than usual in 2021 because even though yields were down sharply almost everywhere, there were exceptions, either because of location (Monthélie for example), or because parcels were protected by warming candles (or other means, such as wind turbines), or just plain luck. Another reason is that despite the pre-harvest attack of botrytis, many domaines either picked before it could spread, though perhaps at the expense of some needed extra maturity. Alternatively, some decided to take the risk of possibly allowing it to spread but with the benefit of a few extra days of ripening, and then sorting out the affected fruit. As it turned out, this was an effective strategy, but at the sometimes considerable, additional cost (as high as 20%) of losing even more of your crop.

Remarkably enough given all of the problems, fruit quality was generally considered to be good if not truly excellent. Not surprisingly, maturities did vary from grower to grower for several reasons, the most important of which was of course the frost and whether the second-generation fruit was used. It's worth underscoring a little-known fact about harvesting this second-generation fruit, which is that it's not easy to discern the difference between 1st and 2nd generations, even by the growers themselves, let alone a seasonal picker. I point this out because it's important to understand that using 2nd generation fruit is not the result of a lack of rigor on the part of the growers, or even just greed in wanting to have more volume. It's simply that it's extremely difficult to know the difference unless one tastes each berry, and obviously that isn't feasible!

Potential alcohols were moderate at between 11.5 and 13%, with most ranging from 12 to 12.5%. Some elected to leave well enough alone while others chaptalized between .5 and 1% to get to the supposed, and debatable, sweet spot of around 13%. The use of whole clusters was, very generally speaking, more restrained though this too was highly variable depending on what the producer wanted to accomplish stylistically speaking. Interestingly, and especially so given the coolness of the growing season, acidities and associated pHs were not especially high; indeed they were barely higher than what was obtained in 2020 (or lower if referring to pHs). For another point of comparison, the acid levels in 2021 are nowhere near as bright and firm as say 2013, but well above say 2015 or 2018.

From the standpoint of quality, 2021 produced many really lovely wines that should provide for delicious drinking early on, yet be capable of amply rewarding mid-term cellaring and in a few cases, they should be as long-lived as most collectors would reasonably want. However, it also produced any number of herbaceous and/or edgy wines that possess a bit too much acidity or greenish tannins to be properly balanced. When the 2021s are good though, they are a joy to drink, not only because they are delicious but also because they are capable of appealing to the intellect as well because of their superb terroir transparency. I hesitate to call them the "thinking person's burgundies" but there is an element of that in the wines. To craft another comparison, they are stylistically about as far away from 2018, 2019 and 2020 as one can get and still have reasonably ripe wines. To this end, 2021 vintage comparisons are varied as some invoked a combination of 2013 and 2014, others 2001, others 2007, others 2011 and yet others went back to 1991 or 1987.

As to overall quality by sector, the effects of the frost were so capricious and the effort, or lack thereof, of each domaine tended to overshadow the more general benefit or detriment of being in a specific commune. As the Burgundians like to say in certain vintages, 2021 was a *millésime du vigneron*, meaning that you had to be super-rigorous and absolutely on top of your game to make high-quality wine. And as usual, I will have an equally rigorous deconstruction of the growing season, harvest and vinification strategies below!

2021 – The Growing Season and Harvest in the Côte de Beaune

Initially, the season had every appearance of repeating the precociousness experienced in 2020 as both January and February were warmer than normal and particularly February as it was almost 50% warmer! I remember growers lamenting at the time that frost was a real risk but if that didn't happen, they would be picking in July! The first three weeks of March though were slightly cooler than normal, which helped slow the vegetative cycle. Unfortunately, the last 10 days of the month were warmer than normal and the accumulation of rainfall to that point was over 100 mm higher than the seasonal average. Even though the March temperatures were slightly cooler, the rainfall through January was so far above normal that the soils remained soaked. This created the ideal conditions for bud break to commence early, and that's exactly what happened. To that point, the vegetative cycle was roughly equivalent to 2019, one of the most precocious on record.

Even though April temperatures were also cooler than normal, the first few days were much warmer and not surprisingly, given the combination of warmth and sufficient ground water, the vegetation exploded. Importantly, and as is typically the case, the chardonnay was at least a week more advanced than the pinot vines. When temperatures fell to below freezing on the nights of April 6th, 7th and 8th, it was the perfect recipe for catastrophe, not only for the pinot but especially so for the chardonnay.

So that readers can have a better appreciation for the vagaries of frost damage, what follows is a short summary of how things typically work in Burgundy. First, not all early season cold snaps visit the same effects on the vines. Obviously, the sheer depth of the temperatures is the most critical variable but there are several others, in particular whether the cold is vertically similar (e.g., is the cold air mostly near the ground or it is uniform from the ground to the height of several hundred meters?); also, is the cold accompanied by wind or snow, or has it by chance been preceded by rain? If the freezing conditions are really extreme (below 5 to 10° C), the vines themselves will survive depending on the conditions, but any growth that may exist will almost certainly be completely burned. But even conditions as 'temperate' as -2° to -3° C can damage incipient growth, which is why early bud break is so risky.

If the cold is vertical, wind turbines that attempt to mix warmer air with the cooler air nearer to the ground are ineffective. If it is windy, warming candles (or the old diesel fueled smudge pots that are still in use by some) are ineffective, at least absent having a very large number of them, something that is impractical for most producers. If there is snow, this can be a positive as it helps to insulate the vines against the cold. However, if the temperatures warm slightly, causing the snow to melt and thus soaking the buds, and then they subsequently drop to below freezing, the buds are destroyed, which is exactly what happened on the night of the 7th.

To provide a bit of perspective on the efficacity of warming candles, 300 to 400 of them per hectare can raise the ambient temperature by 1° to 2° C. Depending on availability and the quantity purchased, the cost per unit is roughly €8 to €11, and they typically last 7 to 8 hours. This of course doesn't include the labor involved in spacing them properly (usually they are placed so that one candle covers 25 to 30 square meters, or in Burgundy, which typically uses a meter-by-meter planting density, 25 to 30 vines), lighting them and extinguishing them. Theft is also a recurrent problem so domaines tend not to place them out in the vineyards during the day when it's convenient but rather when there is an alert of falling temperatures at 1 or 2 am! The candles then have to be gathered up and stored and if necessary, the scene is repeated for as many nights as needed. Effectively, this means that it costs, in round numbers, around €4000 per hectare per night to potentially provide your vines 1° to 2° C of protection. As noted, this figure does not include the cost of labor, but it also doesn't account for the fatigue and psychological wear and tear of consecutive nights of no sleep while standing outside in frigid conditions.

Damage to the buds typically begins to occur between -2° to -3° C, so at those levels, 300 to 400 candles per hectare can be effective, provided of course that it's not windy. But the conditions in early April were typically between -4° and -9° C depending on the night and the sector, which meant that absent doubling the number of candles per hectare along with the attendant cost and effort, there was little to nothing to be done.

Returning to the situation extant during the nights of April 6th, 7th and 8th, the circumstances were, most unfortunately, simply not propitious to avoiding damage. A huge mass of cold air arrived over the region that was vertical in nature, again meaning that it was extremely cold from the ground straight up. Moreover, the night of the 6th was quite windy so warming candles were ineffective absent having more of them than is really practical. The night of the 7th snowed so the candles were not only ineffective but dangerous as the last thing you want to do is melt the snow when it's very cold. Then, the night of the 8th was extremely cold so again, absent putting out double or triple the usual number of candles, they were again ineffective. I would add that the snow that fell on the night of the 7th did in fact melt, soaking the buds and since the coldest night of the three was in fact the 8th, the soaked buds were destroyed.

In the end though, the frost damage was variable, and for a variety of reasons. The first was the stage of vine development, which is to say that the more advanced (like the chardonnay), the greater the damage. Sites that are naturally more precocious suffered more damage while those that are typically late starting suffered less. Second was the degree of protection provided, which as discussed above, was variable in its effects. Thirdly was just the luck of the draw as some sectors were spared to varying degrees. Damage estimates were similarly all over the place but as a general rule, they ran between 20% and 80%, with most growers telling me that they lost on average 50% for the pinot and between 60 and 90% for the chardonnay.

A good example of this sector-by-sector variability was the commune of Chassagne-Montrachet. Usually when conditions favor frost, the prevailing wind comes from the north. In 2021, the wind came from the west, which is to say St. Aubin and flowed over the hillsides. As such, rather than the lower lying areas suffering the worst damage, it was the premier cru vineyards on the slope that suffered the most.

One other aspect that bears mentioning, is that frost like the one that hit Burgundy in 2021 has another more subtle but almost as pernicious effect. This is to say that it weakens the vines' defenses against other problems such as cryptogamic diseases and predators. As will be described below, the attacks of mildew and oidium were severe and many growers attributed at least some of their virulence to the weakening effects of the frost.

The frost wasn't the only problem to appear in April, as noted above, there was an attack of *mange-bourgeons* (bud eating caterpillars, also known as *noctuelles* as they appear at night). There isn't much to be done against them absent using insecticides, something that most growers don't use anymore. The other remedy is to remove the tiny bugs manually, but as you might well imagine, that is a slow and laborious process, and particularly so because it's not easy to see them in the dark. Loss estimates from these tiny critters were as high as 15%, so their presence wasn't trivial. One would intuitively think that the severe frosts would have reduced the population of the *mange-bourgeons*, but it didn't appear to have any effect. Thankfully by the end of April, the remaining caterpillars had matured and this particular problem was mostly resolved.

Continuing our journey through the growing season, the remainder of April and May were cooler than normal and while June was slightly warmer (1.8° C), July and August were both again slightly cooler. September was slightly warmer, which was good for encouraging ripeness levels, though less so for limiting the spread of botrytis.

2021 was certainly wet but an important distinction is worth making: it was not so much the total rainfall that mattered, so much as it was the frequency of it that made the critical difference. To underscore the point, between April and September, there were 53 days of at least 1 mm of rain, or on roughly 1 day out of every 3 there was precipitation. Given how many domaines now protect their vineyards with organic treatments (known broadly as contact products), it only requires 10 to 15 mm of rain to wash away the last treatment, at which point another application is necessary. As such, the frequency of the rain matters a lot.

Moreover, there is another effect of frequent rain and generally cooler temperatures, is that the soils don't dry out as quickly, which means that it becomes increasingly difficult to get equipment into the vineyards for various tasks and in particular, to apply treatments. The muddy conditions can be quite dangerous as the tractors can easily slip, potentially damaging vines or worse still, the tractor operators. Growers reported that May and July were so wet, and the attacks of mildew and oidium so fierce, that they were obliged to apply their treatments manually using atomizers carried on their backs while wearing hazmat-like suits, or risk losing even more crop. As such, it was critical to treat where, when and how it was necessary at any given moment because there was no remedy if you were late.

Mildew in particular has become a very serious problem over the last decade and fighting it back has become increasingly difficult. Worse, oidium is not far behind in terms of the problems it causes (it was actually the bigger problem in 2021), especially for the chardonnay, but also in the cooler upper slope vineyards where it's typically windier as that's how the spores spread. The attack of mildew in 2016 was considered to be the worst in living memory but grower after grower told me that 2021 was even worse!

To provide a particularly powerful example of just how virulent these cryptogamic diseases can be, one grower told me that in anticipation of needing more treatments, he bought a new state-of-the-art tractor precisely for this reason. He related that he was making his treatments as recommended, yet he noticed that the oidium was rapidly spreading anyway. He called the dealer to inspect the tractor and its applicator, and they found that the dosage being applied wasn't properly regulated, and was under-treating by 20%. Now under-treating by 20% may not seem like much but the end result was catastrophic. Two full hectares of chardonnay in an Auxey-Duresses premier cru vineyard were literally destroyed in less than a week.

Aside from the storms that ravaged the northern part of the Côte de Nuits, June was relatively dry in the Côte de Beaune. This brief respite allowed the flowering to commence around the 8th of June though reports were varied as to how it passed. Some said it was fast and successful, yet others reported that it didn't pass well as there was a high incidence of *coulure* (shatter), and in the process, cost even more potential yield. It also wasn't consistent between the lower lying vineyards and those on the hillsides as the former suffered a higher incidence of shatter.

August was a mixed bag as it were with a wet first 10 days of the month but dry thereafter with warmer temperatures that were effective in helping the growers fight off the attacks of mildew and oidium. *Véraison* started around mid-August and generally finished about the beginning of September. The good weather continued through the first 15 days and fruit maturities finally began to rise in earnest.

Unfortunately, there were mid-month rainstorms that triggered an attack of botrytis, in this case *pourriture grise* (gray rot). The Côte hadn't really seen much botrytis in the last several vintages due to relatively low rainfall levels and high temperatures. September though had conditions that were perfect for its development and growers began to notice it here and there. This close to the harvest, it can't be treated against, so the only effective remedy is leaf thinning, which many growers used to reasonably good effect.

Then, consistent with the rollercoaster ride that was 2021, a very large storm dropped 60 mm of rain in one day, about one week before the harvest was to begin for most growers. This complicated the calculation of when to begin picking enormously because at that point, most parcels weren't at sufficient maturity, yet absolutely no one wanted to lose more crop to yet another problem. The rain also had the effect of further diluting both the potential alcohols and the acidities. So, in essence, the thorny problem confronting the growers was painful in its clear simplicity: begin picking knowing your fruit wasn't adequately ripe or wait in the hopes of riper fruit while knowing that you were losing 3% to 5% of the remaining crop each day. A classic example of a Hobson's choice if there ever was one.

In the end, each domaine did what they thought was best for them under the circumstances. Some began early knowing that the earlier picked fruit would be somewhat underripe, yet the later picked fruit might compensate. Others stubbornly waited knowing that it was costing them dearly and yet others compromised by waiting a few extra days. But as I observed in the Vintage Summary, be careful judging wine quality based on the picking dates cited by each grower in my domaine summaries because there are any number of factors that can enter into the calculation and, in particular, how bad the frost hit that specific parcel and how much second-generation fruit was picked. In the end, one grower put it in unequivocally stark terms: "the 2021 harvest was won by those who are rich." His meaning was that if you were wealthy enough to afford to lose another 20 to 25% of your crop, you waited to pick; if you weren't, you picked because you couldn't afford not to do otherwise.

In the end, and as is often the case in Burgundy, harvest dates were all over the map. Some in the Côte de Beaune started as early as the 16th of September and others delayed picking until the 24th to 25th of September, which means that there were those who finished in October. Harvest conditions were clement and largely stayed that way throughout. The speed at which growers picked varied, partially due to the continued scarcity of pickers and partially due to how clean the fruit was. Generally speaking, most growers reported bringing in spotless fruit while others said that botrytis was a problem and had to be sorted very carefully, and particularly so for those who are partisans of whole cluster fermentations as the stalks are a magnet for botrytis. Putting aside the sorting for botrytis, the typical grower said that the major concern was to eliminate underripe fruit so as not to have astringent tannins or too much greenish acidity. In the end, sorting losses were quite varied with some telling me less than 5% and others saying it cost them up to 20%.

Though I've already touched on the subject of yields, they were in general off 50% though again, it varied enormously and even within the same domaine. Grape skins were generally thin and the quantity of juice per berry was above average or, otherwise expressed, the solid to liquid ratio was low. In a typical vintage, it takes about 330 kg to make one barrel of pinot noir. In some vintages, usually very hot and dry ones, it can be as high as 375 to 380 kg/barrel while in 2021, most growers said that it was in the 300 to 310 kg/barrel. A few reported ranges of 330 to 340 kg/barrel but they were the exception that confirms the rule, as the saying goes.

As a very general proposition, I would say that based on my tastings, those who picked later in 2021 generally did better though as I have noted, that is far from a hard and fast conclusion. What isn't debatable is that the potential alcohols they obtained were higher even if those producers who picked earlier were able to lightly chaptalize to compensate for this. On the lower end, alcohols were sub-12% and climbed to as high as 13.5% with an average range of 12% to 12.5%, or pretty much typical over the last two decades. Quite a few growers noted that they chaptalized between 0.5% to 1% while others were content to respect the style of the vintage by doing nothing. Acid levels were good but not high and no higher than 2020, which is almost counterintuitive given that the two growing seasons basically couldn't have been more different. This is at least partially explained by the fact that much of the total acidity was composed of malic acid and thus its potency is degraded through the malolactic fermentation. pH is of course a measure of this potency and in 2021, the post-malo pHs ranged between 3.45 to 3.6, which is pretty much textbook.

I would take the trouble to point out that despite a general reputation for having low-ish maturities, the potential alcohols in 2021 were definitely not unusually low. Limited phenolic maturities, yes but low sugars, no. For example, consider that all of the following vintages had lower levels (some only slightly) when measured by grams of sugar per liter of must: 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2013 while 2014 was only slightly above it. As such, as some reports that I have seen claim, it's hard to argue that the fruit in 2021 was deficient in terms of potential alcohol.

As noted, the thin-skinned fruit generally had higher liquid to solid ratios and at best average phenolic maturities. This would have consequent effects on how the average domaine would vinify, which is to say very softly, in the hopes of avoiding the over-extraction of underripe tannins and in particular, seed tannins. Others didn't necessarily vinify more softly so much as they shortened the duration of their cuvaisons and allowed the fermentations to finish in either tank or barrel. However, some producers took a different approach noting that because the intrinsic extractability of the fruit in 2021 was quite low, at least some cold soaking and/or more punching down was necessary to obtain some color and tannic support for the wines.

To provide some perspective on the color and tannin content of the 2021s, I have discussed in these pages in the past the idea of what is called the Indice Polyphénols Totaux, or IPT for short. This is a measure of the density of coloring matter and structural elements and while the scale doesn't mean much in the abstract, comparing the IPT across vintages does provide insight. The IPT in 2021 generally ranged from a low of 6 to a high of 8, which is consistent with what I have already noted as more lightly colored reds. Compare this with the incredible level of 22 to 23 that the 2020 vintage produced, which are the most deeply colored Burgundies that I have ever seen.

In contrast to 2018 or 2020, few growers reported having any difficulties getting the fermentations to finish their sugars though some did note that the malolactics had trouble finishing. Speaking of the alcoholic fermentations, there is no consensus in terms of the number of grams of sugar per liter to produce one degree of alcohol. Some said it was as low as 17 g/l while others said it was in the range of 17.5 to 18 g/l. Most though were at the upper end of the range, which also partially explains the generally lower level of reported alcohols in 2021.

As has been the case for several years now, domaines using at least some whole clusters in their vinifications have reached something on the order of 50% in the Côte de Nuits but more like 25 to 30% in the Côte de Beaune. This trend has been on the rise for the better part of a decade though in 2021, producers definitely reduced the percentage of stems, and some eliminated them altogether. There were various reasons for this as some argued that they couldn't trust how clean they were (botrytis tends to adhere to the stems) while others said that they didn't have sufficient maturity and thus wanted to avoid potentially adding herbaceous or green notes to their wines. Yet others who said that they used stems to add freshness to their wines, said that in a vintage like 2021, where freshness and vivacity is intrinsic to the wines, that they didn't need to augment them further. In sum, stem utilization during the fermentations was definitely lower than is has been over the last few vintages.

The malolactic fermentations (malos or MLF) were, very generally speaking, moderately slow to finish because as noted, there were higher levels of malic as less of it burned off during the cooler growing season. In fact, there were a few domaines who reported that the malos lagged and while it's infrequent, you will see a few cases where wines were not presented because the malos hadn't completely finished.

The 2021 Côte de Beaune Reds – Elegant, Fresh, Strikingly Transparent and Highly Energetic but Very Heterogenous

So, as with every vintage, the two questions for readers that take precedence over everything else always are: should you buy the 2021s and if so, how much of them? However, before we get into the intricacies of what 2021 produced, the first thing to point out, because it is perhaps the most shocking aspect of the wines, is just how different they are from what was produced in 2018, 2019 and 2020. They offer perfectly good colors, but nothing like what 2020 produced.

The best wines are classic Burgundies in the best sense of that term. They have something of everything in terms of a tantalizing freshness as they are decidedly very pinot in character followed by a dazzling transparency on the palate. As I noted above, the sense of terroir is at the core of each wine, and when a palpable sense of energy is added, the wines are a joy to drink. I would describe them as mostly medium weight wines though some are certainly on the lighter side, either because of the higher liquid to solid ratios, or because producers chose to vinify very softly, and in some cases too softly; after all, despite some producers claiming to only want to do an 'infusion', it is still possible to vinify too lightly and thus fail to obtain the necessary mid-palate density. There is also good but not high acidity, which contributes to the strong sense of underlying tension on the balanced, clean and bright finishes. They should age gracefully over a probable 10-to-20-year window, though relatively few of them are destined to be long-distance runners. As such, one of the attractive aspects of 2021 is that they should be, generally speaking, approachable on the younger side.

There is another side to the vintage though where the wines are less successful. These reflect any number of characteristics that are less attractive to downright problematic. They include too much crushed leaf or even herbaceous elements, excessive acidity, underripe tannins, finishing asperity, or in the worst cases, outright astringency, which of course all serve to impair proper balance. A few suffer from off odors from fruit that wasn't thoroughly sorted, though in contrast to the three prior vintages, fewer wines suffer from technical faults such as volatile acidity or Brett.

So, the short answer to the first of the two questions posed above is, yes, I believe that the 2021s belong in any serious Burgundy collector's cellar. This is unless of course your preference is for riper, richer and more powerful Burgundies, at which point you would be better served to stick with examples from 2018, 2019 and 2020. As to how much of them to buy, this is a more subjective and nuanced question, the answer to which is dictated by a variety of secondary considerations. The first is how many wines will actually be available in any market given that among recent vintages, 2021 produced by far the least. This of course means that another round of price increases is all but inevitable, and given that the quality of the 2021s, while certainly perfectly good, it isn't so good that everyone will be able to justify buying them. Which brings me to the second point, which is to wonder at what point do, collectively speaking, consumers just say "enough is enough as this is just silly"?

Everyone's budget is of course different but in answering the question strictly for me, I will buy at least some of the top wines among those that I can find while layering in others up and down the appellation hierarchy. Otherwise, beyond advising you to stick to the very best wines in the context of their category, it's difficult to say buy or don't buy. One might ask, well, isn't sticking to the best wines always true? And yes, of course it is but it is particularly true in 2021 as it absolutely is not a vintage to buy blind. I would strongly suggest you read the producer reports carefully and then consult the 2021 Burghound Selection charts for specific suggestions as to the best choices. Despite all of the articles claiming that affordable Burgundy no longer exists, that is simply not true, though it is true that relative value is harder to find than it used to be.

Regarding longevity, the 2021s should have good to very good short to mid-term development potential though a few wines should reward 15+ years of keeping, even if they are the exception. One positive aspect regarding drinkability though is that relatively few wines are so backward and compact that they couldn't be approached after only 5 to 8 years.

With respect to other vintages that 2021 might reasonably resemble stylistically, growers actually had a wide variety of opinions. Some suggested a combination of 2013 and 2014, others 2001, others 2007, others 2011 and yet others went back to 1991 or 1987. There were some who thought that 2021 is like a more structured 2017, or a less acidic 2013. Personally, I like 2001 as a reasonable parallel and I suspect that it will age similarly, which is to say gracefully over the next two decades.

Like I do with every vintage, I would strongly suggest that when the 2021s hit the market later this year that you buy a few and see for yourself what you think. Some may find them to be too classic, meaning lacking too much in the way of body or finding the herbal or green tea elements on the nose bothersome, though with that said, I stress that the greenness has nothing in common with the aggressive pyrazine notes that were common in the 2004s and even some 2011s. I personally like the style of the 2021 vintage a great deal, if for no other reason than it's what I grew up with, nostalgia being what it is I suppose. Thankfully, with modern methods and a much greater sense of rigor, today's growers produced far better quality compared to what would have been the case if 2021 was magically transported back to the 1970s or 1980s.

What to Consider Buying in 2021

The first key point to understand about the reds from the 2021 vintage in the Côte de Beaune is that quality was consistently inconsistent. This is to say that there are excellent reds made in a number of communes though there were poor wines made in the same communes as well. As I detailed above, there are a variety of reasons for this and as such, it is impossible to generalize. For example, while Volnay stands out as perhaps the best commune of all in 2021, believe me when I say that I also tasted a number of wines that simply weren't very good as well. Pommard is another example where quality ranged from excellent to pretty uninspiring. Given that this is the case, I would advise you to focus on the producer first, second and third rather than the commune. This is often the case but it's particularly true in 2021.

Another rule of thumb to help guide your purchases is that the appellation hierarchy was absolutely respected in 2021. In fact, so much so that it makes certain vociferous critics who argue that climate change has rendered the hierarchy archaic, to look pretty foolish. This is not to say that there weren't good wines made at the regional or *villages* levels, but at the same time it is incontrovertibly true that a lot more of them were made at the premier and grand cru levels.

The best strategy is to look carefully at the Burghound Selection charts and in particular the Top Value Selections as it's not necessary to spend ridiculous amounts of money to drink very well. With that said, the greatest terroirs, not surprisingly, produced the greatest wines. The best premier crus from Volnay, Pommard, Beaune, Savigny and the grand crus from the Hill of Corton produced the most interesting wines and with relatively few exceptions, they dominate my choices.

In sum, 2021 is a vintage that I believe that you will want to have in your cellar, even if it's in small-ish quantities. With that advice offered, it's not a 'gotta have' vintage, but more like a 'nice to have'. As such, I would advise buying your favorites in whatever amounts that you can find and afford, and then cherry pick the rest. I will be doing the same so here's wishing you every success!

2020 Côte de Beaune Reds Revisited – Similar to Last Year's Impressions but Even More Variable

It's been a long time since I have seen such a dramatic contrast between one vintage and another as is the case between 2021 and 2020, which is literally like night and day, particularly if the comparative criterion being used is color. Indeed, the last time I saw so much contrast was the incredible difference between 2003 and 2004. But even if color is not the focus, you have the same jarring differences when it comes to fruit ripeness levels, mid-palate densities, tannin loads and alcoholic strengths. About the only criterion where the two vintages are similar is, ironically enough given that one vintage is extremely ripe and the other is rarely more than just sufficiently ripe, is that of acidities, and secondarily, pHs.

Be any of that as it may, it would be fair to observe that it was challenging shifting from one radically different style to another in the tastings that I did where the now in-bottle 2020s were presented. Happily, much of what I tasted largely confirmed what I saw last year from barrel. But not all of it did as some of the flaws of the vintage were more apparent.

The first, and perhaps most important takeaway, is that it seems clear that the average 2020 is already in the process of shutting down. This should not be surprising as I wrote last year at this time that the typical 2020 is built to longer-term cellaring and some of the best wines will see their 50th birthdays in fine form. This kind of longevity comes at a price though, and that price is usually early accessibility.

This may not be a bad thing though because in the process of shutting down, some of the wines are becoming less harmonious, either because the fruit is becoming seemingly riper and less fresh, or because the tannins are now more prominent (or occasionally drying), or because the generally elevated levels of alcohols stick out more, or in the worst of cases, all of them at once. The question of course that such wines pose is whether they will become more, or less, harmonious as they age.

The second major takeaway is that the best wines remain definitely ripe but not roasted as they display a tantalizing freshness and underlying tension that makes the palate impression particularly inviting. In much the same fashion as the 2019s, the finest examples flash an exquisite acid/fruit/tannin balance that makes them sing in the sense that you just can't help but take another sip. They are blessed with palpable levels of sappy dry extract, or what the Burgundians call *sève*, which reflects the impressive concentration the vintage naturally has. The naturally high levels of *sève* have the secondary effect of disguising the supporting tannins somewhat because the 2020s are quite structured (though rarely hard) despite the best efforts of most *vignerons* to vinify as softly as possible. They should age gracefully over a probable 20+ year window. In short, there is nothing to suggest that now that the 2020s are in bottle that they lost any of their superb development potential.

From a technical standpoint, last year I was somewhat concerned that certain potential faults would become more apparent once the wines were bottled, which sometimes occurs with very ripe vintages. This is because as the exuberantly youthful fruit that is often present in barrel begins to recede, faults such as volatile acidity, brettanomyces, geosmin or just plain old reduction, can become much more perceptible. I'm happy to report that such was not the case in the vast majority of the samples that I tried. This is not to say zero however, and if there was one fault that occasionally was noticeable, it was volatile acidity. This is, in a fashion of looking at things, the fault that is easiest to tolerate, absent of course it being really prominent at which point it can render the wine undrinkable.

In a separate category, there were some wines that displayed greenness, either on the nose or on the finish with edgy tannins. The consensus view as to the cause of these problems was the heat and dryness provoking hydric stress in the vines to the point where they shut down the photosynthetic processes. In effect, this stops the maturation of the fruit from a physiological standpoint, yet the natural evaporation is concentrating both sugar and acidity. This means that those *vignerons* who relied exclusively on their trusty mustimeters to gauge ripeness levels, likely picked too soon. As an aside, there is some corroboration in this theory as anyone who has tasted enough examples of say the 1976, 1989, 1990, 1997, 2003, 2009, 2015 and 2018 vintages can attest – all of them have some wines with similar problems, particularly with the herbal aspect of the aromas. Sometimes this herbal character seems to disappear with age, but my sense is that it's actually still there but is being masked by the secondary, and eventually, tertiary aromas (*sous-bois*) that progressively emerge. Unfortunately, underripe tannins remain edgy and raspy and tend to resolve much more slowly than the fruit, if indeed they ever do.

The last takeaway that I wish to (re)emphasize is that 2020 is very much *un grand millésime de garde* (a classic long-aging vintage), meaning that it isn't one in which to search for immediate gratification. If you're going to buy them in any quantity, please do so with the express intention to age them, at least if you wish to maximize value. But I would strongly suggest that you try a few first to be sure that the style of the vintage is not too extreme relative to your preferences.

A Brief Word of Caution

Given that Burgundy prices, particularly in the secondary markets continue to rise, even if more slowly over the past six months, I believe what I wrote last year is worth repeating. As temperately enthusiastic as I am about the 2021 vintage for its uneven quality, even so the tiny quantities will almost inevitably invite yet more speculation.

I say this because I wish to make clear that my job, and what you pay me for, is to evaluate wine, not sell it to you. Thus, I am duly mindful that I am presenting informed advice that I hope will be both valuable and useful to you while stopping short of inadvertently encouraging said speculation. The Burgundy market is already beyond frothy enough without me adding fuel to the fire. I say this out of respect for you as my loyal and supportive subscribers because I wish to avoid at all costs, as having it appear as though I'm over-praising matters. In sum, while you cannot go far wrong buying selected wines from 2018, 2019 or 2020 vintages, it bears keeping in mind the old saying that there is always another vintage in the pipeline. On top of which, while 2021 can't match the prior three vintages for consistency or quality, it is nonetheless true that a few spectacular wines were made and in a style that is radically different. Moreover, given the tiny quantities produced, there is zero reason for prices to moderate. As such, be judicious and choose carefully is ultimately the best advice that I can offer.

An Important Word about the Tasting Notes

99% of the following Burgundy notes are based on tastings conducted in January, February and March 2023. Note: finished in-bottle wines are assigned scores, as these wines are market-ready. Wines tasted from barrel are scored within a range, which simply reflects the reality that they are not finished, market-ready wines. The wines in the presentation boxes are listed alphabetically while the tasting notes are presented in the order that the winemaker chose to present the wines; this often is an indication as to the esteem in which the winemaker regards each wine.

Our policy on reviewing wines is simple: During domaine or winery visits, if a domaine or winery presents a wine for consideration, and it is to the best of our knowledge representative and has finished both its primary and secondary fermentations, then it is reviewed – no exceptions. So if, for example, you are looking at a range of 2020's from a specific Burgundian producer and you do not see a particular wine in the issue or database, it means that it was not presented for review and does NOT mean that it received an exceptionally poor score; it could also simply mean that the wine wasn't made in the first place. Either way, if a given wine is not in the database, it has not been reviewed. If you do not see any wines for any particular producer in a given year, then it means the wines were not reviewed – it does **NOT** mean they were reviewed but found to be uninspiring.

Note: Wines receiving a ➳ symbol are particularly outstanding for their respective appellations and especially merit your attention*;* readers should note that *grand crus* stand on their own and never receive an arrow (which is a heart symbol in the database).

Burghound.com 2021 Vintage Selections

The "Top Value Wines" are those that are generally available in the marketplace at a price point of no more than approximately $100 US; prices do of course vary from one country to another and even within those countries, they can vary widely, especially now with the fluctuation of many currencies. The "Sweet Spot Wines" section addresses the wide gulf between the under $100 Top Value wines and the generally over $250 "Don't Miss Wines"; note that I have tried to layer these selections to portray a representative range between the two price points. The "Don't Miss" wines are chosen based on sheer quality alone with price or availability having no effect on their selection. The reviews for each of these selections can be found in the corresponding producer section and will also be available via the searchable database.

Burghound.com's 2021 Vintage Selections

The "Top Value" Wines from the 2021 vintage in this Issue

2021	Aloxe-Corton	Follin-Arbelet	89
2021	Aloxe-Corton	Girard, Jean-Jacques	89
2021	Aloxe-Corton	Rapet Père et Fils	89
2021	Aloxe-Corton	Rollin Père et Fils	(89-91)
2021	Aloxe-Corton "Les Combes"	Boudier, Jean-Baptiste	89
2021	Auxey-Duresses	Prunier-Bonheur, Pascal	89
2021	Auxey-Duresses "1er" 1er	Comte Armand	91
2021	Auxey-Duresses "La Chapelle" 1er	Lafouge, Jean et Gilles	92
2021	Auxey-Duresses "Les Duresses" 1er	Lafouge, Jean et Gilles	92
2021	Aloxe-Corton "Les Vercots" 1er	Follin-Arbelet	(91-93)
2021	Beaune	Labet, Pierre et François	(89-91)
2021	Beaune Vieilles Vignes – Bio	Champy	89
2021	Bourgogne	d'Angerville, Marquis	(87-89)
2021	Bourgogne	Courcel, de	(86-89)
2021	Bourgogne	Latour-Giraud	(86-89)
2021	Bourgogne du Château Pinot Noir	Meursault, Château de	87
2021	Bourgogne Côte d'Or	Bouley, Pierrick	87
2021	Bourgogne Côte d'Or	Morey , Pierre	(86-89)
2021	Bourgogne Côte d'Or	Tollot-Beaut	87
2021	Bourgogne Côte d'Or "Clos Bardot Vieilles Vignes"	Bellene	(86-89)
2021	Bourgogne Côte d'Or "Les Constances"	Huber-Verdereau	87
2021	Bourgogne Côte d'Or "Hautes Coutures"	Buisson-Charles	(86-89)
2021	Bourgogne – Cuvée Maison Dieu	Violot-Guillemard, Joannès	(86-89)
2021	Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune	Girard, Jean-Jacques	87
2021	Bourgogne – Passe-tout-grains	d'Angerville, Marquis	(86-89)
2021	Bourgogne Passe-tout-grains l'Exception	Lafarge, Michel	(87-89)
2021	Bourgogne Pinot Noir	Bitouzet-Prieur	87
2021	Bourgogne Pinot Noir	Boillot, Domaine Henri	87
2021	Bourgogne Pinot Noir	Camus-Bruchon & Fils	87
2021	Bourgogne Pinot Noir	Colin, Philippe	87
2021	Bourgogne Pinot Noir	Cyrot-Buthiau	87
2021	Bourgogne Pinot Noir	Jobard, Antoine	87
2021	Bourgogne Pinot Noir	Lafarge, Michel	(87-89)
2021	Bourgogne Pinot Noir	Maltroye, Château de la	87
2021	Bourgogne Pinot Noir	Mikulski, François	87
2021	Bourgogne Pinot Noir	Prunier-Bonheur, Pascal	87
2021	Bourgogne Vieilles Vignes	Labet, Pierre et François	(86-89)
2021	Chambolle-Musigny	Glantenay, Georges	(89-91)
2021	Chambolle-Musigny	Pousse d'or	89
2021	Chambolle-Musigny "Clos du Village"	Guyon, Antonin	(89-92)
2021	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Cras"	Guyon, Antonin	(89-91)
2021	Chassagne-Montrachet	Colin, Simon	89
2021	Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes	Pillot, Jean et Jean-Marc	89
2021	Chassagne-Montrachet "Champs de Morjot"	Colin, Philippe	89
2021	Chorey-lès-Beaune "Le Grand Saussy"	Camus-Bruchon & Fils	89
2021	Chorey-lès-Beaune "La Pièce du Chapitre"	Tollot-Beaut	89
2021	Fixin "Les Petits Crais"	Marsannay, Château de	(90-92)
2021	Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes	Labet, Pierre et François	(89-91)
2021	Gevrey-Chambertin "Carougeot"	Guyon, Antonin	(89-92)
2021	Ladoix – Collection	Chevalier Père et Fils	90
2021	Ladoix "Les Carrières"	Cornu, Edmond	89

2021	Maranges “La Fussière” 1er	Bachelet-Monnot	90
2021	Marsannay “Le Boivin”	Marsannay, Château de	(90-92)
2021	Marsannay “Les Champs Salomon”	Marsannay, Château de	(89-92)
2021	Meursault “Clos de Mazeray”	Prieur, Jacques	(89-91)
2021	Morey St. Denis “Clos Solon”	Giroud, Camille	(89-91)
2021	Nuits St. Georges	Drouhin, Joseph	(89-91)
2021	Nuits St. Georges “Aux Saints Juliens”	Montille, de	89
2021	Pommard	Buffet, François	(89-91)
2021	Pommard	Cyrot-Buthiau	89
2021	Pommard	Jobard, Antoine	89
2021	Pommard	Leflaive, Olivier	89
2021	Pommard	Mikulski, François	89
2021	Pommard – Bio	Champy	89
2021	Pommard “Clos des Ursulines”	Pavillon, du	(89-91)
2021	Pommard “Les Lambots”	Harbour	(89-91)
2021	Pommard “Les Noizons”	Lafouge, Jean et Gilles	89
2021	Pommard “Les Trois Follots”	Prunier-Bonheur, Pascal	(89-92)
2021	Santenay “Beauregard” 1er	Belland, Roger/Joseph	91
2021	Santenay “Les Gravières” 1er	Belland, Roger/Joseph	91
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune	Bize, Simon	(89-91)
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Fournaux”	Chandon de Briailles	89
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Grands Liards Vieilles Vignes”	Camus-Bruchon & Fils	90
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Pimentiers Vieilles Vignes”	Camus-Bruchon & Fils	90
2021	Volnay	Comte Armand	90
2021	Volnay	Boillot, Domaine Henri	89
2021	Volnay	Cyrot-Buthiau	89
2021	Volnay	Drouhin, Joseph	(89-91)
2021	Volnay	Giroud, Camille	(89-91)
2021	Volnay	Jobard, Antoine	89
2021	Volnay	Lafarge, Michel	(89-92)
2021	Volnay Vieilles Vignes	Girard, Jean-Jacques	89
2021	Volnay – Cuvée des Chênes	Latour-Giraud	(89-91)
2021	Volnay “Les Pluchots”	Bouley, Pierrick	89
2021	Vosne-Romanée	Drouhin, Joseph	90

The “Sweet Spot” Wines from the 2021 Vintage in this Issue

2021	Aloxe-Corton “Les Fournières” 1er	Tollot-Beaut	92
2021	Aloxe-Corton “Les Vercots” 1er	Tollot-Beaut	92
2021	Beaune “Clos des Mouches” 1er	Drouhin, Joseph	92
2021	Beaune “Clos des Ursules” 1er	Jadot, Louis	(91-94)
2021	Beaune “Grèves” 1er	Lafarge, Michel	(91-94)
2021	Beaune “Grèves” 1er	Tollot-Beaut	92
2021	Beaune “Grèves – Vigne de l’Enfant Jésus” 1er	Bouchard Père & Fils	(91-93)
2021	Chambolle-Musigny “Les Fuées” 1er	Jadot, Louis	(91-93)
2021	Chambolle-Musigny “Les Charmes” 1er	Pousse d’or	92
2021	Clos de Vougeot – Grand Maupertui Grand Cru	Clerget, Y.	94
2021	Clos de Vougeot – Cuvée Félix Grand Cru	Clerget, Y.	94
2021	Corton Grand Cru	Follin-Arbelet	93
2021	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	Pousse d’or	93
2021	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	Prieur, Jacques	93
2021	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	Pousse d’or	93
2021	Corton-Maréchaudes Grand Cru	Meursault, Château de	(91-94)
2021	Corton-Renardes Grand Cru	Giroud, Camille	(91-94)
2021	Corton-Les Renardes Grand Cru	Parent	(92-94)
2021	Corton-Rognets Grand Cru	Meursault, Château de	(91-94)

2021	Le Corton Grand Cru	Bouchard Père & Fils	(92-95)
2021	Gevrey-Chambertin “1er” 1er	Jadot, Louis	(91-94)
2021	Gevrey-Chambertin “Cazetiers” 1er	Moine, Lucien Le	(92-94)
2021	Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Cazetiers” 1er	Leroux, Benjamin	(91-93)
2021	Gevrey-Chambertin “Champeaux” 1er	Marsannay, Château de	(91-93)
2021	Gevrey-Chambertin “Clos Prieur” 1er	Drouhin, Joseph	(91-93)
2021	Gevrey-Chambertin “Clos St. Jacques” 1er	Jadot, Louis	(92-94)
2021	Morey St. Denis “Les Chaffots” 1er	Moine, Lucien Le	(91-94)
2021	Morey St. Denis “Les Genavrières” 1er	Moine, Lucien Le	(91-94)
2021	Nuits St. Georges “Les Cailles” 1er	Bouchard Père & Fils	(91-94)
2021	Nuits St. Georges “Les St. Georges” 1er	Moine, Lucien Le	(92-94)
2021	Nuits St. Georges “Les Vaucrains” 1er	Moine, Lucien Le	(92-94)
2021	Pommard “Les Chaponnières” 1er	Parent	(91-93)
2021	Pernand-Vergelesses “Aux Vergelesses” 1er	Girard, Jean-Jacques	92
2021	Pernand-Vergelesses “Ile de Vergelesses” 1er	Chandon de Briailles	92
2021	Pommard “Les Chaponnières” 1er	Girard, Jean-Jacques	92
2021	Pommard “Clos des Arvelets” 1er	Camus-Bruchon & Fils	92
2021	Pommard “Clos des Epeneaux” 1er	Comte Armand	(92-94)
2021	Pommard “Les Epenots” 1er	Parent	(91-93)
2021	Pommard “Les Fremiers” 1er	Courcel, de	(91-94)
2021	Pommard “Grand Clos des Epenots” 1er	Courcel, de	(92-94)
2021	Pommard “Les Grands Epenots” 1er	Moine, Lucien Le	(91-94)
2021	Pommard “Les Poutures” 1er	Buffet, François	(91-94)
2021	Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	Buffet, François	(92-94)
2021	Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	Clerget, Y.	94
2021	Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	Voillot, Joseph	92
2021	Pommard “Les Rugiens-Bas” 1er	Montille, de	(91-94)
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune “La Dominode” 1er	Pavelot, Jean-Marc & Hugues	92
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Gravains” 1er	Pavelot, Jean-Marc & Hugues	92
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Lavières” 1er	Camus-Bruchon & Fils	92
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Narbantons” 1er	Girard, Jean-Jacques	92
2021	Volnay “1er” 1er	Lafarge, Michel	(91-94)
2021	Volnay “1er” 1er	Moreau, Alex	92
2021	Volnay “Caillerets” 1er	d’Angerville, Marquis	(91-94)
2021	Volnay “Les Caillerets” 1er	Voillot, Joseph	92
2021	Volnay “Les Caillerets” 1er	Boillot, Domaine Henri	93
2021	Volnay “Les Caillerets” 1er	Clerget, Y.	93
2021	Volnay “Les Caillerets” 1er	Leroux, Benjamin	(91-94)
2021	Volnay “Les Caillerets – Ancienne Cuvée Carnot” 1er	Bouchard Père & Fils	(92-94)
2021	Volnay “Champans” 1er	d’Angerville, Marquis	(91-94)
2021	Volnay “Champans” 1er	Bouley, Pierrick	92
2021	Volnay “Champans” 1er	Buffet, François	(91-94)
2021	Volnay “En Champans” 1er	Clerget, Y.	92
2021	Volnay “Caillerets – Clos des 60 Ouvrées – Amphore” 1er	Pousse d’or	93
2021	Volnay “Clos de la Bousse d’Or” 1er	Pousse d’or	93
2021	Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	Bitouzet-Prieur	92
2021	Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	Bouley, Pierrick	92
2021	Volnay “Clos des Ducs” 1er	d’Angerville, Marquis	(92-94)
2021	Volnay “Clos du Verseuil” 1er	Clerget, Y.	93
2021	Volnay “Santenots” 1er	Buisson-Charles	(91-94)
2021	Volnay “Santenots” 1er	Leroux, Benjamin	(91-93)
2021	Volnay “Taillepieds” 1er	d’Angerville, Marquis	(91-94)
2021	Volnay “Taillepieds” 1er	Montille, de	(91-94)
2021	Volnay “Les Taillepieds” 1er	Buffet, François	(91-94)

The "Don't Miss" Wines from the 2021 Vintage in this Issue

2021	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	Leroux, Benjamin	(92-95)
2021	Chambertin Grand Cru	Bouchard Père & Fils	(93-95)
2021	Chambertin Grand Cru	Buisson-Charles	(92-95)
2021	Chambertin Grand Cru	Jadot, Louis	(92-95)
2021	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	Drouhin, Joseph	(94-96)
2021	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	Jadot, Louis	(92-95)
2021	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	Moine, Lucien Le	(92-95)
2021	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses" 1er	Drouhin, Joseph	(93-95)
2021	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses" 1er	Jadot, Louis	(92-95)
2021	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses" 1er	Moine, Lucien Le	(92-95)
2021	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses" 1er	Pousse d'or	94
2021	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	Pousse d'or	94
2021	Musigny Grand Cru	Jadot, Louis	(93-96)
2021	Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	Courcel, de	(92-95)
2021	Volnay "Caillerets – Clos des 60 Ouvrées" 1er	Pousse d'or	94

CÔTE DE BEAUNE REDS – The 2021 and 2020 VINTAGES

Domaine Adélie (Mercurey) – Domaines Albert Bichot

2021	Mercurey "Champs Martin" 1er	red	(89-91)
2021	Mercurey "En Pierre Milley"	red	(86-89)
2020	Mercurey "Champs Martin" 1er	red	89
2020	Mercurey "En Pierre Milley"	red	87

Domaine Adélie, named after Albéric Bichot's daughter who was born in 2003, farms 7.8 ha of vines. They practice sustainable and organic viticulture and the wines bear a certified "organic wine" label. (Albert Bichot USA, www.albert-bichot.com, USA; Stannary Wine, www.stannarywine.com, Flint Wines, www.flintwines.com, Soho Wine Supply Ltd, www.sohowine.co.uk, Honest Grapes, www.honestgrapes.co.uk, Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, Bancroft Wines, www.bancroftwines.com, Inverarity Morton, www.inveraritymorton.com, C & O Wines, www.cowines.com, all UK).

2021 Mercurey "En Pierre Milley": Reduction knocks down the fruit though there is both good freshness and detail to the delicious and inviting flavors that culminate in a slightly lean finish where a touch of warmth slowly emerges. This is attractive in its fashion even though the balance isn't perfect. (86-89)/2025+

2021 Mercurey "Champs Martin": Here the nose is both more floral and much more elegant as well with its spicy and pretty notes of red and dark berries where a hint of herbal tea lurks in the background. There is a bit more volume and mid-palate density to the attractively textured flavors that are supported by notably finer tannins on the mildly austere and better-balanced finale. (89-91)/2026+

2020 Mercurey "En Pierre Milley": A very ripe nose of black cherry, raspberry and spice nuances are trimmed in notes of wood and a vague hint of crushed leaf. The rich, succulent and round middleweight flavors possess reasonable vibrancy that carries over to the lingering and noticeably warm finish that is supported by somewhat raspy and rustic tannins. 87/2026+

2020 Mercurey "Champs Martin": This is aromatically quite similar, if slightly more elegant and fresher, to the En Pierre Milley with a dollop of poached plum character. The lavishly rich, even opulent medium-bodied flavors coat the palate with dry extract on the less rustic and sneaky long finish where a slightly less obvious touch of warmth emerges. As one would reasonably expect, this offers better depth and is the more complete wine. 89/2028+

Domaine Guy Amiot et Fils (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2021	**Beaune "Long Bois"**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2021	**Bourgogne Pinot Noir Cuvée Simone**	**red**	**(85-87)**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean" 1er**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet "La Maltroie" 1er**	**red**	**(86-88)**

Fabrice Amiot simply noted that 2021 "had its fair share of challenges, both with the April frost and with the difficult growing season. The wines though have turned out better than we thought and particularly the whites. They're classic Burgundies with better acidities than we've had in several years, perhaps not since 2014." (Michael Corso Selections, www.corsowines.com, USA; Domaine et Saveurs, www.ds-collection.com, France; H & H Bancroft Wines, www.bancroftwines.com, House of Townend, www.houseoftownend.com, Wine Source, www.wine-source.com, all UK; Mayfair Fine Wines Company Limited, www.mayfairfinewines.com.hk, and Fine Vintage, www.finevintage.com.hk, both Hong Kong; Authentic Wine Explorers, www.awexplorers.com, Legacy Fine Wines, romanee@legacyfinewine.com, both Singapore; Euan McKay Wine Merchant, www.euanmckay.com.au, Australia).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir Cuvée Simone: A fresh and decidedly cool nose reflects notes of earthy red and dark berries. There is both good detail and intensity to the lighter weight flavors that terminate in a slightly lean finish where a noticeable bitter pit fruit character slowly emerges. (85-87)/2024+

2021 Beaune "Long Bois": A bright and ultra-fresh nose freely offers up its aromas of red pinot and discreet spice whiffs. The sleeker and fine flavors possess a bit more volume while delivering better depth on the linear finish that is also slightly lean. To enjoy on the younger side for its fruit. (86-89)/2025+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: A light pepper-suffused nose blends notes of red currant and freshly turned earth. The supple, round and delicious middleweight flavors possess an easy-going mid-palate that tightens up somewhat on the dusty, mildly rustic and youthfully austere finish that is just a bit more structured. (86-89)/2026+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "La Maltroie": This is aromatically quite different as it's much more somber and restrained with its aromas of red cherry, plum and earth along with a hint of the *sauvage*. The lighter weight and quite supple flavors possess both good energy and definition though the lean and linear finish comes up somewhat short. (86-88)/2025+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean": There is better layering to the pretty and lightly spiced aromas of pepper, raspberry, cherry and discreet earth nuances. There is again very good energy and detail to the lighter weight flavors that conclude in a dusty, slightly lean and bitter pit fruit-inflected finish that also comes up a bit short. (86-89)/2026+

Domaine Marquis d'Angerville (Volnay)

2021	**➳ Bourgogne**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2021	**➳ Bourgogne – Passe-tout-grains**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2021	**➳ Volnay**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2021	**Volnay "1er" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2021	**➳ Volnay "Caillerets" 1er**	**red**	**(91-94)**
2021	**➳ Volnay "Champans" 1er**	**red**	**(91-94)**
2021	**➳ Volnay "Clos des Angles" 1er**	**red**	**(90-93)**
2021	**➳ Volnay "Clos des Ducs" 1er**	**red**	**(92-94)**
2021	**➳ Volnay "Frémiets" 1er**	**red**	**(90-93)**
2021	**➳ Volnay "Taillepieds" 1er**	**red**	**(91-94)**

Guillaume d'Angerville, who directs this 16 ha domaine, described 2021 as a "tough but hugely surprising vintage in terms of the quality of the wines. February and March were warmer than usual, and in particular the last week of March so the vegetative cycle was well underway when the devastating early April frosts hit. We didn't try to battle the frosts as the temperatures were just too cold plus there was snow on the second night that basically rendered all protection almost useless. The frost was also different from what we experienced in 2016 because it hit mostly the *villages* and regional wines whereas the 2021 frost hit mostly the upper-level hillside vines. The damage was extensive and frankly depressing to start the growing season knowing that yields were going to be so heavily affected. There was plenty of disease pressure and the wet conditions made it a challenge to treat exactly when it was necessary. We managed to do it but it was a tremendous amount of work. We chose to begin picking on the 20th of September and brought in mostly clean fruit that required relatively little sorting. Potential alcohols were actually very good at between 12 and 13% and we chaptalized nothing. Yields though, while variable, were another story as the average for the domaine overall was only 25% of a normal crop. I was a bit skeptical about the quality at first as the wines seemed to be closed and lack in flesh, but the *élevage* was exceptionally beneficial, particularly in the sense of adding volume and flesh. I have come full circle as I really like the energy and the almost unmatched terroir transparency plus the wines are superbly precise." The domaine rarely seems to miss these days and the 2021 vintage is no exception. For readers that have been longer-time fans of the domaine, I would observe that if you liked the 2010s, you will very much like their 2021s as well. To be clear, the 2010s are better, at least at the same stage of development, but the style is quite similar. (Grand Cru Selections, LLC, www.grandcruselectionswine.com, NY, USA; John Armit Wines, www.armit.co.uk, Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com, O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, Charles Taylor Wines, www.charlestaylorwines.com and Justerini & Brooks, www.justerinis.com, all UK; Altaya Wines, www.altayawines.com, Hong Kong).

2021 Bourgogne – Passe-tout-grains: (from a 50/50 mix of pinot and gamay). A peppery and super-fresh nose displays notes of mostly red berries and discreet earth wisps. There is both excellent verve and a lovely texture to the surprisingly sleek middleweight flavors that offer much better than average depth and persistence in the context of what this is. Very fine quality here in a drink it young style. (86-89)/2024+

2021 Bourgogne: (from a holding of almost 2 ha). A more elegant, even perfumed, nose of airy and cool red currant, anise and violet. The delicious, vibrant and beautifully detailed medium weight flavors possess an unusually refined texture while delivering equally good depth and persistence on the mildly austere and firmer finale. This is also very good for its level. (87-89)/2026+

2021 Volnay: (from Les Grands Champs and Les Pluchots). Here too the nose is both elegant and perfumed with a similar fruit profile but with more spice nuances. The utterly delicious lighter weight flavors possess a more sophisticated texture while offering excellent precision on the lightly stony and youthfully austere finale that delivers excellent length. This is lovely though note that it's firm enough to need at least some patience. (89-91)/2028+

2021 Volnay "1er": (from a roughly 1/3 blend of Pitures and 2/3 Mitans). A slightly more deeply pitched nose freely offers up an array of plum, dark cherry, floral and an interesting hint of sandalwood. Once again there is a sublime texture to the highly energetic and beautifully detailed flavors that possess slightly better mid-palate volume, all wrapped in balanced, long and dusty finale. This lightly austere effort is a wine of finesse; indeed it is almost delicate though it doesn't lack punch. (90-92)/2028+

2021 Volnay "Clos des Angles": (from a 1.05 holding located in Pointes d'Angles that made only 2 barrels in 2021 versus a normal volume of 12; it will be sold only in magnum and probably in a three-pack with two magnums of Clos des Angles and one magnum of Caillerets). Once again there is a perfumed quality to the airy and higher-toned aromas of essence of red cherry, raspberry and exotic tea. There is even more refinement to the tension-filled flavors that seem to dance across the palate before terminating in a lightly stony, beautifully precise and youthfully austere finale. This lacy and very Volnay effort could use more depth but given the large format bottling, that should not be a concern. (90-93)/2033+

2021 Volnay "Frémiets": (from a 1.57 ha parcel). A slightly riper nose reflects cool and airy aromas of spicier red cherry, plum and an all but invisible touch of oak. There is a bit more volume if not quite the same delicacy to the medium-bodied flavors that flash evident minerality on the firm, youthfully austere and dusty bitter pit fruit-inflected finale. As is usually the case, this is more structured than the Clos des Angles (note that the suggested initial drinking window here is for 750 ml whereas the Clos des Angles is in magnum format) though it could be approached after 5 to 7 years. (90-93)/2031+

2021 Volnay "Caillerets": (from two parcels measuring .65 ha; the holding made only 1 barrel in 2021 versus a normal volume of 6; it will be sold only in magnum and probably in a three-pack with two magnums of Clos des Angles and one magnum of Caillerets). As it usually is, this possesses the spiciest nose in the range with its array of anise, clove, herb and sandalwood tinged red and dark raspberry scents. The barely middleweight flavors are not particularly dense but they are wonderfully refined, indeed the word silky is appropriate, while displaying superb minerality and length on the balanced and youthfully austere finale. Note that the suggested initial drinking window is for the magnum format. (91-94)/2036+

2021 Volnay "Taillepieds": (from a 1.07 ha parcel of 35+ year old vines). This is as aromatically spicy as the Caillerets but it's every bit as elegant and a bit cooler as well with its more floral-inflected red berry fruit scents. There is better density to the even more mineral-driven flavors that are akin to rolling a small stone around the mouth while exhibiting the classic youthful austerity on the impressively long, focused and compact finale. As with all young examples of Taillepieds, this is definitely going to require at least some forbearance. (91-94)/2031+

2021 Volnay "Champans": (from a huge 3.98 ha parcel). A strikingly elegant nose is comprised by notes of pure, airy and cool essence of red cherry, spice wisps and a pretty suggestion of lilac. There is equally good tension suffusing the slightly less elegant medium weight flavors that possess a more refined mouthfeel than usual while delivering first-rate persistence on the austere, chiseled, linear and built-to-age finale. This will definitely require at least some patience as it's quite compact today. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Volnay "Clos des Ducs": (a monopole that measures 2.15 ha). A slightly more restrained nose grudgingly offers up its aromas of red currant, floral, spice and vaguely garrigue-like wisps. There is outstanding intensity to the slightly bigger and more powerful yet still gorgeously textured flavors that also exhibit a borderline pungent minerality that seems to build on the compact, serious and youthfully austere finish that displays stunningly good length. As is virtually always the case with Clos des Ducs, extended patience will absolutely be necessary. (92-94)/2033+

Domaine Comte Armand/Clos des Epeneaux (Pommard)

2021	**➽ Auxey-Duresses "1er" 1er**	**red**	**91**
2021	**➽ Pommard "Clos des Epeneaux" 1er**	**red**	**(92-94)**
2021	**➽ Volnay**	**red**	**90**
2021	**➽ Volnay "Frémiets" 1er**	**red**	**92**

Régisseur Paul Zinetti commented that the 2021 vintage "was much more challenging than either 2020 or 2019 and not just because of the early April frost but also because the mildew pressure was even worse than that of 2016, which was terrible as well. In terms of battling the frost, we chose to only protect Frémiets because it is always more advanced than the other vineyards. I would say the *chaufrettes* (heaters) helped but not more than that. For example, our yields in the Clos were only 13 hl/ha whereas they were about 18 hl/ha in Frémiets. We'll of course take it but it was a massive effort for three consecutive nights for only a small benefit. Then of course we had to fight off the mildew, which was frankly really tough. On the plus side, and I'm not entirely sure why, but the oidium largely left us alone. We chose to begin picking on the 23rd of September and while there was some sorting necessary, it wasn't anything major. Because we picked relatively late, potential alcohols were actually pretty good as they came in on average right at 13% so nothing was chaptalized. I did a normal vinification as I saw no reason not to though one minor modification is that I used no whole clusters. [Zinetti used 10% whole clusters in 2020.] With respect to the wines, I have to say that I was really, no, make that seriously, skeptical at first because before the malos finished, they struck me as skinny and acidic. However, after the malos finished the *élevage* did its magic and the wines slowly began to put on weight and became very well-balanced. I confess to rarely having seen such a positive transformation and today, I really quite like them. They're transparent, energetic and should drink well young yet they have everything they need to age well too." As the comments clearly attest, I was impressed with the quality I found. Also, for those interested, there is an updated note for the 2016 Clos des Epeneaux that can be found in the Burghound searchable database. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.beckywasserman.com, Beaune, France; Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA/NV/AZ/NM, Winebow, Inc., www.winebow.com, NJ, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, TX, C'est Vin, LLC, 703.243.3559, VA, Wines Unlimited, www.winesunlimited.com, LA, Little Guy Wine, www.littleguywine.com, MI, Fine Vines, www.finevines.com, IL, Augustan Wine, www.augustanwine.com, FL, M.S. Walker, www.mswalker.com, MA/RI/NH and Small Potatoes Wine, www.smallpotatoeswine.com, ID, all USA; Howard Ripley, www.howardripley.com, Thorman Hunt & Co., www.thormanhunt.co.uk, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com, Goedhuis & Co., www.goedhuis.com, Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, Farthinghoe Fine Wine, www.farthinghoefinewine.com, Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk, and The Wine Society, www.thewinesociety.com, all UK; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com/hk, Hong Kong; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.co.jp, Japan).

2021 Auxey-Duresses "1er": A very pretty, even elegant, nose displays an array of extremely fresh and cool red berry fruit aromas that are subtly suffused with cool earth and forest floor wisps. There is fine mid-palate density to the impressively intense middleweight flavors that exude evident minerality on the firm, youthfully austere and balanced finish. This is dusty and compact at present but I suspect that it will open relatively quickly. In a word, lovely. 91/2029+

2021 Volnay: (from Les Grands Champs and Les Famines). A discreet but not imperceptible application of wood sets off equally fresh and cool aromas of plum, dark currant and subtle earth nuances. The finer but not denser medium weight flavors also exude evident minerality on the beautifully well-detailed finish that offers equally good length if perhaps not quite the depth, at least not yet. This is a very fine Volnay *villages* and well worth a look. 90/2028+

2021 Volnay "Frémiets": Here too there is a subtle but perceptible dollop of wood on the nose that is a bit more deeply pitched as well as noticeably spicier. There is excellent mid-palate density to the seductively rich, even suave and velvety, medium-bodied flavors that conclude in a vaguely sweet, balanced and long finale. This presently lacks a bit of nuance for my taste though I suspect that it will add more with age as Frémiets typically does just that. 92/2031+

2021 Pommard "Clos des Epeneaux": (the 5+ ha Clos is composed of approximately 80% Petits Epenots and 20% Grands Epenots; the vine ages run from 18 to 80+ years of age and the wine is raised in ~30% new wood). Here the wood treatment is all but invisible with its super-fresh nose of cool and airy red cherry, earth and hint of the *sauvage*. The racy, intense and beautifully delineated middleweight flavors are not especially dense yet still manage to deliver focused power on the superbly long, balanced and youthfully austere finale. The 2021 Clos is a deceptive wine in that the mid-palate seems entirely supple and accessible yet the firm finish makes clear that it's going to need a decade plus to realize its full potential. Good stuff. (92-94)/2033+

Domaine Jean-Claude Bachelet (Gamay)

2021	**Bourgogne Pinot Noir**	**red**	**(85-88)**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet "La Boudriotte" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Le Concis des Champs"**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2021	**St. Aubin "Derrière la Tour Vieilles Vignes" 1er**	**red**	**(87-89)**

Brothers Benoît and Jean-Baptiste Bachelet, who farm around 10 ha, called 2021 "yet another vintage with extremely low yields though at least we did slightly better than was the case in 2016 we were 'only' off 60% in 2021 whereas we were down 70% in 2016! But kidding aside, the 2021 growing season was frankly a bear to manage as there was of course the frost that fragilized the wines, which was followed by intense disease pressure so we were constantly scrambling to protect the vines. In the end, we began picking on the 22nd of September and brought in around 25 hl/ha in pinot but the yields for the St. Aubin whites were so low as to be pretty depressing. Potential alcohols though were actually pretty good, especially for St. Aubin, as they ranged from a low of 12.5% to a high of 13.7%. Overall, the quality is surprisingly good but it will be okay with us if we never see another growing season like 2021!" I would reiterate that the style of Bachelet reds is expressly designed for early approachability. (Bowler, www.bowlerwine.com, NY, Scott Levy Selections, 770.730.0361, GA, Elite Wines Imports, 703.339.8150, VA, all USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, UK; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com/hk, Hong Kong; Pearl of Burgundy, www.pearlofburgundy.com, Hong Kong and Macau).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: A fresh and expressive nose freely offers up its notes of red berries, earth and herbal tea. The supple lighter weight flavors possess good verve and detail while displaying acceptably length on the bitter pit fruit-inflected and lightly austere finish that is ever so mildly edgy. (85-88)/2024+

2021 St. Aubin "Derrière la Tour Vieilles Vignes": (a 1er that is rarely seen as it's quite small). Here the nose is compositionally similar to that of the Bourgogne if just a bit spicier. The sleek, detailed and more mineral-driven flavors possess lovely delineation before terminating in a slightly austere and better-balanced finish that could use more depth. (87-89)/2025+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Le Concis des Champs": This plays right on the edge of reduction though not so much that it masks the earthier mix of red and dark pinot fruit. There is more volume to the succulent, round and less mineral-inflected flavors that flash good power on the moderately austere and decidedly rustic finish that is a bit firmer. (86-89)/2026+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "La Boudriotte": (from Les Chaumes). By contrast, this is quite firmly reduced and all that is perceptible is a touch of wood toast. There is more volume if, somewhat surprisingly, less refinement to the denser medium-bodied flavors that offer better depth and persistence on the slightly woody finale. Moderate patience should be beneficial as there is enough structure to warrant rounding at least some of it off. (88-91)/2028+

Domaine Bachelet-Monnot (Dezize-lès-Maranges)

2021	**Bourgogne Pinot Noir**	**red**	**86**
2021	**Maranges Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**88**
2021	**➽ Maranges "La Fussière" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2021	**➽ Maranges "Clos de la Boutière" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2021	**➽ Pommard "Les Chanlins"**	**red**	**89**

Brothers Marc and Alex Bachelet have taken the area under production from 6 ha in 2005 to an impressive 22 ha today. This is spread over approximately 20 appellations that produce around 100,000 bottles annually evenly split between red and white, though that certainly was not the case in 2021. The brothers noted that the growing season was "particular, which is to say difficult but manageable. We had varying degrees of frost damage as we prune late but it's impossible to prune everything late so hence the varying degrees of damage. For example, Santenay and the Puligny 1ers were absolutely killed, while the Bâtard, which was better protected, lost 'only' 50%. Moreover, the disease pressure was just nasty and we were constantly treating the vines. The mildew and oidium were the worst though we had less trouble with botrytis. We picked from the 17th of September and brought in yields that varied from a low of 12 hl/ha to a high of 30 hl/ha, with an average of about 25 hl/ha. Potential alcohols for the pinot ranged from 11.8 to 12.2% and the chardonnay came in between 12 and 12.5%. We did absolutely no punching down during a short cuvaison of only 10 days where we used no whole clusters as we thought it better to vinify lightly. It's ironic in that we initially thought that the wines, especially the reds, would be awful but in fact, they're really quite good. Not great but more than respectable." I would completely agree with their assessment of the reds and several are recommended. By contrast though some of their whites are genuinely remarkably good and will also be warmly recommended. Note that Santenay was devastated and the Charmes Dessus and Prarons Dessus will likely be declassified. (A Roy Cloud Selection for Vintage '59 Imports, www.vintage59.com, Washington, D.C.; Davy & Co, www.davy.co.uk, Decorum, www.decvin.co.uk, Averys, www.averys.com, Tanners Wines, www.tanners-wines.co.uk, Adnams & Co, adnams.co.uk, Harrods Limited, www.harrods.com/food-and-wine, Bowes Wines, www.boweswines.co.uk, Justerini & Brooks, www.justerinis.com, Dudley-Jones, www.dudleyjonesfinewine.co.uk, Latimer Vintners, www.latimervintners.com, Vineyards Direct, www.fromvineyardsdirect.com, UK; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.co.jp, Japan).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: Classic ruby color. A fresh, bright and very pinot nose precedes attractively textured and vibrant lighter weight flavors that possess excellent delineation on the mildly rustic, linear and sneaky long finish. To enjoy young for its fruit. 86/2024+

2021 Maranges Vieilles Vignes: (from Les Chamery and Le Clos). A slightly more deeply pitched nose reflects pepper and earth nuances on the equally and bright red and dark currant scents. There is both better volume and richness to the barely middleweight flavors that also conclude in a lightly rustic but more complex finale. This too could be approached young but it also has enough stuffing to repay a few years of keeping. 88/2026+

2021 Maranges "La Fussière": A more elegant and admirably pure nose freely offers up its aromas of red cherry, plum and violet along with a more subtle touch of earth. There is again excellent vibrancy to the beautifully delineated medium-bodied flavors that flash both a subtle minerality and a beguiling finesse on the balanced finale. This is a really lovely effort that makes one feel like drinking it now, though it too has the stuffing to repay a few years of aging. Worth considering. 90/2026+

2021 Maranges "Clos de la Boutière": An earthier and more somber nose reluctantly displays its aromas of purple fruit, especially plum. There is more volume to the rich, velvety and solidly concentrated flavors that are more powerful and less refined on the solidly persistent and slightly firmer finale. This is also worth considering. (89-91)/2027+

2021 Pommard "Les Chanlins": (from the *villages* portion of the vineyard). A strikingly pure, cool and airy nose is comprised by notes of the essence of red pinot fruit, floral and discreet forest floor wisps. There is almost painful intensity to the chiseled and overtly stony medium weight flavors that possess excellent delineation on the refreshing, moderately austere and focused finale. This is a very good Pommard *villages* and worth your interest provided you are willing to cellar it for at least a few years first as it's definitely compact at present. 89/2027+

Domaine Ballot-Millot & Fils (Meursault)

2021	Pommard "Charmots" 1er	red	88
2021	Volnay "Santenots" 1er	red	89

Charles Ballot directs this old line domaine of 11.5 ha, of which 75% of the production is white. Ballot describes the 2021 vintage as "having produced relatively classically styled wines despite a huge number of problems that obviously included frost, a poor flowering and terrible disease pressure that plagued us almost from start to finish. I chose to pick beginning on the 22nd of September and, depending on the sector, yields were basically off in the 75 to 80% range. The chardonnay was quite clean and required almost no sorting, though the pinot did have some botrytis that had to be eliminated. One positive in all of this is that because we prune relatively late, I was able to work exclusively with the first generation of fruit, which obviously helps enormously with maturities. This is reflected in the solid potential alcohols as everything came in between 12.5 and 13.5%. There was no new wood for the whites and almost none for the reds. Overall, I am really surprised by the quality of the wines and particularly so the whites. The reds are somewhat like a denser 2007 and the whites like a denser 2014." I found the reds to be of average quality though the whites, which will be reviewed in Issue 91, are outstanding. Ballot noted that the reds were bottled in January 2023 without filtration and that there will be no Pommard "Pézerolles" due to the tiny yields. (Atherton Wine Imports, www.awiwine.com, CA, Polaner Selections, www.polanerselections.com, NY (NY/NJ/PA), all USA; Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, Thorman Hunt & Co., e-mail: Camille@thormanhunt.co.uk and Georges Barbier, all UK).

2021 Volnay "Santenots": (from young vines situated in Les Plures; this had just been bottled when I tasted it). A background hint of volatile acidity is present on the otherwise pretty and fresh aromas of cherry, raspberry and spice. The sleek, delicious and acceptably concentrated middleweight flavors possess good power and solid length though the firm finish seems somewhat awkward, which may be due to the very recent bottling. 89/2028+

2021 Pommard "Charmots": (this had also just been bottled when I tasted it). Here too there is enough volatile acidity to be noticeable and while it adds a certain 'lift' to the fresh red berry scents, it's not a plus in my book. By contrast, there is both a lovely texture and good detail to the solidly voluminous and energetic flavors that flash good minerality on the youthfully austere and reasonably well-balanced finale. This is one of those wines that if you're sensitive to VA, you'll notice it but if not, my rating will definitely seem too conservative. 88/2028+

Domaine Roger/Joseph Belland (Santenay)

2021	Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois" 1er	red	90
2021	Les Maranges "La Fussière" 1er	red	89
2021	Pommard "Les Cras"	red	88
2021	➽ Santenay "Beauregard" 1er	red	91
2021	Santenay "Les Charmes"	red	88
2021	Santenay "Clos Rousseau" 1er	red	88
2021	Santenay "La Comme" 1er	red	90
2021	➽ Santenay "Les Gravières" 1er	red	91
2021	➽ Volnay "Santenots" 1er	red	91

Roger Belland commented that 2021 gave us a "decidedly strange growing season and particularly so here in Santenay. We suffered from the frost like everyone but we also had quite a bit more rain than the surrounding communes, which complicated dealing with the relatively intense disease pressure. We often pick late and I chose to pick very late in 2021, which means we didn't start until the 27th of September. Despite having started later than most domaines, we didn't really suffer from late season botrytis as the fruit was relatively clean with very good potential alcohols that varied between 12 and 13%. Yields though were another story as we were off fully two-thirds overall and even worse in white. We did a moderately light vinification using only modest amounts of whole clusters during a cuvaison of about three weeks. As to the style of the wines, the reds remind me somewhat of the 2011s and the whites like better 2013s or 2017s." The 2021 reds were bottled in September 2022. (T. Edwards Wines, www.tedwardwines.com, NY, USA; Berkmann Wine Cellars, www.berkmann.co.uk, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, Liberty Wines, www.libertywine.co.uk all UK - Note that the exact same

wines are sold under the Joseph Belland label, which is represented by Cellar Door Selections, www.cellardoorselections.com, MD, USA).

2021 Santenay "Clos Rousseau": A high-toned hint of herbal tea lurks in the background of the exuberantly fresh aromas of various red berries that are liberally laced with earthy nuances. There is fine underlying tension to the nicely detailed middleweight flavors that conclude in a youthfully austere, moderately rustic and bitter pit fruit-inflected finale. 88/2027+

2021 Les Maranges "La Fussière": A very pinot nose is slightly more elegant and ever-so-slightly riper as well with its mix of red currant, cherry and more discreet earth wisps. The refined, pure and punchy medium weight flavors possess fine mid-palate volume as well as a bracing salinity on the focused, youthfully austere and lingering finale that also flashes a touch of bitter pit fruit character. As is usually the case, this is a wine that combines finesse with punch. 89/2027+

2021 Santenay "Les Charmes": (from Charmes Dessus). Here too there is a note of herbal tea to the pure and high toned aromas of essence of spicy red cherry. The round, delicious and fleshy medium bodied flavors possess good volume and a seductive mid palate thanks to the fine grained tannins supporting the youthfully austere finish where once again a touch of bitter pit fruit character slowly emerges. 88/2027+

2021 Santenay "La Comme": A more deeply pitched and slightly more complex combination of plum, dark cherry, earth and a hint of anise leads to equally sleek and well detailed middleweight flavors that exude evident minerality on the more complex and nicely balanced finale. This attractive effort is worth considering and should repay mid-term keeping. 90/2028+

2021 Santenay "Beauregard": Hints of crushed fennel and wood can be found on the nose of plum, various dark berries and subtle *sauvage* notes. Once again the medium bodied flavors possess a lovely texture as there is an attractive succulence to the lightly stony, complex and solidly persistent finish that offers even better depth. Note that this is sufficiently structured that it too is going to need at least a few years of keeping. 91/2029+

2021 Santenay "Les Gravières": A background note of wood toast frames pretty aromas of forest floor, red and dark cherry and a high toned hint of green tea. There is both very good volume and underlying tension to the succulent yet chiseled medium weight flavors that also exude evident minerality on the tension filled, persistent and well balanced finale. Note that this too is sufficiently structured to need at least a few years of forbearance. 91/2029+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois": (a 3-ha monopole of the Domaine, planted 50% each to pinot and chardonnay; the pinot vines are approximately 60+ years of age). A ripe and attractively layered nose blends together notes of plum, red and dark raspberry, and newly turned earth. There is slightly better volume to the rich and generously proportioned flavors that are not quite as energetic while offering very good if not truly special length on the rustic finish where a touch of asperity makes itself felt. This too is built to repay at least mid-term keeping. 90/2029+

2021 Pommard "Les Cras": A slightly cooler nose reflects notes of essence of red cherry, spice, and a touch of violet. The sleek and supple medium weight flavors are utterly delicious while exuding a subtle minerality on the youthfully austere finish that leans out somewhat as it sits on the palate. While this has the stuffing for extending keeping, I would be inclined to drink this over the mid-term as the balance may not hold up over the long-term. 88/2027+

2021 Volnay "Santenots": (vinified with 80% whole clusters). The high percentage of whole clusters is evident as the nose is the most floral-inflected of all of these wines while offering pretty aromas of red and dark berries, exotic tea and a suggestion of sandalwood. Once again there is a really lovely texture to the slightly bigger, richer and more tension filled flavors that flash focused power on the balanced and persistent finale. This could use better depth but the underlying material appears to be present for it to develop if held over the medium term. 91/2029+

Domaine de Bellene (Beaune)

2021	➽ Beaune "Les Grèves" 1er	red	(91-93)
2021	Beaune Vieilles Vignes – Hommage à Françoise Potel 1er	red	(88-91)
2021	Beaune "Les Teurons" 1er	red	(88-91)
2021	➽ Bourgogne Côte d'Or "Clos Bardot Vieilles Vignes"	red	(86-89)
2021	Bourgogne Côte d'Or "Maison Dieu Vieilles Vignes"	red	(86-88)
2021	Côte de Nuits-Villages Vieilles Vignes	red	(87-89)
2021	Nuits St. Georges Vieilles Vignes	red	(87-90)

2021	**➽ Nuits St. Georges "Aux Chaignots" 1er**	**red**	**(90-93)**
2021	**St. Romain Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2021	**Savigny-lès-Beaune Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2021	**Savigny-lès-Beaune 1er – Hommage à Jean Ferté 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2021	**Volnay "Les Grands Poisots"**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2021	**➽ Vosne-Romanée "Les Quartiers de Nuits"**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2021	**Vosne-Romanée "Les Suchots" 1er**	**red**	**(89-92)**

Nicolas Potel noted that "while the 2021 growing season was a bit complicated viticulturally speaking, it was easy to vinify and raise. The trick with the vines in years where there is enormous disease pressure is to never miss a treatment. If you do, it will be necessary to constantly play defense and risk falling ever further behind. In the end, the attention to detail really helped as there was relatively little sorting necessary as the fruit was ripe and clean. Volumes were small in both colors though because bud break for the pinot occurs after that of the chardonnay, there was slightly less damage. Potential alcohols were between .5 and 1% lower than they have been for the last several vintages with good post-malo pHs. We chose to vinify lightly to be sure not to obtain any underripe tannins and especially no seed tannins. And to give an idea as to how clean the fruit was, most of the reds will be bottled without any filtration." Note that the *négociant* offerings are reviewed below under the Roche de Bellene label. Lastly all of the wines are bottled under Diam corks that are stamped with the relevant information that includes producer, vintage and appellation. (Loosen Bros. USA, www.loosenbrosusa.com, OR, USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com and Graham Gardner through Folly Wines, www.follywines.co.uk, both UK; L'Imperatrice Fine Wines, https://imperatricewine.com.hk, Hong Kong/China).

2021 Bourgogne Côte d'Or "Maison Dieu Vieilles Vignes": A very pretty and highly expressive nose reflects notes of various red berries and plenty of earth character that can also be found on the supple, vibrant and delicious middleweight flavors that conclude in a mildly rustic if nicely persistent finale. (86-88)/2025+

2021 Bourgogne Côte d'Or "Clos Bardot Vieilles Vignes": (from vines in Comblanchien; bottled exclusively for the Wine Society in the UK). A slightly more deeply pitched nose offers up notes of plum, anise and less obvious earth nuances. There is a bit more volume and mid palate density to the vibrant flavors that are also slightly rustic and a bit more structured as well on the serious finale. This well-made effort possesses good development potential and should benefit from few years of patience. (86-89)/2026+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune Vieilles Vignes: Moderate reduction renders the nose difficult to assess at present. By contrast, there is both good richness and concentration to the relatively refined medium weight flavors that conclude in a youthfully austere but balanced finish. This could use better depth but has the potential to develop it over time. (87-89)/2027+

2021 St. Romain Vieilles Vignes: Here too there is sufficient reduction to push the fruit to the background. The vibrant middleweight flavors are not as rich but they are brighter and more mineral driven and while the linear finish isn't exactly lean, neither is it particularly generous. This is very St. Romain in style. (86-89)/2026+

2021 Volnay "Les Grands Poisots": A fresh and airy nose is comprised by notes of red and dark berries along with plenty of newly turned earth character. The caressing, delicious and vibrant flavors possess very good volume before terminating in a mildly austere and sneaky long finish. This too possesses fine development potential and overall, it is a Volnay *villages* to consider. (88-91)/2027+

2021 Côte de Nuits-Villages Vieilles Vignes: Once again there is sufficient reduction present to render the nose impossible to assess. By contrast, there is excellent freshness and punch to the racy and detailed middleweight flavors that flash moderate austerity on the compact, serious and acceptably long finish. Like several wines in the range, this would benefit from having better overall depth so a few years of patience should be beneficial. (87-89)/2028+

2021 Nuits St. Georges Vieilles Vignes: (from vineyards on the Vosne-side that include La Charmotte, Au Chouillet, Aux St. Juliens and Argillats). A very Nuits like nose offers up notes of forest floor, the savage, purple fruit and an herbal tea top note. There is excellent intensity and precision to the solidly voluminous medium bodied flavors that conclude in a robust, rustic and powerful finish. This too could use more depth, but it has the stuffing to develop it. (87-90)/2029+

2021 Vosne-Romanée "Les Quartiers de Nuits": This was vinified with a high percentage of whole clusters and it shows as the nose is extremely floral and spicy with its mix of both red and dark raspberry scents. There is fine volume to the velvety middleweight flavors that possess a seductive mouthfeel, all wrapped in a dusty bitter pit fruit-inflicted finish. This is a very good Vosne *villages* that is worth considering. (89-91)/2029+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune 1er – Hommage à Jean Ferté: (from Les Peuillets and Hauts Jarrons). This is the first wine to display much wood influence and there is a mentholated top note to the peppery red and dark pinot fruit aromas. Once again there is very good volume and excellent vibrancy to the sleek and delicious medium weight flavors that display good balance on the sappy and dusty finish. This has enough development potential to reward up to a decade of cellaring. (90-92)/2029+

2021 Beaune Vieilles Vignes – Hommage à Françoise Potel: (from 5 different 1ers). While it may just have been this particular sample, the color seemed a bit evolved. With that said, there is good freshness to the airy essence of red cherry, floral and earth-scented nose. The energetic flavors are quite supple on the mid palate, yet the overtly austere finish is a bit lean and could also use better complexity. As the description confirms, this is presently a bit awkward and not easy to judge though my projected rating offers the benefit of the doubt. (88-91)/2028+

2021 Beaune "Les Teurons": Here too the color seems a bit evolved though there is again very good freshness to the cool, airy and pretty essence of red currant and forest floor aromas. The supple, round and suave medium weight flavors deliver good if not special persistence on the moderately austere and firm but not really rustic finish. (88-91)/2029+

2021 Beaune "Les Grèves": There is very good color to the exuberantly floral-suffused nose, in particular violet, that is comprised mostly by notes of black cherry and earth that are trimmed in discreet wood influence. There is excellent density and vibrancy to the bigger bodied flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the dusty and bitter chocolate-inflected finish. This well-made effort is very much built to age and I would recommend not touching a bottle for at least 7 to 8 years. (91-93)/2033+

2021 Nuits St. Georges "Aux Chaignots": This is also exuberantly floral in character with notes of rose petal, lilac, and violet on the earthy red berry fruit aromas though there is a hint of volatile acidity lurking in the background. The rich, velvety and seductively textured medium weight flavors exude evident minerality on the firm, serious and youthfully austere finish. Note that this will also need a few years to develop better depth and I would add that the VA is quite subtle and unlikely to bother most subscribers. (90-93)/2031+

2021 Vosne-Romanée "Les Suchots": Here too there is a subtle whiff of volatile acidity on the markedly spicy aromas of black cherry and more subtle floral scents. The equally seductive, supple and round medium bodied flavors display a taut muscularity on the dusty, moderately austere and built to age finale. I would repeat what I said about the Chaignots in that the VA is sufficiently subtle that it is not likely to bother most readers. (89-92)/2031+

Maison Roche de Bellene (Beaune)

2021	Bourgogne – Cuvée Réserve	red	86
2021	Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2021	Chapelle-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2021	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2021	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2021	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2021	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Cazetiers" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin "Champeaux" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	Gevrey-Chambertin "Combe Aux Moine" 1er	red	(89-91)
2021	Griotte-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2021	➽ Nuits St. Georges "Les Pruliers" 1er	red	(91-93)
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Vergelesses" 1er	red	(89-92)

Please see the introduction to Domaine de Bellene above for further information. Note that all of the wines either are, or will be, bottled under Diam corks that are stamped with the relevant information that includes producer, vintage and appellation. (Loosen Bros. USA, www.loosenbrosusa.com, OR, USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, and Graham Gardner through Folly Wines, www.follywines.co.uk, both UK).

2021 Bourgogne – Cuvée Réserve: An agreeably fresh nose of just crushed red berries and earth leads to delicious and vibrant lighter weight flavors that possess good precision on the bitter cherry pit-inflected and slightly lean finish that offers reasonable length. to enjoy young for its fruit. 86/2024+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Vergelesses": Subtle but not invisible wood sets off notes of dark currant, earth and a subtle spice wisp. The supple round and delicious medium weight flavors exude evident minerality on the slightly austere and rustic but balanced finale. This should drink well young but repay up to a decade of cellaring. (89-92)/2028+

2021 Nuits St. Georges "Les Pruliers": Moderate wood frames a classic Nuits nose of the *sauvage*, dark fruit and plenty of earth characters. There is excellent size, weight and density to the muscular broad-shouldered flavors that deliver excellent length on the serious and built to age finish. At least some patience absolutely recommended. (91-93)/2033+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin "Combe Aux Moine": Here are the wood is generous if not dominating on the nose of cool wild red berries, menthol and a hint of smoked meat. Not surprisingly, the wood can be found on the palate as well of the supple and delicious but less concentrated flavors that display more evident minerality on the youthfully austere and persistent finish. This too is going to require at least a few years of keeping and in particular to better integrate the wood. (89-91)/2029+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin "Champeaux": Once again there is enough wood to comment upon suffusing the pretty and very fresh aromas of red currant, forest floor and the *sauvage*. There is even better density, if a bit less evident minerality, to the focused and sleek middleweight flavors that offer very good depth and persistence on the balanced if youthfully austere finish. This too is going to need at least some forbearance before it will be ready for prime-time drinking. (90-93)/2031+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Cazetiers": Very firm reduction dominates the underlying fruit. More interesting are the highly energetic yet caressing and solidly concentrated medium bodied flavors that possess both good power and minerality before concluding in a firm, moderately austere and sneaky long finale. At least some patience recommended as well. (90-93)/2031+

2021 Clos de Vougeot: This is unusually expressive and perfumed for a young Clos de Vougeot with its pretty array of various red berries, earth and discreet wood nuances. There is again very good volume to the succulent but punchy middleweight flavors that are less youthfully austere than is typical. This appears to possess excellent development potential. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Echézeaux: There is just enough wood present to warrant mentioning on the spicier and more deeply pitched nose of plum, exotic tea and black cherry scents. The sleeker and finer but not denser medium weight flavors possess very good volume while delivering outstanding length on the youthfully austere and balanced finale. This is also firm enough that it's going to require at least 6 to 8 years of keeping first and should ultimately reward 12 to 15. (92-94)/2033+

2021 Chapelle-Chambertin: (from Chapelle proper). Once again there is just enough wood influence present on the aromas of red and dark currant to merit pointing out. There is excellent volume and mid palate density to the relatively powerful larger scaled flavors that are atypically robust and even borderline rustic on the impressively persistent and balanced finale. This is definitely going to require at least five plus years of keeping before it will be even remotely approachable. (92-94)/2033+

2021 Charmes-Chambertin: (from Charmes proper). A much more *sauvage* and earth-inflected nose is comprised by wild dark berries and floral top notes. The sleeker but not denser middleweight flavors are notably more refined while exhibiting good if not genuinely special length on the balanced finish. This is a Charmes of finesse that should be approachable young if desired though one that should have no trouble repaying a decade or so of aging. (90-93)/2031+

2021 Griotte-Chambertin: Attractively fresh and markedly spicy aromas are comprised primarily by notes of red cherry, currant and subtle floral nuances. There is a lovely sense of vibrancy to the well-detailed, precise and stony medium weight flavors that possess a refined midpalate texture while displaying very fine length on the balanced finale. This classy effort is really quite good and the only reproach is that it could use more depth, which should reasonably develop if given a chance. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Chambertin: A brooding if pretty nose grudgingly offers up plenty of floral influence along with an array of spice elements on the red berry, forest floor and *sauvage* aromas. There is again excellent delineation to the equally stony but more muscular and powerful larger bodied flavors that exhibit very fine persistence on the dusty, youthfully austere and compact finish. This is also going to require extended patience if you wish to see it at its apogee. (91-94)/2033+

Domaine Bitouzet-Prieur (Volnay)

2021	Beaune "Cents Vignes" 1er	red	89
2021	➽ Bourgogne Pinot Noir	red	87
2021	Volnay	red	88
2021	➽ Volnay "Les Aussy" 1er	red	91
2021	Volnay "Les Caillerets" 1er	red	90
2021	➽ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	92
2021	Volnay "Les Mitans" 1er	red	90
2021	➽ Volnay "Les Pitures" 1er	red	91
2021	➽ Volnay "Les Taillepieds" 1er	red	91

François Bitouzet, now completely installed in a beautiful state of the art *cuverie* in Meursault, said that 2021 was "technically an extremely complicated vintage to manage. I say this because not only was there the obvious catastrophe of the frost but following it were fully three different disease pressures that came in different phases. Oidium was first, then mildew and then botrytis, which we stopped but then it came back just before the harvest! Also, pruning after a frost when the branches are so fragile was fraught to say the least. We finally made it to the harvest, and I initially planned to begin picking on the 20th of September, but it rained all day so we picked from the 21st on, compared to having started on August 20th in 2020! The fruit was surprisingly clean given the disease pressure so there wasn't much sorting necessary. During the vinification I was not enthusiastic at all about the reds but to my pleasant surprise, once the malos and the first racking were finished, they began to add body and weight. It also seemed evident from the beginning that the reds would be brilliantly transparent so to be absolutely certain not to mark the wines, I used no new wood at all, in fact I didn't even use any one-year-old wood. The other change is that I bottled early, which is not at all in the spirit which I usually work but the wines made it clear that there was nothing further to gain by waiting. Moreover, because the volumes were so small, I didn't trust storing them in small containers. On the white side, making them was technically less challenging but the volumes were even smaller than they were for the reds and I didn't even make several cuvées. To provide an idea, I usually make about 55 barrels of Meursault *villages* but in 2021, I made 14." I would observe that I like the quality I found here in both colors and in particular, the Meursault "Perrières" (to be reviewed in Issue 91) is stunningly good. (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, NY, USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, UK; SAQ, www.saq.com, Canada; Jebsen Beverage Co., www.jebsen.com, China/Hong Kong, Grand Millésime Wine, www.grandmillesime.com.au, Australia).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: A very fresh and distinctly earthy red berry fruit nose precedes delicious and beautifully detailed flavors that possess lovely underlying tension before terminating in a clean, dusty and youthfully austere finish. This nicely balanced effort should drink well young for its fruit, but also repay one to three years of keeping. Worth considering. 87/2024+

2021 Beaune "Cents Vignes": Here too the nose is exuberantly fresh with its cool and bright aromas of the essence of red pinot fruit and discreet forest floor nuances. I very much like the texture and precision of the slightly bigger middleweight flavors that offer better depth and length on the equally austere finale. This could also be approached young but should be capable of rewarding 6 to 8 years of cellaring. 89/2026+

2021 Volnay: (from several parcels that include Ez Echards, Les Aussy and Les Petits Gamets). A slightly more deeply pitched nose reflects more earth and forest floor nuances on the red and dark currant scents. There is excellent energy to the attractively sleek and slightly denser if less refined medium weight flavors that offer good depth and persistence on the bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. 88/2027+

2021 Volnay "Les Mitans": (from Mitans proper). An appealingly layered and airy nose freely offers up its aromas of plum, red and blue pinot fruit and a pretty array of spice wisps. The medium bodied flavors are more refined but not denser while delivering better depth and persistence on the dusty, mildly austere and slightly firmer finish. This balanced effort should repay up to a decade of keeping. 90/2028+

2021 Volnay "Les Aussy": A slightly more elegant and somewhat higher-toned nose of the essence of red cherry isn't quite as spicy but is even more layered. The refined and almost delicate flavors don't lack for punch and particularly so on the stony and bitter pit fruit-suffused finish. Note that this is sufficiently compact that it's going to need at least five years first. Worth considering. 91/2028+

2021 Volnay "Les Taillepieds": Here there is enough reduction to overshadow the underlying fruit so if you are tempted to try a bottle young in the interest of curiosity, be sure to give it some air first. Otherwise there is a bit more volume, and markedly more minerality, to the almost painfully intense flavors that exhibit focused power on the dusty, firmly austere and even more compact finish that delivers very fine length. As is usually the case with this wine, I would strongly advise not even thinking about opening a bottle before it has at least six to eight years of age. 91/2031+

2021 Volnay "Les Caillerets": There is a touch of green tea character present on the spicier aromas of primarily red and dark cherry. The middleweight flavors are not as concentrated, but they are even finer with both very good energy and excellent minerality on the persistent if slightly lean and linear finish. I suspect that this will better flesh out with time in bottle though that remains to be seen. 90/2031+

2021 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": A slightly riper nose is composed of various red berries, and in particular currant, along with notes of plum, earth and spiced tea. as is usually the case, there is better volume and mid palate density to the bigger-bodied flavors that flash very good power on the moderately austere and sneaky long finale. This is perhaps not as robust as it usually is, but it certainly doesn't lack for punch and is a wine that will also need at least a decade of cellaring. 92/2031+

2021 Volnay "Les Pitures": (from 35+ year old vines). An attractively spicy nose freely offers up distinctly cool aromas of red and dark cherry, violet and a touch of forest floor character. There is again excellent verve and very good volume to the rich, muscular and well-defined flavors that display fine power on the youthfully austere, compact and dusty finish that is also sneaky long. Like a number of wines in the range, this too is going to require at least a decade of patience. 91/2031+

Domaine Simon Bize (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2021	**Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru**	**red**	**(91-94)**
2021	**➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2021	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "1er" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2021	**➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Grands Liards"**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2021	**➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Vergelesses" 1er**	**red**	**(90-93)**

Chisa Bize briefly noted that total volume for the 2021 vintage was off fully 80% due to the frost and a severe attack of oidium. As such, several of the wines will not be made such as the Fourneaux, Marconnets and Talmettes, which were blended to create a Savigny 1er. She did however confirm that despite the much lower quantities, the reds were still vinified with 100% whole clusters. I was impressed with what I found here and particularly with the two Savigny *villages* wines. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.beckywasserman.com, Beaune, France; Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, NY/NJ/CT, C'est Vin, LLC, 703.243.3559, VA, AOC Imports, email holly@aocimports.com, CA, Grand Cru Selections, LLC, www.grandcruselectionswine.com, NY, Magnolia Spirits, gatkins@atkinsmachinery.com, SC, PDX, pdxwines@gmail.com, OR, M.S. Walker, www.mswalker.com, MA/RI/NH, Vineyard Brands, www.vineyardbrands.com, AL and Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, TX, all USA; Davy & Co., www.davywine.co.uk, Laytons, www.laytons.co.uk, From Vineyards Direct, www.fromvineyardsdirect.com, Harrods Limited, www.harrods.com/food-and-wine, John Armit Wines, www.armit.co.uk, Howard Ripley, www.howardripley.com, Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, Ball Brothers, www.merchant.ballsbrothers.co.uk, O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, and S. H. Jones Ltd., www.shjoneswines.com, all UK).

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune: A discreet application of wood sets off the super-fresh nose of various red berries and soft earth. I very much like the texture of the sleek and beautifully defined middleweight flavors that possess very solid concentration before concluding in an unusually good long and complex finale. This is particularly good for its level. (89-91)/2026+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Grands Liards": A whiff of herbal tea sits in the background of the otherwise similar nose while the medium weight flavors also possess a really lovely, even succulent, texture while displaying fine delineation on the youthfully austere and mildly rustic finale that delivers the same fine depth and persistence. This is also very good for its level and worth considering. (89-91)/2027+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "1er": (this is a combination of the Bize holdings in Fourneaux, Marconnets and Les Talmettes). Here too there is a discreet application of wood framing the earthy aromas of red currant, cherry and forest floor. There is better refinement and fine punch to the equally delineated medium-bodied flavors that possess a bit more depth though the finish comes up a bit short on the noticeably firmer finish. This may well better come together but that's not a given. (89-91)/2029+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Vergelesses": A cooler, airy and perfumed nose freely offers up aromas of the essence of red pinot fruit, newly turned earth and a pretty array of floral elements. The medium weight, focused and relatively powerful flavors possess an positively gorgeous texture while delivering excellent depth on the more persistent and better-balanced finale. This is lovely though as is usually the case, a wine that is going to require extended keeping. (90-93)/2031+

2021 Latricières-Chambertin: (from a leased .3 ha parcel of 35+ year old vines). Once again there is enough wood on the nose of cool, airy and pure wild cherry, rose petal, forest floor and a whiff of the *sauvage*. The dense and almost painfully intense bigger-bodied flavors flash a borderline aggressive minerality on the beautifully chiseled finish that also flashes focused power. This is a classically styled Latricières with the development potential to match. (91-94)/2033+

Domaine Blain-Gagnard (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2021	**Bourgogne Passe-tout-grains**	**red**	**87**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet**	**red**	**88**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean" 1er**	**red**	**89**

The shy and modest Jean-Marc Blain offered a mixed view of the 2021 vintage, in fact much like he did for the 2020 vintage, by observing that "it gave us excellent quality but unfortunately, quantities were incredibly low due to the frost and intense disease pressure. We did better than many domaines in treating our vines though because they are *enherbé* (planted with cover grasses), which means that we can enter them with machinery as they don't slip. We also protected our grand crus from the frost so quantities there were not too bad as they were off 'only' 15 to 30%. However, everything else, especially the hillside vineyards, were badly damaged at between -50 to -70%; in fact the only normal yield we had was the Chassagne rouge. We picked between the 18th and 23rd of September and the fruit was really pretty clean with most wines coming in at around 12.5%. As such, we chaptalized a few wines .5% to arrive at 13% though the Criots came in naturally at 13.2%. We did a relatively normal vinification for the reds and we did a bit of lees stirring for the whites. Overall, given the difficulties of the growing season, I am really exceptionally pleased with the quality." Blain noted that the reds were bottled between December 2022 and February 2023 without fining or filtration. Lastly, fans of the domaine should note that there is no longer a Morgeot rouge as the parcel was gifted to Blain's son Marc-Antoine. Blain further remarked that more and more of the domaine will progressively pass to his son. Lastly, while there will be a Pommard *villages*, Volnay "Champans" and "Pitures", they were not presented due to the "pitifully tiny quantities". (Craft + Estate/Winebow, www.thewinebowgroup.com, VA USA; Majestic Wine Warehouse, www.majestic.co.uk, Laytons, www.laytons.co.uk, John Armit Wines, www.armit.co.uk and Haynes Hanson & Clark, www.hhandc.co.uk, UK).

2021 Bourgogne Passe-tout-grains: (from a blend of 1/3 pinot and 2/3 gamay). The color is unusually deep for the vintage with a lovely sense of freshness suffusing the peppery and earthy dark berry fruit aromas. The racy and utterly delicious flavors possess good detail that carries over to the mildly austere but not really rustic finale. This is lovely for its level and worth considering. 87/2024+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet: (from Les Chaumes, Champs de Morjot, La Goujonne and La Canière). The lighter ruby color is more in keeping with the norm for the 2021 vintage while the equally fresh and more elegant nose of pretty essence of red pinot fruit also flashes subtle peppery hint. The sleek and highly energetic lighter weight flavors possess excellent cut while the inviting finish offers just enough structure to warrant holding this for 2 to 3 years. This is a 'gulpable' but not banal Chassagne rouge. 88/2025+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean": This is also relatively deeply colored. The ultra-fresh nose freely offers up its aromas of the cool essence of red currant along with background wisps of earth and violet. The racy and beautifully detailed medium weight flavors exude a very subtle minerality on the bitter pit fruit-inflected finale. This youthfully austere effort should repay mid-term keeping. 89/2027+

Domaine Henri Boillot (Volnay)

2021	➽ Bourgogne Pinot Noir	red	87
2021	Pommard "Clos Blanc" 1er	red	90
2021	➽ Volnay	red	89
2021	➽ Volnay "Les Caillerets" 1er	red	93
2021	Volnay "Les Chevrets" 1er	red	89
2021	➽ Volnay "Les Frémiets" 1er	red	91

Henri Boillot's son Guillaume described 2021 as a "tough vintage in several different aspects as we had frost damage and were constantly reacting to varying degrees of disease pressure, in particular mildew though the oidium was not so bad. We usually pick early but not in 2021 as we waited until the 23rd of September. While the condition of the fruit was actually quite good, there wasn't much of it as quantities were down 50% in pinot and fully 70% for the chardonnay. Because the quantities were so low I briefly considered the possibility of making a generic Volnay premier cru but in the end, I concluded that would be too bad to sacrifice the individuality of the wines in the interest of having a more comfortable quantity of wine to sell. Besides, given that our approach to vinifying the reds is based off of working with limited quantities, in the end it worked out well. One major change though was that I used zero new wood for the reds and a maximum of 30% for the whites and a number of them had none at all. As to the wines, I really like them and especially for their transparency and energy. In this sense I am very happy that I chose to vinify all of the vineyards separately." As was the case in 2020, and as the comments and ratings confirm, I was impressed with the Boillot 2021s and in particular the Caillerets is outstanding. Boillot further noted that the reds were bottled in December 2022 without fining or filtration. See also the Maison Henri Boillot wines directly below. (Chelsea Ventures, LLC, www.chelseaventures.us, IL, Milton Road Trading Corp, LLC, www.miltonroadtrading.com, CA, Cynthia Hurley, www.cynthiahurley.com, MA and Massanois Imports, www.massanois.com, NY, all USA; Enotria Winecellars Ltd., www.enotria.co.uk, Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk, and Georges Barbier of London, www.georgesbarbier.co.uk, all UK; Clos Cachet, www.closcachet.com.au, VIC, Australia; Altaya Wines, www.altayawines.com, Hong Kong).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: (from vineyards in Santenay, Marsannay and the lower portions of Volnay). A very pinot nose is ultra-fresh with its layered aromas of both red and dark berries and discreet earth wisps. The delicious, plump and round middleweight flavors offer better than average depth and persistence in a balanced package. This is built on its fruit but importantly, it isn't simple. 87/2024+

2021 Volnay: (from the 1er Clos de la Rougeotte). A more complex and more elegant nose features pretty violet hints to the essence of red currant and cherry scents. There is a more refined texture along with fine punch to the slightly bigger-bodied flavors that flash good minerality on the dusty, youthfully austere and sneaky long finale. This could use better depth though more should reasonably develop with a few years of keeping. 89/2026+

2021 Volnay "Les Chevrets": (from 25+ year old vines). Bright, cool and airy aromas include those of various red berries, anise and a whiff of herbal tea. There is equally good freshness and energy to the lighter weight flavors that are not as dense but finer while displaying good if not special length on the slightly lean finish. This should reasonably better flesh out if held for a few years first. 89/2027+

2021 Volnay "Les Frémiets": A perfumed and exceptionally pretty nose freely reveals its aromas of red cherry, currant, plum and delicate floral wisps. There is better mid-palate density to the relatively fine yet rich medium-bodied flavors that coat the palate with sappy dry extract on the stony and sneaky long finish. Frémiets is usually a blend of power and refinement and can sometimes even be robust though such is not the case in 2021. 91/2028+

2021 Volnay "Les Caillerets": (from a .60 ha parcel). A markedly spicier and more floral-suffused nose is comprised by notes of plum, dark raspberry and a whiff of exotic tea. The delicate, but impressively intense, middleweight flavors brim with minerality that imparts a sense of 'lift' to the silky textured, dusty and youthfully austere finish that is easily the most persistent in the range. Lovely. 93/2029+

2021 Pommard "Clos Blanc": (from a parcel purchased in 2007 and replanted). An agreeably pure nose offers up notes of cool red pinot fruit cut with hints of earth and forest floor. The sleek, delicious and tension-filled medium weight flavors also display excellent cut though not the same refinement or persistence on the moderately austere finale. Some patience will be required as this is presently fairly tightly wound. 90/2029+

Maison Henri Boillot (Meursault)

2021	**Bonnes Mares Grand Cru**	**red**	**94**
2021	**Chambertin Grand Cru**	**red**	**93**
2021	**Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru**	**red**	**94**
2021	**Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru**	**red**	**92**
2021	**Echézeaux Grand Cru**	**red**	**93**
2021	**Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru**	**red**	**93**

See Domaine Henri Boillot for the associated 2021 vintage comments immediately above. Boillot has been responsible for all of the vineyard work as well as the harvest for the Bonnes Mares, Echézeaux, Chambertin and Clos de Vougeot since 2007. (Chelsea Ventures, LLC, www.chelseaventures.us, IL and Milton Road Trading Corp, LLC, www.miltonroadtrading.com, CA, Cynthia Hurley, www.cynthiahurley.com, MA and Massanois Imports, www.massanois.com, NY, all USA; Enotria Winecellars Ltd., www.enotria.co.uk, Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk and Georges Barbier of London, www.georgesbarbier.co.uk, all UK; Clos Cachet, www.closcachet.com.au, VIC, Australia; Altaya Wines, www.altayawines.com, Hong Kong).

2021 Clos de Vougeot: (from a ~.34 ha parcel in Grand Maupertuis). A moderately deeply pitched nose combines notes of black cherry and earth with those of violet and plum. There is fine mid-palate volume to the fleshy and palate coating flavors that possess focused power on the lingering finish that is neither especially austere nor robust in 2021. With that said, this will still be more than capable of repaying 12 to 15 years of keeping. 92/2033+

2021 Echézeaux: (from En Orveaux). Somewhat surprisingly, this is markedly more aromatically restrained with its nose of black cherry, floral and subtle spice wisps. By contrast, there is excellent underlying tension to the strikingly sleek and concentrated flavors that exude a discreet minerality on the balanced and sneaky long finish. This understated Ech should also benefit from mid to longer-term cellaring. 93/2033+

2021 Latricières-Chambertin: Here there is enough reduction present to push the underlying fruit to the background so be sure to give this some air if your curiosity gets the better of you! By contrast, there is outstanding freshness and tension to the borderline aggressively mineral-inflected medium weight flavors that possess a more sophisticated, and certainly finer, texture while displaying very fine length on the moderately austere, compact and firm finale. This is a bit less harmonious than the Echézeaux but I suspect that it's just a phase that will progressively pass. 93/2033+

2021 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: As one would reasonably expect, the nose is both slightly riper and overtly spicier with its array of essence of various dark berries, violet, lilac, sandalwood and crushed fennel. There is better volume to the intense bigger-bodied, if less mineral-driven, flavors that exhibit first-rate power and even better persistence. This is quite classy and a 2021 that should repay all of 15+ years of keeping yet should also be approachable after 7 to 8 years if desired. 94/2036+

2021 Chambertin: (near the tree line at the very top of the vineyard and atypically, the rows are planted North-South). A top note of green tea can be found on the cooler, less expressive and less spicy aromas of plum, the *sauvage* and a subtle smoked meat character. There is almost painful intensity to the bigger-bodied and tautly muscular yet reasonably refined flavors that also brim with minerality on the overtly austere, compact and built-to-age finale. This is a 'buy and forget you own it' for at least a decade. 93/2036+

2021 Bonnes Mares: (from both Chambolle and Morey fruit). A much more floral nose blends notes of dark currant, anise and a similar smoked meat component. The notably finer, indeed almost delicate, flavors possess deceptive density while delivering outstanding length on the balanced, firm and already nicely complex finale. Lovely and a wine that epitomizes 'power without weight'. 94/2033+

Domaine Bonneau du Martray (Pernand-Vergelesses)

2020	**Corton Grand Cru**	**red**	**93**

As is usually the case, I met with general manager Thibault Jacquet and cellarmaster Emmanuel Hautus, who noted that the tasting format will be changing going forward as they prefer to present the wines in bottle. They did tell me that yields were extremely low in 2021, coming in at only 8 hl/ha for the Corton-Charlemagne and a scarcely better 12 hl/ha for the Corton. I will have more on the Corton-Charlemagne in Issue 91. The 2020 Corton, reviewed below, was bottled in May 2022. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.beckywasserman.com, Beaune, France is the US Agent; Winebow, Inc., www.winebow.com, NJ, Chambers & Chambers Wine Merchants www.chamberswines.com, CA, Vines, www.finevines.com, IL, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, TX, Wines Unlimited, www.winesunlimited.com, LA, Atlanta Wholesale Wines, www.ndcweb.com, GA, Augustan Wine, www.augustanwine.com, FL, C'est Vin, LLC, 703.243.3559, VA, Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, NV/AZ/NM, M.S. Walker, www.mswalker.com, MA, all USA; Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com, UK; Altaya Wines, www.altayawines.com, Hong Kong).

2020 Corton: (from a 1.3 ha parcel in both En and Le Charlemagne where only .7 ha is actively producing as the other .6 ha was ripped out to be replanted; 50% new wood). A perfumed if definitely ripe nose speaks of black raspberry coulis, poached plum, newly turned earth and a floral top note. The sleek, intense and attractively textured flavors exude a subtle bead of minerality on the chalky, sneaky long and youthfully austere finale. The tannins are relatively fine-grained, and this should amply repay 12 to 15 years of keeping yet be approachable after 6 to 8. While a bit riper than a genuinely classic Corton, this remains on the cooler side in the context of the vintage. 93/2032+

Maison Bouchard Père & Fils (Beaune)

2021	Beaune du Château "1er" 1er	red	(89-91)
2021	Beaune "Grèves" 1er	red	(89-92)
2021	➽ Beaune "Grèves – Vigne de l'Enfant Jésus" 1er	red	(91-93)
2021	Beaune "Clos de la Mousse" 1er	red	(89-91)
2021	Beaune "Marconnets" 1er	red	(89-92)
2021	➽ Beaune "Teurons" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2021	Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(93-95)
2021	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2021	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2021	Le Corton Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2021	Monthélie	red	(87-89)
2021	➽ Nuits St. Georges "Les Cailles" 1er	red	(91-94)
2021	➽ Nuits St. Georges "Les Porrets-Saint-Georges" 1er	red	(91-93)
2021	➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	➽ Volnay "Les Caillerets – Ancienne Cuvée Carnot" 1er	red	(92-94)
2021	➽ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	(91-93)
2021	➽ Volnay "En Chevret" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	➽ Volnay "Les Taillepieds" 1er	red	(91-93)

As has been widely reported in the wine press last September, Maisons & Domaines Henriot, which controls both Bouchard Père & Fils and William Fèvre in Chablis plus Beaux Frères in Oregon, has joined Artemis Domaines, the new incarnation of François Pinault's wine holdings. These include Domaines Clos de Tart and Eugénie in Bourgogne, along with Château Latour in Bordeaux and Château Grillet in the Rhone plus Araujo Estates in Napa. Artemis will control a reported 75% of Henriot though I was unable to independently confirm that figure. How Artemis will restructure Bouchard, if at all, remains to be seen. There is though speculation among some observers that Bouchard's so-called lower-level vineyards will be sold off and it will focus on becoming more of a luxury brand, more in the image of Eugénie or Clos de Tart. By contrast, others think it will be split into several domaines, with the lower-level vineyards continuing to be made and marketed by Bouchard while another, yet to be determined, entity will take the most prestigious vineyards and market them separately. Both scenarios are at least plausible as Bouchard's holdings are among the greatest in all of Burgundy. We will see going forward but at a minimum, Winemaker Frédéric Weber noted that they bought in very little fruit and/or must in 2021 and 2022 and that going forward, they would concentrate almost exclusively on producing wines from domaine-owned vineyards. Indeed he said that there would be zero *négociant* activity as of 2023. He was careful to say that no permanent decisions had yet been made and that the focus on domaine vineyards was simply a 'natural' first step.

Weber is always a wealth of detail regarding the intricacies of the growing season and regarding the 2021 vintage, he explained that "the preceding winter was relatively mild and wet, though not enough to replace the hydric deficit from the incredibly dry 2020 season. February was notably warmer than usual and the vines began to stir as it were, which of course presaged that if there was a frost, the damage could be genuinely terrible. The last week of March saw almost early summer temperatures and not surprisingly, the chardonnay vines, and the most precocious pinot vines, were already well-advanced when three nights of frost hit on the 6th, 7th and 8th. The worst though was the snow that fell on the 7th, which of course melted, soaking the buds, and then the coldest of the 3 nights occurred on the 8th, which was about the worst sequence of events that could happen. May was humid but relatively cold, which didn't help matters as the vines were largely in shock from the frost. The flowering didn't pass especially well either, which engendered some shatter. As if all of this wasn't already more than enough, the season was punctuated by a succession of severe disease attacks, and in particular oidium. The vines were enfeebled from the frost and if you failed, even by as little as two days, to adequately protect them, you could easily lose whatever fruit remained. It was genuinely awful, not to mention nerve wracking. The break the vines took in May allowed them to recover somewhat and June finally saw vigorous growth and when I say vigorous, it's not an exaggeration as some vines grew as much as 6 to 8 cm each day! I have never seen that before. As such we pulled a lot of leaves in order to help with aeration though at the same time, it was necessary to do so judiciously as we needed them to produce energy to ripen the fruit. Then there was an attack of grey rot (botrytis) in August, which further complicated picking decisions. Ultimately, we chose to begin picking the most advanced plots of pinot on the 16th of September but held off on the whites until the 23rd. Yields were frankly miserable as they averaged only 10 hl/ha for the chardonnay and 19 hl/ha for the pinot. It was quite variable though because, for example, the Chevalier was hit so badly that we produced the equivalent of only 3.6 hl/ha! As such, there will be no La Cabotte at all. The reverse was also true as the later blooming vineyards had yields that were almost normal because they weren't really affected by the frost. Even so, overall the 2021 crop is the lowest for Bouchard since 1930! If there was any good news in all of this, it was that potential alcohols were quite good as almost everything came in between 12.9 and 13.5% with very fine acidities. We did our best to eliminate as much of the second-generation fruit as we could because it wasn't as ripe but even extremely experienced pickers can't tell the difference. For the pinot, I tried to finish the vinifications as quickly as possible, which is to say on average between 12 and 15 days, as I wanted to avoid at all costs extracting anything underripe tannins. We did no punching down early and what little we did do was done towards the end of the cuvaison. I used around 30% whole clusters for the Côte de Beaune and around 50% for the Côte de Nuits, the idea being to soften the acidities (the stems have relatively considerable amounts of potassium, a base, which neutralizes some of the acidity). For the whites, despite the already tiny quantities, I eliminated the first part of the crush and then did an exceptionally long and slow pressing. This was followed by a 24-hour lees settling to make sure that I was working only with the cleanest lees. One of the most interesting things about the wines, both reds and whites, is how much they have improved during the *élevage* and in particular the whites; in fact they are still improving, and I honestly don't know when I will bottle them though my present guess is this coming June. By contrast, the reds seem to be close to ready and I will likely bottle them in April and May. In terms of what other vintages might reasonably compare, the reds remind me somewhat of the 2000s while the whites are more like 2014." (Maisons & Domaines Henriot America, www.mdhamerica.com, NY, USA; John E. Fells and Sons, www.fells.co.uk, UK; Kerry Wines, www.kerrywines.com, Hong Kong).

2021 Monthélie: (from Meix de Mypont, La Combe Danay and a small amount of the 1er portion in Les Duresses). Distinctly earthy and cool aromas of mostly dark berries display a pretty floral top note. There is both good freshness and verve to the precise middleweight flavors that are markedly austere and firm but not hard. This mildly rustic effort will need at least a few years of keeping as it's quite compact and a bit ungracious today. (87-89)/2026+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières": (from a huge 3.85 ha parcel purchased in 1909). This is also aromatically quite cool with its more floral-inflected nose of plum, spice and discreet wood nuances. There is excellent volume to the more refined medium weight flavors that possess very good mid-palate density before terminating in an impressively persistent and balanced finale. This is sufficiently firm to repay up to a decade of cellaring but it should also be accessible after only 4 to 5 years if desired. (90-93)/2028+

2021 Beaune du Château "1er": (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). Subtle but not invisible wood sets off ripe and fresh aromas of various dark berries, spice and a whiff of earth. Here too there is fine volume and richness to the generous and seductive, even velvet-textured, flavors that offer very good length if only average depth, though that of course should improve with a few years of keeping. (89-91)/2027+

2021 Beaune "Marconnets": (from a 2.3 ha holding). Here there is enough reduction to mask the underlying fruit. More interesting are the attractively detailed and notably more mineral-driven flavors that aren't as rich though they are finer and particularly so on the youthfully austere and lingering finish. This too could use more depth but more should reasonably develop if given a chance. (89-92)/2028+

2021 Beaune "Teurons": (from a 1.7 ha parcel). Weber indicated that the vines were heavily frosted and the net yield was only 6 hl/ha! Once again there is just enough wood to merit mentioning framing the intensely floral-suffused nose of plum, spice, violet and lilac. Ironically given the very low reported yields, the medium-bodied flavors possess only average density though I very much like the balance as well as the excellent persistence. Lovely and as Teurons usually is, this is a wine of finesse that should age well. (90-93)/2029+

2021 Beaune "Grèves": Ripe, fresh and airy aromas of violet and dark currant are also trimmed in just enough wood to merit pointing out. There is fine volume to the caressing but punchy medium-bodied flavors that offer a bit more mid-palate density, all wrapped in a youthfully austere, balanced and precise finale. This too could use better depth though there appears to be enough stuffing such that more should reasonably develop. (89-92)/2029+

2021 Beaune "Clos de la Mousse": (a 3.37 ha monopole of Bouchard that required seven generations for the family to acquire all of it). This is also markedly floral in character with its aromas of pretty red cherry, currant, earth and a discreet though not imperceptible dollop of wood. The lilting, vibrant and beautifully detailed lighter weight flavors possess a sublime texture that contrasts somewhat with a mildly sweet finish of average depth and persistence. (89-91)/2026+

2021 Beaune "Grèves – Vigne de L'Enfant Jésus": (from a 4-ha parcel). Weber noted that they protected the vines with warming pots that allowed for a yield of about 22 hl/ha. More obvious oak influence stops short of fighting with the spicy and earthy purple fruit-scented nose. There is notably more density, power and volume to the bigger-bodied flavors that possess a seductive mouthfeel that contrasts somewhat with the robust but not rustic finale that delivers markedly better depth and persistence. (91-93)/2029+

2021 Volnay "En Chevret": (from a .25 ha parcel that is in the upper portion of the vineyard by Caillerets). Moderate but not dominant wood is present on the red and dark berry-suffused nose that displays a variety of background floral nuances. Like several of the wines in the range, there is a really lovely texture to the more mineral-driven middleweight flavors that deliver fine length on the balanced finale This too would benefit from having better depth but the necessary material appears to be present for that to occur over time. (90-93)/2029+

2021 Volnay "Les Taillepieds": A very pungent nose of reduction and relatively generous wood leads to plump, round and unusually seductive medium weight flavors and it is only on the finish that the hallmark minerality and classic austerity of a fine Taillepieds finally appear. This offers excellent development potential but patience will absolutely be necessary. (91-93)/2031+

2021 Volnay "Les Caillerets – Ancienne Cuvée Carnot": (from yields of only 4 hl/ha in 2021). An exuberantly spicy and overtly floral nose is airy, cool and elegant. Unlike some of the other reds in the range with very low yields, the mouthfeel of the medium-bodied flavors reflects the expected density while remaining sophisticated, refined and classy on the beautifully persistent, mineral-driven and youthfully austere finale. This is terrific and should age effortlessly. (92-94)/2033+

2021 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": (from a .80 ha parcel in the lower section of the vineyard). Moderate wood and menthol can be found on the aromas of violet, red currant and plum. There is excellent density to the velvety and sappy textured flavors that manage to maintain very good precision on the overtly stony, powerful and youthfully austere finale. As is typical for this wine, it's going to need every bit of a decade to reach its apogee. (91-93)/2031+

2021 Le Corton: Ripe yet decidedly cool and very, very fresh aromas include those of spice, purple fruit, the *sauvage* and plenty of newly turned earth character. The mouthfeel of the caressing middleweight plus flavors is surprisingly refined with excellent power and focus on the balanced and persistent if markedly compact finale. As is virtually always the case, this is a 'buy and forget you own it' wine. (92-95)/2033+

2021 Nuits St. Georges "Les Porrets-Saint-Georges": (planted in 1956 and has some pinot beurot and pinot gris intermixed with the pinot). Moderately generous wood fights somewhat with the ripe and equally fresh aromas of red and dark currant along with forest floor and discreet spice wisps. There is both excellent energy and delineation to the delicious if not especially dense flavors that flash exquisite acid/tannin balance on the mildly austere and sneaky long finish. Lovely. (91-93)/2031+

2021 Nuits St. Georges "Les Cailles": (from a large 1 ha holding). Here too moderately generous wood is present on the cool, pure and notably spicier nose of plum and exotic tea. There is slightly better mid-palate density as well as more evident minerality to the medium weight flavors that possess equally good tension and delineation on the balanced and impressively long finale that offers just a bit more depth. As is usually the case with Les Cailles, this is a combination of finesse and punch. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Clos de Vougeot: (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*). Generous but not dominant wood stops short of overshadowing the pretty, cool and pure aromas of various dark berries and just turned earth. There is excellent delineation to the intense and tautly muscular middleweight plus flavors that possess lovely detail while delivering very fine length on the balanced finale that is less youthfully austere than usual. With that duly noted, this is firmly structured and a wine that is like to need most of 15 years to reach its peak. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Bonnes Mares: (from a .24 ha mix of two-thirds *terres rouges* and one-third *terres blanches*, though at present it is 100% terres rouges due to a replanting). Weber indicated that the yield was about 25 hl/ha in 2021. An overtly floral-suffused nose of red currant and dark raspberry displays a background hint of herbal tea. There is focused power to the nicely detailed if only moderately dense flavors that exhibit very fine length on the balanced and youthfully austere finale. This could use better depth though given the underlying material and structure, more should reasonably develop. (91-93)/2033+

2021 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: (from purchased fruit). Once again there is a plethora of floral nuances present on the spicier aromas of red berries, especially wild currant, along with hints of wood, menthol and earth. There is first-rate energy and beautiful detail to the seductively textured and enveloping middleweight plus flavors that exude a subtle bead of minerality on the compact, firm, long and classy finale. (92-94)/2033+

2021 Chambertin: (from a .15 ha parcel on the southern end near the top just under the tree line). Much like the Bonnes Mares, there is a plethora of floral elements adding a touch of elegance to the decidedly cool and airy aromas of wild berries, earth and a smoky component. There is excellent density and richness to the powerful and muscular yet relatively refined mineral-driven flavors that terminate in a youthfully austere, linear and built-to-age finale. Patience strongly recommended. (93-95)/2036+

Domaine Jean-Baptiste Boudier (Pernand-Vergelesses)

2021	**➽ Aloxe-Corton "Les Combes"**	**red**	**89**
2021	**Corton-Renardes Grand Cru**	**red**	**92**
2021	**Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Fichots" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2021	**Savigny-lès-Beaune**	**red**	**88**
2021	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Peuillets" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2020	**➽ Aloxe-Corton "Les Combes"**	**red**	**89**

The young Jean-Baptiste Boudier is a trained oenologist and comes from a long line of vignerons, but he is the first in his family to directly commercialize his wines in any meaningful quantity. After working in a variety of regions, including Burgundy (he is second cousins with Nicolas Rossignol), he began in 2015 with only 3 ha of vines and has slowly added to that core to where he now farms 6.5 ha. He presently declares wines in 11 different appellations where 80% of the production is in red and is spread mostly over the communes of Savigny, Aloxe and Pernand. His approach in the vines is presently *lutte raisonnée* (a system whereby the vines are treated only when there are actual signs of disease pressure, not in anticipation of them) though he told me that he is progressively moving to a 100% organic regimen. The harvest is performed manually and the fruit is sorted twice, once in the vineyard and again in the cuverie. Whole clusters are used in the indigenous yeast only vinifications though he stresses that nothing is systematic and the use of stems is more of a feeling than a preordained notion. He employs more of an infusion approach during a 12-to-14-day cuvaison, which he believes is enough to obtain the best the fruit has to offer without any of the astringency that longer fermentations sometimes extract. The *élevage* can vary as well because even though most of the reds see 14 to 15 months, for some wines and vintages, he will allow them 18-to-20 months in around 25% new wood (though in 2021, it was zero). The wines are not fined and rarely filtered, though Boudier again stresses that if he thinks a wine would benefit from it, he is not philosophically opposed to doing so. Boudier told me that above all, he wants to craft wines of elegance and finesse where the underlying terroir is more easily allowed to express itself. As he noted, "I'm just here to help reveal what is already in the fruit." I was impressed by what I found here and this is a young Burgundian to follow going forward. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; Skurnik Wines, www.skurnik.com, NY, USA; Haynes, Hanson & Clark, www.hhandc.co.uk, UK; and Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com, Hong Kong.

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune: (from a holding in the *villages* portion of Peuillets and Ez Connardises that totals .5 ha; 20% whole clusters). A cool, pure and attractively airy nose combines notes of various red berries with those of earth and underbrush. The delicious and vibrant lighter weight flavors possess both good energy and detail on the linear and youthfully austere finale. This has the balance to be enjoyed young though I would suggest allowing it at least a few years first. A quality Savigny *villages*. 88/2026+

2021 Aloxe-Corton "Les Combes": (from a 1 ha holding that is mostly planted to pinot though there is some chardonnay as well). This is also exceptionally fresh and airy with its even cooler array of floral and earth-inflected red cherry scents. There is better volume and mid-palate density to the precise and moderately powerful flavors that possess a bit more overall depth and persistence though the finish is also more structured as well. This is worth considering. 89/2028+

2021 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Fichots": (also from a 1 ha holding). Here too the nose is exceptionally fresh, airy and cool with its beautifully pure essence of red pinot fruit that reflects background hints of both earth and spice. There is excellent intensity to the lightly stony barely middleweight flavors that exude a bracing salinity on the slightly firmer and more complex finale. This too is worth considering provided you intend to hold it for at least a few years first. 90/2029+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Peuillets": (from a .90 ha holding). Once again there is a lovely coolness to the airy and pure red berry fruit aromas that are cut with more floral character along with newly turned earth. The caressing but punchy and well-detailed medium weight flavors that deliver solid depth and persistence is a more supple package. As is typically the case with the wines of Peuillets, this should drink well young but repay up to a decade of keeping. 90/2027+

2021 Corton-Renardes: (.50 ha holding). A softly floral-suffused nose reluctantly offers up its array of red and dark cherry, violet and a touch of the *sauvage*. The rich and punchy medium-bodied flavors possess only average concentration but there is nonetheless a sense of focused power that carries over to the bitter pit fruit-inflected and impressively persistent finale. This is presently moderately compact and should repay up to a decade of keeping, perhaps even a bit more. 92/2029+

2020 Aloxe-Corton "Les Combes": (from a 1 ha holding that is mostly planted to pinot though there is some chardonnay as well). While decidedly riper than its 2021 counterpart, this remains fresh and very pinot, indeed even perfumed, something not often said about Aloxe reds. There is however notably better mid-palate density to medium-bodied flavors that are at once generous yet reasonably refined, the texture of which contrasts somewhat with the mildly rustic finish. This is also quite good for what it is and worth a look. 89/2027+

Domaine Pierrick Bouley (Volnay)

2021	Aloxe-Corton	red	88
2021	➽ Bourgogne Côte d'Or	red	87
2021	Bourgogne – Passe-tout-grains	red	86
2021	Monthélie "Aux Fournereaux"	red	88
2021	Pommard	red	88
2021	➽ Volnay	red	89
2021	➽ Volnay "Champans" 1er	red	92
2021	➽ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	92
2021	➽ Volnay "Les Grands Champs" 1er	red	91
2021	➽ Volnay "Les Pluchots"	red	89
2021	Volnay "Robardelle" 1er	red	89
2021	Volnay "Ronceret" 1er	red	90
2021	➽ Volnay "Santenots" 1er	red	91

As I reported last year, fans of Domaine Pascal Bouley should be aware that the name has changed in favor of his son, Pierrick, as of the 2020 vintage. With respect to the 2021 growing season, Pierrick noted that "I love this vintage for its elegance and classicism, the only problem is that there isn't more of it. There was of course the frost but also the season was tough to manage as it seemed like there was always something to be concerned about, especially mildew and oidium. But in a sense we lucked out because when the frost hit in early April, I hadn't yet pruned the 1ers so we lost 'only' 10 to 15%, which is still of consequence but nothing like the 50%+ loss rates in so many communes in the Côte. By contrast, I had pruned the regional and the *villages* wines and my losses there were substantial. For me, the heavy frost of 2016 was the lesson that I will never forget about pruning as late as possible and it served me well to remember it in 2021. I chose to begin picking on the 21st of September and brought in very clean if not spotless fruit that averaged between 12 and 12.8% in terms of potential alcohol. I did my normal vinification without sulfur and no chaptalization though for some reason, or reasons, it finished much faster than usual. The malos also finished faster than normal and again, I have no explication as to why. The good news is that the wines have turned out much better than I had hoped and while I am always hesitant to compliment my results, I confess to being pretty pleased." I would agree with Bouley that his 2021s are indeed very good as they are a lovely blend of transparency, refinement and pleasure that should

repay mid-term keeping. (Bertrand's Wines, www.bertrandswines.com, NY, Baron François Ltd, www.baronfrancois.com, NY, Moonlight Wine Co., www.moonlightwineco.com, NY, all USA; Grand Millesime Wine, www.grandmillesime.com.au, Australia; Fine Wines, www.finewines.com.sg, Singapore; Peiko Wine, www.peikowine.com, Taiwan; Cork Culture, Hong Kong).

2021 Bourgogne – Passe-tout-grains: (from 80+ year old vines that are co-planted with 70% gamay and the rest in pinot noir). An earthy and peppery dark berry fruit nose precedes nicely vibrant and well-detailed middleweight flavors that offer good depth on the mildly rustic and youthfully austere finale. While this dusty effort could easily be enjoyed immediately, one or two years of keeping would be beneficial. 86/2024+

2021 Bourgogne Côte d'Or: A more elegant and slightly fresher very pinot nose gives way to notably finer flavors that possess the same fine detail that carries over to the utterly delicious, inviting and slightly austere finale. This is really lovely as one just feels like drinking it. Worth a look. 87/2024+

2021 Monthélie "Aux Fournereaux": Very pretty if somewhat more reserved aromas include those of violet, plum, earth and a hint of crushed fennel. The delicious and nicely vibrant barely middleweight flavors possess an appealing texture before culminating in a bitter pit fruit, dusty and sneaky long finish where a touch of asperity slowly emerges. This could use a few years to round off the backend. 88/2028+

2021 Volnay: (from Ez Echards, Les Pluchots, Les Pasquiers and Les Grands Champs). A much more elegant nose is comprised by notes of perfumed red berries and plenty of spice and floral wisps. The sleek and delicious medium weight flavors are especially dense though they are notably finer while exuding a subtle minerality on the balanced and inviting finale. This lacy and very Volnay effort could use better depth, but more should develop if giving a chance. Worth considering. 89/2027+

2021 Volnay "Les Pluchots": This is aromatically similar to the straight Volnay *villages* if just a bit more complex. On the palate there is a bit more volume and density with a silky texture that carries over to the firm, balanced and youthfully austere finale. Pluchots is understandably appreciated for producing refined yet ageworthy wines and this version should prove to be no exception. 89/2029+

2021 Aloxe-Corton: (from Les Citernes). A discreet but still perceptible application of wood sets off the much earthier and less elegant dark berry fruit aromas. There is good if not special volume and punch to the relatively powerful flavors that display good length on the mildly rustic if persistent finish. This is very Aloxe in character without being excessively robust. 88/2029+

2021 Pommard: (from the *villages*-level portion of Les Chanlins, plus Les Lambots and La Croix Planet). Pretty and airy aromas of plum, violet and more subtle earth influences introduce acceptably concentrated flavors that possess a really lovely mouthfeel thanks to the relatively fine-grained tannins that shape the lingering, duty and mildly austere finale where a touch of asperity slowly emerges. This needs at least a few years of forbearance and should repay up to a decade of keeping. 88/2029+

2021 Volnay "Robardelle": An airy and exuberantly spicy nose reflects mostly dark berry aromas along with a hint of herbal tea. The super-sleek, delicious and intense middleweight flavors are shaped by even finer-grained tannins while displaying good if not special persistence on the clean, bright and sneaky long finish where a touch of asperity also appears. Like the Pommard, this too needs at least a few years first but should also have no trouble repaying up to a decade of keeping. 89/2029+

2021 Volnay "Ronceret": (from Ronceret proper). Very pretty aromas of plum, red and dark currant and a hint of anise are complemented by the very fine if not especially dense flavors that still manage to offer good richness as well as a subtle minerality on the firm, serious and moderately austere finale. This is sufficiently compact to need at least some patience. 90/2031+

2021 Volnay "Les Grands Champs": (a tiny monopole of .24 ha that is part of the *climat* Les Mitans). A highly perfumed nose speaks mostly of red currant, dark pinot fruit and a touch of newly turned earth along with a floral top note. There is better volume and very good punch to the detailed and lightly mineral-driven flavors that deliver fine length on the equally austere finale. I find that ten years of cellaring is typically about right for Les Grands Champs and 2021 should be no exception. 91/2031+

2021 Volnay "Santenots": (from Santenots Blancs). Here too the expressive nose is quite pretty with its aromas of pure red pinot fruit, plum and spiced tea. There is good refinement to the beautifully delineated medium-bodied flavors that possess only average density and power, but I like both the depth and persistence on the bitter pit fruit-inflected and slightly more structured finale. 91/2033+

2021 Volnay "Champans": This too is wonderfully perfumed with its cool and ultra-pure aromas of plum, various dark berries and a lovely array of spice elements. There is a bit better density though somewhat surprisingly, not quite the same refinement to the solidly powerful and markedly stony flavors that deliver slightly better depth and persistence on the youthfully austere finale. This is relatively robust Champans that offers an appealing combination of power and balance. 92/2033+

2021 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": This is one of the few wines in the range to display much wood influence and while subtle, it's still enough to warrant pointing out on the ripe and fresh aromas of plum, black cherry, earth and crushed fennel. The silky and vibrant middleweight flavors aren't especially dense, but the mouthfeel is sophisticated thanks to the fine-grained tannins shaping the moderately austere and ageworthy finale. I would describe this as a Clos des Chênes that is built less on classic incarnations of power and muscle and more along the lines of harmony and balance. 92/2033+

Domaine Michel Bouzereau (Meursault)

2021	Beaune "Vignes Franches" 1er	red	90
2021	Bourgogne Côte d'Or	red	86
2021	Pommard "Les Cras"	red	88
2021	Volnay "Les Aussy" 1er	red	89

I will have more detail on Jean-Baptiste Bouzereau's view of the 2021 vintage in Issue 91. Specifically regarding the reds Bouzereau noted that yields were between 28 and 30 hl/ha and were bottled in December 2022. (Jeanne-Marie de Champs, www.ds-collection.com, NY, USA; Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com, Charles Taylor Wines, www.charlestaylorwines.com, Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com and Laytons, www.laytons.co.uk, all UK; Watson and Kerry Wines, both HK; The Fine Wine Experience, www.finewineexperience.com, Hong Kong/Beijing, China).

2021 Bourgogne Côte d'Or: (from Les Durots and Belle Côtes). A fresh and very pinot nose reflects notes of pretty red berries laced with plenty of earth character. The agreeably punchy and reasonably rich flavors possess good delineation while exhibiting solid power on the rustic, robust and serious finish. This isn't a Bourgogne built on its fruit and rather one that should age over the next 3 to 5 years, indeed it will need at least a few years to round out. 86/2025+

2021 Pommard "Les Cras": This is also very pinot in character with a more complex nose of red cherry, currant, newly turned earth and a hint of fennel. There is slightly better refinement to the vibrant and detailed middleweight flavors that tighten up noticeably on the rustic, serious and very Pommard-like finish. Patience recommended here too. 88/2029+

2021 Volnay "Les Aussy": (from vines planted in 1955 that usually produce 3 barrels; note that today most domaines declare Les Aussy as Les Roncerets). Here the nose suffers from a bit of post-bottling reduction though there is good freshness and verve to the finer, and more intricately detailed, medium weight flavors that conclude in a dusty and slightly raspy if reasonably persistent finish. As the description suggests, this is somewhat awkward though I suspect this is more due to the recent bottling than a true lack of balance. 89/2031+

2021 Beaune "Vignes Franches": (2021 is the third vintage since the vineyard was replanted). This is also quite fresh with its combination of plum, red and dark currant, and pretty floral nuances and in particular, violet. There is again a lovely sense of energy to the detailed middleweight flavors that possess fine length and better balance on the youthfully austere finale. 90/2031+

Domaine Boyer-Martenot (Meursault)

2021	Auxey-Duresses "Les Ecussaux"	red	(87-89)
2021	Bourgogne Côte d'Or	red	(86-88)
2021	Pommard	red	(86-88)

I will have Vincent Boyer's take on the 2021 vintage in Issue 91 with the reviews of his whites. Boyer did note that for his reds that he wants his wines built on the fruit, versus structure, as the idea is for them to be ready to drink and enjoy in their youth. (North Berkeley Imports, www.northberkeleyimports.com, CA, Skurnik Wines, www.skurnik.com, NY, Vintner Select,

www.vintnerselect.com, OH, all USA; Charles Taylor Wines, www.charlestaylorwines.com, Decorum Vintners, www.decvin.com, UK; Racines, www.racines-japan.com, Japan).

2021 Bourgogne Côte d'Or: Light ruby color. A very pinot-like nose presents its aromas of ultra-fresh essence of red berries. The delicious and vibrant lighter weight flavors possess fine detail and only a mild touch of rusticity on the bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. To enjoy young for its inviting fruit. (86-88)/2024+

2021 Auxey-Duresses "Les Ecussaux": A slightly more deeply pitched nose reflects notes of violet, plum and newly turned earth where the latter can also be found on the almost painfully intense, if not especially dense, flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the youthfully austere and slightly firmer finish. Even so, this too could be enjoyed young. (87-89)/2026+

2021 Pommard: (from one of the parcels of Le Village, which in this case is just below Rugiens). Hints of green tea can be found on the high-toned essence of red pinot fruit, fennel and soft earth. The vibrant and detailed lighter weight flavors glide across the palate though there is more than a touch of asperity on the otherwise nicely long finish. I suspect that this will always retain a mild edginess and is probably best enjoyed with an appropriate food. (86-88)/2026+

Domaine François Buffet (Volnay)

2021	➽ Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	➽ Pommard	red	(89-91)
2021	➽ Pommard "Clos Micot" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	➽ Pommard "Les Poutures" 1er	red	(91-94)
2021	➽ Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	(92-94)
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Narbantons" 1er	red	(89-92)
2021	Volnay	red	(87-90)
2021	➽ Volnay "Carelle sous la Chapelle" 1er	red	(91-93)
2021	➽ Volnay "Champans" 1er	red	(91-94)
2021	➽ Volnay "Clos de la Rougeotte" 1er	red	(91-93)
2021	➽ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	(91-93)
2021	➽ Volnay "Les Taillepieds" 1er	red	(91-94)
2021	Volnay "Le Village" 1er	red	(89-92)
2019	➽ Volnay "Les Taillepieds" 1er	red	93

Marc-Olivier Buffet briefly noted that 2021 was "tough sledding between the frost and severe disease pressure. We picked from the 22nd of September and while the fruit was clean and ripe, there wasn't much of it as we lost between 40 and 80%. While there were actually very good potential alcohols of between 12.5 and 13.5%, which suggests very good ripeness levels, I didn't trust them enough to use any whole clusters in the vinifications the way I usually do. I have rarely seen wines change so much during the course of the *élevage* and while I was frankly skeptical of their quality at first, I have come a full 180 as I really quite like them. They're classic, balanced and transmit accurately their intrinsic terroirs." As the scores and comments suggest, I was impressed by the quality of Buffets 2021s. Moreover, for those who enjoy elegance and understatement, this is a group of wines to carefully consider as they are genuinely lovely. (Fass Selection et Christoph Selections, http://www.fassselections.com, USA, Mellecey Wine Group, https://www.melleceywinegroup.com, Canada, Berry Brothers & Rudd www.bbr.com, Bremer Weinhandlung et Pisati Weinhandel, https://www.weinhandlung-bremer.shop, Germany; Vinitor Wine Group, https://vinitorwinegroup.com, Sweden; OMTIS Fine Wines, www.omtisfinewines.com, China; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.co.jp, Japan).

2021 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses": A pure, cool and ultra-fresh nose speaks mostly of various red berries along with touch of earth and underbrush. There is equally good freshness and verve to the utterly delicious middleweight flavors that are almost aggressively saline in character, all wrapped in a balanced, linear and solidly persistent finale. (90-93)/2027+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Narbantons": A slightly earthier nose presents notes of both red and blue pinot fruit along with a violet top note. Here too the medium weight flavors possess a lovely texture if perhaps not quite the same depth on the equally persistent finale that is built to mature over the mid-term. (89-92)/2027+

2021 Volnay: (from La Gigotte and Les Famines). Once again there is an attractive coolness to the admirably pure red berry, spice and discreet floral scents. The racy, detailed and lightly stony flavors conclude in a compact, moderately firm and youthfully austere finale where a touch of rusticity slowly emerges. (87-90)/2027+

2021 Volnay "Le Village": (from a .14 ha holding). Ultra-fresh and again, distinctly cool aromas include those cherry, strawberry and spiced tea. There is excellent delineation to the borderline painfully intense middleweight flavors that also conclude in a compact, moderately firm and youthfully austere finale. As is typically the case, this is on the lighter side yet packs very good flavor authority. (89-92)/2027+

2021 Volnay "Clos de la Rougeotte": (a .52 ha monopole). This is aromatically quite similar to the Le Villages with just a bit more layering. The vibrant and again, strikingly delineated, medium-bodied flavors possess slightly better mid-palate stuffing along with good power on the refined, focused, stony and balanced finish. This youthfully austere effort is a classic Volnay of grace and lace. (91-93)/2029+

2021 Volnay "Carelle sous la Chapelle": A strikingly perfumed, cool and layered nose is comprised by notes of the essence of red currant, sandalwood and an interesting hint of orange pekoe tea. The super-sleek and silky though still quite punchy middleweight flavors possess even better refinement along with evident minerality that adds a sense of lift to the focused, detailed and sneaky long finale. This is pretty much textbook Carelle. (91-93)/2028+

2021 Volnay "Champans": (from a .46 ha holding). Super-fresh and remarkably pure aromas of the essence of red cherry and currant are the perfect complement to the slightly weightier medium weight flavors that possess superb underlying tension on the impressively long finish. This isn't quite as refined as the Carelle, but it is noticeably more powerful while offering just a bit more overall depth as well. (91-94)/2029+

2021 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": (from a large 1 ha holding). More deeply pitched and restrained aromas include those of plum, violet, clove and anise. The more robust, muscular and denser medium-bodied flavors deliver excellent persistence on the more structured and powerful finish. As is virtually always the case with Clos des Chênes, this is going to need at least a few years of patience and should be capable of rewarding a decade plus. (91-93)/2031+

2021 Volnay "Les Taillepieds": (from a .33 ha parcel). This is also cool, restrained and airy with its more floral-inflected aromas of plum, dark current and crushed fennel nuances. There is terrific punch to the sophisticated medium weight flavors that deliver outstanding length on the chiseled, youthfully austere and very firm finale. The mouthfeel of this beauty is like rolling rocks around your palate. It could use better depth but that should reasonably develop if given a chance. (91-94)/2031+

2021 Pommard: (from both Combe Dessous and the 1er Combe Dessus). An attractively fresh and bright nose that is very pinot in style freely offers up aromas of essence of red currant, cherry and just turned earth. The sleek, precise and very punchy middleweight flavors are supported by moderately firm tannins that are less rustic than is typical for Pommard, plausibly thanks to the presence of the 1er portion of the blend. (89-91)/2027+

2021 Pommard "Clos Micot": (from a .25 ha holding). A more floral-suffused nose speaks of pure red berries and less obvious earth nuances. There is both excellent precision and energy to the acceptably dense medium weight flavors that firm up noticeably as the lingering, dusty and youthfully austere finish sits on the palate. This is an understated version of what is typically one of the lighter Pommard 1ers. (90-93)/2029+

2021 Pommard "Les Poutures": (from a .27 ha holding). Cool, elegant, airy and spicy aromas are also wonderfully pure while displaying similar aromas of essence of red currant that are trimmed in soft earth and anise hints. Like the Clos Micot, the middleweight flavors are not especially dense, but they are beautifully precise while delivering slightly better depth and excellent length on the firmer finale that is also youthfully austere. At least some patience will be necessary and overall, this beauty should be more than capable of repaying a decade plus of cellaring. (91-94)/2031+

2021 Pommard "Les Rugiens": (from .17 ha holding in Rugiens Hauts). Once again there is a lovely cool, pure and airy quality to the more floral-suffused aromas of red cherry, Asian-style tea and a whiff of crushed fennel. I very much like the texture of the acceptably dense and more mineral-driven flavors that display focused power on the balanced, youthfully austere and chiseled finale. This is also going to need at least some patience and should easily reward a decade or more of cellaring. (92-94)/2031+

2019 Volnay "Les Taillepieds": (from a .33 ha parcel). Even in a riper vintage such as 2019, the expressive nose remains cool and pure with its elegant blend of red and blue pinot fruit, plum and violet scents. The succulent, round and utterly delicious medium-bodied flavors possess a lovely sense of underlying tension while the hallmark minerality of a classic Taillepieds is very much on display, all wrapped in a firm but not especially austere finale that delivers excellent persistence. This could actually be approached now with pleasure, but more depth will almost certainly develop over the next few years. 93/2029+

Domaine Buisson-Charles (Meursault)

2021	Beaune "Cents Vignes" 1er	red	(90-92)
2021	➽ Beaune "Clos de la Vignes Franches" 1er	red	(91-93)
2021	Beaune "Teurons" 1er	red	(90-92)
2021	➽ Bourgogne Côte d'Or "Hautes Coutures"	red	(86-89)
2021	Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2021	Chapelle-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(89-92)
2021	Corton Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2021	➽ Morey St. Denis "Clos Sorbé" 1er	red	(91-93)
2021	➽ Pommard "Grand Clos de Micault" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	➽ Pommard "En Mareau"	red	(89-91)
2021	Savigny-les-Beaune "Les Marconnets" 1er	red	(89-92)
2021	➽ Volnay "Les Frémiets" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	➽ Volnay "Santenots" 1er	red	(91-94)

Louis Essa, the son of Patrick and Catherine, is now in charge of the day-to-day activities of this 6.3 ha domaine even though his parents remain very much involved. The younger Essa noted that "the season was difficult and of course there was the frost where we got hammered pretty hard, especially in our premier crus. The disease pressure though was equally serious and while we did not abandon our organic philosophy in the vineyards, we may have found the upper limits of what is possible with organic viticulture. We picked a few of the ripest vineyards beginning on the 22nd of September, though we harvested in earnest from the 26th and continued through to the 5th of October. Yields were in general off 50%, though the hillside vineyards, and thus mostly the premier crus, were off 60%. Potential alcohols came in mostly between 12 and 13%. I used between 20 and 40% whole clusters for the vinifications and chose to do a soft but long cuvaison of around three weeks. As to the wines, they have changed markedly during the *élevage* and offer an incredible change in style from that of the last three vintages." Essa noted that the Chapelle and the Chambertin were purchases of wine in barrel and thus were not vinified by the domaine. Also, the reds will see about 18 months of *élevage* and will be bottled without fining or filtration. I would add that a number of the wines are first-rate and merit your interest. (Vintner Select, www.vintnerselect.com, OH, Milton Road Trading Corp, LLC, www.miltonroadtrading.com, CA, Caveau Selections, www.caveauselections.com, OR, Martine's Wines, www.martineswines.com, CA, Import Wines, WI, Old World Importing, Inc., www.oldworldimporting.com, CO, all USA; Flint Wines, www.flintwines.com, Latimer Vintners, www.latimervintners.com, Roberson Wine, www.roberson.co.uk, and Anthony Sarjeant, all UK).

2021 Bourgogne Côte d'Or "Hautes Coutures": A super-fresh and very pinot fruit of essence of red berries and earth gives way to racy, detailed and attractively textured middleweight flavors that conclude in a lingering bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. Lovely though note that this is a serious Bourgogne that will be able to repay several years of keeping. (86-89)/2026+

2021 Savigny-les-Beaune "Les Marconnets": Slightly earthier aromas of red berries and forest floor are trimmed in all but invisible wood. As one would reasonably expect, there is better volume, weight and mid-palate volume to the sleek and vibrant medium weight flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the balanced and youthfully austere finale. This is firm enough to warrant at least a few years of patience. (89-92)/2028+

2021 Beaune "Teurons": Elegant, pure and equally fresh aromas are comprised by notes of red currant, anise and pretty floral wisps. The detailed and silky textured medium-bodied flavors possess a gorgeous mouthfeel while exuding a refreshing salinity on the youthfully austere and sneaky long finale. If this is able to add depth with time in bottle, my projected range might be too conservative. (90-92)/2029+

2021 Beaune "Cents Vignes": A perfumed, spicy and airy nose presents its notes of red cherry, raspberry and soft earth. The vibrant and remarkably fine, indeed almost delicate, flavors possess very good delineation while delivering fine length if only average depth on the slightly austere finale. This is textbook Cents Vignes. (90-92)/2029+

2021 Beaune "Clos de la Vignes Franches": A more deeply pitched nose freely offers up wonderfully fresh aromas of plum, violet and equally discreet earth nuances. There is fine intensity and volume to the more mineral-driven and denser, if less refined, flavors that flash focused power on the moderately austere and firmer finale. This is lovely though a wine that will definitely need at least some forbearance as it's quite tightly wound today. (91-93)/2031+

2021 Pommard "En Mareau": Here the exuberantly fresh nose is more floral in character with its decidedly cool aromas of red currant, raspberry and herbal tea. The sleek, even chiseled, middleweight flavors also flash focused power and minerality that adds a sense of lift to the more austere and sneaky long finish. Like the Cents Vignes, this is textbook En Mareau. (89-91)/2028+

2021 Pommard "Grand Clos de Micault": Classic ruby color. A perfumed and again, decidedly cool nose reveals its airy aromas of essence of red pinot fruit, anise, orange peel and a violet hint. The gorgeously textured medium-bodied flavors are more refined though noticeably less mineral-driven while display very fine length on the solidly persistent finish where just a touch of Pommard rusticity eventually emerges. (90-93)/2029+

2021 Volnay "Santenots": (from vines situated in the upper part of Les Plures). A strikingly floral-suffused nose reflects additional notes of equally cool and airy red cherry, raspberry and an admirably subtle touch of oak. There is more size, weight and power to the even more refined medium weight flavors that exhibit outstanding length on the youthfully austere and notably more complex finale. This lovely if decidedly firm effort should amply reward a decade plus of keeping. (91-94)/2031+

2021 Volnay "Les Frémiets": The oak influence is slightly more noticeable though it still easily allows the distinctly cool yet ripe nose of spicy red berries to shine. There is both fine volume and vibrancy to the utterly delicious middleweight flavors the exude an inviting salinity on the impressively persistent finish. While this could use better depth, more should develop in time and overall, this is a relatively big 2021 red. (90-93)/2031+

2021 Corton: (from a mix of Clos du Roi and Clos des Maréchaudes). Here too the oak influence is prominent enough to mention while remaining a background element on the aromas of earthy and spicy red and dark currant. The is excellent intensity to the racy and appealingly textured bigger-bodied flavors that offer solid depth and persistence on the youthfully austere and bitter pit fruit-inflected finale. While certainly built-to-age, this could actually be approached after only 5 to 7 years. (90-93)/2033+

2021 Morey St. Denis "Clos Sorbé": A wonderfully floral-suffused nose features notes of red cherry, dark currant, plum and a touch of forest floor character. There is again excellent energy to the more refined and lightly stony flavors that conclude in a delicious and lingering finish that is shaped by moderately firm tannins and bright, but not drying, acidity. (91-93)/2031+

2021 Chapelle-Chambertin: (from both Chapelle proper and Gémeaux; not vinified by the domaine). This is sufficiently reduced such that only discreet floral and oak toast hints peek through. The tension-filled, fresh and lacy middleweight flavors culminate in a moderately austere, linear and slightly lean finish that could use more flesh. While certainly perfectly good, it's not clear if this won't always be a bit skinny for a Gevrey grand cru. (89-92)/2031+

2021 Chambertin: (not vinified by the domaine). The oak regimen is less subtle with its menthol and toast elements that can be found on the ultra-fresh and markedly floral nose of various red berries and pungent earth. The bigger, richer and notably more powerful flavors are also markedly more mineral-driven while exhibiting excellent complexity on the balanced if youthfully austere finale. This is a classic Chambertin that will need extended keeping as it's very compact at present. (92-95)/2033+

Domaine Camus-Bruchon & Fils (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2021	➽ Bourgogne Pinot Noir	red	87
2021	Beaune "Clos du Roi" 1er	red	90
2021	➽ Chorey-lès-Beaune "Le Grand Saussy"	red	89
2021	➽ Pommard "Clos des Arvelets" 1er	red	92
2021	➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune – Cuvée Reine Joly	red	89
2021	➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Grands Liards Vieilles Vignes"	red	90
2021	➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Gravains" 1er	red	91
2021	➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières" 1er	red	92
2021	➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Narbantons" 1er	red	91
2021	➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Pimentiers Vieilles Vignes"	red	90

Guillaume Camus runs this 9.5 ha domaine located on the outskirts of Savigny. He described the 2021 vintage as "one that was basically challenging from start to finish. Early April hit the vines with frost, then the flowering did not pass especially well as there was quite a bit of shatter and then there was a series of cryptogamic diseases that pardoned no laxity in terms of treatments. We managed to avoid the worst of it as we began a program of leaf pulling before the mildew could really get a foothold. This wasn't easy though because the *Acariens* (small spider-like mites) bit us to death; seriously, they were awful! We finally began picking on the 23rd of September and while there was some sorting, it was not really anything out of the ordinary. Despite all of the problems, we actually had very good maturities as the potential alcohols came in between 12.5 and 13.7% so there was almost no chaptalization. Yields though were another story as overall, we were down fully 60%. I did a soft but long vinification of around four weeks using 20 to 30% whole clusters, the idea being to try to extract only the best of what the fruit had to offer while avoiding astringency. As to the wines, they're classically styled wines with good but not high acidities and overall, I very much like them. Each terroir is clearly identified and they should be approachable young but have no difficulty aging well over the mid-term." As the comments confirm, I was impressed by what I found here. I agree with Camus' take that his wines should drink well young but have no trouble rewarding mid-term keeping. Camus noted that the 2021 reds were bottled in December 2022. He also noted that there would be no white due to the frost. (Beaune Imports, www.beauneimports.com, CA and Polaner Selections, www.polanerselections.com, NY, both USA; Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com, UK).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: A cool and pure very pinot-like nose precedes sleek, delicious and vibrant middleweight flavors that possess reasonable density and detail before terminating in a bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. This is actually quite refined for its level and is a Bourgogne that will age; indeed it will need at least a year or two to unwind. 87/2025+

2021 Chorey-lès-Beaune "Le Grand Saussy": Classic ruby color. A slightly more deeply pitched nose includes notes of plum, earth and a mix of both red and dark berry scents. The delicious, caressing and punchy medium weight flavors are a blend of richness but with good detail, all wrapped in a youthfully austere finale where a similar touch of bitter pit fruit character slowly emerges. This is an unusually good Chorey that is worth considering. 89/2026+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune – Cuvée Reine Joly: (from 4 different *lieux-dits* that include Aux Pointes, Dessus les Vermots, Les Goudelettes and Champs des Prunier). A distinctly spicy nose of dark currant and newly turned earth displays a pretty floral top note. There is very good richness to the succulent and round, even generous medium-bodied flavors that display sneaky good length on the youthfully austere finale. This attractive effort should be enjoyable young but repay 4 to 6 years of keeping. 89/2026+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Pimentiers Vieilles Vignes": (from a .47 ha parcel of 90+ year old vines). As it usually is, the nose is quite spicy with a deft application of wood framing notes of plum, black cherry, violet and a whiff of the *sauvage*. There is again excellent volume to the quite finely textured middleweight flavors that possess slightly better depth on the cool and impressively long finale. This is a first-rate Savigny *villages* and worth your interest. 90/2026+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Grands Liards Vieilles Vignes": (from a .52 ha holding of 80+ year old vines). There is just enough wood influence to mention present on the cool and airy aromas of spiced plum, humus and a whiff of forest floor. The super-sleek, intense and beautifully detailed medium weight flavors exude a subtle minerality on the balanced, long and solidly complex finale that is just a bit firmer. This is also an unusually good Savigny *villages* and recommended. 90/2027+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Gravains": (from a .35 ha holding). Here the brooding nose is distinctly earthy with its array of very cool dark berries, the *sauvage* and a hint of smoked meat character. There is excellent volume to the rich and intensely mineral-driven flavors that possess fine depth and persistence on the balanced finale. This is lovely and I particularly like the nuanced tannin/fruit/acid interplay. 91/2028+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières": Moderately generous wood sets off equally cool, pure and airy aromas of both red and dark pinot fruit that are much more floral in character. While not quite as mineral-driven, the seductively textured medium-bodied flavors possess even better depth and persistence. Note that this firmly structured effort will need at least a few years to better integrate the oak treatment. Good stuff and worth considering. 92/2029+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Narbantons": (from a .45 ha holding). Once again there is enough wood to notice though here it is somewhat more subtle on the cool if reserved aromas of mostly dark cherry, floral and a hint of crushed fennel. There is a seductive, even generous, texture to the rich medium-bodied flavors that offer good if not driving minerality on the bitter pit fruit-inflected finale that is firm enough to repay up to a decade of keeping. 91/2029+

2021 Beaune "Clos du Roi": (from a .18 ha holding). Bright, fresh and attractively layered aromas include those of red cherry, spice and a hint of lilac. The juicy, round and vibrant middleweight flavors offer good persistence on the balanced and very mildly austere finale. This could use better depth but it's already very inviting and very Beaune in style. 90/2027+

2021 Pommard "Clos des Arvelets": (from a .17 ha parcel). Subtle though still perceptible oak influence suffuses the layered and cool blend of red and dark currant scents where floral hints lurk in the background. The super-sleek, intense and delicious medium weight flavors flash ample minerality on the moderately austere, linear and beautifully persistent finale. This is pretty tightly wound at present and is a wine that will need at least a few years of keeping. 92/2029+

Maison Champy (Beaune)

2021	Aloxe-Corton – Bio	red	88
2021	➽ Beaune Vieilles Vignes – Bio	red	89
2021	Beaune "Aux Cras" – Bio 1er	red	85
2021	Bourgogne Pinot Noir – Cuvée Edme	red	86
2021	Chorey-lès-Beaune	red	87
2021	Corton-Rognets Grand Cru	red	91
2021	Pernand-Vergelesses "1er" 1er	red	90
2021	Pernand-Vergelesses "Clos du Bully"	red	87
2021	Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses" 1er	red	90
2021	Pernand-Vergelesses "Vergelesses" 1er	red	89
2021	➽ Pommard – Bio	red	89
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	87
2021	Volnay – Bio	red	86

Long-time winemaker and head enologist Dimitri Bazas was reserved if positive about 2021, noting that it was a "complicated growing season that essentially could not have been more different than that of 2020 with its very hot and dry conditions. In 2021 we had more than 70 fewer hours of morning sun due to all of the cloudy and rainy days. This of course made the season ideal for cryptogamic disease pressure and it kept us constantly scrambling to keep up with the necessary treatments. We picked from the 20th to the 30th of September and quantities were seriously off, which is to say between -70 and -80% for most wines. Potential alcohols were good but certainly not high as they came in between 11.5 and 12.5%. I did a very soft vinification and while I did use around 50% whole clusters, it was really more with the idea of having some volume in the fermenters than to have the floral nuances. I used zero new wood during the *élevage* and bottled the wines in December. As to the wines, I think they're perfectly good and I like the tension and terroir transparency." (Folio Fine Wine Partners, rhopkins@foliowine.com CA, USA).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir – Cuvée Edme: (Edme was the founder of Maison Champy; note that depending on the market, may also be labeled as 'Signature'). A peppery and very fresh nose features notes of both red and dark pinot fruit along with evident earth nuances. The middleweight flavors possess an attractively caressing texture while delivering acceptably depth and persistence on the lightly rustic finale. To enjoy young for its fruit. 86/2024+

2021 Pernand-Vergelesses "Clos du Bully": Even more prominent earth nuances are present on the distinctly cool and very restrained nose of dark currant, red cherry and a whiff of the *sauvage*. There is both good volume and verve to the intense and detailed medium weight flavors that exhibit moderate rusticity on the youthfully austere finish that comes up somewhat short, though this of course could change over time. 87/2026+

2021 Chorey-lès-Beaune: (from Les Champs Longs). A subtle yet perceptible trace of volatile acidity is present on the slightly more complex nose of somber red and dark raspberries where hints of earth and forest floor lurk in the background. The plump, round and delicious flavors flash good vibrancy that carries over to the dusty and sneaky long finish. This could use better depth but more should reasonably develop if allowed a few years of keeping. 87/2026+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune: (from a blend of ¾ Aux Fourches and ¼ Bas Liards). Here too there is a whiff of volatile acidity floating above the layered and equally somber aromas of red cherry, plum and just turned earth. I like the finer texture of the delicious, vibrant and nicely delineated flavors that flash reasonably good length on the mildly drying finish. This is probably best enjoyed young as the dryness may become more pronounced with time. 87/2024+

2021 Aloxe-Corton – Bio: (from a blend of 2/3 Boutières and 1/3 La Combe). A more floral nose of earth, the sauvage and wild dark berries also displays a background hint of volatile acidity but I stress that it is extremely subtle. Once again there is an attractive texture to the delicious and vibrant flavors that also conclude in a youthfully austere and moderately rustic finish that offers better persistence. 88/2028+

2021 Beaune Vieilles Vignes – Bio: (from Les Pointes de Tuvilains, Les Prévoles and Les Levées et les Piroles). A discreet dollop of wood sets off a pretty combination of red and dark currant, earth and a floral top note. There is fine richness to the concentrated and punchy flavors that display unusually good power on the rustic but complex and sneaky long finish. This ageworthy effort is consistently one of Champy's better wines and so it is again in 2021. 89/2029+

2021 Pommard – Bio: (from Les Cras). A mild touch of reduction masks the fruit though a touch of earth is discernible and is picked up by the impressively concentrated, rich and *sauvage* medium-bodied flavors that terminate in a distinctly rustic and austere finish that delivers very good depth and persistence. This is very Pommard in character but no less interesting for it. 89/2029+

2021 Volnay – Bio: (from 1/3 Les Famines and 2/3 Sur Roche). Here too there is enough volatile acidity present to warrant mentioning though not enough to really consider it to be a disqualifying flaw on the spicy and earthy dark berry fruit nose. The supple, round and utterly delicious medium weight flavors possess good verve though the somewhat angular finish flirts with dryness. Like the Savigny, I would suggest drinking this on the younger side. 86/2024+

2021 Pernand-Vergelesses "1er": (from 1/3 Les Creux de la Net and 2/3 Fichots). Moderate reduction dominates the nose today so if you're tempted to try a bottle young, be sure to give it some air first. Otherwise, there is fine richness and concentration to the surprisingly powerful larger-scaled flavors that display moderate rusticity but only a touch of austerity on the solidly complex and persistent finale. 90/2029+

2021 Pernand-Vergelesses "Vergelesses": (from a 1.69 ha parcel in Les Basses Vergelesses). This is also mildly reduced and hard to read aromatically. More interesting are the bigger-bodied and more mineral-driven flavors that possess very good punch though the compact and austere finish is on the short side. I suspect though that a few years of cellaring will help as this is also presently quite tightly wound. 89/2029+

2021 Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses": (from a .49 ha parcel). A cool, restrained and elegant nose grudgingly offers up its blend of spice, violet, lilac and agreeably fresh red berry scents. The finer and delineated middleweight flavors exude an evident minerality on the lingering if slightly lean finale. This appears to have the stuffing to allow it to flesh out with time in bottle and my rating offers the benefit of the doubt. 90/2031+

2021 Beaune "Aux Cras" – Bio: Here too there is just enough volatile acidity present to mention on the seemingly evolved nose of forest floor, dark currant and a touch of smoked meat character. There is better freshness on the palate of the middleweight flavors that are presently a bit lean and short. As the description makes clear, it's hard to see this coming together. 85/2024+

2021 Corton-Rognets: A slightly riper nose is otherwise similar to that of the Aux Cras. The palate impression though is markedly different with more size, weight and richness to the concentrated and better-balanced finale that displaying fine length. While this should easily repay a decade or more of keeping, it should be approachable after 5-ish years. 91/2031+

Domaine Chandon de Briailles (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2021	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	94
2021	Corton-Maréchaudes Grand Cru	red	93
2021	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	red	94
2021	➽ Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses" 1er	red	92
2021	➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fournaux"	red	89
2021	➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières" 1er	red	91

François de Nicolay succinctly described the 2021 growing season as "exceptionally difficult and tiny, yet one that has turned out much better than I ever thought that it might. There was every problem imaginable between frost and disease pressure and when we finally began picking on the 17th of September, the sorting was frankly a serious pain. And it was hard to throw out so much fruit after we knew in advance that yields were going to be so low. For example, in Savigny and Pernand we averaged only 5 hl/ha and Aloxe, while better, was still only around 15 hl/ha. It was quite honestly a huge amount of effort for not much. Potential alcohols weren't too bad at between 12 to 12.5% and I used varying amounts of whole clusters, which is to say between 50 and 100%. I confess to not being especially confident in the wines right after the vinifications but the *élevage* worked its magic and I have come full circle, even to the point where I am really quite happy with the results. Stylistically speaking, I would compare the 2021s to our 1991s, which have turned out pretty well." I would completely agree with de Nicolas' assessment and I was seriously

impressed because the wine quality is excellent. Provided I can find any, I will be a buyer. Note that de Nicolas said the 2021 reds were bottled in January 2023. (Bowler, www.bowlerwine.com, NY, Beaune Imports, www.beauneimports.com, CA, both USA; Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk, Farthinghoe Fine Wine, www.farthinghoefinewine.com, Goedhuis & Co., www.goedhuis.com and Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, all UK).

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fournaux": (from 60+ year old vines; note that this now has the 1er portion declassified into it and the domaine will continue to do this going forward; the 1er portion accounts for about 2/3 of the cuvée). A perfumed and exceptionally pretty nose speaks of various red berries, soft earth and plenty of floral wisps. There is first-rate punch to the delicious and beautifully detailed middleweight flavors that possess a sleek texture while exuding a subtle minerality on the mildly austere, lingering and well-balanced finale. This is a lovely Savigny *villages* that should be approachable young if desired. 89/2026+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières": (from a parcel at the top of the vineyard just under Talmettes). There is a touch of post-bottling reduction, but the underlying fruit seems to be ripe. On the palate there is excellent freshness and verve to the utterly delicious medium-bodied flavors that also exude a more prominent minerality on the beautifully textured, long and well-balanced finish that is shaped by notably fine-grained tannins. This is also lovely and a wine that should be approachable in its youth yet repay up to a decade of keeping, perhaps even slightly more. 91/2028+

2021 Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses": (a mix of vine ages though the oldest date from 1938). A slightly more deeply pitched nose is comprised by decidedly cool notes of plum, dark currant, forest floor and floral top notes, especially violet. Much like the Lavières, there is a positively gorgeous, even silky, texture to the lighter-bodied flavors thanks to the ultra-fine tannins shaping the overtly stony, dusty and youthfully austere finale. This is textbook Ile de Vergelesses. 92/2029+

2021 Corton-Maréchaudes: (from 30+ year old vines). There is just a bit more ripeness to the spicier aromas of plum, dark currant and discreet earth wisps. The bigger-bodied and richer medium weight flavors display focused power that continues onto the beautifully detailed and more discreetly mineral-driven finish. This impeccably well-balanced and sneaky long finish is slightly firmer and a wine that should amply repay 10 to 12 years of keeping. 93/2031+

2021 Corton-Bressandes: (from three separate plantings that have an average vine age of ~35 years). Like the Lavières, there is a touch of post-bottling reduction but there is excellent freshness and underlying tension on the palate of the rich and wonderfully textured bigger-bodied and tautly muscular flavors that culminate in a dusty, compact and very clearly built-to-age finale. This isn't as dense as it usually is but it's even finer and the balance is so good that this beauty should age for as long as anyone might reasonably care to. 94/2033+

2021 Corton-Clos du Roi: (this has the highest average vine age of the three grand crus at 40+ years of age). Here the strikingly layered nose is restrained to the point of being borderline timid and requires aggressive swirling to progressively reveals it markedly floral and spice-suffused aromas of mostly cool dark berries. The super-sleek and beautifully delineated larger-scaled flavors also display focused power on the dusty, balanced and long finale. This is also very well-balanced and while serious, it's somewhat less compact than it usually is though with that said, extended patience will still be necessary. 94/2033+

Maison Chanson Père et Fils (Beaune)

2021	**Beaune "Clos des Fèves" 1er**	**red**	**(89-92)**
2021	**Beaune "Clos des Marconnets" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2021	**Beaune "Clos des Mouches" 1er**	**red**	**(89-92)**
2021	**Beaune "Grèves" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2021	**Beaune "Teurons" 1er**	**red**	**(89-92)**
2021	**Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2021	**Santenay "Beauregard" 1er**	**red**	**(87-90)**
2021	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "La Dominode" 1er**	**red**	**(87-90)**

Maison Chanson is composed by 45 ha of vines that are now in the process of being certified organic. It is directed by Vincent Avenel, who is assisted by head viticulturalist Justine Savoye and cellarmaster Lucy Auger. The team told me that 2021 "threw a really difficult growing season at us. March was relatively clement and warm so when the frost hit, the chardonnay was severely damaged. Even so, while the frost was bad, it was in a sense easier than what was to follow because it was over quickly. By contrast, the disease pressure was also quite severe, but it lasted for most of the summer. We picked from the 15th to the 27th of

September and there was a great deal of sorting necessary. Yields were highly variable but on average, they were no more than 15 hl/ha. For the reds, we used around 30% whole clusters and vinified carefully. In particular, the colors were slow to arrive but because we used a bit more new wood than usual, the additional tannin helped to stabilize them. As to the wines, they're completely classic in style with excellent transparencies and that beguiling character of underlying tension that makes them a pleasure to drink." Note that all the 2021s will be bottled without fining or filtration. (Vintus, www.vintuswines.com, NY, USA; Mentzendorff, www.mentzendorff.co.uk, UK; Jebsen Beverage Co., www.jebsen.com, China/Hong Kong; Arcane Ltd., www.arcane-jp.com, Japan; Terroir Selections Pty Ltd, www.terroir-selections.com.au, Australia)

2021 Santenay "Beauregard": (from a 1 ha holding). A distinctly earthy and nicely fresh nose freely offers up an array of forest floor and red berries. There is excellent intensity and lovely detail to the lightly stony lighter weight and delicious flavors that conclude in a youthfully austere and balanced finale. This should drink well young but repay mid-term keeping. (87-90)/2026+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "La Dominode": (from a 2 ha holding). Here there is enough wood to merit mentioning surrounding the spiced plum, menthol and discreet floral wisps. There is a bit more volume to the more concentrated and caressing yet solidly punchy medium weight flavors that also conclude in a youthfully austere finish that flirts with dryness even though I suspect that it will progressively dissipate as the gradually tannins resolve. (87-90)/2028+

2021 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses": (from an incredible 5 ha holding). Like the Dominode, the wood treatment is sufficiently prominent to point out though not so much as to dominate the slightly cooler mix of red and dark currant, earth and violet scents. There is again very good volume and solid mid-palate density to the succulent but punchy medium-bodied flavors that conclude in a firm, youthfully austere and moderately compact finale where a touch of bitter pit fruit character slowly emerges. (88-91)/2029+

2021 Beaune "Teurons": (from a 4 ha holding). Once again moderately generous wood can be found on the cool but riper aromas of poached plum, spice and plenty of floral nuances. I very much like the texture of the suave, rich and palate coating flavors that manage to at once be generous yet delicate, all wrapped in a lightly stony, mildly austere and sneaky long finish where the supporting tannins are firm but fine. Lovely and understated. (89-92)/2031+

2021 Beaune "Clos des Mouches": (from a 2 ha holding). Much more subtle wood sets off elegant, pure and airy aromas that include those of various red berries, plum and crushed fennel. The sleek and highly energetic middleweight flavors exhibit lovely delineation on the appealingly texture, long and bitter pit fruit-inflected finale. This isn't quite as complex as the Teurons but it's even finer, indeed this is a Clos des Mouches of finesse. (89-92)/2028+

2021 Beaune "Clos des Marconnets": Relatively generous wood and menthol elements fight somewhat with the cool and airy aromas of various dark berries and newly turned earth. The lilting and refined if not especially dense flavors possess equally good delineation on the moderately austere, balanced and serious finale where a similar bitter fruit character slowly emerges. This is also going to require at least some patience. (90-92)/2029+

2021 Beaune "Grèves": (from a 2 ha holding that covers the upper, middle and lower portions of the vineyard). The perfumed and cool nose is composed by notes of essence of red raspberry, a plethora of floral elements and a touch of forest floor. There is slightly more volume and richness to the attractive textured if decidedly punchy flavors that conclude in an equally austere and balanced finale that is even more compact. This too is going to require at least some patience. (90-92)/2031+

2021 Beaune "Clos des Fèves": (a 4 ha monopole of Chanson). This is also exceptionally pretty and perfumed with a slightly more deeply pitched nose that features notes of lilac, plum, violet and newly turned earth. There is excellent volume to the muscular and powerful medium-bodied flavors that deliver good if not genuinely special persistence on the overtly austere and complex if slightly lean finish. I suspect that this will successfully age out but it won't be right away. (89-92)/2031+

Jean Chartron (Puligny-Montrachet)

2021	Bourgogne Pinot Noir	red	(86-88)

Jean-Michel Chartron is the 5th generation of the family to direct this 14.5 ha domaine that owns some of the finest terroirs in Puligny. As the domaine is much more oriented toward the production of whites, I will have more on Chartron's view of the 2021 vintage in Issue 91. (Winebow, Inc., www.winebow.com, NJ and Serge Doré Selections, www.sergedoreselections.com, NY, USA; Goedhuis & Co., www.goedhuis.com, UK and Private Cellar Ltd., www.privatecellar.co.uk, UK).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: A very pinot nose offers up its aromas of red and dark cherry and a hint of spice. The delicious and vibrant lighter weight flavors possess a sleek mid-palate mouthfeel that contrasts somewhat with the slightly lean and youthfully austere finale. This inviting effort should drink well young for its fruit. (86-88)/2024+

Domaine Louis Chenu Père & Filles (Savigny-les-Beaune)

2021	Bourgogne	red	86
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune Vieilles Vignes	red	87
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Clous" 1er	red	88
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Hauts Jarrons" 1er	red	90
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières" 1er	red	89
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Talmettes" 1er	red	88

Sisters Juliette and Caroline Chenu work together at their 9.5 ha certified bio domaine where their father Louis still lends the occasional helping hand. The sisters described the 2021 vintage as "while it may seem contradictory to our interests, we're actually accepting of the tiny yields the vintage gave us because if not, the fruit would have never sufficiently ripened to make anything of quality. With that said, losing between 40 to 50% of your crop isn't desirable by any standard and that is true for both colors. And some wines weren't made at all including the Chorey and the aligoté. We picked from the 17th of August and because Savigny is naturally cold, there was no second-generation fruit to worry about so at least that was a plus. Most wines came in above 12% in potential alcohol though any that didn't were raised to that minimum level but not more. The vintage has its character and it's important to respect that by not changing every parameter to some arbitrary standard. We vinified lightly for the reds and did no lees stirring for the whites. We used no new wood for the reds as we were afraid that doing so might overly mark them. Overall, 2021 produced lovely wines that are very terroir in character and distinctly different from what we produced in the prior three vintages." The sisters noted that the reds were bottled in December 2022 without fining or filtration. (Paul M. Young Fine Wines, www.pywine.com, CA, Chambers & Chambers Wine Merchants, www.chamberswines.com, CA, Sour Grapes, www.sourgrapeswine.com, NC, Bon Vivant Imports, www.bonvivantimports.com, OR, Bizou Wines, www.bizouwines.com, LA, all USA; Decorum Vintners, www.decvin.com, UK; SAQ, www.saq.com, Canada; Domaine Wine Cellars, www.domaine.com.tw, Taiwan).

2021 Bourgogne: A very pinot-like and attractively perfumed nose speaks of both red and dark cherries nuanced by soft earth and spice hints. The delicious and vibrant lighter weight flavors conclude in a bitter pit fruit and sneaky long finish. This possesses that highly appealing element of underlying tension that invites the second glass. 86/2024+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune Vieilles Vignes: (from six different *lieux-dits*). A slightly more deeply pitched nose combines note of plum and forest floor with those of pretty floral and anise wisps. Here too there is good delineation to the slightly fuller-bodied flavors that exude an appealing salinity on the linear and youthfully austere finale that is firm enough to merit a few years of keeping. 87/2026+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Talmettes": This is aromatically similar from a fruit perspective though with more earth and *sauvage* elements. I very much like the almost tender texture to the delicious middleweight flavors that are supported by fine-grained tannins on the equally youthfully austere finale. This is also firm enough to merit several years of keeping but should also be approachable young if desired. 88/2027+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Clous": There is a vague whiff of volatile acidity lurking in the background of the exceptionally fresh and distinctly earthy aromas of red and dark currant. The rich and relatively generously proportioned medium weight flavors possess good density before concluding in a bitter pit fruit-inflected finish that is sneaky long. This too should repay short to mid-term cellaring yet be approachable young. 88/2027+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières": Here too there is just a hint of volatile acidity that actually serves to add lift to the nose of earthy red berries and crushed fennel. There is a bit more size and weight to the generously proportioned and richer medium-bodied flavors that possess slightly more complexity on the punchy, balanced and lingering finale. 89/2027+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Hauts Jarrons": A similar hint of volatile acidity adds lift to the spicier red currant, cherry and earth aromas that enjoy a floral top note. There is again very good richness to the caressing, even seductive, middleweight flavors that possess the best volume in the range before culminating in a dusty and moderately austere finale. In contrast to the prior wines that could reasonably be approached on the younger side, this is sufficiently tightly wound to benefit from at least a few years first. 90/2028+

Domaine Chevalier Père et Fils (Ladoix-Serrigny)

2021	**Aloxe-Corton**	**red**	**88**
2021	**Bourgogne "Champs de Pommier"**	**red**	**86**
2021	**Corton-Les Carrières Grand Cru**	**red**	**92**
2021	**Corton-Rognets Grand Cru**	**red**	**91**
2021	**Côte de Nuits-Villages**	**red**	**88**
2021	**➽ Gevrey-Chambertin**	**red**	**89**
2021	**Ladoix**	**red**	**88**
2021	**Ladoix "Le Clou d'Orge" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2021	**➽ Ladoix – Collection**	**red**	**90**
2021	**Ladoix "Les Corvées" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**

Chloé Chevalier succinctly described the 2021 growing season as "exceptionally difficult, both from a morale and physical perspective as the problems just seemed to come in waves, one after another. We didn't protect the vines as we're just too spread out to do so and as such, we suffered heavy losses. They were however variable as the pinot came in between 12 and 44 hl/ha while the chardonnay was pretty consistent at 14 hl/ha. We picked from the 20th of September and the fruit required a great deal of sorting, which was painful to throw out so much fruit when you already knew yields were going to be miniscule. What we kept though was ripe and clean and there was almost no chaptalization in red and only a few wines in white. Overall, I was frankly extremely skeptical that we would produce anything of real quality but once the malos finish, I have to say that the wines aren't bad and I'm someone who's never really happy with them. For once, they're actually okay considering." I would echo Chevalier's take, both in that she is always a bit doubtful about her wines and secondly, the wines are indeed 'okay. Chevalier noted that the 2021s either were, or will be, bottled unfiltered. Lastly, 2021 will be the last vintage for the Carrières as the parcel was sold after the harvest. (AP Wine Imports, www.apwineimports.com, NY, USA; Liberty Wines, www.libertywine.co.uk, and Majestic Wine Warehouses, www.majestic.co.uk, both UK; SAQ, www.saq.com, Canada).

2021 Bourgogne "Champs de Pommier": Bright aromas include those of various red berries and earth where the latter is picked up by the delicious middleweight flavors that conclude in a dusty and youthfully austere if mildly lean finish that offers reasonable length. 86/2024+

2021 Ladoix: This is aromatically similar to the Bourgogne though even a bit fresher. As one would reasonably expect, there is better volume with fine punch to the nicely detailed and lightly stony medium weight flavors that terminate in a mildly rustic and youthfully austere finish that is firm enough to repay mid-term keeping. 88/2027+

2021 Ladoix – Collection: (from Champ Pussuet and Les Madonnes). A more deeply pitched nose speaks of plum, black cherry and humus-tinged earth. I very much like the texture of the medium-bodied flavors that flash a sense of focused power on the equally rustic and youthfully austere if notably more complex finale. Note that this is sufficiently firm to require at least a few years of keeping. 90/2029+

2021 Ladoix "Les Corvées": This is also quite aromatically bright with its combination of red pinot fruit, spice and crushed fennel scents. The mouthfeel of the middleweight flavors is not as dense as that of the Collection but there is still solid power and punch that carry over to the clean, lingering and dry-in-the-best sense finish. (88-91)/2028+

2021 Ladoix "Le Clou d'Orge": (from vines of 60+ years of age). A suggestion of green tea sits atop the aromas of spicy red currant and more discreet earth nuances. There is slightly better volume to the acceptably dense medium weight flavors that exude a palpable minerality on the beautifully delineated bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. This could use better depth but the underlying stuffing appears to be present for that to develop if given a chance. 89/2028+

2021 Côte de Nuits-Villages: (from Corgoloin and Comblanchien vines). A distinctly earthy and *sauvage* nose speaks of plum, black raspberry and forest floor. There is a bit better mid-palate density to the medium-bodied flavors that conclude in a similar bitter pit fruit-inflected and slightly austere finale that could also use better depth. 88/2027+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin: (from Les Crais and Etelois). In the same vein as the Côte de Nuits-Villages, here too the distinctly earthy nose is overtly *sauvage* in character with its cool and restrained aromas of wild red and dark currant. There is a lovely texture to the solidly concentrated flavors that possess excellent underlying tension on the youthfully austere, firm and balanced finale. This is quite good for its level and worth considering. 89/2028+

2021 Aloxe-Corton: (from Les Valozières, Les Morais and Les Caillettes). A brooding and somewhat grumpy nose grudgingly reveals its equally *sauvage*-infused aromas of forest floor, plum and violet. The super-sleek, if not quite as concentrated, medium weight flavors conclude in a compact, rustic and youthfully austere finale where a touch of wood slowly emerges. Note that this is sufficiently firm as to need at least a few years of forbearance. 88/2029+

2021 Corton-Les Carrières: (from a .19 ha parcel; 2021 will be the last vintage and it will be bottled only in magnum). There is enough wood to notice framing the spicy dark berries and game hints. There is even better volume to the bigger-bodied, suave, rich and more muscular if not super dense flavors that do flash evident power on the moderately austere, lingering and balanced finale. Note that the suggested initial drinking window accounts for the magnum format. 92/2038+

2021 Corton-Rognets: (from a 1 ha parcel, half of which is planted to pinot and the rest to chardonnay; vinified with 20% whole clusters). A pungent nose of moderate reduction and wood largely pushes the fruit to the background. The attractively vibrant flavors are not quite as dense though they do possess a slightly finer mouthfeel before concluding in an overtly austere, compact and sneaky long finale. This could use better depth but more should almost certainly develop if given a chance. 91/2031+

Domaine Y. Clerget (Pommard)

2021	Bourgogne Pinot Noir	red	86
2021	Clos de Vougeot – Grand Maupertui Grand Cru	red	94
2021	Clos de Vougeot – Cuvée Félix Grand Cru	red	94
2021	➽ Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	94
2021	Volnay	red	88
2021	➽ Volnay "Les Caillerets" 1er	red	93
2021	Volnay "Carelle sous la Chapelle" 1er	red	90
2021	➽ Volnay "En Champans" 1er	red	92
2021	➽ Volnay "Clos du Verseuil" 1er	red	93
2021	➽ Volnay "Les Santenots" 1er	red	92

Thibaud Clerget had big news in that he announced he has acquired Domaine Régis Rossignol, which will raise his total under cultivation to 11 ha from the 6 he was farming. The appellations include Bourgogne blanc, Aligoté, 1 ha of Volnay *villages*, the two Volnay 1ers of Clos des Angles and Les Brouillards plus the Pommard *villages* of Les Chanlins. With respect to the 2021 vintage, Clerget described it as "a tough slog and pretty much from start to finish. We lost 70% to the frost and disease pressure and another 10% due to sorting losses. For example, in our parcel of Santenots, we produced only two barrels instead of our usual 18! The one exception to this was our parcel of Clos de Vougeot as the wall protected against the cold air. But it was still no picnic as I think I found the limits of organic treatments. Even so, and despite the difficulties in using them due to the frequency of the rains, I persisted anyway. Either you're committed or you're not, even though I know some domaines who just said, 'enough is enough' and switched to conventional treatments as they don't wash off as easily. We picked from the 18th of September and despite the tiny quantities, the quality of the raw material was still excellent. Potential alcohols ranged from 12 to 13% and once a thorough sorting was done, the fruit was quite clean; in fact I used some whole clusters in certain wines. What I did not do though was push the extractions as I did literally zero punching down. For all of the reds where quantities came in at two barrels or less, I used the traditional system of bottling known as *la chèvre à deux becs* [literally, a goat with two mouths, though in this case, it is a system of bottling directly from the cask that uses two spigots; the method allows for extremely gentle bottling and is still in use by some domaines; its primary drawback is that it's very slow]. I quite like the vintage for its purity and freshness though I wish that there was more of it." As the comments and rating confirm, I was seriously impressed by the quality of Clerget's 2021s, and these are wines to search out. Clerget noted that all of the 2021 reds were bottled without fining or filtration. (Grand Cru Selections, LLC, www.grandcruselectionswine.com, NY and Skurnik Wines, www.skurnik.com, NY, both USA; Haynes, Hanson

& Clark, www.hhandc.co.uk, UK; Agence Lieux-Dits and Burgundy Direct, www.burgundydirect.ca, both Canada; Clos Cachet, www.closcachet.com.au, VIC, Australia; Pearl of Burgundy, www.pearlofburgundy.com, Hong Kong; Domaine Wine Cellars, www.domaine.com.tw, Taiwan).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: An ultra-fresh and bright nose is comprised by cool aromas of red pinot fruit and discreet earth nuances. The round, delicious and caressing flavors offer good vibrancy that carries over to the bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. This could use more depth but it's very pretty and should drink well young for its fruit. 86/2024+

2021 Volnay: (from holdings of ~1 ha in Les Petits Gamets and Ez Echards that gave 5 barrels instead of the normal 24). A slightly more restrained nose grudgingly reveals notes of red cherry, raspberry and a suggestion of crushed anise. The rich and equally caressing flavors possess better mid-palate density as well as more depth on the ever-so-mildly austere finale. This balanced effort should also drink well young and be capable of repaying mid-term keeping. 88/2026+

2021 Volnay "Carelle sous la Chapelle": (from a .47 ha holding that yielded 2 barrels instead of 12). Here the nose is reduced just enough to mask the fruit though a touch of wood does peek through. The palate impression of the medium weight flavors isn't quite as rich but there is both better vibrancy and refinement and particularly so on the stony, delicate and youthfully austere finale. If this can add more depth, my rating may be a bit too conservative. 90/2028+

2021 Volnay "Les Santenots": (from a .66 ha holding in Santenots Dessous that produced only 2 barrels instead of 18; 20% whole clusters). This is also aromatically cool and restrained with its aromas of red and dark currant, spice and floral top notes, and in particular violet. The wonderfully refined, pure and lilting flavors exude a more subtle minerality on the lingering finish that firms up as it sits on the palate. This is quite lovely though I would note that it's more a Santenots of finesse in 2021. 92/2029+

2021 Volnay "En Champans": (from a tiny parcel of .07 ha that will be bottled only in magnum; 100% whole clusters and 100% new wood). A markedly floral-suffused nose speaks of cool, elegant and airy aromas of plum, essence of red cherry and noticeable, but not intrusive, wood influence. There is both verve and focused power to the punchy medium-bodied flavors that also exude evident minerality on the youthfully austere finish that is supported by fine-grained tannins. Note that the suggested initial drinking date is for the magnum format. 92/2036+

2021 Volnay "Clos du Verseuil": (a .68 ha monopole). A gorgeously pure nose of red currant, lilac, violet and anise leads to seductively textured, silky and delicate flavors that once again exude a subtle minerality on the youthfully austere and impeccably well-balanced finale. This could use better overall depth, but it is a classic Volnay of lace and grace. 93/2029+

2021 Volnay "Les Caillerets": (from a .38 ha holding of ~75-year-old vines). This is the spiciest wine in the range with its mix of red and dark currant, plum and pretty floral scents. The racy, refined and beautifully detailed flavors exhibit outstanding length on the exquisitely balanced finish that is also supported by notably fine-grained tannins. This too could use better depth but more should almost certainly develop if given a few years. Lovely stuff. 93/2031+

2021 Pommard "Les Rugiens": (from a substantial holding of .90 ha that is situated in Rugiens Haut but touches Rugiens Bas; 20% whole clusters). A distinctly cool nose is comprised of the ultra-pure aromas of essence of various red berries, rose petal, earth and a subtle touch of wood. The rich, concentrated and muscular larger-scaled flavors brim with minerality while delivering superb length on the linear, youthfully austere and very firm finale. While this could be approached after 7 to 8 years, it should easily repay 12 to 15 years of cellaring. Excellent and absolutely worth your interest. 94/2033+

2021 Clos de Vougeot – Grand Maupertui: (from a parcel of ~.34 ha in Grand Maupertuis; vinified with 50% whole clusters and raised in 50% new wood). This is also distinctly cool with its combination of admirably pure red berry, forest floor, black cherry, earth and dried rose petal scents trimmed in just enough wood to mention. The rich, delicious and relatively supple medium-bodied flavors possess good power while immediately tightening up on the moderately austere and impressively persistent finale. This is relatively refined in the context of what is typical for Clos de Vougeot and a wine that should age effortlessly on its fine acid/fruit/tannin balance. 94/2033+

2021 Clos de Vougeot – Cuvée Félix: (this was raised in a glass 'wine globe', or demijohn, rather than wood; 150 bottles produced). Here the nose is similar to that of the regular cuvée except with no wood influence along with a touch of herbal tea character. The palate impression though is markedly different as the middleweight flavors are more precise still, indeed the word 'chiseled' is apt, all wrapped in a tension-filled and more austere if perhaps not quite as persistent. While qualitatively similar, the texture of the two wines is definitely different. 94/2033+

Domaine Clos de la Chapelle (Volnay)

2021	Beaune "Champs Pimont" 1er	red	(88-91)
2021	Beaune "Les Teurons" 1er	red	(89-92)
2021	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2021	➽ Pommard "Les Chanlins Vieilles Vignes" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	Volnay "1er" 1er	red	(89-92)
2021	➽ Volnay "Clos de la Chapelle" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	Volnay "En Carelle" 1er	red	(88-91)
2021	➽ Volnay "Les Taillepieds Vieilles Vignes" 1er	red	(91-93)

Mark O'Connell, owner and winemaker, was very happy to announce the acquisition of the following parcels for the 2022 vintage: .13 ha of Meursault "Charmes", .41 ha of Meursault "Les Vignes Blanches" and .20 ha of Meursault "En Marcausse" for whites and .25 ha in Volnay "Santenots du Milieu" and .15 ha of the Pommard "Rue du Port" for reds. O'Connell described the 2021 vintage as "any optimism we had for a bounteous vintage was dashed during the nights of April 6, 7 and 8. With a wet May, strong mildew and oidium pressure flowed and we thought we were looking at another 2013 and we hadn't had any hail…yet. But with two warm, sunny weeks in August our hopes for promising quality returned. Picking began on the 22nd of September and was finished by the 30th. Alcohols were all at about 12 degrees and we lightly chaptalized. We elected to vinify each appellation separately (apart from no Pommard 1er cru Grands Epenots at all) even though most quantities were just two barrels, which is to say about 18 hl/ha for the reds and 27 hl/ha for the whites. However, we dramatically reduced the percentage of whole clusters in order to better control temperatures in the small vats. The maintenance of proper temperature meant that the total cuvaison duration was normal. The malos were more delayed than usual, which will have the effect of delaying the bottling for the reds by several months. We found however that this had the benefit of the wines putting on extra weight while maintaining freshness. The results are a true delight for those who like classic 'old style' Burgundy. The reds remind us of less generous 2000s and the whites like 2001 or 1993." O'Connell noted that the reds would be bottled both unfined and unfiltered. (www.banvilleandjones.com NY, NJ, DC, VA & MD; www.pinnacleimports.com, MO; www.courtierwines.com, CA; www.anwdistributors.com, WA; www.martinewine.com, LA; www.ackerwines.com, Hong Kong; www.cepages-wines.com; Japan; www.movenpick.com, Germany and Switzerland; www.vinrosen.com, Denmark; www.morandell.at, Austria; www.lamarcwines.com, Norway; www.bestofwines.com, Netherlands; www.pembrokewines.ie, Ireland; www.cavedevin.co.kr , South Korea)

2021 Beaune "Les Teurons": (from a .27 ha holding though only .12 ha is presently producing). A fresh if quite somber nose features notes of various dark berries, earth and a violet top note. The nicely rich and generously proportioned middleweight flavors possess an almost delicate mouthfeel while delivering solid length on the balanced finish that is shaped by nicely fine-grained tannins. This could use better depth but a few years of keeping should address that. (89-92)/2028+

2021 Beaune "Champs Pimont": (from a .63 ha holding). Fresh, layered and pretty aromas include those of crushed red cherry, earth and a whiff of anise seed. The racy and beautifully detailed medium weight flavors are not quite as concentrated but I very much like the sophisticated texture which carries over to the youthfully austere finale. This could also use a bit more overall depth though like the Teurons, a few years of cellaring should help. (88-91)/2028+

2021 Volnay "En Carelle": (from Carelles sous la Chapelle). A deft application of wood sets off appealingly spicy aromas of plum, dark raspberry and a similar array of floral wisps. There is slightly better mid-palate density to the more mineral-inflected flavors that flash good if not distinguished persistence on the youthfully austere finale. Once again, this could use better depth but the underlying material, as well as the necessary structure, appears to be present for that to occur in time. (88-91)/2029+

2021 Volnay "Clos de la Chapelle": (a .55 ha monopole). Here too there is a deft application of wood to the pretty and perfumed nose of red currant, violet and an interesting hint of tangerine peel. As is usually the case, the mouthfeel of the beautifully delineated flavors is delicate, silky and refined yet with no lack of punch that carries over to the lightly stony, youthfully austere and balanced finale that is notably more complex. Lovely stuff with excellent development potential. (90-93)/2029+

2021 Volnay "1er": (from a parcel of .21 ha young vines in Taillepieds). Subtle but not imperceptible wood frames cool and restrained aromas of herbal tea, red pinot fruit and subtle spice wisps. The generously proportioned yet nicely precise and stony middleweight flavors possess very good power for the young vines, all wrapped in a balanced and markedly firm finale. This well-made effort is going to require at least a few years of patience to more completely unwind. (89-92)/2031+

2021 Volnay "Les Taillepieds Vieilles Vignes": (from a parcel of .21 ha). This is the first wine to display any meaningful reduction and it's enough to push the fruit to the background. The richer and bigger-bodied flavors possess very fine mid-palate density along with excellent minerality that adds a sense of lift to the dusty, youthfully austere and strikingly persistent finale. As is often the case with a classic example of Taillepieds, this is very tightly wound and compact and will require fully 12 to 15 years to reach its peak. Recommended. (91-93)/2033+

2021 Pommard "Les Chanlins Vieilles Vignes": (from a .25 ha parcel). A deeply pitched yet still quite cool nose reflects notes of red and dark cherry, freshly turned earth and pretty floral wisps. There is both excellent delineation and underlying tension suffusing the moderately dense medium weight flavors that also flash focused power and ample minerality on the youthfully austere, dusty and balanced finale. Lovely and quite understated in style. (90-93)/2031+

2021 Corton-Bressandes: (from a parcel of .21 ha). Moderately generous wood influence is present on the ripe yet decidedly cool aromas of both red and dark currant that are nuanced by earth and *sauvage* nuances. There is very good detail to the refined but solidly punchy medium-bodied flavors that conclude in a youthfully austere, powerful and tightly wound finale. This could use better overall depth but that should come with time in bottle. (90-93)/2031+

Domaine Coche-Dury (Meursault)

2021	**➽ Bourgogne**	**red**	**88**
2021	**➽ Meursault**	**red**	**90**
2021	**➽ Monthélie**	**red**	**90**
2021	**➽ Volnay "1er" 1er**	**red**	**92**

Raphaël Coche noted in 2021, yields were off some 75% as the frost was brutal, which affected the final maturities. To that end, and in a departure from their usual approach, he used no whole clusters in the vinifications. Coche further noted that his 2021 reds were bottled in January 2023 using the *chèvre à deux becs* method [literally, a goat with two mouths, though in this case, it is a system of bottling directly from the cask that uses two spigots; the method allows for extremely gentle bottling and is still in use by some domaines; its primary drawback is that it's very slow]. Lastly, he observed that "while the reds are certainly very good, the whites are potentially genuinely great. Stylistically, the reds remind me of a less ripe version of our 1999s though I haven't decided yet about the whites." (Kermit Lynch, www.kermitlynch.com, CA, USA; Justerini & Brooks, www.justerinis.com and Tanners Wine, www.tanners-wines.co.uk, both UK and Clos Cachet, www.closcachet.com.au, VIC, Australia).

2021 Bourgogne: Classic ruby color. An earthy and decidedly spicy nose speaks primarily of various red berries, especially cherry. There is both excellent detail and verve to the delicious middleweight flavors that conclude in a balanced and long if slightly rustic finale. This is an excellent Bourgogne that should repay 5 or so years of keeping. 88/2026+

2021 Monthélie: Here the expressive nose offers up a similar fruit profile but is even spicier and earthier. The gorgeously textured medium-bodied flavors possess surprisingly good power on the dusty, youthfully austere and sneaky long finish. This is also particularly good for its level and while it should easily repay up to a decade of aging, it should also drink well young. 90/2029+

2021 Meursault: (from Les Malpoiriers and Les Durots). A more floral if somewhat less spice-suffused nose speaks mostly of red raspberry, soft earth and a hint of exotic tea. The sleek and utterly delicious medium weight flavors possess equally good energy that carries over the youthfully austere, long and mildly rustic finish. This is somewhat firmer than the Monthélie and a wine that will need at least a few years to unwind. I would further note that this too is unusually good for what it is. 90/2031+

2021 Volnay "1er": (from Taillepieds and Clos des Chênes). A perfumed, elegant and airy nose is comprised by plenty of spice, floral and discreet earth nuances on the essence of pure red berry fruit. The notably finer, and highly seductive, middleweight plus flavors possess both excellent delineation and an abundance of minerality that adds a sense of lift to the highly energetic, balanced and striking long finale. This is excellent and a wine that should easily age 10 to 15 years. 92/2033+

Domaine Bruno Colin (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2021	**Bourgogne Pinot Noir**	**red**	**(86-88)**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet "La Maltroie" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2021	**Marranges "La Fussière" 1er**	**red**	**(88-90)**
2021	**Santenay Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2021	**Santenay "Les Gravières" 1er**	**red**	**(88-90)**

Bruno Colin, who is now farming a slightly larger amount of vines thanks to his father Michel splitting the remaining amount of his holdings between Bruno and his brother Philippe (see below), briefly noted that "we got badly hit by the frost and while yields were off some 70% in white on average, some were off fully 90%. Thankfully, they were a bit better in red at only -50%. I vinified softly just to be sure I wasn't extracting any astringent elements. I was honestly a bit skeptical right after we barreled the wines down but they improved far more than I would have imagined during the *élevage*. As such, I'm happy with the quality as it is frankly much better than one would have thought when we began picking on the 21st of September." I will have more of Colin's views of the 2021 vintage in the next Issue. (Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, www.kermitlynch.com, CA and William Gladstone Imports, www.williamgladstoneimports.com, NY/HI, both USA; Goedhuis & Co., www.goedhuis.com, Gunson Fine Wines, www.gfwl.co.uk, Nickolls and Perks, www.nickollsandperks.co.uk, all UK).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: (from vines in Chassagne). A very pinot-like nose is comprised primarily by notes of earth, spice and a combination of red fruit scents. There is very good richness to the voluminous and vibrant lighter weight flavors that terminate in an inviting if lightly rustic 'drink me young' finish. (86-88)/2024+

2021 Santenay Vieilles Vignes: (from vines in Prarons Dessous planted in 1963). Slightly earthier aromas are also comprised by mostly red berry fruit elements. There is a bit more richness and certainly better volume to the delicious and caressing flavors that conclude in a mildly austere and equally rustic finale that is just a bit firmer. (86-89)/2025+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: (from 50+ year old vines). An exuberantly fresh nose features notes of forest floor, wild red currant and a hint of the *sauvage*. The very rich and generous, even lavish, medium-bodied flavors possess more volume still while exhibiting sneaky good length on the more rustic and mildly austere finale. (87-89)/2026+

2021 Marranges "La Fussière": A more deeply pitched combination is composed by notes of plum, violet, dark cherry and a hint of humus. There is very good volume and mid-palate density to the more finely textured middleweight flavors that exude a subtle bead of minerality on the balanced and lingering finale. This understated effort should repay a few years of keeping but also be approachable young. (88-90)/2026+

2021 Santenay "Les Gravières": There is plenty of forest floor character suffusing the wild dark currant, newly turned earth and hint of smoked meat-scented nose. Here too there is very good volume to the very generously proportioned medium weight flavors that conclude in a youthfully austere and lightly stony finish. (88-90)/2026+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "La Maltroie": (2021 is the last vintage as the pinot vines were ripped out and replaced with chardonnay). The cool and airy nose reflects notes of herbal tea, red currant and dark cherry. There is again very solid density to the finer if less mineral-driven flavors that deliver better depth and persistence on the youthfully austere finish. This should also repay 4 to 7 years of keeping yet drink reasonably well young if desired. (89-91)/2026+

Domaine Joseph Colin (Gamay/St. Aubin)

2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**86**

I will provide all the details regarding Joseph Colin's views about the 2021 vintage in Issue 91 though he did note that his sole red, in contrast to prior vintages, was vinified using no whole clusters. While the whites are bottled under the Diam brand composite cork, the red is bottled with natural corks that are individually checked against TCA. It was bottled in December 2022 without fining or filtration, and because Colin bottles with high levels of CO_2, would benefit from being decanted. (Lea &

Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk and Thorman Hunt & Co., www.thormanhunt.co.uk, both UK; and Domaine Wine Cellars, www.domaine.com.tw, Taiwan).

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: (from Les Pierres and Le Poirier du Clos). A distinctly earthy and peppery nose of red currant leads to vibrant and delicious lighter weight flavors that possess good cut on the ever-so-mildly edgy finish that I suspect will round off with 1 to 2 years of keeping. 86/2025+

Domaine Marc Colin (Gamay/St. Aubin)

2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**88**
2021	**St. Aubin "Frionnes" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2021	**Santenay "Les Champs Claude Vieilles Vignes"**	**red**	**88**

Given that the bulk of the domaine's production is in white, I will have more on Damien Colin's views of the 2021 vintage in Issue 91. He did note that the reds were bottled in December 2022 under the Diam brand composite cork without fining or filtration. I would note that the Colin reds are expressly made to enjoy young (for example, there are no punch downs) and in that context the quality of the domaine's 2021s are consistent with that goal. (William Gladstone Imports, www.williamgladstoneimports.com, NY/HI, USA; Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, A&B Vintners, www.abvintners.co.uk, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com and Goedhuis & Co., www.goedhuis.com, all UK).

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: (from Les Perclos, Le Poirier du Clos and Les Pierres). A very pinot-like nose reflects notes of pepper, spice earth on the cool red cherry scents. There is excellent punch to the utterly delicious lighter weight flavors that terminate in an inviting finale. This isn't especially complex, but it is so vibrant that it makes one just feel like drinking it. To enjoy young for its fruit. 88/2024+

2021 Santenay "Les Champs Claude Vieilles Vignes": (from vines planted in 1901). This is aromatically similar to the old vines Chassagne but earthier still. There is slightly better volume even though the caressing and attractively textured flavors are still on the lighter side. With that said, they retain excellent punch and flavor authority while delivering good if not special depth and persistence. This too should drink well young. 88/2025+

2021 St. Aubin "Frionnes": This is also very pinot-like in character with its cool, pure and perfumed nose of essence of red currant, anise and much more discreet earth wisps. The vibrant, and slightly more voluminous, flavors are much more mineral-driven while offering a bit more refinement on the youthfully austere and delineated finale. This is sufficiently compact that I would suggest allowing it at least a year or two to allow it to unwind. 89/2026+

Domaine Philippe Colin (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2021	**➽ Bourgogne Pinot Noir**	**red**	**87**
2021	**➽ Chassagne-Montrachet "Champs de Morjot"**	**red**	**89**
2021	**Santenay "Clos de Saint Jean"**	**red**	**88**

There are big changes at this domaine as Philippe Colin has ceded a large part of the domaine to his son Simon (see immediately below for the details) in much the same way that his father Michel did when he split the domaine between he and his brother Bruno (see also above). Briefly though, Simon will be taking over roughly two-thirds of the vines, but Philippe will retain the more prestigious white vineyards, which is again exactly what Michel did some years ago. As is usually the case, Philippe was again at his domaine in South Africa preparing for the harvest. His assistant Emmanuel presided over the tasting, and I will have more on his impressions of the 2021 vintage in Issue 91. Note that the reds were bottled in January 2023 and that due to the gifting of vineyards to Simon, there will no longer be a Santenay, Chassagne Les Chênes, a Maranges La Fussière, Chassagne Morgeot or Santenay Gravières. (Cape Classics www.capeclassics.com, NY and William Gladstone Imports, www.williamgladstoneimports.com, NY/HI, both USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Flint Wines, www.flintwines.com, Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com and Berkmann Wine Cellars, www.berkmann.co.uk, all UK; Watson's Wines, 852.2606.8828, www.watsonswine.com, Hong Kong).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: An exuberant nose freely offers up its aromas of earth, forest floor and bright red berry fruit. There is fine richness and unusually good density to the delicious and energetic middleweight flavors that terminate in a balanced and moderately rustic finale that is structured enough to warrant a few years of keeping. Worth considering. 87/2025+

2021 Santenay "Clos de Saint Jean": There is an interesting if vague hint of peat character to the more deeply pitched red and dark currant scents that are cut with plenty of earth. The sleeker and finer though surprisingly less concentrated flavors exude evident minerality on the youthfully austere and moderately firm finale. This delicious effort could easily be approached young if desired. 88/2026+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Champs de Morjot": There is just enough reduction present to push the underlying fruit to the background. More interesting are the beautifully textured medium weight flavors that possess excellent punch that carries over to the lightly rustic, balanced and lingering finale. While this could use better depth, more should develop, and this is really quite good for a Chassagne *villages*. Also worth considering provided you're willing to hold it for at least a few years. 89/2027+

Domaine Simon Colin (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2021	**➽ Chassagne-Montrachet**	**red**	**89**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot – Les Brussonnes" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2021	**Maranges "La Fussière" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2021	**Santenay**	**red**	**88**
2021	**Santenay "Les Gravières" 1er**	**red**	**88**

This is an exciting new domaine that owes its origins to Simon's grandfather Michel Colin (of Domaine Colin-Deléger), who split his domaine in two stages between his sons Philippe and Bruno (see both above). Simon's father Philippe has initiated the same approach and has gifted 9.30 ha of his domaine to Simon in the proportion of 6.3 ha in white and 3 ha in red. Breaking it down further, 40% will be in 1ers, 40% in *villages* and 20% in regional appellations. Simon has had a varied apprenticeship as he worked with his father from 2014 to 2017 and then in South Africa, Adelsheim in Oregon and then 4 years with Domaine Sauzet (see below). He began a small *négociant* operation while he was at Sauzet and finally came to an agreement with his father to buy the building and equipment to begin on his own account with his father's vineyards. Colin is in the process of applying for organic viticulture certification. I will have more on his approach to crafting his whites in Issue 91. For the reds, the approach is to use from 0% to 50% whole clusters using mostly pump overs during a 10 to as many as 15-day cuvaison. This is followed by a 48-hour lees settling regimen and the new wine is then barreled down using between 25 to 33% new wood. The *élevage* period typically lasts between 12 and 15 months and the reds are bottled without filtration under natural cork. (Bertrand's Wines, www.bertrandswines.com, NY, USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Flint Wines, www.flintwines.com, Thorman Hunt & Co., www.thormanhunt.co.uk, all UK; and Pearl of Burgundy, www.pearlofburgundy.com, Hong Kong).

2021 Santenay: (from En Boichot and Prarons de Dessus). An exuberantly fresh nose speaks of earth and pepper-inflected red berry fruit. There is a lovely sense of underlying tension suffusing the nicely detailed middleweight flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the mildly austere, focused and inviting finale that is firm enough to repay a few years of keeping. I would add that this is relatively refined for what it is. 88/2026+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet: (from Les Chênes, Morichots and Les Puits Merdreaux). This is aromatically similar to the Santenay but with the addition of pretty floral top notes and a hint of the *sauvage*. There is a bit more volume and power if not quite the same refinement to the medium-bodied flavors that deliver very good depth and persistence on the lightly rustic finale. This is very good for its level and worth considering. 89/2027+

2021 Maranges "La Fussière": Very deep ruby, in fact so deep that I questioned Colin about how this could 'naturally' be. He agreed that it is exceptionally tinted, and particularly so in the context of the 2021 vintage. He believes, but isn't 100% certain, that it could be because there is a small percentage of Pinot Teinturier (a mutation of pinot meunier) interplanted in this parcel. This mutation naturally gives extremely deep colors. As to the wine, a distinctly earthy nose is comprised by notes of dark currant and plum. The rich and concentrated yet supple middleweight flavors possess fine length on the rustic and youthfully austere finale. Note that this is sufficiently tightly wound as to need at least a few years of keeping first. 89/2027+

2021 Santenay "Les Gravières": (from a .49 ha parcel). A background hint of volatile acidity is present on the relatively high-toned aromas of red cherry, currant and cool earth. The sleek, intense and beautifully detailed medium-bodied flavors flash an almost pungent minerality on the lingering if slightly drying finish. Despite the somewhat lukewarm description, this is actually attractive in its fashion even though the balance isn't perfect. 88/2027+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot – Les Brussonnes": (from a .23 ha parcel). A distinctly peppery and earthy nose somewhat grudgingly reveals its aromas of cool red and dark currant. The vibrant, delicious and nicely detailed medium weight flavors are not especially dense, but I like the texture as well as the better balance on the moderately austere, firm and sneaky long finish. This slightly rustic effort should be reasonably approachable young if you prefer not to age your reds. 90/2028+

Domaine Edmond Cornu (Ladoix-Serrigny)

2021	Aloxe-Corton "1er" 1er	red	(89-92)
2021	Aloxe-Corton Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2021	Bourgogne	red	86
2021	Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Bons Ores"	red	87
2021	Côte de Nuits-Villages	red	87
2021	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	(90-92)
2021	Ladoix Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2021	Ladoix "Le Bois Roussot" 1er	red	88
2021	➽ Ladoix "Les Carrières"	red	89
2021	Ladoix "La Corvée" 1er	red	(88-91)
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	87

Pierre Cornu, who directs this 16.5 ha domaine, is slowly turning the reins of day-to-day operations over to his daughter Lucie. Together, they described the 2021 growing season as "one that was much more challenging than its 2020 counterpart as we had frost and serious disease pressures that came in waves. The frost was pretty bad everywhere though because we have a habit of pruning our coolest vineyards last, we actually did a bit better in those as there was no bud break and thus no damage. Thereafter the temperatures varied between cool and clement though with frequent rains that weren't necessarily heavy but the vineyards were constantly wet. As such, keeping up with the necessary treatments was absolutely essential but not easy to do given the conditions. We began picking around the 20th of September and brought in mostly clean and ripe fruit that required only cursory sorting. The colors were very slow to appear in 2021 and we definitely did not do a light vinification because maturities were actually quite good if not as high as what we obtained in 2018, 2019 and 2020. As to the wines, they're classically styled but ripe with excellent terroir transparency. The Cornu team noted that most of the reds were bottled in November and December 2022. Lastly, because of the severely reduced quantities, there is no Les Moutottes or Valozières as they were combined to create a necessarily unnamed Aloxe "1er". (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, NY, USA; McKinley Vintners, www.mckinleyvintners.co.uk, UK).

2021 Bourgogne: (note that this cuvée is labeled as Les Barrigards for the US market). This had just been bottled and a touch of post-bottling reduction pushed the fruit to the background. Otherwise, the rich, round and supple lighter weight flavors conclude in a bitter bit fruit-inflected finale. To enjoy young for its fruit. 86/2024+

2021 Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Bons Ores": This too has a lurking touch of reduction but here it's sufficiently subtle to allow hints of various red berries and earth to be discerned. The exceptionally rich quite supple and seductively textured middleweight flavors contrast somewhat with the moderately rustic and austere finale that comes up a bit short. The length may be an effect of the recent bottling and my rating offers the benefit of the doubt. 87/2025+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune: (from Bas Liards). Relatively deep ruby, especially for the vintage. There are touches of forest floor and the *sauvage* to the aromas of cool plum and wild dark berries. The delicious and rich, even suave, flavors possess a slightly finer mouthfeel that carries over the bitter pit fruit-suffused finish. This should benefit from a few years of keeping. 87/2025+

2021 Côte de Nuits-Villages: (from Le Creux de Sobron in Corgoloin). A subtle background hint of volatile acidity is present on the earthy purple fruit and softly spicy nose. There is fine vibrancy and beautiful detail to the slightly bigger and richer medium weight flavors that conclude in a detailed and lingering if slightly warm finale. This could use more depth but a few years of keeping should help. 87/2025+

2021 Ladoix Vieilles Vignes: (from vines between 50 and 75 years of age that are mostly from Champ Pussuet with small amounts of Sur Les Forêts, La Butte and Hameau de Buisson). Slightly cooler and prettier aromas include those of both red and dark berries along with a touch of newly turned earth. The juicy, even fleshy, medium-bodied flavors are also suave, round and seductively texture, all wrapped in a slightly more complex, youthfully austere and sneaky long finish. 88/2026+

2021 Ladoix "Le Bois Roussot": A top note of herbal tea can be found on the aromas of spice, earth and mostly red cherry. Once again the mouthfeel of the middleweight flavors is both supple and rich, indeed even generous, with a backend trace of minerality that adds a sense of lift to the mildly austere finale. 88/2026+

2021 Ladoix "Les Carrières": Cooler and more elegant aromas of layered red and dark pinot fruit are cut with plenty of earth and a whiff of smoked meat character. I very much like the texture of the more obvious mineral-inflected medium-bodied flavors that flash focused power on the balanced, persistent and solidly complex finale. This is a very good Ladoix *villages*. 89/2027+

2021 Aloxe-Corton Vieilles Vignes: (mostly from Les Cras. A more *sauvage* and forest floor-suffused nose is comprised by notes of various dark berries and a hint of herbal tea. The exceptionally round and rich, indeed again suave, middleweight flavors culminate in a moderately firm, youthfully austere and rustic finale where a touch of warmth eventually emerges. This is very Aloxe in style and a wine that will need at least some patience. 88/2028+

2021 Ladoix "La Corvée": Here too there is a hint of herbal tea to the distinctly earthy and *sauvage* aromas that are also composed mostly of various dark berries. The suave, round and supple medium weight flavors are a bit more refined while retaining good vibrancy on the lightly stony bitter bit fruit finish that is slightly less rustic and compact. (88-91)/2027+

2021 Aloxe-Corton "1er": (because the quantities were so reduced in 2021, this is a combination of Les Moutottes and Valozières). A very pretty if more reserved nose somewhat grudgingly offers up its mix of red and dark currant, freshly turned earth and a discreet spice wisp. The delicious bigger-bodied flavors flash excellent power on the robust, powerful and overtly rustic finale that is notably more structured. Patience absolutely needed. (89-92)/2031+

2021 Corton-Bressandes: This is one of the few wines in the range to display any appreciable wood influence and even here it's subtle on the aromas of spiced plum, cool earth and whiffs of the *sauvage* and crushed leaf. The super-suave and rounded medium-bodied flavors coat the palate with sappy dry extract before terminating in a balanced and sneaky long finale. This could use better depth and it's somewhat surprising but the finish is actually a bit less structured than the Aloxe 1er. (90-92)/2029+

Domaine de Courcel (Pommard)

2021	➽ Bourgogne	red	(86-89)
2021	➽ Pommard "Les Croix Noires" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	➽ Pommard "Les Fremiers" 1er	red	(91-94)
2021	➽ Pommard "Grand Clos des Epenots" 1er	red	(92-94)
2021	➽ Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	(92-95)
2021	Pommard "Vaumuriens"	red	(88-91)

Régisseur Yves Confuron (who also works at his family Domaine Confuron-Cotétidot in Vosne), succinctly described 2021 as "having a largely miserable growing season and the one problem in particular caused us a lot of grief was the frost, especially in Vaumuriens and Les Rugiens whereas the others weren't too badly hit. We picked from the 27th of September and brought in clean fruit and though yields were better than what we realized in 2020, they were still only 21 to 22 hl/ha. By contrast, potential alcohols were excellent at 13.5% so nothing was chaptalized. As always, we used 100% whole clusters and had no problems with the vinifications. As to the wines, their defining element is the freshness and transparency along with a lovely spiciness and excellent balance." (Vineyard Brands, www.vineyardbrands.com, AL, USA; O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, Flint Wines, www.flintwines.com, Goedhuis & Co., www.goedhuis.com, Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk and Howard Ripley, www.howardripley.com, all UK; Terroir Selections Pty Ltd, www.terroir-selections.com.au, Australia).

2021 Bourgogne: A decidedly spicy, ripe and floral-suffused nose speaks mainly of red and dark berries. The delicious, vibrant and solidly concentrated flavors conclude in a dusty and youthfully austere finale. This is on the robust side for a Bourgogne and should age accordingly. (86-89)/2026+

2021 Pommard "Vaumuriens": (from the Hauts portion). An even more floral-suffused nose offers up ripe aromas of plum, earth and anise hints. There is excellent precision and an almost pungent minerality to the medium weight flavors that exhibit fine length on the linear, sappy and sneaky long finish. This is slightly finer than the Bourgogne though there is still enough structure to repay up to a decade of keeping. (88-91)/2028+

2021 Pommard "Les Croix Noires": An exuberantly spicy nose reflects a plethora of floral nuances on the ripe aromas of essence of plum and dark currant. There is again excellent density to the bigger-bodied and richer flavors that don't possess the same minerality on the powerful, dusty and built-to-age finale. This could use better depth but the potential for that to occur appears to be present. (90-93)/2031+

2021 Pommard "Les Fremiers": This is also overtly floral in character with a plenitude of spice elements complementing the ripe dark berry scents. There is excellent tension to the dense, sleekly muscular and quite powerful flavors that deliver fine length on the balanced if noticeably austere finale. This too could use better depth but more will almost certainly develop. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Pommard "Grand Clos des Epenots": (from an enormous 4.92 ha parcel with vines ranging from 50 to 65 years of age). Once again there is an abundance of floral nuances adding elegance to the cool, pure and very pretty aromas of essence of red cherry and earth. The broad-shouldered and concentrated medium weight plus flavors possess a positively gorgeous mouthfeel while retaining very good cut on the lingering finale where a touch of bitter chocolate slowly emerges. Excellent. (92-94)/2033+

2021 Pommard "Les Rugiens": (from a 1.07 ha parcel in Rugiens-Hauts). This is aromatically similar to the Epenots though the fruit is perhaps just a bit cooler. The more mineral-driven and precise flavors flash focused power on the muscular, sappy and balanced finish that goes on and on. This too possesses excellent delineation and is a wine that is sufficiently compact to require every bit of a decade to become more approachable. In a word, impressive. (92-95)/2033+

Domaine des Croix (Beaune)

2021	**Beaune**	**red**	**(87-90)**
2021	**Beaune "Bressandes" 1er**	**red**	**(89-92)**
2021	**Beaune "Cent Vignes" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2021	**Beaune "Grèves" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2021	**Beaune "Pertuisots" 1er**	**red**	**(89-92)**
2021	**Beaune "Les Tuvilains" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2021	**Corton-Grèves Grand Cru**	**red**	**(91-93)**
2021	**Corton-La Vigne au Saint Grand Cru**	**red**	**(91-93)**
2021	**Savigny-lès-Beaune**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2021	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Peuillets" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**

Régisseur David Croix, who is always candid and insightful about the nuances of each vintage, observed that 2021 "was a cool and humid vintage that also had presented more than its share of challenges. We have long had a policy of pruning late and this was quite helpful because, as an example, we didn't do the vines in our parcel of Corton-Charlemagne (note that this wine will be reviewed in Issue 91) until March 30th. In contrast to many domaines that had single digit yields, there we realized 30 hl/ha, which is almost normal for us. The frost wasn't the only problem, however, as the disease pressure was heavy and required a great deal of care on our part. We picked from the 23rd of September and while there wasn't a lot of sorting necessary, we were careful to eliminate any botrytis-affected berries. I used between 0% and 100% whole clusters with an average of around 25 to 30%. The colors were really slow to emerge and to be completely honest, I really didn't like the wines at first. It was only after about 12 months of *élevage* did their true personalities emerge and now I actually find them lovely. They are super-fresh and vibrant with outstanding terroir definition and excellent balance." I agree with Croix's assessment as his wines are indeed exactly as he describes them. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.beckywasserman.com is the US agent; Grand Cru Selections, LLC, nedbenedict@gmail.com, NY/NJ, Fine Vines, www.finevines.com, IL, AOC Imports, email holly@aocimports.com, CA, Cordon Selections, www.cordonselections.com, WA, Wines Unlimited, www.winesunlimited.com, LA, Small Potatoes Wine, www.smallpotatoeswine.com, ID, C'est Vin, LLC, 703.243.3559, VA, all USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, UK; Racines, yasukogoda@racines.co.jp, Japan; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com/hk, Hong Kong; Bibendum Wine Co., www.bibendum.com.au, Australia).

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune: (from the *villages* portion of Les Peuillets). Moderate reduction pushes what appears to be mostly red berry fruit aromas to the background. More interesting are the racy, delicious and precise lighter weight flavors that conclude in a youthfully austere and sneaky long finale. (87-89)/2027+

2021 Beaune: (three-fourths of the blend is from La Blanchisserie and the rest from Pointes de Tuvilains). An exuberantly fresh nose is comprised by notes of violet, newly turned earth and cool red cherry scents. There is just a bit more volume and weight to the supple and appealingly textured medium weight flavors that also conclude in a youthfully austere, balanced and lingering finale. (87-90)/2027+

2021 Beaune "Cents Vignes": Here too there is enough reduction to mask the underlying fruit today. Otherwise, the more refined middleweight flavors possess first-rate definition along with fine length on the moderately austere finish where a touch of wood slowly emerges. This could use better depth, but more should reasonably develop in time. (88-91)/2027+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Peuillets": Firm reduction renders the nose impossible to assess. There is a bit more volume and richness to the lightly stony medium weight flavors that possess slightly better complexity on the equally precise, balanced and youthfully austere finale. This is very Peuillets in style. (89-91)/2028+

2021 Beaune "Les Tuvilains": (from 80+ year old vines). Moderate wood influence can be found on the super-fresh and bright essence of red berry fruit, newly turned earth and pretty floral aromas. There is good punch and focused power to the more robust flavors that also display enough wood to mention on the otherwise balanced and moderately austere finale. (89-91)/2029+

2021 Beaune "Bressandes": Cool and restrained aromas are comprised by notes of violet, plum, dark cherry and a hint of crushed fennel. The delicious medium-bodied possess even better volume along with excellent punch while displaying a more refined texture thanks to the fine-grained tannins shaping the lightly stony and moderately austere finale. As is usually the case, this is sufficiently compact as to need at least a few years of forbearance. (89-92)/2029+

2021 Beaune "Grèves": An intensely floral-suffused nose reflects notes of various red berries, spice and humus spiced earth. The elegant and beautifully textured medium weight flavors also display focused power on the dusty, very firm and bitter pit fruit-suffused finale. This is also going to require at least some patience. (90-92)/2031+

2021 Beaune "Pertuisots": This is also aromatically quite floral with cool and wonderfully pure aromas of red currant, cherry and a beguiling array of spice elements. Once again there is a lovely texture to the precise and vibrant middleweight flavors that culminate in a compact, youthfully austere and like Pertuisots typically has, a mildly rustic finish. (89-92)/2029+

2021 Corton-La Vigne au Saint: Once again the nose is exuberantly floral in character with its more deeply pitched nose of plum, black raspberry, earth and an equally broad array of spice wisps. The rich, seductively textured and concentrated bigger-bodied flavors possess notably better complexity while delivering fine length on the dusty, focused and balanced finale. This is a Corton of refinement though one that should have no trouble repaying a decade plus of keeping. (91-93)/2031+

2021 Corton-Grèves: A brooding and earthier if otherwise similar nose gives way to more robust and powerful bigger-bodied flavors that possess very good mid-palate density, all wrapped in a very firm, serious, youthfully austere and impressively persistent finale. This is a more classically styled Corton than the Vigne au Saint but with that said, it isn't necessarily more structured. (91-93)/2031+

Domaine Cyrot-Buthiau (Pommard)

2021	➽ Bourgogne Pinot Noir	red	87
2021	Maranges "Les Clos Roussots" 1er	red	88
2021	➽ Pommard	red	89
2021	Pommard "L'Exception" 1er	red	90
2021	Santenay "Clos Rousseau" 1er	red	89
2021	➽ Volnay	red	89

Olivier Cyrot, who is the 5th generation to run this 8 ha domaine, called 2021 "a really difficult year, most particularly because of the frost though the disease pressure had to be managed as well. However, we lost more due to the frost than the disease pressure and in total, we were down on the order of 50%. I picked from the 18th of September and while there was some sorting

required, losses were minimal. Potential alcohols were reasonable though not high at between 11.8 and 12.5% so there was a light chaptalization. I vinified softly as I absolutely wanted to avoid extracting any underripe structural elements as the wines are so transparent that mistakes or problems are immediately evident. The malos were extremely long so it took quite a while before the true personality of the wines became apparent. I very much like the wines, but I admit that when we were harvesting the fruit, I had no idea that they would turn out to be quite so good." The Cyrot 2021s are understated and classic wines with good energy and transparency. Cyrot further noted that the wines were bottled in January 2023. (Monsieur Touton, www.mtouton.com, NY, USA; Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com, UK).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: (from Pommard vines; raised mostly in stainless with a small proportion in older wood). Fresh, bright and nicely layered aromas include those of red berries, plum and earth. There is a lovely texture to the vibrant and solidly voluminous flavors that offer very good length on the mildly rustic finish. Worth a look. 87/2024+

2021 Maranges "Les Clos Roussots": A discreet if perceptible touch of wood sets off spicier aromas of various red currant, cherry and a whiff of violet. The mouthfeel of the slightly bigger flavors is also quite supple and forward with good generosity to the balanced and lingering finish. This could use better depth, but a few years of bottle age should be beneficial in that regard. 88/2026+

2021 Santenay "Clos Rousseau": (from vines planted in 1938). A slightly earthier nose is otherwise quite similar. There is however better density to the succulent and rounded medium-bodied flavors where the supporting tannins are quite fine-grained while the sneaky long finish offers just a bit more depth. Lovely and understated. 89/2026+

2021 Volnay: (from 5 different parcels). An attractively spicy and perfumed nose speaks of plum, dark currant, violet and a whiff of wood influence. The sleek, delicious and equally succulent middleweight flavors exude a subtle minerality on the dusty, youthfully austere and compact finale. Even though this well-made effort isn't built for longer-term keeping, it still is sufficiently compact as to need at least some patience first. 89/2026+

2021 Pommard: (from 8 different parcels). This is also moderately deeply pitched with its array of black cherry, spiced plum, crushed fennel and newly turned earth scents. There is excellent richness to the almost opulent medium-bodied flavors that possess both good vibrancy and power before terminating in a youthfully austere and ever-so-mildly rustic finale. THIs is a quality Pommard *villages* and also worth checking out. 89/2027+

2021 Pommard "L'Exception": (from .42 ha in Les Arvelets, .45 ha in Chanière and .31 ha in Charmots). Here the wood influence is more prominent, though not invasive, with its hints of menthol on the freshly sliced plum, black raspberry, earth and violet scents. The supple, delicious and more mineral-driven flavors aren't necessarily bigger or richer though they are more refined with focused power carrying over to the youthfully austere, balanced and bitter pit fruit-inflected finale. 90/2028+

Domaine Vincent Dancer (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2021	**Bourgogne – Hautes Côtes de Beaune**	**red**	**86**
2021	**Beaune "Montrevenots" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2021	**Pommard "Perrières"**	**red**	**88**

I will have Théo Dancer's take, who since 2020 has taken on the day-to-day responsibilities for running the domaine, on the 2021 vintage in Issue 91 where his whites will be reviewed. Dancer did note that the yields in red were only 10 to 12 hl/ha. He further noted while there is no Bourgogne, and won't be for the next few years as the vines were pulled up to be replanted, there will be a Pézerolles in 2021. Lastly, because he bottles with relatively high levels of CO_2, he suggests that a quick aeration would be helpful to allow the wines to show their best. As is usually the case, the reds were bottled without fining or filtration. (A&B Vintners, www.abvintners.co.uk, UK; L'Imperatrice Fine Wines, https://imperatricewine.com.hk, Hong Kong/Macau; Muyi Fine Wines, www.muyiwine.com, China).

2021 Bourgogne – Hautes Côtes de Beaune: A very fresh and pinot-like nose reflects subtle notes of pepper and earth leads to attractively vibrant lighter weight flavors that possess excellent detail, indeed the sneaky long finish is quite chiseled. The delicious effort should drink well upon release. 86/now+

2021 Pommard "Perrières": A distinctly cool and ultra-pure nose is comprised by notes of the essence of red cherry and raspberry, along with background hints of earth and green tea. Here too there is excellent delineation on the more concentrated flavors that possess a lovely texture and fine punch that carries over to the youthfully austere finale. This should drink well young but reward 3 to 5 years of keeping. 88/2025+

2021 Beaune "Montrevenots": An exuberantly perfumed and very pretty nose is also cool and ultra-pure with its array of essence of red currant, red pinot fruit and a floral top note. There is again very good energy to the supple and seductively textured middleweight flavors that exude evident minerality on the focused and lingering if not especially complex finale. This is one of those wines where the first glass invites the second and while additional depth should develop, this will probably best be enjoyed for its youthful fruit and vivacity. 89/2026+

Maison Joseph Drouhin (Beaune)

2021	➳ Beaune "Clos des Mouches" 1er	red	92
2021	Beaune "Cras" 1er	red	(90-92)
2021	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	red	(94-96)
2021	➳ Chambolle-Musigny "1er" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	➳ Chambolle-Musigny "Amoureuses" 1er	red	(93-95)
2021	Chorey-lès-Beaune	red	(87-89)
2021	➳ Gevrey-Chambertin "Clos Prieur" 1er	red	(91-93)
2021	Griotte-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(93-95)
2021	➳ Nuits St. Georges	red	(89-91)
2021	Rully	red	(87-89)
2021	➳ Volnay	red	(89-91)
2021	➳ Vosne-Romanée	red	90

As is usually the case, I met with Véronique Drouhin who described 2021 as "a vintage of compromise where we had to make a sort of calculus between having the best maturities while trying to preserve some reasonable volumes. This is because we already began the season in a difficult position due to the frost and then the wet and mostly cool conditions contributed to some of the worst disease pressure that we've seen since 2013 and 2016 combined! To say it was a challenging growing season would be a considerable understatement. We chose to begin picking on the 17th of September and there was a huge amount of sorting required, mostly for mildew though with some botrytis, as well as a bit of underripe berries. While the potential alcohols were actually better than expected in the context of a cool summer, the yields were some of the lowest we have ever obtained. However, I wish to stress that they were extremely varied, ranging from almost normal to literally nothing. We vinified lightly using some whole clusters for most wines and then did a careful pressing followed by an equally careful lees settling to be sure to eliminate anything that wasn't of the very best quality. I was frankly skeptical about the reds early on as they seemed to lack body and character. However, once the malos finished, the wines progressively improved and became both more convincing and in particular, much better-balanced. Overall, 2021 is not a great vintage but it's one that appeals to me personally, especially for its combination of energy and terroir transparency." (Dreyfus, Ashby & Co., www.dreyfusashby.com, NY, USA; Pol Roger Ltd., www.polroger.co.uk, UK).

2021 Rully: (from both domaine and purchased fruit). An expressive nose speaks mostly of plum, red cherry and soft spice and earth nuances. The sleek, delicious, vibrant and precise middleweight flavors are shaped by bright, but not drying, acidity on the youthfully austere and tension-filled finale. Lovely and understated. (87-89)/2026+

2021 Chorey-lès-Beaune: A much more floral-suffused nose is a bit more deeply pitched with its notes of dark raspberry and more obvious earth scents. There is both good volume and precise to the appealingly textured medium weight flavors that offer solid length on the youthfully austere finish that could use better depth. (87-89)/2026+

2021 Volnay: (in 2021, about 20% of the blend is from the 1ers Frémiets and Clos des Chênes). A deft but still easily perceptible dollop of wood sets off airy and pretty aromas of red currant, dark cherry and plenty of floral elements. There is markedly better refinement to the utterly delicious and silky textured flavors that possess both good richness and a subtle minerality that slowly emerges on the balanced and persistent finale. This is a quality Volnay *villages* that is worth a look. (89-91)/2027+

2021 Beaune "Cras": Here too the wood treatment is sensitive though not imperceptible on the equally airy and expressive nose of red and dark fruit, newly turned earth and a hint of spiced tea. The sleek and equally intense if not especially concentrated middleweight flavors possess a lovely sense of refinement along with more evident minerality on the youthfully austere, balanced and moderately firm finale. This attractively textured effort should amply replay up to a decade of keeping. (90-92)/2029+

2021 Beaune "Clos des Mouches": Drouhin noted that this had just been bottled a few days before I tasted it and not surprisingly, it was much more aromatically restrained with its nose of markedly floral and spicy red pinot fruit scents. The texture of the medium-bodied and less mineral-driven flavors is quite similar to that of the Les Cras though the supporting tannins are even finer on the beautifully balanced and sneaky long finale. This is a Clos des Mouches of generosity and finesse. 92/2031+

2021 Nuits St. Georges: A much spicier dark berry fruit nose reflects notes of cool plum, the *sauvage* and a touch of forest floor. The gorgeous texture of the medium-bodied flavors is unusually refined in the context of what is typical for Nuits, with a caressing but punchy mouthfeel, all wrapped in a lingering finale where a trace of rusticity only emerges just as the length begins to die away. This too is a very good *villages*. (89-91)/2028+

2021 Vosne-Romanée: (from several *lieux-dits* including ~20% from the 1er Les Chaumes). This is the first wine to display any appreciable reduction and it's enough to overshadow the underlying fruit. More interesting are the fresh and bright middleweight flavors that possess a velvet textured mid-palate that contrasts somewhat with youthfully austere finish that displays excellent depth and persistence for its level. This is unusually good for its level and worth considering, plus it should repay up to a decade of keeping. 90/2029+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin "Clos Prieur": This is an unusually ripe Gevrey, indeed blind it wouldn't be obvious that it was from the 2021 vintage with its aromas of red and dark berries, cool earth and soft floral wisps. There is fine richness and impressive mid-palate density to the larger-scaled yet refined flavors that culminate in a youthfully austere and built-to-age finale. In contrast to most of the prior wines, this excellent effort is going to require at least a few years of patience. (91-93)/2031+

2021 Chambolle-Musigny "1er": (typically made from 6 or 7 different 1ers depending on whether the fruit from the parcel of Les Baudes is included). A more elegant and airier nose reflects a suggestion of exotic spice nuances, and in particular a wisp of jasmine tea, on the ripe yet cool aromas of mostly red berries. The precise and markedly stony medium weight flavors possess a highly refined texture thanks to the fine-grained, but dense, tannins shaping the dusty and youthfully austere finish. This will also need a few years of forbearance as it's presently quite compact. (90-93)/2031+

2021 Chambolle-Musigny "Amoureuses": A strikingly floral nose is even more exotic with its panoply of essence of red cherry, Asian tea, ginger, hoisin and clove. The gorgeously refined and almost painfully intense medium-bodied flavors possess the hallmark minerality of a fine Amoureuses while displaying superb length on the balanced finale. While this stylish effort isn't particularly dense, it dances across the palate plus there is a certain inimitable class that makes the overall impression quite compelling. (93-95)/2033+

2021 Griotte-Chambertin: Much like the Clos Prieur, this is quite ripe in the context of the 2021 vintage with its combination of super-spicy red and dark berry fruit aromas that are cut with hints of earth, violet and lilac. The exceptionally rich and generously proportioned middleweight plus flavors exude evident minerality on the superbly long if youthfully austere finale that really fans out as it sits on the palate. Lovely and I particularly like the balance. (93-95)/2033+

2021 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: Here the restrained nose is cooler and not quite as ripe on the fresh aromas of rose petal, spiced tea and a broad array of mostly red berry scents. The intense medium-bodied flavors aren't quite as dense but they are finer while flashing focused power on the strikingly long, even explosive, finish that just goes on and on. This is a seriously impressive and very classy example of a Clos de Bèze that embodies power without weight. (94-96)/2033+

Domaine Dubreuil-Fontaine (Pernand-Vergelesses)

2021	Aloxe-Corton	red	88
2021	➽ Aloxe-Corton "Les Vercots" 1er	red	91
2021	Bourgogne – Notre Dame de Bonne Espérance	red	86
2021	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	92
2021	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	red	92
2021	Pernand-Vergelesses	red	88
2021	➽ Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses" 1er	red	91

2021	**Pommard**	**red**	**88**
2021	**➽ Pommard "Epenots" 1er**	**red**	**91**
2021	**➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Vergelesses" 1er**	**red**	**91**
2021	**Volnay**	**red**	**88**

Christine Dubreuil minced no words in describing the 2021 growing season as "one that I would just as soon forget even though the wines it produced are perfectly pleasant. I say this because it had every problem one could have except hail. Difficult as it was, we finally got to the harvest which began on the 16th of September and lasted through to the 24th. Volumes were quite variable though we were off between 50 and 70% for the reds and even worse in chardonnay at between -30 and -80% in chardonnay! Potential alcohols however weren't too bad as they ranged between 12 and 13.3% so a few wines at the lower end were chaptalized. We vinified lightly for the reds to be sure not to extract any underripe elements, and this I think served us well as the wines are balanced and should drink well young. In my view, they're certainly not the best that we have ever made but they are more than respectable." Dubreuil bottled the reds in January 2023. (A.P.S., www.apswine.com, CA, DB Wine Selection, www.dbwineselection.com, MA, Bertrand's Wines, www.bertrandswines.com, TX and Voix de la Terre, www.vdltwine.com, NY, all USA; Direct Wine, www.directwine.co.uk, UK).

2021 Bourgogne – Notre Dame de Bonne Espérance": A fresh and bright nose reflects notes of both red and dark berries along with plenty of earth, which is also picked up by the vibrant and delicious lighter weight flavors that offer just enough depth and persistence to be interesting. 86/now+

2021 Pernand-Vergelesses: (Dubreuil explained that this has ~35% of the 1er Fichots in it). This is also aromatically fresh and bright with its cool and airy essence of red berry fruit scents. There is a bit more volume to the energetic and attractively textured middleweight flavors that terminate in a bitter cherry pit-inflected finale that is notably firmer. 88/2026+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Vergelesses": (from 3 separate parcels with two-thirds in Les Vergelesses and one-third in Basses Vergelesses that total an impressive 1.98 ha). This is aromatically similar to the straight Pernand though the mouthfeel of the slightly bigger and more powerful flavors is finer while offering notably better depth and persistence on the youthfully austere finale. Worth checking out. 91/2028+

2021 Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses": (from a .57 ha holding though about .10 ha has been pulled up and replanted). A discreet application of wood sets off the slightly more elegant and airier nose of essence of cool wild red berries and subtle spice elements. The sleek, delicious and relatively rich medium-bodied flavors flash evident minerality on the beautifully detailed and balanced finish. This could use better depth, but the length is already impressive. 91/2028+

2021 Aloxe-Corton: (from Les Combes, Les Cras and Les Boutières). A more deeply pitched and earthier nose freely offers up its aromas of plum and dark currant along with subtle *sauvage* hints. There is both good energy and delineation to the somewhat less concentrated medium weight flavors that possess good power and punch on the rustic and robust finale. This is very Aloxe in style and should age accordingly. 88/2028+

2021 Aloxe-Corton "Les Vercots": Here too there is just enough wood present to merit pointing out on the markedly *sauvage* nose of various wild dark berries and undergrowth. Somewhat surprisingly, the mouthfeel of the middleweight plus flavors is slightly finer while maintaining the innate power of a fine Vercots, all wrapped in a youthfully austere but only mildly rustic, long and serious finale. At least some forbearance is suggested. 91/2029+

2021 Volnay: (~50% comes from 1ers that include Les Lurets, Carelle Sous la Chapelle and Les Brouillards with the remainder from Les Grands Champs). A very pretty nose of mostly just crushed red berries is also fresh, bright and airy. The solidly intense and well-detailed flavors exude a subtle minerality before concluding in a dusty, moderately austere and slightly raspy finish where the supporting tannins are sufficiently firm to suggest that this will require 4 to 7 years of keeping first. 88/2026+

2021 Pommard: (from Trois Follots and En Boeuf). Slightly more prominent, if still subtle, wood influence can be found on the cool but slightly more deeply pitched nose of plum, earth and wild dark currant. The sleek and vibrant if not especially dense medium weight flavors also exude a discreet minerality on the balanced and youthfully austere finale. This delicious Pommard *villages* needs a few years of keeping, both to unwind and to add depth. 88/2027+

2021 Pommard "Epenots": (from both Grands and Petits Epenots). Once again there is just enough oak influence to comment on but not so much as to interfere with the cool, airy and perfumed aromas of mostly pure red pinot fruit and spice wisps. I very much like the sophisticated texture to the acceptably dense medium-bodied flavors that exhibit fine length on the youthfully austere, moderately firm and more complex finale. 91/2029+

2021 Corton-Bressandes: (from .77 ha holding planted in 1953). A more restrained if even more complex nose displays its array of mostly dark berries, forest floor, spice and a floral top note. The lilting, punchy and well-detailed flavors possess just a bit more size, weight and concentration while offering focused power on the youthfully austere, compact and lingering finale that has the stuffing to reward a decade plus of keeping. 92/2031+

2021 Corton-Clos du Roi: (from a .62 ha parcel). Slightly more evident though still moderate wood frames the spicier and more *sauvage* influenced nose of similar dark berries, earth and a gamy hint. There is actually a bit less density to the more finely textured and tautly muscular flavors that exude a pungent minerality on the dusty, long and equally compact finish that should also reward a decade plus of keeping. 92/2031+

Domaine Sylvain Dussort (Meursault)

2020	Bourgogne Côte d'Or	red	84
2020	➽ Bourgogne Côte d'Or "Cuvée des Ormes"	red	87
2020	➽ Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Beaumonts"	red	89

Sylvain Dussort, who, with his wife, took over the estate in 1982 on the same property where his grandparents used to live. Now, with the help of his daughter Anne-Caroline, they direct this small 6 ha domaine, two-thirds of which is white. Over the years, the estate has expanded with the acquisition of new vineyards as well as the modernization and enlargement of the existing winery buildings. I tasted these in my office in Burgundy in February 2023. (Bertrand's Wines, www.bertrandswines.com, NY, USA).

2020 Bourgogne Côte d'Or: While subtle, there is enough brett on the nose to detract from the purity of the ripe dark berry fruit aromas. Consistent with the presence of brett on the nose, there is gas on the palate and while the overall impression is not unpleasant, this is best appreciated by those who enjoy a bit of brett in their wines. 84/now

2020 Bourgogne Côte d'Or "Cuvée des Ormes": Here the expressive nose is clean and ripe with a mix of mostly dark berries, earth and a hint of forest floor. There is even better mid-palate density to the medium weight, delicious and punchy flavors that possess better than average depth and persistence. While there is a trace of warmth, overall this is a quality Bourgogne that should replay a few years of keeping if desired. 87/2025+

2020 Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Beaumonts": Once again the nose is decidedly ripe yet with reasonably good freshness and lovely layering to the aromas of plum, warm earth and pretty spice wisps. There is even better density to the vibrant and muscular medium-bodied flavors that deliver unusually good complexity and length on the powerful yet not especially rustic finale. This moderately structured effort is a fine Chorey that is worth considering. 89/2026+

Domaine Arnaud Ente (Meursault)

2021	➽ Bourgogne	red	(86-89)
2021	➽ Volnay "Les Santenots du Milieu" 1er	red	(90-93)

I will have Arnaud Ente's views on the 2021 vintage in Issue 91 where his stunning whites will be reviewed. I would note that because Ente is, justifiably, known as an outstanding white wine specialist, his reds often go overlooked, but they shouldn't be as the quality is typically excellent. Specifically with respect to the reds, Ente mentioned that he used no whole clusters for the vinifications. (Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, www.kermitlynch.com, CA, USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com and Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com, both UK; Shanghai Vinchamp International Trading Co. Ltd., www.vinchamp.com, Shanghai, China).

2021 Bourgogne: (100% pinot noir). An exuberantly pinot-like nose reflects notes of cool red and dark berries along with ample amount of both spice and discreet earth wisps. I very much like the texture of the vibrant and well-detailed middleweight flavors that possess fine density in the context of the vintage while displaying very good length on the ever-so-mildly rustic finale. This is quite good for its level and worth considering plus it should age well over the short to mid-term. (86-89)/2026+

2021 Volnay "Les Santenots": (from Santenots du Milieu). This is spicier still with its more complex nose of plum, black cherry, Asian style tea and violet scents. The notably richer, denser and succulent medium-bodied flavors possess a succulent mid-palate that contrasts somewhat with the more structured, youthfully austere and lingering finish that is supported by notably fine-grained tannins. Very fine quality here fashioned in an ageworthy package. (90-93)2031+

Domaine Follin-Arbelet (Aloxe-Corton)

2021	➽ Aloxe-Corton	red	89
2021	Aloxe-Corton "Clos du Chapître" 1er	red	(89-92)
2021	➽ Aloxe-Corton "Les Vercots" 1er	red	(91-93)
2021	Corton Grand Cru	red	93
2021	Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Fichots" 1er	red	(90-92)

Franck Follin, and his son Simon, direct this 6-ha enterprise. This year I met with Franck, who noted that "we didn't have too much damage in pinot except for the Bressandes, which got killed. The chardonnay though was another story as it was hit with both the frost and genuinely severe disease pressure so overall, we were down almost 70%. We chose to pick beginning on the 20th of September and the yields in pinot were actually slightly better than they were in 2020, at between 30 to 35 hl/ha versus 25 to 30 hl/ha. There wasn't too much sorting required and potential alcohols came in between 12 and 13% so some wines were lightly chaptalized. We did a light but long vinification using no whole clusters. The wines were initially hard and so compact that they weren't showing much personality but after the malos, they really blossomed and have become much more interesting." For fans of the Romanée St. Vivant, as usual there will be one issued under the Follin label that was vinified by Rémi Poisot though unfortunately, there will be only one barrel. In the same vein Follin noted that there will not be a Bressandes. Lastly, he noted that the reds either were, or will be, bottled unfined and unfiltered. (Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, www.kermitlynch.com, CA, USA; Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com, UK; Le Maître de Chai, www.lemaitredechai.qc.ca, Canada).

2021 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Fichots": Ripe yet cool aromas include those of various dark berries, earth and a touch of the *sauvage*. There is both good density and energy to the relatively robust medium weight flavors that flash good power and a touch of minerality on the attractively textured finish that displays on a hint of rusticity. Fichots almost always ages well and this example should be no exception. (90-92)/2029+

2021 Aloxe-Corton: (from La Toppe Marteneau and Boulmeau). This is also aromatically ripe yet cool with its array of red and dark currant scents that exhibit more subtle earth influence. The sleeker and more energetic if less concentrated and powerful flavors possess a lovely texture while offering fine length on the youthfully austere finale. This is a very good Aloxe *villages* that should age well over the medium-term and is worth checking out. 89/2028+

2021 Aloxe-Corton "Clos du Chapître": Discreet but not imperceptible oak influence is present on the more *sauvage*-suffused aromas of plum, red currant and pungent earth. There is a finer texture to the tension-filled and lightly stony medium-bodied flavors that conclude in a rustic, serious, compact and sneaky long finale. This is very Aloxe in character. (89-92)/2029+

2021 Aloxe-Corton "Les Vercots": A very pretty, indeed perfumed, nose speaks of various red berries, floral and discreet spice nuances. The succulent and round medium weight flavors also possess a lovely texture along with good underlying tension before culminating in a balanced and even firmer finale. Les Vercots virtually always ages well and this excellent example should as well. (91-93)/2031+

2021 Corton: (from En Charlemagne in Pernand). Here the wood is less subtle though it stops short of being invasive on the ripe, brooding and layered nose of various dark berries, forest floor, game and smoky hints. The super-sleek and highly energetic medium weight plus flavors possess excellent delineation and an abundance of minerality that comes to the fore on the dusty, moderately austere and sneaky long finale that is more structured still. While this possesses very fine development potential, it will need at least 5 to 7 years first as it's presently quite tightly wound. 93/2033+

Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2021	**Bourgogne**	**red**	**86**
2021	**Bourgogne – Passe-tout-grains**	**red**	**86**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet**	**red**	**87**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean" 1er**	**red**	**88**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot" 1er**	**red**	**88**
2021	**Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er**	**red**	**89**

The always candid Céline Fontaine-Gagnard described the 2021 growing season as one that was "particularly complicated, especially for the reds even though the whites were harder hit by the early April frost. We had somewhat less frost damage than we did in 2016 though the only reason is that we protected some of our vines with warming candles. This was followed by a very difficult growing season as the disease pressure was both intense and relentless. Toward the end of the season the botrytis wasn't especially heavy, but it was everywhere, so I was constantly panicked! We picked from the 18th to the 26th of September though this was interrupted by a heavy rain on the 20th which prevented us from doing much of anything. There was a lot of sorting and particularly so for the pinot. Yields were highly variable, especially in chardonnay, with potential alcohols that came in between 12 and 12.8% in both colors. In a perfect world, I would have picked the pinot 2 to 3 days later than we did but the skins were fragile and degrading so in the end, expediency won out as I couldn't afford to lose more crop as we were already down substantially. Now that the wines are in bottle, the reds are quite drinkable already though the whites are clearly going to need at least some bottle aging." Fontaine noted that once again there is no Rugiens as the parcel was ripped up in 2018 to be replanted. She further noted that the reds were bottled in early February 2023. (Polaner Selections, www.polanerselections.com, NY, Los Angeles Wine Company, www.lawineco.com, CA, all USA; Diva Beaune S.A.S., www.divawine.com, Beaune, France; John Armit Wines, www.armit.co.uk, Decorum Vintners, www.decvin.com, Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Private Cellar Ltd., www.privatecellar.co.uk, Howard Ripley, www.howardripley.com, Laytons, www.laytons.co.uk, O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, Private Cellar Ltd., www.privatecellar.co.uk and Majestic Wine Warehouses, www.majestic.co.uk, all UK).

2021 Bourgogne – Passe-tout-grains: (from a 50/50 blend of gamay and pinot). An ultra-fresh and lightly peppery nose speaks of both red and dark berries trimmed in a hint of the *sauvage*. The racy and utterly delicious lighter weight flavors conclude in a mildly austere, crisp and very clean finish that displays only a trace of rusticity. To enjoy young for its vivacity. 86/now+

2021 Bourgogne: A very pinot-like nose speaks mostly of red cherry and raspberry along with background hints of spice and newly turned earth. The supple and relatively forward middleweight flavors possess a bit more volume while displaying reasonably good persistence on the bitter pit fruit-inflected finish that is just a bit more structured. Even so, this too should drink well shortly after release. 86/2024+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet: (from 5 different *lieux-dits*). Here the nose is somewhat reduced, probably due to the very recent bottling. Otherwise, there is both good verve and freshness to the slightly more concentrated medium weight flavors that deliver a bit more persistence on the delicious and inviting finale. This could use better depth though more should develop if given 2 to 4 years of keeping. 87/2025+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean": (from Rebichets). This is also moderately reduced though the underlying fruit seems quite fresh. The cool, restrained and nicely delineated medium-bodied flavors possess a lovely sense of underlying tension that carries over to the dusty, youthfully austere and focused finale that is noticeably firmer. Like the straight Chassagne, this too could use better depth though that should reasonably occur if given 5 or so years of cellaring. 88/2027+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot": (from Les Chaumes). Like the Clos St. Jean, this is sufficiently reduced to push the underlying fruit to the background. More interesting are the vibrant and delicious middleweight flavors that aren't particularly dense but do offer focused power on the slightly more complex if somewhat short finale. I suspect that the limited length is more due to the recent bottling than any intrinsic problem with the quality of the material. 88/2027+

2021 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": (from the southern portion of the vineyard near Monthélie). A restrained if extremely pretty nose is comprised by cool notes of red cherry, violet and a hint of crushed anise. There is both good detail and punch to the beautifully textured medium weight flavors that flash more evident minerality on the youthfully austere and tautly muscular finale that offers very good if not distinguished persistence. Like any self-respecting example of Clos des Chênes, this is going to require at least a few years of patience and should ultimately repay up to a decade of keeping. 89/2028+

Domaine Jean-Noël Gagnard (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2021	Chassagne-Montrachet – Cuvée l'Estimée	red	88
2021	Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean" 1er	red	89
2021	Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot" 1er	red	90
2021	Santenay "Clos Tavannes" 1er	red	88

I will have more on Caroline L'Estimée's view of the 2021 vintage in Issue 91. With respect to the reds though, she noted that the yields varied enormously, from a low of 24 hl/hl to a high of 40 hl/ha and that she did a normal vinification. The 2021 reds were bottled between August and December 2022. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.beckywasserman.com, Beaune, France; The Source Imports, www.thesourceimports.com, CA, Fine Vines, www.finevines.com, IL, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, TX, Augustan Wine, www.augustanwine.com, FL, M.S. Walker, www.mswalker.com, MA, Wines Unlimited, www.winesunlimited.com, LA, C'est Vin, LLC, 703.243.3559, VA, Little Guy Wine, www.littleguywine.com, MI, The Harvest Wine Company, LLC, nate@harvestwineco.com, CO, Winebow, Inc., www.winebow.com, NJ, all USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, UK; FWines Co Ltd, www.fwines.co.jp, Japan).

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet – Cuvée l'Estimée: Classic ruby color. An attractively fresh and decidedly peppery and earth red berry fruit-suffused nose precedes supple, round and moderately forward middleweight flavors that conclude in a mildly rustic and acceptably persistent finish. This delicious and inviting effort should drink well young if that's your preference. 88/2026+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean": (from Clos St, Jean proper). This is aromatically similar to the Cuvée l'Estimée if slightly more elegant thanks to the presence of a floral top note. The mouthfeel however of the slightly richer medium weight flavors is notably finer while delivering a bit better length on the sneaky long, youthfully austere and lacy finish. Lovely and understated in style. 89/2027+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot": (from Clos Chareau and Grand Clos). A more deeply pitched and slightly riper nose features notes of red cherry, spice, freshly ground pepper and more earth influence. There is better size, weight and richness if not the same refinement to the solidly powerful, more austere and slightly rustic finale. Note that this is firm enough to repay up to a decade of keeping. 90/2028+

2021 Santenay "Clos Tavannes": An exuberantly fresh and bright nose speaks of the overtly pepper-inflected essence of high-toned and airy red berries that exhibit an herbal tea top note. The sleek and beautifully defined, if not especially dense, flavors are delicious though the mildly edgy finish comes up a bit short relative to the Morgeot. This is certainly very pretty though perhaps not quite at its usual fine level of quality this year. 88/2025+

Domaine Michel Gaunoux (Pommard)

2020	➳ Beaune	red	90
2020	➳ Bourgogne	red	88
2020	Corton-Renardes Grand Cru	red	94
2020	➳ Pommard "Arvelets" 1er	red	91
2020	➳ Pommard "Grands Epenots" 1er	red	93
2020	➳ Pommard "Les Rugiens Bas" 1er	red	94
2019	Beaune	red	88
2019	➳ Bourgogne	red	87
2019	Corton-Renardes Grand Cru	red	92
2019	Pommard "Arvelets" 1er	red	89
2019	➳ Pommard "Grands Epenots" 1er	red	91
2019	➳ Pommard "Les Rugiens Bas" 1er	red	92

For two different reasons, appointments in 2022 and 2023 had to be canceled. However, Alexandre Gaunoux brought tasting samples to my office in Meursault where I was able to taste through the domaine's 2020s and 2019s and those notes are below. The domaine was founded in 1875 and has been passed to new generations of the family. Michel Gaunoux took over in the 1950's. When he passed away in 1984, his wife took over, but she has now passed the estate to their two children Anne and Alexandre. The domaine routinely holds vintages back three years after the harvest, allowing them to age under their own control and care before release. (Polaner Selections, www.polanerselections.com, NY, Envoyer Fine Wines, www.envoyerfinewines.com, CA, Passionné de Vin Imports, www.pdvimports.com, CA, all USA; no authorized UK importer).

2020 Bourgogne: Deep ruby color. A distinctly ripe yet still reasonably fresh nose is comprised by notes of plum, black cherry liqueur and warm earth hint. There is excellent mid-palate density to the delicious and vibrant middleweight flavors that possess a caressing yet powerful mouthfeel, all wrapped in a firm, youthfully austere and bitter pit fruit-inflected finale where a touch of warmth slowly emerges. This is a serious Bourgogne that should benefit from at least a few years of keeping, indeed I would strongly recommend at least 3 to 4 years and I suspect that 5 will be closer to what is necessary. 88/2026+

2020 Beaune: (contains some 1er juice from Boucherottes along with 3 other *lieux-dits*). Here too the nose is distinctly ripe with its notes of baked raspberry, poached plum and crushed fennel wisps. The delicious medium-bodied flavors possess a finer though still moderately robust mouthfeel while displaying excellent length on the firm, youthfully austere and mildly warm finale. This is also clearly built-to-age and should amply reward 8 to 10 years of cellaring yet it's not so compact as to prevent it from being enjoyed after 3 to 5 years. 90/2028+

2020 Pommard "Arvelets": The altitude of the vineyard is in evidence because while the black cherry, plum and spice aromas are clearly ripe, there is a cooler character to the nose. The delicious, energetic and attractively textured medium weight flavors exude evident minerality while displaying fine length on the dusty finish that also evidences a mild touch of warmth. Though this youthfully austere effort should repay extended keeping as well, it's not so compact that it couldn't reasonably be enjoyed young. With that said, there is enough potential to reward a decade plus of cellaring. 91/2030+

2020 Pommard "Grands Epenots": (from a large 1.74 ha holding). A ripe yet still reasonably fresh nose has a vaguely kirsch-like quality to it, along with additional notes of spice, earth and poached plum. There is a lovely sense of verve to the dense and serious medium weight plus flavors that flash good power and excellent length on the built-to-age finish where a similar touch of warmth slowly emerges. While this fine effort should be approachable after only 5 to 7 years, it should also easily be capable of repaying 12 to 15 years, perhaps even a bit longer. 93/2032+

2020 Pommard "Les Rugiens Bas": (from a .69 ha parcel). Once again the nose is a combination of ripe yet cool red berry fruit that offers background nuances of spice, dried flowers, especially violet, and a suggestion of exotic tea. There is very good density allied with a lovely sense of underlying tension to the more mineral-suffused flavors that also display focused power on the impressively long, balanced and youthfully austere finale. This is arguably more classic in style than the Epenots and should age accordingly. 94/2035+

2020 Corton-Renardes: (from a .63 ha parcel). Here too there is a vague kirsch-like character to the cool, pure and elegant dark berry fruit, anise and discreet floral wisps. The sleek, intense and delicious medium-bodied flavors possess equally good, focused power and excellent minerality in a decidedly compact, youthfully austere and beautifully long finale. There is a touch of warmth but that shouldn't prevent this from aging effortlessly for basically as long as anyone might care to do so. 94/2035+

2019 Bourgogne: Sweet, ripe and vaguely liqueur-like aromas include those of red and dark cherry, spice and a touch of warm earth. The round, supple and delicious middleweight flavors possess reasonably good vibrancy while offering enough depth and persistence on the mildly warm finish to be interesting. Note that this is already drinking well though with that said, it also possesses the underlying structure to reward 3 to 5 years of keeping if desired. 87/2025+

2019 Beaune: (contains some 1er juice from Boucherottes along with 3 other *lieux-dits*). A ripe but still very pinot-like nose reflects notes of various red berries, anise and a touch of forest floor character. The delicious and finer, but not denser, medium weight flavors possess a caressing texture as well as slightly better depth and persistence on the better-balanced finale. To be sure, here too there is a touch of warmth, but it is slightly less prominent. Note that this too could be enjoyed young. 88/2027+

2019 Pommard "Arvelets": A more reserved aromatic profile grudgingly offers up more complex and slightly cooler, though still notably ripe, red and dark currant, earth and discreet violet-tinged scents. The very supple, indeed surprisingly forward, flavors possess evident minerality that carries over to the bitter pit fruit-inflected finale that is also noticeably warm and here it might be enough to bother some. I like the depth and persistence though the balance isn't the best in the range. Note that like all of these 2019s, this too could easily be enjoyed young if that's your preference. 89/2027+

2019 Pommard "Grands Epenots": (from a large 1.74 ha parcel). Very pretty, even discreetly perfumed, aromas are comprised by notes of red and black cherry, spice and a hint of just turned earth. Here too the mouthfeel of the medium weight flavors is surprisingly supple and very forward though they do tighten up somewhat on the sneaky long finish that also reflects a touch of warmth though here it is more subtle. This too could easily be enjoyed young or held for a decade or more. 91/2029+

2019 Pommard "Les Rugiens Bas": (from a .69 ha parcel). The barest whisper of wood can be found on the slightly cooler array of mostly red berry fruit, plum and exotic tea-scented aromas. Once again, the middleweight flavors are remarkably supple but with more evident tension, minerality and structure on the bitter pit fruit-inflected finale where a trace of warmth gradually emerges. This is more compact than the Grands Epenots and though it's not really austere, this should also repay a decade plus of keeping. 92/2031+

2019 Corton-Renardes: (from a .63 ha parcel). Here the restrained nose is much like that of the Grands Epenots with its discreetly perfumed aromas of mostly cool red berries, spice and soft earth nuances. There is excellent intensity to the delicious and powerful medium weight flavors that also flash evident minerality on the impressively persistent if noticeably warm finale. This lovely effort is presently quite understated and in need of at least a decade of keeping. 92/2031+

Domaine Henri Germain et Fils (Meursault)

2021	**Beaune "Bressandes" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2021	**Bourgogne Côte d'Or**	**red**	**(86-88)**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2021	**Meursault "Clos des Mouches"**	**red**	**(87-90)**
2021	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Gravains" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**

I will have more information about Jean-François Germain's view of the 2021 vintage in Issue 91. However, specifically with respect to the reds, Germain noted that "while the chardonnay was quite clean, there was some sorting necessary for the pinot. Potential alcohols averaged right at 12.5% and we did a careful vinification to avoid extracting any underripe structural elements." Fans of the domaine will note a new wine for 2021, the Savigny Aux Gravains, which is the result of a long-term lease of a .57 ha parcel. (Success Wines, NJ, Milton Road Trading Corp, LLC, www.miltonroadtrading.com, CA, both USA; Adnams, www.adnams.co.uk, Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk Emile Wines Ltd., www.emilewines.co,uk, Tanners Wine, www.tanners-wines.co.uk, UK; Muyi Fine Wines, www.muyiwine.com, China).

2021 Bourgogne Côte d'Or: Light ruby color. A very pinot-like nose of fresh red berries carries a note of cracked pepper that is picked up by the vibrant lighter weight flavors that possess good delineation while delivering reasonably good length on the inviting finish. This refreshing effort should drink well shortly after release. (86-88)/2024+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet: (from Les Battaudes; Germain noted that because the parcel is late to begin its vegetative cycle that there was no frost damage in 2021). Also light ruby hue. Here too there are pepper and earth influences present on the cool and pure red cherry-scented nose. There is fine intensity to the utterly delicious if not especially dense flavors that also display excellent delineation on the mildly rustic and youthfully austere finale that is noticeably firmer. (87-89)/2027+

2021 Meursault "Clos des Mouches": (from a small .53 ha monopole situated near the Volnay border). A slightly deeper ruby adds to the visual appeal. A more deeply pitched and somewhat somber nose speaks of plum, earth and various dark berries. There is a bit more mid-palate density to the vibrant medium-bodied flavors that also conclude in a moderate austere though more finely textured finale. This could be approached young or held for 5 to 8 years first. (87-90)/2027+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Gravains": (from a .57 ha parcel; Germain noted that there was no frost damage as they pruned it very late). A perfumed and very pretty nose reflects notes of plum, dark currant, violet and a touch of earth. There is excellent energy suffusing the beautifully detailed and lightly stony middleweight flavors that also conclude in a moderately austere, sneaky long and balanced finale. As is usually the case with a typical Gravains, this classically styled effort will need at least a few years of cellaring to unwind. (90-92)/2029+

2021 Beaune "Bressandes": This is also extremely pretty with a slightly higher-toned if equally fresh nose of red pinot fruit, rose petal and a hint of crushed anise. The more refined, if slightly less concentrated, flavors are attractively vibrant while the slightly sweet finish is shaped by fine-grained tannins that eventually rounds off into a touch of bitter pit fruit character. (89-91)/2029+

Domaine Jean-Jacques Girard (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2021	➳ Aloxe-Corton	red	89
2021	➳ Beaune "Clos du Roi" 1er	red	91
2021	➳ Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune	red	87
2021	Gevrey-Chambertin	red	88
2021	➳ Pernand-Vergelesses "Aux Vergelesses" 1er	red	92
2021	Pommard Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2021	➳ Pommard "Les Chaponnières" 1er	red	92
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	88
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fourneaux" 1er	red	90
2021	➳ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières" 1er	red	91
2021	➳ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Narbantons" 1er	red	92
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Peuillets" 1er	red	90
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Rouvrettes" 1er	red	89
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Serpentières" 1er	red	90
2021	➳ Volnay Vieilles Vignes	red	89
2021	➳ Volnay "En Chevret" 1er	red	91

Jean-Jacques Girard, who is slowly bowing out of day-to-day operations of this 17 ha domaine in favor of his son Vincent, pragmatically described 2021 as a vintage "where it is just as well that yields were down as much as they were, because otherwise, I'm positive that the fruit would never have adequately ripened. This is to say that we didn't have even one wine that came in over 20 hl/ha, which obviously isn't much compared to the 30 to 40 hl/ha we typically obtain. While there was some minor sorting required, it was nothing particularly out of the ordinary. Potential alcohols came in between 12 and 12.5% so we did a light chaptalization on a few wines. We also vinified with a lighter touch and used no whole clusters. As to the wines, they are entirely classic in style and while not necessarily better, they are indisputably different from what we produced in 2018, 2019 and 2020." I would add that there are some really lovely wines in the Girard portfolio in 2021 and given the prices that they typically sell for in most markets, they offer excellent value. Girard noted that the 2021 reds were bottled in December 2022. He further noted that as was the case in 2020, there is no Fichots in 2021. (Scott Levy Selections, 770.730.0361, GA, Vintage Trading, e-mail vintagetrading@aol.com, NY and Bayfield Imports, www.bayfieldimporting.com, NY, all USA; Charles Taylor Wines, www.charlestaylorwines.com, UK; Vignoble & Millésime, vignoble.millesime@wanadoo.fr, Beaune France).

2021 Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune: A relatively deeply pitched nose in the context of what is typical for the Hautes Côtes reflects notes of plum, violet and earth. The delicious and vibrant middleweight flavors possess both good volume and detail while exuding a subtle minerality on the clean, focused and balanced finale. This is quite good for its level and worth a look. 87/2024+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune: (from a blend of 6 separate *lieux-dits*). A slightly more elegant nose is comprised by notes of red and dark currant, newly turned earth and discreet spice wisps. The super-sleek and beautifully delineated flavors possess better mid-palate density while offering a similar subtle minerality on the chiseled, youthfully austere and sneaky long finish. 88/2026+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Rouvrettes": A more restrained if similar nose grudgingly offers up its array of dark cherry, plum and soft floral scents. There is again excellent definition and intensity to the slightly bigger medium weight flavors that conclude in a youthfully austere and ever-so-mildly rustic finale. 89/2027+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fourneaux": A super-fresh nose is distinctly earthier and more *sauvage* in character with its array of blue pinot fruit, violet and plum scents. There is a lovely texture to the vibrant if not especially dense flavors that display solid depth and length on the youthfully austere and moderately rustic finale. Textbook Fourneaux that should age well over the next decade. 90/2029+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Serpentières": (a mix of chalk and deep clay and not much rock while the exposure is almost due south). A cooler and more elegant nose freely offers up its combination of plum, violet, black cherry and pretty spice nuances. The succulent, supple and rounded medium-bodied flavors possess good verve that carries over to the compact bitter cherry pit-inflected finale. This could use better depth but more should reasonably develop if given a chance. 90/2028+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Narbantons": A perfumed, layered and expressive nose combines notes of anise and forest floor with those of high-toned red berries and lilac. There is both better volume and richness to the slightly more concentrated flavors that flash focused power on the firm, balanced and serious finale. This is excellent with the development potential to match. 92/20231+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Peuillets": (sandy soil with tennis ball size stones). This is also decidedly cool with its elegant and pretty aromas of dark currant, ripe plum and lovely floral elements. The vibrant middleweight flavors are not as concentrated but as is usually the case, they are more refined and particularly so on the beautifully delineated finale that also exudes a touch of bitter pit fruit character. This is finer but it's not more powerful or as complex and should be approachable earlier. 90/2027+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières": Once again there is a distinct coolness to the perfumed nose of various dark berries, crushed star anise and a hint of exotic tea. The vibrant and nicely detailed medium-bodied flavors possess slightly better volume and while there isn't quite the same level of refinement, there is even better minerality and backend complexity on the balanced, sneaky long and youthfully austere finale. Note that this is sufficiently structured to reward up to a decade of keeping. 91/2029+

2021 Beaune "Clos du Roi": A slightly riper nose reflects notes of cool earth, red and dark cherry and a floral top note. The energetic and precise middleweight flavors are not especially dense but do offers a lovely texture on the inviting, succulent and lingering finale. It's relatively rare for a Clos du Roi to compete favorably with a good Lavières but this example does just that. Worth considering and this is a wine that should be approachable young if desired. 91/2027+

2021 Aloxe-Corton: (primarily from Les Combes). An ultra-fresh nose is both earthier and more *sauvage* in character with its aromas of plum, dark berries and a touch of humus. There is both more volume and mid-palate density though not the same refinement to the medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a muscular, powerful, firm, dusty and lingering finish that is less rustic than it usually is. This is quite good for an Aloxe *villages* though one that will need a few years of keeping first. 89/2029+

2021 Volnay Vieilles Vignes: (from Paux Bois). The elevation of this vineyard is in evidence as the distinctly cool nose features airy aromas of red berries, spice and a touch of crushed leaf. There is excellent detail to the precise and intensely mineral-driven flavors that possess a lacy mouthfeel, all wrapped in a firm, youthfully austere and compact finale. Despite the lacy mouthfeel, it's clear that this is going to need at least a few years of patience first. Worth checking out. 89/2028+

2021 Pommard Vieilles Vignes: (from En Brescul). Here too an ultra-fresh nose is distinctly cool with its more deeply pitched nose of dark currant, newly turned earth and licorice wisps. The rich and succulent, even suave, medium-bodied flavors retain good definition on the equally mineral-driven finish that is more austere and compact. This is pretty though the firm finish is presently slightly lean and not quite as inviting as the Volnay, at least not yet. 88/2029+

2021 Volnay "En Chevret": A strikingly pretty nose is once again quite cool and airy with more evident spice elements suffusing the mix of both red and blue pinot fruit. The vibrant and beautifully defined middleweight flavors are notably finer if not quite as mineral-driven on the youthfully austere and lingering finale where a touch of asperity slowly emerges. Note that my rating assumes that the asperity will slowly mitigate as the tannins progressively resolve. 91/2029+

2021 Pommard "Les Chaponnières": This is aromatically quite similar to the En Chevret save for the additions of herbal tea and earth nuances. There is good power and drive to the beautifully delineated medium-bodied flavors that flash a taut muscularity on the chiseled, dusty, compact and sneaky long built-to-age finale. This is quite serious and while excellent, a wine that is going to need extended keeping before it's ready for prime time drinking. 92/2033+

2021 Pernand-Vergelesses "Aux Vergelesses": (from deep, extremely hard soil that has plenty of what the Burgundians call *têtes de moines*, or large round stones that resemble a monk's head). Once again there is a distinct coolness to the airy and perfumed aromas of red cherry, dark currant, discreet earth and an interesting whiff of orange peel. The plump, round and delicious medium weight flavors also possess a taut muscularity while exhibiting fine length on the youthfully austere, firm and impressively long finale. This could use better depth, but the underlying material appears to be more than up to the challenge provided at least a few years of keeping are allowed. 92/2031+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin: (from Champ on the Brochon side). The peculiar kind of reduction known as *bourgeon de cassis* (cassis blossom) presently dominates the underlying fruit. More interesting are the bright and energetic middleweight flavors that are not nearly as dense though they do offer good precision on the youthfully austere and mildly rustic finale. 88/2029+

Maison Vincent Girardin (Meursault)

2021	Beaune "Clos des Aigrots" 1er	red	(89-91)
2021	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2021	Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot" 1er	red	(89-91)
2021	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(89-92)
2021	Corton-Perrières Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2021	Pommard "Les Grand Epenots" 1er	red	(89-92)
2021	Savigny-les-Beaune "Les Marconnets" 1er	red	90
2021	Volnay "Les Champans" 1er	red	(89-91)
2021	Volnay "Les Pitures" 1er	red	(89-92)
2021	➽ Volnay "Les Santenots" 1er	red	(90-93)

Winemaker Eric Germain (who is the brother of Jean-François Germain of Domaine Henri Germain – see above), directs this 32-ha operation that now controls, either by lease or direct ownership, some very prestigious vineyards. Germain commented that "our battle against the frost was actually pretty successful as we lit the warming candles before the snow fell and had adequate supplies to light a second batch. The bad news is that there just isn't any way to protect all our vineyards as we're simply too big for that. But I will certainly take what we were able to save. We then were confronted with a series of cryptogamic diseases that also had us constantly on edge. We began picking with the pinot and harvested from the 18th to the 30th of September and the sorting was genuinely monstrous, in fact for the first time in several vintages we employed our optical sorter. Despite our success in protecting some of our vineyards, total yields for the entire domaine were still off some 70% and I shudder to think what they would have been without the protection. Potential alcohols came in between 12.5 and 12.8% and we touched up nothing, no sugar, no acidity, no anything! I vinified using from zero to 100% whole clusters over a 14-to-18-day cuvaison. I will say though I used more whole clusters for the two Côte de Nuits grand crus compared to the Côte de Beaune wines as the fruit was slightly riper. As to the wines, I'm happy with them and especially so under the circumstances as the 2020 growing season was the toughest we have faced in a long time." (Vineyard Brands, www.vineyardbrands.com, AL, USA; Berkmann Wine Cellars, www.berkmann.co.uk, Thorman Hunt & Co., www.thormanhunt.co.uk, both UK; Sequin & Robillard/Vinifera, www.seguinrobillard.ca and LCBO, www.lcbo.com, both Canada; Kerry Wines, www.kerrywines.com, Altaya Wines, www.altayawines.com, both Hong Kong, Ruby Red Fine Wine, www.rubyred.com.cn, Shanghai, China).

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot": (from Les Fairendes). A fresh if somber nose features notes of pepper and earth that add breadth to the aromas of both red and dark currant. There is excellent volume to the plump and fleshy medium-bodied flavors that conclude in a lingering and mildly rustic finale. (89-91)/2027+

2021 Savigny-les-Beaune "Les Marconnets": A cooler though still ripe nose freely offers up an array of spicy dark cherry, plum and violet scents. The sleeker and nicely concentrated medium weight flavors exude a subtle minerality on the mildly edgy if persistent finale. The supporting tannins seem ripe so I suspect that the edginess is more due to the recent bottling than underripeness and my rating offers the benefit of the doubt. 90/2027+

2021 Beaune "Clos des Aigrots": (from a .75 ha holding). A discreet but not imperceptible dash of wood can be found on the ripe aromas of plum, dark raspberry and crushed anise. The more refined if not quite as concentrated middleweight flavors also flash evident minerality on the nicely detailed, dusty and youthfully austere finale. This velvet-textured effort should repay a few years of keeping yet be approachable young if desired. (89-91)/2026+

2021 Pommard "Les Grand Epenots": There is enough reduction present to push the underlying fruit to the background at present. Otherwise, there is good verve and freshness to the bigger-bodied and richer flavors that exhibit focused power on the dusty, palate coating and moderately austere finale that is appreciably firmer. Some patience suggested. (89-92)/2028+

2021 Volnay "Les Santenots": (mostly from Les Plures and the rest from Santenots Blanc; 50% whole clusters). This also displays enough wood to remark upon, frames the elegant floral-suffused aromas of violet, lilac, black raspberry and discreet spice wisps. There is a bit more energy if not concentration to the utterly delicious and caressing medium weight flavors that exude evident minerality on the more complex youthfully austere finale. Some patience needed here as well. (90-93)/2029+

2021 Volnay "Les Pitures": (from Pitures proper). An attractively layered mix is comprised by notes of red and blue fruit, earth and a similar hint of crushed anise. There is excellent detail and an almost pungent minerality suffusing the refined yet powerful flavors that deliver fine length on the balanced finale. This could however use better depth so a few years of forbearance should be beneficial. (89-92)/2028+

2021 Volnay "Les Champans": (30% whole clusters). Strong notes of wood and reduction render the nose impossible to assess. Otherwise, there is good density to the generously proportioned and suave medium-bodied flavors that possess a seductive texture that contrasts noticeably with the firm and borderline chewy finish. As the description suggests, this is awkward and tough to judge at present. (89-91)/2029+

2021 Corton-Perrières: (20% whole clusters). This is also sufficiently reduced as to make the nose unreadable. On the plus side, there is excellent verve and freshness to the powerful, muscular and solidly concentrated larger-scaled flavors that conclude in a dusty, moderately austere and impressively long finish. This is very Corton in basic character and should age accordingly. (91-94)/2031+

2021 Clos de Vougeot: (only one barrel made). Moderate wood stops short of fighting with the cool aromas of plum, earth and abundance of spice notes. The supple, round and surprisingly pliant middleweight flavors also possess a velvety texture that contrasts with the markedly austere if sneaky long finish. Like several of the wines in the range, this could use better depth though the underlying material appears to be present for that to occur over time. (89-92)/2029+

2021 Charmes-Chambertin: (from Charmes proper; 100% whole cluster vinification). Not surprisingly given the high percentage of whole clusters, the expressive and cool nose of ultra-spice dark berries is markedly floral. The sleek, vibrant and beautifully well-detailed medium-bodied flavors possess a finer mouthfeel before tightening up on the youthfully austere, firm and long finish. This is the most structured wine in the range and it will require at least moderate patience. (91-93)/2033+

Maison Camille Giroud (Beaune)

2021	Beaune "1er" 1er	red	(89-91)
2021	Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune "Au Crêtot"	red	(86-88)
2021	Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2021	➽ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Borniques" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	Chambolle-Musigny "Aux Échanges" 1er	red	(89-91)
2021	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(89-92)
2021	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2021	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2021	Corton-Renardes Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2021	Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Crais"	red	(87-89)
2021	Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaut St. Jacques" 1er	red	(90-92)
2021	Maranges "Le Croix Moines" 1er	red	(90-92)
2021	Marsannay "Les Longeroies"	red	(87-90)
2021	Mercurey	red	(88-90)
2021	Mercurey "Clos Voyens" 1er	red	(89-92)
2021	Morey St. Denis – Clos de Godelles 1er	red	(89-91)
2021	➽ Morey St. Denis "Clos Solon"	red	(89-91)
2021	Pommard "Les Cras"	red	(87-89)
2021	Santenay	red	(88-90)
2021	Santenay "Clos Rousseau" 1er	red	(89-91)
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Clous" 1er	red	(88-91)
2021	➽ Volnay	red	(89-91)
2021	Volnay "Les Lurets" 1er	red	(89-92)
2021	Vosne-Romanée "Les Chalandins"	red	(88-91)

Régisseur Carel Voorhuis explained that 2021 "was a year where is was frankly difficult to keep your morale up as it was just one problem after another. There was obviously the devastating frost, which meant we knew in advance that there wouldn't be much yield, and then to work like hell to save what little was left against seemingly non-stop disease pressure was ultra-challenging. We picked from the 20th of September to the first of October and there was a lot of sorting required, indeed we lost another 10 to 15% just from that process. Yields in pinot were highly variable because while the average was -60%, they ranged from normal to literally zero. By contrast, potential alcohols were good at between 12 and 13% so I chaptalized the wines that came in on the lower end of the range. I used some whole clusters but less than I usually do as it seemed clear that the wines weren't going to need the freshness that typically comes by using a high percentage of stems. In a fashion, I decided to let the wines make themselves because I vinified very lightly though over an extended period figuring that whatever was worth extracting would do so on its own. After we barreled down, I honestly didn't like the wines though I'm not entirely sure whether it was the wines themselves or whether the growing season was so damn difficult that I had trouble reconciling with them! Once the malos were finished though I began to like them better as they offer enough density allied with finesse to be quite interesting. Stylistically, I would compare them to a less floral 2017." (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.beckywasserman.com, Beaune, France; Wilson & Daniels, www.wilsondaniels.com, CA, USA, Fine Vines, www.finevines.com, IL, Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA/NV/AZ/NM, Wines Unlimited, www.winesunlimited.com, LA, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, TX, Augustan Wine, www.augustanwine.com, FL, C'est Vin, LLC, 703.243.3559, VA, Little Guy Wine, www.littleguywine.com, MI, Atlanta Wholesale Wines, www.ndcweb.com, GA, Small Potatoes Wine, www.smallpotatoeswine.com, ID, all USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com and Howard Ripley, www.howardripley.com, both UK; Racines, www.racines-japan.com and Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.co.jp, both Japan; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com/hk, Hong Kong; Le Maître de Chai, www.lemaitredechai.qc.ca, Canada).

2021 Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune "Au Crêtot": A fresh and very pinot-like nose leads to bright, racy and delicious flavors that exude a discreet and refreshing salinity on the clean and sneaky long finish. To enjoy young. (86-88)/2024+

2021 Mercurey: (from En Garnerot). A markedly earthier nose features a touch of forest floor character on the mostly dark berry scents. I like the texture of the solidly concentrated middleweight flavors that possess much better complexity on the youthfully austere and moderately rustic finale. This is a quality Mercurey *villages* that is worth considering. (88-90)/2026+

2021 Mercurey "Clos Voyens": A slightly more elegant and riper nose offers up notes of plum, dark cherry and newly turned earth. Here too the medium weight flavors possess an appealing texture that is at once caressing but punchy, all wrapped in a lingering, complex and balanced finish that is a bit less rustic. This too is quite good. (89-92)/2028+

2021 Santenay: (from Les Bras and Les Saunières). Cool, pretty and pure aromas are comprised by notes of earth, violet, red and dark currant plus a mentholated top note. There is a lovely sense of underlying tension suffusing the solidly concentrated middleweight flavors that display focused power on the firm, youthfully austere and bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. (88-90)/2028+

2021 Santenay "Clos Rousseau": Moderate reduction renders the nose impossible to fairly assess though there is good verve and freshness to the more refined if not denser medium weight flavors that exude a bracing salinity on the moderately austere bitter pit fruit-inflected and slightly firmer finish. This could use better depth and should benefit from up to a decade of keeping even if it should be approachable after only 3 to 4 years of keeping. (89-91)/2029+

2021 Maranges "Le Croix Moines": Soft wood sets off cool but ripe aromas of plum, wild dark currant and a pretty floral top note. The suave and seductive medium-bodied flavors possess unusually good density in the context of the vintage before concluding in a fleshy, sappy and firm though not especially austere finale. This is quite good and worth a look. (90-92)/2029+

2021 Volnay: (from the *villages* portions of Les Grands Champs and Les Lurets). A cool and restrained nose grudgingly gives up its aromas of violet, spiced plum and discreet green tea hints. The super-sleek and beautifully delineated middleweight flavors exude an almost palpable minerality that gives a sense of lift to the compact, firm and lingering finale. This is a quality Volnay *villages* that is also worth considering provided that you intend to cellar it for at least a few years first. (89-91)/2028+

2021 Volnay "Les Lurets": This is aromatically similar to the Volnay *villages* if perhaps just a bit more floral in character. The equally sleek, intense and delicious medium weight flavors offer equally good minerality on the compact, tautly muscular and while not exactly rustic finale, it would be fair to describe the supporting tannins as not especially refined. Even so, this is quite good in its fashion and should repay up to a decade of keeping. (89-92)/2029+

2021 Pommard "Les Cras": Herbal tea nuances can be found on the cool and earth red berry scents. The delicious and attractively vibrant if not especially dense flavors possess excellent detail on the firm, youthfully austere and sneaky long finish that isn't exactly lean but it's certainly not seductive. (87-89)/2028+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Clous": Background hints of wood influence easily allow the aromas of plum, violet and forest floor to shine. Once again the texture of the medium weight flavors is super-sleek while offering excellent intensity on the lightly stony if ever-so-mildly lean finale. This will clearly need a few years and may well add flesh with time in bottle. (88-91)/2029+

2021 Beaune "1er": (from Les Cras and Les Avaux). An ultra-fresh nose freely expresses its aromas of lilac, red cherry and green tea wisps. There is slightly better density to the medium weight flavors that also conclude in a youthfully austere and persistent but not really lean finale. This too should add weight and flesh with a few years of cellaring. (89-91)/2029+

2021 Corton-Renardes: A cool and distinctly restrained nose only grudgingly reveals its aromas of earth, the *sauvage*, wild cherry and a whiff of forest floor character. The super-sleek and almost painfully intense larger-bodied flavors exude a bracing minerality on the powerful, serious and markedly firm finale. This is old school and very Corton in style but not especially rustic. Patience strongly advised. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Marsannay "Les Longeroies": (from both Bas and Hauts). Appealingly spicy and softly floral-suffused aromas include those of red and dark fruit, especially plum. I very much like the texture of the middleweight flavors that possess both good volume and punch while displaying solid length on the moderately austere finish where a touch of asperity slowly becomes apparent. This may smooth out with age as the tannins resolve though that isn't a given. (87-90)/2028+

2021 Morey St. Denis "Clos Solon": A pretty, cool and airy nose combines notes of red and dark raspberry with those of spiced plum and a soupçon of earth. The lilting and highly energetic if not particularly dense flavors are shaped by relatively fine-grained tannins on the dusty, youthfully austere, nicely complex and sneaky long finale. This is a lovely Morey *villages* that will need at least a few years of keeping first but should drink well on the younger side if desired. (89-91)/2028+

2021 Morey St. Denis – Clos de Godelles: (from the 1er portion of Le Village). A more elegant, even perfumed, nose freely offers up its equally cool aromas of essence of red pinot fruit that are laced with hints of spice, earth and floral elements. The succulent, even juicy, medium weight flavors possess a bit more mid-palate density while exhibiting very good punch on the lightly stony finish that isn't necessarily more complex or longer than that of the Clos Solon. (89-91)/2028+

2021 Vosne-Romanée "Les Chalandins": (from the Flagey side of the vineyard). A spicier nose is composed by notes of exotic tea, violet and black cherry. The rich and generously proportioned medium-bodied flavors also possess a really lovely texture the carries over to the youthfully austere and nicely long finale. This is certainly quite pretty and very Vosne in character though it needs to add depth, which is may well do if allowed a few years of bottle aging. (88-91)/2028+

2021 Chambolle-Musigny "Aux Échanges": (from the 1er portion of the vineyard). Firm reduction presently dominates the nose though there is excellent verve to the cool and bright middleweight flavors that possess both good density and a subtle bead of minerality that is especially evident on the youthfully austere and reasonably long finale. This is also very pretty though a wine that would also benefit from having better depth. (89-91)/2029+

2021 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Borniques": This is also firmly reduced and difficult to read aromatically. Otherwise, there is excellent mid-palate density in the context of the vintage to the solidly powerful medium weight flavors that flash equally good minerality on the austere, firm and built-to-age finale. This too needs more depth but everything appears to be present for that to occur over time. (90-93)/2031+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Crais": An ultra-fresh nose combines notes of mostly red berries and forest floor with smoked game hints. Once again the mouthfeel of the middleweight flavors is quite sleek thanks to the fine-grained tannins that also shape the delicious, dusty and mildly austere finale. This isn't especially dense but it's certainly pretty. (87-89)/2027+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaut St. Jacques": A more floral-suffused nose reflects plenty of *sauvage* character along with newly turned earth and wild dark berries. There is notably more volume, power, muscle and minerality to the bigger-bodied flavors that possess a moderately refined texture before concluding in a markedly firm and built-to-age finale. As is almost always true of a classic LSJ, this will definitely require at least some patience as it's quite tightly wound at present. (90-92)/2033+

2021 Clos de la Roche: There is a touch of kirsch character present on the overtly spicy and floral-suffused nose of red and dark cherry, tea and earth. There is even better volume and mid-palate density to the solidly powerful and muscular larger-scaled flavors that possess excellent length on the markedly austere, compact and balanced finale. Patience required. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Clos de Vougeot: (from Petit Maupertui). Firm reduction overshadows the underlying fruit. More interesting are the delicious and intense middleweight flavors that aren't as dense though they are more chiseled on the sneaky long, moderately austere and equally firm finish that could use better depth. (90-93)/2033+

2021 Charmes-Chambertin: (from Charmes proper). Here too firm reduction flattens the nose. The notably more refined, though no denser, medium weight flavors possess a lovely sense of verve before culminating in lingering and moderately austere if slightly lean finish. This will probably add weight with time in bottle though it's not clear that the leanness will necessarily age out. (89-92)/2031+

2021 Chambertin: An exuberantly floral-inflected nose reflects additional notes of wild dark currant, the *sauvage* and cool spice nuances. There is better mid-palate density to the beautifully textured and notably more mineral-driven flavors that exhibit outstanding delineation on the moderately austere, compact and built-to-age finale. Like almost any self-respecting examples of Chambertin, I would recommend not touching this until at least a decade has passed. (91-94)/2033+

Domaine Georges Glantenay (Volnay)

2021	Bourgogne Pinot Noir "Maison Dieu"	red	86
2021	➽ Chambolle-Musigny	red	(89-91)
2021	➽ Chambolle-Musigny "Feusselottes" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	Pommard	red	(88-91)
2021	Pommard "Les Combes Dessus" 1er	red	(89-92)
2021	Pommard "Les Rugiens Hauts" 1er	red	(90-92)
2021	Volnay	red	(87-89)
2021	Volnay Vieilles Vignes	red	(88-91)
2021	Volnay "Les Brouillards" 1er	red	(90-92)
2021	Volnay "Robardelle" 1er	red	(89-92)
2021	Volnay "Le Ronceret" 1er	red	(89-92)
2021	Volnay "Les Santenots" 1er	red	(90-92)

The young Guillaume Glantenay, and his sister Sarah, told me that 2021 was "an exceptionally difficult yet in the end, satisfying vintage for us. Between the frost and the disease pressure, we basically scrambled from April until the end of September as there never seemed to be any down time. We obviously have a lot of vines in Volnay and the bottom of the commune, where it's wet, had a lot of botrytis even though we did our best to protect the foliage. We picked from the 15th of September and it was important to sort very carefully to avoid any off aromas and flavors. Even so, during the vinifications we constantly tasted, tasted and tasted some more to be absolutely certain that nothing off was developing. To this end, we vinified quite softly but over a longer period of time. The colors were really slow to appear and eventually they did and before we barreled down, we did a very long lees settling, again to be absolutely certain that we were going into barrel as clean as we possibly could. The big problem with the vintage isn't the quality but rather the complete lack of volume. Overall we were down fully 50% in red as our pinot yields ranged from 17 to 30 hl/ha while they were off even more in chardonnay, which is to say -75%. Potential alcohols were really pretty good at between 12 to 13% for the pinot and 12.5 to 13% for the chardonnay. We didn't change anything for the *élevage* other than using a bit more new wood simply because the volumes were off so much. As to the wines, they were slow to come around but now that they've taken shape, it seems clear to us anyway that they should age well for years because they have the balance to do so." Note that the 2021s will be bottled without fining or filtration. Lastly, fans of the domaine will notice a new wine in the premier cru portion of Volnay "Robardelle" as an old lease finally ran its course and has reverted to the domaine. (Vins Rare, www.vinsrare.com, CA, Misa Imports, www.misaimports.com, TX, World Wine Source/Russell Herman, 908/771.9082, NJ, all USA; Liberty Wines, www.libertywine.co.uk, Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com, both UK; SAQ, www.saq.com, Montreal and Newfoundland Labrador Liquor Corporation, www.nlliquor.com, both Canada).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir "Maison Dieu": Cool and airy aromas include those of raspberry, cherry and discreet earth nuances that are picked up by the attractively energetic and delineated flavors that conclude in a chiseled and lightly austere finale. This is built on its fruit and should drink accordingly after 1 to 2 years of aging. 86/2024+

2021 Volnay: (from 9 parcels that total 1.79 ha with vines that range in age from 15 to 60+ years of age). A touch of herbal tea character is present on the bright aromas of red currant, cherry and crushed anise. There is again excellent intensity to the slightly bigger and richer middleweight flavors that exhibit fine length on the youthfully austere, chalky and bitter pit fruit-inflected finale. This isn't lean but neither is it seductive while offering fine cut and punch. (87-89)/2027+

2021 Volnay Vieilles Vignes: (from vines of at least 60 to as old as 92 years of age located in Les Buttes, La Gigotte, Les Combes and Petits Gamets). A more deeply colored robe is followed by a slightly riper array of plum, black cherry and a similar hint of crushed anise. There is better density to the precise, intense and richer medium weight flavors that possess a polished mouthfeel before terminating in a bitter cherry and lightly austere finish that offers better depth and persistence. (88-91)/2029+

2021 Pommard: (from vines in Les Riottes, Le Poisot and Les Cras). A more floral-suffused nose reflects notes of both red and black cherry. Once again the middleweight flavors possess a sleek mouthfeel along with lovely delineation that carries over to the clean, bright, inviting and sneaky long finale. Note that this well-made effort is sufficiently firmly structured to repay up to a decade of keeping. (88-91)/2029+

2021 Volnay "Le Ronceret": (from a .40 ha holding). One of the hallmark elements of a classic Ronceret is its tendency to have plenty of floral elements on the nose and that is exactly what you will find on the very fresh aromas of plum and red and dark currant scents. The tension-filled and utterly delicious medium-bodied flavors conclude in a chiseled and slightly chalky finish that also displays a touch of bitter pit fruit character. At least some patience should be beneficial. (89-92)/2029+

2021 Volnay "Robardelle": (from a .36 ha holding; 2021 is the first vintage). A discreet application of wood can be found on the aromas of cool dark cherry and raspberry that are laced with pretty spice wisps. There is very good richness to the generous and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that possess good persistence. This offers a completely different expression compared to the Ronceret as this is seductive and rich if notably less precise and chiseled. A qualitative choice. (89-92)/2028+

2021 Volnay "Les Brouillards": (from a 1.10 ha holding). Pretty aromas of kirsch and cool black cherries are also trimmed in just enough wood to notice. Exuberantly energetic middleweight flavors exude an almost pungent minerality on the firm, precise and balanced finish. This mildly austere effort isn't super-dense but I very much like the delivery. (90-92)/2031+

2021 Volnay "Les Santenots": (from a .40 ha holding in Santenots du Milieu). Ripe yet decidedly cool aromas include those of violet, plum and both red and black cherry. There is a bit more size, weight and powerful to the denser medium-bodied flavors that are also rich, generous and sappy while exhibiting fine length on the markedly austere, compact and built-to-age finale. As with any competent example of Santenots, at least some patience will be necessary here. (90-92)/2033+

2021 Pommard "Les Combes Dessus": This is ripe enough to have a touch of cassis lurking in the background of the layered aromas of plum, violet and newly turned earth. The generous and rich medium weight flavors manage to retain good precision on the youthfully austere and tension-filled finish that isn't refined though it is less rustic than usual. While this should be able to repay up to a decade of keeping, it should also be reasonably approachable after only 5-ish or so years. (89-92)/2029+

2021 Pommard "Les Rugiens Hauts": (from a .22 ha holding). Once again a discreet dollop of wood sets off the elegant and super-fresh essence of various red berries, soft spice, earth and a floral top note. The wonderfully refined and polished yet decidedly powerful and tautly muscular flavors exude evident minerality on the focused, long and markedly austere finale. This is compact and very tightly wound at present and I would recommend not touching a bottle for at least 5 years. (90-92)/2031+

2021 Chambolle-Musigny: (from Les Condemennes, Creux Baissants and Les Fremiers). Hints of green tea and fennel are present on the aromas of red cherry and rose petal. There is very good volume to the relatively rich and generously proportioned flavors where the abundant sap both coats the palate and buffers the moderately firm tannic spine shaping the sneaky long, dusty and youthfully austere finale. This is a very good Chambolle *villages* and worth a look. (89-91)/2028+

2021 Chambolle-Musigny "Feusselottes": (from Feusselottes proper). A wonderfully elegant and slightly riper nose remains cool and pure with its markedly floral aromas of essence of red pinot, spice and kirsch. The strikingly fine, even lacy and delicate, middleweight flavors possess solid mid-palate volume while exhibiting even better length on the bitter pit fruit-inflected finale where a touch of wood slowly emerges. Textbook Feusselottes. (90-93)/2031+

Domaine A.-F. Gros (Pommard/Beaune)

2021	**Beaune "Boucherottes" 1er**	**red**	**NR**
2021	**Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits**	**red**	**(86-88)**
2021	**Bourgogne Pinot Noir**	**red**	**NR**
2021	**Chambolle-Musigny**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2021	**Echézeaux Grand Cru**	**red**	**(91-94)**
2021	**➽ Pommard "Les Arvelets" 1er**	**red**	**(90-93)**

2021	**Pommard "Les Pézerolles" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2021	**Richebourg Grand Cru**	**red**	**(92-95)**
2021	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "Clos des Guettes" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2021	**Vosne-Romanée "Les Chalandins"**	**red**	**NR**
2021	**➽ Vosne-Romanée "Aux Réas"**	**red**	**(89-92)**

Mathias Parent, who with his sister Caroline, directs this 16 ha domaine and makes the wine for the three family labels of Anne-Françoise Gros reviewed here plus those of François Parent and his own eponymous operation of Mathias Parent. There are momentous changes to the domaine's holdings that will be effective with the 2022 vintage as the final distributions from Domaine Gros Frère et Soeur have been received. While they have lost the Vosne "La Fontaine", they have added .53 ha of Echézeaux Loächausses to their holding of .26 ha in Champs Traversin, and .54 ha of Clos de Vougeot, which is divided between 2/3 in the *climat* of Musigni and 1/3 of Garenne. As to the 2021 vintage, Parent described it as "one that had an exceptionally difficult growing season in the Côte and even worse in the Hautes Côtes as the oidium was so bad that we literally could not stop it. We picked from the 20th to the 27th of September, and we lost so much crop that it's our smallest ever. Specifically, losses were between 50 and 60% plus another 10% due to sorting losses plus in the Hautes Côtes as we lost between 70 and 80%! However, on the plus side, potential alcohols were actually pretty good as they averaged right at 12.5%. I used between 20 and 50% of whole clusters in the vinifications. As to the wines, even though they were perfectly good, I confess that I really didn't like them at first. It was only after the malos completed that I began to appreciate them for their energy and transparency to the underlying terroir." I can understand why Parent had trouble appreciating his wines early on as some of the wines were still in malo, or had so recently finished them that they were strongly reduced. (M.S. Walker, www.mswalker.com, NY/NJ, Great Lakes Wine & Spirits, www.glwas.com, MI, Vin Sauvage, www.vinsauvage.com, NV, Premier Beverage Co., www.breakthrubev.com/Florida, FL, Advintage Distributing, www.advintagedistributing.com, SC, USA; John Armit Wines, www.armit.co.uk, L'Assemblage, www.lassemblage.co.uk, Bancroft Wines, www.bancroftwines.com, Colombier Wines, www.colombiervinsfins.co.uk, Goedhuis & Co., www.goedhuis.com, Frazier's Wine Merchants, www.frazierswine.co.uk, Four Walls Wine Co., www.fourwallswine.com, Hedonism Wines, www.hedonism.co.uk, Laytons, www.laytons.co.uk, Nickolls and Perks, www.nickollsandperks.co.uk, Neill Wines, www.neillwine.com, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Waitrose Cellar, www.waitrosecellar.com and Awin Barratt Siegel Wine Agencies, www.abswineagencies.co.uk, all UK).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: (from 3 parcels in Pommard). This was still finishing its malolactic fermentation and while there appears to be an attractively sleek texture, this is not in a condition to be assessed. Not Rated.

2021 Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits: (made with no added sulfites). This was also firmly reduced aromatically though there is good freshness and punch on the bitter pit fruit-inflected and slightly difficult finish. This is awkward but I see no reason why it shouldn't harmonize once its racked and my predicted range offers the benefit of doubt. (86-88)/2024+

2021 Chambolle-Musigny: (from 4 separate *lieux-dits* that include Derrière le Four, Les Athets, Fremières and Pas de Chat). Parent indicated that this was vinified with 30% whole clusters. Firm reduction once again renders the nose unreadable at present. There is excellent detail and a subtle minerality to the medium weight flavors that conclude in a dusty, youthfully austere and sneaky long finish. This could use better depth, but more should reasonably develop. (87-89)/2026+

2021 Vosne-Romanée "Les Chalandins": (from the Flagey side of the vineyard). Here too the malo had not yet finished. I will observe that there was both good cut and punch so this should come together once it's racked. Not Rated

2021 Vosne-Romanée "Aux Réas": Reduction once again dominates the fruit though wisps of spice do peek through the funk. More interesting are the solidly concentrated and vibrant middleweight flavors that flash evident minerality on the compact and impressively long finale. This is always one of the best wines in the Gros range and this should be no exception. (89-92)/2029+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Clos des Guettes": (30% whole clusters). Here the pretty nose is quite pure and clean with its notably spicy and floral-suffused aromas of plum, dark berries and prominent earth nuances. The sleek, delicious and punchy medium weight flavors also flash evident minerality on the equally compact, firm and lingering finish. As is usually the case with Guettes when it's young, it could use better depth but more consistently develops with bottle aging. (90-92)/2029+

2021 Beaune "Boucherottes": The malo was not finished and while the palate impression is attractive and promising, this wasn't in the proper condition to be assessed. Not Rated

2021 Pommard "Les Pézerolles": (50% whole clusters). An exuberantly floral-suffused nose of discreetly spicy and ultra-fresh cool red currant aromas precede the seductively textured, refined and energetic medium weight flavors that display fine delineation on the lightly stony, dusty and balanced finale. This is pretty much textbook Pézerolles. (90-92)/2029+

2021 Pommard "Les Arvelets": (50% whole clusters). This is also exuberantly floral with its even cooler and airier nose of essence of red cherry, raspberry and herbal tea. The gorgeously sleek and punchy and almost delicate flavors are so mineral that they're like rolling a small pebble around the mouth before culminating in a youthfully austere, dusty and balanced finale that offers just a bit more persistence. (90-93)/2029+

2021 Echézeaux: (from a .26 ha parcel of vines planted in 1931 in the *climat* Champs Traversin, which is occasionally referred to as Le Petit Cîteaux; 50% whole clusters). Once again there is plenty of floral influence to the even spicier aromas of exotic Asian style tea to the slightly riper red and dark berry fruit aromas. The supple and relatively rounded medium-bodied flavors possess better volume and solid punch on the more powerful if less mineral-driven finish. This could also use better depth but there should be no problem with more developing over time. (91-94)/2031+

2021 Richebourg: (the vines have been replanted 3 times and they are now 15+, 25+ and 70+ years of age). Once again there is a plethora of floral elements adding elegance to the nose of cool and restrained aromas that also include an exotic tea component. There is a bit more size, weight and volume to the more powerful, and more mineral-inflected, larger-scaled flavors that terminate in a serious, youthfully austere and built-to-age finale. This is a classically styled Richebourg of robust power and punch. (92-95)/2033+

Domaine Antonin Guyon (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2021	Aloxe-Corton "Les Fournières" 1er	red	(89-92)
2021	➽ Aloxe-Corton "Les Vercots" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits	red	86
2021	➽ Chambolle-Musigny "Clos du Village"	red	(89-92)
2021	➽ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Cras"	red	(89-91)
2021	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(89-92)
2021	Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Champs Longs"	red	87
2021	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2021	Corton-Clos du Roy Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2021	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin "Carougeot"	red	(89-92)
2021	Gevrey-Chambertin "La Justice"	red	(88-91)
2021	Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses" 1er	red	(90-92)
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Goudelettes"	red	(87-89)
2021	➽ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	(91-93)

This large 48 ha domaine is directed by Dominique Guyon and his *maître de chai* Vincent Nicot. The domaine is justifiably proud of being certified organic and not surprisingly, they believe that this is giving them better quality fruit. As to the 2021 vintage they noted that "we started picking on the 22nd of September and brought in mostly clean fruit that didn't need too much sorting though it's important to point out that it was highly variable. The bigger problem of course is that there wasn't much yield in either color. For example, we were off fully 75% in red and -80% in white. Potential alcohols were, by contrast, good at between 12 and 13% so only light chaptalizing was necessary. We chose to do a relatively light vinification to be sure to minimize the extraction of any underripe elements. Before the malolactic fermentations finished, the wines were frankly not easy to assess because they seemed a bit thin and overly acidic. However, once the malos finished, the wines added both flesh and balance while preserving a lovely tension and terroir transparency. Plus, they're already a pleasure to drink thanks to this energy." Note that the Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes and the two Pernand 1ers of Les Fichots and Les Vergelesses are sold under the label of Domaine Dominique Guyon. Also, the Beaune "Chaumes Gaufriot" was not presented. Lastly, all of the wines with the exception of the Hautes Côtes (Diam) are bottled under natural cork. (Down to Earth Wines, https://downtoearthwines.net, USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com, Raeburn Fine Wines, www.raeburnfinewines.com, all UK; Wineinvein, https://www.wineinvein.com, Vinotheket, https://vinotheket.dk, both Denmark; BVBA Boutelegier, https://www.boutelegier.be, Belgium; Direct Domaine Distribution, https://direct-domaines-distribution.com, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.co.jp, both Japan).

2021 Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits: An attractively fresh nose features notes of red currant, cherry and a suggestion of forest floor. There is good detail to the lighter weight and delicious flavors that exude a refreshing salinity on the mildly austere, clean and dry-in-the-best sense finish. 86/2024+

2021 Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Champs Longs": An equally fresh though more deeply pitched nose offers up an array of plum, earth and a hint of the *sauvage*. I like the texture of the rich, even suave, middleweight flavors that possess good punch that carries over to the mildly rustic, dusty and austere finale. This should benefit from a few years of keeping. 87/2026+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Goudelettes": An agreeably subtle application of wood frames the airy and pretty cool red berry aromas that are trimmed in evident earth and humus nuances. There is good detail and a lovely sense of energy to the overtly mineral-inflected flavors that aren't particularly dense, all wrapped in a focused and moderately compact finish. This could use better depth so a few years of keeping should be beneficial. (87-89)/2027+

2021 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses": (sold under the label of Domaine Dominique Guyon). A slightly more prominent dose of wood is present on the slightly riper nose of fresh essence of plum, earth and a whiff of the *sauvage*. There is more volume to the appealingly textured to the tautly muscled medium-bodied flavors that also exude a subtle minerality on the serious, firm and compact finale. (90-92)/2029+

2021 Chambolle-Musigny "Clos du Village": (a monopole measuring .50 ha). Notes of wood and menthol can be found on the cool and pretty aromas of herbal tea, dark pinot fruit and a touch of crushed anise. The energetic, lilting and beautifully well-detailed flavors exude evident minerality on the youthfully austere finale that delivers excellent length on the delicious finish where the only nit is a hint of warmth. This is quite good and worth considering. (89-92)/2027+

2021 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Cras": (from the *villages* portion of the vineyard). This is aromatically similar to the Clos du Village except it's slightly spicier. The natural refinement of a quality Chambolle *villages* is present on the more mineral-driven flavors that possess a bit more volume if not quite the same persistence on the balanced finale. (89-91)/2027+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin "La Justice": Moderate wood influence stops short of overshadowing the cool and pure red and dark currant aromas that possess background hints of spice and earth characters. The super-sleek and intense if not especially dense middleweight flavors that are a combination of refinement and punch, all wrapped in a moderately austere and sneaky long finale. Like a few wines in the range, this could use better depth so some cellaring should help. (88-91)/2028+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin "Carougeot": Here too there is enough wood influence to merit pointing out on the earthy and more *sauvage*-inflected dark currant-scented nose. There is more volume and richness to the acceptably dense medium weight flavors that offer even better depth and persistence on the lingering finish that is more refined than usual. (89-92)/2031+

2021 Charmes-Chambertin: (from a tiny .085 ha parcel in Charmes proper which is enough in most vintages for only 1 barrel). Once again, the wood and menthol influence isn't subtle though neither does it mask the cool aromas of various dark berries, newly turned earth and forest floor wisps. The succulent, round and utterly delicious middleweight flavors possess good if not excellent intensity before terminating in a youthfully austere focused and moderately firm finale that could also use better depth. Note that while this should easily repay a decade plus of keeping, it could be enjoyed after only 5-ish or so years. (89-92)/2031+

2021 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": (from a .87 ha parcel that abuts Taillepieds). A cooler and airier mix is comprised by notes of plum, red and dark currant that are trimmed in noticeable wood and menthol influences. The medium-bodied and vibrant flavors possess a positively gorgeous mouthfeel along with both good richness and minerality while delivering impressive power on the palate staining finish. The wood treatment aside, this is a classic Clos des Chênes. (91-93)/2033+

2021 Aloxe-Corton "Les Fournières": (from rocky, flinty soil that drains extremely well). The wood and menthol influence is again prominent if not dominant on the nose of mostly purple fruit, earth and moderate *sauvage* character. The delicious and attractively tension-filled flavors are not particularly concentrated though they are both supple and succulent, all wrapped in a balanced and youthfully austere finish. This appealing effort would benefit from developing more depth, which should be possible if held for a few years first. (89-92)/2029+

2021 Aloxe-Corton "Les Vercots": (from deeper soil with high clay content). A slightly more deeply pitched nose freely reveals even earthier aromas of the *sauvage*, plum and more moderate wood influence. As is usually the case, there is slightly better density to the richer and more powerful if more rustic and robust flavors conclude in a built-to-age, serious, youthfully austere and very Aloxe finish. Some patience will absolutely be required as this is classic Vercots. (90-93)/2033+

2021 Corton-Bressandes: A more elegant and nicely layered nose reflects its aromas of both red and dark berries, especially black cherry, along with spice and wood nuances. The plump, round and more sophisticated medium weight flavors possess good if not excellent mid-palate density while displaying fine length on the balanced, firm and youthfully austere finale. This is pretty much textbook Bressandes in its mix of power and refinement. (91-93)/2033+

2021 Corton-Clos du Roy: This is aromatically similar to the Bressandes though as is typically the case, there are more spice elements in play along with a variety of floral nuances. There is also a bit more mid-palate density to the vibrant and tautly muscular flavors that flash good minerality on the balanced, long and mildly austere finale. This too is a lovely combination of refinement and power. (92-94)/2033+

Maison Harbour (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2021	**Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru**	**red**	**(90-93)**
2021	**Corton Grand Cru**	**red**	**(90-93)**
2021	**Côte de Nuits-Villages "Les Préau"**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2021	**➽ Gevrey-Chambertin "La Justice"**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2021	**➽ Pommard "Les Lambots"**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2021	**Pommard "En Mareau"**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2021	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "La Dominode" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**

A young Canadian/American couple, Colleen and Nicholas Harbour, started a small *négociant* operation from their digs in Savigny, which they are slowly expanding to accommodate more equipment. Their first vintage was in 2013 and they only buy fruit for their reds, which means that they vinify everything. Conversely, it depends on sources and quality for their whites (which will be reviewed in Issue 91). As to the 2021 vintage, Nicholas succinctly noted that "volumes were down about 10% but only because we added several wines. Unfortunately, prices were up substantially so the cost of our raw materials is becoming ever more problematic in trying to offer a top-quality product at a reasonable price. On the plus side, we've established a sufficiently good reputation with most of our suppliers that we have more flexibility in terms of establishing our own picking dates. This has the added benefit of allowing us to do our own sorting which, to put it politely, it's clear that we're more rigorous in this regard. We didn't use any whole clusters in the vinification, which we chose to do using a lighter touch. We like this vintage a lot for its energy but also because the terroirs that we've chosen to work with are wonderfully transparent." (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.beckywasserman.com and Diva Beaune, www.divawine.com, both Beaune, France; Vino Veritas Ltd., Brookfield, WI, Advintage, www.advintagedistributing.com, Raleigh, North Carolina, MS Walker, www.mswalker.com, New York, New York, Passionné de Vin Imports, www.pdvimports.com, Petaluma, CA; Consulon LLC, www.consulon.com, Newberg, OR, all USA; The Sampler Wine Merchant, www.thesampler.co.uk, London, The Social Wine Co., www.thewinesocial.co.uk, London, both United Kingdom; Burgundian Imports, www.burgundianimports.com, Nova Scotia, Canada; Wein am Limit, www.weinamlimit.de, Hamburg, Germany; Ybenets Wine AB, Nacka, Sweden; Vinomani ApS, www.vinomani.dk, Dragoer, Denmark; Vininor AS, www.vininor.no, Oslo, Norway; DP Trade, www.wine-dp-trade.ru, Moscow, Russia).

2021 Côte de Nuits-Villages "Les Préau": (from Brochon fruit). A very pretty and fresh red berry fruit nose is nuanced by cool earth and a hint of underbrush. The succulent, delicious and nicely vibrant middleweight flavors possess good balance in the youthfully austere and mildly rustic finish. This could be aged for a few years or enjoyed young for its fruit. (87-89)/2026+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "La Dominode": A slightly more deeply pitched and markedly spicier nose reflects notes of plum and dark currant. There is a notably finer texture to the succulent but punchy medium-bodied flavors that flash both good detail and minerality on the equally austere but more persistent finish. Lovely and understated in style. (90-92)/2028+

2021 Pommard "En Mareau": There is a touch of herbal tea character to the airy and decidedly cool nose of essence of red cherry and suggestions of rose petal and earth. The lilting and beautifully detailed flavors exude evident minerality on the rich, dusty, sappy and lingering finale. This is actually surprisingly ripe in the context of a cool vintage. (88-91)/2027+

2021 Pommard "Les Lambots": This is quite similar to the En Mareau with perhaps just a bit more earth influence. The exquisitely detailed and stony middleweight flavors are shaped by remarkably fine-grained tannins on the dusty, austere and lingering finale that offers just a bit more complexity. This is also lovely and worth considering. (89-91)/2028+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin "La Justice": This is the first wine to display any appreciable wood and even here it's admirably subtle on the cool and airy aromas of red cherry, forest floor and smoky *sauvage* hints. The utterly delicious and vibrant medium weight flavors are suave and seductive, all wrapped in a lingering and balanced finale. As is often the case with La Justice, this is extremely pretty but could use better depth and my projected range offers the benefit of the doubt that more will develop if it's cellared for a few years first. (89-91)/2027+

2021 Corton: Quite lightly hued. Exuberant aromas include those of various red berries and a plethora of floral elements, especially rose petal and violet. The ultra-refined but quite punchy medium-bodied flavors possess better volume and power than the color would suggest while delivering focused power and excellent persistence on the youthfully austere finale. This does though need to develop better depth though that should reasonably occur if allowed a few years of cellaring. (90-93)/2029+

2021 Charmes-Chambertin: (from Charmes proper). This is also really quite pretty with its combination of cool essence of red cherry, wild strawberry and herbal tea that is nuanced by hints of forest floor, earth and a whisper of the *sauvage*. I very much like the energy and texture of the medium-bodied flavors that conclude in a moderately austere if sneaky long finale that is sufficiently structured to repay a decade or so of keeping. This could use better depth though this too should reasonably do so if given a chance. (90-93)/2031+

Armand Heitz (Chaudenay)

2021	**Bourgogne Pinot Noir**	**red**	**86**
2021	**Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru**	**red**	**88**
2021	**Gevrey-Chambertin**	**red**	**87**
2021	**Juliénas "La Combe Vineuse"**	**red**	**87**
2021	**Morey St. Denis "Monts Luisants" 1er**	**red**	**86**
2021	**Pommard "Clos des Poutures" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2021	**Pommard "Vaumuriens"**	**red**	**88**

As I reported last year, Armand Heitz decided to change his entire approach to almost everything wine related. As a refresher, he chose to buy a very large château on the outskirts of Chagny in a little hamlet of Chaudenay, which is approximately 15 minutes from his old digs in Chassagne. This year, he showed me around to see all of the modifications and updates to the château, which is more than large enough to serve both as a winery and a reception room for celebrations, weddings and the like. Also, because he wasn't happy with the consistency of fruit quality he was obtaining through biodynamic farming, he has chosen to modify that strategy somewhat by going to a, for lack of a better term, more holistic approach that includes different plants in the vineyards, such as fruits and vegetables, as well as animals. This isn't the place to try to explain the various nuances, but the central idea is that all forms of nature are related and intertwined and the more of them that can be incorporated in his viticulture, the more consistent the results. I'm not doing his much more complex philosophy justice with that summary, but it provides you with an idea. Moreover, the introduction of plants and animals isn't just for show. Selected products are sold at a tasting room in Pommard that is open to the public; it is located just off the smaller town square near the church. These products, by the way, include working with a brewer and while I'm no expert on beer, I will say that a bottle he gave me to try was excellent. Third, Heitz notes that, particularly for the reds, he will continue to use as little sulfur as possible without abandoning it altogether. Lastly, because of the tiny quantities, the Taillepieds and Rugiens were not presented. For those that are interested in cork policies, Heitz has chosen to use the Diam brand composite cork for both colors. (T. Edward Wines, www.tedwardwines.com, NY, Old World Importing, Inc., www.oldworldimporting.com, CO, Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA, A.H.D. Wine Imports, www.ahdvintners.com, MI and Dionysus Imports, www.dionysusimports.com, TX, all USA).

2021 Juliénas "La Combe Vineuse": A distinctly peppery nose of red berries and earth leads to vibrant middleweight flavors that offer sneaky good length but limited depth on the otherwise rustic finale. To enjoy young for its fruit. 87/2024+

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: A very fresh and bright pinot-like nose gives way to lighter weight and delicious flavors that also offer reasonably good length but not much complexity. This is not without appeal however and should make for refreshing and uncomplicated drinking. 86/now+

2021 Pommard "Vaumuriens": A more deeply pitched nose reflects notes of dark currant, plum and plenty of earth character. Here too the lighter weight flavors possess good energy and detail while exuding evident minerality on the detailed, youthfully austere and lingering finale that is shaped by admirably fine-grained tannins. 88/2026+

2021 Pommard "Clos des Poutures": (a .66 ha monopole). An ultra-fresh, cool and pretty nose features mostly red berry aromas that are trimmed in subtle earth and floral wisps. There is again a highly attractive sense of vibrancy to the less mineral-driven but even more complex and moderately austere finale. This is sufficiently structured to repay up to a decade of keeping though it should be approachable after 5 to 7 years. 90/2028+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin: There is a touch of *sauvage* character suffusing the equally fresh if more restrained aromas of wild red and dark berries. The sleek and utterly delicious if not especially dense flavors conclude in a mildly edgy finish that reflects a note of herbal tea. This isn't exactly green but the supporting tannins are not as mature as those of the Poutures. 87/2027+

2021 Morey St. Denis "Monts Luisants": (2021 is the first vintage for this wine). As befits it location high on the Morey hillside, this is also decidedly cool and airy with its wispy aromas of the essence of red cherry, violet, anise and lilac. The tension-filled and beautifully delineated barely middleweight flavors flash good minerality though the finish is somewhat dry and short though importantly, not bitter. It's possible that this might come together though that's not a given. Despite the description, this is actually quite pretty though with that said, it would be fair to say that the balance isn't perfect. I would suggest serving it with an appropriate dish to help round off the finish. 86/2027+

2021 Charmes-Chambertin: A relatively high-toned nose freely offers up a combination of rose petal, newly turned earth, red currant and crushed cherries. There is again excellent energy to the lighter weight and seductively textured flavors that possess solid depth on the ever-so-mildly edgy yet persistent finish. This is more likely to harmonize with a few years of cellaring and my rating offers the benefit of the doubt. 88/2028+

Domaine Huber-Verdereau (Volnay)

2021	➽ Bourgogne Côte d'Or "Les Constances"	red	87
2021	Monthélie "La Combe Danay"	red	(87-89)
2021	Pommard "Les Bertins" 1er	red	90
2021	Pommard "Clos du Colombier"	red	(87-89)
2021	Pommard "En Vaumuriens Hauts"	red	(86-88)
2021	Volnay	red	(87-90)
2021	➽ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	91
2021	Volnay "Les Frémiets"	red	88

Thiébault Huber, who runs this 9.5 ha biodynamically farmed domaine, lamented that "we basically got killed again in terms of yields and it was even worse than 2016, which was already awful! Overall, while it was quite variable, I realized on average exactly 6 hl/ha even if the reds were slightly better than the whites only because one of them came in at 20 hl/ha. Across all of my Meursault vines, the yield was only 8 hl/ha. In short, while I wasn't exactly staying up at night wondering, I think I found the limit of organic viticulture! When temperatures fall so quickly to as low as -7° C, which was the case in Meursault, there's little that can be done as even warming candles, absent putting one per vine, aren't effective, especially when it's wet as it was with the snow. This was followed by one of the most intense series of diseases that I have ever seen. Quite frankly, it was hard to keep your morale up knowing that you were fighting like hell to save not much. The harvest finally arrived and we began picking on the 22nd of September and it was further disheartening to throw out even more crop via sorting. It was necessary but painful nonetheless. For the reds, I did a lighter, but not light vinification that lasted, depending on the wine, between 18 and 25 days and in 2021, I chose to use no whole clusters. Technically it was difficult to manage because of the tiny quantities and in particular, to prevent having overly high levels of volatile acidity. On the plus side, at least the wines are good and I'm happy with the quality but a few more vintages with these kinds of yields and a lot of domaines will no longer be in business." I would add that Huber typically vinifies without sulfur and employs a very low sulfur *élevage* and thus sometimes his wines can show varying amounts of volatile acidity. As I noted last year, though it bears repeating, fans of the domaine will no longer see the Robardelle in its portfolio of wines. INAO has required that the Robardelle name be changed to Les Lurets. The reasoning is that Robardelle is partially classified as *villages* and partially as premier cru; the domaine's parcel is from the *villages* portion. Rather than do this, Huber has chosen to simply blend it with his other Volnay *lieux-dits*. (Caveau Selections, www.caveauselections.com, OR, True North Wine Merchants, www.truenorthwines.com, CA and VOS Selections, www.vosselections.com, NY, all USA; no known UK importers).

2021 Bourgogne Côte d'Or "Les Constances": A hint of volatile acidity lurks in the background of the otherwise ultra-fresh aromas of both red and dark berries along with a dollop of earth character. There is both excellent verve and detail to the utterly delicious middleweight flavors that terminate in a clean and agreeably dry-in-the-best sense finish. Worth considering because the VA isn't really enough to materially detract from the nose. 87/2024+

2021 Monthélie "La Combe Danay": A distinctly cool nose features notes of plum, violet, spice and a hint of humus. The sleek, delicious and energetic flavors possess both excellent volume and a caressing mouthfeel while exhibiting a light bead of minerality on the youthfully austere finale. This is sufficiently structured to repay 5-ish years of keeping yet the mouthfeel is such that it could also be enjoyed young. (87-89)/2026+

2021 Volnay: (from a mix of 7 *lieux-dits* that include the Robardelle, most of which are on the Pommard side). Here too there is enough volatile acidity to merit pointing out but not so much as to materially detract from the ripe and fresh essence of plum, violet and rose petal scents. The round and supple medium weight flavors also retain very good punch that carries over to the slightly firmer and more youthfully austere finale. (87-90)/2027+

2021 Volnay "Les Frémiets": A discreet application of wood sets off agreeably fresh notes of spiced raspberry and cherry. The middleweight flavors aren't quite as dense though they are notably finer and, somewhat surprisingly, more powerful as well on the mildly edgy bitter pit fruit-inflected finale. This may round out if held for a few years and my rating offers the benefit of the doubt in this regard. 88/2028+

2021 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": (from a purchase of wine, and thus it was not vinified by Huber). A slight though perceptible hint of volatile acidity is present on the slightly riper aromas of plum, dark currant and crushed fennel. There is better mid-palate density to the richer and more powerful medium-bodied flavors that flash evident minerality on the lingering and better-balanced finale. As is almost always the case with the typical Clos des Chênes, this will need at least a few years of patience. 91/2029+

2021 Pommard "En Vaumuriens Hauts": Here the volatile is a bit more prominent if not actually bothersome on the super-fresh nose of mostly red and dark cherry. The racy, detailed and overtly stony middleweight flavors that terminate in a slightly tangy finish that flirts with dryness. This is pretty enough but the balance isn't quite dialed in. (86-88)/2026+

2021 Pommard "Clos du Colombier": (a .78 ha monopole, with .54 ha located in Village, which is an actual *villages*-level vineyard, and the remaining .24 ha is situated within the 1er Clos des Verger). Here too there is enough volatile acidity lurking in the background to compel me to point it out on the distinctly cool aromas of various red berries and newly turned earth. There is very good richness to the seductively textured medium weight flavors that exhibit better length and balance on the rustic and youthfully austere finale. This is very Pommard in basic character. (87-89)/2028+

2021 Pommard "Les Bertins": (from vines planted in 1955). A more subtle though still perceptible touch of volatile acidity adds a sense of lift to the cool, elegant and nicely layered aromas of red and blue pinot fruit along with floral, spice and earth hints. The notably finer medium weight flavors also possess solid mid-palate density as well as solid depth and persistence on the slightly firmer finale. This youthfully austere effort should benefit from at least a few years of forbearance. 90/2029+

Maison Louis Jadot (Beaune)

2021	➽ Beaune "Boucherottes" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	Beaune "Clos de Couchereaux" 1er	red	(90-92)
2021	Beaune "Aux Cras" 1er	red	(90-92)
2021	➽ Beaune "Clos des Ursules" 1er	red	(91-94)
2021	Beaune "Theurons" 1er	red	(89-92)
2021	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	red	(91-95)
2021	Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2021	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2021	➽ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses" 1er	red	(92-95)
2021	➽ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Baudes" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Drazeys"	red	(88-91)
2021	➽ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Fuées" 1er	red	(91-93)
2021	Chapelle-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2021	➽ Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Beaumonts"	red	(89-91)

2021	Clos St. Denis Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2021	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2021	Corton-Pougets Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2021	Côte de Nuits-Villages "Le Vaucrain"	red	(87-89)
2021	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2021	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin	red	(89-91)
2021	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin "1er" 1er	red	(91-94)
2021	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin "Clos St. Jacques" 1er	red	(92-94)
2021	Marsannay "Le Chapitre"	red	(89-91)
2021	➽ Marsannay "Clos du Roy"	red	(90-92)
2021	Marsannay "Longeroies"	red	(87-89)
2021	Monthélie "Les Sous Roches"	red	(86-89)
2021	➽ Morey St. Denis "Clos des Ormes" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	Musigny Grand Cru	red	(93-96)
2021	Nuits St. Georges	red	(87-90)
2021	➽ Nuits St. Georges "Les Boudots" 1er	red	(91-93)
2021	Pernand-Vergelesses "Clos de la Croix de Pierre" 1er	red	(89-91)
2021	Pommard	red	(88-91)
2021	Santenay "Clos de Malte"	red	(87-89)
2021	Santenay "Clos des Gatsulards"	red	(87-90)
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Clos des Guettes" 1er	red	(87-89)
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune "La Dominode" 1er	red	(90-92)
2021	Volnay "Clos de la Barre" 1er	red	(88-91)
2021	Volnay "Santenots" 1er	red	(89-92)
2021	➽ Vosne-Romanée	red	(89-91)
2020	➽ Beaune Célébration	red	91

Technical director Frédéric Barnier, who is always an incredible wealth of information about each vintage, described 2021 as another one that "began with a relatively warm winter and a very clement February that was followed by a very warm end of March. This was the source of the real problem as the vines, and in particular the chardonnay, reacted predictably to the warmth with bud burst. When the frost arrived during the nights of the 6th, 7th and 8th of April, the results were equally predictable thanks to two key aspects. The first was the length of the frost over three nights and the second was the humidity thanks to a light snowstorm on the 7th. We tried protecting some parcels on the night of the 8th but frankly, we wasted our time as the damage was largely done at that point. I actually had cautious hopes that the pinot might have been mostly spared but that optimism turned out to be misplaced as well, even if the damage wasn't as bad as it was for the chardonnay. April and May were cool and the vines were so traumatized by the frost that there was barely any apparent activity. It was also humid because even though there wasn't much rain, there were frequent tiny storms. The vines that were the worst frosted had trouble defending themselves against the mildew and oidium followed by a lighter attack of botrytis at the end of the season. We wound up picking between the 21st of September and the 3rd of October. We did our best to avoid second generation fruit but even seasoned pickers have trouble discerning the difference. In the end, we didn't have too much of it in pinot but the chardonnay in some cases was almost exclusively second generation. Our average yield was a pitiful 12 hl/ha for the chardonnay and a scarcely better 17 hl/ha in pinot. Between the two Côtes, it was slightly better in the Côte de Nuits at about 20 hl/ha with between 15 and 16 hl/ha in the Côte de Beaune. There was some sorting necessary for the pinot though the chardonnay was largely quite clean. I suppose if we try to find the good in all of this, it's just as well that yields were low because if not, the fruit never would have adequately ripened. In fact, the harvest reminded me of times gone by as September made the maturities as they were perfectly good. Not high but perfectly reasonable at between 12 and 13% potential alcohols for the pinot and slightly better for the chardonnay. The acidities were quite good in both colors as there was a lot of malic acid. I didn't really change anything in terms of the vinification for the reds though I did block a few of the malos in white. With the exception of the Amoureuses, I used no whole clusters for the reds. I was frankly surprised by the quality of the tannins as they were riper than I imagined they might be. With respect to the *élevage*, perhaps the most difficult aspect of this vintage was managing our wood regimen as the quantities for most wines were so small that it was frankly hard to have enough but not too much, especially for the whites. I would observe that the quality of the wines in both colors was difficult to assess until the malos finished. In red, the style is soft and accessible with excellent terroir transparency. They're juicy yet delicate and I find the quality to be relatively consistent between the two Côtes. The whites are somewhat austere and I suspect that they may well shut down once they're bottled. They remind somewhat of the 2012s in the sense that they're dense but vibrant. I would add that despite the cool growing season, the pHs are not especially low, which is

to say between 3.65 to 3.75 for the reds, which is pretty much where the 2020s came in. As such, it's hard to argue that 2021 produced cool and underripe reds. The whites, while lower, came in between 3.2 to 3.25, which is perfectly good as well and definitely not particularly low and only slightly lower than 2020, which averaged around 3.3. Overall, 2021 has turned out better than I ever imagined that it would, at least with respect to wine quality. The quantities though are another story though better to have a little of something excellent than a lot of something mediocre!" I would agree with Barnier's assessment as there are very good to excellent wines sprinkled throughout the range. Lastly, Barnier noted that some wines were not made as the quantities were simply too small to produce them. (Kobrand, Inc., www.kobrandwine.com, NY, USA; Hatch Mansfield Ltd., www.hatchmansfield.com, Uncorked Ltd, www.uncorked.co.uk, both UK).

2021 Santenay "Clos de Malte": A deft but not imperceptible dollop of wood can be found on the fresh and earthy red berry fruit aromas. There is good volume and punch to the delicious middleweight flavors that exude a refreshing salinity on the youthfully austere bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. This should be approachable young as well as be capable of repaying 4 to 8 years of keeping. (87-89)/2026+

2021 Santenay "Clos des Gatsulards": A bit more wood toast is in evidence on the bright and equally fresh aromas of red currant, forest floor and a smoky hint. There is slightly better richness and volume to the medium weight flavors that are seductive but don't lack for punch on the sneaky long finish that is also youthfully austere. This should also drink reasonably well young but have no trouble aging over the mid-term. (87-90)/2027+

2021 Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Beaumonts": A more subtle though still 'visible' touch of wood frames the spicy aromas of plum, red currant and just turned earth. The sleek, vibrant and lilting flavors possess an unusually refined mouthfeel in the context of what is typical for Chorey reds, all wrapped in a balanced and chiseled finish. This is terrific for what it is plus it should drink well both young and with mid-term cellaring. (89-91)/2027+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Clos des Guettes": This is also moderately toasty though not so much as to mask the cool aromas of the essence of red cherry and humus-inflected earth. The caressing, punchy and beautifully detailed, if not especially dense, flavors terminate in a bitter pit fruit-suffused finish that comes up a bit short compared to the better wines in the range. This will also need to develop better depth as it's somewhat one-dimensional at present. (87-89)/2027+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "La Dominode": This is also sufficiently toasty to merit pointing out but not so much so as to fight with the spiced plum, violet and freshly turned earth scents. The delicious medium weight flavors possess a bit more volume though it would be fair to describe them as only moderately concentrated, all wrapped in a sneaky long and youthfully austere finish. This is sufficiently structured to reward up to a decade of keeping, which should also help to add depth. (90-92)/2029+

2021 Pernand-Vergelesses "Clos de la Croix de Pierre": (from En Caradeux). A distinctly cool nose combines notes of cool red currant with smoky notes of forest floor and the *sauvage*. There is excellent energy to the surprisingly suave and voluminous flavors that possess solid density along with the classic minerality on the dusty, moderately austere and chalky finish. This is quite good and a wine that should drink well a bit earlier than normal if desired. (89-91)/2028+

2021 Beaune "Theurons": Moderate wood stops short of overshadowing the bright and fresh red pinot fruit and softly earth-infused aromas. The delicate yet juicy, caressing and suave medium weight flavors possess a lovely sense of underlying tension along with solid length on the mildly austere finale. This could use better depth but more should reasonably develop if allowed 5-ish years of keeping. (89-92)/2029+

2021 Beaune "Aux Cras": Here too there is enough wood to mention framing the fresh and bright if more deeply pitched nose of plum, earth and pretty floral wisps. There is a bit more volume and richness to the tautly muscular flavors that possess equally good verve before terminating in a succulent, sappy and lightly austere finale. (90-92)/2029+

2021 Beaune "Clos de Couchereaux": Once again there is a distinct coolness to the elegant essence of red cherry, raspberry and crushed anise scents that are also trimmed in just enough oak influence to merit pointing out. The rich, seductively textured and fleshy medium-bodied flavors possess a generous mouthfeel while displaying fine length on the dusty, youthfully austere and lingering finish. At least some patience should be beneficial as this is fairly tightly wound at present. (90-92)/2031+

2021 Beaune "Boucherottes": Subtle wood influence sets off aromas of cherry, kirsch and discreet spice wisps. There is both excellent vibrancy and mid-palate density to the medium-bodied flavors that display a lovely sense of balance on the lingering, youthfully austere and moderately firm finale. This could use better depth but more should certainly develop as the stuffing appears to be present. (90-93)/2029+

2021 Beaune "Clos des Ursules": (from Vignes Franches). Here the wood and menthol are no longer subtle on the liqueur-like aromas of red cherry, floral and spiced tea. The middleweight flavors possess a gorgeous mouthfeel that is lilting and vibrant while display excellent depth and persistence on the compact, serious and built-to-age finale. This is excellent and an unusually ripe 2021. (91-94)/2031+

2021 Monthélie "Les Sous Roches": A cooler and less complex nose features the earthy essence of wild red berries and forest floor. There is an appealing sense of refinement to the acceptably concentrated, detailed and lightly stony flavors that conclude in a compact if slightly lean and austere finale. (86-89)/2027+

2021 Volnay "Santenots": (from Les Plures). A herbal tea top note is present on the bright aromas of red cherry, raspberry and pretty spice nuances. The super-sleek and impressively intense medium-bodied flavors flash good power on the tautly muscular and moderately austere finish. This is a wine of contrasts as the mid-palate is seductive caressing yet the compact finish is borderline robust. Patience advised. (89-92)/2031+

2021 Volnay "Clos de la Barre": (a monopole). Here too there is a hint of herbal tea on the high-toned and equally cool red berry aromas that are trimmed in enough wood to notice. The finer if less powerful middleweight flavors possess excellent delineation on the dusty, moderately austere and linear finish that is presently a bit lean. This is carrying quite a bit of gas and the overall balance isn't easy to assess so this may well age out successfully. (88-91)/2031+

2021 Pommard: (this is mostly from Petits Noizons and Platière though there can be others depending on the vintage). Once again there is a touch of crushed leaf character to the distinctly cool nose of both red and dark currant and just turned earth character. There is excellent detail if only average density to the highly energetic medium weight flavors that also conclude in a moderately austere but better-balanced and sneaky long finale. (88-91)/2028+

2021 Corton-Pougets: A wonderfully pure and equally cool nose grudgingly offers up its combination of red cherry, kirsch, crushed fennel, spice and a smoky hint. There is notably better volume and mid-palate density to the larger-bodied flavors that exude evident minerality on the tautly muscular, youthfully austere and more complex finale. As is usually the case, this is a combination of refinement and focused power that should age gracefully over the next 12 to 15 years. (91-93)/2033+

2021 Côte de Nuits-Villages "Le Vaucrain": Moderately generous wood and menthol stops short of dominating the *sauvage*, earth, plus and wild currant scents though with that said, the oak treatment isn't subtle. There is very good volume to the caressing but punchy flavors that conclude in a bitter pit fruit and youthfully austere finale. (87-89)/2027+

2021 Marsannay "Le Chapitre": (note that this vineyard was upgraded and changed its appellation in 2019 from Bourgogne to Marsannay). A more subtle though still easily perceptible dollop of wood is present on the cool aromas of red berries and pungent earth character. There is both more volume and mid-palate density to the more mineral-driven middleweight flavors that possess a bit more refinement on the attractively textured and more persistent if slightly firmer finale. (89-91)/2028+

2021 Marsannay "Clos du Roy": Moderate if not generous wood frames equally cool aromas of red currant that possess a much more floral emphasis. The sleek and succulent medium weight flavors also possess a really lovely texture with fine cut and minerality on the dusty, chalky and compact finale that makes clear that at least some patience will be necessary. While a bit woody at present, this is quite good and worth considering. (90-92)/2029+

2021 Marsannay "Longeroies": (80% of the blend is from Dessus de Longeroies, which is planted to vines that are as old as those of Chapelle-Chambertin as this parcel also came from the 1985 Clair-Daü acquisition). This is aromatically quite similar to the Clos du Roy with perhaps slightly more earth influence. The super-sleek and markedly punchy medium-bodied flavors also exude evident minerality on the dusty, overtly austere and slightly lean finish. This may come together with age and my projected range offers the benefit of the doubt. (87-89)/2029+

2021 Nuits St. Georges: (primarily from Charmois and Le Côteau des Bois among others). Generous wood and menthol elements push the red berry and *sauvage*-suffused aromas to the background. The succulent, round and solidly concentrated medium weight flavors terminate in a robust, powerful and emphatically rustic finale. This is very Nuits in character and I would note that it appears to have the requisite stuffing to progressively absorb the oak. (87-90)/2028+

2021 Nuits St. Georges "Les Boudots": More subtle oak influence easily allows the slightly riper and much spicier aromas of plum, dark berries and Asian-style tea to be appreciated. The caressing, rich and concentrated medium weight plus flavors coat the palate with dry extract that also helps to buffer the equally robust, powerful and mildly rustic finale that flashes excellent length. This firmly structured effort is very promising and should age accordingly. (91-93)/2031+

2021 Vosne-Romanée: This is one of the few wines in the range that was firmly reduced and unreadable on the nose. More interesting are the racy and beautifully detailed middleweight flavors that possess an appealing texture that carries over the nicely complex and sneaky long if moderately austere finale. This is a lovely Vosne *villages* and worth a look. (89-91)/2029+

2021 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Drazeys": (from a rarely seen *villages*-level vineyard that abuts the 1er Les Baudes). An exceptionally pretty, airy and distinctly cool nose features the essence of red cherry, raspberry and an interesting hint of orange peel. I very much like the texture and delineation of the vibrant medium weight flavors that exude a subtle bead of minerality on the youthfully austere, linear and lingering finish. This pretty effort could use more depth so at least a few years of keeping should prove beneficial. (88-91)/2029+

2021 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Baudes": Very generous wood and menthol fight with the otherwise attractively spicy and floral aromas of violet, lilac and cool red pinot fruit. There is fine mid-palate density to the even finer middleweight flavors that also exude a subtle bead of minerality on the bitter pit fruit-inflected finish that firms up noticeable on the dusty, austere and compact finale. This appears to have the necessary density to ultimately absorb the wood though note well that it's not likely to be an especially interesting candidate for early drinking. (90-93)/2031+

2021 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Fuées": This is aromatically similar to the Baudes but as is typically the case, it's noticeably spicier. The highly seductive medium-bodied flavors possess a gorgeous mouthfeel along with a bit more minerality though not the same power, all wrapped in an even firmer, overtly austere and beautifully complex finale. Here too extended patience will be necessary as this is quite tightly wound. (91-93)/2033+

2021 Morey St. Denis "Clos des Ormes": There is a background hint of herbal tea to the high-toned essence of red pinot fruit and discreet floral nuances. Here too I very much like the textured of the lilting and refined middleweight flavors that possess excellent delineation on the youthfully austere finale that progressively firms up as it sits on the palate. Note that this pretty effort is sufficiently compact to need at least a few years of keeping first. (90-93)/2031+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin: A cool, airy and appealingly layered nose features notes of forest floor, earth and wild red currant scents. Once again there medium weight and vibrant flavors possess an attractive texture thanks to the rich and caressing but punchy mouthfeel that carries over the dusty and moderately austere finale. This is a very good Gevrey *villages* that is worth considering. (89-91)/2028+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin "1er": (from a combination of Combe aux Moines, Poissenots and Les Cazetiers). This is aromatically similar to the Gevrey *villages* though with more of an herbal tea top note. There is however markedly better size, weight and richness along with more minerality on the concentrated medium-bodied flavors that conclude in a firm, serious and powerful finish. This possesses excellent development potential but like the Baudes, patience absolutely required. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin "Clos St. Jacques": Moderate wood combines with cool aromas spice, violet, lilac, red currant and just enough *sauvage* character to be interesting. The exceptionally rich and generously proportioned flavors coat the palate with sappy dry extract on the solidly powerful yet suave bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. This is an atypical 2021 as it is more like a 2020 on the palate though without the higher ripeness levels. Excellent development potential here. (92-94)/2033+

2021 Chapelle-Chambertin: (from En Gémeaux; these are the oldest vines in the Jadot portfolio of owned vineyards). Here too moderate wood frames the pretty essence of red cherries, earth, crushed fennel and clove. Much like the Clos St. Jacques, there is unusually good richness to the vibrant medium-bodied and sappy flavors that exude a bracing minerality on the bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. This is lovely though it presently lacks top flight depth so I would strongly advise allowing this at least some bottle aging to address that need. (90-93)/2033+

2021 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: A deft application of wood easily allows the much spicier aromas of red and dark berries, smoked game and forest floor to be appreciated. The rich yet sleek and utterly delicious bigger-bodied and more powerful flavors exude a more subtle minerality on the balanced and impressively persistent finale. This is classier as well as markedly more complex than the Chapelle. (92-95)/2033+

2021 Chambertin: A top note of herbal tea is present on the cooler and airier if not necessarily spicier or more elegant aromas of essence of wild red berries. The mouthfeel of the almost painfully intense medium weight plus flavors is also quite sleek thanks to the dense but fine-grained tannins that flash even more minerality on the more austere finale that displays excellent depth and persistence. As befits a classic Chambertin, this is a wine to buy and forget you own it for at least a decade. (92-95)/2033+

2021 Clos de Vougeot: An unusually perfumed nose reflects notes of red currant, earth and a vague hint of exotic spice. In the same vein as the nose, there is an unusually suave texture to the round and delicious medium-bodied flavors that brim with sappy dry extract that helps to buffer the compact, firm and sneaky long finish. This possesses fine development potential. (92-94)/2033+

2021 Echézeaux: (from Les Rouges du Bas that is worked by horse because it is so steep; occasionally other Echézeaux is added from purchases but in 2021 this is a domaine wine). This is even spicier with its cool and pure aromas of violet, lilac, rose petal, Asian-style tea and mix of red and dark berries. The suave and seductively textured flavors are not quite as dense but they are finer on the mid-palate yet the robust and powerful finish is consistent with what one typically expects from examples of Echézeaux from Les Rouges du Bas. Patience again strongly advised. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Clos St. Denis: (from 90+ year old vines in Clos St. Denis proper that are worked by horse). Moderate wood stops short of masking the nuances of the cool, spicy and floral-suffused aromas of mostly red cherry and exotic tea. The vibrant and caressing medium-bodied flavors are finer still thanks to the dense but fine tannins shaping the sneaky long and balanced finale. This too could use better depth, but the Jadot CSD has an established track record of developing more with age. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Bonnes Mares: (100% from the Chambolle side that combines about one-third *terres rouges* and the remainder from *terres blanches*). Ample wood and herbal tea notes are present on the equally cool aromas of cherry, raspberry and freshly turned earth. The moderately dense larger-bodied flavors are rich and enveloping while displaying fine length on the palate coating, youthfully austere and bitter pit fruit-inflected finale. This will need to add much more depth as it's a bit one-dimensional today and as such, my projected range is wider than usual. (91-95)/2033+

2021 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses": (from a small .12 ha parcel). Here the restrained yet ultra-fresh and perfumed nose is cooler still with its plethora of spice, red currant, violet and lilac scents. The super-sleek, lacy and lilting flavors pack excellent punch and an abundance of minerality on the focused and strikingly long finale. This is quite classy and I very much like the balance of this built-to-age Amoureuses. (92-95)/2033+

2021 Musigny: (from 90+ year old vines in a .32 ha parcel). There is a whiff of green tea character on the even spicier aromas of red and dark cherry, anise and hoisin nuances. The suave and gorgeously textured broad-shouldered yet wonderfully refined flavors also exude plenty of minerality while coating the palate on the powerful, serious and overtly austere finish that goes on and goes. This beauty of a Musigny is markedly compact and clearly constructed to repay extended keeping. (93-96)/2036+

2020 Beaune Célébration: (16 different Beaune 1ers are combined to create a blend; it is only produced in top vintages). A very ripe nose yet still reasonably fresh nose combines notes of spice, plum, earth and a floral top note. The supple, round and seductively textured medium weight flavors possess a caressing mouthfeel that contrasts somewhat with the firm and relatively powerful finish. This could use more depth though it seems reasonably clear that the underlying material is present such that more will almost certainly develop if given a chance. 91/2030+

Domaine Antoine Jobard (Meursault)

2021	**Beaune "Les Epenotes" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2021	**Beaune "Montrevenots" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2021	**➽ Bourgogne Pinot Noir**	**red**	**87**
2021	**➽ Pommard**	**red**	**89**
2021	**➽ Pommard "Les Epenots" 1er**	**red**	**91**
2021	**➽ Volnay**	**red**	**89**

I will have more about Antoine Jobard's views of the 2021 vintage in Issue 91. Jobard reiterated that his vinification style is to create reds that are based on their fruit for early accessibility, though several of the wines in the range will certainly repay keeping. He further noted that, save for the Montrevenots, his 2021 reds were bottled in November 2022. (Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, www.kermitlynch.com, CA, USA; A&B Vintners, www.abvintners.co.uk, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com, Emile Wines Ltd., www.emilewines.co,uk, The Wine Society, www.thewinesociety.com, all UK; Pearl of Burgundy, www.pearlofburgundy.com, Hong Kong and Macau; Domaine Wine Cellars, www.domaine.com.tw, Taiwan).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: (from Pommard vines). A super-fresh and bright red and dark berry fruit nose is trimmed in discreet earth wisps. There is very good density to the middleweight in the context of what is typical for the genre along with solid depth and persistence. This is worth checking out plus it should be capable of rewarding several years of keeping if desired. 87/2025+

2021 Volnay: (from Les Combes). This is also wonderfully fresh and bright with a more complex mix of red cherry, crushed anise and more prominent earth where the latter element is picked up by the solidly concentrated flavors that exhibit sneaky good length on the youthfully austere finale. This is also very good for its level and worth considering. 89/2026+

2021 Beaune "Montrevenots": (from a 1.3 ha holding). The natural coolness of Montrevenots can be sensed as the ultra-fresh nose is distinctly cool with its array of red cherry, currant and herbal tea nuances. The racy middleweight flavors are not as dense though they are noticeably finer and more mineral-driven while delivering good if not special length on the youthfully austere finale that could use a bit more depth. (88-91)/2027+

2021 Beaune "Les Epenotes": (from a 1 ha holding). There is a background touch of post-bottling reduction that doesn't entirely mask the red berry aromas though it does blur the nuances. More interesting are the markedly more concentrated medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a tension-filled finish that isn't exactly lean though it would be fair to observe that neither is it seductive. As the description suggests, this is somewhat awkward and I suspect that the recent bottling has had more of an effect here than with the other wines – as such my rating offers the benefit of the doubt. 89/2027+

2021 Pommard: (from a blend of La Rue au Port, Les Combes and Petits Noizons where the latter comprises about 75% of the blend; once it returns to production, there will eventually also be fruit from Les Combes Dessous). An airy, cool and strikingly fresh nose reflects notes of red currant, newly turned earth and a smoky hint. There is again fine volume and punch to the moderately dense flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the youthfully austere and lightly rustic finish. This is also quite good for its level and worthy of consideration. 89/2027+

2021 Pommard "Les Epenots": (from a .60 ha holding in Petits Epenots). Once again the nose is super-fresh with its combination of herbal tea, crushed red berries and plenty of earth character. I very much like the sense of underlying tension suffusing the attractively textured and solidly powerful flavors that also conclude in a youthfully austere if more complex and persistent finale. This understated and balanced effort should repay up to a decade of keeping. 91/2029+

Domaine Rémi Jobard (Meursault)

2021	**Monthélie "Les Vignes-Rondes" 1er**	**red**	**(89-92)**
2021	**Volnay "Les Santenots" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**

I will have more regarding Rémi Jobard's view of the 2021 vintage in Issue 91. However, with respect to the 2021 reds he noted that potential alcohols came in around 13% and that he used 60 to 70% whole clusters for the vinifications. (Weygandt-Metzler, www.weygandtmetzler.com, PA, USA; Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk, UK).

2021 Volnay "Les Santenots": An overtly floral and spice-suffused nose is comprised by notes of various red berries and exotic tea. I very much like the refined texture of the middleweight flavors even though they are not especially dense while exhibiting focused power and a light minerality on the youthfully austere finish that is firm enough to repay up to a decade of cellaring. This is a more elegant Santenots than usual. (90-92)/2029+

2021 Monthélie "Les Vignes-Rondes": An even more floral nose reflects elegant and airy notes of lilac, rose petal and violet on the mostly red cherry and discreet earth aromas. The silky and highly energetic medium weight flavors also possess a strikingly refined mouthfeel, all wrapped in a youthfully austere finish. This Zen-like effort could use better depth but more should reasonably develop. (89-92)/2029+

Domaine Pierre et François Labet (Beaune/Vougeot)

2021	**➳ Beaune**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2021	**➳ Bourgogne Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2021	**➳ Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2020	**➳ Beaune "Coucherias" 1er**	**red**	**91**
2020	**Beaune "Clos de Dessus de Marconnets"**	**red**	**88**
2020	**➳ Bourgogne Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**87**
2020	**➳ Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**89**

I met this year with both François Labet and his son Edouard, who is slowly assuming more and more responsibility for running the day-to-day operations. Their take on the 2021 vintage was that "the frost was bad everywhere, but it was really bad in the Côte de Beaune and even worse for the chardonnay as we made next to nothing. After that the growing season was wet and cool with quite a bit of disease pressure that kept us busy with treatments. We began picking in the Côte de Beaune on the 23rd of September and the 25th of Cote de Nuits and the fruit was largely clean though we always sort carefully anyway. Yields were highly variable as we lost roughly 80% in the Cote de Beaune and between 50 and 60% in the Cote de Nuits. Potential alcohols came in between 12 and 13% for our other wines but for Clos de Vougeot it was a solid 13.5%. We tried to extract more material during the longer than usual vinifications where we used between 50 and 60% whole clusters and no sulfur. The skins were relatively thin so we knew that there wouldn't be a lot to extract, so soft but long was the approach, which contrasts with what we did in 2020 and 2022 where we basically let the extractions happen without intervention on our part. We also wanted to have a more important oak influence as the wines in our view need that support from the wood tannins. As to the style of the 2021s, it frankly took a long time to see the real quality of the vintage and even today the wines are still evolving in what seems to us in a positive way. Currently they remind us of the 1987 vintage though that may change as the wines change." The 2020s, revisited below, were bottled in April 2022. (Terlato Wines International, www.terlatowines.com, IL, USA; Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com, UK).

2021 Bourgogne Vieilles Vignes: (from 45+ year old vines located in Chorey-lès-Beaune). An exceptionally floral and earth-suffused nose of fresh red berry fruit is trimmed in enough wood to merit pointing out. There is fine richness and especially so for the vintage on the attractively textured medium weight flavors that conclude in a bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. This could use better depth but more should develop and overall, this is potentially an outstanding Bourgogne. (86-89)/2025+

2021 Beaune: (in 2021 this has all of the Beaune vineyards combined as there wasn't enough volume to vinify and commercialize them separately). A slightly more deeply pitched nose combines notes of plum, dark currant, violet and a similar dollop of oak influence. There is excellent vibrancy and lovely detail to the slightly bigger-bodied, though not necessarily richer, flavors that offer excellent length. This too could use more depth though again, that should reasonably occur. (89-91)/2028+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes": (from La Justice, Les Crais and Jouise). Once again there is a plethora of floral elements to the overtly *sauvage*-inflected nose of various wild dark berries. The beautifully textured, intense and solidly concentrated medium-bodied flavors that conclude in a youthfully austere and tautly muscular finish. This is sufficiently structured to need at least a few years of keeping first as it's pretty tightly wound today. In a word, lovely. (89-91)/2029+

2020 Bourgogne Vieilles Vignes: (from 45+ year old vines located in Chorey-lès-Beaune). An earthy, ripe and overtly floral-suffused nose of both red and dark berries is softly wooded. The delicious and solidly voluminous middleweight flavors possess a lovely sense of verve, all wrapped in a dusty, complex and nicely lingering if somewhat rustic finish. This offers very good quality for the genre in an unusually powerful style. 87/2025+

2020 Beaune "Clos de Dessus de Marconnets": Enough wood to warrant commenting upon frames the equally floral-suffused aromas of notably ripe plum, violet and a more discreet touch of earth. There is excellent density and intensity to the racy medium weight flavors that terminate in a clean and dry in the best sense finish where the oak influence displayed by the nose resurfaces. This is also mildly rustic and extremely rich with excellent concentration for an upslope vineyard, if perhaps not quite the vivacity of the Coucherias. 88/2027+

2020 Beaune "Coucherias": This is also moderately toasty with a more deeply pitched, and slightly fresher, array of poached plum, cassis and earth aromas that are also trimmed in a plethora of floral elements. There is a lovely sense of underlying tension to the fleshy yet nicely delineated flavors that conclude in a bitter pit fruit-inflected and youthfully austere finish. Lovely. 91/2028+

2020 Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes": (from La Justice, Les Crais and Jouise). Once again, a mildly toasty yet fresh nose reveals its aromas of red currant, violet, earth and poached plum. I very much like the mouthfeel and vibrancy of the middleweight flavors that are reasonably dense while displaying a lilting texture and good detail on the lightly austere finale. This should be approachable on the younger side if desired yet have no trouble repaying 8 to 10 years of cellaring. 89/2028+

Labruyère-Prieur Sélection (Meursault)

2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot" 1er**	**red**	**(89-92)**
2021	**Pommard "La Platière" 1er**	**red**	**88**
2021	**Santenay**	**red**	**88**
2021	**Volnay "Santenots" 1er**	**red**	**89**

Labruyère-Prieur Sélection is a *négociant* partnership between Domaine Jacques Prieur and co-owner and general director Edouard Labruyère. 2014 was the first vintage and the wines are vinified by Nadine Gublin (who also is responsible for the Prieur wines) exclusively from fruit that is harvested by the partnership rather than from purchased wines. Please see Domaine Jacques Prieur below for further details about the 2021 vintage. One difference though between the approach used here versus *chez* Prieur is the wines are expressly made to be approachable young, though with that said, several of these 2021s have the stuffing to reward up to a decade of cellaring. In contrast to prior years, Gublin noted that the Santenay saw no whole clusters, and none were used for the other wines either. (Frederick Wildman, www.frederickwildman.com, NY, USA and Jeroboam Wines, www.jeroboamwines.com, NY, USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Laytons, www.laytons.co.uk, and Coe Vintners, www.coevintners.com, both UK).

2021 Santenay: (from La Combe, Grand Clos Rousseau and Clos Genêt). A discreet touch of wood sets off the ripe and fresh aromas of plum, dark cherry and a whiff of Santenay style earth. There is both good volume and density to the succulent, round and delicious middleweight flavors that conclude in a lightly austere bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. This could use better depth but the necessary development potential appears to be present for that to progressively occur. 88/2027+

2021 Volnay "Santenots": (from Santenots Blanc). A more floral-suffused nose combines notes of spiced tea and violet with those of raspberry and black cherry. The more finely textured medium-bodied flavors are both rich and generous while offering good if not special length on the dusty finish that leans out slightly as it sits on the palate. 89/2028+

2021 Pommard "La Platière": This is aromatically quite similar to the Santenots if perhaps slightly cooler. The plump, round and utterly delicious medium weight flavors exude a bracing salinity on the youthfully austere finale that also leans out slightly as it lingers on the palate. 88/2028+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot": (from Grand Clos and Les Brussonnes with a small amount of Boirettes). This is both earthier and more pepper-inflected on the cool dark pinot fruit-scented nose. The rich, delicious and generously proportioned flavors possess good if not truly special density before culminating in a youthfully austere and ever-so-slightly rustic finale. This should benefit from a few years of keeping in the hopes better depth will develop. (89-92)/2028+

Domaine Michel Lafarge (Volnay)

2021	**➽ Beaune "Clos des Aigrots" 1er**	**red**	**(90-93)**
2021	**➽ Beaune "Grèves" 1er**	**red**	**(91-94)**
2021	**➽ Bourgogne Passe-tout-grains l'Exception**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2021	**➽ Bourgogne Pinot Noir**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2021	**➽ Volnay**	**red**	**(89-92)**
2021	**➽ Volnay "1er" 1er**	**red**	**(91-94)**

Frédéric Lafarge described the 2021 growing season as one "where the frost cost us dearly but we really didn't have much trouble with disease pressure including mildew and botrytis. The soil slowly dried out in the second half of August and this had the beneficial effect of pushing fruit maturities but not sugars. We picked from the 22nd to the 28th of September and brought in clean fruit if not necessarily much of it as our yields ranged from a low of 6 hl/ha to a high of 12 hl/ha. Potential alcohols came in

between 12.5 and 12.8%, which is perfectly fine for our style of wine. I didn't hold back on the extraction as the tannins were ripe so we punched down once a day. The colors were slow to appear but I was confident that they would in time and they eventually did. In one important change though, we took the drastic but necessary step of combining all of our Volnay 1ers into one cuvée as there was just too little volume to do otherwise. Quantities aside, I love this vintage, in fact I call it joyous because the wines have so much freshness and energy and in this context, they remind of the 2013s, though importantly, without the hail!" Despite the reduced number of wines, the quality is excellent in 2021. Note too that Lafarge said that the Volnay 1er *cuvée* would very likely have a name but that they hadn't chosen one at the time of my January visit. He further noted that there will not be a Volnay Vendanges Sélectionnées either in 2021. Please also see the Lafarge-Vial Beaujolais 2021s reviewed in the En Plus section below. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.beckywasserman.com, Beaune, France; Winebow, Inc., www.winebow.com, NJ, Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA/NV/AZ/NM, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, TX, Wines Unlimited, www.winesunlimited.com, LA, Fine Vines, www.finevines.com, IL, Augustan Wine, www.augustanwine.com, FL, C'est Vin, LLC, 703.243.3559, VA, Atlanta Wholesale Wines, www.ndcweb.com, M.S. Walker, www.mswalker.com, MA, all USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com and Howard Ripley, www.howardripley.com, all UK; Domaine Wine Cellars, www.domaine.com.tw, Taiwan; Pearl of Burgundy, www.pearlofburgundy.com, Hong Kong and Macau).

2021 Bourgogne Passe-tout-grains l'Exception: A peppery and earthy array of red and dark berries gives way to impressively dense middleweight flavors that possess unusually good depth and persistence on the moderately rustic finish. This is terrific for what it is and highly recommended. (87-89)/2026+

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: (from 40+ year old vines in Petit Pré which was once classified as Volnay *villages*). A slightly more elegant nose is comprised by aromas of red pinot fruit, plum and soft earth nuances. There is again good vibrant and detail to the utterly delicious medium weight flavors that culminate in a highly refreshing and lingering finale. This is also terrific for its level and equally highly recommended. (87-89)/2026+

2021 Volnay: (from a mix of vines that average about 40 years of age in Brouillard, Buttes, Famines, Pasquiers and Cros Martin). A more complex nose features notes of plum, violet, red currant, forest floor and a whiff of herbal tea. The dense, serious and almost painfully intense flavors possess a seductive texture thanks to the abundance of sappy dry extract that also serves to buffer the firm, serious and youthfully austere finale. This is also excellent for its level and the presence of the old vines in 2021 is evident. (89-92)/2028+

2021 Beaune "Clos des Aigrots": (from yields of only 13 hl/ha). A super-fresh nose freely offer up is essence of red cherry that is trimmed in a beautiful array of floral elements. There is a pungent minerality to the attractively textured, plump and punchy medium weight flavors that conclude in a linear, youthfully austere and bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. This is firm enough to offer up to a decade of improvement. (90-93)/2029+

2021 Beaune "Grèves": (from 100-year-old vines where more than 90% are from the original plantation; also from yields of 13 hl/ha). A more deeply pitched though still equally fresh nose more grudgingly displays its aromas of spice, violet, dark currant and newly turned earth. There is excellent vibrancy to the more concentrated and muscular larger-scaled flavors that still manage to remain relatively refined thanks to the dense but fine tannins shaping the strikingly long, balanced, compact and quite serious finale. This beauty of a Grèves is potentially outstanding and should age accordingly. (91-94)/2031+

2021 Volnay "1er": (this is a combination of the domaine's five Volnay 1ers, which has never happened before; note that it will likely have a *cuvée* name). A wonderfully floral-suffused nose is exuberantly spicy on the cool red berry fruit aromas. There is both excellent vibrancy and mid-palate density to the overtly mineral-driven medium-bodied flavors that conclude in a moderately austere and firm finish that flashes impressive depth and length. This is lovely, with the development potential to match, as this should reward a decade plus of keeping. (91-94)/2031+

Domaine des Comtes Lafon (Meursault)

2021	**Monthélie "Les Duresses" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2021	**Volnay "Champans" 1er**	**red**	**(89-92)**
2021	**Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2021	**Volnay "Santenots du Milieu" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**

As I reported last year, Dominique Lafon has retired in favor of his daughter Léa and his nephew Pierre, though he remains active as an advisor. On this trip I met with Pierre, who with respect to the reds noted that "we picked from the 17th to the 27th of September and brought in mostly clean fruit though some parcels needed more sorting than others. Yields were not good as we were off some 70% and as such, we did not declassify any young vines to create our usual *cuvée* of Volnay *villages*. On the plus side of that though is that I'm not unhappy that yields were low because if not, the fruit would have never adequately ripened. We did a normal vinification because as difficult as the growing season was in the vines, it was easy in the cuverie. Potential alcohols were in the 12 to 13% range, so a few wines were chaptalized at the lower end. As to the wines, they have changed significantly during the *élevage* and continue to improve so month by month so I'm not sure when they will be bottled. They should age well but also drink well young as they are well-balanced." Note that the domaine bottles its wines with the Diam brand of composite corks using the model known as 30. (Beaune Imports, www.beauneimports.com, CA, Classic Wine Imports, www.classicwineimports.com, MA, Fine Vines, www.finevines.com, IL, Augustan Wine, www.augustanwine.com, FL, Little Guy Wine, www.littleguywine.com, MI, C'est Vin, LLC, 703.243.3559, VA, Wines Unlimited, www.winesunlimited.com, LA, Skurnik Wines, www.skurnik.com, NY, Terroir Imports, www.terroirimports.net, CO, Grand Cru Selections, LLC, www.grandcruselectionswine.com, NY, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, TX, Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, NZ/AZ/NM, all USA; Becky Wasserman & Co., www.beckywasserman.com, Beaune, France; Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com, John Armit Wines, www.armit.co.uk, Adnams, www.adnams.co.uk, Jeroboam Wines, www.jeroboamwines.com, Farr Vintners, www.farrvintners.com, Justerini & Brooks, www.justerinis.com, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com, Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com and Tanners Wine, www.tanners-wines.co.uk, all UK; Sequin & Robillard/Vinifera, www.seguinrobillard.ca, Canada, and Metro Vino, metrovino.com, Alberta, Canada; Altaya Wines, www.altayawines.com, Hong Kong).

2021 Monthélie "Les Duresses": (from a 1.06 ha holding). A very fresh pinot-like nose trimmed in newly turned earth leads to racy, delicious and nicely detailed flavors that conclude in a bitter pit fruit-inflected finish where a touch of austerity slowly emerges. This inviting effort should reward a few years of keeping though it could easily be enjoyed young. (88-91)/2026+

2021 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": (from a .38 ha holding that produced only two barrels in 2021). A more elegant and even cooler nose reflects the essence of red cherry, green tea and spice wisps. The delicious and vibrant lighter weight flavors exude evident minerality on the slightly firmer and youthfully austere finale. This should also reward mid-term keeping, which should prove beneficial as it could use better depth. (89-91)/2027+

2021 Volnay "Champans": (from a .52 ha holding of 85+ year old vines planted in deep sandy soil with dense but small rocks). A slightly more deeply pitched nose is comprised by notes of pretty red currant, plum, crushed anise and violet. There is both better volume and density to the nicely rich and attractively textured medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a lingering, youthfully austere and slightly firmer finale. (89-92)/2028+

2021 Volnay "Santenots du Milieu": (from a huge 3.78 ha holding of 40+ year old vines planted in shallow, high clay content soil sitting above a bed of solid limestone). Here the nose is firmly reduced and revealing nothing. Otherwise there is good punch on the lighter weight flavors that possess lovely delineation while displaying focused power on the firm, serious and austere finale. This is an excellent example of 'power without weight' and a wine that should repay up to a decade of keeping. (90-92)/2029+

Domaine Jean et Gilles Lafouge (Auxey-Duresses)

2021	Auxey-Duresses	red	88
2021	➽ Auxey-Duresses "La Chapelle" 1er	red	92
2021	➽ Auxey-Duresses "Climat du Val" 1er	red	91
2021	➽ Auxey-Duresses "Les Duresses" 1er	red	92
2021	➽ Auxey-Duresses "Les Ecussaux" 1er	red	91
2021	➽ Pommard "Les Noizons"	red	89

Gilles Lafouge told me that 2021 "was basically tough from start to finish. We began with a heavy frost over three nights and ended with a problematic attack of botrytis. We picked from the 18th of September and had to stop on the 19th and 20th due to almost 50 mm of rain. Yields were all over the place but we were basically down 70% in white and around 40% in red. Potential alcohols were perfectly good at between 12 to 12.5% for the pinot and slightly better for the chardonnay at between 12.5 to 13%. We vinified the reds lightly using no whole clusters, but we still chose to do an eight day cold soak, which helped as the colors were very slow to emerge. After pressing off we did a very careful lees settling to be sure that we were barreling down with clean new wine. As to the wines, the reds are delicate but beautifully balanced and despite being on the lighter side, I believe that they

will age extremely well expressly because they are so well-balanced. Given how tough the growing season was, I am actually very happy with the results." It's not hard to understand why as the Lafouge '21s are absolutely classically styled and given the modest prices for which they sell, these are wines to buy as they offer excellent value. Lafouge noted that the reds were bottled in December 2022 without fining or filtration. (Jeanne-Marie de Champs, e-mail: jeanne-marie@jmdechamps.com, Beaune, France).

2021 Auxey-Duresses: (from a blend of Argillats, Heptures, Les Crais, Grandes Vignes, Hautés and Ecussaux). Classic ruby color. A distinctly earthy nose is at once somber and ultra-fresh with its array of red and dark berries. There is both excellent verve and detail to the delicious middleweight flavors that exude a subtle salinity on the refreshing and youthfully austere finale. This is relatively refined to the appellation and a wine that could be enjoyed young if desired. 88/2026+

2021 Auxey-Duresses "Les Ecussaux": (from the 1er portion of the vineyard). A more elegant combination of red cherry, raspberry, earth and a discreet application of wood. The refined, pure and appealingly textured medium weight flavors also exude a refreshing salinity on the lingering finish where a touch of sweetness slowly emerges. The supporting tannins are quite fine and this too should be approachable young for its crunchy fruit if that's your preference. 91/2027+

2021 Auxey-Duresses "Climat du Val": A discreet hint of volatile acidity adds lift to the very pretty aromas of spice, newly turned earth and crushed cherries. The equally refined and even more energetic medium-bodied flavors possess a succulent mid-palate that contrasts with the tension-filled, mineral-driven and moderately austere finale. This is lovely though in contrast to the prior two examples, a wine that will need at least a few years of patience first. I would add that the VA is so subtle that I doubt it will be an issue for all but the most sensitive of readers. 91/2028+

2021 Auxey-Duresses "La Chapelle": (the domaine is only one of two owners). An expressive and highly perfumed nose freely offers up its aromas of essence of red currant, violet and discreet anise wisps. The refined, racy and delineated middleweight flavors possess a beguiling texture that carries over to the mineral-driven, compact and sneaky long finish. This has the stuffing to age over the next decade but I suspect that it will make for excellent drinking after only a few years. Warmly recommended. 92/2029+

2021 Auxey-Duresses "Les Duresses": (from a 1.6 ha holding in both Les and Bas Duresses). A markedly earthier and more *sauvage*-suffused nose speaks mostly of various dark berries and a hint of smoke. The sleek, delicious and concentrated medium-bodied flavors possess a taut muscularity and solid power on the youthfully austere and equally compact finale. This is quite compact as well and a wine that's also going to need at least some patience, which is just as well as it could use better depth. This is also recommended provided you intend to cellar it for a least a few years first. 92/2029+

2021 Pommard "Les Noizons": (from a .42 ha holding in both Les and Petits Noizons). A strikingly fresh, cool and pretty if restrained nose somewhat grudgingly reveals its aromas of earth, spice, plum and essence of red pinot fruit. The super-sleek and acceptably dense middleweight flavors possess a caressing mid-palate as well as evident minerality that seems to become more prominent on the bitter pit fruit, youthfully austere and utterly delicious finish. This is a classic Noizons that should be accessible young but have no trouble repaying up to a decade of keeping. 89/2028+

Maison Louis Latour (Beaune)

2021	Aloxe-Corton	red	87
2021	Aloxe-Corton "Les Chaillots" 1er	red	87
2021	Beaune "Vignes Franches" 1er	red	88
2021	Chambertin-Cuvée Héritiers Latour Grand Cru	red	92
2021	Chambolle-Musigny	red	87
2021	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	91
2021	Corton Grand Cru	red	88
2021	Côte de Nuits-Villages	red	86
2021	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	90
2021	Gevrey-Chambertin	red	(87-89)
2021	Marsannay	red	86
2021	Mercurey	red	86
2021	Nuits St. Georges	red	(85-88)
2021	Pommard "Les Epenots" 1er	red	NR

2021	**Romanée St. Vivant – Les Quatre Journaux Grand Cru**	**red**	**92**
2021	**Volnay "En Chevret" 1er**	**red**	**(88-90)**
2021	**Vosne-Romanée "Les Chaumes" 1er**	**red**	**89**

Head winemaker Jean-Charles Thomas told me that 2021 "was one of the toughest vintages that we have faced in quite a while as there was a bit of everything, including frost, hail in the north of the Côte, mildew, oidium and botrytis. It's hard to have more than that in one growing season! I chose to vinify carefully as it was important not to over-extract. After we barreled down, I confess to being pretty skeptical about the quality but as sometimes happens, the wines began to take shape and express themselves much more clearly once the malos finished. I now quite like them as they're classically styled, the terroir is beautifully clear. Moreover, it's easy to see why the classification hierarchy is the way it is as there is an unmistakable difference between each level." Thomas noted that for those wines already in bottle, they were put there between October 2022 and February 2023. I would note that some of the wines that had recently been bottled were somewhat reduced. (Louis Latour, Inc. Ltd., www.louislatour.com USA, UK, France).

2021 Mercurey: An earthy and somber nose reflects notes of various dark berries and forest floor. The delicious and vibrant lighter weight flavors conclude in a lingering if not especially complex finish. This overtly rustic effort could easily be enjoyed upon release though a few years of keeping might help to add depth. 86/2025+

2021 Côte de Nuits-Villages: This is also distinctly earthy and somber with its *sauvage*-inflected aromas of dark berries and plum. The delicious and vibrant flavors are also on the lighter side (though not dilute) with good cut on the dusty, moderately lean and equally rustic finale that comes up a bit short. 86/2026+

2021 Marsannay: This is aromatically similar to the Mercurey while offering slightly better volume and richness on the middleweight flavors that also conclude in compact, lean and somewhat short finish. This may better harmonize with a few years of bottle age, but it would be fair to say that it's awkward today. 86/2027+

2021 Aloxe-Corton: A fresh and bright nose blends notes of both red and dark currant with those of *sauvage* and humus-inflected earth. There is better volume still to the nicely detailed and tension filled medium weight flavors that conclude in a rustic but longer and slightly more complex better-balanced finale. 87/2027+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin: Here too the nose is markedly earthy with plenty of *sauvage* and humus nuances adding breadth to the smoky dark berry scents. There is very good volume and mid-palate density to the caressing but attractively punchy medium weight flavors that terminate in a rustic, serious and sneaky long finish. (87-89)/2027+

2021 Nuits St. Georges: An even cooler and restrained nose requires aggressive swirling to reveal the more *sauvage*-inflected aromas of wild dark berries and spice. There is solid volume to the nicely concentrated middleweight flavors that possess a rustic, lean and short finish. This may better harmonize once it's bottled but it's pretty awkward at present. (85-88)/2027+

2021 Chambolle-Musigny: A more elegant and equally cool nose is comprised by notes of red and dark raspberry, violet and a touch of herbal tea. The markedly more refined middleweight flavors exude a subtle minerality on the dusty, compact and slightly lean but not short finish. This is pretty enough though it's not likely to ever be seductive. 87/2027+

2021 Aloxe-Corton "Les Chaillots": Fresh and bright aromas include those of wild red currant, newly turned earth and plenty of *sauvage* character. There is both good density and detail to the nicely textured medium weight flavors that culminate in a dusty, slightly lean and somewhat short finish. This seems to be ripe so the length may be compromised by the recent bottling. 87/2027+

2021 Beaune "Vignes Franches": Moderate reduction dominates the fruit though I wouldn't expect it to last. Otherwise, the caressing and fleshy medium-bodied flavors possess a beguiling mid-palate texture, all wrapped in a youthfully austere and better-balanced finale. This does need to develop better depth though a few years of cellaring should help. 88/2028+

2021 Pommard "Les Epenots": This had just been bottled and was displaying that peculiar kind of reduction referred to as *bourgeon de cassis* (cassis blossom) and it continues on the palate and slightly warm finish. This may well clean up but it's a tough read at present. Not Rated.

2021 Volnay "En Chevret": A brooding and reticent nose reluctantly reveals its aromas of plum, dark currant and newly turned earth. The racy and utterly delicious lighter weight flavors possess both good detail and a subtle minerality on the dusty and mildly austere finish where a touch of wood can be found. This too could use more depth but given the firm structure, it should be able to develop more over time. (88-90)/2029+

2021 Vosne-Romanée "Les Chaumes": This is one of the few wines to display any appreciable wood influence and it's enough to fight somewhat with the spiced plum and exotic tea aromas. Here too there is both good cut and energy to the medium-bodied flavors that possess a caressing mouthfeel despite having only average concentration along with sneaky good length on the youthfully austere, dusty and nicely balanced finale. 89/2029+

2021 Corton: An attractively floral-suffused nose speaks of plum, earth and a hint of the sauvage. There is good underlying tension and detail if limited concentration to the otherwise delicious flavors that conclude in a mildly drying and austere finale. This is on the lighter side for a Corton though I suspect that it may add weight with a few years of bottle aging. 88/2029+

2021 Echézeaux: A more deeply pitched and markedly spicier nose features notes of black cherry, essence of plum, violet and lilac hints. There is better mid-palate volume and richness to the medium-bodied flavors that deliver better depth and persistence on the moderately austere and firmer finale. 90/2031+

2021 Clos de Vougeot: (vinified with 25% whole clusters). Generous wood fights somewhat with the more floral-suffused aromas of various dark berries, cool earth and herbal tea wisps. There is more volume still to the nicely intense and muscular medium weight plus flavors that possess a velvety mouthfeel before terminating in a lingering, firm and youthfully austere finale where the wood resurfaces. This is pretty oaky at present though the necessary density appears to be present such that the wood treatment will eventually be successfully integrated. 91/2033+

2021 Chambertin-Cuvée Héritiers Latour: A fresh and cool nose of attractively layered red berries and forest floor is trimmed in much more subtle oak. There is again a lovely texture to the solidly concentrated medium weight flavors that exude evident minerality on the moderately austere and compact finale where a touch of warmth slowly emerges. 92/2033+

2021 Romanée St. Vivant – Les Quatre Journaux: Moderate wood and menthol elements stop short of overshadowing the exotic tea, plum and dark pinot scents. The notably finer, though not denser, middleweight flavors exude a bracing salinity on the firm and youthfully austere finale where an interesting hint of bitter chocolate character emerges. 92/2033+

Domaine Vincent Latour (Meursault)

2021	**Bourgogne Côte d'Or**	**red**	**(84-87)**
2021	**Meursault Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**(85-88)**
2021	**Meursault "Les Cras" 1er**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2021	**Pommard Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**(86-88)**
2021	**Volnay – Cuvée Nathan**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2021	**Volnay "Les Serpens" – Cuvée Élégance**	**red**	**(86-89)**

Vincent Latour runs this 8.7 ha domaine that consists of 7 ha planted to chardonnay and 1.7 ha planted to pinot noir. Given that the production emphasis is much more white than red, I will have more on Latour's views regarding the 2021 vintage in Issue 91. Specifically for the reds, Latour did note that "our volumes weren't too bad as they were off between 20 and 30% with good but not high potential alcohols. I vinified pretty much as I always do and the *élevage* has definitely helped the reds flesh out." He further noted that the reds will be bottled without fining or filtration. (Bowler, www.bowlerwine.com, NY, USA)

2021 Bourgogne Côte d'Or: Light ruby color. Fresh and bright aromas include those of cherry, raspberry and a suggestion of earth where the latter is picked up by the lighter weight flavors that conclude in a supple if somewhat astringent finish. (84-87)/2024+

2021 Meursault Vieilles Vignes: (from Malpoiriers and Les Dressoles). Light ruby hue. A very pinot nose offers up notes of mostly red berries and a touch of spice. There is a bit more volume to the succulent, round and pliant flavors that deliver reasonable persistence if limited depth on the mildly austere finale. (85-88)/2025+

2021 Pommard Vieilles Vignes: (from La Riotte). Light ruby. Cool, pretty and airy aromas of red pinot fruit, raspberry and strawberry give way to supple, round and nicely detailed, if not especially dense, flavors that exhibit reasonable length if again somewhat limited depth on the light but balanced finale. (86-88)/2025+

2021 Volnay – Cuvée Nathan: (from Cros Martin and Les Jouères). Very light ruby color. Cool and ultra-fresh aromas are comprised by the essence of red cherry, raspberry and a hint of herbal tea. The delicious and vibrant lighter weight flavors possess good detail on the bitter pit fruit-inflected finish where a touch of asperity slowly emerges. (86-89)/2025+

2021 Volnay "Les Serpens" – Cuvée Élégance: Once again the color is quite light. An earthier nose offers more floral influence to the cherry and raspberry scents. There is slightly better volume to the delicious middleweight flavors that also conclude in a lingering youthfully austere finish where a similar touch of asperity slowly becomes apparent. (86-89)/2025+

2021 Meursault "Les Cras: Here the expressive nose of various red berries displays a background hint of volatile acidity. The supple and easy-going flavor possess good energy along with a subtle minerality on the clean and dry-in-the-best sense and better-balanced finale. (87-89)/2026+

Domaine Latour-Giraud (Meursault)

2021	**➽ Bourgogne**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2021	**Pommard – Cuvée Carmen**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2021	**➽ Volnay – Cuvée des Chênes**	**red**	**(89-91)**

I will have more on Jean-Pierre Latour's views of the 2021 vintage in Issue 91. He did however note that there will be no Pommard Refène in 2021 as it was included with the Cuvée Carmen and no Clos des Chênes either as it was declassified into a Volnay *villages* cuvée. This is because Latour took the unusual, and entirely admirable, step of declassifying all his reds one level as the wines were not, in his view, worthy of the appellation. As he put it, "we have to take care of our clients and I just didn't feel as though I was respecting them by claiming the appellations based on the quality so I declassified them." (Atherton Wine Imports, www.awiwine.com, CA, Chemin des Vins, www.chemindesvins.com, MA both USA; Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, Thorman Hunt & Co., www.thormanhunt.co.uk, and Atlas Fine Wines, www.atlasfinewines.com, all UK; Shanghai Vinchamp International Trading Co. Ltd., www.vinchamp.com, Shanghai, China).

2021 Bourgogne: (this is from declassified Pommard *villages*). Relatively deep ruby color. A distinctly earthy nose combines notes of various dark berries with hints of the *sauvage* and herbal tea. The sleek and delicious middleweight flavors possess superb definition and excellent punch on the mildly austere finish that displays only a touch of rusticity. Lovely for what this is. (86-89)/2025+

2021 Volnay – Cuvée des Chênes: (the fruit is from the 1er Clos des Chênes but declassified to *villages*-level). This too possesses excellent color along with a very subtle application of wood that sets off the equally earthy if much spicier aromas of dark pinot fruit, plum and violet. Here too the mouthfeel is quite sleek if noticeably more polished and more mineral-driven with fine length on the balanced and moderately austere finale. Worth checking out. (89-91)/2028+

2021 Pommard – Cuvée Carmen: (2/3 from Les Vignots and 1/3 from the 1er Refène). Excellent limpid ruby color. Fresh if somber aromas include those of forest floor, red currant, dark cherry and a hint of the *sauvage*. I very much like the texture of the equally polished and sleek medium-bodied flavors that also flash evident minerality on the tension-filled, youthfully austere and balanced finish that isn't quite as persistent. This should repay up to a decade of keeping yet there is sufficient mid-palate fat to allow it to be enjoyed young too. (88-91)/2028+

Domaine Launay-Horiot (Pommard)

2021	**Chambertin Grand Cru**	**red**	**93**
2021	**Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru**	**red**	**91**
2021	**Pommard "Les Chaponnières" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2021	**Pommard "Clos Blanc" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2021	**Pommard "Les Perrières"**	**red**	**88**
2021	**➽ Pommard "Les Rugiens-Bas" 1er**	**red**	**91**

Current owner, and former French fighter pilot, Xavier Horiot briefly noted that 2021 had a "tough start due to the frost and relentless disease pressure. I chose to begin picking on the 18th of September and it was necessary to closely examine every bunch because there was enough botrytis to cause us to really accelerate the pace for fear of losing even more than the 55% that the frost cost us. Potential alcohols were actually pretty good at between 12.5 to 13%, which is just fine. The vinifications were tough for me in the sense it was hard to judge the potential of the fruit and thus when to stop extracting. It was clear that it was important not to over-extract but you don't want excessively light wines either. I was frankly very dubious about the quality before the malos finished as the wines seemed thin and a bit green. However, once they finished, the wines began to take shape and their personalities began to emerge. In the end, it's just as well that yields were off as much as they were because if not, the fruit would never have been sufficiently ripe to make anything of interest." Launay noted that the 2021s were bottled without fining or filtration in January 2023 using the composite cork Diam 10. (Milton Road Trading Corp, LLC, www.miltonroadtrading.com, CA, and AP Wine Imports, www.apwineimports.com, NY, both USA; Stannary Wine, www.stannarywine.com, and Flint Wines, www.flintwines.com, both UK; Pearl of Burgundy, www.pearlofburgundy.com, Hong Kong and Macau; The Fine Wine Experience, www.finewineexperience.com, Hong Kong, China; Shanghai Vinchamp International Trading Co. Ltd., www.vinchamp.com, Shanghai, China; Real Wines, www.realwines.com.au, Australia; Firadis, www.firadis.co.jp, Japan; Vitis Co Ltd., https://fr-fr.facebook.com/vitiswine/, South Korea, Vinova, www.vinova.dk, Denmark).

2021 Pommard "Les Perrières": (from a 2.2 ha holding that was originally planted in 1906). A fresh and decidedly earthy nose is comprised by notes of mostly red berries and a whiff of the *sauvage*. There is both a lovely sense of underlying tension and fine detail to the delicious middleweight flavors that culminate in a youthfully austere and slightly lean finish. It's hard to say with certainty whether the leanness is accentuated by the recent bottling so this may flesh out with a few years of cellaring. 88/2027+

2021 Pommard "Les Chaponnières": (from a .59 ha parcel). A more expressive mix of red and dark currant, humus, crushed fennel and a discreet dollop of wood gives way to bigger-bodied and succulent medium-bodied flavors that also culminate in a lingering if slightly lean finish. Again, this may well flesh out as the tannins do seem ripe and my rating offers the benefit of the doubt. 89/2029+

2021 Pommard "Clos Blanc": (from a .17 ha parcel). A relatively high-toned nose features the ultra-fresh essence of red currant, newly turned earth and a hint of green tea. There is both good detail and energy to the delicious if not especially dense flavors that possess good length and slightly better balance if not the same depth. This is pretty but not deep though a few years of cellaring should help. 89/2027+

2021 Pommard "Les Rugiens-Bas": (from a .09 ha parcel). Elegant and super-fresh aromas of airy red berries are nuanced by a combination of earth, forest floor, green tea and fennel. There is markedly better mid-palate density to the overtly mineral-driven flavors that flash focused power on the youthfully austere and noticeably more structured finale where a touch of wood surfaces. As is always the case with a competent example of Rugiens, patience absolutely required. 91/2031+

2021 Latricières-Chambertin: (from a .17 ha parcel at the top of the vineyard that abuts Chambertin). A subtle but still perceptible application of wood sets off the exceptionally cool high-toned aromas of various red berries where background hints of the sauvage, green tea and rose petal can be found. Here too there is very good volume and intensity to the surprisingly succulent medium-bodied flavors that also flash a borderline pungent minerality on the moderately austere and ever-so-slightly lean finale. Once again, I suspect that this will at least partially flesh out with time in bottle though with that said, it's not likely to ever be seductive. 91/2031+

2021 Chambertin: (from a .16 ha parcel). There is a crushed leaf character that stops short of being vegetal on the equally cool and reticent nose of forest floor, wild red berries and spice elements, all of which is trimmed in an equally subtle touch of wood. There is a bit more volume and noticeably more power to the intensely mineral-driven larger-bodied flavors that deliver excellent length on the more complex bitter pit fruit-inflected finale. This is a classically styled Chambertin that is going to require extended patience. 93/2033+

Maison Olivier Leflaive (Puligny-Montrachet)

2021	**Bourgogne Pinot Noir Cuvée Margot**	**red**	**86**
2021	**Pernand-Vergelesses**	**red**	**87**
2021	**➽ Pommard**	**red**	**89**
2021	**Santenay**	**red**	**88**
2021	**Volnay "Clos des Angles" 1er**	**red**	**89**

I will have more on Franck Grux's view of the 2021 vintage in Issue 91. He did briefly note that the yields in red were "as pitiful as the whites, in fact they are the lowest we have ever realized, with potential alcohols that came in between 12.5 and 13%" and that he did a light vinification to avoid extracting any underripe elements. The reds were bottled in December 2022 and January 2023. Note: It is Maison Leflaive's policy to delay the release of their reds for 1 to 2 years after the *mise* so these 2021s will not be available immediately. (Frederick Wildman and Sons, www.frederickwildman.com NY, USA; Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com, Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, Private Cellar Ltd., www.privatecellar.co.uk and Haynes, Hanson & Clark, www.hhandc.com, all UK).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir Cuvée Margot: A fresh and ripe nose freely offers up its array of plum, dark berry and discreet earth nuances that are also present on the delicious and vibrant middleweight flavors that conclude in a mildly rustic and vaguely warm finale. To enjoy young though there is enough substance to age for a few years too. 86/2024+

2021 Pernand-Vergelesses: (from Les Pins and Sous Les Clous). A wonderfully fresh if cool nose combines notes of red and dark currant with less evident earth influence. There is a lovely sense of tension to the attractively textured medium weight flavors that also conclude in a mildly rustic and warm finish that is just a bit more structured. 87/2025+

2021 Santenay: (from Les Prarons and Les Crais). A discreet if perceptible dollop of wood sets off more deeply pitched aromas of plum and forest floor. The rich velvet-textured flavors possess a seductive mouthfeel along with good energy on the youthfully austere and better-balanced though still somewhat rustic finale. 88/2026+

2021 Volnay "Clos des Angles": A more elegant and slightly cooler yet notably ripe nose reflects notes of plum liqueur, dark cherry and a pretty whiff of anise. The sleeker and finer but not denser flavors exude more evident minerality on the youthfully austere and persistent finale where a touch of bitter pit fruit character emerges. This could use more depth so a few years of keeping would be beneficial. 89/2027+

2021 Pommard: (from 2 different *lieux-dits* on the hillside plus a small amount from a 1er). Here too there is subtle but easily perceptible wood and menthol present on the distinctly cool essence of red pinot fruit-infused nose. There is good volume and richness to the relatively powerful medium-bodied flavors that offer very good depth and persistence on the robust and slightly rustic finale. This is quite good for its level and worth checking out plus it should age well. 89/2028+

Maison Benjamin Leroux (Beaune)

2021	**Blagny "La Pièce Sous le Bois" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2021	**Bonnes Mares Grand Cru**	**red**	**(92-95)**
2021	**Chambertin Grand Cru**	**red**	**(91-94)**
2021	**Chambolle-Musigny**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2021	**Clos de Vougeot – Petit Maupertuis Grand Cru**	**red**	**(92-94)**
2021	**Echézeaux Grand Cru**	**red**	**(91-94)**
2021	**➽ Gevrey-Chambertin**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2021	**➽ Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Cazetiers" 1er**	**red**	**(91-93)**

2021	**Gevrey-Chambertin "Petite Chapelle" 1er**	**red**	**(89-92)**
2021	**Griotte-Chambertin Grand Cru**	**red**	**(92-94)**
2021	**➽ Pommard "Rugiens Hauts" 1er**	**red**	**(91-94)**
2021	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Hauts Jarrons" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2021	**➽ Volnay "Caillerets" 1er**	**red**	**(91-94)**
2021	**Volnay "Clos de la Cave des Ducs" 1er**	**red**	**(89-92)**
2021	**Volnay "Les Mitans" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2021	**➽ Volnay "Santenots" 1er**	**red**	**(91-93)**
2021	**➽ Vosne-Romanée**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2021	**➽ Vosne-Romanée "Au Dessus de Malconsorts" 1er**	**red**	**(91-93)**

Benjamin Leroux described 2021 as a "vintage that produced wines in a style that we haven't seen recently as it's entirely classic. The season obviously was difficult though for my wines, the frost wasn't as bad as it was in 2016, at least in terms of losses. It was though highly variable as Blagny was absolutely destroyed in white yet did much much better in red. Not surprisingly, the Côte de Beaune was more affected than the Côte de Nuits given that it's more precocious with an earlier budbreak. After that, we had a lot of disease pressure to deal with but for the pinot, we had about the same number of treatments that we usually do. With that said, the season was viticulturally quite challenging yet the vinifications were easy. The pinot came in mostly between 12.4 and 12.8% and I chose to pretty much not touch them beyond a chaptalization of .2%. I used between 10 and 70% whole clusters while using the lower end of the range for the Côte de Beaune and more in the Côte de Nuits. One exigency though was to be sure that I was working with the cleanest lees possible, so I did a heavy lees settling regimen and this was true for both colors. I'm far from the most experienced *vigneron* around but I have seen a fair number of vintages and you just never know. I say this because I honestly thought we would make terrible wines but in fact, not at all; in fact, I'm really quite pleased with the quality." I found much to like among Leroux's 2021s, and in both colors, so they're worth strongly considering. Leroux noted that all of the reds, save for the Bourgogne, are bottled under natural cork. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.beckywasserman.com, Beaune, France; Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA/NV/AZ/NM, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, TX, Terroir Imports, www.terroirimports.net, CO and Willette Wines, www.willettewines.com, NY, all USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com and Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com, both UK; L'Imperatrice Fine Wines, https://imperatricewine.com.hk, Hong Kong/Macau; Muyi Fine Wines, www.muyiwine.com, China; SAQ, www.saq.com, Canada; Bibendum Wine Co., www.bibendum.com.au, Australia; Domaine Wine Cellars, www.domaine.com.tw, Taiwan).

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Hauts Jarrons": A fresh and bright nose combines notes of newly turned earth with a range of red berry and floral scents. I very much like the energy and texture of the medium weight flavors that exude a subtle bead of minerality on the youthfully austere and sneaky long finale. (90-92)/2028+

2021 Blagny "La Pièce Sous le Bois": (from a 2.2 ha parcel that is divided between .70 ha in pinot and the rest in chardonnay). Reduction pushes the fruit to the background but there is both good freshness and verve to the slightly denser if less refined flavors that possess focused power on the robust but not really rustic finale that flashes good minerality. This is firm enough to need at least some patience and ultimately, should repay a decade or more of keeping. (90-92)/2031+

2021 Volnay "Les Mitans": (from L'Ormeau). Pretty aromas include those of red cherry that are laced with spice and floral hints. The detailed and markedly energetic middleweight flavors terminate in a youthfully austere finish that leans out somewhat as it sits on the palate. I suspect that this will round out with bottle age and my range offers the benefit of the doubt. (88-91)/2029+

2021 Volnay "Clos de la Cave des Ducs": (from a rarely seen 1er that measures only .64 ha). A cool, airy and exceptionally pretty nose reflects notes of the essence of various red berries, especially raspberry, along with lilac and rose petal hints. There is outstanding delineation to superbly intense flavors that are akin to rolling tiny pebbles around in the mouth before terminating a moderately austere, focused and chiseled finish. At least some patience will be required as this is very tightly wound at present. (89-92)/2031+

2021 Volnay "Santenots": (from Les Plures). Moderate reduction masks the nuance of the fruit though there is both good tension and freshness to the beautifully detailed and lightly stony medium-bodied flavors that possess a seductive, even sophisticated, texture while delivering excellent persistence on the balanced though very firm finale. This is excellent and well-worth considering provided you intend to allow for at least mid-term cellaring. (91-93)/2033+

2021 Volnay "Caillerets": An overtly floral and very spicy nose features aromas of exotic tea, red and dark pinot fruit and a hint of wood. The lilting and strikingly elegant middleweight flavors possess a silky texture along with plenty of the hallmark minerality, all wrapped in a focused, chiseled and beautifully persistent finish. This is terrific with the potential to match. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Pommard "Rugiens Hauts": A cool, airy and pretty nose is not quite as spicy but it's earthier with its aromas of essence of red currant and rose petal. Once again there is excellent detail and intensity on the equally mineral-driven flavors that aren't especially dense, but they are beautifully refined thanks to the fine-grained tannins shaping the moderately austere, firm and ageworthy finish. This is also really quite lovely. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin: An ultra-fresh and again quite cool and airy nose combines notes of just turned earth, wild red berries and a hint of forest floor character. There is a beguiling sense of underlying tension to the delineated and punchy medium weight flavors that conclude in a youthfully austere and balanced finale. This is sufficiently tightly wound to benefit from at least a few years of patience. A quality Gevrey *villages*. (89-91)/2028+

2021 Vosne-Romanée: (from Les Violettes, Les Jacquines, Au Dessus de la Rivière, Les Genaivrières and Maizières-Basses). A much spicier blend of red and dark raspberry, violet and Asian-style tea introduces round, richer and more generously proportioned medium-bodied flavors that possess a seductive mouthfeel while displaying even better depth and persistence on the balanced finale. This is also a really good *villages* and worth your interest. (90-92)/2028+

2021 Chambolle-Musigny: (this is usually from a blend of Les Veroilles and Les Athets but in 2021 the former was so badly frosted that most of the fruit is from Les Athets). A bright and expressive nose combines notes of just crushed red cherries with hints of lilac, fennel and a similar whiff of exotic tea. As befits a wine mostly from Les Athets, this is rich and solidly powerful with good mid-palate density to the middleweight flavors that boast a robust if not rustic finish. This is not a classic Chambolle of lace and grace but it certainly does not lack for character. (88-91)/2029+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin "Petite Chapelle": A more elegant if more restrained nose grudgingly offers up a layered array of various red berries, earth and pretty spice and floral wisps. There is both a more sophisticated mouthfeel and more minerality suffusing the medium weight flavors that possess the usual youthful austerity of a classic Petite Chapelle. This could use better depth so at least a few years of keeping should be beneficial. (89-92)/2031+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Cazetiers": A much more *sauvage*-inflected nose speaks of more deeply pitched darker berry fruit and humus-suffused earth. There is more volume and power to the nicely rich but intense broad-shouldered flavors that exude a more subtle minerality on the youthfully austere, tightly wound and built-to-age finale. This is also very good and worth your interest. (91-93)/2033+

2021 Vosne-Romanée "Au Dessus de Malconsorts": (to be bottled only in magnum). This is aromatically very Vosne in style with its cool and airy red berry scents that are trimmed in a plethora of exotic spice, floral and hoisin nuances. There is outstanding delineation if only average density to the sleeker and more austere finale that displays first-rate length. Note that my extended suggested drinking window is for the magnum format. (91-93)/2038+

2021 Echézeaux: (almost entirely from Les Rouges du Bas as En Orveaux was crushed by the frost). A mildly reduced nose reveals only hints of spice elements and not much else. By contrast, there is both good verve and freshness to the supple and round medium-bodied flavors that retain good detail on the austere, focused and sneaky long finale. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Clos de Vougeot – Petit Maupertuis: A discreetly floral-suffused nose is comprised mostly by red berries and freshly turned earth. There is fine density and cut to the tautly muscular medium weight plus flavors that terminate in a very firmly austere but complex and highly persistent finish. This is also very much built-to-age and a wine that going to need it. (92-94)/2033+

2021 Bonnes Mares: (from *terres blanches* and to be bottled only in magnum). A more expressive nose of spice, floral and red pinot fruit is both pretty and airy. There is excellent density, particularly for the vintage, to the powerful and equally muscular big-bodied flavors that are a combination of power and punch on the moderately austere, impressively long and decidedly firm finale. Note that this also has an extended initial drinking window due to the large format bottling. (92-95)/2038+

2021 Griotte-Chambertin: (to be bottled only in magnum). A super-fresh nose of essence of rose petal, red cherry and an abundance of spice and earth suggestions leads to vibrant, detail and solidly concentrated flavors that exude a bracing minerality on the firm and hugely long finale. This needs to develop more depth but that is a virtual certainty given the large format bottling and extended potential aging curve. (92-94)/2038+

2021 Chambertin: (to be bottled only in magnum). Hints of herbal tea and crushed leaf can be found on the cool, pure and brooding nose of wild red currant, forest floor and wet stone. The sense of underlying tension is palpable on the exquisitely detailed and equally muscular larger-bodied flavors that conclude in a very firm, and very firmly austere, finale where a touch of bitter pit fruit character slowly emerges. This is a wine to buy and forget that you own it, not only because of the magnum format but also because it is extremely tightly wound. (91-94)/2041+

Domaine Michel Mallard (Ladoix)

2021	**Aloxe-Corton "Les Crapousuets"**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2021	**Aloxe-Corton "Le Toppe au Vert" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2021	**Aloxe-Corton "Les Valozières" 1er**	**red**	**(89-92)**
2021	**Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Beaumonts"**	**red**	**(88-90)**
2021	**Côte de Nuits-Villages "Le Fourneaux"**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2021	**Corton-Les Maréchaudes Grand Cru**	**red**	**(91-93)**
2021	**Corton-Les Renardes Grand Cru**	**red**	**(91-93)**
2021	**Corton-Le Rognet Grand Cru**	**red**	**(91-93)**
2021	**Ladoix "Les Buis"**	**red**	**(88-90)**
2021	**Ladoix "La Corvée" 1er**	**red**	**(89-92)**
2021	**Ladoix "Le Clos Royer"**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2021	**Ladoix "Les Joyeuses" 1er**	**red**	**(87-90)**
2021	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Serpentières" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**

The father and son team of Patrick and Michel Mallard run this 13.5 ha domaine. The names are slightly confusing because the founder of the domaine, who began bottling in the 1950s, was also named Michel, and Patrick is his son. In addition to helping run the family domaine and being the chief winemaker since 2005, Patrick's son Michel is also the *régisseur* for Domaine Eugénie in Vosne-Romanée (the wines from which are also reviewed in the Issues covering the Côte de Nuits reds and Côte d'Or whites). Michel was away at the time of my visit so I did the tasting with Patrick, who told me that 2021 "just awful in terms of the yields and especially so for the whites as we lost fully 80% whereas the reds were more variable but they were off more in the range of 50%. Unfortunately, the hardest hit were the 1ers and grand crus. We picked from the 17th to the 28th of September and the sorting necessary was as variable as the yields as some parcels were very clean and others not so much. We vinified somewhat more softly and used less whole clusters than usual. As to the style of the reds, they remind me a bit of the 2011s." Readers should be aware that the domaine's commercialization strategy is to delay releasing their reds until two years later. Essentially what this means is that the vintage currently on offer is 2019. (Amitié Wines, www.amitiewines.com, CA and Zachys, www.zachys.com, NY, both USA; Farr Vintners, www.farrvintners.com, UK).

2021 Ladoix "Les Buis": A cool and airy nose speaks mostly various red berries and newly turned earth. There is excellent intensity to the overtly mineral-driven flavors that conclude in a youthfully austere and highly refreshing finale where a touch of bitter cherry pit character emerges. (88-90)/2026+

2021 Côte de Nuits-Villages "Le Fourneaux": A slightly more deeply pitched nose blends notes of both red and dark currant with those of wood and earth. There is a lovely texture and solid mid-palate density to the middleweight flavors that deliver good persistence on the equally austere finale. This could use better depth but more should reasonably develop. (88-91)/2027+

2021 Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Beaumonts": A very pretty, even lightly perfumed nose reveals touches of spice and floral nuances to the layered red cherry scents. The caressing but punch medium weight flavors possess good if not special depth and persistence on the dusty and mildly austere finale that is just ever-so-mildly rustic. (88-90)/2026+

2021 Ladoix "Le Clos Royer": A much more deeply pitched nose presents notes of plum, dark cherry, forest floor and soft earth. There is once again fine mid-palate density to the vibrant and relatively powerful flavors that terminate in a dusty and focused if not really austere finale that could also use better depth. (88-91)/2028+

2021 Aloxe-Corton "Les Crapousuets": A relatively high-toned nose is comprised by notes of cool red raspberry, earth and a background hint of the *sauvage*. There is even better density to the medium-bodied flavors that possess a succulent and palate coating mouthfeel while the lingering finish is rustic and quite serious. This isn't refined but then again, refinement isn't why one buys Aloxe *villages* wines. (88-91)/2028+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Serpentières": A much more floral-inflected nose is composed by notes of cool and pure wild cherry along with hints of wood, the *sauvage* and violet. The rich and attractively textured middleweight flavors are noticeably finer with a subtle minerality adding a sense of lift to the lingering and refreshing finish where the wood telegraphed by the nose reemerges. This is on the woody side at present and it will need a few years of fully integrate it. (89-91)/2027+

2021 Ladoix "Les Joyeuses": Here too the expressive nose is quite floral with notes of lilac, violet and rose petal adding elegance to the cool and earthy aromas of red and dark pinot fruit. I very much like the texture of the detailed and lightly mineral-suffused medium weight flavors that are not especially dense while the nicely persistent finish leans out somewhat as it sits on the palate. I would note however that this was carrying quite a bit of gas, which may explain the leanness. (87-90)/2028+

2021 Aloxe-Corton "Les Valozières": Moderate wood frames markedly earth and *sauvage* aromas of dark currant and a floral top note. As one would expect, there is notably more volume to the solidly dense and powerful larger-bodied flavors that conclude in a rustic, serious and built-to-age finish. At least some patience strongly advised. (89-92)/2031+

2021 Ladoix "La Corvée": This is aromatically similar to the Valozières if not quite so *sauvage* in character. There is again impressive density and solid power to the broad-shouldered flavors that possess good richness that carries over the rustic and linear finish flits with leanness. This should benefit from at least some cellaring to add depth and further flesh out. (89-92)/2031+

2021 Aloxe-Corton "Le Toppe au Vert": Moderately generous wood sets off the cooler and reserved nose that blends notes of both red and dark currant aromas that are liberally cut with earth and forest floor elements. There is fine richness and concentration to the powerful and muscular big-bodied flavors that coat the palate with sappy dry extract that contrasts somewhat with the long but somewhat lean finish. (89-91)/2031+

2021 Corton-Les Maréchaudes: A pungent nose reflects notes of firm reduction and wood toast. Here too there is fine richness and volume to the notably more refined flavors that are at once sleek yet succulent, all wrapped in moderately austere bitter pit fruit-inflected finale. This is firm and serious and should age accordingly. (91-93)/2033+

2021 Corton-Les Renardes: (from a .75 ha parcel). An attractively floral and spice-suffused nose offers up an array of red currant, plum and *sauvage* nuances. There is even better detail to the seductively textured and very punchy larger-bodied flavors that are also relatively refined on the youthfully austere, balanced and sneaky long finale. While this lovely effort will repay a decade plus of cellaring, it should also be reasonably approachable after only 5 to 7 years. (91-93)/2033+

2021 Corton-Le Rognet: Subtle but easily perceptible wood nuances lurk in the background of the aromas of herbal tea, black cherry and plethora of floral wisps, and in particular violet. The sleek and beautifully textured medium-bodied flavors also exude a bracing minerality before terminating in a moderately austere, balanced and built-to-age finale. (91-93)/2033+

Château de la Maltroye (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2021	**➽ Bourgogne Pinot Noir**	**red**	**87**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet**	**red**	**88**
2021	**➽ Chassagne-Montrachet "Boudriotte" 1er**	**red**	**91**
2021	**➽ Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos du Château" 1er**	**red**	**91**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2021	**Santenay "La Comme" 1er**	**red**	**89**

Jean-Pierre Cournut noted 2021 is "one of those unexpected vintages that turned out to be much better than you originally imagined that it might be. I say that because between the frost and a difficult, wet, gray and problematic growing season, it was frankly hard to be especially optimistic. We picked from the 17th to the 23rd of September and yields were all over the place. This is to say that the pinot was not far from normal but the chardonnay got seriously hammered at around -70%. Potential alcohols were also quite varied at between 12.2 and 13.6%. I vinified pretty much as always as the pinot was ripe and clean so there wasn't really any reason to do otherwise. Even so, I wasn't expecting anything special yet the quality is really quite good and moreover, in both colors." I would agree with Cournut as 2021 is indeed a fine vintage for him and, as he correctly notes in my view, in both colors. Cournut noted that the 2021 reds were bottled in February 2023. (Frederick Wildman, www.frederickwildman.com, NY, Jeanne-Marie de Champs, www.ds-collection.com, NY, Wine House, www.winesf.com, CA, both USA; Enotria Winecellars Ltd, www.enotria.co.uk, UK; The Fine Wine Experience, www.finewineexperience.com, Hong Kong, China; Domaine Wine Cellars, www.domaine.com.tw, Taiwan).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: A very pinot-like nose is fresh and bright with background hints of pepper and newly turned earth. There is a lovely sense of energy to the relatively delicate flavors that deliver very good depth and persistence. This is built on its fruit but it's not simple. 87/2024+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet: An overtly pepper-inflected nose is comprised by notes of both red and dark currant aromas that are laced with plenty of earth character. The delicious and vibrant flavors possess moderate density before terminating in a youthfully austere bitter pit fruit nuance. While this could age, it's rich enough to enjoy young if desired. 88/2026+

2021 Santenay "La Comme": A fresh and slightly more elegant nose reflects the cool essence of various red berries and more subtle earth influence. The succulent but punchy middleweight flavors exude a bracing minerality on the youthfully austere finish that flirts with leanness that I suspect is more due to the recent bottling than under ripeness. 89/2026+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean": (from sandy and rather light soil). A cool, restrained and markedly earthy nose displays more deeply pitched aromas of various dark berries, spice, violet and a hint of wild strawberry. The sleek and well-detailed medium weight flavors possess a lovely sense of vibrancy that carries over to the youthfully austere and better-balanced finale. 90/2027+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Boudriotte": An ultra-fresh nose freely offers up an array of red berries, just turned earth and a touch of forest floor. Here too there is very good richness to the solidly concentrated and relatively powerful medium-bodied flavors that deliver fine length on the balanced and dusty finish. This is quite rich and while it has the stuffing to age successfully, it could also be enjoyed young if desired. 91/2028+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos du Château": (a monopole of the Domaine). This is aromatically more restrained if a bit more elegant with a mix of red cherry, plum and pretty floral wisps. There is again excellent volume and a highly seductive texture to the powerful yet refined flavors that deliver very fine length on the dusty, firm and ageworthy finish. 91/2029+

Château de Marsannay (Marsannay)

2021	Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2021	Echézeaux – En Orveaux Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2021	➽ Fixin "Les Petits Crais"	red	(90-92)
2021	Gevrey-Chambertin	red	88
2021	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin "Bel Air" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin "Champ Cheny"	red	89
2021	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin "Champeaux" 1er	red	(91-93)
2021	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin "La Justice"	red	(89-91)
2021	➽ Marsannay "Le Boivin"	red	(90-92)
2021	➽ Marsannay "Les Champs Salomon"	red	(89-92)
2021	Marsannay "Clos de Jeu"	red	(88-91)
2021	Marsannay "Clos du Roy"	red	(88-90)
2021	Marsannay "Es Echezots"	red	(89-92)
2021	➽ Marsannay "Les Favières"	red	(90-92)
2021	Ruchottes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2021	➽ Vosne-Romanée "En Orveaux" 1er	red	(90-93)

Managing director Stéphane Follin runs both this domaine and the Château de Meursault (see herein). With respect to the 2021 vintage, he noted that "the frost cost us plenty of yields and mainly in our upper-level appellations as the lower levels were largely spared. We began picking on the 23rd of September and there was some sorting necessary but nothing extraordinary either. Across the majority of our wines we realized yields of between 15 and 20 hl/ha. We vinified carefully, which isn't to say light but not aggressively either using relatively high percentages of whole clusters. As to the wines, they're relatively tender and less acidic than say 2013. The wines changed substantially after the malos and have become progressively more interesting and overall, I would describe 2021 was surprisingly good." I would absolutely agree with Follin's take as there are some lovely wines in the portfolio in 2021, especially those from Gevrey. (Terlato Wines International, www.terlatowines.com, IL, USA; J & B and the Wine Society, UK).

2021 Marsannay "Clos de Jeu": A subtle if perceptible trace of wood can be found on the cool and airy aromas of various dark berries, plum and violet. The racy and attractively textured flavors possess an almost delicate mouthfeel before concluding in a clean, dry, youthfully austere and balanced finale. This could use better depth, but more should reasonably develop if allowed a few years of keeping. (88-91)/2027+

2021 Marsannay "Es Echezots": An even cooler and very pretty, even perfumed nose derives more from the red side of the fruit spectrum. The sleek and highly energetic middleweight flavors also possess a lovely texture while delivering better complexity on the sneaky long, youthfully austere and balanced finale. (89-92)/2028+

2021 Marsannay "Les Champs Salomon": Here too there is just enough wood to merit pointing out setting off the earthy, cool and airy red berry fruit scents. The seductive but very punchy medium weight flavors exude a bracing salinity on the refreshing, clean and more powerful finale. I like the detail and in contrast to most vintages of Champs Salomon, which typically matures slowly, this should be reasonably approachable young if desired. (89-92)/2028+

2021 Marsannay "Les Favières": A bit more evident wood still easily allows the ripe and spicy aromas of earthy red and dark berries to be appreciated. There is even better volume and excellent vibrancy to the velvet-textured medium-bodied flavors that conclude in a firm, moderately austere and lingering finale. Les Favières also always well and the 2021 version is going to require at least a few years of keeping first. (90-92)/2029+

2021 Marsannay "Clos du Roy": Notes of herbal tea, crushed anise, red currant and a plethora of floral elements gives way to impressively dense, powerful and muscular flavors that flash good minerality on the balanced but, somewhat surprisingly, short finish. This may well harmonize as there is no obvious reason why the length should be any different. Odd. (88-90)/2029+

2021 Marsannay "Le Boivin": An appealingly layered nose is comprised by notes of violet, plum and just turned earth. There is excellent delineation to the concentrated and tautly muscular flavors that coat the palate with dry extract on the youthfully austere and sneaky long finish that is robust but stops short of rusticity. (90-92)/2031+

2021 Fixin "Les Petits Crais": An exuberantly floral-suffused nose speaks mostly of earthy dark berries with a spiced tea component. The sleek, concentrated and surprisingly powerful flavors possess unusually good volume as well as a lovely texture to the stony, long and balanced finish. This is an excellent Fixin *villages* and worth checking out. (90-92)/2028+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin: (from Reniard, Charreux, Murots, Billard, Nouroy and Puits de la Baraque). There is a touch of crushed leaf character to the cool nose of red berries and forest floor. There is good definition if not the same mid-palate density to the middleweight flavors that exhibit good if not special length on the lightly austere, clean and refreshing finale. 88/2027+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin "Champ Cheny": A perfumed and very pretty nose combines notes of red and dark wild currant, violet and a hint of earth. There is excellent mid-palate density as well as good minerality to the bigger yet sleeker medium-bodied flavors that deliver very fine length on the serious and powerful but not really rustic finale. Champ Cheny also usually requires extended cellaring and this example is going to need at least 5-ish years and should repay 10. Worth a look. 89/2029+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin "La Justice": A more elegant and airier nose features notes of plum, herbal tea and whiff of wood influence. There is more refinement if less concentration and power to the lilting, delicious and energetic middleweight flavors that are a combination of finesse and punch on the youthfully austere and sneaky long finish. This is very La Justice in style and a wine that should be approachable young. (89-91)/2028+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin "Bel Air": (from a .40 ha parcel). A toasty and menthol-inflected nose displays notes of spiced plum, cool earth and a whiff of rose petal. There is better mid-palate density, if perhaps not quite the refinement, to the attractively textured flavors that possess excellent underlying tension on the balanced, youthfully austere and lingering finale. This is sufficiently structured to reward a decade plus of cellaring yet could be approached after 5 to 7 years if desired. (90-93)/2031+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin "Champeaux": (from a .30 ha parcel). Here the wood is no longer subtle though neither is it dominant on the ripe aromas of plum, dark berries and prominent *sauvage* wisps. The delicious and vibrant though not particularly dense flavors still manage to display focused power and excellent minerality on the austere, lingering and balanced finale. This is one of those wines that feels like it should be rustic but just isn't. (91-93)/2031+

2021 Vosne-Romanée "En Orveaux": (from a .28 ha parcel). A slightly riper nose is much spicier with its aromas of mostly black cherry and more subtle oak treatment. There is first-rate energy to the super-sleek mineral-driven flavors that exhibit excellent definition on the moderately austere, firm and lingering finale. This does however need to develop better depth though that should be possible if given a chance. (90-93)/2031+

2021 Echézeaux – En Orveaux: (from a tiny .10 ha parcel). This is aromatically similar to the premier version though with more wood in evidence. The highly seductive and slightly more concentrated if perhaps a bit less mineral-driven flavors possess plenty of sap that buffers the firmer core of ripe tannins shaping the balanced and lengthy finale. This is a relatively refined if mildly woody Ech that should amply repay 12 to 15 years of keeping. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Chambertin: (from a .09 ha parcel). This is even more generously wooded and it's enough to largely dominate the *sauvage* and dark berry fruit aromas. The almost painfully intense larger-bodied flavors are more interesting as they brim with both sap and minerality on the impressively powerful, highly complex and long finish where the wood resurfaces. This is too woody to enjoy young but it appears to have the requisite stuffing to integrate it in time. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Ruchottes-Chambertin: (from a .09 ha parcel). Here the wood regimen is much, much more subtle if not invisible on the cool, pure and floral-suffused red and dark berry aromas. The sleek and utterly delicious medium-bodied flavors are not especially dense though they are very crunchy and beautifully textured on the moderately austere finale. This isn't as powerful or imposing as the Chambertin, but I like the delivery much more. (91-94)/2033+

Domaine Thierry et Pascale Matrot/Pierre Matrot (Meursault)

2021	**Auxey-Duresses**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2021	**Blagny "La Pièce Sous la Bois" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2021	**Bourgogne Pinot Noir**	**red**	**86**
2021	**Maranges Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2021	**Maranges "Les Fussières" 1er**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2021	**Meursault**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2021	**Volnay "Santenots" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**

Thierry Matrot, who joined his father Pierre at the domaine in 1976 and essentially took over in 1983, has now turned over the reins of this 24 ha domaine to two of his daughters (he has three), Elsa and Adèle; they joined the domaine in 2008 and 2010, respectively. I met this time with Elsa who related that 2021 was "complicated in the extreme. We had the severe early April frosts and for an entire month afterwards, the vines basically didn't budge. We tried warming candles to protect a few vineyards but they didn't really work. It was also rainy and cool with plenty of disease pressure, so it wasn't easy to protect the vines when they finally did start growing again as it was hard to get equipment in the vineyards. We began picking on the 17th of September and it was all but impossible to visually tell the difference between first- and second-generation fruit but there was if you tasted them. But that approach obviously can't be used to decide what to pick! Yields were a disaster as we were off basically 80% and their will not be a La Garenne, Chevalières or Monthélie rouge. We chose to do a light vinification to avoid any green elements or inadvertent astringence. I confess to being really skeptical about the quality initially but as they have really come into their own and I like them quite a bit now, particularly for their terroir transparency and energy. My view on aging them is that the reds would best be drunk young for their fruit though the whites should offer mid-term aging potential." Note that the 2021 whites will be reviewed in the next Issue. (Vineyard Brands, www.vineyardbrands.com, AL, USA; Cellarhand, www.cellarhand.com.au, Australia; Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com, Private Cellar Ltd., www.privatecellar.co.uk, Handford Wines, www.handford.net, Direct Wine, www.directwine.co.uk, Laytons, www.laytons.co.uk, Flint Wines, www.flintwines.com, D. Byrne & Co., www.dbyrne-finewines.co.uk all UK).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: (mostly from Puligny vines; bottled under screwcap). A super-fresh and very pinot nose introduces delicious and vibrant lighter weight flavors that are shaped by bright but not drying acidity on the clean and delineated finale. This is built on its fruit and should drink well basically upon release. 86/2024+

2021 Maranges Vieilles Vignes: (9 barrels produced versus 35 normally). This is also aromatically beautifully fresh with a mix of red berries that are cut with plenty of earth character. There is slightly better volume to the flavors that are also on the lighter side that offer better overall depth and persistence on the clean, balanced and refreshing finale. (87-89)/2025+

2021 Auxey-Duresses: (from Les Heptures). A slightly more deeply pitched nose features notes of freshly turned earth, dark cherry and plum scents. I like the texture of the middleweight flavors that are not especially dense but do offer a lovely vibrancy that carries over to the youthfully austere, lightly stony and clean if not particularly long. (86-89)/2025+

2021 Maranges "Les Fussières": A distinctly cool, pure and pretty nose blends the essence of red cherry with hints of earth, kirsch and spice. The attractively tension-filled medium weight flavors flash evident minerality on the ever-so-mildly drying but not really short finish. This may come together once it's bottled but it's a bit short today. (86-89)/2024+

2021 Meursault: (from Les Dressoles and Malpoiriers). Bright aromas of plum, dark raspberry and newly turned earth introduce super-sleek and polished lighter weight flavors that display excellent precision on the dusty, clean and dry-in-the-best sense finish that offers slightly better persistence. (87-89)/2025+

2021 Volnay "Santenots": (from Les Plures and Santenots Blanc). An agreeably spicy nose reflects notes of crushed anise, violet, jasmine tea and red and blue pinot fruit. The lighter weight but wonderfully punchy flavors exude a subtle minerality on the impressively long and much more complex finale. Light but lovely. (89-91)/2027+

2021 Blagny "La Pièce Sous la Bois": This is also distinctly cool, pure and airy with its expressive nose of essence of red pinot fruit and discreet floral wisps. The gorgeously textured barely middleweight flavors are not dense but they are super-sleek, polished and refined before terminating in a bitter pit fruit-inflected finish that displays sneaky good length. This should drink well both young and with a few years of keeping. (89-91)/2027+

Domaine Pierre Meurgey (Bligny-lès-Beaune)

2021	**Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits**	**red**	**(86-88)**
2021	**Côte de Nuits-Villages "Aux Montagnes"**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2021	**Nuits St. Georges "Les Chaliots"**	**red**	**(88-90)**
2021	**Pommard "Les Grands Epenots" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2021	**Savigny-les-Beaune**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2021	**Volnay "Les Echards"**	**red**	**(87-90)**

Pierre Meurgey buys in mostly organically farmed fruit and vinifies it himself at the shared winemaker facility located inside the Château de Bligny. He briefly noted that in contrast to his usual practice, the 2021 reds saw no whole clusters and will be bottled without fining or filtration. For more information visit: www.pierremeurgey.com (Banville Wine Merchants, www.banvillewine.com, NJ, USA).

2021 Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits: A hint of herbal tea is present on the agreeably fresh aromas of mostly red berries and discreetly smoky hints. The racy if not especially dense lighter weight flavors possess good delineation on the youthfully austere bitter cherry pit-inflected finish that is firm enough to permit 2 to 3 years of improvement. (86-88)/2025+

2021 Savigny-les-Beaune: (from Bas Liards). A similar if earthier nose precedes supple, delicious and equally vibrant flavors that possess slightly better volume while delivering solid persistence on the dusty and balanced finale. This refreshing effort could use better depth though more should reasonably develop if allowed a few years of keeping first. (87-89)/2026+

2021 Volnay "Les Echards": High-toned aromas include those of lilac, violet, red raspberry and a hint of newly turned earth. The sleek, vibrant and utterly delicious medium weight flavors possess notably better volume if perhaps not the same refinement on the youthfully austere and ever-so-mildly rustic finale. Les Echards always ages well and this example will need at least a few years of keeping first. (87-90)/2027+

2021 Pommard "Les Grands Epenots": Here too the nose is relatively high-toned in style with its aromas of red cherry, raspberry and whiff of strawberry. The moderately dense medium-bodied flavors display focused power on the attractively textured if slightly austere and sneaky long finale that is noticeably more structured. As is almost always the case with competent examples of Epenots, at least some patience should be helpful in developing better depth. (89-91)/2029+

2021 Côte de Nuits-Villages "Aux Montagnes": Moderate reduction masks the underlying fruit though the succulent, round and supple middleweight flavors possess good verve if not much depth, in fact the finish is a bit one-dimensional. I suspect this will change once the wine is racked and aerated and my projected range offers the benefit of the doubt. (86-89)/2027+

2021 Nuits St. Georges "Les Chaliots": This is also reduced but less so while the medium weight flavors display both good vibrancy and freshness on the rustic, austere and lingering finish that offers much better depth. This will need a few years of keeping to round off the supporting tannins as it's presently very Nuits in style. (88-90)/2028+

Château de Meursault (Meursault)

2021	➽ Aloxe-Corton "Maréchaudes" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	Beaune "Grèves – Les Trois Journaux" 1er	red	90
2021	Beaune "Toussaints" 1er	red	(88-91)
2021	➽ Bourgogne du Château – Pinot Noir	red	87
2021	Corton-Maréchaudes Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2021	Corton-Rognets Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2021	Corton-Vergennes Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2021	Ladoix "Les Chaillots"	red	(87-89)
2021	➽ Pommard "Clos des Epenots" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	Pommard "La Platière"	red	(87-89)
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	(87-89)
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Peuillets" 1er	red	(88-91)
2021	Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	(89-92)

The Château de Meursault is under common ownership with the Château de Marsannay (see above), which also farms 9 ha of vines from the old Prince de Mérode. Managing director Stéphane Follin briefly noted that "the growing season started earlier in the Côte de Beaune than the Côte de Nuits so the frost damage was worse as, depending on the vineyard in question, we lost between 80 and 90% in white and about 60% in red. On top of this there was a great deal of sorting necessary and just as an example, from our vines in Perrières, Champ Canet and Les Grands Charrons we usually make around 75 barrels but in 2021, we made exactly 7! Despite this, the wines are actually quite good but it would be fair to say that they're stylistically completely different from what we made in 2018, 2019 and 2020." Follin also noted that the 2021 reds will be bottled unfiltered and that the domaine will have a Corton-Charlemagne in 2022 as they now have a .15 ha parcel in En Charlemagne (Pernand). (Terlato Wines International, www.terlatowines.com, IL, USA; J & B and the Wine Society, UK).

2021 Bourgogne du Château – Pinot Noir: Distinctly earthy aromas include mostly those of various red berries along with a hint of smoky character. The delicious and solidly concentrated middleweight flavors conclude in a rustic yet nicely complex and persistent finish. This won't win any awards for refinement, but I like the frank delivery. 87/2024+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune: (mostly from Les Gollardes with smaller amounts from Goudelettes). This is also distinctly earthy with its mix of red cherry, currant and fennel hints. There is again fine volume to the energetic medium weight flavors that exude a refreshing salinity on the less rustic finish that could use better depth. (87-89)/2025+

2021 Ladoix "Les Chaillots": Here there is a sufficient amount of reduction to mask the nuances of the darker fruit and forest floor-scented nose. There is slightly better volume along with a lovely sense of energy to the nicely concentrated flavors that exhibit moderate rusticity and austerity on the lingering finish that fans out as it sits on the palate. (87-89)/2026+

2021 Pommard "La Platière": (from the *villages* portion of the vineyard). A discreet application of wood sets off the cool and airy nose of mostly red currant and soft earth nuances that are picked up by the vibrant if not especially dense flavors that possess a supple mid-palate that contrasts somewhat with the dusty and mildly rustic finish that really tightens up. As such, this will need at least a few years to unwind and hopefully add depth. (87-89)/2027+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Peuillets": This is also airy and cool with a layered blend of red cherry, plum and crushed anise. The supple but energetic middleweight flavors exude a subtle minerality on the youthfully austere and nicely complex if moderately short finish. I suspect that this may better harmonize with a few years of bottle age and my projected range offers the benefit of the doubt. (88-91)/2028+

2021 Beaune "Toussaints": (from a 1.22 ha holding). A pungent nose of firm reduction and wood leads to utterly delicious, supple and vibrant flavors that possess an inner mouth perfume before terminating in a youthfully austere, lingering and balanced finale. This pretty effort could use better depth, but more should reasonably develop as this is quite firm. (88-91)/2029+

2021 Beaune "Grèves – Les Trois Journaux": Here too there is enough wood to remark upon setting off the spicy mix of red cherry and raspberry scents. Once again the mid-palate mouthfeel is quite supple with fine detail and a subtle minerality adding a sense of lift to the youthfully austere, compact and sneaky long finale. Lovely and understated in style. 90/2029+

2021 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": The cool, pure and perfumed red berry aromas are nuanced by hints of spice, newly turned earth and a more subtle dollop of wood. There is a lovely texture to the more imposing and powerful medium-bodied flavors that display very good length if only average depth, at least at present. (89-92)/2029+

2021 Aloxe-Corton "Maréchaudes": A cool yet ripe nose freely offers up a combination of fruit that derives mostly from the red side of the fruit spectrum along with hints of earth, oak and the *sauvage*. There is impressive volume and mid-palate density to the sappy medium-bodied flavors that flash evident minerality on the youthfully austere finale that is shaped by firm yet relatively fine-grained tannins. This tightly wound effort is very good and worth considering. (90-93)/2031+

2021 Pommard "Clos des Epenots": (from a huge 3.63 ha holding in Petits Epenots). This is also distinctly earthy with humus nuances adding breadth to the aromas of violet, plum and red currant. The succulent, round and equally sappy medium weight flavors possess a highly appealing mouthfeel while the youthfully austere finish is also shaped by firm but fine-grained tannins. This silky effort could use better depth but it's already quite pretty and should prove to be admirably ageworthy. (90-93)/2031+

2021 Corton-Maréchaudes: A restrained if quite pretty nose blends notes of cool earth, subtle oak, the sauvage and both red and dark currant. There is excellent volume to the solidly concentrated and tautly muscular medium weight plus flavors that conclude in a moderately austere, powerful and balanced effort. While not exactly a refined wine, it is finer than most examples of Corton grand crus. (91-94)/2031+

2021 Corton-Rognets: There is a herbal tea top note to the cool and ultra-pure nose of earthy red and dark wild berries, spice and an equally subtle dollop of oak. The sleek and delicious middleweight flavors aren't quite as dense though they're slightly finer while displaying more evident minerality on the youthfully austere finale where the wood telegraphed by the nose resurfaces. At least some patience recommended. (91-94)/2031+

2021 Corton-Vergennes: Moderate wood is still sufficiently in the background to permit the ripe aromas of poached plum and dark cherry to be appreciated. The supple yet nicely precise medium weight flavors possess an appealing sense of underlying tension as well as good minerality on the youthfully austere, balanced and sneaky long finish. This could use more complexity but the supporting tannins are sufficiently firm that more depth should progressively develop. (91-93)/2033+

Domaine François Mikulski (Meursault)

2021	**➽ Bourgogne Pinot Noir**	**red**	**87**
2021	**Monthélie "Les Toisières"**	**red**	**88**
2021	**➽ Pommard**	**red**	**89**
2021	**➽ Volnay "Santenots du Milieu" 1er**	**red**	**91**

François Mikulski noted that 2021 gave us a "complicated growing season that began with a devastating frost but because we have long pruned late, we were somewhat less affected. With that said, some of the more precocious premier cru parcels definitely suffered damage. Thereafter there was strong disease pressure and in particular, the pinot was affected by botrytis. We began picking on the 21st of September and unusually, we harvested the pinot first and had to sort carefully. Both colors though came in with good potential alcohols of between 12.5 and 13.3%. We did a lighter, but not actually soft, vinification using no whole clusters as we were looking for substance but not necessarily structure. To that end, I like the results because while they are not monsters of concentration, they have very good flavor authority and depth. The reds should drink well young but have no difficulty aging over the mid-term." I agree with Mikulski that his reds are indeed lovely, and they are worth checking out. Mikulski noted that the reds, except for the Monthélie, were bottled in January 2023. Lastly, he noted that there is no Meursault "Caillerets" in 2021 as the vines were pulled up. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.beckywasserman.com, Beaune, France; M.S. Walker, www.mswalker.com, MA/RI/NH, Fine Vines, www.finevines.com, IL, Terroir Imports, www.terroirimports.net, CO, Little Guy Wine, www.littleguywine.com, MI, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, TX, Elite Wines Imports, VA & DC, 703.339.8150, and Skurnik Wines, www.skurnik.com, NY, all USA; Enotria Wine Cellars Ltd., www.enotria.co.uk, Bordeaux Index, www.bordeauxindex.com, both UK; L'Imperatrice Fine Wines, https://imperatricewine.com.hk, Hong Kong/China).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: An exuberantly pinot-like nose is exuberantly fresh while flashing plenty of newly turned earth character. There is excellent vibrancy to the utterly delicious flavors that possess both good richness and detail while offering solid depth and persistence. This is a quality Bourgogne and worth considering. 87/2024+

2021 Monthélie "Les Toisières": A cooler and slightly more elegant nose blends notes of airy essence of red cherry scents with those of spice and soft earth. The lighter but delicious, punchy and lightly mineral-inflected flavors that deliver fine length on the youthfully austere and equally well-delineated finish. This could be enjoyed young or aged for a few years to good effect. 88/2026+

2021 Pommard: (from Rue au Port, Les Cras and Villages). A slightly riper yet still wonderfully fresh nose offers up notes of plum, red currant, dark raspberry and a hint of humus-suffused earth. There is again excellent intensity to the beautifully defined medium weight flavors that exude a refreshing salinity on the sneaky long and slightly more structured finale. This is a quality Pommard *villages* that will need at least a few years of patience first. 89/2027+

2021 Volnay "Santenots du Milieu": A plethora of floral elements, especially violet and lilac, is present on the aromas of dark cherry, red currant and pretty spice nuances. There is again a lovely sense of energy to the detailed, stony and tautly muscular flavors that possess focused power that seems to build on the youthfully austere, sappy and impressively long finish. This is a classically styled Santenots that will also need at least some patience. 91/2029+

Maison Lucien Le Moine (Beaune)

2021	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2021	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2021	➽ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses" 1er	red	(92-95)
2021	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Sentiers" 1er	red	(89-92)
2021	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2021	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	red	(89-92)
2021	Clos St. Denis Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2021	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2021	Corton-Perrières Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2021	Côte de Brouilly	red	(89-91)
2021	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2021	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin "Cazetiers" 1er	red	(92-94)
2021	Grands Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(89-92?)
2021	Mazis-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2021	➽ Morey St. Denis "Les Genavrières" 1er	red	(91-94)
2021	➽ Morey St. Denis "Les Chaffots" 1er	red	(91-94)
2021	Moulin-à-Vent	red	(89-92)
2021	Musigny Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2021	Nuits St. Georges "Les Cailles" 1er	red	NR
2021	➽ Nuits St. Georges "Les St. Georges" 1er	red	(92-94)
2021	➽ Nuits St. Georges "Les Vaucrains" 1er	red	(92-94)
2021	➽ Pommard "La Chanière" 1er	red	(91-93)
2021	➽ Pommard "Les Grands Epenots" 1er	red	(91-94)
2021	➽ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	➽ Volnay "Pitures Dessus" 1er	red	(91-93)
2021	Vosne-Romanée "Les Chaumes" 1er	red	(89-92)
2021	➽ Vosne-Romanée "Petits Monts" 1er	red	(91-93)

Mounir and Rotem Saouma established their two-person *micro-négoce* in 1999 that focuses almost exclusively on the very best 1ers and grand crus in both red and white. With respect to the 2021 vintage, Mounir told me that "there is a purity and transparency to the wines that we haven't seen in a long time. I absolutely love this vintage and the idea that the wines aren't sufficiently ripe is absolutely absurd. The average potential alcohol of my wines is 13.5% and there's no way that you get that level naturally with underripe fruit. Moreover, if there were underripe tannins or too much acidity, there is no place for them to hide in wines this pure. I also don't believe that this is a vintage destined to be drunk young, at least not because of a lack of staying power or development potential. That many 2021s will be drunk young is no fault of the wines as they have everything they need for a very long life. I would add that they are developing so slowly in barrel that I'm in no rush to bottle them, in fact I suspect that nothing will be

bottled before 24 months of *élevage* have passed." Saouma noted that from the moment he put the wines in the cellar that they had not been touched in any way including no sulfur additions. Because they had not been racked some of them were noticeably reduced. I have to agree with Saouma that he has made some first-rate 2021s and many of them are indeed recommended. (Atherton Wine Imports, www.awiwine.com, CA and Vintus, www.vintuswines.com, NY both USA; Berkmann Wine Cellars, www.berkmann.co.uk, and Laytons, www.laytons.co.uk, both UK; Altaya Wines, www.altayawines.com, Hong Kong).

2021 Côte de Brouilly: Firm reduction dominates the nose at present. Otherwise, there is very good freshness and detail to the vibrant medium-bodied flavors that conclude in a moderately rustic finish that offers both fine depth and length. As Côte de Brouilly typically is, this is robust and powerful and will need a few years of keeping to round out. (89-91)/2028+

2021 Moulin-à-Vent: This too is firmly reduced. More interesting are the equally vibrant and fresh medium weight flavors that possess equally good delineation and more obvious minerality on the rustic built-to-age finish that is slightly more structured. This is definitely not an example of 'fruity drink it young' bojo. (89-92)/2029+

2021 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": Cool and elegant red berry aromas are liberally laced with spice nuances. The sleek, delicious and impressively intense if not especially concentrated flavors conclude in a tautly muscular, moderately austere and dusty finish. This is classic built-to-age Clos des Chênes that should amply repay 12 to 15 years of keeping. (90-93)/2033+

2021 Volnay "Pitures Dessus": (from Chanlins). A background hint of volatile acidity is present on the otherwise cool, airy and earthy red berry fruit aromas. I very much like the texture of the delicate yet punchy and overtly mineral-driven flavors that display excellent length on the chiseled and moderately austere finale. At least some patience will be necessary. (91-93)/2031+

2021 Pommard "La Chanière": This is sufficiently reduced to push the underlying fruit to the background. There is excellent vibrancy to the sleek medium weight flavors that possess a lovely and sophisticated mouthfeel thanks to the dense but fine-grained tannins, all wrapped in a complex and lingering finish that flashes the hallmark austerity of a typically La Chanière. This is built on its minerality and old school in style so patience required. (91-93)/2031+

2021 Pommard "Les Grands Epenots": This is also firmly reduced though there is again good freshness and verve to the richer and more generously proportioned flavors that possess a completely different mouthfeel that is at once caressing yet punchy. There is also a completely different structure to the supporting tannins shaping the powerful, serious and built-to-age finish. This might be refined on the mid-palate, but the finish makes clear that this is a true Pommard nonetheless. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Corton-Perrières: Firm reduction. The super-sleek, intense and powerful larger-bodied flavors possess evident minerality while channeling the power on the impressively long, balanced and youthfully austere finale. This is already quite complex and in contrast to several of the prior wines, this actually could be approached after only 5 to 7 years if desired. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Morey St. Denis "Les Chaffots": An attractively floral-suffused nose speaks mostly of earthy red currant and plum scents. There is excellent underlying tension if only average density to the beautifully detailed and tautly muscular flavors that firm up noticeably on the powerful finish that possess first-rate depth and persistence. While not exactly rustic, this is would be fairly described as robust and serious and should age effortlessly as any competent example of Chaffots does. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Morey St. Denis "Les Genavrières": The expressive nose of exotic tea and dark berries is even more floral -suffused. The refined, rich and discreetly mineral-driven medium-bodied flavors that possess a Zen-like poise on the complex and equally persistent finish. It's a shame that we don't see this vineyard declared more often as this is really quite lovely. (91-94)/2031+

2021 Nuits St. Georges "Les Cailles": This is very firmly reduced and the reduction can be found on the palate as well. While this may well clean up, reduction that extends to the palate is always a warning sign. Not Rated.

2021 Nuits St. Georges "Les Vaucrains": An exuberantly fresh and ripe nose is comprised by notes of various red berries, plum, newly turned earth and a background whiff of the *sauvage*. The rich, concentrated and powerful big-bodied flavors are so mineral-inflected that it's like rolling a tiny pebble around the mouth, all wrapped in an austere, serious and built-to-age finish. This is textbook Vaucrains and wine that should age effortlessly for as long as anyone would reasonably care to. (92-94)/2033+

2021 Nuits St. Georges "Les St. Georges": A brooding but equally fresh nose reluctantly offers up is cool aromas of essence of red currant, forest floor and humus-inflected earth. The sleek, intense and beautifully detailed medium-bodied flavors display focused power and an abundance of minerality on the austere, firm and complex finish that just goes on and on. This is compact but really quite stylish and like the Vaucrains, this too is textbook Les St. Georges. (92-94)/2033+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin "Cazetiers": Firm reduction blurs the fruit though a hint of herbal tea can be discerned. I very much like the velvety texture of the dense and palate soaking broad-shouldered flavors that also flash both excellent power and minerality on the austere, compact and built-to-age finale where the only reproach is a suggestion of warmth. As is always the case with Cazetiers, this is a wine to buy and forget you own it for at least a decade. (92-94)/2033+

2021 Vosne-Romanée "Petits Monts": Here too there is a hint of herbal tea character to the exuberantly spicy aromas of exotic tea and red and dark currant. There is a more sophisticated textured to the equally mineral-driven if less powerful flavors that are shaped by bright but not drying acidity on the sneaky long finish that makes clear that this too will need patience. (91-93)/2033+

2021 Vosne-Romanée "Les Chaumes": Reduction masks everything but glimpses of the Vosne style spice elements. The round, supple and generous middleweight flavors possess both good delineation and energy that seems to build on the focused and lingering finish. This is perfectly good and certainly delicious but does possess the class of the Petits Monts. (89-92)/2031+

2021 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Sentiers": Firm reduction overshadows the underlying fruit. More interesting are the sleek and delicious if not especially dense medium weight flavors that possess an attractive texture while displaying good length on the linear and youthfully austere finish that needs to develop better depth to merit the upper end of my projected range. (89-92)/2031+

2021 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses": A beautifully airy and decidedly floral-suffused nose is composed by notes of airy red berries, exotic jasmine tea and a whiff of sandalwood. The almost painfully intense and highly sophisticated middleweight flavors brim with minerality that adds a sense of lift to the wonderfully seductive and hugely persistent finish. While this too could use better depth, the mouthfeel is pure grace and lace. (92-95)/2033+

2021 Clos de Vougeot: Firm reduction reveals nothing about the underlying fruit. By contrast there is excellent volume and mid-palate density to the succulent and caressing but decidedly powerful flavors that conclude in a moderately austere, firmly structured and built-to-age finale. This is at once generous but detailed and a wine that should amply repay extended keeping. (92-94)/2033+

2021 Clos de la Roche: A beautifully layered nose combines notes of forest floor and the *sauvage* with those of wild red and dark currant. There is both good volume and focused power to the larger-scaled flavors that display good length on the moderately austere and somewhat lean and attenuated finish that could also use better depth. This may come together but as the description suggests, it's a bit awkward today. (89-92)/2031+

2021 Clos St. Denis: (from 90+ year old vines). A notably more elegant, if more restrained, nose features the cool essence of red currant, spice and violet along with a hint of exotic tea. The medium-bodied flavors possess a genuinely gorgeous mouthfeel that is at once seductive and delineated before culminating in a marked austere, linear and lightly stony finish. This too could use better depth but more should develop if given time. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Charmes-Chambertin: (from both Charmes and Mazoyères in a roughly 50/50 proportion). A brooding and reluctant nose grudgingly gives up its aromas of the *sauvage*, black cherry and forest floor. The sleek and refined, indeed even silky, possess a sophisticated mouthfeel thanks primarily to the fine-grained tannins shaping the sneaky long finish. There is a hint of acid tang but I suspect that it will slowly fade with a few years of bottle age. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Mazis-Chambertin: (from both Mazis-Haut and Bas). A cool, pure and markedly spicy nose reflects plenty of *sauvage*, smoked meat and wild red berry aromas. The super-sleek and refined if not especially dense medium-bodied flavors also possess a gorgeous mouthfeel while culminating in a linear, austere and strikingly long mineral-inflected finish. Lovely. (92-94)/2033+

2021 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: Here too the expressive nose is highly spiced, even exotically so, with its mix of red and dark currant, newly turned earth and a hint of wood. Once again the medium weight flavors possess a sophisticated and highly seductive texture with a more subtle minerality on the beautifully long and mildly austere finish where the only nit is a mild touch of warmth. This is a Zen-like Bèze. (92-95)/2033+

2021 Echézeaux: (from En Orveaux). Moderate reduction renders the nose impossible to clearly read. The rich, seductive and opulent medium weight flavors possess a super-fine mouthfeel thanks to the wonderfully fine-grained tannins before tightening up on the dusty, moderately austere and lingering finale that also reflects a touch of warm that is less subtle. (91-93)/2033+

2021 Grands Echézeaux: A discreet if perceptible application of wood frames reserved aromas of spiced plum, violet and a hint of hoisin. The supple, round and not especially dense middleweight flavors possess a dusty, compact, linear and somewhat short and lean finish. This is definitely awkward and while it may better harmonize, that's not a given. (89-92?)/2033+

2021 Bonnes Mares: (from both Chambolle and Morey). A pretty and nicely layered mix features notes of red and dark currant, herbal tea, earth and a hint of crushed anise. There is fine tension and excellent precision if not especially good density to the medium-bodied flavors that also terminate in a dusty, linear, firmly austere and impressively long finish. This too could use better depth and the finish will need to flesh out to merit the upper end of my range. (91-93)/2033+

2021 Musigny: Generous wood fights a bit with the exuberantly fresh and spicy aromas of mostly dark cherry, violet and rose petal. The sleek, delicious and borderline painfully intense big-bodied but graceful flavors possess both excellent cut and minerality on the dusty, compact and built-to-age finale. This is a very tightly wound Musigny that's going to need extended keeping. (92-94)/2036+

Domaine de Montille (Volnay)

2021	Beaune "Grèves" 1er	red	(88-91?)
2021	Beaune "Sizies" 1er	red	88
2021	➽ Bourgogne	red	(86-89)
2021	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2021	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2021	Monthélie – Nature	red	87
2021	➽ Nuits St. Georges "Aux Saints Juliens"	red	89
2021	➽ Nuits St. Georges "Aux Thorey" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	Pommard "Les Cras"	red	88
2021	➽ Pommard "Les Pézerolles" 1er	red	91
2021	➽ Pommard "Les Rugiens-Bas" 1er	red	(91-94)
2021	Volnay "En Champans" 1er	red	90
2021	Volnay "Les Mitans" 1er	red	(89-92)
2021	➽ Volnay "Taillepieds" 1er	red	(91-94)
2021	➽ Vosne-Romanée "Aux Malconsorts" 1er	red	(91-94)
2021	Vosne-Romanée "Aux Malconsorts – Christiane" 1er	red	NR

Etienne de Montille, and his *chef de cave* Brian Sieve, told me that 2021 "was more than just surprising, it was frankly impossible to imagine that we could obtain this kind of quality given the massive damage caused by the frost and subsequent waves of disease pressure. Moreover, the cryptogamic diseases hit the vines that were most weakened by the frost the hardest. Thankfully the second half of August and most of September were warm and mostly clement so there wasn't too much in the way of sorting losses. Maturities were actually quite good but not high as nothing came in over 13% in terms of potential alcohol. Acidities were also good but not especially high as the post-malo pHs came in between 3 to 3.55, which is textbook. Another positive is that as difficult as the growing season was, the vinifications were quite easy and this is true despite the much smaller than normal quantities. As to the wines, 2021 produced classically styled reds and whites with excellent tension, transparency to the underlying terroir and an immediacy of fruit that we haven't seen for a number of years." Note that the few wines that are in bottle were put there is December 2022 save for the Monthélie 'Nature', which was bottled in July. There were no Maison de Montille reds presented and for more information on a new Kosher wine project the domaine is involved in, see immediately below. (Polaner Selections, www.polanerselections.com, NY, NJ, Beaune Imports, www.beauneimports.com, CA, Augustan Wine, www.augustanwine.com, FL, Pioneer Wine Company, www.pioneerwine.com, TX, LA, Old World Wines https://www.oldworldwineco.com, CO, Vineyard Road, www.vineyardroad.net, MA, Chambers & Chambers, www.chamberswines.com , HI, Kelloggs Wines Selection, www.kelloggwineselections.com , NC, SC, all USA; Halpern www.halpernwine.com, Canada; Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, John Armit Wines, www.armit.co.uk, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, The Wine Society, www.thewinesociety.com, Justerini & Brooks, www.justerinis.com, Honest Grapes, www.honestgrapes.co.uk, Flint Wines, www.flintwines.com, all UK; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com/hk and Altaya Wines, www.altayawines.com, both Hong Kong; Pearl of Burgundy, www.pearlofburgundy.com, Hong Kong/Macau.)

2021 Monthélie – Nature: (made with no sulfur additions, hence the name Nature). A slightly flat nose flirts with reduction though there is better verve and freshness on the palate of the nicely detailed and lightly stony flavors that conclude in a mildly austere finale. This could easily be drunk young. 87/2025+

2021 Bourgogne: (33% whole clusters). A very pretty nose features notes of mostly red berries and earth where the latter is picked up by the attractively energetic and precise middleweight flavors that possess an appealing texture that carries over to the clean, lingering and bitter pit fruit-inflected finale. A quality Bourgogne. (86-89)/2025+

2021 Pommard "Les Cras": (from a .50 ha holding of ~80-year-old vines; 33% whole clusters). Here the nose is suffering from post-bottling reduction though it shouldn't last. Otherwise, the dense and solidly powerful medium-bodied flavors display good if not special length on the firm, moderately rustic and youthfully austere finale. This is a classically styled Pommard villages that is sufficiently tightly wound to repay up to a decade of keeping. 88/2029+

2021 Nuits St. Georges "Aux Saints Juliens": (from a .58 ha holding; 33% whole clusters). A softly floral and earth-suffused nose freely offers up its cool aromas of red and dark currant. There is good punch to the relatively refined medium weight flavors that possess solid delineation on the youthfully austere finish that tightens up as it sits on the palate as the Nuits style tannins slowly make themselves felt. Even so, Aux St. Juliens usually drink well young and this example should as well. Worth considering. 89/2029+

2021 Beaune "Sizies": (from a 1.62 ha parcel; 33% whole clusters). Cool and airy aromas are comprised by notes of red cherry, plum and hints of violet and anise. The mouthfeel of the middleweight flavors is wonderfully sleek and energetic that contrasts with the chalky, dusty compact and somewhat short finish. 88/2031+

2021 Beaune "Grèves": (from a 1.26 ha holding; 50% whole clusters). A more deeply pitched nose displays smoky aromas of various dark berries, violet and a hint of spiced plum. There is both good energy and focused power to the detailed flavors that terminate in a markedly austere finish that is presently borderline bitter and a bit short. It's hard to say whether this rustic effort will better harmonize over time as this is decidedly awkward today. (88-91?)/2031+

2021 Volnay "En Champans": (from a .97 ha holding; 25% whole clusters and yields of only 9 hl/ha in 2021). A cool, airy and overtly floral-suffused nose is comprised by notes of spicy red berries and soft earth. The super-sleek if not especially dense middleweight flavors that exude an almost pungent minerality on the lacy and graceful finish. This is an atypical de Montille Champans as it's much finer than usual. When I asked why, the response was that the bottom portion of the vineyard was so badly frosted that the only the top portion, which gives finer wines, was used. 90/2029+

2021 Volnay "Les Mitans": (from a .73 ha holding in Mitans proper; 100% whole clusters). Firm reduction renders the nose unreadable. There is by contrast good freshness to the punchy medium-bodied flavors that are unusually powerful for Mitans while delivering good depth on the bitter pit fruit-inflected finish that comes up somewhat short and a bit lean. This might well harmonize once it's in bottle and my projected range offers the benefit of the doubt. (89-92)/2031+

2021 Volnay "Taillepieds": (from a 1.51 ha holding of ~80-year-old vines; 50% whole clusters). Here too the reduction is enough to mask everything but a subtle floral nuance. The gorgeously refined and pungently mineral-driven middleweight flavors culminate in a chalky, long, balanced and classically austere finale. Textbook Taillepieds. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Pommard "Les Pézerolles": (from a 1.36 ha holding; 30% whole clusters). A super-fresh, bright and airy nose freely displays its combination of essence of red berries allied with hints of spice, earth and violet. The vibrant and nicely detailed medium-bodied flavors flash less minerality on the dusty and equally chalky finish. This is very pretty though it could use more depth so a few years of keeping should be helpful. 91/2029+

2021 Pommard "Les Rugiens-Bas": (from a 1.02 ha holding; 50% whole clusters). This is also presently moderately reduced and revealing little. On the plus side, there is excellent intensity to the sleek, chiseled and delicious medium weight flavors that terminate in a lingering finish that is much like the Taillepieds, e.g. overtly mineral-driven, austere and compact. This should be excellent in time but it's not likely to make for especially interesting early drinking. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Nuits St. Georges "Aux Thorey": (from a .73 ha holding; 50% whole clusters). A decidedly cool and restrained nose reluctantly exhibits its aromas of freshly crushed red berries, anise and lilac. The plump but agreeably punchy middleweight flavors display a more subtle bead of minerality that seems to become more prominent on the clean, moderately austere and equally chiseled finale. Lovely and understated in style. (90-93)/2031+

2021 Clos de Vougeot: (from a .29 ha holding in Les Dix Journaux and Montiotes Basses; 50% whole clusters). This is also aromatically bright and very fresh with its array of herbal tea, abundance of floral elements and mix of red currant and cherry scents. The utterly delicious medium-bodied flavors flash both muscle and power while the lingering, youthfully austere and sappy finish displays fine depth and persistence. This is a classically style example and should age accordingly. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Corton-Clos du Roi: (from .84 ha holding of ~75+ year old vines; 66% whole clusters). Firm reduction completely dominates the fruit today. On the palate there is excellent intensity to the sleek medium weight flavors where the mouthfeel is enhanced by the fine-grained tannins shaping the powerful, compact and backward if long finish. This is very much a typical Corton grand cru that is a 'buy and forget you own it for at least a decade wine'. (91-93)/2033+

2021 Vosne-Romanée "Aux Malconsorts": (from a .97 ha holding; 66% whole clusters). Very firm reduction completely flattens the nose. There is excellent verve to the nicely detailed if not especially dense flavors that possess an unusually supple mid-palate that immediately firms up on the impressively long and complex finale. This is surprisingly accessible today though I suspect that it will shut down once in bottle. I would add that this is very pretty, indeed stylish, as well as quite classy but it's not what I would describe as a classic Malconsorts. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Vosne-Romanée "Aux Malconsorts – Christiane": (from a .48 ha parcel; 66% whole clusters). This is also very firmly reduced and the reduction is present on the palate as well and as such, this is very hard to assess. While it appears promising, it is my long-standing policy not to score wines that display reduction on the palate because while it may clean up once it's racked, there's no guarantee that it will. Not Rated.

Domaine de Montille – Kosher (Volnay)

2021	**Beaune "Les Perrières" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2021	**Bourgogne**	**red**	**(86-88)**
2021	**➽ Nuits St. Georges "Aux Thorey" 1er**	**red**	**(90-93)**
2021	**➽ Pommard "Les Grand Epenots" 1er**	**red**	**(90-93)**
2021	**Volnay "Les Brouillards" 1er**	**red**	**(89-92)**

As I reported last year, this is a new and interesting project that was driven by several requests by de Montille's English importer to create Kosher wines that were not only drinkable but legitimately considered to be "fine wine". De Montille agreed to contribute small amounts of fruit from several different vineyards. Based on what I was told, there is rabbinical oversight during the winemaking process and, importantly, the wine is exclusively handled by Sabbath-observant Jews. As de Montille explained, "we basically give them the fruit and stay out of their way, other than occasionally offering technical advice." Until further notice, the production will be distributed primarily in England. De Montille noted that there were varying amounts of whole clusters used in the vinifications and zero new wood was used during the *élevage*.

2021 Bourgogne: (no whole clusters). Pretty red berry fruit scents are liberally laced with subtle earth nuances that continue onto the sleek, delicious and nicely detailed middleweight flavors that conclude in a mildly austere finale. Note that this is firm enough to repay 2 to 3 years of keeping. (86-88)/2025+

2021 Volnay "Les Brouillards": (50% whole clusters). This is aromatically similar to the Bourgogne though with much more floral and spice elements. The notably finer medium weight flavors possess excellent punch as well as a subtle minerality on the compact, moderately austere and focused finale. This is sufficiently tightly would as to need a few years of keeping first and, if desired, this could easily repay up to a decade of cellaring. (89-92)/2028+

2021 Pommard "Les Grand Epenots": (100% whole clusters). An exuberantly floral-suffused combination, especially violet, displays a mix of red and dark currant, crushed anise and a whiff of herbal tea. There is slightly better volume to the detailed and energetic medium-bodied flavors that terminate in a markedly austere, balanced and linear finish. Like the Brouillards, this is sufficiently tightly wound as to require at least some patience. (90-93)/2031+

2021 Beaune "Les Perrières": (33% whole clusters). A moderate earthy nose features notes of various red berries, rose petal and a similar whiff of herbal tea, all of which is trimmed in subtle wood influence. There is again excellent verve and delineation to the lightly stony medium weight flavors that also culminate in a markedly austere, firm and linear finish. (89-91)/2029+

2021 Nuits St. Georges "Aux Thorey": (50% whole clusters). An elegant, cool and quite spicy nose reflects a discreet floral influence on the pretty red cherry and currant scents. There is a lovely sense of underlying tension and texture to the sleek and detailed if not especially dense flavors that display fine length on the moderately austere finale. This could use better depth but more should reasonably develop if given a chance. (90-93)/2029+

Domaine Alex Moreau (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**88**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot – La Cardeuse" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2021	**➽ Pommard "Les Fremiers" 1er**	**red**	**91**
2021	**➽ Volnay "1er" 1er**	**red**	**92**

Big changes have occurred at the domaine formerly called Bernard Moreau, as brothers Alex and Benoît have split the domaine and now have separate operations (see the reviews for Benoît below). Importantly in this context, while La Cardeuse will remain a monopole for the Moreau family, it was split between the brothers and as of 2021, there are two versions of it. And while it's a nuance, Moreau emphasized that the new domaine name will be Alex Moreau rather than Alexandre. In another change, readers should be aware that the labeling convention for the 2020s from Domaine Bernard Moreau will read "Vinifié par Alex Moreau" (vinified by Alex Moreau). Another important change is that up through and including the 2022 vintage, the domaine exploited 10.5 ha, but it is losing a long-term lease so as of the 2023 vintage, the vines under its control will total 5.8 ha. I will have more on Moreau's views on the 2021 vintage in Issue 91, though as far as the reds are concerned, Moreau said that he used "more whole clusters than usual at between 45 and 70% while vinifying quite soft during a very short cuvaison". Moreau also noted that there is no Chevalier-Montrachet or En Remilly in 2021 and that the Clos des Chênes or Caillerets were combined to produce a Volnay premier cru. Lastly, the 2021 reds were bottled in February 2023. (The Sorting Table, www.thesortingtable.com, CA, USA; O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, Flint Wines, www.flintwines.com, Uncorked Ltd, www.uncorked.co.uk, all UK; Pearl of Burgundy, www.pearlofburgundy.com, Hong Kong and Macau).

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: (from 35+ year old vines). Classic ruby color. Exceptionally fresh and cool aromas include those of red and dark pinot fruit laced with pepper and newly turned earth wisps. There is fine punch to the delicious middleweight flavors that conclude in a bitter pit fruit-inflected and sneaky long finish. This is moderately rustic but not really austere and is a wine that should be approachable young if desired. 88/2026+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot – La Cardeuse": A softly floral and earthy nose of both red and dark berries introduces denser and more voluminous medium-bodied flavors that flash focused power on the balanced if firmer finish that makes clear that in contrast to the Chassagne *villages*, this will need a few years to unwind. 90/2028+

2021 Volnay "1er": (in 2021 this combines the Caillerets and Clos des Chênes in a 40 to 60% proportion, which will be bottled exclusively in magnum format). A distinctly floral and spice-suffused nose freely reveals its aromas of violet, rose petal, anise and exotic tea on the cool and pure dark pinot fruit aromas. There is fine volume and excellent richness to the suave medium weight flavors that exude a bracing salinity on the youthfully austere, firm and sneaky long finish. This is lovely and do note that my suggested initial drinking window accounts for the large format bottling. 92/2036+

2021 Pommard "Les Fremiers": A perfumed, elegant and wafting nose combines notes of plum, violet and a variety of dark berry fruit aromas. The middleweight flavors aren't quite as dense as those of the Volnay but they retain a beguiling mouthfeel while exuding a subtle minerality on the lingering, firm and mildly austere finale. This is also going to need a few years of keeping first as it's presently pretty tightly wound. 91/2029+

Domaine Benoît Moreau (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**88**
2021	**➽ Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot – La Cardeuse" 1er**	**red**	**91**

Benoît Moreau, brother of Alex (see immediately above), chose to take his half of the former Domaine Bernard Moreau and start his own domaine farming 4.2 ha of vines. He notes that 100% of his vines, with the exception of a parcel of En Remilly in St. Aubin, will be located in Chassagne. To facilitate the production of his own wines, an impressive new cuverie was constructed near the just east of Chassagne in an industrial zone, barely in time for the 2021 harvest. As an aside, readers should be aware that even though he did release a few of the Bernard Moreau 2020s under his name, 2021 is the first vintage where he did everything from start to finish. He explained that most wines will see fully 18 months of *élevage* and be bottled using natural cork. I will have more details in Issue 91, but I would alert you that this is a talented young man and his wines should be on your radar

going forward. Moreau used no whole clusters for the vinifications and bottled the 2021 reds in December 2022. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.beckywasserman.com, Beaune, France; The Wine Society, www.thewinesociety.com, Noble Rot, www.noblerot.co.uk, and Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com, all UK; and Souveraine Ltd, http://www.souverainewine.com, Hong Kong).

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: A super-fresh and very pinot-like nose speaks mostly of various red berries, pepper and earth. The sleek, vibrant and nicely detailed middleweight flavors display good if not special length on the mildly rustic and persistent finale. This is largely built on its fruit though there is enough stuffing to repay a few years of keeping if desired. A competent Chassagne *villages*. 88/2025+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot – La Cardeuse": (from a .23 ha parcel). A slightly more deeply pitched nose grudgingly offers up its array of red and dark berries newly turned earth and a discreet floral top note. There is more size, weight and richness to the medium-bodied flavors that exhibit very good detail and a subtle minerality on the notably more complex and lingering finale. This is more refined than prior versions from Bernard Moreau were but that may be simply a reflection of the innate refinement of the 2021 vintage. 91/2028+

Domaine Caroline Morey (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2021	**Beaune "Grèves" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet**	**red**	**88**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Les Champ Gains" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2021	**Santenay**	**red**	**87**
2021	**Santenay "La Comme" 1er**	**red**	**88**

Caroline Morey, who is the wife and winemaking partner of Pierre-Yves Colin-Morey (director of Domaine Pierre-Yves Colin-Morey) and the daughter of Jean-Marc Morey, was away at the time of my visit so I don't have the benefit of her views of the 2021 vintage. However, I will have those of Pierre-Yves Colin-Morey, which will be included in Issue 91 as they are largely the same since both domaines are run out of the same place. He did note though that the reds were vinified lightly using 30 to 50% whole clusters and bottled in January 2023 without fining or filtration. (Atherton Wine Imports, www.awiwine.com, CA and Bertin Henri Selections, www.bertinhenriselections.com, FL, USA; A&B Vintners, www.abvintners.co.uk, UK; Altaya Wines, www.altayawines.com, Hong Kong).

2021 Santenay: (from Le Chainey and Les Cornières). Classic ruby. Cool and pure aromas include those of red cherry, raspberry and soft earth scents. The delicious and vibrant lighter weight flavors possess a supple mid-palate before concluding in a clean and mildly austere finish. This is built on its fruit and should drink well shortly after release. 87/2024+

2021 Santenay "La Comme": Classic ruby color. Bright red berry fruit aromas enjoy added breadth in the form of violet, lilac, pepper and earth nuances. The mouthfeel of the slightly richer flavors possess better precision and a subtle minerality that adds a sense of lift to the moderately firmer finale. This could also be popped and poured young or aged for a few years first. 88/2026+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet: (from Les Chênes and Les Chambres). An unusually perfumed and exceptionally pretty nose freely reveals its aromas of the essence of various red berries, pepper and an appealing variety of floral elements. There is more volume and richness still to the vibrant and attractively textured flavors that are also largely built on their fruit, which should permit this delicious effort to be enjoyed on the younger side. 88/2025+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Les Champ Gains": Light ruby hue. This is also extremely pretty with similar aromas of red berries and an even broader array of floral nuances. Once again, there is just a bit more volume and mid-palate density to the lingering and balanced finish. This could use better depth but a few years of keeping should help to address that. 89/2026+

2021 Beaune "Grèves": An admirably pure, cool and pretty nose is also quite floral with its spicy aromas of lilac, violet and rose petal adding elegance to the blend of both red and dark pinot fruit. There is very good delineation and underlying tension to the lighter weight flavors that terminate in a lightly austere and stony finale. This too could use better depth but despite the light weight flavors, more should reasonably develop before full maturity. 89/2027+

Domaine Pierre Morey (Meursault)

2021	**➽ Bourgogne Côte d'Or**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2021	**Monthélie**	**red**	**(87-89)**

The always candid and direct Anne Morey, who has now assumed full control of the day-to-day operating duties of the domaine, pulled no punches with respect to 2021, declaring that the "growing season was seriously difficult if perhaps not quite as bad as that of 2016. We picked from the 16th of September and brought in highly variable yields and especially in chardonnay. In general though they were much lower; indeed one parcel came in at only 5 hl/ha. By contrast, the aligoté was basically normal and the pinot ranged from 15 to 25 hl/ha. Potential alcohols were actually pretty good as they varied between 12.5 and 13% so I chaptalized almost nothing. For the reds, I did a lighter vinification just to be sure to limit extracting any greenness or underripe elements. If there is a silver lining in all of this, an argument can be persuasively made that it was a positive that the yields were low because if not, the fruit would never have adequately ripened." See also the *négociant* wines from Morey-Blanc reviewed below. Lastly, not all of the 2021 reds were presented due to the limited volumes. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.beckywasserman.com, Beaune, France; The Source Imports, www.thesourceimports.com, CA, Winebow, Inc., www.winebow.com, NJ, Vineyard Road, www.vineyardroad.net, MA, C'est Vin, LLC, 703.243.3559, VA, The Harvest Wine Company, LLC, nate@harvestwineco.com, CO, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, TX, The Source Imports, www.thesourceimports.com, CA, all USA; Wine Source, www.wine-source.com, UK; Le Maître de Chai, www.lemaitredechai.qc.ca, Canada; Domaine Wine Cellars, www.domaine.com.tw, Taiwan).

2021 Bourgogne Côte d'Or: A spicy and lightly earthy nose of red and dark pinot fruit leads to racy and attractively textured flavors that display sneaky good length on the nicely complex finale. This is quite good for its level plus it has the stuffing to repay a few years of keeping if desired. (86-89)/2025+

2021 Monthélie: (from a 1.15 ha holding in Les Gamets, La Goulotte, Les Sous-Courts, Les Crays and Les Longères). An ultra-fresh nose is comprised by notes of plum, dark cherry and more prominent earth influence. The delicious and vibrant if not especially dense flavors terminate in a bitter pit fruit-inflected finish that is also sneaky long. This is noticeably firmer and a wine that should benefit from at least a few years of patience. (87-89)/2027+

Domaine Sylvain Morey (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2021	**Coteaux Bourguignons**	**red**	**(85-87)**
2021	**Bourgogne Côte d'Or**	**red**	**(86-88)**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet**	**red**	**(88-90)**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Champ Gains" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2021	**Santenay "Grand Clos Rousseau" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**

The talented Sylvain Morey is Caroline Morey's (see above) brother, and they are the children of Jean-Marc Morey who has now retired. Morey's first vintage was 2014 and he continues to make really lovely wines from the same digs that his father did. With respect to the 2021 vintage, Morey noted that "we always prune late and we didn't even start until the 25th of March! This meant that our pinot vines hadn't started bud break when the early April frosts hit. As such, while our chardonnay yields were off between 30 and 70%, the pinot essentially came in with normal volumes. We picked from the 24th to the 27th of September and there wasn't much sorting necessary as the botrytis wasn't really a problem though we did throw out some underripe berries. Potential alcohols varied but most wines came in between 12 and 12.8% so I did a little chaptalization for those at the lower end of that range. I honestly wasn't sure what kind of quality we would have but the wines changed so much during the *élevage* that I now quite like them. I used no new wood for the whites or the reds except for the Champ Gains blanc. The whites make me think of perhaps a slightly less well-balanced 2014 but the reds are hard to compare as there's nothing really similar to them in the last decade." (Atherton Wine Imports, www.awiwine.com, CA and Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, NY, both USA; Latimer Vintners, www.latimervintners.com and Christopher Piper Wines, Ltd., www.christopherpiperwines.co.uk, all UK).

2021 Coteaux Bourguignons: (90% gamay). Light ruby color. Bright and pepper-inflected red berry fruit and soft earth scents precede delicious lighter weight flavors that possess good definition on the clean and mildly austere finale. This is very much built on its fruit and should make for uncomplicated summer sipping. (85-87)/2024+

2021 Bourgogne: Also light ruby hue. Very pinot-like aromas are comprised by red berry aromas that are also nuanced by newly turned earth hints. The attractive energetic and detailed barely middleweight flavors flash a touch of bracing bitter pit fruit character on the slightly more complex finale that is also essentially built on its fruit. To enjoy young. (86-88)/2024+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet: Classic ruby. Equally bright and ultra-fresh aromas include those of red cherry, currant and whiffs of forest floor and pepper. The delicious and punchy flavors are not especially dense though they are more refined than is typical for the appellation while delivering good persistence and reasonable depth. This initially seems as though it's too light to be interesting but in fact there is deceptively good flavor authority. (88-90)/2025+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Champ Gains": (50% whole clusters). This is aromatically similar to the Chassagne *villages* but with much more floral influence thanks to the high percentage of whole clusters. The slightly denser middleweight flavors possess both good definition and a seductive texture on the bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. This wonderfully refreshing effort could use more depth but a few years of keeping should prove beneficial. (88-91)/2026+

2021 Santenay "Grand Clos Rousseau": (50% whole clusters). Classic ruby color. This is also overtly floral with its array of lilac, rose petal and violet scents adding elegance and breadth to the softly spice essence of red pinot fruit scents. The tension-filled and precise barely medium weight flavors flash good minerality on the lingering finish that is shaped by bright but not drying acidity on the crisp, even crunchy finish. This could be enjoyed after only 2 to 3 years for its delicious fruit. (89-91)/2026+

Domaine Thomas Morey (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2021	Beaune "Grèves" 1er	red	89
2021	Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes	red	87
2021	Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean" 1er	red	87
2021	Maranges "La Fussière" 1er	red	88
2021	Pommard "Chanlins" 1er	red	88
2021	Santenay Vieilles Vignes	red	87
2021	Santenay "Grand Clos Rousseau" 1er	red	88

I will have Thomas Morey's (brother of Vincent – see below) views on the 2021 vintage in Issue 91. Specifically with respect to the reds, he noted that Santenay had a lot of rain and thus treating against disease pressure was extremely important as there was both frost and mildew. Morey bottled the reds in January and February 2023. (Vineyard Brands, www.vineyardbrands.com, AL, USA).

2021 Santenay Vieilles Vignes: An earthy and peppery nose reflects notes of both red and dark pinot fruit that precedes vibrant and delicious lighter weight flavors that deliver reasonably good length on the bitter cherry pit-suffused finish that is clean and crunchy. This inviting effort could however use more depth so a few years of keeping should be helpful. 87/2026+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: A slightly more complex nose features notes of spiced plum and pungent earth on the dark berry fruit aromas. There is both good vibrancy and detail to the delicious flavors that are not particularly dense while delivering acceptable length on the youthfully austere and slightly drying finish. I suspect that the dryness is more due to the recent bottling than underripe tannins. 87/2027+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean": A more elegant and quite pretty nose combines notes of violet, anise and various red berry fruit aromas that include cherry and raspberry. There is a bit more mid-palate volume to the delicious flavors that contrast somewhat with the lean and slightly bitter finish. Again, I suspect that the bitterness is exacerbated by the recent bottling and my rating offers the benefit of the doubt in this regard. 87/2027+

2021 Maranges "La Fussière": Here the cool nose of both red and dark currant and newly turned earth is spicier still. The succulent, round and supple medium weight flavors possess good punch and a light minerality on the moderately austere and better-balanced finale. 88/2027+

2021 Santenay "Grand Clos Rousseau": A more floral if otherwise similar nose gives way to supple and nicely detailed lighter weight flavors possess good minerality on the bitter pit fruit-suffused finale that is sufficiently structured to need at least a few years of keeping to round out the slightly angular tannins. 88/2027+

2021 Beaune "Grèves": This is also aromatically very pretty with its combination of red pinot fruit, soft earth, discreet spice nuances and a whiff of tea. The delicious, vibrant and appealingly textured middleweight flavors possess better depth on the moderately firm and sneaky long finale. This is also sufficiently firm to require 3 to 5 years to round off the supporting tannins. 89/2028+

2021 Pommard "Chanlins": A cool, airy and equally pretty nose is comprised by notes of various red berries and an interesting hint of smoked tea character. There is very good volume and focused power to the medium weight flavors that display reasonably good length on the compact, austere and borderline strict finish. This should also benefit from a few years of cellaring as it's very tightly wound today. 88/2028+

Domaine Vincent et Sophie Morey (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2021	**Bourgogne Pinot Noir**	**red**	**86**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**87**
2021	**Les Maranges "La Fussière" 1er**	**red**	**87**
2021	**Santenay "Beaurepaire" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2021	**Santenay "Les Gravières" 1er**	**red**	**88**
2021	**Santenay "Les Hâtes"**	**red**	**86**

Vincent Morey runs this roughly 20 ha domaine and succinctly noted that 2021 was a "tough vintage for us and in both colors. We picked from the 23rd of September and brought in yields that were off between 20 and 40% in pinot and even worse in chardonnay at between 20 and 80% in chardonnay even though we did try to protect the parcels of Bâtard and the Morgeot. Thankfully there wasn't too much sorting required and most of what we eliminated was second generation fruit which obviously wasn't as ripe. With respect to the style of 2021s, the whites remind me a bit of 2016s with perhaps slightly more freshness and roundness, while the reds could reasonably be compared to either those of 2014 or 2017." Morey said that he bottled the reds in August and November 2022. (Vineyard Brands, www.vineyardbrands.com, AL, William Gladstone Imports, www.williamgladstoneimports.com, NY/HI, both USA; The Rare & Fine Wine Company Limited, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, www.therareandfinewinecompany.com and Berkmann Wine Cellars, www.berkmann.co.uk, all UK; Watson's Wines, 852.2606.8828, www.watsonswine.com, Hong Kong).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: A fresh and distinctly earthy nose is comprised mostly by red and dark berry fruit aromas. The delicious, vibrant and nicely detailed flavors conclude in a mildly rustic and youthfully austere finale. This is sufficiently pliant such that it should be enjoyable with only 1 to 2 years of bottle aging. 86/2024+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: (from 4 parcels of vines with vine ages ranging between 30 and 70 years). A distinct application of wood sets off dark berry fruit aromas that are liberally laced with pepper and cool earth nuances. The supple and supple yet attractively vibrant middleweight flavors that deliver slightly better depth and persistence on the mildly austere finale. 87/2025+

2021 Les Maranges "La Fussière": (from 20+ year old vines). Here too there is enough wood, though subtle, to merit comment framing the slightly more elegant and even cooler aromas of plum, violet and just turned earth. The finer, but not denser, flavors exude a subtle minerality on the youthfully austere that isn't exactly strict though it does flirt with leanness. 87/2025+

2021 Santenay "Les Hâtes": Once again there is just enough wood in evident on the cool nose of red and dark raspberry, pungent earth and hints of forest floor to be worth pointing out. The rich and very generously proportioned flavors are completely different in texture while delivering acceptable precision on the rustic and bitter pit fruit-inflected finale that is a bit short. This somewhat one-dimensional effort is quite forward and should drink well early for its fruit. 86/2024+

2021 Santenay "Les Gravières": Moderately generous wood stops just short of fighting with the cool but ripe aromas of plum, dark currant and the sauvage. The more refined and more mineral-inflected flavors possess an appealing sense of energy while that carries over to the youthfully austere and precise finale that is also more complex. 88/2026+

2021 Santenay "Beaurepaire": The cool, airy and earthy red and dark cherry aromas complement the equally earthy, delicious and sappy middleweight flavors that possess slightly better depth and persistence on the youthfully austere and balanced finale. This too should drink well young but be capable of repaying 4 to 7 years of keeping. 89/2026+

Maison Morey-Blanc (Meursault)

2021	**Volnay "Les Pitures" 1er**	**red**	**(89-92)**

See Domaine Pierre Morey (directly above) for comments as Maison Morey-Blanc is owned and operated by them. The name appears to be a play on words, but in fact Pierre Morey's wife's maiden name was Blanc. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.beckywasserman.com, Beaune, France; Grand Cru Selections, LLC, www.grandcruselectionswine.com, NY, USA; Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com, UK).

2021 Volnay "Les Pitures": (from Pitures proper). A very pretty, even perfumed, nose freely offers up its aromas of plum, red and dark cherry and a whiff of crushed fennel. The solidly concentrated medium-bodied flavors are borderline painfully intense with excellent persistence on the chiseled, moderately austere and serious finale. If this powerful effort can add depth with time in bottle, it could well merit the upper end of my projected range. (89-92)/2029+

Domaine Morey-Coffinet (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2021	**Bourgogne Pinot Noir Côte d'Or**	**red**	**86**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Les Chaumes"**	**red**	**88**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot" 1er**	**red**	**89**

Thibault Morey described the 2021 growing season as "one where I chose not to fight against the frost as one, I'm not sure it would have done any good and two, Nature needs to be heard. By contrast, I did everything in my power to help the frost-affected vines to repair the damage they suffered and get back on track. I will say that the chardonnay was much more severely affected than the pinot and we see that in the yields. We picked between the 18th and 24th September and while the reds were not especially affected though the chardonnay was off between 50 and 75%. I did slightly lighten the extraction for the reds but not so much that they lack substance. For me, their most salient feature is the striking transparency of terroir. I haven't seen wines this pure in a long time." Morey noted that his 2021 reds were bottled between August and November 2022. (Martine's Wines, www.martineswines.com, CA, USA; Anthony Sarjeant and Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, both UK).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir Côte d'Or: An exuberantly fresh and bright nose speaks mostly of the essence of various red berries and soft spice wisps. The racy lighter weight flavors dance across the palate while offering nice depth and persistence on the balanced finale that is sufficiently firm to suggest that 2 to 4 years should see this at its best. 86/2025+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Les Chaumes": Here there is enough reduction to push the underlying fruit to the background. On the palate there is a bit more volume to the energetic and detailed medium weight flavors that conclude in a bitter pit fruit, rustic and sneaky long finale. This is very Chassagne in character and a wine that should drink well young while maturing over the next 5-ish years. 88/2026+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot": (from the *climats* of Fairendes and Francemont in roughly equal proportions). This too is display a touch of post-bottling reduction, which is enough to blur the nuances of the nose. There is notably better size, weight and mid-palate density to the caressing yet powerful flavors that terminate in a dusty but not really austere finale. This sneaky long effort could use better depth so I would suggest allowing this at least a few years of cellaring first. 89/2028+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean": A restrained, cool and more elegant nose reflects notes of red currant, cherry and plum where background nuances of spice and just turned earth are present. The sleeker and finer but not denser middleweight flavors possess a lovely sense of underlying tension where the lingering and lightly austere finale is shaped by more fine-grained tannins. While this is sufficiently pliant to drink well young, it should have no trouble repaying up to a decade of keeping. 90/2029+

Domaine Albert Morot (Beaune)

2021	➳ Beaune "Aigrots" 1er	red	92
2021	➳ Beaune "Bressandes" 1er	red	93
2021	➳ Beaune "Cents Vignes" 1er	red	91
2021	➳ Beaune "Marconnets" 1er	red	93
2021	➳ Beaune "Teurons" 1er	red	92
2021	➳ Beaune "Toussaints" 1er	red	91
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune "La Bataillère aux Vergelesses" 1er	red	90

Geoffroy Choppin de Janvry observed that 2021 was "just plain difficult yet a vintage that produced surprisingly good wines. We picked from the 24th to the 27th of September, which was relatively late compared to many neighboring domaines. Yields were not great as they were off 60 to 70% and that was without much in the way of sorting losses. Potential alcohols were perfectly good as they ranged from 12.5 to 13.2% with good ripeness levels and solid acidities. I destemmed the fruit 100% and did neither a light nor an aggressive vinification using more pumps overs than punch downs. Before the malos completed I wasn't exactly sure what to think of the wines but they completely transformed once they were finished and now I quite like them, especially for their energy and superb transparencies." I have to agree with de Janvry as he has made some terrific wines that are absolutely worth your interest. He further noted that he bottled his 2021s in November 2022. (Jeanne-Marie de Champs, www.ds-collection.com, NY, USA; House of Hallgarten, www.hallgarten.co.uk, UK; Grand Millésime Australia, www.grandmillesime.com.au, Australia; LCBO, www.lcbo.com and SAQ, www.saq.com, both Canada).

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "La Bataillère aux Vergelesses": (a monopole). Cool and somber aromas include those of plum, just turned earth and a whiff of the sauvage. There is a lovely sense of verve to the attractively textured middleweight flavors that conclude in a lingering and youthfully austere finale. This well-made effort could use better depth but there appears to be enough stuffing for that to progressively occur over the probable 5 to 8 years aging curve. Note that it could also be enjoyed young if you don't have the patience to wait. 90/2027+

2021 Beaune "Cents Vignes": This is also pretty but brooding with its reticent nose of plum, dark currant, more discreet earth and crushed anise scents. The sleek, detailed and punchy medium-bodied flavors also conclude in a youthfully austere and slightly more complex finale that it shaped by firm but fine-grained tannins. Lovely. 91/2028+

2021 Beaune "Toussaints": (from a .77 ha holding). A slightly more elegant, and certainly more expressive, nose features notes of both red and dark currant, violet and pretty spice wisps. The sleek, delineated and utterly delicious medium weight flavors exude a more evident bead of minerality on the balanced, sneaky long and youthfully austere finale. Like the Bataillère, this would benefit from developing better depth though more should develop if given a chance. 91/2028+

2021 Beaune "Aigrots": (from a 1 ha parcel of 15+ year old vines). This is quite aromatically similar to the Toussaints but with noticeably more floral elements. There is a bit better mid-palate density but with far more minerality to the detailed and beautifully focused finish. Once again, this could use better depth but the underlying material certainly appears to be present to facilitate that. 92/2029+

2021 Beaune "Teurons": This is also notably floral in character that adds interest to the essence of red cherry scents that are trimmed in pretty herbal tea, spice and earth nuances. There is obvious energy to the equally mineral-driven flavors that deliver excellent persistence and delineation on the youthfully austere bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. This is textbook Teurons with its delicate but quite punchy mouthfeel. 92/2029+

2021 Beaune "Marconnets": (a .67 ha parcel of 50+ year old vines). This is a ripe 2021 as the liqueur-like of cherry, raspberry and softly wooded aromas are unusual in the context of the vintage. I very much like the generous and sophisticated texture of the detailed middleweight flavors that culminate in a youthfully austere, compact and sneaky long finish. This is beautifully well-balanced if tightly wound so at least some patience is strongly suggested. 93/2031+

2021 Beaune "Bressandes": This is also a ripe 2021 with its aromas of kirsch, plum liqueur and newly turned earth. Like the Marconnets, I love the gorgeous mouthfeel of the almost opulent, intense and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the balanced and impressively persistent finish. This too could use more depth but the highly attractive mouthfeel should make this appealing young while it's aging. Lovely. 93/2031+

Domaine Michel Niellon (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet**	**red**	**87**

Michel Niellon's son-in-law, Michel Coutoux, who has been at the domaine since 1990, is easing out of the day-to-day operations. He is doing so in favor of his children, one of whom, Lucie, has assumed responsibility for the vinification of the reds. I will have more information on the 2021 vintage in the next Issue, but Lucie told me that for the reds it's true that for years the Niellon-style was to create fruity and relatively light wines that drank well almost immediately. In the last several vintages, the style has clearly changed as the reds have definitely become more age-worthy and serious. The Chassagne was bottled in October 2022 and the Clos St. Jean was not presented. (Treasury Château & Estates Wines, www.tweglobal.com, CA and Terlato Wines International, www.terlatowines.com, IL, both USA; O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com and Robert Rolls & Co., www.robertrolls.com, all UK; Altaya Wines, www.altayawines.com, Hong Kong).

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet: An agreeably fresh nose combines notes of earth and pepper with those of cool red berries. The attractively textured, supple and nicely vibrant middleweight flavors that conclude in a mildly austere and rustic finale that offers reasonable length if limited depth. 87/2025+

Maison Philippe Pacalet (Beaune)

2021	**➽ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Sentiers" 1er**	**red**	**(90-93)**
2021	**Echézeaux Grand Cru**	**red**	**(92-94)**
2021	**➽ Gevrey-Chambertin**	**red**	**90**
2021	**Moulin-à-Vent**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2021	**Nuits St. Georges**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2021	**➽ Nuits St. Georges "Aux Argillas" 1er**	**red**	**(91-93)**
2021	**Pommard**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2021	**➽ Pommard "Les Epenots" 1er**	**red**	**(91-93)**

The iconoclastic Philippe Pacalet, who is the nephew of the late Marcel Lapierre and who was for years the *régisseur* (estate manager) for the now-deceased Henri Roch of Domaine Prieuré-Roch, started his own *négociant* operation in 2001. He moved operations from Gevrey to Nuits and now to Beaune and has installed himself in the old de Montille cellars near the railroad station, which I might add are ice cold. He briefly noted that 2021 "was a vintage of severe frost followed by a difficult, wet and cool growing season plagued by plenty of disease pressure. We even had a poor flowering that provoked enough shatter to matter! I picked from the 21st of September and there was at least not much sorting to do because despite the season end attack of botrytis, the fruit was actually pretty clean. Even so, yields weren't great at roughly -60% relative to a normal crop with potential alcohols that averaged between 12 and 12.5% so a few wines were chaptalized. I used my usual 100% whole clusters for the fermentations and vinified normally. I like the style of the vintage as it's old school but I can't say that I want a repeat of the growing season!" Pacalet also noted that the wines will be bottled without fining or filtration and it's interesting to note that he is one of the few remaining domaines that still do the *mise* (bottling) by hand. (Oz Wine Company, www.ozwinecompany.com, MA, Cape Classics www.capeclassics.com, NY, both USA; Nathan Fine Wines Ltd, 852 2321 1169, Hong Kong; Wine Source, www.wine-source.com, UK).

2021 Moulin-à-Vent: A distinctly peppery and earth-suffused nose features ripe aromas of mostly dark berries. The impressively rich and concentrated middleweight flavors flash good power and punch on the very firmly structured and overtly rustic finale. This is a serious MAV that is clearly built-to-age and one that is going to need it. (87-89)/2029+

2021 Pommard: (from Les Trois Follots, Les Vaumuriens, Rugiens-Hauts *villages* and La Vache). In contrast to the nose of the MAV, this is cool, airy and much more elegant with its pretty, even perfumed aromas of red currant, rose petal and spice. There is excellent vibrancy to the markedly mineral-driven flavors that are not especially dense but do offer very good detail and sneaky good persistence on the linear and moderately austere finale. This is certainly pretty but would benefit from having better depth. (88-91)/2028+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin: (from 6 different *lieux-dits*). This is even more floral-suffused on the nose of forest floor, essence of red cherry and plenty of earth character that is picked up by the vibrant and beautifully textured medium weight flavors that possess better depth on the persistent and balanced finale. This is a lovely Gevrey *villages* and worth checking out. 90/2028+

2021 Nuits St. Georges: (from Bas de Combe and Lavières). A discreet application of wood sets off equally cool, pure and airy aromas of herbal tea, spice, earth and varied floral elements. The succulent, round and impressively voluminous flavors exude a subtle minerality that adds a sense of lift to the balanced finale that could also use better depth. (88-91)/2028+

2021 Pommard "Les Epenots": Admirably subtle wood influence easily allows the spicy and overtly floral-inflected essence of red cherry and currant aromas to be appreciated. There is fine punch and a discreet minerality to the delicious, detailed and tautly muscular middleweight flavors that possess a gorgeous mouthfeel before culminating in a lingering, impeccably well-balanced and highly persistent finish. Once again, this could use better depth, but the fine development potential seems clear. Excellent and worth considering. (91-93)/2031+

2021 Nuits St. Georges "Aux Argillas": A perfumed, cool and wafting nose reflects ultra-pure and fresh aromas of red cherry, spice and a plethora of floral elements, especially violet and lilac. There is excellent punch and impressive volume to the overtly mineral-driven flavors while displaying fine length on the youthfully austere, balanced and linear finish. This is also very good with equally good development potential. (91-93)/2031+

2021 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Sentiers": A more deeply pitched nose reluctantly offers up its aromas of dark currant, plum, violet and rose petal. The middleweight flavors are not as concentrated or as mineral-driven but they are noticeably finer while exhibiting focused power on the dusty, solidly persistent and linear finish. This will need to develop better depth to merit the upper end of my projected range, but it is indisputably pretty. (90-93)/2031+

2021 Echézeaux: (from Clos St. Denis). As one might reasonably guess, this is the spiciest wines in the range with a ripe yet cool and layered nose of plum, dark cherry and equally floral-suffused aromas. There is fine richness to the generously proportioned medium weight plus flavors that manage to be at once dense and powerful yet refined on the moderately austere, robust and lengthy finish. This is a robust Echézeaux that is very much built-to-age. (92-94)/2033+

Domaine Parent (Pommard)

2021	Bourgogne Pinot Noir	red	(86-88)
2021	Corton-Les Renardes Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2021	Pommard "Les Chanlins" 1er	red	(90-92)
2021	➽ Pommard "Les Chaponnières" 1er	red	(91-93)
2021	Pommard "La Croix Blanche"	red	(88-90)
2021	Pommard "Les Croix Noires" 1er	red	(89-92)
2021	➽ Pommard "Les Epenots" 1er	red	(91-93)
2021	Pommard "En Largillière" 1er	red	(88-91)

Anne Parent, who has directed this 10 ha domaine since 1998 where 90% of the production is in red, told me that "2021 was a vintage of severe frost where we got absolutely crushed in white as we lost 95% of the Corton Blanc and about 60% in red. However, it's different from 2016 because we lost some everywhere, whereas in the prior vintage, the frost mostly affected regional and *villages*-level wines. We picked from the 21st of September and while there was some sorting required, it wasn't anything out of the ordinary. Maturities were good though not high and the vinifications presented no problems. I used no whole clusters and not much new oak though in hindsight, I could have used more as the wines more solid than I imagined. As to the style of the wines, they remind me somewhat of 2017. They should be easy to enjoy young as they have lovely acidities that make them super-refreshing though I would add that for those who enjoyed older burgundies, the 2021s should age well too." As is usually the case, Parent noted that the 2021s will be bottled without fining or filtration. (Frederick Wildman, www.frederickwildman.com, NY, Terroir Selections, terroir-selections.com, FL, Serendipity Wines, serendipitywines.com, TX, Fine Vines, www.finevines.com, IL, Free Run, LLC, www.freerunwines.com, WA, all USA; Wimbledon Wine Cellar, www.wimbledonwinecellar.com, Private Cellar Ltd., www.privatecellar.co.uk, Merchant Vintners, www.merchantvintners.co.uk, Wine Service, www.wineservice.co.uk, all UK).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: A very pinot-like nose presents a combination of plum, dark cherry and earth-inflected aromas. There is very good density to the nicely tension-filled flavors that possess fine richness as well as a touch of rusticity on the lingering finish. This could use a bit more depth so a few years of cellaring should be helpful. (86-88)/2025+

2021 Pommard "La Croix Blanche": Subtle but not invisible wood sets off aromas of dark currant, plum and forest floor. There is very good volume and mid-palate density to the succulent flavors whose texture contrasts somewhat with the dusty, firm and moderately rustic finale. This refreshing effort could be enjoyed young or held for a few years first. (88-90)/2028+

2021 Pommard "En Largillière": A brooding and somber purple fruit and freshly turned earth nose is also trimmed in just enough wood to notice. The rich, suave and delicious medium-bodied flavors flash evident minerality that adds a sense of lift to the youthfully austere bitter pit fruit-suffused finish. This too could use better depth but more should develop in time. (88-91)/2029+

2021 Pommard "Les Croix Noires": Here too there is just enough oak influence to point out suffusing the pretty aromas of spiced plum and more prominent earth. The supple, round and caressing medium weight flavors possess fine punch while noticeably tightening up on the firm, ever-so-mildly rustic and sneaky long finish that could also use better depth. (89-92)/2031+

2021 Pommard "Les Chanlins": (from 20+ year old vines). A cooler and airier nose features more floral influences, and in particular violet, on the mostly dark berry and oak toast nose. I very much like the texture and vibrancy of the delicious, if not especially concentrated, middleweight flavors that terminate in a youthfully austere finale that offers slightly better complexity. Note that this nicely persistent effort could be enjoyed young, but it also has the structure and balance to repay a decade or more of cellaring. (90-92)/2031+

2021 Pommard "Les Chaponnières": (from 85+ year old vines). Here the wood treatment is no long subtle though neither does it dominate the pretty spice, floral and red berry aromas that display a mentholated top note. The sleek, delicious and appealingly vibrant medium-bodied flavors possess good delineation that carries over to the sappy, powerful finish that offers both very fine depth and persistence. This is a bit woody today but the oak should integrate with a few years of keeping. (91-93)/2033+

2021 Pommard "Les Epenots": (from both Grands and Petits in a roughly 50/50 proportion). Generous wood and menthol again stops just short of masking the cool and pure aromas of plum, dark berries, earth and subtle spice wisps. The exceptionally rich, even opulent, medium weight flavors possess fine mid-palate density where the seductive texture again contrasts with the serious, firm and powerful finish that is supported by bright but balanced acidity. Thanks to the excellent richness, this could actually be approached young if desired but it has everything it needs to age well too. (91-93)/2033+

2021 Corton-Les Renardes: (in 2021, 60% new wood was used rather than the usual 100%). Prominent but not dominant wood isn't subtle on the equally cool, airy and layered aromas of wild dark currant, earth, the *sauvage* and hints of oak spice. The racy and impressively intense middleweight plus flavors flash focused power on the bitter pit fruit, youthfully austere and firmly structured finale. This excellent Corton is clearly built-to-age and a wine that's going to need it. (92-94)/2033+

Hugues Pavelot (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2021	**Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Beaumonts"**	**red**	**87**
2021	**Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Belles Filles"**	**red**	**88**

Hugues Pavelot, of Domaine Jean-Marc & Hugues Pavelot (see immediately below), also runs a small *négociant* operation. The idea is to buy in fruit at fair prices when opportunities present themselves and he knows both the *vigneron* and the specific parcel of vines. He notes that he makes the wines in exactly the same fashion as he does those of the domaine. The wines are distributed by the same importers that represent the domaine; for details on the 2021 vintage, please see the domaine write-up below. These two wines were bottled in December 2022.

2021 Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Beaumonts": A cool and airy mix features notes of both red and dark currant that are laced with evident earth wisps that are picked up by the supple and forward middleweight flavors that display sneaky good length on the dusty bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. To enjoy young for the crunchy fruit. 87/2025+

2021 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Belles Filles": There is a touch of herbal tea lurking in the background of the equally airy nose of mostly red berries and violet. There is surprisingly good richness to the relatively suave and round medium weight flavors that contrast noticeably with the mineral-driven, youthfully austere and linear finish that isn't exactly lean but neither it is generous. My rating offers the benefit of the doubt that it will flesh out with a few years of keeping. 88/2026+

Domaine Jean-Marc & Hugues Pavelot (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2021	Aloxe-Corton	red	88
2021	Beaune "Les Bressandes" 1er	red	90
2021	Bourgogne	red	86
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	88
2021	➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "La Dominode" 1er	red	92
2021	➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Gravains" 1er	red	92
2021	➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Guettes" 1er	red	91
2021	➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières" 1er	red	91
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Peuillets" 1er	red	89
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Serpentières" 1er	red	90

Hugues Pavelot, who runs this expansive 17 ha domaine that is in the middle of a conversion to organic farming, told me that the 2021 vintage "produced highly aromatic and super-fresh wines. The growing season was of course complicated by the severe April frost that really hit the whites hard but was no picnic for the reds either. We picked from the 21st of September, which is exactly one month later than I started in 2020! My overall volumes were normal but only because of the 3 ha we added in 2021! I vinified very softly, even almost delicately, in order to preserve the fine acid/tannin/fruit balance as that equilibrium I believe is the key to this vintage. I really like this vintage for its transparency to the underlying terroir but also because the wines are just fun to drink." As is often the case, I found the quality of the Pavelot 2021s to be very good to excellent and these are wines to consider and particularly so as they generally offer very fine price/value. They were bottled in December 2022 and January 2023. Note that Pavelot has a small *négociant* operation under the name of Hugues Pavelot, the reviews of which are immediately above. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.beckywasserman.com, Beaune, France; Wines Unlimited, www.winesunlimited.com, LA, Augustan Wine, www.augustanwine.com, FL, Little Guy Wine, www.littleguywine.com, MI, Small Potatoes Wine, www.smallpotatoeswine.com, ID, C'est Vin, LLC, 703.243.3559, VA and Pas Mal Portfolio, mafeuer@mindspring.com, NY/NJ, all USA; Woolworths, www.kkot@danmurphys.com.au, Australia; FINE+RARE Wines Ltd, www.frw.co.uk, UK; Le Maître de Chai, www.lemaitredechai.qc.ca, SAQ, www.saq.com and Sequin & Robillard/Vinifera, www.seguinrobillard.ca, all Canada).

2021 Bourgogne: Fresh if somber aromas include those of dark currant, plum and forest floor. The supple, round and delicious flavors are easy-going while offering enough depth and persistence to be interesting. This is built on its fruit and while one to two years of keeping would help to add complexity, it could be enjoyed upon release. 86/2024+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune: (from 9 different *lieux-dits*). A perfumed and equally fresh nose features cool aromas of various dark berries, newly turned earth and a whiff of underbrush character. The suave, round a delicious middleweight flavors possess slightly better density on the bitter pit fruit-inflected finish that is both clean and dry-in-the-best sense. Note that this too could easily be enjoyed upon release. 88/2025+

2021 Aloxe-Corton: (from Les Cras). A discreet though perceptible trace of wood sets off fresh aromas of crushed plum and a whiff of the *sauvage*. Once again the mouthfeel of the medium weight flavors is quite supple and round with better volume but also more evident rusticity on the youthfully austere and firmer finale. In contrast to the prior two wines, this will need at least a couple of years of keeping first. 88/2027+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Peuillets": A markedly more elegant nose is comprised by pretty spice and floral-suffused aromas of plum and black cherry. The refined, even lilting, flavors possess an equally elegant mouthfeel along with a subtle minerality that adds a sense of lift to the dusty, balanced and sneaky long finale. 89/2027+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Serpentières": (from a .17 ha parcel). Here too a discreet but not invisible dollop of wood sets off more deeply pitched and earthier aromas of violet, dark currant and a smoky hint. The attractively textured and quite supple flavors tighten up on the dusty and more austere finale that is also slightly more complex and a bit firmer as well. 90/2028+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières": This is aromatically similar to the Serpentières though with a broader array of spice elements. There is also better mid-palate density to the delicious and appealingly textured flavors that flash more evident minerality as well on the firmer, more austere and dusty finale. This is going to need at least a few years of forbearance as it is pretty tightly wound at present. 91/2029+

2021 Beaune "Les Bressandes": (from leased vines). This is the first wine to display any appreciable reduction, which is probably a side effect of the recent bottling. The succulent, delicious and relatively powerful medium-bodied flavors possess a seductive mouthfeel before tightening up on the dusty, youthfully austere and lingering finish where a touch of bitter pit fruit character slowly emerges. This could use more depth so a few years of keeping should prove beneficial. 90/2029+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Guettes": (from a large 1.5 ha holding). A restrained and brooding combination of various dark berries and cool earth gives way to suave, round and delicious middleweight flavors that are notably more mineral-driven on the punchy and lengthy finale. This is very Guettes in style as the youthful austere is especially prominent so again, at least some patience is a necessity. 91/2031+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Gravains": (from a .60 ha parcel where two-thirds of the vines are more than 70+ years of age). In contrast to the brooding nose of the Guettes, here the nose is perfumed and highly expressive with its cool and airy aromas of red and dark currant, Asian style tea and plenty of newly turned earth character. Once again there is a beguiling succulence to the moderately powerful and overtly mineral-driven flavors that coat the palate on the focused, balanced, moderately austere and sneaky long finish. Gravains always needs extended keeping to reveal its excellence and this example will not be an exception. 92/2031+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "La Dominode": (from a very large 2.2 ha holding; two-thirds of the vines are between 70 and 80 years of age and the remaining vines are approximately 20+ years old). This aromatically similar to the Gravains though the spice nuances are a bit more prominent. The sleek and rich yet attractively detailed flavors exude a lovely minerality while also coating the palate on the nicely complex and highly persistent finale where a touch of bitter pit fruit character also slowly emerges. La Dominode is justly known for its ability to age and this should only add to that legacy. 92/2031+

Domaine du Pavillon (Pommard) – Domaines Albert Bichot

2021	Aloxe-Corton	red	(87-89)
2021	Aloxe-Corton "Clos des Maréchaudes" 1er	red	(89-91)
2021	Beaune "Les Bressandes" 1er	red	(88-91)
2021	Beaune "Les Epenottes"	red	(87-90)
2021	Corton-Clos des Maréchaudes Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2021	➽ Pommard "Clos des Ursulines"	red	(89-91)
2021	Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	(89-92)
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Grands Picotins"	red	(86-89)
2021	Volnay "Les Santenots" 1er	red	(90-92)
2020	Aloxe-Corton	red	88
2020	Aloxe-Corton "Clos des Maréchaudes" 1er	red	90
2020	Beaune "Les Bressandes" 1er	red	89
2020	Beaune "Les Epenottes"	red	88
2020	Corton-Clos des Maréchaudes Grand Cru	red	92
2020	➽ Pommard "Clos des Ursulines"	red	89
2020	Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	90
2020	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Grands Picotins"	red	86
2020	Volnay "Les Santenots" 1er	red	88?

This 17 ha domaine based in Pommard was acquired in 1993 by the Bichot conglomerate and operates in the same commercially distinct fashion as Bichot's Chablis-based Long-Depaquit, the Côte de Nuits-based Domaines of Clos Frantin and Château Gris subsidiaries. Bichot's chief viticulturalist Christophe Chauvel conducted the tasting and succinctly told me that the 2021 "was a tough vintage for a variety of reasons as there was a bit of everything, including frost, mildew, botrytis and oidium. Yields were obviously negatively affected and Volnay and Pommard were even worse hit than was Aloxe, so most reds came in between 15 and 20 hl/ha. The whites were even more severely affected, coming in as they did between only 9 to 11 hl/ha. For example of

how badly the chardonnay was hit, there is no Clos des Mouches and only one barrel of Corton-Charlemagne. We vinified carefully using almost no whole clusters and happily, we had no issues. We did a thorough lees settling and despite the already low yields, we used very little press wine as it was important to eliminate any source of possible off odors or flavors. Stylistically the reds are quite classic with lovely energy and transparency. While they will age, I think a lot of '21 reds will be drunk young for the super-fresh fruit." (Albert Bichot USA, www.albert-bichot.com, USA; Stannary Wine, www.stannarywine.com, Flint Wines, www.flintwines.com, Soho Wine Supply Ltd, www.sohowine.co.uk, Honest Grapes, www.honestgrapes.co.uk, Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, Bancroft Wines, www.bancroftwines.com, Inverarity Morton, www.inveraritymorton.com, C & O Wines, www.cowines.com, all UK).

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Grands Picotins": A perfumed and quite pretty nose offers up cool red berry and earth nose along with attractive spice hints. The refined, even silky, textured middleweight flavors possess both good detail and texture while exuding a subtle minerality on the youthfully austere finish that comes up a bit short. The slightly lean finish may well flesh out and better harmonize but that's not a given. (86-89)/2026+

2021 Beaune "Les Epenottes": (from the *villages* portion of the vineyard). Moderate reduction blurs the underlying fruit at present. By contrast, there is both good freshness and energy to the precise medium weight flavors that also conclude in a youthfully austere but more persistent and inviting finish. While this could use more depth, I expect that a few years of cellaring should be helpful in this regard. (87-90)/2027+

2021 Beaune "Les Bressandes": This is also firmly reduced and unreadable on the nose. There is again though good freshness and verve to the caressing and slightly bigger medium-bodied flavors that possess good cut on the dusty but not really austere finale. Once again, more depth would be beneficial so some patience should be helpful as well. (88-91)/2028+

2021 Volnay "Les Santenots": (from Les Plures). Here too moderate reduction dominates the nose. There is excellent punch to the delicious and sleek medium weight flavors that are not especially dense but do display excellent delineation on the firm, moderately austere and linear finish that really fans out as it sits on the palate. (90-92)/2029+

2021 Pommard "Clos des Ursulines": (a huge 4 ha monopole of the domaine). A wonderfully fresh and ultra-pure nose freely offers up its array of spice, floral and airy red berry fruit. The agreeably textured if not particularly concentrated flavors possess a lovely sense of underlying tension before terminating in a delineated, complex and only mildly austere and rustic finale. This is a very fine Pommard *villages* that is worth considering. (89-91)/2027+

2021 Pommard "Les Rugiens": (from Rugiens Bas). This is also wonderfully fresh and bright with its array of cool and airy crushed red cherry, anise and an interesting hint of orange peel. There is excellent intensity to the beautifully detailed mineral-driven flavors that conclude a youthfully austere and lengthy if slightly lean finish. It remains to be seen if this will flesh out with a few years of bottle age. (89-92)/2029+

2021 Aloxe-Corton: (from Les Crapousuets). The earthy essence of red currant and *sauvage* hints lead to nicely tension-filled middleweight flavors that are unusually refined in the context of what is typically an overtly rustic wine, all wrapped in a youthfully austere and sneaky long finish. (87-89)/2027+

2021 Aloxe-Corton "Clos des Maréchaudes": Here the expressive nose is earthier still with its broad array of plum, dark currant, forest floor and discreet wood hints. There is again both a lovely texture and good energy to the lightly stony flavors that flash focused power on the lingering finish where touches of both rusticity and austerity appear. It's curious because while the Aloxe *villages* is more refined than usual, this is less refined than normal, not that this is a fault. (89-91)/2029+

2021 Corton-Clos des Maréchaudes: (a ~1.9 ha monopole that is split between ~.5 ha classified as grand cru and the remaining 1.4 ha as 1er). There is a suggestion of green tea sitting atop the cool and pretty aromas of red and dark currant, smoke and a touch forest floor character. There is better mid-palate density to the seductively textured and more obviously mineral-driven flavors that display even better power on the firmer, more complex and more austere finale. Patience needed. (90-93)/2031+

2020 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Grands Picotins": This is firmly reduced and in definite need of a thorough aeration. The lilting and nicely energetic middleweight flavors possess a caressing, but punchy mouthfeel that contrasts somewhat with the slightly attenuated, rustic and short finish. As the description suggests, this is awkward and it's not clear if it will better harmonize in time or not. 86/2026+

2020 Beaune "Les Epenottes": (from the *villages* portion of the vineyard). This is also moderately reduced and in need of some times in a decanter. The caressing, suave and delicious medium weight flavors possess a more sophisticated mouthfeel while displaying only a hint of rusticity on the sneaky long finish. What this isn't though is particularly complex, though more depth may develop if this is held for 3 to 4 more years. 88/2027+

2020 Beaune "Les Bressandes": A mentholated top note can be found on the aromas of plum, black cherry, spice and a subtle hint of earth. There is solid volume to the medium-bodied flavors that are at once delicious and vibrant while displaying good length and better depth on the ever-so-slightly warm and youthfully austere finale. This plump and nicely rich effort is sufficiently structured to repay up to a decade of keeping. 89/2028+

2020 Volnay "Les Santenots": (from Les Plures). A more obviously floral-suffused nose is comprised by liqueur-like aromas of dark pinot fruit and poach plum. The delicious, powerful and focused medium-bodied flavors possess a taut muscularity that become more obvious on the firm, moderately austere and slightly short finale that flirts with dryness. It's hard to say whether this will come together in time as it too is presently pretty awkward. 88?/2030+

2020 Pommard "Clos des Ursulines": (a huge 4 ha monopole of the domaine). There is a touch of menthol sitting atop the ripe aromas of dark berry fruit coulis along with plenty of warm earth and humus elements. The rich, generously proportioned and solid concentrated flavors possess good power and, much like the 2021 version, more refinement than usual on the only mildly rustic finale. Worth a look. 89/2028+

2020 Pommard "Les Rugiens": (from Rugiens Bas). There is slightly more obvious menthol character to the more floral-suffused aromas of black cherry liqueur and anise. The notably finer and more mineral-driven if not necessarily denser medium weight plus flavors possess a lovely texture, all wrapped in a dusty, chalky and long finale where the menthol character displayed by the nose reappears. This promising effort will need time to both develop more depth as well as better integrate the wood treatment. A 'buy and forget you own it' Rugiens. 90/2032+

2020 Aloxe-Corton: (from Les Crapousuets). A very ripe yet still acceptably fresh nose displays liqueur-like aromas of red berries and kirsch that are laced with warm earth nuances. The exceptionally rich, even opulent and seductive, middleweight flavors contrast noticeably with the somewhat rustic and moderately warm finale that offers good if not truly special persistence. 88/2027+

2020 Aloxe-Corton "Clos des Maréchaudes": Noticeable wood and frames the ripe and equally earthy but spicier aromas of red and black raspberry liqueur scents. The lush, round and seductively textured if slightly less concentrated middleweight flavors possess good verve that carries over to the moderately austere but not really rustic finale that displays good length as well as a subtle touch of warmth. 90/2030+

2020 Corton-Clos des Maréchaudes: (a ~1.9 ha monopole that is split between ~.5 ha classified as grand cru and the remaining 1.4 ha as 1er). A subtle touch of menthol character is present on the slightly riper and spicier red and dark cherry aromas that display additional breadth in the form of earth and *sauvage* hints. The supple and caressing flavors are no denser, but they offer better underlying tension and power before tightening up on the firm, moderately austere and noticeably more persistent finale. This should be lovely and offers fine upside development potential. 92/2032+

Domaine Fernand et Laurent Pillot (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2021	**Bourgogne Pinot Noir**	**red**	**86**
2021	**Beaune "Boucherottes" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**88**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2021	**Pommard "Les Charmots" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2021	**Pommard "Clos de Vergers" 1er**	**red**	**88**
2021	**Pommard "Rugiens" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2021	**Pommard "Les Tavannes"**	**red**	**88**
2021	**Volnay**	**red**	**88**

Laurent Pillot, who directs this domaine and whose production is basically split 50/50 between reds and whites, is slowly turning many aspects of the day-to-day operations over to his son Adrian. I tasted with both of them on this visit and their brief collective take on the 2021 vintage was that "it wasn't simple to manage. The frost was the worst of it but the oidium was tough as well, especially for those vines that were weakened by the frost. It was even more complicated because even though there wasn't necessarily a huge amount of rainfall, it rained small amounts often so the vineyards were always wet. Even the harvest, which is always a difficult decision to decide when to pick, was further complicated by the differing maturities between parcels damaged by the frost and those spared. Ultimately we chose to pick between the 18th and the 25th of September and yields were quite variable. In contrast to the 2016 vintage, we lost up to two-thirds in our premier cru vineyards though it wasn't as bad for the *villages* wines. In 2016, it was the reverse. Overall, we lost right at 50% of the crop relative to a normal vintage. Maturities were good though as potential alcohols ranged from 12.5 to 13.2%. For the reds, we vinified on the lighter side using no whole clusters. The other aspect that was complicated was how to manage the lees and this was true for both colors. We basically did everything possible to be as sure as we could be that we were working exclusively with the cleanest lees. Even so, we decided to shorten the *élevage* for the reds just to be certain. As to the wines, they're frankly better than we expected as they changed enormously in barrel and now we're actually pretty pleased with them." The reds were bottled between August 2022 and January 2023. I would note that the domaine uses the Diam brand composite cork for all of the whites and for the entry level reds; the upper level reds see natural corks. (Taub Family Selections, www.taubfamilyselections.com, FL, Scott Paul Wines, www.scottpaul.com, OR, Galaxy Wine Company, www.galaxywinecompany.com, OR, Wine Warehouse, www.winewarehouse.com, CA, all USA; Thorman Hunt & Co., www.thormanhunt.co.uk, and Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk, both UK).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: (from Maison Dieu, which is situated in Pommard). A fresh and bright maraschino cherry and earth-suffused nose gives way to solidly concentrated and rich flavors that conclude in a mildly rustic and sneaky long finish. This is a quality Bourgogne that is worth considering. 86/2024+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: (45 to 50-year-old vines situated in six separate *lieux-dits*). A mentholated top note can be found on the peppery red berry fruit aromas. Here too there is very good density and richness to the unusually full-bodied and succulent medium weight flavors that display good length on the rustic, even robust finale. This is a relatively big Chassagne *villages* in the context of what is typical for the vintage. 88/2026+

2021 Pommard "Les Tavannes": Once again there is a touch of menthol character sitting atop the even earthier aromas of red cherry, the *sauvage* and a very subtle background hint of volatile acidity. The middleweight flavors are as dense as those of the Chassagne but they're finer and with more evident minerality on the lush, youthfully austere and lingering finale. 88/2027+

2021 Volnay: (one-third of this is from the 1er vineyards of Les Brouillards and Roncerets plus the *villages* portion of Brouillards and Grands Champs). A cool, pure and airy nose blends together mostly red pinot fruit and discreet earth nuances with those of menthol and discreet wood wisps. There is both better refinement and an appealing texture to the well-defined and lingering finish that turns mildly rustic as the finish sits on the palate. 88/2027+

2021 Beaune "Boucherottes": An exuberantly fresh nose freely offers up its aromas of red currant, crushed anise and a pretty floral top note. There is fine richness and very solid concentration to the fleshy and caressing medium-bodied flavors that deliver good if not special depth on the sneaky long finish. This is quite forward and could easily be enjoyed young if desired. 89/2025+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot": (from Ez Crottes and Guerchère). A restrained and slightly somber nose features notes of pepper, cherry, raspberry and more prominent earth influence. The delicious medium weight flavors possess a fleshy, plump and round mouthfeel while exhibiting fine depth and persistence on the mildly rustic finish. While this well-made effort could also be enjoyed young, a few years of cellaring should be beneficial. 90/2027+

2021 Pommard "Clos de Vergers": (from a .66 ha holding). A suggestion of herbal tea is present on the distinctly cool red pinot fruit, newly turned earth and a hint of forest floor. The sleek, delicious and markedly intense middleweight flavors are inviting and refreshing though there is a bit of acid tang on the finish that isn't drying but it does lean it out somewhat. 88/2026+

2021 Pommard "Les Charmots": An extremely subtle wisp of volatile acidity can be found on the pretty, cool and pure nose of red cherries, currant, violet and an admirably discreet application of wood. The finer and attractively vibrant flavors aren't quite as powerful though they do possess excellent punch on the better-balanced finale. 90/2028+

2021 Pommard "Rugiens": (from a .65 ha holding located apportioned one-third Bas and two-thirds Hauts). An airy, cool and beautifully pure nose is comprised by notes of red pinot fruit, anise and a range of floral elements, especially rose petal. There is excellent punch to the tautly muscular and more mineral-driven flavors that conclude in a dusty, moderately austere and mildly lean finish that, in contrast to the Clos de Vergers, isn't drying or short. Note that my rating offers the benefit of the doubt that this will be harmonize as the tannins begin to resolve. 902029+

Domaine/Maison Jean et Jean-Marc Pillot (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2021	**Bourgogne Pinot Noir "La Grande Terre"**	**red**	**86**
2021	**➽ Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**89**
2021	**➽ Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean" 1er**	**red**	**(90-93)**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Les Macherelles" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot – Les Fairendes" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2021	**Santenay "Les Champ Claude"**	**red**	**88**

Jean-Marc Pillot has been progressively turning the day to day operation of the domaine over to his son Antonin, and for the first time, I did the tasting with him. I will have more on his views of the 2021 vintage in Issue 91. However, specifically with respect to the reds, he noted that "I wasn't really concerned about the quality of the whites, but I definitely was concerned about the reds. We picked from the 17th of September and there was frankly a huge amount of sorting for the pinot due to a late season attack of botrytis. We did a light but moderately long cuvaison of 15 to 20 days and had no problem with the fermentations. I honestly didn't care for the reds at first but as the *élevage* progressed, they became more and more interesting, in fact I would go so far as to say that they seriously surprised me with how good they are as I really didn't not expect that." (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, NY, USA; Champagnes et Châteaux, www.champagnesandchateaux.co.uk, UK; Pearl of Burgundy, www.pearlofburgundy.com, Hong Kong and Macau; Shanghai Vinchamp International Trading Co. Ltd., www.vinchamp.com, Shanghai, China).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir "La Grande Terre": A very pinot-like nose of exuberant red and dark fruit is liberally cut with notes of pepper and earth where the latter is reflected by the delicious and vibrant middleweight flavors that conclude in a bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. This isn't refined but it is refreshing and should drink well young. 86/2024+

2021 Santenay "Les Champ Claude": A slightly more delicious and decidedly cooler nose of various dark berries and spice nuances gives way to sleek, delicious and nicely precise flavors that also exude a subtle minerality on the firmer and youthfully austere finish that is sufficiently compact to benefit from 3 to 6 years of keeping. 88/2026+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: This also reflects subtle pepper nuances on the combination of earth red and dark currant aromas. There is a bit more volume if not the same precision to the delicious, complex and sneaky long finale. This is a lovely Chassagne *villages* plus it will age over the mid-term if desired. 89/2027+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Les Macherelles": An ultra-fresh and pungently earthy if brooding nose offers up layered aromas of purple fruit, pepper and a smoky game hint, all of which is trimmed in soft oak influence. The round, intense and slightly bigger-bodied flavors conclude in a bitter bit fruit-inflected and austere finish that is presently somewhat short. This may better harmonize but at the moment, it's awkward. With that said, my projected range offers the benefit of the doubt. (88-91)/2027+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot – Les Fairendes": A spicy yet decidedly earthy nose consists primarily of various dark berry scents. The succulent, round and pliant medium weight flavors possess both good volume and punch before culminating in a balanced, complex and sneaky long finish. This is a relatively refined Morgeot if less powerful than usual. (90-92)/2028+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean": (from a parcel of 10 *ouvrées* or about .42 ha of very old vines). Here too there is just enough wood to remark upon framing the super-fresh, cool and pure mix of red currant, dark cherry and pretty spice wisps. The medium-bodied flavors possess a highly beguiling texture along with a subtle minerality, all wrapped in a dusty, delicious and impressively long finish. This is excellent and a wine that should repay up to a decade of keeping even though it should be reasonably accessible after only 5 to 7 years. (90-93)/2028+

Domaine Paul Pillot (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2021	**➽ Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean" 1er**	**red**	**91**

I will have more on Thierry Pillot's view of the 2021 vintage in Issue 91. He noted that he bottled the Clos St. Jean in January 2023. The Chassagne *villages* and old vines Santenay were not presented. (Skurnik Wines, www.skurnik.com, NY and Atherton Wine Imports, www.awiwine.com, CA, William Gladstone Imports, www.williamgladstoneimports.com, NY/HI, USA; Goedhuis & Co., www.goedhuis.com, Justerini & Brooks, www.justerinis.com, Laytons, www.laytons.co.uk, Flint Wines, www.flintwines.com, Latimer Vintners, www.latimervintners.com, H & H Bancroft Wines, www.bancroftwines.com and Tanners Wine, www.tanners-wines.co.uk, all UK; L'Imperatrice Fine Wines, https://imperatricewine.com.hk, Pearl of Burgundy, www.pearlofburgundy.com both Hong Kong and Macau; Bibendum Wine Co., www.bibendum.com.au, Australia).

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean": An attractively fresh nose combines notes of dark berries, earth, rose petal and an interesting note of kirsch. The supple but appealingly punchy middleweight flavors conclude in a compact and moderately firm finish that should reward mid-term keeping. This is textbook Clos St. Jean. 91/2028+

Château de Pommard (Pommard)

2020	**➽ Pommard – Grands Esprits**	**red**	**91**
2020	**➽ Pommard – Nicolas Joseph**	**red**	**92**
2020	**Pommard – Micault**	**red**	**88**
2020	**➽ Pommard – Monopole**	**red**	**92**

Silicon Valley entrepreneur Michael Baum bought the historic and beautiful 25 ha Château de Pommard, founded in 1726, in 2014. The holdings are divided into seven parcels totaling 20 ha, known as Clos Marey-Monge, and the fruit from each is vinified separately and then bottled separately, or in the case of the Monopole *cuvée*, blended. Paul Negrerie assumed the head winemaking responsibilities in 2021. I would note that the individual *cuvée* names are printed in very small and borderline indistinct silver and thus it pays to look closely at the label as it is easy to miss them. (Broadbent Selections, Inc., www.broadbent.com, VA, USA).

2020 Pommard – Micault: (from a 1.29 ha section planted in 1987; 80% whole cluster, 13.5%). Ripe aromas both red and dark currant reflect plenty of floral nuances along with background hints of spice and menthol. The delicious and nicely vibrant middleweight flavors that possess good if not special mid-palate density, all wrapped in a bitter pit fruit and moderately austere finish where a touch of warmth slowly emerges. I would add that while this is sufficiently supple that it could actually be enjoyed young, it also has the stuffing to repay up to a decade of keeping. 88/2030+

2020 Pommard – Grands Esprits: (from a 4.81 ha section planted between 1970 and 1980; 80% whole cluster, 14%). There is enough wood and menthol influences framing the notably ripe aromas of kirsch, black cherry liqueur and violet, to merit pointing out. The delicious and vibrant bigger-bodied flavors possess slightly better mid-palate density while displaying evident power on the dusty, youthfully austere and somewhat raspy and robust finale where a touch of warmth makes itself felt. This is very Pommard in character and while there is limited refinement, this is impressive in its fashion. 91/2032+

2020 Pommard – Nicolas Joseph: (from a 3 ha parcel of vines planted between 1940 and 2001; 75% whole cluster, 14.5%). A decidedly ripe nose combines floral and spice notes with those of poached plum and dark raspberry liqueur. There is fine density to the dense and powerful medium weight plus flavors that coat the palate with sappy dry extract before concluding in a moderately rustic, robust and mildly austere finale where a touch of warmth slowly emerges This is a big and ageworthy wine and while I can't say that it's my style, it is also indisputably impressive. 92/2032+

2020 Pommard – Monopole: (this comes from a blend of all seven of the sections and is considered to be the domaine's flagship wine;14%). This is aromatically quite similar to the *cuvée* Nicolas Joseph with perhaps slightly more floral elements in play. The medium-bodied flavors are not denser though they are a bit finer with very good verve and focused power suffusing the dusty, firm and palate coating bitter pit fruit-inflected finish that is definitely compact and built-to-age. This is very 2020 in style, which is to say quite ripe but with good acid support, and a wine that definitely needs extended keeping. I would add that while this and the Nicolas Joseph are qualitatively equal, there is a touch more refinement here. 92/2032+

Domaine de la Pousse d'Or (Volnay)

2021	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	red	93
2021	➽ Chambolle-Musigny	red	89
2021	➽ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses" 1er	red	94
2021	➽ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Charmes" 1er	red	92
2021	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Groseilles" 1er	red	90
2021	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	92
2021	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	red	94
2021	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	93
2021	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	red	93
2021	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	91
2021	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin "La Perrière" 1er	red	91
2021	Pommard "Les Jarolières" 1er	red	89
2021	Santenay "Clos des Tavannes" 1er	red	89
2021	➽ Volnay "Clos de la Bousse d'Or" 1er	red	93
2021	➽ Volnay "Clos l'Audignac" 1er	red	92
2021	➽ Volnay "Caillerets – Clos des 60 Ouvrées" 1er	red	94
2021	➽ Volnay "Caillerets – Clos des 60 Ouvrées – Amphore" 1er	red	93
2021	➽ Volnay "En Caillerets" 1er	red	91
2021	➽ Volnay "En Caillerets – Amphore" 1er	red	92
2021	➽ Volnay "Clos de la Bousse d'Or – Amphore" 1er	red	93

Benoît Landanger, who has assumed the direction of this domaine and has converted it to biodynamic farming principles, was away at the time of my visit so I don't have the pleasure of presenting his perspective on the 2021 vintage. However, I was very capably received and there have been significant changes in the domaine's holdings. The total vineyard area under management is now an impressive 17.4 ha though the details are still being working out as it's possible that Benoît may found a new domaine based in Gevrey to run in conjunction with Pousse d'Or. The additions include a leased parcel of .27 ha in the Gevrey 1er of La Perrière and .26 ha in Mazoyères (which is being declared as Charmes-Chambertin) as well as a .11 ha holding in the Echézeaux *climat* of Poullailères. For the time being, the additions are noted as "managed by the Landanger Family". On the other side of the ledger, the parcel of Feusselottes was traded away. Effectively this means that the domaine now works with an incredible 7 grand crus (6 reds plus Chevalier-Montrachet) and fully 11 premier crus (10 red and 1 white, the Puligny Caillerets); just as impressive is that 3 of the premier crus are monopoles! Once again, I had a chance to taste three wines that were vinified exactly the same as the regular *cuvées* but were raised in amphora; this is to say the En Caillerets, Clos de la Bousse d'Or and the Clos des 60 Ouvrées vineyards. I note these using the term amphore in the reviews, but the actual terminology found on the label reads "Vinifié et Élevé en Amphore". As the scores and commentaries confirm, I was very impressed with the wines in 2021 and in particular, those from Volnay really stood out. Lastly, the 2021s were bottled in December 2022 and January 2023. (Langdon-Shiverick, www.shiverick.com, CA, North Berkeley Imports, www.northberkeleyimports.com, CA, Ideal Wines, www.idealwine.us, MA, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, TX, Terroir Selections, www.terroir-selections.com, FL, all USA).

2021 Santenay "Clos des Tavannes": Pretty, cool and airy aromas include those of mostly various red berries and earth. The middleweight flavors possess both good verve and a lovely texture before concluding in a youthfully austere, mildly rustic and bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. This is relatively forward and could reasonably be enjoyed after only 3 to 4 years of keeping. 89/2026+

2021 Volnay "En Caillerets": A spicier and more floral-suffused nose is very pinot in style with its cool and pure red currant and violet scents. The medium weight flavors aren't any more concentrated though they are noticeably finer with an evident bead of minerality on the more complex and sneaky long finish. I like the balance of this stylish and classy effort and it should repay up to a decade of keeping. 91/2029+

2021 Volnay "En Caillerets – Amphore": This is similar to the regular cuvée if slightly spicier, especially with its notes of exotic tea and crushed star anise. There is even better tension and precision if less richness to the middleweight flavors that terminate in a chiseled, austere and linear finish. In 2021 this has the edge. 92/2031+

2021 Volnay "Clos l'Audignac": (a northeast facing vineyard that rarely gets the same degree of sunlight as the other Volnay 1ers in the portfolio and thus it can often be more Pommard-like than Volnay in character). Here the cool, earthier and more restrained nose derives more from the red side of the fruit spectrum. I very much like the mouthfeel of the precise and tension-filled medium-bodied flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the more austere and less refined finish that displays excellent depth and persistence. This is lovely though note well that it's a wine that's quite tightly wound and is going to need a decade plus of keeping to resolve what are presently very firm tannins. 92/2033+

2021 Volnay "Clos de la Bousse d'Or": A more floral and elegant nose freely offers up its slightly riper array of plum, black cherry and exotic spice nuances. The lilting and beautifully detailed middleweight flavors deliver outstanding length on the balanced, youthfully austere and stony finale. This doesn't presently have quite the same depth as the Clos l'Audignac but the texture is more sophisticated and overall, this is class in a glass. 93/2029+

2021 Volnay "Clos de la Bousse d'Or – Amphore": This is aromatically almost identical to the regular *cuvée* but it's less expressive and requires more swirling to reveal the nose. The super-sleek and strikingly detailed flavors are almost painfully intense while delivering the same outstanding length on the chiseled finish that is equally austere and sophisticated. One difference though is that the supporting tannins are a bit more prominent and the different *élevage* suggests that this will require a few extra years of keeping to arrive at its peak. 93/2031+

2021 Volnay "Caillerets – Clos des 60 Ouvrées": An exuberantly spicy nose of plum, black raspberry and violet introduce precise and refined yet powerful tension-filled flavors that are built on a base of almost pungent minerality while terminating in a markedly compact, austere and hugely long finale. This is terrific, stylish and classy but note well that it's unapologetically built-to-age. In a word, excellent. 94/2033+

2021 Volnay "Caillerets – Clos des 60 Ouvrées – Amphore": In much the same fashion as the difference between the two *cuvées* of the Bousse d'Or, this is also less expressive and cooler aromatically. The super-sleek and almost painfully intense flavors are also very much built on a base of fine minerality while exhibiting excellent precision on the equally chiseled finale. One minor difference though is that this is not quite as complex though it is just as firmly structured. We will see in time if the "missing" complexity eventually develops. 93/2033+

2021 Pommard "Les Jarolières": Here an equally restrained nose reluctantly offers up its mix of very spicy, indeed unusually so, red and dark berries that are laced with hints of forest floor and just turned earth. There is first-rate intensity to the precise and tautly muscular flavors that are shaped by relatively fine-grained tannins on the compact, linear and slightly lean finish. I suspect that this will eventually flesh out if given time but it's a bit hard and ungracious today. 89/2031+

2021 Corton-Bressandes: (from a .5 ha parcel). Slightly riper aromas of spiced plum, purple fruit and plenty of earth complement the bigger-bodied and more powerful flavors that flash a subtle minerality on the firm, serious, youthfully austere and even more compact finale that is noticeably better-balanced. The length is excellent and overall, this is textbook Bressandes. 93/2033+

2021 Corton-Clos du Roi: This is spicier still with its more *sauvage*-infused nose of dark currant, black cherry and whiff of green tea. The sleek, refined and less muscular but more mineral-driven flavors possess a velvety mid-palate that contrasts with the moderately austere and sneaky long finish. This isn't quite as vibrant as the Bressandes and needs time to develop better depth, but everything appears to be present for that to occur over time. Patience strongly recommended. 93/2033+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin "La Perrière": (from a leased .25 ha parcel). An airy, cool and distinctly earthy essence of red pinot fruit and a whiff of smoked meat character. The medium-bodied flavors are not quite as dense but they do offer good definition and vibrancy on the refined and lightly stony finish where a touch of youthful austere eventually emerges. Solid quality in a package that should repay mid-term keeping. 91/2029+

2021 Chambolle-Musigny: (from parcels totaling 1.41 ha). An exceptionally pretty nose blends notes of violet, plum and dark raspberry with hints of spice and violet. The lacy and beautifully textured middleweight flavors exude a bracing salinity on the youthfully austere dusty and moderately structured finale. This is a lovely Chambolle *villages* that should drink well after only 3ish years but also repay mid-term keeping. 89/2028+

2021 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Groseilles": (from a .52 ha parcel). A cool, pure and restrained nose reluctantly offers up notes of red cherry, raspberry and a top note of rose petal. The racy and relatively generous medium-bodied flavors possess good richness if not quite the same vibrancy on the lingering, moderately firm and balanced finish that could use better depth. 90/2029+

2021 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Charmes": (from a .19 ha parcel). A fresh if restrained and equally cool nose of red and blue pinot fruit along with plenty of floral and spice elements leads to intense and super-sleek middleweight flavors that possess a polished mouthfeel while delivering very fine length on the moderately austere, dusty and compact finale. This is very Charmes in style and a wine that should repay a decade plus of keeping. 92/2031+

2021 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses": (from a .20 ha parcel). A very fresh and exuberantly floral nose is comprised by airy red pinot fruit, exotic tea and spice nuances. The energetic and gorgeously textured super-sleek middleweight flavors possess a borderline aggressive minerality on the highly complex, balanced and strikingly persistent finish. This isn't especially concentrated and it could use better depth but the overall impression is pure lace and grace. This is stunning and a wine that should only become more so as it ages. 94/2033+

2021 Bonnes Mares: (from a .17 ha parcel). A much more reserved nose grudgingly displays its very pretty aromas of orange peel, jasmine tea, essence of red and dark currant and a smoky hint. Like the Amoureuses, the medium weight flavors are not especially dense yet they still manage to convey a sense of focused power on the precise, moderately austere and balanced finale that could also use better depth. With that said, there is superb length and there is no evident reason that this shouldn't develop well over the next 12 to 15 years. 93/2033+

2021 Charmes-Chambertin: (from a .26 ha parcel in Mazoyères). There is a touch of herbal tea to the elegant and fresh nose of various red and black cherry, earth and a whiff of forest floor. The texture of the equally cool and nicely refined if not especially dense middleweight flavors contrasts somewhat with the moderately rustic, firmly austere and dusty finish that displays excellent depth. I suspect that this presently compact effort will further flesh out with time in bottle 92/2033+

2021 Echézeaux: (from a .11 ha parcel in Poullailères). Here too there is a touch of herbal tea character on the overtly spicy aromas of dark currant, plum and violet. There is slightly better volume and richness, as well as a bit more mid-palate density, to the medium-bodied flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the youthfully austere and somewhat strict if not exactly lean finish. I do like the complexity but it's not entirely clear that this will harmonize with time in bottle as it's mildly awkward today. 91/2031+

2021 Clos de la Roche: (from a .32 ha parcel). The perfumed nose is very pretty with a beautifully layered array of cherry, plum, spice and soft earth and *sauvage* nuances. The focused, intense and beautifully delineated medium-bodied flavors possess evident minerality that also suffuses the dusty and youthfully austere finale. This could use better depth but the balance is impeccable and overall, it should age gracefully for as long as anyone might reasonably want to. 94/2033+

Domaine Jacques Prieur (Meursault)

2021	Beaune "1er" 1er	red	89
2021	Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2021	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2021	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	93
2021	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2021	Gevrey-Chambertin "1er" 1er	red	(87-90)
2021	➽ Meursault "Clos de Mazeray"	red	(89-91)
2021	Musigny Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2021	Volnay "Clos des Santenots" 1er	red	(88-91)

Technical director and winemaker Nadine Gublin was upbeat about the results the domaine achieved in 2021, noting that the quality was "quite surprising as I certainly didn't expect the wines to be as good as they are after the early season frost and a difficult growing season. We picked deliberately as maturities were all over the place due to the frost, which is to say that we began in Beaune and then Meursault and then progressed to Corton and then the Côte de Nuits vineyards. Yields were equally heterogenous but, with the exception of the Clos de Vougeot that was essentially spared by the frost, nowhere were they normal as they ranged from off 60% to as much as off 90%! Potential alcohols were more consistent at between 12 and 13% and while a few wines were chaptalized in the Côte de Beaune, none were in the Côte de Nuits. I vinified softly so as to obtain the best that the fruit had to offer and I think that was a good approach as the wines still have substance while preserving the balance and purity. They are also wonderfully transparent and the underlying terroir is beautifully apparent. Given the challenging growing season, I am really quite happy with the results." Gublin explained that due to the tiny yields, a number of wines were combined and thus not declared separately. Readers should also take a look herein at the *négociant* partnership between Domaine Prieur

and co-owner and general director Edouard Labruyère that is called Labruyère-Prieur Sélection. (Frederick Wildman, www.frederickwildman.com, NY, USA; Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com, UK; SAQ, www.saq.com, LCBO, www.lcbo.com and Philippe Danduran Wines, www.vinsdandurand.com, all Canada).

2021 Beaune "1er": (this blend combines fruit from Les Grèves, Féguine and Champ Pimont). An agreeably spicy and floral-suffused nose, especially violet, is comprised mostly by cool and very fresh black cherry scents. The racy, delicious and precise middleweight flavors possess a lovely texture and evident minerality that carry over to the bitter pit fruit, dusty and youthfully austere finale. This refreshing effort should repay 7 to 10 years of keeping. 89/2028+

2021 Meursault "Clos de Mazeray": (only one barrel made in 2021). This is also quite spicy though much less floral with its attractive aromas of plum, dark raspberry and cool earth nuances. The medium weight flavors also possess an appealing texture with good underlying tension suffusing the delicious, complex and lingering finale. This balanced effort is finer than it usually is and worth considering if you can find it. (89-91)/2027+

2021 Volnay "Clos des Santenots": (from a 1.19 ha mix of older vines up to 80 years of age). A discreet dollop of wood sets off the overtly floral-suffused nose of kirsch and freshly crushed red berries. The delicious and velvet-textured medium-bodied flavors possess a seductive mid-palate that contrasts markedly with the somewhat raspy bitter chocolate-inflected finale. This is both finer and more complex than the Mazeray but it's not quite as well-balanced. (88-91)/2028+

2021 Corton-Bressandes: (from a .73 ha parcel). A mentholated top note is present on the beautifully layered and ultra-fresh nose of herbal tea, red and black pinot fruit, newly turned earth and a hint of forest floor character. There is a bit more volume to the concentrated and tautly muscular larger-scaled flavors that possess excellent power and persistence on the beautifully balanced finish. Bressandes is always one of the least rustic of the Corton grand crus but, this example is especially refined, indeed even sophisticated. This beauty merits strong consideration provided you intended to cellar it for at least a few years first. 93/2033+

2021 Clos de Vougeot: (from a 1.28 ha parcel of vines in Quatorze Journaux and Montiotes Basses; Gublin noted that this suffered almost no frost damage.). Moderate wood and menthol elements are present on the elegant, fresh and pretty aromas of cool dark berries, lilac, violet and plenty of earth. There is fine volume and evident power to the sleek, intense and delicious medium-bodied flavors that possess a lovely acid/tannin/fruit balanced on the lingering and firm finale. (91-93)/2033+

2021 Gevrey-Chambertin "1er": (from young Chambertin vines planted in 1995). Here the wood is no longer subtle with unusually ripe aromas in the context of the vintage that are comprised by notes of poached plum, spice and a whiff of the *sauvage*. The rich and quite concentrated flavors, especially for young vines, offer solid power on the moderately austere and compact finish that leans out as it sits on the palate. It's not clear whether this will flesh out with time in bottle or not. (87-90)/2031+

2021 Chambertin: (from 5 separate parcels in both Chambertin and Clos de Bèze, which measure .84 ha). This is much less obviously wooded though there is some in evidence on the slightly cooler if otherwise similar nose. By contrast, there is an immediately noticeable difference in size, weight and concentration to the bigger-bodied and more powerful mineral-driven flavors that coat the palate with dry extract on the moderately austere and impressively lengthy built-to-age finale. This is a classic old school Chambertin though without the rustic tannins. (91-94)/2036+

2021 Echézeaux: (from a .36 ha parcel located in the *climat* of Champs Traversin). Here too moderate wood influence frames ripe and overtly spicy aromas of black cherry liqueur, Asian style tea and an interesting whiff of tangerine peel. The medium weight flavors aren't quite as concentrated or powerful though they are noticeably finer with a seductive texture thanks to the abundance of sappy dry extract buffering the firm tannic spine. This is really quite good and is an usually dense wine in the context of what is typical in 2021. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Musigny: (from a .77 ha parcel in the *climat* Combe d'Orveau, which is also a monopole of the domaine). This is aromatically similar to the Echézeaux though with an even broader array of enticing spice elements. The medium-bodied flavors are not quite as dense but they are slightly finer with a bracing minerality suffusing the slightly raspy bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. This markedly compact effort is carrying quite a bit of gas which tends to accentuate structural elements. As such, my predicted range offers the benefit of the doubt that this will display better balance once it's racked. (91-94)/2036+

Domaine Prieur-Brunet (Santenay)

2021	**Santenay "Maladière" 1er**	**red**	**(89-92)**

This old-line estate was purchased by Louis Jadot, who will issue a few wines in both red and white under the Prieur-Brunet label. Please see the section on Jadot for more information about the 2020 vintage as well as distribution.

2021 Santenay "Maladière": A mildly toasty nose combines notes of cool and bright red berries with those of earth, the *sauvage* and a whiff of earth. There is very good volume to the rich and succulent, even seductive medium weight flavors that deliver fine length on the punchy and lightly stony finale. This is quite good and should nicely repay mid-term keeping. (89-92)/2028+

Domaine Henri Prudhon et Fils (St. Aubin)

2021	**Bourgogne "Les Charmeaux"**	**red**	**(85-87)**
2021	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Les Chambres"**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2021	**St. Aubin "1er" Cuvée Les Rouges Gorges**	**red**	**(88-90)**
2021	**St. Aubin "Les Argillers"**	**red**	**(86-88)**
2021	**St. Aubin "Les Frionnes" 1er**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2021	**St. Aubin "Sur le Sentier du Clou" Vieilles Vignes 1er**	**red**	**(87-90)**

I will have more on Vincent Prudhon's views of the 2021 vintage in Issue 91 where the domaine's whites will be reviewed. (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, NY, USA; The Wine Society, www.thewinesociety.com, Tanners Wine, www.tanners-wines.co.uk, Peter Graham Wines, www.petergrahamwines.com, Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com and Ball Brothers, www.merchant.ballsbrothers.co.uk, all UK; SAQ, www.saq.com and Sequin & Robillard/Vinifera, www.seguinrobillard.ca, both Canada).

2021 Bourgogne "Les Charmeaux": Light ruby color. A very pinot-like nose reflects exuberantly fresh aromas of cherry, raspberry and a spicy top note. The vibrant and well-detailed lighter weight flavors conclude in a mildly austere and lean finale. This is built on its crunchy fruit and should drink well shortly after release. (85-87)/now+

2021 St. Aubin "Les Argillers": This is aromatically similar to the Bourgogne but with a slightly broader array of spice nuances. There is better volume to the barely middleweight flavors that also conclude in a raspy, dusty and lightly austere but not really lean finish. This too should drink well early. (86-88)/2024+

2021 St. Aubin "Les Frionnes": A more complex nose is comprised by the cool, pure and pretty, even perfumed, essence of red pinot fruit, anise and a hint of rose petal. The plump and fleshy flavors possess a lovely texture while exuding a fine bead of minerality on the dusty, youthfully austere and better-balanced finale. (87-89)/2025+

2021 St. Aubin "1er" Cuvée les Rouges Gorges: (from Sur Gamay and Le Combe; few domaines use the Sur Gamay name on the label with reds for fear it will cause consumers to think there is gamay in the blend; there isn't. Note: les Rouges Gorges is French for robin, as in the bird). A spicier nose features notes of rose petal, violet, red cherry and a hint of anise. The succulent, delicious and rich medium-bodied flavors also possess a lovely texture thanks to the relatively fine-grained tannins shaping the slightly longer finale. (88-90)/2025+

2021 St. Aubin "Sur les Sentier du Clou" Vieilles Vignes: (55+ year old vines). A slightly riper nose is comprised by aromas of super-fresh red berries, earth and a whiff of oak. There is again solid volume and richness to the medium weight flavors that conclude in a youthfully austere finish where a hint of asperity emerges as it sits on the palate. There is some gas present so this may be better-balanced once it's been racked and bottled. (87-90)/2026+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Les Chambres": Here the nose is unusually elegant for a *villages* Chassagne with its equally fresh nose of various red berries, floral hints and only a trace of earth. Once again there is both a lovely texture and a beguiling tension to the delicious middleweight flavors that offer reasonable length despite a touch of backend dryness. I would make the same observation as with the Sentier du Clou as there enough gas present to suggest that the dryness isn't due to a lack of ripeness. As such, my projected range offers the benefit of the doubt. (87-89)/2026+

Domaine Pascal Prunier-Bonheur (Meursault)

2021	➽ Auxey-Duresses	red	89
2021	Auxey-Duresses "Les Duresses" 1er	red	(88-91)
2021	Beaune "Les Bons Feuvres"	red	88
2021	Beaune "Les Sizies" 1er	red	(89-91)
2021	➽ Bourgogne Pinot Noir	red	87
2021	Monthélie	red	88
2021	Monthélie "Les Vignes Rondes" 1er	red	(89-91)
2021	➽ Pommard "Les Trois Follots"	red	(89-92)

The understated, indeed almost shy, Pascal Prunier-Bonheur is a 5th generation winemaker from Auxey-Duresses who is in charge of this 8 ha domaine where the production is divided half and half between reds and whites. Most of the production is from owned vines though there is a small *négociant* operation as well. Like so many of his colleagues in 2021, Prunier-Bonheur described the growing season as "exceptionally difficult. The frost was a terrible way to start the season for obvious reasons though because we have always been particularly late to prune, we suffered slightly less damage than most and especially so for our pinot vines. Thereafter we were reasonably successful in beating back several waves of intense disease pressure and as such, we had less sorting to do when we began picking on the 23rd of September. Yields were highly variable but generally low as the reds came in between -40 and -80% lower than normal and the whites were largely a disaster at -60 to -90%. I did a lighter, but not really light, vinification and used some whole clusters for a few wines during a three-week cuvaison. Overall, I like the style of the 2021 vintage as it's old school in its purity and energy but with clean and balanced wines." I agree with Prunier's take as his wines are indeed exactly as he describes. (Grand Cru Selections, LLC, www.grandcruselectionswine.com, NY, USA).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: (from Pommard vines). An earthy and brooding nose speaks mainly of red and dark pinot fruit laced with pretty violet top notes. There is excellent volume to the delicious and caressing but solidly punchy flavors that conclude in a bitter pit fruit and youthfully austere finale where a touch of rusticity slowly emerges. This won't win any awards for refinement but it is quite good for its level. 87/2026+

2021 Monthélie: (from Les Crais and Sous le Cellier). This is displaying just enough post-bottling reduction to blur the details of the fruit. More interesting are the exuberantly fresh and vibrant middleweight flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the compact finale that also displays touches of rusticity and austerity. 88/2027+

2021 Beaune "Les Bons Feuvres": This is also suffering from enough post-bottling reduction to render the nose impossible to assess. There is fine delineation and energy to the moderately dense medium weight flavors that are finer though not more complex on the lingering finish that is firm enough to suggest that 5 to 8 years should see it at its best. I would add that this is unusually fine for a Beaune *villages* situated at the bottom of the slope. 88/2027+

2021 Auxey-Duresses: (from Les Vireux, Les Crais and En Saussois). Decidedly earthy and deeply pitched aromas consist of plum, dark currant and forest floor notes. There is excellent mid-palate density to the vibrant and solidly powerful flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the youthfully austere, mildly rustic and sneaky long finish. This is firm enough to require at least a few years of patience. 89/2028+

2021 Auxey-Duresses "Les Duresses": Firm reduction dominates the nose at present. Otherwise, there is again good power and mid-palate density to the medium-bodied flavors that conclude in a mineral-suffused and markedly austere if slightly less rustic finale. This is very much old school Auxey, and the overt austerity may be too much for some palates more habituated to rounder and riper burgs. (88-91)/2029+

2021 Monthélie "Les Vignes Rondes": An appealingly floral-suffused nose blends notes of spicy dark berries with those of plum and just turned earth. The finer but not denser middleweight flavors possess both good detail and a subtle minerality that adds a sense of lift to the moderately austere bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. Some patience advised as this is pretty tightly wound presently. (89-91)/2029+

2021 Beaune "Les Sizies": A restrained if pretty nose grudgingly offers up its array of purple fruit, violet and crushed anise. There is good minerality to the finely detailed and even more refined flavors that also conclude in a youthfully austere and sneaky long finish. This could use better depth but more should reasonably develop if given a chance. (89-91)/2029+

2021 Pommard "Les Trois Follots": An even more restrained and cooler nose requires aggressive swirling to progressively reveal the layered nose of red and dark currant, pretty floral and just turned earth. The refined, punchy and beautifully detailed flavors exude evident minerality on the powerful, balanced and firm finale. This is an excellent Pommard villages and well-worth your interest provided you intend to cellar it for at least 5 years first. (89-92)/2031+

Domaine Jean-Claude Ramonet (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2019	Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos de la Boudriotte" 1er	red	90
2019	Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean" 1er	red	89
2019	Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot" 1er	red	89

The Ramonet reds are typically on the lighter side as they're expressly intended to be enjoyed young for their fruit. After having made much more robust 2018s, the 2019s are more in the traditional style and should drink well young. (Terlato Wines International, www.terlatowines.com, IL, USA; Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com, Farr Vintners, www.farrvintners.com, O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, La Réserve and Howard Ripley, www.howardripley.com, all UK).

2019 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot": An expressive and vaguely sweet fruit nose is comprised by notes of mostly peppery red berries and soft earth nuances. There is a beguilingly seductive texture to the round, forward and pliant medium weight flavors that offer enough depth and persistence to be persuasive. While there is some mid-term development potential, this could easily be enjoyed young for the generous fruit. 89/2025+

2019 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean": This too displays a vaguely sweet character to the discreetly earthy blend of both red and dark pinot fruit. The rich, round and quite supple flavors offer reasonably good complexity and persistence on the noticeably warm finish. While this could age successfully for a few years, it could just as easily be enjoyed young. 89/2025+

2019 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos de la Boudriotte": This also possesses sweet fruit on the pepper and spice-inflected aromas of mostly red berries, plum and a whiff of earth. The delicious and vibrant flavors possess acceptable density while the mildly austere finish delivers sneaky good length. This is firm enough that while it could be enjoyed young, I would suggest giving it 3 to 5 years first. 90/2026+

Domaine Rapet Père et Fils (Pernand-Vergelesses)

2021	➽ Aloxe-Corton	red	89
2021	Beaune "Clos du Roi" 1er	red	87
2021	➽ Beaune "Les Grèves" 1er	red	91
2021	Bourgogne Pinot Noir "En Bully"	red	86
2021	Chorey-lès-Beaune Vieilles Vignes	red	87
2021	Corton Grand Cru	red	92
2021	Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Belles Filles"	red	88
2021	Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses" 1er	red	90
2021	Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses" 1er	red	89
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fourneaux"	red	88
2021	➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fourneaux 1er" 1er	red	91

Yet another domaine is in the process of transferring responsibilities from one generation to the next as Vincent Rapet is progressively doing just that with his son Robin. The younger Rapet conducted the tasting and told me that 2021 "was a tough vintage with very low yields but from my standpoint, it's just as well that they were low because if not, nothing would have reached acceptable maturity levels. We picked from the 20th of September and the whites were off fully 70% while the reds fared a bit better at 'only' off 50%. We did a very careful sorting as it was super-important to be working only with the cleanest lees, be it red or white. As such we did a thorough lees settling for both colors but in particular, the whites had a sort of asparagus and cabbage odor, which was obviously necessary to get rid of! For the reds, we chose to do our normal vinification using 30 to 40% whole clusters. I was worried that the reds might be too acidic but in fact, not at all as the malos had their desired effect as did the *élevage*. I actually like the style of the vintage quite a bit, especially for its energy and freshness." Rapet noted that he bottled the reds in January 2023. (DC Flynt MW Selections, www.dcflyntmw.com, LA, USA; Domaine et Saveurs, www.ds-collection.com, France; L'Assemblage, www.lassemblage.co.uk and Laytons, www.laytons.co.uk UK).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir "En Bully": A very pinot-like nose combines notes of red cherry with those of earth and a whiff of crushed fennel. The supple, round and delicious middleweight flavors offer good energy that continues onto the mildly austere and rustic finish that leans out slightly as it sits on the palate. To enjoy young for its crunchy fruit and I would suggest serving it with an appropriate dish to round off the finish. 86/2024+

2021 Chorey-lès-Beaune Vieilles Vignes: (from Les Champs Longs). An attractively fresh and bright nose freely reveals its aromas of the essence of red berries trimmed in soft earth and forest floor nuances. The succulent, round and punchy medium weight flavors deliver reasonably good length on the rustic and slightly tangy finish. This is not without a certain appeal, but it would be fair to observe that the balance isn't quite right. 87/2025+

2021 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Belles Filles": A cooler and airier mix offers up a more layered mix of both red and dark currant and more discreet earth and forest floor wisps. There is slightly better volume to the nicely texture and attractively textured flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the dusty and youthfully austere finish that is noticeably firmer. 88/2027+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fourneaux": (Aux Fourneaux is a split rated appellation with a portion rated as *villages* and another as a 1er; this is from the *villages* portion). Here the nose displays a herbal tea nuance on the equally cool if earthier red pinot fruit and floral scents. The sleek, delicious and caressing middleweight flavors also exude a subtle minerality on the equally austere but more powerful and rustic finale. At least some patience would be beneficial. 88/2028+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fourneaux 1er": (from the 1er portion of the vineyard). This is aromatically similar to the *villages* version but with more spice elements in play. There is slightly better volume to the delicious and vibrant medium-bodied flavors that possess more evident power on the moderately austere and firmer finish that is also noticeably more persistent. 91/2031+

2021 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses": (from a 1.2 ha parcel). A touch of reduction knocks down the underlying fruit somewhat though wisps of earth and herbal tea escape the funk. More interesting are the racy and highly energetic middleweight flavors that brim with minerality on the moderately firm and delicious if slightly lean finish. I suspect that this may well flesh out if given a few years and my rating assumes that it will. 89/2029+

2021 Beaune "Clos du Roi": This also displays just enough reduction to push the fruit to the background so I would recommend a thorough aeration if you're going to open a bottle young. There is better freshness and verve to the lighter weight (though not dilute) flavors that possess a lovely mid-palate texture that contrasts markedly with the youthfully austere, linear and borderline strict finale. This too would be best served with food. 87/2026+

2021 Aloxe-Corton: (from four different *lieux-dits* in Les Combes, Les Boutières, Les Citernes and Les Crapousuets). Here the nose is clean and bright with its aromas of the cool essence of red currant, cherry, the *sauvage* and a pretty floral nuance. There is excellent punch to the nicely detailed and solidly powerful medium-bodied flavors that possess very good depth and persistence that evidences almost no rusticity. In the context of the appellation, this is a relatively refined example. 89/2028+

2021 Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses": (from 40+ year old vines). A highly perfumed if decidedly cool nose is comprised by the pure essence of red pinot fruit, spice and plenty of floral elements. The racy and almost painfully intense middleweight flavors are built on a base of pungent minerality before culminating in a linear, austere and almost strict finish. This is one of those wines that will not be especially interesting young as it is very, even extremely, tightly wound and needs to add flesh, particularly on the finish. So if you're going to buy, I would suggest doing so only with the express intent to let it age. 90/2031+

2021 Beaune "Les Grèves": (from 50+ year old vines in the *climat* Sur les Grèves). A riper if less refined and airy nose speaks of red and dark currant aromas that are laced with newly turned earth, exotic tea and an interesting hint of orange peel. There is better volume to the medium-bodied flavors that display good power and mid-palate density before culminating in a youthfully austere, firm and nicely balanced finale. This is consistently one of the domaine's better wines and so it is again in 2021. 91/2029+

2021 Corton: (from Les Perrières and Les Chaumes et Voierosse – the former has 50+ year old vines and the latter 30 to 35-year-old vines). This is also cool and airy if more *sauvage*-inflected with its nose of earth, leather, smoke and a plenitude of floral wisps. There is both fine volume and focused power to the bigger-bodied and muscular flavors that flash fine length on the distinctly austere, tightly wound and very much built-to-age finale. Patience absolutely necessary. 92/2033+

Domaine Rollin Père et Fils (Pernand-Vergelesses)

2021	➽ Aloxe-Corton	red	(89-91)
2021	Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune	red	86
2021	Pernand-Vergelesses	red	87
2021	Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Fichots" 1er	red	(88-91)
2021	Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses" 1er	red	(90-92)
2021	Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses" 1er	red	89
2021	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Grands Liards"	red	(88-91)

Rémi Rollin has now officially retired in favor of his son Simon, who joined the domaine in 2003. The younger Rollin called 2021 "another vintage that was *très compliqué.* There was the frost followed by the growing season from hell so both we, and the vines, were basically stressed from start to finish. We chose to begin picking on the 18th of September and despite all of the problems, we actually brought in fruit with good maturities, just not much of it as yields were off 70% in total and the whites were even worse at -80%! There was some sorting necessary, mainly for oidium, but once everything substandard was eliminated, the potential alcohols ranged between 11.5 and 12.5% we chaptalized around .5%. Because the fruit was more homogenously ripe than in 2016, it was easier to vinify as we were less concerned about extracting underripe elements. I was initially worried that we might not obtain reasonable colors for the pinot but even though they were slow to emerge during the vinifications, they eventually did so I worried for nothing. In one minor change, we used zero new wood for the whites and much less than normal for the reds. In sum, 2021 was horrific in the vines but pretty much a piece of cake in the cellar." Rollin noted that some reds were bottled in November 2022. (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, NY, USA; Sequin & Robillard/Vinifera, www.seguinrobillard.ca, Canada; Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com, UK).

2021 Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune: A fresh and very bright nose is comprised by the essence of earthy red berries. There is unusually good volume and mid-palate density, not only for the vintage but also for the appellation, to the supple and delicious flavors that conclude in a mildly rustic finish. This should drink well for its crunchy fruit but offer short-term aging potential as well. 86/2025+

2021 Pernand-Vergelesses: (from 4 separate *lieux-dits*). This is aromatically similar to the Hautes Côte but with slightly better layering. The plump, round and attractively vibrant middleweight flavors that conclude in a more tightly wound, dusty and compact finish. This lightly stony effort will need at least a few years of keeping to unwind and round off the finish. 87/2027+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Grands Liards": This is also distinctly cool with its array of ultra-fresh and pure aromas that include those of red cherry, plum, violet and an admirably discreet application of wood. Here too there is an appealing richness to the beautifully textured medium weight flavors that deliver sneaky good length on the mildly rustic finale. This is a quality Savigny *villages* and worth your interest. (88-91)/2027+

2021 Aloxe-Corton: (~25% of the blend is from the 1er Les Guérets with the remainder from Les Boutières and Les Caillettes). This is also cool, pure and ultra-fresh with its earthier combination of darker berries, smoke and *sauvage* whiffs. There is both good density and a taut muscularity to the relatively powerful larger-scaled flavors that exhibit fine length on the firm, rustic and moderately austere finale. This could use better depth, but the development potential appears to be present for that to progressively occur. (89-91)/2028+

2021 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses: (from 40 to 45-year-old vine fruit). A more floral-suffused nose, particularly with nuances of lilac and violet, presents mostly a mix of red berries with slightly exotic touches of clove and anise. There is good if not special density to the intense and tautly muscular flavors that display good length on the dusty, youthfully austere and mildly raspy finish. This may well better harmonize though today it's a bit awkward and my rating offers the benefit of the doubt. 89/2029+

2021 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Fichots": (a mix of 35 and 65+ year old vines). The fresh red currant and cherry-scented nose is earthier still if notably more restrained. There is even better richness and volume to the caressing but solidly powerful larger-scaled flavors that are quite supple on the mid-palate yet tighten up considerably on the bitter pit fruit finish that isn't quite as austere. This could use better depth so at least some forbearance should be helpful. (88-91)/2029+

2021 Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses": (two-thirds of this is from 65+ year old vines and the other third is from 10+ year old vines). A spicy, airy and attractively perfumed nose blends together spice, red berry fruit, wet stone and floral nuances. There is again good richness to the generously proportioned mid-palate where the seductive texture contrasts substantially with the compact, structured, youthfully austere and stony finish that is shaped by firm but fine tannins. (90-92)/2031+

Domaine Roulot (Meursault)

2021	**Auxey-Duresses "1er" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2021	**Monthélie**	**red**	**87**

I will have Jean-Marc Roulot's views of the 2021 vintage in Issue 91. He noted that the reds were bottled in December 2022. (Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, www.kermitlynch.com, CA, Grand Cru Selections, LLC, www.grandcruselectionswine.com, NY, both USA; Noble Rot, www.noblerot.co.uk, Howard Ripley, www.howardripley.com, Clarion Wines, www.clarionwines.co.uk, Latimer Vintners, www.latimervintners.com, all UK; Pearl of Burgundy, www.pearlofburgundy.com, Hong Kong).

2021 Monthélie: (from Les Gamets et Jouènes; no whole clusters). Pretty, cool and airy aromas include those of red and dark pinot fruit, violet and a smoky hint. The delicious and very punchy lighter weight flavors conclude in a chiseled, lightly stony and mildly dusty finale. This is built on its decidedly crunchy fruit and a wine that could easily be enjoyed young or held for 2 to 3 years first in the hopes that better depth will develop. 87/2025+

2021 Auxey-Duresses "1er": (from Bas des Duresses and Les Grands Champs; 50% whole clusters). This is aromatically similar to the Monthélie though with a much broader array of floral elements thanks to the substantial percentage of whole clusters. The barely middleweight flavors are also on the lighter side but with better punch and notably better depth on the lingering and slightly more structured finale. This is really quite pretty and fashioned in an understated style. 89/2026+

Domaine Roux Père & Fils (St. Aubin)

2020	**Chambolle-Musigny**	**red**	**88**
2020	**Clos de la Roche Grand Cru**	**red**	**89**
2020	**Saint-Aubin "Les Frionnes" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2020	**Santenay "Beaurepaire" 1er**	**red**	**88**
2020	**Vougeot "Les Petits Vougeot" 1er**	**red**	**90**

Roux Père is one of the largest landholders in Burgundy with some 70 ha spread between the Côte d'Or and the Côte Chalonnaise; most impressively, fully 65 of the 70 ha are situated in the Côte d'Or. The domaine's wines are distributed in a number of markets but I did not have specific importer information at the time of Issue 90's release beyond what I list here. (Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, UK).

2020 Saint-Aubin "Les Frionnes": The natural coolness of St. Aubin can be sensed on the nose because while it's definitely ripe, the mix of red and dark currant and spice nuances remains reasonably fresh. The supple and vibrant medium weight flavors exude a subtle minerality on the firm and ever-so-mildly austere finale that offers good length and only a trace of warmth. This is a wine that could easily be enjoyed young or aged to good effect for a few years. 90/2027+

2020 Santenay "Beaurepaire": Very ripe aromas of cassis, plum pudding, earth and a mentholated nuance lead to round, supple and slightly soupy middleweight flavors that, in contrast to several wines in the range, possess pretty good complexity if not much definition or grip. While this will repay a few years of keeping, it's already sufficiently forward to drink well now. 88/2025+

2020 Chambolle-Musigny: A ripe yet nicely perfumed and exotically spicy nose reflects notes of crushed fennel, Asian style tea and a blend of kirsch and poached plum. The supple and almost easy-going flavors possess acceptable mid-palate density while culminating in a dusty and slightly warm finale. This could use better depth and like several of the wines in the range, this too could easily be enjoyed young. 88/2026+

2020 Vougeot "Les Petits Vougeot": Not completely surprising, given their close proximity, this is aromatically similar to the Chambolle *villages* with perhaps just a bit more spiciness. The sleek, supple and delicious flavors are very supple, even suave, with a velvety mid-palate texture that tightens up moderately in the dusty and sneaky long finish where a suggestion of warmth surfaces, though it's less than the other wines in the range. Note that this too could easily be popped and poured young. 90/2026+

2020 Clos de la Roche: This is quite deeply hued that is consistent with the notably ripe aromas of poached plum, menthol, the *sauvage* and a trace of warm earth. The rich, supple and round medium weight flavors are surprisingly approachable while contrasting markedly with the noticeably warm bitter pit fruit-inflected and somewhat raspy finish. This is pleasant enough and certainly offers good depth but overall, I was a bit disappointed in the context of what this is. 89/2028+

Domaine Comte Senard (Aloxe-Corton)

2021	**Aloxe-Corton – Jules**	**red**	**88**
2021	**Aloxe-Corton "Les Valozières" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2021	**Bourgogne Pinot Noir – Auguste**	**red**	**86**
2021	**Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru**	**red**	**92**
2021	**Corton-Clos des Meix Grand Cru**	**red**	**92**
2021	**Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru**	**red**	**91**
2021	**Corton-Les Paulands Grand Cru**	**red**	**91**

Lorraine Senard, who has been in charge of the domaine since 2005, has recently been joined by her brother Mathieu. They told me that 2021 "was an extremely tough vintage to manage as the frost wiped out so much potential production. The worst hit was the Clos des Meix and it was heartbreaking to see so much damage as there was almost no sign of life for almost one month after the frost! We picked between the 16th and the 19th of September and we sorted like there was no tomorrow. So, between the frost, the relentless disease pressure and sorting losses, we realized only 15 hl/ha in white and between 17 and 28 hl/ha in red. In short, not much. By contrast, potential alcohols were perfectly good as they ranged from 12 to 13% so a few wines that came in at the lower end of that range were chaptalized. We generally like to use high amounts of whole clusters in the vinifications but we chose to use relatively modest amounts. The colors were slow to appear but they eventually did. We were pretty skeptical about the quality at the beginning as the wines didn't seem to have much personality and they were a bit skinny. However, it's a good lesson to never underestimate the power of the malolactic fermentation as that, and the subsequent benefits of the *élevage*, really transformed the wines. Now that they're in bottle, we're actually pretty happy with the results." The 2021s were bottled in December 2022. (Pas Mal Portfolio, mafeuer@mindspring.com, NY/NJ and Vineyard Road, www.vineyardroad.net, MA, both USA).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir – Auguste: A distinctly earthy nose consists of notes of various red berries and forest floor. The delicious lighter weight flavors possess good cut on the bitter pit fruit-inflected finish that exhibits sneaky good length. This inviting effort is built on its fruit and should drink well basically upon release. 86/2024+

2021 Aloxe-Corton – Jules: A more elegant nose is comprised by notes of the essence of red cherry and spice, with more restrained notes of newly turned earth. The succulent and round middleweight flavors possess more volume while the youthfully austere finish is shaped by firmer but also finer tannins. This is a relatively refined Aloxe *villages*. 88/2027+

2021 Aloxe-Corton "Les Valozières": (20% whole clusters). An earthier nose is also a bit more floral in character with good freshness to the mostly red berry scents. The rich, powerful and muscular larger-bodied flavors possess fine drive on the robust yet not especially rustic or unduly austere finale. This is pretty much textbook Valozières that will require at least moderate patience. 90/2029+

2021 Corton-Les Paulands: A high-toned nose reflects notes of raspberry, red cherry and a whiff of the *sauvage*. The succulent, rich and round medium-bodied flavors possess focused power that seems to build on the bitter pit fruit-infused finish that a hint of rusticity slowly emerges. This well-made effort is sufficiently structured as to require at least some forbearance. 91/2031+

2021 Corton-Bressandes: A mentholated top note is present on the equally high-toned nose though there is more volume on the palate of the very rich and seductively textured medium weight flavors that flash better power on the firm, youthfully austere and serious finish. This equally well-made effort is very Bressandes in character, which is to say a blend of power and refinement, at least in the context of what is typical for the Hill of Corton. 92/2031+

2021 Corton-Clos du Roi: A slightly spicier and more floral if otherwise similar nose serves as an elegant introduction to the intense, muscular and more obviously mineral-inflected middleweight flavors that also conclude in a youthfully austere and powerful finish that doesn't possess quite the same persistence. Given that the range was just bottled, this of course may change with time in bottle but for the moment, the Bressandes and Clos des Meix appear to have a slight edge in overall quality in 2021. 91/2031+

2021 Corton-Clos des Meix: (a large 2 ha monopole of the Domaine with 80% of the vines planted in 1945 and the rest in 1975). Pretty and layered aromas include those of plum, violet, lilac, anise and a whiff of forest floor. There is very good volume and solid power to the medium-bodied flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the sneaky long finish that displays lovely acid/fruit/tannins balance. 92/2031+

Domaine Thomas-Collardot (Puligny-Montrachet)

2021	**Coteaux Bourguignons "Le Pierrot"**	**red**	**(85-87)**

This tiny 2.5 ha domaine is run by Jacqueline Collardot and her son Matthieu. Their first vintage was 2015 with only one wine but they have slowly been taking back vineyards that were leased out in one form or another since 1991. While there is only one red, the domaine now bottles seven different Puligny *villages cuvées* and two Puligny 1ers (Hameau de Blagny and Folatières). More about the 2021 vintage as well as the reviews for the excellent whites will appear in Issue 91. (Skurnik Wines, www.skurnik.com, NY, USA; Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk and John Armit Wines, www.armit.co.uk, both UK; L'Imperatrice Fine Wines, https://imperatricewine.com.hk, Hong Kong).

2021 Coteaux Bourguignons "Le Pierrot": (from a 70/30 blend of pinot and gamay; 90% whole clusters). Moderate reduction suppresses the fruit though there is an attractive mid-palate texture and verve to the lighter weight flavors that conclude in a moderately rustic finish where a touch of dryness slowly emerges. This may better harmonize once it's racked but it's awkward today. (85-87)/now+

Domaine Tollot-Beaut (Chorey-lès-Beaune)

2021	**Aloxe-Corton**	**red**	**89**
2021	**➽ Aloxe-Corton "Les Fournières" 1er**	**red**	**92**
2021	**➽ Aloxe-Corton "Les Vercots" 1er**	**red**	**92**
2021	**Beaune "Clos du Roi" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2021	**➽ Beaune "Grèves" 1er**	**red**	**92**
2021	**➽ Bourgogne Côte d'Or**	**red**	**87**
2021	**Chorey-lès-Beaune**	**red**	**88**
2021	**➽ Chorey-lès-Beaune "La Pièce du Chapitre"**	**red**	**89**
2021	**Corton Grand Cru**	**red**	**93**
2021	**➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Champ-Chevrey" 1er**	**red**	**91**
2021	**➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières" 1er**	**red**	**91**

Nathalie Tollot was unabashedly enthusiastic in her comments about 2021, exclaiming that "I love this vintage! It has everything that I want in the style of a vintage, though it would have been nice to have some volume! For the first time in our entire history, we had to combine our parcels of Corton as there just wasn't enough volume to vinify the fruit properly. The quality of the wine, which obviously counts the most, is the good news because the growing season itself was incredibly fatiguing. But we survived and picked from the 16th of September and for the first time in several vintages, brought out our optical sorting machine as it's precise and fast. Yields were off on average 40% but there was enormous variability, which is to say basically from almost nothing to normal. Potential alcohols were quite good at between 12.5 and 13% and we chose to vinify normally. As to the style of the wines, I would compare them to either 2002 or 2010 as they're super-fresh and the fruit is much more red than dark. I think they will age gracefully for as long as anyone would want." Tollot noted that the 2021s were bottled in January and February 2023 and I tasted them in early March. Note too that the Tollot wines are deliberately bottled with slightly higher levels of CO_2 so decanting the wines is always a good idea. (Winebow, Inc., www.winebow.com, NJ; The Wine Society, www.thewinesociety.com, Tanners Wine, www.tanners-wines.co.uk, Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com, Farthinghoe Fine Wine, www.farthinghoefinewine.com, Justerini & Brooks, www.justerinis.com and O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, all UK).

2021 Bourgogne Côte d'Or: A cool, pure and airy nose is very red pinot fruit in character. The delicious middleweight flavors possess a lovely texture before terminating in a bitter pit fruit-inflected finish where a touch of rusticity eventually emerges. This is a fine example of the genre and worth considering. 87/2025+

2021 Chorey-lès-Beaune: A slightly more deeply pitched nose blends hints of earth and plum in with the fresh red berry aromas. There is again good richness and vibrancy to the utterly delicious medium weight flavors that are inviting and refreshing on the acidity red bonbon-suffused finish. 88/2026+

2021 Chorey-lès-Beaune "La Pièce du Chapitre": (from a 1.7 ha parcel of 50+ year old vines). This is aromatically similar to the regular cuvée though with a floral top note. There is also a bit more volume to the medium-bodied flavors that possess better density if not better complexity on the balanced finale. This could use more depth though a few years of cellaring should certainly help. Worth checking out. 89/2027+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières": A super-fresh high-toned nose features notes of just crushed raspberry, cherry, spice and a pretty hint of violet. I very much like the more sophisticated texture of the lightly stony middleweight flavors that display fine length on the balanced finish that is shaped by notably fine-grained tannins. This could also use better depth but the track record of this wine is such that more should develop in time. 91/2028+

2021 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Champ-Chevrey": (Champ-Chevrey is a *climat* within Les Fourneaux). A cool, pure and more deeply pitched nose offers its aromas of red and dark currant laced with discreet spice and earth hints. There is good volume and richness to the generously proportioned and gorgeously textured medium weight flavors that exhibit fine length on the dusty and youthfully austere finale. While qualitatively similar to the Lavières, these are two very different wines. 91/2029+

2021 Beaune "Clos du Roi": A slightly riper though still agreeably fresh nose combine notes of red and dark raspberry with more evident earth nuances. Here too the mouthfeel of the medium-bodied flavors is generous to the point of being seductive, which contrasts with the ever-so-mildly tangy finish. I suspect that the tangy quality will be less obvious when the wine is decanted as the gas is accentuating it. 90/2028+

2021 Beaune "Grèves": A much more floral-suffused nose also blends red and dark berries along with more evident spice wisps. The succulent, even fleshy, middleweight plus flavors possess excellent concentration along with a suave palate impression, all wrapped in youthfully austere built-to-age finale. This is a big wine in the context of the '21 vintage and at least some patience will be beneficial. 92/2029+

2021 Aloxe-Corton: (from Les Petits Vercots, Boutières, Les Cras and Crapousuets). An exuberantly fresh nose is comprised by the essence of various red berries along with plenty of earth and the *sauvage*. There is again fine mid-palate density to the caressing, even suave, medium weight flavors that flash focused power on the moderately compact and mildly rustic finale. This isn't refined but I like the balance and overall, this is a very good Aloxe *villages*. 89/2028+

2021 Aloxe-Corton "Les Vercots": (from young vines of around 15 years of age). Here too the nose is distinctly floral in character with equally cool and pure aromas of the essence of red currant, cherry and a whiff of forest floor. Once again there is really lovely texture to the muscular bigger-bodied flavors that conclude in a serious, compact and mildly austere finish. This won't win any awards for refinement, but elegance isn't why one buys Vercots. Moreover, Vercots is always better in cooler vintages and 2021 proves that point. 92/2031+

2021 Aloxe-Corton "Les Fournières": A slightly cooler nose is composed by notes of airy wild red currant, smoky game and newly turned earth nuances. There is excellent power to the muscular broad-shouldered flavors that possess fine delineation and length on the moderately austere and lightly rustic finale. This too is very good though at least patience suggested as Fournières always requires a few years to open up and develop better depth. 92/2031+

2021 Corton: (from Les Combes but in 2021, the blend includes Bressandes). This too is aromatically quite cool and notably more restrained with more *sauvage* influence to the darker aromas of plum, black cherry and plenty of pungent earth wisps. There is excellent density to the big-bodied, powerful and tautly muscular flavors that coat the palate with sappy dry extract that also buffers the very firm tannic spine shaping the dusty, serious and sneaky long finish. This is certainly built-to-age but it's not so imposing that it couldn't reasonably be enjoyed after 5 to 7 years. 93/2033+

Domaine Joannès Violot-Guillemard (Pommard)

2021	Beaune "Clos des Mouches" 1er	red	(88-91)
2021	➽ Bourgogne – Cuvée Maison Dieu	red	(86-89)
2021	Pommard "En Brescul"	red	(87-89)
2021	➽ Pommard "Les Epenots" 1er	red	(90-93)
2021	Pommard "La Platière" 1er	red	(90-92)
2021	➽ Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	(91-93)

Joannès Violot briefly noted that the "difficulties we encountered during the 2021 growing season may have defined the limits of organic viticulture as the disease pressure was the worst that I have ever seen. Granted, I'm young and don't have enormous experience but nonetheless, we were constantly in the vineyards trying to protect the vines, especially those that were heavily frosted. We picked from the 16th of September and while there was plenty of sorting to do, I've seen worse. Overall, yields were off 70% but they were highly variable, ranging from basically nothing to almost normal with good potential alcohols of 12 to 13%. I vinified normally using from zero to 100% whole clusters. The colors were really slow to emerge and I confess to being extremely skeptical about the quality at the beginning but I have come full circle. While I don't think that 2021 is a great vintage, it's certainly much better than I imagined." (Caveau Selections, www.caveauselections.com, OR, True North Wine Merchants, www.truenorthwines.com, CA, both USA; Clark Foyster Wines, www.clarkfoysterwines.co.uk, Haynes Hanson & Clark, www.hhandc.co.uk, Flint Wines, www.flintwines.com, all UK; Vintur, www.vintur.dk, Denmark; Euan McKay Wine Merchant, www.euanmckay.com.au, Australia; Peter Maude Wines, www.pmfw.co.nz, New Zealand; LQV, www.lqv-group.com, Asia; Toyota Tsusho Foods Corporation, www.toyotsu-shokuryo.com, Tokyo, Japan; Unger Weine, www.underweine.de, Germany).

2021 Bourgogne – Cuvée Maison Dieu: (Maison Dieu is the name of an actual *lieu-dit* situated in Pommard but Violot chooses to employ the term *cuvée* anyway; in the period prior to 1937 this well-situated parcel was declared as Pommard *villages*). Very pretty and ultra-fresh aromas of various red berries and a suggestion of earth lead to racy, delicious and agreeably textured flavors that conclude in lingering, complex and balanced finish that displays only a trace of rusticity. This is very good for its level and worth considering. (86-89)/2024+

2021 Pommard "En Brescul": The perfumed essence of red cherry and discreet spice nuances serve as an elegant introduction to the succulent, rich and seductively textured middleweight flavors that contrast with the rustic, youthfully austere and slightly lean finish. I suspect that this will flesh out more with a few years of bottle age. (87-89)/2027+

2021 Beaune "Clos des Mouches": Here too there is a perfumed quality to the spicy and more floral-suffused red berry aromas. Once again there is a lovely mid-palate textured to the solidly concentrated medium-bodied flavors that terminate in a longer finish that flirts with leanness but avoids dryness. This could reasonably be enjoyed after 4 to 5 years of keeping. (88-91)/2029+

2021 Pommard "La Platière": (from a .7 ha parcel containing the Domaine's oldest vines planted in 1936). A pungent nose of wood and reduction give way to highly energetic and beautifully delineated middleweight flavors that flash evident minerality on the appealingly textured, youthfully austere and better-balanced finale. Lovely and understated in style. (90-92)/2029+

2021 Pommard "Les Epenots": (from Petits Epenots). There is a barely perceptible background whiff of volatile acidity that adds a sense of lift to the super-fresh red berry fruit and soft earth, smoke and floral-scented nose. The succulent and fleshy medium-bodied flavors possess a highly seductive texture that carries over to the firm, balanced, youthfully austere finale. While this should certainly be capable of repaying a decade plus of keeping, it should also be approachable young. (90-93)/2031+

2021 Pommard "Les Rugiens": (from a .5 ha parcel located at the bottom of Rugiens Haut). An elegant, pure and airy nose reflects notes of markedly floral red pinot fruit with background nuances of herbal tea and spice elements. There is beautiful delineation to the intensely stony medium weight flavors that deliver very fine length on the balanced and complex finish. This youthfully austere effort is also quite lovely though note that it's sufficiently structured to need patience. (91-93)/2033+

Domaine Joseph Voillot (Volnay)

2021	Beaune "Aux Coucherias" 1er	red	89
2021	Bourgogne Pinot Noir Vieilles Vignes	red	86
2021	Pommard Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2021	Pommard "Clos Micault" 1er	red	89
2021	➽ Pommard "Les Epenots" 1er	red	91
2021	Pommard "Les Pézerolles" 1er	red	90
2021	➽ Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	92
2021	Volnay Vieilles Vignes	red	87
2021	➽ Volnay "Les Caillerets" 1er	red	92
2021	Volnay "Les Champans" 1er	red	90
2021	Volnay "Les Frémiets" 1er	red	90

Jean-Pierre Charlot, one of Burgundy's most well-loved and respected *vignerons*, has now completely retired, in favor of his nephew Etienne Chaix. Chaix described 2021 as "having pretty much every problem imaginable. The frost of course marked everyone's view of the growing season but there was intense disease pressure and even some sunburned fruit! Moreover, most of the season was cool and wet so the tiny quantities actually allowed what little fruit there was to ripen properly. For example, we were off fully 80% in white and 60 to 80% in red. To express it in terms of volumes, all the wines came in between 8 and 12 hl/ha! It was in a sense a double whammy of problems because while the frost hit the premier crus hard, it largely spared the regional vines. However, while the flowering passed well in the premier crus, there was a lot of shatter in the regional vines so basically, we didn't produce much volume in any of our vines. In fact, there was so little of the Meursault Chevalières that we're not even going to commercialize it. Ultimately, we picked from the 18th of September and there was enough sorting necessary to mention and after that, everything was pretty much easy. With the exception of the Bourgogne, I bottled the reds in January 2023." (A Roy Cloud Selection for Vintage '59 Imports, www.vintage59.com, Washington, D.C., USA; Anthony Sarjeant, UK; Jalux, www.jalux.com, Japan; Dieckmann's Wein, www.dieckmannswein.de, Germany; Okhuysen, www.okhuysen.nl, Netherlands; Divine Wines, www.divine-burgundy-wine.com, Ireland; La Cave de Reverolle, www.cavedereve.ch, Switzerland; Fine Wine Company, www.sdvf.ca, Canada).

2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir Vieilles Vignes: (from a parcel of 100% pinot vines located near Volnay). A very pinot-like nose reflects mostly notes of various red berries and earth character that is picked up by the delicious and vibrant lighter weight flavors that display good detail on the ever-so-mildly dry and lean finish. I suspect that the dryness is due to the bottling, but I doubt that this will ever be seductive. 86/2024+

2021 Volnay Vieilles Vignes: A slightly riper nose offers up touches of spice and herbal tea on the cool red currant and cherry scents. The vibrant and equally well-detailed flavors are also on the lighter side before concluding in a delicious if slightly short finale. This somewhat awkward effort may also better harmonize once the recent sulfur addition from the bottling is integrated. 87/2026+

2021 Pommard Vieilles Vignes: (from Les Cras though not labeled as such). A more deeply pitched nose displays notes of earth, forest floor and red and dark currant. There is slightly better volume and punch to the barely middleweight flavors that carries over to the bitter pit fruit and firmly austere finale. 88/2027+

2021 Beaune "Aux Coucherias": Fresh and cool aromas of plum, spicy black cherry and violet can be found on the attractively textured and more concentrated medium weight flavors that possess a seductive, even velvety, texture that contrasts with the austere but sneaky long finish. 89/2027+

2021 Volnay "Les Frémiets": (from vines that average 50+ years of age). Agreeably fresh if somber aromas of plum, red and dark raspberry and a hint of crushed anise are trimmed in just enough wood to notice. The supple yet nicely energetic flavors exude a subtle bead of minerality on the dusty, moderately austere and lingering finale. This attractively textured effort could use more depth but that could reasonably occur with a few years of cellaring. 90/2028+

2021 Volnay "Les Champans": (from vines that average 50 years of age). A softly spicy and noticeably earthier nose blends notes of both red and dark currant with those of plum and violet. The supple, round and velvet-textured medium-bodied flavors seem quite forward though this impression contrasts with the compact and youthfully austere finale. Note that this is sufficiently firm to benefit from at least a few years of keeping. 90/2029+

2021 Volnay "Les Caillerets": (from a small .14 ha parcel planted in 1984). Here the elegant nose amply reflects the classic spiciness of the mostly red berry aromas that are liberally laced with violet and lilac nuances. There is both good volume and intensity to the nicely concentrated medium weight flavors that exude an almost pungent minerality on the much more complex and persistent bitter cherry-inflected finish. This classy effort is really quite lovely. 92/2029+

2021 Pommard "Clos Micault": A discreet if perceptible application of wood sets off a markedly earthier mix of red and dark wild currant, forest floor and a hint of smoke. The supple, round and almost easy-going middleweight flavors conclude in a mildly austere and sneaky long finish that could use more depth so some patience advised. 89/2027+

2021 Pommard "Les Epenots": An ultra-fresh if more restrained nose combines airy notes of red cherry with those of spice, violet and a whiff of wood toast. The mouthfeel of the seductively textured and nicely caressing medium weight flavors is noticeably finer than those of the Clos Micault, all wrapped in a dusty, powerful and moderately austere finale. Like a number of wines in the range, this would benefit from having better depth, so some cellaring is again advised. 91/2029+

2021 Pommard "Les Pézerolles": (from a .4 ha parcel planted in 1963). A more floral-suffused nose is composed by notes of various red berries and background hints of spice and earth. There is both good richness and verve to the succulent medium weight flavors that culminate in a lightly austere finish where a touch of acid tang appears. 90/2028+

2021 Pommard "Les Rugiens": (from a .25 ha parcel in Rugiens Bas planted in 1959). Here too there is a discreet application of wood to be found on the softly spicy and quite floral-scented nose of essence of plum, dark currant and green tea. The slightly bigger and definitely more powerful flavors deliver fine length on the markedly mineral-driven, moderately austere and quite serious finish. I would strongly suggest not even thinking about opening a bottle for the first 5 to 7 years as it's very tightly wound. 92/2031+

En Plus – More Current Release Burgundy

En Plus includes wines that are reviewed outside of the theme of the current issue.

Domaine Lafarge-Vial (Fleurie)

2021	**Chiroubles**	**red**	**90**
2021	**Côte de Brouilly**	**red**	**88**
2021	**Fleurie**	**red**	**89**
2021	**Fleurie "La Joie du Palais"**	**red**	**88**
2021	**Fleurie "Clos Vernay"**	**red**	**89**

In addition to managing the family domaine in Volnay, Frédéric and Chantal Lafarge decided in early 2014 to embark on a new adventure a little farther south by acquiring a 4-ha spread of vineyards in Beaujolais. Lafarge noted that these 2021s came from tiny yields as there was both frost and shatter; for example, Lafarge noted that the La Joie du Palais came in at only 6 hl/ha! They were picked on the 23rd of September and were vinified with no whole clusters and were bottled in November 2022 without fining or filtration. (Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA, USA; Becky Wasserman & Co., www.beckywasserman.com,Beaune, France; Domaine Wine Cellars, www.domaine.com.tw,Taiwan).

2021 Chiroubles: (from vines planted in 1969). A peppery and fresh nose features mostly red and dark berry fruit aromas. The fleshy, energetic and delicious middleweight flavors possess an attractive texture while offering good if not truly distinguished depth and persistence. While this should be capable of repaying mid-term keeping, it should also drink well young. 90/2027+

2021 Fleurie: A spicier and more floral-suffused nose derives more from the red side of the fruit spectrum. As is usually the case, the mid-palate mouthfeel of the medium weight flavors is more refined though this contrasts somewhat with the lightly stony and youthfully austere finish where a touch of asperity slowly appears. 89/2026+

2021 Fleurie "Clos Vernay": (from vines planted in 1975 and 1980). A slightly riper yet cool and wonderfully fresh nose combines notes of spice and pepper with those of both red and dark gamay fruit. There is solid volume and lovely mid-palate density, though here too the finish is a bit lean with a touch of asperity. 89/2027+

2021 Fleurie "La Joie du Palais": (from yields of only 6 hl/ha). An airy, elegant and pure nose is comprised by the essence of red cherry, pepper and a spice whiff. The dense and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors possess good depth though the equally austere finale comes up a bit short as here too a touch of asperity appears. This is really quite pretty but the balance isn't perfect. 88/2027+

2021 Côte de Brouilly: Pretty aromas include those of raspberry, cherry, earth and a suggestion of crushed fennel. This isn't quite as dense but I very much like the sense of energy to the medium weight flavors that possess slightly better depth, though like the Joie du Palais, the balance isn't perfect. 88/2027+

Current Release California Pinot Noir

Given the obvious focus of Burghound.com, I feel compelled to mention that U.S. pinot noir is not Burgundy and Burgundy is not U.S. pinot. I state the obvious because so many people, including some consumers, producers as well as certain critics who should know better, laud or criticize pinot noir because it's either very Burgundian in character or it's not. In point of fact, the two regions share a common grape variety and after that, all bets are off. The resulting wines are different and should be viewed as such. While comparisons are inevitable, it ultimately is a disservice to the individuality of both regions, unless of course the goal is the unfortunate internationalization of wine where differences are to be avoided, not celebrated. The wines are different because the micro-climates are different, as are the soils, day and nighttime temperatures, total sunlight, moisture, proximity to water masses, vine age and dozens of other critical aspects. What is shared to a lesser extent are similar production methods, depending on the wineries in question and among the very best producers in both countries, a desire to express as clearly as possible the voice of the land or stated differently, a sense of place.

Note: the scores below are presented on the basis of absolute quality, not how these pinots compare to burgundies.

Also: Burghound.com provides continuous coverage of California and Oregon pinot noir as sampled. Subscribers should be sure to check the database for pinots reviewed in previous issues.

Burghound.com does not typically indicate retail prices due to often extreme variability between one country and another. When they are available however we do include the winery provided U.S. prices as a rough indication of value.

Burghound.com's California Pinot Noir Selections

2021	Pinot Noir – Ascona Vineyard	Madson Wines	91
2021	Pinot Noir – Toyon Vineyard	Madson Wines	91
2020	Pinot Noir – "Adri's Cuvée La Rinconada Vineyard	Co^lluvial Wines	93
2020	Pinot Noir – "Las Nenas" Sta. Rita Hills	Co^lluvial Wines	91
2020	Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley	Rochioli Vineyards and Winery	91
2019	Pinot Noir	Kendric Vineyards	90
2019	Pinot Noir – Sweetwater	Rochioli Vineyards and Winery	91
2018	Pinot Noir – Rho	Ampelos Cellars	90

Adelaida Cellars (Paso Robles, CA)

2020	Pinot Noir – HMR Vineyard	red	89
2019	Pinot Noir – HMR Vineyard	red	90

The estate vineyard was originally planted in 1964 with 32 acres, and it now comprises 130 acres of estate vineyards that are a patchwork of farms spread over 2,000 acres of land. The land known as Hilltop Ranch was purchased in 1971 by founders Don and Elizabeth Van Steenwyk. In 1991, the Van Steenwyk's and John Munch became partners and continued to plant vineyards over the years. In 2012, Jeremy Weintraub was retained as the winemaker. In 2015, Adelaida was certified as a California Sustainable Winegrowing Winery and Vineyard. For more information call 800.676.1232 or visit: www.adelaida.com

2020 Pinot Noir – HMR Vineyard: (Adelaida District – Paso Robles, planted in 1964, 1,679 cases, SRP $60, 13.3%). An attractively complex nose is composed of assorted red berries intermingled with plum and rose petal hints. The energetic and precise flavors possess a lovely mouthfeel before terminating in a long coating palate, if slightly warm finale. This is a very pretty if straightforward wine that would best be enjoyed young for its fruit. 89/2024+

2019 Pinot Noir – HMR Vineyard: (Adelaida District – Paso Robles, planted in 1964, 1,031 cases, SRP $60, 13.6%). There is some reductive funk on the nose though after aggressive swirling, it blows off to reveal notes of red berries, mint tea and rose petal. The round and lush medium weight flavors pack solid punch leading to a long-lasting bitter pit fruit-inflected finale. This youthfully austere effort will need a few years to resolve the moderate structure. 90/2026+

Ampelos Cellars (Lompoc, CA)

2018	**➽ Pinot Noir – Rho**	**red**	**90**

Rebecca and Peter Work purchased 82 acres in 1999 not knowing that it would one day become part of the Sta. Rita Hills appellation. The first 15 acres of vines were planted in 2001 and the inaugural harvest was in 2004. Their vineyard was the first in Santa Barbara County to receive all 3 certifications – sustainable, organic and biodynamic. For more information call 805.736.9957 or visit www.ampeloscellars.com

2018 Pinot Noir – Rho: (Sta. Rita Hills, ten barrels produced, 14%). An enticingly layered nose offers up cherry liqueur, blue pinot fruit and floral notes, along with background hints of spice. The opulent full-bodied flavors possess fine tension that carries over to the balanced and firm finish that is sufficiently accessible that it could be drunk on the younger side. While this could use better depth, I very much like the texture and balance so more should develop if given a chance. 90/2026+

Bravium (San Francisco, CA)

2021	**Pinot Noir – Anderson Valley**	**red**	**89**

Founded by owner and winemaker Derek Rohlffs in 2007, Bravium translates from Latin as "reward, prize, or gift." The winery is located on Treasure Island, in the middle of San Francisco Bay and the vineyards are located in Mendocino, Napa, the Santa Cruz Mountains and Sonoma. All sales of Bravium and Artisan wines help support Sip & Give, the charitable giving campaign. Note that this is bottled under the Diam brand composite cork. For more information call 650.207.8314 or visit: www.bravium.com

2021 Pinot Noir – Anderson Valley: (5,203 6-pack cases, 13.3%). Pretty and appealing spice aromas consist of earth, dried floral notes and red currants. The suave and agreeably textured middle weight flavors terminate in a reserved and youthfully austere if nicely balanced finale that slowly fans out on the palate. The relatively firm but fine tannins should reward mid-term cellaring, but this could also be enjoyed young. 89/2026+

Co^lluvial Wines (Orcutt, CA)

2020	**➽ Pinot Noir – "Adri's Cuvée" La Rinconada Vineyard**	**red**	**93**
2020	**Pinot Noir – "Las Nenas" Quinta Del Mar Vineyard**	**red**	**90**
2020	**➽ Pinot Noir – "Las Nenas" Sta. Rita Hills**	**red**	**91**
2020	**➽ Chardonnay – "Adri's Cuvée" La Rinconada Vineyard**	**white**	**91**

Co^lluvial™ was conceived of by Fernando and Edna Fernandez, following the financial crisis. Fernando's wine hobby, dating back to the 90's, became his full-time career. After enrolling in numerous classes and programs, and earning his Certified Sommelier designation, he went to work for Foxen until founding Co^lluvial in 2019. For more information visit: http://www.colluvialwine.com

Reds:

2020 Pinot Noir – "Las Nenas" Quinta Del Mar Vineyard: (San Luis Obispo, 91 cases, 20% whole cluster, SRP $50, 14.1%). Light ruby color. There is a vague whiff of volatile acidity that adds lift to the high-toned red berry fruit aromas that include strawberry, raspberry and cherry. The delicious, pliant and vibrant lighter weight flavors possess an attractive texture thanks to the very fine-grained tannins supporting the dusty and bright finale that is sneaky long. This is light but offers excellent flavor authority and is a wine that should have no problem aging over the mid-term. 90/2027+

2020 Pinot Noir – "Las Nenas" Sta. Rita Hills: (146 cases, SRP $50, 13.3%). This is also lightly hued. A more restrained and slightly more deeply pitched nose also reflects mostly red berry fruit scents though here there are hints of plum and violet. There is more mid-palate volume and density to the richer medium-bodied flavors that possess a seductive texture, all wrapped in dusty finale that is also sneaky long. I like the balance, and this too should repay mid-term keeping. 91/2027+

2020 Pinot Noir – "Adri's Cuvée" La Rinconada Vineyard: (Sta. Rita Hills, 115 cases, 20% whole cluster, best five barrels out of nine, SRP $70, 13.5%). Light ruby hue. Pretty, even perfumed, aromas include those of essence of red cherry, raspberry, anise and a hint of rose petal. Once again there is good richness to the beautifully textured medium weight flavors that possess a suave mouthfeel yet no lack of vibrancy that seems to build as the impressively long finish is seriously intense. This is definitely a wine that deserves at least mid-term cellaring and one that could be aptly described as possessing power without weight. 93/2028+

White:

2020 Chardonnay – "Adri's Cuvée" La Rinconada Vineyard: (Sta. Rita Hills, 48 cases, SRP $60, 13.5%). Prominent notes of petrol and citrus are nuanced by hints of green apple and oak. There is good volume and mid-palate density to the vibrant and nicely detailed middle weight flavors that terminate in a delicious and balanced finale. This could use better depth but there is solid development potential and a wine that should repay 3 to 6 or so years of keeping. 91/2026+

Kendric Vineyards (Treasure Island, CA)

2019	**➽ Pinot Noir**	**red**	**90**

Kendric Vineyards is a small family operation run by the husband-wife duo of Eileen Burke and Stewart Johnson. Johnson handles all aspects of production - from planting and farming the vineyards, to making the wine and marketing it, while Eileen "kept the roof over our heads.". The winery is named after Stewart's father, Kendric Johnson, "to honor his memory and impose his high personal standards." Kendric has their own production facility ("'Winery' might be a little too grand a term") starting with the 2013 vintage. For further information, contact 415.806.4944 or visit: www.kendricvineyards.com

2019 Pinot Noir: (Petaluma Gap/Marin County, 300 cases, 35% whole cluster, composite cork, SRP $38, 13.6%). Initially, reductive notes dominated the nose though with air, aromas of black cherry and a wisp of cranberry were eventually revealed. The polished yet robust middle weight flavors possess excellent body and culminate in a long, balanced and mouth coating finale. This should both drink well young but also be capable of repaying 6 to 8 years of keeping. 90/2026+

Madson Wines (Santa Cruz, CA)

2021	**➽ Pinot Noir – Ascona Vineyard**	**red**	**91**
2021	**Pinot Noir – Santa Cruz Mountains**	**red**	**89**
2021	**➽ Pinot Noir – Toyon Vineyard**	**red**	**91**

Winemaker Cole Thomas launched Madson with his good friend and viticulturist Ken Swegle. They have long term leases on each of their organically farmed vineyards, where they can carry out all farming and harvesting to their specifications. The *élevage* occurs mostly in neutral or seasoned oak casks and typically, each wine will be racked only once before bottling. For more information visit: https://www.madsonwines.com

2021 Pinot Noir – Santa Cruz Mountains: (100% whole clusters, 546 cases, 12.6%). As the 100% whole cluster vinification would suggest, an intensely floral-suffused nose presents pretty essence of red pinot fruit and discreet spice wisps. The delicious, vibrant, supple and easy-going middle weight flavors possess a polished mouthfeel while displaying sneaky good length on the dusty, youthfully austere and dry-in-the-best sense finish. This could use better depth but it's awfully pretty. 89/2027+

2021 Pinot Noir – Ascona Vineyard: (Santa Cruz Mountains, 100% whole clusters,120 cases, 12.8%, from vines planted in 2008). This is also exuberantly floral in character with a similar fruit and spice profile to the Santa Cruz Mountains, with perhaps just a bit more layering. Here too there is a lovely sense of underlying tension to the detailed, even chiseled, medium weight flavors that flash fine power on the driving, dusty and youthfully austere finish. This understated effort is sneaky long because just when the finish appears to be dying away, it reappears. This isn't seductive but like the SCM cuvée, it is very pretty. 91/2028+

2021 Pinot Noir – Toyon Vineyard: (Soquel Hills, Santa Cruz Mountains, 100% whole clusters, 230 cases, 12.9%). Here the nose is mildly reduced though a mix of floral nuances can be discerned. If you're going to try a bottle young, be sure to give a thorough aeration. Otherwise, there is good freshness and verve to the attractively textured and detailed medium-bodied flavors that display good if not truly special length on the balanced and lightly austere finale that is also sneakily persistent. This could use better depth and I would suggest allowing it another 5 to 7 years of keeping. 91/2028+

Rochioli Vineyards and Winery (Sebastopol, CA)

2020	**➽ Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley**	**red**	**91**
2019	**Pinot Noir – Little Hill**	**red**	**90**
2019	**Pinot Noir – River Block**	**red**	**89**
2019	**➽ Pinot Noir – Sweetwater**	**red**	**91**

In the 1930's the Rochioli family moved to a 125-acre property called Fenton Acres. The agricultural land, which included grapes for "jug wine", was purchased by the Rochioli's in the mid-1950's. In the early 1970's, Joe Rochioli Jr. began to plant pinot noir. After a stint selling their grapes to other wineries, Tom Rochioli, the grandson of Joe Sr., returned to the family farm and began making wine, changing the name in 1983 from Fenton Acres to Rochioli Vineyards. They released their first estate wine in 1987, with 1985 as the inaugural vintage. Today they have 140 acres planted. Tom Rochioli was inspired after visiting Burgundy and felt his focus should be on identifying individual vineyards lots and single varieties. For more information visit: www.rochioliwinery.com

2020 Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley: (14.5%). A somber nose is composed of red and dark cherry, green tea, spice and assorted floral notes. The silky and refined medium weight flavors possess very good richness before concluding in a palate-coating, dusty and youthfully austere finale. This suave effort could use better depth, but the underlying material is present for that to progressively occur. 91/2028+

2019 Pinot Noir – Little Hill: (Russian River Valley, 14.5%). A mentholated top note is present on the spice-inflected aromas of green tea and raspberry. The attractively tension-filled middle weight flavors possess a lovely texture that contrasts somewhat with the compact and dusty bitter pit fruit-inflected finish that flirts with dryness. I like both the depth and persistence, but the acid/tannin/fruit balance isn't quite as dialed in as the best in the range. Note that this is sufficiently firm to benefit from 4 to 8 years of additional cellaring. 90/2028+

2019 Pinot Noir – River Block: (14.5%). An alluring nose is comprised by notes of black cherry, poached plum and a hint of menthol. The rounded yet graceful medium weight flavors brim with dry extract that imparts a seductive mid-palate mouthfeel that contrasts noticeably with the compact, youthfully austere and bitter pit fruit suffused finale where a touch of warmth slowly emerges. This is also a bit awkward at present though a few additional time in bottle should help. 89/2027+

2019 Pinot Noir – Sweetwater: (Russian River Valley, 14.5%). A complex and expressive nose presents notes of red currant, rose petal, herbal tea, spice and a suggestion of blue pinot fruit. There is good size, weight and punch to the attractively textured and tautly muscular medium weight flavors that conclude in a compact, serious and sneaky long finale. This is still very much on the way up and I would advise cellaring it for at least another 4 to 8 years. 91/2027+

Thomas T. Thomas Vineyards (Philo, CA)

2020	**Pinot Noir – Buster's Hill**	**red**	**NR**
2020	**Pinot Noir – Estate**	**red**	**88**
2020	**Pinot Noir – Reserve**	**red**	**87**
2020	**Pinot Noir – "T" Anderson Valley**	**red**	**88**

Thomas T. Thomas Vineyards was inspired by a wine tasting trip in 1999 to Burgundy. Thomas purchased 36 acres of land in the Anderson Valley and has since developed parts of the property, building a home and in 2008, planted a 3-acre parcel to pinot and constructed the winery building. The plan was to initially sell the grapes to get a better understanding of the site and to also learn about the wine business. In 2017 Thomas established his own brand and ceased selling their grapes in 2018, with the first release being a 2018 pinot. He has since stopped selling his fruit and focuses on producing four unique pinots. For more information visit: www.thomastthomasvineyard.com

2020 Pinot Noir – "T" Anderson Valley: (unfined, 75 cases, SRP $49, 13.4%). An enticing nose is comprised by red pinot fruit, crushed cranberry, plum and pretty floral notes. The mouthfeel of the generously proportioned, even lush, middle weight flavors contrasts markedly with the compact and somewhat short and lean finish. I like the style as it's really quite pretty, but the balance isn't as well dialed in as it could be. 88/2025+

2020 Pinot Noir – Estate: (Anderson Valley, unfined, 200 cases, SRP $70, 13.4%). The cool and restrained nose is composed of attractively layered plum, violet and raspberry scents. The opulent and full-bodied medium weight flavors possess good volume and punch though the youthfully austere finish also leans out somewhat as it sits on the palate. I would make the same observation here about like the style, especially the sleek palate impression, but the balance could be better. 88/2026+

2020 Pinot Noir – Reserve: (Anderson Valley, 122 cases, unfined, SRP $85, 13.4%). Hints of herbal tea are present on the agreeably fresh and bright aromas of various red berries, violet and a pretty spice wisp. The delicious, vibrant and fleshy medium weight flavors also contrast somewhat with the delicious if slightly lean, dusty and tart finish. There is both good depth as well as plenty of punch and I would suggest serving this with an appropriate dish as it will help to round off the finale. 87/2026+

2020 Pinot Noir – Buster's Hill: (Anderson Valley, unfined, 118 cases, SRP $90, 13.4%). I'm not sure what might have happened here, but the ripe nose is advanced and flat while the palate reflects a somewhat bitter reductive character. As the description confirms, this isn't what it should be. Two bottles tried with identical results. Not Rated.

Current Release Oregon Pinot Noir

Given the obvious focus of Burghound.com, I feel compelled to mention that U.S. pinot noir is not Burgundy and Burgundy is not U.S. pinot. I state the obvious because so many people, including some consumers, producers as well as certain critics who should know better, laud or criticize pinot noir because it's either very Burgundian in character or it's not. In point of fact, the two regions share a common grape variety and after that, all bets are off. The resulting wines are different and should be viewed as such. While comparisons are inevitable, it ultimately is a disservice to the individuality of both regions, unless of course the goal is the unfortunate internationalization of wine where differences are to be avoided, not celebrated. The wines are different because the micro-climates are different, as are the soils, day and nighttime temperatures, total sunlight, moisture, proximity to water masses, vine age and dozens of other critical aspects. What is shared to a lesser extent are similar production methods, depending on the wineries in question and among the very best producers in both countries, a desire to express as clearly as possible the voice of the land or stated differently, a sense of place.

Note: the scores below are presented on the basis of absolute quality, not how these pinots compare to burgundies.

Also: Burghound.com provides continuous coverage of California and Oregon pinot noir as sampled. Subscribers should be sure to check the database for pinots reviewed in previous issues.

Burghound.com does not typically indicate retail prices due to often extreme variability between one country and another. When they are available however we do include the winery provided U.S. prices as a rough indication of value.

Burghound.com's Oregon Pinot Noir Selections

2021	Pinot Noir – Marcile Lorraine	Broadley Vineyards	91
2021	Pinot Noir – Estate	Carabella Vineyard	91
2021	Pinot Noir – Estate Selection	Reustle-Prayer Rock Vineyards	90
2021	Pinot Noir – Winemaker's Reserve	Reustle-Prayer Rock Vineyards	91
2021	Pinot Noir – Marsh Estate Vineyard	Roco Winery	93
2021	Pinot Noir – The Stalker	Roco Winery	90
2021	Pinot Noir – Ancient Waters	Roco Winery	91
2021	Pinot Noir – Knudsen Vineyard	Roco Winery	92
2021	Pinot Noir – Private Stash No. 17	Roco Winery	91
2019	Pinot Noir – Allegro	Appassionata Estate	90
2019	Pinot Noir – Corral Creek Vineyards	Chehalem	91
2019	Pinot Noir – Ridgecrest Vineyards	Chehalem	92
2019	Pinot Noir – Reserve	Chehalem	92
2019	Pinot Noir – Baldwin Family Reserve	De Ponte Cellars	91
2019	Pinot Noir – Butcher's Block Reserve	De Ponte Cellars	91
2019	Pinot Noir – Elton Vineyard	Lavinea Winery	91
2019	Pinot Noir – Temperance Hill Vineyard	Lavinea Winery	90
2019	Pinot Noir – Tualatin Estate	Lavinea Winery	92
2019	Pinot Noir – Temperance Hill Vineyard	Pike Road Vineyards	91
2019	Pinot Noir – Shea Vineyard	Pike Road Vineyards	93
2019	Pinot Noir – Fairsing Vineyard	Pike Road Vineyards	91
2019	Pinot Noir – Helen's	Stoller Family Estate	91
2019	Pinot Noir – Nancy's	Stoller Family Estate	92
2019	Pinot Noir – Reserve	Stoller Family Estate	90
2019	Pinot Noir – Estate	Utopia Vineyards	90
2019	Pinot Noir – Imprint	Winderlea Vineyards and Winery	92
2019	Pinot Noir – Shea Vineyard	Winderlea Vineyards and Winery	92
2019	Pinot Noir – Weber Vineyard	Winderlea Vineyards and Winery	90
2019	Pinot Noir – Winderlea Legacy	Winderlea Vineyards and Winery	91
2019	Pinot Noir – Winderlea Vineyard	Winderlea Vineyards and Winery	93

2018	**Pinot Noir – Belle Pente Vineyard**	**Belle Pente**	**91**
2018	**Pinot Noir – Estate Reserve**	**Belle Pente**	**90**
2018	**Pinot Noir – Reserve**	**Love & Squalor Wine**	**92**
2018	**Pinot Noir – Temperance Hill Vineyard**	**Love & Squalor Wine**	**92**
2012	**Pinot Noir – Fortissimo**	**Appassionata Estate**	**91**

Appassionata Estate (Newberg, OR)

2019	**Pinot Noir – Allegro**	**red**	**90**
2017	**Pinot Noir – Andante**	**red**	**89?**
2012	**➽ Pinot Noir – Fortissimo**	**red**	**91**

Appassionata Estate was founded by German winemaker, Ernst Loosen, whose appreciation for pinot noir brought him to Oregon about three decades ago. In 2005 he launched Appassionata as a small project with J. Christopher Wines. He eventually purchased 40 acres in the Chehalem Mountains and built the winery. Planting began in 2010 and over four years, 17 acres of pinot noir, two acres of chardonnay and one acre of sauvignon blanc were installed. Note below that these wines were held from three to 10 years before release. For more information visit: www.appassionataestate.com

2019 Pinot Noir – Allegro: (Willamette Valley, released three years after its vintage, SRP $95, 13.5%). Light ruby color. A relatively high-toned nose features assorted red berries, floral notes as well as plum nuances. The sleek and energetic light to barely middle weight flavors possess fine detail and sneaky good length on the dusty and youthfully austere finish where a touch of bitter pit fruit slowly emerges. This is sufficiently compact to need at least another 5 or so years of keeping. 90/2028+

2017 Pinot Noir – Andante: (Dundee Hills, released five years after its vintage, SRP $135, 13.5%). This late-released wine offers a restrained nose but aggressively swirling eventually reveals notes of cool red pinot fruit and discreet floral and spice notes. There is fine richness to borderline opulent medium weight flavors that coat the palate with dry extract before culminating in a dusty, bright and slightly edgy finish. Despite the very reasonable reported alcohol level, there is noticeable warmth and overall, while this is quite pretty, the finish is somewhat awkward and it's not clear that additional cellaring will allow it to better harmonize. 89?/2027+

2012 Pinot Noir – Fortissimo: (Dundee Hills, released 10 years after the vintage, SRP $175, 13.5%). At now 11 years of age, the nose remains remarkably fresh with no secondary character in evidence on the pretty aromas of red cherry, plum, violet and subtle spice wisps. There is equally good freshness and verve to the rich and plush medium-bodied flavors that possess fine mid-palate density while the persistent finale is also mildly edgy. Though the balance isn't perfect, I find this to be quite impressive in its fashion as it's not all the time that one sees an 11-year-old pinot-based wine that displays almost no signs of maturity. And speaking of maturity, while this could certainly be enjoyed now, it could also be held for another 4 to 7 years, which is what I would suggest. 91/2027+

Belle Pente (Carlton, OR)

2018	**➽ Pinot Noir – Belle Pente Vineyard**	**red**	**91**
2018	**➽ Pinot Noir – Estate Reserve**	**red**	**90**
2018	**Pinot Noir – Murto Vineyard**	**red**	**89**

Belle Pente is owned and operated by Jill & Brian O'Donnell. The 70-acre property is located 2 miles east of the town of Carlton in the Yamhill-Carlton AVA. The first vineyard was planted in 1994 and now includes over 16 acres of pinot noir, pinot gris, and chardonnay. All of the vineyard blocks are dry farmed with organic viticulture standards since 2000, with biodynamic and regenerative techniques adopted over the years. The estate vineyard is supplemented with fruit grown to their specifications in partnership with independent Yamhill County vineyards. Their 3-level, gravity flow winery was built in 1996 (their first vintage), and our average production is now 4500 cases per year, 2/3 of which is pinot noir, and 2/3 of which is from estate grown grapes. For more information, visit: www.bellepente.com

2018 Pinot Noir – Belle Pente Vineyard: (Yamhill-Carlton, SRP $45, 14.2%). A ripe and agreeably expressive nose is comprised by notes of rose petals, red pinot fruit and spiced plum. The generously proportion and solidly concentrated middle weight plus flavors offer fine richness that terminate in a lingering finale that slowly fans out as it sits the palate. This robust and slightly warm effort is impressively powerful if somewhat rustic, and a wine that should continue to age accordingly, indeed it will need it. 91/2028+

2018 Pinot Noir – Estate Reserve: (Yamhill-Carlton, SRP $55, 14.2%). Cooler and slightly more elegant aromas include those of red cherries, darkened plum, and briar along with a background hint of menthol. The finer if not quite as concentrated medium-bodied flavors possess good vigor while displaying very fine length on the dusty, youthfully austere and palate staining finish. Though not quite as muscular or robust as the Belle Pente, this also flashes good power and a touch of rusticity as well as fine complexity. This too should continue to age effortlessly though unlike the Belle Pente, it could reasonably be enjoyed now. 90/2026+

2018 Pinot Noir – Murto Vineyard: (Dundee Hills, SRP $ 45, 14.1%). An appealingly layered and higher-toned nose offers up notes of red currant, assorted floral nuances and a top note of crushed cherry. The mouthfeel is at once sleeker and finer with good richness and punch to the seductively textured flavors that also conclude in a dusty and ever-so-mildly tangy but not really drying finish. I like the delivery and mid-palate mouthfeel though the acid/fruit/tannin balance isn't quite as well dialed in. With that said, this is certainly very pretty. 89/2026+

Brittan Vineyards (McMinnville, OR)

2019	**Pinot Noir – Basalt Block**	**red**	**89**
2019	**Pinot Noir – Cygnus Block**	**red**	**87**
2019	**Pinot Noir – Gestalt Block**	**red**	**88**
2019	**Pinot Noir – Heritage Block**	**red**	**89**

In 2004 Ellen and Robert Brittan purchased a 128-acre parcel with 18 acres of existing vines. More than half has been replanted and after dropping all of the crop in 2005 to allow the vines to become better established, they produced their first two pinot noirs from the mature vines on the property for the 2006 vintage. In 2008 they planted an additional 3.5 acres of pinot noir. For further information visit: www.brittanvineyards.com

2019 Pinot Noir – Basalt Block: (McMinnville, Brittan Estate Vineyard, 140 cases, SRP $65, 13.1%). A lightly mentholated and attractively complex nose of red cherry, dark plum and violet scents gives way to supple, forward and almost easy-going flavors that tighten up on the slightly raspy and dusty but not really drying finale. This could use better depth and a few more years of keeping should help to round out the supporting tannins. 89/2026+

2019 Pinot Noir – Cygnus Block: (McMinnville, Brittan Estate Vineyard, 136 cases, SRP $60, 13.3%). An exquisite if quite subtle nose consists of perfumed red currant, rose petal, lavender and plum nuances. The utterly delicious and super-sleek, even sophisticated lighter weight flavors possess a lovely sense of verve and fine delineation on the dusty, compact and slightly attenuated finale that flirts with dryness This is a really pretty wine, but the balance isn't what it could be and it's enough to detract from the overall impression. Moreover, it's not clear that additional cellaring is necessarily going to help and as such, I would be inclined to serve this with an appropriate dish and enjoy it young. 87/now+

2019 Pinot Noir – Gestalt Block: (McMinnville, Brittan Estate Vineyard, 147 cases, SRP $65, 13.2%). A somber if beautifully layered nose displays notes of dark currant, dried floral wisps as well as suggestions of plum and briar. The polished and supple but punchy middle weight flavors also conclude in a mildly raspy and dusty finish that flirts with dryness. Again, this is attractive from nose to mid-palate, but the backend balance isn't as harmonious as it could be. However, I suspect that this would pair well with dishes that possess a bit of fat which should help to round off the mildly edgy tannins. 88/2027+

2019 Pinot Noir – Heritage Block: (McMinnville, Brittan Estate Vineyard, 77 cases, SRP $65, 13.2%). Here too the nose is somber and somewhat restrained with its attractive mix of black berry, violet, plum and earth hints. The rich, generous and round medium-bodied flavors possess a velvety texture that contrasts with the dusty and ever-so-mildly raspy but not short finale. While the balance isn't perfect, I suspect that the right food pairing would help. 89/2026+

Broadley Vineyards (Monroe, OR)

2021	Pinot Noir – Estate	red	90
2021	➽ Pinot Noir – Marcile Lorraine	red	91

This family enterprise was founded in 1982 by Claudia and Craig Broadley who were later joined by son and daughter-in law, Morgan and Jessica where Morgan serves as the winemaker. The Broadley team can now produce up to 5,000 cases of pinot annually. All of the following wines are bottled under the Diam brand model 10. For more information, contact 541.847.5934 or visit: www.broadleyvineyards.com

2021 Pinot Noir – Estate: (Willamette Valley, 900 cases, 15% whole cluster, SRP $35, 13.1%). A moderately expressive, cool and appealingly layered nose features notes of spice, violet and ripe red and dark currant. The plush, round and generously proportioned middle weight flavors possess both good richness and solid punch, all wrapped in a dusty, youthfully austere and persistent finale. This is firm enough to suggest that 7 to 8 years of aging should see it at its best. 90/2028+

2021 Pinot Noir – Marcile Lorraine: (Willamette Valley, 96 cases, 30% whole cluster, SRP $55, 13.1%). A somber and more restrained nose only grudgingly displays its aromas of dark pinot fruit, menthol, green tea and a whiff of briar. Here too the medium-bodied flavors possess a plush, round and generously proportioned mouthfeel while delivering very good length and persistence on the equally structured finale. This is lovely and a wine that could be enjoyed young if that's your preference. 91/2027+

Bryn Mawr Vineyards (Salem, OR)

2019	Pinot Noir – Estate	red	88
2019	Pinot Noir – Willamette Valley	red	88
2018	Pinot Noir – Estate	red	90

Bryn Mawr Vineyards' 15 acre site in the Eola hills is located high above the valley floor between 700 and 820' above sea level. Jon and Kathy Lauer are the proprietors, who purchased the winery, with four acres of established vines, in 2009. Bryn Mawr is a LIVE Certified vineyard. In 2018, they completed a new winery facility, followed by a new tasting room in 2019. Rachel Rose is the winemaker. For more information, visit: www.brynmawrvineyards.com

2019 Pinot Noir – Willamette Valley: (Bottled under screwcap, 2,080 cases, SRP $30, 13%). A whiff of herbal tea character lurks in the background of the cool and pure aromas of softly spicy red pinot fruit. The pliant, plump and attractively textured medium weight flavors display a caressing texture that contrasts somewhat with the bitter pit fruit-inflected finish that comes up a bit short. I suspect that another 2 to 4 years of keeping would help. 88/2026+

2019 Pinot Noir – Estate: (Eola-Amity Hills, 365 cases, 30% whole cluster, SRP $40, 13%). Very pretty, even perfumed, aromas include those of violet, lilac, crushed anise and just sliced plum. The round, delicious and nicely vibrant middle weight flavors possess a sophisticated texture while displaying good length on the dusty, compact and youthfully austere finale that slowly leans out as it sits on the palate. This may better harmonize as the tannins resolve but for current consumption, an appropriate food dish would be beneficial. 88/2026+

2018 Pinot Noir – Estate: (Eola-Amity Hills, 925 cases, 3.5% whole cluster, SRP $40, 14.2%). Here too the airy red berry fruit suffused nose is elegant and perfumed with an enticing hint of the exotic. The pliant, round and caressing medium-bodied flavors possess very good punch on the sneaky long finish that also displays a hint of bitter pit fruit character, though it doesn't lean out in the fashion of the 2019 version. This is lovely and I like the understated style. 90/2026+

Carabella Vineyard (Carlton, OR)

2021	**➽ Pinot Noir – Estate**	**red**	**91**

Owner, geologist and winemaker Mike Hallock founded Carabella Vineyard, currently composed of 59 planted acres on the southeast side of Parrett Mountain in the Chehalem Mountains AVA with an altitude of between 500 and 600 feet. He produced his first vintage in 1998 and all wines are from estate fruit using a mix of clones. With gravelly volcanic soils of Nekia, Saum and Jory, they dry farm low yielding vines and the vineyard is farmed sustainably using no herbicides. Their vineyard is LIVE Certified Sustainable. For more information call 503.925-0972 or visit: www.carabellawine.com

2021 Pinot Noir – Estate: (Chehalem Mountain, 13.4%). An airy and expressive nose is composed of violet, red pinot fruit and hints of cranberry and plum. The round and seductively textured medium weight flavors possess a plush mouthfeel while delivering solid length on the mildly austere bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. This is sufficiently firm to benefit from 5 to perhaps 8 years of keeping. 91/2028+

Chehalem (Newberg, OR)

2019	**➽ Pinot Noir – Corral Creek Vineyards**	**red**	**91**
2019	**➽ Pinot Noir – Ridgecrest Vineyards**	**red**	**92**
2019	**➽ Pinot Noir – Reserve**	**red**	**92**

Founder, Harry Peterson-Nedry pioneered grape growing in the soils of Ribbon Ridge in the early 1980s when he purchased land and planted Ridgecrest Vineyards. In 1990 Chehalem Winery was founded and released its first bottle of wine, Ridgecrest Pinot Noir. Co-owner Bill Stoller joined Harry in the winery operation in 1993 and subsequently planted a vineyard on his family farmlands at the southern tip of the Dundee Hills. In 1995 Peterson-Nedry purchased Corral Creek, the vineyard surrounding the winery, which became their third estate vineyard. In early 2018, Stoller became the sole owner of Chehalem, and by July of that year, they had become the sixth Oregon winery to achieve B Corp status. This rigorous certification assesses companies to ensure they meet the highest standard of verified social and environmental performance, public transparency, and legal accountability. Katie Santora is the winemaker. For further information, contact 503.538.4700 or visit: www.chehalemwines.com

2019 Pinot Noir – Corral Creek Vineyards: (Chehalem Mountains, 250 cases, SRP $50, 13%). A cool, elegant and distinctly high-toned nose freely reveals aromas of red currants, spiced plum, blue pinot fruit and an array of floral notes. The vibrant and attractively sleek middle weight flavors possess fine detail while concluding in a clean, focused and mildly austere finale. This is pretty textbook Chehalem Mountains pinot and the only minor reproach is that it could use better depth. As such, I would suggest allowing it another 5 to 7 years of keeping. Good stuff. 91/2028+

2019 Pinot Noir – Ridgecrest Vineyards: (Ribbon Ridge, 500 cases, SRP $50, 13%). A strikingly pretty nose offers up notes of rose petal, cranberry and an array of spice nuances. There is noticeably better volume to the utterly delicious medium-bodied flavors that flash focused power on the robust yet refined and sneaky long finish. There is better depth if not quite the same refinement, but I suspect that that will change as the supporting tannins resolve. Worth checking out. 92/2029+

2019 Pinot Noir – Reserve: (Ribbon Ridge, 450 cases, SRP $70, 13%). The nose is initially a bit reserved but aggressive swirling quickly reveals notes of briar, ripe plum and pretty violet wisps. The energetic and refined middle weight flavors possess even better delineation along with admirable length on the balanced, dusty and mildly youthfully austere finale. This sneaky long effort is also sufficiently compact that it should amply repay a decade of keeping. Also worth considering. 92/2029+

Coeur de Terre Vineyard (McMinnville, OR)

2021	**Pinot Noir**	**red**	**88**
2019	**Pinot Noir – Abby's Block Reserve**	**red**	**90**
2019	**Pinot Noir – Héritage Reserve**	**red**	**87**
2019	**Pinot Noir – Renelle's Block Reserve**	**red**	**87**
2019	**Pinot Noir – Sarah Jane's Block Reserve**	**red**	**88**
2019	**Pinot Noir – Tallulah's Run Reserve**	**red**	**88**

The name Coeur de Terre means Heart of the Earth. Founded in 1998 by Lisa and Scott Neal, who respectively are the general manager and winemaker, this family run winery is sustainably farmed and is now planted to 24 acres of pinot noir. Over 80,000 vines were hand grafted at the estate's nursery and have been the parent material for all the vineyard after the initial Renelle's Block planting. Their first vintage was in 2002 and their vineyard is located in the Coast Range foothills of the McMinnville AVA. Note that other than the straight pinot noir, which is bottled under screwcap, all the wines are bottled under the Diam brand composite cork. For more information call 503.883.4111 or visit: www.cdtvineyard.com

2021 Pinot Noir: (Willamette Valley, bottled under screwcap, 13.6%). A very stylish nose features notes of both red and dark pinot fruit and an exotic tea character. There is good verve and delineation to the supple middle weight flavors that possess enough depth and persistence to be attractive on the dusty and mildly austere finale that leans out somewhat as it sits on the palate. This should benefit from a few years of keeping as it's fairly tightly wound at present. 88/2027+

2019 Pinot Noir – Abby's Block Reserve: (Willamette Valley, 13.6%). A subdued nose requires some swirling to coax the dark berry, plum and earthy scents to reveal themselves. The rich, pliant and round middle weight flavors possess a generous mouthfeel while displaying very good if not truly special persistence on the dusty, powerful and youthfully austere finale. This robust and slightly warm effort is sufficiently compact as to need at least a few years of forbearance. 90/2027+

2019 Pinot Noir – Héritage Reserve: (McMinnville, 13.7%). A slightly grapey if fresh and spicy nose gives way to delicious lighter weight flavors that possess an appealing sense of verve before tightening up on the dusty and borderline dry finish. This would best be served with food to help round off the grippy finish. This is not without some interest but as the description suggests, it's awkward as the balance isn't what it could be. 87/now+

2019 Pinot Noir – Renelle's Block Reserve: (McMinnville, 13.8%). This too is aromatically somewhat grapey though there is a lovely spiciness and even a hint of exoticism that adds interest. The supple, round and fleshy medium weight flavors possess a polished mid-palate mouthfeel that also concludes in a borderline dry and somewhat short finish though importantly, it's not as grippy. Even so, an appropriate food would be a good idea. 87/2025+

2019 Pinot Noir – Sarah Jane's Block Reserve: (McMinnville, 13.7%). While there is a suggestion of the same grapiness, here the expressive and pretty nose is noticeably spicier with its array of poached plum, dark raspberry and pretty floral nuances, especially violet. There is also better mid-palate density with better verve as well that carries over to the delicious and powerful finish where a similar touch of dryness slowly emerges. In this case however, it seems less prominent and with the right food, say a steak or lamb chop, the tannic grip would actually be a plus. 88/2026+

2019 Pinot Noir – Tallulah's Run Reserve: (McMinnville, 13.7%). An expressive nose is comprised by similar grapey notes with plenty of plum, dark berry fruit, anise and tea nuances. The forward, round and seductively textured, even velvety, medium weight flavors possess a caressing mid-palate mouthfeel that contrasts somewhat with the dusty, mildly austere and reasonably long finish that, like several others in the range, progressively lean out to the point of flirting with dryness. As my description confirms, this has its positive points but the balance could be better. 88/2027+

De Ponte Cellars (Dayton, OR)

2019	➽ Pinot Noir – Baldwin Family Reserve	red	91
2019	➽ Pinot Noir – Butcher's Block Reserve	red	91
2019	Pinot Noir – Dundee Hills	red	88
2019	Pinot Noir – Estate	red	87
2019	Pinot Noir – Lonesome Rock Ranch	red	90

De Ponte Cellars is the site of one of the oldest vineyards in the Willamette Valley. This scenic property in the Dundee Hills was acquired by Rae and Scott Baldwin in 1999 and soon thereafter, De Ponte Cellars Winery was born, with their first release in 2001. Isabelle Dutartre is the winemaker. For further information, contact: (503) 864-3698 or visit: www.depontecellars.com

2019 Pinot Noir – Dundee Hills: (13.5%). There is a background hint of herbal tea nuancing the expressive nose of red currant, plum, rose petal and spice hints. The delicious and nicely vibrant middle weight flavors possess reasonable depth and length that also reflects a hint of green tea character on the slightly raspy finish. I found this to be a bit awkward even though there is nothing technically amiss. 88/2026+

2019 Pinot Noir – Baldwin Family Reserve: (Dundee Hills, 13.7%). A cool and pretty nose is comprised mostly by dark pinot fruit, floral notes and a hint of briar character. There is good size and weight to the medium-bodied flavors that display good power as well as excellent punch on the dusty and borderline robust finale. This is not a refined effort but if is a power pinot without being top heavy. 91/2029+

2019 Pinot Noir – Butcher's Block Reserve: (Willamette Valley, Lonesome Rock Ranch Vineyard, 13.1%). An airy, cool and very pretty nose reflects notes of red berries, plum and an interesting orange peel wisp. The delicious and nicely punchy medium weight flavors terminate in a firm, dusty and balanced finale where the supporting tannins become more apparent as the finish sits on the palate. This isn't especially refined though neither is it rustic and the word robust comes to mind even though this is not an especially big wine. Some patience advised. 91/2029+

2019 Pinot Noir – Estate: (Dundee Hills, 13.6%). This is also aromatically cool and pure with its high-toned nose of blue pinot fruit, violets and spiced raspberry where, like the Dundee Hills cuvée, a hint of herbal tea lurks in the background. The suave yet still muscular middle weight flavors exhibit fine vibrancy that carries over to the dusty, moderately firm and lingering if slightly warm finish where a touch of green tannin character slowly emerges. This is also mildly awkward though again, not because there is anything technically amiss. 87/2026+

2019 Pinot Noir – Lonesome Rock Ranch: (Willamette Valley, 13.3%). Captivatingly pretty aromas present aromas of red and dark currants, floral notes, briar and a wisp of spice. There is fine volume to the lively middle weight plus flavors that pack solid punch on the lingering finish that really fans out as it sits on the palate. Despite the relatively modest reported alcohol level, there is a touch of warmth though it really doesn't materially detract from the overall sense of balance. I would observe that this is robust enough to need at least some forbearance to round off what are presently slightly raspy tannins. 90/2027+

Et Fille Wines (Newberg, OR)

2019	Pinot Noir – Maresh Vineyard	red	90
2019	Pinot Noir – Palmer Creek Vineyard	red	90

Et Fille Wines is a family-run Oregon winery established in 2003 specializing in pinot noir. Et Fille, which means "and daughter", honors the hand-in-hand, father and daughter winemaking co-founder team of Howard Mozeico and Jessica Mozeico. Although the senior Mozeico passed in 2017 from a tractor accident, he began making Oregon wine in 1984 as a hobby. Jessica first helped make wine in 2000 and now carries Et Fille forward for her own daughter, inspired by her father's legacy. For more information visit: www.etfillewines.com

2019 Pinot Noir – Maresh Vineyard: (Dundee Hills, 123 cases, SRP $65,13.3%). A very pretty nose blends notes of dark cherries, plum, violet and a top note of crushed fennel. The sumptuous and vibrant middle weight flavors possess fine punch while exhibiting very good depth and persistence on the ever-so slightly raspy bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. While this is sufficiently pliant to permit early access, the tannins should continue to round off. I would add that despite the relatively low reported alcohol level, there is noticeable warmth. 90/2026+

2019 Pinot Noir – Palmer Creek Vineyard: (Eola-Amity Hills, 140 cases, SRP $65, 12.7%). A very attractive and beautifully perfumed nose offers up markedly floral suffused notes of red pinot fruit, raspberry and plum. There is both fine volume and richness to the appealingly textured medium weight plus flavors that brim with sappy dry extract before terminating is a raspy, firm and somewhat attenuated finish. I suspect that this will better harmonize if given a few years of cellaring. I would add that it's certainly very pretty, especially the nose, though at present the finish is a bit awkward. 90/2027+

Ghost Hill Cellars (Carlton, OR)

2017	**Pinot Noir – Bayliss-Bower Vineyard**	**red**	**90**
2017	**Pinot Noir – Prospector's Reserve**	**red**	**89**

The Bayliss-Bower Vineyard is part of the Bayliss' family's 234-acre section of land in the Yamhill-Carlton District, which the family has owned since 1906. The first vines were planted in 1999 and currently all 16 acres of vines are devoted to pinot noir using the Pommard, Wadenswil, and Dijon clones 114, 115, 777. 100% of the fruit used to produce the wines of Ghost Hill Cellars comes from the estate vineyard. The winemaker is Eric Hamacher. For further information contact 503.852.7347 or visit: www.ghosthillcellars.com

2017 Pinot Noir – Bayliss-Bower Vineyard: (Yamhill-Carlton, 13.5%). Elegant and airy notes include those of earth, tea, menthol and dried flowers trimmed in discreet wood influence. There is satisfying depth to the luscious middle weight flavors that terminate in a lingering, dusty and ever-so-mildly austere finale. This is very pretty though it could use better depth so a few additional years of cellaring should be beneficial. 90/2027+

2017 Pinot Noir – Prospector's Reserve: (Yamhill-Carlton, 13.5%). This is also elegant and airy with a more perfumed and slightly spicier array of assorted red berries trimmed by cool lavender and violet hints. Here too there is a plush mouthfeel to the solidly concentrated and intense flavors that exhibit similar length on the dusty and more austere finale that stops just short of flirting with dryness. This compact effort should also benefit from a few years of keeping though I would suggest that if you're going to try a bottle young that you serve it with an appropriate dish to help round out the structure. 89/2027+

iOTA Cellars (Amity, OR)

2018	**Pinot Noir – Pelos Sandberg Vineyard**	**red**	**90**

iOTA means small quantity and represents the owners' focus. The Estate vineyard was planted in 2000 by Don and Johanna Sandberg (owners/winemakers), with family partner, co-founder, Lynne Pelos who lends financial-marketing support. They chose a 57-acre parcel of land, never planted to grapes, in the northern Eola Hills of Yamhill County outside of Amity for their vineyard site. The property is part of the Willamette Valley and sits just east of the Van Duzer corridor, which guides the Pacific breezes inland in the late afternoon to early evening, helping cool the grapes after warm summer days. While the winery was established in 2006, today they have 15 acres of pinot noir and chardonnay vines planted, and built an on-site winery in 2010. While retaining the majority of their estate fruit for the iOTA label, they also sell grapes to local winemakers. Pelos Sandberg Vineyard is a LIVE-certified vineyard as of 2008. For more information call 503.507.8063 or visit: www.iotacellars.com

2018 Pinot Noir – Pelos Sandberg Vineyard: (Eola-Amity Hills, 14.2%). An enticingly layered nose is comprised by notes of red pinot fruit, menthol, violets and an admirably subtle touch of wood. The forward and pliant middle weight flavors possess good underlying tension while offering good richness on the focused if mildly austere and raspy finish where a touch of warmth slowly emerges. This is really quite pretty and the only nit is that the fruit/acid/tannin balance isn't quite perfect. Still, with the right food this should make for attractive drinking, especially with a few more years of cellaring. 90/2027+

Lavinea Winery (Carlton, OR)

2021	**Pinot Noir – Eola-Amity Hills**	**red**	**90**
2019	**➽ Pinot Noir – Elton Vineyard**	**red**	**91**
2019	**➽ Pinot Noir – Temperance Hill Vineyard**	**red**	**90**
2019	**➽ Pinot Noir – Tualatin Estate**	**red**	**92**

Lavinea was established in 2014 by Isabelle Meunier and Greg Ralston. Meunier is the winemaker, with winemaking experience in Burgundy and New Zealand. She also oversaw the winemaking at Dominique Lafon's then-new Oregon consulting project, Evening Land, in 2007. Ralston also has more than 2 decades of wine-relate roles, collaborating in Italy, Burgundy, California and Oregon. Lavinea sources grapes from vineyards in Oregon's Willamette Valley: the AVAs of Tualatin Hills, Yamhill-Carlton, Dundee Hills, and Eola Amity Hills. Their wines are very limited, due in part to the fact they did not produce a 2020 vintage due to the devastating smoke and fires in the region. All of the following are bottled under the Diam brand model 10 composite cork. For more information visit: www.lavinea.com

2021 Pinot Noir – Eola-Amity Hills: (Yamhill-Carlton, 642 cases, SRP $40, 13.5%). There is just enough reduction to blur the nuances of the red and blue pinot fruit aromas so be sure to give this some air. The succulent and seductively textured middle weight flavors possess reasonably good verve before terminating in a dusty, sneaky long and lightly austere finale where a hint of acid tang slowly emerges. This should be accessible early on yet it should also repay a few years of keeping, which should help to add depth. 90/2028+

2019 Pinot Noir – Elton Vineyard: (Eola-Amity Hills, unfined and unfiltered, SRP $75, 13.2%). A relatively prominent note of herbal tea is present on the otherwise inviting aromas of spicy red berries, plum and soft floral wisps. There is good volume and vibrancy to the utterly delicious medium weight flavors that exhibit good delineation on the attractively lingering finale that slowly fans out as it sits on the palate. Like the Eola-Amity Hills *cuvée*, there is a dusty and youthfully austere quality to the finish that does offer better depth. Lovely and fashioned in an understated style. I would add that at least some patience should be beneficial. 91/2028+

2019 Pinot Noir – Temperance Hill Vineyard: (Eola-Amity Hills, unfined and unfiltered, SRP $75, 13.5%). Here too there is a note of green tea suffusing the pretty nose of earth, lavender and dark currants. The sleek and dynamic if less concentrated medium-bodied flavors display reasonably good length and power on the raspy, robust and bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. This is pretty much textbook Temperance Hill in character with its full-on mouthfeel so at least moderate patience is recommended. 90/2028+

2019 Pinot Noir – Tualatin Estate: (Willamette Valley, unfined and unfiltered, SRP $75, 13.4%). Once again there is enough herbal tea character to remark upon present on the pretty and agreeably fresh aromas of crushed red cherries and plum that are trimmed by rose petal wisps. The agreeably textured middle weight flavors possess fine volume and better concentration while delivering excellent length on the balanced, firm and youthfully austere finale. Excellent potential. 92/2028+

Love & Squalor Wine (Amity, OR)

2019	**Pinot Noir**	**red**	**88**
2018	**➽ Pinot Noir – Reserved**	**red**	**92**
2018	**➽ Pinot Noir – Temperance Hill Vineyard**	**red**	**92**

In 2003, Matt Berson, joined a band of Oregon winemakers, and in addition to working in their cellars and vineyards, he traveled to wine regions around the world. He launched Love & Squalor in 2006, with 65 cases of wine, split nearly equally between pinot noir and Riesling. In 2015 Matt's wife Angela joined the endeavor and in the fall of 2019, they held their harvest in their new location at the Portland Wine Company Winery and Tasting room. They source their fruit from long-term partnerships. For further information, visit: www.loveandsqualorwine.com

2019 Pinot Noir: (Willamette Valley, 14.2%). An attractively fresh and airy nose is comprised by notes of various dark berries, plum, briar as well as hints of violets. The velvety and nicely caressing middle weight flavors flash a touch of bitter pit fruit character on the persistent and borderline rustic finale where a hint of warmth slowly emerges. This could be enjoyed young or cellared for a few years first. 88/2026+

2018 Pinot Noir – Temperance Hill Vineyard: (Eola-Amity Hills, 50 cases, 14.2%). A much more reserved nose requires aggressive swirling to slowly reveal the somber if nicely complex aromas of black cherry, poached plum and crushed anise. There is very good volume to the rich, opulent and plush medium-bodied flavors that, in true Temperance Hill style, display excellent power on the robust and lingering built-to-age finish that also exhibits a touch of warmth. This is not a refined wine but if power pinot is in your sweet spot, this would be a good choice. 92/2028+

2018 Pinot Noir – Reserved: (Willamette Valley, 50 cases, 14.2%). Like the Temperance Hill, this is reserved to the point of being almost mute and while it's clearly ripe, it's definitely grumpy so a thorough aeration would be beneficial. More interesting are the solidly concentrated and attractively textured medium weight flavors that terminate in a firm, serious and youthfully austere finale that is also very clearly built-to-age. As the description confirms, this is very backward and not at all ready for prime time. I would strongly suggest putting this in your cellar and then forgetting that you own it. In sum, this is promising but very much in a 'leave me alone' mode. 92/2030+

Pike Road Vineyards (Gaston, OR)

2019	**➽ Pinot Noir – Fairsing Vineyard**	**red**	**91**
2019	**➽ Pinot Noir – Shea Vineyard**	**red**	**93**
2019	**➽ Pinot Noir – Temperance Hill Vineyard**	**red**	**91**

The Campbell Family planted their first 20 acres of vines in 1974. The family already had a long family history of farming in Oregon. Today they farm nearly 400 acres of vines in the Northern Willamette Valley, primarily for their original winery, Elk Cove Vineyards, as well as for Pike Road Wines, founded in 2016, with a focus on quality pinot noir under $20. They produce wines from their own estate fruit, as well as sourcing fruit from other family vineyards covering six sub-AVAs. Heather Perkin, the head winemaker, works closely with Elk Cove winemaker Adam Campbell to create our wines. For more information visit: www.pikeroadwines.com

2019 Pinot Noir – Fairsing Vineyard: (Yamhill-Carlton, 204 cases, SRP $50, 13.5%, bottled under screwcap). Expressive and relatively high-toned aromas include those of red and dark pinot fruit, jasmine tea and an interesting hint of orange peel. The very supple and forward flavors possess good verve and detail before terminating in a dusty, moderately austere and sappy finale. This possesses fine depth and persistence is a wine that could be enjoyed young or aged to good effect. Note though that this may be a bit too austere for some tastes, though I like it for its palate cleansing character. 91/2027+

2019 Pinot Noir – Shea Vineyard: (Yamhill-Carlton, 411 cases, SRP $50, 13.5%, bottled under screwcap). A more deeply pitched as well as more restrained and somber nose is derived from the dark side of the fruit spectrum with background nuances of spice, violet, forest floor and briar. There is excellent volume and mid-palate density to the powerful and muscular flavors that display a robust, even rustic quality on the impressively long finish. This is very Shea with its broad-shouldered mouthfeel and while it won't win any awards for its refinement, there is no doubting the quality. Buy it and forget it for a close to a decade. I would add that in today's market, this also offers excellent value. 93/2031+

2019 Pinot Noir – Temperance Hill Vineyard: (Eola-Amity Hills, 102 cases, SRP $50, 14%, bottled under screwcap). There is a mentholated top note on the equally deeply pitched nose of poached plum, dark currant and smoky game hint, all of which is trimmed in a very discreet application of wood. There is fine volume and mid-palate density to the supple yet punchy medium-bodied flavors that also flash good muscle on the robust, powerful and borderline rustic finale. This doesn't have the sheer depth of the Shea but it certainly is just as imposing. 91/2029+

Reustle-Prayer Rock Vineyards (Roseburg, OR)

2021	**Pinot Noir – Cluster Select**	**red**	**89**
2021	**➽ Pinot Noir – Estate Selection**	**red**	**90**
2021	**➽ Pinot Noir – Winemaker's Reserve**	**red**	**91**
2020	**Pinot Noir – Estate Selection**	**red**	**88**
2020	**Pinot Noir – Winemaker's Reserve**	**red**	**88**

Founded by Gloria and Stephen Reustle in 2001 when they purchased 200 acres and planted 40 acres of vineyards in the Umpqua Valley of Oregon. Their wines are all made from estate fruit. They finished construction of the winery in 2008 and the production is between 5,000-8,000 bottles annually. For more information visit: www.reustlevineyards.com

2021 Pinot Noir – Cluster Select: (Umpqua Valley, 13.8%). This is initially somewhat reserved but aggressively swirling coaxes ripe aromas of both red and dark pinot fruit, green tea and earth to reveal themselves. Lush, even opulent, middle weight flavors display good if not truly special verve while displaying reasonable length on the bitter pit fruit and youthfully austere finale. This could be enjoyed young or held for a few years to good effect. 89/2027+

2021 Pinot Noir – Estate Selection: (Umpqua Valley, 16 barrels produced, 13.5%). An attractively layered nose features notes of cool and relatively high-toned red berry fruit, discreet spice and lavender. There is again good richness to the plush but punchy medium weight flavors that deliver better depth on the dusty and mildly austere finish. This could use a few years of keeping to round off the finale. 90/2027+

2021 Pinot Noir – Winemaker's Reserve: (Umpqua Valley, 16 barrels produced, 13.7%). A ripe, airy and very pretty nose is the spiciest of these three 2021s with its array of assorted red berries, briar and blue pinot fruit. Once again the mouthfeel of the medium-bodied is rich to the point of opulence with fine punch that carries over to the dusty, moderately austere and compact finale. This could use more depth but the underlying material appears to be present for that to occur if given a chance. 91/2029+

2020 Pinot Noir – Estate Selection: (Umpqua Valley, 13 barrels produced, 13.2%). Apparent, though not dominant, oak sets of a restrained nose of briar, earth and poached plum. The wood treatment is also easily perceptible on the palate of the rich and solidly concentrated medium weight plus flavors that exhibit good power and verve on the sappy, robust and borderline rustic finish. While still obviously quite young, this is awkward and the oak isn't subtle. This may better harmonize as the wood is progressively integrated and my rating offer the benefit of the doubt. 88/2028+

2020 Pinot Noir – Winemaker's Reserve: (Umpqua Valley,13 barrels produced, 13.1%). While more subtle, the wood treatment is again sufficiently evident to merit pointing out on the ripe and pretty nose of plum, dark pinot fruit and exotic tea. The succulent, round and delicious middle weight flavors possess a polished mouthfeel, all wrapped in a bitter pit fruit and compact finish. While this is not attenuated, the length does come up short and it's hard to predict whether it will improve as the structure is resolved. To be sure, this is attractive, but the balance isn't perfect. 88/2028+

Roco Winery (Newberg, OR)

2021	**Pinot Noir – Gravel Road**	**red**	**89**
2021	**➽ Pinot Noir – Marsh Estate Vineyard**	**red**	**93**
2021	**➽ Pinot Noir – The Stalker**	**red**	**90**
2019	**➽ Pinot Noir – Ancient Waters**	**red**	**91**
2019	**➽ Pinot Noir – Knudsen Vineyard**	**red**	**92**
2019	**➽ Pinot Noir – Private Stash No. 17**	**red**	**91**

In 1987, the same year Rollin Soles began to develop Argyle Winery, he purchased a property in the Chehalem Mountains. In 2001 this property would become Roco (pronounced rock-oh) where Soles is also the winemaker. Co-owned by Corby Stonebraker-Soles. The Soles began planting their LIVE Certified and Salmon-Safe Wits' End Vineyard in 2001 to pinot noir. In 2013, they expanded it to a total of 20 acres, adding a block of Chardonnay in the process. They also source wine from the

Knudsen Vineyard and Marsh Estate Vineyard. All wines are bottled under screwcap. For more info call 503.538.7625 or visit: www.rocowinery.com

2021 Pinot Noir – Gravel Road: (Willamette Valley, SRP $30, 14%). A fresh, bright and cool nose presents its array of mostly red pinot fruit that is nuanced by hints of crushed anise and a hint of exotic tea. The agreeably textured, round and generous medium-bodied flavors possess a fleshy mouthfeel while terminating in a relatively powerful if slightly rustic finale. This doesn't have the refinement or polish of the rest of the range but there is ample character here and offers **exceptionally good quality** for the price. If you're looking for a bargain that drinks well, you've found it. 89/2026+

2021 Pinot Noir – The Stalker: (Willamette Valley, 2,500 cases, SRP $45, 14%). An exuberantly spicy nose combines notes of rose petal and lilac with those of plum, dark cherry and a hint of forest floor character. The very supple, round and easy-going yet nicely vibrant flavors possess a polished mouthfeel thanks to the very fine-grained tannins shaping the dusty and youthfully austere finale. This is sufficiently structured that it could use a few years of keeping to round off the finish. 90/2027+

2021 Pinot Noir – Marsh Estate Vineyard: (Yamhill-Carlton, 750 cases, SRP $60, 14%). An admirably subtle hint of wood lurks in the background of the fresh aromas of menthol, dark raspberry and soft spice and floral nuances, especially violet. The delicious, nicely intense and well-detailed medium weight flavors possess fine verve as well as focused power that seems to build on the dusty and sneaky long finish that delivers very fine depth. This robust effort is impressive, especially for its blend of power and complexity though I would underscore that at least some patience will be necessary. In a word, excellent. 93/2029+

2019 Pinot Noir – Knudsen Vineyards: (Dundee Hills, 350 cases, SRP $60, 14%). An expressive and exceptionally pretty, indeed the word perfumed would be apt, nose reflects notes of essence of red cherry, violet and exotic Asian-style tea. This is not nearly as concentrated as the Marsh Estate though it is noticeably finer and this senses of refinement carries over to the firm, dusty and moderately austere finale. Even at 4 years of age, the supporting structure makes clear that this is a wine to buy and forget for the next 4 to 7 years. This too is excellent. 92/2027

2019 Pinot Noir – Ancient Waters: (Yamhill-Carlton, 90 cases, SRP $75, 14%). Hints of herbal and mint tea can be found on the cool and restrained if very pretty aromas of essence of red and dark pinot fruit. There is good mid-palate density to the generously proportioned yet nicely delineated medium weight flavors that conclude in a dusty, lengthy and ever-so-mildly warm finish. This is already quite good, but it would benefit from having better depth and to that end, I would suggest allowing it another 4 to 7 years of keeping. 91/2027+

2019 Pinot Noir – Private Stash No. 17: (Chehalem Mountains, 280 cases, SRP $110, 14%). A pure, cool and very pretty pinot nose speaks mostly of various red berries, spice and a touch of briar character. The supple and very forward middle weight flavors possess a polished mouthfeel, all wrapped in a dusty and agreeably dry-in-the-best sense finish that is sneaky long. There is a touch of warmth but it's not enough to materially detract from the overall sense of balance. This is also perfectly ready now, though it could certainly be cellared for another 5 to perhaps 8 years. 91/2026+

Stoller Family Estate (Dayton, OR)

2019	**➽ Pinot Noir – Helen's**	**red**	**91**
2019	**➽ Pinot Noir – Nancy's**	**red**	**92**
2019	**➽ Pinot Noir – Reserve**	**red**	**90**

Formerly Stoller Vineyards, Bill Stoller purchased the 373-acre parcel from a relative in 1993 having already been in the industry as co-owner of Chehalem, producing the first vintage in 2003. Since then they now have the largest contiguous vineyard in Oregon's Dundee Hills. It spans 400 acres with 225 planted to vines at elevations from 210 to 650'. They have divided the vineyard into 109 farmed sections and have planted 10 varieties, but are mostly to pinot noir and chardonnay. Melissa Bur is the winemaker and the Stoller winery is the first LEED Gold Certified winery in the United States. It integrates gravity-flow winemaking techniques, energy-efficient heating and cooling, and waste-water reclamation to reduce any negative environmental impacts. For further information, contact 503.864.3404 or visit: www.stollerfamilyestate.com

2019 Pinot Noir – Reserve: (Dundee Hills, 3,400 cases, SRP $50, 13.9%). There is a vaguely herbal tea like character on the nose of violet, red currants, briar and humus nuanced earth. The rich, lush and seductively textured medium weight flavors possess good energy and detail that carries over to the dusty and mildly austere but balanced and lingering finale. This could use a bit more depth and a few years of keeping should help though with that said, it could just as easily be enjoyed young for its crunchy fruit. 90/2028+

2019 Pinot Noir – Helen's: (Dundee Hills, 657 cases, SRP $75, 13.5%) Cool, high-toned and pretty notes of green tea, rose petal and briar add breadth to the mostly red pinot fruit scents. There is a lovely sense of underlying tension suffusing the polished middle weight flavors thanks to the fine-grained tannins supporting the mildly bitter bit fruit inflected and youthfully austere finale. This will need a few years of cellaring to further flesh out and add depth but it's certainly promising. 91/2029+

2019 Pinot Noir – Nancy's: (Dundee Hills, 655 cases, SRP $75, 13.5%). Whiffs of minty green tea can be found on the cool and admirably pure nose of the essence of red cherry, plum and a hint of violet. The delicious, round and vibrant medium-bodied flavors also possess a polished mouthfeel, all wrapped in a dusty, moderately compact and sneaky long finish. This could use better depth and thus a few years of keeping should be helpful. 92/2029+

Utopia Vineyards (Newberg, OR)

2019	➽ Pinot Noir – Estate	red	90
2019	Pinot Noir – Estate Reserve Paradise	red	89

This small family-owned winery produces only a few hundred cases each year. It was founded in 2002 by Daniel Warnshuis and the first commercial vintage in 2006 produced 413 cases of Estate pinot noir. Situated at an elevation of 500 feet in the heart of the Ribbon Ridge AVA in the Northern Willamette Valley, Oregon, Utopia consists of 16.8 acres of contiguous South-facing hillsides. For further information, contact: (503) 852.7546.1248 or visit: www.utopiawine.com

2019 Pinot Noir – Estate: (Ribbon Ridge, Utopia Estate Vineyard, 1,255 cases, 20% whole cluster, SRP $48, 13%). An expressive, even perfumed and attractively spicy nose offers up notes of dark berries, plum and lavender, all trimmed in spice notes. The middle weight flavors are rich to the point of opulence with fine intensity that carries over to the concentrated, robust and borderline rustic finish. This is sufficiently structured to benefit from mid-term keeping though rich enough to be enjoyable young. I would observe that the style is more in the vein of power pinot rather than lace and grace. 90/2027+

2019 Pinot Noir – Estate Reserve Paradise: (Ribbon Ridge, Utopia Estate Vineyard, 147 cases, 100% whole cluster, SRP $65, 13%). The high percentage of whole clusters for the vinification is evident as the spicy dark pinot fruit nose is intensely floral in character. There is again excellent richness and the word 'opulent' would apply here as well, though there is good energy on the slightly bitter chocolate-inflected finish that is sufficiently prominent to cut the length a bit short. This may better harmonize with a few years of cellaring and if it does my rating my seem unduly conservative. 89/2027+

Winderlea Vineyards and Winery (Dundee, OR)

2019	Pinot Noir – Crawford Beck Vineyard	red	90
2019	➽ Pinot Noir – Imprint	red	92
2019	Pinot Noir – Meredith Mitchell Vineyard	red	89
2019	➽ Pinot Noir – Shea Vineyard	red	92
2019	➽ Pinot Noir – Weber Vineyard	red	90
2019	➽ Pinot Noir – Winderlea Legacy	red	91
2019	➽ Pinot Noir – Winderlea Vineyard	red	93

Winderlea (pronounced Win-dur-lee) was founded by Bill Sweat and Donna Morris, who in 2006 relocated from Boston and made Dundee, Oregon their home. Winderlea is certified LIVE (Low Input Viticulture and Enology) and Salmon Safe in recognition of their sustainable farming practices. As of April 2016, Winderlea also received their Demeter Biodynamic and Stellar Organic Certifications. Their estate vineyard is 20 acres with 16.5 acres planted to pinot noir. The winemaking duties

are overseen by Robert Brittan, who has over 30 years of winemaking and viticultural experience, while Emily Terrell is the Associate Winemaker. For more information call 503.554.5900 or visit: www.winderlea.com

2019 Pinot Noir – Crawford Beck Vineyard: (Eola-Amity Hills, 165 cases, 13.2%). A high-toned combination offers up its aromas of red berries, floral notes, spice and blue pinot fruit. There is a lovely sense of verve to the delicious and polished middle weight flavors that terminate in a dusty, mildly austere and balanced finale where a hint of acid tang slowly emerges. This could use better depth, but the underlying structure is sufficiently firm for that to occur over time. 90/2027+

2019 Pinot Noir – Imprint: (Dundee Hills, 274 cases, 12.5%). An elegant and wonderfully airy nose displays notes of cool red pinot fruit, plum, cranberry and rose petal nuances along with a hint of green tea. The generously proportioned, even opulent, medium weight flavors possess a polished mouthfeel thanks to the beautifully fine-grained tannins while offering excellent length on the mildly austere, focused and detailed finish. As with the Crawford Beck, this is sufficiently firm to repay mid-term keeping. 92/2029+

2019 Pinot Noir – Meredith Mitchell Vineyard: (McMinnville, 12.5%). Here too the attractively layered nose is quite airy with its array of red and dark currant, blue berries, violet and an interesting hint of kirsch. The impressively intense flavors possess excellent underlying tension to the beautifully delineated if slightly edgy, firm and tangy finish. This is very tightly wound so it's an open question if this will better harmonize as the backend flirts with dryness at present. 89/2027+

2019 Pinot Noir – Shea Vineyard: (Yamhill-Carlton, 403 cases, 12.9%). Notes of menthol, earth and briar blend with a more deeply pitched aromas of plum, dark pinot fruit and a whiff of exotic tea. As befits a Shea pinot, this is tautly muscular and powerful if perhaps not as imposing as it usually is on the youthfully austere, dusty and focused finale that offers notably better balance and length. Lovely though patience advised. 92/2029+

2019 Pinot Noir – Weber Vineyard: (Dundee Hills, 237 cases, 12.8%). Once again the nose is quite expressive with its high-toned and elegant aromas of blue pinot fruit, cranberry, violets as well as a hint of exotic tea. The sophisticated and delicious middle weight flavors possess a lilting mouthfeel before terminating in a chiseled, dusty and even more austere finale that is sneaky long. This is sufficiently austere and compact that it's not the best candidate for drinking young so patience again suggested. 90/2027+

2019 Pinot Noir – Winderlea Legacy: (Dundee Hills, from vines planted in 1974-76, 136 cases, 12.3%). A cool yet expressive and distinctly floral nose reflects notes of red pinot fruit, just crushed cherry and a suggestion of spiced plum. The supple but vibrant and nicely detailed medium weight flavors display hints of bitter pit fruit and sneaky good length on the balanced finish. This is very understated and while it could use better depth, more should reasonably develop if held for a few years first. 91/2027+

2019 Pinot Noir – Winderlea Vineyard: (Dundee Hills, 16 acres of some of the oldest vineyards in Willamette Valley originally planted in 1974, 250 cases, 12.5%). A classic pinot nose possesses aromas of the essence of red raspberry, cherry, violet and subtle spice wisps. There is a lovely, even polished, texture to the utterly delicious and seductive middle weight flavors that possess fine depth on the lingering if ever-so-mildly tangy and youthfully austere finish. Even so, I suspect that the tangy character will slowly diminish with age. Worth checking out. 93/2027+

TWO MINI PROGRESS REPORTS

This past March I was again privileged to attend a lunch hosted by the extraordinarily generous Hong Kong collector Henry Tang. What follows is only a small sampling of topflight wines poured that day which included not only those presented here, but also a number of white burgundies and a who's who of California Cabernet, the latter served in magnum no less. To observe that it was a magnificent lunch would hardly do it justice.

For those who would like more information on either the 2000 or 2011 vintages, I would refer you to my book *Burgundy Vintages – A History From 1845 to 2015* (co-written with Douglas Barzelay). There is also a very recent Special Report I did on the 2011 vintage that can be found in Issue 88. But for those who want just a 'sound bite' opinion, there are few 2000s that need more time, but most are in the middle of their peak drinking period. By contrast, the average 2011 is only just beginning to drink well and some of the better examples would best be held for another 3 to 8 years first.

Enjoy the notes!

PROGRESS REPORT 1

Domaine de la Romanée-Conti 2000 Vintage Horizontal

2000	**Echézeaux Grand Cru**	**red**	**93**
2000	**Grands Echézeaux Grand Cru**	**red**	**93**
2000	**Richebourg Grand Cru**	**red**	**95**
2000	**Romanée-Conti Grand Cru**	**red**	**97**
2000	**Romanée St. Vivant Grand Cru**	**red**	**94**
2000	**La Tâche Grand Cru**	**red**	**96**

In the interest of complete transparency, the 2000 Romanée-Conti was not served at the lunch; rather, it was tasted at the Domaine in the context of a 26-vintage vertical, the notes from which appeared in Issue 89. I have included it here for the benefit of readers that might have missed it. I would add as a very general comment that the 2000s from the Domaine were extraordinarily successful in the context of the vintage and are just now approaching their peaks. They should all continue to age effortlessly if not necessarily improve. I would add that based on the bottles that have come my way, the Echézeaux is at the same level as the Grands Echézeaux, something that doesn't happen often.

2000 Echézeaux: (from a total holding of 4.67 ha of 50+ year old vines from 2 different *climats*, 90% of which is in Les Poulaillères, and the remainder is in Clos St. Denis). Noticeable bricking though with a still healthy ruby core. An expressive nose offers up notes of *sous-bois*, ripe black fruits and perfumed aromas of fresh flowers, Asian spices and earth. There is good focus to the rich, solidly well-concentrated and relatively powerful flavors that are balanced and harmonious while terminating in a focused and impressively lingering finish where the supporting tannins are largely resolved. For my taste, this has reached its peak though it should continue to hold at this level for another decade, perhaps even longer. 93/now+

2000 Grands Echézeaux: (from a holding of 3.53 ha of 55+ year old vines). The initial hints of bricking are present. An expressive nose freely reveals plenty of earth, exotic spice and floral nuances on the *sous-bois* tinged secondary fruit scents. There is fine vibrancy and evident power to the broad-shouldered flavors that possess excellent depth and persistence on the balanced finale. For my taste this has arrived at its full maturity though Grands Echézeaux always seems to hold at its plateau remarkably well and the 2000 should prove to be no exception. 93/now+

2000 Romanée St. Vivant: (from an incredible 5.29 ha holding). Some light bricking though with a deep ruby core. There is a suggestion of *sous-bois* lurking in the background of the mostly secondary nose of ripe dark berry pinot fruit, plenty of spice and hints of dried rose petal and sandalwood. I very much like the texture and verve to the strikingly complex medium weight flavors that exhibit fine length on the balanced finale. For my taste, this has just now arrived at its peak though it should be capable of holding here for many years to come. Tasted a number of times over the years and while I have had largely consistent experiences, there was one bottle that was quite badly reduced and required several hours of aeration. 94/now+

2000 Richebourg: (from a holding of 3.51 ha in both Richebourg proper and Les Verroilles; in 2019 .5 ha in Verroilles was pulled up and replanted in a north-south direction rather than the more typical east-west orientation). The initial hints of bricking can be discerned. An exuberantly spicy and notably ripe nose displays discreet notes of torrefaction and roasted espresso beans on the overtly floral-suffused aromas. The muscular flavors are supported by ripe tannins and plenty of minerality, both of which carry over to the dusty, complex and solidly long finish. This is really quite regal and in 2000 it's more of a middleweight than its normal imposingly powerful character. For my taste, this is nearly ready and should only need another 2 to 5 years to arrive at its apogee. Tasted multiple times with largely consistent notes. 95/2025+

2000 La Tâche: (a monopole of 6.06 ha). While there is a bit of lightening at the rim, this remains relatively deeply colored. This possesses a classic La Tâche nose of dried rose petals plus a fantastic array of dark fruit and spice-tinged aromas. The fine, detailed and beautifully textured, indeed velvety broad-shouldered flavors possess impressive mid-palate concentration as well as terrific length on the still markedly firm and mouthcoating finish. While this is certainly a highly enjoyable wine now, it's also one that is very clearly still positively evolving. Tasted multiple times with mostly consistent notes, though somewhat curiously, I find some bottles less complex than others. 96/2025+

2000 Romanée-Conti: (a monopole of 1.81 ha). There is a slight touch of bricking but with a healthy ruby core. The mature and highly perfumed aromas flash evident *sous-bois* along with plenty of the hallmark spice, exotic tea and dried floral elements, especially rose petal. The highly refined mouthfeel is seductively silky thanks to the excellent mid-palate density where the sappy dry extract coats the mouth on the superbly lengthy and impeccably well-balanced finish. This beautifully harmonious wine is near its peak even though for my preferences, I would be inclined to give it 2 to 5 more years. With that said however, in a pinch it could easily be enjoyed now. I would further observe that the '00 RC is so good that it could well be the wine of the 2000 vintage. 97/2025+

PROGRESS REPORT 2

Domaine Méo-Camuzet Mini-Horizontal 2011 Vintage

2011	**Richebourg Grand Cru**	**red**	**95**
2011	**Vosne-Romanée "Aux Brûlées" 1er**	**red**	**93**
2011	**Vosne-Romanée "Les Chaumes" 1er**	**red**	**92**
2011	**Vosne-Romanée "Cros Parantoux" 1er**	**red**	**94**

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Les Chaumes": (from a 2-ha parcel). There is the barest suggestion of secondary character to the plum, violet, purple fruit and exotic tea scents. The attractively textured medium weight flavors possess good if not special concentration along with a fleshy palate impression before terminating in a still slightly firm and persistent finish where the fine-grained tannins are well-integrated. This could certainly be enjoyed now though I would suggest holding it for another 2 to perhaps 5 years first. 92/2026+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Aux Brûlées": (from a .70 ha parcel, most of which are 80+ year old vines). A markedly spicy and still very fresh nose is displaying almost no secondary character on the mostly red currant aromas that are liberally laced with clove, anise, sandalwood and soy nuances. The relatively robust and tautly muscular flavors exude a fine minerality on the wonderfully vibrant, delineated and complex finale that delivers excellent length. This is still developing and though it could be approached now with 30 minutes or so in a decanter, I would suggest holding it for another 5-ish years. 93/2028+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Cros Parantoux": (60+ year old vines). I've had mixed experiences with this wine as some bottles seem to display noticeable volatile acidity yet others don't. I would add that that the VA is a minor nit and doesn't materially detract from the appeal of the exuberantly spicy nose that is now beginning to display just a touch of secondary character. There is excellent underlying tension to the markedly mineral-driven flavors that flash good power on the balanced and still moderately firm finale. In terms of drinkability, this is still developing and is sufficiently compact that I would suggest holding it for another 5 years or so first, and 8 to 10 would not be out of the question. 94/2028+

2011 Richebourg: (from a .37 ha parcel in Les Véroilles of 60+ year old vines save for a very tiny parcel in Richebourg proper). This could be from nowhere else but Vosne with its dazzling array of floral and exotic spice nuances where a hint of jasmine tea lurks in the background of the barely secondary inflected red and dark currants scents. There is evident power to the large-bodied, intense and muscular flavors that exude an almost pungent minerality on the robust and impressively long finish. This is still solidly structured though not especially austere and as such, I would suggest allowing it another 6 to 10 years of cellar time. Excellent. 95/2029+

In the Next Issue

The 2021 Côte d'Or Whites with more wines from 2020

More Current Release California and Oregon Pinot Noir – Mostly 2020 (with some 19's and 18's)