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THE ULTIMATE BURGUNDY REFERENCE

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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 *grands 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 so rated is as good as Burgundy or Pinot Noir gets. By definition, it is reference standard for its <i>appellation</i> .
90 – 94:	Outstanding. Worth a special effort to purchase and cellar and will provide memorable drinking experiences.
85 – 89:	Good to High quality. Burgundies 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.

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The CÔTE DE BEAUNE REDS – The 2015 and 2014 Vintages

2015 Côte de Beaune Summary – A High-Quality and Impressively Consistent Vintage

As I asserted in Issue 65, the 2015 vintage in the Côte de Nuits is the best vintage since 2005. In the Côte de Beaune 2015 is the best vintage since 1999. It is not however without a few concerns that I will address though as a broad-sweeping generality, the 2015 reds are wines to search out and acquire. Moreover, it is a vintage that is excellent from top to bottom and to underscore the point, in 17 years of writing Burghound Issues, I have never had more recommended Top Value wines in the Burghound Selection chart. To be sure, it's great at the top as well but if ever there was a vintage to explore for value, it's this one. And of course it naturally follows that when the bottom of the *appellation* hierarchy is exceptional, it's no stretch to imagine that the top portion is exceptional as well.

There are many intriguing aspects of the 2015 vintage but arguably the most impressive is how fruit that was clearly very ripe and had very little in the way of malic acidity, managed to produce wines that are so remarkably fresh. Moreover, for the most part they do not drink like "hot vintage" burgundies because they do not have particularly high alcohol levels, and the aromas, while definitely arising from the darker side of the fruit spectrum, are not roasted or particularly *surmature*. They also drink like they have good acid support because even though total acidities were below average, if not actually low, and as mentioned, very little of that acidity was malic, the post-malo pHs are entirely respectable. This is important because analytics aside, from a purely gustatory perspective the average 2015 does not appear to lack acid support.

Another important aspect of 2015 relates to a kind of derivative artifact from the 2005 vintage. This is to say that many growers expressly wanted to avoid making firmly tannic wines and thus did much less punching down than they did in 2005. In both cases the tannins are very ripe and thus will eventually successfully resolve but if there was a lesson learned in 2005 that was applied to the 2015s, it is a sort of "less is more" approach with respect to the vinifications. This is to say that many growers chose to rely primarily on pump overs rather than punch downs. This resulted in firmly structured but not hard wines as the supporting tannins are typically dense but fine-grained and this is true even among *terroirs* that are often rustic.

Yet another critical facet contributing to why wine quality is so impressive in 2015 was the extremely rapid flowering. The key import of a rapid flowering is that it engenders much more uniform ripeness levels at harvest time. This, coupled with an immaculately clean crop, contributed enormously to the consistency of the reds. Combine all of this with lower to sometimes much lower than average yields in the Côte de Beaune, with concomitant strong levels of dry extract and concentration levels, and you have an ideal recipe to make great red burgundies!

Yet another contributing factor as to why 2015 is so appealing from a consumer standpoint is quite simple: wine quality is great everywhere in the Côte de Beaune and no one commune really stands above the others. As such, it's not necessary to be careful about which communes you buy from, which obviously stands in stark contrast to the vintages such as 2012, 2013 and 2014 where hail damage makes buying wines from certain communes problematic. That said, if I had to give the nod to just one commune in 2015, I found Beaune to be particularly outstanding, if for no other reason than the habitual over production simply wasn't possible and thus the wines have unusually good concentration levels. In the same vein and for the same reason, the Hill of Corton is also exceptionally good.

So, after all of those glowing accolades it would be natural to wonder what is not to like. And in fact, there are very few attributes to reproach but no vintage is ever perfect and thus when a given example from 2015 isn't very good or a bit lackluster, it's usually due to some combination of over-ripeness, a lack of freshness, not enough acidity, too much alcohol, which translates to noticeable warmth or, in a very few cases, some degree of over-extraction or the presence of brett. If I had to choose just one nit that I saw with some regularity, even if it's a relatively minor one, it's that there is some level of backend warmth. The second problem that I encountered with some frequency was the presence of *surmaturité* (over-ripeness) that manifests itself in several possible ways but primarily with notes of prune or cooked fruit, which I personally have difficulty tolerating. I hasten to underscore that neither are near the levels seen in 2003 or 2009 so if you weren't bothered by the warmth or overly mature aromas in those vintages then you certainly won't be in 2015.

I would observe that the occasional instances of excess ripeness that I encountered in the Côte de Beaune were a bit more prevalent than what I found in the Côte de Nuits. The primary reason is simply the lower yields in the Côte de Beaune due to the accumulated battering that vines suffered in 2012, 2013 and 2014 from hail. Lower yields necessarily mean higher levels of ripeness and thus the harvest date was somewhat more important in the Côte de Beaune relative to the Côte de Nuits. I repeat though that the quality in the Côte de Beaune is generally excellent and the low yields had its positive side as well in terms of much better concentration than is typical.

Otherwise there really isn't much not to like and this goes a long way to explaining why 2015 is in large part a highly consistent vintage in the Côte de Beaune. As to comparing 2015 with other recent vintages, I would describe the average wine as less powerful and concentrated than 2005 and less electric (read less energetic) and brilliantly pure than 2010. But overall 2015 ticks all of the boxes for what constitutes a great vintage and after that, stylistic issues are what make the differences between whether you prefer one vintage versus another.

One last characteristic of the 2015 vintage bears addressing in this summary portion, which is the potential aging curve. Making such predictions is always fraught and this is all the more true of vintages that naturally possess high tannin levels. As we saw with 1999 and again in 2005, both of these vintages shut down hard after the bottling and in some cases still have not reemerged. *Vignerons* were mostly of two points of view, e.g. those who believe that the 2015s will drink well all their lives and those who believe that the wines are going to close up once they're bottled. At this early juncture I cautiously side with the first camp; that being said, there is so much structure in some of the wines that I will not be the least bit surprised if the second camp is ultimately proven correct -- either way, what seems clear and certain is that the best wines should age effortlessly for years.

2015 – The Weather and Harvest in the Côte de Beaune:

As I emphasized in the summary portion, one of the reasons that the 2015 vintage is such a success is its uniformity and this is true between the two Côtes as well. As such, and unlike what you read in these pages in 2012, 2013 and 2014, there is very little from a growing season perspective to relate so I repeat, with few modifications, what I wrote in Issue 65.

Over the years I have recounted in these pages seemingly one drama after another as one vintage after another was ostensibly snatched at the last moment from the jaws of certain catastrophe! In 2015, there is no such drama, no tales of near misses, no heartbreak hail, and no last minute sunshine and North Wind arriving to save the day. In fact, if a growing season could truly be reduced to just two words, then the recurrent theme mentioned by grower after grower would be this: stress free.

The 2014/2015 winter was largely quite clement as January was slightly warmer than normal and February slightly cooler than normal. From that point on though from March all the way to August the season was warmer and drier than what has been recorded over the last 25 years. June was 1.8° C warmer and July was an incredible 2.5° C warmer than normal and then August continued the trend at 1.2° C. To provide a different sort of perspective, there were 2.5 times as many days where the temperatures exceeded 30° C compared to a typical growing season! Moreover, several daily records were set on the 7th and 8th of July but the one that stands out was on the 4th of July when it hit 39.2° C, which easily beat the prior record. During this one week period even the night time temperatures exceeded 30° C! Not surprisingly with that much heat, luminosity levels were much higher than normal and consistent with the July heat spikes is when the greatest levels of luminosity were recorded.

The season was also extremely dry and if we consider the January to September period, there was 20% less rainfall than normal. Spreading that 20% over 9 months though masks the extreme deficits that were recorded in March, May, June and July and in particular July that was between 75 and 90% drier than usual! Indeed some communes recorded as little as 5 mm of rain for all of July. To provide another point of comparison, the meteorological station based in Beaune recorded only 327 mm of rain between April to September versus 562 mm for the same period in 2013.

Between the heat and the dryness, it was at times enough to provoke varying degrees of hydric stress. When vines suffer hydric stress, it's a condition the Burgundians call *bloquage*, or literally a blocking of the photosynthetic process. If it's extended it can result in under-ripe phenolic components and in particular, hard or angular tannins. Among recent vintages where this was a concern include 1990, 1997 and 2003. Happily there was just enough rain in August to reignite the maturation cycle and overall, the amount of damage done by hydric stress was de minimis.

Bud break in 2015 was in-line with both the 20 year average recorded from 1994 to 2014 as well as the last similar growing season of 2009. This is to say April 10th for pinot in the Côte de Nuits and April 12th for chardonnay. The higher than normal May temperatures galvanized an early June flowering that concluded incredibly rapidly and was one of the fastest recorded in a number of years. The fruit set was abundant, which turned out to be highly serendipitous for reasons I will explain.

This chain of events was both good news and bad news and is one of the key factors that partially explains why 2015 is the way that it is. A rapid flowering is always highly desirable because it results in uniform ripeness levels. Unfortunately, the very heat that triggered the early flowering also caused a relatively high incidence of shatter with a consequent loss of yield, and in particular due to the development of lots of shot berries. This was great for wine concentration but obviously not for volumes.

As to disease and pest pressure, there was only one that amounted to anything and that was a relatively severe attack of oidium (powdery mildew). This is not completely surprising given that unlike most forms of vineyard fungi, oidium is not dependent on moisture to thrive. It is also a vine malady that cannot be eradicated though, it can be slowed. However, the only way to do this is to treat in advance of seeing the symptoms because by the time they are noticed, the disease is already well-installed and much harder to stop; worse still, the efficacy of the sulfur-based treatments is compromised when temperatures exceed 30° C. Thankfully most growers did treat in anticipation of an attack and thus ultimately, the damage from oidium was limited.

The very first signs of *véraison* were reported in mid-July but once again the heat and dryness caused it to slow considerably. Conditions finally moderated in August because even though it was slightly warmer than normal, the warmth was finally accompanied by slightly elevated levels of rainfall. Normally this would have provoked immediate fears of an attack of rot but the vineyards were so dry that the rainfall was immediately absorbed. The second reason is that the extreme conditions extant in July had caused the skins to thicken such that they were all but impervious to any incipient rot attacks. The other effect of the more moderate conditions was to cause the *véraison* to terminate in short order which is to say by mid-August.

There was a relatively heavy storm on the 15th of August that did an enormous amount of good in reigniting the growth cycle and from that point forward maturities rapidly rose. What is interesting however is that despite the improvement in phenolic maturities, sugars climbed grudgingly and acidities were more stable than growers dared hoped. Most domaines began the harvest for their pinot between the 3rd and the 8th of September under near-ideal conditions. As is always the case, some began at the end of August and a few wouldn't begin until the third week of September. But most began in the first week of September and thus would make 2015 among the most precocious vintages in recent memory, joining those of 2003, 2007 and 2011.

A few domaines opted to begin later under the rationale that a full 100 days between the mid-point of the flowering and the beginning of the harvest had not yet been attained. For those that did wait for the full 100 days, they were inconvenienced by an extremely heavy storm on the 12th that dropped between 60 and 90 mm of rain depending on where the measurement was taken! That is a lot of rain in less than a day. This of course rendered the vineyards difficult to traverse and harvesting in the slick conditions is never ideal. Growers that did get caught though argued that the rain pumped into the fruit actually served to re-equilibrate it, which may be true though that claim is difficult to prove definitively. Each time I heard this argument I was reminded of the 2003 vintage where there was a highly animated debate between those who picked early and those who picked late and both sides believed they were right; 2015 is no different.

As an aside, while it is generally true that the late pickers won more than they lost in 2003 in that they made more balanced wines because of the more phenolically mature tannins, it is also true that those same wines tended to have riper aromas and in many cases jammy and/or prune characters. My view is that ultimately it was less a question of early or late than it was early or late *relative* to the crop load in a given parcel. For example, if one of your parcels had been damaged by the April frost and those vines there were carrying only two bunches per vine, then picking those vines in the first wave of the harvest in late August made sense. Picking that same parcel 7 to 10 days later in September virtually guaranteed you would be making wine from raisins with consequent negative effects on wine quality. In short, early or late is always a relative concept as crop loads dramatically affect ripeness levels.

Irrespective of when the fruit was picked however, one universal positive was that it was immaculately clean and as noted earlier, uniformly ripe. As such, domaines were able to harvest very rapidly as there was virtually nothing to sort beyond the odd leaf or insect. Potential alcohols were relatively strong and on average I would put them at between 12.5 and 13.5% though some of the late pickers saw levels that exceeded 14%. Total acidities averaged about 4.5 g/l (H₂SO₄ basis) which historically is quite low, indeed the lowest of any vintage between 1998 and 2014 with the exceptions of 2003 and 2009; by comparison, during this same period 2008 had the highest at slightly more than 7 g/l; as I pointed out in the summary though very little of this 4.5 g/l was malic acidity and thus the malolactic fermentations would have little impact, which is the exact opposite of what occurred with such vintages as say 2008, 2010 and 2012.

Yields though were another story and depending on the domaine in question, the location of their vines as well as the age of their vines, they were off on average 20 to 25%. Some domaines were seemingly unaffected and produced normal volumes and others reported yields off as much as 50%. What is interesting though, and consistent with the vagaries of the flowering, almost every domaine reported considerable disparities with one parcel producing normal yields and another down 50%. The key takeaway is that 2015 will go down as yet another vintage with below average yields.

The other material detriment contributing to the lower yields was that there was just not much juice in the berries. In fact it is instructive to point out that the bunch weights in 2015 were the lowest of any vintage from 1999 to 2015; by comparison, the next lowest was recorded in 2003 and the highest during this period was logged in 2001.

The very thick skins and high solid to liquid ratios explains why most growers performed relatively soft vinifications with fewer punch downs and more pump overs. Many growers told me that the imposingly structured 2005s were fresh in their minds while acknowledging that with so much potential concentration, it would have been ridiculously easy to create tannic monsters. Most wines were not chaptalized, partially because potential alcohols were already sufficient and partially because there was no need to prolong the vinifications by adding a bit of sugar towards the end of the fermentations. Just as was the case in 2014, another reason that most growers chose to vinify softly was that the colors and extractible elements came easily and thus it wasn't necessary to lean on manipulative techniques to obtain more. Given the cleanliness of the fruit and the softer vinifications almost no one reported any difficulties getting the primary fermentations to finish, or at least none that they chose to discuss. In the same vein, the malos largely concluded earlier than usual though that clearly varied from one grower to another depending on the ambient conditions of their respective cellars.

I should point out that more and more domaines are using at least some whole clusters in their vinifications. This trend has been on the rise for the better part of a decade and in 2015 those growers who had been tempted in the past but not pulled the trigger, reasoned that it was the perfect time to do so. The stems were ripe and either mostly or completely brown (*aoûté* as the Burgundians call it) and completely clean, which isn't always the case. As such you will find a relatively high percentage of the tasting notes that follow make reference to whole cluster fermentations. I believe that in a hot vintage like 2015 this was a positive development as the fermentations typically unfold at slightly lower temperatures which helped to freshen the very ripe fruit aromas. For example, I found that in 2009 those wines made with a significant amount of whole clusters were generally more successful than those that weren't. That said, there are plenty of sensational 2015s that were vinified with no whole clusters so there is no rule that says that one-technique is necessarily better than another.

The 2015 Côte de Beaune Reds:

So, as with every vintage, the two questions that take precedence over everything else always are: Should I buy the wines and if so, how much of them? As I observed at the very beginning of the 2015 vintage summary, the best wines are wonderfully refreshing, concentrated yet highly drinkable with solid but not aggressive tannic spines supplemented by sufficient but not high acidities. They are balanced wines built for medium to long-term aging yet should be reasonably approachable young if youthful fruit is your preference.

I noted several times the generally softer approach to extraction that many growers elected to use and thus most 2015s have relatively fine-grained tannins which should also help them to be reasonably accessible young. This is partially because the tannins are generally fully mature and partially because there is an excellent level of tannin-buffering dry extract that tends to render them less prominent at this early stage. Another reason is because the generally thicker skins of the grapes coupled with larger seeds relative to the generally small berry sizes made many growers opt for using fewer punch downs to avoid producing overly extracted wines.

As to longevity, the average upper level 2015 is built for mid-to longer term (and in some cases, very long-term) cellaring though as I also noted, many wines will very likely drink well on the younger side. By contrast some 2015s are unapologetically built-to-age and will require a minimum of 15+ years of cellaring before they will be reach their apogees. Moreover, there is not an insignificant segment of the 2015s (mainly the Pommard 1ers and the *grands crus* from the Hill of Corton) that possess the scaffolding to improve over a very long period of time, which is to say 20 to 30 years or in a few cases, even longer. In general I would say that the average 2015 is more structured than its 2009 or 2010 counterparts but somewhat less structured than its equivalents from 2005.

So as good as the 2015s are, as I have already observed, it's not a perfect vintage. Some wines are flabby, some are over-extracted and some possess somewhat roasted fruit characters or even brett. Perhaps the most pervasive nits, as noted above, are the roasted or prune-inflected aromas and the presence of finishing warmth. To be clear, and fair, neither of these faults is at the same levels exhibited by the average 2003 or 2009 but neither are they invisible. I should also point out that I am definitely sensitive to brett, prune and warmth plus it's my job to point it out where they exist. Each of you is sensitive to these factors to varying degrees and thus you may or may not find them to be an issue. As I commented, if you weren't bothered by these elements in the 2003 or the 2009 vintages then I very much doubt that you will be discomfited by them in the 2015s.

What to Buy from the Côte de Beaune in 2015:

As I observed in the vintage summary, wine quality is not only generally very consistent in 2015 but it's good everywhere in the Côte de Beaune as well as up and down the *appellation* hierarchy. But as I took pains to emphasize, it is particularly good at the lower levels and especially at the regional level. I have never recommended so many examples of Bourgogne and its related *appellations* and you can of course check out the Burghound Top Value Selections for an abundance of ideas. Virtually any of these will make for great choices for age-worthy all-around house reds and for very reasonable prices. In the

same vein, there are a huge number of exceptionally fine, if requiring substantially longer cellaring times, Sweet Spot and Don't Miss Selections that would make any Burgundy collector proud to own.

I should clarify that my stressing the superb quality of the entry level wines is not to imply that the *appellation* hierarchy was unimportant to wine quality because it was. The higher you go the better the quality and this is exactly what you would expect. The key point is that unlike some vintages when wine quality is not especially good at the regional and *villages* levels, that is most definitively not the case in 2015.

As I mentioned in the summary portion, quality is excellent everywhere in the Côte de Beaune and this is true from Maranges to Ladoix. Volnay and Pommard of course made some superb wines but a commune that rarely outperforms yet did so in 2015 was Beaune. I attribute this to the fact that too many wines from Beaune typically lacks concentration but such is surely not the case in 2015 and there are any number of outstanding wines to choose from. The Hill of Corton also did extremely well and this includes all three of the communes of Pernand, Aloxe and Ladoix. However, if I'm really splitting hairs, and admittedly I am, 2015 is as good a vintage that I can remember for Ladoix *villages* and 1ers and Aloxe performed almost as well. Another commune that I found to have made many really lovely reds was Chassagne and you will also see many recommended Top Value wines from Savigny-lès-Beaune.

2014 Côte de Beaune Reds Revisited – No Opinion Change, e.g. A Highly Variable Vintage:

My in-bottle tastings of the 2014 Côte de Beaune reds have served to largely confirm what I concluded last year, which is to say that when the wines are good, they're lovely and when they're not, well, they're difficult. The third consecutive year of hail that battered the center section of the Côte de Beaune (basically from Meursault to the northern sector of Beaune) had its predictably negative effect on the quality of the fruit and this of course was often reflected in the wines themselves.

On the plus side good examples are balanced wines built for medium-term aging yet should be reasonably approachable young if youthful fruit is your preference. Not surprisingly, the communes with the best performers in 2014 were those that were not hailed upon, which would include Chassagne, Santenay, Maranges, St. Aubin, Monthélie and Auxey in the south, and Pernand, Aloxe, Ladoix and most of Savigny in the north. If I had to name just one area that really stood out, I would suggest the Hill of Corton, in which I include Pernand, Aloxe and Ladoix. In particular the *grands crus* are excellent but don't ignore the 1ers either as they offer both fine quality and, in the context of what is typical today, very fine value.

What I like best about the 2014s is their transparency to the underlying *terroir* coupled with their sheer drinkability. This transparency is enhanced by terrific vibrancy because the wines really do taste alive in the mouth as they've got energy, or what I like to call underlying tension. They're ripe yet they are what the French call *digest*, or refreshing, where the first sip invites the next which is in fact what makes them so drinkable.

On the less positive side, when the 2014 reds are found wanting it is almost always because the supporting tannins aren't as ripe as would be preferable. This is true even for fruit that was harvested late in the context of the vintage. In the worst cases there is an unpleasant combination of slightly under-ripe tannins coupled with tangy acidity and this renders them noticeably drying, austere and clipped. With few exceptions these would all best be drunk young for whatever fruit that they offer. This of course is the broad brush description. I cannot stress enough that just because a given wine comes from a commune that suffered hail damage does NOT mean that it can't be good, or in a few rare cases, even excellent. It does mean though if the wine does come from one of these communes, that it is absolutely not one to buy blind as the risks of landing upon something that is imperfectly balanced is simply too great.

Pearl of the Côte – The Great Wines of Vosne-Romanée is now available as an ebook:

Please excuse the marketing plug but many subscribers have written over the years to let us know that they wished that an ebook version of Pearl was available. It required a considerable effort to redesign and convert the hardcopy version to an electronic one but we are happy to announce that an ebook version is finally available; moreover, it includes certain updates primarily with respect to the various vineyard holdings. If you would like to know more, please visit: www.burghoundbooks.com/e-book

Database Enhancements:

Also at the request of subscribers, we have added a link on our website (under Member Login/Info where you will find lots of useful info such as Issue release dates, etc.), where you can obtain detailed instructions on how to maximize the various search features of the searchable Database. I have included the link here for your convenience as it's worth checking out: www.burghound.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/database-ExtendedInstructions.pdf

A Word about the Tasting Notes:

99% of the following Burgundy notes are based on tastings conducted January and February 2017 in Burgundy; the other 1% were tasted from bottle in the last several months in the home office. Note: finished, bottled 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 2009's from a specific Burgundian producer and you do not see a particular wine in the database, it means that it was not presented for review and does **NOT** mean that it received an exceptionally poor score. If it is not in the database, it has not been reviewed. If you do not see any wines for a particular producer in a given year in the database, 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 *grands crus* stand on their own and receive no further distinction.

Burghound.com 2015 Vintage Selections:

The Top Value wines are those that are generally available in the market place at a price point of no more than approximately \$75 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 \$75 Top Value wines and the generally over \$200 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. Be sure to check out the various reviews for 2015 Beaujolais in the En Plus section as there are many excellent examples.

Burghound.com's 2015 Vintage Selections

The "Top Value" Wines from the 2015 vintage in this Issue

2015	Aloxe-Corton	Chevalier Père et Fils	(89-91)
2015	Aloxe-Corton	Follin-Arbelet	(89-91)
2015	Aloxe-Corton	Jean-Jacques Girard	90
2015	Aloxe-Corton	Rapet Père et Fils	(89-91)
2015	Aloxe-Corton	Rollin Père et Fils	(89-91)
2015	Aloxe-Corton	Tollot-Beaut	89
2015	Aloxe-Corton Vieilles Vignes	Edmond Cornu	(89-91)
2015	Aloxe-Corton "1er" 1er	Edmond Cornu	(91-93)
2015	Aloxe-Corton "Les Fournières" 1er	Antonin Guyon	(90-93)
2015	Aloxe-Corton "Les Fournières" 1er	Tollot-Beaut	93
2015	Aloxe-Corton "Le Suchot"	Simon Bize	(89-91)
2015	Aloxe-Corton "Le Toppe au Vert" 1er	Michel Mallard	(90-93)
2015	Aloxe-Corton "Valozières" 1er	Chandon de Briailles	(90-93)
2015	Aloxe-Corton "Valozières" 1er	Comte Senard	(90-93)
2015	Aloxe-Corton "Les Vercots" 1er	Antonin Guyon	(90-93)
2015	Aloxe-Corton "Les Vercots" 1er	Tollot-Beaut	92
2015	Auxey-Duresses	Armand, Comte	89
2015	Auxey-Duresses "1er" 1er	Armand, Comte	91
2015	Auxey-Duresses "Les Reugnes" 1er	Thierry Violot-Guillemard	(90-92)
2015	Beaune	Domaine des Croix	(89-91)
2015	Beaune "Clos de Dessus de Marconnets"	Pierre et François Labet	(89-91)
2015	Bourgogne	d'Angerville, Marquis	(87-89)

2015	Bourgogne	Billard-Gonnet	87
2015	Bourgogne	Bitouzet-Prieur	87
2015	Bourgogne	Chanson Père et Fils	87
2015	Bourgogne	Louis Chenu Père & Filles	87
2015	Bourgogne	Arnaud Ente	(87-89)
2015	Bourgogne	Château de la Maltroye	(86-89)
2015	Bourgogne	François Mikulski	87
2015	Bourgogne	Pierre Morey	(87-89)
2015	Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	Jean-Claude Bachelet	(86-89)
2015	Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	Jean-Marc Bouley	(86-89)
2015	Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	Pascal Bouley	(86-89)
2015	Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	Bruno Colin	(86-89)
2015	Bourgogne Pinot Noir	Cyrot-Buthiau	(86-89)
2015	Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	Anne-Françoise Gros	87
2015	Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	Michel Lafarge	(87-89)
2015	Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	Thierry et Pascale Matrot	87
2015	Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	Morey-Coffinet	87
2015	Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	Tollot-Beaut	87
2015	Bourgogne – Pinot Noir Vieilles Vignes	Joseph Voillot	87
2015	Bourgogne Pinot Noir “Les Barrigards”	Edmond Cornu	(86-89)
2015	Bourgogne – Pinot Norien	Thierry Violot-Guillemard	87
2015	Bourgogne Vieilles Vignes	Pierre et François Labet	(87-89)
2015	Bourgogne “Champs de Pommier”	Chevalier Père et Fils	87
2015	Bourgogne “La Chapelle Notre Dame”	Dubreuil-Fontaine	87
2015	Bourgogne “Le Chapitre”	Louis Jadot	(86-89)
2015	Bourgogne “Clos Bardot Vieilles Vignes”	Bellene, Domaine de	88
2015	Bourgogne – Cuvée Les Deux Papies	Alex Gambal	(86-89)
2015	Bourgogne – Cuvée Maison Dieu	Thierry Violot-Guillemard	87
2015	Bourgogne-Hautes Côte de Beaune	Jean-Marc Bouley	(86-89)
2015	Bourgogne-Hautes Côte de Beaune	Rollin Père et Fils	87
2015	Bourgogne “Hautes Coutures”	Buisson-Charles	88
2015	Bourgogne – Maison Dieu Vieilles Vignes	Bellene, Domaine de	87
2015	Bourgogne – Passe-Tout-Grains l’Exception	Michel Lafarge	(86-89)
2015	Bourgogne – Réserve	Bouchard Père et Fils	(86-89)
2015	Bourgogne Sélection Pomune	Parent	(86-89)
2015	Chambolle-Musigny	Bouchard Père et Fils	90
2015	Chambolle-Musigny	Joseph Drouhin	90
2015	Chambolle-Musigny	Anne-Françoise Gros	(89-91)
2015	Chambolle-Musigny	Benjamin Leroux	(89-91)
2015	Chambolle-Musigny “Les Cras”	Antonin Guyon	(89-91)
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet	Blain-Gagnard	89
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet	Château de la Maltroye	(89-91)
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes	Jean-Claude Bachelet	(89-91)
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes	Vincent et Sophie Morey	89
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Chambres”	Henri Prudhon et Fils	(89-91)
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean” 1er	Blain-Gagnard	91
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean” 1er	Jean-Noël Gagnard	91
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet – Cuvée l’Estimée	Jean-Noël Gagnard	89
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “La Goujonne Vieilles Vignes”	Hubert et Olivier Lamy	(89-91)
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Morqeot” 1er	Blain-Gagnard	92
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Morqeot” 1er	Jean-Noël Gagnard	92
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Morqeot – La Cardeuse” 1er	Bernard Moreau	90
2015	Chorey-lès-Beaune “La Pièce du Chapitre”	Tollot-Beaut	89
2015	Côte de Beaune	Joseph Drouhin	88
2015	Côte de Nuits-Villages “Le Vaucrain”	Louis Jadot	(89-92)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin	Chanson Père et Fils	(89-91)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin	Chevalier Père et Fils	(89-91)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin	Joseph Drouhin	89
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin	Alex Gambal	(89-91)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin	Benjamin Leroux	(89-91)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin	Philippe Pacalet	(89-92)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin	Mathias Parent	(89-91)

2015	Gevrey-Chambertin	Remoissenet Père et Fils	(89-91)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes	Champy	(89-91)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes	Pierre et François Labet	(89-91)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin "Carougeot"	Antonin Guyon	(89-92)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin "Pressonnier"	Harbour	89
2015	Givry	Chanson Père et Fils	88
2015	Ladoix Vieilles Vignes	Edmond Cornu	(89-91)
2015	Ladoix "Les Carrières" 1er	Edmond Cornu	(89-92)
2015	Ladoix "Les Chaillots"	Camille Giroud	(89-91)
2015	Ladoix "La Corvée" 1er	Edmond Cornu	(90-93)
2015	Ladoix "La Corvée" 1er	Michel Mallard	(90-92)
2015	Maranges "Le Croix Moines"	Camille Giroud	(89-92)
2015	Marsannay "Longeroies"	Camille Giroud	(90-92)
2015	Morey St. Denis	Louis Latour	(89-91)
2015	Morey St. Denis	Benjamin Leroux	(89-92)
2015	Monthélie	Bouchard Père et Fils	89
2015	Monthélie	Thierry et Pascale Matrot	89
2015	Monthélie	Pierre Morey	(88-91)
2015	Monthélie "Les Clous" 1er	Pascal Bouley	(89-91)
2015	Monthélie "Les Dureses" 1er	Thierry Violot-Guillemard	(90-92)
2015	Monthélie "Sous Roches"	Louis Jadot	(90-92)
2015	Nuits St. Georges	Chanson Père et Fils	(89-91)
2015	Nuits St. Georges	Louis Jadot	(89-91)
2015	Nuits St. Georges	Remoissenet Père et Fils	89
2015	Nuits St. Georges Vieilles Vignes	Bellene, Domaine de	89
2015	Nuits St. Georges "Aux Allots"	Benjamin Leroux	(90-92)
2015	Nuits St. Georges "Aux Saints Juliens"	Hubert de Montille	(89-91)
2015	Pernand-Vergelesses "Aux Vergelesses" 1er	Jean-Jacques Girard	92
2015	Pommard	Blain-Gagnard	90
2015	Pommard	Jean-Marc Bouley	(89-91)
2015	Pommard	Pascal Bouley	(89-91)
2015	Pommard	Cyrot-Buthiau	(89-91)
2015	Pommard	Aleth Girardin	(89-91)
2015	Pommard	Benjamin Leroux	(89-92)
2015	Pommard	Philippe Pacalet	89
2015	Pommard Vieilles Vignes	Jean-Jacques Girard	90
2015	Pommard Vieilles Vignes	Joseph Voillot	(89-91)
2015	Pommard - 1920	Cyrot-Buthiau	(89-92)
2015	Pommard "Brescul"	Thierry Violot-Guillemard	(89-91)
2015	Pommard "En Chiveau"	Buisson-Charles	89
2015	Pommard "Combes Dessus"	Marquis d'Angerville	(89-91)
2015	Pommard "Les Cras"	Roger/Joseph Belland	89
2015	Pommard "La Croix Blanche"	Parent	(89-91)
2015	Pommard "Les Noizons"	Nicolas Rossignol	90
2015	Pommard "Les Perrières"	Launay-Horiot	89
2015	St. Aubin "Derrière Chez Edouard Vieilles Vignes" 1er	Hubert et Olivier Lamy	(90-92)
2015	St. Romain Vieilles Vignes	Domaine de Bellene	89
2015	Santenay "Les Charmes"	Roger/Joseph Belland	89
2015	Santenay "La Comme" 1er	Roger/Joseph Belland	91
2015	Santenay "La Comme" 1er	Camille Giroud	(90-92)
2015	Santenay "Clos des Gravières" 1er	Hubert et Olivier Lamy	(90-92)
2015	Santenay "Les Gravières" 1er	Vincent et Sophie Morey	90
2015	Santenay "Les Passetemps" 1er	Vincent et Sophie Morey	90
2015	Santenay "Clos Rousseau" 1er	Cyrot-Buthiau	(89-91)
2015	Santenay "Clos Rousseau" 1er	Camille Giroud	(90-92)
2015	Santenay "Clos Tavannes" 1er	Jean-Noël Gagnard	91
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune Vieilles Vignes	Louis Chenu Père & Filles	89
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Grands Liards Vieilles Vignes"	Camus-Bruchon & Fils	89
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune "La Dominode" 1er	Louis Jadot	(90-93)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Gravains" 1er	Jean-Marc & Hugues Pavelot	92
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Guettes" 1er	Jean-Marc & Hugues Pavelot	92
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Hauts Jarrons" 1er	Domaine de Bellene	92

2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Hauts Jarrons” 1er	Louis Chenu Père & Filles	92
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Lavières” 1er	Jean-Jacques Girard	92
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Lavières” 1er	Bouchard Père et Fils	(91-93)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Lavières” 1er	Chandon de Briailles	92
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Lavières” 1er	Jean-Marc & Hugues Pavelot	92
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Lavières” 1er	Tollot-Beaut	92
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Narbantons” 1er	Jean-Jacques Girard	92
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Vergelesses” 1er	Simon Bize	(91-93)
2015	Volnay	d’Angerville, Marquis	(89-91)
2015	Volnay	Henri Boillot	91
2015	Volnay	Benjamin Leroux	(89-91)
2015	Volnay	Fernand et Laurent Pillot	89
2015	Volnay “Clos de la Cave”	Jean-Marc Bouley	(89-91)
2015	Volnay Vieilles Vignes	Michel Lafarge	89
2015	Volnay – Vendange Sélectionnées	Michel Lafarge	(89-92)
2015	Vosne-Romanée	Benjamin Leroux	(89-92)
2015	Vosne-Romanée	Remoissenet Père et Fils	(89-92)
2015	Vosne-Romanée “Aux Réas”	Anne-Françoise Gros	(89-92)
2015	Vosne-Romanée “Les Quartiers de Nuits”	Domaine de Bellene	90

The “Sweet Spot” Wines from the 2015 vintage in this Issue

2015	Beaune “Bressandes” 1er	Domaine des Croix	(91-94)
2015	Beaune “Cents Vignes” 1er	Bitouzet-Prieur	92
2015	Beaune “Champs Pimont” 1er	Clos de la Chapelle	92
2015	Beaune “Les Cras” 1er	Louis Jadot	(91-93)
2015	Beaune “Clos des Fèves” 1er	Chanson Père et Fils	(91-94)
2015	Beaune “Clos des Mouches” 1er	Chanson Père et Fils	(91-93)
2015	Beaune “Clos de la Mousse” 1er	Bouchard Père & Fils	(91-93)
2015	Beaune “Clos des Ursules” 1er	Louis Jadot	(91-94)
2015	Beaune “Grèves” 1er	Chanson Père et Fils	(91-94)
2015	Beaune “Grèves” 1er	Michel Lafarge	(91-94)
2015	Beaune “Grèves” 1er	Albert Morot	(91-93)
2015	Beaune “Grèves” 1er	Tollot-Beaut	92
2015	Beaune “Grèves – Vigne de l’Enfant Jésus” 1er	Bouchard Père & Fils	(92-94)
2015	Beaune “Grèves – Les Trois Journaux” 1er	Château de Meursault	(91-93)
2015	Beaune “Marconnets” 1er	Remoissenet Père et Fils	(91-93)
2015	Chambolle-Musigny “Les Baudes” 1er	Louis Jadot	(91-94)
2015	Chambolle-Musigny “Les Charmes” 1er	Pousse d’Or	(91-94)
2015	Chambolle-Musigny “Les Fuées” 1er	Louis Jadot	(92-94)
2015	Chambolle-Musigny “Les Fuées” 1er	Lucien Le Moine	(92-94)
2015	Chambolle-Musigny “Les Feusselottes” 1er	Pousse d’Or	(91-93)
2015	Chambolle-Musigny “Les Groseilles” 1er	Pousse d’Or	(91-93)
2015	Chambolle-Musigny “Les Sentiers” 1er	Philippe Pacalet	(91-93)
2015	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	Joseph Drouhin	93
2015	Clos de Vougeot	Alex Gambal	(92-94)
2015	Corton Grand Cru	Bonneau du Martray	(91-94)
2015	Corton Grand Cru	Chanson Père et Fils	(92-94)
2015	Corton Grand Cru	Rapet Père et Fils	(92-94)
2015	Corton Grand Cru	Tollot-Beaut	93
2015	Le Corton Grand Cru	Bouchard Père & Fils	(92-95)
2015	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	Chandon de Briailles	(92-95)
2015	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	Clos de la Chapelle	(92-94)
2015	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	Edmond Cornu	(92-94)
2015	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	Follin-Arbelet	(91-94)
2015	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	Antonin Guyon	(91-94)
2015	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	Pousse d’Or	(92-95)
2015	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	Tollot-Beaut	93
2015	Corton-Clos des Maréchaudes Grand Cru	Domaine du Pavillon	(91-94)

2015	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	Dubreuil-Fontaine	(91-94)
2015	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	Hubert de Montille	(92-95)
2015	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	Pousse d'Or	(92-95)
2015	Corton-Clos du Roy Grand Cru	Antonin Guyon	(92-95)
2015	Corton-Grèves Grand Cru	Domaine des Croix	(92-94)
2015	Corton-Maréchaudes Grand Cru	Chandon de Briailles	(91-94)
2015	Corton-Les Maréchaudes Grand Cru	Michel Mallard	(91-94)
2015	Corton-Pougets Grand Cru	Rapet Père et Fils	(91-94)
2015	Corton-Les Renardes Grand Cru	Michel Mallard	(92-94)
2015	Corton-Les Renardes Grand Cru	Parent	(92-94)
2015	Corton-Rognet Grand Cru	Clos de la Chapelle	(92-94)
2015	Corton-Le Rognet Grand Cru	Michel Mallard	(92-95)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin "Cazetiers" 1er	Bouchard Père & Fils	(91-94)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin "Cazetiers" 1er	Lucien Le Moine	(92-95)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Cazetiers" 1er	Louis Jadot	(92-94)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Cazetiers" 1er	Remoissenet Père et Fils	(91-94)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Champeaux" 1er	Benjamin Leroux	(91-93)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin "Clos St. Jacques" 1er	Louis Jadot	(92-95)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin "Estournelles St. Jacques" 1er	Lucien Le Moine	(91-94)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaut St. Jacques" 1er	Louis Jadot	(92-94)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaut St. Jacques" 1er	Philippe Pacalet	(91-94)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin "Petite Chapelle" 1er	Louis Jadot	(91-94)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin "Poissenots" 1er	Remoissenet Père et Fils	(91-93)
2015	Nuits St. Georges "Aux Boudots" 1er	Benjamin Leroux	(91-94)
2015	Nuits St. Georges "Les Boudots" 1er	Camille Giroud	(91-94)
2015	Nuits St. Georges "Les Cailles" 1er	Bouchard Père et Fils	(91-94)
2015	Nuits St. Georges "Les Cailles" 1er	Louis Jadot	(91-94)
2015	Nuits St. Georges "Les Damodes" 1er	Remoissenet Père et Fils	(91-93)
2015	Nuits St. Georges "Les St. Georges" 1er	Louis Jadot	(92-95)
2015	Nuits St. Georges "Les Vaucraains" 1er	Louis Jadot	(92-94)
2015	Nuits St. Georges "Les Vaucraains" 1er	Lucien Le Moine	(92-95)
2015	Pernand-Vergelesses "Clos de la Croix de Pierre" 1er	Louis Jadot	(90-92)
2015	Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses" 1er	Rollin Père et Fils	(91-93)
2015	Pommard "Clos Blanc" 1er	Launay-Horiot	92
2015	Pommard "Les Chanlins" 1er	Parent	(91-93)
2015	Pommard "Les Chanlins Vieilles Vignes" 1er	Clos de la Chapelle	93
2015	Pommard "Les Chaponnières" 1er	Launay-Horiot	93
2015	Pommard "Les Chaponnières" 1er	Parent	(91-94)
2015	Pommard "Charmots" 1er	Jacques Prieur	92
2015	Pommard "Clos des Epeneaux" 1er	Comte Armand	(92-94)
2015	Pommard "Clos des Epenots" 1er	Château de Meursault	(91-94)
2015	Pommard "Epenots" 1er	Louis Jadot	(91-93)
2015	Pommard "Les Epenots" 1er	Parent	(92-94)
2015	Pommard "Les Epenots" 1er	Nicolas Rossignol	(92-94)
2015	Pommard "Les Epenots" 1er	Thierry Violot-Guillemard	(92-94)
2015	Pommard "Les Epenots" 1er	Joseph Voillot	93
2015	Pommard "Grands Epenots" 1er	Louis Jadot	(91-94)
2015	Pommard "Les Grands Epenots" 1er	Aleth Girardin	(91-94)
2015	Pommard "Les Fremiers" 1er	Jean-Marc Bouley	(91-94)
2015	Pommard "Pézerolles" 1er	Michel Lafarge	(91-93)
2015	Pommard "Rugiens" 1er	Bouchard Père et Fils	(92-94)
2015	Pommard "Rugiens" 1er	Jean-Marc Bouley	(92-94)
2015	Pommard "Rugiens" 1er	Fernand et Laurent Pillot	(91-93)
2015	Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	Henri Boillot	93
2015	Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	Louis Jadot	(92-95)
2015	Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	Thierry Violot-Guillemard	(92-95)
2015	Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	Joseph Voillot	93
2015	Pommard "Rugiens-Bas" 1er	Billard-Gonnet	(91-94)
2015	Pommard "Rugiens-Bas" 1er	Aleth Girardin	(92-94)
2015	Pommard "Les Rugiens-Bas" 1er	Launay-Horiot	94
2015	Pommard "Les Rugiens-Bas – Hubert" 1er	Hubert de Montille	(92-94)
2015	Pommard "Rugiens Haut" 1er	Benjamin Leroux	(91-94)

2015	Volnay “Champans” 1er	Blain-Gagnard	92
2015	Volnay “Caillerets” 1er	Marquis d’Angerville	(92-94)
2015	Volnay “Caillerets” 1er	Michel Lafarge	(92-95)
2015	Volnay “Caillerets” 1er	Benjamin Leroux	(91-94)
2015	Volnay “Les Caillerets” 1er	Lucien Le Moine	(92-95)
2015	Volnay “Les Caillerets” 1er	Nicolas Rossignol	93
2015	Volnay “Caillerets – Clos des Soixante Ouvrées” 1er	Pousse d’Or	(92-94)
2015	Volnay “Clos de la Bousse d’Or” 1er	Pousse d’Or	(91-94)
2015	Volnay “Clos de la Chapelle” 1er	Clos de la Chapelle	93
2015	Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	Jean-Marc Bouley	(91-93)
2015	Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	Louis Jadot	(91-94)
2015	Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	Château de Meursault	(91-93)
2015	Volnay “Clos des Santenots” 1er	Jacques Prieur	(92-94)
2015	Volnay “Clos du Château des Ducs” 1er	Michel Lafarge	(92-95)
2015	Volnay “Champans” 1er	Comtes Lafon	(92-94)
2015	Volnay “Les Champans” 1er	Vincent Girardin	(91-93)
2015	Volnay “Les Champans” 1er	Hubert de Montille	(91-94)
2015	Volnay “Les Champans” 1er	Joseph Voillot	(91-93)
2015	Volnay “Les Chevrets” 1er	Henri Boillot	93
2015	Volnay “En Carelle” 1er	Clos de la Chapelle	92
2015	Volnay “Frémiets” 1er	Marquis d’Angerville	(92-94)
2015	Volnay “Les Frémiets” 1er	Henri Boillot	92
2015	Volnay “Les Lurets” 1er	Camille Giroud	(91-93)
2015	Volnay “Mitans” 1er	Michel Lafarge	(91-94)
2015	Volnay “Les Pitures” 1er	Michel Lafarge	(92-94)
2015	Volnay “Santenots” 1er	Roger/Joseph Belland	92
2015	Volnay “Santenots” 1er	Buisson-Charles	93
2015	Volnay “Santenots” 1er	Vincent Girardin	(91-93)
2015	Volnay “Santenots” 1er	Thierry et Pascale Matrot	92
2015	Volnay “Santenots” 1er	Lucien Le Moine	(92-94)
2015	Volnay “Santenots” 1er	Pierre Morey	(91-93)
2015	Volnay “Santenots du Milieu” 1er	Comtes Lafon	(92-95)
2015	Volnay “Les Santenots du Milieu” 1er	Arnaud Ente	(91-94)
2015	Volnay “Taillepieds” 1er	Clos de la Chapelle	(91-94)
2015	Volnay “Taillepieds” 1er	Hubert de Montille	(92-94)
2015	Volnay “Taillepieds” 1er	Parent	(91-94)
2015	Volnay “Taillepieds” 1er	Nicolas Rossignol	(92-94)
2015	Vosne-Romanée “Petits Monts” 1er	Lucien Le Moine	(92-95)
2015	Vosne-Romanée “Les Suchots” 1er	Remoissenet Père et Fils	(91-94)

The “Don’t Miss” Wines from the 2015 vintage in this Issue

2015	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	Henri Boillot	94
2015	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	Louis Jadot	(93-95)
2015	Chambertin Grand Cru	Henri Boillot	95
2015	Chambertin Grand Cru	Louis Jadot	(93-96)
2015	Chambertin Grand Cru	Launay-Horiot	95
2015	Chambertin Grand Cru	Benjamin Leroux	(93-95)
2015	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	Henri Boillot	95
2015	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	Bouchard Père et Fils	(93-96)
2015	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	Joseph Drouhin	94
2015	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	Louis Jadot	(93-96)
2015	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	Lucien Le Moine	(93-95)
2015	Chapelle-Chambertin Grand Cru	Louis Jadot	(93-95)
2015	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	Pousse d’Or	(93-95)
2015	Clos de Vougeot	Henri Boillot	94
2015	Clos de Vougeot	Joseph Drouhin	95
2015	Clos de Vougeot	Lucien Le Moine	(93-96)
2015	Clos de Vougeot – Petit Maupertuis	Benjamin Leroux	(93-95)

2015	Grands Echézeaux	Grand Cru	Joseph Drouhin	94
2015	Grands Echézeaux	Grand Cru	Louis Jadot	(93-95)
2015	Grands Echézeaux	Grand Cru	Lucien Le Moine	(93-95)
2015	Griotte-Chambertin	Grand Cru	Joseph Drouhin	96
2015	Latricières-Chambertin	Grand Cru	Launay-Horiot	94
2015	Musigny	Grand Cru	Joseph Drouhin	96
2015	Musigny	Grand Cru	Lucien Le Moine	(94-96)
2015	Richebourg	Grand Cru	Lucien Le Moine	(93-96)
2015	Volnay “Les Caillerets”	1er	Henri Boillot	94
2015	Volnay “Les Caillerets – Ancienne Cuvée Carnot”	1er	Bouchard Père & Fils	(92-95)
2015	Volnay “Champans”	1er	d’Angerville, Marquis	(93-95)
2015	Volnay “Clos des Chênes”	1er	Michel Lafarge	(93-96)
2015	Volnay “Clos des Ducs”	1er	d’Angerville, Marquis	(93-96)
2015	Volnay “Taillepieds”	1er	d’Angerville, Marquis	(92-95)
2015	Vosne-Romanée “Les Malconsorts – Christiane”	1er	Hubert de Montille	(93-95)
2015	Vosne-Romanée “Les Petits-Monts”	1er	Joseph Drouhin	94

CÔTE DE BEAUNE REDS – The 2015 and 2014 VINTAGES

Domaine Guy Amiot et Fils (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2015	Beaune “Long Bois”	red	(86-88)
2015	Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	red	(86-88)
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes	red	(86-88)
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean”	1er	red (87-90)
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “La Maltroie”	1er	red (87-89)
2015	Santenay “La Combe Dessus”	red	(86-89)

Thierry Amiot noted that in 2015 it was “ultra-important to watch the maturities closely as it would have been very easy to have excessively high alcohols. At several points during the growing season the vines, and particularly the young ones or those high on the slope, suffered from hydric stress. We chose to pick on the 5th of September as we absolutely wanted to preserve the freshness and I was afraid if we waited any longer that we would lose that element. Happily the fruit was super clean and this is true for both colors. I think that the whites will be approachable young and I would suggest not only drinking them on the younger side but at a few degrees cooler than normal.” Fans of the domaine will note that there is a new red in the form of the Beaune “Long Bois” that comes from a .25 ha parcel and in a normal year will produce around 450 bottles. There are also two new whites from Bouzeron and Meursault “Sous la Velle”; the details for the whites will appear in Issue 67. As to the general quality of the Amiot 2015 reds, I would observe that they are correct but not better in the context of the vintage, at least on the day that I tasted them. In particular the wood treatment seemed to stick out somewhat and while there is of course plenty of time for it to better integrate once the wines are in bottle, it’s also fair to note that several of them are quite toasty at present. (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.)

2015 Bourgogne – Pinot Noir: A fresh, bright and relatively cool nose offers up notes of red pinot fruit that are trimmed in earth and spice nuances. The lighter weight flavors are on the fruit-driven side but I like the vibrancy displayed by the ever-so-slightly rustic finale. Note that this should allow for a few years of development if desired. (86-88)/2019+

2015 Beaune “Long Bois”: Soft wood serves as a backdrop for the equally fresh and cool aromas that combine notes of both red and dark cherry along with a hint of earth. There is once again an attractive sense of energy to the round and nicely voluminous flavors that culminate in a mildly sweet, warm and softly oaky finish. (86-88)/2019+

2015 Santenay “La Combe Dessus”: This also displays a softly oaky character on the extract of red pinot fruit, pepper and earth-suffused nose. There is an appealing sense of energy to the delicious and lightly stony flavors that deliver slightly better persistence though here too the finish is slightly sweet and toasty. (86-89)/2019+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: A ripe array exhibits notes of fresh red currant, earth, spice and discreet pepper nuances. There is a bit more mid-palate concentration if less minerality to the medium weight flavors that terminate in an overtly rustic and slightly tough finish. This is old school in style and while it is not without a certain appeal, it's not clear that the finish will harmonize with time in bottle. (86-88)/2020+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “La Maltroie”: A mildly toasty if somewhat more elegant nose flashes notes of essence of red cherry, earth and a hint of black pepper. The sleek and more obviously refined medium-bodied flavors possess a lovely texture while delivering better persistence on the better balanced if slightly warm finale. (87-89)/2020+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean”: This is also mildly toasty though not so much as to suppress the pretty and expressive mix of red pinot fruit, earth and discreet floral scents. There is once again a step up in refinement as the middle weight flavors display good intensity on the sappy and mouth coating if mildly sweet finish. This is pretty in its fashion but the sweetness might be an issue if it doesn't eventually dissipate. (87-90)/2021+

Domaine Marquis d'Angerville (Volnay)

2015	➔ Bourgogne	red	(87-89)
2015	Bourgogne – Passe Tout Grains	red	(86-88)
2015	➔ Pommard “Combes Dessus”	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Volnay	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Volnay “1er” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Volnay “Clos des Angles” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Volnay “Caillerets” 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Volnay “Champans” 1er	red	(93-95)
2015	➔ Volnay “Clos des Ducs” 1er	red	(93-96)
2015	➔ Volnay “Frémiets” 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Volnay “Taillepieds” 1er	red	(92-95)
2014	➔ Volnay “Clos des Ducs” 1er	red	93

Guillaume d'Angerville described 2015 as a “vintage that gave us excellent quality but unfortunately not much quantity because even with a magnificent May and an excellent flowering, the accumulated stress of the hail damage in 2012, 2013 and 2014 plus the very dry growing season combined to make it difficult for the vines to produce very much. Just to provide your readers with an idea of just how dry it was, there was no recorded rain from the middle of June to the beginning of August. Thankfully there were several small storms plus a substantial one around the 15th that really helped with the *véraison*. We chose to begin picking on the 4th of September, which was a balancing act as that date was still only 93 days from the middle of the flowering. The fruit was both ripe and super clean which allowed us to pick rapidly. We did our normal vinification as there was no reason to do otherwise. As to the wines, what is interesting about them is that they are clearly ripe yet they remain fresh and harmonious. Moreover, and while it's hard to believe because the total acidities are not especially high, the associated pHs are comparable to those we obtained in 2010. As such the wines do not drink like they are the product of a very warm and dry vintage.” While the d'Angerville 2015s are clearly a product of their vintage, meaning that they're riper than what the domaine typically produces, it's equally clear that they also possess outstanding quality. Note I revisited the '14 Clos des Ducs below in bottle. (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, E-mail: charles@charlestaylorwines.com and Justerini & Brooks, www.justerinis.com, all UK).

2015 Bourgogne – Passe Tout Grains: (from a 50/50 mix of pinot and gamay). A pretty, fresh and peppery mix of various red berries precedes the delicious and solidly concentrated flavors that possess fine verve while delivering a refreshing and inviting finale. This is really quite good for what it is and would make for a good all-around house red. (86-88)/2019+

2015 Bourgogne: There is just enough reduction present to push the underlying fruit to the background. Otherwise there is both fine freshness and vibrancy to the firm, structured and serious flavors that also possess a refreshing if mildly rustic finale. This is an excellent wine in the context of the *appellation* and would make for a first-rate and ageworthy house red though I underscore that it will need to be cellared for at least a few years first. (87-89)/2021+

2015 Volnay: (exclusively from Les Grands Champs as Les Pluchots was recently replanted). A ripe, pretty and relatively elegant array offers up notes of black cherry, raspberry and violets. There is both more volume and richness to the sappy and caressing medium weight flavors that exude a fine bead of minerality on the well-balanced and impressively persistent effort. This is a concentrated *villages* that will also require a few years of patience before it will drink well. (89-91)/2023+

2015 Pommard “Combes Dessus”: (this is actually a *premier cru* but it is not declared as such). A ripe and dense nose is composed primarily by notes of plum, violet and warm earth nuances. As is typically the case there is more size, weight and power to the equally dense medium-bodied flavors that possess plenty of tannin-buffering dry extract, all wrapped in a firmly structured but well-balanced finish. Patience required. (89-91)/2025+

2015 Volnay “1er”: (a 50/50 blend from Pitures and l’Ormeau). Like the Bourgogne there is just enough reduction present to render the nose difficult to assess. On the plus side there is both more elegance and refinement to the utterly delicious and vibrant flavors that display a lovely minerality on the firm, vibrant and intense finish that is very well-balanced. Once again however note well that this is not without a certain amount of muscularity and thus at least 5 to 7 years of bottle age will be necessary. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Volnay “Clos des Angles”: (located in the Pointes des Angles). This is riper still with its liqueur-like nose of cassis, plum, spice and a discreet wisp of wood. There is excellent richness and volume to the velvety middle weight plus flavors that terminate in a sneaky long and mildly austere but also mildly warm finale. This should be more approachable young if desired. (90-92)/2025+

2015 Volnay “Frémiets”: (from a 1.57 ha parcel). A notably ripe nose stops just short of *surmaturité* while displaying notes of plum, black cherry, earth and a pretty lashing of spice elements. There is a bit more size, weight and mid-palate stuffing to the velvety and palate soaking flavors that are shaped by a markedly firm tannic spine on the gorgeously persistent finale where the only nit is a barely discernible hint of warmth. Lovely but once again, patience required. (92-94)/2030+

2015 Volnay “Caillerets”: (from two parcels measuring .65 ha). A beautifully nuanced nose reflects notes of both red and dark raspberries along with anise, cinnamon and lilac. The middle weight flavors are finer and more mineral-driven if somewhat less concentrated while delivering outstanding length on the stylish and classy finale. Terrific. (92-94)/2030+

2015 Volnay “Taillepieds”: (from a 1.07 ha parcel of 35+ year old vines). This is just as stylish as the Caillerets and even a bit more complex with its pure and equally elegant blend of red currant, dark raspberry, violet and equally spicy nose. The rich and powerful yet refined flavors possess first-rate mid-palate concentration along with an almost piercing minerality that really comes up on the youthfully austere, backward and strikingly persistent finale. About the only reproach that I noticed was a subtle hint of warmth but otherwise, this is absolutely lovely. (92-95)/2030+

2015 Volnay “Champans”: (from a huge 3.98 ha parcel). This is the first wine to exhibit enough oak to warrant mentioning though it’s not so much to dominate the spicy and earth black cherry liqueur-like aromas. The sleek middle weight plus flavors are given shape by the fine but dense tannins that carry over to the impressively persistent finish that is exquisitely well-balanced. This is an exercise in harmony and grace that should be approachable after 6 to 8 years if desired. (93-95)/2027+

2015 Volnay “Clos des Ducs”: (a *monopole* that measures 2.15 ha). There is enough reduction to push the underlying fruit to the background for today. The graceful yet precise flavors brim with both underlying tension and minerality and possess that beguiling quality of inner mouth perfume before delivering the best length in the range on the youthfully austere finale. This is very clearly built-to-age and it’s going to need it; indeed I doubt that this will arrive at its peak much before it sees its 20th birthday. I would further observe that while this may not be the finest Ducster of the modern era, it should ultimately give both the 1999 and 2005 a run for their money, which indisputably puts it in elite company. (93-96)/2032+

2014 Volnay “Clos des Ducs”: (a *monopole* that measures 2.15 ha). Classic ruby color. The understated nose only grudgingly reveals cool and ultra-pure aromas of violet, herbal tea, spice and a broad mélange of wild red berries. There is a really lovely vibrancy to the superbly well-detailed medium weight flavors that are intensely stony with a sleek and polished palate feel that carries over to the impeccably well-balanced, hugely persistent and youthfully austere finale. This is sufficiently supple that it should drink well on the younger side but if you wish to experience it at its peak, it will be necessary to have at least some patience. 93/2026+

Domaine Comte Armand/Clos des Epeneaux (Pommard)

2015	➔ Auxey-Duresses	red	89
2015	➔ Auxey-Duresses "1er" 1er	red	91
2015	➔ Pommard "Clos des Epeneaux" 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Pommard "Les Fremiers" 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Volnay	red	(88-91)
2014	Pommard "Clos des Epeneaux" 1er	red	91
2014	Volnay	red	87

Paul Zinetti, who replaced longtime *régisseur* Benjamin Leroux in 2013, commented that "I love the 2015 vintage. It has everything I look for in fine red burgundy with both energy and concentration. Unfortunately, there wasn't much quantity due to both the accumulated effects of three straight years of hail plus there was shatter during the flowering. Our yields were only 15 hl/ha and it's becoming a serious problem as we have lost the equivalent of almost 3 harvests in the last 5! I chose to begin picking on the 3rd of September and thankfully the fruit was incredibly clean so we essentially had zero sorting losses. Maturities were excellent as well as everything came in between 13.5 and 14.2% and thus nothing was chaptalized. The skins were quite thick and thus the colors came easily and there was such a high ratio of solids to liquids that I did almost no punching down; in fact I would describe my approach in 2015 as more of an infusion. I did use a small percentage of whole clusters though it was so tiny that I doubt that doing so had much if any effect. Overall, I believe that the wines should age well and for the first time in a while, I believe that the quality produced in the Côte de Beaune in 2015 is even better than that of the Côte de Nuits." I found the quality of the Armand 2015s to rise above that which is typical for the Côte de Beaune in this vintage and I would in particular call to your attention the Auxey "1er" and the Fremiers, both of which are better than they usually are. Zinetti noted that the 2014s, two of which were revisited below, were bottled in May 2016. As was the case in 2013, Zinetti noted that there is no Pommard "1er" in 2014 so it obviously was not presented. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA/NV/AZ/NM, Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, NY, 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, Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.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).

2015 Auxey-Duresses: (from Largillas). A moderately deeply pitched nose displays aromas of plum, violet and earth. There is both good volume and intensity to the lightly mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that possess fine mid-palate density that carries over to the solidly complex and persistent finale. This is quite good for an Auxey *villages* and worth checking out plus it should be approachable after only a few years of bottle age. 89/2021+

2015 Auxey-Duresses "1er": (a blend of two 1ers, Les Bréterins and Bas de Duresses – the vines run from 35 to 75 years of age). A slightly more elegant nose offers up liqueur-like aromas of dark cherry liqueur that are trimmed in soft earth and floral nuances. The medium-bodied flavors possess a slightly finer mouth feel along with more evident minerality on the refreshing, balanced, layered and lingering finale. This is a very fine Auxey 1er that should drink well after only 5 years of cellaring but reward 8 to 10. 91/2023+

2015 Volnay: Mild reduction is still enough to push the underlying fruit to the background for the moment. Otherwise there is a wonderfully seductive mouth feel to the lightly stony middle weight flavors that manage to retain good if not better delineation on the ever-so-slightly rustic finale. This is a relatively muscular Volnay *villages* that should drink well on the younger side if desired. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Pommard "Les Fremiers": A deft application of wood sets off notably ripe dark currant, blue berry, plum and earth-suffused aromas. The equally ripe, rich and velvety flavors possess excellent size and weight before terminating in an utterly delicious, moderately firm and attractively long finish where the wood telegraphed by the nose resurfaces. I very much like the sense of underlying tension and overall, this is a Pommard of relative refinement. Recommended. (90-93)/2025+

2015 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 75+ years of age). As it almost always is *chez* Armand, this is the most elegant wine in the range with a pure and strikingly complex, if reserved, nose of pure red berry fruit, earthy, floral and spice hints. The sleek, tautly muscular and powerful flavors are underpinned by slightly more sophisticated tannins and outstanding length on the beautifully complex finale. This is quite clearly built-to-age and it's going to need it. In a word, terrific. (92-94)/2027+

2014 Volnay: A discreet touch of wood sets off perfumed cassis, spice and plum aromas. There is both good volume and intensity to the vibrant middle weight flavors that terminate in a dusty and mildly edgy finish due to the hail. This isn't bad but I would advise drinking it on the younger side and with food as I doubt the edginess will ever completely dissipate. 87/2019+

2014 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 75+ years of age). This is markedly reduced at present so I would strongly suggest decanting it if you are tempted to open a bottle young. Otherwise the supple, round and utterly delicious medium-bodied flavors possess a sleek muscularity and solid intensity, all wrapped in a lingering finish that presently displays a hint of an edge that may or may not ever round off. As such my rating is a compromise as I suspect that this will develop even better complexity with age and thus even if the balance isn't perfect, the '14 Clos des Epeneaux should still make for a lovely wine. 91/2024+

Domaine Jean-Claude Bachelet (Gamay)

2015	➔ Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	red	(86-89)
2015	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes	red	(89-91)
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet "La Boudriotte" 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	St. Aubin "1er Vieilles Vignes" 1er	red	(87-89)
2015	St. Aubin "Derrière la Tour Vieilles Vignes" 1er	red	(88-91)

Brothers Benoit and Jean-Baptiste Bachelet called 2015 an "easy and relatively straight forward vintage that gave us good yields in white but very small volumes in red. Overall, we had about the same volume as we did in 2013 and 2014 but the proportions are not at all the same. This is to say that the pinot came in between 20 and 25 hl/ha and the chardonnay between 40 and 45 hl/ha. We picked from the 2nd to the 8th of September and brought in ripe and beautifully healthy grapes that averaged between 12.8 and 13.5% potential alcohols in white with slightly lower amounts in red. The reds are really quite lovely and we picked early enough to have a good compromise between ripeness levels and freshness. They should age reasonably well yet be satisfying young." I found the quality of the Bachelet reds to be basically in-line with what I found generally in the Côte de Beaune in 2015 though I would single out both the Bourgogne and the old vines Chassagne *villages* for special mention. (David Bowler Wine, www.bowlerwine.com, NY, Wine Warehouse, CA, www.winewarehouse.com, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, TX and 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).

2015 Bourgogne – Pinot Noir: A notably ripe yet fresh nose reflects notes of dark raspberry, plum and earth. There is excellent richness and body to the succulent and energetic flavors that deliver fine length and even reasonably good complexity. This is unusually ripe while remaining quite refreshing and this could be drunk young or aged for a few years to good effect. Worth considering. (86-89)/2019+

2015 St. Aubin "1er Vieilles Vignes": A more elegant nose presents notes of mostly floral and red currant scents though there is a hint of raspberry lurking in the background. The sleek, intense and vibrant flavors possess a lovely salinity on the dusty and moderately persistent if slightly simple finish. This is pretty if not particularly deep. (87-89)/2020+

2015 St. Aubin "Derrière la Tour Vieilles Vignes": (a 1er that is rarely seen as it's quite small). This is riper yet also remains attractively fresh with its layered array of black pinot fruit liqueur-like scents that are trimmed in hints of violet and lilac. There is fine volume and energy to the relatively robust flavors that are shaped by notably ripe tannins on the firm and youthfully austere finale. This should reward 5 to perhaps as much as 8 years of cellaring. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: (from Les Concis du Champs, Les Encégnières and Les Beuttes). A peppery mix of red and dark cherry displays plenty of earth influence that also characterizes the rich, concentrated and powerful full-bodied flavors that coat the mouth on the rustic but impressively long and complex finale. This moderately firm effort is really quite good and should prove to amply repay a few years of cellaring. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet "La Boudriotte": This is aromatically similar to the old vines Chassagne if perhaps just a bit more elegant. The sleek, intense and slightly more refined flavors also possess fine volume on the beautifully long finish where a hint of wood can be discerned. This is, as I noted, finer than the old vines *villages* yet there is still a robust and muscular quality to the palate impression and this will also need a few years of bottle age to round out and harmonize. (89-92)/2023+

Domaine Roger/Joseph Belland (Santenay)

2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos Pitois” 1er	red	89
2015	Les Maranges “La Fussièrè” 1er	red	89
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Cras”	red	89
2015	Santenay “Beauregard” 1er	red	90
2015	➔ Santenay “Les Charmes”	red	89
2015	➔ Santenay “La Comme” 1er	red	91
2015	Santenay “Les Gravières” 1er	red	88
2015	➔ Volnay “Santenots” 1er	red	92

Roger Belland told me that “I’m very happy with the quality of my 2015 reds as they’re balanced wines with dense but silky tannins that should enable them to drink well young but have no trouble aging well too. We chose to begin picking on the 6th of September and brought in ripe and notably clean fruit that required almost no sorting. Unfortunately yields were not particularly generous as they averaged around 30 hl/ha in red and only 35 hl/ha in white. Potential alcohols were right around 13% and we used between 40 and 50% whole clusters except for the Santenots where, as usual, we used 100%.” I found the Belland 2015 reds to be variable in that several of them were excellent and a few flirted with *surmaturité* and thus lack a bit of freshness. Belland noted that the bottling was done in September 2016. (T. Edwards Wines, www.tedwardwines.com, NY, USA; Berkman Wine Cellars, www.berkman.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).

2015 Les Maranges “La Fussièrè”: A moderately grapey nose also features notes of earth, spice and plum. The rich, suave and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors possess solid volume and a subtle trace of minerality while delivering very good depth and length in an easy-to-like and relatively forward style. Note that this should drink well immediately. 89/2019+

2015 Santenay “Les Charmes”: A discreet application of wood sets off the more deeply pitched nose that is of similar composition. There is slightly better verve present on the lightly stony middle weight flavors that are shaped by slightly firmer tannins on the youthfully austere finish. This is a quality Santenay *villages* that is worth considering. 89/2020+

2015 Santenay “La Comme”: This is notably more elegant with its ripe but cool nose that reflects primarily essence of various red berries, earth and a pretty floral nuance. There is both more evident minerality and a bit more structure as well shaping the delicious, intense and vibrant flavors that also possess better depth and length on the harmonious finish. This is lovely and as is usually the case with La Comme, the tannins are quite fine; this too is worth considering. 91/2021+

2015 Santenay “Beauregard”: Here the nose is definitely riper as there is a slightly jammy character to the liqueur-like aromas of plum, earth and soft menthol nuances. The exceptionally rich flavors still manage to retain a reasonably good sense of vibrancy on the delicious, sappy and palate coating finish. This is definitely a very ripe wine but one that manages to stay satisfactorily well-balanced. That said, I would not be inclined to age this for more than a few years. 90/2021+

2015 Santenay “Les Gravières”: This is ripe enough where there is a subtle hint of volatile acidity to the otherwise pretty mix of red and dark currant, floral and discreet earth nuances. The nicely rich and relatively refined flavors exhibit slightly more obvious minerality on the lingering finish. This isn’t technically perfect yet it is certainly delicious. 88/2021+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos Pitois”: (a huge 3 ha *monopole* of the Domaine, planted 50% each to pinot and chardonnay; the pinot vines are approximately 60+ years of age). This also displays a hint of volatile acidity though in this case it is extremely subtle and one would have to be exceptionally sensitive to it to find it to materially detract from the ripe array of red and dark pinot fruit that is laced with floral and earth nuances. The sleek and delicious medium-bodied flavors are shaped by pliant tannins on the lingering finish that is pretty if not as complex as it usually is at this early stage. 89/2021+

2015 Pommard “Les Cras”: The nose displays just enough reduction to warrant a thorough aeration if you’re going to crack a bottle in its youth. Otherwise there is fine volume to the utterly delicious and highly seductive medium weight flavors that evident obvious minerality, all wrapped in a saline-inflected, balanced and lingering finish. This firm effort should be reasonably accessible young yet possesses the stuffing to reward 5 to 8 years of cellar time too. 89/2022+

2015 Volnay “Santenots”: This is easily the most elegant wine in the range with its overtly floral-infused nose of essence of red cherry and raspberry where additional nuance is present in the form of spice, violet and lilac. There is excellent volume and intensity to the concentrated flavors that possess a sophisticated mouth feel along with the excellent depth and persistence. Even though there isn't really much youthful austerity this is still going to require at least a few years of cellaring first. Recommended. 92/2023+

Domaine de Bellene (Beaune)

2015	Beaune “Blanches Fleurs”	red	86
2015	Beaune Cuvée Cinquantaire 1er	red	90
2015	Beaune “Les Grèves” 1er	red	90
2015	Beaune “Les Teurons” 1er	red	89
2015	➔ Bourgogne “Clos Bardot Vieilles Vignes”	red	88
2015	➔ Bourgogne – Maison Dieu Vieilles Vignes	red	87
2015	Côte de Nuits-Villages Vieilles Vignes	red	87
2015	➔ Nuits St. Georges Vieilles Vignes	red	89
2015	Nuits St. Georges “Aux Chaignots” 1er	red	90
2015	➔ St. Romain Vieilles Vignes	red	89
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Hauts Jarrons” 1er	red	92
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Peuillets” 1er	red	89
2015	Volnay “Les Grands Poisots”	red	86
2015	➔ Vosne-Romanée “Les Quartiers de Nuits”	red	90
2015	Vosne-Romanée “Les Suchots” 1er	red	91
2014	Beaune Cuvée du Cinquantaire Vieilles Vignes 1er	red	86
2014	Beaune “Les Grèves” 1er	red	86
2014	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Peuillets” 1er	red	NR
2014	Vosne-Romanée “Les Suchots” 1er	red	89?

Nicolas Potel was unequivocally positive about the 2015 vintage, poetically describing it as one that “was just one long growing season of nothing but blue sky that lasted for 5 months. It was, to be completely frank, such a relief after all of the headaches that was suffered through between 2011 and 2014 and when you throw 2016 in as well, 2015 stands out as a pretty much stress-free vintage. If there was a way to sign a contract for another vintage just like it, I'd gladly sign today! Given how warm and dry the season was there was essentially no disease pressure to speak of and thus the fruit was exceptionally clean at the harvest. A lot of people began picking either at the end of August or the very beginning of September yet I didn't think that the fruit was 100% phenolically mature at that point and thus we didn't start until the 8th of September. The sugars had already stabilized but I was waiting for the acidities to do the same and when they did, I knew it was time. And because the fruit was so clean and the harvest weather basically perfect we picked fully 22 ha in only 6 days. The fruit was coming in so fast that I had to buy two extra presses so that my team at the *cuverie* could keep up with the pickers. The potential alcohols weren't particularly high given how warm the season was and everything came in, even the two regional wines, at between 12.8 and 13.6% and thus it wasn't necessarily to chaptalize. We used between 80 and 100% whole clusters as the stems were ripe and completely clean so I thought why not. As to the wines, they're ripe, clean, intense and possess fine transparency to the underlying *terroir* plus I really like the balance. They should age effortlessly well as they have everything that they need for a very long life.” Potel noted that his 2015s were bottled between December 2016 and February 2017, indeed several of the wines had been bottled only a few days before my late February visit. My take on the Bellene 2015s is that they are on balance about average in the context of the vintage though there is some variability, mostly for technical reasons; on the plus side, I in particular call your attention to the two examples of Bourgogne and the old vines St. Romain bottlings as they all offer excellent value. Lastly, Potel said that he preferred not to present the Roche de Bellene wines (his *négociant* operation) at the time of my visit as many were being prepared for the bottling. I will return in June to taste them and those will appear in Issue 68; there are however reviews for the now in-bottle 2014s below. (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, www.imperatrice.com.hk, Hong Kong/China).

2015 Bourgogne – Maison Dieu Vieilles Vignes: A ripe, fresh and agreeably complex nose features mostly notes of red and dark currant that are trimmed in just enough earth character to notice. There is fine richness to the velvet-textured flavors that deliver fine depth and persistence for a regional wine. This, along with the Clos Bardot, would make a very good choice for an all-around house red. 87/2019+

2015 Bourgogne “Clos Bardot Vieilles Vignes”: (from vines in Comblanchien; bottled exclusively for the Wine Society in the UK). A deft application of wood sets off exceptionally fresh liqueur-like aromas of red cherry along with hints of spice and earth. On the palate I very much like the intensity of the medium-bodied flavors that also possess outstanding complexity on the balanced and lingering finish. This offers very fine quality and it's one for UK drinkers to buy by the case. 88/2020+

2015 Beaune “Blanches Fleurs”: (from the *villages* portion of the vineyard). There is just enough volatile acidity to mention even though its presence doesn't materially detract from the ripe nose of red raspberry, floral and soft earth scents. The vibrant and delicious flavors are quite round and forward and terminate in a mildly rustic finish. Note that my suggested drinking window is shorter than would be the case for the tannins to completely resolve but the VA could become more pronounced with age and thus I would be inclined to drink this on the younger side. 86/2019+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune Vieilles Vignes: A brooding and somber nose consists of ripe plum, pungent earth and a hint of the *sauvage*. The solidly well-concentrated flavors are lush to the point of opulence while brimming with dry extract that buffers the moderately firm tannic spine on the mildly rustic finale. This could be enjoyed young. 88/2021+

2015 St. Romain Vieilles Vignes: A notably ripe and appealingly layered nose of plum, violet, earth and an interesting whiff of pomegranate. There is excellent richness to the overtly mineral-inflected flavors that possess plenty of salinity on the clean, dry (in the best sense) and balanced finale. It's rare to see a St. Romain with this combination of ripeness and concentration and I would highly recommend this as an inexpensive choice for a delicious, and unusual, house red. 89/2021+

2015 Volnay “Les Grands Poisots”: A background note of wood still easily allows the complex but not quite as fresh plum, dark cherry and warm earth scents to be appreciated. The dense, opulent and velvet-textured flavors certainly don't lack for richness as the abundant sap coats the palate on the ever-so-slightly warm finish. This is impressive in its fashion but the tannins stick out somewhat on the finish and the lack of verve renders the finish slightly heavy. 86/2020+

2015 Côte de Nuits-Villages Vieilles Vignes: There is a trace of *surmaturité* to the liqueur-like aromas of blue pinot fruit, plum and game. Otherwise the medium weight flavors possess a beguiling texture as the dense extract both coats the palate and pushes the moderately firm tannins to the background on the remarkably persistent finish where traces of rusticity and warmth arrive. I like the concentration and richness but the nose detracts mildly from the overall sense of quality. 87/2021+

2015 Nuits St. Georges Vieilles Vignes: (from Les Charmots, Chouillets, Aux St. Juliens and Argillats). This is the first wine to display more than a trace of wood on the red cherry, plum and distinctly earth-scented nose and while it is by no means overwhelming, neither is it subtle. Otherwise there is a lovely texture to the sappy and concentrated medium-bodied flavors that coat the palate on the lingering, serious and rustic finale. There is enough density present that the wood should eventually integrate and overall, this is recommended provided that you have the patience to cellar it for at least 5 years or more. 89/2023+

2015 Vosne-Romanée “Les Quartiers de Nuits”: This is also fairly toasty with background menthol nuances on the notably ripe yet fresh aromas of cassis, black cherry and lovely violet and spice elements. There is outstanding density to the velvety and palate-coating flavors that also brim with dry extract on the chewy and strikingly persistent finale. This won't win any awards for refinement; indeed it could aptly be described as old school, but if you have the discipline to cellar this excellent effort for a decade, it should amply repay the time invested. 90/2027+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Peuillets”: Here the expressive nose of red cherry, earth and floral hints plays right on the edge of perceptible volatile acidity. The rich, velvety and relatively powerful medium weight flavors possess fine volume and a subtle minerality on the mouth coating finish that flirts with rusticity. This is really quite good though I would qualify my rating to note that if you're particularly sensitive to VA, you would probably be better served to consider something else. 89/2023+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Hauts Jarrons”: A more deeply pitched and notably ripe yet fresh nose combines notes of cassis, plum liqueur and a wide range of pretty floral elements. There is fine volume to the mouth coating, velvety and impressively complex flavors that possess a highly seductively palate impression, all wrapped in a beautifully long finish where the only nit is a hint of warmth. This is a lovely if decidedly firm effort and like several of the best wines in the range, this will not be a good candidate for early consumption. 92/2027+

2015 Beaune “Les Teurons”: This too evidences just a trace of volatile acidity on the red raspberry, plum and violet-scented nose. The suave, round and once again highly seductive medium-bodied flavors possess excellent mid-palate concentration while delivering fine length on the structured and rustic finale. This is clearly built-to-age and it's going to need it though I am somewhat concerned that the VA, while presently quite subtle, may become more apparent with age. 89/2025+

2015 Beaune Cuvée Cinquantenaire: (from 5 different 1ers that include Pertuisots, Reversées, Montée Rouge, Bressandes and Clos du Roi). Generous wood and menthol aromas stop short of dominating the ripe red cherry liqueur, spice and floral scents where a touch of volatile acidity lurks in the background. There is seriously good volume to the concentrated and powerful middle weight plus flavors that possess terrific richness on the robust, rustic and slightly chewy finish. This has everything it needs for a very long life and once again my only concern is whether the VA will become more pronounced with age; my score offers the benefit of the doubt in this regard. 90/2027+

2015 Beaune “Les Grèves”: This too plays right on the edge of perceptible volatile acidity that doesn’t really materially detract from the red currant, cherry, earth and exuberant floral aromas. The suave, round and beguilingly rich big-bodied flavors possess plenty of dry extract that serves to buffer the moderately firm tannins on the impressively long and complex finish where a hint of warmth eventually emerges. I would again note that this is potentially better than my rating would suggest but it’s impossible to know whether the VA will become worse with time. 90/2023+

2015 Nuits St. Georges “Aux Chaignots”: An exuberantly spicy and floral-suffused array of red and dark currant aromas introduces suave and caressing middle weight flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the ever-so-mildly rustic finale. This isn’t especially vibrant and it’s certainly quite ripe but it is not without appeal as there is both fine richness and persistence. 90/2022+

2015 Vosne-Romanée “Les Suchots”: Like the Grèves, there is just enough volatile acidity to warrant mentioning on the ultra-spicy nose of various dark berries, plum and pretty floral notes. The suave, round and exceptionally rich medium weight plus flavors are very Vosne in character before culminating in a palate coating, robust and well-balanced finish. This is very clearly built-to-age and as I have mentioned in several of the above reviews, my only concern revolves around the VA. This is to say that at present it’s no more than a nit but it’s impossible to say how it will progress, if at all, with time in bottle. As such my score offers the benefit of the doubt that the VA will remain a background element. 91/2025+

2014 Beaune “Les Grèves”: A background whisper of wood sets off distinctly reduced aromas and it’s not clear that even extended aeration is going to completely dissipate them. Otherwise there is excellent volume and mid-palate density supporting the discreetly mineral-inflected flavors that exhibit a noticeably dry but not really bitter finish where the wood reemerges. As the description suggests this is pretty awkward and it’s hard to see time fixing the shortcomings. I would be inclined to drink this on the younger side as I’m concerned that it may very well dry out. Be sure to give it a thorough aeration while serving it with food. 86/2018+

2014 Beaune Cuvée du Cinquantenaire Vieilles Vignes: (from 5 different 1ers). As was the case when I initially reviewed this from barrel, reduction still dominates the nose. On the plus side the old vines plainly show as the medium-bodied flavors are indisputably concentrated with reasonably good complexity though the finish is somewhat tough if not unpleasant. That said, it’s hard to see this ever completely harmonizing. As such I would offer the same advice here as I did with the Grèves, which is to say that I would be inclined to drink this on the younger side as I’m concerned that it may very well dry out. Be sure to give it a thorough aeration while serving it with food. 86/2020+

2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Peuillets”: This displays enough brett to detract from the purity of the dark berry fruit and earth scents and it can also be found on the palate and finish where there is noticeable, if mild, gas. As is always the case with brett, some may very well like this character but from a purity standpoint, this isn’t what it should be. Not Rated.

2014 Vosne-Romanée “Les Suchots”: As was the case from barrel, there is just enough reduction present to mask the underlying fruit though not so much as to completely hide the pretty spice elements. There is good precision to the intense and muscular flavors that terminate in a slightly tough finish though I underscore that this sense of toughness is accentuated by the presence of noticeable gas. As my description suggests this is awkward and a bit disjointed today and it’s not clear whether 6 to 8 years of cellaring will improve the overall sense of harmony. 89?/2022+

Maison Roche de Bellene (Beaune)

2014	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	91
2014	Clos St. Denis Grand Cru	red	92
2014	Corton Grand Cru	red	88
2014	Coteaux Bourguignons Cuvée Terroir	red	85
2014	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	90
2014	Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes	red	87
2014	Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Champeaux” 1er	red	88
2014	➔➔ Gevrey-Chambertin “Lavaut St. Jacques” 1er	red	92
2014	Nuits St. Georges Vieilles Vignes	red	88

2014	Savigny-lès-Beaune Vieilles Vignes	red	85
2014	Volnay Vieilles Vignes	red	86

Please see the introduction to Domaine de Bellene above for further information. Note that 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, Oregon City, OR; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, and Graham Gardner through Folly Wines, www.follywines.co.uk, both UK).

2014 Coteaux Bourguignons Cuvée Terroir: A pretty and subtly perfumed nose speaks of red currant and plum scents. There is reasonably good volume to the delicious, rounded and supple flavors that culminate in a mildly austere and warm finish where a touch of bitter fruit pit is evident. This could be approached now or held for a year first. 85/2018+

2014 Nuits St. Georges Vieilles Vignes: Distinct floral, spice and earth notes add breadth to the mostly red and dark pinot fruit aromas. There is good vibrancy and detail to the muscular and moderately rustic middle weight flavors that are shaped by raspy tannins on the lingering and reasonably well-balanced finish. This is very Nuits in character and as such should require 5 to 7 years of bottle age to round off the underlying structure. 88/2021+

2014 Savigny-lès-Beaune Vieilles Vignes: There are plenty of forest floor, humus and earth characters on the somber dark berry fruit nose where a hint of exotic tea adds interest. I like the sense of energy and reasonably good depth of the middle weight flavors though the finish is rustic and borderline tough as I fear the supporting tannins did not attain sufficient ripeness. As such, even though the tannins are quite firm, I would still suggest consuming this on the younger side as it risks drying out with time in bottle. 85/2017+

2014 Volnay Vieilles Vignes: This is also notably somber with the same forest floor, earth and humus nuances to the various dark berry fruit scents. There is good richness to the mid-palate of the relatively suave middle weight flavors where the supporting tannins lack just the last 5 to 10% of phenolic maturity on the slightly warm finish. This is better than the Savigny as the finish isn't tough and it's perfectly good considering the difficulties Mother Nature visited upon the Côte de Beaune in 2014. That said, the balance isn't perfect and I would again be inclined to drink this on the younger side. 86/2017+

2014 Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes: A restrained and attractively fresh nose displays notes of red berries, spice, earth and discreet violet and lilac wisps. The sleek and intense medium weight flavors possess a polished mouth feel while delivering solid length on the discreetly mineral-driven finale where a hint of acid tang appears that imparts a trace of dryness. I like the style and the delivery but this was probably picked a few days too early. 87/2020+

2014 Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Champeaux": A discreet application of wood sets off a fresh and cool nose of earth-inflected dark berry and plum aromas that exhibit plenty of *sauvage* character. There is really lovely vibrancy to the well-detailed medium-bodied flavors that possess an attractive texture on the moderately austere, stony and complex if noticeably warm finish. This is certainly pretty and not without appeal but I find the warmth to be somewhat intrusive. 88/2021+

2014 Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaut St. Jacques": This is a bit more aromatically complex than the Champeaux because while the fruit profile is similar there is more of the *sauvage*-like earth, humus and underbrush influences. There is good vibrancy, detail and solid power to the medium-bodied and tautly muscular flavors that are shaped by slightly firmer if less refined tannins on the slightly austere but complex finish. Here too there is a hint of warmth but in this case it is much less intrusive if not invisible. 92/2024+

2014 Charmes-Chambertin: (from Charmes proper). A discreet application of wood sets off a moderately soil-inflected and attractively complex nose that evidences notes of spice, plum, forest floor and pretty wild red berry scents. There is excellent punch and detail to the velvet-textured middle weight flavors that terminate in a firm, ever-so-mildly rustic and austere finish. This is not especially dense or imposing but I like the complexity and overall balance. 91/2022+

2014 Clos St. Denis: A very pretty, indeed even elegant if somewhat brooding nose proffers notes of violet, plum, dark berry, exotic tea, spice and soft forest floor nuances. The rich and seductively textured medium weight flavors possess a caressing mid-palate mouth feel thanks to the abundant amount of dry extract that buffers well the supporting tannins on the mildly austere and strict finish. This is certainly attractive in its fashion but it's needs a few years of cellar time first. 92/2022+

2014 Echézeaux: Like the Clos St. Denis, there is a brooding character to the somber dark currant, spice and tea-suffused aromas. There is a velvety mid-palate texture to the delicious, round and seductively textured middle weight flavors that possess good verve on the firm, youthfully austere and again, slightly drying finale. I like the depth and on the plus side, this is relatively concentrated in the context of what is typical for the vintage but it's not clear that it will age out successfully as it may very well dry out first. My score offers the benefit of the doubt but at the same time I have shortened my suggested drinking window. 90/2021+

2014 Corton: Noticeable wood frames the ever-so-mildly reduced nose that will probably clean up as this ages. Otherwise there is a relatively round, sleek and punchy mouth feel to the nicely intense broad-shouldered flavors that possess reasonable depth on the muscular and moderately austere if slightly clipped finale. The supporting tannins are just ripe enough to prevent dryness though I doubt that this will ever be a perfectly well-balanced effort. 88/2022+

Domaine Billard-Gonnet (Pommard)

2015	➔ Bourgogne	red	87
2015	➔ Pommard "Chaponnières Vieilles Vignes" 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Pommard "Pézerolles" 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Pommard "Rugiens-Bas" 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	Pommard "Clos de Verger" 1er	red	(90-92)
2014	Pommard	red	86
2014	Pommard "1er" 1er	red	87
2014	➔ Pommard "Chaponnières Vieilles Vignes" 1er	red	91
2014	Pommard "Pézerolles" 1er	red	90
2014	➔ Pommard "Rugiens-Bas" 1er	red	92
2014	Pommard "Clos de Verger" 1er	red	89
2013	Pommard "1er" 1er	red	89
2013	➔ Pommard "Chaponnières Vieilles Vignes" 1er	red	91
2013	Pommard "Pézerolles" 1er	red	90
2013	➔ Pommard "Rugiens-Bas" 1er	red	92
2013	Pommard "Clos de Verger" 1er	red	90
2011	Pommard "Pézerolles" 1er	red	90
2011	➔ Pommard "Rugiens-Bas" 1er	red	92

Philippe Billard's succinct take on the 2015 vintage was that it "gave us excellent quality but only about two-thirds of a normal crop, which I attribute to the vines' weakened state from three consecutive years of hail damage. The flowering actually passed very well and there was only a bit of shatter. The growing season was hot and dry and particularly so in July where I was afraid we might start to see some hydric stress like we did in 2003. But as it turned out there was just enough rain at just the right times between August 1st and the 15th to avoid that. I chose to begin picking on the 3rd of September and the fruit was both ripe and super-clean so it made the harvest pretty easy to process. Potential alcohols were between 12.5 to 13% with acceptable but not high total acidities. Yields though were on the low side as even the Bourgogne came in at only 28 hl/ha, which is fine for a *premier cru* but not for a regional wine! Even so, while 2015 wasn't especially generous it was at least more than what I realized in 2012, 2013 and 2014. The total *cuvaison* lasted between 15 and 17 days depending on the wine in question and I racked off the juice a few times to make sure that it was well-aerated and to avoid extracting too much tannin, which by the way was a real risk given how thick the skins were. As to the wines, they seem to be freshening with each month and while they're still ripe, they don't really drink like they came from a very warm vintage." Billard indicated that his 2014s, revisited below, were bottled in April 2016. I also had the chance to revisit the 2013s as well as two wines from 2011 and I have included those notes below as well. (Margate Wine & Spirit Co., www.margatewine.com, NJ, Vintage Trading, e-mail vintagetrading@aol.com, NY and Scott Levy Selections, 770.730.0361, GA, all USA; Vignoble & Millésime, vignoble.millesime@wanadoo.fr, Beaune, France).

2015 Bourgogne: Deep ruby. The pretty and ripe aromas feature notes of various red berries together with soft earth and pinot spice nuances. There is excellent richness to the generously proportioned flavors that possess both fine complexity and persistence for what this is. Worth considering plus it will age if desired. 87/2020+

2015 Pommard “Pézerolles”: (from 60+ year old vines). A ripe, fresh and very pretty nose combines notes of red and dark pinot fruit with those of earth and lilac. There is a really lovely mouth feel to the sleek and refined medium weight flavors that display plenty of minerality on the balanced and nicely persistent finale. This is not particularly dense but the supporting tannins are sufficiently firm that I would suggest allowing this at least a few years to develop better depth. (89-92)/2023+

2015 Pommard “Clos de Verger”: (from a 1.5 ha parcel of 30+ year old vines). This is slightly riper aromatically with its mélange of plum, dark currant and pungent earth scents. As is usually the case this is both bigger and richer with evident muscle on the middle weight flavors that possess slightly better depth on the equally log finish. This is very Pommard in character and will need at least a decade to show its full potential. (90-92)/2025+

2015 Pommard “Chaponnières Vieilles Vignes”: (from 65+ year old vines). This too is notably ripe yet retains a lovely sense of freshness on the liqueur-like blend of red pinot fruit, warm earth and forest floor nuances. The palate impression of the bold and robust flavors is more powerful still while displaying an abundance of dry extract that does a fine job of buffering the notably firm tannic spine shaping the rich and sappy finish. Patience required. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Pommard “Rugiens-Bas”: (from 3 separate parcels totaling .75 ha which were planted in 1950). As is generally the case, this is more elegant and refined than any of the preceding wines save perhaps for the Pézerolles with its layered nose of ripe but brooding dark currant, violet and spice scents. In much the same fashion as the Pézerolles there is excellent volume and power to the broad-shouldered and overtly mineral-inflected flavors that culminate in an explosively persistent finish. This is not quite as chiseled as it usually is but the finish makes it abundantly clear that this is going to age for a very long time. Once again, patience, and plenty of it, required. Excellent and recommended if you have that patience. (91-94)/2030+

2014 Pommard: (from Noizons, La Vache and La Croix Planet). Here the nose isn't entirely clean though it's hard to discern why exactly as it could be rot or perhaps a dirty barrel. Otherwise there is good punch to the precise medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a slightly edgy finish that is mildly drying. I would be inclined to try this young as the dryness will likely become more pronounced with age. 86/now+

2014 Pommard “1er”: (from Les Poutures and Les Bertins on the south side of the village). Here there is more elegance to the bright and perfumed nose that consists mostly of plum, dark cherry and subtle earth hints. There is fine richness to the slighter finer medium-bodied flavors that possess a generous mouth feel, all wrapped in a firm and mildly astringent finish. I like the complexity and persistence but it's not clear that this will successfully age out as I fear that it may dry out first and my suggested drinking window takes this possibility into account. 87/2019+

2014 Pommard “Pézerolles”: (from 60+ year old vines). As is virtually always the case this is more aromatically elegant still with its airy and broad-ranging nose of red and black cherry, violet, spice and tea hints. There is a highly refined mouth feel to the delineated and stony middle weight flavors that possess really lovely precision before concluding in a liting yet entirely serious finish. While there is a hint of backend edginess this is really quite good considering how badly it was hit by the hail. 90/2021+

2014 Pommard “Clos de Verger”: (from a 1.5 ha parcel of 30+ year old vines). This is less elegant but compensates by offering slightly better complexity with its ripe yet cool nose of earth and *sauvage* nuances that add depth to the dark currant scents. There is very good richness to the larger scaled and muscular flavors that possess an interesting note of salinity on the firm and slightly edgy but not particularly rustic or austere finale. This should be approachable young if desired. 89/2022+

2014 Pommard “Chaponnières Vieilles Vignes”: (from 65+ year old vines). A ripe yet airy and dense nose presents various dark berry aromas along with plenty of earth, spice, violet and *sauvage* hints. There is a lovely texture to the concentrated and quite serious medium weight flavors that exhibit a subtle stony character before culminating in a dusty and quite firmly structured finale. I very much like the depth, length and balance but I stress again that Billard builds his wines to age and this will be no exception. 91/2024+

2014 Pommard “Rugiens-Bas”: (from 3 separate parcels totaling .75 ha which were planted in 1950). A highly reserved nose only grudgingly flashes its cool and admirably pure mélange of dark currants, floral, spice and discreet leather hints. There is fine richness but also excellent delineation to the stony, focused and powerful flavors that are very firmly structured on the gorgeously long and impeccably well-balanced finale. This is absolutely old school in style and if you're not prepared to cellar it for at least 7 to 8 years it's pointless to buy this. 92/2026+

2013 Pommard “1er”: (from Les Poutures and Les Bertins on the south side of the village). A pretty and ultra-fresh mix is composed by mostly red and dark currant, earth and forest floor scents. The sleek, delicious and well-detailed middle weight flavors possess a lovely sense of underlying tension before culminating in a moderately austere and solidly persistent finish. This is really quite good with only a touch of Pommard-like rusticity. 89/2021+

2013 Pommard “Pézerolles”: (from 60+ year old vines). This is also super fresh with a more elegant nose of cool red cherry, earth, floral and soft humus nuances. There is good volume but also good detail to the racy, delicious and vibrant flavors that exhibit the classic stony character of a fine Pézerolles, all wrapped in a balanced and lingering finish where the dryness that this originally displayed after it was bottled has largely dissipated. A classic Pézerolles. 90/2021+

2013 Pommard “Clos de Verger”: (from a 1.5 ha parcel of 30+ year old vines). A gentle touch of wood frames the earthier mélange of forest floor, herbal tea, dark currant, plum and soft violet aromas. There is fine richness to the solidly well-concentrated medium-bodied flavors that possess fine power and vibrancy on the slightly more complex and dusty finale. This is very Pommard yet it’s not rustic. 90/2021+

2013 Pommard “Chaponnières Vieilles Vignes”: (from 65+ year old vines). An expressive and more complex nose exhibits essence of dark cherry, plum, herbal tea, and earth scents that combine beautifully with rich, delicious and intense middle weight flavors that deliver excellent length and solid depth. The old vines are very much in evidence as the sap completely coats the palate and buffers the tannins on the ever-so-softly rustic finish. This powerful and old school effort will need most of a decade of cellar time. 91/2023+

2013 Pommard “Rugiens-Bas”: (from 3 separate parcels totaling .75 ha which were planted in 1950). This is the ripest wine in the range but also the freshest with a densely fruited yet airy nose of red cherry, plum liqueur, pomegranate, spice and discreet floral nuances. There is fine detail and plenty of minerality to the powerful, focused and balanced if slightly chewy finish. This is also very serious and old school in style and will need at least 7 to 8 years of bottle age and should reward 10 to 12; perhaps even more. 92/2025+

2011 Pommard “Pézerolles”: (from 60+ year old vines). There is a hint of herbal tea to the high-toned and very fresh nose that speaks of mostly red and dark currant along with hints of earth and forest floor. The supple, round and delicious flavors are relatively easy going while offering solid persistence on the mineral-inflected, dusty and balanced finale. While this could easily be enjoyed now it will need a few more years before it reaches its apogee. 90/2021+

2011 Pommard “Rugiens-Bas”: (from 3 separate parcels totaling .75 ha which were planted in 1950). An elegant, cool and moderately restrained nose offers up notes of game, earth, red currant and a whisper of spice. There is excellent intensity to the mineral-inflected, powerful and focused middle weight plus flavors that possess fine verve and fine complexity on the sneaky long finish. This is clearly built-to-age and unlike many 2011s today, this will not be a good candidate for early consumption. 92/2025+

Domaine Bitouzet-Prieur (Volnay)

2015	➔ Beaune “Cents Vignes” 1er	red	92
2015	➔ Bourgogne	red	87
2015	Bourgogne – Passe Tout Grains “La Grange du Duc”	red	86
2015	➔ Volnay	red	89
2015	Volnay “Les Aussy” 1er	red	90
2015	Volnay “Les Caillerets” 1er	red	89
2015	Volnay “Les Champans” 1er	red	90
2015	➔ Volnay “Les Mitans” 1er	red	91
2015	➔ Volnay “Les Pitures” 1er	red	91
2015	Volnay “Les Taillepieds” 1er	red	89

François Bitouzet said that 2015 gave him “some of the cleanest fruit that I have ever seen; in fact I used very little sulfur as the lees were super clean. Aside from some really strong early season oidium pressure, the growing season was relatively straight forward. I began picking on the 2nd of September with my chardonnay and then moved to harvest the Taillepieds as it’s always the most precocious of my pinot vineyards. The potential alcohols came in between 12 and 13.5% and thus nothing was chaptalized. Yields though were another story and particularly so in pinot. As to the wines, they’re clearly unusually ripe and they present another style compared to what we produced in 2012, 2013 and 2014.” Bitouzet noted that he bottled his reds in December 2016. I found that the quality of these 2015s to be very good overall though a few of them displayed some *surmaturité*. While not a fault per se, some may find a few of the wines to lack the freshness of a more classically styled vintage. (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, NY, USA; Direct Wine, www.directwine.co.uk and McKinley Vintners, www.mckinleyvintners.co.uk, both UK).

2015 Bourgogne – Passe Tout Grains “La Grange du Duc”: (30% gamay). A ripe, fresh and pepper-inflected nose displays primarily dark currant and earth scents. There is fine richness to the unusually full-bodied flavors that manage to avoid overt rusticity on the delicious finale. This could easily be enjoyed upon release yet it has enough stuffing to reward a year or so of bottle age. 86/2018+

2015 Bourgogne: A very mild trace of reduction is not enough to completely mask the brooding and notably ripe aromas of plum, dark berries and earth. The middle weight flavors possess a slightly finer mouth feel that extends to the delicious and lingering finish that exhibits hints of bitter cherry and warmth. This is a fine example of the *appellation* and would make a good choice for an inexpensive house red. 87/2019+

2015 Volnay: (from several parcels that include Ez Echards, Les Aussy and Les Petits Gamets). This also displays just enough reduction to warrant a thorough aeration because in this case it's enough to mute the fruit. Otherwise there is excellent volume to the rich and velvet-textured flavors that possess a rounded, even lush mouth feel, all wrapped in a sappy and lightly mineral-inflected finish. This is not as precise as it usually is and there is a touch of warmth but the fine depth and persistence compensate for this. Worth considering. 89/2021+

2015 Volnay “Les Aussy”: There is a trace of prune character to the liqueur-like aromas of plum, spice and earth. This is fresher in the mouth as the flavors offer good energy and detail that continues onto the balanced, persistent and relatively fine finale. This is one of those wines where the message sent by the nose isn't confirmed by the palate in the sense that it's riper than the refined palate impression would suggest. 90/2022+

2015 Volnay “Les Mitans”: (this will be commercialized exclusively in the US). The pretty, layered and ripe aromas of various red berries, spice and violets are slightly fresher. There is an even finer mouth feel to the lacy and discreetly mineral-inflected flavors that deliver fine length on the moderately structured finale where once again a hint of bitter cherry can be found. This is lovely and while it's certainly ripe, it remains refreshing. 91/2023+

2015 Beaune “Cents Vignes”: This is fresher still with its pretty nose that blends red currant and cherry aromas with those of anise and violet. There is a lovely sense of energy to the beautifully well-detailed medium weight flavors that possess a caressing feel to the mid-palate that tightens up materially on the firm, serious and mildly austere finish. This beauty should amply reward up to a decade of cellaring. Recommended. 92/2023+

2015 Volnay “Les Taillepieds”: A pungent nose consists mostly of reduction and whiffs of prune. The wonderfully refined and precise middle weight flavors possess first-rate complexity and I very much like the sense of class on the balanced finish. Like several of the wines in the range, this isn't easy to assess as the nose is *surmature* yet there are other attributes that may, depending on your preferences, make up for that. Note that this is built-to-age though be aware that the nose will likely always display a mild lack of freshness. 89/2027+

2015 Volnay “Les Caillerets”: Here too there is a hint of prune on the spicy and very ripe aromas that include hints of mocha and smoke. Like the Taillepieds there is much better freshness and vibrancy in the mouth where the abundant dry extract buffers the very firm tannins on the austere and very serious finale. Once again, the nose is the weak point here yet the palate impression is quite attractive. 89/2027+

2015 Volnay “Les Champans”: Once again there is just enough prune character to detract mildly from the overtly ripe nose that consists of liqueur-like red berry fruit, game and earth scents. The sleek, intense and lightly mineral-inflected middle weight flavors culminate in a firm, powerful and very structured and beautifully persistent finish. I would repeat here what I suggest for the Taillepieds and Caillerets in that I can't get excited about the nose yet there is quite simply terrific underlying material on the palate and this should live for a very long time. How fresh this will be when it gets there though is an open question that you should consider. 90/2030+

2015 Volnay “Les Pitures”: (from 35+ year old vines). In the same fashion as the several of the prior wines there is a touch of prune present though in this case it is quite subtle and doesn't fight with the aromas of violet, earth, licorice and dark berries. There is excellent size, weight, richness and power to the big-bodied and concentrated flavors that for all the punch manage to remain refined on the balanced and hugely long finish. Like the Champans this is a big and very structured wine that, because of the slightly fresher nose, gives me a bit more confidence for its longer-term prospects. 91/2030+

Domaine Simon Bize (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2015	➔ Aloxe-Corton “Le Suchot”	red	(89-91)
2015	Bourgogne “Les Perrières”	red	(86-88)
2015	Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Bourgeots”	red	(87-89)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Fournaux” 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Grands Liards”	red	(88-91)
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Guettes” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Marconnets” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Serpentières” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Talmettes” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Vergelesses” 1er	red	(91-93)

Chisa Bize professed herself to be “especially content with the raw materials 2015 gave us to work with as the season was so much easier than the last three! There was basically no disease pressure and about the only concern was the mounting hydric stress on the vines as July was really hot and dry. But August had a few storms and in particular a big one at the very end of the month perhaps made the biggest difference of all as it allowed the vines to bring the fruit to perfect maturity. I chose to wait to pick and began with the chardonnay on the 10th of September and then attacked the pinot on the 12th. The fruit was spotless and there was virtually nothing to sort. Sugars were good and even the acidities were good if not exactly high. The problem of course was the yields as we off 20% as there just wasn’t much juice in the berries. As usual we used varying amounts of whole clusters in the vinification and the Bourgeots saw fully 100%. 2015 is an excellent vintage as the wines are ripe but not too ripe because importantly, they retain adequate freshness.” Bize has fashioned some lovely wines in 2015 and I would observe that overall, the domaine moderately outperformed in the context of the vintage. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.leserbet.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, Magnolia Spirits, gatkings@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).

2015 Bourgogne “Les Perrières”: An expressive and layered nose reflects notes of plum, black cherry and earth. There is outstanding richness and volume to the mouth coating flavors that display both moderate rusticity and a touch of warmth on the lingering finish. (86-88)/2019+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Bourgeots”: (made with 100% whole clusters). The high level of stem inclusion is evident with herbal tea nuances adding breadth to the plum, dark currant and pungently earthy nose. The succulent and notably rich medium weight flavors also possess excellent volume, all wrapped in a sappy and ever-so-slightly warm finish. This isn’t especially refined but it doesn’t lack for concentration. (87-89)/2020+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Grands Liards”: An attractively fresh nose is composed by notes of herbal tea, dried flowers, spice and liqueur-like dark cherry aromas. There is both fine detail and a lovely sense of energy to the delicious and appealingly textured medium weight flavors that possess fine mid-palate concentration, all wrapped in a lingering and mildly austere finish. This should reward 5 to 8 years of cellaring but could be enjoyed young too. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Aloxe-Corton “Le Suchot”: (from vines planted in 1985). Here the nose is similar to that of the Grands Liards but with just a bit more complexity that extends to the sleek, rich and velvety middle weight flavors that culminate in a solidly long, balanced and refreshing finish. This moderately firm effort delivers excellent quality for its level. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Fournaux”: Green tea and floral aromas combine with those of spice, plum and earth. The supple, round and unusually forward medium-bodied flavors possess a generous, even suave mouth feel that terminates in a persistent and mildly rustic finale. This isn’t particularly dense but offers fine depth and length fashioned in a style that should repay mid-term cellaring. (89-92)/2022+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Marconnets”: A discreet application of wood serves as a relatively neutral backdrop for a pretty array of spice, earth and floral scents that are also trimmed in a touch of green tea nuances. There is a bit more mid-palate concentration as well as more evident minerality to the middle weight flavors that possess a beguiling texture while offering solid length on the mildly rustic finish. This is also a bit firmer and will need most of a decade to mature. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Serpentières”: A pretty and well-layered mix reflects notes of green tea, violet, lilac, dried herb and a lovely array of ripe wild red berries. The impressively rich flavors possess a velvety-texture yet in contrast to the Marconnets, the tannins are much finer, indeed this could aptly be described as a Serpentières of finesse. That said, the supporting structure is dense but fine and this too should repay up to a decade of bottle age. (90-93)/2023+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Talmettes”: This is aromatically cooler and a bit more restrained though not quite as complex with its elegant blend of red currant, violet, plum and soft earth hints. I very much like the silky mouth feel of the more obviously mineral-inflected flavors that deliver fine length on the mildly austere finale. This is presently less complex than the best in the range but the delivery is absolutely lovely and if more depth develops this could be excellent in time. (90-92)/2022+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Vergelesses”: This is the first wine to display more than a soupçon of wood though it’s not enough to dominate the notably ripe yet fresh mix of liqueur-like red and dark cherry, floral and warm earth scents. This is also a bit more refined than usual though the typical muscle of a hallmark Vergelesses is present as well on the powerful and sneaky long finish. This is built-to-age and it’s going to need every bit of 10 to 12 years to reach full maturity. (91-93)/2025+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Guettes”: This too is endowed with moderate wood influence that frames the pungently earthy aromas of red and dark currant, violet and lilac-scented nose. There is excellent volume to the sappy and velvety medium-bodied flavors that possess a dusty texture on the mineral-inflected and moderately austere finale. This is quite firm and I would recommend buying this only if you have the patience to allow it at least 6 to 8 years of bottle age. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Latricières-Chambertin: (from a leased .3 ha parcel of 35+ year old vines). A brooding, cool and restrained nose offers up an elegant mélange of forest floor, smoke, game and plenty of floral characters. There is excellent punch and fine detail to the equally mineral-driven, focused and powerful flavors that are at once succulent but precise. This is a classically styled Latricières of grace and balance though note well that this is going to require extended cellaring. (91-94)/2030+

Domaine Blain-Gagnard (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2015	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet	red	89
2015	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean” 1er	red	91
2015	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot” 1er	red	92
2015	➔ Pommard	red	90
2015	➔ Volnay “Champans” 1er	red	92
2015	➔ Volnay “Pitures” 1er	red	91

The shy and modest Jean-Marc Blain declared that 2015 is a “rich, ripe and full-bodied vintage where it was absolutely critical to pick early or you risked having heavy whites and *surmature* reds. I chose to begin picking on the 31st of August and brought fruit that was as clean as I have ever seen. However, even with such an early harvest date the potential alcohols ranged from 12.2 to 13%. Volumes though were low as we were down from 25 to 30% in the white 1ers and 30 to 50% in the *grands crus* and the reds. I like the vintage quite a bit and while it’s perhaps not classic, I am convinced that the decision to pick early was the right one under the circumstances.” I have to agree with Blain’s assessment as he indisputably outperformed in 2015 and in both colors. But for a domaine that is much better known for the quality of its whites, I was seriously impressed by the quality of the reds. In particular, he fashioned one of the very best examples of Morgeot in the entire vintage and it’s a wine that’s well worth seeking out. In the same vein, the Pommard *villages* is outstanding for its level and worth checking out. Blain noted that the 2015 reds were bottled in January and February 2016 without fining or filtration. (Treasury Château & Estates Wines, www.tweglobal.com, CA, USA; Majestic Wine Warehouse, www.majestic.co.uk, Laytons, www.laytons.co.uk, John Armit Wines, www.armit.co.uk and Haynes, Domaine Direct, www.domainedirect.co.uk, Hanson & Clark, www.hhandc.co.uk, all UK).

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet: (from Les Chaumes, Champs de Morjot, La Goujonne and La Canière). A fresh, ripe and beautifully layered nose consists mostly of red and dark raspberry, violet and discreet black pepper nuances. There is a lovely sense of energy to the delicious middle weight flavors that possess fine volume while the finish is shaped by rounded and well-integrated tannins. This is an excellent Chassagne *villages* and will age yet drink well young too. 89/2021+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean”: A more elegant nose offers up notes of fresh red currant along with more obvious floral nuances if less earth and pepper hints. As one would expect there is more refinement present on the lightly mineral-inflected and sleek medium weight flavors where the finish really fans out on. Lovely juice that should also repay mid-term cellaring yet be reasonably approachable young. 91/2022+

2015 Volnay “Pitures”: (from Chanlins). This is also quite pretty while displaying a different aromatic profile of violet, plum, earth and a subtle spiciness. I very much like the mouth feel of the slightly bigger and more muscular flavors that possess both fine vibrancy and concentration, all wrapped in an intensely mineral-driven finish where a hint of bitter cherry emerges. Good stuff but note that here it’s going to need at least a few years of cellaring first as it’s presently quite tight. 91/2023+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot”: (from Champ Jendreau and Les Boirettes). This is quite aromatically similar to the Chassagne villages but with better complexity. The dense, serious and well-constituted medium-bodied flavors coat the palate with sappy dry extract that helps to buffer the firm tannic spine on the impressively deep and persistent if moderately rustic finish. This is very Morgeot in style as it’s robust and powerful and should age effortlessly for years. Highly recommended if you enjoy Chassagne reds. 92/2023+

2015 Pommard: (from Les Combes Dessous and La Croix Planet). A ripe, cool and admirably pure nose reflects notes of lilac, plum and various dark berry scents that are liberally cut with earth nuances. There is excellent punch to the delicious, detailed and relatively sleek flavors that possess outstanding depth and persistence for a *villages* level wine. This is very Pommard in style yet not especially rustic or austere. This too is highly recommended. 90/2022+

2015 Volnay “Champans”: This is the only wine in the range to display any appreciable amount of wood though not so much as to impair the sense of purity to the liqueur-like red cherry aromas that evidence plenty of floral character and in particular rose petal. There is excellent concentration to the elegant and refined medium weight flavors that brim with minerality on the robust, intense and powerful finish. In a word, impressive. 92/2025+

Domaine Henri Boillot (Volnay)

2015	Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	red	86
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	red	93
2015	➔ Volnay	red	91
2015	➔ Volnay “Les Caillerets” 1er	red	94
2015	➔ Volnay “Les Chevrets” 1er	red	93
2015	➔ Volnay “Les Frémiets” 1er	red	92

Henri Boillot’s son Guillaume is now overseeing the production of the reds for both the Maison (see immediately below) and Domaine operations. The younger Boillot, who is already displaying an unusually sure touch for someone so young, described 2015 as a “vintage that was easy to manage as we made only six treatments that entire season as opposed to the 9 to 15 we usually make. We chose to begin picking the whites on the 26th of August and then picked the reds from the 1st to the 7th of September. The fruit was strikingly clean and quite ripe yet not overly so as we are very conscious of the acid levels in our wines. The potential alcohols were excellent and we chaptalized nothing. With the exception of the Clos de Vougeot where I chose to use 30% whole clusters, I did my normal vinification that lasted from 15 to 20 days with no punch downs at all. The skins were so thick and there was so little juice in the berries that it would have been easy to over extract the structural elements in the fruit. In fact, to give you an idea we actually had trouble crushing the fruit. The absence of juice in the berries contributed greatly to the low yields we obtained and while it’s hard to believe, we actually realized lower volumes in 2015 than we did in 2014 even with the hail damage! Overall, 2015 produced ripe but balanced reds that should age well over the medium-term though a few may surprise people with how well they last.” This domaine rarely seems to miss anymore and 2015 is certainly no exception and this is true of not only both colors but I include the *négociant* wines in this statement. Boillot noted that the reds were bottled in December 2016. (Chelsea Ventures, LLC, www.chelseaventures.us, IL, Milton Road Trading Corp, LLC, www.miltonroadtrading.com, CA 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).

2015 Bourgogne – Pinot Noir: A ripe, fresh and attractively layered nose consists of both red and dark currant aromas that are laced with plenty of earth influence. The fleshy, round and delicious flavors possess excellent volume while terminating in a sappy if slightly warm finish. This is more forward than usual and made in an easy-to-like style. 86/2018+

2015 Volnay: (from declassified Clos de la Rougeotte). A deft application of wood sets off the ripe aromas of plum, cassis and violet. The medium weight flavors are notably finer as well as much more precise with an appealing bead of minerality on the beautifully textured finish that delivers excellent depth and length. This is a first-rate *villages* though in fairness, it's a *premier cru* in all but name. Recommended. 91/2021+

2015 Volnay “Les Chevrets”: (from 25+ year old vines). A restrained, cool and beautifully elegant array of spice and violet-infused dark pinot fruit precedes the vibrant and mineral-driven flavors where the supporting tannins are even finer. I very much like the delivery plus there is first-rate depth and length on the balanced finish. This is very Volnay in style and is a wine of class and grace. 93/2023+

2015 Volnay “Les Frémiets”: This is slightly riper than the Chevrets though it remains quite fresh with its aromas of plum liqueur, spice and soft floral nuances. There is exceptional richness to the concentrated, suave and highly seductive flavors that are shaped by a firm lashing of tannin on the ever-so-mildly warm finish. Note that this will require at least some patience. 92/2025+

2015 Volnay “Les Caillerets”: (from a .60 ha parcel). A deft touch of wood sets off a beautifully complex and relatively high-toned nose that combines copious spice notes along with aromas of red and blue pinot fruit, plum and an interesting hint of orange peel. The rich, intense and defined medium-weight plus flavors are also blessed with plenty of dry extract that stains the palate on the impressively persistent finish where once again a touch of bitter cherry appears. This beauty should be terrific in time. 94/2027+

2015 Pommard “Les Rugiens”: (from equally sized parcels in both Rugiens Hauts and Bas that measure ~1 ha). The restrained, indeed almost mute, nose only grudgingly reveals notes of plum, blueberry and violet along with hints of stone and earth. There is fine power to the detailed, precise and energetic middle weight flavors that brim with minerality where the finish is shaped by relatively fine tannins and delivers excellent length. There is good buffering sap and I very much like the balance of this classy if muscular and tension-filled effort. This too should be terrific in time. 93/2030+

Maison Henri Boillot (Meursault)

2015	Bonnes Mares	Grand Cru	red	94
2015	Chambertin	Grand Cru	red	95
2015	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze	Grand Cru	red	95
2015	Clos de Vougeot	Grand Cru	red	94

See Domaine Henri Boillot for the associated 2015 vintage comments. Note that except for the Clos de Bèze, Boillot has been responsible for all of the vineyard work as well as the harvest for these *appellations* since 2007. (Chelsea Ventures, LLC, www.chelseaventures.us, IL and Milton Road Trading Corp, LLC, www.miltonroadtrading.com, CA 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).

2015 Clos de Vougeot: (from a ~.34 ha parcel in Grand Maupertuis). A beautifully fresh nose flashes plenty of floral elements on the liqueur-like aromas of dark berries and earth that are trimmed in just enough wood to notice. There is excellent volume and mid-palate concentration to the powerful medium-bodied flavors where the supporting tannins are actually quite fine and particularly so for Clos de Vougeot, all wrapped in an impressively persistent finish where hints of warmth and austerity appear. Patience absolutely required. 94/2030+

2015 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: A deft but not invisible touch of wood frames overtly spicy and notably ripe purple fruit, in particular plum, together with notes of tea, violet and anise. The succulent yet imposingly scaled big-bodied flavors possess seemingly endless reserves of palate coating dry extract and this is a good thing as the supporting tannic spine is notably firm on the driving finish where the wood resurfaces. While this is actually sufficiently forward that it could be enjoyed young, I would strongly advise treating this as a “buy and forget you own it” wine as the upside potential is remarkable. 95/2032+

2015 Chambertin: (near the very top of the vineyard and atypically, the rows are planted North-South). Despite the nose being notably ripe it is both highly restrained and brooding as it requires considerable swirling to liberate the dark currant liqueur, plum, wet stone, spice and game scents. Somewhat counterintuitively, there is a slightly finer mouth feel to the more mineral-driven if somewhat less powerful medium weight plus flavors that possess a genuinely marvelous mouth feel, all wrapped in a backward but not really austere finale. That said, this is very clearly built-to-age and is likely to require every bit of 20 years before it finally reaches its apogee. Like the Clos de Bèze, this is a buy and forget wine. 95/2033+

2015 Bonnes Mares: (from Chambolle fruit). Enough wood to mention frames the markedly ripe nose of plum liqueur, spice and pungent earth aromas. The mouth feel of the big-bodied but not massive flavors is sleekly muscular and the sense of balance is enhanced by the underlying tension that really comes up on the sappy, long and succulent finale. While this is also reasonably firm, it is not nearly as structured as either the Chambertin or the Bèze. Excellent. 94/2027+

Domaine Bonneau du Martray (Pernand-Vergelesses)

2015	Corton Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2014	Corton Grand Cru	red	93

I will have Jean-Charles le Bault de la Morinière's broader views of the 2015 vintage in Issue 67. With respect to the red Corton, he noted that it was picked on the first of September with yields of around ~17 hl/ha, which is around 50% less than is usual. He further noted that the fruit was quite clean as less than 1% of the fruit was eliminated and most of that was due to second generation berries that were not fully ripe. The total *cuvaison* lasted 17 days. Note the '14 was revisited below in bottle. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France is the US Agent; Martin Scott Wines www.martinscottwines.com, NY, 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).

2015 Corton: (from a 1.5 ha parcel in Le Charlemagne). Exuberantly spicy and earth-suffused black cherry liqueur-like aromas introduce rich, concentrated and suave big-bodied flavors that possess a lovely sense of vibrancy before culminating in an attractively textured finish where the only nit is a hint of warmth. This built-to-age Corton manages to be both concentrated and serious yet not at all rustic. (91-94)/2027+

2014 Corton: (from a 1.5 ha parcel in Le Charlemagne). A cool and ultra-pure nose features notes of both red and dark cherry, earth, spice and plenty of earth character that is also reflected by the sleek and relatively refined middle weight flavors that evidence a firm muscularity, all wrapped in a moderately structured, youthfully austere and well-balanced finale. This is very Corton in basic disposition but like the 2015, it's not particularly rustic and should age well for 15+ years. 93/2029+

Maison Bouchard Père & Fils (Beaune)

2015	Beaune du Château "1er" 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Beaune "Grèves – Vigne de l'Enfant Jésus" 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Beaune "Clos de la Mousse" 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2015	➔ Bourgogne – Réserve	red	(86-89)
2015	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	red	(93-96)
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny	red	90
2015	Chapelle-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2015	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	Le Corton Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2015	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin	red	(88-91)
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin "Cazetiers" 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	➔ Monthélie	red	89
2015	➔ Nuits St. Georges "Les Cailles" 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	➔ Pommard "Rugiens" 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	88
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières" 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	➔ Volnay "Les Caillerets – Ancienne Cuvée Carnot" 1er	red	(92-95)

Winemaker Frédéric Weber is always a wealth of detail regarding the intricacies of the growing season and regarding the 2015 vintage, he explained that “the vines seemed to get what they needed just when they needed it. The early season was hot and dry and in my view the huge rainstorm that we had, which dropped between 55 and 100 mm, just after the flowering not only saved the vintage but transformed it into a great one. I say this because it enabled the vines to endure the baking July heat without too much hydric stress. Moreover we had several other storms at the beginning, middle and end of August that provided the vines with just enough water to keep the photosynthetic processes working as they should. A significant number of growers started picking in the last week of August but we felt that it was necessary to wait for the proper maturities. We had good sugars by the end of August but we didn’t have exactly what we wanted phenolically and this was particularly true for the chardonnay. Ultimately we chose to begin picking on the 2nd of September and we first attacked the deeper clay *terroirs* as the better water retention of these soils allowed for better ripeness levels earlier. The fruit was the cleanest that we’ve had since 2005. We still sorted everything but in the end we paid the people manning the sorting tables to watch the fruit whiz by untouched! The skins of the pinot were exceptionally thick and the seeds were brown and interestingly, almost crispy. Moreover there wasn’t much juice in the berries so we took care not to extract too much as it would have been easy to do. In fact we did almost no punching down and used more of an infusion approach using between 20 to 25% whole clusters in the Côte de Beaune and 30 to 35% in the Côte de Nuits. Moreover we chose to eliminate all of the press wine because it tends to be very rich in potassium which obviously lowers the acidities. As good as the raw materials were, yields though were another story. There was a bit of shatter but nothing too significant but even so, between the heat and the accumulated stress from the hail that hit the Côte de Beaune in 2012, 2013 and 2014, yields were low. This is to say between 28 and 35 hl/ha in the Côte de Beaune and around 35 hl/ha in the Côte de Nuits. As to the wines, I would describe them as a blend of 2005 and 2010 with surprisingly good *terroir* expression and while the reds are certainly ripe, they are much fresher than one might think given how hot the growing season was. Our sense is that the reds from the Côte de Beaune are a bit more homogenous and concentrated than those from the Côte de Nuits but the difference is not significant.” My sense is that Bouchard obtained mostly excellent results in the context of the vintage. More specifically I would completely agree with Weber that Bouchard’s Côte de Beaune wines really stood out. Please see also the associated reviews for the Château de Poncié in the En Plus section below. I would also comment that even though Bouchard has progressively reduced the amount of new wood they use since 2005, it would still be fair to observe that in more than a few instances it remains prominent. In vintages like 2015 there is limited risk that it will not ultimately be absorbed and thus it is not really a concern. However, for those readers who prefer to drink their reds young but don’t care for wood, they may find the wines to be less appealing. (Henriot, Inc., www.henriotinc.com, NY, USA; The Rare & Fine Wine Company Limited, www.therareandfinewinecompany.com, and John E. Fells and Sons, www.fells.co.uk, both UK).

2015 Bourgogne – Réserve: (entirely from Côte d’Or fruit). A ripe, fresh and pretty nose combines notes of dark raspberry and hints of earth and spice. The middle weight flavors are impressively concentrated for what this is and I like the velvety texture of the solidly complex and persistent finale. This would make a good choice for a straightforward but well-made house red. (86-89)/2018+

2015 Monthélie: (from domaine fruit located in Le Meix de Mypont, Danguy and the *villages* portion of Les Duresses). This is at once more aromatically complex and elegant with its notably floral array of earth, spice and red and dark currant scents that are trimmed in just enough wood to notice. There is good vibrancy to the relatively round and utterly delicious flavors that deliver excellent depth on the balanced finish. This is more refined than usual and offers terrific quality for the *appellation*. 89/2020+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune: (from domaine fruit in Les Grands Liards and Roichottes). An appealingly layered blend reveals notes of red and dark cherry, violet, soft earth and again enough wood to mention. The round and fleshy flavors are both seductive and generous, all wrapped in a moderately long finish where a hint of warmth appears. This will drink well young if desired. 88/2020+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny: (mostly from Aux Croix). As one might reasonably expect this is notably more elegant and spicier too with its lovely nose of plum, dark currant and violet aromas. The sleek, concentrated and wonderfully textured middle weight flavors brim with minerality on the vibrant, balanced and lingering finish. The natural grace and lace of Chambolle is evident and overall this offers first-rate quality for a *villages* level wine. 90/2021+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin: Distinct notes of earth and the *sauvage* punctuate the ripe nose of forest floor, dark cherry, violet and plum liqueur. The flavor profile is sleek here as well with evident minerality that continues onto the delicious, complex and lingering finish. This is powerful yet remains relatively refined and should mature into a lovely Gevrey *villages*. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Lavières”: (from a huge 3.85 ha parcel purchased in 1909). Though the nose is presently too reduced to evaluate, there is otherwise good freshness and verve to the well-detailed medium-bodied flavors that exhibit a subtle minerality on the sappy, textured and beautifully complex finish. This should amply reward mid-term cellaring and overall, it is really quite impressive as about the only nit is a hint of backend warmth. Recommended. (91-93)/2022+

2015 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 depending on the vintage). Moderate wood frames aromas of liqueur-like black cherry and an appealing range of floral elements. The round and highly seductive flavors possess excellent volume while the balanced finish is shaped by relatively fine-grained tannins. This should drink well young but be capable of rewarding 5 to 8 years of cellaring as well. (90-92)/2021+

2015 Beaune “Clos de la Mousse”: (a 3.37 ha *monopole* of Bouchard that required 7 generations for the family to acquire all of it). An attractively layered nose combines notes of red currant, plum, violet, lilac, earth and a lovely spice hint. The mouth feel of the medium weight flavors is finer as the supporting tannins are also very fine, all wrapped in a well-balanced and sneaky long finale. This beauty is worth considering as it's a Beaune of finesse. (91-93)/2023+

2015 Beaune “Grèves – Vigne de L'Enfant Jésus”: (from a 4 ha parcel). A discreet though not invisible application of wood sets off highly complex aromas of plum liqueur and a wide range of floral elements that are trimmed in soft spice and earth notes. There is outstanding richness to the full-bodied and concentrated medium-bodied flavors that possess a seductive, even caressing mouth feel before concluding in a decidedly firm, well-balanced and slightly austere finish. This is very clearly built-to-age and should mature slowly over the next 12 to 15 years. Very impressive. (92-94)/2027+

2015 Volnay “Les Caillerets – Ancienne Cuvée Carnot”: Here the generous wood treatment presently fights somewhat with the menthol, cassis, spice and essence of black cherry liqueur-suffused nose. There is a beguiling texture to the vibrant, detailed and intensely mineral-driven medium weight flavors that coat the palate with dry extract while delivering marvelous persistence on the very firmly structured finish. This is very definitely built-to-age and it's going to need it. I would add that this is unlikely to make an especially good candidate for early consumption so patience absolutely required. (92-95)/2030+

2015 Pommard “Rugiens”: (from Rugiens Haut). This also displays a generous amount of wood on the ultra-fresh mix of red currant, dark cherry, earth and plenty of floral influence. There is excellent power to the focused, muscular and mineral-driven middle weight plus flavors that terminate in a youthfully austere and hugely persistent finale. This too is very clearly built-to-age and I would recommend not cracking one of these before at least 10 years has passed. (92-94)/2030+

2015 Le Corton: Here the wood treatment is a bit more discreet though it's still not subtle on the exceptionally cool and fresh but ripe nose that offers up plenty of *sauvage* and earth hints that suffuse the black cherry and lilac scents. The dense, bold and overtly muscular and powerful big-bodied flavors possess an abundance of sappy extract that coats the palate and buffers the extremely firm tannic spine on the immensely persistent finish that is less austere than it usually is. This is breathtakingly good and despite my extended drinking window, it should be approachable after only 7 to 8 years. (92-95)/2035+

2015 Nuits St. Georges “Les Cailles”: There is ample wood framing the softly earthy and very ripe aromas that are composed primarily of cassis and spiced tea. The suave, round and sappy medium weight flavors exude a fine bead of minerality on the concentrated and serious yet refined finish that displays a hint of youthful austerity. This too is quite impressive and should reward extended cellaring yet be approachable after 6 to 8 years. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “Cazetiers”: Here too moderate wood sets off a ripe and intensely earthy, gamey and overtly floral nose of mostly dark berry aromas. The sleekly muscular, rich, full-bodied and relatively powerful middle weight flavors possess excellent volume as well as fine depth on the balanced and youthfully austere finish (91-94)/2027+

2015 Echézeaux: (from domaine-owned vines in En Orveaux). A pungent nose presently consists of strong wood and reduction. Otherwise there is a lovely sense of energy to the suave and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that coat the mouth with dry extract that also pushes the moderately firm tannins to the background on the impressively lasting finale. This is both focused and powerful and should reward up to 15 years of cellar time. (92-94)/2027+

2015 Clos de Vougeot: (from domaine-owned fruit in two similarly sized parcels – one at the top and the other at the bottom of the slope). The wood treatment presently dominates the notes of ripe cherry, blueberry and warm earth. There is excellent richness to the big-bodied and powerful flavors that are blessed with plenty of dry extract that buffers the otherwise very firm tannins on the long, highly complex and youthfully austere finish. This is a sizeable but not forbidding CV though note well that ample patience will be required if you wish to drink it at its peak. (92-94)/2032+

2015 Bonnes Mares: (from a .24 ha mix of *terres rouges* and *terres blanches* but with a bit more of the former). This is also quite generously oaked though it's still possible to appreciate the cool and pure nose that exhibits aromas of essence of red and dark currant, earth, spice and violet. There is excellent energy and muscle to the succulent and sappy broad-shouldered flavors that possess fine length if not quite the same complexity as the best in the range. (91-94)/2030+

2015 Chappelle-Chambertin: (from purchased grapes in Chappelle proper). Somewhat more moderate wood and menthol characters are present on the spicy liqueur-like aromas of plum, black cherry and earth. The suave and opulently textured middle weight plus flavors possess a wonderfully seductive mouth feel before culminating in a mocha-inflected finish where a touch of warmth appears. This isn't quite as vibrant as the best here though it's still certainly attractive. (91-93)/2025+

2015 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: (from purchased grapes). More subtle though still prominent oak can be found on the much more reserved red currant and dark berry-suffused nose that displays an astonishing array of spice, exotic tea and soft earth aromas. There is better energy as well as more evident minerality on the sleek and sophisticated flavors that deliver superb length and depth on the balanced finale. This is a powerful but classy effort that, very much like the Le Corton, is going to need a long stay in a cool cellar to fully resolve the supporting structure. (93-96)/2035+

Domaine Jean-Marc Bouley (Volnay)

2015	Beaune "Reversées" 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Bourgogne - Pinot Noir	red	(86-89)
2015	➔ Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune	red	(86-89)
2015	➔ Pommard	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Pommard "Les Fremiers" 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	➔ Pommard "Rugiens" 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	Volnay	red	(88-90)
2015	Volnay Vieilles Vignes	red	(88-91)
2015	Volnay "Les Caillerets" 1er	red	(88-91)
2015	Volnay "Les Carelles" 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Volnay "Clos de la Cave"	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	(91-93)

The gifted Thomas Bouley enthusiastically describes 2015 as "one that is so good that I hope to see another one like it before I retire! What is so remarkable is that we obtained excellent ripeness levels but nothing got over ripe. There was the constant threat of hydric stress but our vines didn't suffer at all, in fact the leaves were a deep green all season long. There was also no disease pressure so from a treatment standpoint we could be pretty relaxed as we did only five the entire season and among those, only one was full strength. And, it must be said, that we also had no hail, which after three consecutive years of it, I can honestly say that it was a major relief. I chose to begin picking on the 4th of September and brought in uniformly ripe and impeccably clean fruit that had good sugars, thick skins and reasonably good acidities as well. Yields though were another story as we averaged only 15 to 20 hl/ha across all of our *appellations*. Worse still, 2016 wasn't any better. The good news though is that the quality appears to be excellent and I can unequivocally say that 2015 is the best vintage that I have ever made." As the scores and commentaries confirm, Bouley produced a number of first-rate 2015s and the domaine clearly out-performed. Bouley indicated that, as usual, he will bottle without fining or filtration. (Russell Herman/World Wine Source, NJ, Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA/NV/AZ/NM and Terroir Imports, www.terroirimports.net, CO all USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, UK and O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, UK).

2015 Bourgogne - Pinot Noir: (mostly from Pommard vines). A ripe but strikingly fresh nose features notes of red raspberry, cherry and a touch of earth. There is fine richness, and particularly so for the *appellation*, to the velvet-textured flavors that possess an agreeable texture, all wrapped in a mouth coating and lingering finish. Fine quality here. (86-89)/2019+

2015 Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune: A slightly cooler and more elegant nose offers up liqueur-like aromas of black cherry, kirsch and violet undertones. The mouth feel of the middle weight flavors is slightly finer though at the expense of a bit of richness and this refinement continues onto the focused, saline and well-balanced finish. This is also quite good and would make a good choice for an all-around house red. (86-89)/2019+

2015 Volnay: (from vines in Les Famines, both parts of Poisots, Les Terres Blanches, Cros Martin and a few other minor contributors). Reduction presently masks the underlying fruit. Otherwise there is both good richness but also good detail to the delicious, round and seductively textured flavors that possess a sappy mouth feel, all wrapped in a long and well-balanced finish. This will need a few years to add depth but it's already quite pretty. (88-90)/2020+

2015 Volnay "Clos de la Cave": (made with 40% whole bunches). A notably floral-inflected nose displays cool, ripe and pretty aromas of mostly red berries and soft spice nuances. There is a completely different texture to the middle weight flavors that are also more prominently stony before culminating in a caressing but focused finale. In a word, excellent. (89-91)/2021+

2015 Volnay Vieilles Vignes: (from 40+ year old vines situated by order of importance in Les Pluchots, Les Famines and La Gigotte). A much earthier set of aromas includes those of plum, black cherry and tea. There is markedly more volume to the richer and denser medium-bodied flavors that also exude a fine bead of minerality on the driving finish. This is a big and not particularly refined *villages* but it is powerful and balanced. (88-91)/2022+

2015 Pommard: (mostly from Vaumuriens). Moderate reduction doesn't mask the appeal of the rich and relatively full-bodied flavors that possess both good volume and ample amounts of dry extract that buffer the firm tannins on the vibrant finish. This mildly rustic effort offers a bit more overall depth than the old vines Volnay *cuvée*. Note however that at least some patience will be required. (89-91)/2023+

2015 Volnay "Les Caillerets": (from young vines planted in 2002). A pungent nose consists of reduction and wood today. Otherwise there is a sleek mid-palate mouth feel to the attractively rich and sappy medium weight flavors that possess a beguiling texture before concluding in a mocha-inflected finish. This delicious effort is notably firm and while not heavy, it's definitely very ripe. While the structure would argue for at least 10 years of bottle age I am concerned that this may lack freshness when the structure is fully resolved so I have shortened my suggested drinking window. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Beaune "Reversées": (75% whole clusters). A wonderfully fresh nose speaks of liqueur-like red berries, particularly raspberry and currant, along with anise, plum and earth wisps. There is much better energy and detail to the medium weight flavors that possess better balance on the firm and dusty finale. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Volnay "Les Cavelles": This is also attractively fresh and bright with a similar fruit profile though here there is a bit more spice influence. There is also a lovely sense of verve with a finer mouth feel along with good detail if perhaps not quite the same level of complexity, at least not today. I will add that this is a relatively powerful Cavelles. (89-92)/2023+

2015 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": (vinified with 55% whole clusters). This is aromatically the most complex of these Volnay 1ers with its highly layered nose of red and blue pinot fruit, earth, smoke, stone and pronounced floral hints. The rich, intense and tension-filled middle weight plus flavors possess equally good complexity on the balanced, concentrated and lingering finish. As is usually the case this is a big and powerful wine that is clearly built-to-age. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Pommard "Les Fremiers": (made with 75% whole bunches). This is the first wine to display any appreciable amount of wood on the very ripe yet agreeably fresh aromas of cassis, plum and kirsch. There is excellent size, weight and power to the concentrated and velvet-textured flavors that brim with sappy dry extract that coats the palate on the clean, dry and delicious if ever-so-slightly warm finish. This too is clearly built-to-age. (91-94)/2030+

2015 Pommard "Rugiens": (from the very bottom of Rugiens-Haut). In contrast to the expressiveness of many of the foregoing wines, this is almost mute aromatically though aggressive swirling eventually coaxes grudging notes of spice, earth and ripe red and dark currant. The cool, restrained and discreetly mineral-driven broad-shouldered flavors possess real drive and gorgeous detail on the extremely firm and highly persistent finish. This is definitely ripe and rather suave yet it is arguably the most classically styled wine in the entire range; note well though that it's going to need extended cellaring. (92-94)/2033+

Domaine Pascal Bouley (Volnay)

2015	Bourgogne – Passe Tout Grains	red	(86-88)
2015	➔ Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	red	(86-89)
2015	➔ Monthélie "Les Clous" 1er	red	(89-91)
2015	Monthélie "Aux Fournereaux"	red	(88-91)
2015	➔ Pommard	red	(89-91)
2015	Volnay	red	(86-88)
2015	Volnay "Champans" 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Volnay "Les Grands Champs" 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	Volnay "Robardelle" 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Volnay "Ronceret" 1er	red	(90-93)

Pascal Bouley was away at the time of my February visit and I met with his son Pierrick, who told me that 2015 "gave us a relatively easy growing season, which was a nice break from all the trauma we suffered during the last three years. We picked from the 3rd to the 7th of September and while I'm still young, I've never seen cleaner fruit. Potential alcohols were very good at between 13.2 and 13.8% and the acidities are surprisingly good as well. Yields though were on the low side as the vines

were just beaten up from all of the hail damage and ranged from 11 to 32 hl/ha. For example, both the Santenots and the Bas des Teurons gave us only a half-a-barrel and will be bottled only in magnum. Overall, I like the vintage a great deal as it is generous yet serious and should age extremely well.” A few notes: first, as an experiment there were some whole clusters used in the vinification for the Champans; second, the Bas des Teurons was not presented; third, I found that the domaine basically performed in-line with the quality of the 2015 vintage though there were several standouts that are worth your attention, including a very good Pommard *villages* and the Monthelie “Les Clous”. (Baron François Ltd, www.baronfrancois.com, NY, USA; Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, Christopher Piper Wines, Ltd., www.christopherpiperwines.co.uk, both UK).

2015 Bourgogne – Passe Tout Grains: (from a 70/30 pinot/gamay blend). A distinctly pepper-inflected mix of spicy liqueur-like dark berry-suffused nose leads to rich, supple and round flavors terminate in a mildly rustic finale. This is really quite good for what it is and is worth checking out for a generous and easy-going red. (86-88)/2018+

2015 Bourgogne – Pinot Noir: (from vines located in Volnay). A ripe, pretty and fresh nose proffers notes of various red berries, earth and soft floral nuances. There is a relatively refined mid-palate mouth feel to the medium weight flavors though there is a bit of rusticity evidenced by the lingering, firm and balanced finale. A quality Bourgogne. (86-89)/2020+

2015 Monthélie “Aux Fournereaux”: This is both more elegant and slightly fresher as well with its equally pretty aromas of red and dark raspberry, violet and discreet forest floor nuances. There is fine richness to the sleek and beguilingly textured flavors that possess solid volume on the persistent and slightly saline finish. This too is quite good for its level. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Monthélie “Les Clous”: A deft application of wood sets off fresh aromas of dark currant, plum and a similar forest floor component. There is a slightly finer mouth feel to the vibrant flavors that are shaped by firmer tannins and unlike all of the prior wines that should drink well on the younger side, this will need a few years first. Recommended. (89-91)/2023+

2015 Volnay: (from Ez Echards, Les Pluchots, Les Pasquiers and Les Grands Champs). A much riper nose lacks the same freshness as there is a hint of prune on the mostly plum and earth scents. The succulent, round and velvety flavors coat the palate with dry extract while delivering good length on the balanced finish. This is not without its appeal but the prune character displayed by the nose isn’t for me. (86-88)/2022+

2015 Pommard: (from the *villages* level portion of Les Chanlins, Les Lambots and La Croix Planet). A notably fresher nose exhibits aromas of cool and surprisingly elegant red and dark pinot fruit, floral and soft earth nuances. There is excellent punch and a subtle minerality suffusing the delicious, precise and intense flavors that possess only a trace of rusticity on the clean and focused finish. If you have the patience to cellar this for a few years, this is worth checking out. (89-91)/2023+

2015 Volnay “Robardelle”: A slightly riper yet still reasonably fresh nose combines notes of cassis, black raspberry and lovely spice elements. There is both good vibrancy and an attractive velvety texture to the lightly mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that are refined, indeed even lacy but this doesn’t lack for punch on the firm, serious and well-balanced finale. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Volnay “Ronceret”: (from Ronceret proper). An overtly floral nose is composed by notes of liqueur-like red raspberry and a lovely array of spice nuances. Here too there is excellent vibrancy to the slightly more detailed and stony medium weight flavors that possess a highly refined texture, all wrapped in a focused, balanced and lingering finish. This is very Volnay in style and a wine of grace and lace. (90-93)/2023+

2015 Volnay “Les Grands Champs”: (a *monopole* of only .24 ha that is part of the *climat* Les Mitans). A background trace of wood can be found on the very ripe cassis, black cherry and anise-scented nose. The impressively rich flavors manage to retain reasonably good definition and tension while delivering sneaky good length on the very firm, dusty and mouth coating finale. This isn’t as refined as the Ronceret, indeed it would be fair to describe it as relatively robust. (89-92)/2025+

2015 Volnay “Champans”: Moderate wood influence frames the agreeably fresh liqueur-like nose of red cherry, plum and spice wisps. There is a succulent and refined mouth feel to the precise and vibrant medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a dusty and mildly austere finish. This understated effort is really quite pure if not as complex as the best here at present though more depth will undoubtedly develop with age. (89-92)/2025+

2015 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”: An elegant, fresh and almost airy nose consists of various dark berry scents that include black cherry and raspberry with pretty floral top notes. There is once again fine volume and good precision to the tautly muscular and mineral-inflected flavors that deliver sneaky good length on the robust and ever-so-slightly rustic finale that is, while firm, actually a bit less structured than is typical for this wine. (90-92)/2023+

Domaine Boyer-Martenot (Meursault)

2015	Auxey-Duresses "Les Ecussaux"	red	87
2015	Bourgogne	red	86
2015	Meursault	red	86
2015	Pommard	red	88

I will have Vincent Boyer's take on the 2015 vintage in Issue 67 with the reviews of his whites. Boyer did note that for his reds that he wants only fruit and not structure as the idea is for them to be ready to drink and enjoy in their youth. I would describe the 2015 Boyer reds as being consistent with the goal of producing accessible and easy-drinking wines. Boyer noted that he bottled his 2015s in September 2016. (North Berkeley Imports, www.northberkeleyimports.com, CA; Skurnik Wines, www.skurnik.com, NY, both USA; Charles Taylor Wines, E-mail: charles@charlestaylorwines.com, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Domaine Direct, www.domainedirect.co.uk and Peter Graham Wines, www.petergrahamwines.com, all UK).

2015 Bourgogne: A ripe and overtly earth nose is composed by notes of plum and black cherry that leads to very rich, round and pliant flavors that possess a juicy and succulent mouth feel, all wrapped in generous and rustic finale. To enjoy young. 86/2018+

2015 Auxey-Duresses "Les Ecussaux": This offers a slightly more elegant nose where the fruit is from the red side of the spectrum along with plenty of earth character. There is good punch to the supple and round if slightly firmer flavors that also culminate in a moderately rustic finish that evidences a touch of youthful austerity. 87/2019+

2015 Meursault: (from Les Pelles). This flashes enough reduction that I would advise decanting it first. Otherwise the middle weight flavors possess a slightly finer mouth feel along with more volume as well that continues onto the precise and once again youthfully austere if slightly awkward finale. This may come together but it didn't show especially well. 86/2019+

2015 Pommard: (from Le Village). A ripe and expressive nose proffers notes of black cherry, cassis and earth. There is good muscle to the punchy medium weight flavors that possess a supple mid-palate though the moderately firm and complex finish tightens up enough to suggest that at least a few years of cellar time would be beneficial. 88/2021+

Henri & Gilles Buisson (Saint Romain)

2015	Saint-Romain "Combe Bazin"	red	84
2015	Saint-Romain "Sous Roche"	red	84

(Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, Shekomeko, NY)

2015 Saint-Romain "Combe Bazin": While there is a whiff of reduction here as well it is nowhere near as pronounced as that of the Sous Roche and much more easily allows the dark berry fruit scented nose to be appreciated. There is unusually good richness to the medium weight flavors in the context of what is typical for a St. Romain *rouge*, all wrapped in a dusty, warm and noticeably dry finish. This too is pretty awkward and I don't see it coming together. 84/now

2015 Saint-Romain "Sous Roche": Noticeable reduction knocks down the underlying fruit though there is good verve if not necessarily freshness on the very round, rich and velvety middle weight flavors that terminate in a slightly tough and warm finish. As the description suggests, this is pretty awkward and it's frankly hard to see this recovering as the warmth is not subtle. 84/now

Domaine Buisson-Charles (Meursault)

2015	➔ Bourgogne "Hautes Coutures"	red	88
2015	➔ Pommard "En Chiveau"	red	89
2015	➔ Volnay "Santenots" 1er	red	93

The domaine is directed by 4th generation Michel Buisson, his daughter Catherine and son-in-law Patrick Essa, who is now responsible for the winemaking and *élevage*. Essa noted that “in contrast to several recent vintages, we enjoyed a relatively easy growing season in 2015. July and August were extremely hot, indeed enough so that some of our parcels suffered from hydric stress. I believe that it was necessary to wait to pick because when many growers started, the fruit still didn’t yet have the optimal level of phenolic maturity. We chose to begin the harvest with the reds on the 5th of September and brought in remarkably clean thick-skinned fruit that required very little sorting. The sugars were strong and the reds averaged about 13.5% in potential alcohols and thus nothing was chaptalized. Yields were variable and on the low side for the Bourgogne and Santenots but correct for the Pommard. I used moderate amounts of whole clusters in the vinification and overall, I am excited about the quality of the 2015s and this includes the whites as well as the reds.” The 2015s were bottled without fining but they were lightly filtered in January 2016. I would categorize the domaine’s 2015s as having outperformed in the context of the vintage and in particular the Bourgogne and the Santenots are first-rate. (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).

2015 Bourgogne “Hautes Coutures”: A ripe and attractively fresh and expressive nose offers up notes of both red and dark berry liqueur, earth and a pretty range of spice components. There is excellent richness to the full-bodied and mouth coating flavors that are firmly structured relative to what is typical for the *appellation*, all wrapped in a lingering finish where the only nit is a hint of warmth. A fine example and recommended though note that this will need a few years of bottle age as it’s definitely not a ‘pop and pour’ Bourgogne. 88/2020+

2015 Pommard “En Chiveau”: (En Chiveau sits at considerable altitude high above the village). A discreet application of wood sets off the earth and *sauvage*-inflected aromas of plum, black cherry and violet. The middle weight flavors possess a relatively sleek mouth feel and a subtle minerality that becomes more evident on the mildly rustic and youthfully austere finish. This too is really quite good and if you have at least some patience, this is worth a look. 89/2022+

2015 Volnay “Santenots”: (from vines situated in the upper part of the vineyard that is distinctly rockier and actually more like a Caillerets than a classically rich and generous Santenots). Here too there is a subtle wood influence framing the beautifully fresh, red cherry, currant and ample floral scents that include wisps of both violet and lilac. There is impressive verve and detail to the overtly stony and tautly muscular flavors that deliver outstanding depth and persistence on the firm, balanced and sappy finale. This is seriously good. 93/2027+

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

2015	Bourgogne Pinot Noir	red	86
2015	Beaune “Clos du Roi” 1er	red	87
2015	Chorey-lès-Beaune	red	88
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Arvelets” 1er	red	91
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune – Cuvée Reine Joly	red	88
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Grands Liards Vieilles Vignes”	red	89
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Gravains” 1er	red	90
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Lavières” 1er	red	91
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Narbantons” 1er	red	91
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Pimentiers Vieilles Vignes”	red	88

Lucien Camus’ son Guillaume is now largely in charge of this 9.5 ha domaine located on the outskirts of Savigny. He succinctly described the 2015 vintage as “much less difficult than what we experienced in 2013 and 2014. We did have a bit of shatter during the flowering due to the heat but it was nothing too serious, as well as some hydric stress in the vines in July. Otherwise though it was remarkably stress-free as there wasn’t much disease pressure beyond just enough mildew to keep us vigilant. We chose to begin picking on the 7th of September and brought in super-clean fruit that had thick and relatively hard skins. Potential alcohols were good without being high as they came in between 12.5 and 13.2%. I chose to do a very soft vinification to avoid extracting too much tannin and used on average around 30% whole clusters. I really like the style of the vintage as the wines are ripe without being heavy. Moreover they should drink well all their lives as the tannins are firm but there’s so much mid-palate concentration that they don’t feel especially structured.” I would evaluate the domaine’s performance in 2015 as being in-line with what I found elsewhere in the Côte de Beaune. Camus noted that the 2015 reds were bottled in November 2016. (Beaune Imports, www.beauneimports.com, CA and Polaner Selections, www.polanerselections.com, NY, both USA; Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com, UK).

2015 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: A rustic, fresh and overtly earthy nose is composed almost entirely by various red berry fruit aromas. The rich, supple and quite forward flavors possess a dusty mouth feel and just enough depth and length to be interesting. To enjoy young. 86/2018+

2015 Chorey-lès-Beaune: An all-but invisible touch of wood adds breadth to the notably ripe but fresh array of dark currant, earth and a floral hint. The rich, sleek and delicious middle weight flavors possess good volume and a caressing mouth feel while delivering good persistence on the well-balanced if mildly rustic finale. A quality Chorey. 88/2019+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune – Cuvée Reine Joly: (from 5 different *lieux-dits*). Here too there is a whisper of oak suffusing the similar if perhaps slightly earthier nose. There is solid volume and mid-palate concentration to the sappy and once again caressing medium-bodied flavors that offer good depth and length on the slightly firmer finish. 88/2020+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Pimentiers Vieilles Vignes”: (from 80+ year old vines). Here the wood influence is a bit more obvious though it remains sufficiently well-integrated that it does not detract from the appeal of the violet, plum liqueur and menthol scents. There is excellent punch and solid detail characterizing the delicious middle weight flavors where the supporting tannins are somewhat finer, all wrapped in a lingering and dusty finish that possesses moderately good complexity. 88/2021+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Grands Liards Vieilles Vignes”: (also from 80+ year old vines). A wonderfully fresh nose combines a variety of red berry aromas with those of earth, violet and a hint of anise. The vibrant, rich and beautifully intense medium-bodied flavors possess fine mid-palate concentration as well as slightly better length on the more complex and well-balanced finale. 89/2021+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Gravains”: Discreet touches of wood and menthol frame ripe, pungently earthy and reasonably complex aromas of violet, plum liqueur and red currant. There is fine complexity on the lightly mineral-inflected medium weight rich, round and supple flavors that display both good precision and balance on the dusty, sappy and persistent finish. Note that this is sufficiently firm to reward up to a decade of bottle age. 90/2023+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Lavières”: Soft menthol and wood notes still allow the expansive earthy and almost entirely wild red berry fruit nose to be appreciated. The supple and seductively textured flavors possess a subtle minerality that continues onto the energetic, detailed and driving finish. This is excellent and the backend firms up quickly to suggest that while this could be enjoyed young, it should also age effortlessly. 91/2023+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Narbantons”: This also displays wood and menthol nuances on the spicy and attractively floral nose of plum and dark currant. The energetic middle weight flavors possess a sleek mouth feel with enough dry extract to both coat the palate and buffer the decidedly firm but not hard tannic spine shaping the balanced and impressively long finish. This is clearly built-to-age and will need at least 5 to 7 years of cellaring to resolve at least some of the structure to render the finish more pliable. 91/2025+

2015 Beaune “Clos du Roi”: Here the nose flirts with prune and lacks the same agreeable freshness of the prior wines. On the plus side there is good richness and volume to the attractively textured flavors that terminate in a sappy finish where a hint of mocha appears. I found this to be perfectly good if particular, as prune does not appeal to me. 87/2019+

2015 Pommard “Les Arvelets”: (from a .20 ha parcel). An elegant, pure and super-fresh nose reveals notes of intensely floral-inflected red berries. This is arguably the most refined wine in the range though it doesn't lack for a certain muscularity on the stony, detailed and saline finish. A hot vintage like 2015 is ideal for such a cool *terroir* and this is worth checking out plus it should be approachable after only a few years of cellaring if that's your preference. 91/2022+

Champy (Beaune)

2015	Aloxe-Corton	red	(86-89)
2015	Beaune Vieilles Vignes	red	(88-90)
2015	Beaune “Aux Cras” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Bourgogne Pinot Noir	red	85
2015	Bourgogne Pinot Noir – Signature	red	(86-88)
2015	Chambolle-Musigny	red	87
2015	Chorey-lès-Beaune	red	88
2015	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	93
2015	Côte de Beaune-Villages	red	88
2015	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	93

2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes	red	(89-91)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin "1er" 1er	red	90
2015	Mazis-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	93
2015	Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Fichots" 1er	red	(89-91)
2015	Pommard	red	(87-90)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	88
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Vergelesses" 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	Volnay	red	(87-89)
2015	Vosne-Romanée	red	(88-91)
2015	➔ Vosne-Romanée "Les Beaux Monts" 1er	red	91
2015	➔ Vosne-Romanée "Les Suchots" 1er	red	91

Long-time winemaker and head enologist Dimitri Bazas commented that 2015 "gave us a markedly hot and dry growing season that had an incredible 130 hours of sunlight more than an average season. There was no disease pressure to speak of and other than some hydric stress in the better draining parcels we really had no difficulties. We picked from the 3rd to the 11th of September and with the possibility of 2005, I have never seen cleaner fruit. The dryness also had an effect on the size of the berries which didn't have much juice in them, which explains why they were lighter than average. In terms of extractability of the solids, it was on the same level as what we obtained in 1999. As such I chose not to push the extractions as it would have been remarkably easy to make super-tannic wines that might have been interesting 30 years from now but tough to like in their youth. As to the wines, they're clearly ripe yet they retain good freshness and transparency and should be capable of drinking well young but they should also have no trouble of aging well for years. I also believe that the Côte de Beaune produced slightly better wines than the Côte de Nuits as the yields were lower, the wines are denser and they may very well age more successfully as well." I found the quality of the Champy 2015s to be consistent with what I found elsewhere in the context of what is typical for the vintage though the amount of wood some wines display isn't subtle. (Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, TX, Vinum Importing & Distributing, www.vinumimporting.com, WA, Vintage Imports, Inc., www.vintageimportswines.com, NJ and JW Sieg Wines, www.jwsiegwines.com, VA, all USA; Diva Beaune S.A.S., www.divawine.com, Beaune, France; Haynes, Hanson & Clark, www.hhandc.co.uk, Savage Selections, www.savageselection.co.uk and Gerrard Seel, www.gerrardseel.co.uk, all UK).

2015 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: A ripe nose features notes of strawberry and earth where the latter can be found on the fruit-driven, supple, round and easy flavors that are on the simple side. This is delicious but not better. 85/now+

2015 Bourgogne Pinot Noir – Signature: (from Pommard and Volnay fruit with partial *élevage* in tank, the rest in wood, 30% of it being new). A subtle application of wood sets off the slightly riper aromas of plum, red currant and violets. There is more volume and richness to the round, supple and accessible flavors that terminate in a dusty and mildly rustic finish that delivers just a bit more overall depth and persistence. (86-88)/2018+

2015 Côte de Beaune-Villages: (from Pernand fruit). Here the expressive nose is relatively deeply pitched with its aromas of dark currant, warm earth and plum scents. There is a velvety mid-palate to the succulent and very rounded flavors that offer solid complexity on the overtly rustic and moderately firm finish. This is old school in style while it is never going to be a charmer, it is well-constructed. 88/2020+

2015 Chorey-lès-Beaune: Aromas of dark raspberry, damp earth and a hint of forest floor lead to well-concentrated and attractively textured middle weight flavors that are less rustic than those of the Côte de Beaune-Villages, all wrapped in a reasonably complex finale. This is good for the *appellation*. 88/2019+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune: Noticeable wood and menthol aromas fight somewhat with the earthy red and dark pinot fruit scents. The supple, round and suave flavors are borderline opulent on the mid-palate though the moderately austere and rustic finish tightens up quickly. 88/2021+

2015 Aloxe-Corton: This also displays ample wood and menthol influences on the red currant, plum and subtle game nuances. This too possesses round, suave and velvety flavors that are shaped by rustic, firm and chunky tannins that are distinctly old school in style. There is also a hint of backend dryness though the tannins seem ripe so it's not clear as to whether this will eventually harmonize or not. (86-89)/2023+

2015 Beaune Vieilles Vignes: (from Les Pointes de Tuvilains, Les Prévoles and Les Levées et les Piroles). Once again there is ample wood and menthol influence on the overtly ripe aromas of violet, black cherry and plum liqueur. There is outstanding richness to the concentrated and sappy flavors that culminate in a firm and rustic but not really austere finish. This too is old school in style and is not going to win any awards for refinement as the tannins are somewhat inelegant. (88-90)/2023+

2015 Pommard: (from Les Vignots and Les Cras). A fresh and ripe nose is composed mostly of liqueur-like red berry aromas is trimmed in pungent earth, wood and menthol scents. The supple, round and vibrant medium weight flavors exude a fine bead of minerality on the firm and rustic if slightly less structured finish. This is woody but not without interest thanks to the solid depth and length. (87-90)/2022+

2015 Volnay: (a mix of Robardelle, Les Famines, Les Petits Gamets and Sur Roches). The wood treatment dominates the fruit and renders it hard to evaluate. Otherwise there is excellent volume and mid-palate concentration to the robust and muscular middle weight plus flavors that are supported by rustic and old school tannins that are firm and a bit chunky. I generally like old school-styled wines but this is sufficiently oaky and rustic that it won't be for everyone. (87-89)/2023+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny: Like the Volnay, the wood treatment presently dominates the underlying fruit. The palate impression of the medium-bodied flavors is very rich and concentrated with a slightly finer mouth feel to the lingering and reasonably complex finale. This isn't especially rustic though it would be fair to describe it as a robust Chambolle and the wood treatment is far from discreet. 87/2022+

2015 Vosne-Romanée: Moderate wood and menthol stops short of overshadowing the spice and floral-inflected black cherry and plum scents. The round, velvety and very suave medium weight flavors possess a seductive mid-palate though the firm tannic spine is notably robust. This isn't exactly rustic (though it's no ballerina either) and I do like the concentration and persistence. Patience definitely required. (88-91)/2025+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes: (from Champs on the Brochon side). This also reflects ample wood influence to the earthy, *sauvage* and dense aromas of various dark berries and violet. There is fine size, weight and volume to the admirably well-concentrated flavors that possess a velvety mouth feel and a subtle minerality, all wrapped in a very firm, overtly rustic and very much built-to-age finish. This quality effort is very backward and is going to need plenty of time, indeed so much so that I would advise not buying this unless you're prepared to allow it at least 6 to 8 years first. (89-91)/2027+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Vergelesses": Once again there is plenty of wood and menthol surrounding the pretty floral, black fruit and earth-scented nose. This too possesses a velvety mid-palate with fine density and punch to the mouth coating middle weight flavors where a touch of minerality adds lift to the lingering finish. While there is a trace of rusticity present it is much less evident, which is undoubtedly partially due to the finer tannins. (89-92)/2022+

2015 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Fichots": There is enough wood present on the floral, cassis and blackberry aromas cut with warm earth notes to mention. The suave, even seductive lightly mineral-driven flavors possess moderate rusticity on the firm and mouth coating finish. This is not quite as complex as the Vergelesses but it is certainly persistent. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Beaune "Aux Cras": Wood and menthol nuances once again stop short of fighting with the dark berry liqueur, earth and soft spice nuances. There is markedly good richness to the round, suave and sappy middle weight flavors that possess ample minerality that is even more apparent on the firm, serious, rustic and highly complex finale. This is an old school but not charmless effort that should repay extended keeping. (90-92)/2025+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin "1er": (from three separate 1ers). Menthol and wood notes are strong but not overwhelming on the nose that consists of fresh and relatively cool red currant, forest floor and a hint of humus. There is fine concentration to the discreetly mineral-inflected medium-bodied flavors that terminate in a mildly rustic and persistent finale. This supporting tannins are moderately firm but there is so much dry extract present that this should drink reasonably well on the younger side if that's your preference. 90/2023+

2015 Vosne-Romanée "Les Beaux Monts": Wood toast and menthol nuances can be found on the pretty spiced tea, black cherry and lilac scents. There is good richness to the suave and seductively textured middle weight flavors that brim with minerality on the firmer and youthfully austere but finer finish that delivers solid depth. In contrast to the Gevrey 1er, this will need at least 5 to 7 years of bottle age first. 91/2027+

2015 Vosne-Romanée "Les Suchots": Champy always seems to do well with their Suchots and 2015 is no exception. Toast, menthol, exotic Asian-style tea, plum liqueur and a broad range of spice elements introduce exceptionally suave, rich and opulent medium weight flavors that coat the palate with dry extract, all wrapped in a lingering and balanced finale. This is textbook Suchots and very Vosne. 91/2025+

2015 Echézeaux: A notably more complex nose of violets, red berries and spice notes is trimmed in ample wood and menthol scents. The full-bodied and generously proportioned broad-scaled flavors possess a velvety and seductive mouth feel as there is a copious amount of dry extract which buffers the very firm tannins and coats the palate on the strikingly long finish. Like the Clos de Vougeot this is built-to-age and while it's not quite so structured it's still going to need at least 6 to 8 years to become civilized and should easily reward 15. 93/2027+

2015 Clos de Vougeot: An expressive if slightly woody nose offers up very ripe but not roasted aromas of plum, cassis, earth, underbrush and a hint of the *sauvage*. The attractively rich, detailed and mouth coating flavors are blessed with plenty of dry extract along with excellent power and muscle while offering very fine depth and length on the moderately austere finale where hints of bitter cherry and warmth arise. Note well that this is presently exceptionally firm and I wouldn't touch a bottle for at least 8 to 10 years. 93/2030+

2015 Mazis-Chambertin: (from Mazis-Bas). There is a borderline exotic character to the moderately oaked nose as notes of mandarin orange, incense and spice add plenty of breadth to the very ripe dark berry fruit scents. There is outstanding richness and volume to the full-bodied and stony flavors that also possess first-rate power and punch on the sappy, firm and impressively long finish. Like all of these *grands crus*, at least some patience is a necessity. 93/2027+

Domaine Chandon de Briailles (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2015	➔ Aloxe-Corton "Valozières" 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2015	Corton-Maréchaudes Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2015	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	red	92?
2015	Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses" 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses" 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	(88-91)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fournaux" 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières" 1er	red	92

François de Nicolay described 2015 as a "low stress and easy to manage growing season. I chose to begin picking on the 1st of September and we took our time as there were no weather concerns and as such we didn't finish until the 12th. The fruit was as clean as I have ever seen it with strong sugars as potential alcohols were in the 13 to 14% range. The thick-skinned berries were tiny though with not much juice in them and this gave us musts with very high solid to liquid ratios. Yields though were again low as we were down 45% relative to a normal crop. I used between 50 and 60% whole clusters for the vinifications and this seemed to add freshness because even though the wines are, analytically speaking, below average in acidity, they don't drink like it. In fact I would go so far as to say that blind, most people wouldn't notice that the total acidities were on the low side. This should also make them both approachable, and enjoyable, in their youth but they should have no trouble holding for years to come." My sense is that Chandon produced better than average wines in the context of what might be considered normal for the vintage. (David Bowler Wine, www.bowlerwine.com, NY, Beaune Imports, www.beauneimports.com, CA, both USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk and Haynes, Hanson & Clark, www.hhandc.co.uk, all UK).

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune: A distinctly ripe nose features notes of red and black cherry liqueur along with pungent earth nuances. There is good energy to the velvety and seductive flavors that coat the palate with dry extract on the impressively rich finish where the only nit is a hint of warmth. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fournaux": (from 60+ year old vines). This displays an aromatic profile that is similar to the *villages* yet one that is definitely more complex. There is a smoky character to the exceptionally rich and overtly powerful medium weight flavors that remain relatively refined on the mouth coating and mildly warm finale. This is firm but should drink reasonably well on the younger side if preferred. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières": (from a parcel just under Talmettes). Discreet wood and menthol notes frame the very ripe aromas of cassis, violet, earth and spice. There is once again excellent richness, volume and sappy dry extract to the middle weight plus flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the refined and impressively long finish. This is certainly quite ripe but there is good tension and this should amply repay extended cellaring. 92/2025+

2015 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses": (from vines planted in 1956). Here too there is a high level of ripeness as the expressive nose displays notes of cassis, floral, anise and a hint of humus. The sleek, intense and muscular flavors are opulent to the point of being almost viscous yet there is good vibrancy on the ever-so-slightly warm finish. (89-92)/2023+

2015 Pernand-Vergelesses “Ile de Vergelesses”: (a mix of vine ages though the oldest date from 1938). A wonderfully fresh if somewhat reticent nose grudgingly offers up very ripe notes of dark currant, earth and a pretty range of floral elements. There is once again outstanding richness to the full-bodied, muscular and relatively powerful flavors that culminate in a noticeably warm and structured finale. This is a good deal less elegant than it usually is and seems to be very much a creature of its vintage; indeed perhaps a little too much so. That said the track record of the domaine with this wine is so good that my range offers the benefit of the doubt. (89-92)/2027+

2015 Aloxe-Corton “Valozières”: This is also very ripe with plum liqueur aromas that are trimmed in earth and mocha nuances. This is a big, powerful and dramatic wine with an abundance of dry extract that pushes the firm tannic spine to the background on the austere, rustic and impressively persistent finish that also displays a touch of warmth. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Corton-Maréchaudes: (from 30+ year old vines). This too manages to be at once very ripe but attractively fresh with its liqueur-like aromas of dark currant, plum, lilac and warm earth. The powerful yet sleek medium weight plus flavors brim with dry extract thanks to the concentrated amount of sappy dry extract that imparts a velvety mouth feel to the hugely long finale. This is less rustic than it usually is though with that said, it’s less refined than its two big boy stablemates. (91-94)/2030+

2015 Corton-Bressandes: (from three separate plantings that have an average vine age of ~35 years). A markedly ripe yet elegant nose that consists of rose petal, plum liqueur, lilac, spice and wet stone aromas is trimmed in enough wood to notice. The very rich, intense and wonderfully vibrant big-bodied flavors evidence obvious minerality on the mouth coating and impressively long finish. This is a big and refined effort that is very much built-to-age so patience required. (92-95)/2032+

2015 Corton-Clos du Roi: (this has the highest average vine age of these *grands crus* at 40+ years of age). A prominently *sauvage*-inflected nose reflects notes of black cherry, spice and an attractive range of floral characters. The intense, broad-shouldered and tautly muscular flavors also possess copious amounts of dry extract that coats the mouth on the noticeably warm and slightly awkward finish. de Nicolay noted that this borderline massive effort had just been bottled a few days before my visit and thus it’s possible that this negatively affected the balance. 92?/2027+

Maison Chanson Père et Fils (Beaune)

2015	➔ Beaune “Bressandes” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	➔ Beaune “Clos des Fèves” 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	Beaune “Clos des Marconnets” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Beaune “Clos des Mouches” 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	Beaune “Clos du Roi” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Beaune “Grèves” 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	Beaune “Teurons” 1er	red	(88-91?)
2015	➔ Bourgogne	red	87
2015	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2015	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(88-91)
2015	Corton Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin	red	(89-91)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin “La Perrière” 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Givry	red	88
2015	Marsannay	red	88
2015	➔ Nuits St. Georges	red	(89-91)
2015	Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Vergelesses” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “La Dominode” 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	Vosne-Romanée	red	(88-91)

Maison Chanson is directed by Gilles de Courcel, owner of Domaine de Courcel (see herein) of Pommard and the winemaker is Jean-Pierre Confuron, the brother of Yves Confuron who is the winemaker for de Courcel (both brothers also work at the family domaine Confuron-Cotétiot). On this visit I met with de Courcel who, like Michel Lafarge (see below), compared the style of 2015 to that of 1929 while noting that “2015 might be greater still. In all my years of making wine in Burgundy I have never seen such beautiful fruit with the possible exception of 2005. The tiny yields made for dense but extremely well-balanced wine that could last for a century or more. Moreover it’s a fantastic vintage for Beaune and I am very confident that those consumers that have the patience to cellar the 2015s until maturity will ultimately be exceptionally happy in having done so.” Confuron noted that all of the wines reviewed below were vinified by him with 100% whole clusters. As to relative performance in 2015, Chanson generally did quite well though there were a few overly ripe wines. In particular I very much

agree with Confuron that their range of Beaune 1ers is especially good. (Vintus, www.vintuswines.com, NY, USA; Mentzendorff, www.mentzendorff.co.uk, UK; Jebson Beverage Co., www.jebson.com, China/Hong Kong; Arcane Ltd., www.arcane-jp.com, Japan; Terroir Selections Pty Ltd, www.terroir-selections.com.au, Australia)

2015 Bourgogne: A mildly reduced nose is clearly ripe and I doubt that the funk will persist for long. Otherwise there is both good volume and richness to the delicious and mouth coating flavors that display excellent depth and length if not much refinement. Still this is a fine example of the genre and worth a look plus it will age if desired. 87/2019+

2015 Givry: A ripe and agreeably fresh nose consists of dark currant, earth and vague hint of the *sauvage*. Here too there is both good volume and richness to the detailed and energetic flavors that also possess fine depth and length for a Givry *villages*. Worth a look for value. 88/2020+

2015 Marsannay: This too evidences a lovely freshness to the ripe plum, cassis and violet-scented nose. The succulent rich and punchy medium weight flavors once again possess fine volume before culminating in a rustic and slightly chewy finish as the tannins are quite firm though not hard. This will need at least a few years. 88/2022+

2015 Vosne-Romanée: (from Maizières and Champs Perdrix). A pungent nose consists of wood and reduction today. Otherwise there is a lovely mouth feel to the succulent and sappy medium-bodied flavors that possess good vibrancy on the intense, firm and sleek finish. This built-to-age effort will need at least some patience. (88-91)/2023+

2015 Nuits St. Georges: (from the south side of Nuits near Prémieux and mostly from Longecourts). Here too the nose is reduced with plenty of wood influence. On the plus side there are spice and cinnamon nuances to the very rich, ripe, concentrated and powerful flavors that possess excellent depth and persistence for a Nuits *villages*. This is quite impressive though note that it is also built-to-age and is definitely going to need it. (89-91)/2025+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin: (mostly from Brochon). The brooding nose is composed by a broad range of dark berry, plum, violet, warm earth and *sauvage* aromas. The rich, full-bodied and quite powerful middle weight plus flavors exude a subtle minerality on the driving and solidly long finish. This is also mildly rustic but a bit less so than the Nuits. (89-91)/2025+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “La Dominode”: A very ripe but not jammy nose consists of plum, cassis and dark cherry liqueur along with soft spice and earth nuances. The very round, rich and sappy flavors still manage to exhibit good detail on the lightly mineral-inflected flavors that terminate in a mildly warm, very firm, serious and youthfully austere finale. (89-92)/2027+

2015 Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Vergelesses”: A top note of menthol can be found on the liqueur-like dark berry aromas that are liberally laced with earth and floral notes. There is excellent mid-palate volume to the medium-bodied flavors that possess a sleek mouth feel, all wrapped in a built-to-age but not really austere finale. (90-92)/2027+

2015 Beaune “Clos du Roi”: A very pungent nose is composed of reduction, menthol and wood toast. Otherwise there is good freshness to the velvet-textured and mouth coating middle weight flavors that possess a juicy and fleshy mouth feel while delivering fine length on the chewy and serious finale. This isn't an elegant wine and it's unusually structured for Clos du Roi but it should make for a fine effort if it's allowed at least 6 to 8 years of cellaring. (90-92)/2027+

2015 Beaune “Teurons”: This is ripe to the point of displaying background notes of prune on the plum and earth-scented nose. The super-rich, velvety and opulent flavors are shaped by a firm tannic spine on the muscular and slightly warm finish. This is awkward and I don't care for the prune character but it may well come together as the material is here. (88-91?)/2027+

2015 Beaune “Bressandes”: Very ripe yet quite fresh aromas blend notes of plum and black raspberry with those of earth, menthol and soft wood hints. The very rich, velvety and gorgeously textured medium-bodied flavors possess an opulent mid-palate that tightens up significantly on the rustic and very serious finale. The tannins are a bit inelegant at present but this wasn't constructed for early consumption so this is a 'buy and forget' Beaune. In a word, impressive. (90-93)/2030+

2015 Beaune “Grèves”: Here the nose is similar to the Bressandes though with more earth and spice elements. The notably rich, concentrated and overtly powerful broad-shouldered flavors possess a velvety texture and a markedly firm tannic spine, all wrapped in a hugely long finish. This is also definitely built-to-age but there is so much sap that it could actually be approached after only 8 to 10 years if desired. In sum, this is seriously good. (91-94)/2030+

2015 Beaune “Clos des Marconnets”: The wood treatment is slightly more evident and the nose is even riper though the cassis and earth scents do stop short of exhibiting roasted or prune elements. There is noticeably more minerality to the attractively textured and intense flavors that deliver sneaky good length though not quite the same overall depth on the ever-so-slightly warm finale. (90-92)/2030+

2015 Beaune “Clos des Mouches”: A more elegant and airier nose offers up essence of violet, plum and a lovely array of spice elements. There is a finer and sleeker mouth feel to the lightly stony and suave middle weight flavors that culminate in a beautifully long and quite firm but not at all rustic finale. This is lovely. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Beaune “Clos des Fèves”: (a *monopole* of Chanson). Generous wood and menthol scents presently dominate the underlying fruit but the density of the full-bodied and intensely mineral-driven flavors is such that they should have no particular difficulty integrating. I very much like the muscle and power of the refined if very firm and explosively long finish. In sum, this offers terrific upside development potential and it’s going to need it. (91-94)/2032+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “La Perrière”: Reduction overshadows the underlying fruit that seems quite ripe. Otherwise the supple, round and almost surprisingly accessible flavors exude a fine bead of minerality on the slightly warm if lengthy finish. This is certainly perfectly good but it’s not nearly at the same level as the Clos des Fèves. (89-92)/2025+

2015 Corton: (from Le Rognet et Corton). A broad-ranging nose displays ripe aromas of plum, cassis, earth, game, smoke and plenty of spice nuances, all of which is trimmed in just enough wood to notice. There is outstanding size, weight and mid-palate concentration to the powerful, velvety and stony big-bodied flavors that coat the palate with dry extract that also does a fine job of buffering the very firm but not really robust finale. This could be the best wine in the range in 2015 though the Clos des Fèves may well give it a run for its money in time. (92-94)/2030+

2015 Charmes-Chambertin: (from Charmes proper). There is a distinct wisp of prune character to the truffle, earth and humus-suffused nose of very ripe, even slightly jammy dark berry fruit aromas. The thick, opulent and exceptionally rich flavors possess a highly seductive mid-palate but there is noticeable warmth on the mocha-inflected finish. This isn’t really a heavy wine but it’s not what I look for as it’s almost too much. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: Here too there is a trace of prune character though it’s less pronounced on the overtly spicy nose of violet, lilac, earth red and dark berry fruit liqueur aromas. There is better detail and verve to the lightly mineral-inflected big-bodied flavors that culminate in an exceptionally firm, serious and youthfully austere finale. It’s possible that this will come together though the prune character displayed by the nose concerns me. (91-93)/2035+

Maison Olivier Chanzy (Meursault)

2015	Bourgogne	red	86
2014	Vosne-Romanée	red	88
2014	Vosne-Romanée “Petits Monts” 1er	red	90
2013	Vosne-Romanée	red	87

Olivier Chanzy grew up in Bouzeron in Burgundy’s Côte Chalonnaise. In 2008/2009 the family winery in Burgundy was sold and Olivier moved to the Rhône Valley for four years where he was winemaker for Chateau Bizard. Domaine Chanzy went back on the market in 2012, but he was unable to reclaim it. The following August, he acquired some run-down facilities in Meursault and began to renovate buildings, install new tanks and started the harvest within a matter of days. Olivier sources his fruit through well-developed relations in the region. He uses extended low-temperature techniques and fine grain wood barrels with medium toasts and stainless steel aging for 12 to 18 months and avoids mechanical intervention as much as possible. (Serge Doré Selections Ltd., www.sergedoreselections.com, NY, USA).

2015 Bourgogne: A ripe, pretty and fresh nose combines notes of both red and dark pinot fruit with those of briar and a hint of violet. There is good richness and volume to the delicious and rounded middle weight flavors that culminate in an overtly rustic yet complex finish that delivers good if not special length for the genre. There is a hint of warmth but overall, this is well-made and should reward 2 to 3 years of cellaring if desired. 86/2019+

2014 Vosne-Romanée: A somber yet quite pretty nose is composed of various dark berry fruit elements that include plum and dark currant along with plenty of Vosne-style spice nuances. There is a lovely sense of vibrancy and detail to the relatively rich and sappy flavors that deliver fine length on the reasonably well-balanced and succulent finale though there is a whisper of dryness. This is one of those wines that I would suggest would best be drunk now and over the next few years for its fruit and spice as I am a bit concerned that it may dry out if held for too long. 88/2019+

2014 Vosne-Romanée “Petits Monts”: A more reserved yet even more complex nose also features plenty of Vosne-style spice elements that add both elegance and breadth to the mostly dark berry fruit aromas. There is good richness and evident minerality to the delicious middle weight flavors that display discreet wood influence on the lingering finish that, like the Vosne *villages*, exhibit a touch of dryness on the lingering finish. Also like the Vosne *villages*, I would suggest drinking this on the younger side as the dryness is just enough to concern me that it may cause the finish to lean out. 90/2020+

2013 Vosne-Romanée: Mild reduction does not completely mask the softly earthy and spicy aromas of ripe black currant, plum, Asian-style tea and violet scents. There is fine richness to the delicious and solidly concentrated middle weight flavors that culminate in an ever-so-slightly warm and drying finale. The dryness isn't really enough to cut the persistence short but the balance isn't quite right. Even so this manages to work better than my description would suggest. 87/2021+

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

2015	➔ Bourgogne	red	87
2015	Chorey-lès-Beaune	red	88
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune Vieilles Vignes	red	89
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Clous” 1er	red	90
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Hauts Jarrons” 1er	red	92
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Lavières” 1er	red	91
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Talmettes” 1er	red	90

Juliette and Caroline Chenu work together at their 9.5 ha certified bio domaine where their father Louis still lends the occasional helping hand. Caroline Chenu, who is responsible for the vines and winemaking, described the 2015 growing season as one where “it was much easier to manage compared to the last few seasons as there was no hail and no disease pressure to speak of. There was a bit of hydric stress in certain parcels but from the standpoint of our efforts, there is nothing that can be done about that except hope for rain. We chose to begin picking on the 4th of September and brought in wonderfully clean and ripe fruit that had good potential alcohols but unfortunately not much juice in the berries. As to the wines, they're definitely ripe but fresh. Some people compare the 2015s to the 2003s but I believe that they're fresher than that.” The Chenu sisters continue to do excellent work and 2015 is yet another vintage that confirms the fine quality of their wines. Note that the reds had just been bottled before my January visit. (Paul M. Young Fine Wines, www.pywine.com, CA, USA).

2015 Bourgogne: A ripe but attractively fresh nose combines notes of raspberry liqueur with soft spice and earth scents. There is a caressing mouth feel to the succulent and punchy flavors that possess fine length and solid complexity in the context of what is typical for the *appellation*. Recommended and note that it would make a fine choice for an all-around house red. 87/2019+

2015 Chorey-lès-Beaune: (from Les Beaumonts). This is also aromatically ripe but fresh with its essence of dark currant and earth aromas. The mouth feel of the medium-bodied flavors is also succulent and caressing; indeed this fleshy effort is at once seductive yet has the stuffing to reward a few years of bottle age as well. 88/2020+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune Vieilles Vignes: (from 6 different *lieux-dits*). There is enough wood present to comment on with notes of menthol, black cherry, cassis and plum aromas. The slightly more elegant middle weight flavors also possess a juicy and fleshy mouth feel, all wrapped in a lingering, balanced and solidly complex finale. This is a lovely Savigny *villages* and could be enjoyed young or aged for 5 to 8 years to good effect. 89/2021+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Talmettes”: Here the wood treatment is more subtle if not invisible as it frames the fresh, airy and ripe aromas of black currant, anise, earth and floral wisps. The mouth feel of the lacy, indeed almost delicate flavors is quite fine and a touch of minerality adds lift to the lingering finale where hints of bitter cherry and austerity appear. This also could easily be enjoyed young and it is very Talmettes, which is to say refined and graceful. 90/2022+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Lavières”: There is a touch of the *sauvage* to the layered blend of plum, violet, pungent earth and ripe red and dark currant. I like the tension and minerality on the medium weight flavors that possess fine delineation that continues onto the slightly more complex and persistent finale that also displays a hint of austerity. 91/2023+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Clous”: An appealing fresh and ripe nose consists of a spicy mélange of plum, raspberry and black cherry along with a touch of earth. The round and velvet-textured medium weight flavors possess an opulent mouth feel along with a hint of stone that can also be found on the delicious and dusty if slightly less complex finale. 90/2022+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Hauts Jarrons”: This is exuberantly spicy with its complex array of plum, violet, earth, pepper and plum liqueur aromas. There is really lovely intensity to the textured, punchy and mineral-inflected flavors that possess the best mid-palate concentration in the range, all wrapped in a beautifully complex and persistent finish that is shaped by a moderately firm tannic spine. This should drink well both young and when fully mature. 92/2022+

Domaine Chevalier Père et Fils (Ladoix-Serrigny)

2015	➔ Aloxe-Corton	red	(89-91)
2015	Aloxe-Corton “Les Valozières” 1er	red	(88-91)
2015	➔ Bourgogne “Champs de Pommier”	red	87
2015	Corton-Rognets Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2015	Côte de Nuits-Villages	red	(88-90)
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin	red	(89-91)
2015	Ladoix Cuvée Bois de Mont	red	(87-89)

Chloé Chevalier professed herself to be “super content” with the 2015 vintage, noting that it was “very easy to manage the growing season and the fruit was so clean and ripe that you almost couldn’t make a mistake. We began picking on the 1st of September with our whites and then attacked the reds on the 4th. Potential alcohols were around 13% for both colors though yields were off some 40%. What was interesting is that there were plenty of bunches but just no juice in them from the baking hot summer. Another interesting aspect is that despite the fact that the aromas are definitely ripe, there is much better freshness and punch than one might normally assume given the warmth of growing season. I think our clients will love them as there’s really nothing not to like.” I found the quality of the Chevalier 2015 to be essentially on par with what I tasted elsewhere in the Côte de Beaune though I call your attention to several excellent *villages* level wines and the Bourgogne. (AP Wine Imports, www.apwineimports.com, NY, USA; Liberty Wines, www.libertywine.co.uk, UK and Majestic Wine Warehouses, www.majestic.co.uk, UK).

2015 Bourgogne “Champs de Pommier”: A ripe, earthy and pretty nose combines notes of both red and dark berries that lead to rich, suave and delicious middle weight flavors that possess fine concentration, all wrapped in a lingering finale where a hint of wood surfaces. This is a fine effort for its level and could be enjoyed young or aged for 2 to 3 years too. 87/2018+

2015 Ladoix Cuvée Bois de Mont: Discreet touches of wood and menthol sit atop the ripe red cherry and earth aromas. The finer and sleeker middle weight flavors exude a subtle minerality before concluding in an attractively textured and lingering finish that is naturally sweet and, like the Bourgogne, trimmed in a hint of wood. (87-89)/2019+

2015 Côte de Nuits-Villages: (from Corgoloin and Comblanchien vines). Here too there is just enough wood present to warrant a mention on the airy and fresh aromas of red currant, pomegranate and earth. There is just a bit more underlying tension to the delicious medium weight flavors that are shaped by relatively fine grained tannins on the balanced, complex and solidly persistent finish. Blind I doubt that most tasters would identify this as a 2015. (88-90)/2019+

2015 Aloxe-Corton: (from Les Valozières, Les Morais and Les Caillettes). Moderate reduction flattens the underlying fruit at present but there is good intensity and freshness to the tautly muscular and tension-filled medium-bodied flavors that also possess a relatively sleek mouth feel before terminating in a powerful and mildly rustic finale. This is impressive for an Aloxe *villages* though note that it will need a few years first. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Aloxe-Corton “Les Valozières”: Once again moderate wood and menthol notes can be found on the distinctly earthy and *sauvage*-inflected aromas of red and dark currant. The rich, opulent and very suave middle weight flavors retain good precision and plenty of punch that carries over to the mildly austere and relatively fine finish. Somewhat curiously, while this is finer than the Aloxe *villages*, it doesn’t seem to have the same excellent depth, at least not yet anyway. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin: (from Les Crais and Etelois). A distinct *sauvage* element adds interest to the earthy dark berry fruit aromas that are trimmed in a soft application of wood. In a continuing theme the middle weight flavors are also quite succulent and fleshy with excellent mid-palate concentration and punch while the impressively long finish displays wisps of salinity, wood and warmth. This is a very good Gevrey *villages* and worth checking out. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Corton-Rognets: (from a 1 ha parcel, half of which is planted to pinot; 40% new wood). Generous wood fights somewhat with the notably ripe aromas of plum, violet, earth, game and a hint of smoke character. There is excellent richness, volume and mid-palate concentration to the powerful and firmly structured flavors where the finish is clean and dry-in-the-best sense. Moreover the wood is not present on the finish which suggests that the underlying material should have no trouble absorbing it over time. (90-93)/2027+

Domaine Clos de la Chapelle (Volnay)

2015	➔ Beaune “Champs Pimont” 1er	red	92
2015	Beaune “Teurons” 1er	red	90
2015	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	Corton-Rognet Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Chanlins Vieilles Vignes” 1er	red	93
2015	Pommard “Les Grands Epenots” 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Volnay “Clos de la Chapelle” 1er	red	93
2015	➔ Volnay “En Carelle” 1er	red	92
2015	➔ Volnay “Taillepieds” 1er	red	(91-94)
2014	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	93
2014	Corton-Rognet Grand Cru	red	92
2014	Pommard “Les Grands Epenots” 1er	red	88?

Dimitri Bazas is the winemaker for Champy (see above) as well as Domaine Clos de la Chapelle though owner Mark O’Connell is progressively assuming more and more of the responsibility for the vinifications with the goal of eventually taking them over. He noted that 2015 was a vintage “that gave us excellent quality fruit if not much of it as the accumulated damage from three consecutive years of hail was too much for the vines to immediately overcome. We picked from the 4th to the 10th of September and brought in remarkably clean fruit with good sugars and reasonable acidities. The growing season was so hot though that the berries just didn’t have much juice in them and this of course made for musts with high ratios of solids to liquids that made getting the extractions just right a challenge. We also used some whole cluster for certain wines. As to the wines, they’re probably the best that we have made given our short operating history.” O’Connell noted that for those wines in bottle, they were put there in November 2015. I found the quality of the Clos de la Chapelle wines to be above average in the context of the vintage. I also revisited several 2014s in bottle and found the two Corton *grands crus* to be especially good. Lastly, I would note that all of the vines here are certified organic. (A Rootstock Selection, Imported by Bayfield Imports www.bayfieldimporting.com; Veritas Imports www.veritaswine.com and Purveyors of Fine Wines, Ltd www.winepurveyors.com; Jeroboam Wines, www.jeroboamwines.com, and Haynes, Hanson & Clark, www.hhandc.co.uk, all UK).

2015 Beaune “Teurons”: There is enough reduction present to currently mask the underlying fruit though it does appear to be ripe. Otherwise there is good richness and concentration to the velvet-textured medium weight flavors that possess solid punch on the balanced, long and delicious finale. This should drink reasonably well young if desired. 90/2021+

2015 Beaune “Champs Pimont”: (this wasn’t produced in 2012, 2013 and 2014 due to hail damage). A cool, pure and attractively fresh nose features notes of red and black cherry along with hints of spice, earth and violet. There is very fine complexity to the more vibrant and mineral-driven flavors that display a saline hint on the admirably persistent finish. Lovely stuff and worth considering. 92/2022+

2015 Volnay “En Carelle”: This too is quite aromatically cool and fresh and even a touch more elegant as well with its spicier and more floral-scented nose of mostly liqueur-like blue pinot fruit. The sleek, refined and lacy middle weight flavors possess a subtle minerality and a more refined mouth feel if perhaps not quite the same overall depth. Still this is a really lovely effort and textbook En Carelle. 92/2021+

2015 Volnay “Clos de la Chapelle”: (a .55 ha *monopole*). Elegant floral notes sit atop the red currant and black cherry-scented nose. There is an absolutely gorgeous mouth feel to the beautifully detailed and minerally flavors that are lacy to the point of being delicate yet there is a firm lashing of fine tannins that should permit this beauty to reward up to a decade of cellar time. Lovely juice and very Volnay in style. 93/2023+

2015 Pommard “Les Chanlins Vieilles Vignes”: (from a .25 ha parcel). A densely fruited nose combines notes of markedly ripe but fresh aromas of dark pinot fruit, spice, warm earth and a wisp of violet. The elegant yet powerful medium-weight flavors also exude a fine minerality that continues onto the sappy, balanced and beautifully persistent finish. This muscular effort is notably more structured and is going to need at least 6 to 8 years and should ultimately reward 12 to 15. 93/2027+

2015 Volnay “Taillepieds”: The whole cluster ferment is evident as there is a hint of herbal tea present on the ripe dark berry fruit liqueur-like aromas that are liberally sprinkled with spice, lilac and violet scents. The admirably pure and mineral-driven medium-bodied flavors are at once succulent yet powerful, all wrapped in a youthfully austere finish. Lovely. (91-94)/2025+

2015 Pommard “Les Grands Epenots”: An attractively fresh, cool and restrained nose is composed primarily of black fruit liqueur and warm earth nuances. There is a lovely refinement to the seductively textured but well-detailed medium weight flavors that terminate in a tight if slightly dry finish. This may very well successfully age out such that the dryness dissipates with time and my predicted range offers the benefit of the doubt in this regard. (89-92)/2027+

2015 Corton-Rognet: Reduction presently renders the nose impossible to evaluate. Otherwise there is excellent volume and power to the broad-shouldered flavors that possess fine mid-palate concentration while delivering superb punch on the very firm but not really all that austere finale. This is clearly built-to-age and is absolutely going to need it. (92-94)/2030+

2015 Corton-Bressandes: Notably ripe yet still fresh and pretty aromas speak of liqueur-like dark berry fruit, earth, game and a floral top note. I very much like the sense of vibrancy present on the more refined but still sizeable big-bodied flavors that are a touch less muscular while still offering ample power and punch on the firm, serious and impressively long finish. Like the Epenots there is a touch of backend dryness but here it is much more subtle and thus I have fewer concerns that it will eventually age out. (92-94)/2030+

2014 Pommard “Les Grands Epenots”: Reduction presently dominates the fruit and while it may eventually age out, that is not a given. Otherwise there is excellent concentration to the mouth coating and powerful middle weight plus flavors that possess good muscle and plenty of punch, all wrapped in a moderately austere and ever-so-mildly edgy and dry finish. Like the nose, the dryness may harmonize in time but I suspect that there is always likely to be a touch of asperity and overall, there are enough issues present to make this tough to read as to how it will mature. 88?/2020+

2014 Corton-Rognet: A cool and reserved nose combines notes of green tea, earth, red currant and a hint of forest floor. There is excellent volume and concentration to the broad-shouldered and muscular flavors that brim with mouth coating dry extract before concluding in an overtly robust and slightly austere finish of fine depth and length. This is a classic Rognet that is presently quite compact and it is immediately evident that this is going to need every bit of a decade to unwind the firm tannic spine. 92/2024+

2014 Corton-Bressandes: Like the Rognets there is a green tea note on the ripe and fresh nose that consists of red and dark cherry, earth, forest floor and soft *sauvage* nuances. There is really lovely delineation to the big-bodied and relatively refined flavors that possess a lacy mouth feel before concluding in a muscular, focused and attractively textured finish that is serious but not really austere. This is an elegant rendition of the *appellation* and should age well. 93/2024+

Domaine Coche-Dury (Meursault)

2015	Auxey-Duresses	red	88
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Raphaël Coche noted that, as usual, they used some whole cluster in the vinification. I will offer more vintage information in Issue 67 where the in-bottle 2014 whites will be reviewed. (Kermit Lynch, www.kermitlynch.com, CA, USA; Justerini & Brooks, www.justerinis.com and Tanners Wine, www.tanners-wines.co.uk, both UK).

2015 Auxey-Duresses: An appealingly spicy nose is composed of ripe black raspberry, cherry and soft earth nuances. The seductively textured, round and delicious middle weight flavors possess a beguiling mouth feel before firming up noticeably on the lingering and well-balanced finale. While this should be fully capable of rewarding 5 to 8 years of bottle age, it should also be approachable young. 88/2021+

Domaine Bruno Colin (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2015	➔ Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	red	(86-89)
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes	red	(87-90)
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “La Maltroie” 1er	red	(88-91)
2015	Marranges “La Fussièrè” 1er	red	(87-90)
2015	Santenay “Les Gravières” 1er	red	(88-91)
2015	Santenay Vieilles Vignes	red	(87-89)

Bruno Colin commented that 2015 “presented us with a pretty easy growing season as there wasn’t much disease pressure and no hail either, which was a relief! I chose to begin picking on the 1st of September and the fruit basically couldn’t have

been any cleaner. The chardonnay came in with good yields but the pinot was significantly lower than usual. The skins for both varieties were quite thick due to the intense summer heat and thus I did no punch downs for the reds as the extractions came almost by themselves. Overall, I like 2015 in both colors though it's probably a bit better in red than white." I found the quality of the Colin 2015 reds to be basically in line with what I generally found elsewhere with the exception of the Bourgogne which could be outstanding. (Treasury Château & Estates Wines, www.tweglobal.com, CA, USA, Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, www.kermitlynch.com, CA, USA; Thorman Hunt & Co., www.thormanhunt.co.uk, Goedhuis & Co., www.goedhuis.com, Gunson Fine Wines, www.gfwl.co.uk, H2 Vin Limited, www.h2vin.co.uk, Bordeaux Index, www.bordeauxindex.com, all UK.)

2015 Bourgogne – Pinot Noir: (from vines in Chassagne). A fresh and pretty nose offers up notes of red pinot fruit along with hints of dark currant, pepper and warm earth. There is good volume to the utterly delicious and succulent flavors that possess enough tannic support on the ever-so-mildly rustic finish that should permit a few years of positive development. This is worth checking out. (86-89)/2019+

2015 Santenay Vieilles Vignes: (from vines in Prarons Dessous planted in 1963). Reduction flattens the nose today. Otherwise there is good punch to the slightly finer and sleeker middle weight flavors that exude a subtle minerality onto the vibrant and refreshing finish. This could easily be enjoyed young if desired. (87-89)/2019+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: (from 50+ year old vines). A complex if not especially elegant nose combines notes of plum, dark currant, violet and a hint of pepper. The succulent, rich and appealingly energetic flavors possess fine volume and a hit of wood before culminating in a mouth coating and lightly rustic finish. (87-90)/2020+

2015 Marranges “La Fussière”: A fresh and overtly earthy nose blends notes of plum and dark raspberry with those of the *sauvage* and a hint of smoke. The unusually fine middle weight flavors possess a lovely sense of energy and good detail on the mildly woody and austere finale. This is certainly attractive though it doesn't quite offer the same level of complexity as the Gravières or Maltroie. (87-90)/2020+

2015 Santenay “La Gravières”: Like the old vines Santenay *cuvée* this is sufficiently reduced to mask the underlying fruit. There is more evident minerality present on the well-detailed and tension-filled medium-bodied flavors that are also wonderfully refreshing on the balanced and moderately firm finale. A few years of patience should be rewarded though note that this could easily be enjoyed in its youth. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “La Maltroie”: The most complex nose in the range reflects notes of violet, dark currant, earth, pepper and a subtle spiciness. The seductive and lush medium weight flavors possess a plush mouth feel while offering fine if not truly distinguished depth and length. This too should drink well in its youth. (88-91)/2020+

Domaine Marc Colin (Gamay/St. Aubin)

2015 Bourgogne	red	86
2015 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2015 St. Aubin “1er” 1er	red	87
2015 Santenay “Les Champs Claude Vieilles Vignes”	red	88

I will have Joseph Colin's views on the 2015 vintage in Issue 67. 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 2015s are consistent with that goal. They were bottled in December 2016. (Robert Chadderdon Selections, 212.332.4999 NY, USA 510.638.5200 CA, 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).

2015 Bourgogne: Light ruby color. There is good freshness to the raspberry and strawberry-suffused nose that introduces the detailed and energetic light weight flavors that are built on their fruit. The acceptable complex and persistent finish exhibits a hint of bitter cherry and this is already accessible. 86/now

2015 St. Aubin “1er”: (from Frionnes and Sur Gamay). Here the expressive and equally fresh nose is a bit more deeply pitched but otherwise similar. There is slightly better volume to the sleek and well-detailed flavors that exhibit a touch of minerality that continues onto the delicious finish. This isn't particularly complex but I like the refreshing and seductive mouth feel. 87/2018+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: (from Les Perclos, Le Poirier du Clos and Les Pierres). A more complex nose blends notes of pepper and earth with those of plum and red currant. There is better volume and mid-palate concentration to the vibrant medium-bodied flavors that also display a hint of bitter cherry on the delicious and balanced finish. This could both be enjoyed young or aged for 2 to 4 years first. 88/2019+

2015 Santenay “Les Champs Claude Vieilles Vignes”: (from vines planted in 1901). There is enough reduction present to push what appears to be notably ripe fruit to the background. Otherwise there is fine richness to the fleshy, round and sappy flavors where the old vines are very much in evidence, all wrapped in a slightly firmer and more complex if more rustic finish. While this too could be approached young it would be better to allow it at least a year or two of bottle age. 88/2020+

Domaine Philippe Colin (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2015	Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	red	85
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Chênes”	red	87
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot” 1er	red	88
2015	Santenay “Les Gravières” 1er	red	88

Philippe Colin, who is the brother of Bruno (see above), was away attending to the harvest at his domaine in South Africa at the time of my February visit. His assistant Emmanuel provided a few details that included a harvest date of the 28th of August with normal yields in white but a deficit in red. The wines were bottled between September 2016 and February 2017. (Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Flint Wines, www.flintwines.com, Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com and Berkman Wine Cellars, www.berkman.co.uk, all UK).

2015 Bourgogne – Pinot Noir: An overtly fruity nose exhibits liqueur-like aspects that are cut with a bit of earth influence that continues onto the round, rich and slightly simple flavors that possess a touch of finishing rusticity. To enjoy young. 85/now

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Chênes”: An earthier and more deeply pitched nose offers up aromas of violet, plum and dark raspberry. The rich, round and delicious flavors possess a suave, even lush, mouth feel before concluding in a slightly warm and rustic finale. This is also very much built on its fresh and should drink well almost upon release. 87/2018+

2015 Santenay “Les Gravières”: There is enough wood and menthol on the ripe and earthy red pinot fruit-suffused nose to warrant mentioning. The succulent round and delicious middle weight flavors possess solid mid-palate volume, all wrapped in a lush finish where a touch of minerality helps to add lift. This too should drink reasonably well young. 88/2019+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot”: (from Les Brussonnes). Here too there is a discreet but not invisible application of wood framing the peppery dark pinot fruit nose where additional breadth is present in the form of earth and *sauvage* hints. The velvety, round and attractively vibrant medium-bodied flavors possess a lovely mouth feel though the mildly warm finish also reflects some wood influence. This could be aged for a few years or enjoyed young with a few minutes of air. 88/2020+

Domaine Edmond Cornu (Ladoix-Serrigny)

2015	➔ Aloxe-Corton Vieilles Vignes	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Aloxe-Corton “1er” 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	➔ Bourgogne Pinot Noir “Les Barrigards”	red	(86-89)
2015	Chorey-lès-Beaune “Les Bons Ores”	red	(87-89)
2015	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	Côte de Nuits-Villages	red	(88-91)
2015	➔ Ladoix Vieilles Vignes	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Ladoix “Le Bois Roussot” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Ladoix “Les Carrières”	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Ladoix “La Corvée” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	(87-89)

Pierre Cornu described the 2015 growing season as “much less complicated than anything we’ve experienced in the last five years so it was frankly a relief not to be constantly worried about something! Even so, our yields were not especially high at

around 30 hl/ha, which is about what we obtained in 2010 and 2012. 30 hl/ha isn't bad but 35 to 40 hl/ha is more in line with what we would like to have. I chose to begin picking relatively late, which is to say on the 8th of September because while we had the alcoholic degrees we like, I didn't think we quite had the ideal phenolic maturity. The vinifications were easy in one sense because the fruit was so clean but I have never seen such amazing fruit and to me you have a chance to make a vintage like this once in your life if you're lucky and I absolutely wanted to get it just right. As to the wines, they're exceptionally powerful and concentrated. I would describe them as a blend of the 2005 and 2010 vintages where the former contributes the structure, power and dense tannins and the later the harmony and balance. While I always hesitate to make pronouncements, it's hard to see the 2015s turning out poorly as they just have so much potential." I have to agree with Cornu, in fact I would go so far as to observe that his 2015s could very well be the best wines he has ever made. To express it differently, in all the years that I have been visiting I have never tasted a better one when considering the entire range at once. I would add that the Cornu wines generally sell for very reasonable prices and they typically offer excellent value in the context of the quality they offer. (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, NY, USA; McKinley Vintners, www.mckinleyvintners.co.uk, UK).

2015 Bourgogne Pinot Noir "Les Barrigards": (note that this is labeled as Les Barrigards only for the US market). A layered nose is at once ripe and fresh with its array of dark berries and earth scents. There is fine volume to the very suave and rich flavors that exhibit almost no rusticity on the ever-so-mildly warm finale. One to consider. (86-89)/2019+

2015 Choresy-lès-Beaune "Les Bons Ores": A discreet touch of wood sets off wonderfully fresh aromas that are composed by notes of red cherry, raspberry, earth and a pretty spice hint. The rich and relatively full-bodied flavors possess a sappy mouth feel, all wrapped in a dusty, punchy and slightly rustic finale. (87-89)/2020+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune: Here too a deft application of wood frames the wonderfully fresh aromas of red pinot fruit, pungent earth and a floral hint. There is a lovely sense of energy to the well-detailed and utterly delicious flavors that possess a beguiling mid-palate mouth feel that contrasts somewhat with the mildly rustic finale. This too is attractive. (87-89)/2021+

2015 Ladoix Vieilles Vignes: (from vines between 50 and 75 years of age that are mostly from Champ Pussuet with small amounts of Les Forêts and Hameau de Buisson). A deeply pitched and brooding nose reflects notes of both red and dark cherry, along with earth and wood nuances. The rich and relatively full-bodied flavors possess excellent mid-palate concentration as well as plenty of punch on the firm, robust muscular and rustic finale. This is a very serious Ladoix *villages* that offers very fine quality. Recommended for both quality and value. (89-91)/2025+

2015 Côte de Nuits-Villages: (from Le Creux Sobron in Corgoloin). Once again there is just enough wood present to warrant a mention on the notably earth, fresh and expressive aromas of various red berries, underbrush and floral nuances. There is excellent vibrancy to the caressing, punch and lightly mineral-inflected flavors that exhibit a lovely sense of balance and harmony on the lingering finish where hints of rusticity and bitter cherry emerge. (88-91)/2022+

2015 Ladoix "Les Carrières": A pungent nose presently consists of wood and reduction. On the plus side though there is a lovely sense of freshness and underlying tension to the slightly more refined medium weight flavors, thanks primarily to the relatively fine-grained tannins that also shape the more obviously mineral-driven and firmer finish where once again hints of bitter cherry and rusticity can be found. This offers terrific quality for a Ladoix *villages* and is highly recommended provided you have the intention of cellaring it for at least a few years. (89-92)/2025+

2015 Ladoix "Le Bois Roussot": A super-fresh nose reveals a spicy mix of floral and earth-suffused red berry fruit aromas. There is excellent punch and tension characterizing the intense medium-bodied flavors that are finer still if perhaps not quite as powerful and certainly less obviously structured on the beautifully complex and persistent finale. Good stuff. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Aloxe-Corton Vieilles Vignes: (from 40 to 60 year old vines, primarily from Les Cras but with additional contributions from Les Brunettes et Planchots and Les Boutières). Like the Carrières, the pungent nose is composed by notes of reduction and wood influences. On the plus side there is outstanding size, weight and mid-palate density to the big-bodied flavors that deliver first-rate depth and length. While this is no model of refinement, the overall impression is unusually good for an Aloxe *villages*. Recommended. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Ladoix "La Corvée": A deeply pitched and somber nose reflects notes of plum liqueur, violet and dark currant along with plenty of earth and *sauvage* influences. There is terrific intensity to the muscular and voluminous middle weight plus flavors that possess fine concentration while delivering excellent length on the chewy and powerful finish. This built-to-age effort manages to be quite firmly structured yet not really austere. Excellent quality but patience required. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Aloxe-Corton “1er”: (from Valozières and Moutottes). A fresh, pure and layered nose consists of liqueur-like red berry fruit, plum, violet, earth and touches of game and forest floor. There is excellent richness to the robust and intensity medium weight plus flavors that coat the palate with dry extract where the supporting structure arrives all at once on the finish. This very fine effort is very Aloxe in basic character yet it is not really rustic or austere. As an aside I had to laugh when Cornu described this as a “rugby man wearing a tutu”! (91-93)/2027+

2015 Corton-Bressandes: Reduction currently masks the fruit though there is very good freshness to the ripe and vibrant broad-shouldered flavors that are dense and very serious yet there is a certain refinement present as the supporting tannins are dense but fine, all wrapped in a hugely long and impeccably well-balanced finish. Like several of the wines in the range this beauty is definitely built-to-age and my sense is that this is going to need 15 to 20 years of cellar time to fully resolve the underlying structure. (92-94)/2030+

Domaine de Courcel (Pommard)

2015	Bourgogne	red	(86-88)
2015	Pommard “Les Croix Noires” 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	Pommard “Les Fremiers” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Pommard “Grand Clos des Epenots” 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	Pommard “Vaumuriens”	red	(88-91)

The always forthright and direct *Régisseur* Yves Confuron describes 2015 as having a “growing season that was so hot and dry that it caused the vines to shut down. It was necessary to wait to pick because despite the good sugar ripeness, the structural elements weren’t ripe. We picked two to three weeks after most people started, which is to say on the 17th of September. The heavy rains that fell on the 12th were a very positive development as it rebalanced the fruit that was becoming wilted and it also served to unblock the ripening process. And while the rains did help quantities somewhat, 2015 is definitely a short crop. But the main reason to have waited was to obtain sufficiently ripe tannins and we were able to harvest phenologically mature fruit. As to the wines, they are excellent but it’s too soon to pronounce 2015 as the vintage of the century even though it’s certainly a very good one.” I found the de Courcel 2015s to be perhaps the ripest wines of any that I tried in the Côte de Beaune and as such they are particular. To be sure, they are well-made, super-serious and built-to-last a lifetime; indeed perhaps two of them. Whether they will be to your taste is another question because they are definitely atypical. I am normally a big fan of the domaine, indeed to the point that I collect the wines but I found their 2015s to be a bit too ripe and opulent for me. I underscore however that these are not faults per se but they may very well affect your preference for the wines. (Treasury Château & Estates Wines, www.tweglobal.com, CA, 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).

2015 Bourgogne: A very ripe nose features notes of plum and black cherry liqueur cut with just enough earth to notice. The super-rich and opulent flavors possess impressive volume and concentration, all wrapped in a thick, palate coating and mildly warm finish. This is dramatic in just its sheer density of extract, and in particular for what is typical for the *appellation*, though there’s not much refinement. (86-88)/2021+

2015 Pommard “Vaumuriens”: (from the Hauts portion). Here the equally ripe nose is quite similar except the earth component is more pronounced. The velvety, seductive and once again super-rich flavors possess good minerality on the powerful and mouth coating finish where notes of mocha and warmth can be found. This is quite firm and will definitely need a few years to resolve at least some of the structure. (88-91)/2023+

2015 Pommard “Les Croix Noires”: Hints of menthol, violet and spice add breadth to the very ripe earth-infused nose that speaks mainly of cassis. There is excellent concentration to the notably rich and opulently textured big-bodied flavors that also boast an abundance of sappy dry extract that coats the palate on the powerful and long finish. This too is markedly firm and a wine that’s going to need plenty of time to resolve the underlying tannic spine. (89-92)/2027+

2015 Pommard “Les Fremiers”: The nose is very similar to the Croix Noires though there is even more size, weight and power to the thick and borderline viscous flavors that also brim with seemingly limitless reserves of dry extract, all wrapped in a complex and palate soaking finish. Not surprisingly, there is an exceptionally firm structure keeping everything focused but despite all the sheer density and power, I can’t say that this is for me. That said, this is well-made as the only technical nit is a bit of discernible backend warmth. (90-92)/2030+

2015 Pommard “Grand Clos des Epenots”: (from an enormous 4.8 ha parcel with vines ranging from 50 to 65 years of age). Super ripe liqueur-like aromas of plum, cassis, earth and a broad array of spice elements precede the massively concentrated flavors that are almost imposingly powerful. The finish drenches the palate with dry extract and this is quite simply lavishly opulent. What is perhaps more remarkable still is how a wine that is so firmly structured can at the same time be approachable. Like the Fremiers, this is well-made and most impressive but again it’s not for me. (91-93)/2035+

2015 Pommard “Les Rugiens”: (from a 1.07 ha parcel in Rugiens-Hauts). In contrast to the prior wines, here the nose is quite firmly reduced and unreadable today. On the plus side this too is nothing short of massively concentrated, ripe and sumptuously opulent with a subtle minerality that helps to add lift to the borderline thick and ever-so-slightly warm finish. This too is most impressive in its fashion though to call it particular would be an understatement. (91-94)/2035+

Domaine des Croix (Beaune)

2015	Aloxe Corton “Les Boutières”	red	(88-90)
2015	➔ Beaune	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Beaune “Bressandes” 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	Beaune “Cent Vignes” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Beaune “Grèves” 1er	red	(89-91?)
2015	Beaune “Pertuisots” 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	Corton-Grèves Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	Corton-La Vigne au Saint Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Peuillets” 1er	red	(89-92)

Régisseur David Croix splits his time between Domaine des Croix and Domaine Guy Roulot. Croix noted that “the season began with a huge attack of oidium but the ensuing heat dried it out. The rest of the season was largely pretty easy as about the only aspect to worry about was the level of hydric stress in certain parcels, which tended to be in the northern part of the Côte de Beaune as the south had a bit more rainfall. The toughest thing about this vintage was fixing the harvest date because, like everyone, I was torn between sugar levels, acidities and phenolic maturities. Ultimately I chose to begin picking on the 8th of September and because the fruit was so clean we were finished by the 11th. This is extremely fast for us as it normally takes us 7 to 8 days to harvest everything. Potential alcohols were very good but not especially high though yields were once again lower than we would like at around 25 hl/ha. I used between 15 and 35% whole clusters for everything except the Corton-Grèves. As to the wines, they have the best balance that I have ever seen and are built for the very long-term. Moreover the pHs are much better than one might expect given the baking July heat and all the wines came in between 3.35 and 3.4, which is textbook. I know that it sounds funny but each day that I would taste the wines as they were fermenting I just kept thinking wow, I have just never seen a vintage with this much potential.” I found the 2015s at this address to be generally excellent and except for an ultra-ripe Beaune “Grèves”, these are wines to consider. (A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet, www.leserbet.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).

2015 Beaune: (from La Blanchisserie, Blanche Fleur and Pointes de Tuvilains plus the 1er Bas de Teurons). A fresh and well-layered nose speaks of plum, violet, dark cherry and soft earth nuances. There is a lovely sense of energy and intensity to the well-detailed and attractively textured medium weight flavors that possess fine depth on the balanced and lingering finish. This should drink well young if desired but should also have no problem aging well if desired. (89-91)/2021+

2015 Aloxe Corton “Les Boutières”: Earthy dark berry fruit aromas are liberally laced with notes of the *sauvage*. The sleek, intense and well-delineated middle weight flavors possess fine energy if a bit less mid-palate concentration, all wrapped in a lingering and atypically fine finish for this vineyard. (88-90)/2022+

2015 Beaune “Cent Vignes”: A pretty and decidedly more elegant nose offers up notes of both red and dark pinot fruit along with spice, humus and forest floor scents. There is excellent volume to the fine medium-bodied flavors that possess a beguiling texture while delivering fine length on the balanced finale. This is bigger than it usually is with very solid mid-palate concentration that should allow it to age effortlessly. (90-92)/2022+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Peuillets”: This is also quite aromatically pretty with its pure and agreeably fresh array of red cherry, plum and floral scents that in particular include violets. There is a lacy mouth feel to the vibrant and lightly mineral-inflected flavors that are supported by remarkably fine tannins on the youthfully austere finish. This is a lovely effort and textbook Peuillets, which is to say a wine of finesse and refinement. (89-92)/2021+

2015 Beaune “Grèves”: This is the ripest wine in the range with notes of mocha, cassis and an almost pungent earthiness. There is excellent volume to the sappy, muscular and powerful medium weight plus flavors that culminate in a long and lingering if slightly heavy finish where the mocha note emitted by the nose reappears. It’s hard to say whether I caught this on a bad day or whether it’s just over-the-top ripe. I say this because the ripeness level seems notably higher compared to the other wines in the range. (89-91?)/2025+

2015 Beaune “Bressandes”: This is the first wine to display any appreciable amount of reduction and it’s enough to mask the fruit at present. Otherwise there is excellent concentration to the vibrant and notably finer medium weight flavors that brim with dry extract on the impeccably well-balanced and very firm finale. This beauty is built-to-age and is going to need at least 6 to 8 years to be approachable and 12 to 15 to see its majority. Excellent quality. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Beaune “Pertuisots”: This too is very ripe though it doesn’t display the mocha nuances like the Grèves with its aromas of plum, cassis, earth and discreet spice nuances. On the palate the broad-shouldered flavors possess first-rate mid-palate concentration while delivering fine power and length on the robust but not hard or especially austere finish. (89-92)/2023+

2015 Corton-La Vigne au Saint: A fresh, cool and dense nose display a broad variety of aromas that include purple fruit, smoked game, earth, anise and plenty of floral characters. The relatively refined medium weight plus flavors exude a fine bead of minerality on the tautly muscular finish where a hint of bitter cherry appears. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Corton-Grèves: This is also markedly ripe yet the liqueur-like aromas of plum, earth and the *sauvage* remain quite fresh. As is usually the case this is bigger, richer and more powerful than the Vigne au Saint to the overtly muscular broad-shouldered flavors that conclude in a firm and velvety finish that is very Corton in style. Patience required. (92-94)/2030+

Domaine Cyrot-Buthiau (Pommard)

2015	➔ Bourgogne Pinot Noir	red	(86-89)
2015	Maranges “Les Clos Roussots” 1er	red	(88-90)
2015	➔ Pommard	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Pommard - 1920	red	(89-92)
2015	Pommard “Les Arvelets” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Pommard “La Chanière” 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Charmots” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	➔ Santenay “Clos Rousseau” 1er	red	(89-91)
2015	Volnay	red	(88-91)

Olivier Cyrot, who is the 5th generation to run this 8 ha domaine, called 2015 “not only excellent but excellent everywhere. The growing season was hot but not like it was in 2003 and thus the wines are better balanced. I chose to begin picking on the 4th of September and I have never seen such beautiful fruit; in fact visually the bunches were so appealing that they are like those perfect photos that you see in wine magazines. Potential alcohols were very good but not really high coming in as they did between 12 and 13%. Yields were also perfectly fine because on average we realized about 38 hl/ha. The vinifications were easy as the colors and concentrations came almost by themselves. As to the wines, they’re ripe and dense but not excessively so and certainly not heavy. For me, I would describe our 2015s as a hypothetical blend of 2005 and 2009.” I was impressed by the quality of the Cyrot 2015s and in particular with the Pommard *villages* wines. (Margate Wine & Spirit Co., www.margatewine.com, NJ, USA; Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com, UK).

2015 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: (from Pommard vines; this was raised mostly in stainless with a small proportion in older wood). A discreet hint of wood frames the liqueur-like red berry fruit and soft earth nuances that can also be found on the nicely rich and unusually voluminous flavors for a wine at this level. I very much like the depth and length and while this should certainly reward a few years of cellaring, it should also drink well soon after release. Recommended. (86-89)/2019+

2015 Maranges “Les Clos Roussots”: A more elegant if otherwise similar nose save that there is no discernible wood present. I like both the detail and lovely sense of energy to the lightly mineral-infused and attractively textured medium weight flavors that possess a suave mouth feel while delivering a balanced and naturally sweet finish that displays only a trace of rusticity. (88-90)/2020+

2015 Santenay “Clos Rousseau”: (from vines planted in 1938). Notes of wood and menthol frame the cool and earthy aromas of red and dark currant, freshly turned earth and a hint of the *sauvage*. There is slightly better precision to the more evidently mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that terminate in a slightly more structured and youthfully austere finale. This appealing effort will need a few years of bottle age as it’s presently fairly tightly wound. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Volnay: (from 5 different parcels). This is aromatically much more reserved with its reticent nose of earthy dark pinot fruit and soft floral tones. There is good freshness and verve to the supple medium weight flavors that possess a caressing mouth feel where the lingering finish exudes a subtle minerality. This moderately firm effort is very Volnay in basic character. (88-91)/2022+

2015 Pommard: (from 8 different parcels located all over the village). Cyrot always seems to do very well with this *cuvée* and 2015 will only continue that success with its notably spicy and floral-suffused nose of fresh and ripe plum, red currant and cool earth nuances. There is excellent intensity and delineation to the muscular yet seductive flavors that culminate in an impressively long, though notably firm, finish that also displays only a trace of rusticity. Recommended. (89-91)/2023+

2015 Pommard - 1920: Moderate wood, including a bit of menthol, isn’t so strong as to dominate the notably ripe dark currant, plum and pungently earth-scented nose. The dense, powerful and impressively intense flavors coat the palate with plenty of sappy dry extract on the firm and balanced finish that does possess a hint of warmth along with outstanding length for a *villages* level wine. Note that this will definitely require cellaring. (89-92)/2025+

2015 Pommard “La Chanière”: More subtle, though not invisible, wood treatment sets off the more elegant and much more floral aromas of earth, red cherry and plum scents. There is excellent richness to the caressing and very suave flavors that also brim with dry extract that coats the mouth and buffers the moderately firm and velvet textured finish. Here too there is a hint of warmth on the slightly sweet backend but neither are enough to materially detract from the overall sense of balance. (89-92)/2023+

2015 Pommard “Les Arvelets”: A slightly cooler nose is composed mainly by various dark berries that are trimmed in notes of earth, spice and soft wood. There is excellent underlying tension to the delicious, delineated and stonier medium weight flavors that also possess a really lovely mouth feel that continues onto the dusty, sappy and focused finale. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Pommard “Les Charmots”: This too is quite cool in the context of the vintage with its layered blend of ripe essence of red cherry liqueur, earth and deft application of wood. There is a supple and caressing mouth feel to the sleekly muscular medium-bodied flavors that possess a beguiling sense of energy on the balanced and lingering finish. This is sufficiently firm that it’s going to need at least 5 to 8 years to unwind and should amply reward 10 to 12. Recommended. (90-93)/2025+

Domaine Darvot-Perrin (Monthélie)

2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Bondues” 1er	red	(88-91)
2015	Volnay	red	(87-90)
2015	Volnay “Les Santenots” 1er	red	(89-92)

Didier Darvot explained that several of the reds were sold off to pay for a cellar expansion and renovation and thus the Bourgogne, Monthélie, Beaune “Belissand” and Volnay “La Gigotte” were not presented. The reds will be bottled in April, probably without fining or filtration. Note that the full range of whites will be reviewed in Issue 67. (Michael Stephens/Vins Divins, www.divine-burgundy-wine.com, Beaune, France).

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Bondues”: (this is a *lieu-dit* within the *appellation* of Chenevottes, which this wine could also be declared as; from vines planted in 1969). Very ripe yet still reasonably fresh aromas of liqueur-like black cherry, pepper and earth lead to rich, full-bodied and solidly concentrated flavors that exhibit a hint of bitter cherry on the sneaky long finish. This isn’t elegant but it doesn’t lack for density and power. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Volnay: This too is both aromatically ripe and fresh with its pretty aromas of black raspberry, spice, violet and soft earth scents. The more elegant if less concentrated flavors display good minerality on the well-detailed and refreshing finish. This should drink reasonably well early on if desired. (87-90)/2021+

2015 Volnay “Les Santenots”: (from vines planted in 1941 from the *sub-climat* of Les Plures). This is slightly riper as well as more elegant and more complex with its spicy array of sandalwood, Asian-style tea and dark cherry aromas. There is a really lovely mouth feel that is at once muscular but refined with even more minerality suffusing the rich medium-bodied flavors that are blessed with plenty of dry extract that buffers the fine-grained tannins shaping the delicious finale. This is built-to-age and if it can add depth with time in bottle it should merit the upper end of my projected range. (89-92)/2023+

Maison Joseph Drouhin (Beaune)

2015	➔ Beaune “Clos des Mouches” 1er	red	91
2015	Beaune “Grèves” 1er	red	90
2015	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	red	94
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny	red	90
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny “1er” 1er	red	91
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny “Les Amoureuses” 1er	red	93
2015	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	93
2015	Chorey-lès-Beaune	red	87
2015	➔ Côte de Beaune	red	88
2015	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	95
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin	red	89
2015	Grands Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	94
2015	Griotte-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	96
2015	Mazis-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	93
2015	Musigny Grand Cru	red	96
2015	➔ Nuits St. Georges “Procès” 1er	red	92
2015	➔ Vosne-Romanée	red	89
2015	➔ Vosne-Romanée “Les Petits-Monts” 1er	red	94

I met this time with enologist and winemaker Jérôme Faure-Brac as well as Véronique Drouhin who collectively noted that the 2015 growing season “wasn’t nearly as difficult as the prior seasons and particularly so with our parcels in the Côte de Beaune. You had to be really careful pruning the vines as the accumulated effects from three consecutive years of hail in the Côte de Beaune had made many of them quite fragile. We also had significantly different yields as they were normal in the Côte de Nuits but quite low in the Côte de Beaune. One of the really nice things about the vintage is how clean the fruit was and given that the harvest weather was so clement we could basically pick each parcel when we felt it was ready, a luxury that isn’t always available. While we didn’t use whole clusters for every wine, we did use between 10 and 50% for many of them. Another interesting aspect of this vintage is how much the wines have changed over time as initially they seemed almost heavy and a bit flat at first but as the *élevage* progressed, they tightened up and actually became fresher and more focused. At that point we said that there was nothing further to be gained from keeping the wines in cask so we bottled the entire range between December 2016 and January 2017. I was seriously impressed with the quality of the Drouhin 2015s as their style for lighter and more elegant burgundies seemed to marry especially well with what is effectively a notably ripe, rich and concentrated vintage. While the Musigny is almost without fail excellent at this address, I also found the Clos de Vougeot, Griotte, Petits Monts and the straight Chambolle *villages* to be particularly fine. If you enjoy the Drouhin style then these are wines to make a special effort to find and cellar over the next 8 to 15 years. See also the associated Domaine Hospices de Belleville in the En Plus section for those Beaujolais reviews. (Dreyfus, Ashby & Co., www.dreyfusashby.com, NY, USA; Pol Roger Ltd., www.polroger.co.uk, UK).

2015 Chorey-lès-Beaune: This initially displays a touch of reduction though it quickly dissipates to reveal pretty and ripe red berry fruit and earth scents. The delicious middle weight flavors possess a lovely sense of energy that also characterizes the refreshing finish. This isn’t particularly complex but it is certainly attractive in its fashion and would make for a good all-around and inexpensive house red. 87/2019+

2015 Côte de Beaune: Here the expressive nose offers up notes of violet, plum and black cherry that complements well the delicious, round and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that possess slightly better depth on the ever-so-slightly rustic finale. This too would make for a fine all-around and age-worthy house red as it needs a few years to unwind. 88/2021+

2015 Beaune “Grèves”: (from a .80 ha parcel in the *climat* of Sur les Grèves; 35% whole clusters). There is a whiff of *surmaturité* to the violet, plum, cassis and mocha-infused aromas. The medium-bodied flavors are rich to the point of opulence yet the palate impression is quite serious as the supporting tannic spine is quite firm. This may ultimately prove to be better than I surmise but the nose is a mild concern. 90/2027+

2015 Beaune “Clos des Mouches”: (40% whole clusters). This displays a peculiar kind of reduction the Burgundians call cassis flower, which isn't unpleasant per se but it's not desirable either; it's difficult to say whether it will eventually dissipate though my rating offers the benefit of the doubt. The middle weight flavors possess a notably finer mouth feel with a bit more minerality as well, all wrapped in a well-balanced and impressively persistent finish. This isn't technically perfect today but everything else is in place for this to age well. 91/2025+

2015 Vosne-Romanée: (from several *lieux-dits* including a bit of the 1er Les Chaumes). This too is mildly reduced and it's enough to mask the fruit while still providing glimpses of the underlying spice elements. The supple, round and delicious flavors possess both good volume and punch while the phenolically mature tannins are well-integrated on the balanced and vibrant finish. This is a relatively firmly structured Vosne *villages* and one that will need at least 4 to 5 years of cellar time first. 89/2023+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny: A discreet application of wood easily allows the elegant and beautifully layered red berry fruit, floral and anise-scented nose to shine. The mouth feel of the equally refined medium-bodied flavors is sleeker than that of the Vosne, indeed this is silky and with more minerality as well on the saline and impressively persistent finish that is very Chambolle in character. This is a most impressive *villages* and highly recommended. 90/2022+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin: A completely different aromatic profile is present here with its pungently earthy and brooding nose of plum, humus, violet and a touch of forest floor. There is once again a lovely sense of energy to the well-detailed and moderately robust finish that culminates in a lingering and youthfully austere finale. This too is good enough to be worthy of your interest. 89/2022+

2015 Nuits St. Georges “Procès”: (from a .40 ha parcel; 40% whole clusters). An overtly floral-inflected nose displays a lovely array of aromas that include ripe plum, violet and plenty of earth influence. There is a beguiling sense of underlying tension to the relatively refined medium weight flavors that contrast somewhat with the robust but not really rustic finale that delivers outstanding persistence. Good juice that is worth a look provided that you have the patience to cellar it for at least 6 to 8 years first. 92/2027+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “1er”: (typically made from 6 or 7 different 1ers depending on whether the parcel of Les Baudes is included; 35% whole clusters). A distinctly ripe yet pure, elegant and still fresh nose consists of essence of red berries, spice elements and a hint of tea. There is evident minerality to the wonderfully textured middle weight flavors that are perhaps not quite as elegant as those of the *villages* yet there is better depth and length on the slightly firmer finish. 91/2023+

2015 Vosne-Romanée “Les Petits Monts”: (from two parcels that total .39 ha; they are worked by horse because there is no path for a tractor; 50% whole clusters). Once again there are plenty of floral elements adding breadth to the notably ripe and ultra-spicy cassis, plum liqueur and Asian tea-scented nose where the whole cluster ferment is evident. The classy, wonderfully refined and admirably pure medium-bodied flavors evidence an abundance of minerality on the strikingly complex, balanced and sneaky long finale. This is first-rate and highly recommended. 94/2027+

2015 Grands Echézeaux: (45% whole clusters). A beautiful combination of ripe and fresh red and dark pinot fruit isn't quite as spicy but it's just as complex and floral. As one would expect, the broad-shouldered flavors are bigger and richer if somewhat less refined, all wrapped in a sappy, structured and hugely long finale. This beauty is very clearly built-to-age and is absolutely going to need it and I would suggest allowing this a minimum of 8 to 10 years first as it's not likely to be a good candidate for early consumption. 94/2030+

2015 Clos de Vougeot: (Drouhin owns .91 ha in two parcels that are rarely blended as the lower portion is typically sold; 40% whole clusters). A very ripe nose features notes of plum, cassis, humus, forest floor and violet. The velvet-textured, concentrated and very serious big-bodied flavors possess seemingly endless reserves of sappy dry extract which helps to buffer the very firm tannic spine on the mocha-infused finish. This beautifully complex effort is less austere than it usually is at this point though the structure makes it pointedly clear that this is going to age for a very long time. 95/2032+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Amoureuses”: (50% whole clusters). This too is quite aromatically ripe with its overtly floral-suffused aromas, and in particular rose petal, lilac and violet, along with nuances of spiced tea, dark cherry and raspberry scents. There is a beguiling mouth feel to the stony and well-detailed medium weight flavors deliver terrific length on the firm but not austere finale. Curiously though, this isn't presently as complex as the best in the range and while more will undoubtedly develop with time in bottle, it's not clear that this is necessarily a standout in 2015. With that caveat duly noted however, I underscore that it's certainly still excellent. 93/2027+

2015 Musigny: (from a .68 ha parcel; 40% whole clusters). This too is very ripe yet the reserved array of plum, black currant, violet and wonderfully broad range of spice elements manages to remain quite fresh. There is seriously good concentration to the powerful yet refined and elegant flavors that coat the palate with dry extract on the intensely mineral-driven finish that seems to last for minutes. This is a bona fide ‘wow’ wine but note well that it's one for the patient. 96/2032+

2015 Charmes-Chambertin: (30% whole clusters). This is the first wine to display any appreciable amount of wood and in this case it's generous to the point that there are menthol nuances on the otherwise layered nose that is very Gevrey in character with plenty of game, forest floor and earth scents. The rich, round and seductively textured medium weight plus flavors possess fine depth and length if not the sheer potential of the best here. Still, this is really quite good and should make for a lovely wine with 10 plus years of age on it. 93/2027+

2015 Griotte-Chambertin: (45% whole clusters). This is sufficiently reduced that I would strongly suggest decanting it if you're going to open a bottle young in the name of 'science'. In contrast to the nose there is excellent freshness and verve to the well-delineated and intensely mineral-driven middle weight plus flavors that are finer yet more powerful than those of the Charmes, all wrapped in a beautifully textured finale due in large part to the very fine-grained tannins. This is a very classy wine that competes with the Musigny for the best in the range. In a word, gorgeous. 96/2030+

2015 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: (50% whole clusters). An attractively spicy and notably ripe if markedly reserved nose offers up notes of plum, cassis and red currant that are copiously laced with floral nuances. The rich, full-bodied and quite serious broad-shouldered flavors also possess first-rate mid-palate concentration along with evident minerality on the driving and powerful if less refined finish. This is certainly impressive but the Griotte has that something extra in 2015. 94/2030+

2015 Mazis-Chambertin: A somewhat grapey nose of black cherry, cassis and *sauvage*-infused aromas is trimmed in notes of menthol and earth. The succulent, mouth coating and admirably powerful broad-shouldered flavors possess much better depth than does the nose at this point on the lengthy if slightly warm finish. I suspect that the grapey character will eventually dissipate with 5-ish years or so of age but even so, I don't foresee this being at quite the same level as the better wines here. 93/2027+

Domaine Dublère (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2015	Beaune "Blanches Fleurs" 1er	red	(88-90)
2015	Bourgogne "La Grande Terre"	red	(86-88)
2015	Chorey-lès-Beaune "La Maladérotte"	red	(87-89)
2015	Morey St. Denis "Les Blanchards" 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Nuits St. Georges "Les Bousselets" 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Planchots du Nord"	red	(87-90)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Talmettes" 1er	red	(88-91)
2015	Volnay "Pitures" 1er	red	(89-91)
2015	Volnay "Taillepieds" 1er	red	(90-92)

Blair Pethel described the 2015 growing season as one that "gave us very few problems overall. At first we had some oidium pressure but that was relatively simple to manage as it was dry and thus we could easily treat when necessary. For the rest of the season there really wasn't much to do except pray for rain as it was very hot and dry. We had a few storms in August and then again on the 1st of September which really helped the vines. I chose to begin picking on the 4th and it's honestly hard to imagine bringing in fruit that was any cleaner. Maturities were excellent though overall my yields were down between 20 and 25%. Just as I did in 2014, I used no new wood and only 25% of it was in one year old barrels. As to the wines, they're definitely ripe yet what impresses me so much is that they don't really drink like hot vintage wines as they're both fresh on the nose and vibrant in the mouth. I think they will please most people as there's really nothing not to like." I would characterize the domaine's performance as perfectly respectable in the context of what I found generally in the Côte de Beaune for the 2015 vintage. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; Schneider's of Capitol Hill, www.cellar.com, Washington DC, Chelsea Ventures, LLC, www.chelseaventures.us, IL, Pas Mal Portfolio, mafeuer@mindspring.com, NY/NJ, Pinnacle Imports, www.pinnacle-imports.com, MO and Vintage Wine Marketing, www.vintagewinemarketing.com, CA, all USA; Decorum Vintners, www.decvin.com, and Howard Ripley, www.howardripley.com, both UK).

2015 Bourgogne "La Grande Terre": Notably ripe but fresh aromas are comprised mostly by red and dark pinot fruit that is laced with earth and subtle spice nuances. There is impressive richness to the relatively full-bodied flavors that possess an opulent texture while delivering solid length on a delicious finish that flashes only a trace of rusticity. (86-88)/2018+

2015 Chorey-lès-Beaune "La Maladérotte": A background hint of wood frames more deeply pitched aromas of plum, violet and plenty of freshly turned earth character. The suave, round and generously proportioned medium weight flavors possess good depth and persistence on the balanced finale that stops just short of being rustic. (87-89)/2019+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Planchots du Nord”: Discreet notes of wood and menthol set off earthy dark currant and forest floor scents. There is a slightly finer texture to the medium weight flavors that are at once rich but focused while offering just a bit more overall depth and length on the balanced and slightly firmer finale. (87-90)/2020+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Talmettes”: There is a hint of menthol here as well though it’s sufficiently subtle as to easily allow the cooler and more elegant aromas of red cherry, dark currant, earth and discreet forest floor characters to be appreciated. The refinement of the nose carries over to the palate as well as there is a lovely texture to the lightly mineral-infused flavors that possess a bit more freshness and verve as well on the balanced finish. A wine of finesse. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Beaune “Blanches Fleurs”: (a rarely seen split-rated vineyard that adjoins Clos du Roi; this example is from the upper portion that is classified as a 1er). Here the nose is very, very ripe as there is a wisp of prune to the plum and warm earth aromas. The exceptionally rich, full-bodied and lavish flavors coat the palate with dry extract that also buffers the moderately firm tannins on the seductive finish. This has several appealing attributes but I don’t care for the nose. (88-90)/2021+

2015 Volnay “Pitures”: This is also very ripe though there is no prune character on the liqueur-like aromas of plum, dark cherry and spice. The more mineral-driven and more precise medium-bodied flavors possess good muscle and punch while delivering fine complexity and persistence. While this could be enjoyed young I would suggest allowing it at least 4 to 6 years first. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Volnay “Taillepieds”: Once again, soft notes of wood and menthol serve as the backdrop for the essence of notably ripe dark pinot fruit, violet, spice and cassis hints. Like the Pitures the middle weight flavors possess good muscle and punch as well as a lovely minerality that helps to add lift to the more complex and persistent finish that presently displays the typical youthful austerity of a fine Taillepieds. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Morey St. Denis “Les Blanchards”: Discreet wood influence surrounds the fresh and attractively cool mix of red raspberry, dark cherry and forest floor scents. There is a lovely sense of energy to the well-detailed middle weight flavors that are not quite as concentrated as those of the Taillepieds but actually slightly finer, all wrapped in an utterly delicious and solidly complex finale. Worth considering and this should drink well young but age well too. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Nuits St. Georges “Les Boussetots”: A pungent nose offers up notes of menthol, wood, violet, plum and plenty of earth and *sauvage* nuances. There is good delineation and a taut muscularity to the lightly stony flavors that are shaped by relatively fine-grained tannins on the delicious, clean and dry-in-the-best sense finale. Patience required. (89-92)/2023+

Domaine Dubreuil-Fontaine (Pernand-Vergelesses)

2015	Aloxe-Corton	red	(87-89)
2015	Aloxe-Corton “Les Vercots” 1er	red	(87-90)
2015	Beaune “Montrevenots” 1er	red	(87-89)
2015	➔ Bourgogne “La Chapelle Notre Dame”	red	87
2015	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2015	Corton-Perrières Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2015	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2015	Pernand-Vergelesses	red	(86-88)
2015	Pernand-Vergelesses “Clos Berthet” 1er	red	(87-89)
2015	Pernand-Vergelesses “Ile de Vergelesses” 1er	red	(87-89)
2015	Pommard	red	(86-89)
2015	Pommard “Epenots” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Vergelesses” 1er	red	(88-91)
2015	Volnay	red	(86-88)

Christine Dubreuil describes the 2015 growing season as one that was “relatively easy to manage as there were no major problems to speak of. I chose to begin picking on the 2nd of September and the fruit was both ripe and impeccably clean. Potential alcohols were very good to actually high as they ranged from 13 to as much as 14.5% which, interestingly enough, is higher than what we obtained in 2003. We realized average volumes in white but lower than average in red because while we had a normal number of bunches, there just wasn’t much juice in them. The colors and extractions came easily and the trick in 2015 was more to limit the extractions than it was to try to obtain more concentration and structure. As to the wines, they’re ripe but they don’t drink like it and in particular, the reds have relatively fine tannins which helps to avoid any sense of heaviness.” I would describe the quality of the Dubreuil 2015s as variable but with several standouts that include an excellent

Bourgogne plus the trio of Corton *grands crus*. (A.P.S., www.apswine.com, CA, DB Wine Selection, www.dbwineselection.com, MA and Voix de la Terre, www.vdltwine.com, NY, all USA; Direct Wine, www.directwine.co.uk, UK).

2015 Bourgogne “La Chapelle Notre Dame”: A ripe and intensely earthy nose possesses a lovely freshness that leads to sleek, delicious and round flavors that offer very good depth and length. This is lovely and displays very fine quality for its level, indeed it would make an excellent choice for an all-around house red plus it will age for a few years too. 87/2019+

2015 Pernand-Vergelesses: A notably ripe nose of plum and prune that lacks a bit of freshness precedes round and delicious flavors that possess good verve and a subtle minerality that carries over to the lingering finish. I like the mouth feel but the nose isn't for me. (86-88)/2019+

2015 Pernand-Vergelesses “Clos Berthet”: This too is quite ripe though the liqueur-like dark berry and earth-suffused nose is slightly fresher. I very much like the seductive mouth feel that also displays good minerality on the sneaky long finale. This attractive effort should drink well young. (87-89)/2019+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Vergelesses”: Once again the aromas are very ripe but in this case much more reserved; indeed the word somber would appropriately describe the earthy plum, dark currant and forest floor scents. There is better mid-palate concentration to the notably rich and overtly powerful flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the finish that is also sneaky long. This is atypical but perfectly good. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Aloxe-Corton: (from Les Combes, Les Cras and Les Boutières). A moderately fresh nose is also rather somber and restrained and requires aggressive swirling to liberate the much more *sauvage*-inflected aromas of dark cherry, earth and humus. The impressively rich, round and muscular flavors possess better vibrancy than the nose would suggest, all wrapped in a mildly rustic, firm and persistent finale. (87-89)/2022+

2015 Pommard: (from Trois Follots and En Boeuf). This is the first wine to display any appreciable wood and it remains subtle on the ultra-ripe nose of plum, prune and earth. The succulent and more overtly mineral-infused medium-bodied flavors possess a sleek mouth feel while delivering fine length. This is not without appeal but the nose is definitely riper than I prefer. (86-89)/2022+

2015 Volnay: (~50% comes from 1ers that include Les Lurets, Carelle Sous la Chapelle and Les Brouillards with the remainder from Les Grands Champs). Prune dominates the nose and it's not clear that it will freshen. On the plus side there is good energy and detail to the lightly mineral-inflected flavors that possess a really lovely mouth feel while delivering fine length. This is not without positive attributes but the nose is particular. (86-88)/2021+

2015 Pernand-Vergelesses “Ile de Vergelesses”: A markedly ripe nose is composed by notes of prune, plum, spice and earth. There is much better freshness on the palate with good punch and a driving minerality to the delicious and seductively textured flavors that are shaped by relatively fine tannins on the lingering finish. Once again there are aspects to enjoy but the nose is riper than I prefer. (87-89)/2022+

2015 Beaune “Montrevenots”: This too is very ripe with notes of prune, plum, earth and a pretty floral note. The generous and velvet-textured flavors also possess a wonderfully seductive mouth feel thanks to the silky tannins shaping the sneaky long finale. I like the sophisticated mouth feel and mid-palate density though the nose isn't for me. (87-89)/2023+

2015 Aloxe-Corton “Les Vercots”: An acceptably fresh nose speaks of liqueur-like aromas of plum, cassis and earth. The exceptionally rich, powerful and robust big-bodied flavors possess a velvety mid-palate that contrasts noticeably with the moderately rustic but complex finale. This is sufficiently structured that it is going to need at least a few years of cellaring to resolve at least some of it. (87-90)/2023+

2015 Pommard “Epenots”: A discreet touch of wood sets off fresher aromas of dark berries, warm earth and pretty spice nuances. The more refined and admirably concentrated medium-bodied flavors possess fine complexity on the firm, long and serious if slightly warm finish. This too is clearly very ripe but manages to carry it better. (90-92)/2025+

2015 Corton-Perrières: (from a .60 ha parcel). An agreeably fresh nose combines notes of plum, violet, dark currant and earth with those of wood and menthol. There is excellent richness to the robust, powerful and concentrated broad-shouldered flavors that coat the palate with dry extract while exhibiting fine persistence on the slightly warm and rustic finale. This is definitely going to need at least 6 to 8 years of cellar time and should easily reward 12 to 15. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Corton-Bressandes: (from .77 ha holding of vines planted in 1953). Here too there is enough wood and menthol influence to mention framing the very ripe plum and earth aromas that reveal a wisp of prune. There is excellent size, weight and punch to the full-bodied and muscular flavors that are shaped by slightly finer tannins on the palate coating finish where a hint of warmth can be found. The nose is slightly riper than I prefer but this is impressive all the same. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Corton-Clos du Roi: (from a .62 ha parcel). An overtly *sauvage*-inflected nose offers up intensely earthy aromas of plum, dark berry liqueur and a pretty array of spice nuances. The ultra-rich and velvety big-bodied flavors possess evident power and plenty of minerality on the gorgeously long if mildly warm finish that is less youthfully austere than it usually is. (91-94)/2030+

Domaine Arnaud Ente (Meursault)

2015	➔ Bourgogne	red	(87-89)
2015	➔ Volnay “Les Santenots du Milieu” 1er	red	(91-94)

I will have Arnaud Ente’s views on the 2015 vintage in Issue 67. I will note though that Ente did especially well in the context of the vintage and both of these wines are avidly recommended. (Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, www.kermitlynch.com, CA, USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com and Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com, both UK).

2015 Bourgogne: (100% pinot noir made with ~70% whole clusters). There is ample floral influence on the fresh and cool essence of red pinot fruit and earth-scented nose. The attractively textured, intense and rich medium weight flavors possess outstanding volume, depth and length on the balanced finish. This is unusually good for its level. (87-89)/2020+

2015 Volnay “Les Santenots du Milieu”: This is also exceptionally floral with its array of violet, lilac and rose petal aromas that add elegance to the markedly spicy dark berry fruit liqueur-suffused nose. The rich, full-bodied, focused and powerful flavors possess fine mid-palate concentration while delivering excellent minerality on the beautifully long, well-balanced and persistent finish. This is both classy and stylish and should copiously reward extended cellaring if desired. (91-94)/2027+

Domaine Jean-Charles Fagot (Corpeau)

2015	Bourgogne “Les Riaux”	red	86
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes	red	87
2015	Côte de Nuits-Villages	red	88
2015	Mercurey	red	87
2015	Mercurey “Le Clos L’Évêque” 1er	red	89
2015	Santenay “Gravières” 1er	red	89

Recording artist Jean-Charles Fagot runs this small 4 ha domaine (with vines mostly in Chassagne) that he supplements with purchases of must in red and white. He also operates a highly popular restaurant, L’Auberge du Vieux Vigneron, in the tiny village of Corpeau that is just on the other side of the Route National by Puligny-Montrachet. The vines are farmed using the viticultural philosophy of *lutte raisonnée* and the fruit is vinified traditionally. The new wines are raised with no new wood (a mix of 1, 2 and 3 year old wood is used) and then are bottled after 12 to 14 months. The goal is to produce generously proportioned wines that drink well young but can reward short to mid-term aging, and that what was accomplished in 2015. (Langdon-Shiverick, www.shiverick.com, Los Angeles, CA).

2015 Bourgogne “Les Riaux”: A pepper-inflected array of dark raspberry, earth and a hint of humus leads to rich and relatively full-bodied flavors that are at once delicious and generous, all wrapped in a lingering and mildly rustic effort. While this could certainly be enjoyed young, it is sufficiently structured to benefit from 2 to 3 years of cellaring. 86/2019+

2015 Côte de Nuits-Villages: An attractively fresh nose is composed of various red berry aromas that are laced with hints of earth, anise and forest floor. There is fine richness to the generously proportioned medium weight flavors that possess a finer mouth feel as well as a hint of minerality that arises on the solidly complex and persistent finish. Like the Bourgogne this is sufficiently forward that it could be enjoyed now or held for a few years first. 88/2019+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: Hints of white pepper and freshly turned earth add breath to the dark currant and black cherry scents. There is a bit more size, weight and mid-palate concentration to the medium-bodied flavors that coat the palate with extract while delivering fine complexity though there is noticeable dryness that cuts the finish somewhat short. Fagot noted that this had just been bottled so the dryness may very well dissipate once the sulfur addition is absorbed. 87/2022+

2015 Mercurey: An overtly *sauvage*-inflected nose speaks of earth, humus and various dark berry fruit elements. The mouth feel of the middle weight flavors is an exercise in contrasts as the mid-palate is velvety and sleek yet the finish is notably rustic and very Mercurey in character. This will need at least a year or two to unwind. 87/2021+

2015 Santenay “Gravières”: A more elegant nose offers notes of ripe yet cool red currant that display both earth and floral nuances. Here too there is a lovely mouth feel to the finer middle weight flavors that exhibit a hint of minerality that carries over to the balanced, complex and lingering finish where a hint of rusticity appears just at the end. This is the most structured wine in the range and I would suggest allowing it at least 2 to 3 years of cellaring first. 89/2023+

2015 Mercurey “Le Clos L’Évêque”: Deep ruby that is almost opaque. A notably ripe nose is comprised by liqueur-like aromas of black cherry and warm earth along with a wisp of spice. There is impressive richness to the velvet-textured full-bodied flavors that also possess a suggestion of rusticity on the equally complex finale. 89/2022+

Domaine Jean-Philippe Fichet (Meursault)

2015	Auxey-Duresses	red	(86-88)
2015	Bourgogne Pinot Noir	red	(85-87)
2015	Monthélie “Les Clous” 1er	red	(87-89)

There will be more on Jean-Philippe Fichet’s views of the 2015 vintage in Issue 67 as the whites represent the majority of his domaine. I should note that in contrast to Fichet’s goal to craft age-worthy whites, the reds are expressly made to enjoy young. (The Rare Wine Company, www.rarewineco.com, CA, USA is the primary importer and distributes to Cream Wine Company, www.creamwine.com, IL, USA and Polaner Selections, www.polanerselections.com, NY, USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmywines.com, Goedhuis & Co., www.goedhuis.com, Genesis Wines, www.genesiswines.com and Vine Trail, www.vinetrail.co.uk, all UK; L’Imperatrice Fine Wines, www.imperatrice.com.hk, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com/hk, both Hong Kong; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.co.jp, Japan).

2015 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: A fresh and ripe nose combines notes of red and dark pinot fruit with those of earth and an interesting hint of fennel. The supple light weight flavors possess an attractive sense of energy before concluding in a delicious if slightly simple finish. To enjoy upon release. (85-87)/now+

2015 Auxey-Duresses: Here the expressive nose is also quite fresh with a similar fruit profile but where there is a more pronounced earth character. The barely middle weight flavors display an appealing sense of energy that also characterizes the delicious and easy-to-like finish. This too should drink well almost immediately. (86-88)/2018+

2015 Monthélie “Les Clous”: This is more aromatically elegant as well with a pretty mix of red cherry, currant, earth and a soft floral element. There is a bit more substance to the supple and forward flavors that terminate in an attractively persistent finish where a touch of rusticity arrives just at the end. In contrast to the prior two wines, this could be successfully held for 2 to 3 years if desired. (87-89)/2019+

Domaine Follin-Arbelet (Aloxe-Corton)

2015	➔ Aloxe-Corton	red	(89-91)
2015	Aloxe-Corton “Clos du Chapitre” 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Aloxe-Corton “Les Vercots” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2015	Corton-Le Charlemagne Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2015	Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Fichots” 1er	red	(88-91)
2015	Romanée St. Vivant Grand Cru	red	(92-94)

The always forthright Franck Follin, who has directed this 6 hectare enterprise since 1993, described the 2015 growing season as “about as stress-free as I’m ever likely to see because other than a bit of hydric stress for the vines in July, there really were no particular concerns. I chose to begin picking on the 2nd of September and other than perhaps 2005, I’ve never seen such clean fruit. Potential alcohols were excellent as everything came in between 13 and 14% and thus there was no chaptalization at all. Yields were about the only aspect of 2015 that could have been better as we realized only 25 to 30 hl/ha, which after short crops from 2010 to 2014, it would have been nice to actually have had some volume. But better to have less of something great than lots of something terrible! I used between 15 and 20% whole clusters in the vinification and what I find so interesting about the 2015s is how much they have changed during the *élevage*. They started out sweet and rich and while not exactly heavy, I thought that they lacked a bit of energy. However, as they have aged in barrel they have become much fresher and more energetic and I have come to appreciate them much more today than I did 15 months ago. Based on what I’m seeing now, the style of the 2015s appears to be one that should drink well all their lives as they don’t strike me as wines that will shut down after they’re bottled. But I take pains to point out that no one really knows how the wines will react so take my prediction with a grain of salt.” I found the Follin 2015s to be slightly above the general level of quality I found in the Côte de Beaune and I was particularly impressed with the Aloxe *villages*, the Aloxe 1er Les Vercots and a first-rate Corton-Bressandes. Note that for the third year in a row, there will be no En Caradeux. (Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, www.kermitlynch.com, CA, USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com and Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com, both UK).

2015 Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Fichots”: A ripe and brooding nose reluctantly offers up pungent aromas of various red berries, earth and evident *sauvage* nuances. The supple, round and impressively rich medium weight flavors possess solid concentration where the abundant dry extract imparts a sappy texture to the complex and balanced finale. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Aloxe-Corton: (from La Toppe Marteneau and Boulmeau). Bright ruby color. Here the nose is fresher still with a ripe yet cool array of red pinot fruit, pomegranate, earth and a hint of humus. There is excellent volume to the rich, vibrant and muscular flavors that exhibit only a trace of rusticity on the relatively powerful finish that delivers both fine depth and length. This is a very good Aloxe *villages* and one that is worth checking out. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Aloxe-Corton “Clos du Chapitre”: This too flashes a bright ruby color as well as a ripe yet cool nose that is a bit more complex with its blend of red currant, cherry, freshly turned earth and a whisper of wood. There is an almost delicate mouth feel to the supple and generously proportioned medium-bodied flavors where the Aloxe muscle and rusticity arrive right at the end of the mildly austere finale. This moderately structured effort is also really quite pretty as about the only nit is a touch of backend warmth. (89-92)/2022+

2015 Aloxe-Corton “Les Vercots”: A more deeply pitched and subtly oaked nose combines notes of plum, violet and dark currant with those of game, earth and the forest floor. The sleek, supple and attractively intense medium weight flavors also possess a taut muscularity and fine power that carries over to the rustic, dusty, youthfully austere and mouth coating finale. This is textbook Vercots, which is to say rich, bold, structured and robust. (90-92)/2025+

2015 Corton – Le Charlemagne: A restrained and much, much earthier and *sauvage*-inflected nose reflects notes of red and dark currant, plum, spice and a hint of wood. The mouth feel of the bigger and richer flavors is relatively supple yet the moderately austere, compact and serious finish immediately tightens up to confirm that this is going to need at least 6 to 8 years to become more civilized and will probably require 12 to 15 to fully mature. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Corton-Bressandes: (from 45 to 50 year old vines). As is almost always the case, this is more aromatically elegant with its pure and cool essence of dark raspberry and cherry aromas that are well-nuanced by wisps of earth, spice and rose petal. The sleekly muscular broad-shouldered flavors possess excellent concentration and plenty of sappy dry extract that coats the palate and buffers the markedly firm and sneaky long finale where a trace of warmth appears. If you have the patience this should make for a terrific wine in time. (91-94)/2030+

2015 Romanée St. Vivant: It required aggressive swirling to coax the super-spicy and elegant nose to reveal plum liqueur, dark cherry and sandalwood scents. The marvelously refined middle weight flavors possess a beguiling satin-like texture yet there is no lack of punch on the wonderfully long, complex and well-balanced finish. Make no mistake however because while this may be classy and sophisticated, there is plenty of supporting structure and this will need time. (92-94)/2030+

Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2015	Bourgogne	red	86
2015	Bourgogne – Passe-Tout-Grains	red	86
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet	red	88
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean” 1er	red	89

2015	Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot" 1er	red	89
2015	➔ Pommard "Rugiens" 1er	red	91
2015	➔ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	91

Richard Fontaine described the 2015 growing season as "much easier than usual as conditions were mostly hot and dry for much of the spring and summer. We picked from the 1st to the 7th of September though the harvest wasn't easy as it was just so hot; in fact we would have liked to have begun even earlier but the pickers just couldn't reasonably function in the afternoon heat. Thankfully we had a heavy storm on the night of the 1st which normally would have presented big problems but in this case it helped to cool things off. One aspect that really helped speed the picking and processing chores up was just how clean the fruit was as there was basically almost no sorting required. Yields were another story though as we brought in about 75% of a normal crop in white but much less in red as the flowering passed much better for the chardonnay than it did for the pinot. I would call 2015 a great vintage in red and a good one in white." I found the quality of the Fontaine 2015s to be basically in-line with what I found elsewhere in the Côte de Beaune. Fontaine noted that the reds were bottled in January, 2017. (JAO Wine Imports, www.jaowineimports.com, VA, 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).

2015 Bourgogne – Passe-Tout-Grains: (from a 50/50 blend of gamay and pinot). Distinct notes of pepper and earth add breadth to the mostly red cherry and raspberry-scented nose. The supple, round and easy-to-like flavors offer just enough complexity and punch on the lingering finish to be interesting. To enjoy young. 86/now

2015 Bourgogne: A slightly more complex nose features notes of red currant, warm earth and a hint of orange pekoe tea. The delicious, vibrant and attractively fresh flavors possess reasonably good detail on the equally punchy and lingering finale. This too will basically drink well upon release though 1 to 2 years of cellaring should help to add a bit of depth. 86/2018+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet: (from 5 different *lieux-dits*). There is plenty of pepper, warm earth and an interesting smoky peat character to the red currant and dark cherry aromas. There is notably better volume and muscle characterizing the more complex, delicious and nicely vibrant medium-bodied flavors that display just a hint of dryness. Given that the supporting tannins seem ripe, I suspect that the dryness is caused by a bit of residual sulfur and as such it should dissipate quickly. 88/2020+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean": A relatively high-toned nose reveals notes of cherry, strawberry and pomegranate along with subtle wisps of earth and anise. There is fine detail and a lovely sense of vibrancy to the delicious and lightly mineral-inflected flavors that deliver very good length though not the complexity I'm used to seeing from this wine. More of course will develop with a few years of bottle age but I found this to be slightly less interesting than usual. 89/2020+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot": (from Les Chaumes). Here the equally expressive if more deeply pitched nose offers up notes of pepper and spice together with those of red currant, plum and earth. There is also a bit more volume to the less refined medium weight flavors that culminate in an even longer if somewhat rustic finale. 89/2020+

2015 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": A wonderfully pure nose is composed by the essence of red cherry liqueur, tea, anise and lovely floral scents. There is excellent underlying tension to the mineral-driven, precise and tautly muscular flavors that terminate in a mildly chewy finish where I suspect that the chewiness, like the Chassagne *villages*, is exacerbated by a touch of unabsorbed sulfur. Note that my rating offers the benefit of the doubt that it will pass relatively quickly. 91/2022+

2015 Pommard "Rugiens": (from a .21 ha parcel). Here too the nose is on the relatively high-toned side of the fruit spectrum with its array of fresh red cherry, pomegranate and violet scents. There is excellent richness to the focused, powerful and mineral-driven middle weight plus flavors that possess fine depth and length on the impressively long finish. At least moderate patience will be necessary and this should be capable of rewarding up to a decade of bottle age. 91/2023+

Domaine Jean-Noël Gagnard (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2015	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet – Cuvée l'Estimée	red	89
2015	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean" 1er	red	91
2015	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet "Morqeot" 1er	red	92
2015	➔ Santenay "Clos Tavannes" 1er	red	91

Caroline L'Estimée reports that 2015 was "a vintage that gave perhaps the best raw materials that I have ever seen in pinot noir and good to very good in chardonnay. We began picking on the 31st of August and brought in ripe fruit that was spotless, in fact it was so clean that it was almost pointless to sort it. Potential alcohols for the reds were right at 13% and a bit higher in white at around 13.5%. Yields though were low in pinot as we experienced a lot of shatter during the flowering though they were reasonable in chardonnay despite the high summer heat. As to the reds, if they fulfill the potential that I see in them, they will be the best that I have ever made. The whites, while certainly good, are what I would describe as charming and seductive but not classic." As the ratings and commentaries confirm, I agree with L'Estimée that her 2015 reds are really quite impressive. L'Estimée also noted that the first three reds were bottled in September, 2016 and the Clos Tavannes in January, 2017. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.leserbet.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, all USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, UK).

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet – Cuvée l'Estimée: A pepper-inflected, expressive and wonderfully fresh nose offers up a combination of both red and dark currant along with plenty of earth. The rich, round and ripe medium weight flavors possess an unusually refined mouth feel for a Chassagne *villages* while the balanced finish delivers fine persistence and better than average depth. Note further that this could easily be enjoyed young. 89/2020+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean": Bright ruby color. Here the equally fresh nose is more elegant with its array of essence of various red berries and soft floral nuances. The sleek, intense and utterly delicious middle weight flavors exude a fine bead of minerality on the sappy, detailed and even longer finish. While this too could easily be enjoyed young for its fruit and energy, I would be inclined to cellar it for at least a few years first. 91/2021+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morqeot": (from Clos Charreau and Grand Clos). A gentle application of wood still easily allows the much earthier and, if less elegant, then more complex nose that displays notes of red currant, plum and humus to shine. There is also a bit more volume and power to the muscular and solidly well-concentrated flavors that are not nearly as refined yet there is just more here on the slightly rustic finish that exhibits a hint of bitter cherry. Like the Clos St. Jean, I would advise holding this for at least a few years first and it should reward up to a decade's worth of aging. 92/2022+

2015 Santenay "Clos Tavannes": A cool, pure and airy nose is comprised by aromas of red currant, cherry and freshly turned earth. The highly energetic flavors also possess a sleek mouth feel and the most minerality in the range that really comes up on the moderately firm and youthfully austere but beautifully persistent finale. Moderate patience recommended. 91/2022+

Maison Alex Gambal (Beaune)

2015	Auxey-Duresses	red	(87-90)
2015	➔ Bourgogne – Cuvée Les Deux Papies	red	(86-89)
2015	Chambolle-Musigny	red	(88-91)
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Charmes" 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny "Aux Échanges" 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2015	Chorey-lès-Beaune	red	(87-89)
2015	➔ Côte de Brouilly	red	(89-92)
2015	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin	red	(89-91)
2015	Nuits-Saint-Georges "Clos des Argillières" 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	St. Romain	red	(87-89)

2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	(88-90)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Grands Picotins"	red	(88-91)
2015	Volnay	red	(88-91)
2015	➔ Vosne-Romanée Vieilles Vignes	red	(89-91)

Maison Alex Gambal is progressively transforming into a domaine because as of 2015, two-thirds of its certified bio production was from domaine-sourced fruit. The owned vineyards now total about 12 ha and stretch from Nuits to Chassagne and the goal is to continue to add parcels such that ultimately, 80% of the production comes from owned vineyards. Gambal was away at the time of my January visit but his winemaking assistant Alexandre Brault briefly noted that "the domaine fruit was brought in beginning on the 29th of August. It was very clean in both colors and required almost no sorting of any significance other than the odd leaf or insect. Ripeness levels, sugars and acidities were all extremely good, in fact sufficiently so that we used some whole cluster vinifications for some of the reds. Yields though were not especially abundant as the flowering was troubled, particularly for the pinot, so it would be fair to describe them as limited. We like both the reds and whites quite a lot and in particular the reds as they should age well yet be approachable young." I was favorably impressed with the quality that I found here for the 2015 vintage and that is no accident as it's always easier to make better wines when you're controlling the viticulture. As such I expect that we may continue to see quality increases at this address. (Ruby Wines, www.rubywines.com, MA, Grapevine Distributors, www.grapevinedistributors.com, NC & SC, Southern Wines & Spirits, www.southernwine.com, FL, Schneider's, Washington, D. C., Chelsea Ventures, LLC, www.chelseaventures.us, IL, AP Wine Imports, www.apwineimports.com, NY and Wine Warehouse, www.winesf.com, CA, all USA; O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, UK).

2015 Côte de Brouilly: (Beaujolais). A very ripe yet fresh nose combines notes of plum and black cherry liqueur with those of pepper and earth nuances. There is excellent volume to the succulent, rich and round flavors that possess fine mid-palate density, all wrapped in a complex, delicious and reasonably well-balanced finale though there is a hint of warmth. Still, this is really very good and a wine that could easily be enjoyed young. (89-92)/2020+

2015 Bourgogne – Cuvée Les Deux Papies: (from Pommard and Volnay fruit). This is also attractively fresh with its pretty array that is composed mostly by a range of red berry fruit and soft earth scents. The appealingly textured, delicious and vibrant flavors retain good detail on the nicely persistent finish. This is a quality Bourgogne that would make a good choice as an all-around house red. (86-89)/2019+

2015 St. Romain: A more deeply pitched and once again, wonderfully fresh nose features notes of essence of red currant, earth and a discreet hint of violet. The refined and lightly mineral-inflected flavors possess a relatively seductive mouth feel before concluding in a delicious and sappy finale that exhibits just a touch of youthful austerity. Lovely. (87-89)/2020+

2015 Auxey-Duresses: Here the more reserved nose is more deeply pitched still with its combination of plum, dark berry liqueur and prominent earth character. There is fine intensity to the rich and moderately powerful flavors that possess solid mid-palate volume while displaying only a touch of rusticity on the lingering and complex finish. Good stuff. (87-90)/2021+

2015 Chorey-lès-Beaune: This is presently somewhat reduced though not so much that hints of violet and earth are masked. I like the sense of vibrancy to the rich middle weight flavors that possess a caressing mouth feel that continues onto the mildly austere, drying and warm finish. I suspect that the dryness is more attributable to the high level of gas and thus my projected range awards the benefit of the doubt. (87-89)/2020+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune: This is the first wine to display any appreciable level of wood influence and even here it's subtle and easily allows the pungently earthy mix of dark berries and humus to shine. Like the Chorey there is a lovely sense of energy to the delicious and seductively textured flavors that coat the palate on the lingering finish where about the only nit is a trace of warmth. (88-90)/2021+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Grands Picotins": There is just enough wood present to mention though not so much to impede an assessment of the equally earthy liqueur-like dark currant-suffused nose. There is a bit more volume and richness to the sappy medium-bodied flavors that possess a velvety texture thanks to the abundant dry extract that buffers the moderately firm tannic spine on the lingering finale. This is worth a look as it's a quality Savigny *villages*. (88-91)/2022+

2015 Volnay: More subtle though certainly not invisible wood sets off a pretty nose of plum, earth and lovely violet scents. The mouth feel of the middle weight and lightly mineral-inflected flavors is also velvety and seductive while delivering fine length on the youthfully austere finish where an interesting note of orange peel surfaces. (88-91)/2022+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin: (from Champ in Brochon). There are abundant warm earth and *sauvage* nuances present on the essence of dark berry liqueur-like suffused nose. The brooding, intense and muscular flavors possess very fine volume as well as a discreet minerality that continues onto the serious, persistent and balanced finish. This is sufficiently firmly structured to suggest that most of a decade will be necessary for it to arrive at its peak. (89-91)/2023+

2015 Vosne-Romanée Vieilles Vignes: (from Vigneux and Les Barreaux). Gambal always seems to do well with this wine and 2015 is no exception with its exuberantly spicy nose of cassis, plum and Asian-style tea. The opulent and lavishly rich flavors coat the mouth and the old vine sappiness is very much in evidence and particularly so on the impressively long finish as it buffers the moderately firm tannins. Still, this should be reasonably approachable young if desired. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny: Reduction presently dominates the underlying fruit. Otherwise there is both better precision and more minerality if less volume and underlying material to the medium weight flavors that culminate in a linear and youthfully austere finish that offers good if not truly exceptional depth and persistence. (88-91)/2022+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Charmes”: (vinified with 40% whole clusters). A restrained, elegant and complex nose exhibits plenty of floral character that adds breadth to the red currant and dark raspberry scents. I very much like the inner mouth perfume of the refined, pure and well-detailed medium weight flavors that possess a lilting palate impression on the refreshing, dusty, balanced and lingering finale. This beauty is very Charmes in style. (90-93)/2023+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Aux Échanges”: (vinified with 40% whole clusters). Reduction flattens the fruit but the floral characters from the whole cluster ferment are still discernible. Otherwise there is an even finer mouth feel to the more evidently mineral-inflected flavors that aren’t quite as rich as those of the Charmes, all wrapped in a dusty, mouth coating and beautifully well-balanced and slightly firmer finish. These two Chambolle 1ers are quite qualitatively similar but offer two very different expressions. (90-93)/2025+

2015 Nuits-Saint-Georges “Clos des Argillières”: (vinified with 50% whole clusters). This is also quite restrained with relatively cool aromas of red and dark berry liqueur, spice, earth and plenty of floral elements. There is really good richness to the succulent, even seductively textured flavors thanks mainly to the relatively fine grain of the tannins shaping the moderately firm, balanced and solidly persistent finale. This is really quite good and if the flavors can add depth with a few years of bottle age the wine should merit the upper end of my projected range. (89-92)/2022+

2015 Charmes-Chambertin: (from Mazoyères; vinified with 70% whole clusters). Moderate wood frames notably ripe yet still agreeably fresh aromas that combine overtly floral notes with those of cassis, forest floor and warm earth. Like the Argillières, the tannins are notably fine which adds a touch of refinement to the sappy but robust and powerful broad-shouldered flavors where the velvet texture of the mid-palate contrasts substantially with the borderline rustic finale. This firmly structured effort should amply reward extended cellaring yet it’s not especially austere and thus should drink well young too. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Clos de Vougeot: (vinified with 30% whole clusters). A more subtle application of wood surrounds the well-layered nose of red and dark currant, freshly turned earth and a discreet whiff of smoked game. The round, seductive and once again velvet-textured flavors possess first-rate punch and power while delivering excellent length on the youthfully austere, mouth coating and built-to-age finish. This possesses excellent development potential and will accordingly need it. (92-94)/2030+

Domaine Michel Gaunoux (Pommard)

2014	Beaune	red	88
2014	Corton-Renardes Grand Cru	red	93
2014	➤ Pommard “Grands Epenots” 1er	red	92
2014	➤ Pommard “Les Rugiens Bas” 1er	red	92
2011	Corton-Renardes Grand Cru	red	91
2008	Pommard “Grands Epenots” 1er	red	91
2007	Pommard “Les Rugiens Bas” 1er	red	90
2001	Pommard “Grands Epenots” 1er	red	92

The always thoughtful and considered Alexandre Gaunoux describes the 2014 vintage as one that “wasn’t easy but at least it was easier than either 2012 or 2013. We of course were hit by hail yet again and there was some sorting required at the harvest for various minor problems. However, overall the fruit we retained was both ripe and clean with reasonably good potential alcohols and supporting acidities. The vinifications were largely straightforward and I did our normal vinification. I like the 2014s for the refreshing characters and while it’s not a great vintage, it should be well-received by purists as there is excellent *terroir* transparency.” Gaunoux said that the 2014s were bottled between April and May 2016. Note that I have

updated reviews on several older vintages plus a few new ones; many others can be found in the searchable Burghound database. (Polaner Selections, www.polanerselections.com, NY, Envoyer Fine Wines, www.envoyerfinewines.com, CA, both USA; no authorized UK importer).

2014 Beaune: (contains some 1er juice from Boucherottes along with 3 other *lieux-dits*). An elegant, fresh and pretty nose reflects notes of red berries, earth and a subtle floral influence. The sleek, delicious and nicely concentrated medium weight flavors possess a lovely sense of underlying tension on the youthfully austere, balanced and refreshing finish. While this won't need a lot of cellar time, it still should benefit from at least another 3 to 5 or so years. 88/2020+

2014 Pommard "Grands Epenots": (from a large 1.74 ha parcel). Here the nose is at once both more complex than the Beaune as well as much earthier with its ripe yet airy combination of red and dark currant along with subtle spice nuances. Interestingly, there is also a finer mouth feel to the bigger, richer and more powerful medium-bodied flavors that possess a relatively seductive mouth feel to the dusty, firm, well-balanced and impressively long finish. This is lovely though note that at least moderate patience will be required. 92/2026+

2014 Pommard "Les Rugiens Bas": (from a .69 ha parcel). There is an interesting *sauvage* hint because Rugiens typically only displays this character with bottle age though it by no means dominates the well-layered array of plum, dark cherry, forest floor and pungent earth. The delineated, intense and mineral-driven middle weight plus flavors possess a beguiling sense of underlying tension before concluding in a saline, youthfully austere and very serious finale. As is typically the case this is a bit more structured than the Epenots and, accordingly, will require a slightly longer stay in a cool cellar. Excellent. 92/2029+

2014 Corton-Renardes: (from a .63 ha parcel). This is even more prominently *sauvage* in character with its fresh if restrained nose of various dark berries along with plenty of earth and humus influences. Like all of these 2014s, the big-bodied flavors possess a sleek mouth feel and focused power where a more subtle minerality suffuses the impressively long, sappy and beautifully well-balanced finale. Like the Rugiens this is going to require extended patience if you wish to see the '14 Renardes at its peak. 93/2029+

2011 Corton-Renardes: (from a .63 ha parcel) Notes of herbal tea and a distinct *sauvage* character add breadth to the decidedly earthy aromas of various red berries, plum and spice. There is a caressing mouth feel to the lightly mineral-inflected flavors that retain fine mid-palate concentration that carries over to the sleek, balanced and unusually refined as well as sneaky long finish. Note that this is still on the way up and I would suggest holding off for at least another few years first or if not, then decanting the wine for 30+ minutes. 91/2023+

2008 Pommard "Grands Epenots": (from a large 1.74 ha parcel). A pretty, perfumed and quite elegant nose of liqueur-like red and blue berry fruit aromas is trimmed in soft earth nuances that are just now beginning to display the first whispers of secondary development. There is fine concentration to the sleek, delicious and intense middle weight flavors that possess an attractively textured mouth feel and outstanding length on the mildly austere finale. While this is approaching its peak, I would advise holding it for another 3 to 5 years first; that said, it would be no vinous crime to open a bottle now. 91/2020+

2007 Pommard "Les Rugiens Bas": (from a .69 ha parcel). The well-layered nose features notes of secondary fruit, spice, earth, wet stone, freshly crushed red berries and hints of underbrush. There is excellent verve to the seductively textured and mineral-driven flavors that also display a lilting mouth feel, all wrapped in a long if mildly dry finish that would very probably be a non-issue if served with the appropriate foods. Note that while this could be drunk now it will be better with a few more years of cellar time first. 90/2019+

2001 Pommard "Grands Epenots": (from a large 1.74 ha parcel). There is a touch of *sous bois* emerging on the still fresh and pure aromas that speak of earth, red currant, plum and violets. The detailed and delicately mineral-infused medium-bodied flavors exhibit sneaky good length on the balanced and linear finish blessed with plenty of verve. This isn't especially dense but I very much like the delivery and for my taste this is now drinking perfectly. Lovely. 92/now+

Domaine Henri Germain et Fils (Meursault)

2015	Beaune "Bressandes" 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Bourgogne	red	(85-88)
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet	red	(87-89)
2015	Meursault "Clos des Mouches"	red	(87-90)

Jean-François Germain told me that the 2015 growing season was "about as easy as we could have as we had no disease pressure to speak of, and thus fewer treatments, and perhaps even more importantly, we had no climatic disasters. Even so

the damage we suffered over the past three years had its lingering effects as yields were correct but not better. We chose to begin picking on the 31st of August and the fruit was super-clean and definitely ripe as potential alcohols came in between 13.2 to 13.8%. All the reds were 100% destemmed except the Clos des Mouches were I used about 25% whole clusters. The malos terminated quickly and I used less new wood than usual, which is to say between 20 and 25% though I used none for the Perrières (to be reviewed in Issue 67). I like the 2015s but I wouldn't describe them as classic." (Success Wines, NJ, Milton Road Trading Corp, LLC, www.miltonroadtrading.com, CA, both USA; Domaine Direct, www.domainedirect.co.uk, Adnams, www.adnams.co.uk, Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk and Tanners Wine, www.tanners-wines.co.uk, all UK).

2015 Bourgogne: A pretty nose reveals essence of red cherry aromas that are interwoven with warm earth nuances. There is good vibrancy and reasonably good volume and richness to the middle weight flavors that offer acceptable persistence on the clean and slightly linear bitter cherry-inflected finish. (85-88)/2019+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet: (from Les Battaudes). This is at once riper and more complex with its nose of spice, pepper, earth and red and dark currant aromas. There is more volume and mid-palate concentration to the medium-bodied, rich and delicious flavors that terminate in a rustic and robust but balanced finale. (87-89)/2021+

2015 Meursault "Clos des Mouches": (from a small .51 ha *monopole*). There is a lovely floral wisp to the liqueur-like aromas of cassis, anise and soft earth. As one would reasonably expect the middle weight flavors possess a finer mouth feel though less concentration and power before concluding in a vibrant, focused and delicious finale. (87-90)/2021+

2015 Beaune "Bressandes": A restrained, elegant and beautifully well-layered nose combines notes of red and dark berries, violet and plum nuances. The sleek, delicious and vibrant medium-bodied flavors exude a fine bead of minerality on the balanced, firm and persistent finish that also displays a hint of bitter cherry. Note that this should be approachable after only a few years but should also reward up to a decade of aging. (90-92)/2023+

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

2015	➔ Aloxe-Corton	red	90
2015	Beaune "Clos du Roi" 1er	red	90
2015	Bourgogne	red	86
2015	➔ Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Fichots" 1er	red	91
2015	➔ Pernand-Vergelesses "Aux Vergelesses" 1er	red	92
2015	➔ Pommard Vieilles Vignes	red	90
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	88
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fourneaux" 1er	red	91
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières" 1er	red	92
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Narbantons" 1er	red	92
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Peuillets" 1er	red	91
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Rouvrettes" 1er	red	90
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Serpentières" 1er	red	90
2015	➔ Volnay Vieilles Vignes	red	89

Jean-Jacques Girard enthusiastically described 2015 as a "super vintage and it's hard to imagine a better one, except perhaps to have a bit more volume along with such fine quality. The vines were clearly fatigued in the Côte de Beaune from the last three years of battering they endured and while they didn't have to fight any significant disease pressure, the growing season wasn't easy for them due to the high heat and relatively dry weather which provoked some hydric stress. We picked from the 3rd to the 15th of September under almost ideal conditions and thus we were able to take our time. Moreover the fruit was so clean that that it was a relatively easy harvest. Potential alcohols came in between 12.5 and 13.5% and the skins were very thick so the color and structural elements were easily extracted. I love the vintage as there is basically nothing to dislike plus the wines are so rich that they should be enjoyable young but age effortlessly for years if that's someone's preference." I understand why Girard was so enthusiastic as his 2015s are perhaps the best wines that I have ever seen from him in almost 20 years of visiting the domaine. Girard noted that the 2015 reds were bottled between August 2016 and January 2016. (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, E-mail: charles@charlestaylorwines.com, UK; Vignoble & Millésime, vignoble.millesime@wanadoo.fr, Beaune France).

2015 Bourgogne: An agreeably fresh nose combines various red berry aromas with those of earth and a hint of smoke. The succulent, even juicy, flavors possess good punch and vibrancy before concluding in a delicious, round and generous finish. This should drink well basically upon release. 86/2018+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune: (a blend from 6 separate *lieux-dits*). A discreet touch of wood sets off ripe nose of plum, violet, earth and dark raspberry. There is a bit more volume to the energetic and attractively textured flavors that possess fine depth and length on the bitter cherry-inflected finish. This too should drink well relatively early. 88/2020+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Rouvrettes”: An exuberantly fresh and unusually ripe nose in the context of what is typical for this very cool *terroir* exhibits notes of liqueur-like red cherry and forest floor. There is fine detail to the borderline racy medium weight flavors that possess both a subtle minerality and a lovely mouth feel, all wrapped in a lingering finale. This is unusually good in 2015, in fact it’s the best vintage for this wine that I have seen. 90/2021+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Fourneaux”: A deft but not invisible application of wood frames the riper and earthier aromas of plum, violet and freshly turned iron-inflected earth. Here too the mouth feel is succulent, and round with a velvety texture that also characterizes the slightly more complex and persistent finale. Note that while this could be enjoyed young the tannins are sufficiently firm to suggest that at least a few years of bottle age would be beneficial. 91/2022+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Serpentières”: (a mix of chalk and deep clay and not much rock but the exposure is almost due south). More evident wood stops short of impeding the appreciation of the very pinot nose that is interwoven with spice and soft earth wisps. The supple, forward and round flavors possess an inviting mouth feel as well as a refreshing finale on the lingering finish. This is almost easy-going and as such it should be enjoyable young. 90/2020+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Peuillets”: (sandy soil with tennis ball size stones). This also displays enough wood and menthol characters to remark upon though not so much to fight with the plum liqueur and earth scents. The sleek, delicious and lightly stony middle weight flavors exhibit a seductive mouth feel before terminating in a complex, persistent and, somewhat unusually, a mildly rustic finale. Like the Fourneau, while this could be enjoyed young I would advise allowing it at least a few years of cellaring to round off some of the tannins. Worth considering. 91/2022+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Narbantons”: Notes of oak, menthol and pungent earth combine with those of more deeply pitched red currant and cassis. There is excellent volume and mid-palate concentration displayed by the medium weight, focused and relatively powerful flavors that are shaped by relatively fine-grained tannins that also shape the impressively persistent and solidly complex finale. Note that here at least some patience will be required as the tannins are more prominent. 92/2023+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Lavières”: (from relatively level soil with deep, high clay content and lots of flat, round rocks). There is ample wood and menthol on the more elegant and airier array of cool, pure and well-layered spicy red cherry, plum and violet scents. As is usually the case the mouth feel of the medium weight and more evident mineral-inflected flavors is finer, all wrapped in a delicious, balanced and impressively persistent finish. This is textbook Lavières and well-worth considering though I would advise at least some patience so that the wood can more completely integrate. 92/2023+

2015 Beaune “Clos du Roi”: Moderately prominent wood still allows the notably ripe red and dark pinot fruit, earth and floral scents to be appreciated. The fleshy, round and generously proportioned flavors are very Beaune in style and while the mouth feel and finish confirm that this should drink well early, there is already very good depth that makes this more than just interesting. 90/2020+

2015 Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Fichots”: A completely different aromatic profile presents much more savage-suffused aromas of pungent earth, forest floor and ripe red berry fruit nuances that are also trimmed in noticeable wood and menthol. The succulent and generous yet entirely serious middle weight plus flavors possess fine mid-palate concentration along with much more prominent supporting tannins on the focused and lingering finale where a hint of rusticity arises. This is really quite good and recommended provided that you have the patience to allow for at least 5 years or so of cellaring. 91/2025+

2015 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 the moderate amounts of wood and menthol scents serve as the backdrop for the cool red cherry, violet and earth-scented nose. The sleek and tautly muscular flavors are also quite serious and although the supporting tannins are dense, they’re relatively fine and as such this manages to avoid being unduly rustic and youthfully austere on the sneaky long finish. This is really very good and worth considering though once again I underscore that at least some patience will be highly beneficial. 92/2025+

2015 Volnay Vieilles Vignes: (from Paux Bois). A touch of herbal tea sits atop the pretty and more elegant nose that is composed by notes of red pinot, rose petal, wood toast and a hint of earth that can also be found on the refined, vibrant and well-detailed flavors that deliver fine length on the mildly austere finale. This is very Volnay in style and should drink well young if that's your preference. Recommended. 89/2021+

2015 Aloxe-Corton: (primarily from Les Combes). Generous wood fights somewhat with the strongly earth-inflected aromas of red and dark berry fruit, spice and gamey nuances. The rich, sleek and highly energetic flavors possess an unusually refined mouth feel compared to what is typical for the *appellation*, all wrapped in a sappy, complex and beautifully well-balanced finale. This is an excellent Aloxe *villages* and well-worth your consideration though I underscore that at least some patience is recommended. 90/2023+

2015 Pommard Vieilles Vignes: (from En Brescul). Interestingly, here the nose is actually quite similar to that of the Aloxe though perhaps a bit more elegance. There is outstanding mid-palate concentration to the mouth coating and relatively powerful flavors that possess both good muscle and punch before terminating in a lightly mineral-inflected, sneaky long and well-balanced finale. This is also well worth considering but with the same proviso that at least some patience will be required. 90/2023+

Domaine Aleth Girardin (Pommard)

2015	Beaune "Clos des Mouches" 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Pommard	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Pommard "Charmots" 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	➔ Pommard "Les Grands Epenots" 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	➔ Pommard "Rugiens-Bas" 1er	red	(92-94)
2014	Pommard	red	88
2014	Pommard "Les Grands Epenots" 1er	red	90
2014	➔ Pommard "Rugiens-Bas" 1er	red	91

The normally very reserved Aleth Girardin, who is responsible for this 4.5 ha estate, could not have been more enthusiastic about the 2015 growing season, noting that it "was unusually precocious as it was pretty much hot and dry from beginning to end. We had no problems whatsoever save perhaps for the tiny yields, which were the same as I realized in 2014, which is remarkable when you consider that in 2014 there was a devastating hail storm! I chose to begin picking on the 2nd of September and the fruit was remarkably ripe and clean, in fact this is the first vintage ever where I chaptalized nothing. The potential alcohols averaged right at 13% and the vinifications were easy as the wines almost made themselves. As to the quality, I would call it sublime, in fact I believe that my 2015s are the best wines that I have ever made." It of course remains to be seen if the 2015s are in fact the best that Girardin has ever made as she has made some first-rate wines in her career but what is undoubtedly true is that they are, at a minimum, very impressive. Girardin noted her 2014s, revisited below, were bottled in April, 2016. (Fingal Rock, www.pinotnoir.co.uk, UK).

2015 Beaune "Clos des Mouches": A very ripe liqueur-like nose enjoys additional breadth in the form of spice, earth and discreet floral nuances. There is excellent volume to the rich and caressing middle weight flavors that exude a subtle minerality on to the firm, serious and well-balanced finale. Lovely. (89-92)/2022+

2015 Pommard: A penetrating nose is presently composed of reduction and wood though I doubt either will last once the wine is bottled. Otherwise here too there is excellent volume to the punchy, rich and complex medium-bodied flavors that lead to a beautifully persistent finish that is shaped by unusually fine if firm and dense tannins. Worth checking out. (89-91)/2023+

2015 Pommard "Charmots": (from almost a .5 ha parcel). A pure, fresh and ripe nose mixes notes of plum, violet, iron-inflected earth and a hint of sandalwood. The restrained and surprisingly cool middle weight flavors exhibit a subtle minerality on the focused finish that is also shaped by relatively fine-grained tannins. This is potentially first-rate. (90-93)/2023+

2015 Pommard "Les Grands Epenots": Moderate wood frames the mostly liqueur-like red berry fruit, earth and discreet game aromas. The delicious, intense and muscular medium weight plus flavors possess more size and weight if a bit less refinement before concluding in a balanced and strikingly long finale. This will need a few years of bottle age to develop better depth but there is plenty of underlying material for that to happen, at least if you've got the patience. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Pommard “Rugiens-Bas”: (from .4 ha parcel). Here too the wood treatment could accurately be described as moderate as it’s presently not so much as to unduly intrude on the cool, elegant, complex and airy aromas of both red and dark currant that are spiked with a variety of floral and wet stone traces. The palate impression of the tautly muscular and much more mineral-inflected broad-shouldered flavors is more refined if less seductive while delivering just a bit more persistence on the balanced finale. This is pretty much textbook Rugiens and worth your attention. (92-94)/2030+

2014 Pommard: An expressive and ultra-fresh nose is composed of red and dark cherry scents that are liberally laced with plum, violet, game and warm earth nuances. Here too there is a lovely sense of energy to the well-delineated, intense and attractively textured flavors that possess fine depth though the mildly edgy and austere finale displays just a hint of dryness that may well age out but that is not a given. My score however does offer the benefit of the doubt that it will. 88/2020+

2014 Pommard “Les Grands Epenots”: (from a .5 ha parcel situated in both Grands and Petits). A deft application of wood easily allows the earthy and brooding nose of plum and wild dark berries to be appreciated. The bigger, richer and sleekly muscular medium weight flavors possess fine volume while offering good vibrancy on the balanced and solidly persistent finish that exhibits good if not truly special complexity. 90/2022+

2014 Pommard “Rugiens-Bas”: (from .4 ha parcel). An overtly spicy and wonderfully fresh mélange offers up notes of ripe plum, pomegranate, red currant, soft earth and wood toast nuances. There is terrific punch to the intensely mineral-driven medium weight plus flavors that possess really lovely delineation on the mouth coating, austere and lingering finish where the wood telegraphed by the nose resurfaces. This serious effort is likely going to require at least a decade of cellar time to realize its full potential. 91/2024+

Maison Vincent Girardin (Meursault)

2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “La Maltroie”	red	(88-91)
2015	Corton Grand Cru	red	(89-92)
2015	Corton-Perrières Grand Cru	red	(88-90)
2015	Pommard “Les Grands Epenots” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Santenay “Gravières” 1er	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Volnay “Les Champans” 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	Volnay “Les Pitures” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Volnay “Robardelle” 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Volnay “Santenots” 1er	red	(91-93)

Winemaker Eric Germain (who by the way is the brother of Jean-François Germain of Domaine Henri Germain – see above) almost gushed when describing the 2015 vintage, exclaiming that “I have never seen such beautiful fruit as it was perfect, which is to say spotlessly clean with tiny berries that gave us very high solid to liquid ratios. In fact my father said that the last time that he saw fruit this good was in 1959! We chose to begin picking on the 28th of August with the chardonnay and then commenced with the pinot on the 3rd of September. The fruit was so clean that except for the Maltroie, which was 50%, we used 100% whole clusters for the vinifications in red and reduced the amount of new wood as well. I can’t say enough good things about the quality of the wines and in both colors. 2014 was excellent but there is just another dimension present in 2015.” Several years ago the style of the Girardin reds had become fairly modern but I have been very pleasantly surprised by the transformation over the past few years and today the style doesn’t at all resemble what it was. I was impressed by what I found at this address in 2015 and particularly so by the range of Volnay 1ers; by contrast I was unimpressed by the two examples of Corton. (Vineyard Brands, www.vineyardbrands.com, AL, USA; Berkman Wine Cellars, www.berkman.co.uk, Thorman Hunt & Co., www.thormanhunt.co.uk, both UK; Sequin & Robillard/Vinifera, www.sequinrobillard.ca, and LCBO, www.lcbo.com, Canada).

2015 Santenay “Gravières”: A distinctly floral and earth-suffused nose features notes of ripe plum, black raspberry, earth and wood. The rich, generously proportioned and lightly stony middle weight flavors possess a slightly rustic mouth feel but I like both the depth and the length on the balanced finish. This should drink reasonably well young. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “La Maltroie”: (vinified with ~50% whole clusters). An exceptionally ripe yet not jammy or *surmature* nose offers up notes of cassis, plum liqueur, violet and a hint of wood. The succulent, round and juicy medium-bodied flavors possess fine mid-palate density while offering good but not distinguished depth and length on the mildly rustic finale. This too could be enjoyed young though I would advise holding it for a few years in the hopes that a bit more depth will develop. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Pommard “Les Grands Epenots”: Here the wood is not subtle though to be fair, neither does it dominate the very ripe black cherry, earth, spice and high-toned floral whispers. The rich, concentrated and powerful middle weight plus flavors possess a caressing and seductive mouth feel, all wrapped in an ever-so-mildly austere finale. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Volnay “Les Pitures”: (from Pitures proper). A pungent nose is presently composed of reductive notes and wood though the underlying fruit seems to be quite ripe. Otherwise there is a slightly finer mouth feel along with evident minerality on the solidly well-concentrated medium weight flavors that possess fine delineation on the dense, serious and youthfully austere finale. Patience will definitely be required. (90-92)/2027+

2015 Volnay “Robardelle”: An attractively spiced and floral-suffused nose offers up notes of plum, earth and an interesting hint of lavender. The notably finer though less voluminous and powerful middle weight flavors possess a lacy mid-palate mouth feel before tightening up moderately on the balanced and solidly persistent finish. This is very Robardelle in character, which is to say a wine of grace and lace. (89-92)/2022+

2015 Volnay “Santenots”: (from Les Plures and Santenots Dessous). A perfumed nose is really quite elegant and the whole cluster ferment is evident with its plum, floral, cassis and broad range spice elements. There is an excellent sense of energy to the mineral-driven, focused and relatively powerful flavors that deliver fine punch on the impressively persistent finish where about the only nit is a subtle touch of warmth. Good stuff and built-to-age over the medium-term. (91-93)/2025+

2015 Volnay “Les Champans”: This is also subtly perfumed with its elegant, pure and airy nose of ripe black fruit liqueur, spice and Asian-style tea scents. There is equally good purity and transparency to the vibrant, detailed and seductively textured flavors that exude a fine bead of minerality on the balanced, focused and lingering finale. This should drink reasonably well on the early side but amply reward at least a decade of cellar time. (91-93)/2025+

2015 Corton: (from Les Rognets et Corton and Les Paulands; Germain noted that the Paulands was bought in as wine). There is just enough reduction present to mask the underlying fruit today. Otherwise there is good size, weight and concentration to the velvet-textured middle weight plus flavors that possess a fine sense of energy on the reasonably precise and youthfully austere finish. What this lacks, at least at present, is better than average depth though there is sufficient depth of material such that more will almost certainly develop over time. (89-92)/2027+

2015 Corton-Perrières: This is the only wine in the range to display over-ripe aromas of prune, plum, tea, earth and discreet but not invisible wood. The rich, full-bodied and powerful flavors do possess good size and weight along with evident minerality on the long and notably firm finish that flirts with rusticity. This is not without interest but I can’t say that the prune character on the nose appeals to me. (88-90)/2027+

Maison Camille Giroud (Beaune)

2015	➔ Beaune “Les Avaux” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Beaune “Les Cras” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Beaune “Clos du Roi” 1er	red	(88-91)
2015	Bourgogne Pinot Noir	red	(86-88)
2015	➔ Bourgogne-Hautes Côte de Beaune “Au Crêtot”	red	(86-89)
2015	Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny “Aux Echanges” 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2015	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin	red	(87-89)
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin “Lavaut St. Jacques” 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	➔ Ladoix “Les Chaillots”	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Maranges “Le Croix Moines”	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Marsannay “Longeroies”	red	(90-92)
2015	Morey St. Denis “Clos Solon”	red	(88-91)
2015	➔ Nuits St. Georges “Les Boudots” 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	Santenay	red	(87-90)
2015	➔ Santenay “La Comme” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Santenay “Clos Rousseau” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Gravains” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Volnay	red	NR

2015	➔ Volnay “Les Lurets” 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	Vosne-Romanée “Les Chalandins”	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Vosne-Romanée “Les Suchots” 1er	red	(90-93)

Changes have occurred at this address as longtime winemaker and *régisseur* (domaine manager) David Croix has moved on to take over a similar position with Domaine Guy Roulot; he is also the *régisseur* for Domaine des Croix (see herein) and will continue with those responsibilities. With respect to Giroud, Croix' replacement is Carel Voorhuis, who was the former *régisseur* of Domaine d'Ardhuy. The 2015s were vinified by Croix while Voorhuis is responsible for the *élevage*. For those readers who might be interested in Croix' views of the 2015 vintage, please see those comments in the section on Domaine des Croix above. As the ratings and comments confirm, I was exceptionally impressed by the quality of the Giroud 2015 reds and it would seem that Croix and Voorhuis should collaborate more often! I would add that some of the wines display some level of reduction and in all cases my projected ranges assume that it is not permanent. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; Grand Cru Selections, LLC, nedbenedict@gmail.com, NY/NJ, 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).

2015 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: A pretty, pure and airy nose combines notes of red berry fruit and a soft whisper of earth that continues onto the delicious, punchy and detailed flavors that possess solid depth and length. This should be approachable young. (86-88)/2018+

2015 Bourgogne-Hautes Côte de Beaune “Au Crêtot”: Reduction presently dominates the fruit but there is a lovely vibrancy and freshness to the attractively stony medium weight flavors that possess slightly better depth and persistence. This would make a fine choice for an all-around house red that could also repay a few years of aging. (86-89)/2019+

2015 Santenay: A much more floral-inflected nose offers up notes of red currant, lilac, earth and a hint of humus. Here too there is a lovely vibrancy to the mineral, rich and delineated flavors that terminate in a saline, clean and dry-in-the-best sense finish. This is not very 2015 in style and could easily pass for a 2014. (87-90)/2021+

2015 Santenay “La Comme”: There is just enough reduction present to mask the underlying fruit though it is unlikely to last. On the plus side there is once again good energy and freshness to the more refined medium-bodied flavors that display ample minerality on the balanced, intense and impressively persistent finish where a touch of youthful austerity surfaces. This is very good and constructed to reward mid-term cellaring. Worth checking out. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Santenay “Clos Rousseau”: This is also aromatically reduced today though the funk does not extend to the bigger and richer if slightly less mineral-driven flavors that possess a beautifully textured mid-palate while delivering excellent length on the more obviously structured finish. This fine effort is really very good and worth your attention. (90-92)/2025+

2015 Maranges “Le Croix Moines”: Reduction. Otherwise there is very fine size, weight and punch to the tautly muscular flavors that possess excellent depth and length on the balanced finish that exhibits almost no rusticity. This would also make for a great upper level house red that can be aged, indeed it will need at least a few years first. Recommended. (89-92)/2022+

2015 Ladoix “Les Chaillots”: Reduction. There is solid volume and a caressing mouth feel to the almost delicate medium-bodied flavors that finish with really lovely punch and sneaky good length. Like the Santenay *villages*, this is less obviously 2015 in style and a wine that should drink well young but age well too over the medium-term. (89-91)/2021+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Gravains”: Reduction. The wonderfully intense and brilliantly delineated medium weight flavors possess both excellent volume and a taut muscularity, all wrapped in an overtly mineral-driven finish that evidences the typical youthful austerity of a classic Gravains. In short, this is most impressive and built-to-age. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Volnay: (from Les Grands Champs and Les Lurets). A pungent nose was at once reduced and appeared to have a background note of brett that continues onto the palate and finish. This is not without some appeal as the succulent flavors are seductive but for me the brett character renders this impossible to recommend in its present condition. Not Rated

2015 Volnay “Les Lurets”: Reduction. There is slightly more volume yet also more refinement to the tightly wound and overtly mineral-driven flavors that exhibit terrific detail on the clean, linear and focused finale. This is a classic Volnay of lace and grace but one that is sufficiently well-constituted to amply reward extended cellaring. (91-93)/2025+

2015 Beaune “Les Avaux”: The elegant and super-fresh nose displays a lovely array of red currant, cherry, violet, lilac and discreet spice nuances. There is fine intensity and once again excellent delineation to the medium-bodied flavors that deliver first-rate punch and drive on the lightly stony finale. This beauty should also amply reward extended cellaring. (90-93)/2025+

2015 Beaune “Les Cras”: Reduction. The mouth feel of the attractively intense medium weight flavors is, somewhat oddly, at once succulent yet tight with fine mid-palate concentration and a saline and mineral-inflected finish that really fans out as it lingers. This isn't quite as complex as the Les Avaux but that may change with time in bottle. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Beaune “Clos du Roi”: This is the first wine to display any appreciable amount of wood and even here it's quite subtle with its pretty and ripe combination of red and dark pinot fruit, violet and warm earth hints. There is excellent richness to the relatively full-bodied flavors that also possess fine mid-palate density, all wrapped in a rustic if perhaps ever-so-slightly heavy finish. To be sure this retains a certain appeal and it's by no means flat but it doesn't possess the same refinement and punch of the best in the range. (88-91)/2023+

2015 Marsannay “Longeroies”: Reduction. I very much like the mouth feel of the racy, intense and distinctly mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that possess impressive drive and salinity on the well-balanced, moderately firm and wonderfully persistent finish. There is just a hint of rusticity but overall, this is well-worth checking out. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin: (mostly from Les Crais). Notes of earth, dark berries and the *sauvage* introduce textured, supple and very round medium weight flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the mildly austere finish that delivers acceptable depth and length. This is perfectly good but nowhere near as good as several other of the Giroud *villages* wines. (87-89)/2022+

2015 Morey St. Denis “Clos Solon”: A pretty blend of various red berries, earth, violet and whiff of oak can be found on the reasonably complex nose. The middle weight flavors appear to be ripe though there is so much gas present today that this is hard to assess in this condition. Still, there is nothing obviously amiss so my projected range should prove to ultimately be reasonably accurate. (88-91)/2022+

2015 Vosne-Romanée “Les Chalandins”: Strong reduction presently dominates the underlying fruit. There is a wonderfully seductive mouth feel to the velvet-textured flavors that possess that beguiling inner mouth perfume as well as copious amounts of dry extract that buffers the moderately firm tannic spine on the solidly lingering finish. This is very Vosne in style and a wine that should repay up to a decade of cellar time. (89-92)/2023+

2015 Vosne-Romanée “Les Suchots”: This too is firmly reduced and aromatically unreadable today. Interestingly, while this is both bigger and richer than the Chalandins, it's not more refined. There is excellent intensity to the overtly powerful and muscular flavors that possess outstanding concentration and it's a good thing because the tannic spine is quite prominent; indeed this is an atypically robust Suchots that will need a long snooze in a cold cellar to fully mature. (90-93)/2030+

2015 Nuits St. Georges “Les Boudots”: While there is some reduction present it's more subtle as there are notes of earth and spice discernible. The gorgeously intense and vibrant medium weight plus flavors possess a succulent but muscular mouth feel while delivering superb length on the markedly firm finale. This is a big Boudots that is very clearly built-to-age and is going to need at least 15 years to arrive at its majority and 20 would not surprise me. (91-94)/2030+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Aux Echanges”: Here there is no reductive funk as the elegant, fresh and well-layered nose reveals notes of red currant, cherry, pomegranate and plenty of floral elements. The super-sleek and refined middle weight flavors exude a lovely minerality on the detailed, highly energetic and impeccably well-balanced finale that is much, much less structured. This is very Chambolle in style but it doesn't lack for punch. (91-93)/2022+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “Lavaut St. Jacques”: This also displays a broad range of floral elements on the herbal tea and earth-inflected nose of red currant and soft game nuances. There is the usual LSJ power and punch to the substantial and well-constituted flavors that are built-to-age yet not particularly austere on the mineral-driven and well-detailed finale. Note that while this is certainly quite firm, it will likely be approachable after 6 to 8 years of cellaring. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Charmes-Chambertin: (from Charmes proper). A whiff of wood toast combines with notes of airy and fresh red berries, earth, humus and forest floor. There is excellent richness to the full-bodied and velvet-textured flavors that possess very good if not remarkable depth and length on the well-balanced and solidly structured finale. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Chambertin: A restrained, indeed almost mute nose only grudgingly reveals notes of both red and dark currant, floral and plenty of *sauvage* character. The sleek, intense and mineral-driven big-bodied flavors possess impressive mid-palate concentration that helps to buffer the firm tannins on the wonderfully persistent and stony finish. I really like the sophisticated and refined mouth feel and overall, this is excellent. (92-95)/2030+

2015 Clos de Vougeot: (from Petit Maupertui). There is enough reduction to dominate the fruit though it clearly seems ripe. Otherwise there is first-rate volume, punch and mid-palate density to the muscular flavors that are also quite firmly structured but even so there is less youthful austerity than is typical for Clos de Vougeot. Still, this is definitely going to require at least moderate patience and like the Chambertin, this is excellent as well. (92-95)/2030+

Domaine Anne-Françoise Gros (Pommard/Beaune)

2015	Beaune “Boucherottes” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	red	87
2015	Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits	red	(86-88)
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny	red	(89-91)
2015	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2015	Pommard “Les Arvelets” 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Pézerolles” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Pommard “Les Chanlins” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Richebourg Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Clos des Guettes” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Vosne-Romanée “Clos de la Fontaine”	red	(88-91)
2015	➔ Vosne-Romanée “Maizières”	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Vosne-Romanée “Aux Réas”	red	(89-92)

Young Mathias Parent (see below for reviews of those wines), who is the son Anne-Françoise Gros and François Parent, now makes the wine for all of the Gros and Parent operations. He describes 2015 as “a beautiful vintage in both the Côte de Beaune and the Côte de Nuits, which hasn’t really been the case over the past few years due to the hail problems. The growing season was really pretty straightforward as there wasn’t much disease pressure though the Côte de Beaune vines suffered somewhat due to the accumulated stress from the hail and this in my view affected quantities somewhat. For example, we obtained only 15 hl/ha in our parcel of Boucherottes. We chose to begin picking on the 7th of September and brought in very clean and ripe fruit that was easy to vinify as the extractions and colors came quickly. In fact, we almost had the reverse problem that we’re normally faced with, which is to say it was important not to extract too much rather than wondering how to obtain more density without too much tannin. As to the wines, they’re impressively rich and full-bodied and remind me somewhat of the 2005s with just a bit less tension.” Parent noted that he has decided to no longer filter his wines unless it’s absolutely necessary; he also noted that 2015 would be the last vintage for the Maizières for several years as it’s being replanted. As to the quality here in 2015, I was impressed for two reasons: the first is that it’s clear that the 2015s are excellent but second, and more importantly, at least for the longer-term, is that Parent is clearly coming into his own as a winemaker; this bodes well for the future and it’s clear that he’s got real talent. (Horizon Beverage, www.horizonbeverage.com, MA, USA, Treasury Château & Estates Wines, www.tweglobal.com, CA, USA, Caveau Selections, www.caveauselections.com, OR, USA, Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CO/NV/AZ/CA, USA, Chelsea Ventures, LLC, www.chelseaventures.us, IL, USA and Rochemere, KS, USA; Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk and La Réserve and Tanners Wine, www.tanners-wines.co.uk, both UK).

2015 Bourgogne – Pinot Noir: (from 3 parcels in Pommard). An appealingly fresh nose offers up notes of cool red berries along with a trace of spice. There is an equally cool and restrained mouth feel to the precise and pure flavors that possess a delicious and refreshing finish that offers better than average depth and length. This is worth considering as a house red. 87/2018+

2015 Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits: This is also exuberantly fresh with its pretty assortment of red currant, cherry and soft earth nuances. There is a slightly more refined mouth feel to the detailed and bright flavors that offer equally good length if not quite the complexity. Still this is attractive and would also make a nice choice for a good value red. (86-88)/2018+

2015 Vosne-Romanée “Clos de la Fontaine”: (a ~.40 ha *monopole* of the domaine). There is enough wood toast to remark upon surrounding the more deeply pitched nose of spicy red and dark currant aromas that are laced with hoisin and tea scents. The vibrant and velvety middle weight flavors possess a seductive mouth feel before culminating in a delicious and lingering finish. This is sufficiently rich and forward and it could easily be enjoyed young. (88-91)/2020+

2015 Vosne-Romanée “Maizières”: (from 45+ year old vines). The domaine always seems to do a fine job with this wine and it's a shame that the old vines are being ripped out. A markedly toasty nose is composed by notes of essence of red cherry, plum and a host of Asian-style spice elements. The mouth feel of the medium-bodied flavors is always quite velvety, indeed to the point of opulence that continues on to the complex and beautifully persistent finale. Recommended, provided you don't mind enough wood to notice. (89-91)/2021+

2015 Vosne-Romanée “Aux Réas”: This is also on the toasty side but stops short of dominating the spicy display of plum, violet, red cherry and Asian-style tea aromas. The toast also transfers to the super sleek, even satin-textured medium-bodied flavors that brim with sappy dry extract that helps to buffer the moderately firm tannins shaping the complex and highly energetic finish. This is a bit woodier than I prefer but there is no doubting the excellent underlying quality. (89-92)/2023+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny: (from 5 separate *lieux-dits*). A more elegant is less overtly spicy combination exhibits notes of red pinot fruit, floral and roasted coffee-like hints. The equally refined and pure medium weight flavors possess a beguiling sense of energy that also suffuses the lightly stony, precise and balanced finish. This chiseled effort is very Chambolle in basic character and is well worth a look. (89-91)/2021+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Clos des Guettes”: Discreet but not invisible wood sets off the equally pure and very pretty nose that consists of liqueur-like red berry fruit, pungent earth and a *sauvage* wisp. The sleek, delineated and punchy medium-bodied flavors reveal ample minerality on the focused if youthfully austere finish that is shaped by relatively fine-grained tannins. This too is worth considering. (90-92)/2022+

2015 Beaune “Boucherottes”: (from yields of 15 hl/ha). This is one of the riper wines in the range as here too there are liqueur-like aromas of red cherry, raspberry and freshly turned earth. There is once again a sleek mouth feel to the seductively textured flavors that manage to deliver fine richness but also solid delineation, all wrapped in a saline and mildly austere finale. This is more refined than it usually is and should drink well relatively early on if desired. (90-92)/2021+

2015 Pommard “Les Arvelets”: A more deeply pitched nose is comprised by notes of various dark berries along with hints of smoked game, earth and violets. There is impressive richness to the full-bodied, velvety and highly seductive flavors that exhibit a touch of minerality that adds a bit of lift to the sappy and caressing finish where a touch of austerity is present. This is somewhat more firmly structured and will need at least a few years of cellaring first. (89-92)/2023+

2015 Pommard “Les Pézerolles”: A discreet application of wood serves as a moderately neutral backdrop for the elegant, pure and airy nose of red currant, cherry and plenty of lovely floral elements. The supple, round and delicious middle weight flavors possess the natural refinement of a classic Pézerolles, all wrapped in a sneaky long and beautifully well-balanced finale. Textbook juice. (90-93)/2023+

2015 Pommard “Les Chanlins”: While there is a touch of wood in evidence here as well, that's about all the two aromatic profiles have in common as in this case the aromas are from the dark side of the fruit spectrum along with notes of plum, violets and pungent earth. As one might reasonably expect the medium weight plus flavors are both richer and fuller with fine volume and muscle to the powerful yet caressing finish where a hint of bitter cherry arises. (90-92)/2025+

2015 Echézeaux: (from a .26 ha parcel of vines planted in 1931 in the *climat* Champs Traversin, which is occasionally referred to as Le Petit Côteaux). A beautifully well-layered nose offers up an abundance of spice and floral elements that add plenty of breadth to the mostly red berry liqueur scents. The seductively textured big-bodied flavors coat the palate with sappy dry extract that does a fine job of buffering the firm tannic spine shaping the lush, opulent and wonderfully persistent finish. This beauty should drink reasonably well young but have no problem rewarding extended cellaring. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Richebourg: (the Richebourg parcel now totals .6 ha after it was combined with the vines that formerly belonged to Michel Gros, which he agreed to exchange so that he could retain the Vosne 1er Clos de Réas as a *monopole*. The Richebourg vines have been replanted 3 times and they are now 15+, 25+ and 70+ years of age). Prominent, but not dominant, oak and menthol characters are present on the ultra-spicy nose of attractively fresh red and dark cherry aromas that are trimmed in tea, sandalwood and hoisin nuances. The bigger, richer and more mineral-driven flavors also coat the palate with sappy dry extract on the overtly powerful and driving finish that goes on and on. This is not a huge version of the *appellation* but the focus and sense of harmony are certainly admirable. Patience required. (92-94)/2030+

Domaine Antonin Guyon (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2015	➔ Aloxe-Corton “Les Fournières” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	➔ Aloxe-Corton “Les Vercots” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Beaune “Clos de la Chaume Gaufrriot”	red	(88-91)
2015	Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits “Cuvée des Dames de Vergy”	red	86
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny “Les Cras”	red	(89-91)
2015	Chambolle-Musigny “Clos du Village”	red	(88-90)
2015	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2015	Chorey-lès-Beaune “Les Champs Longs”	red	(87-89)
2015	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2015	Corton-Clos du Roy Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin “Carougeot”	red	(89-92)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin “La Justice”	red	(88-90)
2015	Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Vergelesses” 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Goudelettes”	red	88
2015	➔ Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	red	(90-93)

This large 48 ha domaine is directed by Dominique Guyon and his *maître de chai* Vincent Nicot. As to the 2015 vintage they noted that “the growing season was basically simple after the travaux of the last three years so we can’t complain. We began picking on the 4th of September and the fruit could really not have been any cleaner. Maturities were good in every sense though yields could certainly have been better and especially so in our Côte de Beaune vineyards. Part of the problem was the accumulated stress of the hail and part of it was a flowering that didn’t pass particularly well in pinot. The real problem though was that the heat of the summer had thickened the skins to the point that there just wasn’t much juice in the berries. On the plus side though this made for musts with high levels of solids to liquids so the extractions came easily; in fact we watched the extractions carefully as it would have been easy to have overly tannic reds. To be sure the reds certainly don’t lack for concentration and structure but they’re well-balanced and should drink well young and old.” I was thoroughly impressed by the general level that I found chez Guyon in 2015 and in particular their Aloxe 1ers and Corton *grands crus* are excellent. 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. (Esprit du Vin French Wine Merchants, www.edvwines.com, NY, USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com and Friarwood Ltd., www.friarwood.com, all UK).

2015 Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits “Cuvée des Dames de Vergy”: A fresh and relatively cool nose speaks primarily of red cherry and raspberry along with a whisper of earth. There is fine concentration to the appealingly textured and lightly stony flavors that possess fine energy on the saline-inflected finish. To enjoy young but this should repay a few years of cellaring too if desired. 86/2019+

2015 Chorey-lès-Beaune “Les Champs Longs”: Reduction pushes the fruit to the background today but there is good freshness and verve to the rich and relatively full-bodied flavors that are shaped by ripe tannins on the refreshing finish where the only nit is a hint of warmth. (87-89)/2020+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Goudelettes”: An attractive array of red berries, plum and iron-inflected earth leads to detailed, vibrant and utterly delicious middle weight flavors that exude noticeable minerality on the equally refreshing finish. This is a typical Goudelettes of finesse and as such it could easily be enjoyed young. 88/2020+

2015 Beaune “Clos de la Chaume Gaufrriot”: (*monopole*). A pungent nose of wood and reduction renders the nose difficult to assess. Otherwise the mouth feel of the medium weight flavors is also relatively fine with a lovely sense of energy that carries over to the dusty and mildly austere finish that offers notably better depth and length. This is unusually ripe for a vineyard that is found at considerable altitude and is worth checking out. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Vergelesses”: (sold under the label of Domaine Dominique Guyon). A deft touch of wood sets off brooding and deeply pitched aromas of dark currant, violet and a hint of humus. There is excellent power and concentration to the sleek, intense and stony flavors that evidence obvious muscle that really comes up on the palate coating finish. This robust effort manages to stop short of displaying any overt rusticity but at least some patience will be required. (89-92)/2023+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Clos du Village”: (a *monopole*). Moderate reduction presently dominates the fruit. The more refined but significantly less powerful and concentrated mineral-driven flavors possess a linear and, somewhat oddly in the context of the vintage, an almost lean finale. My sense is that this will fill out with a few years of bottle age and my projected range assumes this eventuality. (88-90)/2021+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Cras”: (Les Cras is a split-rated vineyard and this is from the *villages* portion). This is also presently fairly reduced and unreadable on the nose. The stony middle weight flavors possess a really lovely mouth feel thanks to the fine-grained tannins supporting the saline, powerful and driving finish. This is a big and muscular Chambolle *villages* though one that I suspect will round into form relatively quickly. Recommended. (89-91)/2021+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “La Justice”: A relatively high-toned nose combines notes of red currant, raspberry and soft earth nuances. There is fine richness along with solid detail and underlying tension to the delicious medium weight flavors that, like the Clos du Village, culminate in a persistent if mildly lean finale. Again, I suspect that this will fill out in due course and my range assumes that it will. (88-90)/2022+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “Carougeot”: Here too a pungent nose is composed of wood and reductive notes. Otherwise there is excellent volume to the muscular if less refined medium-bodied flavors that possess a velvety mid-palate while delivering both excellent depth and length on the firmly constituted finish. This is a very fine Gevrey *villages*. (89-92)/2023+

2015 Charmes-Chambertin: (from a tiny .085 ha parcel in Charmes proper which is enough in most vintages for only 1 barrel). Liqueur-like aromas of red cherry, earth, *sauvage* and spice introduce velvety and caressing middle weight flavors that coat the palate with dry extract before culminating in a firmly structured, persistent and complex finish. This is notably better than it usually is and the only discernible nit is a hint of warmth. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”: (the Guyon parcel directly abuts Taillepieds). Here the wood treatment is no longer subtle with menthol nuances fighting somewhat with the liqueur-like aromas of both red and dark currant, spice and violet scents. There is excellent volume and mid-palate density to the beguilingly textured flavors that possess that wonderful inner-mouth perfume, all wrapped in a stony, serious, moderately austere and gorgeously long finale. Like a number of wines in the range there is a touch of finishing warmth but overall this is lovely. Moreover, the concentration is such that I don't believe that there will be an issue with successfully integrating the generous oak application. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Aloxe-Corton “Les Fournières”: (from rocky, flinty soil that drains extremely well). A cool, ripe and unusually elegant nose blends notes of pure essence of red cherry with those of dark raspberry and a hint of forest floor. The more typical character of a fine Fournières emerges on the palate however as the robust and powerful big-bodied flavors possess plenty of muscle on the very firmly constituted finish where a hint of warmth can be found. This is a very impressive showing and one that is highly recommended if you have the patience to cellar it. (90-93)/2030+

2015 Aloxe-Corton “Les Vercots”: (from deeper soil with a high clay content). There is enough wood to notice on the well-layered nose of notably ripe plum, violet and warmth earth scents. Here too there is excellent size, weight and concentration to the opulently textured broad-shouldered flavors that coat the palate with dry extract, all wrapped in a compact and lingering finish. Interestingly this is a bit less structured than the Fournières, which rarely happens though with that said, this too is going to require ample patience. Highly recommended as well. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Corton-Bressandes: A more elegant, pure and beautifully layered nose presents a range of red berries that are nuanced by plum, floral and soft earth hints. There is outstanding volume to the dense and serious yet relatively refined flavors that possess excellent size and weight while remaining impeccably well-balanced on the lingering finish. This is a classic Bressandes that is at once built-to-age yet should drink reasonably well after only 5-ish years or so. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Corton-Clos du Roy: As is almost always the case this is aromatically less elegant but spicier and a bit more complex as well with its reserved array of liqueur-like dark berries, earth and plenty of *sauvage* characters. There is ample minerality suffusing the more powerful and appealingly textured flavors that also coat the mouth with dry extract while buffering the very firm but not hard tannic spine on the hugely long finish. This is most impressive and well-worth considering. (92-95)/2030+

Maison Harbour (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2015	Corton Grand Cru	red	91
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin “Combe au Moine” 1er	red	91
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin “La Justice”	red	88
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin “Pressonnier”	red	89
2015	Pommard “Les Chanlins” 1er	red	90

A young Canadian/American couple, Colleen and Nicholas Harbour, started a small *négociant* operation from their digs in Savigny. Their first vintage was in 2013 and they only buy fruit for their reds and it depends on sources and quality for their whites (which will be reviewed in Issue 67). It is sorted by hand and then completely destemmed except for the Corton which is vinified with a bit of whole clusters. Nicholas is quick to point out though that the destemming is done very gently as the idea is not to crush the berries so as to have more of a whole berry effect during the early phase of the vinification. There is no thermoregulation and the ferments are done entirely with natural yeasts while employing as little sulfur as can be justified given the cleanliness of the crop. The extraction regime is deliberately on the lighter side and when the fermentation is dry, the solids are pressed by hand where the new wine is given a 3 to 4 day lees settling. The wines are then transferred to traditional oak barrels of which almost none of it is new. The *élevage* period is typically divided between 12 months in cask with another 3 to 6 in tank. The wines are fined and filtered only if absolutely necessary and then bottled by a professional service using the Diam 30 brand composite cork. The style is neither particularly modern nor traditional and while there is an emphasis on pure fruit, I would not describe the wines so much as fruit-driven but rather transparent. And in contrast to the trendy style among certain young *vignerons* in Burgundy today who also make relatively fruit-forward wines (which some in Burgundy derisively refer to as “fast wine”), here there is depth and structure to go with it as these wines should repay mid-term cellaring. Overall, I have been able to taste several vintages of the Harbour wines and the results are impressive for such young winemakers and this is an address to watch carefully over the next few years. (Passionné de Vin Imports, CA, USA).

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “La Justice”: A very ripe yet fresh nose combines notes of red cherry, plum, earth and violet aromas. The sleek, energetic and seductively textured middle weight flavors culminate in a delicious and well-balanced finish. However there is noticeable if not intrusive gas so if you’re tempted to try a bottle young I would suggest a quick decantation first. 88/2020+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “Pressonnier”: This is also aromatically quite ripe but remains attractively fresh with its blend of red and dark currant, earth and soft floral nuances. There is a bit more volume and concentration to the slightly less refined medium-bodied flavors that coat the palate with dry extract, all wrapped in a balanced and lingering finale. Good stuff and worth considering. 89/2020+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “Combe au Moine”: Once again there is a high level of ripeness to the liqueur-like essence of red berries that are liberally laced with notes of warm earth and the *sauvage*. The sleek and tautly muscular flavors exude a fine minerality while possessing a really lovely mouth feel before concluding in a lingering and solidly complex finale where the only nit is a mild hint of warmth. While this should easily reward 6 to 8 years of cellaring, it should also be reasonably approachable young. 91/2022+

2015 Corton: This is also very ripe and here the nose flirts with prune yet the aromas are not roasted or jammy. The earthy big-bodied flavors are impressively rich, bold and powerful while offering good freshness in the mouth along with plenty of finishing punch. This robust effort is an exercise in contrasts as there is a lovely sense of vibrancy on the palate yet the nose may not be for everyone. 91/2023+

2015 Pommard “Les Chanlins”: In contrast to the Corton there is better aromatic freshness to the spicy and floral-suffused nose of both red and black raspberries. I like the sense of vibrancy and delineation to the tautly muscular and stony middle weight plus flavors that exhibit a touch of backend rusticity on the lingering finish. Like the La Justice there is enough gas to notice and again, if you’re tempted to try a bottle young, be sure to give this a few minutes in a decanter first. 90/2023+

Domaine Heitz-Lochardet (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2015	Coteaux Bourguignons – Les Belles Roses	red	86
2015	Coteaux Bourguignons	red	85
2015	Pommard “Les Pézerolles” 1er	red	89
2015	Pommard “Clos des Poutures” 1er	red	NR

2015	Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	89
2015	Volnay "Taillepieds" 1er	red	90

The young Armand Heitz directs this small but growing domaine whose range of reds expanded dramatically in 2015 from the two produced in 2014. I have been impressed with the quality that I have seen on the white side of the ledger but this group of reds was more problematic in the sense that there were some technical issues, particularly in terms of reduction. As a group, the wines may show better with some time in bottle but they were somewhat awkward when I tasted through them in February. Heitz noted that they were bottled in August, 2016 without fining or filtration. (Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA and T. Edward Wines, www.tedwardwines.com, NY, both USA; and Flint Wines, www.flintwines.com, UK).

2015 Coteaux Bourguignons – Les Belles Roses: A fresh and layered nose combines notes of black raspberry with those of earth and soft floral nuances. There is good vibrancy to the delicious middle weight flavors that evidence a touch of backend rusticity. Note that this should drink well young if desired yet reward 2 to 3 years of cellaring too. 86/2019+

2015 Coteaux Bourguignons: (made with no sulfur and noted as "sans souffre" on the back label). Here the nose is similar in terms of its composition but much more reserved, indeed it's all but mute today. The solidly concentrated flavors possess reasonably good complexity on the rustic if somewhat drying finish and it's not clear if this will harmonize or not. 85/2019+

2015 Pommard "Clos des Poutures": (a .66 ha monopole). Here the nose is reduced to the point that it flirts with mercaptans (think burnt rubber notes) and while I did not have the opportunity to allow the wine an extended aeration, usually when whiffs of mercaptans are present they usually don't blow off. On the plus side the round suave and very rich flavors are delicious and attractively textured while offering good persistence. While this is not without some appeal, it's hard to get past the nose. Not rated.

2015 Pommard "Les Pézerolles": This also displays slight reduction but here it is much less intrusive and notes of plum, black cherry and earth are discernible. The succulent, round and velvet-textured middle weight flavors exude a fine bead of minerality before culminating in a mildly drying and clipped finish. The supporting tannins appear to be ripe so there is a reasonable chance that the dryness will eventually dissipate and my rating offers the benefit of the doubt. 89/2023+

2015 Pommard "Les Rugiens": (from a .43 ha parcel in Rugiens-Hauts). This is also mildly reduced and lacks freshness but not because of over-ripeness. On the plus side there is excellent volume and richness to the powerful medium-bodied flavors that also exude a subtle minerality that carries over to the robust, serious and built-to-age finish. Once again my rating extends the benefit of doubt that this will better harmonize with age. 89/2027+

2015 Volnay "Taillepieds": Reduction presently dominates the underlying fruit. Like the Rugiens there is fine volume and focused power to the even more intensely mineral-driven medium weight flavors that culminate in a youthfully austere and highly persistent finish. At least moderate patience will be required. 90/2023+

Domaine Huber-Verdereau (Volnay)

2015	Bourgogne Pinot Noir	red	85
2015	Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune	red	86
2015	Coteaux Bourguignons "Les Chanterelles"	red	86
2015	Monthélie "La Combe Danay"	red	88
2015	Pommard	red	87?
2015	Pommard "Les Bertins" 1er	red	90
2015	Pommard "Clos du Colombier"	red	91
2015	Volnay	red	88
2015	Volnay "Les Frémiets" 1er	red	90
2015	Volnay "Les Robardelles"	red	88

Thiébauld Huber, who runs this 9.5 ha domaine, was much more enthusiastic about his results in 2015 than he had been for the last 3 years, exclaiming that "not only was the growing season easy but we had no hail! I almost didn't know what to do with all of the extra time I had! Seriously though it was a relaxed season as it turned out, but you can never assume that, so we were vigilant as always. We did only 7 treatments, which is remarkable given that a typical season would have us doing between 10 and 15. I chose to begin picking with the whites on the 31st of August and then continued with the reds. The fruit was about as clean as I have ever seen it which allowed us to pick rapidly. Potential alcohols were good but not really high at

between 12.5 and 13% though yields were off about 25% relative to a normal vintage. The vinifications were easy as well as the fruit was so clean and ripe that you didn't have to worry about extracting unripe tannins or anything unclear. I also vinified relatively softly as the skins were very thick. I used between 30 and 40% whole clusters for two wines. As to the wines, they're clearly the product of a hot year but they don't lack for freshness and overall, I really like them." Huber not only farms biodynamically but employs a very low total sulfur approach, which sometimes can allow the levels of volatile acidity to creep up as was the case with a few of these 2015s. Huber noted that he bottled the reds between September 2016 and January 2017. (Caveau Selections, www.caveauselections.com, OR, True North Wine Merchants, www.truenorthwines.com, CA and Indie Wineries, www.indiewineries.com, NY, all USA; no known UK importers).

2015 Coteaux Bourguignons "Les Chanterelles": (from a blend of 90% Gamay Tenturiers and 10% pinot noir). A pepper-inflected nose features notes of earth, dark currant and plum. There is fine richness to the suave, round and delicious flavors that exhibit mild rusticity on the generous finish that offers acceptable depth and length. 86/2018+

2015 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: Here the nose is quite firmly reduced at present. Otherwise the middle weight flavors possess a slightly finer mouth feel while offering similar depth and length. Be sure to decant this as the nose could use the aeration.. 85/now

2015 Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune: (this blend contains ~20% Pinot Beurot). A notably floral nose of various red berries leads to attractively textured and voluminous flavors that terminate in a clean and dry-in-the-best-sense finish. 86/2018+

2015 Monthélie "La Combe Danay": Here the fresh red berry and earth-suffused nose flirts with volatile acidity though it's sufficiently subtle that the effect is more to add lift to the aromas. The round, rich and very supple medium-bodied flavors possess good verve; indeed this is positively refreshing as the finish invites another sip. To enjoy young for its fruit. 88/2018+

2015 Volnay: (from a mix of 6 *lieux-dits*, most of which are on the Pommard side of the village). This also flirts with just enough volatile acidity to remark upon but not so much as to materially detract from the dense mix of dark currant, raspberry and warm earth nuances. There is both more volume and richness to the concentrated and seductively textured medium weight flavors that conclude in a somewhat firmer if not necessarily more persistent finale. 88/2020+

2015 Volnay "Les Robardelles": (from the *villages* portion of the vineyard; 40% whole clusters). A hint of volatile acidity is present on the pretty nose of red cherry, lilac, floral and discreet spice nuances. As is almost always the case the mouth feel of the detailed middle weight flavors is notably finer with good verve that continues onto the saline, firmer and lingering but not more complex finish. 88/2021+

2015 Volnay "Les Frémiets": Here the volatile acidity is all but invisible with its fresh and ripe array of various red berries, spice and warm earth scents. There is a more sophisticated mouth feel to the lacy and mineral-inflected medium-bodied flavors that possess both good volume and mid-palate density, all wrapped in a lingering and balanced finish where a hint of bitter cherry arises. 90/2022+

2015 Pommard: (from Rue au Port and both Vaumuriens Hauts and Bas). Here the VA is no longer subtle though again it's not so much as to overshadow the otherwise ripe, fresh and bright aromas of red currant, earth and a hint of anise. There is a lovely texture to the impressively rich and punchy flavors that brim with sappy dry extract, all wrapped in a long and balanced finish. This is not without its attributes though the VA may bother those who are sensitive to it. 87/2022+

2015 Pommard "Les Bertins": There is a much more subtle whisper of volatile acidity here as well though in this case it doesn't detract significantly from the red cherry, floral and warm earth-scented nose. There is a notably more refined mouth feel to the sleekly textured medium weight flavors that deliver very fine length on the solidly complex finale. While this isn't technically perfect it's still very good. 90/2022+

2015 Pommard "Clos du Colombier": (a *monopole* located two-thirds in Village and the rest in the 1er Clos des Verger). Once again there is enough VA to remark upon but not so much as to materially detract from the more complex array of ripe red and dark berries that are trimmed in plenty of earth and floral scents. The seductively textured medium-bodied flavors possess a slightly finer mouth feel while offering excellent volume on the focused, intense, youthfully austere and firm finale. As with the Bertins, this isn't quite technically perfect but it is still very good; that said, note that my rating assumes that the level of VA does not increase with bottle age, something which can't be guaranteed. 91/2022+

Maison Louis Jadot (Beaune)

2015	➔ Beaune "Boucherottes" 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Beaune "Clos de Couchereaux" 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Beaune "Les Cras" 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	➔ Beaune "Grèves" 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	➔ Beaune "Theurons" 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	➔ Beaune "Clos des Ursules" 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	red	(93-95)
2015	➔ Bourgogne "Le Chapitre"	red	(86-89)
2015	Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(93-96)
2015	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	red	(93-96)
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses" 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Baudes" 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Drazeyes"	red	(88-91)
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Feusselottes" 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Fuées" 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Sentiers" 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	Chapelle-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(93-95)
2015	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(89-92)
2015	Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Beaumonts"	red	(86-88)
2015	Clos St. Denis Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2015	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2015	Corton-Grèves Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2015	Corton-Maréchaudes Grand Cru	red	(89-92)
2015	Corton-Pougets Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2015	➔ Côte de Nuits-Villages "Le Vaucrain"	red	(89-92)
2015	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin	red	(87-89)
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Cazetiers" 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin "Clos St. Jacques" 1er	red	(92-95)
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin "Estournelles St. Jacques" 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaut St. Jacques" 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin "Petite Chapelle" 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	Grands Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(93-95)
2015	Griotte-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2015	Marsannay "Clos du Roy"	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Marsannay "Longeroies"	red	(89-92)
2015	Mazis-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2015	Monthélie "Champs Fulliot" 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Monthélie "Sous Roches"	red	(90-92)
2015	Morey St. Denis "Clos des Ormes" 1er	red	(87-90)
2015	Musigny Grand Cru	red	(94-97)

2015	➔ Nuits St. Georges	red	(89-91)
2015	Nuits St. Georges "Les Boudots" 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Nuits St. Georges "Les Cailles" 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	➔ Nuits St. Georges "Les St. Georges" 1er	red	(92-95)
2015	➔ Nuits St. Georges "Les Vaucrains" 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Pernand-Vergelesses "Clos de la Croix de Pierre" 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Pommard	red	(88-91)
2015	Pommard "Clos de la Commaraine" 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Pommard "Epenots" 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	➔ Pommard "Grands Epenots" 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	➔ Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	(92-95)
2015	Santenay "Clos de Malte"	red	(87-89)
2015	Santenay "Clos des Gatsulards"	red	(87-90)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Clos des Guettes" 1er	red	(88-91)
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune "La Dominode" 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Narbantons" 1er	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Volnay "Les Chanlins" 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	➔ Volnay "Clos de la Barre" 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	➔ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	➔ Volnay "Santenots" 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	➔ Vosne-Romanée	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Vosne-Romanée "Les Beaux Monts" 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Vosne-Romanée "Les Chaumes" 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Vosne-Romanée "Les Suchots" 1er	red	(91-93)
2014	Beaune "Grèves" 1er	red	87
2014	Beaune "Clos des Ursules" 1er	red	86
2014	Bourgogne "Le Chapitre"	red	86
2014	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	red	94
2014	➔ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Baudes" 1er	red	92
2014	Chapelle-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	92
2014	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	red	91
2014	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	93
2014	Corton-Pougets Grand Cru	red	89?
2014	Côte de Beaune-Villages	red	86
2014	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	93
2014	Gevrey-Chambertin	red	88
2014	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin "Clos St. Jacques" 1er	red	91
2014	Marsannay "Clos du Roy"	red	86
2014	Nuits St. Georges	red	88
2014	➔ Nuits St. Georges "Les Boudots" 1er	red	92
2014	Pommard	red	87
2014	Pommard "Clos de la Commaraine" 1er	red	90
2014	Volnay "Clos de la Barre" 1er	red	87
2014	➔ Vosne-Romanée "Les Suchots" 1er	red	92

Technical director Frédéric Barnier unequivocally described 2015 as a "great vintage. The wines have everything they need to rival the best that we have made in a very long time. The growing season began with a temperate and humid spring and thank goodness it did because without that rain we would have had real problems given how hot and dry the summer was. Interestingly bud burst wasn't really especially precocious as the beginning of April was cool but as conditions turned ever warmer and drier, the vegetative growth accelerated accordingly. As such the early June flowering was precocious and rapid which contributed greatly to the homogeneity of fruit maturities we enjoyed at the harvest. June remained hot and dry but thankfully we had a storm that dropped 50 to 60 mm of rain right at the end of the month. In my view this one storm did more than anything else to save the harvest because by the middle of a baking hot July we had temperatures climb to 42° C (107.6° F) and it was bone dry. We began to see in certain parcels the phenomenon known as *bloquage* (hydric stress) and it was responsible for delaying the *véraison* though it's hard to say exactly for how many days. Thankfully, yet again, August was more moderate because while it remained very warm, it wasn't quite as extreme as July plus we had at least some rain. This

also contributed considerably to why the fruit was so balanced in its various components and it also explains why the wines are definitely ripe but not *surmature* in the fashion that some 2003s and 2009s are. We began picking on the 1st of September with the chardonnay and the conditions were warm and dry and we were able to take our time yet harvest rapidly as the fruit was so clean that it required almost no sorting. Potential alcohols in red came in between 13 and 13.8% and thus nothing was chaptalized. The structural elements were also quite ripe but perhaps the most surprising aspect was how good the post-pHs were at between 3.45 and 3.6. Yields though were highly variable though on average the reds were off 30% though the whites were off only 5 to 10%. But those figures can mask the realities in certain villages because for example quantities were off fully 50% in Volnay, Pommard and Beaune. The vinifications were relatively calm and slow and lasted for around 3 weeks. I used a bit of whole cluster for certain wines in the Côte de Nuits though not all. Another surprising aspect is how much the wines have changed during their *élevage* as they have both freshened and become more precise. As to comparing the two Côtes, as a broad generalization I would say that the Côte de Nuits produced reds that are a little rounder than those of the Côte de Beaune but the diversity is such that it's easy to find exceptions. For us Gevrey is particularly good in the Côte de Nuits, and Beaune is the star in the Côte de Beaune. As to the wines themselves, what I find so interesting is that they aren't really like other wines that were produced by so-called very hot vintages. The 2015s do not at all present themselves like the 2003s because in 2003 it was August that was so hot whereas in 2015 it was July. Moreover 2015 is at least good everywhere and often even great. As to style, for our reds at least, they remind me of a combination of 2009 and 2010. It's interesting to speculate as no one ever knows for sure but my guess is that the reds are likely to close up once they're bottled but the key question is for how long? Notwithstanding all the possible comparisons that one can make, for me 2015 is unique as there is no other vintage in my experience that really resembles it." For many years now Jadot has an enviable track record for producing some of the best reds of the vintage in particularly hot years (1997 and 2003 for example) and 2015 is no exception. And I completely agree with Barrier that their portfolio of Beaune 1ers is excellent but don't pass up their Volnay and Pommard 1ers either. Lastly, the Jadot Gevrey 1ers are brilliant so there are a broad range of excellent choices. Two other value plays are worth noting, which are the excellent Côte de Nuits-Villages "Le Vaucrain" and the Monthélie "Sous Roches". Note that a large number of 2014's were also revisited below in bottle. Please also see the related 2014 Château du Jacques wines from Beaujolais under En Plus below. (Kobrand, Inc., www.kobrandwine.com, NY, USA; Hatch Mansfield Ltd., www.hatchmansfield.com, Uncorked Ltd, www.uncorked.co.uk, both UK).

2015 Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Beaumonts": A pretty and fresh nose mixes notes of both red and dark cherry along with notes of earth and a discreet floral hint. There are rich, round and delicious flavors that possess a supple mouth feel before terminating in an acceptably lingering finish that displays a touch of bitter pit fruit. (86-88)/2019+

2015 Santenay "Clos de Malte": Here the expressive nose is much earthier with its ripe array of red currant and *sauvage* scents. The supple, generous and very round, even seductive, flavors possess solid depth and length on the moderately rustic and persistent finale. (87-89)/2021+

2015 Santenay "Clos des Gatsulards": There are enough wood and menthol characters to mention surrounding the slightly riper nose of red pinot fruit and earth aromas. There is a slightly finer texture to the medium-bodied flavors that also possess a seductive mouth feel, all wrapped in a rustic but concentrated and highly persistent finish. (87-90)/2022+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Clos des Guettes": A distinctly earthy and attractively fresh nose blends notes of plum, red currant, spice and lilac. The sleek yet velvety medium weight flavors exhibit ample minerality on the delicious if notably rich finish, indeed the supporting acidity is just barely enough to maintain the necessary balance. (88-91)/2022+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Narbantons": A similar if slightly spicier plum-suffused nose precedes exceptionally rich, even opulent, medium-bodied flavors that coat the palate with dry extract that also serves to buffer the moderately firm tannins shaping the slightly more vibrant and better balanced finale. (89-91)/2023+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune "La Dominode": This is easily the most elegant of these three Savigny 1ers with its pure and spicy nose that is notably more floral in character along with notes of spiced plum, red currant and warm earth nuances. There is excellent volume to the caressing medium weight flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the sappy but markedly firm finish that makes clear that this is built-to-age. Excellent. (90-93)/2025+

2015 Pernand-Vergelesses "Clos de la Croix de Pierre": (from En Caradeux). A pretty and slightly cooler nose combines various red berries with floral notes and in particular violet. The rich and appealingly vibrant middle weight flavors exhibit a bit more minerality while delivering excellent persistence and complexity on the less obviously structured finale. (90-92)/2022+

2015 Beaune "Grèves": This is also quite pretty with very ripe though not jammy liqueur-like aromas of black cherry, spice and plenty of earth influence. There is more volume and power to the richer though not necessarily more concentrated medium-bodied flavors that possess a really lovely mouth feel, all wrapped in a youthfully austere and beautifully persistent finish. My sense is that while it will mature in 12 to 15 years that this is going to be very long-lived. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Beaune “Theurons”: Here the attractively layered nose is slightly less ripe and composed more of fruit from the red side of the fruit spectrum. The rich, supple and generously proportioned flavors possess an opulent mouth feel while also delivering equally good depth and length on the mildly rustic finale. This isn't elegant but it is impressive. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Beaune “Les Cras”: A discreet touch of wood sets off the more elegant aromas of red and dark currant, anise, violet and soft earth nuances. There is a lovely sense of underlying tension to the caressing yet quite serious and intense flavors that display an almost pungent minerality on the notably firm, vibrant and well-balanced finale. Excellent. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Beaune “Clos de Couchereaux”: A ripe and agreeably fresh nose is composed by notes of liqueur-like red berry fruit that is laced with spice, violet and a whiff of smoke. The palate impression of the medium-bodied flavors is slightly less powerful and mineral-driven yet there is both volume and concentration to the moderately chewy and ever-so-slightly rustic finale. Patience will be required here as well. (89-92)/2025+

2015 Beaune “Boucherottes”: There is plenty of menthol on the essence of red cherry and plum-suffused nose. The full-bodied but supple medium-bodied flavors possess outstanding richness along with excellent concentration that displays terrific depth and length on the built-to-age finish where the only nit is a hint of warmth. This is better than it usually is and in particular more complex. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Beaune “Clos des Ursules”: (from Vignes Franches). While aromatically similar to the Boucherottes this is even denser, in fact this is almost unctuously rich with seemingly buckets of sappy and palate coating dry extract which is just as well given how firm and powerful the supporting tannic spine is. This isn't necessarily better than usual though it is bigger and more powerful than is typical. Note that here too that plenty of patience will be required. (91-94)/2030+

2015 Monthélie “Sous Roches”: A super-fresh and very pinot nose of red berries and discreet spice nuances precedes supple and well-focused middle weight flavors that possess excellent volume and mid-palate concentration, all wrapped in a dusty, highly complex and moderately firm finale. Monthélie *villages* level wines don't get a lot better than this. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Monthélie “Champs Fulliot”: While aromatically similar to the Sous Roches, here there is a bit more wood. The velvety, round and very rich medium-bodied flavors exhibit a bit more minerality though interestingly, slightly less complexity on the balanced and sappy finish. This may catch the Sous Roches in time but today the *villages* wins. (89-92)/2023+

2015 Volnay “Santenots”: A pungent nose offers up notes of oak, menthol, spice and sandalwood on the mostly cassis and plum liqueur-suffused aromas. This is at once finer yet more powerful with a round and seductive mid-palate that contrasts markedly with the dusty, firm and youthfully austere finale. Good stuff with excellent upside development potential that could probably be approached on the younger side too. (90-93)/2025+

2015 Volnay “Clos de la Barre”: (a *monopole*). A slightly more elegant nose exhibits a lovely collection of various red berries, anise, clove, earth and floral nuances. The rich yet well-delineated mouth coating middle weight flavors possess a lacy yet quite serious palate impression that also characterizes the muscular, intense and balanced finish where a hint of wood surfaces. This too is built-to-age and will need at least 6 to 8 years first. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Volnay “Les Chanlins”: This is slightly more elegant still with its ripe yet airy red cherry, spicy and overtly floral nose that complements the relatively fine yet tautly muscular medium weight flavors that are even more mineral-driven, all wrapped in a youthfully austere finish. This is actually a bit longer than the Clos de la Barre but a touch less complex at least today but it seems reasonably clear that the underlying material is present such that more will almost certainly develop. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”: This is less expressive and elegant but notably more complex with its beautifully well-layered collection of red currant, cherry, plum, spice and violet scents. The rich, full-bodied and powerful flavors coat the palate with dry extract while buffering the overtly firm tannic spine on the youthfully austere, firm and very serious finale. This built-to-age effort is packed with development potential and is going to require ample patience. (91-94)/2030+

2015 Pommard: A discreet but not invisible whiff of new wood can be found on the agreeably fresh nose of various red berries, earth and a hint of game. The supple and relatively forward medium-bodied flavors immediately tighten up on the solid and compact finale that offers good if not truly exceptional depth and length that is not especially rustic. (88-91)/2022+

2015 Pommard “Clos de la Commaraine”: Here the nose is dominated by its wood and while it's clear that the underlying fruit is ripe, it's hard to identify the aromas with specificity. Otherwise the velvety, round and sappy medium-bodied flavors possess a seductive mouth feel while delivering better depth and persistence on the mildly rustic finale. (90-92)/2022+

2015 Pommard “Epenots”: More moderate though hardly discreet wood surround the liqueur-like aromas of red raspberry, lilac, warm earth and soft floral scents. The voluminous middle weight flavors possess a pliant, round and relatively seductive mid-palate that contrasts considerably with the powerful, dusty and notably firm finish that delivers outstanding persistence. This won't win any awards for refinement but it is impressively constituted and thus patience recommended. (91-93)/2030+

2015 Pommard “Grands Epenots”: This is aromatically quite similar to the Epenots but with just a touch more overall complexity. The broad-shouldered flavors are even bigger and more concentrated with a highly beguiling velvety texture that also contrasts markedly with the serious and impressively powerful finish. This borderline rustic and robust effort is absolutely going to require extended patience and I wouldn't buy it if you don't intend to cellar it for at least a decade. (91-94)/2032+

2015 Pommard “Les Rugiens”: (from Rugiens-Bas). A more elegant and cooler nose features essence of red pinot fruit, wet stone, game and violet-scented aromas. There is outstanding mid-palate concentration and power to the driving medium weight plus flavors that display ample minerality on the beautifully balanced and hugely long finish. Note well however that this is a classically constructed Rugiens that will live for decades. In a word, gorgeous. (92-95)/2035+

2015 Corton-Grèves: Discreet wood and menthol nuances still easily allow the overtly *sauvage* and earth-inflected aromas of red and dark currant to be appreciated. The concentrated yet relatively supple medium weight flavors possess a velvety mouth feel before culminating in a lingering if slightly warm finale where a hint of bitter cherry arises. This is not super complex but more depth will undoubtedly develop over time. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Corton-Maréchaudes: Here too there are modest amounts of oak and menthol sitting atop the restrained but ripe aromas of both red and dark pinot fruit that are liberally laced with notes of warm earth, game and forest floor. The seductively textured and velvety big-bodied flavors possess fine mid-palate concentration on the dusty, sappy and lingering finish. This is perfectly good but it's not in the same league as the best of these Corton big boys. (89-92)/2025+

2015 Corton-Clos du Roi: A cool, fresh and more complex nose offers up distinctly floral and gamy notes of mostly black fruit liqueur scents that are also liberally sprinkled with forest floor and earth nuances. The rich, powerful and very serious flavors possess imposing scale yet remain well-balanced on the slightly toasty and exceptionally firm finish that displays both better depth and length. A classically styled Clos du Roi that will need ample cellar time. (91-94)/2032+

2015 Corton-Pougets: As is often the case this possesses the most elegant nose of the 4 Corton *grands crus* with its range of red and dark berry aromas that are cut with spice, earth, tea and a hint of anise. This sense of refinement continues on the well-delineated medium-bodied flavors that are shaped by relatively fine-grained tannins on the dusty and mouth coating finish that offers excellent complexity and persistence though there is a touch of backend warmth. (91-94)/2032+

2015 Bourgogne “Le Chapitre”: (from Chenôve near Clos du Roy). This is really pretty with its restrained essence of red pinot fruit, earth and spiced tea-scented nose. The pliant, round and delicious middle weight flavors exude a subtle minerality onto the vibrant, succulent and lingering finish. This isn't especially refined but there's plenty of wine here plus it will age and as such it would make an ideal choice for an inexpensive house red. Recommended. (86-89)/2020+

2015 Marsannay “Clos du Roy”: Pungent aromas of wood and menthol fight somewhat with the fresh red currant and dark berry aromas that are also trimmed in notes of earth and forest floor. The mouth feel is similar to that of the Le Chapitre but with more volume and mid-palate concentration along with more minerality on the mildly rustic finale. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Marsannay “Longeroies”: This is at once more reserved and slightly more complex with its restrained aromas of violet, plum, spice and earth scents. There is also a bit more volume and richness to the delicious, punchy and stony medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a dusty and slightly firmer finale. Note that this will need at least a few years first. (89-92)/2023+

2015 Côte de Nuits-Villages “Le Vaucrain”: Touches of oak and menthol are sufficiently subtle not to interfere with the various earth and dark berry fruit aromas. The supple and seductively textured middle weight flavors possess fine mid-palate concentration along with surprisingly good power on the serious and impressively long finish. This isn't particularly refined, though it's not really rustic either, and it's rare to see this level of quality from this *appellation*. Recommended. (89-92)/2022+

2015 Nuits St. Georges: Here too there is just enough menthol character to warrant a mention though not so much to detract from the transparency of the unusually spicy black raspberry, plum and noticeably earth-infused aromas. Once again there is excellent density and power to the mouth coating medium-bodied flavors that brim with dry extract that helps to buffer the supporting structure shaping the rustic, robust and slightly warm finale. This is an excellent Nuits *villages*. (89-91)/2023+

2015 Nuits St. Georges “Les Boudots”: A wonderfully spicy nose combines notes of plum, violet, cassis, tea and hints of lavender. The highly seductive and caressing middle weight plus flavors also brim with dry extract that coats the palate on the lingering, moderately firm and well-balanced finale. I found this to be slightly disappointing as normally it is one of Jadot's very best 1ers but in 2015 it seems to lack its usual level of complexity though in fairness, more may very well develop if given 5-ish plus years of bottle age. (90-92)/2025+

2015 Nuits St. Georges “Les Vaucrains”: The patently *sauvage*-inflected aromas possess better layering that includes plum, dark currant, humus and warm earth nuances. As is typically the case this is a big, bold and muscular effort that is both mineral-driven and powerful while delivering first-rate depth and length on the balanced and youthfully austere finale. Note that this is unapologetically built-to-age and a wine that is absolutely going to need it. (92-94)/2030+

2015 Nuits St. Georges “Les Cailles”: This is slightly cooler and not quite as ripe while displaying a subtly nuanced array of various red berry fruit scents along with wisps of earth, spice and floral influences. Once again there is fine mid-palate concentration to the vibrant, detailed and lightly stony medium weight flavors that are clearly more refined though not quite as persistent and powerful. This classy and balanced effort could reasonably be approached on the younger side. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Nuits St. Georges “Les St. Georges”: A pungent assortment of menthol, oak, red currant, violet and orange peel introduces the refined yet powerful and intense middle weight plus flavors that are blessed with both fine concentration and ample minerality, all wrapped in a textured and highly persistent finish. This is as complex as the Vaucrains but notably finer though not quite as powerful. What I particularly like about this range of Nuits 1ers is just how each of them has something unique to offer though if I had to choose just one, the LSG is the most complete. (92-95)/2030+

2015 Vosne-Romanée: A spicy nose consists of dark currant, violet and Asian-style tea nuances where a note of dried orange peel can be discerned. Similarly there is that lovely trait of inner mouth perfume to the velvety and caressing yet quite serious and muscular flavors that are borderline robust while delivering excellent length. This is not an especially elegant Vosne *villages* but offers terrific quality and especially fine complexity. Recommended. (89-92)/2023+

2015 Vosne-Romanée “Les Chaumes”: A pungent nose of oak and reduction doesn't impede an appreciation of the suave, round and wonderfully seductive middle weight flavors that possess a bit more volume and refinement but actually no better complexity than the Vosne *villages*; that said, this is definitely finer and a bit longer as well. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Vosne-Romanée “Les Suchots”: In contrast to the prior two wines this is aromatically much more reserved though aggressive swirling eventually liberates Asian spice box, tea, plum and violet scents. There is fine richness to the very suave and highly seductive medium-bodied flavors thanks to the abundant amounts of dry extract that impart a sappy texture to the lingering and solidly complex finale. This is both classy and stylish and built to reward medium plus-term aging. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Vosne-Romanée “Les Beaux Monts”: Like the Chaumes this is sufficiently reduced today to render the nose hard to assess. Otherwise the mouth feel is also quite seductive but in this case with somewhat more minerality in evidence on the plush and sophisticated flavors and lingering finish. This is not as mineral-driven as usual but it's awfully pretty. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Drazeyes”: (from a rarely seen *villages* level vineyard that abuts Les Baudes). A fresh and attractively layered nose is comprised by notes of various red berries, lilac and lavender plus a hint of earth. There is good volume and vibrancy to the delicious yet firm middle weight flavors that possess just a hint of rusticity on the solidly complex finale. Like its neighbor Les Baudes, there is some muscle and this is not a classic Chambolle of finesse. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Sentiers”: A more deeply pitched and well-layered array features aromas of dark fruit, spice, red currant and plenty of warm earth influence. The supple, round and relatively forward flavors possess a pliant mid-palate that contrasts markedly with the muscular and mineral-inflected finish that is shaped by medium firm tannins. As is usually the case, this is a highly complex Chambolle of muscle and punch though it's by no means rustic. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Feusselottes”: As one would reasonably expect this is certainly more elegant as the expressive and moderately high-toned nose offers up a pretty blend of various red berries and floral nuances that evidence hints of spice and soft wood. The lacy and highly refined middle weight flavors are much, much finer if somewhat less complex on the firm but less evidently structured finish. A classic Chambolle of lace and grace. (90-93)/2025+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Baudes”: Notes of menthol and discreet wood merge with those of red cherry, floral, spiced tea and violet. The succulent, round and utterly delicious broad-shouldered flavors exhibit a taut muscularity that carries over to the much firmer and more powerful flavors that deliver exceptionally good depth and length. Textbook Baudes that is built-to-age. (91-94)/2030+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Fuées”: As is usually the case this is both more aromatically elegant and slightly more restrained with its cool collection of red and dark currant, lilac, plum and wet stone where an interesting hint of mandarin orange shows up. The sleek, intense and even more mineral-driven middle weight flavors possess focused power and if not the same size and weight as the Baudes, then certainly more refinement thanks to the relatively fine-grained tannins on the wonderfully long finish. While this is also quite firm, this should be approachable after 6 to 8 years or so. (92-94)/2030+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Amoureuses”: (from a small .12 ha parcel). While the fruit profile is similar to that of the Fuées, the spice and floral nuances are more prominent. The rich and almost surprisingly full-bodied flavors possess outstanding volume along with ample minerality on the impressively long and refined finish. As pretty and classy as this is, it's not necessarily any more complex or persistent than the Fuées though that of course may change with time. (92-94)/2027+

2015 Morey St. Denis “Clos des Ormes”: Reduction presently flattens the nose. On the plus side there is excellent richness to the very round, suave and generously proportioned flavors that possess an opulent mouth feel though the finish is noticeably sweet and borderline cloying. While there is nothing wrong with that per se, it's really not for me. (87-90)/2022+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin: Here too there is a reductive note that renders the nose tough to read. Otherwise there is a brighter and more vibrant mouth feel to the somewhat less concentrated and better delineated flavors that possess good energy though the finish is mildly drying. I suspect that the dryness is due to the abundant gas rather than under-ripe tannins but this didn't show particularly well today, or at least not as well as one might think given how strong a showing the Jadot Gevrey 1ers displayed. (87-89)/2022+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “Petite Chapelle”: A slightly toasty nose reflects notes of mostly red berries, earth and a discreet floral whiff. The very pretty and wonderfully refined middle weight flavors brim with both minerality and dry extract while the driving, balanced and focused finish exhibits excellent intensity and power. This is a relatively big Petite Chapelle yet it loses none of its typical refinement for it. In a word, terrific. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Cazetiers”: This is completely different and much more typically Gevrey with its earthier and more *sauvage*-inflected aromas of ripe dark berries and forest floor that are also trimmed in noticeable but not intrusive wood toast. There is more volume and power to the equally mineral-driven and concentrated flavors that possess real drive on the strikingly complex finish where the only nit is a hint of warmth. This notably structured effort should be first-rate if you have the patience to allow it to mature. (92-94)/2030+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “Estournelles St. Jacques”: This too is mildly but not really intrusively toasty with its liqueur-like aromas of various dark berries, red currant and much more floral and elegant suffused nose. The refinement continues onto the intensely stony and well-delineated flavors that culminate in an attractively complex and well-balanced finale. This is perhaps a bit less refined than usual but on the other hand, it's also more powerful than usual. (90-93)/2025+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “Lavaut St. Jacques”: A cool, restrained and more complex collection is comprised by notes of both red and dark currant, earth, violet, humus and plenty of *sauvage* characters. Here too there is ample minerality to the tautly muscular, serious and powerful big-bodied flavors that terminate in a beautifully persistent finish. This is very clearly built-to-age but it's a bit less youthfully austere than it usually is at this early juncture. Textbook LSJ. (92-94)/2030+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “Clos St. Jacques”: Interestingly, and particularly so given the generally high level of expressiveness of many of the prior wines, this is all but mute and requires aggressive swirling to reveal ripe yet elegant and airy aromas of red currant, spice, smoke, wet stone and a hint of underbrush. There is evident refinement to the mineral-driven and caressing medium-bodied flavors that exhibit lovely delineation on the mildly austere, firm and beautifully well-balanced and lingering finale. This is very classy with a Zen-like sense of harmony. (92-95)/2030+

2015 Charmes-Chambertin: (from Charmes proper). Moderate wood frames the notably ripe yet fresh array of red currant, earth and once again, plenty of *sauvage* characters that can also be found on the rich and relatively full-bodied flavors that possess a succulent, even opulent mouth feel. The finish though is slightly sweet and this aspect is accentuated by the wood treatment. While there is nothing technically amiss, I can't say this especially appeals to me though in fairness, the sweetness may very well dissipate with enough bottle age. (89-92)/2027+

2015 Mazis-Chambertin: An overtly toasty character fights somewhat with the liqueur-like aromas of red and dark currant liqueur that flash notes of freshly turned earth, spice, smoked meat and plenty of forest floor nuances. This is markedly bigger and more powerful than the Charmes with more mid-palate concentration as well as the copious amounts of dry extract imparts a sappy texture as well as buffers the very firm tannic spine on the explosively long and beautifully well-balanced finale. This is an imposingly serious wine and expressly made to age so keep that in mind should you choose to buy it as this won't be a good candidate to drink young. (92-95)/2033+

2015 Chapelle-Chambertin: (from En Gêmeaux; these are the oldest vines in the Jadot portfolio of owned vineyards). This too displays noticeable wood influence though here it's more in the form of menthol than toast though it's not so much as to materially impede the appreciation of the red cherry and overtly floral-scented nose where ample hints of the *sauvage* and warm earth eventually appear. There is remarkably good concentration as the old vine sap is immediately evident whilst coating the palate and pushing the even firmer tannic spine to the background on the powerful and intensely mineral-driven finale. Despite the impressive size, weight and power this is actually more refined than usual but even so, it's going to require a very long snooze in an appropriately cool cellar. In sum, this is seriously good Chapelle. (93-95)/2035+

2015 Chambertin: This too is overtly floral with a breathtaking array of lilac, lavender, rose petal and violet scents adding both breadth and elegance to the array of red currant, plum, spice and forest floor scents. The suave, round and highly seductive broad-shouldered flavors possess superb mid-palate concentration before terminating in a hugely long, sappy and almost painfully intense finish where hints of mocha and warmth can be discerned. This is a serious and youthfully brooding Cham that is also going to require a very long stay in a cold cellar; in short, this is a 'buy and forget' wine. (93-96)/2035+

2015 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: Plenty of wood and menthol elements mark the wonderfully spicy and notably ripe nose that combines notes of red berry fruit liqueur, a panoply of spices and a whisper of mocha. The highly seductive and concentrated flavors possess an opulent mid-palate mouth feel that is borderline unctuous, all wrapped in a gorgeously long, complex and well-balanced finish. While the sheer density of material should enable this to be approached after only a decade or so, if you wish to see it at its peak, this too is pretty much a "buy and forget you own it" wine. (93-96)/2035+

2015 Griotte-Chambertin: More moderate wood influence more easily allows the pretty if reticent nose of various dark berries, humus, forest floor and earth nuances to be appreciated. There is a lovely sense of underlying tension to the medium weight plus flavors that possess a spicy inner mouth perfume that adds a touch of elegance to the light mineral-inflected and hugely long finish. This is a stunningly good effort and the only concern at the moment is that it's not quite as complex as the best in the range. If it can add top notch depth with time it should merit, or even exceed, the upper end of my projected range. (92-95)/2030+

2015 Clos de la Roche: Notes of wood and menthol combine with those of red currant, dark raspberry and plenty of earth and game scents. The velvety yet quite powerful big-bodied flavors also brim with sappy dry extract that pushes the otherwise notably firm tannic spine to the background on the built-to-age, balanced and wonderfully persistent finale. (92-94)/2032+

2015 Clos St. Denis: (from 90+ year old vines that are worked by horse). Here the generous wood treatment is borderline intrusive as the menthol element all but dominates the markedly spicy and ripe dark berry fruit aromas. The medium-bodied flavors are even richer than those of the Clos de la Roche and more refined as well though, as one might reasonably expect, less powerful before culminating in a highly seductive and strikingly complex finale. This beauty isn't quite as structured but it should have no difficulty rewarding from 15 to 20 years of bottle age. (92-95)/2030+

2015 Clos de Vougeot: There is enough reduction to render the nose impossible to assess today. Otherwise there is excellent richness and concentration to the full-bodied and succulent flavors that once again brim with dry extract while delivering excellent length on the balanced and less youthfully austere finish than usual. 2015 seemed to favor Clos de Vougeot and this is another excellent example that, much like the Griotte, just needs to add some depth to merit the top end of my projected range. (92-94)/2032+

2015 Echézeaux: (from Les Rouges du Bas that is worked by horse because it is so steep). This is very ripe though the black berry liqueur and spice aromas stop just short of *surmaturité*. The equally ripe, suave and caressing velvet-textured flavors display a mocha component on the slightly sweet and warm finish. As the description suggests, this was somewhat awkward though because of the excellent underlying material my range assumes that this manages to recover with time in bottle. I underscore though that is a prediction, not a guarantee. (91-94)/2030+

2015 Grands Echézeaux: Firm reduction flattens the nose though there is a lovely sense of both freshness and tension to the colossally constituted flavors that drench the palate with sap that once again renders the notably firm tannic spine all but invisible for the moment on the impressively persistent if slightly warm finish. I suspect that in time the structure will become more apparent but this is one concentrated, indeed massive GE, that isn't elegant but does avoid rusticity. (93-95)/2033+

2015 Bonnes Mares: (100% from the Chambolle side that combines about one-third *terres rouges* and the remainder from *terres blanches*). Strong wood and menthol characters bury the fruit at present. On the plus side the exceptionally rich and concentrated broad-shouldered flavors possess outstanding amounts of dry extract that impart a velvety texture to the plush finish that is slightly sweet due to the generous wood treatment. Note that like several wines reviewed above that my projected range assumes the underlying material is up to the job of successfully absorbing the wood treatment. (93-95)/2035+

2015 Musigny: (from 90+ year old vines in a parcel measuring .32 ha). Here too the wood is so strong that it essentially crushes the underlying fruit. There is however superb density of material supporting the borderline huge yet almost inexplicably refined flavors that brim with dry extract while delivering incredible persistence on the mineral and palate drench finish that simply goes on and on. Like the Grands Ech this is a massively constituted Musigny that is going to need a very, very long time to reach its full majority but I hope that I'm around to see it when it does! In a word, brilliant. (94-97)/2035+

2014 Côte de Beaune-Villages: A pretty and relatively high-toned nose offers up notes of red cherry, pomegranate and raspberry. There is a lovely sense of energy and good detail to the lighter weight flavors that terminate in a mildly dry if reasonably persistent finish that offers acceptable depth. This is certainly pretty though the balance isn't quite perfect. 86/2017+

2014 Beaune "Grèves": Discreet but definitely not invisible wood sets off somber and ripe red and dark cherry, earth and soft floral scents. There is excellent intensity to the vibrant and well-delineated medium-bodied flavors that possess a supple mid-palate but then immediately tighten up on the moderately austere, dusty and mildly dry finale. This is certainly pretty but the balance isn't what it could be as the hail seems to have affected the phenolic maturity of the supporting tannins. 87/2022+

2014 Beaune "Clos des Ursules": (from Vignes Franches). The wood treatment is evident though not really invasive on the spicy aromas of plum, red currant and dark cherry that are trimmed in earth and discreet forest floor hints. There is fine volume to the delicious and refined flavors that display a light minerality on the mildly austere and warm finish that exhibits excellent depth though the drying finish is somewhat clipped as the tannins seem angular and less than completely ripe. To be sure this is not without interest and in particular in terms of complexity but the hail has definitely had an impact here. 86/2021+

2014 Volnay "Clos de la Barre": (a *monopole*). Soft wood notes sit atop the attractively fresh and spicy red currant cherry, floral and herbal tea scents. There is excellent intensity to the mineral-driven middle weight flavors that possess a supple mid-palate that contrasts with the dusty and serious if slightly warm finish where the ripeness level of the raspy tannins is marginally better. I like the depth and concentration but the maturity to the tannins and overall balance isn't what it usually is. 87/2022+

2014 Pommard: All but invisible wood doesn't impede the appreciation of the cool, fresh and admirably pure nose of cherry, floral, earth and attractive spice nuances. There is a lovely mouth feel to the medium weight flavors that possess a good sense of vibrancy as well as fine volume before terminating in a mildly austere and persistent if ever-so-slightly dry and awkward finish. This is certainly punchy but not really rustic though it needs a few years of bottle age to better harmonize. 87/2021+

2014 Pommard "Clos de la Commaraine": Discreet but not invisible wood frames a pretty nose of red currant liqueur and earth scents. There is really lovely delineation to the cool and very pure middle weight mineral-inflected flavors that possess good energy before terminating in a slightly edgy if beautifully complex finish that displays traces of austerity and rusticity. As the description suggests this isn't perfectly balanced, yet this is one of those wines which you forgive its shortcomings because other aspects compensate and in this case, the complexity really is very good. 90/2022+

2014 Corton-Pougets: A hint of wood sets off somber, ripe, fresh and complex aromas of violet, red currant and plenty of earth and *sauvage* influences. There is good richness to the velvety middle weight plus flavors that retain solid precision and vibrancy on the firm, moderately austere, persistent and mineral-laden if slightly drying finish. The dryness is such that it's presently not entirely clear whether this will eventually harmonize as the tannins resolve but I have some concern. 89/2026+

2014 Bourgogne "Le Chapitre": (from Chenôve near Clos du Roy). An unobtrusive wood nuance sits atop the cool, pretty and relatively elegant array of red currant, spice, earth and floral aromas. There is good vibrancy to the well-detailed and utterly delicious flavors that possess reasonably good depth on the lingering finish where a hint of acid tang is just enough to detract slightly from the overall sense of balance. 86/2018+

2014 Marsannay: A pretty and fresh nose is comprised mostly by pomegranate and red cherry aromas that lead to well-detailed and energetic flavors that terminate in a noticeably drying and somewhat clipped finale. This appears to lack complete phenolic maturity which may explain the dryness. To be sure this is certainly aromatically pretty but the finish is presently pretty edgy. 86/2018+

2014 Nuits St. Georges: All but invisible wood influence can be detected on the ripe red berry fruit suffused nose that offers additional notes of earth, herbal tea, forest floor and *animale* scents. The mid-palate is quite supple and forward with very round, indeed almost suave middle weight flavors that tighten up immediately into a mildly rustic and moderately structured finale where a hint of acid tang appears. This is very Nuits in character though it should be approachable after 4 to 5 years of bottle age. 88/2022+

2014 Nuits St. Georges “Les Boudots”: As is often the case with a fine Boudots the brooding and restrained if ripe nose is discreetly spicy with its pretty array of red and dark currant, earth, tea and sandalwood scents. The seductively textured and very suave medium weight flavors exude a fine bead of minerality onto the lingering, balanced and palate coating finish. This is not super dense or even especially powerful but it is impeccably well-balanced, complex and harmonious. That said, the firm structure makes it clear that this is going to require at least 6 to 8 years of bottle age first and amply repay 12 to 15. 92/2026+

2014 Vosne-Romanée “Les Suchots”: A highly restrained if not mute nose grudgingly displays notes of spice and brooding dark berries, earth and floral hints. There is by contrast excellent richness and volume to the velvety and supple yet serious middle weight plus flavors that display strikingly good persistence on the sappy and beautifully well-balanced if moderately austere finish. This has tightened up considerably since I last reviewed it from barrel and it seems relatively clear that this is going to require at least a modicum of patience but when it arrives at its peak, it should be lovely. Recommended. 92/2026+

2014 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Baudes”: A well-layered and attractively elegant array is composed of various red berries, dark currant, earth and wisps of spice and tea. There is excellent concentration to the bold and tautly muscular flavors that possess a seductively textured mid-palate that contrasts sharply with the youthfully austere, powerful, serious and well-balanced finish that delivers excellent length. Textbook Baudes and one that is recommended provided that you can allow it at least 6 to 8 years of bottle age and it should amply reward 12 to 15. 92/2026+

2014 Gevrey-Chambertin: Wisps of oak and the *sauvage* are present on the very fresh and pretty red currant and soft earth scents. There is acceptable volume to the relatively supple lighter weight flavors (but not dilute) that possess an agreeably stony character before culminating in an admirably persistent if slightly drying and not especially complex finale. I would be inclined to allow this at least 5 years in bottle to develop better overall depth and to flesh out a bit. 88/2021+

2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Clos St. Jacques”: An airy and markedly floral nose also reveals spicy notes of both red and dark currant, spice and plenty of earth character. There is good richness to the vibrant and overtly mineral-driven medium-bodied flavors that retain fine delineation on the elegant, dusty and well-balanced finish. At present this seems to lack the mid-palate stuffing I’m used to seeing from the best vintages though I suspect that this will very likely fill out with time in bottle. In sum, 2014 appears to be a very good but not genuinely great vintage for this consistently excellent wine. 91/2024+

2014 Chapelle-Chambertin: (from En Gêmeaux; these are the oldest vines in the Jadot portfolio of owned vineyards). All but invisible wood adds breadth to the ripe but cool nose that combines wisps of red cherry with those of earth, tea, *sauvage* and humus. There is fine punch, intensity and detail to the overtly mineral-driven medium-bodied flavors that possess a velvety mid-palate that contrasts markedly with the powerful, serious, concentrated, austere and ever-so-slightly edgy finale. This will require at least medium patience before it will be completely ready for prime time. 92/2024+

2014 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: Discernible wood highlights the elegant, pure and highly spiced aromas of perfumed red pinot fruit that displays additional depth in the form of Gevrey style earth, floral and Asian-style tea notes. There is a softly exotic character to the mineral-driven big-bodied flavors that retain a fine sense of detail and intensity on the hugely long, complex and palate staining finish. This is a beautiful if firmly structured wine that is likely going to need between 12 and 15 years of cellar time to reveal its full, and considerable, potential. 94/2026+

2014 Clos de la Roche: There is ample wood and menthol present on the dark cherry, earth and saddle leather suffused nose where a very subtle hint of volatile acidity arises. I like the mouth feel to the medium-bodied and ultra-suave flavors thanks mostly to the notably fine-grained tannins, all wrapped in a very firm, serious, powerful and youthfully austere finish. This is one of those wines that isn’t technically perfect yet has many other positive attributes and if you’re not sensitive to VA then you may find this somewhat more interesting than I did. 91/2029+

2014 Clos de Vougeot: Noticeable but not dominant oak frames a restrained and impressively complex nose of earthy red currant and discreet spice elements. I very much like the textured mouth feel of the lightly mineral-inflected and notably taut full-bodied flavors that brim with sappy dry extract on the concentrated, powerful and mildly youthfully austere finish. This is a classic rendition of Clos de Vougeot that is very much built-to-age and will definitely need it too. 93/2029+

2014 Echézeaux: (from Les Rouges du Bas that is worked by horse because it is so steep). The moderate wood this displayed from barrel has been almost completely integrated and easily allows the overtly spicy mixture of various red berry fruit scents that are generously laced with tea, lilac, violet and sandalwood wisps to be appreciated. There is fine concentration to the powerful, focused and sleekly muscular flavors that also coat the palate with dry extract that also serves to buffer the firm tannic spine on the balanced and impressively long finale. This manages to be at once serious yet seductive and I particularly like the sophisticated mouth feel. Note that while still very young this should drink reasonably well early on. 93/2026+

Domaine Patrick Javillier (Meursault)

2015	Aloxe-Corton	red	88
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Grands Liards”	red	88
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Serpentières” 1er	red	90

I will have Patrick Javillier’s views of the 2015 vintage in Issue 67. Note that the reds were being bottled under the composite Diam corks but Javillier didn’t like the results so he returned to bottling with natural cork; the 2015s were bottled in October 2016. Note further that the wines also appear under the name Javillier-Guyot as some of the vines came from his wife’s family. (Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, NY, USA and Total Wines, www.totalwine.com, USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com, O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, H & H Bancroft Wines, www.bancroftwines.com, Justerini & Brooks, www.justerinis.com, Private Cellar Ltd., www.privatecellar.co.uk and Goedhuis & Co., www.goedhuis.com, all UK; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com/hk, Hong Kong).

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Grands Liards”: A pretty nose combining notes of black cherry, earth and violets introduces delicious, vibrant and succulent flavors that possess a lovely mouth feel, all wrapped in a sappy, balanced and lingering finish. This is sufficiently forward that it could easily be enjoyed young. 88/2019+

2015 Aloxe-Corton: (from Les Boutières). This is also quite aromatically pretty with its notes of red cherry, raspberry, earth and lilac. The exuberantly energetic and refreshing middle weight flavors are generously proportioned while delivering sneaky good length on the sappy finish that displays only a hint of rusticity. This is built on its fruit but even so there is solid complexity. 88/2019+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Serpentières”: Here the expressive nose is at once more elegant and more complex with its collection of spice and earth-inflected dark berry fruit liqueur aromas. The velvety and mouth coating medium-bodied flavors exude a subtle minerality on the sappy and well-balanced finish. Note that this too could easily be enjoyed young or held for a few years to develop even better depth. 90/2021+

Domaine Rémi Jobard (Meursault)

2015	Monthélie “Les Vignes-Rondes” 1er	red	(88-90?)
2015	Volnay “Les Santenots” 1er	red	(88-91)

I will have more regarding Rémi Jobard’s view of the 2015 vintage in Issue 67. However, with respect to the 2015 reds he noted that he used 25% whole clusters for the Santenots and 75% for the Vignes-Rondes. (Weygandt-Metzler, www.weygandtmetzler.com, PA, USA; Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk, UK).

2015 Volnay “Les Santenots”: Notably ripe aromas combine notes of plum, dark cherry, earth and soft floral nuances. There is excellent richness and concentration to the muscular medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a moderately firm but not especially austere finale that displays just a touch of rusticity. At least some patience required. (88-91)/2023+

2015 Monthélie “Les Vignes-Rondes”: Here the expressive nose is even more floral-inflected with its attractively cool and pure array of black pinot fruit, red currant and discreet wisps of warm earth. The sleek, delicious and relatively forward middle weight flavors immediately tighten up on the firm, moderately rustic and somewhat chewy finish. This is reasonably well-concentrated but it’s not completely clear that this will harmonize with time as it’s presently pretty chewy. (88-90?)2023+

Domaine Pierre et François Labet (Beaune/Vougeot)

2015	Beaune “Coucherias” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Beaune “Clos de Dessus de Marconnets”	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Bourgogne Vieilles Vignes	red	(87-89)
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes	red	(89-91)
2014	➔ Beaune “Coucherias” 1er	red	91
2014	➔ Beaune “Clos de Dessus de Marconnets”	red	89

2014	➔ Bourgogne Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2014	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes	red	90

François Labet told me that 2015 was a "precocious vintage where we realized relatively tiny yields in the Côte de Beaune due to the accumulated stress of three consecutive years of hail plus there was a high incidence of shatter during the flowering. We chose to begin harvesting on the 8th of September for the pinot and it was spotlessly clean, ripe and with very thick skins. The vinifications were easy and we did almost no punching down as it would have been very easy to extract too much structure. As to the wines they are still of course developing but they appear to be extremely promising. The tannins are phenolically mature and the fruit is very ripe yet it's not ripe in the same fashion as say 2003 or 2009 and thus the *terroir* transparency is better. I like them a lot and they should be reasonably approachable young yet they're so concentrated that they should age for decades." The Labet 2015s are indeed very promising and should prove to be exceptionally long-lived. That said, don't miss their 2014s either as they too are first-rate. The 2014s, revisited below, were bottled in April 2016. (Terlato Wines, IL, USA; Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com, UK).

2015 Bourgogne Vieilles Vignes: (from 45+ year old vines located in Chorey-lès-Beaune). There is plenty of floral influence present on the very ripe liqueur-like red berry fruit suffused nose where touches of spice and earth lurk in the background. The rich, delicious and vibrant flavors are unusually refined in the context of the *appellation*, all wrapped in a beautifully long and well-balanced finale. Labet rarely misses with this wine and 2015 will be no exception. Note that this would make a great choice for an age-worthy house red. (87-89)/2021+

2015 Beaune "Clos de Dessus de Marconnets": A more elegant and complex nose combines notes of violet and spice with ripe black cherry and soft oak nuances. Here too there is a relatively refined mouth feel to the lightly stony and energetic medium weight flavors that coat the palate with sap while exhibiting fine length on the balanced finale. The supporting tannins are moderately dense but fine and I suspect that this will both drink well young but age well too. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Beaune "Coucherias": Here the nose is aromatically quite similar to that of the Marconnets with perhaps just a bit more elegance and overall complexity. The superior depth also characterizes the even more refined palate impression despite possessing even better concentration that does a fine job of buffering the moderately firm and youthfully austere finale. This is really quite good though in this case it's likely going to require a few years of cellar time first before it's ready for prime time. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes": (from La Justice, Les Crais and Jouise). This presents a completely different aromatic profile with its aromas of pungent humus-inflected earth, *sauvage* and dark currant scents. There is excellent delineation and intensity to the tautly muscular middle weight flavors that exhibit a discreet minerality on the delicious and, somewhat unusually, velvety finish. This is a quality Gevrey *villages* that should reward mid-term cellaring. (89-91)/2022+

2014 Bourgogne Vieilles Vignes: (from 45+ year old vines located in Chorey-lès-Beaune). A pretty and overtly floral nose is composed of both red and blue pinot fruit where soft notes of earth and spice add breadth. There is an impressively dense palate impression for a wine at this level with good volume to the appealingly textured flavors that culminate in a mildly austere and solidly complex finale. This is almost always excellent and 2014 will be no exception. Highly recommended. 88/2019+

2014 Beaune "Clos de Dessus de Marconnets": A discreet application of wood sets off the spicy plum and black cherry aromas that also display plenty of floral elements. There is good vibrancy to the detailed and lightly mineral-laden flavors that are rich to the point of being almost lush while delivering fine depth and length on the saline-inflected finale. This too is worth checking out. 89/2021+

2014 Beaune "Coucherias": A whisper of wood can be found on the slightly more elegant nose that displays pure and airy red currant, floral, herbal tea and discreet spice nuances. There is also a bit more volume and richness as well as more evident minerality to the intense yet refined middle weight flavors, all wrapped in a well-balanced finish that displays a mild hint of youthful austerity. This is an unusually good 2014 Beaune 1er. 91/2024+

2014 Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes": (from La Justice, Les Crais and Jouise). Notes of game, wood toast, earth and humus can be found on the fresh and cool red currant and green tea-scented nose. There is a subtle trace of minerality present on the nicely refined medium-bodied flavors that retain good delineation before culminating in focused, sleek, intense and lingering if slightly rustic finish. I like the refreshing character though note that this will definitely need a few years of bottle age first. 90/2022+

Labruyère-Prieur Sélection (Meursault)

2015	Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	red	85
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Fontenys” 1er	red	(87-90)
2015	Griotte-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(89-92)

Labruyère-Prieur Sélection is a relatively new *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 2015 vintage. One difference though between the approach used here versus *chez* Prieur is that the Griotte was made from 100% whole clusters and the Fontenys with 50%. Another is that the wines are expressly made to be approachable young. (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).

2015 Bourgogne – Pinot Noir: There is enough wood, and associated menthol, framing the earthy and notably ripe dark pinot fruit and raspberry scents to mention. The very rich, suave and round flavors terminate in an almost soft, slightly flat, and vaguely sweet finish. This is so forward that there is little pointing in holding it. 85/now+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Fontenys”: (vinified with 50% whole clusters). A notably floral nose offers up notes of spicy cassis, dark cherry and earth where the latter can also be found on the sleek, rich and more vibrant medium-bodied flavors that display a lovely minerality on the somewhat warm finish. This is quite forward and should drink well early. (87-90)/2019+

2015 Griotte-Chambertin: (vinified with 100% whole clusters). This is also notably forward with its more elegant and slightly cooler nose of liqueur-like red berry fruit, soft and warm earth and a hint of underbrush. The dusty and mineral-inflected middle weight flavors possess solid punch and power on the moderately complex and persistent finish. (89-92)/2021+

Domaine Michel Lafarge (Volnay)

2015	Beaune “Clos des Aigrots” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Beaune “Grèves” 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	➔ Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	red	(87-89)
2015	➔ Bourgogne – Passe-Tout-Grains l’Exception	red	(86-89)
2015	➔ Bourgogne – Passe-Tout-Grains l’Exception Magnum Cuvée	red	(87-90)
2015	➔ Pommard “Pézerolles” 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	Volnay	red	(88-91)
2015	➔ Volnay “Caillerets” 1er	red	(92-95)
2015	➔ Volnay “Clos du Château des Ducs” 1er	red	(92-95)
2015	➔ Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	red	(93-96)
2015	➔ Volnay “Mitans” 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	➔ Volnay “Les Pitures” 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Volnay – Vendange Sélectionnées	red	(89-92)
2014	Volnay	red	88
2014	Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	red	90

Michel Lafarge, and his son Frédéric, called 2015 a vintage “that presented certain challenges despite producing great results, specifically the spring pruning was extremely exacting as the fruiting canes were so fragile from three years of being pounded by hail. They were very easy to break so we had to proceed very slowly and cautiously but in the end it all worked. Otherwise the season was almost ideal and we were lucky in that there was just enough rain, at just the right times, that the vines avoided undue hydric stress. We began picking on the 5th of September and brought in fruit that was spotless, perfectly ripe and with fine acidity. Potential alcohols were in the 12.8 to 13.2% range though yields were tiny, coming in as they did between 20 to 22 hl/ha. We did our normal vinification and because the fruit was so ripe and clean, they proceeded easily and with no problems.” When I asked the elder Lafarge what other vintage or vintages that stylistically reminded him of 2015 he didn’t hesitate: “1929 because the 2015s have the same kind of ripe but not too ripe aromas with soft, round and seductive textures allied with firm tannins. Well-stored ‘29s are still good today and there is no reason that I can see that that the 2015s

won't do the same if given a chance. 2015 is the best vintage in a long time." While it's for future generations of Burgundy lovers to see whether 2015 holds up with the way the '29s have, what is indisputably clear is just how good the Lafarge 2015s are. Indeed, I would go so far as to suggest that they may very well have made the wines of the vintage from the Côte de Beaune when you look across the entire portfolio. Every wine is at least very good and several are absolute knock outs; it's hard to do much better so if you can find them, buy them. Note that two wines from 2014, bottled in April 2016, were revisited in bottle below. Please also see the remarkably good Lafarge-Vial Beaujolais 2015s reviewed in the En Plus section. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, NJ, CT, NY, 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).

2015 Bourgogne – Passe-Tout-Grains l'Exception: (from 85+ year old vines, also made from a 50/50 mix of pinot and gamay). A fresh, ripe and attractively complex nose blends notes of various red berries, earth and a hint of black pepper. The supple, round and agreeably punchy flavors possess fine volume and intensity that continues onto the firm, moderately rustic and built-to-age finish. This is unusually good for the genre and highly recommended. (86-89)/2020+

2015 Bourgogne – Passe-Tout-Grains l'Exception Magnum Cuvée: (from 85+ year old vines, also made from a 50/50 mix of pinot and gamay. Lafarge explained that this was made from the same fruit as the regular *cuvée* but manually destemmed, vinified by hand, meaning no tools were used and then bottled exclusively in magnum by the old-style method known as "*chèvre à deux becs*", which is a two-headed spigot inserted into the that allows for the wine to gently flow into the bottle. It's very time consuming but a few domaines, like Coche-Dury still use it because the method gives great results.) A slightly fresher nose is compositionally similar to the regular *cuvée* though the mouth feel is markedly sleeker and more intense, in fact so much so that it's almost hard to believe that the base fruit was the same. This is perhaps the finest example of PTG that I have ever tasted so if you can find it, don't hesitate! (87-90)/2023+

2015 Bourgogne – Pinot Noir: (from 40+ year old vines in Petit Pré that were once classified as Volnay *villages*). An exuberantly fresh nose combines notes of red currant, earth and a hint of humus. The rich but highly energetic flavors possess excellent volume and punch along with first-rate depth and length on the balanced and notably firm finish, at least firm in the context of what is typical for the *appellation*. Highly recommended for value. (87-89)/2021+

2015 Volnay: A fresh, cool and admirably pure nose offers up a layered combination of violet, plum, anise and soft earth whisps. The delicious and vibrant middle weight flavors possess just enough mineral character to remark upon while delivering fine length on the balanced finale. This is very Volnay in style but it's Volnay with real punch. (88-91)/2022+

2015 Volnay – Vendange Sélectionnées: This is also wonderfully fresh and cool with a similar array of fruit and floral elements though here the earth element is a bit more pronounced. As is typically the case there is more volume and mid-palate concentration to the focused medium-bodied flavors that are shaped by somewhat finer tannins on the lacy and impressively refined finale. This is an excellent Volnay *villages* and one that is also highly recommended. (89-92)/2023+

2015 Beaune "Clos des Aigrots": Here the expressive nose is even fresher and cooler with elegant and airy aromas of red pinot fruit that is generously cut with wet stone, floral and discreet spice nuances. There is a beguiling sense of vibrancy to the intensely mineral-driven flavors that flash excellent delineation on the focused, pure and impeccably well-balanced finish. This is built on its minerality and while moderately firm, should still be approachable young if desired. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Beaune "Grèves": As is typically the case this is slightly riper and more deeply pitched with its more complex collection of dark berries, game, warm earth and lilac nuances. The sleek, intense and tautly muscular medium weight flavors that possess excellent mid-palate density thanks to the copious amounts of dry extract, all wrapped in a vibrant mineral-driven and powerful finish. This impressive effort is clearly built-to-age and is going to need it. In a word, excellent. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Pommard "Pézerolles": Here the expressive and more elegant nose is much spicier though perhaps not quite as complex with its higher-toned blend of cool red cherry, currant and floral scents. The beautifully refined and vibrant medium weight flavors exude ample minerality on the dusty, mouth coating and strikingly persistent finish that is firm but less evidently structured finish. This is a Pommard of finesse thanks mainly to the fine-grained tannins. Lovely. (91-93)/2023+

2015 Volnay "Mitans": (from Mitans proper). An appealing elegant, high-toned and equally airy nose reflects notes of pure essence of red pinot fruit that is sprinkled with floral, spice and earth hints. The sleek, lacy and beautifully energetic middle weight flavors exude a subtle minerality on the detailed, focused and sneaky long finish. Textbook Mitans. (91-94)/2023+

2015 Volnay “Les Pitures”: (Lafarge noted that this would be bottled exclusively in magnum). This is also impressively elegant with a cool and restrained nose that features ultra-pure aromas of various red berries, earth and rose petals. The firm intense and well-constituted middle weight plus flavors that exhibit an abundance of both minerality and mid-palate concentration, all wrapped in a detailed and powerful finish. This gorgeous effort is quite firmly structured though not really austere and is very clearly going to need extended cellaring and particularly so in magnum format. (92-94)/2035+

2015 Volnay “Caillerets”: (from a parcel measuring 7 *ouvrées*, or around .3 ha of 40+ year old vines). A fresh, elegant and equally pure nose is markedly spicier with its pretty aromas of violet, lilac, lavender, tea and plum that are trimmed in discreet wood nuances. There is first-rate richness to the sleek, stylish and classy middle weight flavors that seem to be built on a base of almost pungent minerality on the strikingly refined and hugely long finale. This is breathtakingly good. (92-95)/2030+

2015 Volnay “Clos du Château des Ducs”: (from 50+ year old vines; a *monopole* of the domaine). Interestingly the expressive and cool nose combines aspects from both the Pitures and the Caillerets with both red and dark pinot fruit, floral, spice and tea nuances. Here too the refined middle weight flavors brim with minerality and energy while displaying a caressing and sophisticated mouth feel before delivering first-rate punch on the impeccably well-balanced finish. This is also impeccably well-balanced and one very classy Volnay 1er. (92-95)/2027+

2015 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”: (from 45+ year old vines that sit just above Champans). Once again the beautifully well-layered nose is attractively fresh with its combination of essence of red berries, earth, orange-peko tea and impressive array of spice elements. The rich, round and imposingly-scaled broad-shouldered flavors display a taut but sleek muscularity and ample minerality that also suffuses the marvelously persistent and intricately well-balanced if notably firm finish. This is, quite simply, flat out sensational and potentially ranks with the best ever vintages of this storied wine, which among modern vintages would include the 1978, 1985, 1999 and 2005. (93-96)/2032+

2014 Volnay: A super-fresh and appealingly layered nose is comprised by notes of spice, red and blue pinot fruit, earth and lilac nuances. There is enough underlying tension to the middle weight flavors to add a real sense of vibrancy, all wrapped in a lingering and ever-so-mildly chewy but not hard or especially austere finale. Note that at least a few years of patience will be necessary to take the mild edge off the finish. 88/2020+

2014 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”: (from 45+ year old vines that sit just above Champans). This is also beautifully well-layered with its broad-ranging nose of red currant, pomegranate, earth, floral and spice-suffused aromas. As is usually the case this is both bigger and more powerful if not quite as elegant with a similar level of mid-palate concentration where the copious dry extract does a reasonably good if not perfect job of buffering the firm tannic spine on the impressively long if slightly edgy finish. This has many positive attributes but the balance isn't quite perfect. 90/2022+

Domaine des Comtes Lafon (Meursault)

2015	Monthélie “Les Duresses” 1er	red	(88-91)
2015	➔ Volnay “Champans” 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	➔ Volnay “Santenots du Milieu” 1er	red	(92-95)
2014	➔ Volnay “Santenots du Milieu” 1er	red	92

Dominique Lafon, only partially tongue-in-cheek, described 2015 as “finally a vintage where we weren't smacked hard by hail! In 2014, I had exactly one vineyard in red and one in white that weren't hit but even so we could see the effects, and particularly so for the pinot vines in 2015, as they just didn't have the vigor that they normally would have. Thankfully we still harvested phenologically ripe and mature fruit but just not much of it. I used 50% whole clusters for the Clos des Chênes but not the others. As to the style of the wines, they're more elegant than the 2005s and I doubt that they will close up after the bottling the way the '05s did.” Lafon is obviously exceptionally well-known for the quality of their whites but they have a long history of making excellent reds too and 2015 is a very fine red wine vintage at this address. As I reported last year, the domaine is now bottling all its wines with the Diam brand of composite corks using the model known as 30. The 2014 revisited below was bottled in July 2016. (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, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, TX, Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, NZ/AZ/NM, all USA; Becky Wasserman & Co., www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com, John Armit Wines, www.armit.co.uk, Adnams, www.adnams.co.uk, Domaine Direct, www.domainedirect.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).

2015 Monthélie “Les Dureses”: There is just enough reduction present to impede saying much about the nose other than the underlying fruit appears to be ripe. The delicious, rich and solidly voluminous flavors possess a relatively refined mouth feel before concluding in a somewhat contrasting finish where a touch of rusticity arises. (88-91)/2022+

2015 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”: (vinified with 50% whole clusters). A notably ripe nose features notes of dark raspberry liqueur, spice and plenty of floral and earth elements. The exceptionally rich, even suave middle weight plus flavors coat the palate with dry extract while delivering excellent length on the sappy and complex finale. This borderline robust effort will definitely need at least a few years of bottle age first. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Volnay “Champans”: (from 85+ year old vines planted in deep sandy soil with dense but small rocks). This is aromatically cooler and slightly more reserved as well with its overtly spicy array of red and dark pinot fruit, warm earth and a softly exotic character. While the medium-bodied flavors aren’t quite as powerful and concentrated they are notably finer with noticeably better acidity that adds to the sense of underlying tension on the beautifully balanced finale. This is one of the better examples of Champans fashioned here in several years and it should rank with the 2005 and 2010. (92-94)/2030+

2015 Volnay “Santenots du Milieu”: (from 40+ year old vines planted in shallow, high clay content soil sitting on a bed of solid rock). This is also brilliantly spicy with its ultra-pure and pretty essence of black raspberry, floral and warm-earth suffused aromas. Like the Champans there is excellent underlying tension supporting the broad-shouldered flavors that are even more mineral-driven on the muscular, taut and driving finish. This wine always ages well and typically needs quite a bit of it and this terrific effort will be no exception. This could well rival the 1999, 2005 and 2010 versions in time. (92-95)/2030+

2014 Volnay “Santenots du Milieu”: (from 40+ year old vines planted in shallow, high clay content soil sitting on a bed of solid rock). An elegant, cool and beautifully complex nose displays a discreetly spicy array of red berries plum, violets, tea and a wisp of warm earth. There is really lovely delineation to the concentrated and vibrant medium-bodied flavors that exhibit a taut muscularity while remaining refined and well-balanced on the firm but not austere finale. This is often a very impressive wine *chez Lafon* but in 2014 it is a bit more elegant than usual. 92/2022+

Domaine Laleure-Piot (Pernand-Vergelesses)

2015	Chorey-lès-Beaune “Les Champs Longs”	red	87
2015	Pernand-Vergelesses “Clos de Bully”	red	88
2015	➤ Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Vergelesses” 1er	red	91
2015	➤ Pernand-Vergelesses “Ile de Vergelesses” 1er	red	91
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	87

Since Laleure-Piot has been taken over by Champy in 2010, the 10 hectares of vineyards have been completely converted to organic and biodynamic viticulture. Please see the section on Champy above for more information on the 2015 vintage. (Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, TX, Vinum Importing & Distributing, www.vinumimporting.com, WA, Vintage Imports, Inc., www.vintageimportswines.com, NJ/NJ and JW Sieg Wines, www.jwsiegwines.com, VA, all USA; Diva Beaune S.A.S., www.divawine.com, Beaune, France; Haynes, Hanson & Clark, www.hhandc.co.uk, Savage Selections, www.savageselection.co.uk and Gerrard Seel, www.gerrardseel.co.uk, all UK).

2015 Pernand-Vergelesses “Clos de Bully”: There is an interesting floral top note to the otherwise brooding and markedly earthy dark berry fruit aromas. The succulent, round and delicious middle weight flavors exhibit an attractive minerality on the firm but not really rustic finale. Note that this will need a few years to unwind as it’s tight today. 88/2021+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune: Relatively firm reduction would argue for a thorough aeration if you’re going to try a bottle on release. Otherwise there is a finer and sleeker mouth feel to the round, supple and delicious middle weight flavors that conclude in a lingering if slightly warm finish where a touch of rusticity arises. 87/2021+

2015 Chorey-lès-Beaune “Les Champs Longs”: There is a trace of reduction here as well though in this case it is sufficiently subtle that earthy dark berry aromas can still be discerned. The supple, round and overtly forward flavors possess an attractive mouth feel while offering enough depth and length to be interesting. This competent effort should drink well young. 87/2019+

2015 Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Vergelesses”: A cleaner and much more complex nose combines notes of red and dark berry liqueur with those of earth, the *sauvage* and a hint of forest floor. The full-bodied, intense and muscular flavors possess fine mid-palate density before delivering excellent punch and power to the firm rustic and built-to-age finale. This is really quite good but again note that at least some bottle age will be necessary. 91/2025+

2015 Pernand-Vergelesses “Ile de Vergelesses”: As it typically the case (and not just at this address), this is more aromatically refined with its spicy red currant, black cherry and violet-scented nose. The mouth coating and intense flavors possess a lovely sense of underlying tension that intertwines with the abundant minerality to render the balanced finish more refreshing and vibrant. This is good stuff and a wine that should be approachable after only 5 to 7 years but should also reward up to a decade of cellaring. Worth considering. 91/2023+

Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy (St. Aubin)

2015	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet “La Goujonne Vieilles Vignes”	red	(89-91)
2015	St. Aubin – Cuvée du Paradis	red	(88-91)
2015	➔ St. Aubin “Derrière Chez Edouard Vieilles Vignes”	1er red	(90-92)
2015	Santenay “Clos des Hâtes”	red	(88-90)
2015	➔ Santenay “Clos des Gravières”	1er red	(90-92)

Olivier Lamy described 2015 as a “vintage that gave us excellent raw materials as it’s rare to obtain this level of ripeness in St. Aubin-grown pinot noir. I used a lot of whole clusters, which is to say up to 80% with no sulfur during a very soft vinification, in fact, I would call my approach more of an infusion than extraction. Despite the excellent ripeness levels and super clean fruit, there just wasn’t much juice in the berries and yields were in the 20 to 25 hl/ha range. But looking on the bright side of things, it’s much better to have a little of something excellent than a lot of stuff that just isn’t very good.” While Lamy is, and rightfully so, much better known for his whites, his reds can be very good as well and that is certainly the case in 2015. They are worth checking out and in particular the Clos des Gravières and Derrière Chez Edouard. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; Pas Mal Portfolio, mafeuer@mindspring.com, NY/NJ, Atlanta Wholesale Wines, www.ndcweb.com, GA, C’est Vin, LLC, 703.243.3559, VA, Fine Vines, www.finevines.com, IL, Wines Unlimited, www.winesunlimited.com, LA, M.S. Walker, www.mswalker.com, MA, The Source Imports, www.thesourceimports.com, CA, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, TX, all USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Private Cellar Ltd., www.privatecellar.co.uk and Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk, both UK; L’Imperatrice Fine Wines, www.imperatrice.com.hk, Hong Kong/China).

2015 St. Aubin – Cuvée du Paradis: An exuberantly fresh nose offers mostly red berry fruit aromas that are trimmed in soft earth and floral nuances. The textured and seductively textured flavors possess solid mid-palate density while exhibiting a discreet minerality on the refreshing, clean and focused finale. This will drink well young but age well too over the short to perhaps even medium-term. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Santenay “Clos des Hâtes”: (from a .67 ha parcel of young vines planted in 1999 on riparia rootstock that produce very tiny berries). This is also attractively ripe and fresh with its earthier and more deeply pitched aromatic array of dark currant and smoked meat. There is excellent energy to the mouth coating and sappy medium-bodied flavors that possess excellent concentration on the mildly rustic and serious finale. (88-90)/2022+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “La Goujonne Vieilles Vignes”: (from a 1.06 ha parcel planted in 1950). Once again there is a really lovely freshness to the nose that offers up distinctly pepper and earth-suffused aromas of similar dark currant and smoked meat nuances though here there is more spice. There is even better volume to the more powerful and slightly denser middle weight plus flavors that culminate in a sappy finish that delivers very fine depth and length for a *villages* level Chassagne. This should also drink reasonably well young yet easily repay mid-term cellaring. (89-91)/2022+

2015 St. Aubin “Derrière Chez Edouard Vieilles Vignes”: (from a .95 ha parcel planted in 1960). This is the freshest wine in the range, which is not surprising given its position on the hillside, with its attractively cool, pure and elegant aromas of red cherry, anise, spiced tea and ample floral elements. There is terrific delineation to the vibrant and intensely stony medium weight flavors that exhibit excellent persistence on the lingering and restrained finale. This is really very good though it’s going to require at least some bottle age to unwind and flesh out. (90-92)/2022+

2015 Santenay “Clos des Gravières”: (a .28 ha clos with vines that average ~45 years of age). Here the expressive nose is just a bit more layered with its ripe array of plum, earth, spice and overtly floral-inflected aromas. The textured, concentrated and palate coating medium weight flavors possess a lovely minerality that can also be found on the refreshing, balanced and highly persistent finish. Despite being more 2015 in style this is really quite fine. Worth a look. (90-92)/2023+

Domaine Sylvain Langoureau (Gamay)

2015	Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune	red	86
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet	red	88

I will have more detail on Sylvain Langoureau's views on the 2015 vintage in Issue 67. (T. Edwards Wines, www.tedwardwines.com, NY, USA and Jeanne-Marie de Champs, www.ds-collection.com, NY, USA).

2015 Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune: A strikingly fresh nose features mostly notes of red raspberry that introduce light weight, delicious and refreshing flavors that exhibit a touch of minerality. This is pretty if a bit simple and should drink well young. 86/2018+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet: (from Voillenots Dessus and Les Benoités). A much more deeply pitched and complex nose combines notes of earth, black pepper, dark currant and a hint of the *sauvage*. The much richer and bigger flavors possess a succulent mid-palate that contrasts moderately with the serious if not overtly rustic finale that is naturally sweet. This too should drink reasonably well early yet reward a few years of bottle age too. 88/2020+

Maison Louis Latour (Aloxe-Corton)

2015	Aloxe-Corton	red	(87-89)
2015	Aloxe-Corton "Les Chaillots" 1er	red	88
2015	Beaune "Vignes Franches" 1er	red	90
2015	Chambertin-Cuvée Héritiers Latour Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2015	Chambolle-Musigny	red	88
2015	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Charmes" 1er	red	90
2015	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	93
2015	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	92
2015	Corton-Clos de la Vigne Au Saint Grand Cru	red	(89-91)
2015	Corton-Grancey Grand Cru	red	93
2015	Corton-Perrières Grand Cru	red	91
2015	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin	red	(87-90)
2015	Marsannay	red	88
2015	➔ Morey St. Denis	red	(89-91)
2015	Nuits St. Georges	red	88
2015	Nuits St. Georges "Les Damodes" 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Romanée St. Vivant – Les Quatre Journaux Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	88
2015	Volnay "En Chevret" 1er	red	(88-91)
2015	Vosne-Romanée	red	(88-90)
2015	Vosne-Romanée "Les Beaux Monts" 1er	red	88?
2015	➔ Vosne-Romanée "Les Petits Monts" 1er	red	91

Louis-Fabrice Latour and winemaker Jean-Charles Thomas told me that 2015 "provided us with very ripe and perfectly clean fruit. We began picking the domaine vineyards on the 3rd of September and we could pick at a reasonable pace because there was almost no sorting to speak of and once the heat wave broke at the end of August, the harvest conditions were essentially perfect. Quantities were slightly below average in the Côte de Nuits though well below average in the Côte de Beaune, partially due to the damage from several consecutive years of hail and partially because the strong July and August heat evaporated at least some of the juice in the berries. The vinifications were easy and we didn't have to do much at all to obtain very good colors and extractions as the skins were so thick. As to the wines, they have everything that they need to age well yet they're so rich and ripe that they will probably mostly be drunk up in their youth as they're almost irresistibly delicious." Not surprisingly given the generally high quality of the 2015 vintage, I would describe the quality I found here to be correspondingly better than usual. (Louis Latour, Inc. Ltd., www.louislatour.com USA, UK, France).

2015 Marsannay: An agreeably fresh and earthy nose leads to vibrant and very rich flavors that manage to display good detail on the mildly austere finale. This generously proportioned effort could easily be enjoyed young but a few years of bottle age should help to add a bit more depth. 88/2020+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune: This is also agreeably fresh with its layered array of red currant, floral and markedly earth-scented nose. Though not quite as concentrated as the Marsannay, there is even better delineation to the vibrant flavors that terminate in a similarly softly austere finale. This is on the lighter side but I like the flavor authority and punch. 88/2019+

2015 Aloxe-Corton: This is quite ripe yet the still reasonably fresh liqueur-like aromas of dark berries, plum, game and earth nuances stop short of being jammy or roasted. There is fine richness and concentration to the round, generously proportioned and sappy medium-bodied flavors that possess an attractive mid-palate texture before concluding in a rustic but not really austere finale. This is sufficiently structured to reward a few years of cellaring but not so much that it couldn't be enjoyed young. (87-89)/2021+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin: An overtly *sauvage*-suffused nose reflects notes of forest floor, red currant and a touch of freshly turned earth. There is good punch and minerality to the relatively sleek and attractively textured middle weight flavors that possess a beguiling mouth feel, all wrapped in a refreshing if somewhat rustic finale. In contrast to the prior wines that should drink well on the earlier side, this will require at least a few years first. (87-90)/2022+

2015 Vosne-Romanée: An attractively fresh nose is a pretty combination of various spice elements, tea and plum scents. The seductively textured, round and velvety middle weight flavors possess a caressing mouth feel while delivering fine if not truly distinguished depth and length on the balanced, mildly firm and austere finale. This should be approachable after only a few years of bottle though reward as many as ten. (88-90)/2022+

2015 Nuits St. Georges: A completely different aromatic profile is present here in the form of distinctly earthy and *sauvage* nuances on the solidly complex aromas of black pinot fruit, pepper and spice wisps. The sleek, precise and appealingly energetic flavors deliver equally good depth on the youthfully austere and rustic finale. While this won't win any awards for refinement, the fine depth is admirable. 88/2020+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny: A perfumed mix of red currant, dark cherry and soft violet hints introduces highly energetic, well-detailed and utterly delicious flavors that possess a lacy mouth feel and solid length on the stony finale. This isn't particularly dense but it is very Chambollesque. 88/2021+

2015 Morey St. Denis: A ripe, pretty and well-layered nose displays a relatively elegant array of both red and dark cherry, raspberry, violet and a whisper of earth. I very much like the sense of underlying tension to the beautifully well-detailed and lightly mineral-inflected flavors that culminate in an ever-so-mildly austere finale. This is really quite good and worth considering. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Aloxe-Corton "Les Chaillots": This is also agreeably fresh and relatively bright with its notes of red currant, lilac, earth and hint of forest floor. The sleek, delicious and vibrant medium weight flavors possess acceptably good depth and persistence on the discreet stony and youthfully austere finish. This is certainly pretty but it lacks the complexity necessary to be at the next level. 88/2021+

2015 Beaune "Vignes Franches": A relatively high-toned nose offers up notes of red currant, cherry and background nuances of both spice and floral elements. The detailed, vibrant and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors possess a suave mouth feel that culminates in a sappy, balanced and notably more complex finale. This is good juice plus it could be enjoyed on the younger side if preferred. 90/2022+

2015 Volnay "En Chevret": Moderate reduction renders the nose difficult to read at present. Otherwise there is fine richness to the rounded, suave and generously proportioned flavors where the seductive mid-palate contrasts considerably with the firm, moderately rustic and mildly austere finale. This isn't particularly complex just yet, though the underlying material appears to be of sufficient quality that more depth may very well develop. (88-91)/2023+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Charmes": A brooding nose of liqueur-like dark berries and violet scents precedes succulent, round and lush middle weight flavors that possess excellent mid-palate concentration thanks to the copious dry extract and also buffers the ever-so-slightly rustic finale. This isn't a Charmes of finesse but it certainly is firm and powerful so at least some patience required. 90/2023+

2015 Nuits St. Georges "Les Damodes": Enough wood influence to comment on surrounds the spicy and earthy black fruit-suffused nose. There is excellent intensity to the mineral-driven and powerful middle weight plus flavors that also possess fine mid-palate concentration, all wrapped in an austere, rustic and built-to-age finale. Patience definitely required. (90-92)/2027+

2015 Vosne-Romanée “Les Petits Monts”: Here the layered nose of various dark berries, tea, violets and spice elements is reserved to the point of being all-but mute. There is a lovely inner mouth perfume to the pliant but well-detailed medium weight flavors that possess ample minerality on the lingering finish that immediately tightens up. This is both classy and stylish though the finish makes clear that it’s going to need a few years to unwind and flesh out. Worth considering. 91/2025+

2015 Vosne-Romanée “Les Beaux Monts”: Like the Damodes there is enough wood framing the spicy plum liqueur nose to mention. There is even more minerality to the mouth coating middle weight flavors that conclude in a serious, austere and somewhat tough finish where a touch of warmth can also be found. This is difficult to read as the toughness could very well be an unintended result from the sulfur added before the recent bottling. I would like to see this again in a year. 88?/2027+

2015 Corton-Clos de la Vigne Au Saint: Like the Petits Monts, this is all-but mute and only very vigorous swirling coaxes a very ripe nose composed of purple fruit, earth and a hint of the *sauvage* to reveal itself. There is fine size, weight and mid-palate concentration supporting the supple medium-bodied flavors that then immediately tighten up on the dusty, sappy and lingering finish that offers good if not special depth. (89-91)/2027+

2015 Corton-Perrières: A notably more expressive nose freely offers up its well-layered aromas of red and dark currant, earth, forest floor and game wisps. The supple, suave and impressively rich broad-shouldered flavors coat the mouth with dry extract on the markedly more complex and persistent finish. This robust effort is very Corton in style. 91/2027+

2015 Corton-Grancey: There is plenty of the classic Corton *sauvage* character present on the intensely earthy, ripe and attractively fresh combination of various red berry fruit scents. The sleek, big-bodied and tautly muscular flavors possess excellent size, weight and concentration while exhibiting a moderate level of youthful austerity on the beautifully persistent finish. This is presently quite tightly wound and a wine that is going to need at least 8 to 10 years first and reward 15 to 20. 93/2030+

2015 Echézeaux: There is enough reduction present to push the underlying fruit to the background. Otherwise there is both good freshness and vibrancy to the medium-bodied flavors that possess a contrasting mouth feel in that it’s at once seductive yet robust while offering sneaky good length on the palate coating and youthfully austere finish. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Clos de Vougeot: A discreet application of wood sets off a complex combination of earth, rose petal, forest floor and very ripe liqueur-like red berry scents. The mouth feel of the broad-shouldered flavors is unusually refined though even so there is evident muscularity on the youthfully austere, serious and very firm finale. This is very Clos de Vougeot in basic character and like several of these *grands crus*, at least moderate patience is advised. 92/2030+

2015 Charmes-Chambertin: (from Charmes proper). The moderately high-toned nose reflects notes of red currant, raspberry, the *sauvage* and like the Clos de Vougeot, a note of forest floor. The textured, seductive and utterly delicious middle weight flavors possess solid if not exceptional concentration though what is impressive is the focused power on the gorgeously long, balanced and built-to-age finale. Once again, at least some patience is strongly advised. 93/2030+

2015 Chambertin-Cuvée Héritiers Latour: Even aggressive swirling barely succeeds in liberating the earthy and beautifully complex aromas of dark currant, autumn leaves and a whiff of smoked game. There is excellent punch to the rich, velvety and relatively refined flavors that brim with minerality on the hugely long finish that displays hints of mocha and warmth. This is also clearly built-to-age though in this case the richness is such that it could be enjoyed on the younger side. (91-94)/2030+

2015 Romanée St. Vivant – Les Quatre Journaux: This is also all-but mute and even vigorous swirling only reveals notes of wood and spice. Despite the mouth feel of the Chambertin being somewhat finer than usual, here it is notably finer still with excellent concentration to the succulent, lacy and almost delicate mid-palate that contrasts considerably with the sappy, powerful and equally long finale. This is a powerful RSV that should also reward extended keeping. (92-94)/2030+

Domaine Vincent Latour (Meursault)

2015	Meursault Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2015	Meursault “Les Cras” 1er	red	(88-91)
2015	Pommard Vieilles Vignes	red	(87-90)
2015	Volnay – Cuvée Nathan	red	(87-90?)

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 2015 vintage in Issue 67. However, one comment is worth including here which is that he remarked that “I have never seen better raw

materials for my pinot noir, in fact to the point that it's hard to imagine better." While the reds are not the main focus of this domaine, I found the quality here to be in-line with what I found in general in the Côte de Beaune. (David Bowler Wine, www.bowlerwine.com, NY, USA)

2015 Meursault Vieilles Vignes: A notably ripe and mildly rustic nose consists of red cherry, black raspberry and warm earth nuances that continue onto the attractively rich and textured middle weight flavors that possess reasonably good depth and length. While this could certainly be enjoyed young, I would suggest holding it for 2 to 3 years with the hopes that better complexity will develop. In sum, this is a competent Meursault *villages*. 88/2019+

2015 Pommard Vieilles Vignes: (from Les Riottes). A moderately oaky nose displays notes of menthol, red currant and earth. The medium-bodied flavors manage to deliver both good richness and reasonably good detail before delivering fine length on the balanced and lightly mineral-inflected finale. This is perhaps a bit less Pommard-like than usual. (87-90)/2021+

2015 Volnay – Cuvée Nathan: (from Cros Martin, Les Serpens and Les Jouères). A more deeply pitched and brooding nose is composed by pungently earthy, even *sauvage*-like aromas that blend into red and dark currant scents where a whiff of brett appears. Despite the somewhat curious nose, the mouth feel of the middle weight flavors is notably finer with good freshness, verve and minerality, all wrapped in a balanced and solidly long finish. This is one of those wines where I suspect that there could be an issue but can't say for sure and my range offers the benefit of the doubt. (87-90?)/2021+

2015 Meursault “Les Cras: Moderate amounts of wood and menthol can be found on the ultra-fresh essence of red currant and dark pinot fruit nose that is trimmed in mild earth nuances. The supple, round and seductively textured flavors exude a fine bead of minerality on the refreshing and inviting finale. Note that this could easily be enjoyed young. (88-91)/2022+

Domaine Latour-Giraud (Meursault)

2015	Meursault “Caillerets” 1er	red	(88-90)
2015	Pommard - Cuvée Carmen	red	88
2015	Pommard “La Refène” 1er	red	(88-91)
2015	Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	red	(89-91)

Jean-Pierre Latour told me that 2015 is an “easy-to-like and easy-to-understand vintage that should be very popular with consumers. The major challenge for both the reds and the whites was to preserve the freshness as it would have been easy to produce fat and heavy wines. I chose to begin picking on the 3rd of September but in hindsight I'm not altogether sure that beginning even a few days earlier might have been better. While the fruit was notably ripe and ultra-clean, there was unfortunately not much of it and worse, there wasn't much juice in the berries. There was a relatively high incidence of shatter and the July heat definitely caused some evaporation. I would put our net yields at -30 to -40% less than an average vintage, which is to say between 25 to 30 hl/ha. As to the wines, I would compare them to a more concentrated version of 2009 but with slightly higher alcohol levels. As to the reds, I really like them and would sign up for a vintage like this anytime.” I found the quality of the Latour reds to be largely consistent with what I found in general in the southern Côte. (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, both UK).

2015 Pommard - Cuvée Carmen: An earthy and pepper-inflected nose reflects notes of red and dark currant that flashes discreet nuances of spice. The succulent, round and nicely intense medium weight flavors deliver fine length on the ever-so-slightly warm finish. This is mostly built on its fruit yet that won't prevent it from aging if that's your preference. 88/2020+

2015 Meursault “Caillerets”: A ripe and agreeably fresh combination of black cherry, violet and plum aromas slides gracefully into the nicely voluminous flavors that exhibit slightly more minerality and structure on the balanced and lingering finale. This too should drink well on the younger side. (88-90)/2021+

2015 Pommard “La Refène”: Relatively firm reduction presently renders the nose difficult to assess. On the plus side there is both good verve and detail to the refined medium-bodied flavors thanks to the fine grain of the supporting tannins on the ever-so-mildly warm finish. This isn't particularly dense but it is certainly very pretty. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”: A spicy, ripe and broad-ranging nose displays notes of red and dark currant, violet, plum and a whiff of smoke. The slightly bigger and richer flavors also possess a notably fine mouth feel before culminating in a more mineral-driven finish that exhibits lovely complexity. This succulent yet entirely serious effort could be enjoyed young thanks to the generous dry extract but it should be capable of adding much more depth with a few years of age. (89-91)/2022+

Domaine Launay-Horiot (Pommard)

2015	Chambertin Grand Cru	red	95
2015	Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	94
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Chaponnières” 1er	red	93
2015	➔ Pommard “Clos Blanc” 1er	red	92
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Perrières”	red	89
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Rugiens-Bas” 1er	red	94

Current owner, and former French fighter pilot, Xavier Launay described 2015 as a “vintage that was so different than what I have been used to that I almost didn’t know what to do. I say this because I began in 2011 and since then it would be fair to say that the growing seasons have not been exactly easy. By contrast, 2015 was pretty tranquil and all during the summer I kept thinking that I could get used to this! We chose to begin the harvest on the 2nd of September and it’s not much of a stretch to observe that in the brief time that I have operated the domaine that the fruit is the ripest and cleanest that I have seen and this is particularly true of my Pommard vines. We did our normal vinification and I was struck from the very beginning as to how seductive the wines were. While I don’t have a lot of experience, the wines are so rich and concentrated that it seems to me that they should drink well young but age well too. What I find remarkable is how structured they are yet I did an extremely soft vinification.” Because this is only Launay’s second commercialized vintage (the ‘11s, ‘12s and ‘13s were all sold off), it’s difficult to know whether the superb quality I found in 2015 is attributed to beginner’s luck or whether he is simply a gifted winemaker. Either way, these are some of the best wines for their levels that I tasted and they’re highly recommended. Launay noted that he plans to bottle the 2015s without fining or filtration. (Martine’s Wines, www.martineswines.com, CA, USA; Flint Wines, www.flintwines.com, UK).

2015 Pommard “Les Perrières”: (from a 2.2 ha holding that was originally planted in 1906). An attractively fresh though notably ripe nose combines aromas of plum and earth with those of spice and violet. The textured, dense and velvety middle weight flavors possess superb mid-palate density, all wrapped in a rustic and serious but balanced finish as the only nit is a very mild hint of warmth. This is an impressive *villages* that should drink well young and old. 89/2022+

2015 Pommard “Clos Blanc”: (from a .17 ha parcel). A discreet touch of wood sets off a similar fruit profile though the medium-bodied flavors are at once slightly bigger and richer but also finer and particularly so on the poised and lingering finish. It would not be unkind to observe that Clos Blanc is hardly among the finest 1ers in Pommard yet this is seriously good relatively to the quality the vineyard typically produces; in fact, this is the best example that I have seen since the Launay 2002, which was made from the same vines but not by Xavier Launay. 92/2023+

2015 Pommard “Les Chaponnières”: (from a .59 ha parcel). There is even better freshness to the plum liqueur, warm earth and forest floor-nuanced aromas. The rich, full-bodied and muscular flavors brim with dry extract that completely coats the palate on the powerful and firm but not really austere finale. This is surprisingly well-detailed given how rich and concentrated it is and this should amply reward extended cellaring yet it should also be reasonably approachable young. 93/2025+

2015 Pommard “Les Rugiens-Bas”: (from a .09 ha parcel). There is just enough wood present to mention, framing the cool, pure and beautifully complex dark currant, red cherry, spice and whiff of the *sauvage*. As is usually the case with Rugiens, the big-bodied flavors still manage to be finer than those of a typical Chaponnières and notably more mineral-inflected while delivering superb depth and length. I very much like the mouth feel and this is both classy and stylish. 94/2027+

2015 Latricières-Chambertin: (from a .17 ha parcel at the top of the vineyard that abuts Chambertin). Here too there is just enough wood to warrant pointing out, but not so much as to detract from the equally cool and perhaps even more elegant aromas of red and dark currant, freshly turned earth and a whiff of forest floor. The sleek, intense and beautifully refined middle weight plus flavors exude evident minerality on the saline, gorgeously long and impeccably well-balanced finish where a touch of youthful austere appears. Textbook Latricières. 94/2030+

2015 Chambertin: (from a .16 ha parcel). A brooding and reticent nose trades less elegance for more complexity as the dark berry fruit, game, smoke, spice and distinctly earthy aromas are trimmed in a deft application of wood. As is typically the case with Chambertin, there is more size, weight and power if not necessarily more minerality to the focused, delineated and explosively long and very firm finale. There is terrific complexity and while this is clearly built-to-age, it should be more than worth the wait. In a word, marvelous. 95/2032+

Maison Benjamin Leroux (Beaune)

2015	Beaune “Cents Vignes” 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	Blagny “La Pièce Sous le Bois” 1er	red	(89-91)
2015	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2015	Bourgogne	red	86
2015	Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(93-95)
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny “Les Amoureuses” 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	Clos St. Denis Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2015	Clos de Vougeot – Petit Maupertuis Grand Cru	red	(93-95)
2015	Corton Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2015	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Champeaux” 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Goulots” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin “La Perrière” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Griotte-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2015	Mazoyères-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2015	➔ Morey St. Denis	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Nuits St. Georges “Aux Allots”	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Nuits St. Georges “Aux Boudots” 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	Nuits St. Georges “Aux Thorey” 1er	red	(89-92?)
2015	➔ Pommard	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Pommard “Rugiens Haut” 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	(87-89)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Hauts Jarrons” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Volnay	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Volnay “Caillerets” 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	Volnay “Clos de la Cave des Ducs” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Volnay “Les Mitans” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Vosne-Romanée	red	(89-92)
2015	Vosne-Romanée “Au Dessus de Malconsorts” 1er	red	(89-91)
2015	Vougeot “Le Clos du Villages”	red	(88-91)

Benjamin Leroux described 2015 as a “vintage that presented us with a relatively easy growing season as it was hot and dry and thus there were fewer treatments necessary. Moreover, there weren’t any climatic incidences such as hail or frost so that was already a huge plus! I chose to begin picking with our chardonnay on the 2nd of September and picked those in 4 days and then attacked the pinot parcels where we finished on the 12th. We were lucky because just as we were finishing up it began to rain so that was another major plus. The fruit in both colors was exceptionally clean and ripe and as such there was almost no sorting necessary. This helped somewhat with the yields though even so the volumes in those parcels that had been hit by hail in 2012, 2013 and 2014 only gave us between 20 and 25 hl/ha. I absolutely wanted to avoid making over-extracted reds and because of the very thick skins it would have been very easy to do so I vinified softly. I also wanted to preserve as much freshness as possible so I used more whole clusters in the vinifications than usual, which is to say between 15 and 80%. As to the style of 2015, it’s definitely ripe but quite fresh with reasonably good acidities and excellent concentration. It’s one of those vintages that should be approachable young but there is so much underlying material that the wines should age effortlessly for a very long time.” As the ratings and commentaries demonstrate, 2015 was a first-rate vintage for Leroux. However, I was particularly impressed with some of the *villages* level wines as they box well above their respective weight class in the *appellation* hierarchy. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.leserbet.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; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com/hk, Hong Kong; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.co.jp, Japan).

2015 Bourgogne: (Leroux noted that a portion of the production was bottled under screwcap). A fresh, bright and ripe yet cool nose consists mostly of red pinot fruit and soft earth nuances. There is good volume to the round, delicious and appealingly vibrant flavors that terminate in a mildly rustic if persistent finale. 86/2018+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune: (mostly from Les Fourneaux). A pungently earthy and lightly oaked nose offers up notes of forest floor, red currant and plum. The vibrant middle weight flavors possess a lovely texture thanks to the solid mid-palate density, all wrapped in a punchy and mildly rustic finish where a touch of warmth arises. (87-89)/2021+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Hauts Jarrons”: This is at once cooler and more elegant with its pretty combination of violet, red cherry, earth and a hint of oak. The sleek, focused and more evidently mineral-driven medium-bodied flavors possess good verve as well as fine intensity on the beautifully well-balanced finale. Lovely. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Beaune “Cents Vignes”: A deft touch of wood sets off fresh, bright and exuberant aromas that combine various red berries, earth and appealing spice nuances. Here too the mouth feel of the middle weight flavors is quite sleek thanks to the fine-grained tannins though the complex and well-balanced finish is not nearly as mineral-driven. This is very Cents Vignes, which is to say generous yet reasonably refined. (89-92)/2022+

2015 Blagny “La Pièce Sous le Bois”: This is also exuberantly fresh and bright with its nose of red currant, cherry and prominent floral elements. The focused and well-delineated medium weight flavors possess a lilting, indeed almost delicate palate feel yet deliver ample punch on the lingering finish where a hint of bitter cherry arises. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Volnay: (Leroux noted that this *cuvée* contains 50% declassified 1ers in 2015). An attractively layered if not particularly elegant nose offers up pungently earthy aromas of red pinot fruit, violet and game. There is better refinement to the sleek middle weight flavors that are shaped by relatively fine-grained tannins on the saline, dusty and well-balanced finale. The contribution of the 1er proportion is evident and overall this is an especially good Volnay *villages*. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Pommard: (from Les Vaumuriens and Les Cras). A slightly riper nose is composed of dark berry, plum, floral and freshly turned earth where the latter element continues onto the bigger and richer flavors that enjoy an excellent sense of vibrancy. There is a touch of rusticity that arises on the powerful and persistent finish but this is a seriously good Pommard *villages* and highly recommended if you have at least moderate patience. (89-92)/2023+

2015 Volnay “Les Mitans”: A markedly floral-infused nose is both cool and admirably pure with its red currant, violet, lilac, spice and tea scents. The delicate and lacy middle weight flavors exude a subtle minerality while delivering fine depth and length on the understated finish where a hint of bitter cherry surfaces. This is pretty much textbook Mitans. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Volnay “Clos de la Cave des Ducs”: (from a rarely seen 1er that measures only .64 ha). The floral elements are even more prominent here with a similar fruit profile. The tighter and even more delineated flavors possess a taut muscularity as well as firmer if slightly less fine structure on the impressively long, youthfully austere and balanced finale. (90-92)/2025+

2015 Volnay “Caillerets”: Here the nose is notably more complex with its broad-ranging aromas of spiced plum, dark currant, violet and an interesting whisper of orange peel. There is a wonderfully refined mouth feel to the intense, vibrant and mineral-driven medium-bodied flavors that possess a sophisticated texture that transfers over to the serious, built-to-age and hugely persistent finish. This is a Caillerets of class and grace but one that is going to require bottle age first. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Pommard “Rugiens Haut”: An airy, pure and distinctly cool nose offers up essence of red cherry, violet, wet stone and soft spice nuances. A refined yet powerful and muscular texture suffuses the middle weight plus flavors that are shaped by polished tannins and ample minerality on the driving, saline and tension-filled finish. This is terrific but note well that it will not be an especially good candidate for early consumption. (91-94)/2030+

2015 Corton: (from Le Corton and Les Bressandes). A discreet but not invisible application of wood frames the pronounced floral-suffused aromas of both red and dark berries along with plenty of earth, game and forest floor scents. There is excellent size, weight and power to the solidly concentrated broad-shouldered flavors that deliver fine length on the somewhat toasty finale. My sense is that the wood will ultimately be successfully integrated but it's not subtle today. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin: (50% from Les Seuvrées with the remainder from Billard, Fourneaux and La Justice). A relatively pretty nose combines notes of red currant, pomegranate, pinot spice and soft earth nuances. There is both fine energy and delineation to the caressing middle weight flavors that immediately tighten up on the bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. This excellent Gevrey *villages* should be approachable on the younger side but clearly has the stuff to reward up to a decade of cellaring. (89-91)/2023+

2015 Morey St. Denis: (from Chenevery). An unusually perfumed and elegant array is comprised by wafting aromas of red berries, lilac and lovely spice wisps. There is less volume but more refinement to the wonderfully textured, intense and delineated medium weight flavors that exhibit good minerality on the dusty, youthfully austere and strikingly complex finale. This is a first-rate Morey *villages* and highly recommended. (89-92)/2022+

2015 Vougeot “Le Clos du Villages”: (this is a small .69 ha clos within the *appellation* Le Village). This is quite ripe yet reasonably fresh with its liqueur-like red berry fruit and earth-suffused aromas. The medium-bodied flavors possess a suave texture that is seductive and contrasts noticeably with the mildly rustic finish that offers good if not truly distinguished depth and persistence. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny: (from Verailles and Beaux Bruns). An exuberantly spicy nose combines ripe yet cool and relatively high-toned aromas of red cherry, pomegranate and lilac. The refined, focused, intense and beautifully delineated flavors deliver fine length on the presently tightly wound and stony finale. This is very Chambolle in style. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Vosne-Romanée: (from Les Violettes, Jacquines, Ravioles and Maizières). There is enough wood to warrant mentioning surrounding the super-spicy aromas of black cherry, raspberry, violet and Asian-style tea. The suave, rich and impressively concentrated medium-bodied flavors also deliver fine length and excellent complexity on the even more tightly wound, firm, serious and youthfully austere finale. This is an excellent Vosne *villages* and highly recommended. (89-92)/2023+

2015 Nuits St. Georges “Aux Allots”: This is also quite spicy though here there are more earth and game nuances adding breadth to the various dark berry aromas that evidence a whisper of the *sauvage*. The rich and concentrated medium weight flavors possess a succulent mouth feel and impressive volume before culminating in a palate coating and ever-so-mildly rustic finale. This is quite simply terrific and also highly recommended. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Nuits St. Georges “Aux Thorey”: This is quite firmly reduced and unreadable at present. Otherwise there is a relatively sophisticated, well-detailed and refined mouth feel to the middle weight flavors that conclude in a very firmly structured, slightly bitter and chewy finale. As the description suggests, this is awkward at present and while the supporting structure and solidly dense underlying material seem ripe, it's not entirely clear that this will harmonize over time. However, due to the fine density, my projected range offers the benefit of the doubt. (89-92?)/2025+

2015 Nuits St. Georges “Aux Boudots”: A deft application of wood sets off the overtly ripe, spicy and earthy aromas of cassis, black cherry and tea. The ripeness displayed by the nose is equally evident on the very rich, full-bodied and sappy big-bodied flavors that possess both good power and muscle while offering terrific complexity and persistence on the well-balanced if decidedly firm finale. Patience required. (91-94)/2030+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Champeaux”: As one might reasonably expect this is cooler, more restrained and more elegant with its pretty and layered combination of red currant, lilac, forest floor and discreet earth and *sauvage* nuances. Here too there is excellent volume to the sleek, delineated and intense middle weight flavors that exhibit even more minerality on the youthfully austere finish that isn't quite as complex, at least not today in any case. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “La Perrière”: A pungent nose of wood and reduction introduce bigger and richer if less refined medium-bodied flavors that are very rich, indeed almost opulent with a subtle minerality that becomes more apparent as the finish sits on the palate. This is also a bit awkward but here it seems clearer that it will ultimately harmonize. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Goulots”: A cool and relatively high-toned nose reflects notes of various red berries that are laced with floral, earth and *sauvage* nuances. The succulent, round and generously proportioned flavors display ample minerality on the well-balanced and agreeably persistent finish that is somewhat less complex than the Champeaux and La Perrière. (90-92)/2025+

2015 Vosne-Romanée “Au Dessus de Malconsorts”: This possesses one of the most floral-inflected noses in the range with its aromas of lilac, violet and rose petal that combine with spice, red currant and discreet earth scents. The exceptionally rich, suave and round flavors coat the palate with sap, all wrapped in a markedly firm if slightly woody finish. (89-91)/2023+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Amoureuses”: (Leroux indicated that this would be bottled only in magnum). A strikingly spicy and perfumed liqueur-like nose displays aromas of black berries, sandalwood, tea and plenty of floral elements. There is first-rate concentration to the impressively rich and beguilingly textured flavors that brim with both dry extract and minerality on the complex and highly persistent finish where the only nit is a hint of warmth. (92-94)/2035+

2015 Bonnes Mares: (from the northern part of the Chambolle side where the soil is referred to as *terres blanches*; here too this will be bottled only in magnum). Background wood nuances are present on the brooding if very fresh and floral red berry fruit liqueur and earth-inflected nose. The succulent and extremely rich big-bodied flavors possess a taut muscularity and almost painful intensity that continues onto the balanced finish that goes on and on. This imposingly scaled effort is very firmly structured and in magnum format plenty of patience will ultimately be required. (92-95)/2040+

2015 Echézeaux: (from Les Cruots ou Vignes Blanches). Trenchant aromas of reduction and wood are borderline disagreeable today yet neither can be found on the highly seductive, concentrated and relatively powerful flavors that are shaped by a firm but not hard tannic spine on the sappy and reasonably refined finish. This is sufficiently forward that it could be enjoyed after only 5 to 7 years of bottle age yet should reward up to 15. (92-94)/2027+

2015 Clos de Vougeot – Petit Maupertuis: An intensely floral nose gathers aromas of ripe red currant, raspberry, forest floor and plenty of warm earth nuances. There is an excellent sense of underlying tension to the muscular, intense and impressively concentrated broad-shouldered flavors that deliver first-rate depth and length on the extremely firm finale. 2015 was an excellent vintage in general for Clos de Vougeot and this is one more very fine example. Note though that ample patience will be required. (93-95)/2035+

2015 Clos de la Roche: (this will be bottled only in magnum). This is also overtly floral in character with its slightly cooler aromas of plum, earth, game and red and black pinot fruit. There is terrific punch if not quite the same mid-palate density to the big-bodied and muscular flavors that possess similarly impressive depth and length. Moreover this is exceptionally firm, austere and imposing and as such it would be pointless to buy this without the express intention of cellaring it. (92-94)/2040+

2015 Clos St. Denis: An exuberantly, indeed gorgeously spicy nose features notes of liqueur-like red berries and soft floral nuances, all of which are trimmed in subtle wood nuances. The rich and relatively full-bodied flavors remain refined and graceful while delivering fine length on the well-balanced and sophisticated finish that isn't quite as complex. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Mazoyères-Chambertin: This is very ripe, indeed to the point that it flirts with *surmaturité* on the plum liqueur, earth and gamy scents. The mouth coating and impressively scaled flavors exhibit a moderately taut muscularity before concluding in a noticeably warm if strikingly long finish. This is not without several attractive attributes but overall I find it less appealing than many other wines in the range. (90-93)/2025+

2015 Griotte-Chambertin: Generous wood fights a bit with the overtly floral, cool and layered aromas of earth, red currant and discreet spice nuances. The sleek, delicious and seductively textured medium weight plus flavors possess a subtle minerality that imparts a certain salinity to the lingering if slightly warm finale. Note that my projected range implicitly assumes that the present copious wood will be successfully integrated over time. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Chambertin: (to be bottled only in magnum). This too is intensely floral with its cool and ultra-pure nose that reflects a wide-ranging array of various red berries, earth, game, tea and leather. The strikingly vibrant and beautifully well-detailed flavors display an almost aggressive minerality while delivering superb length on the reserved, serious and very firmly structured finale. This is a classically styled and most impressive Cham that is going to require extended cellaring. (93-95)/2033+

Domaine Michel Mallard (Ladoix)

2015	Aloxe-Corton	red	(88-90)
2015	➔ Aloxe-Corton "Le Toppe au Vert" 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Beaumonts"	red	(87-89)
2015	Côte de Nuits-Villages	red	(86-88)
2015	Corton-Les Maréchaudes Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2015	Corton-Les Renardes Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	Corton-Le Rognet Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2015	➔ Ladoix "La Corvée" 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Ladoix "Le Clos Royer"	red	(87-90)
2015	Ladoix "Les Joyeuses" 1er	red	(89-91)
2014	➔ Aloxe-Corton "Le Toppe au Vert" 1er	red	91
2014	Corton-Les Maréchaudes Grand Cru	red	93
2014	Corton-Les Renardes Grand Cru	red	94
2014	Corton-Le Rognet Grand Cru	red	93
2014	Ladoix "La Corvée" 1er	red	89

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 has helped to usher in a number of changes that include 100% hand harvesting and using significant amounts of whole clusters for the vinifications. With respect to the 2015 vintage, Michel Mallard noted that "we had an easy growing season that gave us amazingly ripe yet not roasted fruit. We began picking on the 28th of August with the whites and then proceeded to pick the reds between the 3rd and the 9th of September. While the fruit was super-clean, we still sorted anyway to be sure that we had perfect fruit. We used between 20 and 60% whole clusters during an almost 5 week long cuvaision where we did very little manipulation of the fruit. As to the wines, they're ripe and rich yet don't lack for structure and should age extremely well." I was impressed, particularly at the *grand cru* level, with what I found and this domaine continues to show steady improvement, indeed Mallard is now one of the best domaines in Ladoix. I was also quite impressed by the domaine's now in-bottle 2014s, which were bottled in March and April 2016. (Amitié Wines, www.amitiwines.com, CA, USA; Farr Vintners, www.farrvintners.com, UK).

2015 Côte de Nuits-Villages: A fresh, ripe and earthy red berry fruit-suffused nose leads to supple, round and delicious middle weight flavors that possess a velvety texture before concluding in a perceptibly warm finale. Note that this notably ripe and ever-so-mildly plodding effort should drink well shortly after release if that you're preference. (86-88)/2019+

2015 Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Beaumonts": A more complex and fresher if similar nose reflects slightly more emphasis on the red cherry and warm earth nuances. Like the nose, there is better freshness and verve to the delicious medium weight flavors that evidence a mild touch of rusticity on the more attractively balanced finale. (87-89)/2020+

2015 Ladoix "Le Clos Royer": A markedly fresher nose conveys notes of very pretty red currant, plum and ample floral elements. The delicious, round and vibrant medium-bodied flavors exhibit notes of minerality and wood on the balanced and sneaky long finish. This direct and straightforward effort should also drink reasonably well young. (87-90)/2020+

2015 Aloxe-Corton: A more deeply pitched nose reflects notes of dark currant, plum, earth and a hint of the *sauvage*. There is both more volume and richness to the solidly concentrated, robust and powerful flavors that possess slightly chewy and rustic tannins on the ever-so-slightly warm finale. This will definitely need a few years of age to round out. (88-90)/2022+

2015 Ladoix "Les Joyeuses": An assessment of the nose is impeded by moderate reduction though the underlying fruit appears to be ripe. The more elegant and refined middle weight flavors possess a lovely sense of vibrancy plus a hint of minerality that also helps to add a bit of lift to the refreshing and well-balanced finale. This could be enjoyed young or cellared for a few years first. (89-91)/2021+

2015 Ladoix "La Corvée": This is also quite ripe yet manages to remain attractively fresh with its layered nose of plum, violet, forest floor and wisps of earth. The sleek, delicious and attractively vibrant medium-bodied flavors possess fine depth and length on the mildly rustic finale. This well-made effort is worth checking out. (90-92)/2022+

2015 Aloxe-Corton "Le Toppe au Vert": Once again, notably ripe yet agreeably fresh aromas offer fine complexity as there is a lovely purity to the various red berries, floral elements and soft earth nuances. The middle weight plus flavors possess a relatively sophisticated texture thanks to the relatively fine-grained tannins that also shape the impressively persistent finale that really fans out as it sits on the palate. This excellent effort should reward up to a decade of cellaring and is highly recommended. (90-93)/2023+

2015 Corton-Les Maréchaudes: Discreet wood sets off liqueur-like aromas of red cherry that are laced with nuances of plum, violet and plenty of earth. There is fine concentration to the velvety medium weight plus flavors that brim with sappy dry extract, all wrapped in a highly persistent, balanced and beautifully complex finale. This is very ripe yet somewhat manages to avoid being top heavy; indeed it is actually refreshing. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Corton-Les Renardes: (from a .75 ha parcel). Here too there is hint of wood lurking in the background of the strikingly fresh and even more complex aromas of violet, *sauvage*, forest floor and dark currant liqueur. In the same fashion as the Maréchaudes there is a velvety palate impression to the bigger and more powerful flavors that possess a highly seductive mouth feel while delivering plenty of punch on the remarkably persistent finish. This is so rich, and there is so much extract, that despite the presence of a firm tannic spine this should be approachable on the younger side. (92-94)/2027+

2015 Corton-Le Rognet: There is a high level of ripeness but not jamminess on the plum, cassis, violet, spice and earthy aromas. I very much like the freshness and vibrancy of the mouth coating, robust and impressively concentrated big-bodied flavors that coat the palate with dry extract on the hugely long finale. This is an imposingly dense wine that is definitely going to require, and reward, extended cellaring. In a word, excellent. (92-95)/2030+

2014 Ladoix “La Corvée”: An attractively fresh nose is comprised by high-toned floral and red berry fruit aromas. There is good size, weight and richness to the delicious middle weight flavors that possess moderately firm tannins on the balanced and slightly rustic finish. This offers both good balance and complexity and will also require a few years of bottle age first to round on the mildly chewy structure. 89/2021+

2014 Aloxe-Corton “Le Toppe au Vert”: This is also super-fresh as the exuberant if more deeply pitched nose offers up notes of dark berries and plenty of earth elements. There is equally good freshness and verve to the pure and restrained medium-bodied flavors that exude a fine bead of minerality on the wonderfully complex and beautifully balanced finish. This impressively long effort will also need at least 5 years before it will be approachable as it’s presently very firm. 91/2022+

2014 Corton-Les Maréchaudes: An intensely floral nose enjoys a strikingly broad range of aromas that include spice, earth, herbal tea on the array of both red and dark cherry scents. The mid-palate of the impressively concentrated medium weight flavors is quite supple for a Corton yet the finish tightens up substantially on the lingering, dusty and saline-inflected finish. This firm and beautifully complex effort will need at least 7 to 8 years of bottle age before being approachable. I would note that there is enough CO2 present on the finish to warrant decanting this for a few minutes first. Impressive. 93/2026+

2014 Corton-Le Rognet: Here the notably less expressive nose is compositionally similar to the Maréchaudes but is even more complex as there is more floral and *sauvage* influences. The extremely rich flavors possess even more size, weight and mid-palate concentration that translates into more power as well on the hugely long, textured and strikingly long though not necessarily more complex finish. This is also an extremely impressive effort that will also need plenty of cellar time before it’s ready for prime time. 93/2029+

2014 Corton-Les Renardes: (from a .75 ha parcel). This too is highly restrained with its grudging nose of red currant, spice, earth and once again intensely *sauvage* permeated aromas. There is excellent power and plenty of punch to the broad-shouldered and superbly well-concentrated full-bodied flavors that culminate in a tight, serious, hugely long and well-balanced finish. This is distinctly old school in style and it would be pointless to open a bottle before it has at least 10 years of age. This is one of the best examples in 2014 from the Hill of Corton. 94/2031+

Château de la Maltroye (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2015	➔ Bourgogne	red	(86-89)
2015	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet	red	(89-91)
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Boudriotte” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos du Château” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Santenay “La Comme” 1er	red	(89-92)

Jean-Pierre Cournut told me that the 2015 “growing season was a huge relief relative to the last few vintages even though we managed to avoid the hail damage that hit much of the Côte in 2014. I chose to begin picking on the 28th of August and the fruit was so clean that I basically paid people to watch it go by on the sorting table! Moreover we were able to pick extremely fast due to the clement conditions and the, somewhat sad, fact that we had extremely tiny yields due to the poor flowering. On the plus side at least what fruit we did obtain was beautifully ripe and the results speak for themselves as I’m very happy with the wines. They should age very well yet unlike many structured vintages, they should be approachable young too.” While Cournut is better known for his whites than his reds, both are almost always excellent and 2015 is another in a series of fine vintages for him. (Frederick Wildman, www.frederickwildman.com, NY, Jeanne-Marie de Champs, www.ds-collection.com, NY, Wine House, www.winesf.com, CA, both USA; Waitrose, UK).

2015 Bourgogne: A ripe, fresh and attractively complex nose features notes of both red and dark raspberry that are sprinkled with hints of earth and black pepper. There is a lovely sense of energy to the textured, delicious and nicely concentrated middle weight flavors that possess unusually good depth and persistence for the genre. Recommended and this would make a fine choice for a house red plus it should reward a few years of cellaring. (86-89)/2019+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet: This is also quite fresh with its broader-ranging and more complex nose that offers up notes of red currant, plum, warm earth and once again subtle black pepper nuances. Like the Bourgogne there is an appealing sense of underlying tension to the rich and solidly constituted medium-bodied flavors that deliver excellent depth and persistence for a *villages* level Chassagne. This too is recommended. (89-91)/2021+

2015 Santenay “La Comme”: Discreet but not invisible touches of menthol and wood set off the overtly earthy and attractively spicy liqueur-like dark berry fruit scents. The much more evidently mineral-inflected middle weight flavors possess a much finer mouth feel while displaying a highly appealing and refreshing finale. Good stuff. (89-92)/2022+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean”: (from sandy and rather light soil; Cournut noted that yields were only 18.5 hl/ha in 2015). Here the restrained nose is compositionally similar to that of the La Comme though it possesses just a touch more complexity that carries over to the equally refined medium-bodied flavors that also evidence ample minerality on the lingering finale. The exceptionally low yields do manifest themselves however as this is markedly more concentrated and powerful than usual. Worth checking out. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Boudriotte”: Moderate amounts of wood and menthol can be found on the spice, pepper and earth-suffused plum and dark currant aromas. The rich, concentrated and highly seductive middle weight plus flavors display impressively good power on the sappy, palate coating and persistent finish. This is also really quite good and is a wine that should drink well after only a few years of bottle age yet repay up to a decade of cellaring. (90-92)/2022+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos du Château”: (a *monopole* of the Domaine). As is often the case, the cool, pure and elegant nose possesses the most complexity of any wine in the range with its layered array of various red and dark berries, orange peel, spice, earth and forest floor nuances. There is terrific intensity to the discreet mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that possess a driving energy and the same outstanding depth as the nose on the impeccably well-balanced finale. This is sufficiently firm that it too should amply reward extended cellaring of up to a decade. Recommended. (90-93)/2023+

Domaine Thierry et Pascale Matrot (Meursault)

2015	Auxey-Duresses	red	88
2015	➔ Blagny “La Pièce Sous la Bois” 1er	red	91
2015	➔ Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	red	87
2015	Maranges Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2015	Maranges “Les Fussières” 1er	red	89
2015	Meursault	red	88
2015	➔ Monthélie	red	89
2015	➔ Volnay “Santenots” 1er	red	92

The always candid Thierry Matrot describes 2015 as being “almost as easy as 2014 was difficult and finally a vintage where we were able to produce some wine! Granted, quantities were still lower than a normal vintage but I’ll take it as the lack of available stock is becoming a real problem, not only for me but for Burgundy in general. But there’s a nuance involved as the better volume only applies to chardonnay as the pinot was hit pretty hard by shatter during the flowering. Other than that though the growing season was pretty straight forward. I chose to begin picking on the 2nd of September and the harvest was easy and the fruit was so clean that we could pick very quickly. Everything came above 13% in terms of potential alcohol in red and averaged 13.5% in white so absolutely nothing was chaptalized. As to the wines, for me the reds resemble 1985 and the whites are like a more concentrated 1990.” Matrot is, quite rightly, known for the quality of his whites but he also makes very good reds that usually manage to drink well young but age well too, in fact some older vintages of the Matrot Santenots and the Blagny can be excellent. I would characterize 2015 at this address as an unqualified success. Matrot noted that the 2015 reds were bottled in August and September 2016. Note that the Pierre Matrot label has now been retired and all the wines are now issued under the Thierry et Pascale Matrot label. (Vineyard Brands, www.vineyardbrands.com, AL, USA; Treasury Château & Estates Wines, www.tweglobal.com, CA, USA; Cellarhand, www.cellarhand.com.au, Australia; Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com, Private Cellar Ltd., www.privatecellar.co.uk, Connollys Wines, www.connollys-wine.co.uk, Decorum Vintners, www.decvin.com, Direct Wine, www.directwine.co.uk, Field & Fawcett, www.fieldandfawcett.co.uk, and Handford Wines, www.handford.net, all UK).

2015 Bourgogne – Pinot Noir: (bottled under screwcap). An attractively scented nose of red and dark berry liqueur and earth is both ripe and fresh. The rich, suave and relatively full-bodied flavors possess unusually good concentration for the genre and while there are backend traces of rusticity and warmth, overall this is really quite good. 87/2018+

2015 Maranges Vieilles Vignes: A solidly layered nose offers up notes of red currant, dark cherry and ample amounts of earth and humus. There is both good energy and richness to the admirably concentrated flavors that possess a succulent and suave mouth feel before concluding in a lingering finish that is just firm enough to suggest that 2 to 3 years of bottle age should see this at its peak. This is no model of finesse but the old vine sap is certainly present. 88/2019+

2015 Maranges “Les Fussières”: Aromatically, this is not dissimilar from the straight *villages* with two minor differences, which is to say that here the nose is slightly more floral and that the fruit is derived more from the red side of the spectrum. The texture of the middle weight flavors is finer though the mid-palate is somewhat less concentrated while the lingering and slightly firmer finish offers a bit more depth and persistence. 89/2020+

2015 Monthélie: (this is mostly from very old vines situated in Les Hauts Brins that have approximately 20% pinot beurot interspersed with the pinot vines). A fresh, cool and pretty nose exhibits mostly notes of earthy red berries with a top note of pomegranate. Once again there is fine energy to the utterly delicious, rich and refreshing flavors that culminate in a balanced if somewhat youthfully austere finish that is more structured than is typical for this wine. While it could certainly be approached young I would be inclined to allow it a few years of bottle age first. Recommended. 89/2021+

2015 Meursault: This is one of the ripest wines in the range with its plum and cassis liqueur-like aromas that are laced with dark cherries, earth and violet nuances. The exceptionally rich and opulent flavors possess a distinctly suave mouth feel, all wrapped in generously proportioned finish that is ever-so-mildly dry but I suspect that it will dissipate as the tannins resolve. If you enjoy youthful fruit this would make a good candidate to drink on the younger side. 88/2020+

2015 Auxey-Duresses: (from Les Boutonniers). A slightly more complex nose features notes of black cherry and raspberry along with earth, game and forest floor hints. The fleshy, even juicy medium-bodied flavors possess both good volume and mid-palate concentration while culminating in a mildly austere, firm and rustic finale. 88/2021+

2015 Volnay “Santenots”: A markedly spicy and floral nose reveals notes of violet, lilac, sandalwood, Asian-style tea and black raspberry scents. The notably finer but also bigger and richer flavors exhibit ample minerality on the detailed, driving and distinctly powerful finish. This is more imposingly scaled than it usually is and is going to require at least some cellar time to more completely harmonize and realize its full potential. Well worth checking out. 92/2027+

2015 Blagny “La Pièce Sous la Bois”: A discreet application of wood sets off aromas that are also markedly spicy and floral with fruit characters of black cherry and plum. There is excellent richness but also fine detail to the more subtly mineral-inflected flavors that possess that beguiling quality of inner mouth perfume that is particularly noticeable on the beautifully well-balanced finish. This should age for a very long time if you enjoy older burgs. 91/2025+

Château de Meursault (Meursault)

2015	Beaune “Cent Vignes” 1er	red	(87-90)
2015	Beaune “Fèves” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➤ Beaune “Grèves – Les Trois Journaux” 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	Beaune “Teurons” 1er	red	(88-90)
2015	Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	red	(85-88)
2015	Corton Grand Cru	red	(88-92)
2015	➤ Pommard “Clos des Epenots” 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	(87-89)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Peuillets” 1er	red	(87-90)
2015	➤ Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	red	(91-93)

This huge 60+ ha estate languished for years in mediocrity under the ownership of André Boisseaux (now deceased) before being purchased (along with the Château de Marsannay which owns 40 ha in the Côte de Nuits) by Olivier Halley in 2012. All of the estate’s holdings are in the Côte de Beaune with an impressive range in both red and white. Halley had the good sense to consign the day to day management responsibilities to former Bouchard Père & Fils president Stéphane Follin, who described the 2015 vintage as having “produced excellent reds and very good whites. The growing season was essentially ideal as we had no climatic catastrophes though the mid-summer heat did negatively affect the yields. We chose to begin picking on the 1st of September and there was virtually nothing to sort as the fruit was absolutely spotless. We used between 30 and 40% whole clusters in the vinification and used a very light hand as the skins were so thick that it would have been easy to over-extract the tannins. 2015 is an excellent vintage for us and I believe that the reds are going to age for a very long time as they’re ripe and concentrated but also very well-balanced.” It’s remarkable how fast this domaine is being resurrected and if the momentum can be sustained, this will rapidly become a fine source of quality Burgundy as there are excellent holdings and particularly so on the white side. Follin noted that the reds will be bottled without filtration except for the last 10% which always has heavy sediment. (Terlato Wines International, www.terlatowines.com, IL, USA; J & B and the Wine Society, UK).

2015 Bourgogne – Pinot Noir: A distinctly rustic nose exhibits plenty of earth and humus characters on the dark berry fruit aromas. The very rich, round and suave flavors are trimmed in just enough wood to notice while offering acceptably good depth and length. (85-88)/2018+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune: (mostly from Les Gollardes with smaller amounts from Ratausses and Prévaux). A moderately high-toned nose reveals notes of red currant, cherry, raspberry and much more discreet earth nuances. There is both good volume and verve to the notably rich and suave flavors that terminate in a lingering and sappy finish. This should drink well young if desired. (87-89)/2020+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Peuillets”: Somewhat riper aromas are composed by plum, dark cherry, earth and violet notes. There is better verve still to the attractively delineated middle weight flavors that possess a refreshing and persistent finale. This is a classic Peuillets, which is to say a wine of finesse. (87-90)/2021+

2015 Beaune “Cent Vignes”: Markedly ripe aromas reflect notes of plum and earth along with a hint of prune. Otherwise there is good volume and reasonably good punch to the seductively textured medium weight flavors that deliver solid complexity and persistence. This is not without a certain quality but the nose does not appeal to me. (87-90)/2021+

2015 Beaune “Teurons”: Here too there is a whiff of prune to the distinctly ripe and earthy dark berry fruit-suffused nose. There is fine volume to the highly seductive and more complex flavors that possess a dusty and impressively persistent finish where the only nit is a hint of warmth. Like the Cents Vignes this has several attractive aspects to it but the nose isn't for me. (88-90)/2022+

2015 Beaune “Fèves”: A much fresher nose is composed by notes of dark cherry, red currant, violet and discreet spice nuances. The notably finer middle weight flavors possess better energy as well along with very good complexity and persistence on the moderately firm and well-balanced finale. This is worth considering. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”: Liqueur-like aromas of plum, cassis, violet, tea and plenty of earth precede broad-shouldered, powerful and concentrated flavors that coat the palate with dry extract, all wrapped in a driving, stony and muscular finish. This is not a refined version of the vineyard but it's quite impressive all the same. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Beaune “Grèves – Les Trois Journaux”: A deft application of wood sets off the very ripe yet still reasonably fresh nose that combines notes of plum liqueur, mocha, earth and violet. The impressively rich, velvety and highly seductive medium-bodied flavors possess copious amounts of sappy dry extract that buffers the moderately firm but fine tannins on the beautifully persistent finish. Note that this should drink reasonably well young if desired. (91-93)/2023+

2015 Pommard “Clos des Epenots”: (from Petits Epenots). An overtly floral nose displays additional aromas of dark cherry liqueur, spice, earth and a hint of game. There is excellent mid-palate concentration to the broad-shouldered yet relatively refined flavors where the supporting tannins are once again firm but fine on the wonderfully persistent finale. Recommended. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Corton: (from Les Vergennes and Rognets). This is very ripe, indeed to the point that there are notes of prune on the distinctly earthy dark berry fruit aromas. There is excellent volume and mid-palate concentration to the lightly mineral-inflected and muscular flavors that are at once supple yet firm on the youthfully austere finish. Like several wines in the range this is not without several appealing aspects though the nose isn't one of them. I should also note that it's not clear how well this will age as my concern is that it may eventually come to lack freshness. (88-92)/2023+

Domaine François Mikulski (Meursault)

2015	➔ Bourgogne	red	87
2015	Meursault “Caillerets” 1er	red	90
2015	Pommard	red	88
2015	Volnay “Santenots” 1er	red	89

François Mikulski described 2015 as an “excellent vintage in both colors that gave us ripe but not super-ripe fruit. I chose to begin picking on the 31st of August and while the fruit was in general very clean there was still some sorting required for the pinot. Potential alcohols ranged from 12.5 to 13% in red and 12.8 to 13.2% in white. My approach was essentially to treat the fruit very gently as the skins were thick and thus there was no need to push to have extraction. This cost me a bit of volume in white but the musts were much finer. In the same fashion I did a relatively light vinification for the reds as it wasn't necessary to do much more. I really like the 2015s and in particular I think that the whites are going to surprise people as to how well

they age.” This domaine is understandably better known for its whites than its reds but the latter can often be excellent. That said, I didn’t find the reds, with the exception of the Bourgogne, to be as successful in the context of the vintage as I would have thought. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.leserbet.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, www.imperatrice.com.hk, Hong Kong/China).

2015 Bourgogne: An exceptionally pretty nose of red cherry, raspberry and earth introduces attractively energetic and well-detailed flavors that possess a relatively sleek mouth feel while offering fine persistence on the lingering finish. This isn’t especially concentrated or structured but it is utterly delicious and should drink well almost immediately. Recommended for value. 87/2018+

2015 Pommard: (from Rue au Port and Les Cras). An all-but-invisible application of wood frames the exuberant and very pinot aromas of red cherry, plum, earth and a top note of violets. Like the Bourgogne there is fine energy and delineation to the attractively textured medium weight flavors that are not especially complex but do offer very good length and almost no rusticity. 88/2020+

2015 Volnay “Santenots”: Here too there is just enough wood to notice lurking in the background of the ripe yet cool essence of dark pinot fruit, spiced tea and floral-scented nose. The succulent and highly seductive medium-bodied flavors exude a subtle bead of minerality on the delicious and persistent finish. This is very pretty but not especially dense. 89/2020+

2015 Meursault “Caillerets”: Liqueur-like aromas of black cherry, red currant and discreet spice elements are also trimmed in just enough wood to notice. The wonderfully seductive and generously proportioned flavors deliver sneaky good length on the lingering finish. I wouldn’t describe this as especially concentrated either though it is more so than the Santenots. 90/2021+

Maison Lucien Le Moine (Beaune)

2015	Beaune “Clos des Mouches” 1er	red	(88-91)
2015	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2015	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	red	(93-95)
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny “Les Amoureuses” 1er	red	(92-95)
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny “Les Baudes” 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny “Les Charmes” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny “Les Fuées” 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	Chambolle-Musigny “Haut Doix” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(89-92)
2015	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2015	Clos St. Denis Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(93-96)
2015	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	Corton-Renardes Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin “Cazetiers” 1er	red	(92-95)
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Champeaux” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin “Aux Combottes” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin “Estournelles St. Jacques” 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin “Lavaut St. Jacques” 1er	red	NR
2015	Grands Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(93-95)
2015	Griotte-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	NR
2015	Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(89-92?)
2015	Mazis-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2015	Musigny Grand Cru	red	(94-96)
2015	➔ Nuits St. Georges “Aux Boudots” 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	➔ Nuits St. Georges “Les Cailles” 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	➔ Nuits St. Georges “Les St. Georges” 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	➔ Nuits St. Georges “Les Vaucrains” 1er	red	(92-95)

2015	➔ Pommard “Les Epenots” 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Grands Epenots” 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Richebourg Grand Cru	red	(93-96)
2015	➔ Volnay “Les Caillerets” 1er	red	(92-95)
2015	➔ Volnay “Les Chanlins” 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	➔ Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	➔ Volnay “Santenots” 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Vosne-Romanée “Beaux Monts” 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Vosne-Romanée “Les Malconsorts” 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Vosne-Romanée “Petits Monts” 1er	red	(92-95)
2015	➔ Vosne-Romanée “Les Suchots” 1er	red	(92-94)

Mounir and Rotem Saouma established their two-person *micro-négoce* in 1999 that focuses exclusively on the very best 1ers and *grands crus* in both red and white. They describe the 2015 as a “vintage that in our view is somewhat misunderstood in the sense that it is not nearly as forward and easy as some people seem to think. Yes, the wines are ripe but they are not at all like 2003 or 2009 and moreover, they absolutely need a long *élevage* as month by month the wines, and we’re speaking as much of the whites as the reds, have freshened and in particular, the *terroir* transparency continues to become clearer and clearer. 2015 is a great vintage but what is so interesting from our perspective is that it’s already been announced as a great vintage for the reds but in time the whites are going to be just as respected.” As is often the case at this address, at the time of my February visit the wines had been neither racked nor sulfured and as such many were noticeably reduced. I appreciate that this makes for boring tasting notes when reduction is constantly being cited as suppressing the fruit but if that is what I find then it is incumbent upon me to say so. I underscore that reduction in cask does not necessarily mean that the wine will be reduced in bottle so you shouldn’t be unduly concerned by this. In terms of enjoying the Le Moine wines, one point that bears mentioning is that the wines always have noticeable CO₂ and thus they should absolutely be decanted. (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).

2015 Beaune “Clos des Mouches”: A pure and very pretty nose combines various red berries with those of soft earth and lilac aromas. The exceptionally rich and succulent flavors possess an attractive mouth feel as well as lovely density while offering fine length on the ever-so-mildly warm finish. If this can add depth with time in bottle it should merit the upper end of my projected range. (88-91)/2023+

2015 Pommard “Les Rugiens”: (from both upper and lower). A wonderfully fresh nose reflects notes of relatively high-toned nose of red cherry, earth and a wide range of floral elements. There is fine richness, density and power to the palate coating flavors that display plenty of minerality on the balanced and lingering finish. This is relatively refined in the context of what is typical for Rugiens thanks to the firm but fine-grained tannins. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Pommard “Les Epenots”: (from Petits Epenots). Reduction presently dominates the nose though there is good freshness to the caressing and generously proportioned medium-bodied flavors that also possess excellent mid-palate concentration, all wrapped in a powerful yet refined and slightly more complex finale. Lovely. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Pommard “Les Grands Epenots”: A ripe, fresh and pure array is composed by notes of red and dark pinot fruit, plum and violet. There is a bit more volume and richness to the full-bodied and more powerful big-bodied flavors that manage to retain an appealing precision that carries over to the mouth coating, complex and solidly persistent finish. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Volnay “Les Chanlins”: There is just enough reduction to push the underlying fruit the background. As one would reasonably expect the mouth feel of the middle weight flavors is finer and more mineral-driven though the natural muscularity comes up quickly on the saline, energetic and wonderfully long finish. This is terrific and built-to-age. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”: A cool and exceptionally pretty nose offers up essence of red cherry, violet and a hint of plum. The powerful and focused but unusually elegant middle weight plus flavors brim with an almost aggressive minerality on the delineated, balanced, long and very firm finale. This beauty is definitely going to need extended cellaring. (91-94)/2030+

2015 Volnay “Santenots”: This is aromatically similar to the Clos des Chênes if just a hair more complex and the heightened depth continues onto the dense, powerful and impressively-scaled flavors that despite the size and weight the mouth feel remains sleek and refined on the equally firm, long and built-to-age finale. Here too plenty of patience required. (92-94)/2030+

2015 Volnay “Les Caillerets”: Reduction. The intensely mineral-driven, powerful, focused and explosive flavors remain supremely elegant and refined, all wrapped in an impeccably well-balanced and gorgeously long finale. This is textbook Caillerets though pretty as it is, the very fine but very dense tannins guarantee that this is going to require extended bottle age before it arrives at its peak. (92-95)/2030+

2015 Corton-Bressandes: A ripe yet quite fresh nose is comprised by notes of red cherry liqueur, earth, lilac and a whisper of the *sauvage*. The exceptionally rich medium weight plus flavors possess a caressing mouth feel thanks to the abundance of sappy dry extract that also serves to buffer the markedly firm, powerful and memorably persistent finish. This too is very much built-to-age and is without question going to need it. (92-94)/2032+

2015 Corton-Renardes: A more deeply pitched assortment of aromas includes notes of cassis, plum, forest floor and plenty of freshly turned earth nuances. There is excellent volume to the relatively refined flavors that possess an almost lacy mid-palate yet the finish is muscular and robust as well as stirringly persistent. What I find interesting is how this very firmly structured Corton manages to avoid any hint of its typical youthful austerity. (92-94)/2033+

2015 Nuits St. Georges “Les Cailles”: Reduction. This is a big Les Cailles with markedly more muscle than usual along with excellent mid-palate concentration and minerality along with noticeably rusticity on the very firm but balanced and beautifully long finish. I wouldn't describe this as a textbook example as Les Cailles is rarely rustic but on the other hand, it's also rarely as powerful as this one which is quite impressive in its fashion. (91-94)/2030+

2015 Nuits St. Georges “Les St. Georges”: A very ripe yet attractively fresh nose combines liqueur-like aromas of red currant, spice, violet, earth and game. There is exceptionally good richness and volume to the concentrated, powerful and serious flavors that possess a driving minerality on the moderately austere, structured and remarkably persistent finale. This too is absolutely going to require a long snooze in a cool cellar. (91-94)/2032+

2015 Nuits St. Georges “Les Vaucrains”: Reduction. As is usually the case, this is even bigger and more powerful if somewhat less refined than the Les St. Georges and Les Cailles with seemingly an endless reserve of dry extract and that's a very good thing because the supporting tannins are dense to the point of being almost rigid on the austere, very backward and extraordinarily long finish. This is breathtakingly good but unless you're going to age this borderline massive effort for at least a decade it's pointless to buy it. (92-95)/2035+

2015 Nuits St. Georges “Aux Boudots”: Reduction. This is also a big and concentrated wine though to be clear, this is not nearly as massive as the Vaucrains. Notwithstanding that, there is plenty of punch and power to the subtly mineral-inflected flavors that culminate in a balanced, firm and attractively textured finale. Lovely. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Champeaux”: Reduction. The natural refinement of a classic Champeaux is on display with the sleek, focused and intense middle weight flavors that possess fine precision and a subtle minerality on the vibrant, lingering and solidly constituted finish. This should be approachable after only 5 to 7 years if desired. (90-93)/2025+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “Lavaut St. Jacques”: This is very firmly reduced and thus very difficult to assess. Moreover the ultra-rich and concentrated flavors terminate in a palate saturating finish that is distinctly *animale* in character, in fact to the point that it appears like brett. This is impossible to read with confidence today and I would prefer not to guess whether this will clean up or not. Not Rated.

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “Aux Combottes”: Reduction. The lilted and wonderfully refined flavors possess a lovely sense of underlying tension as well as refinement before concluding in a lightly mineral-inflected finish where a hint of warmth arises. This is certainly very pretty but lacks the sheer depth of the best of these Gevrey 1ers. (90-92)/2025+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “Estournelles St. Jacques”: Reduction but it's light enough that I very much doubt that it will last. Otherwise there is a wonderfully refined and elegant mouth feel to the pure, lacy and mineral-inflected flavors that possess a beguiling sense of tension that also adds lift to the harmonious and Zen-like finale. I love the delivery here. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “Cazetiers”: Reduction. As is virtually always the case, the broad-shouldered flavors are bigger, richer, bolder and more powerful if a good deal less refined on the mouth coating finish that is shaped by dense and mildly rustic tannins and superb complexity. Cazetiers rarely gets a lot better than this built-to-age example. (92-95)/2030+

2015 Vosne-Romanée “Les Suchots”: (from the upper portion of the vineyard). An exuberantly spicy nose reflects liqueur-like aromas of plum, black cherry, anise and sandalwood. The mouth coating and velvet-textured medium-bodied flavors possess exceptionally good richness before concluding in a highly seductive finish because while it's firm, the sap renders the supporting structure to be all but invisible. This is very Suchots in style and it should be approachable young. (92-94)/2027+

2015 Vosne-Romanée “Beaux Monts”: An attractively fresh nose merges overtly floral and spicy aromas with those of ripe red and dark pinot fruit that is trimmed is exotic Asian-style tea nuances. There is less volume but more minerality to the focused middle weight flavors that possess a notably sleek mouth feel while delivering excellent persistence on the well-balanced finale. This is at once firmer yet classier and should amply reward extended cellaring. (92-94)/2030+

2015 Vosne-Romanée “Petits Monts”: Like the Vosne-Romanée “Beaux Monts”, this is wonderfully fresh and highly aromatic with its violet, lilac, rose petal and orange pekoe tea scents that include both red and dark currant. There is a bit more size, weight and controlled power to the slightly less mineral-inflected flavors that exhibit a taut muscularity on the dusty, harmonious and strikingly persistent finale. This is terrific and very much built-to-age, indeed it’s like a smaller version of a fine Riche. (92-95)/2030+

2015 Vosne-Romanée “Les Malconsorts”: A pungent nose of wood and reductive notes introduces the big-bodied, powerful and almost aggressively mineral-driven flavors that brim with dry extract that helps to buffer the explosively long and youthfully austere finish that isn’t quite as well-balanced as that of the Petits Monts. Still this is most impressive though note well that it’s very structured and is going to require extended cellaring. (92-94)/2035+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Fuées”: Attractively layered aromas of plum, black cherry, cassis and anise are trimmed in just enough wood to notice. The rich and relatively full-bodied flavors are at once powerful and tautly muscular yet refined while delivering outstanding depth and length on the mineral-driven finish. Good stuff and built-to-age. (92-94)/2027+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Baudes”: This is aromatically even fresher if a touch less complex with its ripe but cool array of cassis, plum, violet and soft tea nuances. The exceptionally rich, suave and full-bodied flavors are even more powerful if less mineral-driven, all wrapped in an impressively long finish. As one would reasonably expect, this is less refined than the Fuées but it certainly doesn’t lack for punch or volume. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Charmes”: Reduction and wood presently dominate the fruit. On the plus side there is a wonderful verve and freshness in the mouth as there is no heaviness to the full-bodied, suave and concentrated medium weight flavors that culminate in a dusty, mouth coating and intense finale. While it would not be accurate to describe this as rustic, it would be fair to observe that it’s somewhat less refined than usual. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Haut Doix”: Reduction. The sleeker though less voluminous and rich medium weight flavors compensate by having more minerality and delineation on the lingering finish where a hint of bitter cherry arises. This is certainly pretty but at present it is the least complex of these Chambolle 1ers. (90-92)/2027+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Amoureuses”: A restrained, elegant and admirably pure nose reluctantly offers up beautifully layered aromas of red and dark berry liqueur, lilac, spiced tea and a hint of sandalwood. There is a vaguely exotic character to the rich and impressively concentrated flavors that display ample minerality on the sappy, balanced and strikingly persistent finish. This is an exercise in harmony and understatement though make no mistake, there is a firm tannic spine underlying the grace and lace mouth feel and as such, this is going to require plenty of cellar time. (92-95)/2030+

2015 Clos St. Denis: (from 90+ year old vines). Firm reduction blocks an evaluation of the nose. Otherwise the sleek and ultra-refined middle weight flavors possess lovely mid-palate concentration as well as an abundance of dry extract that coats the palate and buffers the moderately firm tannins on the Zen-like finish. Textbook CSD. (92-94)/2027+

2015 Clos de la Roche: This is also quite firmly reduced. As is typically the case there is more size, weight and muscle to the broad-shouldered flavors that possess first-rate mid-palate concentration that pushes the imposingly resolute tannins to the background on the strikingly persistent finish. This is certainly a big wine and it doesn’t have the refinement of the CSD but it does have more overall depth, at least today – note however that patience is absolutely necessary. (92-95)/2033+

2015 Charmes-Chambertin: (from both Charmes and Mazoyères). An exceptionally ripe and pungent nose displays plenty of wood along with notes of mocha, warm earth and a whiff of prune. Consistent with the nose the palate impression is super-rich with its opulent yet powerful texture that manages to remain vibrant on the impressively long finish. This is not without positive points but I can’t say the nose is appealing and the overall impression is borderline over-the-top. (89-92)/2027+

2015 Griotte-Chambertin: The malolactic fermentation was not finished at the time of my visit and while I can say that this seems very promising based on the underlying raw material, it is a firm Burghound policy that wines that have not concluded their malos are not evaluated. Not Rated.

2015 Latricières-Chambertin: A distinctly curious nose combines minty notes of menthol and spearmint on the otherwise more typical earthy red berry fruit aromas. The mint character is present in the mouth a well and while there is fine power, punch and minerality to the middle weight flavors, I can only observe that this is a very odd wine. I underscore that this is not a bad or flawed wine but is definitely odd. (89-92?)/2027+

2015 Mazis-Chambertin: (from both Mazis-Haut and Bas). Moderate wood surrounds the liqueur-like nose that combines notes of various red berries, pungent earth and *sauvage* nuances. There is outstanding power, concentration and punch to the big-bodied and impressively constituted flavors that brim with both dry extract and minerality on the driving finish. This is one of those wines that is clearly built-to-age yet there is so much sap that it could be approached young. (92-95)/2032+

2015 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: Reduction. This exhibits that beguiling quality of inner mouth perfume on the sleek, intense, stony and beautifully delineated broad-shouldered flavors that display plenty of power and drive on the palate coating finish that goes on and on. Like the Mazis, this is very much built-to-age yet the copious dry extract will permit this to be enjoyed on the younger side. That said, if you wish to see this at its peak, it's a 'buy and forget' wine. (93-95)/2035+

2015 Clos de Vougeot: A notably ripe yet attractively fresh nose is made up of spice, earth, plum liqueur and a hint of smoked meat. The wonderfully sleek, concentrated and muscular flavors possess unusually good refinement in the context of what is typical for the appellation while delivering breathtakingly good persistence on the well-balanced finish. 2015 was a great vintage for Clos de Vougeot and this example will only add to its renown. Bravo! (93-96)/2035+

2015 Echézeaux: (from En Orveaux). Reduction. The medium-bodied flavors possess good volume and punch along with a lovely bead of minerality while concluding in a textured, mouth coating and relatively powerful finish. This is perhaps not quite as refined as it usually is but that is a very minor nit in what is otherwise a fine Ech. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Grands Echézeaux: An ultra-spicy if somewhat high-toned nose is composed primarily of pomegranate liqueur and exotic Asian-style tea scents. The rich, powerful and muscular flavors are imposingly-scaled while the abundance of dry extract makes for a velvety mouth feel, all wrapped in a youthfully austere and gorgeously long finale. Like several wines in the range, this is very much built for the long-term and is going to need at least a decade of patience and should amply repay 20 or perhaps even more. (93-95)/2035+

2015 Richebourg: Reduction dominates the fruit today. The dense, muscular and very serious, indeed even brooding big-bodied flavors possess outstanding power and punch along with an abundance of both dry extract and minerality that adds a bit of lift to the youthfully austere, focused and hugely long finale. This is an imposing but graceful wine that is presently exceptionally firm and like the Grands Echézeaux, one that is going to need a great deal of forbearance. (93-96)/2035+

2015 Bonnes Mares: (from both Chambolle and Morey). An agreeably fresh nose speaks of plum, red currant, earth and discreet spice wisps. There is excellent volume and mid-palate concentration to the obviously powerful and muscular flavors that are generously proportioned yet quite serious as the supporting tannins on the explosively long finish are firm to the point of making it quite clear that this will not be an especially good candidate for early consumption. (92-95)/2035+

2015 Musigny: Reduction. Here too there is superb concentration and power yet even more refinement to the mineral-driven and mouth coating finish that delivers unbelievably fine length. What I find so interesting about this monument of a wine is how this much power and punch can be delivered with unmatched refinement. In a word, brilliant. (94-96)/2035+

Domaine Hubert de Montille (Volnay)

2015	➔ Beaune "Grèves" 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	Beaune "Sizies" 1er	red	(88-91)
2015	Bourgogne	red	(86-88)
2015	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2015	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2015	➔ Nuits St. Georges "Aux Thorey" 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	➔ Nuits St. Georges "Aux Saints Juliens"	red	(89-91)
2015	Pommard "Les Cras"	red	(88-90)
2015	Pommard "Les Pézerolles" 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Pommard "Les Rugiens-Bas - Hubert" 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Volnay "Les Champans" 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	➔ Volnay "Les Mitans" 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	➔ Volnay "Taillepieds" 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Vosne-Romanée "Aux Malconsorts" 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Vosne-Romanée "Aux Malconsorts - Christiane" 1er	red	(93-95)

Etienne de Montille was not available at the time of my visit and thus I do not have his views on the 2015 vintage. I was however able to taste through the entire range of wines that include the Château de Puligny-Montrachet (see below) and the négociant wines made under the Deux Montille label, the reviews for which will appear in Issue 67. The quality here was exceptionally good in 2015 and from both Côtes. With the exception of the Bourgogne, all the wines were vinified with relatively high percentages of whole clusters, indeed most of them were 100%. I indicate the percentage for each wine in parentheses. In another change the Rugiens has been rebaptized as "Hubert" and in 2015 it will be sold with the Malconsorts "Christiane" in a commemorative two-pack in honor of Etienne's parents. (Beaune Imports, www.beauneimports.com, CA, Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, NY, Tenzing Wine & Spirits, www.tenzingws.com, IL, Vineyard Brands, www.vineyardbrands.com, AL, Augustan Wine, www.augustanwine.com, FL, Pioneer Wine Company, www.pioneerwine.com, TX, JW Sieg Wines, www.jwsiegwines.com, VA/DC, Avant Partir, www.avantpartir.com, GA, Vanguard Wines, www.vanguardwines.com, OH, Synergy Wines, www.synergyfinewines.com, CO/NM/AZ, Lirette Selections, www.liretteselections.com, LA and Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, NV/AZ/NM, all USA; Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, John Armit Wines, www.armit.co.uk, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, The Wine Society, www.thewinesociety.com, all UK; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com/hk, Hong Kong).

2015 Bourgogne: A bright and fresh nose features notes of red cherry, raspberry and soft earth nuances. There is good richness and verve to the utterly delicious, round and forward middle weight flavors that conclude in a reasonably complex and persistent finish that displays just a hint of rusticity. This should drink well basically upon release. (86-88)/2018+

2015 Pommard "Les Cras": (67% whole clusters). There is enough wood present to warrant mentioning though not so much as to intrude on the ripe dark currant, floral and more pronounced earth elements that continue onto the rich and relatively full-bodied flavors that are shaped by firm but not hard tannins on the youthfully austere and rustic finish. This too should drink reasonably well early on though I would suggest allowing it at least a few years first. (88-90)/2021+

2015 Nuits St. Georges "Aux Saints Juliens": (67% whole clusters). This is relatively elegant for a Nuits *villages* with its densely fruited nose of various red berries plus an abundance of floral and freshly turned earth scents. The succulent, rich and generously proportioned flavors possess a seductive mouth feel that continues onto the lingering finish that displays only a *souçon* of rusticity. This excellent effort is worth checking out. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Beaune "Sizies": (from a 1 ha parcel; 33% whole clusters). A discreet application of wood sets off the bright, ripe and pretty red raspberry, violet and wet stone aromas. There is lovely delineation to the overtly mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that possess a polished mouth feel that continues onto the delicious if slightly linear and short finale. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Beaune "Grèves": (100% whole clusters). Here the wood regimen is more discreet if not invisible as it easily allows the markedly earth and floral-scented dark berry fruit aromas to be appreciated. There is fine richness to the sleek and concentrated medium weight plus flavors that exude a more subtle bead of minerality on the muscular and youthfully austere finish where a touch of bitter cherry arises. This is very good and should amply reward mid-term cellaring. (91-93)/2023+

2015 Volnay "Les Mitans": (100% whole clusters). A strikingly elegant, airy and cool nose is comprised by notes of black cherry, anise, violet, lilac and soft earth, all of which is trimmed in a background whisper of oak. The lacy, vibrant and lightly mineral-inflected flavors possess a bit more richness than usual while delivering first-rate depth and length on the palate coating finish. This is one of the better performances for the de Montille Mitans that I have seen recently. (90-93)/2022+

2015 Volnay "Les Champans": (100% whole clusters). This is also appealingly elegant with its pretty liqueur-like red pinot fruit, spice, sandalwood and subtle earth scents. The mouth feel of the slightly bigger and richer flavors remains refined, lacy and focused with a lovely sense of underlying tension that continues onto the markedly firmer finish. Lovely. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Volnay "Taillepieds": (100% whole clusters). There is just enough wood present to remark upon complementing the more obviously floral-inflected red and dark currant aromas that are at once spicier and a bit more complex. The wood can also be found on the palate as the wonderfully energetic and intensely mineral-driven medium weight flavors possess a taut muscularity that culminate in a youthfully austere, serious and built-to-age finale. Textbook Taillepieds. (92-94)/2027+

2015 Pommard "Les Pézerolles": (67% whole clusters). Once again discreet wood serves as a relatively neutral backdrop for the notably floral-suffused aromas, and in particular rose petal and violet, that enjoy added breadth in the form of dark berry fruit liqueur-like scents. There is a more refined if less concentrated mouth feel to the attractively mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that exhibit lovely persistence on the balanced finish. This is very pretty if not as complex as the best of these 1ers. (90-92)/2025+

2015 Pommard "Les Rugiens-Bas - Hubert": (100% whole clusters). Prominent wood and menthol fights somewhat with the otherwise fresh, spicy and earthy aromas that are primarily composed by black cherry and plum. There is terrific detail, power and minerality to the broad-shouldered by refined flavors that culminate in an overtly austere, backward and built-to-age finish. The density is such that this should have little trouble integrating the wood treatment with bottle age. (92-94)/2030+

2015 Nuits St. Georges “Aux Thorey”: (located at the southern end of the Vosne section of Nuits; 100% whole clusters). Much more subtle wood treatment is present on the ripe and fresh aromas of red cherry, raspberry and soft spice and earth. There is a really lovely mouth feel to the caressing, detailed and discreetly mineral-inflected flavors that offer fine depth and sneaky good persistence. This beauty is an exercise in finesse and refinement. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Clos de Vougeot: (100% whole clusters). Here too the wood treatment is reasonably subtle if not invisible as it remains in the background of the ripe red currant, plum, violet and notably earth-scented nose. There is excellent volume to the seductively textured and mouth coating broad-shouldered flavors that display excellent power and focus on the well-balanced if youthfully austere finale. This well-made effort will require plenty of patience. (91-94)/2030+

2015 Corton-Clos du Roi: (100% whole clusters). An overtly floral and *sauvage*-suffused nose reflects notes of plum and an assortment of wild dark berry aromas. There is almost painful intensity to the markedly stony and muscular flavors that manage the trick of being impressively rich but also very well-detailed, all wrapped in a gorgeously complex, persistent and impeccably well-balanced finale. This is finer than it usually is but don't be fooled as it's very much built-to-age. (92-95)/2032+

2015 Vosne-Romanée “Aux Malconsorts”: (100% whole clusters). Moderate wood can be found on the super-spicy aromas of lavender, Asian-style tea, violet and black cherry liqueur. There is excellent underlying tension to the bold, robust and mineral-driven flavors that evidence obvious muscle yet the mouth feel of the youthfully austere and somewhat linear finale is highly sophisticated. Note that this should benefit considerably from at least 6 to 8 years of bottle age to flesh out and develop more depth though it will like require 15 to 18 to fully resolve the supporting structure. (92-94)/2030+

2015 Vosne-Romanée “Aux Malconsorts – Christiane”: (100% whole clusters). As is often the case this is aromatically similar to the regular *cuvée* save for being slightly more floral in character. There is more volume and power to the full-bodied, rich and robust flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the more complex, well-balanced and wonderfully long finale. This is also more obviously structured and it seems quite clear that 18 to 20 years will be necessary for this to arrive at its full majority. In a word, terrific. (93-95)/2033+

Domaine Bernard Moreau (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2015	Bourgogne	red	86
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2015	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot – La Cardeuse” 1er	red	90
2015	➔ Volnay “Santenots” 1er	red	91

Benoît Moreau told me that the 2015 “growing season was, somewhat ironically, easy and stressful at the same time. The season itself was relatively straightforward yet the stress arrived when it became clear that the harvest was going to be very early given how hot it was. This is to say how to choose the right moment to pick so we obtained ripe fruit where it was possible to preserve the freshness in the wines. Ultimately we chose to attack the picking on the 28th of August and brought in super-clean fruit and the highest potential alcohol we had was 13.1%. As such we were very happy that we started as early as we did because had we waited much longer we might very well have had wines that exceeded 14%, which isn't at all our style.” The domaine is obviously better known for its whites but it often makes very good reds and I like what I found here in 2015. (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).

2015 Bourgogne: (from Chassagne vines and 100% barrel aged in 4 to 5 year old oak). A pretty nose consists of red cherry, cassis and soft earth scents. The rich and exceptionally suave flavors possess good volume as well as acceptable depth and persistence on the mildly rustic finale. 86/2019+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: (from 35+ year old vines). A mild trace of reduction is just enough to push the underlying fruit to the background but it seems sufficiently subtle that it shouldn't last. The lush, even opulent medium-bodied flavors brim with dry extract on the sneaky long if again slightly rustic finale. 88/2020+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot – La Cardeuse”: Pungently earthy red currant, dark raspberry and spice aromas precede sleek, intense and muscular medium weight flavors that deliver fine length on the rustic and solidly complex finale. This should age well but also be approachable young if desired. 90/2022+

2015 Volnay “Santenots”: (from purchased grapes in Les Plures). An overtly spicy and floral nose offers excellent breadth in the form of both red and dark currant aromas laced with hints of orange pekoe tea. The markedly finer and more mineral-inflected flavors possess a highly attractive sense of underlying tension before culminating in a saline, balanced and beautifully complex finale. This delicious effort could also be approached young though there is enough supporting structure to warrant aging it for up to a decade. Worth a look. 91/2023+

Domaine Caroline Morey (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2015	Chassagne-Montrachet	red	88
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Champ Gains” 1er	red	89
2015	Santenay “Le Chainey”	red	87

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, has founded her own domaine. Jean-Marc Morey, in the fashion of many older *vignerons* in Burgundy, has decided to partially retire and in doing so has divided his domaine into three parts. Essentially the elder Morey will keep a small portion of his vineyards, most notably the Bâtard-Montrachet, and has apportioned the rest between his two children Sylvain and Caroline. The way that one might think of it is that essentially one larger domaine has morphed into three smaller enterprises though 2016 will be the last vintage for Jean-Marc. Moreover, Caroline noted that she had just signed a lease to take over the vineyards of a domaine in Santenay and as of 2017 will now farm fully 7 ha. With respect to the 2015 vintage, she noted that it was an “easy growing season that gave us basically perfect fruit, in fact I have never seen more beautifully colored and formed bunches in my life. The vinifications were straightforward and really there’s not much to report as everything proceeded as it should have. I like the wines and in both colors as they should be easy to appreciate.” Morey noted that her reds were bottled in January 2017. (Atherton Wine Imports, www.awiwine.com, CA, USA; A&B Vintners, www.abvintners.co.uk, UK).

2015 Santenay “Le Chainey”: (vinified with 30% whole clusters). A pretty and layered nose combines notes of earth and floral scents with those of red and dark cherry. There is fine energy and detail to the lightly stony flavors that conclude in a mildly rustic finale. This would make a fine choice for an upper level house red that could be enjoyed young but also aged for a few years too. 87/2019+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet: (from Les Chênes and Les Chambres; (vinified with 40% whole clusters). An attractively ripe yet cool nose features notes of red berry fruit and earth that are laced with hints of pepper and game. There is good energy but also good richness to the succulent, round and seductively textured flavors that are supported by slightly finer tannins on the clean and focused finish where a hint of bitter cherry arises. 88/2020+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Champ Gains”: (vinified with 50% whole clusters). This possesses the most floral-inflected nose of the range where additional breadth is present in the form of spicy red pinot fruit, pepper and earth nuances. The sleeker and more refined flavors display good energy but also evident gas on the slightly edgy finish so I would suggest decanting this for a few minutes first. This is really quite pretty and should reward a few years of bottle age as well. 89/2021+

Domaine Marc Morey (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot” 1er	red	88
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I will present Sabine Mollard’s views of the 2015 vintage in Issue 67. (Robert Kacher Selections, www.robertkacherselections.com, Washington, DC, USA; John Armit Wines, www.armit.co.uk, Haynes, Hanson & Clark, www.hhandc.co.uk and Laytons, www.laytons.co.uk, all UK).

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot”: A notably ripe nose is composed by notes of dark currant, black raspberry and interesting hints of tar and black pepper. The round and very rich flavors are generously proportioned and easy-to-like if not particularly complex on the persistent and slightly rustic finale. Note that while this should repay a few years of cellaring it could easily be enjoyed young. 88/2020+

Domaine Pierre Morey (Meursault)

2015	➔ Bourgogne	red	(87-89)
2015	➔ Monthélie	red	(88-91)
2015	Monthélie “1er” 1er	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Volnay “Les Santenots” 1er	red	(91-93)

Pierre Morey’s daughter Anne has now largely assumed the day to day operating duties of the domaine though I stress that Pierre has not formally retired. She noted that 2015 was “frankly a relief from the three straight years of hail damage that we have endured though 2016 hit us hard again though this time with frost. But in 2015 there really wasn’t much to do except pray that we didn’t have hail. We picked from the 3rd to the 9th of September and the hot and dry season did its work as the fruit was pretty much as clean as one could hope for. This of course made the vinifications easy as all you had to do was to not extract too much. I suppose another way to put it is that in terms of the reds, less was more. In fact about the only thing not to like about the 2015 reds is the tiny quantities as the hail damage of the prior three years had a carry-over effect on the vines, which just didn’t have much vigor.” Like several other domaines based in Meursault, Morey’s is better known for its whites than reds but the Bourgogne and the Santenots have long been appreciated by insiders for their excellent quality and 2015 will only inure to that appreciation. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; The Source Imports, www.thesourceimports.com, CA, Vineyard Road, www.vineyardroad.net, MA, C’est Vin, LLC, 703.243.3559, VA, The Harvest Wine Company, LLC, nate@harvestwineco.com, CO, Atlanta Wholesale Wines, www.ndcweb.com, GA, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, TX, The Source Imports, www.thesourceimports.com, CA, all USA).

2015 Bourgogne: A beautifully layered, fresh and relatively cool nose offers up notes of black raspberry, earth and a discreet hint of violet. There is excellent size and weight to the medium-bodied flavors and particularly so for a wine at this level, all wrapped in a delicious, complex and lingering finish. This is a terrific Bourgogne and highly recommended plus it will age for several years as well. (87-89)/2020+

2015 Monthélie: This too is aromatically quite fresh with its distinctly earth-tinged red berry fruit aromas that precede the intense, delineated and generously proportioned middle weight flavors that conclude in a saline, balanced and refreshing finish. This should also make for a fine value play and is recommended as such. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Monthélie “1er”: (from Les Clous). Slightly more deeply pitched aromas exhibit ripe yet fresh aromas of mostly red and dark currant that are nuanced by hints of violet, earth and a touch of smoke. There is a finer mouth feel to the delicious medium weight flavors that offer more evident minerality on the refreshing, balanced and sneaky long finale. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Volnay “Les Santenots”: Relatively strong reduction gets the best of the underlying fruit at present as about all that can be discerned is a hint of wood. Otherwise there is outstanding richness and mid-palate concentration to the more mineral-driven medium weight flavors that possess a sleek and polished if muscular mouth feel, all wrapped in a wonderfully long and built-to-age finish. Unlike the prior wines, this is going to need bottle age to unwind but it should be very good. (91-93)/2027+

Domaine Vincent et Sophie Morey (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2015	Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	red	86
2015	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes	red	89
2015	Les Maranges “La Fussièrè” 1er	red	87
2015	Santenay “Beaurepaire” 1er	red	88
2015	➔ Santenay “Les Gravières” 1er	red	90
2015	Santenay “Les Hâtes”	red	88
2015	➔ Santenay “Les Passetemps” 1er	red	90

Bernard Morey’s sons Vincent and Thomas (both of whose whites will be reviewed in Issue 67) have each taken their respective shares of his domaine. Vincent married the daughter of a *vigneron* from Santenay, which explains the large holdings from that commune and together they now exploit approximately 20 ha. Vincent Morey noted that 2015 is an “easy vintage to like and particularly so in red. I couldn’t believe it when we finally started picking on the 3rd of September that in no matter how many bins I looked in there was not even one rotten berry to be seen. It was genuinely remarkable just how clean the fruit was. The pinot came in on average at about 13.2% potential alcohol and I chaptalized them to about 13.5%. Otherwise there isn’t much to tell as the vinifications were easy and because the lees were so clean, so was the *élevage*. I

think 2015 is a good vintage in white but it's a great one in red." I would characterize the Vincent Morey 2015s as very solid if not truly special while also noting that they tend to sell for attractive prices; as such, they can offer very good value if your taste runs to relatively toasty reds. Morey said that he bottled the wines in November 2016. (Vineyard Brands, www.vineyardbrands.com, AL, USA; Domaine Direct, www.domainedirect.co.uk, The Rare & Fine Wine Company Limited, www.therareandfinewinecompany.com and Berkmann Wine Cellars, www.berkmann.co.uk, all UK).

2015 Bourgogne – Pinot Noir: A pretty, fresh and very pinot nose of mostly red berries and soft earth notes introduces juicy, succulent and fleshy flavors that are built on their fruit and as such should drink well shortly after release. 86/2018+

2015 Les Maranges “La Fussière”: (20+ year old vines). Prominent wood toast fights a bit with the ripe plum and dark currant aromas that are also trimmed in warm earth nuances. The suave, supple and plump flavors possess an attractive mouth feel if somewhat limited depth on the otherwise sneaky long finale. This too should drink well immediately. 87/2019+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: (from 4 parcels of vines with vine ages ranging between 30 and 70 years). This is also moderately toasty though not so much as to smother the very fresh aromas of red currant, plum, pungent earth and discreet black pepper nuances. The succulent and round, even opulently textured medium-bodied flavors possess a seductive mid-palate thanks to the copious dry extract that buffers the slightly firmer tannins on the balanced, complex and lingering finale. This is quite good and worth a look and note that my rating assumes that the wood will be successfully integrated with a few years of bottle age. 89/2020+

2015 Santenay “Les Hâtes”: While hardly invisible, here the wood treatment is a bit more subtle and more easily allows the very fresh nose of red and dark cherry fruit, earth and pinot spice elements to shine. The round, delicious and quite suave flavors possess an agreeably sappy texture while delivering perfectly good persistence if not necessary better than average depth. This too should drink well shortly after release. 88/2019+

2015 Santenay “Les Passetemps”: (one-third is from 10+ year old vines and the rest is from 50+ year old vines). Once again there is enough wood to merit mentioning though not so much as to suppress the ripe aromas of plum, dark raspberry and plentiful earth nuances. There is a lovely sense of energy to the relatively sleekly textured flavors, indeed they are notably finer than those of the Hâtes while offering significantly better depth and persistence as well. Worth considering for value. 90/2021+

2015 Santenay “Les Gravières”: This possesses the most elegant nose in the range with its ripe array of pure cassis, plum liqueur, black cherry and freshly turned earth scents. The vibrant middle weight flavors possess a velvety mid-palate and good minerality on the attractively well-balanced and persistent finish. This isn't especially complex at present but the underlying material appears to be such that my rating presumes that more depth will develop with a few years of bottle age. 90/2020+

2015 Santenay “Beaurepaire”: This is sufficiently toasty that it interferes somewhat with the clear expression of the various dark berry fruit and earth scents plus in this case there is ample menthol present as well. On the plus side there is ample mid-palate sap that imparts an opulent mouth feel to the medium-bodied flavors though the wood telegraphed by the nose resurfaces on the finish. This is a seductive if woody effort and it's a bit too much for me. 88/2020+

Maison Morey-Blanc (Meursault)

2015 Aloxe-Corton “Clos du Chapitre” 1er	red	(89-92)
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See Domaine Pierre Morey (directly above) for comments as Maison Morey-Blanc is owned and operated by Morey. He told me that ever since 2005 he has progressively cut back his *négociant* activities on the red side and now only produces this one wine. (A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France and Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, NY, USA; The Wine Society, www.thewinesociety.com, Justerini & Brooks, www.justerinis.com, Laytons, www.laytons.co.uk, Oddbins, www.oddbins.com and Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, all UK).

2015 Aloxe-Corton “Clos du Chapitre”: A pretty, ripe and very fresh nose reflects notes of red currant, cherry and plenty of earth wisps. There is both excellent definition as well as fine tension to the intense if not particularly refined medium weight flavors where a fine bead of minerality helps to add lift to the delicious, complex and persistent finish. This is sufficiently firm that it will need a few years to unwind and should reward up to a decade of cellaring. (89-92)/2023+

Domaine Morey-Coffinet (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2015	➔ Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	red	87
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Chaumes”	red	88
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean” 1er	red	88?
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot” 1er	red	89?

Michel Morey's son Thibault described the 2015 growing season as “relatively easy as the majority of the season was hot and dry. We did have some concern because of that regarding potential hydric stress in the vines but we had just enough rain at just the right times to avoid any prolonged periods of it. We picked from the 1st to the 6th of September with the idea of doing everything possible to preserve the freshness in the wines, which of course is always the worry in hot and dry vintages. The fruit was definitely ripe and super-clean, indeed there was essentially no sorting required. We did a relatively light vinification for the reds as the skins were very thick. On the white side, again with the idea that preserving the freshness would make the critical difference, we pressed the chardonnay really hard and for much longer than normal as the idea was to have musts that were full of lees. Moreover, given how clean the fruit was the quality of the lees was not at all a concern. In the end I am happy with the quality as I think our strategy, particular for the whites, worked.” I was quite impressed with the Morey whites in the context of the vintage but two of the reds gave me some concerns. By contrast the Bourgogne is excellent and would make a good choice for an all-around house red. Morey further noted that his reds were bottled between August and October 2016. (Martine's Wines, www.martineswines.com, CA, USA; Anthony Sarjeant and Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, both UK).

2015 Bourgogne – Pinot Noir: A wonderfully fresh nose combines notes of various red berries along with discreet earth and spice wisps. There is good energy to the succulent, delicious and reasonably concentrated medium weight flavors that deliver better depth and length than is typical for the genre. Worth checking out plus it will reward a few years of bottle age. 87/2019+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Chaumes”: Here the nose is more deeply pitched with its array of plum, violet, black pepper and warm earth scents. There is both good volume and detail to the punchy and caressing medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a youthfully austere, firm and balanced finale. This is a solid Chassagne *villages*. 88/2021+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean”: This is quite firmly reduced and I would strongly advise a thorough aeration. The middle weight flavors are at once finer and more mineral-driven with good precision and energy though the finish is slightly lean and flirts with dryness. It's possible that this is simply going through a difficult post-bottling phase but it didn't show very well today. 88?/2021+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot”: (from the *climats* of Fairendes and Francemont in roughly equal proportions). This is also firmly reduced though a bit less than the Clos St. Jean. Otherwise there is better freshness and vibrancy to the medium-bodied flavors that possess fine mid-palate volume though once again the finish is slightly lean and chewy though not really dry. Again, it's possible that this will eventually harmonize as the supporting tannins do appear to be ripe but like its stablemate this didn't show to its usual level. 89?/2022+

Domaine Albert Morot (Beaune)

2015	➔ Beaune “Aigrots”	red	(90-93)
2015	Beaune “Bressandes” 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	Beaune “Cents Vignes” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Beaune “Grèves” 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	Beaune “Au Dessus de Marconnets” 1er	red	(88-90)
2015	Beaune “Marconnets” 1er	red	(88-91)
2015	Beaune “Teurons” 1er	red	(89-91)
2015	Beaune “Toussaints” 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	Pommard	red	(88-91)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “La Bataillère aux Vergelesses” 1er	red	(89-91)

Geoffroy Choppin de Janvry said that 2015 was “much, much less difficult than the prior three vintages though even so we had no yield as the vines had been too battered. But at least the growing season was less demanding in terms of treatments. We

chose to begin picking on the 3rd of September and the fruit was both ripe and about as clean as it can be. Potential alcohols averaged around 13% with reasonably good acidities even though there was not a lot of malic. We also bought a new destemmer that treats the fruit much more gently as it leaves the berries whole. The vinifications were easy because the wines pretty much made themselves. The skins were thick and the colors came easily so I decided to use a light hand that relied more on pump overs than punch downs. I did use around 20% whole clusters for the Marconnets and the Teurons and it seems to have added some freshness. As to the wines, they have both good mid-palate fat and a natural sweetness that renders them especially attractive. Moreover I find that they offer fine *terroir* definition and overall, I very much like the style of the vintage.” De Janvry further noted that the domaine is now officially certified organic. (Robert Kacher Selections, www.robertkacherselections.com, Washington, D.C, USA; Majestic Wine Warehouses, www.majestic.co.uk and House of Hallgarten, www.hallgarten.co.uk, both UK).

2015 Beaune “Au Dessus de Marconnets”: There is an interesting hint of tar present on the black raspberry, earth and discreet spice scents. The forward, vibrant and utterly delicious flavors possess both good freshness and reasonably good depth and length on the inviting finish. This refreshing effort should drink well young. (88-90)/2019+

2015 Pommard: (from .4 ha parcel in La Rue au Port). Here too there is that same whisper of tar to the otherwise attractively fresh and very pinot nose that is liberally laced with earth and game nuances. There is fine intensity to the well-detailed and relatively powerful middle weight flavors that possess a beguiling vibrancy, all wrapped in a lightly mineral-inflected finish where a hint of bitter cherry arises. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “La Bataillère aux Vergelesses”: (a *monopole*). A brooding nose only grudgingly reveals much earthier and more *sauvage*-suffused aromas of dark currant and violet. The impressively rich and well-concentrated medium-bodied flavors deliver fine length on the slightly warm and built-to-age finish. This generously proportioned effort will need at least some patience and should reward as much as a decade of cellaring. (89-91)/2023+

2015 Beaune “Cents Vignes”: A ripe yet appealing fresh nose displays notes of black cherry liqueur, plum, violet and warm earth. The sleeker and more refined but not more concentrated flavors possess slightly better verve on the lightly mineral-inflected finish. I like the underlying tension though this needs to develop a bit more depth to merit the upper end of my projected range. (90-92)/2022+

2015 Beaune “Toussaints”: Reduction presently renders the nose tough to assess but there is good freshness to the very rich, concentrated and mouth coating flavors that are also quite generously proportioned. The ample amounts of dry extract impart a velvety, even opulent palate impression that also buffers the medium firm tannins on the slightly warm finish. This easy-to-like effort should drink reasonably well early if preferred. (89-92)/2021+

2015 Beaune “Aigrots”: (from a 1 ha parcel of 15+ year old vines). A ripe, fresh and beautifully layered assortment is composed by notes of black cherry, cassis, violet and a hint of exotic tea. The exceptionally rich and velvety medium weight flavors exude a fine bead of minerality that adds a bit of lift to the mouth coating and sneaky long finale. While the supporting tannins are relatively firm there is so much dry extract that this could actually be enjoyed on the younger side. (90-93)/2023+

2015 Beaune “Grèves”: This is the first wine to exhibit any appreciable wood and even here it is sufficiently subtle that it does not detract from the fresh, ripe and complex nose of black raspberry, violet, plum liqueur, spice and a touch of newly turned earth. The refreshing and tautly muscular medium-bodied flavors also exude a fine bead of minerality while delivering excellent length on the well-balanced finale. This is excellent though at least some patience required. (91-93)/2025+

2015 Beaune “Bressandes”: Firm reduction suppresses the underlying fruit. There is a slightly finer mouth feel to the caressing middle weight flavors if not quite the same excellent complexity compared to the Grèves though the natural refinement of a fine Bressandes partially compensates on the dusty and moderately firm finale. (89-92)/2023+

2015 Beaune “Marconnets”: (a .67 ha parcel of 50+ year old vines). There is a whiff of prune to the markedly ripe aromas of plum liqueur and warm earth. The palate impression is also almost liqueur-like with lavish richness to the full-bodied and palate saturating flavors that brim with dry extract on the firm and dusty finish. This is not especially complex and the nose frankly isn't for me but for those who enjoy super-rich burgundies this would qualify. (88-91)/2023+

2015 Beaune “Teurons”: Here too there is a whiff of prune to the very ripe aromas of plum, cassis and plenty of earth elements. Like the Marconnets this is admirably concentrated with seemingly buckets of dry extract that imparts an equally lavish mouth feel to the velvety, firm, youthfully austere and powerful finale. This does offer slightly better complexity though I can't say that the nose appeals to me; that said, my range offers the benefit of the doubt that the prune character will eventually dissipate with bottle age. (89-91)/2025+

Maison Philippe Pacalet (Beaune)

2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny “Les Sentiers” 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	➔ Chénas	red	92
2015	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2015	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin “Lavaut St. Jacques” 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin “La Perrière” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Moulin-à-Vent	red	92
2015	➔ Nuits St. Georges “Aux Argillas” 1er	red	92
2015	➔ Pommard	red	89
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Arvelets” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Ruchottes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(92-95)

The iconoclastic Philippe Pacalet, who is the nephew of the late Marcel Lapiere and who was for years the *régisseur* (estate manager) for Henri Roch of Domaine Prieuré-Roch, started his own *négociant* operation in 2001. He has 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. Pacalet describes 2015 as a vintage “that really couldn’t have been much easier. The weather was hot and dry with no important disease pressure, no hail and no Suzukii flies – simple! I chose to begin picking on the 5th of September and the fruit was essentially perfect in that it was super-clean and ripe with moderate alcohols of around 12.5%. The acidities were solid as well as the post-malo pHs came in between 3.45 and 3.55 which is pretty much textbook. I used 100% whole clusters and the skins were so thick that the extractions came so easily that I did exactly one punch down total. What I find so interesting about the wines given how hot the season was is how fresh they are; in fact they remind me of the 1985s. If the 2015s are like the 1985s they should drink well young, in middle age and 30 years from now.” He also noted that the wines will be bottled without fining or filtration and it’s interesting to note that Pacalet is one of the few remaining domaines that still do the *mise* (bottling) by hand. As the ratings and commentaries demonstrate, I found the quality here to be exceptionally good and it’s worth pointing out that the two examples of Beaujolais are excellent as well. (Return to Terroir, www.returntoferroir.com, CA, Oz Wine Company, www.ozwinecompany.com, MA, Soilair Selection, www.soilairselection.com, NY (NY, CT, NJ), Williams Corner Wines, www.williamscorner.com, VA, all USA; Wine Source, www.wine-source.com, UK).

2015 Moulin-à-Vent: A distinctly earthy and peppery nose combines ripe purple fruit and black cherry aromas. There is excellent volume and richness to the concentrated middle weight flavors that possess first-rate complexity on the firmly structured and impressively persistent finish. This fine effort is built-to-age and will certainly need at least a few years first. 92/2023+

2015 Chénas: Here the red and dark currant, pepper and earth scents are not quite as ripe but are even spicier. The rich, full-bodied and powerful flavors coat the palate and possess excellent complexity on the very serious, firm and detailed finish. This is a big Chénas and will also need ample patience. 92/2025+

2015 Pommard: (from Les Vaumuriens and La Vache). An elegant and overtly floral nose combines various red berry fruit aromas with earth and soft spice nuances. There is excellent vibrancy to the detailed and mineral-inflected broad-shouldered flavors that culminate in a firm and balanced finish that displays only hints of rusticity and austerity. 89/2022+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny: A relatively high-toned nose is comprised by more elegant aromas of red cherry, currant, lavender and rose petal. There is a lovely sense of underlying tension to the lacy and mineral-driven flavors that conclude in balanced, saline and moderately firm finale. This pretty and stylish effort is very Chambolle in style. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin: (from 6 different *lieux-dits*). This is also exuberantly fresh with its assortment of red currant, plum, and violet aromas that are liberally interwoven with notes of forest floor and earth. While there is more volume and concentration to the medium-bodied flavors it remains wonderfully vibrant with ample minerality to the mouth coating, powerful and moderately firm finish. This is an excellent Gevrey *villages* and highly recommended. (89-92)/2023+

2015 Pommard “Les Arvelets”: A discreet touch of wood sets off the ripe and equally fresh aromas of raspberry, dark cherry, violet and earth. The litting yet serious medium weight flavors brim with both minerality and dry extract before concluding in a saline, balanced and strikingly complex finish. This relatively elegant Pommard is notably firmer and is clearly going to require extended cellar time. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Nuits St. Georges “Aux Argillas”: A cool, pure and ripe nose offers up layered aromas of dark pinot fruit, red currant, earth and plenty of floral elements. The vibrant, detailed and mineral-inflected medium weight flavors possess a lovely mid-palate mouth feel that contrasts moderately with the mildly rustic finale that is both sneaky long and beautifully complex. This is a relatively refined Nuits 1er that is built-to-age yet not especially austere and thus should drink well after only 5 to 7 years of age. 92/2027+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Sentiers”: Here the expressive nose is notably riper with its liqueur-like aromas of various dark berries, spice and warm earth. There is excellent volume and concentration to the tautly muscular and powerful flavors that possess fine punch to the beautifully well-balanced and persistent finish. This is a classic Sentiers of solid size and weight and as usual borrows more from Morey than Chambolle. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “La Perrière”: A pretty, fresh and nuanced nose combines notes of earth, violet, red currant and a wisp of forest floor. The rich, round and supple medium weight flavors possess less obvious power and punch though there is enough supporting structure on the lightly mineral-inflected finish to warrant at least a decade of bottle age. (90-92)/2025+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “Lavaut St. Jacques”: A much more deeply pitched and brooding nose only reluctantly reveals its aromas of dark currant, humus, floral and distinctly *sauvage* scents. The intense and sleekly muscular middle weight plus flavors also brim with an almost aggressive minerality while delivering excellent depth and length on the driving finish. This has a number of a very positive attributes but perhaps the most impressive is the superb complexity. (91-94)/2030+

2015 Clos de Vougeot: An intensely floral and earthy nose displays outstanding complexity on the dark currant and game scents that are trimmed in just enough wood to notice. There is excellent richness to the full-bodied and attractively energetic flavors that possess impressive mid-palate density, all wrapped in a powerful, well-detailed and strikingly persistent finish. This is a bit less youthfully austere than usual and is indisputably built-to-age. In a word, terrific. (92-95)/2030+

2015 Echézeaux: (from Clos St. Denis). A spicy and intensely floral nose reflects notes of red and dark berries, cherry, anise and Asian-style tea. There is really lovely detail and delineation to the layered and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that display focused power on the sappy, classy and refined yet muscular finish. This too is excellent. (92-94)/2027+

2015 Ruchottes-Chambertin: A conspicuously spicy, floral and *sauvage*-inflected nose displays a notably ripe yet wonderfully fresh combination of red currant and dark raspberries. The rich, intense, sleekly muscular and overtly mineral-driven flavors culminate in a youthfully austere, backward and hugely long finish. This is very Gevrey in style and be aware that this will need extended cellaring as it's definitely very firmly structured. (92-95)/2032+

Domaine Parent (Pommard)

2015	➔ Beaune “Les Epenotes” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	➔ Bourgogne Sélection Pomune	red	(86-89)
2015	Corton-Les Renardes Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	Ladoix “La Corvée” 1er	red	(89-91)
2015	Monthélie “Champs Fulliot” 1er	red	(88-91)
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Chanlins” 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Chaponnières” 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	➔ Pommard “La Croix Blanche”	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Pommard “La Croix Noir” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Epenots” 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	Pommard “Largillière” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Volnay “Taillepieds” 1er	red	(91-94)

The ever energetic and always smiling Anne Parent enthusiastically endorsed the 2015 vintage, noting that “the wines have a presence, a life if you will, that is rarely seen and makes them wonderfully satisfying. Moreover I have never seen a cleaner vintage and even 2005, which was close, wasn’t quite as clean. I chose to begin picking on the 5th of September and while I usually pick later, I was convinced that in 2015 the main challenge was to preserve the freshness so I started a bit earlier than normal. The fruit itself was super-clean though unfortunately there wasn’t much of it as the vines spent so much of their energy reconstituting their wood that had been so damaged from three consecutive years of being battered by hail. The stems and seeds were brown so I know that we had good phenolic ripeness as well as very good sugar ripeness. I did a very soft vinification and used between 0 and 100% whole clusters but I would say that for most wines I used between 10 and 20%. As I mentioned, I love this vintage as because while the wines reflect the warmth of the vintage, they retain a lovely sense of

freshness and energy.” I found the quality at this address in 2015 to be exceptional and not only is it excellent at the top of the range but it’s also impressive for the entry level wines as well. (Frederick Wildman, www.frederickwildman.com, NY, Fine Wine, Maywood, IL, Old World Importing, Inc., www.oldworldimporting.com, CO, Winebow, Inc., www.winebow.com, Montvale, NJ, P Comms Intn'l., www.pcommswines.com, NC, Five Grapes, www.fivegrapes.com, CA, Serendipity Wines, www.serendipitywines.com, TX all USA; The Merchant Vintners Members, Private Cellar Ltd., www.privatecellar.co.uk, Edward Sheldon and Decorum Vintners, www.decvin.com, all UK).

2015 Bourgogne Sélection Pomune: An exuberantly fresh red berry fruit nose exhibits subtle hints of earth and spice. There is good richness to the round, delicious and caressing middle weight flavors that exhibit only a touch of rusticity on the refreshing finish that is just structured enough to suggest that this should benefit from a few years of bottle age. (86-89)/2019+

2015 Ladoix “La Corvée”: A mildly reduced nose is trimmed in enough wood to mention though I doubt that either will last once the wine is in bottle. Otherwise there is a lovely sense of energy to the well-detailed medium weight flavors that possess a sleek mouth feel thanks mainly to the relatively fine-grained tannins on the lingering finish where the only minor reproach is a touch of warmth. This is worth checking out. (89-91)/2020+

2015 Monthélie “Champs Fulliot”: A pretty and attractively layered nose blends notes of red cherry, raspberry, warm earth and a hint of violet. The middle weight flavors also possess a relatively sleek mouth feel as well as lovely delineation that carry over to the delicious and dusty finish that is slightly firmer if not quite as complex. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Pommard “La Croix Blanche”: (a *villages* level vineyard that should not be confused with the 1er Clos Blanc). An appealingly fresh assortment of distinctly earthy red and dark currant aromas introduces seductively textured and solidly concentrated medium-bodied flavors where the velvety texture contrasts somewhat with the slightly rustic finale. There is a hint of warmth but overall this is a very fine Pommard *villages* that is worth considering. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Volnay “Taillepieds”: A whiff of new wood is present on the brooding nose of dark pinot fruit, spice and plethora of floral nuances. The succulent but precise and tautly muscular flavors brim with both dry extract and minerality before culminating in a beautifully long, well-balanced and moderately structured finale. This is lovely and somewhat less youthfully austere than is typical for Taillepieds at this stage. (91-94)/2023+

2015 Beaune “Les Epenotes”: (from two parcels of vines – one of 60+ year old vines and the other from 30+ year old vines). A strikingly fresh and ripe array is composed by notes of various red berries, earth and a pretty floral wisp. The very round, supple and generously proportioned flavors deliver unusually good depth and length on the ever-so-mildly rustic finale. This easily transcends its normal level of quality, indeed to the point that it’s potentially one of the best examples of the vineyard that I have ever had and I especially like the excellent persistence. (90-93)/2022+

2015 Pommard “La Croix Noir”: More evident wood sets off liqueur-like dark berry aromas that are interwoven with spice, earth and plum scents. The rich, full-bodied and concentrated flavors demonstrate fine power and ample muscle on the tannic, rustic and serious finish. This is very Pommard in character and while packed with potential, it’s also a wine that’s going to need at least moderate patience; if you have it, then this is recommended. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Pommard “Largillière”: Once again the nose is exuberantly fresh and expressive with its cool aromas of various red berries that enjoy attractive touches of earth, floral, spice and earth wisps. The very round, supple and caressing flavors are shaped by relatively fine tannins on the lingering, balanced and moderately complex finale. This is an elegant Pommard that in contrast to several of the 1ers in the range, one that should drink reasonably well young. (90-92)/2022+

2015 Pommard “Les Chanlins”: An arresting if restrained nose reluctantly displays floral, spice and soft earth nuances on the ripe red and dark currant-scented aromas. There is first-rate delineation to the vibrant and tautly muscular medium weight flavors that exude an almost pungent minerality on the firm, serious and youthfully austere finish where about the only nit is a very mild hint of warmth. This is built-to-age and is going to need it. (91-93)/2025+

2015 Pommard “Les Chaponnières”: (from 60+ year old vines). A mildly toasty nose consists of super-fresh and airy aromas featuring the cool essence of red pinot fruit that reflects discreet notes of earth and spiced tea. There is excellent detail if less refinement to the more concentrated broad-shouldered flavors that possess excellent depth and length on the serious and mouth coating finish. This is very Chaponnières, which is to say robust and powerful but not especially rustic or youthfully austere; that said, note well that ample patience will be necessary. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Pommard “Les Epenots”: (from both Grands and Petits). This is also moderately toasty with its very ripe aromas of earth, the *sauvage* and layered dark cherry and currant that are trimmed in pretty spice wisps. The rich, round and velvety big-bodied flavors brim with dry extract that serves to buffer the mouth coating tannins on the impressively well-balanced and highly persistent finish. This is a very firm but marvelously good Epenots and one to strongly consider. (92-94)/2030+

2015 Corton-Les Renardes: A markedly floral nose of notably ripe but fresh red and dark currants is liberally laced with distinctly earthy and *sauvage* elements that are also trimmed in moderate toast. There is excellent size, weight and muscle to the energetic and much more mineral-driven flavors that coat the palate with dry extract on the very serious, youthfully austere and beautifully long finale. This is certainly built-to-age but it's not so imposing that it might not be possible to enjoy this after only 5 to 7 years of bottle age if desired though note that it should amply reward 15 to 20. (92-94)/2033+

Mathias Parent (Pommard/Beaune)

2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin	red	(89-91)
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Mathias Parent also now makes the wine for his mother's domaine, Anne-Françoise Gros (see herein for Parent's 2015 vintage comments and other specifics). (Horizon Beverage, www.horizonbeverage.com, MA, Caveau Selections, www.caveauselections.com, OR, Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CO/NV/AZ/CA, Chelsea Ventures, LLC, www.chelseaventures.us, IL and Rochemere, KS, all USA; Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, La Réserve and Tanners Wine, www.tanners-wines.co.uk, both UK).

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin: A mildly toasty nose is composed by notes of freshly turned earth and the *sauvage* on the super-fresh red berry fruit aromas. There is a relatively refined mouth feel present on the medium-bodied flavors thanks mainly to the fine-grained tannins shaping the punchy and youthfully austere finish. This is quite good and worth a look. (89-91)/2022+

Hugues Pavelot (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2015	Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Beaumonts"	red	88
2015	➔ Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses" 1er	red	(90-92)

Hugues Pavelot, of Domaine Jean-Marc & Hugues Pavelot (see immediately below), started 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 will make the wines in exactly the same fashion as he does those of the domaine. The wines will be distributed by the same importers that represent the domaine; for details on the 2015 vintage, please see the domaine write-up.

2015 Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Beaumonts": A ripe and brooding nose is composed by notes of mostly dark berries and prominent earth characters. There is good energy to the very rounded and suave yet solidly intense middle weight flavors that possess fine depth and length on the lightly structured finish. This should drink well young but a bit of bottle age should help to develop a bit more complexity. 88/2019+

2015 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses": This is riper still with its liqueur-like aromas of purple fruit, especially plum, along with notes of spice, earth and forest floor. The impressively rich, suave and caressing medium-bodied flavors brim with sappy dry extract that serves to largely buffer the much firmer tannic spine shaping the beautifully persistent and highly complex finish. This is worth checking out as it's very good. (90-92)/2023+

Domaine Jean-Marc & Hugues Pavelot (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2015	Aloxe-Corton	red	(87-90)
2015	Beaune "Les Bressandes" 1er	red	(87-89?)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	(87-90)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune "La Dominode" 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Gravains" 1er	red	92
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Guettes" 1er	red	92
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières" 1er	red	92
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Peuillots" 1er	red	91
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Serpentières" 1er	red	91

Hugues Pavelot noted that 2015 “gave us a relatively easy growing season but it wasn’t without some challenges in the sense that figuring out exactly the right moment to pick wasn’t obvious. Whenever you have an extremely hot and mostly dry growing season the trick is to preserve the freshness. We chose to begin picking the whites on the 30th of August and picked a few parcels of pinot on the 31st but as a practical matter we didn’t seriously attack them until the 3rd of September. It was easy to harvest quickly as the fruit basically couldn’t have been any cleaner and it had good but not really high levels of potential alcohols as everything came in between 12.3 and 13%. Quantities were another story however as we had the same yields for the *villages* parcels as we did in 2014 but even less in our 1ers. I did a very soft vinification as the colors came almost immediately and the wines were already structured by the third day! Moreover I really wanted to avoid having fat and heavy wines with no obvious pinot fruit so my approach was that less was more as it were. Everyone always says that the wines should drink well young and old as that makes them more attractive to everyone. However in 2015 I really do think that the style of the vintage will allow for this kind of approachability given how rich the wines are yet underneath the baby fat is a serious amount of tannin that should allow them to age for a very long time.” The Pavelot team rarely misses and it will not surprise fans of the domaine to read that they certainly didn’t in 2015. Pavelot noted that the bottled 2015s were bottled in February 2017 which was in several cases the day before my visit. Note further that Pavelot started a small *négociant* operation under the name of Hugues Pavelot and the details are immediately above. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; Pas Mal Portfolio, mafeuer@mindspring.com, NY/NJ, The Source Imports, www.thesourceimports.com, CA, Wines Unlimited, www.winesunlimited.com, LA, C’est Vin, LLC, 703.243.3559, VA, Augustan Wine, www.augustanwine.com, FL, Little Guy Wine, www.littleguywine.com, MI, The Harvest Wine Company, LLC, nate@harvestwineco.com, CO, Small Potatoes Wine, www.smallpotatoeswine.com, ID, Vineyard Road, www.vineyardroad.net, MA, Atlanta Wholesale Wines, www.ndcweb.com, GA, all USA).

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune: (from 9 different *lieux-dits*). A notably ripe nose combines notes of plum, violet, earth and a hint spice. There is both good energy and delineation to the polished, delicious and relatively refined middle weight flavors that possess fine depth and sneaky good length. This is sufficiently forward that it should drink well young. (87-90)/2019+

2015 Aloxe-Corton: (from Les Cras). This too is very ripe with liqueur-like aromas of black cherry, warm earth, game and a forest floor character. There is excellent volume to the dense and appealingly textured medium-bodied flavors that deliver fine length on the almost tangy finish though I suspect that the tang is more related to gas than acidity. (87-90)/2021+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Peuillets”: A discreet application of wood sets off unusually deeply pitched aromas of plum liqueur, earth, floral and a hint of anise. Once again there is impressive volume and mid-palate concentration to the markedly finer middle weight flavors that terminate in a lingering finish that is definitely more structured than it usually is. I would describe this as a relatively butch Peuillets without its usual refinement though with more size, weight and power. 91/2023+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Serpentières”: (from a .17 ha parcel). This is also notably ripe with plum, dark currant and violet scents leading the way for the more refined and less concentrated medium weight flavors that exhibit an appealing touch of minerality on the less structured but just as persistent finish. Good stuff that should drink well on the younger side if desired. 91/2021+

2015 Beaune “Les Bressandes”: (from leased vines). This is extremely ripe, indeed to the point that it flirts with prune on the cassis, earth and dry porto-inflected aromas. There is better freshness in the mouth to the middle weight flavors that reveals the natural refinement of Bressandes as the mouth feel is sleek though there is noticeable warmth on the lightly stony finish. This isn’t heavy at the moment but I am concerned that with age it may become so plus the nose is definitely not for me. (87-89?)/2022+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Lavières”: This too is very ripe though the liqueur-like aromas of plum, pungent iron-inflected earth and humus are slightly fresher. This heightened sense of freshness carries over to the palate as well as there is a lovely sense of energy to the detailed and mineral-driven flavors that possess a refined mouth feel thanks mainly to the dense and fine grain of the tannins on the palate coating finish. This is really very good and worth considering. 92/2023+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Guettes”: (from a large 1.5 ha holding). Notes of black cherry, cassis, plum and earth introduce firm, dense and powerful medium-bodied flavors that exhibit even more minerality that adds lift to the balanced and impressively persistent finish where hint of mocha and warmth appear. While this muscular yet quite generously proportioned effort possesses a dense lashing of tannin, it is not especially austere and thus I expect that it will drink well young. 92/2023+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Gravains”: (from a .60 ha parcel where two-thirds of the vines are more than 70+ years of age). A very densely fruited nose only grudgingly reveals liqueur-like aromas of plum, dark pinot and plenty of earth elements. There is once again a beguiling sense of energy to the even more mineral-driven if less muscular flavors that display the classic youthful austerity of a fine Gravains, all wrapped in a balanced, long and complex finale. In contrast to several wines in the range, this is going to require some bottle age before it’s completely ready for prime time. 92/2025+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “La Dominode”: (two-thirds of the vines are between 70 and 80 years of age and the remaining vines are approximately 20+ years old). An extremely ripe nose stops short of being jammy though there is a whiff of prune. Otherwise there is excellent energy to the fresh, sleek and tautly muscular flavors that are dense, powerful and very serious plus they deliver superb depth and length on the slightly warm finish. This is a wine that has impressive underlying material but the nose concerns me and thus it’s hard to project how this will fare with age as it risks becoming heavy. That said, there are enough positive attributes present that my predicted range offers the benefit of the doubt. (89-92)/2027+

Domaine du Pavillon (Pommard) - Domaines Albert Bichot

2015	Aloxe-Corton	red	(88-91)
2015	Aloxe-Corton “Clos des Maréchaudes” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Beaune “Les Epenottes”	red	(88-90)
2015	Corton-Clos des Maréchaudes Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2015	Pommard “Clos des Ursulines”	red	(88-91)
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Volnay “Les Santenots” 1er	red	(90-92)
2014	Aloxe-Corton	red	88
2014	➔ Aloxe-Corton “Clos des Maréchaudes” 1er	red	91
2014	Beaune “Les Epenottes”	red	87
2014	Corton-Clos des Maréchaudes Grand Cru	red	92
2014	Pommard “Clos des Ursulines”	red	88
2014	➔ Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	red	92
2014	Volnay “Les Santenots” 1er	red	89

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 subsidiary. Note that the 2014s, revisited below, were bottled in March and April 2016. (Breakthru Beverage, www.breakthrubev.com, IL, Horizon Beverage, www.horizonbeverage.com, MA, Fine Vines, www.finevines.com, IL, OPICI, www.opici.co, FL, BNP Distributing Company, www.bnpdist.com, NY, Pioneer Wine Company, www.pioneerwine.com, TX, Epic Wine & Spirits, www.epic-winesandspirits.com, Capitola, CA and Vinecraft, www.vinecraft.com, FL, all USA; H & H Bancroft Wines, www.bancroftwines.com, Laytons, www.laytons.co.uk, Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com and H2 Vin Limited, www.h2vin.co.uk, all UK).

2015 Beaune “Les Epenottes”: A fresh, pretty and bright nose features notes of various red berries and earth that are trimmed in just enough wood to remark upon. The velvety, round and seductively textured middle weight flavors possess solid volume while maintaining good balance on the softly austere finale. This is a quality Beaune *villages*. (88-90)/2021+

2015 Aloxe-Corton: (from Les Crapousuets). There is a hint of menthol sitting atop the distinctly earthy and *savage*-inflected nose of red and dark pinot fruit aromas. There is both fine volume and concentration to the energetic and utterly delicious medium weight flavors that terminate in a moderately rustic, firm and solidly complex finale. This is very Aloxe in style without being particularly austere. Worth a look. (88-91)/2022+

2015 Pommard “Clos des Ursulines”: (a huge 4 ha *monopole* of the domaine). Firm reduction and a hint of volatile acidity render the nose impossible to assess today. Otherwise there is outstanding concentration to the sappy and velvet-textured medium-bodied flavors that coat the palate with extract which also helps to buffer the markedly firm tannins on the rustic finale. Like the Aloxe in its fashion, this is very Pommard in style and while not an elegant wine, there is no lack of underlying material. Note that the VA is so subtle that I have not factored it into my projected range. (88-91)/2023+

2015 Volnay “Les Santenots”: (from Les Plures). This also reflects a hint of volatile acidity though it is again so subtle that it does not materially detract from the otherwise very fresh nose of various red berries, spice and floral scents where violet nuances are especially prominent. There is both excellent vibrancy and delineation to the notably finer middle weight flavors that evidence markedly more minerality that arises on the built-to-age finale. Note that here as well, the VA is so subtle that I have not factored it into my projected range. (90-92)/2025+

2015 Pommard “Les Rugiens”: (from Rugiens Bas). A brooding and all but inexpressive nose reluctantly reveals its notes of plum, cassis, violets and pungent earth. There is a bit more volume to the powerful, concentrated and serious middle weight plus flavors that evidence even more minerality on the mouth coating, firmly structured and impressively long finish. This is clearly going to require extended cellaring to soften what are resolute but not hard tannins. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Aloxe-Corton “Clos des Maréchaudes”: This too flirts with volatile acidity on the notably ripe aromas of cassis, earth, forest floor and wisps of the *sauvage*. The mouth feel of the delicious and punchy medium-bodied flavors is unusually refined; indeed I would describe it as quite seductive yet there is no lack of focused power and drive on the dusty and youthfully austere finale. Once again the VA is so slight that it does not figure into my predicted range. (90-92)/2023+

2015 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). Once again there is a hint of volatile acidity present on the otherwise similar if more complex nose. The velvety, round and equally seductively textured flavors possess a bit more overall size, weight and mid-palate concentration while delivering even better length on the powerful and built-to-age finish. Patience required. (91-94)/2027+

2014 Beaune “Les Epenottes”: There is a top note of herbal tea to the ripe and softly earthy aromas of various red berries and plum scents. There is good concentration and vibrancy to the caressing middle weight flavors that display only a hint of rusticity on the delicious if slightly lean finish that is just enough to cut the persistence a bit short. 87/2019+

2014 Aloxe-Corton: (from Les Crapousuets). A discreet application of wood easily allows the earthy and overtly *sauvage* dark berry fruit aromas to be appreciated. There is excellent volume to the supple and generously proportioned medium-bodied flavors that offer solid depth and length on the firm but only mildly rustic and austere finale. 88/2021+

2014 Pommard “Clos des Ursulines”: (a huge 4 ha *monopole* of the domaine). Here the wood regimen remains relatively subtle and it easily permits the distinctly earthy red berry fruit and tea scents to be discerned. The attractively textured middle weight flavors possess excellent concentration as there is plenty of mouth coating and tannin buffering dry extract that imparts a sappy feel to the austere, firm and rustic finale. This ageworthy effort is very Pommard in basic character and while it’s not unduly hard or chewy it also is not going to win any awards for elegance. 88/2022+

2014 Volnay “Les Santenots”: (from Les Plures). I would describe the wood treatment as similar to that of the Ursulines as it’s enough to notice but not enough to really overshadow the more elegant and more complex aromas of subtly spiced plum, violet and red cherry scents. The medium weight and lightly mineral-inflected flavors possess a sleek mouth feel before culminating in a lush and seductively textured if moderately rustic finish that leans out somewhat as it sits on the palate. This is sufficiently rich and sappy that it could be approached young if desired though I would advise holding it for at least a few years first. 89/2024+

2014 Pommard “Les Rugiens”: (from Rugiens Bas). A cooler and slightly higher-toned array is composed by notes of red currant, pomegranate, rose petal, tobacco leaf and spiced tea aromas. There is both more precision and energy to the medium weight and mineral-inflected flavors that possess focused power before culminating in a wonderfully long and complex finish where the only nit is a hint of warmth. This is really very good though patience will be required. 92/2026+

2014 Aloxe-Corton “Clos des Maréchaudes”: A ripe, earthy and moderately *sauvage*-inflected nose reflects a pretty combination of various red berries, floral and forest floor scents. There is excellent volume to the plush and velvety medium-bodied flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the delicious, balanced and persistent finish that offers solid if not truly special complexity. This is also quite good and while there is a trace of rusticity it is discreet. 91/2022+

2014 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). Once again discreet wood frames the slightly riper nose where the notably floral nose displays fruit aromas that come from the dark side of the spectrum. As is usually the case there is a bit more of everything on the palate with more size, weight and richness to the muscular and concentrated flavors that display excellent length along with traces of warmth and rusticity. This should drink reasonably well on the earlier side if that’s your preference though it should also reward extended cellaring. 92/2026+

Domaine Paul Pernot (Puligny-Montrachet)

2015	Beaune “Clos au Dessus des Marconnets”	red	87
2015	Beaune “Clos de Teurons” 1er	red	87
2015	Volnay “Carelles Sous La Chapelle” 1er	red	89

I will have the details of Paul Pernot’s views of the 2015 vintage in Issue 67. Specifically with respect to the reds he did note that yields were “very tiny”. (Atherton Wine Imports, www.awiwine.com, CA, USA, Jeanne-Marie de Champs, www.ds-collection.com, NY, both USA; Robert Rolls & Co., www.robertrolls.com, The Rare & Fine Wine Company Limited, www.thereareandfinewinecompany.com, Howard Ripley, www.howardripley.com, and Slocum, all UK).

2015 Beaune “Clos au Dessus des Marconnets”: (a monopole of the domaine). A ripe but still agreeably fresh nose offers up essence of red berry fruit aromas that are trimmed in soft earth and spice nuances. The rich, round and velvety flavors culminate in traces of bitter cherry and just enough warmth to notice. This is on the fruit-driven side but still pretty in its fashion. 87/2019+

2015 Beaune “Clos de Teurons”: There is enough reduction to suppress the underlying fruit so I would suggest decanting this first. Otherwise, the fruity, round and delicious flavors are also somewhat on the fruit-driven and simple side though more depth will likely develop if this is allowed a few years of bottle age. On the plus side it’s refreshing and easy to enjoy. 87/2019+

2015 Volnay “Carelles Sous La Chapelle”: A slightly riper and notably more elegant nose reflects notes of plum, violet and subtle spice nuances. There is much better volume to the caressing middle weight flavors that possess much better depth and length on the lightly structured finale. This is sufficiently forward that it could easily be enjoyed young but has enough tannin to offer a few years of upside development potential. 89/2020+

Maison et Domaines Picard (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2015	Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	red	86
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Chaumées” 1er	red	90
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Concis des Champs”	red	88
2015	Corton-Clos des Fières Grand Cru	red	92
2015	St. Aubin “Les Charmois” 1er	red	87
2015	St. Aubin “Les Pitangerets” 1er	red	88

Maison et Domaines Picard is one of the largest in Burgundy and one of the biggest vineyard owners as well at around 160 ha. The organization of this operation is complicated as well because not only is there a substantial *négociant* operation but there are also four individual domaines housed here and hence the name “Domaines” in the plural. While the label always prominently features the Michel Picard name, it also indicates which of the owned domaines grew the fruit. In 2006 Picard bought Domaine Bernard Colin and with it, its parcel of the famous Puligny 1er Les Demoiselles. As to 2015, winemaker Fabrice Lesne didn’t hold back, calling it a “magnificent vintage. We began picking on the 5th of September with the whites and then proceeded to the reds and the fruit essentially could not have been any cleaner. We had correct yields in white though unfortunately those in pinot were much lower. Sugars were very good but not actually high and in the same fashion, acidities were perfectly good and resembled those we obtained in 2011 though I stress that the wines themselves don’t drink like the 2011s. I would describe the 2015 whites as round and generously proportioned and they should drink well young. By contrast the reds are much more concentrated and while they’re structured, there’s so much baby fat that they too should be approachable young.” Please see the entries herein for the associated holdings of Château de Davenay and domaines Voarick and Lievert-Barrault in the En Plus section. Note further that the Domaine Picard wines are sold under the “Au Pied du Mont Chauve” label. (Prestige Wines, Marietta, GA, USA; Fine Wines Direct, UK).

2015 Bourgogne – Pinot Noir: (from Côte Chalonnaise fruit). A fresh, clean and very bright nose offers up cool aromas of red pinot fruit, cherry and a hint of earth. There is good verve and delineation to the round and delicious flavors where the pliant supporting tannins will allow this to be enjoyed young. 86/2018+

2015 St. Aubin “Les Charmois”: A mildly toasty nose is composed by notes of various red berries, and in particular currant, along with floral, spice and earth wisps. The round and supple flavors are rich to the point of being suave, all wrapped in a delicious and generously proportioned finish. This isn’t especially complex but it is agreeably refreshing and the easy-going tannins should also allow this to be approachable young. 87/2020+

2015 St. Aubin “Les Pitangerets”: This is also mildly toasty with enough menthol present to fight a bit with the otherwise ripe and bright liqueur-like aromas of red cherry and soft spice nuances. There is good volume and an attractively sappy texture to the delicious flavors that deliver good if not exceptional persistence on the slightly rustic finale. 88/2020+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Concis des Champs”: The expressive nose mixes both upper and lower level fruit that combines red and dark currant with plenty of earth and a hint of the *sauvage*. The opulent and lavishly proportioned medium-bodied flavors possess a very rounded mouth feel before concluding in a solidly complex and persistent finish where only a trace of rusticity can be found. This should drink well early yet reward a few years of aging as well. 88/2021+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Chaumées”: (Picard makes the only example of Chaumées in red of which I am aware). A discreet but not invisible application of wood and menthol merge with essence of red cherry and softly spiced aromas. There is better size, weight and richness to the attractively mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that possess a very suave, even velvety mouth feel that continues onto the lingering and more complex finish where the wood telegraphed by the nose reappears. 90/2021+

2015 Corton-Clos des Fièvres: (vinified with 100% whole clusters). A pretty, airy and cool nose reveals plenty of floral influences on the red pinot fruit-suffused aromas that are trimmed in a deft application of wood. The rich, full-bodied and powerful middle weight plus flavors possess a beguiling sense of vibrancy to the robust, muscular and driving finish. This serious and built-to-age effort will require at least a few years of cellaring though it is already sufficiently complex that it could be approached after only 5 to 7 years. 92/2025+

Domaine Fernand et Laurent Pillot (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2015	Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	red	86
2015	Beaune “Boucherottes” 1er	red	89
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot” 1er	red	90
2015	Pommard “Les Charmots” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Pommard “Clos de Vergers” 1er	red	91
2015	➔ Pommard “Rugiens” 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Tavannes”	red	89
2015	Santenay “Prarons Dessous” Vieilles Vignes	red	87
2015	➔ Volnay	red	89

Laurent Pillot enthusiastically describes 2015 as an “excellent vintage for both reds and whites and if it were possible to sign a contract to have another just like it, I would do so right now! We chose to begin picking on the 5th of September and had variable yields but overall, they were normal. I destemmed most of the fruit though I used 50% whole clusters for the Charmots and the Rugiens.” I was quite impressed with the quality of the Pillot 2015s and in particular his range of wines from Pommard. Note that with the exception of the Charmots and Rugiens, the reds were bottled between September 2016 and February 2017. (Esprit du Vin French Wine Merchants, www.edvwines.com, NY, USA; Thorman Hunt & Co., www.thormanhunt.co.uk, and Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk, both UK).

2015 Bourgogne – Pinot Noir: (from vines situated in Pommard). Attractively fresh aromas interweave notes of various red berries and earth scents. There is fine volume to the round, delicious and caressing flavors that possess a lovely sense of verve on the moderately structured finale. This could be enjoyed young or aged for a few years to good effect. 86/2019+

2015 Santenay “Prarons Dessous” Vieilles Vignes: Here the nose is really quite pretty with its admirably pure array of red cherry, raspberry and softly earth-scented aromas that are trimmed in just enough wood to notice. The understated and vibrant flavors are both delicious and supple and the pliant tannins should allow this to drink well after 2 to 3 years of bottle age. 87/2019+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: (45 to 50 year old vines situated in 6 separate *lieux-dits*). There is also a whiff of wood on the pepper-inflected red currant aromas that leads to sappy velvet-textured medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a solidly complex and persistent finish where the wood resurfaces. This mildly rustic effort should also drink well after only a few years of bottle age but it should reward 5 to 8 years of cellaring too. 88/2021+

2015 Volnay: (one-third of this is from the 1er vineyards of Les Brouillards and Roncerets). Notably more elegant aromas are composed by notes of red currant, cherry, spice and violet scents. I very much like the underlying tension and detail to the subtly mineral-inflected flavors that offer fine depth and length on the inviting finish. This is a quality Volnay *villages* and worth considering. 89/2021+

2015 Pommard “Les Tavannes”: A slightly riper assortment of red berry fruit aromas is laced with more prominent earth and a whisper of floral nuances. The rich, bold and relatively powerful medium-bodied flavors exude a discreet minerality onto the mildly austere but not really rustic and well-balanced finish. Unlike the relatively accessible prior wines, the firm supporting tannins make it clear that this will need at least a few years of bottle age first. This too is worth considering. 89/2023+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot”: Relatively generous wood that includes menthol nuances frames the more deeply pitched dark currant, plum, earth and pepper-inflected nose. The rich, even opulently textured flavors possess excellent size and weight while delivering fine length on the dense, serious and mildly warm finale. This bold effort is classic Morgeot though the abundant sap should make this enjoyable young. 90/2023+

2015 Beaune “Boucherottes”: This is also quite generously wooded and it fights somewhat with the essence of red pinot fruit and earthy aromas. The wood influence continues onto the rich, round and velvety flavors where it also sweetens the finish. While the oak treatment isn’t so strong as to unbalance the wine, it does detract from the sense of purity. 89/2019+

2015 Pommard “Clos de Vergers”: More moderate though not invisible wood also displays hint of menthol on the layered combination of both red and dark berry aromas that exhibit plenty of earth character. There is an appealing sense of energy to the mouth coating and well-detailed flavors that possess a lovely mouth feel before concluding in a lingering, complex and well-balanced finish that exhibits much better integration of its wood. 91/2022+

2015 Pommard “Les Charmots”: Very generous wood is present on the liqueur-like nose of ripe cherry and pretty floral nuances. There is excellent volume to the palate coating middle weight plus flavors that are powerful, concentrated and very serious yet manage to avoid being emphatically rustic or austere. While on the woody side at present there appears to be more than enough supporting material to eventually absorb the oak. (90-92)/2025+

2015 Pommard “Rugiens”: (from a .66 ha holding located in both Bas and Hauts that is apportioned roughly 50/50). Here the nose the essentially quite similar to that of the Charmots but notably spicier and perhaps just a touch more elegant as well. By contrast there is definitely more minerality and taut muscularity to the energetic medium weight plus flavors that possess excellent size, weight and mid-palate concentration that buffers the even firmer tannic spine shaping the impressively long finish. I would make the same observation regarding the wood treatment that I made for the Charmots which is to say that it’s generous but that the underlying material appears to be up to the job of successfully absorbing it. (91-93)/2027+

Domaine/Maison Jean et Jean-Marc Pillot (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2015	Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	red	86
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes	red	(87-89)
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean” 1er	red	(88-90)
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Macherelles” 1er	red	(87-90)
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot – Fairendes” 1er	red	(87-89)
2015	Santenay “Champ Claude”	red	(87-90)

Jean-Marc Pillot noted that 2015 was “certainly much easier than any of the prior three vintages though my yields for pinot were sufficiently low that you would have thought we had hail or something. Yields for the chardonnay were perfectly reasonable at between 40 and 45 hl/ha but those in pinot were only 20 to 30 hl/ha. I attacked picking the whites on the 3rd of September and then picked the reds between the 7th and the 9th. Potential alcohols for the reds were strong as everything ranged from 13 to 13.5% and the phenolic ripeness was so good that I used on average 50% whole clusters for all the wines. I really like the quality of the 2015s and this is not only true for the reds that everyone likes but I think the whites are going to surprise people by how good they are. Granted, the 2015 whites are not as good as the 2014s but they are still very good. In the end time will of course have the final word but I am very optimistic.” (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, NY, USA; Champagnes et Châteaux, www.champagnesandchateaux.co.uk, UK).

2015 Bourgogne – Pinot Noir: A notably ripe nose consists primarily of black cherry and warm earth nuances that can also be found on the rich and juicy yet reasonably serious flavors that possess enough supporting tannin to suggest that this should benefit from a few years of cellar time. 86/2019+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: (from 3 *villages lieux-dits* plus the 1er Guerchère). Discreet wood frames the cooler and prettier aromas that combine notes of raspberry, pepper and earth. There is fine volume to the relatively full-bodied flavors that conclude in a lingering and moderately structured finish where a hint of bitter cherry appears. (87-89)/2020+

2015 Santenay “Champ Claude”: Here the restrained nose is compositionally similar to that of the old vines Chassagne though the earth component is more prominent. The rich, delicious and sleekly muscular flavors exude a fine bead of minerality while offering reasonably good depth and length as well as only a trace of rusticity. (87-90)/2021+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Macherelles”: This is very ripe and indeed the nose flirts with *surmaturité* though not so much that it displays any prune nuances on the otherwise attractive liqueur-like aromas of various dark berries, plum, black pepper and a whisper of spice. There is fine volume to the mouth coating, overtly rich and full-bodied flavors that possess excellent mid-palate concentration while the robust and rustic finish provides for plenty of finishing punch. (87-90)/2020+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot – Fairendes”: This also flirts with *surmaturité* and here there is a whiff of prune on the plum and earth-scented nose. Once again the more finely textured medium weight flavors possess fine mid-palate concentration and the finer texture carries over to the lingering finish that displays on a hint of rusticity. This is an interesting wine in the sense that it’s riper aromatically yet offers better energy. I don’t care for the prune character of the nose but if this aspect doesn’t bother you then you may find the wine more to your liking than I did. (87-89)/2021+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean”: (from a parcel of 10 *ouvrées* or a .42 ha of very old vines). There is a whiff of prune here as well and while it doesn’t dominate, it does detract somewhat from the overall appeal of the plum liqueur-scented nose. There is really lovely detail to the seductively textured, intense and palate saturating flavors that deliver solid depth and length on the reasonably well-balanced finish where the only nit is a barely perceptible trace of warmth. The nose won’t be for everyone but this is not without its attractive points. (88-90)/2021+

Domaine Paul Pillot (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2015	Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	red	86
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2015	Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean” 1er	red	(89-91)
2015	Santenay Vieilles Vignes	red	88

I will have more on Thierry Pillot’s views of the 2015 vintage in Issue 67. He did however note that his yields in pinot were well less than those for the chardonnay and that the vintage is more interesting in red than white; that said, he professed to like his whites all the same. Further Pillot noted that three of his four reds were bottled in January 2017. (Skurnik Wines, www.skurnik.com, NY, Margate Wine & Spirit Co., www.margatewine.com, NJ, Atherton Wine Imports, www.awiwine.com, CA and Bertin Henri Selections, www.bertinhenriselections.com, FL, all 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, House of Townend, www.houseoftownend.com and Tanners Wine, www.tanners-wines.co.uk, all UK).

2015 Bourgogne – Pinot Noir: Ripe aromas of red and dark cherry combine with those of earth and, interestingly, subtle wisps of crushed fennel. The rich, round and generously proportioned flavors are not especially complex but they are refreshing just the same. This would make for a good summer sipper or casual picnic choice. 86/2018+

2015 Santenay Vieilles Vignes: (from Prarons and Champ Claude). The slightly more elegant and complex aromas exhibit notes of red currant, dark berries and smoked meat nuances. There is more volume to the succulent and supple middle weight flavors that are shaped by somewhat firmer tannins on the balanced and refreshing finish. While this should reward a few years of bottle age it should be approachable young. 88/2021+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: (from Les Grandes Terres). Aromas of various dark berries combine with those of pepper, warm earth, hints of the *sauvage* and a trace of wood. Once again there is good volume to the sleekly muscular medium-bodied flavors that possess a relatively refined mouth feel thanks to the fine grained tannins shaping the lingering finish. Like the Bourgogne this is on the fruity side but there is enough underlying material that I suspect this aspect will progressively abate with a few years of bottle age. 88/2021+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean”: As is typically the case at this address, the CSJ is easily the most elegant and refined wine in the range with its cool and pure essence of black raspberry, violet and softly spiced aromas. The sense of refinement continues onto the rich, succulent and palate coating middle weight flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the ever-so-mildly austere finale. This is lovely and should drink well young and with 5 to 8 years of bottle age. (89-91)/2022+

Domaine Poisot Père & Fils (Aloxe-Corton)

2015	Corton-Bressandes	Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2015	Pernand-Vergelesses	“En Caradeux” 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	Romanée St. Vivant	Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2014	Corton-Bressandes	Grand Cru	red	93
2014	➔ Pernand-Vergelesses	“En Caradeux” 1er	red	90
2014	Romanée St. Vivant	Grand Cru	red	94

Rémi Poisot described the 2015 vintage as “truly a beautiful vintage that comes perhaps once a decade if that. Unfortunately it was the smallest vintage for us in more than 30 years and I include 2003 in that statement. The growing season was pretty easy to manage as it was mostly hot and dry with just enough rain at seemingly critical moments to sustain the vines and keep the photosynthetic cycle operating properly. I picked from the 4th to the 6th of September and you basically couldn’t have cleaner fruit. In fact, the bunches looked like those photos you see in the tourist postcards or books. Potential alcohols were very strong at between 13 and 14.5% with excellent phenolic maturities as well. When you combine all of those things it makes for a very easy vinification as the wines all but made themselves. As to the wines, I love this vintage because while the reds are well-structured, the tannins are so ripe and supple that they should be attractive young yet age effortlessly for many years.” As the score suggest I very much liked what I found here in 2015 but I found the 2014s to be just as interesting so don’t ignore them. Poisot noted that the 2014s revisited below were bottled in March and April 2016. (Chloe Wines, www.chloewine.com, WA, USA; Private Cellar Ltd., www.privatecellar.co.uk, UK).

2015 Pernand-Vergelesses “En Caradeux”: Reduction presently flattens the underlying fruit though there is both good freshness and detail to the delicious and velvet-textured medium weight flavors that exhibit a lovely minerality on the relatively complex and robust finale. This isn’t especially refined but it is persistent and well-balanced plus it’s built to reward moderate cellaring. (89-92)/2022+

2015 Corton-Bressandes: (from 45 to 50 year old vines). This is also mildly reduced though in this case it appears reasonably clear that the underlying fruit is quite ripe. There is both more volume and a finer mouth feel to the sleekly muscular broad-shouldered flavors that possess a lovely sense of underlying tension, all wrapped in a firm, highly complex and impeccably well-balanced finale. This is markedly firmer and will require at least some patience. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Romanée St. Vivant: Here there is no reductive funk as the perfumed nose gracefully offers up notes of plum, black cherry, cassis and plenty of spice elements that include hints of Asian-style tea. The palate impression of the middle weight plus flavors is also quite sleek as the supporting tannins are even finer-grained on the powerful, mouth coating and driving finish. This excellent effort is a relatively robust RSV and while it’s certainly not rustic, it’s not a wine of finesse. (92-95)/2030+

2014 Pernand-Vergelesses “En Caradeux”: A brooding and somber nose consists mostly of various dark berry fruit aromas that are nuanced by cool hints of earth and forest floor. There is both good richness and volume to the lightly mineral-laden middle weight flavors that possess a suave mouth feel, all wrapped in a mildly rustic and energetic finish. This won’t win any prizes for refinement but I like the sense of vibrancy. Worth a look. 90/2021+

2014 Corton-Bressandes: (from 45 to 50 year old vines). This is also quite cool and restrained with a broad aromatic profile that includes notes of red currant, plum, game, spice and freshly turned earth. There is more size, weight and mid-palate concentration to the well-muscled flavors that brim with dry extract that also serves to buffer the moderately firm tannic spine on the balanced and beautifully persistent finish that displays a bit of youthful austerity. Textbook Bressandes that possesses excellent development potential. 93/2026+

2014 Romanée St. Vivant: This too displays a markedly cool nose featuring notes of red pinot, dark currant, floral and an exuberant spiciness that are trimmed in a discreet application of wood. There is good vibrancy and excellent delineation to the highly seductive flavors that deliver very fine length on the silky and velvet-textured finale. Like its 2015 counterpart this is a bold, serious and robust RSV that is clearly built-to-age and is going to need plenty of it. To be sure, this is excellent but it is not cut from the same “grace and lace” cloth as most examples of the *appellation*. 94/2029+

Château de Pommard (Pommard)

2013	Pommard – Grand Vin	red	89
2012	Pommard – Cuvée Simone	red	92
2012	Pommard – Grand Vin	red	90
2011	Pommard – Cuvée Simone	red	91
2011	Pommard – Grand Vin	red	89
2010	Pommard – Cuvée Simone	red	92
2010	Pommard – Grand Vin	red	91
2009	Pommard – Grand Vin	red	88
2008	Pommard – Grand Vin	red	90

Silicon Valley entrepreneur Michael Baum bought the historic and very beautiful 25 ha Château de Pommard, founded in 1726, in 2014. Emmanuel Sala has been in charge of wine production since 2007. The unusually frank Sala told me that “nothing is systematic here. We will use, or not, a variety of methods if we think they will enhance quality. Our first choice is always not to intervene but if there’s a problem, we can’t in good conscious pretend that there isn’t in the service of a philosophy. As such, if necessary we will use cultured yeasts, or fine or filter the wines but we have also made them in some vintages using none of those techniques. We make wines that are expressly meant to age for a very long time and it’s irresponsible to put a ticking time bomb into a bottle knowing that there might be a problem 20 years from now. It’s necessary to look at each wine as it is at a given moment and make a decision about what’s best for it.” The holdings in Pommard are divided into a seven parcels totaling 20 ha, known as Clos Marey-Monge, and the fruit from each is vinified separately. During the 18 to 20 month *élevage* period, the individual *cuvées* are tasted and evaluated and then a final *cuvée* is created under the name Grand Vin. The Cuvée Simone, which comes from a specific .54 ha parcel of the same name, was created in 2010 and is bottled exclusively in magnum. (Importers for the domaine are in the process of being finalized).

2013 Pommard – Grand Vin: A relatively high-toned nose is composed by notes of red cherry and dark currant that is trimmed in discreet earth and wood toast hints. The textured, round and vibrant middle weight flavors possess fine volume and mid-palate density before concluding in a firm and persistent finish where a hint of acid tang arises. I suspect that the tang will progressively dissipate as the tannins resolve. Overall, note that while this is a relatively elegant Pommard, it is still one that will require a certain amount of patience. 89/2025+

2012 Pommard – Grand Vin: A riper nose displays a variety of dark berries, and in particular cassis and black raspberry, and is also trimmed by relatively prominent notes of wood and menthol. The succulent, dense and powerful medium-bodied flavors brim with dry extract on the balanced, serious and brooding finale. This is impressive in that there is no apparent hail effect on the finish but even so, this too is going to require ample patience. 90/2027+

2012 Pommard – Cuvée Simone: Moderate but not really dominant wood surrounds the notably floral-inflected assortment of red berry fruit aromas that are cut with plenty of earth influence. There is at once fine richness but also good refinement to the powerful and concentrated middle weight flavors that deliver seriously good length on the very firm finish where the only nit is a hint of warmth. This is not even remotely close to ready though that is not surprising given the magnum format. 92/2032+

2011 Pommard – Grand Vin: Here the wood treatment is more subtle though hardly invisible as it more easily allows the ripe and fresh red currant, earth and pretty floral aromas that display a whisper of secondary development to be appreciated. The supple, rich and attractively textured flavors possess good power on the lengthy if slightly warm finale. This still needs a few years but unlike the other vintages in the range, this is not so far away from its peak that it couldn’t be enjoyed soon. This is really quite good in the context of the vintage. 89/2021+

2011 Pommard – Cuvée Simone: Once again the wood is borderline intrusive though the distinctly earthy but quite pretty red cherry, currant and raspberry are still visible. The lush, opulent and impressively rich broad-shouldered flavors are also supported by a very firm tannic spine on the balanced and strikingly long finish. As I have observed several times, this possesses fine quality, and particularly so for the vintage, but stylistically it’s not for me. 91/2029+

2010 Pommard – Grand Vin: In contrast to the above wines where the wood treatment is evident but not really overt, this is not the case here as it's marked and intrusive and frankly fights with the otherwise pretty and relatively elegant mix of red and dark pinot fruit, earth, spice and floral aromas. The elegance continues onto the palate impression of the focused, delineated and powerful flavors that are underpinned by very firm but not hard tannins on the sappy and well-balanced finish. From a qualitative standpoint this too is quite good and to be fair there is at least a chance that the wood will eventually be absorbed if you have the necessary patience. That said, from purely a stylistic perspective this level of wood doesn't appeal to me at all. 91/2025+

2010 Pommard – Cuvée Simone: This is aromatically quite similar to the 2011 Simone though the mouth feel of the solidly concentrated imposingly-scaled flavors is even finer as the dense tannins are notably fine-grained, all wrapped in a hugely long and well-balanced finale though it is extremely firm at this early stage. This is a remarkable impressive Pommard *villages* in every respect as the quality of the underlying material is absolutely irreproachable. With those admirable attributes duly noted, I once again observe that the style is anything but neutral and as such it won't be for everyone and that includes me. 92/2032+

2009 Pommard – Grand Vin: Firm reduction renders the nose borderline unpleasant and I would strongly recommend a thorough aeration first. Otherwise there is unusually good vibrancy to the exceptionally rich big-bodied flavors in the context of what is typical for the 2009 vintage though there is evident warmth on the sappy and slightly ponderous finish. In addition to decanting this lavishly opulent effort, I would suggest serving it slightly cooler than normal as well. 88/2024+

2008 Pommard – Grand Vin: A pungent and very fresh nose combines notes of menthol, wood toast and still primary red cherry, dark currant, cool earth and a whiff of lilac. There is much better energy and delineation if not the same mid-palate density to the medium-bodied flavors that are beginning to develop really lovely depth on the impressively persistent finish. While this could certainly be enjoyed now I would advise holding it for another 5 to 7 years first. In sum, this is a very good 2008 Pommard *villages*. 90/2021+

Domaine de la Pousse d'Or (Volnay)

2015	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2015	Chambolle-Musigny	red	(87-90)
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses" 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Charmes" 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Feusselottes" 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Groseilles" 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	red	(93-95)
2015	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2015	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2015	➔ Pommard "Les Jarolières" 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Santenay "Clos des Tavannes" 1er	red	(89-91)
2015	Volnay "Clos l'Audignac" 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Volnay "Caillerets – Clos des Soixante Ouvrées" 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	Volnay "En Caillerets" 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Volnay "En Caillerets - Amphore" 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Volnay "Clos de la Bousse d'Or" 1er	red	(91-94)

Patrick Landanger was unexpectedly called away the day of my visit and thus I do not have the benefit of his views on the 2015 vintage. I did however have the chance to taste through the range of wines and found many of them to be excellent. I would observe that they are more deeply colored than is typical for the domaine's wines though whether this was simply an attendant element of the very ripe fruit obtained in 2015 or a change in vinification philosophy, I unfortunately cannot say. I also had the chance to taste a fascinating experimental wine where a small batch of En Caillerets was raised in an amphora. No decision had yet been made at the time of my visit whether it would be commercialized but I include a review just in case it is. (Langdon-Shiverick, www.shiverick.com, CA, North Berkeley Imports, www.northberkeleyimports.com, CA, Ideal Wines, www.idealwine.us, MA, Vintner Select, www.vintnerselect.com, OH and Dionysus Imports, www.dionysusimports.com, VA, all USA; Majestic Wine Warehouses, www.majestic.co.uk, UK).

2015 Santenay “Clos des Tavannes”: A notably ripe yet still reasonably fresh nose combines notes of plum, black cherry, earth and a hint of spice. The rich, concentrated and attractively suave medium weight flavors possess a velvety mouth feel before concluding in a balanced, complex and sappy finale. This should drink well on the younger side if desired but could also be held for a few years to good effect. (89-91)/2020+

2015 Volnay “En Caillerets”: A very ripe yet once again still reasonably fresh nose presents an assortment of liqueur-like plum, cassis, black cherry and plenty of lovely spice nuances. The succulent, round and polished medium weight flavors exude ample minerality on the moderately firm finale where a hint of bitter pit fruit appears. This should also be approachable on the younger side if desired yet should have no problem aging well. (90-92)/2022+

2015 Volnay “En Caillerets - Amphore”: In contrast to the expressive and well-layered nose of the regular *cuvée* this was firmly reduced. Another difference is how much rounder the mouth feel of the flavors is while the finish seems a bit less evolved though otherwise, the two wines seemed qualitatively quite similar. However it would be most interesting to compare these two wines once they've acquired some age. (90-92)/2022+

2015 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 than Volnay in character). A discreet but not invisible touch of wood frames markedly ripe aromas of cassis, anise, tea and warm earth. There is both good richness and energy to the enveloping medium weight flavors that also exude a fine bead of minerality, all wrapped in a youthfully austere and ever-so-slightly rustic finale. This is pretty much textbook l’Audignac. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Volnay “Clos de la Bousse d’Or”: Moderate amounts of wood and menthol elements frame the prominently ripe aromas of black pinot fruit liqueur aromas that are trimmed in an abundance of pretty spice nuances. The opulently, even lavishly rich medium weight flavors saturate the palate with sappy dry extract which also serves to buffer the more evidently mineral-inflected finish that is both firm and youthfully austere. Patience definitely required here. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Volnay “Caillerets – Clos des Soixante Ouvrées”: There is enough reduction present to render the nose difficult to assess today. Otherwise there is a slightly finer mouth feel to the sleek, intense and sappy flavors that possess a highly polished and seductive mouth feel while brimming with minerality on the firm and youthfully austere finale. Like the Bousse d’Or this is going to require at least some patience and ultimately reward 12 to 15 years of cellar time. (92-94)/2027+

2015 Pommard “Les Jarolières”: This is also sufficiently reduced that it’s not possible to offer an assessment of the nose. The richer and more imposingly scaled flavors possess excellent mid-palate density along with plenty of extract that imparts a caressing mouth feel to the opulent finish that is firm but not rustic while delivering sneaky good length on the well-balanced finale. This should be quite good in time. (90-93)/2025+

2015 Corton-Bressandes: (from a .5 ha parcel). There is just enough reductive funk in evidence here as well to push what appear to be notably ripe fruit aromas to the background. I very much like the sense of energy to the lustrously textured broad-shouldered flavors that possess fine mid-palate density as well as a subtle minerality that progressively emerges as the long finish sits on the palate. This is very clearly built-to-age yet there is so much supporting extract that it should actually be approachable much younger than my suggested drinking window would indicate. In a word, terrific. (92-95)/2030+

2015 Corton-Clos du Roi: There is a pronounced ripeness to the less elegant and much more *sauvage*-inflected aromas of cassis, plum liqueur, freshly turned earth and forest floor nuances. The palate impression though is more like that of the Bressandes in that it’s muscular yet reasonably refined while evidencing focused power on the well-balanced and gorgeously persistent finish. I very much like the mouth feel thanks to the dense but fine-grained tannins and this should also amply reward extended cellaring. (92-95)/2030+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny: (from parcels totaling 1.41 ha). Once again mild reduction knocks down the underlying fruit though it does appear to be obviously ripe. The juicy and succulent flavors are solidly concentrated, indeed this is a big Chambolle *villages* as the bitter cherry-inflected finish even displays a bit of rusticity and somewhat less minerality than this *cuvée* usually does. To be sure, this is delicious but I wouldn’t describe it as a typical Chambolle. (87-90)/2022+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Feusselottes”: (from a .42 ha parcel). A markedly ripe yet still elegant nose features notes of black raspberry, violet, lilac, anise and a lovely hint of spiced tea. The much more refined middle weight flavors are lacy and attractively energetic while displaying good minerality before tightening up considerably on the firm and lingering finish. This very ripe effort is also a bit more structured than it usually is. (91-93)/2025+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Groseilles”: (from a .52 ha parcel). Reduction presently dominates the fruit. Otherwise there is a bit more volume to the equally vibrant and mineral-inflected flavors that deliver even slightly better complexity on the lingering and well-balanced finale. As is usually the case this is less refined than the Feusselottes but there is better depth here. While these two Chambolle 1ers are qualitatively similar they present two very different expressions. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Charmes”: (from a .19 ha parcel). An exuberantly spicy nose offers up a lovely array of dark cherry, raspberry, tea, violet, lilac and a whisper of sandalwood. The suave and highly seductive medium-bodied flavors possess an opulent mouth feel thanks to the abundance of sappy dry extract and for a moment the palate impression is almost soft and then the structure arrives with a rush on the firm, moderately austere and built-to-age finale. This is very impressive though again I would describe it as atypical in the context of one usually finds with a classic Charmes. (91-94)/2030+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Amoureuses”: (from a .20 ha parcel). Firm reduction renders this tough to assess aromatically. There is excellent mid-palate concentration to the more obviously mineral-driven medium weight flavors that possess a polished and very classy mouth feel before culminating in a reasonably well-balanced, lengthy and compact finale. While there is a hint of warmth it’s not sufficient to really detract from the overall sense of harmony. I would further note that this is also quite firmly structured and a wine that is unlikely to make for especially good early drinking. (92-94)/2030+

2015 Bonnes Mares: (from a .17 ha parcel). Very ripe liqueur-like aromas speak of plum, dark raspberry, cassis, earth, game and a broad if subtle range of spice wisps. There is impressive volume but also surprisingly good detail given how rich the big-bodied and concentrated flavors are, all wrapped in a sappy and hugely long finish. Like the Amoureuses this too displays a hint of backend warmth but it’s not really enough to materially diminish the overall sense of balance. This youthfully austere and compact effort is definitely going to require extended cellaring to reach its full potential. (92-95)/2032+

2015 Clos de la Roche: (from a .32 ha parcel). Reduction. Here there is a similar mouth feel to the Bonnes Mares with a bit more muscle in evidence on the overtly powerful yet velvety and imposingly-scaled flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the slightly firmer and just as impressively persistent finale. This youthfully austere and ultra-serious effort is one of those “buy and forget you own it” wines as it’s going to be very long-lived. (93-95)/2033+

Domaine Jacques Prieur (Meursault)

2015	Beaune “Champs Pimont” 1er	red	(89-91)
2015	Beaune “Clos de la Féguine” 1er	red	(87-90)
2015	Beaune “Grèves” 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(89-92)
2015	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2015	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2015	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin “1er” 1er	red	(87-89)
2015	Meursault “Clos de Mazeray”	red	88
2015	Musigny Grand Cru	red	(93-95)
2015	➔ Pommard “Charmots” 1er	red	92
2015	Volnay “Santenots” 1er	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Volnay “Clos des Santenots” 1er	red	(92-94)

Co-owner and general director Edouard Labruyere somewhat plaintively noted that “finally we have a vintage with no hail or frost but we still couldn’t produce anywhere close to the authorized amounts. This of course is never our goal but neither is it to produce less than 20 hl/ha from our vines in the Côte de Beaune. Remarkably enough it is worth pointing out that the 17 hl/ha that we produced on average from those vines was an actual net yield meaning that we basically had zero sorting losses because the fruit was absolutely spotless which is exceptionally rare. We chose to begin picking the chardonnay on the 1st of September and the pinot on the 7th and brought in fruit that was ripe and balanced, in fact there were no corrections of any kind. In certain cases we used quite a bit of whole clusters but it varied from zero to 100%. We also significantly reduced the amount of new wood to a maximum of 20% for the 1ers and to 50% for the *grands crus*. As to the difference in quality between the two Côtes, I like both quite a bit but if I had to choose, I would have to give the nod to our wines from the Côte de Nuits. What we produced in the Côte de Beaune is certainly very good but the battering the vines took for three consecutive years cannot be ignored. Overall, 2015 gave us superb fruit and I am very confident that consumers will find much to like as the wines are ripe, balanced and ageworthy.” As the commentaries will confirm, I am in general agreement with Labruyere that the wines from the Côte de Nuits outperformed those from the Côte de Beaune though the new wine, the Pommard “Charmots”, and the Clos des Santenots were excellent. Readers should also take a look herein at a new *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 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, all UK).

2015 Beaune “Clos de la Féguine”: (a 1.59 ha *climat* of Coucheries and a *monopole* of the domaine). A well-layered mix of both red and dark currant is trimmed in ripe nuances of plum and violets. The exceptionally rich, suave and seductively textured flavors possess an opulent mouth feel while delivering reasonably good length on the dusty and mineral-inflected finish. Note that this rather plump effort could easily be enjoyed young. (87-90)/2021+

2015 Beaune “Grèves”: (from a 1.17 ha parcel). A slightly fresher nose is composed of liqueur-like aromas of black raspberry, lilac, violet and whisper of warm earth. There is a better sense of verve to the detailed and relatively powerful medium-bodied flavors that possess fine mid-palate concentration while delivering better length and balance on the mouth coating finale. I very much like the palate impression as it's at once generous yet serious. (89-92)/2023+

2015 Beaune “Champs Pimont”: This is also quite ripe as there are similar liqueur-like aromas of red and dark cherry, plum and subtle spice nuances. Here too there is excellent volume and mid-palate concentration to the nicely energetic and more obviously mineral-inflected flavors that possess fine persistence if not quite the same complexity on the slightly warm finale. Like the Féguine, this could easily be enjoyed on the younger side. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Meursault “Clos de Mazeray”: (vinified with 100% whole clusters). A discreet touch of wood frames the earthy and mildly *sauvage*-suffused aromas of plum and dark berry liqueur that are trimmed in pretty floral nuances. The fleshy, round and generously proportioned medium-bodied flavors really fan out on the palate before concluding in a slightly rustic and youthful austere finale. This will need at least a few years of bottle age first. 88/2022+

2015 Pommard “Charmots”: (2015 was the first vintage for this wine that produced only one barrel; it was vinified with 100% whole clusters and bottled exclusively in magnum). Here too there is just enough wood to warrant a mention setting off the even more floral-inflected nose that is comprised by notes of red and dark cherry liqueur along with plenty of earth elements. The suave, velvety and succulent medium weight flavors possess admirably good mid-palate density along with displaying very fine complexity and salinity on the lingering finish where the only nit is a hint of warmth. As one might reasonably expect, in magnum format this is going to require at least some patience even though Charmots is generally one of the more youthfully accessible of the Pommard 1ers. 92/2030+

2015 Volnay “Santenots”: (from younger vines in Clos des Santenots; vinified with 50% whole clusters). Discreet notes of violet and lilac can be found on the attractively spicy black pinot fruit aromas that precede the velvety and relatively tender medium weight flavors that possess solid concentration and particularly so for the young vines, all wrapped in a sophisticated and refined finale where the only reproach worth of note is noticeable warmth. (89-91)/2021+

2015 Volnay “Clos des Santenots”: (from a mix of older vines up to 80 years of age; 100% whole clusters). Subtle but not invisible oak easily allows the liqueur-like black cherry, spice, lavender and a whisper of dried mandarin orange peel to be appreciated. There is excellent density to the sleekly muscular and mineral-driven flavors that possess an even finer mouth feel while delivering notably better depth and length on the powerful and built-to-age finale. This is absolutely going to require extended patience but it should very much be worth the wait. (92-94)/2030+

2015 Corton-Bressandes: (from a .63 ha parcel; 50% whole clusters). An elegant, pure and ripe nose retains good freshness to the impressively broad assortment of red berry fruit aromas that are interwoven with plum, floral and earth nuances. There is a taut muscularity to the punchy and delicious medium weight plus-sized flavors that are at once powerful yet refined on the impressively persistent if not quite as complex finale. That said, there is plenty of time for this to develop more depth as it's certainly not constructed to be an early drinker. (91-93)/2030+

2015 Clos de Vougeot: (from a 1.19 ha parcel of vines at the bottom of the slope; 50% whole clusters). A ripe yet restrained nose somewhat grudgingly offers up its aromas of dark currant, plum, spice and freshly turned earth. There is outstanding size, weight and concentration to the very suave, round and quite generously proportioned big-bodied flavors that culminate in a muscular and well-balanced finish where a touch of the classic youthful austerity appears. This too will require at least some patience though I would expect that this could be approached after only 7 to 8 years of cellaring. (91-94)/2030+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “1er”: (from young Chambertin vines planted in 1995). This is the first wine where the wood treatment isn't fairly subtle as here there are notes of both toast and menthol that tussle a bit with the otherwise ripe aromas of cassis, spice and warm earth. The lavishly rich, suave and sappy middle weight flavors exude a distinct mocha character on the slightly ponderous finish. This certainly doesn't lack for concentration but I find it borderline heavy. (87-89)/2021+

2015 Chambertin: (from 5 separate parcels in both Chambertin and Clos de Bèze, which measure .84 ha; note that this figure includes the declassified vines). Here the nose is similar to that of the Gevrey 1er save for being just a touch fresher. There is also a bit better energy to the bigger-bodied and richer flavors that are also exceptionally ripe yet manage to retain slightly better balance on the noticeably warm and mocha-inflected finish. This is impressive in its fashion but it's almost too much of a good thing. (89-92)/2023+

2015 Echézeaux: (from a .36 ha parcel located in the *climat* of Champs Traversin). Decidedly ripe yet much fresher aromas combine to present notes of cassis, plum and spiced Asian-style tea. The suave, velvety and plump yet muscular flavors possess better punch along with plenty of sappy dry extract that does a fine job of buffering the moderately firm tannic spine on the dusty and impressively persistent finish. This is well-structured but not hard or particularly austere and like the Clos de Vougeot I would anticipate that it could be approached after 6 to 8 years of bottle age. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Musigny: (from a .77 ha parcel in the *climat* Combe d'Orveau, which is also a *monopole* of the domaine; 20% whole clusters). An ultra-spicy and pure nose offers up notes of black raspberry, sandalwood and in the same fashion as the Ech, Asian-style exotic tea scents. There is a highly polished mouth feel to the impressively dense, serious and muscular flavors that exhibit plenty of minerality on the exceptionally firm finale where a hint of mocha appears. This beauty appears to have everything that it needs for a very long life. I would observe that the Prieur Musigny is often quite fine and sophisticated yet the 2015 version is not cut from that cloth; rather it is big, bold and robust and as I noted, is going to need time. (93-95)/2032+

Domaine Henri Prudhon et Fils (St. Aubin)

2015	Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	red	85
2015	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Chambres”	red	(89-91)
2015	St. Aubin “1er” Cuvée Les Rouges Gorges	red	(87-90)
2015	St. Aubin “Les Argillers”	red	(86-89)
2015	St. Aubin “Les Frionnes” 1er	red	(87-89)
2015	St. Aubin “Sur le Sentier du Clou” Vieilles Vignes 1er	red	(89-91)

Vincent Prudhon succinctly described the 2015 growing season as “hot, dry and relatively stress-free. We chose to begin picking on the 4th of September and brought in perfectly ripe and wonderfully clean fruit. Yields were solid for the chardonnay at around 45 hl/ha but much lower in pinot at around 30 hl/ha. We chose to do a lighter vinification for the reds as the skins were so thick but it really didn't seem to make much difference as the colors were already deep after only 48 hours! I'm glad that we chose to use a 'less is more' approach as it would have been very easy to potentially make overly tannic wines that would have lacked refinement. The 2015 reds have the concentration and baby fat such that they should drink well early if that's what someone prefers.” I found the quality of the Prudhon reds to be generally consistent with the general quality I found in the Côte de Beaune in 2015. Prudhon noted that the reds were bottled between September 2016 and February 2017. (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, NY, USA; Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, The Wine Society, www.thewinesociety.com, Tanners Wine, www.tanners-wines.co.uk, Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com and Ball Brothers, www.merchant.ballsbrothers.co.uk, all UK).

2015 Bourgogne – Pinot Noir: A fresh and relatively high-toned nose displays notes of red cherry and a hint of cranberry. The lighter weight, round and delicious flavors possess good vibrancy though limited complexity. This is fashioned in an easy-to-drink style and is a wine that is essentially ready. 85/now+

2015 St. Aubin “Les Argillers”: A pretty and fresh mix of red and dark raspberry aromas reveals earth and soft spice nuances. There is better volume to the sappy, round and succulent middle weight flavors that possess a bit more overall depth and length as well as slightly more supporting structure. (86-89)/2019+

2015 St. Aubin “Les Frionnes”: A spicy and again attractively fresh nose offers up notes of red currant, black raspberry and a hint of violet. The mouth feel of the medium-bodied flavors is also sappy and round with reasonably good vibrancy to the naturally sweet finale. This should be enjoyable young if that's your preference. (87-89)/2020+

2015 St. Aubin “1er” Cuvée les Rouges Gorges: (from the vineyards of Sur Gamay and Le Combe; few domaines use the Sur Gamay name on the label with reds for fear it will confuse consumers. Note: les Rouges Gorges is French for robin, as in the bird). Here the expressive nose is spicier still with its layered array of various red berries, soft earth and pretty floral nuances. There is a bit more volume to the slightly richer, seductive and caressing medium weight flavors that exude a subtle minerality onto the mildly austere and rustic finale. This could use a few years to round out. (87-90)/2021+

2015 St. Aubin “Sur les Sentier du Clou” Vieilles Vignes: (55+ year old vines). This possesses the most elegant and perhaps even the most complex nose in the range with its layered assortment of red and black cherry, plum, violet and freshly turned earth scents. The fine complexity continues onto the solidly concentrated and more obviously mineral-inflected flavors that possess a relatively sophisticated mouth feel while concluding in a balanced and lingering finish. This is really quite good and worth considering. (89-91)/2021+

2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Chambres”: This is also quite pretty as the nose presents notes of essence of red pinot fruit, raspberry and earth aromas that are laced with black pepper wisps. There is impressive depth to the utterly delicious and again caressing medium-bodied flavors that deliver fine length on the balanced finale where a touch of wood arises. This is a very good Chassagne *villages* and is recommended. (89-91)/2022+

Château de Puligny-Montrachet (Puligny-Montrachet)

2015	Monthélie – Nature	red	88
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As has been detailed before in these pages, Etienne de Montille of Domaine de Montille is now the owner of this old domaine. Please see Domaine de Montille above for more 2015 vintage specific comments. Note that the 2015 Monthélie is a natural wine with limited sulfur and is marked “Nature” on the label; it was bottled in August, 2016 (Beaune Imports, www.beauneimports.com, CA, Glazer’s, www.glazers.com, TX, Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA & TX and Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, NY, all USA; the UK agent is Anthony Sarjeant Wines with additional availability through O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, UK, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, UK and Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com, UK; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com/hk, Hong Kong).

2015 Monthélie – Nature: (from Les Plantes and Les Clous; 65% whole clusters). A somber mix of dark raspberry, earth and a hint of violet precedes the rich, round and supple middle weight flavors that possess a fleshy, even juicy mouth feel before tightening up on the mildly rustic finish. Note that this could easily be enjoyed upon release but should be capable of reward a few years of bottle age too. 88/2019+

Domaine Rapet Père et Fils (Pernand-Vergelesses)

2015	➔ Aloxe-Corton	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Beaune “Les Bressandes” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Beaune “Cents Vignes” 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	Beaune “Clos du Roi” 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Beaune “Les Grèves” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Chorey-lès-Beaune Vieilles Vignes	red	(87-90)
2015	Corton Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	Corton-Pougets Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2015	Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Belles Filles” 1er	red	(87-89)
2015	Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Vergelesses” 1er	red	(89-91)
2015	Pernand-Vergelesses “Ile de Vergelesses” 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Fourneaux”	red	(87-90)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Fourneaux” 1er	red	(90-92)

The laconic and thoughtful Vincent Rapet directs this 20+ ha domaine that is split roughly 50/50 between the production of reds and whites though there are far more *appellations* devoted to pinot. He described the 2015 growing season as one that was “forged from periods of high heat and extended dryness. What was so interesting is that the chardonnay continued to ripen but the pinot definitely suffered more from hydric stress. We chose to begin picking on the 28th of August with our whites as I was very afraid of losing freshness and this was confirmed because when you look, analytically speaking, at the wines, the reds definitely have better acid levels. The fruit was about as clean as I have ever seen it in both colors with good potential alcohols that came in mostly between 13 and 14%. The bunches were plentiful and the skins were very thick but there just wasn’t much juice in the berries and yields suffered accordingly as the pinot volumes ranged from 20 to 25 hl/ha. I used up to 50% whole clusters for a few wines but averaged 30% across the board for the reds. Another interesting aspect is that despite the fact that there wasn’t much malic acidity, the malos had trouble finishing. In one sense it’s probably just as well that there wasn’t much malic acidity as it meant that the malos really didn’t move the pHs much at all as they were in the 3.45 to 3.6 area, which is just fine. As to the style of the wines, I would describe the reds as a blend of 2005 and 2010 where the former contributes ripeness and concentration and the latter the vibrancy, fruit and freshness. The whites remind of 2009 but with better acidities.” I found the Rapet 2015 reds to be very good across the board and particularly so for the Beaune 1ers. By contrast I would have expected even better Pernand-based reds given how cool the sector is. The other observation is that the oak program in 2015 is more aggressive than usual; note that I do not mean overwhelming though it would be fair to say that in several instances it’s not subtle. (DC Flynt MW Selections, www.dcflyntmw.com, LA, USA; Domaine et Saveurs,

www.ds-collection.com, France; Domaine Direct, www.domainedirect.co.uk, Laytons, www.laytons.co.uk and Earle Wines, www.earlywines.com, all UK).

2015 Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Belles Filles”: Moderately prominent wood and menthol notes frame the mostly earth and plum-scented nose. The generous, round and supple middle weight flavors possess a beguiling mid-palate texture that contrasts somewhat with the rustic and ever-so-mildly warm finale. This should drink well young. (87-89)/2019+

2015 Chorey-lès-Beaune Vieilles Vignes: (from Les Champs Longs). Here the expressive nose is similar to that of the Belles Filles save for the earth elements being even more pronounced. There is fine concentration to the very rich and unusually powerful flavors that deliver fine depth and length for what this is. Worth checking out for value as this would make for a very good all-around upper level house red. (87-90)/2019+

2015 Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Vergelesses”: (from a 1.2 ha parcel). A generous application of wood also reflects a menthol note on the very ripe black cherry liqueur-like aromas. The exceptionally rich, sleek and subtly mineral-suffused flavors possess a succulent, even velvety mouth feel before concluding in a refreshing if not super complex finale. This should drink well young and with 6 to 8 years of bottle age. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Pernand-Vergelesses “Ile de Vergelesses”: (from 40+ year old vines). This is also quite generously oaked and the very ripe dark fruit and earth-inflected aromas include a whiff of prune. The finer and more mineral-driven medium-bodied flavors possess relatively good precision and punch while delivering excellent depth and length. My projected range offers the benefit of the doubt as there are many positive aspects to this wine though the nose isn't one of them. (89-92)/2023+

2015 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 too there is a whiff of prune to the plum, earth and softly oaked aromas. The very rich, supple and round middle weight flavors possess a caressing mouth feel before concluding in a rustic, serious and lingering finish. Again, I really don't care for the prune nuances on the nose but otherwise there is a certain appeal to this wine. (87-90)/2021+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Fourneaux”: (from the 1er portion of the vineyard). A very ripe nose stops just short of being *surmature* and is actually slightly fresher while offering a similar aromatic profile minus the whiff of prune. As is usually the case this offers both more volume and power as the medium weight flavors possess fine concentration that also serves to buffer the much firmer tannic spine on the lingering and balanced finale. Worth considering. (90-92)/2025+

2015 Beaune “Clos du Roi”: This is also very ripe with its liqueur-like aromas of various dark berries and warm earth that are trimmed in wood and menthol nuances. There is very good freshness and verve to the medium-bodied and succulent yet relatively powerful flavors that coat the palate with dry extract while displaying sneaky good length on the moderately rustic finish. This should drink well after only a few years of cellaring if desired. (89-92)/2022+

2015 Beaune “Les Bressandes”: Subtle but not invisible wood and menthol frame the fresher and slightly earthier red and dark currant aromas. The medium-bodied flavors are at once denser yet finer with better integration of the supporting tannins on the seductively textured but well-focused finale. This is a lovely really lovely effort and textbook Bressandes. (90-93)/2023+

2015 Beaune “Cents Vignes”: Very generous wood and menthol scents fight somewhat with the otherwise reasonably fresh aromas of plum liqueur and pungent earth. As is usually the case the mouth feel of the middle weight flavors is finer still though without the same mid-palate concentration, all wrapped in a lingering finish that is shaped by dense but relatively fine-grained tannins. Like several of the wines in the range, this should both drink well young but age well too. (89-92)/2023+

2015 Beaune “Les Grèves”: (from 50+ year old vines in the *climat* Sur les Grèves). This too is quite generously wooded and it's enough to push the distinctly earthy aromas of cassis, plum, violet and lilac to the background. There is excellent richness to the lavishly concentrated, intense and muscular flavors that possess fine volume and punch on the dusty and sappy finale that goes on and on. This is a big but balanced Grèves that should amply reward extended cellaring. (90-93)/2025+

2015 Aloxe-Corton: (from 4 different *lieux-dits* in Les Combes, Les Boutières, Les Citernes and Les Crapousuets). Wood and menthol aromas all but dominate the underlying dark berry fruit and pungently earthy scents. This is a big and impressively powerful Aloxe *villages* with excellent mid-palate density to the intense medium weight flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the lingering finale. This is not a wine of finesse but then again that's not why one buys Aloxe; recommended provided you have the patience to cellar it for at least a few years first. (89-91)/2023+

2015 Corton-Pougets: Generous wood and menthol again all but dominate the underlying red and dark berry fruit that exhibit game and earth hints. There is a much more refined mouth feel to the more mineral-driven, powerful and muscular flavors that manage to convey plenty of punch and length yet almost no trace of youthful austerity. This should be excellent if allowed to properly mature. (91-94)/2027+

2015 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). Generous wood renders appreciating the underlying fruit, game and earth aromas a challenge. On the plus side there is fine detail and mid-palate concentration to the impressively constituted big-bodied flavors that possess evident muscle and plenty of minerality on the wonderfully long and built-to-age finish. This too should be approachable after 6 to 8 years but should easily be capable of rewarding 12 to 15 years of cellaring. (92-94)/2027+

Domaine Gaston & Pierre Ravaut (Ladoix-Serrigny)

2014	Ladoix	red	88
2013	Bourgogne	red	85
2010	Ladoix “La Corvée” 1er	red	90

The Ravaut history spans six generations rooted at the base of the famous mountain of Corton. Gaston Ravaut founded the Domaine in the 1920's with just a handful of parcels of vines near the small village of Buisson in Ladoix-Serrigny. His grandson (also named Gaston) now runs the estate with sons Pierre and Vincent Ravaut. The estate spreads over 45 acres, producing some 7,500 cases annually, 80% of it red. The total Domaine extends across the *appellations* of Corton, Aloxe-Corton 1er Cru, Ladoix 1er Cru, and Côte de Nuit Villages for the reds, and Corton-Charlemagne, Puligny-Montrachet, Ladoix Blanc and Bourgogne Chardonnay for the whites. Pierre and Vincent each have their own areas of expertise with Pierre being responsible for the vineyards and Vincent taking care of the vinification, *élevage* and bottling. (Serge Doré Selections Ltd., www.sergedoreselections.com, NY, USA).

2014 Ladoix: A mildly somber if attractively complex nose features primarily earth-inflected dark currant and a hint of smoke. There is reasonably good volume and richness to the well-detailed medium weight flavors that offer solid complexity and length on the somewhat rustic finish. This is sufficiently well-balanced that it could be enjoyed young but I would suggest waiting for at least a few years first. In sum, this is a competent Ladoix *villages*. 88/2020+

2013 Bourgogne: There is just enough reduction present to shave the top notes from the mostly red berry fruit and soft earth-suffused nose. The supple, round and accessible flavors possess good energy though the slightly lean, edgy and short finish suggests that this would be advantageously paired with the right foods to round off the edginess. 85/now+

2010 Ladoix “La Corvée”: This initially displayed enough reduction to knock down the fruit somewhat but with air, the nose grudgingly revealed various dark berry fruit, earth and a wet leaf element. In the same fashion the flavors were initially quite tight and slightly strict but with extended aeration the richness comes out as there is fine concentration to the mid-palate, all wrapped in a mildly rustic though solidly persistent finish. Recommended if you have the patience to allow this another 3 to 5 years of cellar time. 90/2020+

Remoissenet Père et Fils (Beaune)

2015	Beaune “Grèves” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Beaune “Marconnets” 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	➔ Beaune “Teurons” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2015	➔ Chambolle-Musigny “Les Charmes” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2015	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Cazetiers” 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin “Poissenots” 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	Gevrey-Chambertin – Le Trio 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Nuits St. Georges	red	89
2015	➔ Nuits St. Georges “Les Damodes” 1er	red	(91-93)

2015	Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Vergelesses” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Serpentières” 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Vosne-Romanée	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Vosne-Romanée “Les Suchots” 1er	red	(91-94)

Winemaker Claudie Jobard, commercial director Bernard Repolt and general manager Pierre-Antoine Rovani told me that 2015 was a “dream vintage as they rarely if ever get any better than this. We picked from the 2nd to the 9th of September and brought in irreproachably clean and ripe fruit that had excellent sugars, solid if not high acidities and very thick skins. In fact, it was necessary to vinify carefully in order to avoid extracting too much tannin but not making light wines either. One of the interesting aspects is how much the reds have freshened and picked up a sense of energy during the *élevage*. People who are not Burgundy lovers now are likely to be converted if they taste some of the better 2015s because there’s really nothing not to like. They have everything that they need to age for years yet unlike some built-to-age vintages, they don’t have any hard edges to them nor are they especially austere. The 2015 whites are interesting as well but it’s the reds that really shine in this vintage.” As I have mentioned previously, Remoissenet continues to improve the quality of their wines and in particular the reds; in fact I would go so far as to say that 2015 is the best overall vintage that I have seen from them. What is perhaps even more impressive is that their 2015s are good up and down the Côte, which was harder to do than it might sound. If you remain skeptical about the quality of the wines because of things that occurred 20 years ago (or longer), you owe it to yourself to take a second look – I believe that you will be very pleasantly surprised. (North Berkeley Imports, www.northberkeleyimports.com, CA, Simon ‘N Cellars, www.simonncellars.com, VA, Bertin Henri Selections, www.bertinhenriselections.com, FL, Cavatappi Distribuzione, www.cavatappi.com, WA, Dark Star Imports, NY, Arborway Imports, www.arborwayimports.com, MA, United Wine and Spirits, TX, Hart-Davis-Hart, www.hdhwine.com, IL and The Sorting Table, www.thesortingtable.com, CA, all USA).

2015 Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Vergelesses”: A fresh, ripe and well-layered nose combines notes of red and black cherry, earth and soft spice hints. There is a really lovely sense of energy to the appealingly textured and lightly mineral-inflected flavors that are at once rich yet detailed, all wrapped in a solidly persistent and balanced finish where a hint of bitter pit fruit arises. This is pretty much textbook Vergelesses. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Serpentières”: Discreet wood serves as a relatively neutral backdrop for the slightly riper aromas of plum, earth and violet wisps. The finer and equally energetic middle weight flavors possess fine delineation that continues onto the lingering if ever-so-mildly less complex finale that also displays a hint of pit fruit. (89-92)/2022+

2015 Beaune “Teurons”: Here the much earthier nose of very ripe plum, various dark berries and a hint of the *sauvage* trades elegance for complexity. The palate impression follows suit as the sleekly muscular medium-bodied are overly powerful while delivering outstanding depth and length. This is first-rate and very much worth considering. (90-93)/2025+

2015 Beaune “Grèves”: The wood treatment surrounding the black cherry, violet and earth scents is not subtle though it’s not so much as to really be intrusive. Otherwise there is a sleeker and finer mouth feel to the slightly less concentrated medium weight flavors that conclude in a solidly complex and persistent if mildly austere finale. (90-92)/2027+

2015 Beaune “Marconnets”: Once again there are enough wood and menthol character present to warrant mentioning on the liqueur-like aromas of plum, dark cherry and soft earth. I very much like the texture of the expansive and once again sleek middle weight flavors that are shaped by impressively fine-grained tannins on the stony finish. The abundance of dry extract is impressive but even so the firm tannic spine makes it clear that at least some patience will be required. In sum, this is an excellent Marconnets and highly recommended. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Nuits St. Georges: (from Les Lavières and Bas de Combe). A very ripe and markedly rustic array evidences plenty of *sauvage* and forest floor elements on the earth-inflected dark berry fruit aromas. There is fine concentration to the relatively powerful medium weight flavors that are supported by firm and dense tannins on the complex, balanced and persistent finish. This robust effort is clearly a Nuits but it’s not so rustic as to be old school in style. 89/2023+

2015 Vosne-Romanée: (from Les Jacquines and Au Dessus de la Rivière). An exuberantly spicy nose is comprised by notes of cassis, sandalwood and hints of Asian-style tea. The velvety and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors coat the palate with dry extract that also serves to buffer the firm tannins on the sappy, balanced and youthfully austere finale. This is a really good Vosne *villages* though note well that at least moderate patience will be required. (89-92)/2023+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin: (from Les Crais, Aux Etelois, Champs Chenys, Pressonnier, Les Epointures and Puits de la Barraque and several others). This is the first wine to display any appreciable amount of reduction and it's enough to render the nose difficult to assess. On the plus side the middle weight flavors are, somewhat curiously, less concentrated but finer and more mineral-driven while offering a beguiling sense of energy on the highly persistent and equally firm finale. This is also quite a good *villages* level wine and provided that you have at least a modicum of patience, recommended. (89-91)/2023+

2015 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Charmes”: A discreet application of wood frames a very ripe yet attractively fresh assortment of liqueur-like dark berries, floral, spice and tea scents. The mouth coating and exceptionally rich flavors possess a highly seductive mouth feel, all wrapped in a vibrant, polished and youthfully austere finish. This is a firm but not hard Charmes that, like many wines in the range, is going to need at least some cellar time first. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Nuits St. Georges “Les Damodes”: Relatively strong wood toast and menthol fights somewhat with the even riper aromas of dark berry liqueur, mocha, spice and warm earth. Despite what the ripeness of the nose would suggest the concentrated and mineral-inflected middle weight plus flavors possess excellent energy and freshness while delivering outstanding length on the dense, serious and youthful austere finish where a hint of pit fruit appears. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin – Le Trio: (from the 1ers of Craipillot, Cherbaudes and Champonnet). A wonderfully fresh, cool and pure nose combines notes of various dark berries, earth, wood and menthol scents. The rich and seductively textured middle weight flavors brim with both minerality and sappy dry extract while exhibiting fine length on the lingering finish where the oak resurfaces. For my taste the wood treatment is a bit much and while the quality of the underlying material appears to be enough to successfully integrate it in time, I suspect that this may always be a bit woody. (89-92)/2025+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “Poissenots”: (from a .19 ha holding). Like the Trio there is plenty of wood toast and menthol character to be found on the cool, pure and pretty combination of red currant, *sauvage*, floral and earthy aromas. The sleek, energetic and relatively well-delineated middle weight flavors where the pronounced minerality continues onto the beautifully lingering finish that really fans out as it sits on the palate. In contrast to many of the prior wines this is a wine that could actually be enjoyed on the younger side yet it is sufficiently well-structured to reward extended aging too. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Cazetiers”: (from a .39 ha parcel). While there is a whisper of the *sauvage* present on the nose of the Poissenots, here it is front and center of the plum, spice, pungent earth and softly floral-scented nose. The highly energetic, bigger and more powerful flavors are overtly muscular yet the palate impression of the gorgeously long finish remains reasonably refined thanks to the dense but relatively fine-grained tannins. In a word, excellent. (91-94)/2030+

2015 Vosne-Romanée “Les Suchots”: This pushes the wood treatment right to the limit of dominating the underlying aromas of plum liqueur, sandalwood and exotic nuances of tea, orange peel, anise and hoisin. The highly seductive yet powerful, concentrated and serious medium-bodied flavors are also muscular yet sleek as once again the supporting tannins are dense but fine. This is a classic Suchots of generosity and class. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Charmes-Chambertin: (from a .29 ha parcel in Charmes proper). A much more restrained nose combines notes of both red and dark currant with those of violet, spice, plenty of earth and much more discreet oak influence. The polished, delicious and vibrant middle weight flavors possess both good punch and focused power that carries over to the very firm, mildly warm and youthfully austere finish. This is presently pretty rather than deep though the underlying material is such that my projected range offers the benefit of the doubt that much more depth will develop with extended aging. (90-93)/2030+

2015 Clos de Vougeot: The brooding nose is compositionally similar to that of the Charmes-Chambertin but the earth component is more pronounced. The big-bodied and imposingly-scaled flavors exhibit plenty of punch and muscle on the mouth coating, mocha-infused, youthfully austere and strikingly persistent finish thanks to the copious amounts of dry extract. Despite the impressive size and weight this is not a rustic wine though it's certainly going to require patience. (92-94)/2030+

2015 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: A gorgeous nose reflects plenty of floral influence along with broad-ranging aromas of earth, tea, red currant, game, forest floor and subtle spice nuances. The vibrant and substantially-sized flavors also display ample muscle though the mouth feel is distinctly finer and particularly so on the balanced and youthfully austere finale. The Clos de Vougeot is dramatic and bold whereas this is an understated and harmonious effort of class and grace yet even so, it should age effortlessly for years. (92-95)/2032+

Domaine Rollin Père et Fils (Pernand-Vergelesses)

2015	➔ Aloxe-Corton	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune	red	87
2015	Pernand-Vergelesses	red	(87-90)
2015	Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Fichots” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Vergelesses” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Pernand-Vergelesses “Ile de Vergelesses” 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Grands Liards”	red	(88-90)

The always understated Rémi Rollin called 2015 an “excellent vintage but one that produced very different styles of wines between the reds and the whites. We chose to begin picking on the 2nd of September and the fruit couldn’t have been any cleaner or for that matter any riper and still have made balanced wines. Yields were correct in white though lower in red but even there they were variable which is say they ranged between 30 and 45 hl/ha. Oddly, in a fashion anyway, there were plenty of bunches on the vines but not much juice in the berries. Some think that the lower yields were due to the accumulated hail damage but I would attribute more of it to the higher level of shatter that the pinot suffered compared to the chardonnay. Sugars were strong as the potential alcohols in both colors came in between 12.5 to 13.7%. As to the wines, I would liken the reds to a slightly riper version of 2002 and the whites to a slightly fresher version of 2009.” I found the quality of the Rollin 2015 to generally exceed what I found from Pernand and Aloxe in the context of the vintage. (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, NY, USA; Sequin & Robillard/Vinifera, www.sequinrobillard.ca, Canada; Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com, UK).

2015 Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune: A riper and wonderfully fresh nose combines notes of various red berries and pronounced earth nuances. There is equally good vibrancy to the delicious and refreshing flavors that exhibit touches of minerality and rusticity on the lingering finish that is dry in the best sense. This is a very pretty Bourgogne and would make a good choice for an all-around house red. 87/2018+

2015 Pernand-Vergelesses: (from 4 separate *lieux-dits*). This too sports a ripe and ultra-fresh nose of liqueur-like red berries and soft floral nuances. The cool, pure and equally refreshing well-detailed middle weight flavors also reflect notes of minerality and rusticity though in this case the latter is quite subtle. This too is quite pretty. (87-90)/2020+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Grands Liards”: Here the expressive nose is compositionally similar to the Pernand *villages* but with notably more pronounced earth elements. There is an attractive mouth feel to the middle weight and vibrant flavors that are shaped by more refined tannins than are usually present, all wrapped in a solidly concentrated if mildly rustic finale. A quality Savigny. (88-90)/2021+

2015 Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Vergelesses: (from 40 to 45 year old vine fruit). Discreet but not invisible wood frames the layered, ripe and fresh aromas of black cherry, earth and appealing violet nuances. There is excellent concentration to the seductive and velvet-textured medium-bodied flavors that possess a caressing mid-palate mouth feel that contrasts with the serious, built-to-age and ever-so-mildly rustic finale. This beauty should drink well young but age well too. (90-92)/2022+

2015 Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Fichots”: (a mix of 35 and 65+ year old vines). This also displays subtle but not negligible amounts of wood on the much earthier aromas of dark currant liqueur, violet, plum and a hint of game. There is excellent volume and density to the generously proportioned middle weight plus flavors that brim with dry extract on the firm, rustic and powerful finish. This is also very good but note that in contrast to the Vergelesses, this will need time. (90-92)/2023+

2015 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 much more restrained nose is composed of notes of relatively high-toned red berry fruit, floral and softly spicy aromas that are also trimmed in just enough wood to merit mentioning. The notably finer and more mineral-inflected if less powerful middle weight flavors possess an almost lacy mouth feel while delivering excellent depth and length on the balanced and classy finale. This is lovely juice and well-worth considering. (91-93)/2025+

2015 Aloxe-Corton: (~25% of the blend is from the 1er Les Guérets with the remainder from Les Boutières and Les Caillettes). Here the wood is no longer subtle though it stops short of dominating the menthol, spice, earth and game-inflected liqueur-like red and dark pinot fruit scents. The rich, full-bodied and overtly powerful flavors brim with dry extract that coats the mouth and buffers the moderately firm tannic spine shaping the lingering finish. An excellent Aloxe *villages*. (89-91)/2022+

Domaine Nicolas Rossignol (Volnay)

2015	Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	red	86
2015	Pommard “Les Chanlins” 1er	red	(91-94?)
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Epenots” 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Pommard “Jarolières” 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Noizons”	red	90
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Fourneaux” 1er	red	92
2015	Volnay	red	(88-91)
2015	➔ Volnay “Les Caillerets” 1er	red	(91-94)
2015	➔ Volnay “Les Chevrets” 1er	red	91
2015	Volnay “Clos des Angles” 1er	red	89?
2015	Volnay “Santenots” 1er	red	89?
2015	➔ Volnay “Taillepieds” 1er	red	(92-94)

Nicolas Rossignol, who directs this 20+ ha domaine with its incredible range of wines from Volnay and Pommard among other communes, has just moved into gorgeous new winery digs on the outskirts of Beaune. He described 2015 as a “vintage that, finally, didn’t have any drama to it! The growing season was easy as we made only 4 to 5 treatments the entire time which is really unusual. In fact about the only trick was to decide when to pick as there was a fine balance between obtaining good phenolic ripeness while balancing off the components of sugar and acidity. While I was extremely happy with the quality I just wish that there was a bit more quantity as volumes were off fully 30% and this in a vintage where we had no problems! The fruit was super-clean and had very thick skins and I chose to use a higher proportion of whole clusters, indeed up to 100% for some wines. It was necessary to pay close attention however to be sure not to extract too much tannin and to that end I punched down exactly 4 times during the entire *cuvaison*, which is not my usual approach. Moreover because the fruit was so clean I used a lower level of sulfur during the *élevage*. As to the wines, they are massive in the sense that I have never seen a vintage that possessed more dry extract and this virtually guarantees that they will age well for decades to come.” Save for a few wines that evidenced a whiff of brett, I was seriously impressed by the overall quality that I found at this address. If robust, age-worthy and concentrated wines are tempting to you, then the Rossignol 2015s should be on your shopping list. Rossignol noted that some of his 2015s were bottled in January 2017. (Becky Wasserman & Co., www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; Pas Mal Portfolio, mafeuer@mindspring.com, NJ, Fine Vines, www.finevines.com, IL, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, TX, The Harvest Wine Company, LLC, nate@harvestwineco.com, CO, Small Potatoes Wine, www.smallpotatoeswine.com, ID, Pinnacle Imports, www.pinnacle-imports.com, MO, Atlanta Wholesale Wines, www.ndcweb.com, GA, M.S. Walker, www.mswalker.com, MA, all USA; Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk, UK; Pinnacle Liquor Group, www.pinnacleliquor.com.au, Australia).

2015 Bourgogne – Pinot Noir: A ripe and brooding nose features mostly notes of dark currant and pungent earth along with a whiff of brett. There is a distinctly *sauvage* quality to the opulent yet serious medium weight flavors that possess unusually good density for the genre, all wrapped in a leather-inflected and structured finale. For the record the brett is pretty subtle and I suspect that most would not be bothered by it, but subtle or not, it’s incumbent upon me to note its presence. 86/2020+

2015 Volnay: (from 5 different *lieux-dits*). A ripe, fresh and pretty nose combines notes of various red berries, soft earth and ample floral nuances. There is a discreet bead of minerality suffusing the dense yet sleek middle weight flavors that deliver solid depth and length. Note that this will need at least a few years of bottle age first. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Pommard “Les Noizons”: (from both *climats*; 25% whole clusters). Here too there is ample earth influence adding breadth to the ripe but cool aromas of both red and dark currant. I very much like the mouth feel of the tautly muscular medium weight flavors that terminate in a highly refreshing, naturally sweet and impressively persistent finish. This is an excellent Pommard *villages* and worthy of your interest. 90/2022+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Fourneaux”: (25% whole clusters). Very ripe and distinctly earthy and gamy liqueur-like aromas of dark berries and plum precede the powerful and admirably well-concentrated flavors that brim with dry extract on the highly persistent and complex finale. This bold and robust effort is excellent if not particularly refined but then again elegance is not why one buys Fourneaux. 92/2025+

2015 Volnay “Clos des Angles”: (50% whole clusters). Like the Bourgogne there is a whiff of brett present on the otherwise attractively layered nose that is comprised by notes of plum, dark berries, violet and discreet earth nuances. The succulent, dense and lightly stony medium-bodied flavors possess a much more refined mouth feel while delivering very fine persistence. Again, the brett is quite subtle and, at this point anyway, is not likely to bother most tasters though it’s impossible to predict whether it will become more perceptible with age. 89?/2022+

2015 Volnay “Les Chevrets”: (50% whole clusters). A very ripe yet attractively fresh nose is more floral still with its notes of lilac, lavender and violet that add both elegance and breadth to the plum liqueur and cassis scents. The round yet concentrated and powerful flavors are blessed with copious amounts of dry extract that coats the palate on the ever-so-slightly warm finish. This is somewhat less refined than it usually is but it certainly doesn’t lack for richness. 91/2022+

2015 Volnay “Les Caillerets”: Firm reduction currently flattens the underlying fruit. On the plus side there is more elegance still to the mouth feel of the refined, mineral-driven and solidly concentrated medium-bodied flavors that possess notably better complexity on the balanced though much firmer finish. This is most impressive but patience required. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Volnay “Taillepieds”: (30% whole clusters). This too is presently quite firmly reduced. Otherwise there is a similar mouth feel to the Caillerets with perhaps even more minerality present on the well-muscled and more powerful flavors that also coat the palate with dry extract on the wonderfully persistent if youthfully austere finish. This is a big but well-balanced Taillepieds that is also going to require extended cellaring before it’s ready for prime time. (92-94)/2027+

2015 Volnay “Santenots”: Here too there is just enough brett character to mention though I stress that it’s presently extremely subtle and still easily allows the highly spiced and distinctly floral-scented nose to shine. The wonderfully, even lavishly rich velvet-textured medium weight plus flavors once again coat the mouth with sappy dry extract that renders the firm tannins all but invisible on the powerful, driving and hugely long finish. As with the Clos des Angles, the brett is quite unobtrusive and not likely to trouble most drinkers. With that caveat duly noted, it’s difficult to predict how this will age in the context of whether the brett will remain subtle or become more pronounced. 89?/2027+

2015 Pommard “Les Chanlins”: (20% whole clusters). This too flirts with brett though in this case it is so subtle that I almost hesitate to mention it as it’s very much a background element on the otherwise pungently earthy purple fruit and floral scents. The fresh, energetic and highly detailed middle weight plus flavors possess excellent concentration and minerality before concluding in a linear, intense and youthfully austere finish. Given that this is not in bottle it’s hard to know what may be done and thus my range offers the benefit of the doubt. (91-94?)/2027+

2015 Pommard “Jarolières”: (100% whole clusters). This mixes both upper and lower register aromas that include herbal tea, violet, rose petal, earth, spice and liqueur-like dark berry fruit scents. There is a slightly finer mouth feel to the sappy, intense and powerful middle weight flavors that also brim with minerality on the balanced and lingering finish that is almost as complex if not quite as structured. Worth considering. (91-93)/2025+

2015 Pommard “Les Epenots”: (from both Grands and Petits Epenots; 30% whole clusters). This is one of the few wines in the range to exhibit any appreciable amount of wood on the plum liqueur, violet, lilac and earth-suffused nose. The lavishly rich and velvet-textured big-bodied flavors possess focused power and excellent intensity, all wrapped in a palate coating, refreshing and once again hugely long finish. This is very clearly built-to-age yet it’s not so imposing that it could not be approached after 6 to 8 years of age. This too is one to consider. (92-94)/2030+

Domaine Comte Senard (Aloxe-Corton)

2015	Aloxe-Corton	red	(88-91)
2015	➔ Aloxe-Corton “Les Valozières” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	Bourgogne Pinot Noir – Auguste	red	(85-87)
2015	Chorey-lès-Beaune	red	(87-89)
2015	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	Corton-Clos des Meix Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2015	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2015	Corton-Les Paulands Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2015	Corton-Perrières Grand Cru	red	(91-93)

Lorraine Senard was unstinting in her praise of 2015, calling it “a very, very fine vintage...except for the tiny yields. On the positive side, it may not have been much for yields but the quality of the fruit is as good as I have ever seen, which is really not all that surprising given how little we had to do in the vineyards. In fact even when we did treat, it was only at 50% of the

amount to be applied which means that there was almost no disease pressure at all. I chose to begin picking on the 5th of September and everything about the fruit was the way that you would specify the individual components if you could design a vintage from scratch. The vinifications were easy and I used from zero to 100% whole clusters depending on the wine in question. I really like the 2015 vintage and hope to have another one like it before I retire.” I quite like the quality of the 2015 Senard wines and particularly so at the *grand cru* level though don't overlook the Valozières as it too is excellent. (Pas Mal Portfolio, mafeuer@mindspring.com, NY/NJ and Vineyard Road, www.vineyardroad.net, MA, both USA).

2015 Bourgogne Pinot Noir – Auguste: A very ripe nose combines notes of red and dark berries with plenty of earth and a hint of forest floor. There is fine richness to the vibrant flavors that culminate in a rustic and serious if slightly edgy finale where it's not completely clear that the edginess will eventually round off. (85-87)/2019+

2015 Chorey-lès-Beaune: (from Les Champs Longs; 80% whole clusters). A discreet application of wood sets off a distinctly floral-infused nose of black cherry, earth and again a hint of forest floor. The dusty and delicious middle weight flavors possess a velvety mid-palate while delivering fine punch and persistence on the better balanced finale. (87-89)/2021+

2015 Aloxe-Corton: (from 5 different vineyards; 100% whole clusters). Here the wood treatment is a bit more evident though not so much as to materially intrude on the very ripe black cherry, plum, violet and warm earth-scented nose. There is both good energy and freshness to the solidly well-detailed and intense medium-bodied flavors that possess more refinement than one typically finds with Aloxe *villages* reds, all wrapped in a lingering finish where only a trace of rusticity can be found. This should drink reasonably well young but reward up to a decade of cellaring as well. (88-91)/2022+

2015 Aloxe-Corton “Les Valozières”: (100% whole clusters). A liqueur-like nose features notes of cassis, various floral nuances, warm earth and enough wood to merit mentioning. There is outstanding volume to the robust, muscular and powerful big-bodied flavors that possess ample amounts dry extract that imparts a sappy texture to the mid-palate and buffers the very firm, rustic and built-to-age finale that delivers excellent depth and length. This is definitely tannic but not really austere and if you have the patience, this would make for a very fine and age-worthy choice. (90-93)/2025+

2015 Corton-Les Paulands: (100% whole clusters). Slightly more prominent wood and menthol elements frame the overtly floral-suffused nose of cassis, black cherry and a whiff of the *sauvage*. The rich, velvety and admirably concentrated big-bodied flavors possess excellent power and punch on the rustic, serious and built-to-age finish that is sneaky long. This is very much in keeping with the tendency of Les Paulands to be quite rustic young but despite this it always seems to age well and generally develops excellent complexity whilst doing so. (91-93)/2027+

2015 Corton- Perrières: Here too there is a hint of menthol present on the notably spicier dark berry liqueur-like aromas that also display plenty of earth and game characters. The sleek and delicious middle weight flavors are slightly less concentrate and powerful though at the same time they're more obviously mineral-driven, all wrapped in an even firmer if not longer finale. While qualitatively similar, this and the Paulands offer two very different drinking experiences. Patience. (91-93)/2030+

2015 Corton-Clos des Meix: (a large 2 ha *monopole* of the Domaine with 80% of the vines planted in '45 and the rest in '75; 100% whole clusters). This also displays subtle but not invisible notes of wood and menthol that surround the earthy and impressively complex spicy dark currant aromas where the floral elements are notably prominent. There is good richness and volume to the notably finer medium-bodied flavors that deliver even better persistence on the equally complex finale. This is dusty and firm but manages to remain a Corton of relatively refinement. (91-94)/2027+

2015 Corton-Bressandes: (100% whole clusters). A pungent yet elegant nose displays an assortment of aromas that include oak, menthol, lilac, rose petal, red and dark currant and whispers of earth and game. There is excellent volume to the very rich and seductively textured big-bodied flavors that possess velvety mid-palate before tightening up immediately into a tautly muscular, very firm and beautifully persistent finish. This is very much built-to-age and is going to need plenty of it before it resolves its considerable tannins. (92-94)/2032+

2015 Corton-Clos du Roi: Here the wood treatment is no longer subtle and in particular the menthol component is particularly strong though it's not so much as to dominate the very spicy and markedly *sauvage*-inflected dark berry fruit aromas. There is excellent concentration, power and minerality to the broad-shouldered flavors that evidence obvious muscle on the driving and youthfully austere finale. This is a classic and robust Clos du Roi yet the supporting tannins are not rustic though with that being said, they are definitely very firm and this beauty is going to require extended aging. (92-94)/2035+

Domaine Tollot-Beaut (Chorey-lès-Beaune)

2015	➔ Aloxe-Corton	red	89
2015	➔ Aloxe-Corton “Les Fournières” 1er	red	93
2015	➔ Aloxe-Corton “Les Vercots” 1er	red	92
2015	➔ Beaune “Clos du Roi” 1er	red	91
2015	➔ Beaune “Grèves” 1er	red	92
2015	➔ Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	red	87
2015	Chorey-lès-Beaune	red	88
2015	➔ Chorey-lès-Beaune “La Pièce du Chapitre”	red	89
2015	Corton Grand Cru	red	93
2015	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	93
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Champ-Chevrey” 1er	red	91
2015	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Lavières” 1er	red	92

Nathalie Tollot described 2015 as “a vintage that was much easier than what we have had to deal with recently, in fact it was easiest growing season since 2009. We chose to begin picking on the 3rd of September and brought in super-clean and ripe fruit that possessed good sugars and reasonably good acid levels. On the plus side we were able to harvest very quickly because not only was the fruit, as I mentioned, very clean but on the less good side, there just wasn’t much of it. The vinifications were straightforward and the only aspect that concerned us was to be sure not to extract too much tannin as the skins were so thick. As to the wines, they should please everyone as not only are they seductive and thus should be pleasing young but for those who enjoy older reds, everything is in place such that they should also age extremely well.” Tollot also explained that they decided to use 33% whole clusters in the vinification for the Grèves and the Corton as an experiment. As the commentaries and ratings confirm, the domaine performed exceptionally well across the board and given the reasonable prices that the wines generally sell for, they also offer excellent value. Note that the Tollot wines are deliberately bottled with slightly higher levels of CO₂ so decanting the wines is always a good idea. Also, the 2015s were bottled in February 2017 and I tasted them in early March. (Wine Bow; The Wine Society, www.thewinesociety.com, Tanners Wine, www.tanners-wines.co.uk, Domaine Direct, www.domainedirect.co.uk, Fields, Morris & Verdin, www.fmvwines.com, Justerini & Brooks, www.justerinis.com and O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, all UK).

2015 Bourgogne – Pinot Noir: A ripe and fresh nose displays notes of dark raspberry, spice and soft earth wisps. There is unusually good volume to the rich and seductively textured middle weight flavors that are shaped by relatively fine tannins on the lingering finish. This is an excellent example of the genre and would make a fine all-around house red. 87/2019+

2015 Chorey-lès-Beaune: A slightly more elegant nose features liqueur-like aromas of both red and dark pinot fruit that are also liberally laced with warm earth nuances. The textured and relatively refined medium weight flavors also possess a seductive texture though with a bit more overall depth and length. This too would make for a very good upper level house red. 88/2019+

2015 Chorey-lès-Beaune “La Pièce du Chapitre”: (from a 1.7 ha parcel of 50+ year old vines). Here the nose is quite similar to that of the regular *cuvée* if perhaps just a bit more complex. There is more volume to the more tightly coiled middle weight flavors that possess fine delineation on the somewhat firmer and more complete finish. Chorey doesn’t get a whole lot better than this and it is highly recommended. 89/2020+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Lavières”: A densely fruited and more deeply pitched nose combines notes of violets, cassis, plum and plenty of earth elements. The sleek, vibrant and wonderfully textured medium-bodied flavors exhibit a subtle minerality on the beautifully complex, persistent and impeccably well-balanced finale. This is terrific and I really like the mouth feel and this is also highly recommended. 92/2023+

2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Champ-Chevrey”: (Champ-Chevrey is a *climat* within Les Fourneaux). Here the brooding nose is also very earthy with its array of spice, cassis and plum liqueur-scented aromas. Like the Lavières, the medium weight flavors possess an ultra-sleek mouth feel as well as lovely delineation that carry over to the slightly firmer if a bit less complex and persistent finale. This moderately robust effort will require at least some patience. 91/2025+

2015 Beaune “Clos du Roi”: A markedly ripe yet still fresh nose combines aromas of black raspberry, cherry, violet and a trace of anise. Consistent with the prior wines the medium weight flavors possess a wonderfully seductive mouth feel; indeed the word caressing is apt, all wrapped in lilted, dusty and moderately firm finale. Good stuff here and fashioned in a more forward and accessible style. 91/2022+

2015 Beaune “Grèves”: (fashioned with 33% whole clusters). A beautifully fresh and ripe nose offers up a notably earthy and spicy assortment of liqueur-like dark berry fruit and plum aromas. There is terrific intensity to the caressing yet muscular medium weight flavors that exhibit a subtle minerality on the sappy, serious, firm and strikingly persistent finish where the only reproach is a hint of warmth. This is very Grèves in that it is robust but with a certain elegance. 92/2027+

2015 Aloxe-Corton: (from Les Petits Vercots, Boutières, Les Cras and Crapousuets). A ripe yet cool and airy nose puts forward essence of red currant, cherry and plenty of earth elements. The succulent, round and exceptionally rich middle weight plus flavors coat the palate with dry extract while delivering unusually good length on the mildly rustic finish. This moderately firm effort is an unusually good Aloxe *villages* and is also recommended. 89/2023+

2015 Aloxe-Corton “Les Vercots”: (from young vines of around 10 years of age). There is just enough post-bottling reduction to render the nose tough to read today but it seems sufficiently slight that I doubt that it will persist for very long. Otherwise there is excellent intensity to the muscular, serious and dense broad-shouldered flavors that also coat the palate with sappy dry extract while delivering first-rate persistence on the very firmly structured finale. This is packed with development potential but note well that unlike some of the wines in the range, this is built-to-age and is going to need it. 92/2027+

2015 Aloxe-Corton “Les Fournières”: A brooding and highly restrained nose grudgingly offers up notes of the *sauvage*, earth and ripe red and dark currant scents. There is outstanding volume to the exceptionally rich flavors that bathe the palate in dry extract that pushes the very firm tannic spine to the background on the mildly rustic and hugely long finish. This big-bodied effort is very much built for the long-term and is definitely going to need plenty of cellar time. I would further add that Tolle-Beaut is the reference standard for Fournières and I don’t ever remember a better example than this one. 93/2030+

2015 Corton: (from Les Combes; fashioned with 33% whole clusters). A fresh, discreetly spicy and floral-inflected nose displays a panoply of aromas include forest floor, earth, red currant and a whiff of game. The focused, intense and well-detailed broad-shouldered flavors that possess excellent mid-palate density while remaining relatively refined yet powerful on the balanced finish that delivers very fine depth and length. This is finer than it usually is and is notably fresh in the context of the 2015 vintage. 93/2030+

2015 Corton-Bressandes: A slightly more elegant if not quite as fresh combination exhibits a pretty mix of red currant, cherry, plum and subtle earth nuances. There is excellent volume to the richer and slightly rounder medium-bodied flavors that are at once utterly delicious yet entirely serious, all wrapped in a lingering finish where hints of bitter cherry and warmth appear. This is finer if not quite as vibrant as the regular *cuvée* of Corton and should mature a few years earlier. 93/2027+

Domaine Thierry Viot-Guillemard (Pommard)

2015	➔ Auxey-Duresses “Les Reugnes” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Beaune “Clos des Mouches” 1er	red	(89-92)
2015	➔ Bourgogne – Pinot Noir	red	87
2015	➔ Bourgogne – Cuvée Maison Dieu	red	87
2015	Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune	red	86
2015	➔ Monthélie “Les Duresses” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	Pommard “Les Arvelets” 1er	red	(90-92)
2015	➔ Pommard “Brescul”	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Pommard “Clos Derrière St. Jean” 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Epenots” 1er	red	(92-94)
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Fremiers” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	➔ Pommard “La Platière” 1er	red	(90-93)
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	red	(92-95)
2015	Pommard “Les Vignots”	red	(88-91)
2015	Volnay “Carelle Sous la Chapelle” 1er	red	(87-90)
2015	Volnay “Cros Martin”	red	(87-90)
2015	Volnay “Santenots” 1er	red	(87-89)

The always upbeat Thierry Viot called 2015 “a vintage that gave us tiny yields but excellent quality and I would take this combination any time. In fact, the raw materials were so good that if someone didn’t make good wine in 2015 then it was on purpose! We chose to attack the harvest on the 4th of September and the fruit couldn’t have been any cleaner. Moreover it was ripe both from a sugar standpoint but also from a phenolic maturity standpoint. And it’s this latter factor that made the

vinifications so easy because basically all you had to do was watch the vats ferment as the wines all but made themselves. In fact the colors and the extractions came so easily that all I did was to make sure that we didn't get any over-extraction but otherwise, I was a caretaker and nothing more. I love this vintage because the wines have everything they need to be great and all there is to do now is to wait for them to mature." Violot is correct to be happy with his results in 2015 and the overall portfolio is indeed excellent. I would observe that the domaine wines are better than what they make from purchased fruit but as a blanket observation, these are very much wines to consider buying. (Caveau Selections, www.caveauselections.com, OR, True North Wine Merchants, www.truenorthwines.com, CA, both USA; Baron Wines, www.baronwines.co.uk, UK; Vins Balthazard, www.vinsbalthazard.com, Quebec, Canada; Euan McKay Wine Merchant, www.euanmckay.com.au, Australia; Peter Maude Wines, www.pmfw.co.nz, New Zealand).

2015 Bourgogne – Pinot Noirien: A ripe, fresh and layered nose features mostly notes of dark currant and earth with a pretty floral whisp. There is both good volume and punch to the velvety middle weight flavors that possess fine depth and persistence compared to what is typical for the *appellation*. This would make a great inexpensive all-around house red. 87/2019+

2015 Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune: A slightly fresher, brighter and higher-toned nose combines notes of red cherry, raspberry and lilac. There is good verve to the relatively racy if less concentration flavors that possess a beguiling mouth feel but not the sheer depth of material of its two Bourgogne counterparts. 86/2018+

2015 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 rather than Bourgogne). A discreet touch of wood frames the notably more deeply pitched aromas of dark cherry liqueur, plum, earth and a hint of humus. There is an impressively refined mouth feel to the rich and more concentration as well to the delicious yet serious flavors that evidence only a hint of rusticity on the complex and persistent finale. This too would make a fine choice for a comparatively inexpensive yet ageworthy house red. 87/2020+

2015 Volnay “Cros Martin”: Here too there is a subtle application of wood framing the red currant, dark raspberry, earth and soft spice nuances. The very rich, mouth coating and velvet-textured medium-bodied flavors offer good if not truly special depth on the mildly rustic finale. This should come around fairly quickly and if it can add depth it should merit the upper end of my projected range. (87-90)/2020+

2015 Pommard “Les Vignots”: An attractively fresh array is composed by ripe aromas of red and dark pinot fruit that is cut with notes of wood, earth and floral nuances. The sleek, intense and much more mineral-driven flavors exhibit really lovely delineation on the firm, mildly rustic and sneaky long finish. This is a relatively elegant Pommard *villages*. (88-91)/2022+

2015 Pommard “Brescul”: A discreet if not imperceptible whiff of wood toast sets off the fresh, cool and mostly red berry aromas are also cut with nuances of pungent earth and forest floor. There is both excellent volume and richness to the lightly mineral-inflected medium weight flavors that possess very fine complexity and persistence on the well-balanced finale. This is a very good Pommard *villages* that is worth considering. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Monthélie “Les Duresses”: (from a .18 ha parcel). A brooding if appealingly fresh assortment combines plenty of earth and underbrush elements with those of plum and red currant. Once again there is fine volume and concentration to the stony, serious and muscular flavors that are shaped by ripe tannins on the sneaky long and well-balanced finale. This is notably firm but it's not really youthfully austere and if you're impatient this could be enjoyed young. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Auxey-Duresses “Les Reugnes”: Somewhat more prominent wood stops short of fighting with the ripe and attractively layered aromas of dark currant, plum liqueur, earth and a pretty array of floral wisps. The delicious and notably sleek middle weight flavors are markedly finer than they usually are, all wrapped in a mildly austere but impressively long finale. This too should be approachable young if desired. (90-92)/2022+

2015 Beaune “Clos des Mouches”: This also walks a fine line between enough wood to notice without having so much as to really intrude on the sense of purity of the layered and expressive nose of red pinot, dark berry and spice nuances. The caressing and velvet-textured medium weight flavors possess solid mid-palate concentration before concluding in a sappy and lingering finale. This is definitely finer than the Reugnes but somewhat surprisingly less complex. (89-92)/2022+

2015 Pommard “Les Arvelets”: Aromas of purple fruit, in particular plum, combine with notes of earth, violet and a more subtle hint of wood. The voluminous, punchy and sappy medium weight flavors possess focused power on the firm and seductive finish where the only nit is a hint of warmth. This too should drink well on the early side if desired. (90-92)/2023+

2015 Pommard “La Platière”: (from a .7 ha parcel containing the Domaine’s oldest vines planted in 1936). Moderate but not really intrusive wood still easily allows the cool, ripe and distinctly earthy aromas of red and dark currant to shine. There is a bit more size, weight and power to the medium weight plus flavors that retain fine delineation and minerality that really comes up on the refreshing yet quite serious finale. This is firm enough to make clear that it’s going to need time. (90-93)/2025+

2015 Pommard “Les Fremiers”: Here too there is enough wood present to warrant mentioning on the slightly more elegant nose that is comprised by the attractively spiced and earth-inflected essence of wild red berry aromas. There is a really lovely sense of underlying tension to the caressing, succulent and seductive big-bodied flavors that coat the palate with dry extract before concluding in a balanced and beautifully persistent finish. This is a relatively elegant rendering of Fremiers but the firm tannic spine reminds one that it’s still a Pommard. (90-93)/2027+

2015 Pommard “Clos Derrière St. Jean”: (a *monopole* of the Domaine that once measured 11 ares but after the construction of a swimming pool, now measures only 9.81 ares or the equivalent of only one-quarter acre; the vines were planted in 1947). Much more subtle wood can be found on the ripe liqueur-like aromas of various red berries that are liberally sprinkled with spice, earth and a whiff of humus. Like the Fremiers the mouth feel is caressing and succulent with a highly seductive texture that coats the palate on the slightly more refined and just as complex finale. This should be approachable after only 5 to 7 years if desired yet reward up to a decade of cellaring. (91-93)/2023+

2015 Pommard “Les Epenots”: (from Petits Epenots). Once again moderate wood stops short of dominating the elegant, pure and appealingly fresh mix of red currant, dark cherry, earth and a panoply of spice elements. The sense of refinement continues onto the exceptionally rich middle weight plus flavors that possess an impressive amount of dry extract that saturates the palate and does a fine job of buffering the otherwise notably firm tannic spine. Despite the solid structure, the abundance of sap should enable this beauty to be enjoyed on the younger side if that’s your preference. (92-94)/2027+

2015 Pommard “Les Rugiens”: (from a .5 ha parcel located at the bottom of Rugiens Haut). This is quite ripe with liqueur-like aromas of raspberry, cassis and plum that cannot mask the wet stone nuances. There is outstanding detail to the detailed, mouth coating and intense big-bodied flavors that possess impeccable balance and outstanding length on the gorgeously complex and seriously long finish. This is opulent to the point of being almost thick there is absolutely no sense of heaviness and this is really quite classy. In sum, this is terrific and absolutely worth your consideration. (92-95)/2030+

2015 Volnay “Carelle Sous la Chapelle”: This is ripe to the point that the nose flirts with prune on the otherwise attractive dark berry fruit and spice scents. There is good detail and volume to the lightly mineral-inflected flavors that display reasonably good persistence on the noticeably warm and borderline rustic finish. Given how refined a classic example of Carelle typically is, this lacks a bit of finesse and the nose doesn’t appeal to me. (87-90)/2023+

2015 Volnay “Santenots”: This possesses a nose that is quite similar to the Carelle including the whiff of prune. There is a bit more volume and richness to the dense, powerful and palate coating flavors that conclude in a chewy and slightly short and warm finale. This is certainly concentrated but it’s also awkward and the balance isn’t what it could be. (87-89)/2025+

Domaine Joseph Voillot (Volnay)

2015	➔ Bourgogne – Pinot Noir Vieilles Vignes	red	87
2015	➔ Pommard – Vieilles Vignes	red	(89-91)
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Epenots” 1er	red	93
2015	Pommard “Clos Micault” 1er	red	90
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Pézerolles” 1er	red	92
2015	➔ Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	red	93
2015	Volnay – Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2015	➔ Volnay “Les Caillerets” 1er	red	91
2015	➔ Volnay “Les Champans” 1er	red	(91-93)
2015	➔ Volnay “Les Frémiets” 1er	red	91

Jean-Pierre Charlot described 2015 quite simply by observing that “everything was easy basically from start to finish. The season was hot and dry with basically no disease pressure to speak of, which means that we made many fewer treatments and other than the vines suffering from a bit of hydric stress in July, it was pretty much stress-free. I chose to begin picking on the 5th of September and the fruit was incredibly clean. We sorted but in the end if we threw out 1% of the crop I would be surprised. Moreover the fruit was exceptionally ripe without being roasted and for the first time in my career, and I’ve been doing this for a very long time now, I didn’t chaptalize even one *cuvée*. The vinifications were easy as well as there wasn’t much to do except watch as the colors and extractions basically happened by themselves due to the very thick skins. When

you consider everything together, which is to say vineyard work, harvest and vinification, 2015 is about as easy a vintage as I can imagine having.” Not surprisingly the results are consistent with Charlot’s comments as the wines reflect the absence of problems as they are excellent. Charlot noted that the wines in bottle were put there in January 2017 and I tasted them in February. (A Roy Cloud Selection for Vintage ’59 Imports, www.vintage59.com, Washington, D.C., USA; Adnams, www.adnams.co.uk, Ball Brothers, www.merchant.ballsbrothers.co.uk, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Decorum Vintners, www.decvin.com, Goedhuis & Co., www.goedhuis.com, Davy & Co., www.davywine.co.uk, Averys Fine Wine Merchants, www.averys.com, Bowes Wine, www.boweswine.co.uk, House of Townend, www.houseoftownend.com, DB McCraith, www.dbmwines.co.uk, Dudley-Jones Fine Wines, www.dudleyjonesfinewine.co.uk and Richard Harvey Wines, all UK).

2015 Bourgogne - Pinot Noir Vieilles Vignes: (from a parcel of vines located near Volnay). An attractive ripe and fresh nose is comprised by aromas of red pinot fruit and plenty of earth-inflected scents. The earthy character carries over to the solidly concentrated and vibrant middle weight flavors that possess a caressing mouth feel thanks to the finer-than-usual tannins that shape the delicious and persistent finish. This is a quality Bourgogne and worth checking out for a value play. 87/2019+

2015 Volnay – Vieilles Vignes: Here too the nose is markedly earthy with its well-layered mix of forest floor, red currant and violet aromas. The succulent, round and impressively rich flavors also possess fine volume and mid-palate density while delivering good precision on the lingering and balanced finish. This is not particularly refined nor is it especially complex but the underlying material is present such that more depth should develop with a few years of bottle age. 88/2020+

2015 Pommard – Vieilles Vignes: (from Les Cras though not labeled as such). This is also quite fresh with its assortment of various red berry fruit aromas, and in particular cherry, that are liberally laced with hints of earth, spice and tea. As is usually the case this is bigger, richer and more powerful than the Volnay *villages* with well-detailed middle weight flavors that possess an appealing mouth feel on the refreshing, firm and ever-so-slightly austere finale. Worth a look. (89-91)/2022+

2015 Volnay “Les Frémiets”: (from vines that average 50+ years of age). Subtle but not invisible wood frames the pungently earthy aromas of ripe red berries, earth and an interesting array of spice and dried orange peel nuances. There is good vibrancy to the sleek and mineral-inflected flavors that possess a really lovely mouth feel, all wrapped in a dusty, serious, well-balanced and lingering finish where the wood telegraphed by the nose resurfaces. 91/2023+

2015 Volnay “Les Caillerets”: (from a small .14 ha parcel planted in 1984). Here too there is enough wood to mention on the much spicier assortment of red currant, plum and violet aromas and in this case the wood is accompanied by menthol wisps. The medium weight and more obviously mineral-inflected flavors possess a beguiling mouth feel not only thanks to the abundance of sappy dry extract but also to the firm but fine-grained tannins. Lovely and this should age for years if desired. 91/2023+

2015 Volnay “Les Champans”: (from vines that average 50 years of age). Cool, ripe and fresh aromas speak of red berry, wet stone and discreet floral hints give way to vibrant, intense, detailed and concentrated middle weight flavors that are shaped by phenolically ripe and remarkably fine tannins. The length is impressive and this is a classic Champans of finesse and minerality yet it is very much built-to-age. Recommended. (91-93)/2025+

2015 Pommard “Clos Micault”: A pungent nose is composed by notes of menthol, wood, plum, red currant liqueur and plenty of earth elements. There is excellent volume to the succulent, round and relatively seductive medium-bodied flavors that finish with hints of austerity and warmth. This should be approachable young but is constructed to repay up to a decade of bottle age. 90/2021+

2015 Pommard “Les Pézerolles”: (from a .4 ha parcel planted in 1963). As is usually the case this is notably more elegant with its admirably pure nose of essence of red berries, tea, spice and lilac wisps. Once again there is a really lovely mouth feel to the much more mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that are both graceful and sophisticated while delivering sneaky good length on the harmonious finish. This is pretty much textbook Pézerolles. 92/2023+

2015 Pommard “Les Epenots”: A perfumed and expressive combination of red and dark currant, plum, earth and violet aromas marries into rich, seductive and concentrated medium-bodied flavors that brim with dry extract that does an excellent job of buffering the otherwise firm tannic spine on the mouth coating and highly complex finish. This too possesses a caressing mouth feel with that extra dimension that the finest examples of Epenots always seem to deliver. Good stuff and note that this is a wine that should drink well on the younger side yet age effortlessly well. 93/2025+

2015 Pommard “Les Rugiens”: (from a .25 ha parcel planted in 1959). As is also usually the case, this is more aromatically elegant than the Epenots with its relatively high-toned and intensely floral-suffused nose of essence of red currant, cherry and soft earth scents that are trimmed in just enough wood to warrant mentioning. There is both excellent volume and focused power to the driving, muscular and intensely mineral-driven finish that exhibits terrific persistence. This is very impressive and should age effortlessly for years to come yet it is not so rigid that it couldn't be approached after 6 to 8 years. 93/2027+

En Plus – More Current Release Burgundy

En Plus includes wines that are reviewed outside of the theme of the current issue.

Domaine Adélie (Mercurey) – Domaines Albert Bichot

2015	Mercurey “Champs Martin” 1er	red	(87-90)
2015	Mercurey “En Pierre Milley”	red	(86-88)
2014	Mercurey “Champs Martin” 1er	red	88

See also Domaines du Pavillon and de Rochebrès herein, which are other Bichot properties that are reviewed separately. (Breakthru Beverage, www.breakthrubev.com, IL, Horizon Beverage, www.horizonbeverage.com, MA, Fine Vines, www.finevines.com, IL, OPICI, www.opici.co, FL, BNP Distributing Company, www.bnpdist.com, NY, Pioneer Wine Company, www.pioneerwine.com, TX, Epic Wine & Spirits, www.epic-winesandspirits.com, CA and Vinecraft, www.vinecraft.com, FL, all USA; H & H Bancroft Wines, www.bancroftwines.com, Laytons, www.laytons.co.uk, Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com and H2 Vin Limited, www.h2vin.co.uk, all UK).

2015 Mercurey “En Pierre Milley”: A ripe but cool and airy nose is composed by notes of various red berries mixed with those of earth and floral nuances. The supple, round and delicious flavors are quite forward, indeed so much so that this mildly rustic effort could already be enjoyed. (86-88)/2018+

2015 Mercurey “Champs Martin”: This is at once riper but also more complex with good density to the red and dark currant, earth and violet aromas. The density continues on the delicious and caressing middle weight flavors that conclude in a lingering and balanced finish that is both youthfully austere and rustic. (87-90)/2021+

2014 Mercurey “Champs Martin”: There is a whisper of volatile acidity present on the otherwise attractively fresh aromas of red currant and plenty of earth scents. The focused, well-detailed and punchy flavors display evident minerality on the attractively textured finale that delivers fine length on the mildly austere finale. While not technically perfect the VA is so slight that it is unlikely to bother most tasters save for those who are inordinately sensitive to it. 88/2020+

Stéphane Aviron (La Chapelle de Guinchay)

2015	Beaujolais-Villages	red	87
2014	Chénas – Vieilles Vignes	red	86
2014	Côte de Brouilly – Vieilles Vignes	red	89
2014	Juliéas – Vieilles Vignes	red	89
2014	Morgon “Côte du Py - Vieilles Vignes”	red	88
2014	Moulin-à-Vent – Vieilles Vignes	red	88

Stéphane Aviron focuses on the Beaujolais *crus* and finding old parcels of vines. He utilizes organic and biodynamic vineyard management. All wines are labeled “*vieilles vignes*” because the vines are at least 40 years old. (Frederick Wildman, www.frederickwildman.com, NY, USA)

2015 Beaujolais-Villages: (sourced from 50+ year old vines in a *lieu-dit* named “Les Monthieus”, located in the commune of Lantignie, whole cluster fermentation). A ripe, pretty and relatively fresh red berry fruit nose leads to round, supple and delicious flavors that are built on their fruit but offer better depth and length than most examples of the genre. There is however noticeable warmth so I would be inclined to serve this slightly chilled. 87/2018+

2014 Chénas – Vieilles Vignes: (produced from pre-phyloxera vines that average over 100 years of age from a 13.6 acre parcel). There is enough reduction present to warrant a thorough aeration. There is otherwise good verve if not necessary freshness to the round, delicious and relatively seductive middle weight flavors that possess reasonably good depth though the clipped, mildly warm and compact finish is fairly short. I wouldn’t age this for very long as it risks drying out with time. 86/now

2014 Côte de Brouilly – Vieilles Vignes: (vines average 60+ years). There is a whiff of menthol to the dark fruit, earth and pepper-inflected nose. There is good verve and reasonably good detail as well to the delicious middle weight flavors that terminate in a mildly austere but sneaky long finish. This isn’t perfectly balanced but for the price, it’s hard to be overly exigent. 89/2019+

2014 Juliéna – Vieilles Vignes: (from two plots with vines averaging over 50 years). A very somber warm earth and pepper-inflected dark berry fruit nose precedes attractively vibrant and reasonably well-detailed flavors that possess good if not special depth and persistence on the balanced finale that exhibits just a touch of youthful austerity. While the austerity isn’t really a problem it’s not clear that the phenolic ripeness of the supporting tannins is sufficient that the austerity will ever completely dissipate and as such I would be inclined to drink this on the younger side. 89/2019+

2014 Morgon “Côte du Py - Vieilles Vignes”: (the grapes are sourced from the slopes of an 1,150’ inactive volcano). Deep garnet color. This is also quite somber as the pungently earth and gamy nose only grudgingly displays its aromas of various dark berry fruit and humus. There is good punch and detail to the rounded yet well-detailed flavors that possess good depth though there is more than a trace of backend austerity that is sufficient to partially cut short the finale. I like the depth but the balance isn’t quite perfect. 88/2020+

2014 Moulin-à-Vent – Vieilles Vignes: (this very small production wine is from four separate parcels with vines averaging 65 years old, but with many over 100 years). A somber and reticent nose grudgingly offers up pepper, earth and leather-inflected dark currant aromas. There is good richness to the relatively bold and powerful medium-bodied flavors that possess solid punch on the slightly edgy, youthfully austere and drying finish. I like the complexity but the balance isn’t what it could be. Note that my suggested initial drinking window is a compromise in the sense that I worry that this may very well dry out before the supporting tannins are fully resolved. 88/2020+

Château de Davenay (Rully)

2015	Montagny “Clos Chaudron” 1er	white	88
2015	Rully “Les Rabourcés” 1er	white	88

Château de Davenay is a holding of the Domaines Picard. Please see that entry herein for details about the 2015 vintage and distribution information.

2015 Montagny “Clos Chaudron”: A mild touch of exoticism is present on the floral-inflected white orchard fruit nose. The round, succulent and caressing middle weight flavors possess fine richness, all wrapped in a lightly stony finish. This is plump but not heavy and should drink well almost immediately. 88/2018+

2015 Rully “Les Rabourcés”: Notes of discreet wood and matchstick frame the pear liqueur-like aromas. The round, generously proportioned and seductively textured flavors are also on the plump side but like the Clos Chaudron, manage to avoid heaviness on the slightly tighter finish where a hint of lemon zest can be found. This too should drink well young. 88/2019+

Domaine des Hospices de Belleville (Joseph Drouhin – Beaune)

2015	Brouilly	red	89
2015	➔ Fleurie	red	92
2015	➔ Morgon	red	91

The Hospices de Belleville is an historical charitable institution who own 13.6 ha of vineyards in the *crus* of Beaujolais – a single 4.4 ha parcel, Le Sigaud, in Brouilly, a single 4.8 ha plot, Château Gaillard, in Morgon and three parcels totaling 6.4 ha in Fleurie. In 2014, Maison Joseph Drouhin signed an exclusive partnership with the Hospices de Belleville to manage the viticulture, vinification and commercialization of these parcels. (Dreyfus, Ashby & Co., www.dreyfusashby.com, NY, NY)

2015 Brouilly: A pepper and earth-inflected nose combines notes of violet and dark berry fruit liqueur. There is fine richness to the vibrant and delicious flavors that are quite ripe though stop short of being heavy or flabby though there is a touch of backend warmth. To enjoy young. 89/2019+

2015 Fleurie: A similar if slightly more elegant nose that is a bit spicier if less earthy introduces notably finer middle weight flavors that possess a velvety texture before terminating in an impressively persistent finish. This is really very good and a wine that could be enjoyed young or aged for a few years to good effect. 92/2021+

2015 Morgon: There is enough wood and menthol on the earthy and *sauvage*-infused black currant nose to mention. There is more volume and power to the robust medium-bodied flavors that are imposingly-scaled but not really rustic or especially austere. In sum this is a big Morgon that will need a few years to shed at least some of its firm tannic spine. 91/2023+

Château des Jacques (Romanèche-Thorins)

2015	Morgon “Côte du Py”	red	88
2014	Morgon	red	87
2014	Morgon “Côte du Py”	red	87
2014	Moulin-à-Vent	red	88
2014	➔ Moulin-à-Vent “Clos de Rochegrès”	red	91
2014	Moulin-à-Vent “Clos du Grand Carquelin”	red	89
2014	Moulin-à-Vent “La Roche”	red	90

Château des Jacques was purchased by Maison Louis Jadot in 1996. It is situated next to the famous vineyards of the *cru* Moulin-à-Vent. Five unique parcels, or Clos, compose their Moulin-à-Vent vineyards. Fruit from each Clos is vinified separately in oak barrels for 12 months. (Kobrand, Inc., www.kobrandwine.com, NY, NY).

2015 Morgon “Côte du Py”: Almost opaque. The expressive nose is very, very ripe yet somehow manages not to be *surmature*, jammy or prune. There is exceptionally good richness and concentration to the robust, powerful and mouth coating flavors where the supporting tannic spine is decidedly prominent on the noticeably warm finish. This is one of those wines that one either likes because it’s out-sized or one doesn’t because it is. This is too much for me but it’s not technically flawed (other than the warmth) and it is not without a certain, if particular, appeal. 88/2022+

2014 Morgon: (6,000 cases, 13%). Like its “bigger brother” the Côte du Py, there is a hint of herbal tea on the fresh and not as densely fruited nose that is composed mostly of pepper and various red berry aromas. The lighter weight flavors are not nearly as dense and powerful either and while there is a relatively firm backbone of supporting tannins, along with a hint of warmth, there is no backend bitterness. With that said, this lacks the same depth and it should be approachable after only a few years of bottle age. 87/2019+

2014 Morgon “Côte du Py”: (300 cases, 13%). A subtle hint of herbal tea lurks in the background on the peppery and earthy dark currant-scented nose. There is good energy and reasonably good detail to the nicely rich and relatively robust medium weight flavors that terminate in a slightly edgy and dusty finish where hints of bitter pit fruit and warmth appear. This moderately structured effort may age out but the tannins strike me as just a hair under-ripe and thus it’s not clear that they will not always have just a touch of edginess. Note that my suggested drinking window is a compromise because I fear that the finish will dry out before the tannins are completely resolved. 87/2020+

2014 Moulin-à-Vent: (4,500 cases, 13%). A distinctly pepper-inflected nose consists of somber dark berries that include whiffs of plum, earth and the *sauvage*. There is good verve and detail to the delicious if mildly rustic flavors where the lingering finish displays a hint of bitter pit fruit. This is good but not nearly as interesting as the best in the range in 2014. 88/2020+

2014 Moulin-à-Vent “Clos de Rochegrès”: (390 cases, 13%). A compositionally similar if more elegant and slightly more complex nose leads to delicious and solidly well-concentrated medium-bodied flavors that possess a lovely mid-palate mouth feel though there is a slightly dusty though not edgy finale that my sense is will eventually age out. This is really quite good even if the balance isn't perfect. Worth considering. 91/2021+

2014 Moulin-à-Vent “Clos du Grand Carquelin”: (400 cases, 13%). Like the La Roche, this is quite deeply colored for the vintage. The reserved yet complex nose flirts with reduction yet still manages to offer reasonably fresh aromas of peppery dark berry liqueur aromas along with a hint of iron-inflected earth. There is good volume and intensity to the medium-bodied flavors that possess firm finishing tannins that impart a touch of youthful austerity on the ever-so-slightly drying and warm finish. The dryness isn't fatal and with the right foods it might not even be noticeable but it would be fair to observe that the balance could be better. 89/2021+

2014 Moulin-à-Vent “La Roche”: (240 cases, 13%). Quite deeply colored for the vintage. A ripe, fresh and overtly pepper and spice-infused dark berry fruit nose introduces round, delicious and rich flavors that are shaped by moderately firm tannins on the dusty, balanced and lingering finish. This offers very good complexity and while there is a hint of warmth it's not enough to materially detract from the overall sense of balance. Moreover, this could easily be enjoyed young as the richness and sap are such that they largely buffer the underlying structure. 90/2020+

Domaine Lafarge-Vial (Fleurie)

2015	➔ Chiroubles	red	91
2015	➔ Fleurie	red	92
2015	➔ Fleurie “La Joie du Palais”	red	93
2015	➔ Fleurie “Clos Vernay”	red	93

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 further south by acquiring a 4 ha spread of vineyards. Still in Burgundy but working with gamay in Beaujolais and utilizing biodynamic practices, the name is the inclusion of both of their names (Vial is Chantal's maiden name). Lafarge noted that “we began picking on the 27th of August and the fruit was very ripe but not surmature as the potential alcohols were no higher than 13%. We used around 15% whole clusters and did no punching down as the skins were so thick that I didn't want to risk making excessively tannic wines. The total cuvaison lasted 9 to 10 days and then we racked them off, let them lie tranquilly in barrel until November 2017 and then bottled them. I like them a lot as they should age very well yet be accessible young.” I agree with Lafarge that his 2015s should age well as they're very well-balanced, not to mention that the quality is excellent. (Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA; Becky Wasserman & Co., www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France).

2015 Chiroubles: (from vines planted in 1969). Ripe and attractively fresh aromas combine notes of black fruit liqueur, pepper and warm earth. There is excellent richness and volume to the concentrated, serious and firmly structured flavors that deliver fine complexity on the balanced and lingering finish. This is going to require at least some patience as it's definitely not a 'pop and pour' Chiroubles. 91/2023+

2015 Fleurie: This is at once more aromatically elegant and slightly fresher as well with its pretty array of red and dark fruit aromas that are laced with hints of spice, earth and black pepper. There is a finer mouth feel to the sleek, delicious and vibrant flavors that are somewhat less powerful and concentrated but better balanced and even more persistent. This is textbook Fleurie that could be enjoyed young or aged for up to a decade, perhaps even longer if desired. 92/2022+

2015 Fleurie “La Joie du Palais”: This offers an additional step up in terms of elegance and complexity with its well-layered nose of red and dark raspberry, warm earth, violet and lovely spice wisps. The sense of refinement continues on the slightly punchier and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the tautly muscular, firm and impressively long finish. This is terrific and absolutely worth considering. 93/2023+

2015 Fleurie “Clos Vernay”: (from vines planted in 1975 and 1980). This is also beautifully elegant while offering a different expression with its cool, pure and equally well-layered nose of spicy and overtly floral red cherry aromas that are cut with plenty of humus-inflected earth. There is a refined yet marked intensity to the delineated middle weight flavors that terminate in a strikingly long and mineral-driven finish that is shaped by very firm but not hard or even especially austere tannins. This too is remarkably good and if you’ve got the patience to cellar it for at least a few years, would make a great choice. 93/2025+

Domaine Lievert-Barrault (Mercurey)

2015	Mercurey “Clos des Barraults” 1er	red	(85-87)
2015	Mercurey “Les Combins” 1er	red	(86-89)

Domaine Lievert-Barrault is a holding of the Domaines Picard. Please see that entry herein for details about the 2015 vintage and distribution information.

2015 Mercurey “Clos des Barraults”: A very pungent nose of menthol, wood, tar and smoke dominates the underlying fruit. The wood is quite prominent on the supple and very rounded flavors that reflect a slight bitterness that arises from the oak toast on the warm finish. While it’s of course possible that this will harmonize, I have my doubts. (85-87)/2019+

2015 Mercurey “Les Combins”: Here the nose is similar to that of the Barraults if perhaps a bit less smoky character in evidence. Otherwise there is slightly better energy to the round, rich and supple flavors that terminate in a dusty and somewhat better balanced if mildly austere finale. (86-89)/2020+

Domaine Philippe Livera (Gevrey-Chambertin)

2014	Chapelle-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	93
2014	Côte de Nuits-Villages	red	88
2014	Gevrey-Chambertin “Clos Village”	red	87
2014	➔➔ Gevrey-Chambertin “En Champs”	red	89
2014	Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Evocelles”	red	86

The Livera family has owned Domaine des Tilleuls since 1920 as it was originally created by Philippe Livera's grandfather when he was only selling grapes to *négociant* houses. In 1986 Philippe took over and began to bottle the wine under his name. In 2007 the reigns of the estate were passed down to Philippe's son Damien, then in his 20s, who has improved the vineyard management, upgraded the winery, and raised the overall quality of the wines. The estate covers 9 ha, mainly in Gevrey-Chambertin. Livera keeps the cellar at very cold temperatures, causing malolactic fermentations to be extremely slow and thus full of gas during the *élevage*. Note that Domaine des Tilleuls is cited on the label along with the Livera name. (Banville Wine Merchants, www.banvillewine.com, NY, USA).

2014 Côte de Nuits-Villages: A somber and notably *sauvage* nose features notes of mostly dark berry fruit, earth and humus nuances. There is reasonably good richness and excellent vibrancy to the delicious if moderately rustic middle weight flavors that offer solid depth and length on the balanced finale. I would note that this relatively concentrated effort improved dramatically with 30 minutes or so of air, and while some improvement is to be expected with such a young wine, I was nonetheless pleasantly surprised by just how much the wine changed in such a short period of time. 88/2021+

2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Clos Village”: A whiff of reduction shaves the top notes from the mostly plum and dark currant aromas where earth, humus and forest floor nuances eventually emerge. There is reasonably good richness to the rounded yet vibrant middle weight flavors that possess just a hint of acid tang that imparts a touch of edginess on the slightly warm finish. This is not without a nit or two but it manages to be satisfying in its fashion. 87/2020+

2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “En Champs”: This is on the riper side compared to what is typical for the vintage with its dark currant, plum and soft earth and game nuances. There is fine richness to the supple and relatively pliant mid-palate of the medium weight flavors that terminate in a slightly rustic and persistent finale. This is really quite good and about the only nit worthy of mention is a mild touch of warmth. This should reward a few years of cellaring and in particular to add depth. Recommended provided that you have a few years of patience to accord it. 89/2022+

2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Evocelles”: The dark berry fruit, earth and game-suffused nose is also relatively somber and if not inexpressive then certainly reserved. There is relatively good volume to the rounded and sleekly textured middle weight flavors that exhibit a hint of minerality on the mildly tangy and ever-so-slightly dry and noticeably warm finale. There is enough gas to exacerbate the impression of all three of these aspects and while this is not a bad wine, it’s hard to see this harmonizing. 86/2019+

2014 Chapelle-Chambertin: This is quite deeply colored in the context of what is typical for the 2014 vintage. Ripe and deeply pitched aromas speak of plum liqueur, various dark berries and plenty of earth, *sauvage* and forest floor elements. There is excellent richness, volume and solid mid-palate concentration to the medium-bodied flavors that exude a fine bead of minerality on the youthfully austere and impressively persistent finish where the only nit is a hint of warmth. Note that this required several hours to get rolling and if you’re going to sacrifice a bottle in the interest of “science”, be sure to give it at least an hour of air first. 93/2026+

Château de Poncié (Fleurie)

2015	➔ Fleurie “Le Pre Roi”	red	92
2015	➔ Fleurie “La Salomine”	red	91

Please see the Bouchard Père & Fils section above for more information. These two excellent wines were made with 50% whole clusters in 2015. (Henriot, Inc., www.henriotinc.com, NY, USA; The Rare & Fine Wine Company Limited, www.therareandfinewinecompany.com, and John E. Fells and Sons, www.fells.co.uk, both UK).

2015 Fleurie “Le Pre Roi”: A notably ripe but still attractively fresh nose features notes of black raspberry liqueur, pepper, spice and plenty of earth. There is fine concentration to the relatively refined medium weight flavors that possess really lovely vibrancy, all wrapped in a delicious, intense and beautifully long and complex finale. While this could be enjoyed young it should amply reward mid-term cellaring as well. Recommended. 92/2020+

2015 Fleurie “La Salomine”: This is aromatically similar to the Le Pre Roi but perhaps even slightly fresher. The round, supple and seductively textured middle weight flavors possess a slightly finer mouth feel if not quite the same depth. Still this is a lovely Fleurie and it is also recommended. 91/2020+

Domaine Quivy (Gevrey-Chambertin)

2014	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	NR
2014	Gevrey-Chambertin “En Champs”	red	87
2014	Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Corbeaux” 1er	red	90
2014	Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Journaux”	red	86

Gérard Quivy practiced law for many years until he took over his wife’s family domaine in 1980 and is now the fourth generation winegrower/winemaker in the family. He added a few more vineyards over the years, exclusively in Gevrey-Chambertin, including vines in Charmes-Chambertin, Chapelle-Chambertin and Les Corbeaux. The 17 ha of vines are farmed organically. (Banville Wine Merchants, www.banvillewine.com, NY, USA).

2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Journaux”: There is just enough reduction present to push the somber dark berry fruit, earth and *sauvage*-scented aromas to the background. Otherwise there is good detail to the vibrant if distinctly edgy middle weight flavors that culminate in a somewhat lean and austere finale. To be sure this isn’t unpleasant but serving this with the right foods definitely helps. Note that I would be inclined to drink this on the younger side as it risks drying out if held for more than a few years. 86/2019+

2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “En Champs”: This is aromatically riper than the Les Journaux with a more complex blend of dark raspberry and plum scents that are liberally laced with notes of underbrush, freshly turned earth and whiffs of game. There is a bit more volume to the well-detailed medium weight flavors where the additional complexity displayed by the nose is also present on the lingering, youthfully austere and again, ever-so-slightly lean finale. I like the depth though the lean finale borders on dryness and as such I would be inclined to drink this on the younger side as well. 87/2020+

2014 Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Corbeaux”: A discreet but not invisible touch of wood sets off the very Gevrey-like aromas of various dark berries that are liberally laced with notes of earth, underbrush and the *sauvage*. There is reasonably good richness and mid-palate concentration to the dusty and moderately robust flavors that possess solid depth and length on the youthfully austere finale. This is a wine that could actually be enjoyed young though I would advise holding it for another 5 to 7 years first. 90/2021+

2014 Charmes-Chambertin: This suffers from the floral-inflected reduction that the Burgundians call *bourgeon de cassis* (cassis buds) that can range from inoffensive to unpleasant and this is unfortunately in the latter category. Moreover there isn't much body to the lean and somewhat harsh flavors and finish. While I don't know if this bottle was representative, I hope not. Not Rated.

Domaine de Rochegrès (Beaujolais) - Domaines Albert Bichot

2015	Moulin-à-Vent	red	89
2015	➔ Moulin-à-Vent “Rochegrès”	red	91

In November 2014 Albert Bichot announced that it bought the 3.5 ha Domaine de Rochegrès. Please see the various Bichot domaines herein for more information on importers and the 2015 vintage.

2015 Moulin-à-Vent: A ripe, pretty and overtly pepper-inflected nose is attractively complex and this carries over to the rich, juicy and very round middle weight flavors that possess excellent mid-palate density before concluding in a lingering finish where the only nit is a hint of warmth. This should reward a few years of bottle age yet be approachable young too. 89/2019+

2015 Moulin-à-Vent “Rochegrès”: While aromatically similar to the regular cuvée the nose is both a bit more complex and more elegant as well. The sleek, intense and more refined flavors possess excellent depth and length on the balanced finale. This is at once succulent yet serious and will need a few years first. Recommended. 91/2021+

Domaine Voarick (Mercurey)

2015	Mercurey “Sous les Roches”	red	87
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Domaine Voarick, which has no relationship with the domaine of the same name based in Aloxe-Corton, is owned and directed by the Picard group. Please see that entry herein for the details regarding the 2015 vintage and importer information.

2015 Mercurey “Sous les Roches”: A fresh, ripe and fruity nose is composed primarily by essence of red cherry and earthy aromas. There is a lovely mouth feel to the succulent, round and suave medium weight flavors that terminate in a softly rustic finish. This easy-to-like effort is built on its fruit and should drink well almost upon release. 87/2018+

EN PLUS – CHAMPAGNE AND SPARKLING

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 U.S. importer provided prices as a rough indication of value.

Barnaut (Bouzy)

NV	Brut – Blanc de Noirs Grand Cru	Champagne	92
NV	Brut – Grande Réserve Grand Cru	Champagne	90
NV	Brut – Rosé Authentique Grand Cru	Champagne	91

Philippe Secondé manages the house of Barnaut and is a descendent of Edmond Barnaut who founded the house in 1874. The domaine currently farms 22 parcels totaling 34 acres of vines in Bouzy's foothills. (Vintage '59 Imports, LLC, www.vintage59.com, Washington DC.).

NV Brut – Blanc de Noirs: (SRP \$56). I very much like the complexity of the green apple, pear and white flower scents that are trimmed in toasty yeast elements that can also be found on the delicious and relatively full-bodied flavors that possess the same fine depth as communicated by the nose, all wrapped in a succulent and saliva-inducing finale. This is really quite good and while I wouldn't describe it as an elegant Champagne, if you enjoy full-flavored, indeed even robust, examples, this would be a good one to check out. 92/now+

NV Brut – Grande Réserve: (disgorged, 15 October 2015, SRP \$56). It's not always the case with Champagne that the descriptor "Réserve" is much more than marketing but in this case there is evident age to the overtly yeasty and toasty nose that offers up plenty of dried fruit nuances. There is good richness to the robust flavors as the supporting mousse is not especially fine though there is good power to the noticeably citrus-inflected finish that is almost bone dry. This is a full-bodied but not heavy effort as the citrusy character of the finish keeps things tight and focused. I prefer a finer Champagne but credit where it's due, this is made in an unapologetically frank, direct and no-nonsense style. 90/now+

NV Brut – Rosé Authentique: (disgorged 5 October 2015, SRP \$61). Relatively deeply colored in the context of the genre. The nose is mildly fruity yet there is ample yeast and despite the overt fruitiness the aromas are by no means simple or one-dimensional. Consistent with the color there is good richness, volume and mid-palate density to the delicious and rather round flavors that are shaped by a medium firm mousse, all wrapped in an off-dry finish that possesses solid if not better depth. Overall I liked this just fine but if I'm being hyper-critical, I would prefer a slightly drier and crisper finish; that said this is well-made and satisfying in its fashion. 91/now

Charles Ellner (Epernay)

NV	Brut – 1er	Champagne	88
NV	Brut – Grand Réserve	Champagne	88
NV	Brut – Rosé	Champagne	90
2006	Prestige	Champagne	90

Charles Emille Ellner, the founder, began acquiring small vineyards in Epernay while he was at the start of a career as a professional "riddler". The house is now comprised of 54 ha of vineyards in 15 different villages located in the main wine growing areas of Champagne. As a grower/producer, his four sons and wife all take part in the various business activities. The cellars have approximately 2 km of tunnels and contain a permanent stock of 2,500,000 to 3,000,000 bottles. (K & L Wine Merchants, www.klwines.com, San Francisco, CA, Massanois Imports, www.sherbrookecellars.com, Washington DC.).

NV Brut – 1er: (75% chardonnay, 25% pinot noir). Subtle notes of toasty yeast mix with green apple and Meyer lemon scents lead to crisp and intense if not especially refined flavors as the mousse is almost a bit rustic. On the plus side there is good complexity but the overall delivery lacks a bit of grace. In sum, this is perfectly good but not distinguished. 88/now+

NV Brut – Grand Réserve: (60% chardonnay, 40% pinot noir). A moderately yeasty nose offers notes of petrol, citrus and a mix of pear and apple scents. There is acceptable complexity to the round flavors that possess a relatively soft effervescence before culminating in a clean and moderately dry finale of no particular distinction. This is perfectly good but it's a bit banal in the sense that it lacks a bit of personality. 88/now

NV Brut – Rosé: (50% chardonnay, 50% pinot noir). This is a relatively deep colored rosé and the pinot influence is immediately evident with the cherry, strawberry and soft pomegranate scents that are trimmed in lovely yeast nuances. There is a relatively firm effervescence to the delicious medium weight flavors that possess good complexity if limited refinement on the robust finish. This won't win any awards for refinement, indeed it's borderline rustic yet one can't fault the bold delivery. 90/now+

2006 Prestige: (72% chardonnay, 28% pinot noir). A restrained and relatively cool nose in the context of what is typical for the 2006 vintage reflects notes of yeast, petrol, citrus peel that includes both lemon and orange, and white orchard fruit. There is good richness to the bold and somewhat rough and tumble flavors where the supporting mousse isn't particularly refined, all wrapped in a moderately dry finish that, like the Rosé, is borderline rustic. I would repeat what I wrote for the Rosé in that this is admirably bold but won't win any awards for refinement. 90/now+

Jacquesson (Dizy)

NV	Extra Brut – Cuvée 735	Champagne	92
2007	Extra Brut	Champagne	94

The firm of Jacquesson was founded in 1798 though in 1974 the Chiquet family purchased it and established its headquarters in Dizy in the midst of their own vineyard holdings. Jacquesson directly controls 30 ha of vineyards and sources fruit from an additional 10 ha that are owned by contract growers who have holdings in both the Grande Vallée de la Marne and the Côte de Blancs. (Vintage '59 Imports, www.vintage59.com, Washington D.C.).

NV Extra Brut – Cuvée 735: (47% chardonnay, 33% pinot noir, 20% pinot meunier, from the 2007 harvest and reserve wines (28%), *grands* and *premiers crus* with extended aging *sur lattes* for more than seven years until a late disgorgement in November 2015, SRP \$138, 3.5 g/L). There is a hint of cider sitting atop the mature and overtly yeasty nose of various dried orchard fruit and Meyer lemon nuances. The attractively textured, rich and generously proportioned flavors offer solid depth and length on the notably dry but not really crisp or austere finale. To my taste this is now fully mature and while it could be held, I don't foresee much additional development. 92/now+

2007 Extra Brut: (from Chardonnay vines planted in 1960 at the top of the slope, facing south-west, SRP \$268, disgorged January 2016, no dosage). A wonderfully elegant, pure and strikingly complex nose features plenty of yeast character on the dried green apple, floral and citrus-suffused aromas that reveal just a hint of secondary development. There is equally good depth to the refined, intense and sophisticated flavors that are supported by a relatively fine mousse, all wrapped in a gorgeously long and distinctly dry but not austere finish. This is a knock-out good effort that could easily be aged further but it's so tasty right now that it's hard to resist. In a word, marvelous. 94/now+

Champagne Valentin Leflaive (Avize)

NV	Brut Rosé	Champagne	92
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This wine is the result of a collaboration between two well-known and respected wine and champagne producers, Olivier Leflaive and Erick de Sousa. Grapes from each plot of vines are vinified separately and then blended with reserve wines before being bottled and placed in the cellars in Avize to mature. For more information, visit: www.valentin-leflaive.com

NV Brut Rosé: (disgorged June, 2016, 7g/L). Oeil de perdrix color. An attractively fresh and exuberantly fruity yet complex nose speaks of yeast, citrus peel, especially lemon, along with hints of cherry, strawberry and raspberry. There is a relatively fine mousse supporting the crisp, intense and utterly delicious flavors that are liberally laced as well with plenty of yeast character before culminating in an equally crisp finish that is drier than the stated dosage would unusually suggest. This is one of those rosés that a person could get in trouble with as it's so delicious and refreshing that it's borderline gulpable! 92/now+

Schramsberg Vineyards (Calistoga, CA)

2013	Brut – Blanc de Blancs	Sparkling	90
2013	Brut – Rosé	Sparkling	91
2012	Brut – Blanc de Noirs	Sparkling	91
2012	Demi-Sec Crémant	Sparkling	86

Founded in 1965 by Jack and Jamie Davies, 2015 marks the 50th anniversary for Schramsberg. From the beginning, the Davies' goal was to create sparkling wines that were fermented in the authentic méthode traditionnelle process, used for creating champagne in France. The contributions of the Davies to the California wine industry are legendary and the history for both the Davies and Schramsberg is long. It includes an historic moment when in 1972 when the 1969 Blanc de Blancs was served at the "Toast to Peace" in Beijing, between President Richard Nixon and Premier Zhou Enlai. Schramsberg wines have been served by every subsequent presidential administration. The Davies earned many awards throughout the years, including the 1995 International Festival of Méthode Champenoise Lifetime Achievement Award honoring "the thirty-year history of their exceptional winery and its world-class products." In 1996 the youngest son, Hugh, coincidentally born the

same year Schramsberg was founded, joined the winery full time. Jack Davies passed in 1998 and Jamie Davies in 2008. Hugh Davies is president and CEO. For more information call 800.877.3623 or visit: www.schramsberg.com (Wilson Daniels, www.wilsondaniels.com, St. Helena, CA).

2013 Brut – Blanc de Blancs: (North Coast, 36,050 cases, SRP \$39, 1.03 g/L, 12.7%). A pretty and well-layered nose consists of notes of green apple, citrus peel, floral and a hint of cider. There is good energy to the rich and relatively round flavors where the supporting mousse is generous but not particularly fine, all wrapped in a sappy and palate coating finish. Like its stablemates, this delivers very good quality though it's perhaps not as refined as it usually is. 90/now+

2013 Brut – Rosé: (North Coast, 60% pinot noir, 40% chardonnay, 8,480 cases, SRP \$44, 1.05 g/L, 13%). Partridge eye color. There is plenty of yeast character to the strawberry, raspberry and soft citrus-nuanced nose that precedes delicious, clean and relatively dry flavors that are supported by a moderately firm effervescence on the solidly complex finish. This is really quite good as I very much like the complexity and it is drier (though not bone dry) than most US sparkling rosés and really about the only nit is just a trace of backend warmth. 91/now+

2012 Brut – Blanc de Noirs: (North Coast, 88% pinot noir, 12% chardonnay, 10,598 cases, SRP \$41, 1.13 g/L, 12.7%). There is plenty of yeast character to the densely fruited and mildly exotic white and yellow orchard fruit, citrus and floral scents. Like the nose there is fine density to the decidedly rich and relatively full-bodied flavors that coat the palate with dry extract and I particularly like the complexity of the finish that is clean and dry without being austere. While this certainly has the underlying material to age, for my taste I would be drinking it now and over the next decade as it may become heavy in time. I would also note that despite the low level of stated alcohol there is a trace of warmth. 91/now+

2012 Demi-Sec Crémant: (74% flora, 16% pinot noir, 10% chardonnay, 2,387 cases, SRP \$40, 3.5 g/L, 13.5%). An overtly floral nose displays soft citrus nuances but not much else. The mildly sweet, round and almost soft flavors terminate in a somewhat short finish that reflects a hint of bitter lemon. I can't say this does very much for me. 86/now

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 night time 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.

“Tasted without Commentary”: For U.S. pinots that have not been specifically solicited that obtain a score of 86 or below, while those wines will be tasted and reviewed, Allen may choose to not provide a narrative/commentary.

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

2014	Pinot Noir – Fe Ciega Vineyard	Foxen Winery & Vineyard	91
2014	Pinot Noir – Melville Vineyard	Foxen Winery & Vineyard	92
2014	Pinot Noir – Fe Ciega Vineyard	Longoria Wines	90
2014	Pinot Noir – Moss Oak	Medlock Ames	90
2014	Pinot Noir – Rosella's Vineyard	Morgan Winery	90
2014	Pinot Noir – Occidental Ridge Vineyard	Rivers-Marie Wines	92
2014	Pinot Noir – Silver Eagle Vineyard	Rivers-Marie Wines	92
2014	Pinot Noir – Summa Old Vines	Rivers-Marie Wines	94
2014	Pinot Noir – Summa Vineyard	Rivers-Marie Wines	93
2014	Pinot Noir – Keefer Ranch Vineyard	Siduri Wines	90
2014	Pinot Noir – Rosella's Vineyard	Siduri Wines	90
2014	Pinot Noir – Van Der Kamp Vineyard	Siduri Wines	91
2014	Pinot Noir	Small Vines	89
2014	Pinot Noir – Baranoff Vineyard	Small Vines	90
2014	Pinot Noir – MK Vineyard	Small Vines	91
2014	Pinot Noir – Durell Vineyard	Three Sticks Winery	91
2014	Pinot Noir – Gap's Crown Vineyard	Three Sticks Winery	91
2013	Pinot Noir – Selleck Vineyard	Calera Wine Company	91
2013	Pinot Noir – Taylor Ridge Vineyard	Bohème Wines	90
2013	Pinot Noir – Celia's Cuvée	Lattanzio Wines	90
2013	Pinot Noir – Umino Vineyard	Lattanzio Wines	91
2011	Pinot Noir – Cuvée Lollapalooza – Fiddlestix	Fiddlehead Cellars	90

Alma Rosa Winery & Vineyards (Buellton, CA)

2013	Pinot Noir – Barrel Select	red	87
2013	Pinot Noir – Clone 667	red	89
2013	Pinot Noir – Sta. Rita Hills	red	87
2013	Blanc de Blancs	sparkling	88
2013	Brut Rosé – El Jabali Vineyard	sparkling	87

Alma Rosa was founded by Richard Sanford who is one of the pioneers in the Sta. Rita Hills AVA. He planted his first vineyard there in 1971 and he now farms over 100 acres. 2004 was the first release for this certified organic winery. The reds below are bottled under screwcap. For further information, contact: 805.688.9090 or email info@almarosawinery.com or visit: www.almarosa.com

Reds:

2013 Pinot Noir – Sta. Rita Hills: (Sta. Rita Hills, 3,706 cases, SRP \$35, 14.8%). A ripe, fresh and deeply pitched nose combines notes of dark cherry, briar and soft earth nuances. There is good volume and richness to the delicious and attractively vibrant flavors that possess good mid-palate density, all wrapped in a dusty and slightly warm finale. I would suggest enjoying this young as I suspect that the warmth will become more pronounced with extended age. 87/2019+

2013 Pinot Noir – Barrel Select: (Sta. Rita Hills, 634 cases, SRP \$65, 14.5%). A much higher-toned nose exhibits notes of strawberry, cherry and pomegranate. The sleek, vibrant and well-delineated lighter weight flavors display a polished mouth feel while delivering an ever-so-mildly dry and warm finish. This is on the lighter side and the balance isn't what it could be. That said, this is undeniably pretty. 87/2019+

2013 Pinot Noir – Clone 667: (Sta. Rita Hills, 14.5%). A spicy and attractively fresh nose is comprised by notes of maraschino cherry, Asian-style tea and a hint of rose petal. There is better volume and mid-palate richness to the delicious, round and nicely vibrant flavors that possess reasonably good depth and length as well as a trace of warmth. This is quite pretty though it needs to develop more depth and as such I would suggest allowing this a few years of cellar time. 89/2020+

Sparkling:

2013 Blanc de Blancs: (Sta. Rita Hills, 50% Chardonnay and 50% Pinot Blanc, 285 cases, SRP \$60, 13.7%). Like the Rosé this is really quite aromatically pretty with notes of citrus peel, green apple, yeast and a hint of white flowers. The intense, and nicely rich medium weight flavors display ample lemon peel characters on the extremely dry, indeed bone dry, finish that is clean if slightly short as it seems to abruptly stop. 88/2019+

2013 Brut Rosé – El Jabali Vineyard: (Sta. Rita Hills, Pinot Noir, 267 cases, SRP \$65, 13.7%). A pretty and softly yeasty nose speaks of strawberry, cherry and raspberry scents that are laced with discreet citrus nuances. The very generous supporting mousse is borderline foamy on the vibrant flavors that culminate in an agreeably dry finish that displays a touch of pit fruit-like bitterness. This is not without positive attributes but the finish renders this somewhat awkward and I would suggest serving it with appetizers. 87/2018+

Blair Vineyards (Marina, CA)

2013 Pinot Noir – Delfina’s Vineyard	red	85
2013 Pinot Noir – Delfina’s Vineyard “Reserve”	red	89

Beginning in 2007, Jeffrey Blair began planting pinot noir on the family’s old ranch that was purchased by his grandparents in 1920. Today Delfina’s Vineyard, named after Blair’s grandmother, and the Blair Estate are planted to just over five acres of pinot noir, almost two acres of chardonnay, and one block of Muscat. For more information visit: www.blairwines.com

2013 Pinot Noir – Delfina’s Vineyard: (Arroyo Seco, 400 cases, SRP \$45, 14.8%). Light ruby color. There is a hint of tea to the cool and restrained aromas of cherry, strawberry and cranberry. The mid-palate mouth feel of the lighter weight flavors is almost delicate, which provides an interesting contrast with the suave, round and notably rich if distinctly warm and tangy finish where the alcohol is much more apparent than is the case with the Reserve. The balance isn’t what it could be and the finishing tang is quite persistent. 85/now

2013 Pinot Noir – Delfina’s Vineyard “Reserve”: (Arroyo Seco, 110 cases, SRP \$75, 14.8%). This is ripe yet not over-ripe with its fresh and bright red cherry, pomegranate and softly spiced aromas. There is good richness and volume to the delicious, round and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that possess fine mid-palate concentration, all wrapped in a lingering if slightly warm finish where a hint of bitter cherry arises. While this isn’t a wine of finesse, it does manage to carry its considerable alcohol with relative poise. If your taste runs to big and bold but graceful, this would make a good choice. 89/2019+

Bohème Wines (Occidental, CA)

2013 Pinot Noir – English Hill Vineyard	red	88
2013 Pinot Noir – Stuller Vineyard	red	89
2013 ➔ Pinot Noir – Taylor Ridge Vineyard	red	90

Owner Kurt Beitler is a fourth generation California winemaker whose first position was at Caymus Winery after college. Beitler produced his first Bohème wine in 2004. For more information call 707.874.3214 or visit: www.bohemewines.com

2013 Pinot Noir – English Hill Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 384 cases, SRP \$49, 14.3%). A high-toned and very pretty nose features notes of cherry, cranberry, pomegranate and spice nuances. There is good richness to the caressing and naturally sweet medium-bodied flavors that possess a seductive mouth feel, all wrapped in a sappy and moderately complex finale. The sweetness is enough that some may find it slightly cloying. 88/2019+

2013 Pinot Noir – Stuller Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 264 cases, SRP \$53, 14.3%). A somewhat more deeply pitched nose combines aromas of both red and dark pinot fruit with those of soft earth and floral hints. There is excellent volume to the delicious, sleek and solidly well-concentrated medium weight flavors that also possess a caressing mouth feel before concluding in a similar naturally sweet finish though in this case it's not quite as prominent; even so, I suspect that some may find this a bit tiring as well. 89/2020+

2013 Pinot Noir – Taylor Ridge Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 192 cases, SRP \$55, 14.3%). This is at once the spiciest and the freshest of the range with is extremely pretty and airy essence of red cherry and rose petal scents. Once again there is good volume to the delicious, sappy and attractively textured middle weight flavors that deliver fine length on the drier, clean and focused finish. Other than a mild trace of warmth this is really very good and a wine that could easily be enjoyed young. 90/2019+

Calera Wine Company (Hollister, CA)

2013	Pinot Noir – Mills Vineyard	red	89
2013	➔ Pinot Noir – Selleck Vineyard	red	91

In 1974 winemaker Josh Jensen purchased a limestone rich parcel in Hollister and produced his first wines in 1975. Calera has a multi-level (7-tier), gravity-flow winery built into the side of a mountain. All of their Mt. Harlan vineyards are organically farmed and certified by CCOF. For further information, call 831.637.9170 or visit: www.calerawine.com

2013 Pinot Noir – Mills Vineyard: (Mt. Harlan, 774 cases, SRP \$62, 14.3%). A spicy mix of both red and dark pinot fruit is liberally laced with spice, tea and an interesting hint of mandarin orange. The rich and lush medium-bodied flavors possess good punch and mid-palate density before concluding in a firm and slightly rustic finish that is going to require at least 5 to 7 years to unwind and better harmonize. There is a mild edginess but note that my score offers the benefit of the doubt that it will dissipate as the structure resolves. 89/2023+

2013 Pinot Noir – Selleck Vineyard: (Mt. Harlan, 317 cases, SRP \$95, 14.9%). There is a whiff of menthol sitting atop the overtly spicy and notably ripe essence of red pinot fruit and cherry-scented nose. The very rich, concentrated and sappy big-bodied flavors possess excellent size, weight and power while delivering fine length on the palate coating finish that also evidences just a touch of tannic edginess. This is very firmly structured and very clearly built-to-age, indeed this is going to need it. I should further observe that this manages to carry its elevated level of alcohol quite well, indeed there is only a trace of warmth. Note well though that patience will definitely be required. In sum, if your taste runs to big and bold, this qualifies. 91/2025+

Champ de Rêves (Carneros, CA)

2013	Pinot Noir – Anderson Valley	red	87
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Champ de Rêves has a singular focus on pinot noir and Eric Johannsen is the winemaker. For those who do not read French, Champ de Rêves literally means field of dreams. For further information call 866.292.5040 or visit: www.champderevesvineyards.com

2013 Pinot Noir – Anderson Valley: (4,995 cases, from vines planted in 2006, SRP \$45, 14.5%). A distinctly toasty nose features notes of notably ripe red cherry and floral scents. There is good richness and volume to the round and plush medium weight flavors that possess reasonably good depth and length and about the only nit is enough warmth to mention. 87/2019+

Easton Wines (Plymouth, CA)

2014	Pinot Noir – Duarte-Georgetown Vineyard	red	87
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The Easton vineyards are farmed sustainably and the winery derives most of its electrical power from solar panels located on the roof of the main winery building. The winemaking is handled by Bill Easton. For more information call 209.245.3117 or visit: www.eastonwines.com

2014 Pinot Noir – Duarte-Georgetown Vineyard: (Sierra Foothills, 50% whole cluster, 258 cases, SRP \$30, 14.5%). A subtle application of wood frames the cool and relatively high-toned red cherry and strawberry suffused nose where background hints of spice and lilac add breadth. The lighter weight and well-detailed flavors possess a silky mid-palate mouth feel before concluding in an ever-so-mildly tangy finish. This is certainly very pretty though the acid-induced tanginess imparts a slightly clipped feel to the finish. 87/2019+

Fiddlehead Cellars (Lompoc, CA)

2012	Pinot Noir – Seven Twenty Eight – Fiddlestix	red	89
2011	Pinot Noir – Burtie Baby	red	89
2011	➔ Pinot Noir – Cuvée Lollapalooza – Fiddlestix	red	90

Kathy Joseph, “Proprietor, winemaker, grape herder and Head Fiddle” founded Fiddlehead in 1989. Joseph produces wines that are fermented 1/3 in Stainless, 1/3 in new French oak, 1/3 in neutral French oak and aged on their lees in barrel for 9 months. (See also Oregon review herein.) For further information, contact: 530.756.4550 or visit: www.fiddleheadcellars.com

2012 Pinot Noir – Seven Twenty Eight – Fiddlestix: (Sta. Rita Hills, 13.5%). A fresh, spicy and cool nose blends notes of both red and dark pinot fruit with discreet spice and floral scents. There is an appealing mouth feel to the delicious, dense and notably rich medium-bodied flavors that coat the palate with extract, all wrapped in a balanced and lingering finale. This isn’t especially complex but I like the delivery plus it could be enjoyed now if desired. 89/2019+

2011 Pinot Noir – Burtie Baby: (Sta. Rita Hills, 175 cases, 14.2%). The expressive and moderately high-toned nose is characterized by a whiff of herbal tea along with a range of red berry fruit aromas that include raspberry, cherry and pomegranate. The sleek, refined and delicious middle weight flavors exhibit a beguiling palate impression that continues onto the dusty finish that displays just a hint of edginess. Still, this is a quality 2011 that could be drunk now or held for another year or two to develop a bit more overall depth. 89/2018+

2011 Pinot Noir – Cuvée Lollapalooza – Fiddlestix: (Sta. Rita Hills, 14.1%). A slightly riper and denser nose is also more deeply pitched with notes of plum, dark currant and exotic tea. There is also a bit more volume to the delicious and generously proportioned flavors that possess focused power and punch on the lengthy finish that is also dusty though with only a trace of backend edginess. 90/2019+

Foursight Wines (Windsor, CA)

2013	Pinot Noir – Charles Vineyard	red	88
2013	Pinot Noir – Charles Vineyard Clone 05	red	88
2013	Pinot Noir – Charles Vineyard Zero New Oak	red	89

Charles Vineyard was planted in 2001 and the winery was established in 2006 by William and Nancy Charles. They are now joined by daughter Kristy and her husband Joe Webb. The name, Foursight Wines, signifies the number of generations of their family to live and work on this one piece of land in Anderson Valley. Note that all of the following wines were bottled unfined and unfiltered. For further information call 707.895.2889 or visit: www.foursightwines.com

2013 Pinot Noir – Charles Vineyard: (Anderson Valley, 450 cases, SRP \$46, 13.8%). A ripe, fresh and layered nose combines notes of spicy red currant, cherry and a hint of sandalwood. There is both good detail and verve to the utterly delicious middle weight flavors that possess a clean and ever-so-mildly drying finish that isn’t austere but it does cut it slightly short. 88/2019+

2013 Pinot Noir – Charles Vineyard Clone 05: (Anderson Valley, 125 cases, SRP \$49, 14.4%). Here the equally fresh and ripe nose offers up the same aromatic fruit profile but with a bit more spice nuances. There is a plush mid-palate mouth feel with no sacrifice in delineation while delivering slightly better depth and length though there is the same hint of backend dryness that is just enough to cut the slightly warm finish short. 88/2019+

2013 Pinot Noir – Charles Vineyard Zero New Oak: (Anderson Valley, aged with no new oak, 361 cases, SRP \$38, 13.9%). This possesses the most elegant nose of these three wines with its admirably pure array of various higher-toned red berry fruit aromas that are cut with spice and softly exotic tea nuances. I like the sense of verve and relatively fine detail displayed by the delicious medium-bodied flavors that possess solid depth and better length. Again, there is a whisper of dryness but in this case it's not really enough to materially affect the overall sense of balance. 89/2020+

Foxen Winery & Vineyard (Santa Maria, CA)

2014 Pinot Noir – Bien Nacido Vineyard Block 8	red	90
2014 Pinot Noir – Bien Nacido Vineyard Block 43	red	90
2014 ➔ Pinot Noir – Fe Ciega Vineyard	red	91
2014 Pinot Noir – John Sebastiano Vineyard	red	89
2014 Pinot Noir – Julia's Vineyard	red	90
2014 Pinot Noir – La Encantada Vineyard	red	90
2014 ➔ Pinot Noir – Melville Vineyard	red	92
2014 Pinot Noir – Santa Maria Valley	red	88
2014 Pinot Noir – Sta. Rita Hills	red	88

Foxen was founded in 1985 by Dick Doré and Bill Wathen, with the latter responsible for the winemaking duties. They produced their first pinot noir in 1989 and the focus has remained on small production vineyard-designate wines. Foxen was founded at the historic Rancho Tinaquiac in northern Santa Barbara County; the 2000-acre property remains in family hands. I have been following the Foxen wines for almost 20 years now and I would venture to say that this group of 2013s is the best that I have ever seen from them. For further information, contact 805.937.4251 or visit: www.foxenvineyard.com

2014 Pinot Noir – Santa Maria Valley: (4,000 cases, SRP \$35, 13.8%). A whiff of herbal tea can be found on the perfumed and softly spicy dark currant and plum-scented nose. There is good vibrancy to the attractively textured middle weight flavors that possess a caressing mouth feel before concluding in a moderately complex and persistent finish where a hint of bitter cherry arises. This delicious effort is nicely balanced and while it could be successfully aged for a few years, it is already approachable. 88/2019+

2014 Pinot Noir – Sta. Rita Hills: (1,934 cases, SRP \$38, 13.4%). A slightly riper if still cool and airy nose combines both red and dark cherry with earth and spice hints. The round, supple and relatively forward flavors also possess a caressing, indeed almost suave mouth feel though the finish exhibits a hint of asperity as well as the same trace of bitter pit fruit. Note that this could also be aged for a few years or easily enjoyed now. 88/2019+

2014 Pinot Noir – Bien Nacido Vineyard Block 8: (Santa Maria Valley, 918 cases, SRP \$62, 14.3%). Here the nose is compositionally similar to the Santa Maria Valley cuvée but with more evident spice and better complexity as well. There is good volume but also good detail to the supple, round and polished middle weight flavors that culminate in a dusty, sappy and equally complex finale where the only nit is a very mild acid tang. It's possible that with a few years of bottle age, as the tannins resolve, that the tang will dissipate and even today I suspect that with a well-chosen dish it would largely be a non-issue. 90/2021+

2014 Pinot Noir – Bien Nacido Vineyard Block 43: (Santa Maria Valley, 471 cases, SRP \$66, 14.5%). A more deeply pitched and slightly riper nose speaks of plum and dark berry liqueur scents together with hints of anise and mocha. There is good richness to the suave, round and supple medium-bodied flavors that coat the palate with dry extract on the lingering finish where a trace of warmth appears. This is a bit better balanced than the Block 8 but without quite the same vibrancy. A qualitative choice. 90/2021+

2014 Pinot Noir – Fe Ciega Vineyard: (Sta. Rita Hills, 124 cases, SRP \$66, 12.9%). This is also quite deeply pitched yet attractively cool with its admirably pure aromas of plum, violet and dark cherry where an interesting note of dried tangerine peel can be found. The energetic medium weight flavors possess a highly sophisticated mouth feel thanks primarily to the notably fine-grained tannins shaping the delicious, dusty and complex finale. This should benefit from a few years of bottle age yet it's not so tightly wound that it couldn't be enjoyed on the younger side if that's your preference. 91/2022+

2014 Pinot Noir – John Sebastiano Vineyard: (Sta. Rita Hills, 985 cases, SRP \$48, 13.7%). There is an interesting minty element sitting atop the pretty mix of red cherry, raspberry, plum and soft spice nuances. The round and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors possess a lush and generously proportioned mouth feel, all wrapped in an ever-so-mildly tangy yet persistent finish. The balance isn't quite perfect but overall, I like the complexity and length. 89/2021+

2014 Pinot Noir – Julia’s Vineyard: (Santa Maria Valley, 405 cases, SRP \$65, 14.2%). Coincidence or otherwise this also reflects a minty hint that runs more toward menthol on the restrained and pretty nose that presents an assortment of both red and dark fruit elements along with hints of briar and tea. There is fine richness and volume to the round and velvety middle weight flavors that possess good power and punch on the dusty and borderline robust finale that also displays a hint of warmth. This is a big if not refined wine with plenty of character. 90/2022+

2014 Pinot Noir – La Encantada Vineyard: (Sta. Rita Hills, 860 cases, SRP \$62, 13.9%). This is also somewhat aromatically restrained as it combines notes of dark cherry and plum with those of anise and slightly exotic Asian-style tea nuances. There is excellent richness to the velvety, round and supple medium-bodied flavors that possess a seductive mouth feel before concluding in a dusty, powerful and vibrant finish. This moderately structured effort isn’t especially complex at present though the underlying material appears to ensure that more will almost certainly develop if allowed a few years of bottle age. 90/2022+

2014 Pinot Noir – Melville Vineyard: (Sta. Rita Hills, 149 cases, SRP \$64, 13.9%). This is aromatically quite cool and restrained with distinct notes of spiced green tea to the essence of red cherry and dark raspberry-scented nose. I very much like the mouth feel of the satin-textured middle weight flavors that possess fine delineation on the complex, balanced and sneaky long finish. This is lovely stuff and worth checking out plus it could easily be enjoyed young if desired. 92/2022+

Lattanzio Wines (Santa Rosa, CA)

2014	Pinot Noir – Umino Vineyard	red	89
2014	Pinot Noir – W. E. Bottoms Vineyard	red	88
2013	➡ Pinot Noir – Celia’s Cuvée	red	90
2013	➡ Pinot Noir – Umino Vineyard	red	91
2013	Pinot Noir – W. E. Bottoms Vineyard	red	90

In 2005 Justin Lattanzio and his wife Hillary created Lattanzio Wines where Justin is the winemaker. For information call 707.495.4959 or visit: www.lattanzio wines.com

2014 Pinot Noir – Umino Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 100 cases, 14.4%). Traces of menthol and wood frame pretty red and dark pinot fruit that is laced with spice and floral nuances. There is good richness to the supple, round and delicious medium weight flavors that offer fine is not truly exceptional depth and length. Note that this is sufficiently forward that it could easily be enjoyed young yet it also has the requisite stuffing to reward 6 to 8 years of cellaring. 89/2021+

2014 Pinot Noir – W. E. Bottoms Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 75 cases, 14.2%). Here the exuberantly fresh and expressive nose is higher-toned with its layered array of various red berries and in particular cherry. The agreeably textured, even seductive, medium-bodied flavors possess a succulent mouth feel while coating the palate with dry extract on the sappy and ever-so-mildly tangy finish. This may well come together but there is a hint of leanness that gives me pause. 88/2021+

2013 Pinot Noir – Celia’s Cuvée: (Sonoma Coast, 125 cases, 13.9%). I very much like the complexity displayed by the dark berry, plum and violet-scented nose. The generously proportioned, round and delicious middle weight flavors possess a really lovely mid-palate mouth feel while delivering fine persistence on the reasonably well-balanced finish where the only nit is a hint of warmth. Solid quality here. 90/2021+

2013 Pinot Noir – Umino Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 160 cases, 14.1%). Like the 2014 version there is a hint of menthol present that runs more toward the minty side of the spectrum along with various dark fruit scents and in particular plum. I like the seductive texture of the delicious and generously proportioned flavors that possess excellent depth and length. This isn’t an elegant wine and there is a hint of warmth but this would make a fine choice for those who enjoy bold and robust pinots. I would advise having at least some patience as this is presently firmly structured. 91/2023+

2013 Pinot Noir – W. E. Bottoms Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 100 cases, 13.7%). Here too there is a subtle mintiness to the pretty red pinot fruit, plum and rose petal-scented nose. There is fine richness and volume to the caressing flavors that possess solid mid-palate density if perhaps not quite the overall complexity of the Umino. Still, this is very good and more depth may very well develop with a few more years of bottle age. Worth a look. 90/2021+

Longoria Wines (Lompoc, CA)

2014	Pinot Noir – Bien Nacido Vineyard “Block N”	red	89
2014	Pinot Noir – La Encantada Vineyard	red	89
2014	➤➤ Pinot Noir – Fe Ciega Vineyard	red	90
2014	Pinot Noir – Lovely Rita	red	88
2014	Pinot Noir – Sanford & Benedict Vineyard	red	89
2013	Pinot Noir – Fe Ciega Vineyard	red	88

Established in 1982 this family operated winery is owned by Diana and Richard Longoria and produces small amounts of hand-crafted wines ranging from 50-500 cases. The total current production is about 3,500 cases. It is interesting that Longoria worked with Andre Tchelistcheff at Buena Vista Winery in Sonoma in 1974. I've said this before but Longoria is crafting some lovely wines that display a definite sense of place, particularly with the Fe Ciega vineyard. For further information, contact Rick Longoria at 866.759.4637 or visit: www.longoriawine.com

2014 Pinot Noir – Bien Nacido Vineyard “Block N”: (Santa Maria Valley, 254 cases, SRP \$50, 13.7%). This was initially quite firmly reduced but with aggressive aeration it progressively dissipates to the point that the red and dark berry fruit begins to emerge. There is good richness and solid power and concentration to the broad-shouldered flavors that possess a touch of rusticity on the lingering finale. This is a bold if slightly awkward effort that will require at least 6 to 8 years of better harmonize as well as develop better overall depth. 89/2022+

2014 Pinot Noir – Fe Ciega Vineyard: (Sta. Rita Hills, 444 cases, SRP \$55, 13.5%). Here the nose is completely clean with its layered array of red cherry, plum, currant and briar scents. The supple, round and caressing medium weight flavors possess good energy that continues onto the moderately structured, intense and balanced finish. This is presently quite compact and will require extended cellaring; indeed I would strongly suggest doing so as the palate impression is sufficiently backward that it is presently quite tight and even a bit austere. 90/2024+

2014 Pinot Noir – La Encantada Vineyard: (Sta. Rita Hills, 95 cases, SRP \$50, 13.3%). An elegant array features aromas of essence of red berries that are trimmed in soft spice and floral nuances. The sleek, well-detailed and vibrant middle weight flavors possess an interesting hint of tar on the ever-so-slightly drying finish where a hint of bitter cherry appears. I like the delivery and style but the balance isn't quite perfect. 89/2021+

2014 Pinot Noir – Lovely Rita: (Sta. Rita Hills, 684 cases, SRP \$32, 13.2%). Notes of blue pinot fruit, plum, tea and violet lead to succulent, delicious and attractively vibrant flavors that possess a refined mouth feel before culminating in a dusty, sappy and moderately persistent finish. This is similar to the La Encantada in that the delivery and style are lovely but the balance is just slightly off as the finish flirts with dryness. 88/2020+

2014 Pinot Noir – Sanford & Benedict Vineyard: (Sta. Rita Hills, 66 cases, SRP \$50, 13.9%). An elegant, pure and attractively layered nose offers up notes of plum, pomegranate and red cherry along with subtle spice elements. The palate impression is also relatively succulent and utterly delicious while possessing a caressing mouth feel, all wrapped in a dusty finish that delivers better length though here too there is a hint of dryness. Note that my rating offers the benefit of the doubt that the dryness will eventually moderate though I suspect that the wine will show better with food. 89/2021+

2013 Pinot Noir – Fe Ciega Vineyard: (Sta. Rita Hills, 466 cases, SRP \$55, 14.2%). There is good freshness to the spicy dark berry and softly earth-suffused nose. I like the sense of intensity and vibrancy present on the mid-palate of the medium weight flavors that are shaped by a moderately firm tannic spine on the mildly austere and warm finale. Once again there is a touch of dryness that is unlikely to completely dissipate though it will undoubtedly ameliorate with a few years in bottle. 88/2020+

MacRostie Winery and Vineyards (Sonoma, CA)

2014	Pinot Noir – Cummings Vineyard	red	89
2014	Pinot Noir – Goldrock Ridge	red	87
2014	Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley	red	86

MacRostie Winery and Vineyards was founded by winemaker Steve MacRostie in 1987. Since 2011 MacRostie has been working alongside winemaker Heidi Bridenhagen and they have expanded the MacRostie vineyard program to include grapes from a variety of sources. For their pinots, they work in lots as small as 1 ton and do upwards of 80 individual pinot fermentations each vintage allowing them to create a small lineup of single-vineyard wines. Their construction of a new winery and tasting facility was completed in 2015. For more information, visit: www.macrostiewinery.com

2014 Pinot Noir – Cummings Vineyard: (Russian River Valley, 487 cases, SRP \$42, 14.6%). Light ruby color. This is really quite pretty with its ripe array of relatively high-toned red berry fruit and soft spice scents. The liting and almost delicate flavors possess a seductive mouth feel while offering nice depth and persistence. There is noticeable warmth that eventually arrives on the palate as the finish lingers but that is a nit as overall this is quite good. 89/2019+

2014 Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley: (318 cases, SRP \$42, 14.2%). This too possesses a light ruby color. The fruit profile is similar to that of the Cummings with its attractive mix of various red berries, floral and spice aromas. There is good richness to the rounded and suave medium weight flavors that coat the palate with dry extract, all wrapped in a mildly tangy finish that evidences hints of warmth and bitterness. As the description suggests this is somewhat awkward and it's difficult to see this harmonizing. 86/now

2014 Pinot Noir – Goldrock Ridge: (Sonoma Coast, 441 cases, SRP \$56, 14.8%). The expressive nose is relatively high-toned with its layered mix of cherry and pomegranate that are cut with spice and lilac nuances. There is fine richness to the rounded and moderately concentrated medium weight flavors that possess good dry extract that imparts a sappy texture to the mildly warm and tangy finish. I like the depth and mid-palate density but the balance isn't what it could be. 87/2019+

Medlock Ames (Healdsburg, CA)

2014	➔ Pinot Noir – Moss Oak	red	90
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Medlock Ames is a small, family owned estate vineyard and winery that was founded in 1998 by friends Chris Medlock James and Ames Morison. The estate is California Certified Organic Growers and solar-powered. They have a self-contained eco-friendly ranch at the nexus of Alexander Valley, Knights Valley, Russian River Valley and Chalk Hill appellations. They have 338 acres of oak groves, owls, hawks, sheep, geese, wild turkey, wild board, a wildlife preserve, organic gardens and 55 acres of vineyards. www.medlockames.com

2014 Pinot Noir – Moss Oak: (Russian River Valley, 120 cases, SRP \$62, 14.1%). A well-layered nose combines notes of both upper and lower register fruit aromas that include red cherry, plum and dark currant along with subtle hints of spice and violet. There is a lovely mouth feel to the relatively refined medium weight flavors that are at once rich yet detailed while offering fine persistence and solid complexity on the ever-so-mildly warm finale. 90/2020+

Migration Wines (St. Helena, CA)

2014	Pinot Noir	red	89
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This label was introduced by parent company, Duckhorn Wine Co, in 2001. Bo Felton is the winemaker. For more information visit: www.migrationwines.com

2014 Pinot Noir: (Russian River Valley, 19,675 cases, SRP \$38, 14.5%). A somber assortment of dark berries, plum and violet aromas is trimmed in just a whiff of smoke. There is good volume and solid mid-palate density to the agreeably textured, even velvety, round and pliant flavors that possess very good depth and persistence on the mildly tangy and robust finish. This is a wine of contrasts as the mid-palate is seductive yet the finish is dusty and quite powerful. In sum, while this won't win awards for refinement I like the depth and forthright character. 89/2021+

Morgan Winery (Salinas, CA)

2014	Pinot Noir – Double L Vineyard	red	87
2014	Pinot Noir – Double L Vineyard Clone 777	red	88
2014	Pinot Noir – Gary's Vineyard	red	89

2014	➔ Pinot Noir – Rosella’s Vineyard	red	90
2014	Pinot Noir – Tondre Grapefield	red	88
2014	Pinot Noir – Twelve Clones	red	87

Owners Donna and Dan Morgan Lee purchased their 65 acre property in 1996. Their Double L Vineyard became the first Certified Organic property in the Santa Lucia Highlands in 2002. They produce pinot noir and chardonnay and the winemaker is Gianna Abate. For further information call 831.751.7777 or visit: www.morganwinery.com

2014 Pinot Noir – Double L Vineyard: (Santa Lucia Highlands, 720 cases, SRP \$60, 14.2%). Wisps of tar and smoke add breadth to the mix of both red and dark fruit scents. There is good volume to the rounded and delicious medium-bodied flavors that possess an attractive mouth feel before terminating in a lingering and balanced finish where the tar character displayed by the nose resurfaces. While not unpleasant (and certainly not a flaw), the tar element may not be to everyone’s taste as I can’t say it especially appeals to me. 87/2020+

2014 Pinot Noir – Double L Vineyard Clone 777: (Santa Lucia Highlands, 45 cases, SRP \$60, 14.2%). There is a mild level of reduction present that isn’t enough to mask the various dark berry fruit aromas but it does push them to the background and as such I would suggest giving this some air first. There is equally good volume to the delicious and generously proportioned flavors that also display a tar-like hint though in this case it is more subtle. 88/2021+

2014 Pinot Noir – Gary’s Vineyard: (Santa Lucia Highlands, 117 cases, SRP \$60, 14.2%). Here the expressive nose is at once more elegant and more complex with its layered array of various red berries, spice, tea and cinnamon nuances. The sleek middle weight flavors possess a succulent and seductive mouth feel while delivering much better depth on the ever-so-slightly dry finish. This may very well age out successfully as the dryness does not appear to be fatal though it does render the finish less appealing at present. 89/2021+

2014 Pinot Noir – Rosella’s Vineyard: (Santa Lucia Highlands, 44 cases, SRP \$60, 13.6%). An elegant and pure nose features notes of cool and perfumed red berries, violet and a hint of dark raspberry. There if both good volume and mid-palate concentration to the delicious and plush medium-bodied flavors that possess much better depth on the balanced and lingering finish. There is a trace of dryness but in this case it’s not really enough to materially affect the balance. 90/2021+

2014 Pinot Noir – Tondre Grapefield: (Santa Lucia Highlands, 45 cases, SRP \$60, 14.1%). A mildly grapey nose is trimmed in a hint of menthol though it does manage to offer reasonably good complexity. I like the mouth feel of the generously proportioned medium-bodied flavors that possess fine mid-palate concentration and plenty of dry extract that also serves to buffer the moderately firm tannins shaping the lingering if somewhat tangy finish that, like the nose, offers good complexity. The balance isn’t perfect but I like the depth. 88/2020+

2014 Pinot Noir – Twelve Clones: (Santa Lucia Highlands, SRP \$34, 13.8%). This competes with the Gary’s for the most elegant nose in the range and this is easily the most complex as well with its pretty and well-layered array of mostly red berries that are liberally laced with spice and floral nuances. The nicely rich, round and delicious middle weight flavors possess a caressing mouth feel while culminating in a clean and focused if once again mildly drying finale. I suspect that if this was served on the cooler side with the appropriate foods the dryness would be almost unnoticeable. 87/2020+

Pfendler Vineyards (Santa Rosa, CA)

2014	Pinot Noir – Sonoma Coast	red	89
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In 1992 Peter Pfendler planted the family’s first vineyard which was followed by three additional vineyards planted in subsequent years. Winemaker Greg Bjornstad (formerly of Tandem and Flowers and current owner of Bjornstad Cellars) works with Pfendler’s widow Kimberly Pfendler who founded the winery in 2007. For further information visit: www.pfendlervineyards.com

2014 Pinot Noir – Sonoma Coast: (Petaluma Wind Gap, estate grown, SRP \$45, 400 cases, 14.2%). An expressive and attractively cool nose blends notes of red cherry and currant with those of violet and spice. The supple, round and vibrant middle weight flavors possess a lovely sense of detail before terminating in a dusty, focused and reasonably well-balanced finale. This does flirt with a bit of backend dryness, and there is a hint of warmth, but both are sufficiently slight that with the proper foods, they would likely be all but invisible. 89/2020+

Riverbench Vineyard and Winery (Santa Maria, CA)

2014	Pinot Noir – Clone 115	red	89
2014	Pinot Noir – Mesa	red	90
2014	Pinot Noir – One Palm	red	90
2014	Pinot Noir – Pommard	red	89
2014	Pinot Noir – Santa Maria Valley Estate	red	88
2014	Pinot Noir – Santa Maria Valley Reserve	red	89

Riverbench Vineyard and Winery was established in 1973 when its first vineyards were planted. In 2004 a group of local families purchased the property and started producing their own wine under the Riverbench label. The first vintage was 2006 and it was crafted from the 30+ year old vines. Chuck Ortman was the winemaker for six vintages up until 2011 when he retired; as of 2012, the winemaker is Clarissa Nagy. For more information call 805.937.8340 or visit: www.riverbench.com

2014 Pinot Noir – Santa Maria Valley Estate: (545 cases, SRP \$30, 13.2%). Pretty, fresh and cool aromas of red cherry, pomegranate and a hint of plum precede delicious and well-detailed middle weight flavors that culminate in a lingering and well-balanced finish where a hint of bitter cherry appears. This is lovely if not especially complex and given that it's quite forward already, more depth may not be in the offing by the time this peaks. Note that this could already be enjoyed. 88/2019+

2014 Pinot Noir – Clone 115: (Santa Maria Valley, 450 cases, SRP \$46, 12.8%). This is both fresher and spicier if otherwise similar as the fruit profile runs to the red side of the spectrum. The supple, forward and seductively textured flavors possess a beguiling sense of energy while delivering reasonably good persistence on the well-balanced finish. I like the style as well as the delivery though again one could wish for a bit more complexity. That said, this is clearly well-made and certainly very pretty; note that this too could be enjoyed young if that's your preference. 89/2020+

2014 Pinot Noir – Mesa: (Santa Maria Valley, 450 cases, SRP \$48, 12.8%). Pure, fresh and elegant essence of cherry, raspberry and spice elements introduce sleek, well-detailed and vibrant flavors that possess a caressing mouth feel, all wrapped in a clean, dry and focused finale. This is a wine of finesse and understatement and while it won't wow you with its size, weight or power, I very much like the refinement. 90/2019+

2014 Pinot Noir – One Palm: (Santa Maria Valley, 350 cases, SRP \$44, 13.2%). Here the expressive and cool nose is ever-so-slightly riper with its array of mostly red berry scents that are trimmed in soft spice and lilac nuances. The lighter weight, rounded and quite supple flavors also possess a caressing mouth feel while delivering solid persistence on the slightly more structured finale. This isn't quite as refined though there is even better depth. 90/2020+

2014 Pinot Noir – Pommard: (Santa Maria Valley, 363 cases, SRP \$48, 13.2%). This is both riper and a bit more deeply pitched as well with a very spicy mélange of various red berries and discreet plum and tea nuances. The succulent, round and delicious medium-bodied flavors deliver more punch on the lingering, dusty and balanced finish that flirts with rusticity. While this isn't exactly robust, it is more structured relative to the other wines in the range and the balance is such that this could be successfully aged if desired. 89/2021+

2014 Pinot Noir – Santa Maria Valley Reserve: (350 cases, SRP \$44, 12.8%). This is also very spicy with its cool and admirably pure nose of essence of red cherry liqueur, sandalwood and softly exotic tea hints. I like the sense of underlying tension to the delicious, round and almost lush medium weight flavors that are shaped by moderately firm tannins on the solidly persistent if distinctly dusty finish. This is certainly pretty though it's presently not quite as harmonious as the best in the range. 89/2020+

Rivers-Marie Wines (Angwin, CA)

2014	➤ Pinot Noir – Occidental Ridge Vineyard	red	92
2014	➤ Pinot Noir – Silver Eagle Vineyard	red	92
2014	Pinot Noir – Sonoma Coast	red	89
2014	➤ Pinot Noir – Summa Old Vines	red	94
2014	➤ Pinot Noir – Summa Vineyard	red	93

From Thomas Rivers Brown and Genevieve Marie Welsh. As I have recommended to readers before, if you haven't done so already, this is definitely a mailing list that you want to be on. For further information, contact: 707.942.2172 or visit: www.riversmarie.com

2014 Pinot Noir – Sonoma Coast: (14.1%). A ripe and relatively deeply pitched nose features notes of black currant, plum and a lovely array of spice elements. There is both good volume and richness to the delicious and velvet-textured middle weight flavors that possess good if not truly special depth and length on the ever-so-slightly warm finale. However, this succulent effort is sufficiently concentrated that more depth will almost certainly develop if allowed a few years of bottle age. 89/2021+

2014 Pinot Noir – Occidental Ridge Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 14.2%). Here the expressive nose is at once more elegant and more complex with its cool and pure blend of essence of red cherry, pomegranate and spiced tea aromas. The elegance conveyed by the nose carries over to the refined medium-bodied flavors that display fine intensity on the balanced, sappy and beautifully persistent finish. This will need a few years to unwind as it's presently quite tight but the potential is clearly evident. 92/2022+

2014 Pinot Noir – Silver Eagle Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 14.1%). A whiff of menthol sits atop the mix of red and dark currant aromas that are trimmed in Asian-style tea nuances. There is once again good volume and mid-palate concentration to the succulent and generous proportioned yet focused middle weight plus flavors, all wrapped in a beautifully complex and persistent finish. This isn't as refined as the Occidental but it's more powerful and while these two wines are rough qualitative equals, their respective characters are almost polar opposites. 92/2024+

2014 Pinot Noir – Summa Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 13.6%). There is a vaguely liqueur-like quality to the pure essence of red berries that exhibit a wide range of spice and floral characters. The sleek and silky medium-bodied flavors possess a sophisticated mouth feel thanks to the supporting fine-grained tannins that also shape the beautifully well-balanced and highly persistent finale. This will need a few years to better develop additional depth but the underling material should be up to the challenge. 93/2022+

2014 Pinot Noir – Summa Old Vines: (Sonoma Coast, 13.3%). Not surprisingly, this is aromatically similar to the regular cuvée though it's a bit more complex and deeply pitched. As is virtually always the case, this is denser and more powerful as the gorgeously textured middle weight plus flavors possess a strikingly seductive palate impression thanks to the copious amounts of dry extract that also buffer the firm but not hard tannic spine. I very much like the depth and length as well as the balance and this should age effortlessly for years. If you can find it, buy it. 94/2026+

Sarah's Vineyard (Gilroy, CA)

2014 Pinot Noir – Estate	red	87
2014 Pinot Noir – Santa Clara Valley	red	87
2014 Pinot Noir – Santa Cruz Mountains	red	86

Founded in 1978 in a hidden corner of the southwestern Santa Clara Valley, Sarah's Vineyard produces handmade wines using traditional techniques. Tucked in the Santa Cruz Mountain foothills near a windy mountain pass, our vineyard enjoys coastal microclimate of foggy mornings, sunny afternoons tempered by strong ocean breezes and chilly nights. www.sarahsvineyard.com

2014 Pinot Noir – Estate: (1,211 cases, SRP \$25, 14.2%). Notes of red cherry, raspberry and pomegranate precede nicely vibrant lighter weight (though not dilute) flavors that possess good detail that continues onto the dusty and delicious finish. This is built on its fruit and is already approachable though I would suggest allowing it a year or two of bottle age to develop a bit more depth. 87/2018+

2014 Pinot Noir – Santa Clara Valley: (415 cases, SRP \$40, 13.5%). A moderately high-toned nose combines notes of pungent briar and wild cherry with those of red and dark currant. The supple, round and delicious medium weight flavors possess reasonably good detail while delivering good persistence if limited depth. More complexity should develop with a few years of bottle age but for those who don't wish to wait, it would be fair to observe that this is pretty but not especially deep. 87/2019+

2014 Pinot Noir – Santa Cruz Mountains: (Veranda Vineyard, 345 cases, SRP \$38, 14.6%). There is a touch of briar here as well on the notably ripe mix of various red berries, violet and plum-scented nose. There is a bit more size and weight to the nicely vibrant flavors that possess a seductive mouth feel before concluding in a noticeably warm finish. Like the Santa Clara Valley, this is pretty but the warmth is sufficient to materially detract from the overall appeal. 86/now

Schug Carneros Estate Winery (Sonoma, CA)

2013	Pinot Noir – Estate Carneros	red	88
2013	Pinot Noir – Heritage Reserve Carneros	red	87

Walter Schug was the winemaker for Joseph Phelps from 1973-1983. In 1980 when Phelps decided to discontinue the production of pinot noir, Schug continued purchasing the grapes and produced the wines under his own name while remaining in his role as winemaker for Phelps. Today Schug produces approximately 40,000 cases of wine annually, half of which is pinot noir. Michael Cox had been the winemaker since 1995. For more information call 800.966.9365 or visit: www.schugwinery.com

2013 Pinot Noir – Estate Carneros: (457 cases, SRP \$45, 13.7%). There is a whiff of smoky reduction to the otherwise nicely complex and spicy dark pinot fruit-scented nose. The rounded, delicious and attractively vibrant middle weight flavors possess a caressing palate impression before concluding in an acceptably complex and persistent finale where a mild touch of warmth arises. This could easily be enjoyed now though I would suggest holding it for another 2 to 3 years first so that the finish will more completely round out. 88/2019+

2013 Pinot Noir – Heritage Reserve Carneros: (483 cases, SRP \$40, 13.7%). Here the smoky reduction character is no longer subtle and it's enough to dominate what appear to be ripe dark berry fruit aromas. Otherwise there is good volume to the round, pliant and easy-going medium-bodied flavors that possess acceptable depth and length on the slightly edgy and warm finish. You'll want to decant this for at least a few minutes first. 87/2018+

Siduri Wines (Santa Rosa, CA)

2014	Pinot Noir – Clos Pepe Vineyard	red	89
2014	Pinot Noir – Ewald Vineyard	red	87
2014	Pinot Noir – Gary's Vineyard	red	89
2014	➔ Pinot Noir – Keefer Ranch Vineyard	red	90
2014	Pinot Noir – Lingenfelder Vineyard	red	87
2014	Pinot Noir – Parsons' Vineyard	red	89
2014	Pinot Noir – Pisoni Vineyard	red	90
2014	Pinot Noir – Pratt Vineyard – Sexton Road	red	89
2014	➔ Pinot Noir – Rosella's Vineyard	red	90
2014	Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley	red	88
2014	Pinot Noir – Santa Lucia Highlands	red	87
2014	➔ Pinot Noir – Van Der Kamp Vineyard	red	91
2014	Pinot Noir – Willamette Valley	red	87

Siduri was launched in 1994 by owners Adam and Dianna Lee with Ryan Zepaltas working as the cellar master and assistant winemaker. They are currently making 25 different pinot noirs from 20 different vineyards stretching from Santa Barbara to the Willamette Valley. In early 2015 the Lee's sold Siduri to Jackson Family Wines, the parent company of Kendall-Jackson. Under the deal, Adam Lee will remain as the winemaker and the wineries [Siduri and Novy now have a total production of ~25,000 cases] will continue to source from the vineyards in California and Oregon that they have been using. The following wines are all bottled under screwcap. For further information call 707.578.3882 or visit: www.siduri.com

2014 Pinot Noir – Willamette Valley: (10,699 cases, SRP \$28, 14.1%). A pretty nose blends together notes of briar and dark cherry with those of plum and violet. The supple, round and vibrant middle weight flavors possess reasonably good depth and while there is a hint of dryness on the clean and focused finish, it's not really enough to cut it short. 87/2019+

2014 Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley: (7,055 cases, SRP \$34, 14.1%). An attractively perfumed and spicy red berry fruit nose serves as a relatively elegant introduction to the round, rich and caressing medium weight flavors that possess good level of dry extract on the dusty and ever-so-mildly austere finale. This will need a year or two to better harmonize as there is a slight edge to the finish. 88/2020+

2014 Pinot Noir – Santa Lucia Highlands: (2,793 cases, SRP \$39, 14.4%). This too offers up a lovely array of spice elements to the more deeply pitched aromas of plum and a whisper of earth. Here too there is an appealing mouth feel to the delicious, round and punchy medium-bodied flavors that possess slightly better mid-palate concentration on the robust and mildly rustic and warm finale that also displays just a hint of edginess. 87/2020+

2014 Pinot Noir – Clos Pepe Vineyard: (Sta. Rita Hills, 688 cases, SRP \$60, 14.1%). Cool and pure aromas of essence of red raspberry, cherry and currant lead to supple, round and appealingly vibrant medium weight flavors that possess a better sense of balance because while the finish is dusty, it stops short of dryness. This is not however as complex as it usually is though perhaps with a few years of bottle age more will develop and my rating offers the benefit of the doubt in this regard. 89/2021+

2014 Pinot Noir – Ewald Vineyard: (Russian River Valley, 236 cases, SRP \$50, 14.1%). There is a whiff of menthol to the very fresh red berry fruit scents that display an interesting hint of mandarin orange. The supple and succulent flavors possess a seductive mouth feel before culminating in a round and delicious finish that is dusty and mildly dry. This could also use a bit more depth but I am concerned that the finish may very well dry out before the tannins completely resolve. 87/2019+

2014 Pinot Noir – Gary's Vineyard: (Santa Lucia Highlands, 586 cases, SRP \$60, 14.5%). Notes of purple fruit and wisps of green tea introduce supple, round and relatively seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that coat the palate with dry extract, all wrapped in a lingering finish that also displays some dustiness but not really dryness. There is a touch of warmth but overall, and despite the few nits that I cite, this manages to work. 89/2020+

2014 Pinot Noir – Keefer Ranch Vineyard: (Russian River Valley, 209 cases, SRP \$60, 14.4%). There is a pretty array of spice elements adding breadth to the mostly red pinot fruit aromas that are laced with sandalwood and floral elements. I very much like the palate feel of the beguilingly textured flavors thanks to the solid amount of sappy dry extract that pushes the supporting tannins to the background on the lingering finish. I could basically say the same thing here that I observed about the Gary's, e.g. that there are touches of backend dustiness and warmth but both are nits rather than outright concerns. 90/2020+

2014 Pinot Noir – Lingenfelder Vineyard: (Russian River Valley, 169 cases, SRP \$50, 14.4%). Like the Ewald there is a trace of menthol character sitting atop the fresh and bright aromas of maraschino cherry and discreet spice and rose petal scents. The supple, round and relatively forward middle weight flavors possess a silky mouth feel thanks primarily to the relatively fine tannins shaping the lingering, dusty and mildly drying finish where a hint of bitter cherry arises. The dryness isn't fatal but it's enough to compromise the overall sense of balance and harmony. 87/2019+

2014 Pinot Noir – Parsons' Vineyard: (Russian River Valley, 484 cases, SRP \$50, 14.4%). Notes of crushed mint leaf, plum, pomegranate and smoke introduce rounded, supple and velvet-textured flavors that also coat the mouth with dry extract on the ever-so-slightly edgy and warm finish. On the plus side there is fine complexity that helps to boost the overall impression. 89/2019+

2014 Pinot Noir – Pisoni Vineyard: (Santa Lucia Highlands, 1,011 cases, SRP \$65, 14.4%). This too displays a strong menthol character on the layered array of dark berry fruit aromas that is sufficiently prominent that it may not appeal to everyone. There is fine concentration and vibrancy to the opulently rich and plush flavors that also exhibit soft hints of warmth and dryness. I like the excellent depth that ultimately makes this work even though the balance isn't quite perfect. 90/2020+

2014 Pinot Noir – Pratt Vineyard – Sexton Road: (Sonoma Coast, 134 cases, SRP \$50, 14.4%). A completely different aromatic profile is present here with its much more deeply pitched notes of plum, black currant and sandalwood. There is both good volume and punch to the delicious and rounded medium weight flavors that possess a dusty finish that displays a touch of asperity but not overt dryness. 89/2019+

2014 Pinot Noir – Rosella's Vineyard: (Santa Lucia Highlands, 938 cases, SRP \$60, 14.4%). Hints of smoke and incense sit atop the pretty plum, dark cherry and violet scents. There is good richness to the solidly well-concentrated medium-bodied flavors that possess a caressing mouth feel, all wrapped in a dusty, sappy and delicious finish. 90/2021+

2014 Pinot Noir – Van Der Kamp Vineyard: (Sonoma Mountain, 200 cases, SRP \$49, 14.4%). A very deeply pitched nose is composed by notes of plum liqueur, briar and a hint of crushed herbs. There is excellent richness to the rounded and impressively dense medium weight flavors that also possess a caressing mouth feel before culminating in a focused, complex and mildly dusty warm finale. I suspect that if given a few years of bottle age the dusty aspect on the finish may very well successfully age out. 91/2021+

Small Vines Wines (Sebastopol, CA)

2014	➔ Pinot Noir	red	89
2014	➔ Pinot Noir – Baranoff Vineyard	red	90
2014	Pinot Noir – Estate Cuvée	red	89
2014	➔ Pinot Noir – MK Vineyard	red	91
2014	Pinot Noir – TBH Vineyard	red	89

From owners Paul and Kathryn Sloan who founded Small Vines Viticulture in 1998 as their vineyard organic farming and development company. They started their Small Vines Wines label with their first release in 2007 (vintage 2005). Their range continues to grow steadily as their new high density planted vineyard holdings (4x3 and 4x4) come into production. Starting with a business that focused on grape growing, they recognize “the smaller the vine the better the wine.” To date, the Sloan’s operate the only winegrowing company in Sonoma County specializing in environmentally sensitive, high-density plantings. They recommend if you are going to open a bottle young, be sure to decant it. Wines are estate grown, unfinned and unfiltered. For further information contact 707.823.0886 or visit: www.smallvines.com

2014 Pinot Noir: (Sonoma Coast, 60% from TBH vineyard, planted in 2009; 24% Fassler vineyard, planted in 2000; 8% Baranoff vineyard, planted 2001; 4% MK vineyard; planted 1999; unfinned and unfiltered, 35% whole cluster, 675 cases, SRP \$55, 13.7%). The expressive nose displays relatively deeply pitched aromas of plum, dark berries, violets that are trimmed in a whiff of menthol. There is good richness and volume as well as solid density to the delineated medium-bodied flavors that possess good complexity on the mildly warm finale. This is sufficiently well-structured to suggest that it should be able to repay 5 to 7 years of bottle age. 89/2020+

2014 Pinot Noir – Baranoff Vineyard: (Russian River Valley, planted in 2001, unfinned and unfiltered, 75% whole cluster, 171 cases, SRP \$82, 13.2%). An attractively floral and spice-inflected nose exhibits notes of violet, lilac, orange pekoe tea, soft earth and ripe plum. There is excellent volume and richness to the vibrant and relatively precise medium-bodied flavors that possess a dusty, serious and youthfully austere finale. Like the Estate there is a very mild trace of dryness but the complexity compensates. In sum, the balance isn’t perfect but there are compensating attributes such that if you have the patience to age this for a few years to round out the structure, it should provide for an interesting drinking experience. 90/2022+

2014 Pinot Noir – Estate Cuvée: (Russian River Valley, 62.5% Baranoff vineyard, planted 2001; 18.75% Fassler vineyard, planted in 2000; 6.25% Old Mill vineyard, planted 2001; 6.25% MK vineyard, planted 1999; 6.25% TBH vineyard planted 2009; unfinned and unfiltered, 50% whole cluster, 360 cases, SRP \$65, 13.5%). A restrained but attractively perfumed nose offers up reticent notes of spiced tea, rose petal and a variety of red cherry. There is a refined mouth feel to the delicious, sleek and vibrant mid-palate of the medium weight flavors that contrasts moderately with the relatively robust finale that displays hints of warmth and dryness. To be clear, the dryness is sufficiently subtle that with a few years of age it might very well be all but invisible with the right food items. 89/2021+

2014 Pinot Noir – MK Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, planted in 1999, 50% whole cluster, unfinned and unfiltered, 171 cases, 13.5%). Like the Estate this is quite aromatically restrained but admirably pure as there is an equally lovely perfume to the spicy red and dark currant scents that are trimmed in plenty of floral nuances. The vibrant and well-delineated middle weight flavors possess a relatively sleek mouth feel that continues onto the dusty but not really austere finale that delivers fine persistence. This could use a few years in order to develop better complexity but this is already attractive and should only become more so with a few years of cellaring. 91/2021+

2014 Pinot Noir – TBH Vineyard: (Sebastopol, planted in 2009, unfinned and unfiltered, 35% whole cluster, 309 cases, 13.2%). Once again there is a restrained but spicy and perfumed nose that exhibits notes of cool plum, violet and sandalwood hints. The round, supple and relatively forward medium-bodied flavors possess a moderately refined mid-palate mouth feel before concluding in a compact finish where a hint of bitter cherry arises. This could also use a few years in the hopes of developing a bit more depth yet it’s sufficiently accessible that it could be enjoyed young. 89/2019+

Spell Winery (Sebastopol, CA)

2014	Pinot Noir – Nichole’s Blend	red	89
2014	Pinot Noir – Terra de Promissio Vineyard	red	87
2014	Pinot Noir – Umino Vineyard	red	87
2014	Pinot Noir – Weir Vineyard	red	88

From Andrew Berge, the winemaker for Spell. For more information call 877.371.9653 or visit: www.spellestate.com

2014 Pinot Noir – Nichole’s Blend: (Sonoma County, 925 cases, SRP \$39, 14.3%). A reserved nose grudgingly offers up notes of both red and blue pinot fruit along with hints of plum and lilac. There is both good richness and volume to the delicious, round and forward medium weight flavors that possess a seductive mouth feel, all wrapped in a sappy, dusty and balanced finale. This could use a bit more depth but there is good power and punch. 89/2021+

2014 Pinot Noir – Terra de Promissio Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 75 cases, SRP \$58, 14.2%). A nicely layered nose is composed of both upper and lower register aromas that include red cherry, pomegranate and plum. There is once again solid volume to the delicious and solidly concentrated middle weight flavors that possess good energy that continues onto the robust and dusty finish where a touch of asperity appears. I like the concentration and punch but it’s not clear that the finish is ultimately going to harmonize and the dryness suggests that this would be more advantageously drunk with food. 87/2020+

2014 Pinot Noir – Umino Vineyard: (Russian River Valley, 125 cases, SRP \$48, 14.3%). Here the reticent nose requires aggressive swirling to liberate the otherwise pretty and fresh aromas of mostly red cherry, raspberry and currant along with subtle spice and floral nuances. The mid-palate mouth feel of the medium-bodied flavors is at once forward and supple though like the Terra, there is a trace of dryness that imparts a slightly clipped character to the finish. Time may well ameliorate the dryness but probably not cause it to completely dissipate. 87/2019+

2014 Pinot Noir – Weir Vineyard: (Yorkville Highlands, 125 cases, SRP \$48, 14.1%). An elegant, cool, pure and more expressive nose offers up aromas that are primarily composed of essence of red cherry and spice scents. The sleek and seductively textured flavors possess a lovely sense of energy as well and fine detail while terminating in a firm and ever-so-mildly austere finale. There is a hint of dryness here as well though in this case it’s more subtle and I suspect with food that it would be largely invisible. 88/2021+

Talley Vineyards (Arroyo Grande, CA)

2014	Pinot Noir – Bishop’s Creek	red	86
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The Talley family began as vegetable farmers in Arroyo Grande in 1948. Talley Vineyards was founded in 1986 after a small test plot of vines planted in 1982 produced a promising wine. The Talley family now owns 5 unique vineyards comprising 190 acres in San Luis Obispo County and produces about 18,000 cases annually. For further information, contact: 805.489.0446 or visit: www.talleyvineyards.com

2014 Pinot Noir – Bishop’s Creek: (San Luis Obispo County, estate grown, bottled under screwcap, 13.7%) Pretty red berry fruit and soft spice aromas introduce rounded yet reasonably well-detailed middle weight flavors that possess a lovely sense of energy that continues onto the ever-so-mildly drying finish that offers acceptable depth and length. There is also a mild touch of warmth that appears as the finish sits on the palate and overall, this is pretty but the balance isn’t quite perfect. 86/2018+

Three Sticks Winery (Sonoma, CA)

2014	Pinot Noir	red	90
2014	Pinot Noir – Bien Nacido Vineyard	red	90
2014	➤ Pinot Noir – Durell Vineyard	red	91
2014	➤ Pinot Noir – Gap’s Crown Vineyard	red	91
2014	Pinot Noir – The James	red	90

Bill Price, an investor in many wine ventures including Kistler and Kosta Browne, founded Three Sticks in 2002. It was announced in early 2015 that Bob Cabral will be partnering with Three Sticks Wines as director of winemaking. In 2014 Bill and Eva Price announced the opening of The Adobe, a tasting salon in downtown Sonoma. Call 707.996.3328 or visit: www.threestickswinery.com

2014 Pinot Noir: (Russian River Valley, 20% whole cluster, 614 cases, SRP \$60, 14.5%). A hint of maraschino cherry combines with notes of plum, violet and a whiff of earth. The sleek, delicious and attractively vibrant flavors possess fine volume as well as good mid-palate concentration that carries over to the moderately firm, dusty and lingering finish. There is a touch of youthful austerity that will likely dissipate with 5 to 8 years of cellar time. 90/2021+

2014 Pinot Noir – Bien Nacido Vineyard: (Santa Maria Valley, 22% whole cluster, 243 cases, SRP \$60, 13.9%). This is sufficiently reduced to require a thorough aeration if you're going to try a bottle young. Otherwise there is good verve and density to the delicious and caressing yet powerful middle weight plus flavors that possess a trace of warmth on the focused and lingering finish. This isn't without potential issues as it's not certain that the reduction will necessarily dissipate with age though my score offers the benefit of the doubt that it will. 90/2022+

2014 Pinot Noir – Durell Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 352 cases, 30% whole cluster, 14.1%). Overtly spicy and floral elements add breadth to the cool and pure nose of essence of red and dark cherry. Like the straight pinot there is a sleek mouth feel to the utterly delicious medium-bodied flavors that retain a lovely sense of detail before concluding in a dusty, palate coating, well-balanced, complex and lingering finish. This isn't especially refined though it's by no means rustic. Worth checking out. 91/2022+

2014 Pinot Noir – Gap's Crown Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 354 cases, 13% whole cluster, 14.5%). Here the expressive nose is riper if not quite as floral or spice-tinged with red berry liqueur scents. There is excellent density and richness to the caressing and attractively vibrant medium weight flavors that coat the palate with sappy dry extract that also buffers the moderately firm tannins shaping the dusty and ever-so-mildly austere if noticeably warm finish. I like the complexity and persistence though the warmth may be enough to bother some. 91/2021+

2014 Pinot Noir – The James: (Sta. Rita Hills, 547 cases, 15% whole cluster, SRP \$60, 14.2%). A penetrating nose offers up a broad range of spice, floral, menthol, red cherry and plum scents. There is very good richness to the punchy and relatively powerful middle weight plus and firmly constituted flavors that culminate in a robust, intense and lingering finish. This won't win any awards for elegance but it certainly won't be criticized for a lack of personality. 90/2022+

Wild Ridge Vineyards (Windsor, CA)

2013 Pinot Noir – Sonoma Coast

red

87

Wild Ridge Vineyards is part of the West Burgundy Wine Group, a small portfolio of wineries within Jackson Family Wines, focused on estate grown and single vineyard varietals. Starting in 2011, Wild Ridge produces a single pinot bottling each year from their 900' elevation Annapolis Vineyard. For more information visit: www.wildridgevineyards.com

2013 Pinot Noir – Sonoma Coast: (SRP \$50, 3,153 cases, 14.5%). A discreet if not invisible application of wood sets off ripe aromas of plum, dark berries, currant and a pretty hint of tea. The round, rich and suave medium-bodied flavors possess good volume and mid-palate sap before terminating in a noticeably warm finish where a hint of bitter cherry arises. This is not without a certain appeal but the balance isn't quite perfect. 87/2019+

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 night time 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.

“Tasted without Commentary”: For U.S. pinots that have not been specifically solicited that obtain a score of 86 or below, while those wines will be tasted and reviewed, Allen may choose to not provide a narrative/commentary.

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

2014	Pinot Noir – Ribbon Ridge	Domaine Divio	90
2014	Pinot Noir – Diversité	Le Cadeau Wines	91
2014	Pinot Noir – Merci Reserve	Le Cadeau Wines	92
2014	Pinot Noir – Serendipity	Le Cadeau Wines	91
2014	Pinot Noir – Wichmann Dundee Estate	Trisaetum Winery	91
2014	Pinot Noir – Willamette Valley	Trisaetum Winery	90
2013	Pinot Noir – Griffin’s Cuvée	Dobbles Family Estate	91
2013	Pinot Noir – Meyer Vineyard	Dobbles Family Estate	92
2013	Pinot Noir – Patricia’s Cuvée	Dobbles Family Estate	91
2013	Pinot Noir – Oldsville Reserve	Fiddlehead Cellars	90
2012	Pinot Noir – Meyer Vineyard	Dobbles Family Estate	92
2012	Pinot Noir – Reserve “La Cantera Vineyard”	Walnut City WineWorks	91
2012	Pinot Noir – Reserve “Z’ivo Vineyard”	Walnut City WineWorks	90

Bernard Machado (McMinnville, OR)

2012	Pinot Noir – La Cantera Vineyard	red	88
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For more information call 503.472.3215 or visit: www.wineworksoregon.com

2012 Pinot Noir – La Cantera Vineyard: (Chehalem Mountains, 28 year old vines, 208 cases, 12% whole cluster, SRP \$40, 13.5%). There is a trace of menthol sitting atop the ripe dark point fruit and briar-inflected aromas that lead to rich, round and relatively well-concentrated flavors that possess a suave and rounded mouth feel while delivering good if not special depth and length on the noticeably warm finish. I like the volume but I find the warmth somewhat intrusive. 88/now+

Dobbles Family Estate (Dundee, OR)

2013	Pinot Noir – Eola-Amity Hills Cuvée	red	89
2013	➔ Pinot Noir – Griffin’s Cuvée	red	91
2013	➔ Pinot Noir – Patricia’s Cuvée	red	91
2012	➔ Pinot Noir – Meyer Vineyard	red	92
2012	Pinot Noir – Symonette Vineyard	red	89

The estate was founded in 2002 by owner/winemaker Joe Dobbes, who is also responsible for two other labels (Jovino and Wine by Joe). Dobbes studied winemaking in Germany and France and apprenticed for Christopher Roumier and Dominique Lafon before returning to Oregon. For further information, contact 503.538.1141 or visit: www.dobbesfamilyestate.com

2013 Pinot Noir – Eola-Amity Hills Cuvée: (Eola-Amity Hills, 249 cases, 13.5%). A relatively deeply pitched nose combines notes of briar with those of softly spiced red and dark cherry aromas. There is both good volume and verve to the utterly delicious yet entirely serious middle weight flavors that possess a caressing mouth feel while delivering reasonably good length on the robust, dusty and ever-so-mildly edgy finish. The edginess is not really enough to cut the length short though it is enough to detract from the overall sense of harmony. Still, there is plenty to like here and I suspect that with a few years of bottle age the angular quality of the finish will round out. 89/2020+

2013 Pinot Noir – Griffin’s Cuvée: (Willamette Valley, 177 cases, 13.5%). Here the reticent nose is more deeply pitched still with its distinctly smoky and briar-suffused dark berry-scented aromas. There is fine concentration to the medium-bodied and relatively muscular flavors that possess a pliant mid-palate that contrasts somewhat with the moderately powerful and lingering finish that is robust but more harmonious. This sneaky long effort is quite good and worth considering. 91/2021+

2013 Pinot Noir – Patricia’s Cuvée: (Willamette Valley, 326 cases, SRP \$55, 13.5%). Interestingly this is almost a hypothetical blend of the Eola and Griffin’s as it shares aromatic elements with both. The sleek and polished middle weight flavors are blessed with good energy and the finest-grained tannins of the three, all wrapped in a complex, focused and dusty finish that is also sneaky long. This is perhaps not quite as complex as the Griffin’s but it is just as interesting. 91/2021+

2012 Pinot Noir – Meyer Vineyard: (Dundee Hills, 202 cases, 14.2%). A markedly somber and very deeply pitched array reluctantly displays various dark berry scents that are liberally laced with notes of briar and forest floor. There is good richness and volume to the solidly concentrated medium-bodied flavors that coat the palate with dry extract while exhibiting excellent depth and length on the dusty finale. This has arrived at an inflexion point where it could be enjoyed now or held for a few more years first with the idea of resolving a bit more of the supporting structure which is what I would suggest. 92/2020+

2012 Pinot Noir – Symonette Vineyard: (Eola-Amity Hills, 252 cases, 13.8%). A mild whiff of reduction is just enough to shave the top notes from the dark currant, briar and humus-scented nose. Otherwise there is once again good volume to the round, supple and relatively forward medium weight flavors that tighten up somewhat on the dusty and delicious if ever-so-slightly edgy finale. I very much like the depth and while there are a few nits, this is still an attractive effort. 89/2019+

Domaine Divio (Newberg, OR)

2014	➔ Pinot Noir – Ribbon Ridge	red	90
2014	Pinot Noir – Willamette Valley	red	88
2012	Pinot Noir – Eola-Amity Hills	red	87

Bruno Corneaux, a fourth generation Burgundian producer is the owner and winemaker, along with co-owner André Weil. Domaine Divio is situated in the heart of the Ribbon Ridge AVA. For more information visit: www.domainedivio.com

2014 Pinot Noir – Willamette Valley: (250 cases, SRP \$28, 13.8%). A pretty and subtly perfumed nose features wisps of various red berries with exotic tea and a hint of cherry liqueur. There is good volume to the caressing medium-bodied flavors that offer fine richness on the delicious if mildly warm and dusty finish. I like the delivery and even though the balance isn’t quite perfect this is appealing all the same. Note that this could easily be enjoyed now though I would suggest cellaring it for a year or two in the hopes that more depth will develop. Good value. 88/2019+

2014 Pinot Noir – Ribbon Ridge: (Ribbon Spring Vineyard, 75 cases, SRP \$48, 13.3%). A more reserved and more complex array offers up notes of briar, red and dark cherry along with hints of tea and anise. There is better volume to the denser and more powerful medium weight flavors that possess a tautly muscular mouth feel before culminating in a moderately firm, dusty and sneaky long finish. This is quite good though it’s sufficiently backwards that I would definitely advise allowing for at least a few years of additional bottle age first. 90/2021+

2012 Pinot Noir – Eola-Amity Hills: (Zena Vineyard, 150 cases, SRP \$48, 13.3%). A mildly somber nose is comprised by notes of dark pinot fruit, plum, soft spice and a hint of violet. The sleek and attractively vibrant middle weight flavors culminate in a linear and somewhat austere finish where a touch of bitter pit fruit character appears. This may further round out but I suspect that the austerity will not dissipate further and as such I would suggest serving it with complementary foods. 87/2019+

Fiddlehead Cellars (Lompoc, CA [OR])

2013	➔ Pinot Noir – Oldsville Reserve	red	90
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Kathy Joseph, “Proprietor, winemaker, grape herder and Head Fiddle” founded Fiddlehead in 1989. Joseph produces wines that are fermented 1/3 in Stainless, 1/3 in new French oak, 1/3 in neutral French oak and aged on their lees in barrel for 9 months (also see the California reviews herein). For further information, contact: 530.756.4550 or visit: www.fiddleheadcellars.com

2013 Pinot Noir – Oldsville Reserve: (Yamhill County, 12.8%). A perfumed and attractively spicy nose features mostly note of various red berries and briar nuances. There is good vibrancy to the utterly delicious and seductively textured flavors that possess a caressing mouth feel before concluding in a balanced, complex and sneaky long finish. This understated effort is really quite lovely and while it won't wow you with power or concentration, the harmony of expression is admirable. Note that this could easily be enjoyed young thanks to the fine balance. 90/2020+

Knudsen Vineyards (Dundee, OR)

2014	Pinot Noir	red	88
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Established in 1971, by Cal and Julia Lee Knudsen, Knudsen Vineyard is one of the oldest vineyards in the Dundee Hills and for many years it was the largest. The family has been farming grapes at this location for over 40 years and of the 228 acres, they have 130 planted to vineyards. Not surprisingly Knudsen has supplied grapes over the years to a number of producers. For more information call 503.580.1596 or visit: www.knudsenvineyards.com

2014 Pinot Noir: (Dundee Hills, 560 cases, SRP \$55, bottled under screwcap, 14.1%). A moderately deeply pitched nose combines notes of dark cherry, briar, plum and a hint of spice. The round, delicious and pliant middle weight flavors possess a seductive texture while delivering reasonably good depth and persistence on the ever-so-slightly edge finish. This could already be approached with pleasure though a year or two of bottle age would likely round off the edges. 88/2019+

Le Cadeau Wines (Hopland, OR)

2014	➔ Pinot Noir – Diversité	red	91
2014	➔ Pinot Noir – Merci Reserve	red	92
2014	Pinot Noir – Red Label	red	89
2014	Pinot Noir – Rocheux Reserve	red	89?
2014	➔ Pinot Noir – Serendipity	red	91

In 1997, Tom and Deb Mortimer purchased 28 rocky acres in the Willamette Valley. Starting with raw land, the Mortimer's cleared it for two years and planted the vineyard in 1999 with the first vintage arriving in 2002. All the wines are from estate fruit and each *cuvée* is made in small lots. For more information, call 503.625.2777 or visit: www.lecadeauvineyard.com

2014 Pinot Noir – Red Label: (Chehalem Mountains, 146 cases, SRP \$35, 13.9%). A moderately restrained nose combines both red and dark fruit aromas with those of briar and spice. There is good volume and richness to the delicious, round and sappy medium weight flavor that possess a caressing mouth feel while offering solid depth and length on the reasonably well-balanced finish. I say ‘reasonably well-balanced’ because there is a hint of warmth but it's not really enough to materially detract from the overall sense of balance. Good value fashioned in an age-worthy package. 89/2020+

2014 Pinot Noir – Diversité: (Chehalem Mountains, 97 cases, SRP \$50, 14.1%). Here the pure essence of red pinot fruit nose is at once more elegant and slightly more complex as well thanks to the sandalwood and floral nuances. The sleek, round and attractively textured middle weight flavors display good verve and fine detail as well that continues onto the palate coating and solidly persistent finish. This is really quite good and while it could easily be enjoyed now, I would advise holding it for another 3 to 5 years first. 91/2022+

2014 Pinot Noir – Merci Reserve: (Chehalem Mountains, 145 cases, SRP \$80, 14.1%). Like the Red Label this is aromatically restrained with its layered array of plum, violet and spice scents. I like the sense of underlying tension to the bigger and richer medium-bodied flavors that brim with dry extract that both coats the palate and buffers the moderately firm tannic spine on the serious and robust finish that is impressively long. This is an imposing and powerful wine that won't win any awards for elegance but there is no doubting the quality of the underlying material. If your taste runs to big and bold pinot, this won't disappoint. 92/2024+

2014 Pinot Noir – Serendipity: (Chehalem Mountains, 97 cases, SRP \$50, 13.9%). A beautifully layered nose displays notes of anise, sandalwood, mandarin orange peel and a hint of tea on the pretty mix of both red and dark cherry scents. The supple, round and relatively forward flavors are almost easy-going on the rich and seductively textured finale that coats the palate. There is a hint of tannic edginess but I am reasonably confident that it will resolve with a few years of bottle age. 91/2021+

2014 Pinot Noir – Rocheux Reserve: (Chehalem Mountains, 114 cases, SRP \$80, 13.9%). A deeply pitched nose consists of briar, plum liqueur and a lovely range of spice elements. There is a really lovely sense of refinement to the middle weight flavors thanks to the relatively fine-grained tannins shaping on the solidly lingering finish that displays enough warmth to mention along with a slightly bitter aspect. While this will undoubtedly add depth with age, it's presently not particularly complex and overall, this didn't show especially well. My rating offers the benefit of the doubt that this will come together after a few years of bottle age. Two bottles tasted with similar results. 89/2021+

Love & Squalor (McMinnville, OR)

2013	Pinot Noir	red	88
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Matt Berson, the winemaker/owner, began working in the Oregon wine industry in 2003 and is also the assistant winemaker for Brooks Wines. For further information, visit: www.loveandsqualorwine.com

2013 Pinot Noir: (Willamette Valley, from 8 different vineyards, 1,100 cases, 12.9%, SRP \$28). Light ruby color. A fresh, elegant and pure nose speaks mostly of essence of red pinot fruit with discreet notes of spice and rose petal thrown in. The lighter weight flavors possess excellent delineation before concluding in a vibrant, focused and sneaky long finish that is dry without being especially austere. This is pretty and well-made though it's on the lighter side. 88/2019+

Maison L'Envoyé (Dundee, Oregon)

2014	Pinot Noir – The Attaché	red	88
2014	Pinot Noir – Two Messengers	red	88

Led by former Evening Land founder, Mark Tarlov, Maison L'Envoyé brings together both Burgundian and Oregon *vignerons*. Louis-Michel Liger-Belair serves as consultant for the following two wines. For more information, visit: www.maisonlenvoye.com (Old Bridge Cellars, www.obcwines.com, Napa, CA).

2014 Pinot Noir – The Attaché: (Willamette Valley, 1,500 cases, SRP \$40, 13.5%). There is a whiff of mint character to the otherwise more typical deeply pitched aromas of briar, red and dark currant and a hint of spiced tea. The attractively textured, pliant and rich middle weight flavors possess a caressing mouth feel while delivering reasonably good depth and length on the ever-so-slightly dry finish. This may round off with a few years of bottle age but that's not a given. 88/2019+

2014 Pinot Noir – Two Messengers: (Willamette Valley, 3,000 cases, SRP \$30, 13.5%). A discreet hint of oak sets off the attractively spiced plum and red cherry-scented nose. The round, supple and relatively forward flavors possess an attractive palate impression and while the finish isn't quite as complex as that of the Attaché, there is a bit less dryness on the acceptably persistent finish. 88/2019+

Pike Road Vineyards (Gaston, OR)

2014 Pinot Noir – Willamette Valley	red	87
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Founded by the Campbell family who has farmed in Oregon for five generations and grown wine grapes in Oregon's Willamette Valley for over four decades. After years of producing wines at Elk Cove Vineyards, the family made the decision to create a new Oregon wine company focused on quality pinot noir under \$20. The wine is named after the winding road that is adjacent to their vineyards at the foothills of Oregon's Coast Range Mountains. For more information visit: www.pikeroadwines.com

2014 Pinot Noir – Willamette Valley: (9,000 cases, SRP \$19, 13.5%, bottled under screwcap). A fresh, bright and high-toned nose features a variety of red berry fruit and discreet spice nuances. There is good verve and reasonably fine detail as well to the delicious, round and appealingly textured flavors that terminate in a mildly drying finish that cuts the persistence a bit short. Still, it's hard to quibble too much for the price. 87/2018+

St. Innocent Winery (Salem, OR)

2014 Pinot Noir – Freedom Hill Vineyard	red	88
2014 Pinot Noir – Justice Vineyard	red	88
2014 Pinot Noir – Momtazi Vineyard	red	89
2014 Pinot Noir – Shea Vineyard	red	90
2014 Pinot Noir – Temperance Hill Vineyard	red	86
2014 Pinot Noir – Villages Cuvée	red	87
2014 Pinot Noir – Zenith Vineyard	red	89

The St. Innocent Winery was founded in 1988 by Mark Vlossak, who is the current winemaker and president, along with eight investors. In 2006 St. Innocent purchased an interest in Zenith Vineyard (formerly O'Connor Vineyard) located in the Eola-Amity Hills, which coincidentally is also where the winery is located. This 133 acre site has 81 acres planted with a total of 13.5 acres of pinot reserved for their exclusive use. For further information, contact 503.378.1526 or visit: www.stinnocentwine.com

2014 Pinot Noir – Villages Cuvée: (Willamette Valley, 4,270 cases, SRP \$26, 13.5%). A very pretty nose is composed primarily by various red berry scents that are trimmed by hints of spice and lilac. There is a lovely sense of verve to the round, rich and seductive flavors that possess fine intensity on the delicious if moderately firm finale. There is a slight touch of backend dryness but it's not so much as to cut the finish unduly short though it would be fair to say that the balance isn't perfect. 87/2019+

2014 Pinot Noir – Freedom Hill Vineyard: (Willamette Valley, 1,142 cases, SRP \$42, 14.2%). There is enough reduction present to warrant a thorough aeration if you're going to try a bottle young. Otherwise there is a caressing mouth feel to the delicious, vibrant and attractively textured medium weight flavors that conclude in a dusty, palate coating and firm finish. Note that my score assumes that the nose will clean up with bottle age. 88/2021+

2014 Pinot Noir – Justice Vineyard: (Eola-Amity Hills, 485 cases, SRP \$55, 13.5%). An elegant, fresh and pure array is comprised by notes of both plum and red cherry where additional breadth is present in the form of spice, violet and soft tea scents. There is fine mid-palate density to the caressing yet intense and relatively powerful flavors that conclude in a lingering if once again slightly warm, drying and dusty finish. While presently somewhat awkward, this may age out successfully as the tannins seem to be a bit riper though that is not a certainty. 88/2021+

2014 Pinot Noir – Momtazi Vineyard: (McMinnville, 1,446 cases, SRP \$36, 13%). A more deeply pitched nose exhibits notes of briar, dark berries and hints of Asian-style tea. I like the mid-palate mouth feel of the delicious and attractively textured flavors that display good vibrancy before terminating in a dusty finish that does possess some asperity if not outright dryness. Like several of the wines in the range, this may well come together as none of the mild imperfections are likely fatal. 89/2022+

2014 Pinot Noir – Shea Vineyard: (Yamhill-Carlton, 946 cases, SRP \$55, 14.4%). A classic Shea-style nose of very deeply pitched plum, briar, spice and warm earth aromas introduce big-bodied, concentrated and powerful flavors that possess a velvety texture, all wrapped in a mildly warm finish that also displays a hint of asperity. I like the depth and this is certainly a powerful effort though some may find the warmth to be somewhat intrusive. Even so, this offers more positives than not. 90/2022+

2014 Pinot Noir – Temperance Hill Vineyard: (Eola-Amity Hills, 1,147 cases, SRP \$36, 13.5%). There is enough reduction to push the underlying fruit to the background at present. Otherwise there is a sleek mid-palate mouth feel to the delicious and vibrant flavors that are borderline dry and clipped on the short finish. Unfortunately it's hard to see this coming together and I would be inclined to drink the wine on the younger side as it risks drying out with age. 86/2019+

2014 Pinot Noir – Zenith Vineyard: (Eola-Amity Hills, 1,546 cases, SRP \$42, 13.9%). This is wonderfully spicy and quite floral as well with its cool and pure aromas of essence of red raspberry and cherry. The supple, round and caressing middle weight flavors possess good punch and reasonably good detail as well while delivering moderately good length on the dusty and complex finale. There is a mild edge to the finish but in this case it isn't enough to materially disrupt the balance. 89/2021+

Swick Wines (Newberg, OR)

2014	Pinot Noir – Cancilla Vineyard “Ken’s Pom”	red	84
2014	Pinot Noir – Fairsing Vineyard	red	87
2014	Pinot Noir – Willamette Valley	red	86
2014	Pinot Noir – Les Sous-Bois	red	86

For more information visit: www.swickwines.com

Oregon:

2014 Pinot Noir – Willamette Valley: (SRP \$22, 11.9%). Discreet but not invisible hints of volatile acidity are present on the fresh red pinot fruit and strawberry-scented nose. There is good detail and verve to the delicious medium-bodied flavors that display a mild dryness that continues onto the clean if short and somewhat lean finish. This mildly austere effort is drinkable but the VA is enough to detract from the overall sense of balance. 86/now

2014 Pinot Noir – Cancilla Vineyard “Ken’s Pom”: (Willamette Valley, SRP \$39, 12.7%). This also displays noticeable volatile acidity that materially detracts from the otherwise fresh and pretty aromas of cherry, raspberry and pomegranate. There is good mid-palate vibrancy to the middle weight flavors that possess a drying, tangy and clipped finale. This has evident technical issues and while not undrinkable, it would be fair to observe that it's not what it should be. Two bottles tasted with similar results. 84/now

2014 Pinot Noir – Fairsing Vineyard: (Yamhill-Carlton; SRP \$39, 13%). Once again there is a hint of volatile acidity to the dark berry and briar aromas though here it is the most subtle of these three Oregon wines. There is good richness and reasonably good concentration to the medium bodied flavors that culminate in a dusty but not clipped finish. Though not technically perfect the VA is sufficiently subtle that it probably won't be an issue unless you're especially sensitive to it. 87/2019+

Washington:

2014 Pinot Noir – Les Sous-Bois: (Columbia Gorge, WA, SRP \$26, 12.5%). An attractively fresh nose combines notes of assorted red berries, spice and soft floral nuances where an all-but-invisible whisper of volatile acidity lurks in the background. There is good verve and delineation to the mildly drying and austere finale. I doubt that this will improve much with time and I would be inclined to drink it for its fruit. 86/now

Trisaetum Winery (Newberg, OR)

2014	Pinot Noir – Coast Range Estate	red	89
2014	Pinot Noir – Estates Reserve	red	87
2014	Pinot Noir – Ribbon Ridge Estate	red	89
2014	➔ Pinot Noir – Wichmann Dundee Estate	red	91
2014	➔ Pinot Noir – Willamette Valley	red	90

Trisaetum was founded in 2003 by Andrea and James Frey where James serves as the winemaker. Today, the family owned and operated winery in Oregon's Ribbon Ridge AVA produces small lots of pinot noir from its three estate vineyards that are dry-farmed organically. Their Coast range estate is a 22-acre vineyard within the foothills of the Coast Range mountains outside the town of McMinnville and is also the site of the family home. Their second estate is a 17-acre vineyard that surrounds the winery on Ribbon Ridge outside Newberg. Their third and smallest is an 8-acre old vine vineyard in the Dundee Hills AVA named Wichmann Dundee. Contact 503.538.9898 or visit: www.trisaetum.com

2014 Pinot Noir – Willamette Valley: (5,800 cases, SRP \$36, 13.8%). A perfumed nose speaks primarily of plum and briar with soft spice hints adding a bit of breadth. There is good volume to the velvety, round and delicious flavors that possess solid mid-palate concentration as well as moderately firm tannins on the dusty, mouth coating and lingering finish. This is really quite good and while it's not especially refined, I like the frank and direct character and in particular the fine complexity. This is worth checking out and particularly for value though note that it's going to need a few years of cellaring and should repay up to a decade of keeping. 90/2022+

2014 Pinot Noir – Coast Range Estate: (Yamhill-Carlton, single vineyard, 416 cases, SRP \$49, 13.7%). A cool, pure and reserved nose requires a bit of swirling to coax the pretty red pinot aromas that are liberally laced with spice and discreet floral nuances. There is good vibrancy and reasonably good detail as well to the delicious middle weight flavors that display focused power on the well-constituted and dusty but not really austere finale. This isn't the most refined wine in the range and there is a hint of warmth but it works anyway. 89/2020+

2014 Pinot Noir – Estates Reserve: (Yamhill-Carlton, Ribbon Ridge and Dundee Hills, 397 cases, SRP \$69, 13.8%). Much like the Coast Range Estate cuvée this is cool, pure and reserved and also requires some relatively aggressive swirling to reveal the essence of red pinot fruit, spice and floral nuances. In the context of this range of wines in 2014 this is on the lighter and more refined side yet there is good focus and flavor authority and the palate impression certainly doesn't lack for punch and particularly so on the dusty and ever-so-mildly drying and warm finale. It's possible that this will harmonize in time but that isn't clear and I suspect that the warmth will always be evident. 87/2019+

2014 Pinot Noir – Ribbon Ridge Estate: (single vineyard, 648 cases, SRP \$49, 13.7%). A restrained and exceptionally pretty spicy dark berry fruit nose flashes hints of incense and briar. There is good punch to the round and generously proportioned flavors that possess a seductive mouth feel while offering good length on the dusty finish where about the only reproach is enough warmth to notice. This isn't perfectly balanced but I like the style and complexity plus it could be enjoyed young if preferred. 89/2020+

2014 Pinot Noir – Wichmann Dundee Estate: (Dundee Hills, single vineyard, 220 cases, SRP \$49, 13.7%). Once again the well-layered nose is on the restrained side with a mix of both upper and lower register aromas that come in the form of red cherry, plum, violet and briar. There is a wonderfully seductive mid-palate mouth feel as well as good vibrancy to the delicious, complex and moderately structured middle weight flavors that offer fine depth and sneaky good length on the borderline robust finale. While there is just a touch of warmth it's not really enough to materially detract from the balance and overall, this is quite good. 91/2022+

Walnut City WineWorks (McMinnville, OR)

2012	Pinot Noir – Reserve "Carlton Hill Vineyard"	red	89
2012	➔ Pinot Noir – Reserve "La Cantera Vineyard"	red	91
2012	Pinot Noir – Reserve "Wirtz Vineyard"	red	90
2012	➔ Pinot Noir – Reserve "Z'ivo Vineyard"	red	90

Walnut City WineWorks was created in 1999 by John Gilpin and John Davidson. They repurposed the original Willamette Valley Walnut Co. building, which was an old red edifice in the heart of historic McMinnville, into their winery. For more info call 828.260.6033 or visit: www.walnutcitywineworks.com

2012 Pinot Noir – Reserve “Carlton Hill Vineyard”: (Yamhill-Carlton, 125 cases, SRP \$40, 13.6%). There is just enough reduction present to shave the top notes from the somber nose of plum and dark berry fruit that is trimmed in briar and earthy nuances. The attractively textured medium-bodied flavors benefit from the solid level of dry extract that also serves to buffer the dusty, youthfully austere and slightly lean finale. I very much like the complexity and while the balance isn't quite perfect, this should still work reasonably well with the right foods. 89/2020+

2012 Pinot Noir – Reserve “La Cantera Vineyard”: (Chehalem Mountains, 147 cases, SRP \$40, 13.5%). A somber but well-layered nose presents notes of herbal tea, black cherry, plum and briar. There is a lovely sense of verve to the delicious yet quite serious, indeed even brooding, middle weight flavors that possess excellent depth and length on the mildly austere finish. This isn't a seductive effort but the complexity and punch are very good plus I suspect that some of the austerity will eventually dissipate if this is cellared for another few years and my rating assumes that it will be. 91/2022+

2012 Pinot Noir – Reserve “Wirtz Vineyard”: (Willamette Valley, 72 cases, SRP \$40, 13.4%). Here too there is a hint of herbal tea character to the perfumed and very pretty red currant, cherry and discreetly floral-scented nose. The sleek, intense and well-detailed medium weight flavors possess a really lovely mid-palate mouth feel while delivering fine length on the ever-so-slightly lean finale. Like the Carlton Hill, the right foods would make a noticeable difference in rounding off the finish; moreover I very much like the depth and despite the slight edginess this manages to work anyway. 90/2020+

2012 Pinot Noir – Reserve “Z'ivo Vineyard”: (Eola-Amity Hills, 145 cases, SRP \$40, 13.5%). A ripe, elegant and solidly well-layered nose consists of briar, plum, various dark berries and pretty spice wisps. There is very good volume to the seductively textured medium weight flavors that enjoy fine concentration as well as a velvety mouth feel that continues onto the ever-so-mildly austere finale that flirts with leanness. I would make the same suggestion here that I made with several of the wines in the range in that the leanness would likely be much less noticeable with the right foods. 90/2021+

En Plus – NEW ZEALAND

Allan Scott Family Winemakers (Blenheim, NZ)

2014 Pinot Noir – Marlborough

red

88

The original Scott Family Marlborough vineyard was planted in 1975 and increased by further plantings through the following decades along with the establishment of a fully equipment winery. Allan Scott founded the winery in 1990 and produces 1,000,000 bottles each year with 200 acres under vine; bottled under screwcap. The winemakers are Josh Scott, Bruce Abbott and Matt Elrick. For more information visit: www.allanscott.com

2014 Pinot Noir – Marlborough: (Besley/Omaka Vineyard planted in 1998, 4,000 cases, 13%). An elegant and admirably pure essence of red pinot fruit is laced with soft spice and violet nuances. The round, pliant and easy-going flavors possess a suave mouth feel while offering acceptable depth and length on the balanced finale. What I find interesting about this wine is that often when wines are this round and forward they tend to lack depth but that is not the case here. That said, while this might reward a year, possibly even two, of bottle age it is already sufficiently forward to be enjoyable soon. 88/now+

PROGRESS REPORT: LEROY CLOS de VOUGEOT VERTICAL

1976 – 2013

In November 2016 Richard Orders organized another of his excellent tastings at the home of Becky Wasserman and Russell Hone and was kind enough to invite me to attend. The focus this time was a 20-vintage vertical of the Leroy Clos de Vougeot that included 18 vintages since Mme Leroy founded her eponymous domaine in 1988 along with 2 older vintages from Maison Leroy. The Leroy Clos de Vougeot is the 6th largest holding of this 50.5 ha *grand cru* that constitutes 3 parcels totaling an impressive 1.91 ha. The first is a large parcel located at the upper level of the Clos just to the south of the huge château; there is a second much smaller parcel in the southeast corner at the bottom of the Clos; and a third is situated between the two that stretches from the bottom of the Clos to the middle of it.

As a general proposition, Clos de Vougeot is not a sufficiently gifted *terroir* to have a large margin for error in the same fashion as say Musigny, or La Tâche or Griotte-Chambertin where it is relatively rare to experience genuinely poor examples. Moreover, large vineyards are inevitably less consistent, partially due the unevenness of the expositions and positions on the slope, and partially because of the, sometimes drastic, differences in the sizes of the grower holdings. A such, it's no accident that when laggards at the *grand cru* level are discussed, the same names always come up: the Hill of Corton, Echézeaux and Charmes-Chambertin (including Mazoyères). Moreover, the sheer size of these *appellations* makes them rich hunting grounds for *négociants* who are often too willing to accept the over-cropped or unripe production from very small producers though at the same time contributing mightily to their poor reputations.

Thankfully there are high quality producers of Clos de Vougeot and Leroy is unquestionably one of the finest, and most consistent, producers of this notoriously unreliable *grand cru* and it's interesting to consider why this might be. The first and most obvious reason is that Leroy is working with a large holding that permits younger vines and/or any substandard barrels to be eliminated, a luxury that is not afforded to most producers. The second, and even more important reason, is that Leroy routinely has low yields and thus in any given vintage, higher ripeness levels and in particular higher phenolic maturity levels. This is critical to a *terroir* like Clos de Vougeot that possesses a strong tendency to be austere, particularly when young, and when this austerity is accentuated by an absence of sufficiently ripe tannins, it can render the typical example dreadfully disappointing.

The third reason is that the domaine has holdings in all three parts of the vineyard and this imparts an important advantage. While it is true that among the three notional parts of the Clos, the top, middle and bottom, that the upper section is the most gifted, this isn't always true in every vintage. For example, in vintages where there is a significant amount of hydric stress such as 2003 or 2015, the lower portion which has much higher levels of water-retaining clay, the best wines are made there. The converse is of course true as in wetter vintages the top portion indisputably produces the best wines. The point though is that the respective position of Leroy's parcels among the three sections contributes considerably to the consistency her Clos de Vougeot has demonstrated since 1988.

I would offer one other observation is that in most vintages, Clos de Vougeot not only needs but demands extended aging. This is all the more true for the Leroy version which is almost invariably impressively concentrated and expressly built-to-age. I would suggest that the average high-quality example of Clos de Vougeot typically requires 12 to 15 years to mature. By extension I would add, again as a general rule of thumb, another 5 years to this range for the Leroy version. Enjoy the retrospective!

Domaine/Maison Clos de Vougeot Vertical

2013	Clos de Vougeot	Grand Cru	red	94
2011	Clos de Vougeot	Grand Cru	red	93
2010	Clos de Vougeot	Grand Cru	red	96
2009	Clos de Vougeot	Grand Cru	red	94
2008	Clos de Vougeot	Grand Cru	red	93
2006	Clos de Vougeot	Grand Cru	red	93
2005	Clos de Vougeot	Grand Cru	red	98
2002	Clos de Vougeot	Grand Cru	red	95
2001	Clos de Vougeot	Grand Cru	red	93
2000	Clos de Vougeot	Grand Cru	red	95
1999	Clos de Vougeot	Grand Cru	red	96
1998	Clos de Vougeot	Grand Cru	red	95

1997	Clos de Vougeot	Grand Cru	red	92
1996	Clos de Vougeot	Grand Cru	red	93
1995	Clos de Vougeot	Grand Cru	red	91
1992	Clos de Vougeot	Grand Cru	red	92
1990	Clos de Vougeot	Grand Cru	red	94
1989	Clos de Vougeot	Grand Cru	red	90
1981	Clos de Vougeot	Grand Cru	red	88
1976	Clos de Vougeot	Grand Cru	red	90

2013 Clos de Vougeot: There is a touch of herbal tea character to the overtly spicy, earthy and brooding nose that is composed primarily of dark currant scents. The vibrant, intense and broad-shouldered flavors possess outstanding mid-palate concentration while offering a highly seductive mouth feel which contrasts marked with the impressively complex and lingering finish where hints of bitter pit fruit and austerity appear. Not surprisingly this is still very much a baby and extended patience will be necessary if you wish to see this at its peak. 94/2030+

2011 Clos de Vougeot: A relatively high-toned nose is composed by notes of red berry liqueur, pomegranate, pungent earth, dried flowers and subtle spice hints. There is excellent intensity and controlled power to the big-bodied yet sleek and seductively textured medium weight plus flavors that possess a caressing mouth feel, all wrapped in a lingering finish that offers very fine complexity. This is really quite good in the context of the vintage and is still very much on the way up. 93/2026+

2010 Clos de Vougeot: There is just enough reduction present to warrant decanting this if you're fully intent on committing vinous infanticide. I had the opportunity to allow this to sit in the glass and with about one hour of air an earthy and quite pretty array of spicy red berry fruit aromas reluctantly emerges. There is unusually good refinement to the pure, concentrated and seductively textured broad-shouldered flavors that deliver strikingly good length on the impeccably well-balanced finale. However what really makes this so impressive is the sheer complexity but as deep as this already is, the depth should only continue to improve as the 2010 Clos de Vougeot is still years away from its peak. In a word, fantastic. 96/2030+

2009 Clos de Vougeot: Somewhat curiously given how impressively pure and complex this was when I originally reviewed it from bottle, the nose was quite firmly reduced and about all that I can offer is that the underlying fruit clearly seems ripe which is no surprise given the elevated ripeness levels in 2009. Otherwise there is exceptionally good richness to the full-bodied but velvety flavors that possess superb mid-palate concentration before culminating in a robust, powerful and hugely long finish where the only nit is a hint of warmth. This is impressive but the nose is a bit of a concern though it's possible that this particular bottle didn't show to standard. 94/2024+

2008 Clos de Vougeot: There is a hint of geranium to the very fresh and airy red currant, earth and distinct floral nuances that are trimmed in just enough wood to merit mentioning. There is excellent concentration to the round, delicious and supple yet quite powerful broad-shouldered flavors that culminate in a refreshing and inviting if dusty and mildly austere finale. This is a dense 2008 in the context of what is typical for the vintage and a wine that is certainly not at its peak yet it's not so far away that it couldn't be enjoyed if given a thorough aeration first. 93/2023+

2006 Clos de Vougeot: This particular bottle behaved almost counterintuitively as initially the nose was markedly floral with its cool and restrained aromas of mostly red berry fruit and underbrush nuances that displayed just a hint of secondary development. I say that it behaved somewhat counterintuitively because with air it became progressively reduced, something that is quite rare in my experience. Otherwise there is both excellent volume and mid-palate concentration to the seductively textured but muscular flavors that brim with sappy dry extract, all wrapped in a distinctly youthful, firm and lingering though distinctly robust and austere finish. This is not one of the more elegant vintages for this wine and despite the whiff of secondary character found on the nose, it's still a long way from its peak. In a word, patience. 93/2016+

2005 Clos de Vougeot: It is remarkable that at 11 years of age this appears to have changed very little since my first encounter with it in November 2006 as the color is still quite dark and the brooding nose remains almost entirely primary with notes of menthol, wood, black cherry, cassis, spice and plenty of earth scents. The palate impression is concentrated to the point of being borderline massive with seeming limitless reserves of mouth coating dry extract that pushes to the background the still very firm tannic spine shaping the extraordinarily long finish where the only nit is a hint of warmth. This blockbuster of a Clos de Vougeot will live for decades to come; indeed it is not even remotely close to being ready and incredibly, my projected initial drinking window of 2030+ may in fact be unduly optimistic as this is very clearly constructed for the very long-term. 98/2030+

2002 Clos de Vougeot: While there are hints of secondary development in evidence the expressive nose remains quite youthful with its notes of soft wood, high-toned cherry and raspberry, violet and earth. There is excellent richness and power to the full-bodied and powerful flavors that possess a really lovely mouth feel before culminating in a hugely long finish. If there is a nit this isn't perhaps quite as complex as one might expect given its 15 years of age though with that said, it's also clear that this beauty is still on the way up and thus I expect the overall level of depth to improve. 95/2022+

2001 Clos de Vougeot: I hadn't tasted this since 2008 and it has largely arrived at its peak with some bricking evident at the rim along with mostly secondary aromas that are trimmed in earth, dried flower and humus nuances. The sleek, delicious and vibrant middle weight plus flavors possess excellent delineation while delivering excellent length on the lingering if ever-so-slightly clipped finale. Still, I very much like the mid-palate mouth feel and the overall sense of depth. Note that while this is now fully mature it should be capable of holding at this level for another decade, perhaps even longer. 93/now+

2000 Clos de Vougeot: A mild touch of bricking. An expressive nose is now composed mostly of secondary fruit, floral and spice aromas where nuances of earth and a touch of game are present. The supple, delicious and impressively concentrated big-bodied flavors are supported by plenty of sap on the noticeably ripe, dusty and beautifully complex and lingering finish. For my taste this is close to its apogee but I would suggest holding for another 3 to 5 years. Note that another bottle tasted in 2010 seemed much more advanced than this one and while still very good, it was clearly not as pristine and rated "only" 93. 95/2020+

1999 Clos de Vougeot: I have had this beauty multiple times over the years and it continues to evolve slowly but gracefully. The expressive nose remains notably youthful as there are still no obvious secondary nuances present on the ripe, fresh, earthy, spicy and highly complex aromas. There is equally good ripeness to the big-bodied and still firmly tannic flavors that possess superb depth and outstanding length on the balanced finale where the only nit worth mentioning is a hint of warmth. This remains a notably serious wine despite the relatively round and velvety mid-palate texture that rapidly transforms into a very firm finish. In sum this is a really fine effort that should age, and drink, gracefully for years to come. Consistent notes save for one bottle that was cloudy and did not show as well as what I describe above. 96/2024+

1998 Clos de Vougeot: I have had two very different experiences with this wine as a bottle tasted in 2012 was notably advanced with notes of *sous bois* and a lean, slightly hard finish; I rated it 89. By contrast, this most recent bottle was much better with no bricking though there is some lightening of color at the rim. The nose has now turned largely secondary with its dried flower, earth, game and humus scents. The dense, powerful and serious big-bodied flavors are both robust and muscular while delivering a gorgeously long and complex finale. The mid-palate brims with dry extract that imparts a sappy mouth feel and overall, while this is not especially refined, it is a most impressive '98. I would further add that though this could easily be enjoyed now, I would suggest holding it for another 3 to 5 years first with the hopes of resolving some of the remaining structure. 95/2020+

1997 Clos de Vougeot: Some bricking. There is an interesting dried leaf component to the gamy, forest floor, floral and earth-inflected nose that still displays a whisper of wood. There is excellent volume, richness and concentration to the succulent, round and notably ripe flavors that terminate in a lingering if ever-so-mildly edgy finale that offers fine if not truly special complexity and persistence. This is actually quite a good '97 and for my taste it has arrived at its peak though I underscore that it will easily hold for another decade, perhaps even a bit longer. 92/now+

1996 Clos de Vougeot: A reserved, notably ripe and subtly oaked nose offers up notes of pungent earth and fresh red pinot fruit that are followed by rich, delineated, full-bodied and beautifully textured flavors that possess outstanding drive and length on the sweet but dusty finish. This is still a moderately structured wine that is not especially refined and one that lacks the same level of complexity as several other of the better Leroy '96s. While this could certainly be held for many more years it's not clear that there is much, if any, upside development potential remaining. Note that I have tried this several times recently with mostly consistent notes. 93/now+

1995 Clos de Vougeot: Still a deep ruby color that displays only a touch of lightening at the rim and that impression of youthfulness is reinforced by the distinctly earthy nose that exhibits moderate secondary development but certainly no *sous bois*. On the palate this is a fascinating wine of power and intensity yet without weight or heaviness, and the usual austerity of classic Clos de Vougeot is only a background element as the rich, full-bodied, sappy and highly complex flavors are underpinned by supple tannins that have none of the aggressiveness of the typical '95 today. In fact, this is really quite forward and while it should hold for many years at this level, I don't see any further improvement potential. Tasted several times over the years, and twice in 2016, with mostly consistent results though some bottles do seem more advanced than others; my ratings have varied between 91 and 93. 93/now+

1992 Clos de Vougeot: Moderate bricking. The expressive nose is exceptionally ripe in the context of the vintage and one that is now completely secondary in character with plenty of earth, spice and *sous bois* hints. There is good intensity to the delicious, intense and solidly complex medium-weight flavors that deliver outstanding length and real verve on the reasonably well-balanced finish. This is a first-rate '92 and while not an elegant wine, one that has aged gracefully and still offers a fine drinking experience. Multiple, and consistent, notes. 92/now

1990 Clos de Vougeot: This is still quite deeply colored with only a touch of bricking. A notably ripe and fully mature nose is composed of earth, game and spice hints along with now secondary-tinged dark berry fruit notes though no *sous bois*. The big-bodied and impressively scaled flavors brim with dry extract and still possess ample supporting tannins on the hugely long and palate coating finish. This is no model of finesse or elegance but it is a robust and muscular Clos de Vougeot that will live for decades to come though as good as it is, it's an open question as to whether the tannins will ever completely resolve. Still, putting aside questions about whether the '90 Clos de Vougeot is perfectly balanced or not, what is indisputable is that it offers a dramatic drinking experience. Tasted thrice recently with fairly consistent notes where my scores have varied no more than one point. 94/now+

1989 Clos de Vougeot: I hadn't tasted this in many years (2004) though like many '89s today, time hasn't treated it all that well. Still deeply colored with only minor bricking. The expressive and moderately ripe nose has now gone completely secondary with whispers of *sous bois* and autumnal characters along with plenty of earth, game and spice elements. There is excellent richness to the solidly concentrated big-bodied flavors that possess a velvety mid-palate texture that contrasts markedly with the still tannic and slightly drying finish. In much the same fashion as the 1990, this should continue to hold for years to come but it's as good now as it will ever be. Moreover I would definitely recommend serving it with complementary foods to help round off the tannic edge. 90/now

1981 Clos de Vougeot: (from Maison Leroy). I have had two very different experiences with this wine with one bottle showing beautifully and another, which was the one in this tasting, showing less well. The note for the better bottle tasted in 2012 is: Almost completely bricked through. This is exceptionally complex on the *sous bois*-infused nose that offers up additional notes of earth, spice and an interesting dried floral note. There is good volume and impressive concentration, particularly in the context of what was a very difficult vintage, and the depth of the nose is to be found here as well. The finish delivers excellent length and about the only nit is that there is a touch of dryness; this example merited a score of 92. The bottle in the 2016 tasting was aromatically similar though with a noticeable lactic note plus the finishing dryness was much more pronounced and while it did not render the wine unenjoyable, it was enough to compromise it significantly. 88/now

1976 Clos de Vougeot: (from Maison Leroy). Moderate bricking but with a ruby core remaining. The ripe and expressive nose has gone full-on *sous bois* in character that is trimmed in earth, spice and autumnal nuances. There is good energy and reasonably good detail to the rich, powerful and delicious middle weight flavors where the supporting tannins are still present on the slightly chewy and rustic if impressively long finish. This is very '76 in character and a wine that should continue to hold though not surprisingly at this point, it's as good now as it will ever be. 90/now

In the Next Issue

The 2015 Côte d'Or Whites with more wines from 2014

More Current Release California and Oregon Pinot Noir – Mostly 2014 (with some 12's and 13's)

More Current Release Champagne, Côte d'Or Reds and Beaujolais

Progress Report: An Historic 41 Vintage Vertical of the Marquis d'Angerville Clos des Ducs
