Allen Meadows' **2nd Quarter, 2013**
Issue 50

BURGHOUND.COM®

THE ULTIMATE BURGUNDY REFERENCE

In This Issue – 140 Producers & 1174 Wines Reviewed

2011 and 2010 Côte de Beaune Reds 3-138

More Current Release California and Oregon Pinot Noirs 139-156

En Plus – More 2011 and 2010 Côte d'Or Reds 157-165

Progress Report – Verticals of Lafon Meursault "Perrières" & "Clos de la Barre" . . . 166-171

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.

Copyright © 2013 by Burghound.com; published quarterly. Access via subscription only. Subscription information at www.burghound.com. All rights reserved and unauthorized reproduction, redistribution, retransmission or commercial exploitation of Burghound.com content, including the database, is strictly prohibited without the express written consent of Burghound.com. Integration or access to content using computer integration (Web Crawlers, Spiders, Robots, etc.) designed to automatically integrate/download the information in the database is strictly prohibited. Subscriptions are only for the individual subscriber and user names/ passwords/content are not to be shared. Discounted corporate accounts are available for firms requiring multi-users. Active subscribers in the news media and wine trade may use limited wine reviews provided that Burghound.com is properly credited. Retailers are responsible for ensuring the quoted information is correct and as printed in Burghound.com. Reproduction of vintage reports, narratives and progress reports is expressly forbidden. "Limited wine reviews" is defined as the reproduction of Burghound.com's entire wine review and score, and is anticipated to be fewer than 100 reviews at any one time by a retailer or individual in the wine trade. Licensing fees are due Burghound.com should an entity use in excess of 100 wines at any given time, as determined and agreed between the parties. Upon determination of violation of any of these conditions, subscription will be immediately terminated without any refund of the subscription fee. See full Terms and Conditions.

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 *appellation.*
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 given Burgundy 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. 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 wider 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 display remarkably long periods of graceful decline; 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.

Issue 50 Producer Index

Côte de Beaune:

DOMAINE OR MAISON

Angerville, Marquis d'
Armand, Comte/Clos des Epeneaux
d'Auvenay
Bachelet, Jean-Claude
Belland, Roger/Joseph
Bellene, de
Bellene, Roche de
Bichot, Albert
Billard-Gonnet
Bitouzet-Prieur
Bize, Simon
Blain-Gagnard
Boillot, Henri (Domaine & Maison)
Boisson, Pierre
Bonneau du Martray
Bouchard Aîné et Fils
Bouchard Père et Fils
Bouley, Jean-Marc
Bouley, Pascal
Buisson-Charles
Camus-Bruchon
Champy
Chandon de Briailles
Chanson Père et Fils
Chevalier Père et Fils
Clos de la Chapelle
Coche-Dury, E. & R.
Coffinet-Duvernay
Colin, Bruno
Colin, Marc
Colin, Philippe
Courcel, de
Croix, des
Cyrot-Buthiau
Dancer, Vincent
Darnat, Henri
Drouhin, Joseph
Dublère
Dubreuil-Fontaine
Ente, Arnaud
Evening Land
Fichet, Jean-Philippe
Follin-Arbelet
Fontaine-Gagnard
Gagnard, Jean-Noël
Gambal, Alex
Gaunoux, Michel
Germain et Fils, Henri
Girard, Jean-Jacques
Girardin, Aleth
Girardin, Vincent
Giroud, Camille
Gros, Anne-Françoise
Guyon, Antonin
Huber-Verdereau
Jadot, Louis
Javillier, Patrick
Jobard, Rémi
Labet, Pierre et François
Lafarge, Michel
Lafon, Comtes
Lamy, Hubert et Olivier
Latour, Louis
Latour, Vincent
Latour-Giraud
Leroux, Benjamin
Maltroye, Château de
Matrot
Mikulski, François
Moillard
Moine, Lucien Le
Montille, Hubert de
Moreau, Bernard
Morey, Jean-Marc
Morey, Marc
Morey, Pierre
Morey-Blanc
Morey-Coffinet
Morot, Albert
Pacalet, Philippe
Parent
Parent, François
Pavelot, Jean-Marc
Pavelot, Luc et Lise
Pavillon, du
Pernot, Paul
Pillot, Fernand et Laurent
Pillot, Jean et Jean-Marc
Pillot, Paul
Pousse d'Or
Prieur, Jacques
Prudhon et Fils, Henri
Puligny-Montrachet, Ch. de
Rapet Père et Fils
Ravaut, Vincent
Rollin Père et Fils
Rossignol, Nicolas
Senard, Comte
Tollot-Beaut
Violot-Guillemard, Thierry
Voillot, Joseph

En Plus:

Amiot et Fils, Pierre
Amiot-Servelle
Boisset, Jean-Claude
Briday, Michel
Fessy, Henry
Gachot-Monot
Leroy
Verdet, Aurélien

California Pinot Noir:

Alta Maria Vineyard
Arista Winery
Bailiwick Wine Company
Cambria Winery
Cobb Wines
Dutton-Goldfield Winery
Kendric Vineyards
Ladd Cellars
Laetitia Vineyard & Winery
MacPhail Family Wines
Merry Edwards
Native9
Red Car Wine Company
Reuling Vineyard
Rochioli Vineyards and
Winery
Small Vines Wines
Talley Vineyards
Trione Vineyards & Winery

Oregon Pinot Noir:

Arterberry Maresh
Brooks Wines
Cornerstone Cellars
Erath Winery
Evesham Wood Vineyards
Haden Fig
Le Cadeau Wines
Pali Wine Co.
Purple Hands
Sokol Blosser Winery
Stoller Vineyards
Van Duzer Vineyards
Whistling Dog Cellars

Progress Report:

Comtes Lafon Verticals

CÔTE DE BEAUNE – The 2011 and 2010 Vintages

2011 – More Irregular than the Côte de Nuits but still a Very Good Vintage for the Côte de Beaune

Unlike 1999 and possibly 2010, the Côte de Beaune did not outperform the Côte de Nuits in 2011. It was a wet summer in the Côte de Nuits and it was even wetter in the Côte de Beaune, particularly around Beaune itself. There was more rot and more mildew, both of which caused all kinds of problems. Producers had to be exceptionally rigorous in their vineyard work and then be willing to wait for the proper ripeness levels even while rot was threatening and then to mercilessly eliminate anything substandard in what was already a short crop, at least for pinot noir. It was not so much a difficult vintage as it was an exacting one where things had to be done precisely when they had to be done and in their full measure. In other words, 2011 was not a forgiving vintage and anything less than resolute rigor resulted in substandard fruit with predictable results on wine quality. And in a nutshell, this concisely explains why 2011 in the Côte de Beaune is definitely more irregular than either 2009 or 2010.

Variable in quality or not, when the wines are good though, they are outstanding and not far behind the quality achieved in 2010. There are any number of really lovely wines that should provide for delicious drinking early on yet be capable of amply rewarding mid-term cellaring and in a few cases, they will be as long-lived as the 2010s. The 2011s are not as classic as the 2010s but they are seductively delicious without being banal. Moreover, there is more than enough underlying *terroir* expression to satisfy even the most demanding burg geeks. While there are several very interesting characteristics of the 2011 vintage the one that I find to be the most intriguing is just how good the phenolic maturities are yet the sugar maturities are remarkably low, in fact 2011 is one of the lower alcohol vintages in some time. This makes for seductively suave textures that avoid any sense of heaviness as there is good freshness and sufficient acid verve to maintain the finishing balance. This seductive character is further enhanced by the fact that not only are the supporting tannins ripe but they are exceptionally fine-grained; indeed this is one characteristic that both 2011 and 2010 share.

That's the good news. Unfortunately, it's not all good news as there are some domaines that didn't do as well as I'm used to seeing from them. Indeed to that end I have included in my general comments about each domaine my view of how they performed relative to the general quality I found in the Côte de Beaune. When things did go a bit sideways, it usually was because the picking date was too early and thus the acidities are too pronounced or the tannins are astringent. As I will discuss in more detail below, the meteorological services were constantly predicting heavy rains during the harvest and the prospect of having dilute and/or rotten fruit panicked some domaines into picking too soon. This is to say that despite the generally very high level of phenolic maturity in 2011, there are still some wines that are moderately astringent. I stress that astringency is not at all the norm for the vintage but there are some wines that are somewhat green.

One other aspect is worth bringing to your attention and that is the presence of more new wood in some 2011s. This is largely because of a structural obstacle, which is simply that you can't order your barrels after the harvest is over and when you know exactly how many you need, at least not if you want them in a timely fashion. Most domaines place their orders with barrel makers in the summer after the flowering. This is because they have at least an idea how abundant the crop might be though there are many factors, in particular hail, rot or poor weather that may ultimately reduce the estimates. While in theory barrels are returnable if they're not used, relatively few domaines do this unless they typically use very high percentages of new oak. The fear is that if barrels are returned, when favors are needed in the future (and every domaine needs the occasional rush job), the *tonneliers* (barrel makers) will take better care of their better customers and not those who are constantly returning unused stock. This is because the shelf life of unused barrels is not nearly as long as you might think because they are easily attacked by various organisms that can impart off odors or flavors to the wine. Maintaining new but unused barrels in top condition is a time consuming process and almost inevitably, the quality is compromised. 2010 was a very short crop and most domaines had a few unused new barrels that they employed in 2011. But 2011 also turned out to be a short crop and during the summer many domaines were overly optimistic about the quantity of the harvest and ordered too many new barrels. Between the two, there were simply more new barrels used at many domaines and the upshot of explaining this to you is that some of your favorite domaines may have wines that are bit oakier than what you may be used to seeing.

Otherwise, there simply isn't much not to like about the 2011 vintage except for one key factor: as was the case in 2010, there is less of it than would be in a typical vintage. To be sure, it's certainly larger than the tiny 2010 and 2012 vintages. This is due to a variety of reasons such as some frost damage, some limited hail damage and some *échaudage*, which is to say sunburned berries. But all of these put together pale by comparison to a troubled flowering due to rain and wind in the middle of it. What is interesting about the *floraison* in 2011 is that it transpired quickly, which is normally conducive to a successful fertilization. Unfortunately, right in the middle of it was a 2 day period of wind and rain that caused a lot of shatter. As such, total yields were off between 20 and 40% and thus notwithstanding the continued favorable movement of many currencies vis-à-vis the euro, there will be little incentive on the part of the growers to reduce prices. In one particularly hair raising example, the average price for a barrel of straight Volnay went from €1600 in 2011 to €3000 in 2012! In short, lower Burgundy prices are not on the horizon anytime soon.

The Weather and Harvest:

For a much more in-depth and detailed discussion about the overall characteristics of 2011 vintage, including specifics about the growing season, I refer you to my comments in Issue 49. With respect to the Côte de Beaune, as noted above, there was definitely more rain than in the Cote de Nuits. And within the Côte de Beaune, there was a bit more rain in Beaune and Savigny than elsewhere and with it, more rot as well. That said, excellent wines were made from these *appellations* so while neither commune shined as brightly as Volnay or Pommard, the extra rain wasn't fatal to quality. The only other notable climatic event of consequence was hail in Chorey-lès-Beaune that was more an issue for quantity than quality.

For readers' convenience however, I include a brief summary here: The chaotic weather patterns continue as Burgundy yo-yos from an early harvest to a late one and then back again. 2011 is the third vintage since 2003 that saw many domaines picking in late August, a phenomenon that did not occur once in the entire 20th century! Growers consistently lament the relatively poor mid-summer weather that has plagued the last few vintages but in a sense they have been blessings in disguise because without something to dampen the maturities we would be drinking 16% chardonnay and pinot-based wines picked in July. In this case though July arrived in April and April came to visit in July so not much could really be considered as typical in 2011. In short, it was a topsy-turvy growing season from start to finish and when nothing is consistent, it is necessarily more difficult to manage.

The 2011 Côte de Beaune Reds:

So, as with every vintage, the questions of primary importance are: Should I buy the wines and if so, how much? As I observed at the very beginning of the 2011 vintage summary, the most successful 2011s are wonderfully fresh, seductively textured, generous and utterly delicious wines that offer excellent if not truly exceptional transparency. They have this beguiling sense of harmony, partially because they are so well-balanced but also because the tannins are so ripe and fine-grained. Add all of this up and you have a vintage style that will very likely drink well young but also improve and reward mid-term cellaring. The fine-grained tannins offer another benefit as well, which is to say that in those cases where the more rustic *appellations* such as Aloxe-Corton, Monthelie, Auxey-Duresses, Chassagne-Montrachet and certain sectors of Pommard produced very good wines, they tend to be notably more refined than usual.

As to longevity, the average 2011 is built for a mid-term cellaring horizon. However you should aware that notwithstanding the seductive texture of the typical wine, there are 2011s that will age and improve effortlessly for years. The average 2011 is firm but not aggressively structured and even among those that are very firmly structured, they don't really seem it thanks to the high level of phenolic maturity. There is good to very good mid-palate concentration and when coupled with the only average acid levels there isn't much of a tendency to accentuate the perception of astringency. Again though, there are some green and/or astringent 2011s but these are, thankfully, in the minority.

As to what other vintages the 2011s might reasonably resemble, as usual I received a lot of different answers to that question. Most growers invoked some combination of a ripe vintage with a cool one, such as 2000 and 2001 or 2009 together with 2010. If I was going to go that route for a comparison I probably would suggest that the average 2011 in the Côte de Beaune is two-thirds 2000 coupled with one-third 2001. This is to say that there is the richness, high levels of phenolic maturity and sheer generosity of 2000 coupled with the refined tannins and sophisticated mouth feel of the 2001s. Moreover, because you have such good transparency, the 2011s offer very good to excellent clarity of *terroir*.

What to Buy in 2011:

As was the case in the Côte de Nuits, quality in the Côte de Beaune was very much driven more by the efforts and decisions of each grower than it was by the vicissitudes of the growing season outside of say Beaune and Savigny (because of the additional rain). As such there was no real "star" village in the Côte de Beaune though a quick glance at the Burghound Sweet Spot Selections will confirm that Volnay and Pommard did exceptionally well. Honorable mentions can also be awarded to Pernand-Vergelesses, Savigny and the Hill of Corton. At the *villages* level, while Volnay did reasonably well, Pommard did extremely well and if you're in the market for value burgundies that will age, look no further. Speaking of which there are many outstanding *villages* level wines and I strongly urge you to make use of the Burghound Top Value recommendations that can be found below. They will not only help you to find great wines that provide excellent value.

So, as you plan your respective buying strategies, there are several important points to keep in mind:

While there will be more quantity in 2011 than was the case in 2010, the most important point to acknowledge is that buying the 2011s will be predicated on your ability to find them. While the burgundy lover is always confronted with this dilemma for the best wines almost irrespective of vintage, the moderately short 2011 crop will only contribute to the problem. And don't expect that there will be any relief coming in 2012 as it's an even shorter crop than 2010.

The second point is that the 2011s are not going to be cheap, partially because the quality is very good and also because of three consecutive short crops. While I made this point last year when discussing what to buy in 2010, it remains true that year after year prices will almost certainly be up. Moreover, while the Far East interest in Bordeaux has strongly tempered in recent months, the same cannot be said for their unabated interest in Burgundy.

The third point is that I almost always counsel readers not to chase the wines of any given vintage because there will always be another vintage and you can often find the wines later. In this regard, the question must be asked as to whether the 2011s are "gotta have" wines? My response to that question would be that no, they're not but in my view it would be a shame not to layer in some amount of them for the simple reason that they really are wonderful wines that will offer a great deal of pleasure. They don't have the scaffolding of the 2005s or 2010s and ultimately they will not be quite as good, but a smart consumer will have at least some of each kind vintage in his or her cellar. Otherwise expressed, having only so-called great built-to-age vintages in the cellar is a mistake because it doesn't allow for medium-term enjoyment. This is why it makes sense of add a certain number of more precocious vintages like 2000, 2004 and 2007 in your cellar because the wines can be drunk early on with pleasure. To me, 2011 is that kind of vintage in that the wines just make you feel like drinking them. I should emphasize however though that in my view 2011 is significantly better than any of those three vintages.

And for what it's worth, I will be adding some 2011s to my cellar. No I will not buy as much as I did in 2005 or 2010 but 2011 is the next most interesting vintage after these two. As I have already underscored, there aren't likely to be many bargains available, particularly for the better known wines. My approach will be to pay what I have to in order to obtain wines that I buy virtually every year and after that, I'll buy what looks appealing at prices that I can live with. I know that there will always be other vintages where the supplies are not quite so tight because it's just not worth over paying.

Lastly, make use of the various Burghound Selections. I great deal of thought goes into trying to choose the best examples in a variety of *appellations* from a variety of producers up and down the classification hierarchy. This enhances a burgundy lover's enjoyment of the rich diversity of Burgundy's *terroirs* at all price levels. This is important because Burgundy is not just about the grands crus or most illustrious 1ers. Yes, those wines provide those 'wow' moments all of remember and love to share with like-minded friends. But a fine Bourgogne or *villages* level wine served on an average weekday night not only provides for much pleasure at a reasonable price, it also allows us to take the measure of the finest burgundies when we encounter them. Besides, who doesn't enjoy drinking well for less?

2010 Côte de Beaune Revisited – Perhaps even Better than Originally Previewed:

My in-bottle tastings of the 2010 vintage have served to confirm that it's a stunning vintage. As a very general observation, yields in the Côte de Beaune tend to be higher and growers tend to pick earlier. But in a vintage like 2010 where virtually everything attained a high level of phenolic ripeness thanks to the low, and sometimes very low yields, it was hard to make dilute or unripe wine. Moreover, as was the case in the Côte de Nuits, I saw nothing significant in my Côte de Beaune tastings to suggest that my conclusions based on the cask samples should be modified save for possibly one parameter and that relates to just how fast the 2010s are shutting down. This doesn't really affect either the scores or my predicted maturities but it does mean that the window to try the 2010s just to see what kind of potential that they have is rapidly closing.

In the few cases where there were modifications, I shortened my expected optimal drinking windows but proportionally more of them were extended by a few years. While there were some long distance runners made in 2010, most of them will make for excellent mid-term to mid-term plus drinking. This is to say they will arrive at peak maturities between 12 and 18 years of age for the better 1ers and Corton *grands crus*.

Otherwise, there were very few significant adjustments. The 2010s are absolutely classic in every respect and should provide for superb drinking in due time. More importantly, at least if you believe as I do that a good burgundy's duty first and foremost is to accurately reflect its origins, the 2010 vintage delivers this *terroir* attribute in spades. Two other attributes that I very much admire about the vintage is just how fresh and vibrant it is and as such the wines are incredibly refreshing. However, as I observed only three months ago in Issue 49, and as corroborated by my recent tastings, I do not expect this enhanced drinkability to last because once the pinot baby fat begins to recede we will see the underlying structure more clearly.

By the way, it's not necessary to stick to Pommard and Volnay in 2010. Excellent reds were made up and down the Côte de Beaune and it would be a shame not to stock your cellars with some of the lesser reputed *appellations* because the *terroirs* really are front and center in the 2010s. In sum, should you find attractively priced 2010s from the Côte de Beaune on the market, I wouldn't hesitate to acquire them as the better wines will make for excellent cellar candidates.

A Word about the Tasting Notes:

99% of the following Burgundy notes are based on tastings conducted January and February 2013 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 them 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.

Burghound.com 2011 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 $60 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. "Sweet Spot Wines" address the wide gulf between the under $60 Top Value wines and the generally over $150 Don't Miss wines; note that I have tried to layer these selections to portray a representative range between the two price points. The "Don't Miss" wines are chosen based on sheer quality alone with price or availability having no effect on their selection. The reviews for each of these selections can be found in the corresponding producer section and will also be available via the searchable database.

Burghound.com's 2011 Vintage Selections

57 "Top Value" Wines from the 2011 vintage in this Issue

2011	Aloxe-Corton	Maison Champy	89
2011	Aloxe-Corton	Rapet Père et Fils	89
2011	Aloxe-Corton	Rollin Père et Fils	89
2011	Auxey-Duresses "Les Reugnes" 1er	Thierry Violot-Guillemard	90
2011	Bourgogne	Amiot-Servelle	(86-88)
2011	Bourgogne	Marquis d'Angerville	(87-89)
2011	Bourgogne	Henri Boillot	87
2011	Bourgogne	Buisson-Charles	87
2011	Bourgogne	E. & R. Coche-Dury	(86-89)
2011	Bourgogne	de Courcel	(86-89)
2011	Bourgogne	Henri Germain et Fils	(86-88)
2011	Bourgogne	Camille Giroud	(86-89)
2011	Bourgogne	Michel Lafarge	(86-89)
2011	Bourgogne	Benjamin Leroux	87
2011	Bourgogne	Château de Maltroye	(86-88)
2011	Bourgogne	Pierre Morey	87
2011	Bourgogne	Morey-Coffinet	87
2011	Bourgogne	Domaine Parent	87
2011	Bourgogne	Jean-Marc Pavelot	(86-88)
2011	Bourgogne "Perrières"	Simon Bize	(86-88)
2011	Bourgogne Vieilles Vignes	François Labet	(86-89)
2011	Bourgogne – Cuvée L'Héritière	Nicolas Rossignol	87
2011	Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune	Jean-Marc Bouley	87
2011	Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune	Rollin Père et Fils	87
2011	Bourgogne - Maison Dieu	Thierry Violot-Guillemard	87
2011	Bourgogne - Passe Tout Grains A l'Exception	Michel Lafarge	(86-88)
2011	Chambolle-Musigny	Pousse d'Or	89
2011	Chambolle-Musigny Vieilles Vignes	Roche de Bellene	(89-91)
2011	Chassagne-Montrachet "La Goujonne Vieilles Vignes"	Hubert et Olivier Lamy	89
2011	Gevrey-Chambertin	Chevalier Père et Fils	89

2011	Gevrey-Chambertin	Alex Gambal	(89-91)
2011	Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Crais"	Camille Giroud	89
2011	Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes	Roche de Bellene	(89-91)
2011	Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes	François Labet	(89-91)
2011	Meursault "Les Cras" 1er	Vincent Latour	90
2011	Nuits St.-Georges	Bouchard Père et Fils	89
2011	Nuits St. Georges "Aux Allots"	Benjamin Leroux	(89-91)
2011	Pommard	Blain-Gagnard	89
2011	Pommard	Henri Boillot	91
2011	Pommard	Thierry Violot-Guillemard	89
2011	Pommard Vieilles Vignes	Vincent Latour	89
2011	Pommard "Les Cras"	Roger Belland	89
2011	Pommard "Clos du Colombier"	Huber-Verdereau	89
2011	Pommard "Cuvée Le 19 Vingt"	Cyrot-Buthiau	89
2011	Pommard "Les Tavannes"	Fernand et Laurent Pillot	89
2011	Pommard "Vaumuriens"	E. & R. Coche-Dury	(89-91)
2011	Pommard "Les Vignots"	Nicolas Rossignol	89
2011	St. Aubin "Derrière Chez Edouard Vieilles Vignes" 1er	Hubert et Olivier Lamy	90
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Grands Liards Vieilles Vignes"	Camus-Bruchon	89
2011	Santenay "Clos Tavannes" 1er	Jean-Noël Gagnard	90
2011	Volnay	Comte Armand	(89-91)
2011	Volnay	Henri Boillot	90
2011	Volnay	Dubreuil-Fontaine	89
2011	Volnay	Nicolas Rossignol	89
2011	Volnay "Robardelle"	Huber-Verdereau	89
2011	Volnay – Vendange Sélectionnées	Michel Lafarge	(89-91)
2011	Volnay Vieilles Vignes	Jean-Jacques Girard	89

86 "Sweet Spot" Wines from the 2011 vintage in this Issue

2011	Beaune "Grèves" 1er	Michel Lafarge	(90-93)
2011	Beaune "Grèves" 1er	Rapet Père et Fils	91
2011	Beaune "Grèves" 1er	Tollot-Beaut	91
2011	Beaune "Grèves – Vigne de l'Enfant Jésus" 1er	Bouchard Père et Fils	92
2011	Beaune "Les Teurons" 1er	Albert Morot	(90-93)
2011	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses" 1er	Amiot-Servelle	(91-93)
2011	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses" 1er	Louis Jadot	(92-94)
2011	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses" 1er	Pousse d'Or	93
2011	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Charmes" 1er	Pousse d'Or	93
2011	Chambolle-Musigny "Haut Doix" 1er	Lucien Le Moine	(90-93)
2011	Corton Grand Cru	Rapet Père et Fils	92
2011	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	Pousse d'Or	93
2011	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	Jacques Prieur	(92-94)
2011	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	Comte Senard	92
2011	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	Camille Giroud	(91-94)
2011	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	Hubert de Montille	(91-94)
2011	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	Pousse d'Or	93
2011	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	Comte Senard	92
2011	Corton-Pougets Grand Cru	Rapet Père et Fils	92
2011	Gevrey-Chambertin "Cazetiers" 1er	Bouchard Père et Fils	(91-93)
2011	Morey St. Denis "Les Genavrières" 1er	Lucien Le Moine	(91-94)
2011	Nuits St. Georges "Les Cailles" 1er	Bouchard Père et Fils	(91-93)
2011	Nuits St. Georges "Aux Argillas" 1er	Philippe Pacalet	(90-93)
2011	Nuits St. Georges "Aux Thorey" 1er	Benjamin Leroux	(90-93)
2011	Nuits St. Georges "Vaucrains" 1er	Lucien Le Moine	(91-93)
2011	Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Fichots" 1er	Jean-Jacques Girard	91
2011	Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Fichots" 1er	Rollin Père et Fils	91
2011	Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses" 1er	Dubreuil-Fontaine	91

2011	Pernand-Vergelesses “Ile de Vergelesses” 1er	Rapet Père et Fils	92
2011	Pernand-Vergelesses “Ile de Vergelesses” 1er	Rollin Père et Fils	92
2011	Pommard “Chanlins” 1er	Nicolas Rossignol	93
2011	Pommard “Chaponnières” 1er	Nicolas Rossignol	92
2011	Pommard “Epenots” 1er	Dubreuil-Fontaine	91
2011	Pommard “Les Epenots” 1er	Thierry Violot-Guillemard	(91-93)
2011	Pommard “Les Epenots” 1er	Joseph Voillot	92
2011	Pommard “Clos des Epeneaux” 1er	Comte Armand	(92-94)
2011	Pommard “Les Fremiers” 1er	Jean-Marc Bouley	(92-94)
2011	Pommard “Les Fremiers” 1er	de Courcel	(90-93)
2011	Pommard “Grand Clos des Epenots” 1er	de Courcel	(90-93)
2011	Pommard “Grands Epenots” 1er	Hubert de Montille	(91-93)
2011	Pommard “Les Grands Epenots” 1er	Pierre Morey	92
2011	Pommard “Pézerolles” 1er	Bouchard Père et Fils	(91-93)
2011	Pommard “Pézerolles” 1er	Michel Lafarge	(92-94)
2011	Pommard “Les Pézerolles” 1er	Hubert de Montille	(91-94)
2011	Pommard “Les Pézerolles” 1er	Joseph Voillot	92
2011	Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	Henri Boillot	93
2011	Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	Jean-Marc Bouley	(92-94)
2011	Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	de Courcel	(91-93)
2011	Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	Lucien Le Moine	(91-93)
2011	Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	Domaine Parent	(90-93)
2011	Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	Thierry Violot-Guillemard	(91-94)
2011	Pommard “Les Rugiens-Bas” 1er	Aleth Girardin	(90-93)
2011	Pommard “Les Rugiens-Bas” 1er	Hubert de Montille	(92-94)
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune “La Dominode” 1er	Jean-Marc Pavelot	(91-94)
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Fourneaux” 1er	Simon Bize	(90-93)
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Gravains” 1er	Jean-Marc Pavelot	(91-93)
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Lavières” 1er	Jean-Jacques Girard	91
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Lavières” 1er	Jean-Marc Pavelot	(91-93)
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Vergelesses” 1er	Simon Bize	(91-93)
2011	Volnay “1er”	Michel Lafarge	(91-93)
2011	Volnay “Clos de la Bousse d’Or” 1er	Pousse d’Or	92
2011	Volnay “Caillerets” 1er	Marquis d’Angerville	(91-93)
2011	Volnay “Caillerets” 1er	Michel Lafarge	(92-94)
2011	Volnay “Caillerets” 1er	Nicolas Rossignol	92
2011	Volnay “Caillerets – Clos des Soixante Ouvrées” 1er	Pousse d’Or	93
2011	Volnay “Champans” 1er	Marquis d’Angerville	(92-94)
2011	Volnay “Champans” 1er	Pascal Bouley	(90-93)
2011	Volnay “Champans” 1er	Comtes Lafon	(91-93)
2011	Volnay “Clos du Château des Ducs” 1er	Michel Lafarge	(91-94)
2011	Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	Jean-Marc Bouley	(91-94)
2011	Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	Pascal Bouley	(90-93)
2011	Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	Comtes Lafon	(90-93)
2011	Volnay “Frémiets” 1er	Nicolas Rossignol	92
2011	Volnay “Mitans” 1er	Michel Lafarge	(91-93)
2011	Volnay “Roncerets” 1er	Nicolas Rossignol	93
2011	Volnay “Santenots” 1er	Roger Belland	92
2011	Volnay “Santenots” 1er	Henri Boillot	93
2011	Volnay “Santenots” 1er	Nicolas Rossignol	92
2011	Volnay “Les Santenots” 1er	Pierre Morey	92
2011	Volnay “Santenots du Milieu” 1er	Comtes Lafon	(92-94)
2011	Volnay “Clos des Santenots” 1er	Jacques Prieur	(91-93)
2011	Volnay “Taillepieds” 1er	Marquis d’Angerville	(92-94)
2011	Volnay “Taillepieds” 1er	Hubert de Montille	(91-94)
2011	Volnay “Taillepieds” 1er	Nicolas Rossignol	93
2011	Vosne-Romanée “Les Beaux Monts” 1er	Bouchard Père et Fils	(92-94)
2011	Vosne-Romanée “Les Petits-Monts” 1er	Joseph Drouhin	92

32 "Don't Miss" Wines from the 2011 vintage in this Issue

2011	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	Henri Boillot	94
2011	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	Bouchard Père et Fils	(92-95)
2011	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	Joseph Drouhin	94
2011	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	Lucien Le Moine	(93-95)
2011	Chambertin Grand Cru	Henri Boillot	95
2011	Chambertin Grand Cru	Leroy	97
2011	Chambertin Grand Cru	Jacques Prieur	(92-95)
2011	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	Roche de Bellene	(92-95)
2011	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	Henri Boillot	95
2011	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	Bouchard Père et Fils	(93-96)
2011	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	Louis Jadot	(93-95)
2011	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	Lucien Le Moine	(93-96)
2011	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	Benjamin Leroux	(92-95)
2011	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	Leroy	96
2011	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	Pousse d'Or	94
2011	Grands Echézeaux Grand Cru	Lucien Le Moine	(93-95)
2011	Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru	Lucien Le Moine	(92-95)
2011	Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru	Leroy	96
2011	Musigny Grand Cru	Joseph Drouhin	95
2011	Musigny Grand Cru	Louis Jadot	(93-95)
2011	Musigny Grand Cru	Jacques Prieur	(93-96)
2011	Musigny Grand Cru	Leroy	98
2011	Pommard "Les Epenots" 1er	Nicolas Rossignol	94
2011	Pommard "Les Fremiers" 1er	Nicolas Rossignol	94
2011	Richebourg Grand Cru	Leroy	96
2011	Romanée St. Vivant Grand Cru	Leroy	98
2011	Volnay "Les Caillerets" 1er	Henri Boillot	94
2011	Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	Michel Lafarge	(92-95)
2011	Volnay "Clos des Ducs" 1er	Marquis d'Angerville	(93-95)
2011	Vosne-Romanée "Les Gaudichots" 1er	Lucien Le Moine	(93-95)
2011	Vosne-Romanée "Les Malconsorts" 1er	Lucien Le Moine	(92-95)
2011	Vosne-Romanée "Les Malconsorts - Christiane" 1er	Hubert de Montille	(93-96)

CÔTE DE BEAUNE REDS – The 2011 and 2010 VINTAGES

Domaine Marquis d'Angerville (Volnay)

2011	➽ Bourgogne	red	(87-89)
2011	Volnay	red	(87-90)
2011	Volnay "1er" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	➽ Volnay "Caillerets" 1er	red	(91-93)
2011	➽ Volnay "Champans" 1er	red	(92-94)
2011	➽ Volnay "Clos des Angles" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	➽ Volnay "Clos des Ducs" 1er	red	(93-95)
2011	➽ Volnay "Frémiets" 1er	red	(90-93)
2011	➽ Volnay "Taillepieds" 1er	red	(92-94)
2010	➽ Volnay "Champans" 1er	red	94
2010	➽ Volnay "Taillepieds" 1er	red	95

Guillaume d'Angerville described 2011 as a "vintage that started like 2007 with a very hot and dry spring that led to an exceptionally early flowering. Unfortunately the promising start lasted only until mid-July as conditions deteriorated considerably and didn't recover until the last 10 days of August. We elected to begin picking on the 1st of September and brought in perfectly clean fruit that possessed good phenolic maturity and solid acidities. Potential alcohols were good to very good at between 12.5 to 13.5% and we chaptalized nothing. We did our normal vinification, which went smoothly as did the malos. As to the style of the wines, they're quite charming and forward with better concentration and acidity than the 2007s. I like them as they're quite tender but with a lovely sense of tension plus they speak quite clearly of the underlying *terroirs*. They are the kind of wines that should reward extended cellaring if desired but not really require it in the same way that the 2005s and 2010s do." As the comments and scores suggest, the quality of the domaine's 2011s materially outperformed the quality of the vintage and many of them are strongly recommended for mid-term cellaring. And do not miss the two 2010s that were reviewed from bottle as both are positively stunning, indeed the Taillepieds may be the best young version of this wine that I can ever remember having from d'Angerville. (Diageo Château and Estate Wines, www.diageowines.com, NY, NY; 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).

2011 Bourgogne: A beautifully expressive nose of red and blue pinot fruit also offers notes of earth, plum and violets. There is good energy to the detailed and utterly delicious flavors that offer excellent depth and fine length for its level. This is highly recommended if you're in the market for entry level "drink it anytime" burgundy but in this case, it will age too if desired. This is one to strongly consider. (87-89)/2015+

2011 Volnay: (from parcels in Grands Champs and Pluchots that together measure .47 ha). A more elegant and even purer nose speaks of essence of red pinot fruit that leads to equally well-detailed, vibrant and lightly mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that possess fine balance on the distinctly saline-infused finish. This lovely effort is fashioned in an understated style and it should offer 6 to 8 years of upside development potential. (87-90)/2017+

2011 Volnay "1er": (from Pitures, Les Angles and Mitans). Here the nose is more deeply pitched with an attractive layering effect to the dark berry fruit aromas that enjoy added breadth from the presence of plum, violet and soft earth nuances. There is the same fine sense of underlying tension and detail to the medium-bodied flavors that possess a silky mouth feel before culminating in an overtly mineral-driven, dusty, linear and persistent finish. If this slightly muscular effort can add a bit more depth in bottle it should merit the upper end of my projected range. (89-91)/2018+

2011 Volnay "Clos des Angles": (from a .53 ha parcel; 2008 was the first vintage where it was declared separately). A perfumed, cool and restrained nose exhibits notes of both red and blue berries, earth and a hint of spice. There is a discreet minerality present on the silky textured flavors that don't possess the same muscle as the "1er" but the supporting structure is slightly firmer but notably finer. (90-92)/2019+

2011 Volnay "Frémiets": (from a 1.57 ha parcel). This is also quite beguilingly perfumed with an ultra-high-toned nose of pure essence of red pinot fruit that reveals plenty of wet stone character. There is a palpable sense of underlying tension as this is particularly vibrant and this sensation is enhanced by the intense salinity that pervades both the mid-palate as well as the impressively persistent and mouth coating finish. This impeccably well-balanced effort displays the inherent muscularity of a fine Frémiets and will need at least a decade to arrive at its apogee. (90-93)/2021+

2011 Volnay "Caillerets": (from two parcels measuring .65 ha). This is less perfumed but more complex and broader as well with its expressive nose of red and black cherries, violets, plum, earth, spice and wet stone. There is excellent mid-palate concentration to the extract-rich medium weight flavors that also display fine vibrancy and punch on the firmly structured and ever-so-mildly austere finish. This is presently less refined than the Frémiets but even longer and I suspect that due to the strength of the underlying material that this will ultimately be the better wine in time. (91-93)/2023+

2011 Volnay "Taillepieds": (from a 1.07 ha parcel of 35+ year old vines). Aromatically speaking this is almost a hypothetical blend of the Frémiets and Caillerets with its perfumed and moderately high-toned red currant nose that unveils notes of spice, stone and violets. The strikingly pure, delineated and energetic middle weight flavors display outstanding precision on the almost pungently mineral-driven, balanced and hugely long finish. This is a classic Taillepieds and while there is some of the hallmark austerity present, it is somewhat less than I'm used to seeing in this wine. A knockout but note that patience will be required. (92-94)/2023+

2011 Volnay "Champans": (from a huge 3.98 ha parcel). A less elegant but every bit as complex nose demonstrates a distinctly different aromatic profile with a much earthier character to the spice, red pinot and mildly *sauvage* aromas. The intense and strikingly pure flavors ooze a fine and relatively discreet minerality, all wrapped in a tautly muscled, balanced and marvelously persistent finish. This harmonious effort is relatively fine by the standards of the *terroir* and this should amply reward mid to long-term cellaring. In a word, terrific. (92-94)/2023+

2011 Volnay "Clos des Ducs": (a *monopole* that measures 2.15 ha). An incredibly perfumed, airy and cool nose speaks of anise, essence of red berry fruit, stone and floral hints. There is a distinctly textured mouth feel to the restrained and beautifully well-detailed and intense mineral-driven flavors that are an exercise in harmony and purity. This could rival many a Clos des Ducs from more exalted vintages and this will absolutely require long-term cellaring if you are to experience all that this exquisite wine has to offer. One of the 'wow' wines from the 2011 vintage. (93-95)/2026+

2010 Volnay "Taillepieds": (from a 1.07 ha parcel of 35+ year old vines). An overtly spicy nose also features notes of ripe plum, violets and an intense stoniness. There is beautiful energy to the strikingly intense and racy flavors where the underlying structural elements are clearly ripe and while firm, they seem less prominent than they are in reality as there is an abundance of buffering dry extract. While the hallmark austerity is indisputably present, the overall impression is that this overtly powerful and massively long effort is less reserved than it typically is, which should allow it to be approachable after only 8 years or so, though it will require fully 15 to reach its peak. 95/2025+

2010 Volnay "Champans": (from a huge 3.98 ha parcel). Initially there is a touch of reduction though aggressive swirling liberates the admirably pure, fresh and elegant nose of a plenitude of floral notes along with a ripe mix of red berries and iron, stone and earth hints. There is good power and excellent complexity to the wonderfully well-delineated medium weight flavors that possess fine phenolic ripeness and superb energy on the focused, linear and stunningly long and saline-infused finish. This is a seriously impressive effort that is built to age. 94/2025+

Domaine Comte Armand/Clos des Epeneaux (Pommard)

2011	**Auxey-Duresses**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Auxey-Duresses "1er" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2011	**Pommard "1er" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2011	**➽ Pommard "Clos des Epeneaux" 1er**	**red**	**(92-94)**
2011	**➽ Volnay**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2011	**➽ Volnay "Frémiets" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2010	**➽ Pommard "Clos des Epeneaux" 1er**	**red**	**95**

As he did in 2010, Benjamin Leroux enthusiastically endorsed the 2011 vintage by saying that he "loves it. 2011 doesn't offer the consistency of either 2009 or 2010 but when the '11s are good, they are excellent. The growing season started very early and it actually closely parallels the 2007 season. The flowering occurred remarkably early, which is to say on the 8th of May and we enjoyed lots of sunshine until the middle of July and then things went to hell. We started picking the whites on the 29th of August and the reds on the 31st. The pinot was definitely ripe and we had very good sugars that ranged between 12.5 to

13% and I chaptalized only a few tenths with the goal of prolonging the fermentations rather than actually adding any alcohol as what we had naturally is more than sufficient for the style of wine I wish to make. There wasn't much sorting required as the rot pressure was really pretty mild. I used a bit of whole clusters in the Volnay and the Frémiets but otherwise the fruit was completely destemmed. I am really very happy with the quality of my 2011s and if you were to take the last 10 years and rank order them in terms of quality, I would definitely put 2011 in the top 5." While it's not necessarily the case for every wine in the range I would suggest to readers that Leroux definitely outperformed the general quality of the 2011 vintage. Note that reviews for Leroux's *négociant* operation are included below. (A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA/NV/AZ/NM, Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, Austin, TX , Lake Success, NY, C'est Vin, LLC, 703/243-3559, Arlington, VA, Wines Unlimited, www.winesunlimited.com, New Orleans, LA, Little Guy Wine, www.littleguywine.com, Dearborn, MI, Fine Vines, www.finevines.com, Chicago, IL, Augustan Wine, www.augustanwine.com, Miramar, FL, M.S. Walker, www.mswalker.com, MA/RI/NH, Terra Nova Wines, www.terranovawines.com, Denver, CO, Small Potatoes Wine, www.smallpotatoeswine.com, Boise, ID, and Scott Paul Wines, www.scottpaul.com, Portland, OR; Howard Ripley, www.howardripley.com, Thorman Hunt & Co., e-mail: Camille@thormanhunt.co.uk, Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, Uncorked Ltd, www.uncorked.co.uk, and The Wine Society, www.thewinesociety.com, all UK).

2011 Auxey-Duresses: A notably ripe nose of earthy dark berry fruit, plum and a hint of game leads to rich, velvety and solidly well-concentrated medium-bodied flavors that possess moderately rustic but not aggressive tannins that surface on the utterly delicious and balanced finish. This is no model of finesse but there is excellent phenolic maturity and overall, this is a fine *villages* that could be enjoyed young or held for a few years first. 88/2017+

2011 Auxey-Duresses "1er": (a blend of two 1ers, the older vines Les Bréterins and Bas de Duresses – the vines run from 35 to 75 years of age). This possesses a nose that is compositionally similar to that of the straight Auxey but offers both a bit more aromatic depth and complexity. There is good richness to the lightly mineral-inflected flavors that possess good detail and fine length on the less obviously rustic finish as the tannins are more fine-grained. (88-91)/2019+

2011 Volnay: (vinified with ~20% whole clusters). A notably floral nose combines with fresh, airy and pure red berry fruit aromas that introduce beautifully well-delineated flavors that exude a fine minerality on the energetic, saline and utterly delicious finish. This is a relatively elegant *villages* that delivers excellent quality for its level. (89-91)/2018+

2011 Volnay "Frémiets": (vinified with ~30% whole clusters). This is more refined still with an elegant, fresh and admirably pure nose of red and blue pinot fruit, violets and plum. Here too there is excellent detail on the intensely mineral-driven and moderately muscular flavors that culminate in a restrained and understated finish. Good juice with plenty of upside development potential. (90-92)/2021+

2011 Pommard "1er": (from young vines in the Clos des Epeneaux). This is also really very pretty if understandably, and predictably, more deeply pitched as the earth component is considerably more pronounced. The sleek and vibrant middle weight flavors possess fine intensity and a hint of salinity, which adds depth to the firm, restrained and ever-so-slightly rustic finish. This too appears to possess fine upside development potential over the next 10 to 12 years or so. (89-91)/2021+

2011 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 is typically the case here, the 2011 Clos des Epeneaux is segregated into several different *cuvées* based on vineyard location and will then be blended in varying proportions. The tasting note that follows is based upon a sample that should reasonably resemble the final blend). Not surprisingly, the nose is similar to that of the Pommard "1er" though it's more complex with a perfumed character to the distinctly earth-inflected red currant, blue berry and plum aromas. There is good power and plenty of punch to the broad-shouldered and muscular medium-bodied flavors that are shaped by relatively fine-grained tannins on the perfectly balanced and highly persistent finish. This is really very impressive and while it's not quite at the same level as the 2010 version, it's a more than worthy successor. (92-94)/2023+

2010 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). An exceptionally fresh combination of high-toned, pure and quite elegant red cherry and raspberry aromas is liberally laced with warm earth and iron nuances. Similarly, there is really lovely purity to the gorgeously well-detailed, intense and muscular medium weight plus flavors that brim with dry extract and a caressing mouth feel before terminating in a mouth coating and explosively long finish. This is relentlessly persistent with outstanding depth on the palate staining finish. A knockout vintage for this wine but it's not one to buy if you intend on drinking it anytime soon. 95/2025+

Domaine d'Auvenay (St. Romain)

2010	**Bonnes Mares Grand Cru**	**red**	**96**
2010	**Mazis-Chambertin Grand Cru**	**red**	**95**

For more information please see the comments in the En Plus section for Domaine Leroy. (Martine's Wines, www.martineswines.com, Novato, CA; Justerini & Brooks, www.justerinis.com, John Armit Wines, www.armit.co.uk, Howard Ripley, www.howardripley.com, and Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, all UK).

2010 Bonnes Mares: An exceptionally spicy and notably ripe nose features notes of red and dark berry fruit liqueur, earth, game and exotic tea. There is excellent vibrancy as well as an abundance of mouth coating extract to the powerful and immensely concentrated flavors that, while delicious, culminate in a palate staining, austere, serious and driving finish. The tannins are relatively fine-grained yet very dense and as such this will demand plenty of cellar time, in fact don't buy it unless you're prepared to forget that you have it for a long while. 96/2028+

2010 Mazis-Chambertin: A completely different nose presents itself here with its overtly *sauvage* and pungently earthy nose that also exhibits plenty of spice on the floral, plum and wild red currant suffused aromas. As with the Bonnes Mares the flavor profile is full of underlying tension and even more muscle if not quite the same phenomenal level of concentration, all wrapped in a hugely long and complex finish. I give the barest of nods to the Bonnes Mares in terms of overall quality but this is a seriously impressive wine that may equal it in time. Note that the Mazis is one to buy only if you're going to allow it to develop over the long-term as it's unlikely to play well young. 95/2028+

Domaine Jean-Claude Bachelet (Gamay)

2011	**Bourgogne**	**red**	**(84-86)**
2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Boudriotte" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2011	**St. Aubin "1er Vieilles Vignes"**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2011	**St. Aubin "Derrière la Tour Vieilles Vignes" 1er**	**red**	**(87-89)**

Brothers Benoit and Jean-Baptiste Bachelet called 2011 a "precocious vintage that much like 2010 worked out much better than we expected. The growing season got off to a very early start with a very, very early flowering though a poor July and August slowed things down somewhat. Still, the vines had stored so much energy from the hot and dry spring that the wet July weather actually helped them by providing much needed water. And given the stored energy the vines were able to ripen the fruit even though there wasn't a lot of sunshine until the last week of August. We began picking on the 2nd of September and the chardonnay was exceptionally clean and while the pinot wasn't quite as spotless, it was still cleaner than 2010. The style of the 2011 reds is fruity, forward and meant for early drinking." I would put the quality of the Bachelet 2011 reds as being in-line with the general quality of the vintage in the southern Côte de Beaune but not better than that. (David Bowler Wine, www.bowlerwine.com, NY, NY, Wine Warehouse, Los Angeles, CA, www.winewarehouse.com, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, Austin, TX and Elite Wines Imports, 703-339-8150, Lorton, VA; Richards Walford & Company, Ltd., www.r-w.co.uk, UK).

2011 Bourgogne: A very pinot nose is quite fruity with notes of freshly turned earth. There is good verve and detail to the equally fruity and delicious finish if limited depth. To enjoy young. (84-86)/2014+

2011 St. Aubin "1er Vieilles Vignes": A riper and distinctly earthy nose of dark berries, violets and a hint of plum introduces suave, round and delicious flavors that possess a bit more mid-palate concentration, all wrapped in a lightly rustic and attractively persistent finish that delivers slightly more depth. (86-89)/2016+

2011 St. Aubin "Derrière la Tour Vieilles Vignes": (a 1er that is rarely seen as it's quite small). A slightly riper and equally earthy nose of plum, violets, smoke and game leads to tension-filled, rich and attractively complex flavors that are supported by moderately rustic tannins that possess slightly better phenolic maturity on the lingering finish. This is good if not truly distinguished. (87-89)/2017+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: This is slightly riper still with its silhouette of peppery plum and warm earth suffused aromas that precede the round, supple and delicious flavors that offer moderately good complexity on the rustic, firm and lingering finish. A classic Chassagne *rouge* that should reward medium-term cellaring. (87-89)/2018+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Boudriotte": There is an interesting hint of tar on the solidly layered nose of cassis, smoke, tea, blue pinot and red currant nose. There is also plenty of earth and a hint of pepper on the suave, round and delicious medium-bodied flavors that possess finer-grained tannins on the equally complex and persistent finish. This is a quality Chassagne that is worth considering if you're prepared to let it sit in the cellar for a few years first. (88-91)/2018+

Domaine Roger/Joseph Belland (Santenay)

2011	➳ Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois" 1er	red	91
2011	Les Maranges "La Fussière" 1er	red	88
2011	➳ Pommard "Les Cras"	red	89
2011	Santenay "Les Charmes"	red	88
2011	Santenay "La Comme" 1er	red	89
2011	Santenay "Les Gravières" 1er	red	90
2011	Santenay "Beauregard" 1er	red	90
2011	➳ Volnay "Santenots" 1er	red	92

Roger Belland told me that 2011 "produced supple reds of finesse and *terroir* that should drink well young if desired yet offer the ability to reward short to medium-term cellaring. They are a mix of 2007 and 2008 with the suppleness of '07 and the length and tension of '08. We began picking on the 5th of September and brought in exceptionally clean pinot, in fact there was almost no sorting required. We did a four week *cuvaison* at a relatively low temperature of around 55° F while using around 50% whole clusters though this depended on the *cuvée* in question. We then raised the temperature to around 100° F for about two days to round off the tannins and fix the colors. Overall I like the 2011 reds though they're not as good as the whites, which are more serious in my view." The Belland reds are stylistically apart from what you typically find elsewhere as they combine elements of both the modern and the traditional. This is to say that the fruit is ripe and forward and the flavor profile is quite suave yet the presence of the stems adds a grounding element of tradition, particularly with the bulk of the *terroirs* in the Belland portfolio. The Belland reds are consistently very good but as I say they are stylistically particular so if you aren't familiar with them I suggest that you try an example or two first. (T. Edwards Wines, www.tedwardwines.com, NY, NY; and Berkmann Wine Cellars, www.berkmann.co.uk, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, Liberty Wines, www.libertywine.co.uk among others, 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, Columbia, MD).

2011 Les Maranges "La Fussière": A fresh though notably ripe nose of dark berry fruit, plum liqueur and earth aromas leads to very rich and velvety middle weight flavors that possess good balance and fine length if not the complexity of the better wines in the range. 88/2015+

2011 Santenay "Les Charmes": Here the nose is slightly more elegant though less complex with floral and red berry fruit aromas that merge into energetic and tension-filled medium weight flavors that exude a discreet minerality on the attractively textured if mildly rustic finish. 88/2016+

2011 Santenay "La Comme": This offers a slight step up on both depth and refinement with its expressive nose of cassis and extract of dark berry fruit aromas that see added breadth in the form of earth and spice nuances. There is good concentration as well as good verve to the delicious mid-palate that culminates in a firm and slightly rustic finish that offers fine length and almost no austerity. 89/2017+

2011 Santenay "Beauregard": This is quite floral with ripe aromas of plum, spice and dark berry fruit liqueur that give way to energetic, round and seductively textured flavors that possess excellent volume. There is a fine sense of energy to the well-detailed and lightly mineral-infused finish that possesses lovely subtlety. Very good quality here. 90/2018+

2011 Santenay "Les Gravières": This is also very floral in character with pretty nuances of green tea, spice and earth on the red and dark pinot fruit suffused nose. There is an attractively refined texture to the delicious and seductive middle weight flavors that also possess excellent volume and fine phenolic maturity, all wrapped in a balanced finish that delivers fine depth and length. This isn't quite as powerful as the Beauregard but it's finer still. 90/2017+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois": (a huge 3 ha *monopole* of the Domaine, planted 50% to each color and which sits at the south end of the commune on the Santenay border; the pinot vines are approximately 60+ years of age). This is less obviously floral with more earth and pepper character on the cassis, plum and game aromas. There is really lovely detail to the extract-rich and velvet-textured medium-bodied flavors that ooze a fine and mouth coating extract that stains the palate on the superbly persistent finish. This should both drink well young and age well too if desired. 91/2019+

2011 Pommard "Les Cras": There is a subtle but not invisible touch of wood framing the black cherry liqueur, violet and plum suffused aromas. There is really impressive volume and richness to the mineral-driven and broad-shouldered flavors that are shaped by firm and rustic tannins on the moderately austere but solidly persistent finish. This is a big yet energetic *villages* that should also offer a choice of drinking it young or rewarding medium-term cellaring. Fine quality here. 89/2019+

2011 Volnay "Santenots": (as is usually the case, this was fashioned with 100% whole clusters). Not surprisingly this possesses the most floral nose in the range with attractive notes of both violets and lavender that complement well the spice, earth and dark berry fruit aromas. There is a sophisticated mouth feel to the textured and noticeably mineral-inflected medium weight flavors that possess plenty of tannin-buffering sap, all wrapped in a firm but not aggressive or especially austere finish that delivers first-rate length. This notably ripe effort is clearly built to age and will need at least a decade of it. 92/2021+

Domaine de Bellene (Beaune)

2011	Beaune "Les Bressandes" 1er	red	(86-88?)
2011	Beaune "Clos du Roi" 1er	red	(88-91)
2011	Beaune "Grèves" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	Beaune "Pertuisots" 1er	red	(88-91)
2011	Beaune "Les Teurons" 1er	red	90
2011	Bourgogne – Maison Dieu Vieilles Vignes	red	85
2011	Côte de Nuits-Villages Vieilles Vignes	red	86
2011	Nuits St. Georges Vieilles Vignes	red	(88-90)
2011	Nuits St. Georges "Chaignots" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune Vieilles Vignes	red	86
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Hauts Jarrons" 1er	red	89
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Peuillets" 1er	red	88
2011	Volnay "Les Grands Poisots"	red	87
2011	Vosne-Romanée "Quartiers de Nuits"	red	(88-91)
2011	Vosne-Romanée "Les Suchots" 1er	red	(89-91)

After leaving the employ of Cottin Frères several years ago, Nicolas Potel began with 1.2 ha and has enlarged the domaine portion of his operation to an impressive 22 ha; there is also a *négociant* operation called Maison Roche de Bellene (see below). The first vintage for the new domaine was 2007 and both reds and whites are produced. As to the 2011 vintage, Potel was not feeling well on the day of my visit and I tasted with his cellar master instead, who observed that they "began picking on the 31st of August and brought in reasonably clean fruit that averaged between 11.5 to 13% in terms of potential alcohols. We chaptalized nothing and did a normal vinification using a percentage of stems that varied between 0 and 100%." I can't ever remember personally seeing this before but in a very odd about face, I found the performance of the Maison Roche de Bellene wines to be better than those of the Domaine de Bellene. This is true even when adjusted for the considerable difference in the levels of the Burgundian hierarchy in favor of the Maison offerings. I would further observe that the Domaine performed largely in-line with the quality of the 2011 vintage whereas the Maison sometimes bettered it somewhat though I hasten to add that there was considerably more variability on the *négociant* side of the house. (Loosen Bros. USA, www.loosenbrosusa.com, Oregon City, OR; the UK agent is Graham Gardner through Folly Wines, www.follywines.co.uk; note that there are many well-known importers).

2011 Bourgogne – Maison Dieu Vieilles Vignes: A fresh and bright nose of primarily red pinot fruit leads to punchy and well-detailed flavors that possess both solid depth and fine length for a wine of this level. A delicious effort that could be enjoyed now or certainly soon in any event. 85/2014+

2011 Côte de Nuits-Villages Vieilles Vignes: Like the Bourgogne this is very pinot in character and is very much built on its fruit. The red pinot fruit suffused nose leads to nicely concentrated middle weight flavors that are quite forward and delicious with just enough depth to be interesting on the mildly gassy finish. I would recommend decanting this. 86/2015+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune Vieilles Vignes: A pungently earthy nose of both red and dark berry fruit aromas exudes a soft *sauvage* character that is picked up by the very round, forward and easy-to-like flavors that are delicious if not especially complex on the otherwise balanced and clean finish. This should drink well almost immediately. 86/2014+

2011 Volnay "Les Grands Poisots": This offers a bit more aromatic complexity in the form of lightly spiced and discreetly floral aromas of red currant and wild dark berries. There is good richness to the round and delicious flavors that deliver slightly better depth on the lightly structured and mildly rustic finish. 87/2015+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Hauts Jarrons": An attractively layered nose of white pepper, anise, plum and floral aromas, in particular lavender, leads to textured, round and seductive middle weight flavors that possess a touch of minerality on the moderately structured and balanced finish. This is really quite pretty and is a wine that could be enjoyed young if desired though should reward moderate cellaring. 89/2017+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Peuillets": Here the earthy and serious nose features notes of black currant and wild dark berries that serve to introduce moderately firm and well-detailed flavors that exude a fine minerality on the powerful, long and moderately austere finish. This is not at all a typical Peuillets as it lacks the usual finesse. To be sure, this is a perfectly good wine but well outside what I expect from the *appellation*. 88/2018+

2011 Beaune "Pertuisots": This also displays a pungent earthiness along with menthol nuances to the dark berry fruit-infused nose. There is good volume yet also good detail to the attractively energetic middle weight flavors that possess a complex and firm but not hard or especially austere finish that displays fine persistence. (88-91)/20018+

2011 Beaune "Les Bressandes": This exhibits a very curious nose that is difficult to describe beyond observing that it's not especially fresh nor is it entirely clean though why exactly isn't clear. Otherwise there is good verve and detail to the lightly mineral-inflected flavors that possess a mouth coating finish that seems unaffected by the difficulties displayed by the nose. Caution is advised as I cannot know whether this will clean up properly before it's bottled. (86-88?)/2018+

2011 Beaune "Clos du Roi": Happily this is both clean and fresh with both red pinot and dark berry fruit aromas that give way to delicious and pleasantly textured flavors that possess a lovely mouth feel, all wrapped in a balanced, complex and solidly persistent finish. There is enough structure to suggest that this should benefit from the better part of a decade's snooze in the cellar. (88-91)/2019+

2011 Beaune "Les Teurons": A fresh, ripe and much more restrained nose of cool plum, violets and dark pinot fruit merges seamlessly into delicious, intense and lightly mineral-driven medium-bodied flavors that possess a taut muscularity on the balanced, firm and impressively long finish. This is on the linear but not especially austere side and should also reward up to a decade of cellar time. 90/2019+

2011 Beaune "Grèves": This is the most floral of the four Beaune 1ers with a nuanced nose of red currant, spice and earth aromas. There is impressive volume and good extract to the middle weight flavors that possess a firm spine of ripe tannins that shapes the distinctly austere but long, complex and balanced finish. This decidedly old school effort will please everyone yet the upside development potential is considerable if you like the style. (89-92)/2019+

2011 Nuits St. Georges Vieilles Vignes: This is also notably floral in character but here the earth character is shared with distinct *sauvage* notes on the pretty red berry fruit aromas that are also reflected by the impressively rich and solidly voluminous flavors that possess fine balance and very good length. This moderately firm effort offers admirably good quality for its level and should benefit from 6 to 8 years of cellar time. (88-90)2018+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Quartiers de Nuits": A highly spiced nose speaks of ripe plum, red currants and humus-infused earth. There is excellent richness to the seductively textured, ripe and delicious middle weight flavors that possess good phenolic maturity as the supporting tannins are firm but well-integrated on the balanced and lingering finish. This is a quality *villages* that will need in the range of 7 to 10 years to arrive at its apogee of development. (88-91)/2019+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Les Suchots": A deft touch of wood sets off intensely spicy and floral aromas of plum and essence of red currant. There is plenty of vibrancy to the delicious, detailed and solidly concentrated flavors that possess good mid-palate volume though the long and balanced finish is a bit less complex than one might hope for at this level. Still, this is already very good and my score offers the benefit of the doubt that more depth will develop in time. (89-91)/2021+

2011 Nuits St. Georges "Chaignots": This is also quite floral and spicy (if not quite so much as the Suchots) as those notes combine with an intensely earthy array of wild red berry fruit aromas. There is plenty of volume to the rich and tension-filled medium-bodied flavors that possess fine depth and length. While there is some austerity present the firm tannins are relatively fine-grained and as such there is almost no backend austerity. One to consider. (89-92)/2021+

Maison Roche de Bellene (Beaune)

2011	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2011	Bourgogne	red	(86-88)
2011	Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2011	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2011	➽ Chambolle-Musigny Vieilles Vignes	red	(89-91)
2011	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Charmes" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Groseilles" 1er	red	(88-90)
2011	Clos St. Denis Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2011	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2011	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(89-92)
2011	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(90-92)
2011	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes	red	(89-91)
2011	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin "Champeaux" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin "Combe Aux Moines" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	Gevrey-Chambertin "Combottes" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaut St. Jacques" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	Gevrey-Chambertin "Clos Prieur"	red	(87-89)
2011	Griotte-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2011	Grands Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	93
2011	Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2011	Nuits St. Georges "Boudots" 1er	red	(88-90)
2011	Nuits St. Georges "Chaignots" 1er	red	(87-89)
2011	Pommard "Les Charmots" 1er	red	(85-88?)
2011	Romanée St. Vivant Grand Cru	red	(89-93)
2011	Santenay	red	88
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	88
2011	Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	Volnay "Les Mitans" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	➽ Volnay "Les Santenots" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	Vosne-Romanée Vieilles Vignes	red	(86-89?)
2011	➽ Vosne-Romanée "Beaux Monts" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	Vosne-Romanée "Malconsorts" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	Vosne-Romanée "Petit Monts" 1er	red	(88-91)
2011	Vosne-Romanée "Suchots" 1er	red	(89-91?)

Please see the introduction to Domaine de Bellene above for further information. (Loosen Bros. USA, www.loosenbrosusa.com, Oregon City, OR; the UK agent is Graham Gardner through Folly Wines, www.follywines.co.uk; note that there are many well-known resellers).

2011 Bourgogne: An appealingly complex nose of fresh, ripe and earthy red berries gives way to naturally sweet, detailed and delicious middle weight flavors that display the same fine complexity of the nose, all wrapped in a lingering and balanced finish. This is a quality Bourgogne that is worth a look. (86-88)/2015+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune: A pungently earthy nose of dark berries, plum and a *sauvage* note leads to detailed and attractively vibrant flavors that culminate in solidly complex, balanced and persistent finish. This is a serious *villages* that is presently on the mildly austere side so a bit of patience will be required. 88/2016+

2011 Santenay: A deft application of wood sets off sharply earthy notes of wild dark berries and cassis hints that are also present on the equally earth-inflected medium weight flavors that possess fine volume. The shaping tannins on the moderately austere finish are ripe and while firm are not aggressive. This is really very good for what it is and as such is worth considering for value. 88/2016+

2011 Pommard "Les Charmots": There is enough wood to notice and it carries a slightly lacquered note that is subtle but annoying as it detracts from the purity of the otherwise pretty red berry fruit and soft earth aromas. There is good volume and punch to the rich and round medium-bodied flavors that possess solid length though the wood resurfaces on the finish. This is a very awkward wine and while this specific sample might not be fully representative of the final *cuvée* as barrels can, and often do, vary considerably, there are enough issues present to concern me. (85-88?)/2018+

2011 Volnay "Les Mitans": Here the wood influence is much more discreet if not invisible as it does not impinge unduly upon the cool, pure and elegant red and dark berry fruit aromas that display an interesting hint of fennel. There is good energy and really lovely detail to the lightly mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that possess fine depth and length on the balanced finish. A classic Mitans of finesse and delicacy. (89-92)/2019+

2011 Volnay "Les Santenots": A restrained, cool and elegant nose features impressively complex red pinot fruit, dark cherry and soft earth aromas. There is equally good depth to the velvety medium weight flavors that possess good phenolic maturity and excellent length on the impeccably well-balanced finish. This also possesses good size and weight and the ripe tannins are sufficiently firm to suggest that 8 to 10 years of cellar time would be appropriate. (90-92)/2019+

2011 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": Here the nose is not all that dissimilar from the Santenots except that it's even fresher and airier. There is excellent intensity to the mineral-driven, complex and driving flavors that also possess solid size, weight and power, all wrapped in a balanced and lingering finish. This doesn't quite have the overall depth of the Santenots but it's very close. Note that this will require at least a decade of cellar time as the supporting tannins are notably firm. (89-92)/2021+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Clos Prieur": (from the *villages* portion of the vineyard). Background notes of wood and menthol add breadth to the cool and restrained aromas of piercing earth, underbrush and wild dark berries. There is fine detail and verve to the middle weight flavors that possess reasonably good depth and length on the saline-infused finish. (87-89)/2018+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes: There are pretty floral nuances to the exceptionally fresh red currant, earth and humus suffused nose that introduces precise, tension-filled and lightly mineral-inflected flavors that offer outstanding depth, length and complexity on the balanced and impressively long finish. An excellent *villages*. (89-91)/2018+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny Vieilles Vignes: This is also notably floral in character with its beguiling nose of red cherry liqueur, stone and subtle spice hints. There is really lovely detail to the precise and energetic middle weight flavors that exude a fine minerality on the saline and moderately austere finish. This restrained and understated effort will not be for everyone due to the backend austerity but it's really quite lovely all the same. (89-91)/2019+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Groseilles": This is notably more elegant than the old vines *villages cuvée* with its pure essence of red pinot fruit, violets and plum aromas. There is also fine detail and plenty of underlying tension to the lightly mineral-driven flavors that possess fine length but only average depth. In sum, while this is certainly very pretty it lacks the complexity it needs to be at the next level. (88-90)/2018+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Charmes": Distinct notes of wood torrefaction fight somewhat with the floral and slightly herbal red currant aromas that precede the supple, round and appealingly refined flavors that culminate in a mildly oaky finish that possesses a mouth coating texture thanks to the abundant dry extract. This is fairly awkward today but it appears to have the requisite underlying material to harmonize in time and my score offers the benefit of the doubt. (89-91)/2019+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaut St. Jacques": A fresh, cool and reserved nose of various red berries displays added breadth in the form of floral and wet stone hints, the latter of which is reflected by the delicious, mouth coating and mineral-inflected flavors that possess a sophisticated mouth feel. There is fine depth and balance to the lingering finish that is less austere than I typically find it. (89-92)/2019+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Combe Aux Moines": This is less elegant but more complex than the Lavaut with its red pinot fruit, floral and stone aromas that are trimmed in a background hint of wood. There is fine richness and volume to the medium-bodied flavors that possess plenty of punch as well as solid dry extract levels that impart a textured mouth feel to the balanced and highly persistent finish. There is good phenolic maturity to the supporting tannins that are firm but not especially austere though firm enough such that 10 to 12 years of cellar time should be anticipated. (90-92)/2021+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Champeaux": Subtle if not invisible wood serves as a backdrop for the fresh, cool and admirably pure red, blue and violet aromas that serve as an elegant introduction to the velvet-textured and mouth coating middle weight flavors that exude a fine minerality on the impeccably well-balanced, firm, long and utterly delicious finish. Like the Lavaut, this is a bit less austere than I'm used to seeing thanks to the solid phenolic maturity of the supporting structure. (90-92)/2021+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Combottes": As with the Champeaux, there is subtle but not imperceptible wood influence to the pretty mix of various red berry fruit aromas that exhibit discreet earth, green tea and stone hints. There is excellent volume and plenty of structure-buffering dry extract on the delicious, balanced and lingering finish where a touch of oak is again visible. (89-92)/2019+

2011 Vosne-Romanée Vieilles Vignes: A discreetly spicy nose of very pretty and ripe red and blue pinot fruit that is cut with subtle earth tones slides gracefully into attractively rich and solidly voluminous medium-bodied flavors that possess excellent size and weight. There is good punch and plenty of dry extract though somewhat worryingly the finish flirts with being noticeably dry even though the tannins seem ripe. It's not clear that this will harmonize with time and I would taste a bottle first before committing to quantity. (86-89?)/2019+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Petit Monts": A judicious application of wood surrounds the spicy, cool and restrained aromas of red currant, blue berry, cassis and stone. There is an abundance of minerality to the tautly muscular and agreeably precise middle weight flavors that possess good balance on the moderately austere finish that offers acceptable but not distinguished complexity. To be sure, this is perfectly good but given the quality of the *terroir*, I found this to be somewhat disappointing. (88-91)/2019+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Suchots": This is both riper and spicier than the Petit Monts with its seductive aromas of cassis and dark berries. The mouth feel of the mid-palate is also quite seductive with plenty of palate soaking extract and I like the volume and outstanding length though there is a very mild hint of dryness that appears to be due to the considerable gas. Still, this is one where you might wish to taste a bottle first before committing to quantity. (89-91?)/2021+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Malconsorts": There is an herbal hint to the otherwise agreeably spicy mix of various dark berry aromas along with plum, cassis and black cherry nuances. There is good volume to the round, velvety and unusually accessible medium weight flavors that culminate in a firm finish that is less overtly muscular than usual. (89-91)/2021+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Beaux Monts": A spicy, restrained and attractively airy nose displays distinctly cool red and black pinot fruit as the elevated altitude of the site is very much in evidence. The supple yet well-detailed flavors possess a lovely sense of underlying tension with an abundance of minerality on the complex, balanced and moderately austere finish that delivers first-rate length. This is a classic Beaux Monts of understated grace. (90-92)/2021+

2011 Nuits St. Georges "Boudots": Generous wood fights with the otherwise fresh essence of red berry fruit aromas and it shows up as well on the tautly muscular extract-rich middle weight flavors that possess good volume and punch, all wrapped in an oak-infused finish. This could easily have been a sample pulled from a new barrel but if indeed this is representative of the final wine, it's potentially carrying more wood than the concentration can successfully integrate and my assigned range reflects this caution. (88-90)/2019+

2011 Nuits St. Georges "Chaignots": Here too the nose displays a lavish application of wood that presently dominates the otherwise ripe and fresh dark berry fruit, spice and pungent earth aromas. There is good ripeness to the supporting structure underpinning the velvety, round and delicious flavors that terminate in a moderately bitter finish from the wood toast. Whether it will dissipate in time is an open question but even if it does this is likely to be forever marked by the oak. (87-89)/2018+

2011 Clos de Vougeot: There is also enough wood to notice here but in this case it's more moderate as it allows the slightly herbal aromas of earthy dark fruit and red currant aromas to be seen without undue interference. The textured and relatively suave middle weight flavors possess good if not truly special concentration, all wrapped in a mildly austere finish that offers fine depth and solid length. (89-92)/2019+

2011 Romanée St. Vivant: Moderate wood toast frames a strongly reduced nose that is frankly difficult at present. There is good richness and fine volume to the delicious, round and impressively complex flavors that, somewhat oddly, are shaped by noticeably rustic tannins. This is in a distinctly awkward stage as the reduction makes the nose very challenging to read and the rustic tannins are obviously not typical. As such, I'm honestly not sure how this is going to turn out and hence my relatively wide scoring range. (89-93)/2021+

2011 Echézeaux: Here too the nose is moderately reduced but not so much that it completely prevents subtle spice notes from peeking out from beneath the funk. There is fine volume to the attractively rich medium-bodied flavors that possess a velvety mouth feel on the serious if not especially refined finish. (90-92)/2021+

2011 Grands Echézeaux: A background touch of wood sets off the spicy and distinctly earthy mix of various wild red berries and a hint of cherry liqueur. The clean, cool and impressively precise big-bodied flavors exhibit plenty of muscle on the deep, intense, balanced and strikingly long finish. This is most imposing yet it carries its notable size and weight with grace. 93/2023+

2011 Bonnes Mares: (from the Morey side). The oak treatment walks that fine line between being more than noticeable but not so much as to dominate the otherwise spicy dark berry liqueur, earth, game and floral aromas. There is fine concentration to the broad-shouldered, velvety and powerful flavors that display excellent volume on the balanced and moderately austere finish where the wood resurfaces. This is quite solidly structured and will require 12 to 15 years of cellar time to fully resolve the supporting tannins. (91-93)/2023+

2011 Clos de la Roche: The wood is very much like that of the Bonnes Mares where it's more than enough to notice while stopping just short of actually being intrusive on the overtly *sauvage* aromas of both red and dark pinot fruit, pungent earth and subtle spice aromas of anise, cinnamon and sandalwood. There is excellent richness to the surprisingly accessible mid-palate yet the moderately austere and oaky finish tightens up immediately to become notably firm. There appears to be sufficient underlying material to eventually absorb the oak and in any event the structure is such that this will need an extended cellar snooze anyway. (91-93)/2023+

2011 Clos St. Denis: Here again the wood treatment is prominent without being dominant as the spicy plum, dried floral, earth, game, smoke and tea aromas are visible. The velvety and very suave medium-bodied flavors possess excellent phenolic ripeness and outstanding length on the balanced, deep and delicious finish. This isn't as powerful as either the Bonnes Mares or the Clos de la Roche but there is better depth and seems to handle its wood treatment more gracefully. I would be prepared to allow this to have between 12 and 15 years in a quality cellar. (91-94)/2023+

2011 Latricières-Chambertin: Strong reduction renders the nose completely unreadable. The cool, intense and highly energetic mineral-driven middle weight flavors possess excellent depth of material before terminating in a distinctly toasty finish of remarkable persistence. As the description would suggest this is relatively awkward today and my range is awarded more on the basis of the quality of the supporting material than on how this is presently showing. (91-93)/2023+

2011 Griotte-Chambertin: Moderate wood influence is just at the limit of impeding the clear expression of the appealingly fresh and discreetly spicy extract of red berry fruit aromas that exhibit plenty of earth, humus and underbrush nuances. There is a lush yet sophisticated mouth feel to the refined medium weight flavors that possess a subtle minerality before culminating in a balanced, long and impressively complex finish. This is both stylish and classy and unlike most of these *grands crus*, should be approachable in its youth if desired yet reward longer-term cellaring too. (92-94)/2023+

2011 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: A strikingly complex nose offers up notes of menthol, a broad range of spice elements, earth, anise, plum, rose petal and ripe, cool and fresh wild red berry aromas, all of which are trimmed in discreet if not invisible wood notes. There is a restrained, intense and equally cool feel to middle weight flavors that exude a discreet minerality on the delicious, balanced and impressively persistent finish. Like the Griotte this is quite stylish and the overall sense of refinement is enhanced by the fine grain of the tannins which imparts a sense of accessibility though this will certainly be more than capable of rewarding extended cellaring. (92-95)/2023+

2011 Chambertin: The oak regime here is a bit more evident though not so much as to dominate the otherwise cool, pure and restrained wild red berry fruit nose that evidences plenty of stone and game influence. There is an excellent sense of underlying tension to the precise, intense and powerful mineral-driven big-bodied flavors that offer impressive length and very good depth though neither are presently at the same level as exhibited by the Clos de Bèze. (91-94)/2023+

Maison Albert Bichot (Beaune)

2011	**Beaune "Clos de l'Ermitage"**	**red**	**(86-88)**
2011	**Bourgogne – Secret de Famille**	**red**	**86**
2011	**Pommard "Les Chaponnières" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2011	**Pommard "Perrières"**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2011	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Gravains" 1er**	**red**	**(87-90)**
2011	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Peuillets" 1er**	**red**	**88**
2010	**Beaune "Clos de l'Ermitage"**	**red**	**87**
2010	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Peuillets" 1er**	**red**	**90**

See also Domaine du Pavillon, another Bichot property that is reviewed separately below. I found the quality of the Bichot 2011s to basically mirror the general quality of the vintage. (Bayfield Importing, www.bayfieldimporting.com, Brooklyn, NY, Arborway Imports, www.arborwayimports.com, MA and Cobblestone Cellars, www.cobblestonecellars.com in VA and DC; Harrison Vintners, www.harrisonvintners.co.uk, Stevens Garnier Wine, www.stevensgarnier.co.uk, Atlas Fine Wines, HS Liquid Assets, www.hsliquid.com, Laytons, www.laytons.co.uk, UK, and Soho Wine Supply, all UK).

2011 Bourgogne – Secret de Famille: A distinctly earthy dark berry fruit nose is overtly rustic and is in keeping with the punchy, delicious and attractively textured and supple flavors that possess reasonably good depth and length. This did display some gas on the finish and I would suggest decanting it for a few minutes first. 86/2014+

2011 Beaune "Clos de l'Ermitage": (a rarely seen wine that is actually a small clos from the *monopole* of the Domaine Virely-Rougeot situated in the upper section of the two parcels in the vineyard of Montagne St. Désirée, which sits above Clos des Mouches; it was abandoned after phylloxera and not replanted again until the early 1950s – the vineyard was so named because of a hermit that lived in a cave there). A very fresh and agreeably pure nose of wild red berries and a touch of wet stone leads to round, easy-to-like and lightly mineral-inflected flavors. There is a clean saline-like finish that is mildly edgy, probably due to the high level of CO_2. (86-88)/2016+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Peuillets": Noticeable wood sets off ripe, earthy and rather somber plum and dark currant aromas. There is a suave texture to the supple and very round flavors that display a hint of minerality on the ever-so-mildly austere finish that is clean and agreeably dry. 88/2016+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Gravains": Here too there is enough wood to notice but in this case it's a bit more subtle as the dark berry fruit, earth, stone and *sauvage* hints are easily visible. There is good punch and fine detail to the delicious medium-bodied flavors that possess mild austerity on the dusty finish. This will require a few years of cellar time to round off the slight tannic edge but this should be good in time. (87-90)/2018+

2011 Pommard "Perrières": A discreet touch of wood sets off the notes of red currant, earth, humus and green tea. There is plenty of underlying tension and fine detail to the lightly mineral-inflected flavors that display moderate rusticity on the supple, balanced and lingering finish. This is a solid *villages* that should reward a few years of cellar time. (87-89)/2017+

2011 Pommard "Les Chaponnières": Here the nose barely avoids having more wood than the fruit can stand up to yet the oak does not dominate the otherwise fresh and pretty dark berry, plum, pungent earth and forest floor aromas. There is good volume to the round, delicious and attractively textured middle weight flavors that possess a relatively refined mouth feel before culminating in a moderately persistent and well-balanced finish. If this can add depth in bottle it should merit the upper end of my predicted range. (88-91)/2019+

2010 Beaune "Clos de l'Ermitage": (a rarely seen wine that is actually a small clos from the *monopole* of the Domaine Virely-Rougeot situated in the upper section of the two parcels in the vineyard of Montagne St. Désirée, which sits above Clos des Mouches; it was abandoned after phylloxera and not replanted again until the early 1950s – the vineyard was so named because of a hermit that lived in a cave there). This is expressive, fresh and pure with lovely mineral-inflected cool red berry fruit aromas that precede the exuberant and beautifully well-detailed middle weight flavors that possess a restrained, even understated style on the slightly *sauvage* and bone dry finish that is a bit lean. 87/2017+

2010 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Peuillets": A notably floral nose offers up hints of spice and stone along with ripe essence of red currants. There is plenty of verve to the reserved, pure and well-delineated medium-bodied flavors that also ooze a cool minerality that adds lift to the linear and moderately austere finish. I like both the balance and the delivery and this should drink well young but also age well too if desired. 90/2018+

Domaine Billard-Gonnet (Pommard)

2011	**➽ Pommard "Les Chaponnières Vieilles Vignes" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2011	**Pommard "Clos de Verger" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2011	**Pommard "Pézerolles" 1er**	**red**	**(89-92)**
2011	**➽ Pommard "Les Rugiens-Bas" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2010	**➽ Pommard "Les Chaponnières Vieilles Vignes" 1er**	**red**	**93**
2010	**➽ Pommard "Pézerolles" 1er**	**red**	**92**
2010	**➽ Pommard "Les Rugiens-Bas" 1er**	**red**	**94**

Philippe Billard runs what is one of the most under-rated domaines in the entire Côte de Beaune. The wines are old school but not especially rustic or austere and they are unapologetically built for long-aging. Billard told me that he "began the harvest on the 29th of August. The fruit was reasonably clean if not perfect with very good phenolic maturities, good acidities and adequate sugars. For me, the 2011s are powerful but elegant wines that make me think of 2008. I keep hearing that the 2011s are meant for early drinking but that's not my impression, indeed I tell my clients that they are for medium-long keeping." My sense of the quality here is that while the Billard 2011s are clearly not at the level of his 2010s, they are still very good and besides, few producers in the Côte de Beaune matched the quality of their 2010s in 2011. I have said this before to

readers but it bears repeating: the Billard wines deliver outstanding quality at very reasonable prices. As mentioned, the style is old school and is not one for early drinking but provided that you do not mind cellaring them for 8 to 10+ years first, they more than reward the investment of time and money. I collect them myself so this is advice that I take as well. Note that updated reviews for a mix of older vintages have just been added to the database. I also had a chance to retaste the Billard '09s and while I am not updating my notes given that they are so recent, I reiterate that they are simply terrific; reviews for these '09s can be found either in Issue 46 or in the database. (Margate Wine & Spirit Co., www.margatewine.com, Atlantic City, NJ, Vintage Trading, e-mail vintagetrading@aol.com, NY, NY and Scott Levy Selections, 770/730.0361, Atlanta, GA; Vignoble & Millésime, vignoble.millesime@wanadoo.fr, Beaune France).

2011 Pommard "Clos de Verger": (from a 1.5 ha parcel of 30+ year old vines). A ripe, earthy and overtly rustic nose of dark berry fruit and *sauvage* aromas leads to delicious, suave and very round medium-bodied flavors that possess good verve and a fine level of phenolic maturity. There is fine richness to the mouth coating, persistent and attractively persistent finish. This appealing mid-weight effort should reward 6 to 9 years of cellar time. (89-91)/2017+

2011 Pommard "Pézerolles": (from 60+ year old vines). As is typically the case this is more aromatically elegant with its pure and airy nose of black pinot fruit, cassis, earth and wet stone hints. There is also good phenolic maturity here as well with slightly finer middle weight flavors that possess excellent underlying tension and fine detail to the powerful and robust finish that displays very good persistence and balance. Lovely juice. (89-92)/2019+

2011 Pommard "Les Chaponnières Vieilles Vignes": (from 65+ year old vines). A more complex if less elegant nose features ripe, cool and admirably pure aromas of plum, earth, spice, red currant and wild dark berries. There is excellent ripeness to the supporting tannins that are firm but not hard as they shape the rich and mouth coating medium-bodied flavors that terminate in an ever-so-mildly austere and rustic finish. This wine typically ages exceptionally well and the 2011 version will need at least a decade to fully strut its stuff but it should very much be worth the wait. (90-92)/2021+

2011 Pommard "Les Rugiens-Bas": (from 3 separate parcels totaling .75 ha which were planted in 1950). A more elegant and slightly cooler and more restrained nose grudgingly offers up notes of stone, earth, red currant and a whisper of spice that is also reflected by the intensely mineral-inflected, powerful and focused middle weight plus flavors that possess fine verve and excellent length if not quite the same mid-palate concentration. It will be interesting to see these two wines evolve over time as they both have quite different characters. (90-92)/2021+

The following 2010s were bottled in March, 2012.

2010 Pommard "Pézerolles": (from 60+ year old vines). This is also restrained, cool, pure and appealingly elegant with its pretty array of various red berry fruit aromas that are cut with floral, spice and earth nuances. Phenolically mature tannins underpin the mineral-inflected, equally pure and refreshing flavors that possess a silky mouth feel before terminating in a clean, focused, balanced, long and saline-infused finish. A Pézerolles of finesse that is more Beaune than Pommard and this is already inviting yet should reward at least a decade of cellar time. 92/2020+

2010 Pommard "Les Chaponnières Vieilles Vignes": (from 65+ year old vines). A brooding and reserved nose reluctantly offers up notes of ripe red currants, violets and plenty of earth influence. There is impressive concentration to the powerful and mouth coating medium weight plus flavors that possess excellent balance on the very firm finish. This is a big Pommard that is expressly built to age over the long-term and if it's at all like most recent vintages of this wine, it will not be a good candidate for early drinking. In a word, terrific. 93/2022+

2010 Pommard "Les Rugiens-Bas": (from 3 separate parcels totaling .75 ha which were planted in 1950). A more elegant and cooler nose of very ripe red cherries, plum, stone and a hint of the *sauvage* introduces intensely mineral-driven, energetic and beautifully well-delineated flavors that brim with an abundance of dry extract. There is a hallmark austerity to the sappy and impeccably well-balanced finish that, like the Chaponnières, is clearly built for the very long haul. If you can find it, this is absolutely one to buy but please remember that this is expressly meant to age. 94/2025+

Domaine Bitouzet-Prieur (Volnay)

2011	Beaune "Cents Vignes" 1er	red	86
2011	Bourgogne	red	85
2011	Volnay	red	86
2011	Volnay "Les Aussy" 1er	red	85?
2011	Volnay "Les Caillerets" 1er	red	89
2011	➽ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	91
2011	Volnay "Les Mitans" 1er	red	NR

2011	**Volnay "Les Pitures" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2011	**➽ Volnay "Taillepieds" 1er**	**red**	**91**

Vincent Bitouzet's son François noted that "2011 started early and finished early but gave us plenty to worry about in between. April, May and June were so hot and dry that I thought that we were in for another 2003 but this was not to be as July and much of August were quite frankly miserable with lots of rain and not much sunshine. We elected to begin picking on the 27th of August and brought in relatively clean fruit thanks to an anti-mildew treatment that we did at the beginning of August. I strongly believe that we avoided a lot of trouble because of it. I at first questioned whether we could really have ripe fruit at such an early date but the vegetative cycle was clearly finished and I was afraid of having *surmature* whites and low acidities in red. As it turns out I am happy with the choice of harvest dates because the fruit that we harvested at the beginning was actually just as good, and in several cases even better, than that we harvested last. The reds had potential alcohols in the 12 to 12.7% range, which is just fine. As to the quality of the wines, I believe that the 2011 whites are even better than their 2010 counterparts though that is not true for the reds." Note that all of the wines had just been bottled except for the Mitans, which had only just finished its malo and was so reduced as to be impossible to fairly evaluate. As to the quality of the Bitouzet 2011s, it was frankly mixed with some lovely wines, in particular the Clos des Chênes and Taillepieds, but also several that seemed borderline under-ripe and overtly lean. (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, Shekomeko, NY; Direct Wine, www.directwine.co.uk and McKinley Vintners, www.mckinleyvintners.co.uk, UK).

2011 Bourgogne: A very pretty nose of various dark berries, earth and a hint of green tea leads to delicious, round and vibrant flavors that culminate in a mildly austere but persistent finish. This should drink well young. 85/2014+

2011 Volnay: (from several parcels of vines on the Meursault side of the village). There is enough reduction to notice though I suspect that it will pass soon as this was, after all, just bottled. There is good energy and detail to the lightly mineral-inflected flavors that also terminate with a mild touch of austerity. Note that there is a bit of gas present on the finish and between it and the reduction I would suggest decanting this. 86/2016+

2011 Beaune "Cents Vignes": A complex and earthy nose of cool and restrained red currant and plum hints gives way to attractively well-detailed and vibrant middle weight flavors that terminate in a mildly lean finish that just barely avoids astringency. There is reasonably good depth and length though it's not entirely clear how this is going to age. 86/2017+

2011 Volnay "Les Aussy": Like the straight Volnay *villages* this displayed some reduction though I would again attribute it to the fact that this had just been bottled. On the palate this is restrained and linear as the middle weight flavors are quite compact and the distinctly austere finish is lean and a bit tough today as this seems to lack the last 5% of the necessary phenolic maturity. 85?/2018?

2011 Volnay "Taillepieds": Perfumed, cool and aloof aromas speak of violet, plus, cassis, wet stone and discreet spice notes. There is an equally restrained character to the intensely mineral-driven medium-bodied flavors that possess a lovely and sophisticated mouth feel, all wrapped in a long, balanced and vibrant finish where the supporting tannins are notably more mature. This is really very good and well worth considering. 91/2019+

2011 Volnay "Les Caillerets": This isn't quite as perfumed as the Taillepieds but it's every bit as complex with a slightly darker fruit profile as well as a more pronounced spiciness. The delicious, supple and seductively textured middle weight flavors possess good phenolic maturity if not quite the verve on the persistent finish. This is lovely but there is simply more overall material in the Taillepieds and Clos des Chênes. 89/2019+

2011 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": (from 20+ year old vines). A notably ripe extract of cassis and black cherry liqueur is cut with soft spice and wet stone nuances that serve as an elegant introduction to the detailed and beautifully textured medium weight flavors that display excellent depth and strikingly good persistence. This well-balanced beauty should amply reward 10 to 12 years of cellar time. 91/2021+

2011 Volnay "Les Pitures": (from 35+ year old vines). This is notably cooler and much more reserved even though the reluctant nose is clearly quite ripe, indeed the red berry fruit is positively liqueur-like while enjoying added breadth in the form of stone, earth, spice and mildly exotic tea aromas. There is good volume, power and minerality to the vibrant middle weight plus-sized flavors that culminate in an austere, firm and persistent finish. Good stuff that is very much in the fashion of a classic Pitures. 90/2019+

2011 Volnay "Mitans": This had only just finished its malo and was so reduced and full of gas that it is not reasonable to evaluate it. Not Rated.

Domaine Simon Bize (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2011	**Aloxe-Corton "Le Suchot"**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2011	**➽ Bourgogne "Perrières"**	**red**	**(86-88)**
2011	**Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru**	**red**	**(92-94)**
2011	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "Bourgeots"**	**red**	**87**
2011	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Grands Liards"**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Guettes" 1er**	**red**	**(89-92)**
2011	**➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fourneaux" 1er**	**red**	**(90-93)**
2011	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Marconnets" 1er**	**red**	**(87-90)**
2011	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "Serpentières" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2011	**➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Talmettes" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2011	**➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Vergelesses" 1er**	**red**	**(91-93)**

When I asked Patrick Bize my usual questions about his view of the 2011 vintage, he was more philosophical and remarked that "when you take the run of vintages between 2008 and 2012, there isn't a bad one in the bunch. 2010 is truly great but I believe that 2012 is going to be the best of all. 2011 however is excellent in its own right and moreover, is excellent in both colors, something that doesn't happen all the time in Burgundy. We began picking on the 30th of August for the reds but I didn't start with the whites until the 7th of September. The pinot required the usual amount of sorting, which is in recent years is to say not much. I did my normal vinification with 100% whole clusters. In fact the last time that I used my destemmer was in 2007 and even then I retained a portion of the stems. The only drawback to 2011 is that it is such a small crop but then again you could also say that about 2010 and especially 2012. I really like 2011 and I'm not kidding when I say that it's genuinely excellent. 2011 was my 41st vintage and I would rank order the quality of the vintages that I have made as 1978, 1985, 2012 and 2011. There are going to be some really nice surprises for those who have the foresight to buy 2011 and lay them down for 10 to 15 years." I agree with Bize that his 2011s are outstanding as I found them to be on a par with his 2010s, something that relatively few domaines can claim in 2011. (A Becky Wasserman Selection, Le Serbet, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France, Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, NY/NJ/CT, C'est Vin, LLC, 703/243-3559, Arlington, VA, AOC Imports, email holly@aocimports.com, CA, Magnolia Spirits, gatkins@atkinsmachinery.com, SC, PDX, pdxwines@gmail.com, OR, Cordon Selections, www.cordonselections.com, Seattle, WA, Terra Nova Wines, www.terranovawines.com, Denver, CO, M.S. Walker, www.mswalker.com, MA/RI/NH; Vineyard Brands, www.vineyardbrands.com, Birmingham, AL and Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, Austin, TX; 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).

2011 Bourgogne "Perrières": A very pretty and exceptionally bright nose of notably fresh earth and floral-permeated dark pinot fruit aromas gives way to punchy, detailed, naturally sweet and delicious flavors that possess a discreet hint of minerality on the balanced and solidly lingering finish. This offers fine quality for its level and is worth a look. (86-88)/2016+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Bourgeots": Bize indicated that this had been bottled the day before my visit. A very earthy and humus-suffused nose of both red and dark berry fruit aromas leads to mouth coating, delicious and solidly concentrated middle weight flavors that benefit from the presence of ripe supporting tannins and fine length. This velvety effort, while already approachable, should benefit from 2 to 5 years of cellar time. 87/2015+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Grands Liards": This had also just been bottled. A slightly more elegant nose is composed of pretty red pinot, wild dark berries, earth and a hint of the *sauvage*. The medium-bodied flavors are delicious, round and quite generous also enjoy excellent phenolic maturity of the structural elements and again, while this is sufficiently firm to warrant mid-term cellaring, could easily be enjoyed early on. 88/2016+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Marconnets": This is more aromatically complex with a moderately grapey nose that also reflects notes of plum, earth and floral nuances. There is excellent volume to the velvety-textured medium-bodied flavors that possess fine mid-palate density, all wrapped in a balanced, mineral-inflected and attractively persistent finish. (87-90)/2017+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Serpentières": Here the nose offers another step up in aromatic complexity with its airy and cool nose of spice, dried flowers, earth and ripe dark berry fruit notes. There is lovely detail and a fine sense of underlying tension to the delicious middle weight flavors that are firm, balanced and serious. I like the subtle mineral hints and this should amply reward up to a decade of cellar time. (89-91)/2019+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Talmettes": A pungently earthy nose of plum, dark berry fruit liqueur and rose petal notes introduces finer and deeper medium-bodied flavors that are shaped by relatively fine-grained tannins before culminating in a clean, intense, mouth coating and long finish. This delicious effort is quite dry in the best sense of the term. (90-92)/2021+

2011 Aloxe-Corton "Le Suchot": (from vines planted in 1985). This is more *sauvage* in character with its spicy purple fruit, black tea, humus and freshly turned earth-suffused nose. The rich, supple, round and quite velvety medium weight flavors possess solid concentration and a seductive texture before terminating in an admirably persistent finish that displays only the barest trace of rusticity. A lovely *villages* that is worth a look. (88-91)/2018+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Guettes": This is heavily reduced, in fact to the point that the nose is unreadable. By contrast there is good freshness and verve to the velvety, round and mineral-inflected flavors that ooze a fine and mouth coating dry extract that buffers the moderately firm, ripe and integrated tannins on the balanced finish. This is unusually generous for the appellation as the usual austerity and sturdy structure aren't present. In some, this is lovely if not exactly classic in style. (89-92)/2019+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fourneaux": (from 40+ year old vines). A highly complex, pure and cool nose of black raspberry liqueur, dried floral elements, earth and spice hints precedes the palate coating, detailed and energetic medium weight plus flavors that possess a taut muscularity on the robust, intense and balanced finish. There is an interesting contrast present between an almost lilting mouth feel and the solidly powerful finish. Good stuff with plenty of stuffing to reward 10 to 12 years of cellar time. (90-93)/2021+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Vergelesses": This is also quite cool and restrained with its broad-based nose of plum, violets, earth, spicy and red currant aromas. There is a quite sophisticated mouth feel to the highly energetic and beautifully well-detailed middle weight flavors that are less seductively textured but even finer. This impression is abetted by the very fine grain of the supporting tannins all wrapped in a long, balanced and serious finish. Lovely juice though note that like the Aux Fourneaux at least a decade of cellar is recommended. (91-93)/2021+

2011 Latricières-Chambertin: (from a leased .3 ha parcel of 35+ year old vines). A soupçon of wood sets off the intensely floral and spicy aromas of wet stone, pure wild red berry fruit aromas and a hint of exotic tea. There is excellent volume and phenolic maturity to the seductively textured yet beautifully well-detailed mineral-driven flavors that are blessed with excellent mid-palate concentration before culminating in a restrained and moderately austere finish that delivers first-class persistence. This impeccably well-balanced effort is entirely classic in style and character. (92-94)/2023+

Domaine Blain-Gagnard (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2011	**➽ Pommard**	**red**	**89**
2011	**➽ Volnay "Champans" 1er**	**red**	**91**
2011	**Volnay "Pitures" 1er**	**red**	**90**

Jean-Marc Blain, like many of his colleagues, noted that 2011 "may have started early and finished early but it was a challenge in-between! We began picking on the 29th of August and brought in really very clean fruit that required little in the way of either sorting or chaptalization. More and more I find myself looking to emphasize freshness and elegance with wines that are less alcoholic, less obviously ripe and that put balance at the forefront. We did a very light filtration in white but didn't touch the reds." Over the last few vintages I have found a much surer touch with pinot noir here and while the domaine has always been known for its whites, the reds have largely remained in their shadow. While the quality of the Blain-Gagnard 2011s can't quite match the quality of their 2010s (which by the way, are the domaine's best ever in my view), it's really not far off and there are several really lovely wines in the line-up. The style is for clean, pure and elegant reds that reflect well their underlying *terroirs*. This is an address to consider if you don't know the reds. The 2011s were bottled in February, 2012. (Diageo Château and Estate Wines, www.diageowines.com , NY, NY; Majestic Wine Warehouse, www.majestic.co.uk , Laytons, www.laytons.co.uk, John Armit Wines, www.armit.co.uk and Haynes, Hanson & Clark, www.hhandc.co.uk , all UK).

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet: A very fresh and bright nose of primarily red berry fruit displays hallmark pepper and warm earth nuances. There is good energy to the detailed and equally bright middle weight flavors that deliver fine depth and length on the clean, dry and ever-so-mildly austere finish. This offers solid quality for its level and is sufficiently forward that a brief cellar snooze of 3 to 5 years should see it at its best. 88/2016+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean": A very fresh nose of red pinot fruit and green tea nuances gives way to delicious, intense and well-detailed middle weight flavors that exude a fine minerality on the clean, dry and lacy finish. This is on the lighter side but offers excellent flavor authority in a balanced and refined package that is classic Clos St. Jean in character. 89/2017+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot": (from Les Boirettes). As is typically the case this is much more deeply pitched with its complex and broad-ranging nose of pepper, earth, cassis, red and dark berries plus a hint of the *sauvage*. The medium-bodied flavors are less fine but even more complex with solid punch and precision to the relatively supple and round mouth feel, all wrapped in a mildly rustic and austere finish that delivers admirable persistence. Worth a look if your taste runs to Chassagne reds that aren't overly rustic. 89/2018+

2011 Volnay "Pitures": This is notably more elegant with its cool and restrained nose of red pinot fruit that is liberally laced with stone and soft earth nuances. There is plenty of underlying tension to the tautly muscular medium weight plus flavors that ooze a fine minerality on the moderately austere, balanced and impressively persistent finish. This is a classic Pitures with its austere but not hard finish that is clearly built on a base of firm minerality. Patience required. 90/2019+

2011 Volnay "Champans": This is actually relatively similar to the Pitures though with just a bit more aromatic depth and the flavors are similarly detached, cool and restrained with slightly less evident minerality but perhaps even better energy to the powerful yet refined middle weight flavors. The supporting tannins are just a bit riper and overall, this is stylish, balanced and while it's also moderately austere it's not hard or aggressive. A stylish Champans, which isn't always the case. 91/2021+

2011 Pommard: (from Les Combes Dessous and La Croix Planet). This is really very pretty with essence of red pinot fruit and wet stone hints that are also reflected by the energetic, detailed and solidly precise middle weight flavors that possess a lovely mouth feel before terminating in a saline, clean, balanced and dry finish. There is a touch of rusticity present but as with several wines in the range, it is not aggressive. A fine *villages* that is worth a look. 89/2017+

Domaine Henri Boillot (Volnay)

2011	Beaune "Clos du Roi" 1er	red	89
2011	➽ Bourgogne	red	87
2011	➽ Pommard	red	91
2011	➽ Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	93
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières" 1er	red	89
2011	➽ Volnay	red	90
2011	➽ Volnay "Les Caillerets" 1er	red	94
2011	➽ Volnay "Champans" 1er	red	92
2011	➽ Volnay "En Chevret" 1er	red	91
2011	➽ Volnay "Les Frémiets" 1er	red	92
2011	➽ Volnay "Santenots" 1er	red	93

I have heard Henri Boillot described as an iconoclast but in my opinion this is not entirely accurate. Rather, I would describe him as a *vigneron* who both preaches, and practices, extreme rigor. He believes that there are no shortcuts and that nothing is free. Work properly and seriously and the results will be there. Consistent with this depiction, Boillot told me that "in Burgundy, we have two grape varieties that don't like undue heat or dryness and this explains why he only partially tongue-in-cheek told me that the "fashion in which 2011 began made me think for all the world that we were going to have another 2003 on our hands. Our summer in 2011 occurred in April, May and the first half of June and not only was it hot but extremely dry. The vines were beginning to show distinct signs of hydric stress and I have honestly never been so happy to see lousy weather as I was by the time July rolled around. Granted, the lousy weather lasted longer than I would have preferred and the longer it persisted I finally decided to do a green harvest in the most literal of senses as I dropped the greenest fruit. A *lot* of green fruit. Thanks to this I had both ripe and clean fruit but unfortunately, not very much of it. In 2010 my average yield was only 20 hl/ha and in 2011 it was between 20 and 22 hl/ha. I stress that because there was almost no sorting required, these are the effective yields, which is entirely different from someone who claims to have these yields but only after throwing out 50% of his crop. The vinification was simple because when you have ripe and clean fruit there really isn't much to do except stand there and watch and then take credit later for the work the yeast did. As to the wines, they all have excellent colors as the fruit gave up its anthocyanins easily and quickly with almost no extraction required. The tannins are ripe and firm, indeed in certain cases they are even more serious than their 2010 counterparts. I very much like the wines but I caution my clients that unlike the general easy-drinking reputation of the 2011 vintage, these wines will in some cases cellar every bit as long as the 2010s." As the scores and comments confirm the Boillot 2011s are absolutely terrific and I agree with him that they are a

match for his 2010s in terms of overall quality. The Boillot '11s were bottled in January, 2013 without fining or filtration. See below for notes on the Maison Henri Boillot stable of Nuits *grands crus*. (Chelsea Ventures, LLC, www.chelseaventures.us, Chicago, IL, Milton Road Trading Corp, LLC, www.miltonroadtrading.com, Napa CA; Enotria Winecellars Ltd., www.enotria.co.uk, Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk, and Georges Barbier, both UK).

2011 Bourgogne: (20% of the blend is from Santenay and Beaune 1ers, 70% is from Volnay *villages* level vineyards and the remaining 10% is from a Bourgogne vineyard situated in Volnay). A ripe, earthy and quite serious nose features plenty of earth and humus on the dark berry fruit nose. There is good concentration and plenty of vibrancy to the delicious and solidly concentrated flavors that culminate in a round and suave finish that delivers excellent length for its level. Then again it should given that most of it is from upper level *appellations*. Definitely recommended. 87/2015+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières": A pungently earthy nose of lightly spiced plum and various dark pinot fruit aromas leads to energetic and well-detailed flavors that exude a fine minerality on the delicious and solidly persistent finish. I like the mouth feel as it's relatively fine and about the only nit is a bit of gas so I would suggest decanting this if you're going to try a bottle young. 89/2018+

2011 Beaune "Clos du Roi": Somewhat unusually, this is more aromatically complex than the Lavières with its pretty nose of various red berries and floral hints trimmed in discreet earth nuances. There is a lovely mouth feel to the silky-textured middle weight flavors that are shaped by admirably refined tannins. In contrast to the supple mid-palate the finish tightens up quickly and this impression is heightened by the presence of enough gas to notice so I would recommend decanting it here as well if you're tempted to try one young. 89/2017+

2011 Volnay: (entirely from 5 different 1ers). This is more aromatically reserved with an elegant nose of red and dark pinot fruit, earth and an interesting note of smoked tea. There is even more refinement to the mouth feel of the lightly mineral-infused medium-bodied flavors that possess a dusty and rather serious finish of impeccable balance and persistence. This may be labeled as a *villages* but it's easily of 1er quality. 90/2018+

2011 Volnay "En Chevret": (from 25+ year old vines). A deft touch of wood sets off the notably ripe mix of cassis and various dark berries that elegantly introduces the cool, pure and energetic flavors that seemed fashioned from nothing but silk and satin, all wrapped in a delicate, refined and beautifully balanced finish. This is a classic Chevret of matchless finesse. 91/2018+

2011 Volnay "Les Frémiets": This is also exceptionally elegant and pure with spicy plum and cassis aromas that give way to notably firmer and more muscular flavors that possess fine volume and plenty of punch on the mineral-permeated and wonderfully persistent finish. As good as the Chevret is, there is just more material and depth present here. 92/2019+

2011 Volnay "Champans": Here the wood treatment is more evident though it's certainly not intrusive as it allows the notably ripe aromas of extract of cassis and dark berries to be clearly seen. There is outstanding richness to the palate drenching, suave, round and powerful flavors that are blessed with an abundance of dry extract before terminating in a mildly woody mineral-driven and mouth coating finish that seems to go on and on. There is so much underlying material that I don't believe that there is much risk that the wood will not be successfully integrated in time. 92/2021+

2011 Volnay "Santenots": Here too the oak regimen is more than simply evident though it stops short of dominating the black cherry, spiced plum, violet and earth suffused nose. The flavor profile is slightly finer than that of the more muscular Champans with excellent definition and verve if not quite the same mid-palate concentration. There is stunningly good length and faultless balance and overall, this is a combination of finesse, focused power and excellent complexity. As is the case with the Champans the underlying material is such that this should have no problem absorbing the wood. 93/2021+

2011 Volnay "Les Caillerets": (from a .60 ha parcel). In contrast to the jovial expressiveness of the prior wines this is much more reserved with its ripe yet cool aromas of dark berry fruit liqueur, spice and wet stone. The silky and equally cool and restrained middle weight flavors offer outstanding definition on the rich, energetic and hugely long saline-infused finish. This is one seriously impressive Caillerets but note well that it's built to age. 94/2023+

2011 Pommard: (from the 1er Le Clos Blanc). An attractively fresh, ripe and cool if not especially elegant nose speaks of red and blue pinot fruit that evidences plenty of earth influence. There is a fine sense of detail and plenty of underlying tension to the lightly mineral filled medium-bodied flavors that possess fine mid-palate concentration, all wrapped in a balanced finish that delivers fine depth and length. As with the Volnay *villages*, this boxes well above its stated weight. 91/2019+

2011 Pommard "Rugiens": (from equally sized parcels in both Rugiens Hauts and Bas that measure ~1 ha). A brooding, introverted and cool nose of ripe and fresh liqueur of dark berries and wet stone nuances introduces detailed, ultra-intense and powerful large-scaled flavors that are supported by very firm yet relatively fine tannins before culminating in a classy and gorgeously complex finish. There is excellent size and weight and like the Caillerets, this is really very impressive. 93/2023+

Maison Henri Boillot (Meursault)

2011	**Bonnes Mares Grand Cru**	**red**	**94**
2011	**Chambertin Grand Cru**	**red**	**94**
2011	**Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru**	**red**	**95**
2011	**Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru**	**red**	**93**

See Domaine Henri Boillot for 2011 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, Chicago, IL and Milton Road Trading Corp, LLC, www.miltonroadtrading.com, Napa CA; Enotria Winecellars Ltd., www.enotria.co.uk, Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk and Georges Barbier, both UK).

2011 Clos de Vougeot: (from a ~.34 ha parcel in Grand Maupertuis). A very ripe nose offers up notes of plum, black pinot fruit, pungent earth and plenty of spice influence. There is a relatively refined mouth feel to the medium weight yet powerful flavors that possess outstanding power and punch on the long, balanced and only moderately austere finish. This will need plenty of cellar time but should very much be worth the wait. 93/2023+

2011 Chambertin: (near the very top of the vineyard and atypically, the rows are planted North-South). Somewhat counterintuitively this possesses riper fruit with distinct *sauvage* notes to the humus and mineral-inflected, brooding and very cool wild dark berry fruit aromas. There is excellent power to the driving and highly energetic, stony and robust flavors that display impressive mid-palate concentration, all wrapped in an austere, explosive and strikingly long finish. This is a serious wine but then again, isn't Chambertin virtually always serious in its youth? 94/2026+

2011 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: This is even more aromatically complex and broad ranging with a dazzling and highly spiced nose of anise, clove and cinnamon nuances serving to add an exotic element to the cool yet notably ripe dark berry fruit, cassis and mineral-inflected nose. The rich and broad-shouldered flavors possess plenty of dry extract, indeed to the point that the explosively long and palate staining finish seems less structured than it really is. What gives this the slightest of edges over the other wines in the range though is its stunning complexity as this made me say 'wow'. 95/2026+

2011 Bonnes Mares: (from Chambolle fruit). A more deeply pitched and somewhat less refined nose displays notes of plum, warm earth and humus on the airy, cool and ripe dark pinot fruit aromas. There is a suave and very round mouth feel to the distinctly mineral-driven big-bodied, powerful and intense flavors that brim with dry extract. The tannins are quite firm yet not at all rustic and this culminates in a long, complex, balanced and deep finish that goes on and on. While it can't quite match the aromatic fireworks of the Clos de Bèze, this is a very impressive effort in its own right. 94/2026+

Domaine Pierre Boisson (Meursault)

2010	**Bourgogne**	**red**	**84**

(Polaner Selections, www.polanerselections.com, Mt. Kisco, NY).

2010 Bourgogne: A cool and reserved nose of rustic dark berry fruit is cut with plenty of earth influence as well as a hint of the sauvage that is also picked up by the delicious and vibrant light to barely middle weight flavors that display a saline character on the mildly tangy finish. The mid-palate lacks a bit of density and the light tannins are ever-so-slightly under-ripe. Adequate but this easily could be better as there is fine persistence. 84/now

Domaine Bonneau du Martray (Pernand-Vergelesses)

2011	**Corton Grand Cru**	**red**	**(91-93)**
2010	**Corton Grand Cru**	**red**	**91**

Jean-Charles le Bault de la Morinière told me that 2011 had "certain things in common with 2007 but in the end suffered more climatic excesses. The growing season started quite early and the state of vegetative development was almost identical to that of 2007 at that point. In our growing area we were hit by a strong hail storm on the 20th of May that did some damage but

we were lucky that much more wasn't done as it lasted fully one hour and 40 minutes with hailstones that varied in size from 5 to 20 millimeters. While it did do considerable damage to the canopy we suffered relatively little damage to the young fruit bearing shoots. All I can say is that we were incredibly fortunate. June was up and down with periods of heat followed by stormy weather. The first half of July was much the same but the second half was cool and wet as was much of August. We began taking our grape samples to test for ripeness and sugar levels beginning the 16th of August but it wasn't until the 5th of September that we felt that we had what we were looking for and we commenced picking the next day. This is just as well as remarkably the foliage had already begun to turn colors and it was clear that the vegetative cycle was nearing its end. The cleanliness of the crop was impeccable but even so there is always something substandard to eliminate. I would put our sorting losses at no more than 3% however. Our net yield in pinot was 28 hl/ha, partially because I elected to do a *saignée* so as to have a better solid to liquid ratio. The *cuvaison* lasted 16 days and it finished without incident. The malos finished in July and at present I am planning to bottle the red this spring, probably in March or April." (Le Serbet is the US agent, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France who works primarily with Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, Lake Success, NY, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, Austin, TX, Fine Vines, www.finevines.com, Chicago, IL, Wines Unlimited, www.winesunlimited.com, New Orleans, LA, Atlanta Wholesale Wines, email david.forman@atlanta.com, GA, Augustan Wine, www.augustanwine.com, Miramar, FL, C'est Vin, LLC, 703/243-3559, Arlington, VA, M.S. Walker, www.mswalker.com, MA/RI/NH, Scott Paul Wines, www.scottpaul.com, Portland, OR, and Chambers and Chambers in CA for the Martray wines; Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com , UK).

2011 Corton: (from a 1.5 ha parcel in Le Charlemagne). A ripe but brooding nose of dark berry fruit liqueur aromas display added breadth in the form of violets, plum, black cherry and a hint of the *sauvage*. There is plenty of earth influence to the punchy, rich and well-detailed mineral-inflected broad-shouldered flavors that possess some rusticity on the moderately austere finish. This robust and muscular yet focused effort will require plenty of bottle age to soften the prominent structure. (91-93)/2023+

2010 Corton: (from a 1.5 ha parcel in Le Charlemagne). The well-layered nose is quite restrained with cool aromas of black cherry, earth, spice and the classic *sauvage* character. The impressively rich and solidly concentrated large-scaled flavors brim with dry extract that enrobes the tannins while seemingly rendering them less prominent than they are in reality. This muscular and almost painfully intense effort terminates in a firm, dusty and serious finish where the only nit is a hint of bitterness that my score assumes will round out in time. 91/2025+

Maison Bouchard Aîné et Fils (Beaune)

2010	**Beaune "Clos du Roi" 1er**	**red**	**87**
2010	**Clos de la Roche Grand Cru**	**red**	**82**
2010	**Fixin "La Mazière"**	**red**	**86**
2010	**Pommard**	**red**	**88**

Note that all wines are marked as "Cuvée Signature". (Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA & TX, Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, Lake Success, NY; Country Vintner, www.countryvintner.com, Ashland, VA; Lion Imports, CA; Martignetti Wines, www.martignetti.com, Boston, MA; Berry Bros & Rudd, www.bbr.com and Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, UK).

2010 Beaune "Clos du Roi": A ripe and distinctly earthy nose of pretty red pinot fruit leads to middle weight flavors that are very Beaune in style, which is to say round, supple and quite generous, all wrapped in a slightly fruity finish of acceptable depth and length. There is good mid-palate fat which confers a seductive texture onto the palate impression but this is without real distinction. Note that this could already be drunk with pleasure. 87/2015+

2010 Pommard: Here the nose is quite similar to that of the Beaune with just a bit more elegance as the fruit is slightly higher-toned. The palate impression is, not surprisingly, a bit firmer than that of the Beaune but this too is relatively accessible with slightly better depth and length on the more well-defined finish. This should benefit from a few years in the cellar if desired but it could also be drunk with pleasure now after 30 minutes in a decanter. 88/2017+

2010 Fixin "La Mazière": There is a hint of reduction present initially though within 5 minutes it had dissipated to reveal earthy and rustic dark berry fruit and pungent earth aromas. The light weight flavors possess good verve and reasonably good detail on the dusty and mildly dry finish that offers just enough depth and length to be interesting. 86/2015+

2010 Clos de la Roche: A massively reduced nose displays significant amounts of sulfur compounds though plenty of air significantly reduces, but doesn't eliminate, the problem, which is enough to extend to the flavors and finish. This simply isn't very good as it's technically flawed to the point that it's hard to ever see it recovering enough to ever be interesting. 82/now

Maison Bouchard Père et Fils (Beaune)

2011	Beaune du Château "1er"	red	89
2011	➽ Beaune "Grèves – Vigne de l'Enfant Jésus" 1er	red	92
2011	➽ Beaune "Clos de la Mousse" 1er	red	91
2011	➽ Beaune "Teurons" 1er	red	91
2011	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2011	Bourgogne - Réserve	red	86
2011	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	red	(93-96)
2011	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Noirots" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	Chapelle-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2011	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2011	Le Corton Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2011	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(89-92)
2011	Gevrey-Chambertin	red	87
2011	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin "Cazetiers" 1er	red	(91-93)
2011	Monthelie	red	88
2011	Monthelie "Champs Fulliot" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	Monthelie "Les Duresses" 1er	red	(88-91)
2011	➽ Nuits St.-Georges	red	89
2011	➽ Nuits St.-Georges "Les Cailles" 1er	red	(91-93)
2011	Nuits St.-Georges "Les Porrets St. Georges" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	Nuits St.-Georges "Les Poulettes" 1er	red	(88-90?)
2011	Pommard	red	87
2011	➽ Pommard "Pézerolles" 1er	red	(91-93)
2011	Pommard "Rugiens" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	87
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières" 1er	red	89
2011	➽ Volnay "Les Caillerets – Ancienne Cuvée Carnot" 1er	red	(90-93)
2011	➽ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	(90-93)
2011	➽ Vosne-Romanée	red	89
2011	➽ Vosne-Romanée "Les Beaux Monts" 1er	red	(92-94)
2011	➽ Vosne-Romanée "Les Suchots" 1er	red	(90-93)

Philippe Prost, Bouchard's winemaker, noted that 2011 was a vintage that initially had us "thinking that we might have another 2003 on our hands but a wet and sunless July and August eventually changed those ideas. We began picking the pinot on the 29th of August and because we had almost no rot pressure, we could pick what we wanted when we wanted. And if it was necessary to wait a day before restarting, we elected to do so. This is expensive but worth it if you're really after the optimum ripeness. We were helped enormously in this respect, particularly in really cool *terroirs* like Volnay "Clos des Chênes" or Nuits "Les Cailles" because we had done a lot of leaf pulling and thus had good aeration. As such our sorting losses were extremely low, in fact I would put them at under 4%. There were a lot of ladybugs but we have several systems for dealing with them and they posed no particular problem to speak of. Of much greater concern was *goûts moisi-terreux* [better known as GMT and it's a dirty or muddy aroma that can be composed of several molecules; the most prominent among them is called geosmin. There are several sources but GMT is presently thought to be primarily due to fungal infections that are extremely difficult to eliminate.] We noticed that GMT was a problem in our young vines that were picked just after the rains as the grapes were spotted with mud. We did an immediate *saignée* that was more like a *débourbage* (lees settling) in certain wines to eliminate the bottom 150 to 200 liters that was quite often muddy and had a metallic taste. I feel as though this action enormously aided the purity of aromas for these *cuvées*. We used more whole cluster vinifications for our Côte de Nuits wines than in the Côte de Beaune as the bunches were tighter and the berries smaller. I elected to go with a slightly softer extraction and a slightly shorter overall *cuvaison* but even so the colors are deep and arrived almost immediately. We lowered the amount of new wood as well and it's lower than usual, which is to say 15% for the regionals, 20% for the *villages*, 25% for the 1ers and between 30 and 60% for the *grands crus* versus for example last year where we used 15 to 30% for the *villages* wines, 35 to 45% for the minor 1ers, 35 to 55% for the major 1ers and between 55 to 75% for the *grands crus*. As to the wines, the 2011s have the fruit of the 2007s but notably better concentration. I suppose if I had to pick just one vintage comparison I would liken it to a less concentrated version of 2005. Perhaps 2011 could be thought of as the younger and smaller brother of 2005. Do I think that 2011 is a great vintage? No. But I do think that it's very good and in some cases excellent." As to the quality of the

Bouchard 2011s, it's difficult for the big merchant houses such as Drouhin, Jadot and Bouchard to really outperform a given vintage simply because they have so many *appellations* up and down the Côte because the large players make up so much of the average. Put another way, they very much help establish, in a very real sense, the benchmark for each and every vintage. This isn't to say that they can't have individual wines that merit accolades, just that it's exceptionally difficult for them to escape the vicissitudes of the vintage. So with that duly noted, my sense of things for Bouchard in 2011 is that they did in fact turn in an admirable performance in 2011 generally speaking. There are of course a few exceptions so read the tasting notes with care before making your final selections. Proust further noted that for their Diam corks that they have gone to a system where the pertinent information is engraved by laser rather than ink as there were concerns that the ink might impart off flavors in time. (Henriot, Inc., www.henriotinc.com, NY, NY; John E. Fells and Sons, www.fells.co.uk, UK).

2011 Bourgogne - Réserve: A grapey, fresh and relatively complex nose of red berry fruit and earth aromas leads to rich, generous and suave flavors that retain a reasonable sense of detail on the delicious finish that offers better than average depth and length. 86/2015+

2011 Monthelie: (from domaine fruit). A notably earthier and more deeply pitched nose of both red and blue pinot fruit gives way to attractively rich and suave middle weight flavors that possess fine volume and good verve on the delicious, firm and persistent finish. There is firm but well-integrated acidity and while this should reward short to mid-term cellaring, it should also drink well young. 88/2017+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune: (from domaine fruit). A pungently earthy nose of red currant, plum and a hint of the *sauvage* introduces seductively textured and lush flavors that possess just enough structure on the mildly rustic finish to suggest that this should benefit from 2 to 3 years of cellar time first. 87/2015+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières": (from a parcel purchased in 1909). A mild hint of reduction knocks down the nose enough that I would suggest decanting this first. There is a more refined mouth feel to the more mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that possess good energy before terminating in a dusty, balanced, delicious and solidly persistent finish. This should benefit from up to a decade of cellar time yet be accessible young. 89/2018+

2011 Monthelie "Les Duresses": (domaine fruit). A completely different nose of brooding dark berry fruit, piquant earth and distinct *sauvage* notes complement the punchy, detailed and moderately rustic medium-bodied flavors that are underpinned by firm but not aggressive tannins and fine length on the balanced and mineral-tinged finish. A classic Les Duresses that should repay 8 to 10 years of cellaring. (88-91)/2019+

2011 Monthelie "Champs Fulliot": (domaine fruit). A background touch of wood sets off very fresh red berry fruit and exotic green tea aromas. There is good richness but also good detail to the energetic middle weight flavors that possess slightly better depth on the attractively balanced, dusty, mouth coating and lingering finish where the oak resurfaces. (89-91)/2019+

2011 Beaune du Château "1er": (the first vintage for this wine was in 1907). This is more deeply pitched than it typically is with a pretty mix of various dark berries and plenty of earth character that is also reflected by the suave medium weight flavors that possess a relatively sophisticated mouth feel before terminating in a solidly long and complex finish. This should drink well early, in fact almost immediately if desired yet it should offer a few years of upside development potential. 89/2017+

2011 Beaune "Clos de la Mousse": (a *monopole* of Bouchard). An exceptionally pretty and perfumed nose of both red and dark pinot fruit, earth and spice hints precedes attractively rich, silky and delicious flavors that possess a lilting mouth feel on the long, focused and balanced finish. There is good phenolic maturity and ample dry extract and I would say that this is the best Clos de la Mousse since the outstanding 2003 version. 91/2019+

2011 Beaune "Teurons": (domaine fruit). Here the aromatic profile is similar to that of the Clos de la Mousse with perhaps just a bit more elegance and I especially like the cool purity of the red pinot fruit that is liberally sprinkled with wet stone hints. There is a lovely sense of underlying tension to the detailed medium-bodied flavors that possess a really beguiling mouth feel, all wrapped in a delicious, complex and solidly persistent finish. Overall, this is finer than the Clos de la Mousse but not necessarily more complex or persistent. A qualitative choice. 91/2019+

2011 Beaune "Grèves – Vigne de L'Enfant Jésus": (from a 4 ha parcel). There is a touch of green tea to the gamey and overtly *sauvage* aromas of dark berry fruit, plum and floral hints. Like the Teurons there is a really lovely mouth feel to the intense, detailed and refined medium-bodied flavors that possess good if not exceptional volume by the standards of this wine. There is impressive depth and sneaky length to the finish as it almost dies out only to recommence. Good stuff but note that patience will be required. 92/2021+

2011 Volnay "Les Caillerets – Ancienne Cuvée Carnot": A discreetly perfumed nose offers up a more elegant mix of red currant, wild dark berries, cassis, spice and stone aromas. There is excellent richness and first-rate phenolic maturity to the silky-textured middle weight flavors that brim with mouth coating dry extract on the long, serious, balanced and saline-suffused finish. This is very much built on its minerality and should amply repay longer-term storage. (90-93)/2023+

2011 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": Somewhat surprisingly this is even more aromatically elegant than the Caillerets with its cool and restrained nose equally perfumed and ultra-pure essence of red pinot fruit and plenty of mineral nuances. There is really lovely focus and detail to the vibrant medium-bodied flavors that exude a fine minerality on the delicious, balanced and exceptionally persistent finish. This isn't quite as structured or dramatic as the Caillerets, but it's just as good. (90-93)/2021+

2011 Pommard: A very pretty nose of primarily red pinot fruit, earth and smoke hints gives way to textured, cool and restrained middle weight flavors that display a discreet touch of minerality on the solidly well-concentrated finish that displays just a hint of dryness. The dryness will probably pass as I suspect that it's more related to the sulfur added at the bottling rather than under-ripe tannins but the score reflects my caution. 87/2018+

2011 Pommard "Pézerolles": Somewhat curiously for the *appellation* this is much more deeply pitched with discreet wood influence framing dark berry fruit and earth aromas that are less elegant than I typically find with this wine. By contrast the mouth feel is attractively refined with evident minerality and good verve to the medium weight flavors that possess outstanding depth and length on the highly persistent and solidly concentrated finish. This should be excellent in time. (91-93)/2021+

2011 Pommard "Rugiens": (from Rugiens Haut). A moderately toasty nose of raspberry liqueur, spice, stone and cassis leads to impressively concentrated, even juicy, medium weight flavors that brim with a fine minerality on the powerful, focused and intense finish. There is fine length but not quite the overall depth and breadth of the Pézerolles and there is enough finishing wood toast to wonder if it will be completely absorbed without leaving a mildly bitter note? (89-92)/2023+

2011 Nuits St.-Georges: Noticeable wood frames agreeably fresh aromas of red currant and wild dark berries that display a hint of underbrush. There is good verve and volume to the middle weight flavors that possess strikingly good intensity, all wrapped in a long, complex and balanced finish that is very Nuits as it's moderately austere, muscular and powerful. There is some rusticity to this very serious *villages* that is clearly meant to age. 89/2019+

2011 Vosne-Romanée: A moderately toasty nose of discreetly spicy and almost brooding cassis, plum and dark berry aromas precedes the extract-rich and silky-textured medium-bodied flavors that terminate in a long, balanced and like the Nuits, strikingly intense finish. This is stylish though not especially seductive and also like the Nuits, clearly built to age so patience is recommended. 89/2019+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin: There is a noticeable vegetal character that isn't unpleasant but neither is it subtle. Otherwise there is good freshness to the various red berry fruit scents that display plenty of Gevrey style earth that is also reflected by the tension-filled middle weight flavors. There is an attractive touch of minerality to the finish that is supported by relatively fine-grained tannins and I like the length. Still, it seems relatively clear that this does not have the same phenolic maturity as displayed by the Nuits or Vosne. 87/2018+

2011 Nuits St.-Georges "Les Poulettes": A complex if slightly scattered nose of menthol, wood toast, black cherry and earthy dark berries leads to firm and energetic medium-bodied flavors that possess good mid-palate concentration. There is a dusty mouth feel to the very firm finish where the structure is not especially well-integrated today; indeed this is definitely on the awkward side and it's an open question as to whether it will harmonize in time. (88-90?)/2021+

2011 Nuits St.-Georges "Les Porrets St. Georges": A background whiff of wood toast sets off the very pretty nose of mostly wild red berry fruit aromas that are given considerable breadth from the presence of earth, stone and *animale* notes. There is an attractive suppleness to the solidly well-concentrated mid-palate of the energetic and notably finer medium weight flavors that are shaped by fine but dense tannins on the admirably persistent finish. This is really very fine; in fact unusually so for a classic Porrets yet it works anyway. Note that "fine" does not mean forward and this will need considerable cellar time to arrive at its peak. (89-92)/2023+

2011 Nuits St.-Georges "Les Cailles": Very strong wood influence presently dominates the menthol, spice and dark berry fruit liqueur suffused nose. There is outstanding volume and excellent concentration to the rich, round and utterly delicious flavors that possess fine phenolic maturity to the fine but firm tannins that impart a dusty character to the wonderfully long finish where the wood reappears. This is carrying a lot of oak and it's presently enough to be frankly annoying but my score offers the benefit of the doubt that it will integrate in time as the underlying material appears to be more than sufficient. Note that this will also require extended cellaring to arrive at its peak. (91-93)/2023+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Noirots": An appealing mix of both red and blue pinot fruit combines with subtle earth and spice nuances. There is a silky mouth feel to the nicely precise middle weight flavors that exude a fine minerality on the stylish, elegant and firm finish that somewhat curiously displays a hint of rusticity. This is really quite good if not entirely classic Chambolle as the silkiness of the mid-palate contrasts sharply with the firm and mildly rustic finish. (89-91)/2019+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Cazetiers": Prost indicated that there will probably not be a 2012 version of this wine as the total yield was only 100 liters! Very generous wood fights with the notably floral, earth, spice and *animale* suffused cassis and dark berry fruit aromas. There is fine richness, power, focus and ample minerality on the medium-bodied flavors that enjoy plenty of mouth coating and structure-buffering dry extract, all wrapped in a long and balanced if distinctly oaky finish. In much the same fashion as the Les Cailles the wood is presently intrusive and while my score assumes that it will become integrated in time, I stress that this is an assumption and not a given. (91-93)/2023+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Les Beaux Monts": An exuberantly spicy nose of elegant and pure red currant and red pinot fruit aromas complements perfectly the refined and intensely mineral-driven flavors that possess outstanding detail and intensity on the driving and hugely long finish. This stylish and classy effort does display a bit of wood though here it's very much a background element. This is a really lovely combination of finesse, power, balance and focus that should amply repay extended cellaring. In a word, terrific. (92-94)/2023+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Les Suchots": Here the highly expressive nose is even spicier than that of the Beaux Monts if not quite as elegant with ripe black cherry liqueur and exotic tea aromas. The velvet-textured flavors are remarkably fine, indeed the word satin aptly describes the mouth feel. There is excellent volume and very solid mid-palate concentration, all wrapped in a balanced and impressively persistent finish. As good as this is however, and it is exceptionally good, it just doesn't have the sheer class of the Beaux Monts but in fairness, Suchots rarely does. (90-93)/2023+

2011 Le Corton: Discreet if not invisible wood surrounds the complex but restrained red currant, spice, smoke, earth and *sauvage* permeated aromas. There is excellent power and plenty of punch to the broad-shouldered and solidly well-concentrated flavors that possess fine mid-palate concentration before culminating in a balanced and exceptionally persistent finish. This classically styled Corton really does a slow build from the mid-palate on back, though note well that it will be pointless to open this in its youth; in fact, don't buy this unless you intend to cellar it. (92-94)/2026+

2011 Echézeaux: (from a Domaine-owned parcel in En Orveaux). There is moderate wood framing the spicy black pinot fruit that is liberally cut with earth and floral notes. The wood reappears on the supple, round and velvety medium-bodied flavors that display a hint of minerality on the mouth coating dusty and impressively long finish where the wood is once again present as is a touch of warmth. This offers fine development potential but the balance isn't quite what it could be though if you're not bothered by a bit of backend warmth you might like this better than I did. (89-92)/2023+

2011 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). This is exceptionally toasty and the oak fights with the pungently earthy red berry fruit aromas. There is outstanding richness and volume to the extract rich big-bodied flavors that possess excellent power and obvious muscle, all wrapped in a dynamic and explosively long finish. Note that my score implicitly assumes that the wood will seamlessly integrate in time. Speaking of time, like the Le Corton, do not buy this unless you expressly intend to cellar it. (91-93)/2026+

2011 Bonnes Mares: (from a .24 ha mix of *terres rouges* and *terres blanches* but with a bit more of the former). Here the wood treatment is much more discreet with spicy, pure and elegant cool red berry fruit aromas that display hints of spice, dried flowers and wet stone. There is excellent mid-palate concentration to the overtly muscular and powerful broad-scaled flavors that enjoy superb length. If there is a nit, this is not as complex as the best in the range but my score assumes that greater depth will develop in time as the underlying material is certainly present to allow for it. (92-95)/2026+

2011 Chapelle-Chambertin: (from purchased grapes in Chapelle proper). A moderately toasty nose of spicy, cool and quite reserved red and dark berry fruit, humus, earth and a hint of exotic tea aromas leads to vibrant, detailed and precise large-scaled flavors that possess a lovely sense of controlled power. There is fine complexity and outstanding length to the again moderately toasty finish that isn't intrusive but close to it. (91-94)/2023+

2011 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: (from purchased grapes). This is also moderately toasty though it's not enough to hide the hallmark spiciness of a classic Clos de Bèze along with ripe black pinot fruit, stone and game nuances. There is excellent richness and impressive volume to the extract-rich mid-palate that imparts a seductive mouth feel to the medium-weight flavors. The aspect that is really remarkable here though is just the sheer depth, which when coupled with the superb length make for one exciting wine. Note carefully though that this will also need extended cellaring. (93-96)/2028+

Domaine Jean-Marc Bouley (Volnay)

2011	Beaune "Reversées" 1er	red	(88-91)
2011	Bourgogne	red	86
2011	➳ Bourgogne – Hautes Côtes de Beaune	red	87
2011	Pommard	red	(88-91)
2011	➳ Pommard "Les Fremiers" 1er	red	(92-94)
2011	➳ Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	(92-94)
2011	Volnay	red	(87-89)
2011	Volnay "Caillerets" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	Volnay "Les Carelles" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	Volnay "Clos de la Cave"	red	(87-90)
2011	➳ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	(91-94)
2011	Volnay Vieilles Vignes	red	(88-91)

Jean-Marc Bouley's son Thomas, who is now fully in charge of the domaine, describes 2011 as having a "precocious growing season that resembled 2007 in many respects. We had a magnificent March to May and a good June though matters deteriorated in July and for most of August. There was some hydric stress in the spring though that was more than compensated for when things turned wet and cool. Still, my suspicion is that the water stress is why we had lower than average sugars even though we had excellent phenolic maturities. The flowering was just alright and contributed somewhat to the uneven ripening we experienced. The bunches were small however and gave us fine concentration levels. We began picking on the 29th of August and there was very little sorting required and what little was required was mostly for unripe berries rather than rot. There were enough ladybugs to be concerned about, though the vibrating sorting tables have become very effective at removing them from the bunches. Sugars were adequate to very good at between 11.5 to 12.8%. I used anywhere from zero to fully 80% whole clusters depending on the *cuvée*. We had a bit more yield but really not all that much more than 2010, which is to say last year I obtained only 28 hl/ha and in 2011 it was 33 hl/ha, which of course helps somewhat. Overall, 2011 is another classic Burgundian vintage and while it's not as good as 2010, it's still an excellent year." As is typically the case, Bouley indicated the wines will be bottled without fining or filtration. I have said this before but it bears repeating. Thomas Bouley is a first-rate young talent and I predict that you will be hearing a lot more about his wines going forward and given those accolades it almost goes without saying that in my view his wines outperformed the general quality of the vintage, particularly with his upper level wines. (Russell Herman/World Wine Source, Berkeley Heights, NJ; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, UK and O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, UK).

2011 Bourgogne: A fresh and mildly earthy nose of primarily red berry fruit aromas leads to rich, delicious and attractively vibrant flavors that display a touch of backend rusticity on the otherwise persistent finish. This should drink well almost immediately. 86/2014+

2011 Bourgogne – Hautes Côtes de Beaune: Somewhat curiously given the difference in altitude, this is actually slightly riper as well as a bit more aromatically complex as well; moreover, the fruit profile is notably darker. There is good concentration and an appealing texture to the lightly mineral-inflected flavors that offer fine depth and length. A very good Bourgogne and recommended. 87/2015+

2011 Beaune "Reversées": (Bouley noted that this was made with 40% whole clusters). A markedly floral nose is cool, pure and elegant while revealing notes of plum, violet and earth. There is good volume and a seductive mouth feel to the palate coating flavors that terminate in a firm, robust and lengthy finish that is neither especially rustic nor austere. (88-91)/2018+

2011 Volnay: (from vines down on the plain). Here the nose mixed both upper and lower register aromas of cassis, plum, floral and fresh red pinot fruit. There is good verve and solid detail to the textured and relatively concentrated medium-bodied flavors that possess plenty of extract before culminating in a notably austere and moderately rustic finish. This is a powerful *villages* and one that will require a few years of cellar time to round off the structure and become a bit more civilized. In sum, this is not a Volnay of finesse and delicacy. (87-89)/2018+

2011 Volnay "Clos de la Cave": (made with 40% whole bunches). An elegant, pure and intensely floral and spicy nose of cool and perfumed essence of red pinot fruit leads to precise and well-delineated flavors that are permeated by an underlying minerality that especially comes out on the restrained, austere and linear finish. This is a beautiful and highly understated wine that will not be for everyone given its youthful austerity. (87-90)/2019+

2011 Volnay Vieilles Vignes: (from 40+ year old vines). A brooding and very reserved nose of cool yet ripe dark berries, spice and plenty of earth introduces impressively well-concentrated and overtly mineral-inflected flavors that offer fine depth and length on the seductively textured finish. There is also a trace of backend austerity here though it's markedly less evident. (88-91)/2019+

2011 Pommard: (mostly from Vaumuriens). A more expressive nose mixes both upper and lower register aromas that include plum, cassis, violet, red currant and cherry along with plenty of the hallmark earth influences. There is a touch of *animale* to the humus-inflected, mouth coating and muscular mineral-driven flavors that possess a mildly rustic, firm and impressively persistent finish. This is a classic Pommard but the firm and dense tannins are relatively fine. (88-91)/2021+

2011 Volnay "Caillerets": (this is from very young vines planted in 2002). A ripe and markedly spicy mix of violets, plum, cassis and black cherry precedes the notably rich, round and very supple medium-bodied flavors that possess a seductive texture and fine length. This is not overly concentrated but it is stylish and classy and overall, it's really quite good for such young vines. (89-91)/2019+

2011 Volnay "Les Carelles": A highly perfumed, overtly ripe and quite spicy nose offers up notes of pepper, violets, lavender and plum. There is a lovely sense of refinement to the utterly delicious and lightly mineral-infused middle weight flavors that are chalky and lacy on the saline, clean and balanced finish. This moderately structured effort is firm but not especially austere and overall, this is a classic Carelles of finesse and refinement. (89-92)/2021+

2011 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": (vinified with 40% whole clusters). An intensely floral nose of dark berries, wet stone, earthy and fennel nuances serves as an elegant introduction to the mouth coating, broad-shouldered and beautifully tension-filled medium weight plus flavors that brim with a fine minerality. The focused finish really fans out as it lingers in the mouth and the intensity is borderline painful. A wine for the patient but the potential is seriously impressive. (91-94)/2023+

2011 Pommard "Fremiers": (made with 80% whole clusters). A spicy and pungently floral nose is highly perfumed with cool and pure red pinot fruit aromas. There is outstanding concentration and punch to the big-bodied, textured and highly energetic flavors that ooze a fine minerality on the superbly complex, balanced and stunningly long finish. Like the Clos des Chênes, this is a seriously impressive effort and one of the two best Fremiers of the vintage. (92-94)/2023+

2011 Pommard "Rugiens": (from Rugiens Haut). This is also exceptionally pretty and the stony character of a classic Rugiens really stands out on the violet and dark berry fruit liqueur aromas. The textured, supple and palate coating medium weight flavors possess really lovely detail and excellent power before culminating in a saline and hugely long and moderately austere finish that is very much built on its minerality. This is presently not quite as complex as the Fremiers but it's even longer. (92-94)/2023+

Domaine Pascal Bouley (Volnay)

2011	Beaune "Le Bas des Teurons" 1er	red	(88-91)
2011	Monthelie "Les Clous" 1er	red	(87-90)
2011	Monthelie "Aux Fournereaux"	red	(87-89)
2011	Pommard	red	(87-89)
2011	Volnay	red	86?
2011	➽ Volnay "Champans" 1er	red	(90-93)
2011	➽ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	(90-93)
2011	➽ Volnay "Les Grands Champs" 1er	red	91
2011	Volnay "Robardelle" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	➽ Volnay "Roncerets" 1er	red	91
2011	Volnay "Santenots" 1er	red	(87-90)

Pascal Bouley told me that 2011 was a "moderately challenging vintage that required due care in the vineyards but not necessarily much more than usual save for exceptionally easy years such as 2005 and 2009. We began picking on the 31st of August and brought in relatively clean fruit that required only superficial sorting. Potential alcohols were on the lower side of average at between 11.5 to 12%. Yields though were unfortunately about the same as we obtained in 2010, which is to say between 25 and 30 hl/ha. As to the wines, the 2011s are pretty and succulent and should make for excellent mid-term drinking." I found the 2011s from Bouley to be uneven with several really lovely wines but also a few that gave me some concerns. (No known US or UK importers).

2011 Monthelie "Aux Fournereaux": An earthy and agreeably fresh nose of red pinot and dark berries trimmed in mildly *sauvage* nuances leads to good volume and punch to the middle weight flavors that possess solid complexity on the moderately rustic, balanced and lingering finish. A good Monthelie *villages*. (87-89)/2016+

2011 Monthelie "Les Clous": This is tighter and less expressive if otherwise aromatically similar with its brooding nose of wild dark berries. There are slightly finer tannins underpinning the complex medium weight flavors that deliver good if not truly special depth and length on the balanced and moderately austere finish. (87-90)/2017+

2011 Beaune "Le Bas des Teurons": A very fresh and more expressive nose of bright, pretty and perfumed red currant and lavender aromas that see added breadth in the form of earth and tea nuances. The medium-bodied flavors aren't quite as complex as those of the Les Clous but the tannins are markedly finer with a silky mouth feel on the balanced, harmonious, saline and attractively refreshing finish. (88-91)/2017+

2011 Volnay: (from Ez Echards). A distinctly earthy and not entirely clean nose is troublesome though there is good verve and an attractive minerality to the silky textured flavors that terminate in a delicious and balanced finish. The nose is a concern but the off character does not extend to the palate. 86?/2016+

2011 Pommard: (from the *villages* level portion of Chanlins). A reticent nose of very cool red currant and cherry aromas trimmed in warm earth and underbrush notes gives way to delicious, vibrant and mineral-inflected medium weight flavors that are shaped by relatively fine-grained tannins on the firm, balanced and only mildly rustic finish. A fine *villages* that should reward 6 to 8 years of cellar time. (87-89)/2017+

2011 Volnay "Roncerets": A gorgeously perfumed, cool and restrained nose of elegant dried flower, dried cherries, spice and anise nuances complements to perfection the beautifully refined, pure and delicate flavors that exude a fine minerality on the complex, balanced and admirably persistent finish. This is an exercise in harmony and is very Roncerets, which is to say a Volnay of lace and finesse. Good stuff. 91/2018+

2011 Volnay "Santenots": This displays a somewhat curious nose that is quite flat and seems to lack freshness if not complexity. There is much better verve on the palate but nowhere near that of the Roncerets and this is just lacking in harmony and integration. While it could come together as it has not yet been bottled, this is very awkward today and distinctly difficult to read. (87-90)/2019+

2011 Volnay "Robardelle": A ripe and more complex nose of dark pinot fruit, spice and plenty of earth influence slides gracefully into seductively textured middle weight flavors that offer good volume and detail on the firm, balanced and long finish. There is an attractive touch of minerality and the supporting tannins are quite fine. In sum, this is a pretty effort that should reward 7 to 10 years of cellaring. (89-91)/2018+

2011 Volnay "Les Grands Champs": (from a tiny lieu-dit of only .24 ha that is part of the *appellation* of Les Mitans). A highly perfumed, elegant and ultra-pure nose of essence of red pinot fruit and stone aromas merges into equally elegant middle weight flavors that possess a wonderfully seductive mouth feel before culminating in a silky, delineated and beautifully persistent finish. Terrific quality here and picture perfect Volnay. 91/2018+

2011 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": This is also perfumed but the natural coolness of Clos des Chênes is in evidence as there is a very definite restraint to the essence of red currant fruit that also displays hints of stone, spice and earth. There is excellent power and punch to the robust and tautly muscular medium-bodied flavors that possess fine precision on the firm and admirably well-concentrated finish. I like both the overall sense of balance as well as the excellent length. (90-93)/2021+

2011 Volnay "Champans": Here the nose is completely different with its broader range of spices and slightly riper quality to the impressively complex violet and pungently earth-infused aromas that are followed by seductively textured middle weight flavors that possess plenty of structure-buffering dry extract that imparts a sappy mouth feel to the firm, dusty and strikingly persistent finish. While qualitatively similar to the Clos des Chênes the underlying character is completely different. In sum, both of these beauties are worth considering. (90-93)/2021+

Domaine Buisson-Charles (Meursault)

2011	➽ Bourgogne	red	87
2011	Pommard "En Chiveau"	red	88
2011	➽ Volnay "Santenots" 1er	red	91

This 5.5 ha domaine, of which 25% of its production is in red, is directed by 4th generation Michel Buisson, his daughter Catherine and son-in-law Patrick Essa. Among other things Essa noted that all wines will now have branded corks with the appellation, vintage and producer information. I will have more detailed vintage information in Issue 51 but for the reds I was told that the Bourgogne and Pommard were completely destemmed but 70% of the stems were retained for the Santenots. The domaine is quite rightly known for the quality of its excellent whites but don't ignore the reds, in particular the Bourgogne and the Santenots as both are almost always unfailingly good. The 2011s were bottled without fining or filtration in December 2012. (Vintner Select, www.vintnerselect.com, Cincinnati, OH, Milton Road Trading Corp, LLC, www.miltonroadtrading.com, Napa CA, Scott Paul Wines, www.scottpaul.com, Portland, OR; Richards Walford, www.r-w.co.uk, HS Liquid Assets, www.hsliquid.com and Roberson Wine, www.roberson.co.uk, all UK).

2011 Bourgogne: An exuberant nose of picture perfect pinot fruit is cut with plenty of earth that is also reflected by the delicious, intense and vibrant middle weight flavors that possess excellent complexity for the *appellation*, all wrapped in a mildly rustic, long and balanced finish. This delivers fine quality and is worth your consideration if you're looking for a Bourgogne that will repay some cellaring. 87/2016+

2011 Pommard "En Chiveau": (En Chiveau sits at considerable altitude high above the village). There is a hint of crushed leaf to the otherwise very fresh red currant and dark berry fruit aromas that exhibit a hint of violets. There is a lilting and energetic quality to the lightly mineral-driven flavors that exhibit a touch of wood on the moderately austere and mildly rustic finish. This will require a few years of cellar time to round off the slightly edgy finish. 88/2017+

2011 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). A deft touch of wood sets off the ripe, pure and elegant aromas of spice and pepper inflected dried flowers and dark pinot fruit. There is excellent delineation and energy to the tension-filled, rich and complex medium-bodied flavors that possess a refined mouth feel before culminating in a balanced, understated and impressive persistent finish. Good stuff here. 91/2018+

Domaine Camus-Bruchon (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2011	Bourgogne	red	85
2011	Beaune "Clos du Roi" 1er	red	89
2011	Chorey-lès-Beaune	red	87
2011	Pommard "Arvelets" 1er	red	90
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	87
2011	➳ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Grands Liards Vieilles Vignes"	red	89
2011	➳ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Gravains" 1er	red	91
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Lavières" 1er	red	90
2011	➳ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Narbantons" 1er	red	91
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Pimentiers Vieilles Vignes"	red	88

Lucien Camus' son Guillaume in now largely in charge of this 9.5 ha domaine located on the outskirts of Savigny. He succinctly described the 2011 vintage as "more than satisfactory. We began picking on the 5th of September with our Clos du Roi parcel as it's always the most precocious, stopped for a day and then recommenced on the 7th. There really wasn't much sorting required as we made a passage through our vineyard several weeks before the harvest and dropped anything that wasn't to our standards. I elected to use about 30% whole clusters up and down the line. As to the wines, they have good concentration and excellent richness plus they're sufficiently structured and well-balanced to repay mid-term aging." The Camus-Bruchon wines seem to go from strength to strength and they are now challenging both Bize and Pavelot for the top honors in Savigny. In particular the Narbantons and Gravains are terrific. Camus noted that the wines were bottled in February. (Beaune Imports, www.beauneimports.com, Berkeley, CA and Polaner Selections, www.polanerselections.com, Mt. Kisco, NY; Richards Walford, www.r-w.co.uk, UK).

2011 Bourgogne: A very fresh and bright red pinot fruit nose also offers up notes of earth and green tea. The supple, round and delicious flavors possess good energy and detail on the saline, balanced and attractively persistent finish that offers just enough depth to be interesting. This easy-to-like effort should drink well almost immediately. 85/2014+

2011 Chorey-lès-Beaune: An appealingly layered nose of mostly red currant and cherry aromas is cut with hints of earth and humus. There is a lovely restraint to the pure, round and again, utterly delicious middle weight flavors that possess good balance and fine length if only average depth. The tannins are relatively fine and this too should drink well early. 87/2015+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune: This is earthier still though the fruit profile is quite similar save for a top note of violets. There is good richness and reasonable volume to the round and attractively vibrant flavors that are underpinned by ripe and dusty tannins before terminating in an agreeably long finish where only a trace of rusticity surfaces. 87/2016+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Pimentiers Vieilles Vignes": (from 80+ year old vines). This offers a bit more aromatic elegance with its nose of smoked tea, earth, red currant and prominent floral scents. There is an unusually refined mouth feel for a Savigny villages as the tannins are definitely finer though they're also firmer, which imparts a touch of austerity and a hint of rusticity to the balanced finish. Despite the mild rusticity, this is a relatively elegant Savigny *villages*. 88/2017+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Grands Liards Vieilles Vignes": (also from 80+ year old vines). A fresh, ripe and markedly earthy nose offers up plenty of floral influence on the red and dark pinot fruit aromas that interestingly also display hints of smoked tea. The delicious, round and admirably intense medium-bodied flavors possess a suave mouth feel even though the tannins are slightly more prominent on the lightly mineral-permeated finish. This is an excellent *villages* and worth a look. 89/2018+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Lavières": There is a crushed leaf component that in this case adds depth rather than a sense of under-ripeness to the markedly floral aromas of wild raspberry and red currant. There is noticeable minerality to the supple and round yet attractively well-detailed middle weight flavors that possess good verve and a saline character on the solidly complex, persistent and relatively refined finish. Lovely and fashioned in an understated style. 90/2018+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Gravains": This is aromatically quite similar to the Lavières but with just a soupçon more layering and this enhanced complexity can also be found on the supple, round and silky mid-palate where the supporting tannins become much more prominent on the moderately austere, balanced, focused and impressively persistent finish. This is a classic Gravains and will require a few years of bottle age before it's truly ready for prime time but once it arrives it should have been well worth the wait and this is indeed a lovely effort. 91/2019+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Narbantons": A slightly riper nose that is a bit more complex as well though not more elegant displays a beguiling mix of plum, violets, dark berries and warm earth nuances. The velvety, round and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors possess plenty of structure buffering dry extract that also coats the palate on the harmonious, dusty and admirably long finish. This too is quite lovely and worth your consideration. 91/2018+

2011 Beaune "Clos du Roi": This is completely different with its notes of dried lavender, red pinot fruit, currant, earth and spice hints. There is good energy and a fine sense of underlying tension to the supple and round middle weight flavors that possess an attractive mouth feel though not the same depth, either in terms of complexity or in depth of material. Still, this is delicious and attractive in its own right; indeed it's very Beaune with its generous and easy to appreciate style. 89/2019+

2011 Pommard "Arvelets": A fresh, ripe and wonderfully expressive nose of cool and pure red pinot fruit, stone and plenty of dried floral character leads to firm yet seductive medium weight flavors that possess a sophisticated mouth feel on the mid-palate. There is a touch of youthful austerity on the balanced and lingering finish and while the tannins are fine they are also firm enough to suggest that this is, in the end, still a Pommard even if it's a refined example. 90/2019+

Maison Champy (Beaune)

2011	➽ Aloxe-Corton	red	89
2011	Beaune "Champs Pimont" 1er	red	88
2011	Beaune "Aux Cras" 1er	red	90
2011	Beaune Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2011	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	red	89?
2011	Bourgogne	red	85
2011	Bourgogne - Signature	red	86
2011	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	92
2011	Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Champs Longs"	red	86
2011	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	91
2011	Corton-Perrières Grand Cru	red	88
2011	Corton-Rognets Grand Cru	red	89
2011	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	91
2011	Gevrey-Chambertin "Cazetiers" 1er	red	90
2011	Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2011	Mazis-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	90

2011	**Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Belles Filles"**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Pernand-Vergelesses "Clos du Bully"**	**red**	**86**
2011	**Pernand-Vergelesses "Fichots" 1er**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2011	**Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2011	**Pommard**	**red**	**84**
2011	**➽ Pommard "Les Grands Epenots" 1er**	**red**	**91**
2011	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fourches"**	**red**	**87**
2011	**➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Vergelesses" 1er**	**red**	**91**
2011	**Volnay**	**red**	**85**
2011	**Volnay "Taillepieds" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2011	**Vosne-Romanée**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Vosne-Romanée "Les Suchots" 1er**	**red**	**89**

Pierre Meurgey, who directs this 28 ha operation, was away at the time of my early March visit but I was received by head enologist Dimitri Bazas, who described the 2011 vintage as "precocious, hot and dry though July and August were the opposite as both were wet and without much sunshine. We began picking on the 29th of August in Volnay and Beaune and then attacked our vineyards in Savigny and Pernand. There was some sorting required but nothing really serious and sugars were correct though not high at between 11.5 to 12% for the reds with good acidities. As to the wines, I believe that they will drink well young but they are probably not for long keeping. I would call 2011 a good to very good vintage but let's be honest, the quality of 2011 isn't what made the reputation of Burgundy." As I reported last year, Champy is responsible for the *élevage* and distribution for an entity called the Domaine Clos de la Chapelle (see below) which bought vineyards from the old Louis Boillot estate; note that the label is not the same as that of Champy but the Champy capsule is used and Champy's involvement is noted on the side label. The Champy reds generally tend to be old school and this is largely the style in 2011 as well though note that some of the wines seem more extracted than usual and with markedly more wood influence. I should also note that the wines had mostly been bottled only two weeks before my tasting and it's entirely possible that the perception of the underlying structure was enhanced because of this. (Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, Austin, TX; Diva Beaune S.A.S., www.divawine.com, Beaune, France; Jeroboam Wines, www.jeroboamwines.com, and Haynes, Hanson & Clark, www.hhandc.co.uk, both UK).

2011 Bourgogne: This is exceptionally primary and quite fresh with a pretty mix of red berries, earth and a touch of underbrush adding breadth. The middle weight flavors are round, supple, delicious and easy-to-like before terminating in a clean and refreshing finish of acceptable depth and length. 85/2014+

2011 Bourgogne - Signature: (from Pommard and Volnay fruit with partial *élevage* in tank, the rest in wood, 30% of it being new). A discreet if not invisible touch of wood frames more complex aromas of both red and dark pinot fruit, warm earth and humus. There is good richness and a bit more size and weight to the medium-bodied flavors that offer good persistence on the mildly rustic finish. 86/2014+

2011 Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Champs Longs": An overtly rustic nose of dark currant, earth and a hint of the *sauvage* leads to suave, round and solidly voluminous flavors that culminate in a robust, firm and equally rustic finish that evidences a touch of youthful asperity. 86/2015+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fourches": (from owned 45+ year old vines planted in very deep soil with a high clay content). This is also overtly rustic with a similar fruit profile to that of the Chorey. There is a bit more volume to the equally suave and round flavors that possess a velvety mouth feel on the mid-palate that contrasts with the moderately rustic finish even though here the tannins are somewhat finer. 87/2016+

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Belles Filles": This offers a noticeable step up in aromatic elegance with its very pinot nose of pure and fresh red berry fruit scents that are cut with hints of earth and stone. There is good verve to the detail and relatively fine light to medium weight flavors that possess a saline-infused and refreshing finish. This is one of the lighter wines in the range but I like the balance and refinement. 88/2017+

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses "Clos du Bully": (this vineyard was estimated to have been first planted in 1158). This is ever-so-slightly riper than the Belles Filles with wild dark currant and earth aromas serving as a pretty introduction to the suave, textured and distinctly rustic flavors that culminate in a markedly austere and slightly astringent finish. This will require a few years to round out but even with time I suspect that there will always be a slight edge to the finish. 86/2018+

2011 Aloxe-Corton: An attractively fresh nose of extract of red currant and dark pinot fruit is liberally laced with pungent earth scents. There is good volume and richness to the solidly well-concentrated and appealingly textured medium-bodied flavors that possess excellent depth and length on the quite firmly structured finish. This is old school but balanced old school and if your taste runs to robust burgundy, this offers fine value and as such is worth considering. 89/2019+

2011 Beaune Vieilles Vignes: An openly rustic nose speaks of humus, earth and quite somber dark berry fruit aromas. There is good richness and excellent volume and concentration to the relatively powerful flavors that possess a textured mouth feel thanks to the abundance of dry extract that imparts a sappy character to the firm finish. This possesses very good complexity if not much finesse. 88/2018+

2011 Volnay: (a 50/50 mix of Robardelle and Sur Roches). Here the nose is markedly more elegant with essence of red berry fruit, violets and touches of warm earth. There is good intensity to the dense and rugged flavors that are quite rustic, in fact the supporting tannins are tough and unyielding and it's not clear that this will age gracefully. Indeed it is just this concern that causes me to materially shorten the suggested drinking window so that this can be enjoyed for its fruit as it risks drying out with time. 85/2015+

2011 Pommard: (from Lambots). A discreet application of wood sets off pretty and very pinot aromas that precede very firm middle weight flavors that are a bit less rustic compared to those of the Volnay. This terminates in a mildly astringent and slightly tough finish. While it's possible that the recent bottling has exaggerated the perception of the tannins, this is awkward and difficult today. Again, I would suggest drinking it young for the fruit as this also risks drying out with time. 84/2016+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes: (from vines planted in 1959 located in Billard, Meix Bas, Sylvie and Champ Perdrix). An attractively complex, fresh and expressive nose offers up notes of dark berries, the *sauvage* and plenty of Gevrey style earth. There is a subtle touch of minerality to the nicely detailed and energetic flavors that possess mild rusticity on the serious, mouth coating and lingering finish. There is some youthful asperity present but here it feels as though it will round out with a few years of bottle age. 88/2018+

2011 Vosne-Romanée: (from Basses Maizières). A lightly spiced and distinctly earthy nose of primarily dark berry fruit aromas leads to suave, round and quite supple medium weight flavors that possess a seductive mouth feel and fine length on the moderately austere finish. A quality *villages* that is less robust than many of the preceding wines. 88/2016+

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses": A brooding and somber nose offers good breadth despite its reticence with scents of earth, dark berries, violets and plum. The suave, round and textured flavors possess a sappy mouth feel with excellent volume that is helped by the presence of plenty of dry extract that does a good job of buffering the ripe but firm tannins on the mildly austere finish where the only nit is a hint of warmth. 89/2018+

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses "Fichots": A slightly more elegant nose that is more floral though there is plenty of earth influence to the dark currant and plum suffused aromas. There is excellent volume to the solidly well-concentrated flavors that possess good energy on the firm, rustic and austere finish that lacks the same overall depth. 88/2018+

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses": An elegant, cool and airy nose of complex and layered scents of dried flowers, wet stone and ripe dark berry fruit. There is a textured mouth feel and agreeable suppleness to the delineated middle weight flavors that exude a fine minerality on the long, balanced and distinctly austere finish. This should be good in time but will probably not appeal to everyone as it's aging. 90/2019+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Vergelesses": A very spicy and attractively airy nose of exceptionally floral aromas and various ripe and cool red berry scents leads to vibrant and beautifully well-detailed flavors that are balanced, delicious, complex and impressively persistent. This is one of the better wines in the entire range and one that should reward up to a decade of cellar time. 91/2019+

2011 Beaune "Champs Pimont": A very somber and restrained nose of pungent earth, humus, underbrush and dark currants gives way to supple, round and attractively intense medium-bodied flavors that possess good vibrancy if more limited depth on the firm, mouth coating and moderately rustic finish. 88/2018+

2011 Beaune "Aux Cras": This is notably more refined with pretty and airy aromas of red berries, stone and soft floral nuances. There is good punch to the round and supple medium-bodied flavors that tighten up very fast on the mineral-driven, long, austere and serious finish. This will not be for everyone and moreover it will need plenty of cellar time to become more civilized as it's very firm today. 90/2021+

2011 Pommard "Les Grands Epenots": A riper nose of humus and earth-infused plum, dark berries and underbrush gives way to impressively intense and solidly powerful flavors that possess very good mid-palate concentration. The ripe tannins are rustic and firm yet they are well-buffered by the copious dry extract that imparts a textured mouth feel to the finale. This is austere and built-to-age and note that it will need it as I doubt that this will drink particularly well young. 91/2023+

2011 Volnay "Taillepieds": The nose is a bit troubled today as it is dominated by reduction and wood. Otherwise there is fine intensity and plenty of volume to the almost pungently mineral-inflected flavors that display excellent delineation on the austere, firmly structured and impressively persistent finish. This will also require plenty of cellar time. 90/2021+

2011 Corton-Perrières: An intensely floral nose enjoys a strikingly broad range of aromas that include stone, earth, black tea and a mix of both red and dark pinot fruit scents. The mid-palate of the medium weight flavors is quite supple for a Corton yet the finish tightens up moderately on the lingering and saline-inflected finish. There is a touch of vegetal character to the finish and the mid-palate doesn't have the same concentration as the Bressandes. In sum, this is good but not better. 88/2019+

2011 Corton-Rognets: This is also quite floral in character with subtle spice notes adding breadth to the array of dark berry, earth and *sauvage* aromas. There is a velvety, even suave texture to the medium-bodied flavors that exude just enough minerality to notice on the firm but not especially austere or rustic finish. Like the Corton-Perrières, this is perfectly good but not at the same level of the Bressandes. 89/2018+

2011 Corton-Bressandes: A much fresher and more expressive nose of cool wild red berries, stone and intense floral aromas gives way to detailed and refined medium-bodied flavors that possess a sophisticated, even silky mouth feel that tightens up sufficiently on the moderately structured and austere finish to remind one that this is a Corton. 91/2021+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Cazetiers": Noticeable wood fights with the spicy, serious, *sauvage*, floral and quite earthy aromas. The rich, suave and very round middle weight flavors possess good depth before terminating in a mouth coating, firm and moderately austere finish where a touch of warmth surfaces. 90/2019+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Les Suchots": Here too there is a liberal lashing of toasty wood that fights a bit with the naturally spicy black pinot fruit. There is a highly seductive mouth feel to the lush and opulent flavors that offer reasonably good depth but the wood resurfaces on the noticeably warm finish. This may sort itself out but it's very awkward today and I suspect that the oak may always be a background element. 89/2018+

2011 Echézeaux: (from Echézeaux du Dessus). A pungent and notably ripe nose of toasty wood, natural spice, black cherry and dark berry fruit aromas introduces exceptionally suave, indeed lavish medium-bodied flavors that possess a wonderfully seductive mouth feel, all wrapped in a solidly intense, balanced and impressively long finish. There is so much mid-palate sap that this is one of the upper echelon wines that should be reasonably approachable young. I would also note that if you're oak averse that this is probably not a good choice because while it does not imbalance the wine it certainly marks it. 91/2019+

2011 Mazis-Chambertin: (from Mazis-Bas). Here the wood influence is more moderate though still quite noticeable as it only grudgingly allows the overtly *sauvage*, pungently earthy, spicy and ripe dark berry fruit aromas to be seen. There is good mid-palate volume and density to the again quite suave flavors that exude a fine minerality on the firm but not hard to especially austere finish. While this won't be as approachable young as the Echézeaux it should still be approachable before it has reached its full apogee. 90/2019+

2011 Charmes-Chambertin: (from Charmes proper). An intensely floral nose speaks of pure and wild red berry fruit aromas that are liberally sprinkled with earth, underbrush and humus nuances. There is a really lovely mouth feel to the firm and equally pure large-bodied flavors that possess a beguiling natural sweetness before culminating in a succulent, balanced and mildly austere finish that is clean, cool and refreshing. Lovely. 92/2023+

2011 Bonnes Mares: (from the Morey side). This is very, very toasty and the wood completely dominates the nose, in fact to the point that there is no fruit visible. There is excellent richness, volume and intensity to the velvety medium weight flavors that possess fine complexity on the rounded and sweet finish where the wood resurfaces. The wood also changes the texture and while this may eventually eat its wood thanks to the solid concentration, I suspect that the oak is going to permanently mark the palate impression. In sum, this isn't for me. 89?/2019+

Domaine Chandon de Briailles (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2011	**Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru**	**red**	**(91-93)**
2011	**Corton-Maréchaudes Grand Cru**	**red**	**91**
2011	**Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru**	**red**	**93**
2011	**Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2011	**➽ Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2011	**Savigny-lès-Beaune**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fournaux" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2011	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières" 1er**	**red**	**89**

François de Nicolay described 2011 as a "vintage that produced uncomplicated and very accessible wines that are built on their fruit. The growing season however was the exact opposite, which is to say very complicated. We had a very early start to the season with hot, dry and sunny conditions that lasted basically all the way to July. Then things went to hell with wet, cool and largely sunless conditions for much of July and August. We had originally scheduled the harvest for the 23rd or 24th of August but when we did our ripeness samples they weren't at all what we were looking to obtain. For example, in Lavières we only had 9% potential alcohol with is obviously a non-starter. We obviously had to wait but it wasn't easy because rot was encroaching and we lost between 10 to 15% of the harvest during the one week we waited. We decided to begin picking on the 1st of September and there was a significant amount of sorting required both for fruit that was rot-tinged as well as fruit that wasn't ripe enough. Potential alcohols came in between 10.5 and 12% and we chaptalized to an extent. I decided to diminish the amount of whole clusters significantly and for 2011 we used only 20 to 25%. 2011 is a nice vintage but by no means a great one or to put it another way, 2010 won't be looking over its shoulder." My take on the quality of the Chandon 2011s is that they did a solid if not exceptional job within the context of the vintage. As is almost always the case at this address the standouts are the Clos du Roi and Bressandes and the Ile de Vergelesses qualifies for honorable mention. For readers who might have missed it last year I repeat that the Domaine lost the leases for the Volnay "Caillerets", Pernand-Vergelesses blanc and the Corton-Charlemagne. (David Bowler Wine, www.bowlerwine.com, NY, NY; Beaune Imports, www.beauneimports.com, Berkeley, CA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, and Haynes, Hanson & Clark, www.hhandc.co.uk, all UK).

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune: A perfumed and very pretty nose of both red and dark berry fruit aromas is liberally cut with pungent Savigny earth. The delicious, fresh and energetic flavors possess good energy and lovey balance. This is a fine *villages* that should drink well relatively early. 88/2016+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fournaux": (from 60+ year old vines). A more deeply pitched and notably earthier nose of fresh red currant and again, plenty of Savigny style earth character that is also reflected by the firm, intense and relatively powerful flavors. There is solid depth and length on the moderately austere and mildly rustic finish and overall, this is a classic Fourneaux that should reward 6 to 8 years of cellar time. 89/2018+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières": Here the nose is notably more refined with a lovely floral element to the wild red berry fruit, earth and wet stone-inflected aromas. There is fine intensity and detail to the middle weight flavors that terminate in a lightly mineral-driven and balanced finish that also displays mild austerity. This is an understated effort that might merit a higher score if it can add depth in bottle. 89/2018+

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses": This is also quite expressive with its perfumed essence of various red berries, dried flowers and mineral hints. There is a seductive mouth feel to the delicious flavors that are blessed with good dry extract quantities that buffer the relatively fine tannins and impart a sappy character to the lingering finish that displays no rusticity or austerity. This is really quite pretty and finer than it normally is. (89-91)/2018+

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses": (a mix of vine ages though the oldest date from 1938). There is more complexity here on both the nose and the palate with a perfumed mélange of fresh and pure red currant, plum and floral scents. There is a lovely sense of underlying tension and fine delineation to the seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that are notably permeated by an almost pungent minerality on the long, balanced and delicious finish. This is worth considering. (90-92)/2019+

2011 Corton-Maréchaudes: (from 30+ year old vines). A trace of wood sets off the ripe, fresh and spicy nose of red cherry, earth and a hint of the *sauvage*. There is excellent verve and plenty of muscle to the focused and moderately powerful middle weight flavors that possess fine depth and impressive length. This is not an especially big wine by the standards of the *appellation* but it is well balanced and should reward a decade or so of cellar time. 91/2021+

2011 Corton-Bressandes: (three separate plantings with an average vine age of about 35 years). Here too there is a deft touch of wood that is sufficiently slight so as to allow the slightly more elegant and perfumed red berry fruit, earth and stone aromas to shine. The cool, pure and more obviously mineral-inflected flavors also possess a bit more size and weight and while the lingering and well balanced finish is moderately austere, this is actually relatively civilized for a young Bressandes. (91-93)/2023+

2011 Corton-Clos du Roi: (this has the highest average vine age of these *grands crus* at 40+ years of age). As is usually the case this is much more obviously *sauvage* in character than either of its two grand cru stable mates. The reticent nose grudgingly offers up notes of spice, floral elements, smoke, tea and a mix of red and blue pinot fruit aromas. The palate impression is quite rich with plenty of dry extract that buffers what are the ripest tannins in the range, all wrapped in an intensely mineral-driven and hugely long finish. This is by far and away the best wine here. 93/2023+

Maison Chanson Père et Fils (Beaune)

2011	Beaune "Bressandes" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	Beaune "Champimonts" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	Beaune "Clos des Fèves" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	➽ Beaune "Clos des Marconnets" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	➽ Beaune "Clos des Mouches" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	Beaune "Clos du Roi" 1er	red	(87-89)
2011	Beaune "Grèves" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	Beaune "Teurons" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2011	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2011	Corton Grand Cru	red	(89-92)
2011	Gevrey-Chambertin	red	(88-91)
2011	Nuits St. Georges	red	(88-91)
2011	Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	Pommard	red	(87-90)
2011	Savigny "Dominode" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	Volnay	red	(87-89)

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-Cotétidot that I also cover). On this visit I met with both de Courcel and Confuron, who describe 2011 as a "vintage that gave us very good quality and in both colors, which is not something that happens as often as you might think. The growing season was one of the earliest on record and the spring and early summer were just about perfect save for a bit of hydric stress. July and August suffered though due to lousy conditions with too much rain and not enough sun. Despite this the level of phenolic maturity is amazing, which is all the more remarkable when you consider that potential alcohols were barely average. We began picking on the 1st of September and there was some sorting required, especially in our Beaune vineyards but overall, the fruit was relatively clean. We used 100% stems for all of our reds and the vinifications were without any problems per se. As to the wines, they're extremely fresh and bright with good underlying tension, acidity and really lovely transparency to the underlying *terroir*. We believe that Burgundy lovers will prefer 2011 to 2009 and that is as true for reds as whites." My take on the quality of the Chanson 2011s is that they performed in-line with the general quality of the vintage. Their domaine wines, mostly from Beaune and Savigny are, not surprisingly, more interesting than the *négociant* wines. Note that for the *négociant* wines, the fruit was for the most part harvested and vinified by Chanson. (Terlato Wines International, www.terlatowines.com, Lake Bluff, IL; Mentzendorff, www.mentzendorff.co.uk, UK and O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, UK).

2011 Volnay: An interesting and notably ripe nose of dark raspberry liqueur and violets leads to very rich, round and mouth coating flavors that possess fine volume for this level, all wrapped in a delicious yet entirely serious finish. A quality *villages* that should require 6 to 8 years of cellar time to be at its best. (87-89)/2017+

2011 Pommard: (50% from the 1er Les Bertins with the remainder from La Combe). Here the aromatic profile shares some things in common with the Volnay but with more obvious floral influence along with top notes of spice and a bass note of earth. There is excellent richness to the very suave and round medium-bodied flavors that possess fine volume and the supporting tannins are also notably ripe before terminating in a balanced and solidly long finish. This too offers fine quality for its level. (87-90)/2018+

2011 Nuits St. Georges: A pure and expressive nose of raspberry liqueur, black cherry and cassis combine with plenty of earth and *sauvage* hints that are also reflected by the suave and seductively textured medium weight flavors that possess good mid-palate concentration. The shaping structure is relatively fine-grained and contributes to the finish displaying much less rusticity than is common in the context of the *appellation*. This is worth considering. (88-91)/2018+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin: Discreet wood notes frame the menthol-infused nose of ripe yet exceptionally fresh aromas of wild red berries and pungent Gevrey-style earth. There is excellent richness to the lush, even opulent flavors that exude a fine minerality on the energetic and well-balanced finish. This is not particularly refined though it stops short of displaying overt rusticity. (88-91)/2019+

2011 Savigny "Dominode": (note that while rarely used today, it is permissible to label wines from Savigny-lès-Beaune simply as Savigny with, or without, the name of the lieu-dit indicated; obviously in this case it is indicated and Dominode, which means Vineyard of the Lord, is an enclave within Les Jarrons; in fact, it was once known as La Dominode des Jarrons). Here too there are discreet wood notes surrounding the attractively broad nose that offers up notes of plum, red and black raspberry, spice and earth nuances. There is excellent volume and richness to the opulently-textured middle weight flavors that possess good verve on the quite finely detailed finish that displays a hint of austerity. Lovely. (89-92)/2019+

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses": An attractively fresh, cool and pure nose of red and black pinot fruit liqueur, spice and plenty of earth aromas gives way to rich, energetic and intense flavors that are utterly delicious while culminating in a balanced and solidly persistent, balanced and lightly mineral-inflected finish. (89-91)/2019+

2011 Beaune "Clos du Roi": This is quite expressive with a perfumed nose of ripe red currant and dark berry fruit aromas that are cut with plenty of earth influence that is equally prominent on the very supple, round and accessible flavors that possess good punch on the delicious and easy-to-like yet serious finish. This doesn't have the sheer depth of the best of these Beaune 1ers but it's certainly pretty and very Beaune as it's altogether generous. (87-89)/2017+

2011 Beaune "Teurons": A discreet if not invisible application of wood still allows the markedly ripe aromas of black cherry, spice, earth and plum to shine. There is excellent volume and lovely mid-palate concentration to the tautly muscular middle weight flavors that possess really lovely depth on the balanced, long and mouth coating finish. One to consider as this should reward up to a decade of cellar time. (89-92)/2019+

2011 Beaune "Champimonts": A deft application of wood is present here as well though it's sufficiently in the background that it does not interfere with the clear appreciation of the black cherry, cassis and subtle spice scents. The round and very supple flavors enjoy a lush and appealingly textured mouth feel before terminating in a vibrant, clean and refreshing finish that is notably firm though not quite as complex as the Teurons. Like the Clos du Roi, this is very Beaune in style. (89-91)/2021+

2011 Beaune "Bressandes": A spicy cassis and extract of plum suffused nose precedes the very supple, round, indeed even lilting middle weight flavors that possess solid if not truly distinguished complexity, all wrapped in a mouth coating, firm and balanced finish. This is relatively fine as are the supporting tannins. (89-91)/2019+

2011 Beaune "Grèves": Interestingly, this is a bit more elegant as well as more complex than the Bressandes with its red raspberry liqueur, cassis and soft floral elements. Consistent with the elegance of the nose there is a supple and refined mouth feel to the medium-bodied flavors that exude a fine minerality on the delicious, long and balanced finish. In contrast to the usual muscle this is a Grèves of finesse yet the tannins are quite firm so be prepared to cellar it for a decade or so. (89-92)/2021+

2011 Beaune "Clos des Marconnets": A background soupçon of oak highlights the cassis, plum, violet and wet stone aromas that serve as a pure, elegant and solidly complex introduction to the punchy and mineral-permeated flavors that possess a sophisticated mouth feel, in no small part thanks to the very fine-grained tannins. There is also fine complexity to the balanced, focused and impressively persistent finish. This is really very good. (90-92)/2021+

2011 Beaune "Clos des Mouches": This is more noticeably floral in character with a pretty nose of exceptionally fresh crushed red berries, cassis and anise hints. There is a velvety mouth feel to the relatively voluminous flavors that exude a palate coating dry extract that helps to buffer the firm but fine tannins on the lightly mineral-inflected, balanced and admirably long finish. Like the Clos des Marconnets, this is really very good and worth your consideration. (90-92)/2021+

2011 Beaune "Clos des Fèves": (a *monopole* of Chanson). A moderately toasty nose features notes of cassis, spiced plum, violets and a hint of the *sauvage*. There is an attractively textured mouth feel to the middle weight flavors that display enough minerality to add interest and lift to the moderately complex but seriously long finish that isn't quite as structured as the Marconnets and Mouches. (89-92)/2021+

2011 Corton: (from Le Meix). As one might reasonably expect this is markedly less expressive than the Beaune 1ers with its restrained nose of both red and dark berry fruit, earth, humus, smoke and exotic tea scents. There is impressive volume to the well-muscled and broad-shouldered flavors that possess plenty of underlying tension, all wrapped in a complex, rustic and moderately austere finish. This will require at least a decade to be at its best. (89-92)/2021+

2011 Charmes-Chambertin: (from Charmes proper). A relatively subtle wood treatment allows the notably spicy red berry fruit, humus and earth-inflected aromas to have center stage. There is also excellent volume here as well with a supple mid-palate to the delicious and tension-filled medium-bodied flavors that exhibit fine depth and length on the moderately austere finish. This is quite firm though the supporting tannins are relatively fine. (90-93)/2023+

2011 Chambertin- Clos de Bèze: An exuberantly spicy nose of red berry fruit liqueur aromas displays hints of stone, game, smoke and tea. There is also excellent volume here as well with very round and rich medium weight plus flavors that possess plenty of mouth coating dry extract that buffers the tannins on the firm, serious and built-to age finish. (91-94)/2026+

Domaine Chevalier Père et Fils (Ladoix-Serrigny)

2011	**Aloxe-Corton**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Aloxe-Corton "Valozières" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2011	**Corton-Rognets Grand Cru**	**red**	**90**
2011	**Côte de Nuits-Villages**	**red**	**87**
2011	**➽ Gevrey-Chambertin**	**red**	**89**
2011	**Ladoix**	**red**	**87**
2011	**Ladoix "Le Clou d'Orge" 1er**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Ladoix "Les Corvées" 1er**	**red**	**89**

Claude Chevalier, who is also the president of the trade group Viticulteurs de la Côte d'Or, now works with both of his daughters. Julie is now largely in charge of the vinification and Chloé runs the administration and commercial sides of this 16 ha domaine. I met with both Julie and her father who described the 2011 vintage as one that "required constant vigilance and late picking. We didn't start the harvest until the 8th of September and it's a really weird feeling to be almost alone in the vineyards at harvest time as most of our neighbors had finished before we even started! We harvested between the 8th and the 16th and thankfully the weather held because it was necessary to pick slowly and carefully as there was quite a bit of sorting required. We were rewarded though as our average potential alcohol was right at 12.5% and the phenolics were clearly ripe. We had a bit more yield than we did in 2010 but because our sorting losses were higher because we waited, it wasn't a lot more. Overall, 2011 is a perfectly good if not great vintage that should please everyone, which is to say those new to Burgundy as well as enthusiasts as the wines are vibrant, clean and should be approachable young." As was the case with the 2010 vintage, there was no new oak used for the *villages* wines as well as the Ladoix 1ers. Note that this policy is applicable only to the reds. The 2011s were bottled in February. just before my visit. (AP Wine Imports, www.apwineimports.com, NY, NY; Liberty Wines, www.libertywine.co.uk, UK, Majestic Wine Warehouses, www.majestic.co.uk, UK, Great Western Wine, www.greatwesternwine.co.uk, UK and Charles Mitchell Wines, www.cmwines.com, UK).

2011 Ladoix: A relatively deeply pitched nose of fresh dark berry fruit, earth and a hint of the *sauvage* leads to round and rich flavors that are supported by tannins that are clearly quite ripe, all wrapped in a delicious and moderately rustic finish that offers good if not special persistence. 87/2015+

2011 Côtes de Nuits-Villages: (from Corgoloin and Comblanchien vines). There is enough reduction present to impair the expressive of the nose though there is good vibrancy and freshness to the solidly concentrated flavors where once again the supporting structure is markedly ripe. The moderately long and complex finish is a bit firmer and here too there is some rusticity. 87/2016+

2011 Ladoix "Le Clou d'Orge": (from vines of approximately 60 years of age). A very pretty nose offers notes of both upper and lower register elements that include red currant, black cherry, earth and humus scents. There is a suave mouth feel to the sappy and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that possess good intensity and vibrancy on the palate coating finish where the tannins are slightly finer though I would not describe this as refined. 88/20017+

2011 Ladoix "Les Corvées": This is also quite pretty with an earthy mix of dark berries, kirsch and warm earth notes, the latter of which is also reflected by the appealingly textured middle weight flavors that possess fine volume, good depth and solid length on the balanced finish. This would be a good candidate for a wine that could be drunk at any time with pleasure yet reward mid-term cellaring too. 89/2018+

2011 Aloxe-Corton: In contrast to the expressive noses of the prior wines, here the nose is restrained and somber though the aromatic profile of plum, earth, red currant and floral hints is agreeably fresh and complex. There is a really lovely texture to the mid-palate though the markedly chewy finish is evocative of a classically styled Aloxe rouge. Patience required. 88/2019+

2011 Aloxe-Corton "Valozières": A subtle touch of wood frames the earthy and very serious nose of ripe and wild dark berries, red currant, game and plenty of earth and humus influence. The equally serious though not hard medium weight flavors are shaped by notably firm tannins before terminating in a firm, mouth coating and rustic finish where the wood resurfaces. This will require plenty of cellar time and in contrast to the Aloxe *villages*, this is not likely to play well young. 89/2021+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin: (from Les Crais and Etelois). Here too there is enough wood to notice as it sets off the cool and introverted aromas that are markedly *sauvage* in character with plenty of Gevrey style earth on the very dark berry scents. There is fine volume and evident minerality to the moderately austere, complex, balanced and impressively persistent finish. A classic Gevrey *villages* that will not be for everyone but should reward well 6 to 8 years of storage. 89/2018+

2011 Corton-Rognets: Visible if not intrusive wood surrounds the very spicy aromas of earthy dark berries, kirsch and smoked tea scents. There is excellent volume to the round and velvety medium plus weight flavors that possess good concentration and fine phenolic maturity, all wrapped in an impressively long and balanced finish. Note that there is some gas present so if you're going to try a bottle young I would strongly advise decanting it for an hour or so first. 90/2021+

Domaine Clos de la Chapelle (Volnay)

2011	**➽ Pommard "Les Chanlins" 1er**	**red**	**92**
2011	**➽ Volnay "Clos de la Chapelle" 1er**	**red**	**91**
2011	**➽ Volnay "Carelle Sous la Chapelle" 1er**	**red**	**91**

Maison Champy (see above) is responsible for the *élevage* and distribution for the Domaine Clos de la Chapelle which bought vineyards from the old Louis Boillot estate; note that the label is not the same as that of Champy but the Champy capsule is used and Champy's involvement is noted on the side label. (Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, Austin, TX; Diva Beaune S.A.S., www.divawine.com, Beaune, France; Jeroboam Wines, www.jeroboamwines.com, and Haynes, Hanson & Clark, www.hhandc.co.uk, both UK).

2011 Volnay "Carelle Sous la Chapelle": A beautifully elegant and pure nose speaks of essence of red berries, spice and stone hints that are also reflected by the silky, detailed and vibrant middle weight flavors that possess a very supple mid-palate. There is lovely balance and excellent length to the mouth coating finish and this should reward 7 to 10 years of cellar time. Good juice. 91/2018+

2011 Volnay "Clos de la Chapelle": This is also attractively airy, elegant and ultra-pure with its extract of red pinot fruit, intense dried floral aromas that are laced with anise hints. There is really lovely detail and vibrancy to the equally refined medium-bodied flavors that possess a supple mouth feel before culminating in a silky finish that is a bit more persistent if not quite as complex, at least not yet. A qualitative choice. 91/2017+

2011 Pommard "Les Chanlins": Here too there is a real sense of refinement though as pretty as this is it cannot match its two Volnay stable mates in this regard. There are plenty of earth and underbrush nuances to the mineral-inflected, cool and pure red currant, cherry and spice aromas. There is good power and intensity to the textured, broad-shouldered and mineral-driven flavors that possess a sophisticated mouth feel, all wrapped in a moderately austere but balanced and wonderfully persistent finish. This is definitely Pommard in basic character but refined Pommard. 92/2021+

Domaine E. & R. Coche-Dury (Meursault)

2011	**Auxey-Duresses**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2011	**➽ Bourgogne**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2011	**Meursault**	**red**	**(87-90)**
2011	**Monthélie**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2011	**➽ Pommard "Vaumuriens"**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2011	**Volnay "1er"**	**red**	**(89-92)**

Jean-François and his son Raphaël Coche, who are world famous for their whites, also farm 2 ha of pinot from which they fashion reds that can be excellent as well. They succinctly described 2011 as having produced "tender wines that will have that rare ability to be enjoyable young yet age well too if that is what someone wants. We began picking on the 28th of August with our whites and there really wasn't much sorting required in either color. As we usually do, we used about 33% new wood for the reds and there were no issues with the vinifications. In sum, 2011 wasn't an easy vintage but it wasn't especially difficult either." Given the mostly modest appellations with which team Coche works, these are some really lovely wines that were aptly described as having the capacity to drink well young but age too. (Kermit Lynch, www.kermitlynch.com, Berkeley, California; Justerini & Brooks, www.justerinis.com and Tanners Wine, www.tanners-wines.co.uk, both UK).

2011 Bourgogne: A ripe and expressive nose of dark berries, plum and cassis leads to earthy and solidly well-concentrated flavors that possess good volume for this level, all wrapped in a rustic but delicious finish. This is really very good for what it is and recommended. (86-89)/2016+

2011 Meursault: Here the nose is similar to that of the Bourgogne though it is slightly more elegant. There is good precision to the attractively well-detailed flavors that possess fine phenolic maturity before terminating in a nicely persistent and well-balanced finish. Good stuff here as well. (87-90)/2017+

2011 Monthélie: An earthy and quite rustic nose of very fresh red currant and dark berry aromas that is clearly *sauvage* in character introduces attractively well-detailed and punchy middle weight flavors. While the nose is rustic the palate impression of the finish is not thanks to the relatively fine-grained tannins on the balanced and persistent finish. (88-91)/2017+

2011 Auxey-Duresses: A discreet touch of wood sets off the ripe and cool wild dark currant and pungent earth and humus scents that merge seamlessly into moderately rustic and vibrant medium-bodied flavors that are shaped by the well-integrated structure. There is also a bit of rusticity on the balanced and lingering finish and overall, this offers fine quality in the context of the *appellation*. (88-91)/2018+

2011 Volnay "1er": (a blend of Taillepieds and Clos des Chênes). A brooding but elegant mélange of red currant, plum, earth and plenty of wet stone nuances is followed by equally mineral-permeated, vibrant and beautifully well-detailed medium weight flavors that possess good punch on the balanced and impressively persistent finish. If this can add depth with a few years of bottle age it should merit the upper end of my predicted range. (89-92)/2018+

2011 Pommard "Vaumuriens": This is the only wine in the range to display any appreciable amount of reduction and it's enough to block out the fruit though not the underlying earthiness. The cool, pure and supple flavors possess a lilting mouth feel and brim with a fine minerality on the firm but not especially rustic finish. This offers excellent quality for its level and is worth considering though note that a moderate amount of patience will be required. (89-91)/2019+

Domaine Coffinet-Duvernay (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2010	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Les Voillenots"**	**red**	**86**

(Palm Bay Imports, Boca Raton, FL, www.palmbay.com).

2010 Chassagne-Montrachet "Les Voillenots": This opens with very fresh, cool and bright aromas of primarily red currant, earth and a hint of the *sauvage*. While there is good energy to the attractively well-detailed middle weight flavors, the moderately austere finish is linear and somewhat lean with a very mild hint of dryness. It is possible that this will flesh out but I doubt it as the underlying material does not appear to be present to facilitate the transformation. To be sure, this is not a bad wine but the balance could be better. 86/2016+

Domaine Bruno Colin (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2011	**Bourgogne**	**red**	**86**
2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**(86-88)**
2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Maltroie" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2011	**Marranges "La Fussière" 1er**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2011	**Santenay "La Gravière" 1er**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2011	**Santenay Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**(86-88)**

Bruno Colin described 2011 as a "very good vintage with correct maturities. We began picking on the 1st of September and brought in clean fruit that required almost no sorting. Sugars were also correct and the fruit was easy to vinify. As to the wines, what I like the most is how clear the underlying *terroir* is and I would compare the style to a les austere version of 2010." I am in agreement with Colin's take on his wines in that they are correct and in line with the general quality of the vintage. (Diageo Château and Estate Wines, www.diageowines.com, NY, NY, Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, www.kermitlynch.com, Berkeley, CA; 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, all UK.)

2011 Bourgogne: (from vines in Chassagne; bottled in November). A ripe, fresh and moderately rustic nose speaks of primarily dark berry fruit and earth aromas where the latter element can also be found on the delicious, vibrant and easy-to-like flavors as well as the punchy finish. This should drink well almost immediately. 86/2014+

2011 Santenay Vieilles Vignes: (from vines planted in 1963). Here the nose is earthier still if otherwise similar. There is good richness to the supple, round and delicious flavors that are shaped by ripe tannins on the vibrant finish that display only a trace of rusticity. This should benefit from a few years of cellar time but it wouldn't be a crime to drink it young. (86-88)/2016+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: (from 50+ year old vines). A peppery nose of humus, underbrush, dark currant and plenty of earth merges into equally earthy, rich and intense middle weight flavors that possess good volume and slightly firmer tannins before terminating in a mildly austere and rustic finish. (86-88)/2017+

2011 Marranges "La Fussière": There is enough reduction to block a proper evaluation of the nose though there is good freshness and vibrancy to the lightly mineral-inflected medium weight flavors that possess good detail on the delicious finish. I like the mouth feel as there is enough dry extract to buffer the moderately firm tannic spine. (87-89)/2017+

2011 Santenay "La Gravière": This is also sufficiently reduced as to be extremely difficult to read. By contrast there is good ripeness to the firm tannins that shape the delicious and lightly mineral-infused middle weight flavors that possess fine punch on the rustic and mildly austere finish that possess fine depth and length. (87-89)/2018+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Maltroie": In contrast to the prior two wines with their funky noses, this is really quite pretty with aromas of cassis, black cherry and pepper. There is good vibrancy to the supple, round and utterly delicious medium-bodied flavors that are supported by moderately firm tannins on the agreeably persistent finish that displays only a trace of rusticity. (88-91)/2018+

Domaine Marc Colin (Gamay/St. Aubin)

2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**87**
2011	**St. Aubin "Les Argillers"**	**red**	**86**
2011	**St. Aubin "Sous Roche Dumay" 1er**	**red**	**88**
2011	**St. Aubin "1er"**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Santenay "Les Champs Claude Vieilles Vignes"**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Santenay "La Comme" 1er**	**red**	**89**

Damian Colin exclaimed that "people are going to love 2011! It has everything burg geeks want in terms of *terroir* transparency but also a certain tenderness that will appeal to those new to Burgundy. If I was going to choose a vintage to help those who want to understand Burgundy better, I would choose 2011. As to the growing season, we began picking on the 31st of August and there was very little sorting required because the fruit was relatively clean. There was good ripeness as sugars averaged between 12 and 13% in terms of potential alcohol. The vinifications were easy in both colors and we bottled

the '11 reds between August 2012 and February 2013." The Colin reds are expressly fruity and made to enjoy young (for example, there are no punch downs) and in that context the quality of the domaine's 2011s are consistent with that goal. (Robert Chadderdon Selections, 212/332.4999 N.Y., 510/638.5200 S.F.; Richards Walford & Co., Ltd., www.r-w.co.uk, UK, Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, UK, A&B Vintners, UK, www.abvintners.co.uk, UK and Goedhuis & Co., www.goedhuis.com, UK).

2011 St. Aubin "Les Argillers": A pretty and very fresh nose of red berries leads to delicious, supple and forward light weight flavors that possess good vibrancy and detail on the ever-so-slightly warm finish. This could already be drunk with pleasure. 86/2015+

2011 St. Aubin "1er": (from Frionnes, Castets and Champlots). A similar nose is both slightly more elegant and more complex with delicious, round and lightly mineral-suffused flavors that possess a beguiling mouth feel, all wrapped in an attractively long finish that offers good complexity. There is also a trace of backend warmth but otherwise this is really very pretty. 88/2016+

2011 St. Aubin "Sous Roche Dumay": (from a small and little seen *climat* within Sur Gamay). An exceptionally fresh and bright nose that is very pinot in character with its cool mix of red berries that gives way to delineated and precise middle weight flavors that exude a fine minerality before terminating in a mildly tangy finish. I suspect that with a few years of bottle age the tang will dissipate as I suspect that it's more related to an elevated level of gas rather than under-ripe acidity. 88/2016+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: (from Encégnières - ~60 year old vines). As is typically the case this is much earthier and less refined, indeed this is borderline rustic with its *sauvage* nose of humus, underbrush and dark berry fruit aromas. There is good richness and volume to the round and supple medium-bodied flavors that offer good complexity if limited refinement on the moderately structured finale. 87/2016+

2011 Santenay "Les Champs Claude Vieilles Vignes": (from 110 year old vines). An intensely earthy but solidly complex nose of ripe and dense red pinot fruit displays fine volume on the utterly delicious middle weight flavors that are shaped by notably mature tannins on the well-balanced and persistent finish. Like the old vines Chassagne, this won't win any awards for elegance but then again, one doesn't buy examples of Santenay *villages* searching for refinement. 88/2017+

2011 Santenay "La Comme": This actually closely resembles the nose of the old vines Santenay though this is clearly more complex with good richness and solid concentration to the delicious middle weight flavors that display an attractive touch of minerality on the vibrant and well-detailed finish that delivers very good length. This is really quite good and is worth a look. 89/2017+

Domaine Philippe Colin (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Les Chênes"**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2011	**Santenay**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Santenay "Les Gravières" 1er**	**red**	**(87-90)**

Philippe Colin, who is the brother of Bruno (see above), calls 2011 a "vintage that gave us a chaotic growing season. You really had to be vigilant in the vineyards because the summer conditions were less than favorable. We began picking on the 1st of September and there really wasn't much in the way of sorting required, especially for the chardonnay. Yields were quite restricted in pinot but we were down only 10 to 15% on the chardonnay side. The style of the reds is for early to mid-term drinking because they have so much baby fat that buffers the structure, which isn't all that firm in the first place. I think our clients will enjoy them as they're not especially complicated yet offer very good quality." (Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, www.kermitlynch.com, Berkeley, CA and Diageo Château and Estate Wines, www.diageowines.com, NY, NY; Richards Walford, www.r-w.co.uk, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com and Berkmann Wine Cellars, www.berkmann.co.uk, all UK).

2011 Santenay: A notably ripe nose of liqueur of dark berries, pepper, earth and cassis hints leads to opulent, round and very suave middle weight flavors that possess good volume and solid mid-palate density before culminating in a moderately rustic finish that offers very good depth. This is really very good for what it is. 88/2015+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Les Chênes": A similar if even more rustic nose leads to attractively intense and well-delineated middle weight flavors that possess good volume and a lovely tension on the suave and overtly lush finish that offers solid if not truly exceptional persistence. This is not an elegant wine but offers fine character and in most markets will deliver good value. 88/2016+

2011 Santenay "Les Gravières": This is also markedly pepper-inflected with liqueur of black cherry aromas that are nuanced by hints of earth and spice. There is excellent richness to the generous, complex and mouth coating flavors that possess fine length with well-integrated tannins. This should be a quality effort. (87-90)/2017+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot": (from Les Brussonnes). This is fruitier but not banal with notes of black raspberry, cassis, plus, pepper and earth. There is also good richness but with plenty of vibrancy that adds appeal to the moderately rustic palate impression of medium-bodied flavors that terminate in a balanced and persistent finish. This too should be quite good in time. (88-91)/2018+

Domaine de Courcel (Pommard)

2011	➽ Bourgogne	red	(86-89)
2011	Pommard "Les Croix Noires" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	➽ Pommard "Les Fremiers" 1er	red	(90-93)
2011	➽ Pommard "Grand Clos des Epenots" 1er	red	(90-93)
2011	➽ Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	(91-93)
2011	Pommard "Vaumuriens"	red	(88-91)
2010	➽ Pommard "Les Croix Noires" 1er	red	92
2010	➽ Pommard "Les Fremiers" 1er	red	93
2010	➽ Pommard "Grand Clos des Epenots" 1er	red	93
2010	➽ Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	94
2010	➽ Pommard "Vaumuriens"	red	90

Régisseur Yves Confuron describes 2011 as a "vintage where waiting to pick did give us outstanding phenolic maturity levels but didn't spike the sugars. We picked very late, relatively speaking of course, as we didn't start until the 14th of September. The fruit was essentially clean though there is always at least some sorting to do no matter how superb the harvest is. We obtained potential alcohols in the 12 to 13.5% range and did a roughly 35 day cuvaison. We of course used 100% whole cluster as we always do. As to the wines, they are quite suave yet very well balanced. They are highly aromatic and in this sense they remind me quite a bit of the 85s and should be accessible young yet age well too. I like this vintage a lot." I agree with Confuron's description of the de Courcel 2011s as they are definitely more accessible than usual though they will certainly age well. As the scores and commentaries confirm, the quality obtained here definitely out performs not only the general quality of the vintage but also the general quality of 2011 in the Côte de Beaune. Note further that the reviews of the now in-bottle '10s (bottled without fining or filtration) confirm what I found from barrel last year as they are excellent. The 2010s were bottled in September 2012 after two years in barrel. (Diageo Château and Estate Wines, www.diageowines.com, NY, NY; O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk, H & H Bancroft Wines, www.bancroftwines.com and Howard Ripley, www.howardripley.com, all UK).

2011 Bourgogne: A markedly ripe nose of somber dark berry fruit and earth aromas possesses good energy on the detailed yet impressively rich flavors that possess firm tannins on the long, deep and complex finish. This is a fine example of the *appellation* but note that unlike many of them, this will require bottle age to be at its best. (86-89)/2017+

2011 Pommard "Vaumuriens": This is also quite ripe yet fresher with a notably floral-infused nose of earth, violet, plum and dark berries. There is plenty of concentration and punch to the middle weight mineral-driven flavors that possess a suave mouth feel before terminating in a delicious, serious and balanced finish. Fine quality here. (88-91)/2019+

2011 Pommard "Les Croix Noires": Here the nose offers significantly better aromatic complexity and there is an appealing freshness to the spicy and earthy plum and dark currant scents. There is excellent concentration to the textured, robust and firmly structured medium-bodied flavors that possess mild rusticity on the long, balanced and very suave finish. (89-92)/2021+

2011 Pommard "Les Fremiers": This is also agreeably fresh but even more refined with intense floral notes on the red pinot, plum and moderately earthy aromas. There is a suave and lush mouth feel to the medium weight flavors that possess fine mid-palate concentration as well as plenty of underlying tension to the powerful but balanced and highly persistent finish. Despite the solid size, weight and punch, this is a Pommard of relative finesse. (90-93)/2023+

2011 Pommard "Grand Clos des Epenots": (from an enormous 4.8 ha parcel with vines ranging from 50 to 65 years of age). This is quite ripe yet retains a lovely freshness to the cassis, black cherry, lavender and warm earth scents. There is excellent power and volume to the concentrated, intense and mouth coating big-bodied flavors that culminate in an impressively long and balanced finish. This is a bigger wine than the Fremiers but it's no more complex and as is usually the case, less refined. A qualitative choice but the respective characteristics are distinctly different. (90-93)/2023+

2011 Pommard "Les Rugiens": (from a 1.07 ha parcel in Rugiens-Hauts). There is really lovely complexity to the cool, restrained and elegant aromas of ripe red and blue pinot fruit and wet stone nuances that enjoy added refinement from the presence of dried floral elements. There is a suave, round and sophisticated mouth feel to the intensely mineral-driven flavors that are shaped by firm and dense yet fine-grained tannins, all wrapped in a mocha-inflected finish. This is an unusually ripe 2011. (91-93)/2023+

2010 Pommard "Vaumuriens": A soft touch of wood can be discerned on the extremely fresh, cool and attractively layered nose of plum, cassis, violets and earth. The very rich and velvet-textured flavors possess a round and suave mouth feel, all wrapped in an extract rich, palate coating and powerful finish that displays impressive persistence. This is built to age and while not a wine of refinement, I like the honest and direct character. An outstanding *villages*. 90/2018+

2010 Pommard "Les Croix Noires": This possesses really lovely aromatic complexity with a hint of the *sauvage* to the plum, dark berry fruit and pungent earth scents. There is good volume and richness to the opulent and suave medium-bodied flavors that display relatively fine detail on the firm and ever-so-mildly rustic finish. This is one of the rare 2010s that could actually be approached young if it was decanted for an hour or so first. 92/2022+

2010 Pommard "Les Fremiers": A very ripe, fresh and notably floral nose also speaks of cassis, earth and plum aromas that are trimmed in a background application of wood. There is excellent richness to the full-bodied and impressively concentrated flavors that possess a supple mouth feel on the palate coating, intense and long finish. This well-balanced effort is supported by firm but fine tannins that are clearly mature. In a word, gorgeous. 93/2022+

2010 Pommard "Grand Clos des Epenots": (from an enormous 4.8 ha parcel with vines ranging from 50 to 65 years of age). A beautifully layered nose of purple fruit, violets and soil tones leads to exceptionally rich, velvety and sappy medium weight plus flavors that brim with dry extract that does a fine job of buffering the very firm but not hard tannic spine on the dusty and mocha-infused finish. This is a highly complex and robust but reasonably refined and well-balanced Epenots that is built for the long haul. 93/2025+

2010 Pommard "Les Rugiens": (from a 1.07 ha parcel in Rugiens-Hauts). A pure and wonderfully fresh nose features essence of red pinot fruit, stone and soil scents that complement well the intensely mineral-driven, focused and powerful flavors that possess a lovely sense of underlying tension on the stunningly long, balanced and palate coating finish. This is a serious, compact and built to age Rugiens that is unlikely to drink well before its 10th birthday. Patience required but this beauty should be worth the wait. A classic Rugiens that combines power and grace. 94/2025+

Domaine des Croix (Beaune)

2011	**Aloxe-Corton "Les Boutières"**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2011	**Beaune**	**red**	**(86-88)**
2011	**Beaune "Bressandes" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2011	**Beaune "Cent Vignes" 1er**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2011	**Beaune "Grèves" 1er**	**red**	**(87-90)**
2011	**Beaune "Pertuisots" 1er**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2011	**Bourgogne**	**red**	**(85-88)**
2011	**Corton-Grèves Grand Cru**	**red**	**(90-93)**
2011	**Corton-La Vigne au Saint Grand Cru**	**red**	**(89-92)**

As has been explained in these pages before, Domaine du Croix is the new incarnation of the old Domaine Duchet, which some old hands among you may remember as producing some lovely wines in the '60s and '70s. The Domaine and its 5 ha of vines were eventually put up for sale and a small group of investors from the US led by Roger Forbes purchased it early in 2005. They installed David Croix as *régisseur* and M. Croix splits his time between Domaine du Croix and Maison Camille Giroud (see the latter for vintage details). (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, Chicago, IL, AOC Imports, email holly@aocimports.com, CA, Cordon Selections, www.cordonselections.com, Seattle, WA, Wines Unlimited, www.winesunlimited.com, New Orleans, LA, Terra Nova Wines, www.terranovawines.com, Denver, CO, Small Potatoes Wine,

www.smallpotatoeswine.com, Boise ID, C'est Vin, LLC, 703/243-3559, Arlington, VA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, UK; Racines, yasukogoda@racines.co.jp, Japan).

2011 Bourgogne: (from declassified *villages* and 1ers juice). A very pretty nose of primarily red pinot fruit and earth aromas leads to detailed and supple light weight flavors that terminate in a linear and moderately austere finish. This is a relatively serious Bourgogne though one that should come around quickly. (85-88)/2015+

2011 Beaune: A high-toned and very fresh nose features essence of red pinot fruit, earth and green tea aromas. There is fine detail and plenty of energy to the supple yet precise light to barely middle weight flavors that also culminate in a linear and moderately austere finish. This will be not be for everyone. (86-88)/2016+

2011 Aloxe-Corton "Les Boutières": This is markedly more deeply pitched with earth, tar, red currant and dark berry scents preceding supple middle weight flavors that possess firm, even compact tannins on the mildly austere and agreeably persistent finish. This is not especially complex at present though if it adds depth in bottle it should merit the upper end of my predicted range. (86-89)/2017+

2011 Beaune "Cent Vignes": A cool and relatively restrained nose of red cherry, raspberry, earth and discreet floral nuances leads to refined medium weight flavors that offer good length if somewhat limited depth. Still, this is very pretty and very Beaune as the mid-palate is attractively generous. (87-89)/2017+

2011 Beaune "Grèves": This is aromatically similar to the Cent Vignes but a bit more complex with precise, firm and tension-filled flavors that display a distinctly austere and linear finish. This very serious and somber effort will need to add flesh in bottle to successfully age but the underlying material appears to be present for this to occur. (87-90)/2018+

2011 Beaune "Pertuisots": Reduction blocks a proper evaluation of the nose but the palate impression is well-detailed and impressively intense though the finish is tight, compact and linear. There is good balance but like several wines in the range, this will need to add flesh with time in bottle. (87-89)/2019+

2011 Beaune "Bressandes": A highly perfumed if distinctly cool nose of extract of both red and blue pinot fruit also displays notes of plum and violet. There is a seductively textured character to the medium-bodied flavors that possess a lovely sense of refinement plus a touch of minerality on the balanced, linear and slightly austere finish. This seems to possess a bit more phenolic maturity than the prior wines and the supporting tannins, while firm, are less compact. (89-91)/2019+

2011 Corton-La Vigne au Saint: A spicy, cool and admirably pure nose of red currant, wild cherry and earth aromas also display touches of underbrush and floral hints. There is a distinctly *sauvage* element to the supple and round yet tautly muscular middle weight flavors that exude a fine minerality on the long, balanced and ripe finale. This is relatively refined in the context of what one typically finds in Corton. (89-92)/2021+

2011 Corton-Grèves: Moderate reduction knocks down the nose and renders it unreadable. There is a similar mouth feel as the medium-bodied and powerful flavors possess an attractive mouth feel as well as lovely minerality, all wrapped in a deeper, richer, longer and more complex finish though the tannins are less refined. While there is not a huge difference in quality between these two examples of Corton, I give the nose to the Grèves due to its superior underlying material. (90-93)/2023+

Domaine Cyrot-Buthiau (Pommard)

2011	**Bourgogne**	**red**	**86**
2011	**Maranges "Les Clos Roussots" 1er**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Pommard**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Pommard "Les Arvelets" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2011	**Pommard "Charmots" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2011	**Pommard "La Chanière"**	**red**	**87**
2011	**➽ Pommard "Cuvée Le 19 Vingt"**	**red**	**89**
2011	**Santenay "Clos Rousseau" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2011	**Volnay**	**red**	**88**
2006	**Pommard "Charmots" 1er**	**red**	**89**

Olivier Cyrot, who is the 5th generation to run this 6.5 ha domaine, calls 2011 a "vintage of pleasure where the wines are easy to enjoy and appreciate. I waited very late to pick and didn't begin until the 10th of September but even so the fruit was

relatively clean and only superficial sorting was required. Sugars were perfectly good though not exceptional at between 11.7 and 12.2%. The phenolic maturity of the tannins was excellent and this contributes to the drinkability of the wines as they contribute to the suave and seductive mouth feels." Cyrot noted that the 2011s were bottled in December 2012. My impression was that the domaine performed in-line with but did not exceed the general quality of the 2011 vintage in the Côte de Beaune. (Commonwealth Wine & Spirits Inc, www.commonwealthwine.com, Boston, MA; Livingstone Wine and Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com, both UK).

2011 Bourgogne: (this was raised mostly in stainless with a small proportion in older wood). A fresh and very pretty red berry fruit and earth suffused nose leads to rich and delicious flavors that are shaped by relatively fine-grained tannins, all wrapped in an easy-to-like finish of slightly better than average depth and length. This should drink well early. 86/2014+

2011 Maranges "Les Clos Roussots": A discreet application of wood sets off fresh, earthy and attractively layered dark berry fruit aromas that introduce rich, round and relatively suave middle weight flavors that possess good complexity and verve on the delicious, balanced and ripe finish. Lovely and fashioned in an understated style. 88/2016+

2011 Santenay "Clos Rousseau": (from vines planted in 1938). This is slightly fresher and a bit more elegance as well with an intriguing mixture of red and dark pinot fruit that is liberally laced with plenty of pungent earth and humus nuances. There is a textured and dusty mouth feel to the medium-bodied flavors that possess excellent underling tension and detail on the delicious and well-balanced finish. This is worth a look. 89/2017+

2011 Volnay: (from 5 different parcels). This offers a small step up in aromatic refinement with an attractively layered nose of plum, violet, red currant and soft earth hints that are also reflected by the cool and pure middle weight flavors. There is lovely definition and punch to the ever-so-slightly rustic but well-balanced finish but overall, this is a lovely *villages*. 88/2016+

2011 Pommard: (from parcels located all over the village). A more deeply pitched nose trades elegance for complexity with an earthy and discreetly spicy nose of red and dark berries, game and tea nuances. There is good volume to the suave and very round medium-bodied flavors that possess fine punch and balance on the lingering finish. This is not quite as complex as the Volnay but there is a bit more persistence. 88/2017+

2011 Pommard "La Chanière": An intensely floral, cool and restrained nose features high-toned notes of red currant and cherry along with soft soil hints. There is a very round and almost soft feel to the middle weight flavors that firm up somewhat on the finish but overall, this seems a bit simple and fruit-driven relative to the prior two *villages* wines. 87/2017+

2011 Pommard "Les Arvelets": Here the nose is completely different as it's markedly more deeply pitched with a broad range of aromas that include red currant, blue berry, plum, earth and *sauvage* hints. There is good vibrancy and purity to the round and supple middle weight flavors that tighten up on the lightly mineral-inflected finish that offers good depth and length if somewhat limited refinement. I like the style and delivery and it's possible more complexity will develop in bottle. 89/2018+

2011 Pommard "Charmots": A perfumed and rather floral nose of high-toned red berry fruit that evidence hints of cranberry and red currant. There is good energy and plenty of volume to the complex and lush medium-bodied flavors that possess fine balance and excellent length. This is only moderately complex at present but there is a bit more underlying material that suggests that more will develop with bottle age. 90/2018+

2011 Pommard "Cuvée Le 19 Vingt": (the name of this *cuvée* is a play on words to indicate that the vines were planted in 1920; matured in 100% new wood). There is enough wood to notice but not so much that it dominates the black cherry, warm earth, underbrush and *sauvage* aromas. There is excellent richness and verve to the powerful, concentrated and mouth coating finish that possesses fine depth and length. This is an impressive *villages* and while it's a bit oaky today there appears to be more than enough underlying material to integrate it over time. Worth considering. 89/2019+

2006 Pommard "Charmots": A fresh but maturing nose of strawberry, earth, dried flowers and soft earth aromas leads to attractively well-detailed and vibrant middle weight flavors that possess a relatively refined mouth feel before terminating in a delicious and balanced finish. This displays just enough remaining structure to suggest another year or two of cellar time should see this at its best. 89/2014+

Domaine Vincent Dancer (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2011	**Bourgogne**	**red**	**(85-87)**
2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet "La Grande Borne" 1er**	**red**	**(87-90)**
2011	**Pommard "Pézerolles" 1er**	**red**	**(89-92)**

Vincent Dancer describes 2011 as "one where the growing season closely resembled that of 2007 except that the flowering was less consistent and this largely explains why the yields were generally lower. This had a big plus though in that there were a relatively high percentage of shot berries which means that the 2011s are notably more concentrated than the 2007s. I began the harvest on the 28th of August and brought in relatively clean fruit that averaged around 12% for the pinot. As has been my policy since 2007, I now routinely refuse to chaptalize anything in either red or white. What's the point of putting a vintage date on the wine if you do everything to make them all resemble one another through manipulation? As to the wines, I like the reds as they clean, supple and a pleasure to drink." Dancer told me that the Pommard "La Perrière" was sold in bulk. My impression of the Dancer 2011s is that they are representative of the quality of the vintage. (Richards Walford, Co., Ltd., www.r-w.co.uk and A&B Vintners, UK).

2011 Bourgogne: A ripe and very fresh nose of dark berries, cassis and warm earth hints leads to vibrant, textured and attractively supple middle weight flavors that are supported by mildly rustic tannins and fine length for the *appellation*. This should drink well after a year or two in bottle. (85-87)/2015+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "La Grande Borne": (from vines planted in 1984). A slightly more elegant nose of pepper, plum and a pretty mélange of red berries gives way to earthy and solidly rich medium-bodied flavors that terminate in a clean, cool and restrained finish There are touches of austerity and rusticity along with fine depth and length. This is not particularly refined but I like the style and the character. (87-90)/2017+

2011 Pommard "Pézerolles": (this was fashioned with 50% whole clusters in 2011). A relatively deeply pitched nose speaks of earth, dark berries, floral and spice elements plus a hint of wet stone that is also reflected by the detailed, precise and energetic flavors that possess excellent depth and length on the well-balanced finish. This is sufficiently structured that it will probably require the better part of a decade of cellar time to realize its full potential. Worth considering. (89-92)/2019+

Domaine Henri Darnat (Meursault)

2010	**Bourgogne – La Jumalie**	**red**	**84**
2010	**Pommard**	**red**	**84**

(Esprit du Vin, Port Washington, NY).

2010 Bourgogne – La Jumalie: A pretty and solidly complex nose of dark berries, plus and earth leads to supple, round and reasonably dense middle weight flavors that possess just a hint of bitterness on the mildly austere finish. This might round out but the supporting tannins appear ever-so-slightly under-ripe. 84/now

2010 Pommard: Initially this opened with a bit of reductive funk but a few minutes in a glass it dissipated it to reveal an earthy and slightly gamey amalgam of dark berries and a hint of green tea. The very supple and round light-weight flavors possess a mildly tangy and slightly under-ripe character to them on the mildly warm and ever-so-slightly bitter finish. This isn't what is should be. 84/now

Maison Joseph Drouhin (Beaune)

2011	**Beaune "Clos des Mouches" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2011	**Beaune "Grèves" 1er**	**red**	**(87-90)**
2011	**Bonnes Mares Grand Cru**	**red**	**94**
2011	**Bourgogne - Laforêt**	**red**	**85**
2011	**➽ Chambolle-Musigny "1er"**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2011	**➽ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses" 1er**	**red**	**92**
2011	**Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru Grand Cru**	**red**	**93**
2011	**Chorey-lès-Beaune**	**red**	**87**
2011	**Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru**	**red**	**93**
2011	**Côte de Beaune**	**red**	**88**
2011	**➽ Gevrey-Chambertin**	**red**	**89**
2011	**Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaut St. Jacques" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2011	**Griotte-Chambertin Grand Cru**	**red**	**(92-94)**
2011	**Musigny Grand Cru**	**red**	**95**

2011	**Nuits St. Georges "Les Procès" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2011	**➽ Vosne-Romanée "Les Petits-Monts" 1er**	**red**	**92**

I tasted this visit with Véronique Drouhin who noted that 2011 was "one of those vintages where the raising of the wine made a huge difference and what's interesting about that is that it's true for both the reds and the whites. We began picking on the 30th of August and while there wasn't much sorting necessary for rot, there was some required to eliminate under-ripe berries. We used a bit lower percentage of whole clusters than we typically do and did a slightly longer post-fermentation maceration to stabilize the color and tannin but otherwise, it was largely the same vinification that we always do. Overall, we are extremely happy with the quality as it's really very homogenous up and down the hierarchy. As to the wines, they're extremely refreshing as they have relatively low alcohol levels and with the bright acidities, they're exceptionally easy to appreciate plus I think that they should age well too." While the wines were in varying stages, I found the Drouhin 2011s to be generally more successful in the Côte de Nuits than the Côte de Beaune, particularly in Chambolle and Gevrey. (Dreyfus, Ashby & Co., www.dreyfusashby.com, NY, NY; Pol Roger Ltd., www.polroger.co.uk, UK).

2011 Bourgogne - Laforêt: (from Rully vines and bottled under screw cap). A very pinot nose cut with soft earth notes leads to energetic and detailed flavors that possess plenty of character and terminate in a balanced finish that offers acceptable depth and length. This slightly rustic example should drink well almost immediately. 85/2014+

2011 Chorey-lès-Beaune: An exceptionally fresh and cool nose of earth-inflected dark berry and plum aromas gives way to vibrant and well-detailed medium-bodied flavors that possess an attractive texture on the moderately rustic, complex and balanced finish. This should also drink well young but be capable of rewarding a few years of cellar time if desired. 87/2016+

2011 Côte de Beaune: (Drouhin indicated that this has a high percentage of declassified Beaune 1ers in it). There is enough reduction to render the nose difficult to accurately assess though the underlying fruit does seem ripe. There is a lovely and quite seductive texture to the lightly soil and mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that culminate in a clean and persistent finish where a discreet touch of wood surfaces. This is really very pretty and there is enough material present that integrating the oak should be a non-issue. 88/2017+

2011 Beaune "Clos des Mouches": A complex and relatively elegant nose offers up notes of red currant, raspberry, black cherry and a hint of anise. There is a supple and markedly silky texture to the mid-palate thanks to the notably fine-grained tannins, all wrapped in a linear and moderately austere finish. While certainly very pretty, this doesn't seem to be at its usual level of excellence. (88-91)/2018+

2011 Beaune "Grèves": Here the nose is a bit more aromatically complex than the Clos des Mouches because while the fruit profile is similar there is more earth, humus and underbrush influences. There is good vibrancy, detail and solid power to the medium-bodied flavors that are shaped by slightly firmer if less refined tannins on the overtly austere finish. While this is a perfectly good effort, like the Clos des Mouches I don't believe it's quite at its usual level. (87-90)/2019+

2011 Nuits St. Georges "Les Procès": A deft application of wood sets off a moderately soil-inflected nose along with notes of spice, plum and pretty wild red berry scents. There is good punch and detail to the velvet-textured middle weight flavors that terminate in a firm and ever-so-mildly rustic finish that delivers fine depth and excellent persistence. (89-91)/2018+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin: (Drouhin indicated that this contained about 30% 1ers). Here the nose mixes notes of upper and lower register aromas with cool red currant scents contrasting against plum, earth and humus nuances. There is a relatively sophisticated mouth feel to the lightly mineral-infused medium weight flavors that possess excellent punch on the balanced, complex and impressively persistent finish. This offers excellent quality for its level. 89/2017+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaut St. Jacques": A subtly spicy nose of stone, very fresh and cool wild red berries, underbrush and a hint of the *sauvage* serve as a strikingly complex introduction to the delicious, intense and solidly structured medium-bodied flavors that exude a fine minerality on the tautly muscular and austere finish. (89-91)/2019+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "1er": An elegant, ripe and restrained nose of pure and airy black cherry, plum and violet aromas merges seamlessly into vibrant, delicious and delicate middle weight flavors that also exude a fine minerality before culminating in a balanced, persistent and beautifully complex finish. This is a lovely combination of punch and finesse that has the underlying structure to amply reward up to a decade of cellaring. (90-92)/2019+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses": There is even better aromatic complexity with the red and black pinot fruit adding breadth in the form of stone and spice nuances, both of which are also present on the suave, sophisticated and strikingly refined flavors. There is good mid-palate concentration and excellent length to the moderately austere and somewhat linear finish. This will require all of a decade to reveal its full potential. 92/2021+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Les Petits Monts": (this vineyard is worked by horse and plow because there is no path for a tractor). This is even spicier than the Amoureuses with really lovely black cherry and floral scents that give way to rich, intense and extract-rich medium weight flavors that possess fine delineation and an abundance of minerality. There is a distinct sense of restraint to the moderately austere, highly complex and lingering finish. Good stuff and this too will require all of a decade in the cellar to strut all its stuff. 92/2021+

2011 Clos de Vougeot: This is really quite floral in character with unusually elegant red berry fruit, especially red currant scents that display plenty of soil tones. There is fine volume and excellent mid-palate density to the medium-bodied flavors that are supported by markedly firm but not aggressive tannins on the moderately austere and impressively persistent finish. This is very much a classic Clos de Vougeot and patience will absolutely be required as I don't see this being particularly approachable young. 93/2023+

2011 Bonnes Mares: This initially opens with noticeable reduction though again, the underlying fruit appears ripe. There is outstanding volume to the powerful and concentrated big-bodied flavors that possess a really lovely mouth feel, indeed the term silky would be apt. The finish however is decidedly structured as there is a firm tannic spine shaping the hugely long finish, in fact I would describe this as 'old school' Bonnes Mares as it's very serious if not rustic. 94/2023+

2011 Musigny: A gorgeously complex and intensely spicy nose of plum, cassis, black cherry and dried rose petal complements to perfection the silky, supple and round middle weight plus flavors that display plenty of minerality. The supporting tannins are firm but markedly ripe and already well-integrated into the explosively long, austere and impeccably well-balanced finish. This is seriously impressive and easily the best wine in the range though the Bonnes Mares is terrific as well. 95/2023+

2011 Griotte-Chambertin: This is very reduced though there is good freshness and verve to the notably rich and generous medium-bodied flavors that display enough minerality to add lift to the taut and muscular finish that packs plenty of punch but not rusticity. This is markedly austere and exceptionally serious and I would also describe this as very old school. I would advise buying this only with the intention of cellaring it for the long-term. (92-94)/2023+

2011 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: Much like the Musigny, this is really beautifully spicy but here there are intense earth and *sauvage* undertones to the mostly wild red berry fruit scents. There is excellent volume and plenty of minerality to the focused, energetic and overtly powerful large-scaled flavors that culminate in an austere finish that displays noticeable gas which accentuates the firmness of the tannins. Even so, this is clearly a long-distance runner and like the Griotte, I would strongly advise buying this only with the intent to cellar it for at least a decade. 93/2023+

Domaine Dublère (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2011	**Beaune "Blanches Fleur" 1er**	**red**	**(88-90)**
2011	**➽ Morey St. Denis "Blanchards" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2011	**Nuits St. Georges "Les Bousselots" 1er**	**red**	**(89-92)**
2011	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "Planchots du Nord"**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2011	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "Talmettes" 1er**	**red**	**(87-90)**
2011	**Volnay "Pitures" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2011	**Volnay "Taillepieds" 1er**	**red**	**(89-92)**

Blair Pethel, who doesn't sugar coat things, told me that "2011 was quite frankly a lot of work. It started exceptionally early and for the first time since I began my operation we had fruit in the *cuverie* by August even if it was the 31st. While the early part of the season was fine, the summer was lousy and as I say, it was a lot of work because you had to be in your vineyards constantly. Once we began picking there was some sorting required but not much and it was more for under-ripe berries than for those that were rot-tinged. I chaptalized a few tenths of a degree but it was for the purpose of prolonging the fermentations rather than trying to add alcoholic strength. As to the style of the wines, I would compare them to a hypothetical blend of 2007 and 2010 which is to say the 2011s combine the tenderness and accessibility of the former with the *terroir* transparency, freshness and vibrancy of the latter." For those readers who may not be familiar with the Dublère wines, stylistically the wines are ultra-pure with very little makeup; indeed in many cases none is noticeable though in 2011 I found the wood to be a bit more apparent than it typically is. In my view 2011 is another solid performance for Pethel and while his wines are not head and shoulders above the baseline quality of the vintage, they are definitely above average. (A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France, Schneider's of Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.; Chelsea Ventures, LLC, www.chelseaventures.us, Chicago, IL, Hand Picked Selections, info@hpswine.com, Warrenton, VA, Pas Mal Selections, NY, NY; Decorum Vintners, www.decvin.com and Howard Ripley, www.howardripley.com, UK).

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Planchots du Nord": A perfumed and exceptionally pretty nose speaks of freshly crushed red currant and soft earth hints, the latter of which is also reflected by the delicious, round and notably supple flavors that terminate in a balanced finish. There is not great complexity but I do like the persistence and refreshing character. (86-89)/2015+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Talmettes": (from a very rarely seen vineyard that abuts Vergelesses). An almost invisible touch of wood does not interfere with the slightly earthier and equally fresh nose of wild red berries and plum aromas. There is excellent vibrancy and detail on the naturally sweet and moderately earthy middle weight flavors that are shaped by relatively fine-grained tannins on the balanced and lingering finish. A Savigny of finesse. (87-90)/2016+

2011 Beaune "Blanches Fleur": (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 too there is almost invisible wood influence floating atop the pure red pinot fruit that enjoy added breadth in the form of floral and spice hints. There is really lovely richness to the generous and round flavors that exhibit less volume than those of the Talmettes but compensate by their seductive texture, all wrapped in a balanced, persistent and delicious finish. This should drink well almost immediately but reward a few years of cellar time. (88-90)/2016+

2011 Volnay "Pitures": Here the wood treatment is more apparent but it is by no means intrusive and serves more as a backdrop for the fresh, cool and admirably pure red currant, plum and violet scents. There is fine punch and better volume to the restrained medium-bodied flavors that exude a fine minerality on the balanced and solidly persistent finish. This well-balanced effort is really very stylish. (89-91)/2017+

2011 Volnay "Taillepieds": Visible but not bothersome wood frames a more elegant nose of ripe, cool and exceptionally fresh red cherry, raspberry, stone and spice suffused aromas that introduce energetic and beautifully well-delineated medium weight flavors that culminate in a restrained, balanced and impressively long finish. This classy effort is also very stylish and should reward 6 to 8 years of cellar time. (89-92)/2018+

2011 Morey St. Denis "Blanchards": As one would reasonably expect the aromatic profile is completely different from that of the Volnay wines with its hints of underbrush and the sauvage along with the wild red currant and berry scents. The beautifully well-delineated flavors are fresh, pure and energetic before terminating in a balanced, intense and strikingly persistent finish. This is really lovely and fashioned in a markedly understated style. Well worth considering. (90-92)/2019+

2011 Nuits St. Georges "Les Bousselots": A deft touch of wood combines with a pretty mix of red and blue pinot fruit, plum, cassis and floral hints that lead to earthy, detailed and vibrant medium weight flavors that are supported by notably fine-grained tannins. The long, balanced and mouth coating finish is utterly delicious and like several wines in the range, this is also really very stylish. (89-92)/2018+

Domaine Dubreuil-Fontaine (Pernand-Vergelesses)

2011	Aloxe-Corton "Les Vercots" 1er	red	90
2011	Beaune "Montrevenots" 1er	red	90
2011	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	92
2011	Corton-Perrières Grand Cru	red	91
2011	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	red	92
2011	Pernand-Vergelesses "Clos Berthet" 1er	red	87
2011	➽ Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses" 1er	red	91
2011	➽ Pommard	red	89
2011	➽ Pommard "Epenots" 1er	red	91
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Vergelesses" 1er	red	89
2011	➽ Volnay	red	89

Christine Dubreuil succinctly told me that 2011 "gave us correct raw materials that were reasonably clean even though some sorting was necessary. We also had good but not exceptional phenolic maturity that was accompanied by solid but again not exceptional acidity levels. We began picking on the 31st of August and did our normal vinification. Yields were less than normal though not as low as was the case in 2010. As to the wines, they are very Burgundian in style and while they don't have the power or the size and the weight of either 2009 or 2010, they are lovely just the same." This domaine has definitely upped its game in the last few vintages and 2011 is yet another corroboration of that improvement as the quality level is incontrovertibly above average relative to the general level achieved in 2011. Dubreuil indicated that the 2011 reds were

bottled in December, 2012. (A.P.S., www.apswine.com, Oakland, CA, DB Wine Selection, www.dbwineselection.com, Framingham, MA and Voix de la Terre, www.vdltwine.com, NY, NY; Direct Wine, www.directwine.co.uk, UK).

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses "Clos Berthet": A fresh, ripe and attractively layered nose of dark berries, violets and soft earth aromas leads to nicely rich and punchy middle weight flavors that flash a touch of minerality on the solidly complex finish. This is delicious if not especially refined and should drink well young. 87/2015+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Vergelesses": This is markedly more elegant with complex aromas of dark berries, earth and a hint of underbrush. There is good volume and solid phenolic maturity to the structural elements on the generous medium-bodied flavors that terminate in a persistent, long and balanced finish. This should also drink well young. 89/2017+

2011 Volnay: This is more elegant still with a beautifully layered nose of dark berries, violets and spice hints that introduce mildly earthy yet refined middle weight flavors that possess a velvety mouth feel, all wrapped in a suave and mouth coating finish. This is really quite good though there is a touch of wood that surfaces on the backend. 89/2016+

2011 Pommard: This is less aromatically refined but a bit more complex with red currant, earth, underbrush and a hint of the *sauvage* that is also picked up by the rich, round and relatively suave medium weight flavors that offer fine depth on the balanced, persistent and refreshing finish. This is a fine *villages* and will need a few years of bottle age before it could be drunk with pleasure and should reward 6 to 8 years of cellar time if desired. 89/2017+

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses": This is perhaps the most elegant wine in the range with its cool, ripe and ultra-pure and broad nose of plum, floral and stone hints and wild red berries. The supporting tannins are dense but quite fine and there is plenty of minerality to the medium-bodied flavors that culminate in an impeccably well-balanced, intense and moderately austere finish that exhibits excellent length. Lovely stuff that should age well. 91/2018+

2011 Aloxe-Corton "Les Vercots": A complex if markedly less refined nose of *sauvage*, pungent earth and wild red berry fruit aromas complements the robust and muscular middle weight flavors that possess a suave, even velvety mouth feel, all wrapped in a rustic but impressively long and deep finish that is perhaps a bit less austere than is typical. This won't win any awards for elegance but then again, refinement isn't why one buys Les Vercots. 90/2018+

2011 Beaune "Montrevenots": A pretty, fresh and agreeably complex nose features a mix of various dark berry scents that display top notes of spice and floral hints. There is good volume to the moderately austere and serious middle weight flavors that possess a cool and firm mouth feel before terminating in a compact, rustic and lingering finish. This is distinctly old school and while it won't wow you with charm, there is plenty of character though note that patience will be required. 90/2019+

2011 Pommard "Epenots": A brooding nose of cool but ripe dark berries, underbrush and plenty of earth influence gives way to supple, round and utterly delicious medium-bodied flavors that are shaped by firm yet relatively fine tannins. There is a suave mouth feel to the generous mid-palate though the long and balanced finish tightens up considerably. This should be approachable after 5 to 6 years of bottle age but will require all of a decade to realize its full potential. Good stuff. 91/2021+

2011 Corton-Perrières: A fresh, cool and very serious, even brooding nose of intensely *sauvage* combination of wild red berries, earth, wet stone and floral notes. There is good detail and energy to the round, supple and mineral-inflected flavors that culminate in a moderately austere, balanced and highly persistent finish. This doesn't have quite the depth of material of the other two Corton *grands crus* but this should be quite good all the same. 91/2023+

2011 Corton-Bressandes: (from vines planted in 1953). While the composition of the nose is similar this is both more elegant and more expressive at present. There is fine richness and excellent intensity to the mineral-driven middle weight flavors that display plenty of Corton muscle yet in the typical manner of a fine Bressandes there is no lack of refinement. This beauty should amply reward longer-term cellaring. 92/2023+

2011 Corton-Clos du Roi: This is markedly different with a touch of wood framing the violet, plum, dark berry, exotic tea, spice and *animale* suffused aromas. There is outstanding size, weight, concentration and punch to the soil-inflected flavors that display plenty of muscular on the linear, austere and impressively persistent finish. This is less refined than the Bressandes but even more complex. A qualitative choice. 92/2023+

Domaine Arnaud Ente (Meursault)

2011	**Bourgogne-Grand Ordinaire**	**red**	**(84-86)**
2011	**Volnay "Santenots" 1er**	**red**	**(86-89)**

Arnaud Ente succinctly describes 2011 as a "relatively homogenous vintage that produced classic burgundies that combine both flesh and tension that are stylistically a bit like 2008. We picked between the 25th and 31st of August and brought in extremely low yields, in fact they were as low as what we obtained in 2010. The chardonnay was very clean but there was a lot of sorting required for the pinot. As to the wines the reds are perfectly good but the whites are clearly superior." (Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, www.kermitlynch.com, Berkeley, CA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, UK).

2011 Bourgogne-Grand Ordinaire: (from 100% Gamay vines planted in 1938 and located in Meursault; this was vinified by 100% carbonic maceration with nothing added during the vinification or during the *élevage* including no SO_2 except at the bottling). Ripe red currant, cherry and raspberry aromas display background hints of earth and pepper before merging into round yet relatively precise flavors that display some rusticity on the acceptably long finish. This is perfectly good for what it is but perhaps not quite at its usual level. (84-86)/2015+

2011 Volnay "Santenots": As is always the case this is notably more elegant with a pure and complex nose of spice, earth and ripe red pinot fruit scents that complement the rich and delicious flavors that are also attractively refined though the finish is slightly drying. Like the BGO, this doesn't appear to be at its usual excellent level of quality. (86-89)/2017+

Evening Land Vineyards (Beaune)

2010	**Chambolle-Musigny**	**red**	**82**
2010	**Côte de Nuits-Villages**	**red**	**87**
2010	**Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru**	**red**	**91**
2010	**Vosne-Romanée**	**red**	**86**

For more information, visit: www.eveninglandvineyards.com or call (707) 320-9372.

2010 Côte de Nuits-Villages: While not as complex this resembles the Clos de Vougeot in the sense that it has a distinct *animale* character to the pungently earthy wild dark berry fruit suffused nose. Where this differs materially is that there isn't the size, weight and richness but that would be expected given that the Clos de Vougeot is a *grand cru*. There is reasonably good complexity and while not a great example of the genre, this is correct with fine intensity and length. 87/2016+

2010 Chambolle-Musigny: An attractively perfumed nose of essence of red pinot fruit with background hints of spice precedes light to barely medium weight flavors that exude a fine minerality on the distinctly drying finish. This isn't presently interesting and it's difficult to see it ever losing the unpleasantly dry character. I did allow this to air for an extended period and the dryness only became more pronounced. Approach with caution. 82/now

2010 Vosne-Romanée: A fresh and moderately spicy nose of cassis, plum and black raspberry leads to round yet reasonably well-detailed middle weight flavors that terminate in an moderately edgy finish where the supporting structure is somewhat drying. While this is by no means a poor wine, it isn't what it should be in a vintage like 2010. 86/2016+

2010 Clos de Vougeot: A distinctly *sauvage*, even *animale* nose of pungent earth, underbrush and humus add breadth to the very somber dark berry fruit aromas. There is good richness and power to the moderately concentrated medium-bodied flavors that possess much better phenolic maturity to the structural elements, all wrapped in a long, mouth coating and lingering finish. This is not a great example of the *appellation* in the context of the vintage but it's certainly very good and it should offer a decade or so of upside development potential. 91/2020+

Domaine Jean-Philippe Fichet (Meursault)

2011	**Bourgogne**	**red**	**(85-87)**
2011	**Auxey-Duresses**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2011	**Monthelie "Les Clous" 1er**	**red**	**(86-89)**

Jean-Philippe Fichet told me that his 2011 "reds are perfectly good but they're not as good as my whites." I will describe in more detail Fichet's take on the 2011 vintage in Issue 51 as all of his comments were about the whites except to say that he eliminated all new oak for his 2010s, red and white alike. (The Rare Wine Company, www.rarewineco.com , Sonoma, CA is the primary importer and distributes to Cream Wine Company, www.creamwine.com, IL and Polaner Selections,

www.polanerselections.com, NY, among many others; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Goedhuis & Co., www.goedhuis.com and Ballantynes of Cowbridge, www.ballantynes.co.uk, all UK).

2011 Bourgogne: A distinctly rustic red berry fruit displays plenty of earth influence that continues onto the vibrant and well-detailed middle weight flavors that possess a lilting mouth feel even though there are hints of austerity and the same overt rusticity as telegraphed by the nose. This offers solid if not special quality for its level that is fashioned in a "drink it young" style. (85-87)/2014+

2011 Auxey-Duresses: (from vines planted in 1923). As is always the case this is markedly more aromatically complex with good freshness and density to the dark berry and pungent soil and humus-inflected nose. There is a moderately seductive texture to the suave, round and utterly delicious medium-bodied flavors that terminate in a firm, mildly rustic and balanced finish. This is entirely competent for the appellation and is worth considering as long as you're prepared to give it a few years in the cellar first to round off the edges. (87-89)/2016+

2011 Monthelie "Les Clous": (Les Clous was recently elevated to *premier cru* status; Fichet flatly states that the vineyard shouldn't have been upgraded). A brooding and intensely earthy nose of fresh and reasonably complex dark berries, cassis and a hint of the *sauvage* merges into energetic and very round middle weight flavors that finish with good persistence, detail and punch if not quite the same overall depth. Still, this is attractive in its fashion and should also reward a few years of cellar time. (86-89)/2016+

Domaine Follin-Arbelet (Aloxe-Corton)

2011	**Aloxe-Corton**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Aloxe-Corton "Clos du Chapître" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2011	**Aloxe-Corton "Vercots" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2011	**Corton Grand Cru**	**red**	**91**
2011	**Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru**	**red**	**(91-93)**
2011	**Pernand-Vergelesses "En Caradeux" 1er**	**red**	**(87-90)**
2011	**Pernand-Vergelesses "Fichots" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2011	**Romanée St. Vivant Grand Cru**	**red**	**(92-94)**

Franck Follin has directed this 6 hectare enterprise since 1993. The Domaine owns some of the vineyards, rents most of the rest, and though it does not do the vineyard work in the parcel of Romanée St. Vivant, it is responsible for the vinification and *élevage* (the vineyard work is done by Dominique Mugneret, who keeps the equivalent of two barrels for his effort). Follin professed that he was "very happy with the results obtained in 2011 because I honestly didn't know what to expect. We had a growing season that very much resembled 2007 with a hot and dry spring and basically a lousy summer that was cool, wet and cloudy. Thankfully the last two weeks of August were hot and sunny and this really spiked the maturities. I elected to begin picking on the 31st of August and, while the cleanliness of the fruit wasn't perfect, it was good to very good depending on the secteur. Potential alcohols were again perfectly good if not high at between 11.5 and 12%. I did a slightly softer vinification because I wanted to avoid extracting too much or, otherwise expressed, to avoid trying to extract what wasn't there in the first place, which is never a good thing. About the only aspect that I was truly disappointed with was the rapidity of the malos but given how warm the cellars were at the end of the fermentations it wasn't surprising. As to the wines, they are very good and while they're not going to make anyone forget 2009 or 2010, they are still lovely wines that are very Burgundian in style." I found the Follin 2011s to match up well with my view of the general quality of the vintage. (Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, www.kermitlynch.com, Berkeley, CA; Richards Walford, www.r-w.co.uk).

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses "En Caradeux": A very fresh nose exhibits ripe aromas of violet, plum and earth. There is good energy and detail to the attractively textured middle weight flavors that terminate in a mildly rustic and solidly well-balanced finish. En Caradeux always tends to perform better in precocious vintages like 2011 and this is a lovely effort. (87-90)/2017+

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses "Fichots": Here the nose is definitely more deeply pitched with black pinot fruit, warm earth and underbrush scents that lead to delicious, vibrant, round and relatively supple flavors that possess a refined mouth feel thanks to the finer grain of the tannins. The finish provides a bit more volume and is slightly firmer as well while simultaneously offering more overall depth and persistence. (88-91)/2018+

2011 Aloxe-Corton: An expressive mix of various red berries, earth and a hint of smoke precedes the fresh and energetic middle weight flavors that possess supple tannins that evidence only a trace of rusticity on the balanced, persistent and solidly complex finish. This is a fine if not truly distinguished *villages*. 88/2016+

2011 Aloxe-Corton "Clos du Chapître": A deft touch of wood surrounds ripe purple fruit, particularly plum, along with plenty of earth influence that continues onto the relatively supple and forward medium-bodied flavors that possess good vibrancy and good if not special depth on the dusty finish. The tannins are on the fine side though not so fine that there isn't just a hint of rusticity. This should age well but also be enjoyable young. (88-91)/2017+

2011 Aloxe-Corton "Vercots": This offers a small step up in aromatic complexity if not elegance with its spice, earth, game and plum suffused nose. There is fine richness to the velvety middle weight flavors that possess a seductive mouth feel though the firm, robust and muscular finish is both moderately rustic and mildly austere. This will require a bit more patience though that is virtually always the case with a classic Vercots. (89-91)/2019+

2011 Corton: (from En Charlemagne). Interestingly, the nose of the Corton is quite similar to that of the Vercots though there is more overall depth. The round and supple medium-bodied flavors possess an attractive sense of underlying tension with fine detail before culminating in a mildly rustic and austere finish. This is not particularly firm, at least not in the context of a typical Corton and it should drink well on the younger side. 91/2018+

2011 Corton-Bressandes: (from 45 to 50 year old vines). A very fresh and pretty nose of spice and red berry fruit liqueur aromas gives way to mineral-inflected, round, delicious and impressively complex large-scaled flavors that evidence a taut muscularity and plenty of punch. The tannic spine is both firm and ripe and this beautifully well-balanced effort should reward 10 to 12 years of cellar time. Lovely and textbook Bressandes. (91-93)/2021+

2011 Romanée St. Vivant: A discreetly spicy and notably ripe nose features scents of black cherry, cassis and plum. There is a velvety texture to the delicious, round and seductive middle weight flavors that possess good verve and finesse. In the same vein as the Bressandes the supporting tannic spine is clearly ripe but notably more fine-grained and overall this beautifully balanced effort is an exercise in refinement. Good stuff. (92-94)/2023+

Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2011	Bourgogne	red	86
2011	Chassagne-Montrachet	red	87
2011	Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot" 1er	red	89
2011	Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean" 1er	red	88
2011	➽ Pommard "Rugiens" 1er	red	91
2011	Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	90

The always candid Richard Fontaine described 2011 as a "growing season that closely resembled that of 2007 with its hot, dry and early spring and wet July and first half of August. We began picking on the 27th of August for the reds and then commenced with the whites on the 29th. The fruit was quite clean and we had almost no sorting required in either color. Yields were more generous than what we obtained in 2010 but still lower than what I consider as a normal crop. As to the wines, I find them to be more austere than the 2010s and I think they should age well." As I commented last year, 2010 is the high water mark in my experience for the Fontaine reds. His 2011s are perfectly respectable but it would be fair to say that they do not rival the terrific 2010s. (JAO Wine Imports, www.jaowineimports.com, McLean, VA; 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, Laytons, www.laytons.co.uk, O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, and Majestic Wine Warehouses, www.majestic.co.uk, all UK).

2011 Bourgogne: An admirably fresh, pure and pretty nose of red pinot fruit, earth and violets leads to energetic, detailed and attractively supple and delicious flavors that terminate in an agreeably clean and dry finish. This could be approached young but it should also benefit from 2 to 3 years of cellar time. 86/2015+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet: Here the nose is more deeply pitched with notes of earth, dark berries and pepper. There is good freshness and verve to the equally delicious middle weight flavors that possess good precision on the moderately long finish where some youthful asperity is evident. 87/2016+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean": This is more aromatically refined with a cool and pure aroma of red pinot fruit, wet stone and a floral hint. There is both good energy and fine detail to the light to barely medium-bodied flavors where the minerality is front and center and there is good balance if only moderate depth and length. To be sure, this is perfectly good but not as good as it usually is. 88/2016+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot": (from Les Chaumes). This is notably earthier on both the red berry fruit and plum suffused nose as well as the more robust and muscular flavors that possess fine volume but also solid detail on the delicious and persistent finish. This is less rustic than a typical Morgeot and has enough underlying material to warrant 6 to 8 years of cellar time. 89/2017+

2011 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": As one might reasonably expect, this is both more elegant and more complex with an exceptionally attractive nose that combines red berry fruit liqueur, violets, wet stone and plenty of fresh earth nuances. There is good punch and solid power to the rich, vibrant and beautifully well-detailed middle weight flavors that brim with minerality before culminating in an intense, persistent and well-balanced finish. This is a classic example of Clos des Chênes that displays a really lovely mouth feel that should amply reward 7 to 10 years of cellar time. 90/2018+

2011 Pommard "Rugiens": (from a .21 ha parcel). This is slightly more complex with its equally elegant nose of various wild red berries that enjoy added breadth in the form of earth, stone and spice nuances. There is excellent verve to the intensely mineral-driven and overtly powerful flavors that enjoy fine mid-palate density as well as outstanding length on the moderately austere finish. This will also require up to a decade of cellar time but should be well worth the wait. Worth a look. 91/2019+

Domaine Jean-Noël Gagnard (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet - Cuvée l'Estimée**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2011	**➽ Santenay "Clos Tavannes" 1er**	**red**	**90**

Caroline L'Estimée reports that she was "concerned that 2011 was going to give us excessively austere wines but that's not at all what we wound up with. Despite a good and precocious spring, the summer was really quite poor, which contributed to having only average ripeness levels that included relatively high levels of malic acidity. We decided to begin picking on the 31st of August and the fruit was largely clean with perfectly good if not truly high potential alcohols. The vinifications were straightforward and one interesting aspect is that the malos were relatively fast even with the higher levels of malic acidity. As to the wines, they are entirely classic and I think that my clients will enjoy the wines a lot because they are refreshing and not particularly structured, which means that they should drink reasonably well young if desired." L'Estimée noted that the first three reds were bottled in September and the Clos Tavannes in December, 2012. (A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, Austin, TX and Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, NY, NY; Farr Vintners, www.farrvintners.com, Justerini & Brooks, www.justerinis.com and Georges Barbier, all UK).

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet - Cuvée l'Estimée: A very fresh and expressive nose of red and blue pinot fruit with pepper and earth hints leads to rich, delicious and nicely complex middle weight flavors that offer good persistence and only a mild touch of rusticity on the sappy finish. This should be approachable, and enjoyable, young if desired. 88/2015+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean": Slightly more elegant though not really more complex aromas of high-toned red pinot fruit that evidence soft mineral nuances slide gracefully into vibrant and well-detailed flavors where the mineral component really shines on the balanced and solidly persistent finish. A lovely and relatively refined effort fashioned in an understated style. 89/2016+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot": (from Clos Charreau and Grand Clos). A very pretty and ultra-fresh nose mixes together both red and dark berry fruit, underbrush, spice, plum and black pepper hints. There is good volume if not the same refinement to the rich, intense and solidly complex medium-bodied flavors that coat the palate with dry extract on the mildly rustic, lasting and utterly delicious finish. This too should be approachable young. 89/2017+

2011 Santenay "Clos Tavannes": Classic ruby. An exceptionally fresh, cool and restrained nose of bright red pinot fruit and pungent earth aromas complement well the intense, punchy and beautifully well-detailed medium weight flavors that are underpinned by relatively fine-grained tannins. There is a bit of rusticity as well as austerity on the otherwise lingering finish and overall, this is really very good with plenty of Santenay character. Worth considering. 90/2018+

Maison Alex Gambal (Beaune)

2011	Beaune "Grèves" 1er	red	90
2011	Bourgogne – Les Deux Papies	red	86
2011	Chambolle-Musigny	red	(88-91)
2011	Chambolle-Musigny "Charmes" 1er	red	(88-91?)
2011	Chambolle-Musigny "Aux Échanges" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	Chorey-lès-Beaune	red	88
2011	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2011	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin	red	(89-91)
2011	Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(89-93?)
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Guettes" 1er	red	89
2011	Vosne-Romanée Vieilles Vignes	red	(88-91)

Alex Gambal was away at the time of my February visit and his winemaker Géraldine Godot didn't mince any words as she described 2011 as a "vintage that I personally adore and I even prefer it to 2010 as it's more charming, and while I know that not everyone would agree, I find the wines to be more complete in 2011 than they are in 2010. Part of the reason that they're so charming is that, even though there is just as much acidity in 2011 as in 2010, it doesn't seem like it from a taste perspective and thus the 2011s are more elegant. Moreover the wines express very clearly the underlying *terroir*, and the structural elements possess excellent phenolic maturity. There was some sorting necessary for the pinot and we averaged about 12% in terms of potential alcohols. We destemmed 100% and otherwise handled the vinification as we always do." I found the Gambal 2011s to be mixed in quality and carrying much more wood than they typically do. In fairness to the wines, a number of them were carrying a lot of gas which of course accentuates the apparent firmness of the structural elements and, when coupled with the sometimes generous wood, rendered some of these wines difficult to judge. I take particular care to note this because none of the in-bottle wines displayed these concerns. (Ruby Wines, www.rubywines.com, Boston, MA, Grapevine Distributors, www.grapevinedistributors.com, NC & SC, Southern Wines & Spirits, www.southernwine.com, FL, Schneider's, Washington, D. C., Flickenger, Chicago, IL, AP Wine Imports, www.apwineimports.com, NY, NY and Wine Warehouse, www.winesf.com, San Francisco, CA; O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, UK).

2011 Bourgogne – Les Deux Papies: (from Pommard and Volnay fruit). A light touch of reduction doesn't hide the earthy character of the nose that seems ripe; be sure to decant this if you're going to try one right away. There is good richness and solid phenolic maturity to the attractively detailed middle weight flavors that terminate in a clean and saline-suffused finish. Good if not special quality here. 86/2015+

2011 Chorey-lès-Beaune: A subtle but not invisible touch of wood sets off fresh, cool and attractively ripe aromas of dark berries, plum, violets and plenty of earth character. There is excellent volume to the textured, complex and delicious medium-bodied flavors that are shaped by moderately firm tannins on the balanced finish. This is really very good for what it is and is worth a look. 88/2015+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Guettes": This is notably more elegant with a very cool and restrained nose of various red berry scents along with notes of wet stone, earth and a hint of humus. There is good richness but also fine detail to the markedly mineral-inflected medium weight flavors that are underpinned by relatively fine-grained tannins on the balanced finish. A Guettes of subtlety and finesse. 89/2016+

2011 Beaune "Grèves": This is also attractively fresh and expressive with its combination of both dark and red currant aromas that offer additional breadth in the form of warm earth and floral hints. There is good detail to the reserved, intense and moderately muscular flavors that display some of the natural muscle of a fine Grèves but not so much that this loses its sense of refinement on the moderately austere and persistent finish. 90/2017+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny: A very pretty and highly expressive nose features elegant and pure red pinot fruit that is liberally laced with mineral notes that leads to lacy and equally pure lightly stone-inflected flavors that possess good balance and punch on the moderately firm finish. A classic Chambolle of refinement and purity. (88-91)/2017+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Charmes": Very prominent wood fights with the menthol and plus aromas and it also is quite prominent on the kirsch-infused medium-bodied flavors that possess good size and weight before culminating in a detailed and solidly persistent finish where the wood resurfaces. This is certainly pretty but it is certainly carrying a lot of oak and it is not at all a certainty that there is sufficient underlying material to successfully absorb it. (88-91?)/2018+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Aux Échanges": Here the wood isn't shy but it's certainly less intrusive as it allows the spicy plum and black cherry aromas to be clearly appreciated. There is a succulent mouth feel to the soft, round and forward flavors that tighten up quickly on the clean, focused, markedly firm and lingering finish. As I note, there is ample wood here as well but as there is better underling material there is a better chance that it will ultimately be integrated. (89-92)/2019+

2011 Vosne-Romanée Vieilles Vignes: There is a generous but again not really intrusive application of moderately toasty oak and is just at the limit of allowing the attractively spicy dark cherry, violet and cinnamon suffused aromas to be enjoyed. The suave, round and lightly mineral-suffused flavors possess good vibrancy and detail, all wrapped in a comparatively complex finish where a high level of gas causes the finish to seem somewhat clipped. This appears to have plenty of underlying material and my range offers the benefit of the doubt that this will not only come together but be a lovely *villages*; moreover, this has proven to be an excellent performer for Gambal in the past. (88-91)/2017+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin: A difficult nose displays notes of reduction and moderately toasty oak. By contrast, there is good freshness and plenty of punch to the textured, round and very suave medium-bodied flavors that possess evident minerality before terminating in a dense, serious and impressively long finish where a touch of wood can be discerned. This should be a very fine *villages* and is worth considering. (89-91)/2018+

2011 Latricières-Chambertin: Lavish wood with plenty of oak spice and vanilla completely dominate the otherwise ripe and fresh wild red berry and stone-inflected nose. There is a seductive texture to the supple yet detailed middle weight flavors that exude a fine minerality on the impressively long, focused, powerful and mouth coating finish. My range is wider than usual for the simple reason is that it's not clear that this can fully incorporate the wood without rounding off the finish. As with the Vosne, my predicted range offers the benefit of the doubt. (89-93?)/2021+

2011 Clos de Vougeot: Visible but not truly invasive oak still allows the earthy and reserved nose of dark berries, plum, humus, underbrush and *sauvage*-suffused aromas to be appreciated. There is good energy and outstanding complexity to the intense big-bodied flavors that are supported by phenolically mature tannins on the moderately austere, balanced and impressively persistent finish. This should cellar well over the medium-term and be worth the wait. (91-93)/2021+

Domaine Michel Gaunoux (Pommard)

2010	Corton-Renardes Grand Cru	red	95
2010	➽ Pommard "Grands Epenots	red	93
2010	➽ Pommard "Les Rugiens Bas" 1er	red	95
2008	➽ Pommard "1er" 1er	red	91
2007	Pommard "Grands Epenots 1er	red	90
2007	Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	90
2006	➽ Pommard "Grands Epenots 1er	red	92
2006	Corton-Renardes Grand Cru	red	93
2002	Corton-Renardes Grand Cru	red	92
1998	Pommard "Les Rugiens Bas" 1er	red	90
1998	Corton-Renardes Grand Cru	red	92

The always understated and modest Alexandre Gaunoux describes the 2010 vintage as "a completely classic vintage. The growing season was difficult with a lot of ups and downs but in the end we obtained excellent quality fruit. After that it was just a matter of trying to coax the quality of the fruit into the wines in a fashion that allows the *terroir* to express itself fully. I really like the vintage though it will require considerable patience as the wines are clearly meant to age." If you enjoy traditionally made Burgundy then the Gaunoux wines are highly recommended as this is one of the finest domaines in all of Burgundy. Gaunoux noted that the 2010s were bottled in May and June, 2012. Note further that the domaine's policy of releasing older vintages means that every wine reviewed below is, according to Mme Gaunoux, available. I also call your attention to the fact that there are quite a number of other Michel Gaunoux wines that I have reviewed over the years accessible in the Burghound database. (Polaner Selections, www.polanerselections.com, Mt. Kisco, NY, Envoyer Fine Wines, www.envoyerfinewines.com, Laguna Hills, CA; no authorized UK importer).

2010 Pommard "Grands Epenots": (from a large 1.74 ha parcel). A fresh, pure and very cool nose offers up aromas of a variety of red berries, earth and a hint of the *sauvage* that is also reflected by the delicious, intense and broad-shouldered flavors. There is excellent volume but also plenty of underlying tension that imparts a real sense of verve to the long, balanced and highly complex finish. Despite the admirable size and weight this is a bit more refined than usual thanks to the relatively fine-grained tannins. Lovely stuff and well worth considering. 93/2022+

2010 Pommard "Les Rugiens Bas": (from a .69 ha parcel in Rugiens-Bas). There are floral and smoked tea nuances present that add breadth to the beautifully complex earth, wet stone and pure red pinot fruit scents. There is superb intensity and strikingly good detail to the almost pungent mineral-inflected medium-bodied flavors that brim with structure-buffering dry extract, all wrapped in a hugely long and impeccably well-balanced finish. This is a classic Rugiens that combines overt power with refinement. In sum, this is seriously impressive. 95/2025+

2010 Corton-Renardes: (from a .63 ha parcel). A perfumed and highly complex nose features the classic *sauvage* character of a fine Renardes with plenty of spice, earth and underbrush nuances present on the very fresh mix of red currant and plum aromas. There is outstanding intensity, richness and concentration to the big-bodied mineral-driven flavors that also display an abundance of palate coating dry extract on the tremendously long finish. This doesn't have the same underlying tension as the Rugiens but it's even longer. A qualitative choice but note that these are two very different wines. 95/2025+

2008 Pommard "1er": A wonderfully fresh and attractively perfumed nose of crushed red berries, earth and humus hints leads to admirably well-detailed, pure and highly vibrant mineral-inflected medium weight flavors that terminate in a clean, cool, balanced and solidly persistent finish. The supporting tannic spine is ripe and this is really quite good. 91/2018+

2007 Pommard "Grands Epenots": (from a large 1.74 ha parcel). A very mild herbaceous hint is present but does not materially detract from the otherwise appealingly fresh nose of earthy and spicy red currant aromas. There is an excellent sense of energy to the detailed and lilting middle weight flavors that culminate in an unreservedly delicious, clean, balanced and markedly saline-inflected finish. This doesn't have the size and weight of some of the other vintages reviewed but it is really quite lovely. 90/2017+

2007 Pommard "Les Rugiens": (from a .69 ha parcel in Rugiens-Bas). This is ever-so-slightly riper than the Grands Epenots with a really lovely nose of 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+

2006 Pommard "Grands Epenots": (from a large 1.74 ha parcel). A highly perfumed, ripe and spicy nose remains quite primary with cool and pure red berry aromas that offer added scope by the presence of warm earth and smoke hints. There is fine intensity to the delicious and generous middle weight plus flavors that display good detail on the clean and almost crisp finish where the supporting structure is still quite firm. This will need another 5 to 7 years of bottle age to be at its best. 92/2018+

2006 Corton-Renardes: (from a .63 ha parcel). Here there is enough reduction to render the nose difficult to read but the underlying fruit does appear to be ripe. There is excellent volume to the impressively complex, intense and powerful flavors that enjoy fine mid-palate concentration before terminating in a beautifully well-balanced and mouth coating finish that delivers genuinely outstanding length. This is terrific, though if you're going to try one any time soon, I would strongly advise decanting it first. 93/2021+

2002 Corton-Renardes: (from a .63 ha parcel). This is also almost still completely primary though there is a hint of secondary on the otherwise exceptionally fresh, pure and highly complex nose that evidences a hint of crushed herbs. There is excellent verve and tension to the strongly mineral-inflected large-scaled flavors that possess fine mid-palate concentration, all wrapped in a clean, focused, well-detailed and moderately austere finish. This is still very much in its infancy and it's going to require the better part of another decade before it's completely ready for prime time. 92/2022+

1998 Pommard "Les Rugiens Bas": (from a .69 ha parcel in Rugiens-Bas). A very fresh and solidly complex nose displays a hint of crushed leaf on the otherwise pretty nose of primarily red berry fruit aromas that exhibit only a touch of secondary development. There is good concentration and plenty of punch to the intensely mineral-driven flavors that possess just a trace of asperity on the powerful and persistent finish. While this could certainly be drunk now, for my taste I would suggest that another 5 years or so of cellar time would be ideal. As with the '07 Rugiens, the asperity would be close to invisible with the proper foods. 90/2018+

1998 Corton-Renardes: (from a .63 ha parcel). This is markedly more complex than the '98 Rugiens with a classic Renardes nose that is intensely *sauvage* and displaying moderate secondary development along with plenty of spice nuances. There is excellent energy and punch and it's clear that the supporting structural elements are riper while supporting and shaping the impressively well-detailed and mineral-inflected flavors and finish. This is an excellent '98 though note that while it could certainly be drunk now with pleasure that it will continue to age for years. 92/now+

Domaine Henri Germain et Fils (Meursault)

2011	Beaune "Bressandes" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	➽ Bourgogne	red	(86-88)
2011	Chassagne-Montrachet	red	(86-89)
2011	Meursault "Clos des Mouches"	red	(87-89)

Jean-François Germain calls 2011 a "classic vintage that blends the best attributes of 2010 and 2011. We elected to begin picking on the 1st of September and while the chardonnay was very clean there was some sorting necessary for the pinot. Between some sorting losses and a less favorable flowering, the pinot yields were on the low side if not quite as low as they were in 2010. Potential alcohols were good if not high at around 12% and I did my usual vinification. As to the wines themselves, the reds are easy to like and should make for good drinking over the medium-term." I found the quality of the Germain 2011 reds to be basically in-line with the general quality of the vintage. (Scott Levy Selections, 770/730.0361, Atlanta, GA, Success Wines, NJ and Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, Lake Success, NY; 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).

2011 Bourgogne: A fresh, pure and ripe nose of liqueur-like dark berry fruit and earth nuances leads to textured, round and utterly delicious middle weight flavors that possess good mid-palate fat and almost no rusticity on the solidly persistent finish. This is a quality effort for the both the *appellation* and the vintage. Worth considering. (86-88)/2015+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet: A more complex if not necessarily prettier nose features notes of both red and dark pinot fruit that are nuanced by the presence of earth, pepper and *sauvage* hints. There is good freshness and vigor to the delicious, round and nicely detailed medium-bodied flavors that possess good balance on the reasonably persistent finish. This is not a wine of finesse though at the same time neither does it display marked rusticity either. (86-89)/2016+

2011 Meursault "Clos des Mouches": This is really quite pretty with its ripe, fresh and restrained nose of violets, plum and earth where the latter element can also be found on the supple and forward light to barely medium-weight flavors that possess good verve. The balanced and complex finish displays only a hint of rusticity and this offers solid quality. (87-89)/2016+

2011 Beaune "Bressandes": A discreet hint of wood sets off the ripe and very fresh cassis, black cherry and warm earth nuances. There is good volume to the light to barely medium weight flavors that possess a relatively refined mouth feel thanks to the fine grain of the supporting tannins on the balanced, persistent and delicious finish. This is on the lighter side but that doesn't mean that there isn't good development potential and this should benefit from 6 to 8 years of cellaring. (89-91)/2018+

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

2011	Aloxe-Corton	red	88
2011	Beaune "Clos du Roi" 1er	red	88
2011	Bourgogne	red	85
2011	➽ Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Fichots" 1er	red	91
2011	Pernand-Vergelesses "Aux Vergelesses" 1er	red	90
2011	➽ Pommard	red	89
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	86
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fourneaux" 1er	red	89
2011	➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières" 1er	red	91
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Peuillets" 1er	red	86?
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Rouvrettes" 1er	red	89
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Serpentières" 1er	red	89
2011	➽ Volnay Vieilles Vignes	red	89

Jean-Jacques Girard describes 2011 as having a "growing season with a lousy summer and frankly, we were once again lucky to be saved by a near perfect end of season that allowed the fruit to ripen adequately. We began picking the pinot on the 30th of August and then started on the chardonnay as well on the 1st of September. It was necessary to sort both colors but notably

more so in pinot due to some botrytis. We obviously did our best to eliminate anything that we thought was substandard but I wanted to take no risks so we dispensed with our usual period of cool maceration so as to avoid any taint but otherwise we did our normal vinification. [Botrytis-affected odors and flavors tend to be suppressed in the presence of alcohol and tannin, of which there is no alcohol during a pre-fermentation maceration.] As to the wines, they are what I would call average plus in terms of quality. We could have had something truly great but in my estimation we lacked that last 5% of necessary maturity. To be sure, the 2011s are good to very good wines but they're not going to make anyone forget 2005 or 2010." I would agree with Girard's candid assessment even though I believe that he generally outperformed the vintage if only by a little as some of the lower level wines are uneven. Still, these are fine wines that should offer good medium-term upside potential. Moreover, the Girard wines tend to deliver good price/value ratios and are worth considering. I should further note that the Girard wines typically display little if any wood, but I noticed a bit more than usual in 2011. (Scott Levy Selections, 770/730.0361, Atlanta, GA, Vintage Trading, e-mail vintagetrading@aol.com, NY, NY and Bayfield Imports, www.bayfieldimporting.com, Brooklyn, NY; Charles Taylor Wines, E-mail: charles@charlestaylorwines.com, UK; Vignoble & Millésime, vignoble.millesime@wanadoo.fr, Beaune France).

2011 Bourgogne: A vibrant and exuberantly fresh and expressive nose offers up notes of various red berries and earth nuances that can also be found on the racy, intense and well-detailed light weight flavors that possess a refreshing and delicious finish. This will be enjoyable young. 85/2014+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune: (a blend from 5 separate parcels). This is notably more complex aromatically with its pretty mix of both red and dark pinot fruit, earth and *sauvage* hints. There is good richness and volume to the medium weight flavors that are attractively supple and persistent though the finish doesn't have the depth displayed by the nose. This should also drink well young. 86/2014+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Rouvrettes": (one of the very few examples from this steep hillside vineyard of almost no rock that faces almost due north). There is lovely aromatic purity to the cool and moderately *sauvage* red currant and plum aromas. There is good energy and fine delineation to the lightly mineral-suffused middle weight flavors that possess good depth on the balanced and lingering finish where a touch of wood influence surfaces. This is solidly complex and should reward a few years of cellaring first though it's not so structured that it couldn't be enjoyed young. 89/2016+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Serpentières": (a mix of chalk and deep clay and not much rock but the exposure is almost due south). This is already quite expressive with its attractively layered nose of plum, earth, red currant and tobacco hints. There is a subtle touch of minerality to the supple, round and easy-to-like flavors that are shaped by relatively fine tannins on the clean, refreshing and mildly austere finish. Lovely and very Serpentières. 89/2016+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Peuillets": (sandy soil with tennis ball size stones). This is also exceptionally pretty with a radiant nose of both red and dark pinot fruit that is cut with mineral and floral hints. There is good energy and detail to the barely medium weight flavors that terminate in a linear and saline-suffused finish that is a bit clipped with just a hint of youthful asperity. While not really pronounced, this seems to lack just a bit of maturity and it's not clear that this will necessarily round out with bottle age. 86?/2016+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fourneaux": (very deep soil, virtually flat terrain with small nuggets of iron and very high clay content; Fourneaux usually gives firmly structured wines). An earthy, restrained and brooding nose of primarily wild dark currant and *sauvage* aromas gives way to broad-shouldered and slightly rustic flavors that possess moderately firm tannins and fine length on the delicious finish that displays a touch of youthful asperity. This will need a few years of bottle age to really flesh out. 89/2017+

2011 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). An admirably pure nose of dark berries, pungent earth, underbrush and humus is followed by supple, round and delicious medium-bodied flavors that possess fine complexity on the clean, cool and linear finish that leans out ever-so-slightly. My score offers the benefit of the doubt that this will add flesh as it ages over the medium-term. 90/2017+

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Fichots": A more deeply pitched and brooding nose of earthy and distinctly *animale* inflected aromas of various dark berries, humus and game scents leads to tautly muscular, detailed and punchy medium weight plus flavors that are underpinned by relatively fine tannins on the balanced, lingering and complex finish. This should reward 6 to 8 years of cellar time. This is worth considering. 91/2017+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières": (from relatively level soil with deep, high clay content and lots of flat, round rocks). As one would reasonably expect this is more aromatically elegant with really lovely purity to the red currant, stone and spice hints. There is excellent intensity to the overtly mineral-driven medium weight flavors that possess a refined mouth feel before culminating in a harmonious, balanced and solidly complex finish. Lovely stuff and also worth a look. 91/2017+

2011 Beaune "Clos du Roi": A fresh and airy nose is composed primarily of dark pinot fruit, earth and a hint of underbrush. There is good energy to the delicious, round and quite supple middle weight flavors that are easy-to-like as there is just enough depth to be interesting with solid if not truly special persistence. This is frankly prettier than it is deep but I like the refreshing finish and overall sense of balance. A wine that should mature quickly and thus be enjoyable young. 88/2016+

2011 Aloxe-Corton: (primarily from Les Combes). A pretty and solidly complex nose combines notes of raspberry, red cherry, earth and a deft hint of wood. There is good intensity and plenty of energy to the supple, round and delicious medium-bodied flavors that possess fine focus on the balanced and persistent finish. This is a lovely *villages* and if not quite at the same level as the two subsequent wines, it's still worthy of consideration. 88/2017+

2011 Volnay Vieilles Vignes: An exceptionally pure and attractive nose displays cool red pinot, dark currant and earth and spice hints that complement well the precise, dynamic and softly mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that are supported by relatively fine tannins on the lingering finish. This is a classic Volnay of finesse and while it's not quite as complex as the Pommard, the underlying material is present to allow more depth to develop. Good stuff. 89/2017+

2011 Pommard: (from En Brescul). Medium ruby. Here the nose is more deeply pitched with hints of black tea, cassis and spiced plum to the dark cherry and black pinot fruit scents. There is good size, weight and a taut muscularity to the vibrant middle weight flavors, all wrapped in a persistent finish that displays excellent persistence. This is less refined than the Volnay but as noted, it is more complex, at least at this early juncture. Also worth considering. 89/2018+

Domaine Aleth Girardin (Pommard)

2011	Beaune "Clos des Mouches" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	Pommard "Charmots" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	➽ Pommard "Epenots" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	Pommard "Noizons"	red	(88-91)
2011	➽ Pommard "Les Rugiens-Bas" 1er	red	(90-93)
2010	➽ Beaune "Clos des Mouches" 1er	red	91
2010	➽ Pommard "Charmots" 1er	red	92
2010	➽ Pommard "Epenots" 1er	red	93
2010	➽ Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	93

Aleth Girardin explained that the 2011 growing season was a "strange one as we had summertime in April and May and springtime conditions in July. It was very dry and the hydric stress was already apparent by June though that particular problem was more than solved by the abundant rain we had in July. It also slowed down the vegetative cycle somewhat as at one point we were even more advanced than was the case in 2003. As such I began to worry that we might have a massive attack of rot but even though we had a bit it was much less than I feared. Because I have old vines and naturally low yields, my fruit was fully mature early and we began to pick on the 27th of August. Moreover the yields were further lowered by the presence of a high percentage of shot berries and depending on the *cuvée* in question I realized between 30 and 35 hl/ha. We had some sorting work but curiously enough, not really for rot or under-ripe berries but rather for over ripe fruit. Potential alcohols were really quite moderate at between 11.5 and 12.5% and I did my usual vinification. As to the wines, I would call them generous and supple, in fact wines of pleasure would be an apt description. While they will improve with age it probably won't be necessary to enjoy them as they really are quite precocious." I found the Girardin 2011s to outperform the general quality of the 2011 vintage and commend them to your attention. Moreover the 2010s have fulfilled all the potential that I saw last year and they too are very much recommended; Girardin noted that they were bottled in April, 2012. (Scott Paul Wines, www.scottpaul.com, Portland, OR; Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, UK).

2011 Pommard "Noizons": Noticeable wood frames fresh and clearly ripe yet cool aromas of various wild red berries and plus aromas. There is plenty of soil character infusing the delicious middle weight flavors that display more than a trace of minerality on the silky, well-detailed and impressively persistent finish. This is a fine *villages* and I particularly admire the ample mid-palate concentration. (88-91)/2017+

2011 Beaune "Clos des Mouches": This is a bit more aromatically elegant with a moderately high-toned mix of both red and blue pinot fruit, earth and discreet spice nuances. There is a lovely sense of underlying tension and solid delineation to the medium-bodied flavors that enjoy a sophisticated mouth feel thanks to the relatively fine-grained tannins that shape the supple and utterly delicious finish. This should reward a few years in the cellar but also drink well young if desired. (89-91)/2017+

2011 Pommard "Charmots": (from almost a .5 ha parcel). Discreet but not invisible wood surrounds the pretty and attractively layered aromas of plus, red currant and warm earth. There is good richness and fine volume to the middle weight flavors that also possess relatively fine-grained tannins that contribute to the overall sense of refinement here, particularly on the mouth coating, balanced and solidly persistent finish. This manages to at once be very Pommard because not only is there no rusticity but this is relatively elegant. (89-91)/2018+

2011 Pommard "Epenots": (from a .5 ha parcel situated in both Grands and Petits). Here the nose is sufficiently reduced that it is difficult to judge it. By contrast, there is good freshness and verve to the big-bodied yet suave and round medium-bodied flavors that also benefit from the presence of firm yet fine-grained tannins that surface on the focused, powerful and solidly persistent finish. Lovely. (90-92)/2019+

2011 Pommard "Les Rugiens": (from .4 ha parcel situated in Rugiens-Bas). A rather toasty if very fresh, cool and restrained nose features notes of pure essence of red pinot fruit that is liberally laced with plenty of mineral tones. There is excellent volume and richness to the beautifully well-detailed and intense flavors that also exude a fine minerality on the powerfully long but impeccably well-balanced finish. In contrast to the prior wines, this will need some time in the cellar and will likely be less accessible than the others young. That said, this should very much be worth the wait. (90-93)/2021+

2010 Beaune "Clos des Mouches": A very fresh and attractively ripe nose features red berries and background notes of violets, plum and oak toast. There is good detail to the racy and solidly intense flavors that possess a saline character before culminating in a long, delicious and clean finish. This wonderfully pure effort is excellent and should age extremely well if desired. 91/2018+

2010 Pommard "Charmots": (from almost a .5 ha parcel). This is a bit riper still with a pretty mix of red and blue pinot fruit, earth and a hint of humus along with a similar wood toast note. The middle weight flavors possess good volume and an appealingly textured mouth feel that continues onto the delicious, sappy and solidly persistent finish. Lovely, and this too should offer a long cellaring window if desired, yet not be too austere young. 92/2018+

2010 Pommard "Epenots": (from a .5 ha parcel situated in both Grands and Petits). Soft if distinctly toasty wood sets off notably riper aromas of plum, red cherry and plenty of damp soil character. The delicious, cool and admirably rich medium-bodied flavors possess a silky mouth feel as the supporting tannins are exceptionally fine-grained, all wrapped in cool, balanced, linear and wonderfully persistent finish where a bit of wood toast resurfaces. There is so much extract that there shouldn't be much concern about the ability of the flavors to successfully integrate the wood treatment. Note though that this will require ample cellar time before it will be ready for prime time. 93/2022+

2010 Pommard "Les Rugiens": (from .4 ha parcel situated in Rugiens-Bas). Here too a discreet application of toasty wood frames ripe, pure and cool aromas of plum, violets and wet stone. The equally pure medium weight flavors ooze a fine minerality on the energetic and powerful finish that does a slow build from the mid-palate to the explosive finale. I very much like the underlying sense of tension and this is a classically styled and constructed Rugiens. Like the Epenots, this will require at least 7 to 8 years of cellar time before it will be approachable and require 15 or so before it's completely ready. 93/2025+

Maison Vincent Girardin (Meursault)

2011	**Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2011	**Corton-Perrières Grand Cru**	**red**	**(89-92)**
2011	**Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru**	**red**	**(89-92)**
2011	**Gevrey-Chambertin "Cazetiers" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2011	**Pommard "Grands Epenots" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2011	**Volnay "Champans" 1er**	**red**	**(87-90)**
2011	**Volnay "Santenots" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**

Wine maker Eric Germain told me that "we harvested between the 30th of August and the 12th of September. We started with the whites and picked very slowly so as to allow each parcel to ripen optimally. The reds averaged around 13% in terms of potential alcohols and nothing was chaptalized. The fruit was 100% destemmed and there was very little punching down or pump overs during the vinification as the idea was to treat the fruit very softly. The post-malo pHs averaged between 3.45 and 3.5 for the reds, which is pretty much textbook. For me, the 2011s are a more charming version of the 2010s." (Vineyard Brands, www.vineyardbrands.com, Birmingham, AL; Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, Adnams, www.adnams.co.uk, Berkmann Wine Cellars, www.berkmann.co.uk, O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, and Tanners Wine, www.tanners-wines.co.uk, all UK; Sequin & Robillard/Vinifera, www.seguinrobillard.ca, Canada).

2011 Volnay "Champans": Reduction renders the nose difficult to assess but there is good detail and energy to the lightly mineral-infused middle weight flavors that possess moderately good depth and length on the mildly austere finish. This is sufficiently firmly structured to merit 8 to 10 years of cellar time. (87-90)/2019+

2011 Volnay "Santenots": This is also quite heavily reduced and aromatically unreadable. There is fine sense of volume to the rich, intense and more obviously mineral-inflected medium-bodied flavors that possess good verve on the dusty, mouth coating and reasonably persistent finish. This too will require up to a decade of cellar time to be at its best. (88-91)/2019+

2011 Pommard "Grands Epenots": Reduction blocks an evaluation of the nose. By contrast, there is good freshness and underlying tension to the suave and very round medium weight flavors that possess focused power and a bit of muscle on the mouth coating and attractively balanced and persistent finish that offers moderate depth. (88-91)/2018+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Cazetiers": Heavy reduction. There is an appealing minerality to the vibrant, clean and restrained flavors that possess slightly better depth plus there is good phenolic ripeness to the supporting tannins on the mouth coating and balanced finish. (89-91)/2019+

2011 Corton-Perrières: Heavy reduction. There is an attractive texture to the nicely precise and intensely mineral-driven flavors that also are supported by ripe if markedly firm tannins that possess slightly better overall depth and length. This is really quite good though note that it will require a certain amount of patience before it will be completely ready. (89-92)/2021+

2011 Clos de Vougeot: Reduction. There is good energy to the supple, round and distinctly earthy medium-bodied flavors that possess good volume and controlled power before terminating in a moderately austere, complex and persistent finish. The mouth feel is relatively refined thanks to the ripe fine-grained tannins and like the Corton-Perrières this will require 10 to 12 years of cellar time to realize its full potential. (89-92)/2021+

2011 Charmes-Chambertin: (from Mazoyères). Here too the nose is reduced but not so badly to prevent the impression that the underlying fruit is ripe. There is a pungent earthiness and a *sauvage* character to the seductively textured and broad-shouldered flavors that possess fine depth and excellent persistence on the mouth coating finish. There is a bit more underlying material though again note that the supporting tannic spine is notably firm. (90-92)/2023+

Maison Camille Giroud (Beaune)

2011	Beaune "Les Avaux" 1er	red	(88-90)
2011	Beaune "Les Cras" 1er	red	90
2011	➽ Bourgogne	red	(86-89)
2011	Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits	red	(86-88)
2011	Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2011	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	91
2011	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2011	Corton-Rognets Grand Cru	red	92
2011	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Crais"	red	89
2011	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaut St. Jacques" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2011	Maranges "Le Croix Aux Moines" 1er	red	(87-89)
2011	Pommard "Clos de Vergers" 1ers	red	(89-91)
2011	Santenay	red	(86-89)
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Peuillets" 1er	red	(87-89)
2011	Volnay	red	(87-89)
2011	➽ Volnay "Caillerets" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	Volnay "Les Lurets" 1er	red	(88-91)
2011	Vosne-Romanée	red	(88-91)

Winemaker and *régisseur* (domaine manager) David Croix told me that 2011 is a "very nice vintage, in fact, it's better than very nice. We had a growing season much like we experienced in 2007 but the wines produced in 2011 do not especially resemble the 2007s as they are more firmly structured yet at the same time better balanced. We began picking on the 29th of August and the sorting required was varied, which is to say in those vineyards that are more precocious there was more rot but otherwise, there wasn't much. Potential alcohols ranged from 11.5 to 12.5% with the average being squarely between the

two. What surprised me as the fermentations were going on was how concentrated the wines were as I really didn't expect that. As such I pushed the extractions a bit more than I had originally intended as I wanted to have good structure to go with the concentrated mid-palates. I didn't think that there was much risk in doing this as I knew that the fruit had excellent phenolic maturity so it was just a matter of getting the balance of elements aligned. Overall, I really like this vintage and believe that 2011 is going to positively surprise a lot of people." Once again Croix has outperformed the general quality of a vintage, and I agree with him that there are going to be some lovely wines emerging over time in 2011. (In both the US and the UK, Le Serbet/Becky Wasserman is the agent - www.leserbet.com; Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, Austin, TX, Augustan Wine, www.augustanwine.com, Miramar, FL, Cordon Selections, www.cordonselections.com, WA/OR, Wines Unlimited, www.winesunlimited.com, New Orleans, LA, Fine Vines, www.finevines.com, Chicago, IL, C'est Vin, LLC, 703/243-3559, Arlington, VA, Little Guy Wine, www.littleguywine.com, Dearborn, MI, Magnolia Spirits, gatkins@atkinsmachinery.com, SC, Atlanta Wholesale Wines, email david.forman@atlanta.com, GA, Grand Cru Selections, LLC, nedbenedict@gmail.com, NY/NJ, and Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA/NV/CO/AZ/NM; Racines, yasukogoda@racines.co.jp, Japan).

2011 Bourgogne: (from vines in Meursault). A beautifully fresh, cool, pure and ripe nose of red berries, cassis and earth nuances leads to rich and attractively detailed middle weight flavors that possess good verve. There is a trace of rusticity on the balanced and lingering finish but otherwise, this is really very good and worth considering. Plus, it is a Bourgogne that should reward a few years of cellar time. (86-89)/2016+

2011 Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits: A very pinot nose of freshly crushed red currant and cherry is also quite cool and restrained. There is good volume and intensity to the racy and lightly mineral-inflected flavors that are supported by tannins that are not quite as ripe nor are they quite as firm, yet they are finer. Lovely and this is also worth a look. (86-88)/2015+

2011 Volnay: (from Les Grands Champs). As one would reasonably expect, this is both more elegant and more complex with its combination of red currant, plum, earth and floral hints. There is a silky mid-palate to the medium-bodied flavors that possess good vibrancy and detail before culminating in a supple and round finish that displays enough structure to warrant 5 to 7 years of cellar time. (87-89)/2017+

2011 Santenay: An agreeably fresh, pungently earth and slightly *sauvage* nose of various red berries gives way to delicious and again quite energetic middle weight flavors that possess fine detail and reasonably good complexity, all wrapped in a persistent finish that isn't especially refined but isn't rustic either. (86-89)/2016+

2011 Maranges "Le Croix Aux Moines": This is even more overtly *sauvage* with an exceptionally fresh and appealingly layered nose that features cool but ripe wild red berry and plenty of soil nuances. There is a distinct mineral streak that runs the length of the medium weight flavors and onto the delicious, intense and solidly persistent finish. In much the same fashion as the Santenay, this isn't particularly refined but manages to avoid rusticity. A good value option. (87-89)/2017+

2011 Beaune "Les Avaux": A reticent, cool and admirably pure nose of red currant, anise, warm earth and a hint of smoked tea is followed by beautifully well-detailed and attractively energetic middle weight flavors that possess a silky mid-palate yet immediately tighten up on the firm but not hard finish. There is fine depth, length and balance here and this should reward up to a decade of cellar time. (88-90)/2018+

2011 Beaune "Les Cras": This is slightly riper than the Les Avaux and a bit more complex as well with its pure essence of red pinot fruit and wet stone scents. There is excellent richness and plenty of verve to the detailed, intense and very clean medium-bodied flavors that are shaped by ripe, firm and well-integrated tannins that culminate in a distinctly saline and highly persistent finish. This should be really lovely in due time. 90/2018+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Peuillets": A wonderfully expansive nose speaks of red raspberry, cherry, earth, underbrush and a hint of stone that is also reflected by the vibrant, delineated and attractively textured middle weight flavors that possess reasonably good depth though there is a trace of dryness on the otherwise persistent finish. My score assumes that the dryness is due to the high level of gas rather than under-ripe tannins. (87-89)/2018+

2011 Pommard "Clos de Vergers": An admirably pure and notably elegant nose of red currant, dark cherry and soft earth nuances leads to lilting and particularly fine middle weight flavors where the supporting tannins are refined and well-integrated on the balanced, clean and mildly austere finish. As it typically is, this is a Pommard of relative finesse. (89-91)/2019+

2011 Volnay "Les Lurets": This is also admirably pure and elegant though while there are red berry scents here as well, they combine with notes of cassis and plum. There is a silky palate impression to the intense and utterly delicious medium weight flavors that possess good punch and balanced on the saline-infused finish that offers good if not truly special depth and length. This is very Volnay in character. (88-91)/2018+

2011 Volnay "Caillerets": A gorgeously fresh nose of highly complex red and black pinot fruit that is liberally laced with wet stone, spice and earth nuances. There is a suave mouth feel to the mineral-inflected and delineated middle weight flavors that exude that lovely sense of underlying tension on the mouth coating and moderately austere finish. This beautifully balanced effort is really quite classy. (90-92)/2019+

2011 Corton-Rognets: A distinctly floral nose also features notes of spice, freshly crushed red berries, earth and *sauvage* hints. There is excellent volume to the attractively textured medium weight plus flavors that possess fine mid-palate concentration before culminating in an extract-rich and mouth coating finish of impressive persistence. This is really very good and well worth considering. 92/2019+

2011 Corton-Clos du Roi: An exceptionally fresh and completely classic Clos du Roi nose of *animale*-inflected dark berry fruit, earth, spice and mineral scents. There is an excellent sense of underlying tension to the intensely mineral-driven big-bodied flavors that possess strikingly good power, all wrapped in an overtly austere and seriously long finish. This is very Corton and quite robust without being especially rustic. (91-94)/2021+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Crais": This is very restrained with reluctant if attractively cool and elegant aromas of essence of red pinot fruit that display background nuances of floral, earth, underbrush and stone. There is excellent energy to the delicious and highly vibrant medium-bodied flavors that exude a lovely minerality on the balanced and refined finish. This impression is enhanced by the relatively fine-grained tannins. A lovely *villages* that is worth a look. 89/2018+

2011 Vosne-Romanée: (from Chalandins and vinified with approximately 60% whole clusters). An intensely floral nose displays notes of violets, lavender, Asian spice and plum. There is excellent volume but also fine precision to the solidly well-concentrated medium weight flavors that possess good verve and a seductive mouth feel before terminating in a moderately long and complex finish. A lovely Vosne *villages* that should repay well mid-term aging. (88-91)/2018+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaut St. Jacques": An airy, cool and wonderfully pure nose combines multiple elements that include wild red berries, various mineral nuances, *sauvage* hints and plenty of Gevrey style earth. There is a terrific sense of underlying tension to the stony, detailed and powerful, even robust middle weight flavors that deliver excellent persistence on the balanced if markedly austere finish. This is very Gevrey and the restraint of this very cool *terroir* in a cool vintage definitely is evident. (90-92)/2018+

2011 Charmes-Chambertin: (from Charmes proper). A deft touch of wood sets off a densely fruited nose of cassis and red currant along with plenty of earth, humus and underbrush nuances. There is fine volume and intensity to the supple and seductively textured flavors that possess really lovely persistence. There is only average complexity at present though the underlying material makes me believe that it will develop more with proper cellaring. 91/2019+

2011 Latricières-Chambertin: This resembles closely the Lavaut St. Jacques with its ultra-cool and airy nose of essence of wild red berries and pungent mineral scents. There is superb intensity to the markedly stony and beautifully well-delineated middle weight flavors that culminate in an overtly austere, linear and strikingly long finish. This already possesses fine depth but the austerity is such that this will not be for everyone until it's had some cellar time under its belt. (91-94)/2023+

2011 Chambertin: Relatively strong reduction renders the nose impossible to evaluate. Like the Latricières, this is an intensely mineral-driven wine with excellent size, weight, intensity and power to the medium weight plus flavors that terminate in a less overtly austere and wonderfully persistent finish. A classic Chambertin of class and grace. (92-94)/2023+

Domaine Anne-Françoise Gros (Pommard/Beaune)

2011	**Beaune "Boucherottes" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2011	**Bourgogne**	**red**	**85**
2011	**Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits**	**red**	**86**
2011	**Chambolle-Musigny**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2011	**Echézeaux Grand Cru**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2011	**Richebourg Grand Cru**	**red**	**(91-93)**
2011	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "Clos des Guettes" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2011	**Vosne-Romanée "Clos de la Fontaine"**	**red**	**87**
2011	**Vosne-Romanée "Maizières"**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Vosne-Romanée "Aux Réas"**	**red**	**88**

François Parent (see herein for reviews of these wines), who is married to Anne-Françoise Gros and directs both his domaine and that of his wife's, describes 2011 as a "surprisingly good vintage that produced entirely classic wines of fruit and pleasure. We began picking on the 2nd of September and brought in slightly lower yields that required some sorting but really no more than usual. Still, I'm happy that we started when we did as I noticed that rot pressure was clearly present in some neighboring vineyards that weren't picked around the same time. Sugars were correct if not high with potential alcohols in the 12 to 12.5% range. We fermented at slightly lower temperatures than normal to help preserve freshness and the purity of the fruit. As to the wines, they're highly aromatic and very much built on their fruit, which of course makes them suppler than their 2010 counterparts. I think that they will drink well young but age reasonably well too." My sense of the Gros and Parent 2011s is that their quality is basically in-line with the general quality of the vintage. (Cellar Door Selections, www.cellardoorselections.com, Columbia, MD, New Castle Imports, www.newcastleimports.com, Myrtle Beach, SC, C&D Wines c/o Fruit of the Vines, Inc., www.cndwines.com, Long Island City, NY; Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, La Réserve and Tanners Wine, www.tanners-wines.co.uk, all UK).

2011 Bourgogne: (note that the same wine is also sold under the Domaine François Parent label). A ripe, fresh and rustic nose of earth red and dark berries leads to supple, round and delicious flavors that are quite forward while offering acceptable depth and length. This is already enjoyable. 85/now

2011 Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits: A slightly fresher if more *sauvage* nose of pungent earth and wild dark currants gives way to vibrant, well-detailed and lightly mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that are shaped by ripe and relatively soft tannins on the focused and balanced finish. There is a bit more underlying material though this too could easily be appreciated now. 86/2014+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Clos de la Fontaine": (a *monopole* of the domaine). A spicy, very fresh and markedly more complex nose of spice elements along with violet, red currant and plum scents combines with supple, round and almost soft medium-bodied flavors that terminate in a saline-infused finish of moderate depth and length. This is very forward and clearly meant for early drinking. 87/2015+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Maizières": (from 45+ year old vines). Here the aromatic profile is similar but with the addition of game and smoked tea hints. There is good richness and punch to the middle weight flavors that offer good volume on the delicious, balanced and lingering finish. This is more typical of the *appellation*. 88/2017+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Aux Réas": This is almost a hypothetical mix of the Maizières and the Clos de la Fontaine as it borrows aromas from both before dissolving into silky-textured, dusty and mouth coating medium-bodied flavors that possess a bit less volume and power but are finer. There is fine balance and this too should drink relatively well early on. 88/2016+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Clos des Guettes": (from a vineyard purchased in 1995). An exceptionally fresh nose offers up notes of game, earth, red currants and plenty of Savigny style pungent earth aromas. There is an enticing touch of minerality to the delicious, supple and attractively well-detailed flavors that possess a lovely sense of vibrancy as well as a refreshing saline character on the solidly persistent and complex finish. Good stuff. 89/2017+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny: An exuberantly spicy and quite fresh nose of wild red cherries, mineral nuances and a top note of violets introduce textured and attractively intense middle weight flavors that possess plenty of verve on the delicious finish that is shaped by firm but not hard tannins that are well-integrated. This will require a few years of patience. (88-91)/2018+

2011 Beaune "Boucherottes": This is also exceptionally pretty with high-toned red berry fruit combining with more deeply pitched cassis and soil notes that also suffuse the beautifully intense and detailed medium-bodied flavors that possess good vibrancy. The moderately firm finish is serious, complex and well-balanced and should reward 6 to 8 years of cellar time. Note that it will probably not drink especially well for the first 3 to 5 years. (89-91)/2018+

2011 Echézeaux: (from a .26 ha parcel of vines planted in 1931 in the *climat* Champs Traversin, which is occasionally referred to as Le Petit Citeaux). A discreet but not invisible touch of wood toast surrounds the ripe and fresh dark berry fruit liqueur and broad range of spice scents that give way to supple, round and quite seductively textured medium weight plus flavors where there is so much extract that they seem rather forward and accessible. The finish however tightens up sufficiently to suggest that 8 to 10 years of cellar time will be required. Note however that in contrast to some of the wines in the range, this will probably be approachable relatively young. (90-92)/2019+

2011 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 keep the Vosne 1er Clos de Réas as a *monopole* of Domaine Michel Gros. The Richebourg vines have been replanted 3 times and they are now 15+, 25+ and 70+ years of age). A spicy, wonderfully fresh and cool nose is comprised of notes of plum, violets, anise, cinnamon, sandalwood and red pinot fruit liqueur scents. There is an opulent mouth feel to the velvety yet distinctly powerful broad-shouldered flavors that possess excellent volume before culminating in a balanced, impressively long and mouth coating finish. As classic examples of Richebourg go, this should drink well somewhat earlier yet will still require the better part of a decade to be enjoyable. (91-93)/2021+

Domaine Antonin Guyon (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2011	➽ Aloxe-Corton "Les Fournières" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	Aloxe-Corton "Les Vercots" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	Beaune "Clos de la Chaume Gaufriot"	red	87
2011	Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits Cuvée des Dames de Vergy	red	85
2011	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Cras"	red	(87-90)
2011	Chambolle-Musigny "Clos du Village"	red	(87-89)
2011	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(89-92)
2011	Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Champs Longs"	red	(85-88)
2011	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2011	Corton-Clos du Roy Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2011	Gevrey-Chambertin "La Justice"	red	(87-89)
2011	Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Fichots" 1er	red	(87-90)
2011	Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Goudelettes"	red	(86-89)
2011	Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	(89-91?)

This large 48 ha domaine is directed by Dominique Guyon and his *maître de chai* Vincent Nicot. They told me that 2011 "is as good as either 2010 or 2012 and is in fact a stylistic mix of the two. We picked very slowly between the 1st and 21st of September. There was some sorting necessary though it varied by sector between almost none and moderate. Sugars were good as potential alcohols ranged between 12 and 12.8%. We did a relatively light vinification in the same fashion that we proceeded in 2010 as we're looking for finesse. Overall, 2011 is a fine vintage that will have the considerable advantage of drinking well young but have the capacity to age as well." 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. (Palm Bay Imports, Boca Raton, FL, www.palmbay.com; Friarwood Ltd., www.friarwood.com, UK).

2011 Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits "Cuvée des Dames de Vergy": A very pinot nose of bright and relatively high-toned red berry fruit scents leads to racy, intense and very fresh middle weight flavors that possess acceptable depth and length as well as a lifting touch of minerality. This should drink well immediately. 85/2014+

2011 Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Champs Longs": A discreet hint of wood sets off earthy and somber aromas of both red and dark berries. There is good energy to the round and quite supple flavors that display nice balance and moderate rusticity on the otherwise easy-to-like finish. (85-88)/2015+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Goudelettes": This is earthier still with hints of the *sauvage* on the dark currant and underbrush suffused aromas. There is an attractive suppleness to the delicious and very round medium weight flavors that possess ripe tannins on the balanced and mildly rustic finish that delivers just a bit more depth and length. (86-89)/2016+

2011 Beaune "Clos de la Chaume Gaufriot": (*monopole)*. There is an interesting hint of pepper to the distinctly earthy dark berry fruit and plum scents. There is good detail to the vibrant and supple middle weight flavors that possess reasonably good depth on the balanced finish where an appealing hint of minerality is in evidence. 87/2016+

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Fichots": As one would reasonably expect, this is notably more aromatically complex with its intensely earthy yet not really somber nose of red currant, wild dark berries, *sauvage* and humus scents. There is a beguiling suppleness to the round yet attractively well-detailed medium-bodied flavors that possess a textured mouth feel before culminating in a rustic, firm and serious finish. (87-90)/2017+

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses": (from much whiter soil and with less clay content). Here the nose offers more elegance if a bit less complexity with notes of plum, earth and again plenty of *sauvage* character that continues onto the slightly finer medium weight flavors that are shaped by firm but not hard tannins on the less overtly rustic and persistent finish. (89-91)/2018+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Clos du Village": (a *monopole*). A pretty nose features extract of dark berry fruit, plum, earth and stone hints. There is good verve and a touch of minerality to the nicely detailed flavors that possess solid if not exceptional depth and length on the otherwise well-balanced finish. (87-89)/2017+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Cras": (Les Cras is a split-rated vineyard and this is from the *villages* portion). The composition of the expressive nose is similar to that of the Clos du Village except with the addition of a green tea nuance. There is more evident minerality on the precise, intense and beautifully well-delineated flavors that display a slight edginess on the mildly austere finish that I suspect is more due to the high level of gas than under-ripe tannins. Ultimately this will probably be the more interesting wine in 2011. (87-90)/2018+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "La Justice": There is a hint of crushed leaves to the red pinot and dark currant aromas that also display hints of earth and humus. There is good lift to the detailed medium weight flavors that terminate in a moderately austere and persistent finish. This will need a few years of cellar time to come around as there is presently a mild youthful asperity to the finish. (87-89)/2017+

2011 Charmes-Chambertin: (from a tiny .085 ha parcel, enough for only 1 barrel). Discreet but not invisible wood frames a mélange of floral, cassis, earth and spice scents. There is good volume and richness to the round and delicious flavors that possess good mid-palate concentration, all wrapped in a balanced and persistent finish. There is presently only moderate depth and the question is whether more will develop with time in bottle. (89-92)/2019+

2011 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": (the Guyon parcel directly abuts Taillepieds). Strong reduction renders the nose difficult to evaluate though there is good freshness and verve to the mineral-driven and powerful flavors that display an austere and somewhat drying finish. It's hard to discern whether the dryness is more due to the elevated level of gas or ever-so-slightly under-ripe tannins. While my range does offer the benefit of the doubt, I do add the question mark. (89-91?)/2018+

2011 Aloxe-Corton "Les Fournières": (from rocky, flinty soil that drains extremely well). A background application of wood sets off the attractively layered nose that features notes of spice, pungent earth and a cool but ripe mix of various red berry fruit scents. There is excellent punch to the intense and broad-shouldered flavors that exhibit perhaps a bit less minerality than is typical though this character may become more apparent with age. I like the balance on the mildly austere finale and the underlying material is excellent so this is worth a look provided that you have the patience to cellar it. (90-92)/2019+

2011 Aloxe-Corton "Les Vercots": (from soil that is much deeper with a high clay content). Somewhat atypically, this is slightly less complex but more refined with its nose of red currant and underbrush hints that give way to supple and slightly finer medium-bodied flavors that possess good precision if less power than usual. There is plenty of earth and game character, which is more characteristic of a fine Vercots, all wrapped in a lingering and austere finish. It will be interesting to watch these two wines age as Vercots usually has the nod but I give the barest of edge to the Fournières today. (89-92)/2019+

2011 Corton-Bressandes: A pretty, cool and very restrained nose of ripe red currant, dark cherry and soft earth and spice notes serve as an elegant introduction to the supple yet powerful medium weight flavors that possess good size and weight. There is a relatively refined mouth feel as the tannins are fine-grained, all wrapped in a concentrated, balanced and impressively persistent finish. (91-93)/2021+

2011 Corton-Clos du Roy: An impressively complex and layered nose features plenty of *sauvage* character to the dark berry fruit, earth, strong earth and spice aromas. There is excellent power to the supple and mouth coating big-bodied flavors that display a firm and moderately rustic quality on the austere and hugely long finish that possesses the same fine complexity as the nose. This has the potential to be outstanding in time though note that it will require extended cellaring. (91-94)/2023+

Domaine Huber-Verdereau (Volnay)

2011	**Bourgogne**	**red**	**86**
2011	**Bourgogne - Hautes Côtes de Beaune**	**red**	**86**
2011	**Bourgogne Passe Tout Grains**	**red**	**85**
2011	**Pommard**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Pommard "Les Bertins" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2011	**➽ Pommard "Clos du Colombier"**	**red**	**89**

2011	**Pommard "En Vaumuriens Hauts"**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Volnay**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Volnay "Les Frémiets" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2011	**➽ Volnay "Robardelle"**	**red**	**89**

Thiébault Huber runs this 9.5 ha domaine and told me that 2011 "was a very precocious vintage that began with hot, dry and sunny conditions only to turn into a lousy summertime. During the spring though I began to worry that we might have another 2003 on our hands but July completely overturned that fear and then I began to worry that we might not have sufficiently ripe fruit as the weather was cool, wet and effectively sunless. Still, as odd as it sounds to say, I was actually happy to see the poor weather as making 2003 style wines is just not what I'm after. But as the poor weather dragged on, I was thinking that maybe some sunlight would be good thing! Fortunately, the second half of August turned clement and maturities raced ahead thanks to all of the water that the vines had retained. I elected to begin picking on the 30th of August and brought in relatively clean fruit that required only modest sorting. Ripeness levels were very good, not only phenolically but also in terms of potential alcohols that ranged between 11.5 and 12.7%. I used from 0 to 30% whole clusters and did my usual vinification. One of the interesting aspects of the vintage is how much they changed during the *élevage* as they really fleshed out and became more gracious as they were quite firm, indeed even hard before the malolactics finished. Overall, I like 2011 and while I don't believe it's a great vintage, it's certainly a very good one." My impression of the Huber 2011s is that they are very much in line with the general quality of the vintage. (Scott Paul Wines, www.scottpaul.com, Portland, OR and Bayfield Imports, www.bayfieldimporting.com, Brooklyn, NY; no known UK importers).

2011 Bourgogne Passe Tout Grains: (60% pinot, 40% gamay). An expressive and ripe nose of red berry fruits, pepper, earth and game hints slide into round, supple and forward flavors that display good verve on the punch and delicious finish. This is on the lighter side but should be ideal of informal picnics and bar-b-ques. 85/now

2011 Bourgogne: An earth, fresh and ripe nose mixes together both red and dark berries along with earth and anise hints. There is an attractive texture to the delicious and relatively serious middle weight flavors that terminate in a moderately firm, rustic and persistent finish that delivers more depth. 86/2015+

2011 Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune: A more elegant and slightly cooler nose of red berry fruit and wet stone hints gives way to delicious, vibrant and detailed medium weight flavors that also exude a fine minerality on the ever-so-mildly rustic finish that only slightly detracts from the overall appeal of this pretty effort. 86/2015+

2011 Volnay: (from a mix of vineyards, most of which are on the Pommard side of the village). A relatively earthy nose featured notes of red currant, dark berries and soft spice nuances. There is an excellent volume and an attractive mineral streak on the solidly complex flavors that offer good volume and persistence on the dusty and mouth coating finish. A quality *villages*. 88/2017+

2011 Volnay "Robardelle": (from the *villages* portion of the vineyard). A perfumed and beautifully layered nose of red and dark berry fruit liqueur aromas offer added breadth in the form of exotic tea and a hint of earth. There is a relatively refined mouth feel to the delicious, supple and quite round medium-bodied flavors that offer excellent depth and length for its level. This is recommended as it's an excellent *villages*. 89/2018+

2011 Volnay "Les Frémiets": A notably floral nose of spicy, cool, ripe and elegant red currant, violet and plum aromas leads to mouth coating, precise and mineral-driven middle weight flavors that culminate in a dusty, intense and solidly persistent finish. There is not great complexity at present but the underlying material appears to be present such that more should develop with time in bottle. 90/2019+

2011 Pommard: This is also quite appealingly layered with a broad-ranging nose of violet, earth, plum and cassis hints serving as a lovely introduction to the delicious, round and attractively intense medium weight flavors that possess good mid-palate volume. There is solid power and punch to the rustic and persistent finish. A classic Pommard. 88/2017+

2011 Pommard "En Vaumuriens Hauts": A more elegant and slightly more restrained nose of cool red pinot fruit, stone and underbrush scents merge into well-detailed and highly vibrant flavors that possess plenty of minerality, all wrapped in an overtly rustic, firm and lingering finish. This robust effort will require a few years of cellar time to round off the tannic edges. 88/2018+

2011 Pommard "Les Bertins": A subtle touch of wood wraps around the distinctly floral and highly spiced aromas of raspberry liqueur and pungent earth. There is good verve to the seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the markedly firm but not aggressively structured finish that offers excellent depth and persistence if limited finesse. This too is very Pommard in character. 90/2019+

2011 Pommard "Clos du Colombier": (a *monopole*). This is unusually perfumed with really lovely aromas of dried flowers, earth, spice and very fresh red currant scents. There is notably more refinement to the middle weight flavors that possess firm but relatively fine tannins and while there is a trace of rusticity on the balanced and solidly persistent finish, the overall impression is a Pommard of elegance. Lovely stuff and worth a look. 89/2018+

Maison Louis Jadot (Beaune)

2011	Beaune "1er" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	Beaune "Boucherottes" 1er	red	(87-89)
2011	Beaune "Clos de Couchereaux" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	Beaune "Grèves" 1er	red	(87-90)
2011	Beaune "Theurons" 1er	red	(87-89)
2011	Beaune "Clos des Ursules" 1er	red	(88-91)
2011	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2011	Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2011	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	red	(93-95)
2011	Chambolle-Musigny	red	(87-89)
2011	➽ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses" 1er	red	(92-94)
2011	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Baudes" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	➽ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Fuées" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	Chapelle-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2011	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2011	Clos St. Denis Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2011	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2011	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(89-92)
2011	Corton-Grèves Grand Cru	red	(89-91)
2011	Corton-Pougets Grand Cru	red	(88-91?)
2011	Côte de Nuits-Villages "Le Vaucrain"	red	(85-87)
2011	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2011	Gevrey-Chambertin	red	(86-89)
2011	Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Cazetiers" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin "Clos St. Jacques" 1er	red	(90-93)
2011	Gevrey-Chambertin "Estournelles St. Jacques" 1er	red	(86-90)
2011	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaut St. Jacques" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	Gevrey-Chambertin "Petite Chapelle" 1er	red	(88-91)
2011	Grands-Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2011	Marsannay "Clos du Roy"	red	(87-90)
2011	Mazis-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2011	Morey St. Denis "Clos des Ormes" 1er	red	(87-90)
2011	Musigny Grand Cru	red	(93-95)
2011	Nuits St. Georges	red	(87-89)
2011	➽ Nuits St. Georges "Les Boudots" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	Pernand-Vergelesses "La Clos de la Croix de Pierre" 1er	red	(86-89)
2011	Pommard	red	(86-89)
2011	Pommard "Clos de la Commaraine" 1er	red	(87-89)
2011	Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	Santenay "Clos de Malte"	red	(86-88)
2011	Santenay "Clos des Gatsulards"	red	(86-89)
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Clos des Guettes" 1er	red	(87-89)
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "La Dominode" 1er	red	(85-88)
2011	Volnay "Clos de la Barre" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	(87-90)
2011	Volnay "Santenots" 1er	red	(87-89)
2011	Vosne-Romanée	red	(86-89)
2011	Vosne-Romanée "Les Beaux Monts" 1er	red	(88-91)

2011	Vosne-Romanée "Suchots" 1er	red	(89-92)
2010	➽ Beaune "Clos des Ursules" 1er	red	91
2010	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	red	96
2010	➽ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Fuées" 1er	red	92
2010	Chapelle-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	93
2010	Clos St. Denis Grand Cru	red	94
2010	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	93
2010	Corton-Pougets Grand Cru	red	94
2010	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	93
2010	➽ Nuits St. Georges "Les Boudots" 1er	red	92
2010	➽ Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	93
2010	Volnay "Clos de la Barre" 1er	red	90
2010	➽ Vosne-Romanée "Suchots" 1er	red	91

For the first time in all the years that I have been visiting Maison Jadot I did not meet with Jacques Lardière because he, after 43 years with Jadot, has taken his much deserved retirement. Instead, I met with Jacques' replacement and new technical director Frédéric Barnier, who describes 2011 as having had a "very early and particularly dry spring that turned out to be even 3 weeks more advanced than the similar period in 2003. The hydric stress that had developed during the spring though was more than compensated by a very wet, cool and cloudy summer that continued through the first half of August. Happily the weather turned and the second half of August was notably better and much warmer, which had the effect of spiking maturities. It was great for the pinot noir though we began to be concerned about falling acidity levels in chardonnay. We began picking the chardonnay on the 30th of August and the pinot on the first of September. Some sectors were very clean and others required an enormous amount of sorting work. Yields were down significantly, which is to say between 25 and 35% less than a normal crop. The flowering didn't go all that well and in the Côte de Nuits some vineyards are still suffering from the frost damage suffered in December 2009. Potential alcohols were good if not high at around 12% and we did a normal vinification, which is to say between 3 and 3 ½ weeks of total *cuvaison* using no whole clusters. As to the wines, they are quite approachable, even tender with round and naturally sweet flavors. There is much less difference between the Côte de Beaune and the Côte de Nuits in 2011 than there was in 2010 and I find the quality in the Côte de Beaune to be excellent. Still, I wouldn't call the style of the 2011 reds to be one for purists as there isn't the same kind of tension that they tend to admire." As was discussed in great detail in Issue 49, 2011 is a mixed vintage with some terrific wines and some that are much less interesting. With as big a range as Jadot produces, it is not surprising that their results in 2011 would largely mirror that of the vintage. (Kobrand, Inc., www.kobrandwine.com, NY, NY; Hatch Mansfield Ltd., www.hatchmansfield.com, Uncorked Ltd, www.uncorked.co.uk, both UK).

2011 Santenay "Clos de Malte": A discreet touch of wood frames notes of menthol, red berries and earth. There is good energy and detail to the very supple and round flavors that terminate in a delicious and easy-to-like finish. This should drink well on the young side. (86-88)/2015+

2011 Santenay "Clos des Gatsulards": Here the nose is similar to that of the Clos de Malte if slightly more complex. There is a lovely purity to the energetic middle weight flavors that possess slightly finer tannins and a touch of minerality on the delicious, clean and saline-inflected finish. This will be approachable young but should benefit from 3 to 4 years of cellar time as well. (86-89)/2016+

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses "La Clos de la Croix de Pierre": (from En Caradeux). More obvious wood sets off an otherwise cool, pure and pretty mix of wild red berries, earth and a hint of the *sauvage*. There is good vibrancy to the round, delicious and supple flavors that retain a good sense of detail on the lightly mineral-inflected finish. This is certainly very pretty but not at its usual level. (86-89)/2016+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Clos des Guettes": This is both more elegant and more complex with an equally cool and pure nose of both red and dark pinot fruit, earth, stone and floral hints. There is excellent detail to the richness and enveloping medium-bodied flavors that possess a beguiling mouth feel, all wrapped in a clean, balanced and lingering finish of moderate depth that isn't quite the equal of the nose in this respect. (87-89)/2017+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "La Dominode": This is markedly more deeply pitched with a beautifully nuanced nose of red and dark berries, plum and black cherry along with plenty of soil tones. There is a bit more volume as well to the solidly well-concentrated medium-bodied flavors that exude a fine minerality on the tight but tough and mildly astringent finish. It's of course possible that this will come together but this doesn't appear to be close to its usual outstanding level. (85-88)/2017+

2011 Beaune "Grèves": A fresh and attractively ripe nose of wild red berries, violets and again, plenty of earth character. There is god energy to the round and supple medium weight flavors that possess a silky texture on the mid-palate before terminating in a delicious if not especially complex finish. Still, there is enough underlying material and an excellent track record for developing with age and thus my range offers the benefit of the doubt. (87-90)/2018+

2011 Beaune "Theurons": A generous helping of wood fights somewhat with the extract of red pinot fruit, red currant cherry and warm earth scents. There is good volume and fine richness to the suave and very round medium-bodied flavors that possess good balance though like the Grèves, there isn't a lot of depth, at least not yet. (87-89)/2017+

2011 Beaune "Clos de Couchereaux": More moderate though far from invisible wood surrounds notes of menthol and cool cherry aromas slides gracefully into supple, vibrant and attractively rich and mineral-driven middle weight flavors that possess a lovely mouth feel thanks to the relatively fine-grained tannins. Despite their fine grain the admirably long finish is notably firm and this will require most of a decade to arrive at its peak. (89-91)/2019+

2011 Beaune "Boucherottes": There are also discreet notes of menthol present here too along with moderate wood influence, wild red currant and plum scents. The supple, round and delicious flavors possess a lovely sense of underlying tension before culminating in a detailed finish that display hints of sour cherry and just enough depth and length to be interesting. (87-89)/2017+

2011 Beaune "Clos des Ursules": A toasty nose of red and black cherry, spice, earth and a hint of game merges into cool and pure middle weight flavors that display a subtle trace of minerality. There is a firm but not hard tannic spine shaping the delicious and moderately persistent finish that offers good if not truly special depth. (88-91)/2018+

2011 Beaune "1er": (a blend of about 12 different 1ers). There is a floral element to the wild red cherry and raspberry suffused nose that introduces very round, supple, forward and generous flavors that possess a seductively textured mid-palate yet like the Clos des Ursules, tighten up quickly on the firm and serious finish that retains a fine sense of balance. This should benefit from 7 to 10 years of cellar time. (89-91)/2018+

2011 Volnay "Santenots": A moderately toasty nose of menthol, dark cherry, plum and cassis complements the lush and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that possess good volume and are supported by markedly ripe tannins though the finish, while delicious, lacks a bit of verve. It's possible that this is simply fatigued though I doubt it. (87-89)/2018+

2011 Volnay "Clos de la Barre": (a *monopole*). Here too there is moderate toasty influence on the notably ripe, indeed almost liqueur-like aromas of red and black raspberry, cassis, plum and soft spice notes. There is a textured mouth feel to the supple, round and delicious middle weight flavors that possess a bit more verve before culminating in a firm, serious and solidly persistent finish. There is good balance and fine depth though note that this will need time. (89-91)/2019+

2011 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": A much lighter if not invisible touch of wood allow the cool, pure and airy wild red cherry aromas that are cut with hints of stone, earth, game and an interesting note of smoked tea. There is good detail to the supple, round and delicious medium weight flavors that possess good punch and a discreet hint of stone but not quite the same depth and length. To be sure, this is good but the Clos de la Barre is better. (87-90)/2018+

2011 Pommard: A hint of wood can be seen on the ripe but agreeably fresh aromas of red berry fruit liqueur and warm earth scents. There is reasonably good volume to the round and supple flavors that offer good detail and verve on the lightly mineral-inflected, austere and rustic finish where the wood resurfaces. (86-89)/2018+

2011 Pommard "Clos de la Commaraine": Here the wood is more prominent on the highly expressive nose of cassis, menthol, plum, spice and earth aromas. There is fine volume and excellent punch to the lightly mineral-driven flavors that possess slightly better complexity but also a touch of warmth on the overtly austere finish. This will need up to a decade of cellar time. (87-89)/2019+

2011 Pommard "Les Rugiens": (from Rugiens-Bas). Less prominent oak fights less with the very fresh red pinot fruit and stone aromas. There is excellent verve to the well-detailed and soil-inflected medium-bodied flavors that possess controlled power on the balanced and impressively long finish. The supporting tannins are fine-grained and an apt description would be that is a Rugiens of relative refinement. (89-92)/2019+

2011 Corton-Grèves: Very generous wood stops just short of completely dominating the otherwise fresh and ripe red berry fruit, earth and distinctly *sauvage* aromas. There is good volume to the unusually supple and round mid-palate that possesses good power and verve before firming up considerably on the moderately long and reasonably complex finish. This is perfectly good but not at its usual level. (89-91)/2019+

2011 Corton-Pougets: This is also quite lavishly wooded and while the oak doesn't completely overshadow the pretty and slightly fresher aromas of wild red currant, stone and earth, it's close. There is good detail and plenty of energy to the solidly intense middle weight flavors that are supported by tannins that are less refined than what I typically see with this wine, all wrapped in a finish that offers a bit better depth and length than the Grèves but at the expense of being less well-balanced. This is honestly difficult to read as the tannins are distinctly rough, which as I say is not typical for this wine. (88-91?)/2021+

2011 Côte de Nuits-Villages "Le Vaucrain": An earthy and moderately *sauvage* nose of both red and dark berry fruit precedes detail and lightly mineral-inflected flavors that possess an attractive mouth feel on the mid-palate yet the finish is dry and borderline astringent. I would suggest drinking this young as it risks drying out with age. (85-87)/2014+

2011 Marsannay "Clos du Roy": An expressive nose of red currant and spicy green tea leads to detailed, stony and energetic flavors that possess a relatively refined mouth feel before terminating in a balanced finish that delivers fine if not special depth and length. (87-90)/2017+

2011 Nuits St. Georges: An earthy and quite somber nose of dark berries, underbrush and cassis aromas slides into attractively round and supple flavors that possess good volume before culminating in a delicious if mildly rustic finish. The tannins are ripe and well-integrated and this is a classic Nuits *villages* in character and style. (87-89)/2017+

2011 Nuits St. Georges "Les Boudots": Relatively strong wood influence fights somewhat with the otherwise expressive nose that is comprised of spice, earth, menthol and cassis aromas. There is fine intensity to the attractively, even seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that possess focused power and punch on the balanced and impressively persistent finish. This should offer up to a decade of development potential. (90-92)/2019+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny: A moderately high-toned nose of various red berry fruit aromas is trimmed in just enough wood to notice. There is a supple and lacy mouth feel to the lightly mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that are supported by firm but fine tannins on the delicious finish. This should be approachable young if desired. (87-89)/2017+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Fuées": Moderate wood frames a very pretty nose of high-toned raspberry, cherry and subtle menthol nuances. There is plenty of the characteristic minerality to the refined and attractively vibrant medium weight flavors that possess a distinctly saline character on the clean and mildly austere finish. The tannins are firm but quite fine-grained and this should age well as the balance is impeccable. (90-92)/2021+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Baudes": The nose is quite similar to that of the Fuées except that here there is a bit more oak influence. As is almost always the case, the mouth feel is less refined but more muscular with good power, volume and punch to the medium-bodied flavors that finish with excellent length. This should also amply reward up to a decade of cellar time. (89-92)/2019+

2011 Vosne-Romanée: A pretty nose combines notes of red and black pinot fruit together with hints of smoked tea that slide gracefully into round, supple and appealingly textured middle weight flavors that fall a bit flat on the otherwise attractively persistent finish. It's possible that this was just tired but there just isn't the same sense of verve. (86-89)/2017+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Les Beaux Monts": A very spicy nose of primarily black cherry and cassis aromas also precedes very round, supple and forward flavors that possess the same attractively textured mouth feel to the medium-bodied flavors that also seem to lack a bit of energy on the nicely lingering finish. Again, it's possible that this is just fatigued and this is quite plausible given that Beaux Monts naturally has good acid levels. (88-91)/2019+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Suchots": This is remarkably similar to the Beaux Monts except that there is a noticeable amount of menthol present. The suave, round and velvety middle weight flavors display an abundance of mouth coating dry extract along with fine complexity and very good if not truly striking length. (89-92)/2019+

2011 Morey St. Denis "Clos des Ormes": (Barnier indicated that this was not vinified by Jadot). Light ruby. A distinctly high-toned nose of red pinot fruit and lovely floral aromas leads to pleasingly detailed middle weight flavors that possess a refined mouth feel. There is good balance and I like the fine-grained tannins but the finish lacks a bit of depth. In sum, this is pretty rather than deep, at least at this point. (87-90)/2018+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin: Moderate wood surrounds cool aromas of dark berries, cassis, humus and underbrush. There is good freshness to the reasonably well-detailed medium weight flavors that terminate in a mildly austere finish that delivers acceptable depth and length. Correct. (86-89)/2017+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Petite Chapelle": Very generous wood marks the nose of raspberry liqueur and wet stone aromas. There is a lush, round and lavish mouth feel to the pleasantly textured medium-bodied flavors that possess fine volume on the firm if not especially vibrant flavors that offer very good depth and length. Like several other wines in the range, it's possible that this was fatigued. (88-91)/2019+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Cazetiers": More moderate though far from invisible wood frames distinctly spicy and *sauvage* aromas of menthol, earth, plum and smoked meat nuances. There is fine volume and solid ripeness to the very firm supporting tannins that shape the medium weight and quite suave flavors that possess a bit more punch and length compared to the Petite Chapelle. (89-91)/2021+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaut St. Jacques": Relatively discreet though again, not invisible, wood combines with notes of menthol and extract of red berry fruit, earth, underbrush and game hints. There is a bit more verve to the suave and seductively textured mineral-driven flavors that offer fine depth and excellent persistence. This should be lovely in time. (90-92)/2021+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Estournelles St. Jacques": Conspicuous wood marks the otherwise attractive and fresh nose of spice, stone, red currant and smoked black tea aromas. There is good detail to the very round and smooth medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a firm, austere and ever-so-mildly astringent finish. This may round out but I prefer to remain cautious and hence the wider than normal predicted range. (86-90)/2019+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Clos St. Jacques": Again, very generous wood fights somewhat with the otherwise pretty, cool, ripe and airy combination of menthol, soil tones, stone hints and various wild red berry fruit aromas. There is excellent mid-palate concentration to the serious and brooding medium-bodied flavors that exude a fine minerality on the robust, powerful and very firm finish. This is less refined than it typically is and is distinctly muscular. Still, if you have the patience to wait, this should amply reward extended cellar time. (90-93)/2023+

2011 Clos de Vougeot: A very toasty nose evidences a hint of tar on the mentholated nose both red and dark berry fruit and pungent earth aromas. There is good volume to the unusually supple, suave and smooth middle weight flavors that possess an opulent mouth feel as there is a plenitude of palate coating dry extract. There is a touch of warmth on the moderately austere, notably firm, robust and powerful finish that isn't especially refined but it is impressively persistent. (89-92)/2023+

2011 Echézeaux: (from Les Rouges du Bas that is worked by horse because it is so steep). There is much less wood in evidence on the fresh, spicy, earthy and dense nose of both red and black currant scents. The mouth feel is notably finer than that of the Clos de Vougeot as the tannins are more fine-grained plus there is good verve to the medium weight plus flavors that culminate in a mouth coating, firm, moderately austere and strikingly long finish. This should be excellent. (90-93)/2023+

2011 Grands-Echézeaux: Here too the wood treatment is modulated and allows the intensely spicy if restrained aromas of cool essence of red and black pinot fruit that complements well the suave, very round and delicious middle weight flavors that possess good energy. The mouth coating finish is actually no more complex than that of the Echézeaux though there is slightly better persistence. This too will require at least a decade of cellaring. (91-93)/2023+

2011 Bonnes-Mares: (100% from the Chambolle side). A moderately toasty nose fights somewhat with the spicy plum, cassis, warm earth and game suffused aromas. There is a plush mouth feel to the big-bodied and muscular flavors that display a discreet minerality before terminating in a firm, vibrant and quite serious finish. This extremely rich effort seems more forward than it is thanks to the abundance of tannin buffering dry extract so patience will be required. (91-94)/2023+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses": (from a small .12 ha parcel). A spicy and notably floral nose of attractively layered aromas features notes of cassis, black cherry and plum aromas. There is a lovely mineral streak that runs the length of the refined medium-bodied flavors that possess excellent complexity, all wrapped in a balanced, lingering and lilting finish. I very much like the finesse and brilliant mouth feel as it's pure silk. (92-94)/2023+

2011 Musigny: (from 90+ year old vines in a parcel measuring .32 ha). Background notes of wood are discernible but stop short of being invasive as they still allow the restrained, cool and pure dark berry fruit and black cherry aromas to shine. Interestingly this is less overtly spicy as the Amoureuses at present though there is a genuinely gorgeous inner mouth perfume to the suave, round and polished middle weight plus flavors that possess plenty of underlying muscle and power on the hugely long, balanced and impressively complex finish. While clearly firmly structured, this is somewhat more forward and approachable than is typical for this wine. (93-95)/2023+

2011 Clos de la Roche: A pungent if highly complex nose offers up a wide range of aromas that include wood toast, menthol, tar, ripe dark berry, plum and warm earth. There is excellent richness to the solidly well-concentrated medium weight plus flavors that possess plenty of volume before terminating in a muscular and firm finish of striking perseverance. (90-93)/2021+

2011 Clos St. Denis: (from 90+ year old vines that are worked by horse). There is enough reduction present to render the nose impossible to fairly evaluate. By contrast, there is plenty of vibrancy and freshness to the silky and seductive middle weight flavors that are shaped by notably more fine grained tannins, all wrapped in a wonderfully intense, mouth coating and lengthy finish. This may be a Clos St. Denis of finesse but it doesn't lack for power or seriousness. (92-94)/2023+

2011 Charmes-Chambertin: An extremely pretty nose exhibits a well-layered aromatic profile of liqueur of red berry fruit, earth and soft spice scents that is trimmed in just enough wood toast to notice. There is a seductive consistency to the solidly well-concentrated medium-bodied flavors that ooze a fine dry extract that helps to buffer the moderately firm shaping tannins on the attractively long finish. Like the Clos St. Denis, this is quite refined. (91-93)/2019+

2011 Mazis-Chambertin: There is a bit more wood on the fresh and open *sauvage*-infused nose of both red and dark currant, earth and game hints. There is excellent volume to the very smooth and polished mid-palate of the broad-shouldered flavors that possess plenty of dry extract before culminating in a mineral-inflected, powerful and long finish. This moderately firm effort is supported by tannins that are ripe if borderline rustic. A classic Mazis. (90-93)/2021+

2011 Chapelle-Chambertin: (from En Gémeaux; these are the oldest vines of the entire Jadot portfolio of owned vineyards). This is also sufficiently reduced that it is hard to read the nose but it would appear that the underlying fruit is notably ripe. There is an elegant mouth feel to the mineral-driven and admirably pure medium-bodied flavors that possess outstanding depth and length and the very firmly structured finish. This is a beautiful effort but note that it would best be purchased only by the very patient. (92-94)/2026+

2011 Chambertin: A healthy dollop of wood toast is in evidence along with distinctly cool and restrained aromas of wild red berries, wet stone, underbrush and exotic black tea nuances. There is a relatively supple and forward mouth feel to the mid-palate that exudes an almost pungent minerality on the solid if not exceptionally concentrated finish. There is however enough dry extract present to buffer the moderately firm tannic spine on the balanced, long and sappy finish. (91-94)/2023+

2011 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: There is also enough oak influence to notice though not enough to materially detract from the high-toned and overtly spicy red currant, cherry and plum suffused nose. There is a lovely minerality to the supple, forward and refined middle weight plus flavors that possess a wonderfully refined mouth feel before culminating in a long, powerful, concentrated and palate drenching finish. While not truly a wine of finesse in the same sense as a fine Chambolle or Volnay, this is relatively subtle as the supporting tannins have the same fine grain as the best of these 2011s. (93-95)/2023+

2010 Beaune "Clos des Ursules": The generous wood the cask sample displayed has almost fully integrated though this does open with noticeable reduction. I gave this 20 minutes or so in a decanter which was sufficient to dissipate the funk and to reveal very pretty red and dark berry fruit, violet hints and earth nuances. There is excellent volume to the solidly well-concentrated medium weight flavors that are at once suave but detailed, all wrapped in a tension-filled, dusty, austere and mouth coating finish of impeccable balance. A classic Clos des Ursules that should reward well 12 to 15 years of cellaring. 91/2022+

2010 Volnay "Clos de la Barre": (a *monopole*). A perfumed, pure and impressively elegant nose is composed of dark berry fruit, violet, plum and spice hints. The suave, round and utterly delicious flavors are shaped by relatively fine, even silky tannins that are buffered by plenty of sappy dry extract yet the clean, moderately austere and balanced finish is firm, intense and solidly persistent. 90/2020+

2010 Pommard "Les Rugiens": (from Rugiens-Bas). A pure, ripe, cool and elegant mix of red berries, stone, violet and plum aromas leads to vibrant, rich, powerful and concentrated broad-shouldered flavors that exude a fine minerality that continues onto the gorgeously long finish that is clean, dusty and moderately austere. This is a most impressive if quite firmly structured effort and I again underscore that this makes sense only for the patient. (93)/2022+

2010 Corton-Pougets: A highly complex nose speaks of pure wet stone, fresh cassis and ripe plum aromas. There is excellent detail to the mineral-driven and tension-filled sleekly muscular flavors that culminate in a precise, linear and driving finish that offers superb balance, wonderful depth and stunning length. As it always is, this is a relatively fine Corton; indeed it is consistently one of the most refined Corton reds made but note that is has an almost uncanny ability to age. In short, this is fabulous. 94/2022+

2010 Nuits St. Georges "Les Boudots": A notably spicy and attractively perfumed nose of earth, cassis, plum and a hint of the *sauvage* gives way to refined yet overtly powerful flavors that possess so much dry extract that they come across as velvety and forward just until the mildly austere finish where the character changes to a chewy, dusty and very serious finale that is trimmed in a very deft application of wood. This is a relatively big 2010 with plenty of muscle and fine aging potential. 92/2022+

2010 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Fuées": There is a discreet application of wood to the elegant, pure and lightly spiced nose of layered black raspberry and cassis nose that is also barely visible on the mineral-driven, intense and tension-filled medium-bodied flavors. There is excellent volume and plenty of mid-palate stuffing because while this is certainly a wine of finesse, it does not lack for character or seriously impressive persistence on the gorgeously balanced if distinctly austere finish. A wine of class and grace that will need plenty of cellar time as it has already begun to shut down. 92/2022+

2010 Vosne-Romanée "Suchots": Very discreet wood sets off exuberantly spicy aromas of plum, cassis and black raspberry liqueur. There is an ultra-sophisticated mouth feel to the silky-textured medium-bodied flavors that are blessed with so much extract that they culminate in an incredibly suave yet balanced finish that is built to age. There is a very mild touch of backend dryness that is likely due to the bottling and will probably round out in time but it does cause me to score this slightly lower than I otherwise might have. 91/2022+

2010 Echézeaux: (from Les Rouges du Bas that is worked by horse because it is so steep). A notably ripe and exceptionally spicy nose combines liqueur of black cherry, cassis and earth notes that are very much in keeping with the equally ripe, velvety and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that possess an abundance of tannin-buffering dry extract. There is good volume on the lovely and unusually understated though tautly muscular finish; indeed this is almost refined though there is enough lurking tannin to strongly suggest that this should enjoy a long aging curve. In short, the 2010 version is a clear step above the quality I usually find with this wine. 93/2025+

2010 Clos de Vougeot: The exceptional freshness of the 2010 vintage is more than apparent here with a restrained and cool nose of intensely earthy red and dark berry fruit aromas that also display forest floor and humus notes. There is outstanding concentration to the extract-rich broad-shouldered flavors that display plenty of power and muscle on the impressively persistent if almost aggressively austere and very firmly structured finish. This is a big wine yet it carries its size and weight effortlessly in large part because of the fine mid-palate concentration and relatively fine grain of the tannins. Note that this is very much like the Chapelle in that it would be absolutely pointless to open a bottle at this point, indeed this is another 'bury it in the back of the cellar and forget you own it" wines. 93/2028+

2010 Clos St. Denis: (from 90+ year old vines that are worked by horse). A notably floral and elegant nose of ripe yet high-toned aromas of essence of red pinot fruit combines with subtle spice, game and warm earth nuances. There is a velvety mouth feel yet good precision to the wonderfully rich flavors that possess a high level of phenolic maturity before terminating in a refined, pure and delicately balanced finish. An exercise in harmony and grace that should allow it to age brilliantly yet not be completely uncivilized if you wanted to try one young. In two words, absolutely stunning. 94/2025+

2010 Chapelle-Chambertin: (from En Gémeaux; these are the oldest vines of the entire Jadot portfolio of owned vineyards). This was quite reduced at first and required more than an hour of aeration to finally reveal fresh, cool and mineral-inflected red berry fruit, earth, game, humus and forest floor aromas. There is superb intensity to the almost aggressively stone and beautifully well-delineated large-scaled flavors that possess an extremely firm, mouth coating and driving finish. There is a real sense of underlying tension with an overt austerity to the very serious and stunningly long finish. The En Gémeaux character of pungent minerality is about as front and center as I have ever seen it. I repeat that this is at present one very, very austere wine and there is absolutely zero reason to open a bottle young. However, if you choose to commit wine infanticide of such an egregious nature, give it 4 to 6 hours in a decanter. I believe based on how the wine evolved over several days that it will in time be genuinely excellent as the underlying material is certainly present but this is most definitely a "bury in the back of the cellar and forget you own it" Chapelle. 93/2030+

2010 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: This is consistently one of Jadot's finest wines and 2010 is no different, in fact it would appear to have even greater ultimate potential than the Musigny, which isn't always the case. The spicy, ripe and exceptionally complex nose of airy, pure and cool red currant, plum and stone aromas gracefully merges into the powerful but sophisticated medium-bodied flavors that possess seemingly buckets of dry extract that almost forcefully pushes the very firm tannic spine to the background on the markedly austere, compact and very tight finish. As intense and powerful as this is, the mouth feel is almost lilting and this is a classic example of a wine exhibiting what I call power without weight. In a word, stunning but note well my suggested optimal drinking window as this will not be for the impatient. 96/2030+

Domaine Patrick Javillier (Meursault)

2011	**Aloxe-Corton**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Pernand-Vergelesses**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "Grands Liards"**	**red**	**87**
2011	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "Serpentières" 1er**	**red**	**89**

The professorial Patrick Javillier described 2011 as a "very surprising vintage. Despite the very early harvest the wines drink as though they were picked one month later. We began picking on the 23rd of August and realized more yield than we did in 2010. The chardonnay was very clean though the pinot required some sorting. We vinified the reds as we typically do and while they don't have the structure of the 2010s they should still age well. The 2011 reds are built on their fruit and have the not-to-be discounted attribute of being enjoyable young." Note that the Javillier reds are now bottled under the composite Diam corks. Note further that the wines also appear under the name Javillier-Guyot as some of the vines came from his wife's family. (Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA/NV/AZ/NM, Langdon-Shiverick, www.shiverick.com, Cleveland, OH and Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, Lake Success, NY; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com, O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, Private Cellar Ltd., www.privatecellar.co.uk and Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, all UK).

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Grands Liards": A fresh, ripe and expressive nose of both red and blue pinot fruit is liberally sprinkled with warm earth aromas. There is a moderately rustic mouth feel to the attractively supple and round middle weight flavors that possess good balance on the delicious if not especially complex finish. This should drink well young. 87/2015+

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses: A slightly ripe if mildly rustic nose of more deeply pitched aromas of liqueur of dark berry fruit, warm earth and a hint of the *sauvage* leads to supple yet precise medium weight flavors that possess good energy on the solidly persistent finish. There is good phenolic maturity to the supporting tannins as well as an appealing touch of minerality. A lovely *villages*. 88/2016+

2011 Aloxe-Corton: A slightly more complex nose features notes of violet, plum, cassis, earth and underbrush. There is good vibrancy to the supple and relatively forward flavors that are also supported by ripe if somewhat rustic tannins on the moderately firm and agreeably persistent finish. This too is really quite good for its level. 88/2017+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Serpentières": This is both the freshest and the most elegant wine in the group with admirably pure aromas of various red berries, spice and earth nuances. There is a supple and relatively sophisticated mouth feel to the delicious medium-bodied flavors that exude a discreet minerality and are shaped by firm but fine tannins on the attractively lingering finish. A lovely and understated effort. 89/2018+

Domaine Rémi Jobard (Meursault)

2011	**Bourgogne Passe Tout Grains**	**red**	**(85-87)**
2011	**Côteaux Bourguignons Jobard de Rémi**	**red**	**(85-87)**
2011	**Monthelie "Champs Fuillot" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2011	**Monthelie "Les Vignes Rondes" 1er**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2011	**Volnay "Les Santenots" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**

Rémi Jobard reports that 2011 is a "flattering vintage of pleasure and ease of appreciation. It's already delicious and the wines will drink well before those of 2010 as they're well-balanced, fresh and not overly structured. We began picking on the 27th of August and brought in very clean and ripe fruit that required almost no chaptalization. I vinified the reds as I always do, which is to say without a lot of extraction. Overall, I like the vintage as it's pleasant and agreeable." Jobard noted that he bottled the whites (which will be reviewed in Issue 51) and will bottle the reds with more gas than usual so I would strongly recommend decanting them for 15 minutes first. I would describe the quality of Jobard's 2011 reds as performing basically in-line with the overall quality of the vintage. (Weygandt-Metzler, www.weygandtmetzler.com, Unionville, PA; Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk, UK).

2011 Bourgogne Passe Tout Grains: (this is now two-thirds gamay). An earthy and distinctly peppery nose of rustic dark berry fruit leads to nicely rich and attractively vibrant flavors that are supported by notably ripe tannins and fine persistence. This is not elegant but I like the complexity and personality. (85-87)/2015+

2011 Côteaux Bourguignons Jobard de Rémi: (100% pinot). A rustic, ripe and fresh nose of red currant, cassis and plenty of earth character is also picked up by the lush and round middle weight flavors that possess moderately good depth and length. This is a bit finer than the Passe Tout Grains but not necessarily more interesting. (85-87)/2015+

2011 Monthelie "Les Vignes Rondes": A pungently earthy red and dark berry fruit nose introduces impressively rich and solidly well-concentrated medium weight flavors that possess good complexity if limited refinement on the overtly rustic, firm and attractively persistent finish. (86-89)/2017+

2011 Monthelie "Champs Fuillot": This is a bit more aromatically elegant if otherwise similar with more volume to the very rich and voluminous flavors that possess a seductive mouth feel that is enhanced by the relatively fine-grained tannins. There is lovely balance and length and overall, this is a much more complete effort than the Vignes Rondes. (88-91)/2018+

2011 Volnay "Les Santenots": As one would reasonably expect, this is more elegant still with its very pretty aromas of red currant, dark berries, humus, earth and underbrush hints. There is excellent volume to the ripe middle weight flavors that also display a relatively refined mouth feel in large part thanks to the fine grain of the supporting tannins. There is a solid tannic spine shaping the balanced and persistent finish and if this can add a bit of depth while aging this could surprise to the upside. (89-91)/2019+

Domaine Pierre et François Labet (Beaune/Vougeot)

2011	**Beaune "Coucherias" 1er**	**red**	**(89-92)**
2011	**Beaune "Clos de Dessus de Marconnets"**	**red**	**(88-90)**
2011	**➽ Bourgogne Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2011	**➽ Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**(89-91)**

François Labet told me that 2011 was a "challenging vintage because of erratic weather conditions. The summer was wet, cool and overcast yet I am convinced that our approach of allowing herbs and grasses to grow between the vine rows was elemental in reducing rot-inducing humidity. We also pruned very long which meant that the bunches were not, well, bunched together and this improved aeration around them as well. The harvest weather was ideal and we picked very slowly between the 1st and the 12th of September. The crop was very clean, particularly in the Côte de Nuits where I would put our sorting losses at less than 5%. One of the interesting aspects is that despite our deliberate and targeted approach to picking each parcel at optimum ripeness levels, during our almost two weeks of picking the sugars barely budged. In the end we obtained potential alcohols that ranged from 12 to 12.7% though with good acidities and excellent phenolic maturity levels. I did a normal vinification as there was no reason not to because, again, the fruit was ripe and clean. In terms of the wines themselves, they make me think of suave 2008s, which is to say classic burgundies with a succulent rather than moderately austere side. They should age well as there is good balance and ripe tannins." As has consistently been the case over the last few vintages, Labet has turned in some excellent results and while these 2011s are not at the same level as the fantastic 2010s, this is still a fine group of 2011s that should drink well over the medium-term. (Beaune Imports, www.beauneimports.com, Berkley, CA, Polaner Selections, www.polanerselections.com, Mt. Kisco, NY; Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com, UK).

2011 Bourgogne Vieilles Vignes: (from 45+ year old vines located in Chorey-lès-Beaune). A deft touch of wood sets off a notably ripe nose of cassis, violets and plum. There is good richness to the round and delicious flavors that possess a certain mid-palate tenderness that isn't often seen in the *appellation*, all wrapped in a velvety, supple and balanced finish. This is worth a look. (86-89)/2014+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes": (from La Justice, Les Crais and Jouise). Here too there is a subtle application of wood framing the cool but ripe and expressive aromas of black cherry, cassis, humus and a hint of the *sauvage*. There is plenty of punch to the detailed and discreetly mineral-inflected medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a mildly austere, balanced and lingering finish. This is very Gevrey in basic character and recommended for its overall quality. (89-91)/2019+

2011 Beaune "Clos de Dessus de Marconnets": Yet again there is a background whisper of wood that is sufficiently faint to allow the ripe aromas of black raspberry and red currant to shine. There is excellent vibrancy and volume to the utterly delicious and lightly mineral-driven medium weight flavors that possess fine depth and length on the firm but balanced finale. Good if not truly exceptional quality here. (88-90)/2016+

2011 Beaune "Coucherias": A delicate if not invisible touch of oak serves as a reasonably neutral backdrop for the markedly ripe aromas of extract of cassis and violet scents. There is a highly seductive mouth feel to the extract-rich flavors that retain good definition despite the succulence of the vibrant, balanced and persistent finish. Good stuff here as well. (89-92)/2018+

Domaine Michel Lafarge (Volnay)

2011	Beaune "Les Aigrots" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	➳ Beaune "Grèves" 1er	red	(90-93)
2011	➳ Bourgogne	red	(86-89)
2011	Bourgogne - Passe Tout Grains	red	(85-87)
2011	➳ Bourgogne - Passe Tout Grains A l'Exception	red	(86-88)
2011	Côte de Beaune-Villages	red	(87-89)
2011	➳ Pommard "Pézerolles" 1er	red	(92-94)
2011	Volnay	red	(87-90)
2011	➳ Volnay "1er"	red	(91-93)
2011	➳ Volnay "Caillerets" 1er	red	(92-94)
2011	➳ Volnay "Clos du Château des Ducs" 1er	red	(91-94)
2011	➳ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	(92-95)
2011	➳ Volnay "Mitans" 1er	red	(91-93)
2011	➳ Volnay – Vendange Sélectionnées	red	(89-91)
2010	➳ Beaune "Les Grèves" 1er	red	92
2010	➳ Volnay "Clos de Château des Ducs" 1er	red	94
2010	➳ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	95
2010	➳ Volnay – Vendange Sélectionnées	red	90

Michel Lafarge, and his son Frédéric, called 2011 a "superb, even great, vintage of *terroir* that produced perfectly balanced wines and in both colors. As was the case in 2010, it is rare to have a vintage in Burgundy that is seriously good in both colors at the same time yet here we've had two in a row. I can't remember ever seeing that before. The early growing season was quite precocious and dry, in fact so dry that we began to worry somewhat about excessive hydric stress. July, and the first half of August, however were rainy and cool and thus the season gave back about one week of its advanced state. We elected to begin picking on the 31st of August and while we had outstanding phenolic maturity, sugars were only average at around 12.5%. It was extremely clean and there was really very little sorting required. We did our normal vinification because if you have clean and ripe fruit then there's no reason to change what you already know works well." Michel, who has vast experience with older vintages, likened 2011 to 1952. With respect to the Lafarge '10s, they virtually all came in at, or near, the very top of my predicted ranges, which is to say that they are especially good. (A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA/NV/AZ/NM, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, Austin, TX, Scott Paul Wines, www.scottpaul.com, Portland, OR, and Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, NY/NJ/CT, Augustan Wine, www.augustanwine.com, Miramar, FL, Fine Vines, www.finevines.com, Chicago, IL, Scott Paul Wines, www.scottpaul.com, OR/WA, Terra Nova Wines, www.terranovawines.com, Denver, CO, Magnolia Spirits, gatkins@atkinsmachinery.com, SC, Wines Unlimited, www.winesunlimited.com, New Orleans, LA, C'est Vin, LLC, 703/243-3559, Arlington, VA, M.S. Walker, www.mswalker.com, MA/RI/NH, Atlanta Wholesale Wines, email david.forman@atlanta.com, GA; Howard Ripley, www.howardripley.com, Richards Walford, www.r-w.co.uk, and Uncorked Ltd, www.uncorked.co.uk, all UK).

2011 Bourgogne – Passe Tout Grains: (from 55 to 60 year old vines and made from a 50/50 mix of pinot and gamay). An exceptionally fresh nose of red berry fruit, earth, floral and pepper notes leads to delicious, clean, energetic and detailed flavors that possess fine intensity and persistence for what this is. (85-87)/2015+

2011 Bourgogne – Passe Tout Grains A l'Exception: (from 85+ year old vines, also made from a 50/50 mix of pinot and gamay). Here the nose is clearly riper and more complex with compositionally similar aromas. There is fine depth as well to the rich, delicious and vibrant medium weight flavors that are more firmly structured as well as more persistent. As the description suggests, there is just more depth of material present though note as well that this will require a few more years of cellar time before it's completely ready. Recommended. (86-88)/2017+

2011 Bourgogne: (from 40+ year old vines that were once classified as Volnay *villages*). There is an interesting smoky character to the earthy red berry fruit aromas that can also be found on the light to barely middle weight flavors that possess a beguiling mouth feel before terminating in a detailed and utterly delicious finish. As it almost always does, this boxes well above its weight and knocks on the door of *villages* level quality. (86-89)/2016+

2011 Côte de Beaune-Villages: A cool and attractively perfumed nose offers up notes of earthy red currant, wild raspberry and soft earth nuances. Here too the middle weight flavors possess a really lovely mouth feel as the supporting tannins are fine-grained and well-integrated on the balanced, delicious and saline-infused finish. Worth a look. (87-89)/2016+

2011 Volnay: This is even prettier aromatically speaking with elegant and relatively high-toned aromas that speak of essence of red pinot fruit along with floral, earth and spice hints. There is a discreet hint of minerality to the medium-bodied and notably restrained flavors that display a touch of austerity on the ultra-pure, balanced and solidly complex finish. (87-90)/2017+

2011 Volnay - Vendange Sélectionnées: This is both a bit riper and notably more complex with its mélange of both red and blue pinot fruit that is laced with touches of spice, earth and dried flowers. There is also better depth to the vibrant and solidly concentrated middle weight flavors that possess a lovey sense of underlying tension on the mineral-inflected, mildly austere and impressively persistent finish. An excellent *villages* that offers fine aging potential. (89-91)/2019+

2011 Beaune "Les Aigrots": (from 40+ year old vines). A highly perfumed, pure and very pretty nose of plum, rose petal and red currant aromas introduces intensely mineral-driven, vibrant and beautifully well-delineated flavors that terminate in a markedly saline, clean and crisp finish. I very much like the depth and persistence and this should make for a really lovely effort with the proper cellar time of 10 to 12 years. (89-92)/2021+

2011 Beaune "Les Grèves": (from 80+ year old vines). As it usually is, this is more deeply pitched with dark red and blue berry fruit aromas that are cut with ample amounts of earth, humus and game elements. There is excellent volume to the powerful medium-bodied flavors that are shaped by fine-grained tannins, all wrapped in a wonderfully complex, intense and persistent finish. The mouth feel of this beauty is interesting as it combines both power and finesse. (90-93)/2021+

2011 Volnay "1er": (in 2011 this is 100% from Pitures). An exuberantly fresh, expressive and relatively high-toned extract of red pinot fruit notes coupled with a beautiful range of spice elements, earth, stone and floral hints. There is a cool, intense and focused quality to the gorgeously mineral-driven medium-bodied flavors that exhibit an impeccably well-balanced finish that is supported by firm but refined tannins. This too is a really lovely combination of power and finesse. (91-93)/2021+

2011 Volnay "Mitans": (from Mitans proper, not l'Ormeau). Here the nose is sufficiently reduced that it is hard to read though the underlying fruit appears ripe. There is a supremely elegant mouth feel to the silky and lacy flavors that dance across the palate before culminating in an ultra-pure, long and beautifully well-balanced finish. This is one very classy effort that is textbook Mitans. (91-93)/2019+

2011 Volnay "Clos du Château des Ducs": (from 50+ year old vines; a *monopole* of the domaine). A riper and more deeply pitched nose features moderately earthy aromas of red currant, dark cherry, plum and cassis hints. There is excellent vibrancy and outstanding detail to the generously textured, stony and complex middle weight flavors that finish in a mouth coating, persistent and delicately balanced finale. This is terrific. (91-94)/2021+

2011 Volnay "Caillerets": (from a parcel measuring 7*ouvrées*, or around .3 ha of 40+ year old vines). An intensely spicy and strikingly fresh red and blue pinot fruit nose enjoys added breadth in the form of plum, earth and wet stone nuances. There is excellent detail and plenty of punch to the medium-bodied flavors that are brimming with a cool minerality, all wrapped in a balanced, linear and hugely persistent finish. This too is just terrific but be prepared to be patient. (92-94)/2023+

2011 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": (from 45+ year old vines that sit just above Champans). This is also exceptionally spicy with a gorgeously pure, elegant and ultra-pure nose of dark berries, cherry liqueur and plum. There is marvelous concentration to the overtly muscular and powerful large-scaled, intense and mouth coating flavors that exude a fine minerality on the austere, serious and explosively persistent finish. This is a big yet perfectly balanced effort that will require a full 15 years of cellar time as the supporting tannins are very firm. Arguably the Clos des Chênes of the vintage. (92-95)/2026+

2011 Pommard "Pézerolles": (the Domaine's smallest holding at only .14 ha with vines that are now 50+ years of age). This is also wonderfully elegant with airy, cool and admirably pure aromas of wet stone and various wild red berries. There is superb intensity to the highly energetic medium weight flavors that possess what is perhaps the best depth of any wine in the range, particularly on the mildly austere finish that is almost as long as that of the Clos des Chênes. This is exceptionally good, even by its already elevated standards. (92-94)/2026+

2010 Volnay - Vendange Sélectionnées: A pretty and well-layered nose of deeply pitched red currant, plum and warm earth scents serves as a graceful introduction to the intense, detailed and mouth coating flavors that possess a firm but not hard tannic spine before terminating in a dusty, persistent and mineral-inflected finish. I very much like the sense of poise as well as the perfectly ripe phenolics and overall this is a seriously good *villages* expressly built to age. 90/2018+

2010 Beaune "Les Grèves": (from 80+ year old vines). A strikingly complex and also quite deeply pitched nose features a well-layered blend of red currant and dark berries along with copious earth and mineral nuances. There is an elegant mouth feel to the cool, restrained and tension-filled medium-bodied flavors that evidence excellent finishing persistence as well as plenty of palate coating extract. This should amply reward 10 to 12 years of cellar time. 92/2020+

2010 Volnay "Clos du Château des Ducs": (from 50+ year old vines; a *monopole* of the domaine). A beautifully broad ranging nose combines remarkably fresh notes of raspberry, plum, violet, rose petal and wet stone hints. There is also a discreet minerality to the detailed, intense and breathtakingly pure middle weight flavors that are shaped by firm but fine tannins as well as outstanding depth and length on the impeccably well-balanced finish. A superb vintage for this consistently excellent wine. 94/2022+

2010 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": (from 45+ year old vines that sit just above Champans). Here the brilliantly complex nose is notably more deeply pitched as well as exceptionally fresh as it combines spice, plum, red berry fruit liqueur and plenty of stone character that are framed in a discreet hint of wood. There is equally good depth on the focused and sleekly muscular flavors that exude a sense of focused power before culminating in an explosive, driving and strikingly long finish. This should be terrific as it has everything that it needs to evolve gracefully over the next 12 to 15 years and last 3 times that long. Like the 2011 version, this is arguably the Clos des Chênes of the vintage if you have the patience to wait for it to come around. 95/2025+

Domaine Comtes Lafon (Meursault)

2011	**Monthelie "Les Duresses" 1er**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2011	**Volnay**	**red**	**(87-90)**
2011	**➽ Volnay "Champans" 1er**	**red**	**(91-93)**
2011	**➽ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er**	**red**	**(90-93)**
2011	**➽ Volnay "Santenots du Milieu" 1er**	**red**	**(92-94)**
2010	**➽ Volnay "Santenots du Milieu" 1er**	**red**	**94**

Dominique Lafon, whose domaine now farms 17 ha with the recent additions from the Domaine René Manuel lease (acquired with Domaine Roulot), described 2011 as an "up and down vintage that both began and finished early. We began picking on the 31st of August and brought in pinot that required some sorting but not too much. While it was ripe enough I wouldn't call the maturities high. As such I did almost no punching down yet the extractions happened almost by themselves. As to the wines, I love the reds, in fact I prefer them to the whites. They're expressive, fresh, speak clearly of their *terroirs* and should drink well young yet age well too. You really can't ask for a whole lot more." As the scores and commentaries confirm, the quality here in 2011 is remarkable and Lafon has clearly surpassed the general quality of the vintage. (Beaune Imports, www.beauneimports.com, Berkeley, CA, Classic Wine Imports, www.classicwineimports.com, Boston, MA, Fine Vines, www.finevines.com, Chicago, IL, Augustan Wine, www.augustanwine.com, Miramar, FL, Terra Nova Wines, www.terranovawines.com, Denver, CO, Little Guy Wine, www.littleguywine.com, Dearborn, MI, C'est Vin, LLC, 703/243-3559, Arlington, VA, Wines Unlimited, www.winesunlimited.com, New Orleans, LA, Michael Skurnik Wines, www.skurnikwines.com, Syosset, NY, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, Austin, TX , Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, NZ/AZ/NM; A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet, 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, 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).

2011 Monthelie "Les Duresses": This is very pinot with its pure essence of red berries laced with plenty of earth nuances that are also reflected by the supple, round and utterly delicious middle weight flavors that possess a really lovely mouth feel. There is good energy and fine persistence to the balanced finish and overall, this is a wine of surprising refinement that should reward a few years of bottle age. (87-89)/2015+

2011 Volnay: (from young vines Santenots). Somewhat curiously, this is a bit less elegant though by contrast is more complex with a pretty mix of both red and blue pinot fruit, spice, floral and earth hints. There is good punch and detail to the lightly mineral-inflected medium-bodied flavors that possess the same fine depth as the nose before terminating in a slightly firmer, more concentrated and more persistent finish. (87-90)/2017+

2011 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": This is notably more complex if not more aromatically refined with its broad-ranging earthy, gamy and lightly spiced nose of red currant, plum and cassis hints. There is excellent volume to the engagingly vibrant, intense and well-delineated medium weight flavors that possess fine mid-palate concentration as well as impressive persistence on the chalky finish. A classic Clos des Chênes of power and depth. (90-93)/2019+

2011 Volnay "Champans": (from 85+ year old vines planted in deep sandy soil with dense but small rocks). A wonderfully well-layered, pure and airy nose features notes of various red berries, earth and discreet stone elements. There is outstanding intensity to the impressively scaled broad-shouldered flavors that exude a fine minerality before culminating in a palate soaking finish that delivers seriously good length. I very much like this as it delivers great intensity with impeccably good balance. (91-93)/2021+

2011 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 easily the most floral-infused nose in the range along with an elegant, pure and airy essence of red pinot fruit. In fact while it's more complex, this resembles the nose of the Monthelie. There is a highly seductive texture to the soil and mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that are notably finer than those of the Champans or the Clos des Chênes. I particularly like the inner mouth perfume and the length is simply stunning. Notwithstanding those considerable attributes be aware that this will require plenty of cellar time to fully harmonize and arrive at its full potential. (92-94)/2023+

2010 Volnay "Santenots du Milieu": (from 40+ year old vines planted in shallow, high clay content soil sitting on a bed of solid rock). As was the case from cask, moderate reduction still renders the nose difficult to assess though it does not seem so severe as to suggest that it's permanent; in any event my score clearly offers the benefit of the doubt that it is not. There is plenty of energy and punch to the rich, concentrated and utterly delicious flavors that are at once generous but beautifully delineated before culminating in a balanced, explosive and gorgeously long finish. The amount of underlying material is truly impressive and the firm tannins are already well-integrated as the buffering sap almost makes them invisible. Again, assuming that the reduction isn't a longer-term issue, this should be one of the great vintages for this storied wine. 94/2022+

Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy (St. Aubin)

2011	**➽ Chassagne-Montrachet "La Goujonne Vieilles Vignes"**	**red**	**89**
2011	**➽ St. Aubin "Derrière Chez Edouard Vieilles Vignes" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2011	**St. Aubin – Cuvée du Paradis 1er**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Santenay "Clos des Hâtes"**	**red**	**88**

Olivier Lamy describes 2011 as having a "precocious growing season with a very hot and dry spring, in fact much like we experienced in 2007. Just to provide some perspective it's interesting to consider that by the time the flowering arrived we were already one month in advance of a normal season. We got some relief though in July as it was cool and relatively wet, which slowed down the vegetative cycle somewhat. The first half of August was much the same though the second half was more typical and the maturities sky-rocketed thanks to all of the water the vines had stocked. I elected to begin picking on the 26th of August, which was exactly 100 days after the flowering. Even though the fruit seemed to have excellent phenolic maturity I decided to vinify the reds softly just to be sure that I had no astringent elements. As to the wines, I like the vintage a lot because even though it's essentially built on its fruit, the wines are very *terroir* and delicious to boot. Plus I think they will be approachable young but if someone wanted to age them, there should be no issue with that either." Lamy is deservedly famous for the quality of his whites but is less well-known for his reds, which seems a shame given how good they usually are. 2011 should help dissipate this problem as they are really very good considering the modest *appellations* with which he works. (A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet, www.leserbet.com , Beaune, France; Polaner Selections, www.polanerselections.com, NY/NJ, Atlanta Wholesale Wines, email david.forman@atlanta.com, GA, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, Austin, TX, C'est Vin, LLC, 703/243-3559, Arlington, VA, Fine Vines, www.finevines.com, Chicago, IL, Wines Unlimited, www.winesunlimited.com, New Orleans, LA, AOC Imports, email holly@aocimports.com, CA, M.S. Walker, www.mswalker.com, MA/RI/NH, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, Austin, TX; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Lea & Sandeman, www.londonfinewine.co.uk, Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, Domaine Direct, www.domainedirect.co.uk and D. Byrne & Co., www.dbyrne-finewines.co.uk, all UK).

2011 St. Aubin – Cuvée du Paradis: (from vines planted in 1980). A very fresh, earthy and mildly rustic nose offers good depth on the mostly dark berry fruit scents. There is good vibrancy as well as fine intensity to the delicious flavors that display both soil and mineral tones before terminating in a balanced and solidly persistent finish. This understated effort should drink well young. 88/2015+

2011 Santenay "Clos des Hâtes": (from young vines planted in 1999 on riparia rootstock that produce very tiny berries; in 2011 it was vinified with 25% whole clusters). This is also notably rustic with plenty of earth and spice elements to the ripe and fresh dark berry fruit scents that exhibit just a touch of refinement in the form of dried floral nuances. There is good verve to the attractively well-detailed flavors that offer very fine depth and length. A solid *villages*. 88/2016+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "La Goujonne Vieilles Vignes": (from vines planted in 1960). This is also exceptionally fresh with a pepper-infused nose of various red berries, earth and *sauvage* aromas. There is excellent volume and richness to the firm and muscular medium-bodied flavors that possess good punch on the balanced, complex and highly persistent finish. This is a really lovely *villages* and recommended. 89/2017+

2011 St. Aubin "Derrière Chez Edouard Vieilles Vignes": (from vines planted in 1966). A more elegant aromatic profile consists of fresh extract of red and blue pinot fruit along with hints of stone, spice and dried flowers. There is fine precision and intensity to the medium weight flavors that possess a highly attractive mouth feel, all wrapped in a saline-infused finish that delivers excellent persistence. This is lovely and definitely worth a look plus it will age if desired. 90/2018+

Maison Louis Latour (Aloxe-Corton)

2011	**Aloxe-Corton**	**red**	**87**
2011	**Aloxe-Corton "Les Chaillots" 1er**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Beaune "Vignes Franches" 1er**	**red**	**(88-90)**
2011	**Chambertin-Cuvée Héritiers Latour Grand Cru**	**red**	**(91-93)**
2011	**Chambolle-Musigny**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru**	**red**	**92**
2011	**Corton "Clos du Roi" Grand Cru**	**red**	**89?**
2011	**Corton-Grancey Grand Cru**	**red**	**(90-93)**
2011	**Echézeaux Grand Cru**	**red**	**92**
2011	**Gevrey-Chambertin "Cazetiers" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2011	**Grands Echézeaux Grand Cru**	**red**	**88?**
2011	**Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile des Vergelesses" 1er**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Pommard "Les Epenots" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2011	**Romanée St. Vivant – Les Quatre Journaux Grand Cru**	**red**	**(91-94)**
2011	**Volnay "En Chevret" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2011	**Vosne-Romanée "Les Petits Monts" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2011	**Vosne-Romanée "Les Suchots" 1er**	**red**	**89**

Louis-Fabrice Latour and winemaker Jean-Charles Thomas told me that 2011 is a "vintage that was uneven depending on the sector in question. We didn't necessarily find the quality to be better in the Côte de Nuits compared to the Côte de Beaune as there were good wines available in both." I would agree with their candid assessment as I too found the Latour 2011s to be very uneven though there are several lovely wines at the *grand cru* level. (Louis Latour, Inc./Ltd., www.louislatour.com US, UK, France).

2011 Aloxe-Corton: A fresh and ripe nose mixes notes of both red and dark berries plus noticeable earth character. There is good richness to the delicious and easy-to-like flavors that are already approachable. This is on the fruit-driven side but with enough depth to be interesting. 87/2014+

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile des Vergelesses": A discreet touch of wood sets off aromas of violet, red pinot fruit and a hint of wet stone. There is good verve to the utterly delicious middle weight flavors that are shaped by light but ripe tannins on the balanced and moderately persistent finish. This is not a great example of the *appellation* but it's certainly pretty. 88/2016+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny: An appealing nose of fresh dark berries, floral hints and soft humus nuances leads to rich, round and very supple flavors that possess good vibrancy and solid delineation. There is an attractive saline character to the sappy finish and overall, this is again pretty if not especially deep. 88/2016+

2011 Beaune "Vignes Franches": An expressive nose of earth, floral elements and plum scents slides gracefully into punchy medium-bodied flavors where a lovely mineral streak adds lift to the dusty, clean and mildly austere finish. There is both good volume and solid structural maturity and this should benefit from 5 to 7 years of bottle age. (88-90)/2017+

2011 Aloxe-Corton "Les Chaillots": An attractively fresh, cool and restrained nose features notes of purple fruit, especially plum along with plenty of warm earth and game notes. There is good volume and solid mid-palate concentration to the supple, round and delicious flavors that terminate in a mildly austere finish that offers good length and acceptable depth. 88/2017+

2011 Pommard "Les Epenots: There is enough wood present to notice but not enough to really detract from the sense of purity on the well-layered nose of both red and dark berry fruit, pungent earth and a hint of the *sauvage* suffused aromas. There is both good volume and fine vibrancy to the delicious and muscular medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a mildly rustic but well-balanced and persistent finish. This will require a few years of cellar time before it will deliver its full potential. 89/2018+

2011 Volnay "En Chevret": An earthy and brooding nose of plum and wild dark berries merges into seductively textured and velvety middle weight flavors that exude a very fine minerality. There is a fine sense of volume to the vibrant, balanced and solidly persistent finish that offers better complexity. A classic Volnay of finesse. (89-91)/2018+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Cazetiers": Relatively strong reduction renders the nose impossible to fairly evaluate though the underlying fruit does seem ripe. There is good volume to the supple and forward medium weight flavors where the supporting tannins on the solidly complex and persistent finish are mature. This is not particularly dense but I like the balance and my score offers the benefit of the doubt that the reduction is a transitional phase. 89/2018+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Les Suchots: A markedly spicy nose of plum, dark berries and soft floral hints precedes the supple, forward and seductively round middle weight flavors that possess medium depth but fine length on the balanced finish. The tannic spine is a bit firmer here as well and this should benefit from up to a decade of cellar time. 89/2019+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Les Petits Monts": Here the nose is slightly cooler and definitely more elegant with a discreetly spicy nose of plum, violets, stone and wisps of soft earth. There is really lovely detail to the bright and vibrant medium-bodied flavors where the minerality telegraphed by the nose appears. The balanced and solidly persistent finish isn't quite as complex as that of the Suchots but the underlying material is such that my score offers the benefit of the doubt that it will develop in bottle if it's allowed sufficient time in the cellar. 90/2019+

2011 Corton "Clos du Roi": This displays a somewhat curious nose that doesn't seem entirely clean though exactly what the source of the funk is I can't say. Otherwise there is good size, weight and punch to the austere and distinctly backward flavors that are underpinned by very firm but ripe tannins and fine length. The funkiness does not show up on the palate so this is honestly difficult to read. In that vein I would advise trying a bottle first before committing to quantity. 88?/2021+

2011 Corton-Grancey: Here there is no such issue with the cleanliness of the nose as the brooding, ripe, cool and complex dark berry fruit aromas are very Corton in personality as there is plenty of sauvage character present. There is excellent richness and power to the broad-shouldered flavors that exhibit solid mid-palate concentration, all wrapped in a robust, muscular and moderately rustic finish. This is quite promising though it will need time. (90-93)/2023+

2011 Chambertin-Cuvée Héritiers Latour: This is more expressive and really quite elegant with its cool and airy nose of plum, violets, stone, earth and humus elements. There is a subtle smokiness to the impressively rich and solidly muscular big-bodied flavors that possess fine volume before culminating in a mouth coating finish that offers excellent length. The supporting tannins are firm but not aggressive and overall this offers very good balance and aging potential. (91-93)/2023+

2011 Echézeaux: (a blend of different climats). An overtly spicy mélange of ripe plum, soft earth and sandalwood nuances gives way to beguilingly fresh and vibrant medium-bodied flavors that possess really lovely delineation on the mouth coating, intense and lingering finish. Perhaps what sets this apart is just how good the complexity is and if more develops in bottle this could easily surprise to the upside. Good stuff. 92/2023+

2011 Grands Echézeaux: Strong reduction obliterates any possibility of evaluating the nose. There is good energy to the middle weight plus-sized flavors that seem to possess good underlying material and concentration but consistent with the reduction there is a lot of gas on the edgy finish. This may come together but it would be fair to say that this is a very awkward showing for a bottled wine. Like the Corton-Clos du Roi, I would advise caution. 89?/2023+

2011 Clos de Vougeot: An earthy and reticent nose of ripe plum, cassis, dark raspberries and a hint of *animale* complements the equally recalcitrant medium weight flavors that possess plenty of punch on the well-delineated, balanced and overtly austere finish that displays excellent balance, depth and length. Like the Echézeaux, this also offers fine complexity though note that this too will require an extended cellar snooze. 92/2023+

2011 Romanée St. Vivant – Les Quatre Journaux: There is a hint of kirsch to the exuberantly spicy, elegant and admirably pure nose that also offers up both red and dark pinot fruit scents. There is a sophisticated mouth feel thanks to the very fine-grained tannins that shape the detailed and vibrant middle weight flavors that terminate in a beautifully complex, palate coating and moderately austere finish. This is often Latour's finest red and it would appear to have that potential in 2011 as well. Note that this too will need extended cellaring to reveal its full potential. (91-94)/2023+

Domaine Vincent Latour (Meursault)

2011	**Meursault**	**red**	**87**
2011	**➳ Meursault "Les Cras" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2011	**➳ Pommard Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**89**
2011	**Volnay - Cuvée Nathan**	**red**	**88**

Vincent Latour now runs this 8.7 ha domaine that consists of 7 ha planted to chardonnay and 1.7 ha planted to pinot noir. The domaine has existed since 1972 under the name of Domaine Jean Latour-Labille et Fils. Vincent joined his father in 1998 and then in 2010 the name was changed. I will have a full domaine description in Issue 51 as most of the production is in white. For the reds however the fruit is sorted and then is typically 100% destemmed (though Latour tells me that occasionally he will use from 10 to 15% whole clusters in certain vintages) before being cool macerated for 5 to 6 days. The punch down regimen is "on the light side" but there are 2 pump overs each day. There are no commercial yeasts used during the 20 to 30 day total cuvaison. The *élevage* period for the reds is usually 15 to 18 months in new wood that averages 20% new with moderate toast levels; for example the 2011 reds were bottled in January 2013. Latour describes his style as "traditional but with finesse".

2011 Meursault: This is an interesting combination of perfumed red berry fruit and pungent earth aromas that leads to rich, round and quite generously proportioned middle weight flavors that possess both earth and mineral hints, all wrapped in a moderately rustic, clean and balanced finish. This won't win any awards for refinement but there is good depth of character. 87/2015+

2011 Volnay "Cuvée Nathan": As one might reasonably expect, here the nose is markedly more elegant with really pretty essence of red pinot fruit that is liberally sprinkled with soft earth, spice and floral hints. There is a silky palate impression to the pure, balanced and utterly delicious flavors that deliver fine depth and length for a *villages* level wine. 88/2016+

2011 Pommard Vieilles Vignes: (from Les Riottes). This is almost a mix of the two prior wines aromatically speaking with an exceptionally pretty and very fresh nose of both red and dark pinot fruit that is also liberally laced with plenty of earth, humus and a hint of *animale*. There is a lovely sense of verve and underlying tension to the beautifully well-delineated medium-bodied flavors that possess fine balance on the lingering finish where there is only the barest trace of rusticity present. This is a fine *villages* and worth considering. 89/2017+

2011 Meursault "Les Cras: A discreet touch of wood sets off an expressive and beautifully well-layered nose of plum, floral hints and dark currant. There is both good richness and fine volume to the well-detailed and delicious medium weight flavors that possess a suave mouth feel before terminating in a firm but not austere finish that delivers excellent length on the balanced and palate coating finish. Good stuff that is also worth a look. 90/2018+

Domaine Latour-Giraud (Meursault)

2011	**Meursault "Caillerets" 1er**	**red**	**(87-90)**
2011	**Pommard - Cuvée Carmen**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2011	**Pommard "La Refène" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2011	**Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**

Jean-Pierre Latour told me that 2011 is a "vintage that gave us exceptionally pure wines. After an up and down growing season that included a dry and hot spring with a wet and cool summer, we elected to begin picking on the 28th of August. The yields were not dissimilar to those we obtained in 2010, which is to say off about 40%. Potential alcohols were in the 12 to 12.8% range with firm but not hard acidities. What I really like about the 2011s is their aromatic purity and the clear expression of the underlying *terroir* is remarkable, indeed it is as good as 2010, which is a great compliment in my book." My take on the Latour-Giraud 2011s is that the quality of the reds is in line with the general quality of the vintage. Latour said that he would probably bottle in March. (Chemin des Vins (Patrick Lesec), Sherborn, MA, Gifted Grapes Wines Distribution, NY, NY, Fine Vines LLC, Melrose Park, IL and Country Vintner, Ashland, VA; Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, Thorman Hunt & Co., e-mail: Camille@thormanhunt.co.uk, both UK).

2011 Pommard – Cuvée Carmen: (from Les Vignots). Mild reduction knocks down the nose but there is good freshness to the agreeably tension-filled middle weight flavors that terminate in a rustic, powerful and overtly robust finish. The tannins have just enough maturity to avoid astringency and this is a classic Pommard in style. (86-89)/2018+

2011 Meursault "Caillerets": In contrast to the reductive funk of the straight Pommard, here the nose is really quite pretty with its ripe cassis, black cherry and earth suffused aromas. There is good detail and plenty of punch to the lightly mineral-inflected medium-bodied flavors that also possess a robust but not aggressive finish. I like the mouth coating sap and overall this should reward 7 to 10 years of cellar time. (87-90)/2018+

2011 Pommard "La Refène": Discreet if not invisible wood frames the notably ripe cassis and liqueur of black cherry aromas that lead to softly earthy, textured and suave medium weight flavors that possess good volume and solid complexity. There is good verve and good punch on the balanced and attractively persistent finish. While not a wine of finesse per se, this is a relatively fine Pommard. (88-91)/2018+

2011 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": Here the nose is a potent mélange of spiced plum, kirsch, earth, stone and subtle oak nuances. There is excellent mid-palate concentration to the intensely mineral-driven flavors that possess fine size and weight, all wrapped in a robust, complex, focused and impeccable well-balanced finish. This is a relatively big wine even by the standard of Clos des Chênes and it will require the better part of a decade to arrive at its full maturity. (89-91)/2019+

Maison Benjamin Leroux (Beaune)

2011	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2011	➽ Bourgogne	red	87
2011	➽ Chambolle-Musigny "Amoureuses" 1er	red	(92-94)
2011	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2011	Clos St. Denis Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2011	Clos de Vougeot – Petit Maupertui Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2011	Gevrey-Chambertin	red	(87-89)
2011	Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Champeaux" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	Griotte-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2011	➽ Nuits St. Georges "Aux Allots"	red	(89-91)
2011	➽ Nuits St. Georges "Aux Thorey" 1er	red	(90-93)
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Hauts Jarrons" 1er	red	(87-90)
2011	Volnay	red	(87-89)
2011	Volnay "1er" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	Volnay "Clos de la Cave des Ducs" 1er	red	(88-91)

Benjamin Leroux, the highly talented *régisseur* of Domaine Comte Armand (see above) has started a *négociant* operation in a building just off the traffic circle in Beaune (known as the *périphérique*, or just the *périph* by the locals) that he shares with Nicolas Rossignol (see below). Leroux emphasizes that he wants to keep his operation small and focus on *terroirs* that he finds "interesting or under appreciated" though it's not clear how any of these *grands crus* would qualify as under appreciated. He works essentially as he does at Comte Armand and notes, importantly, that for both reds and whites he buys exclusively grapes and not must or new wine. Interestingly, Leroux noted that it's easier to find high quality fruit in the Côte de Beaune than in the Côte de Nuits though as the scores and commentaries bear clear witness, you can't tell it in 2011 because his Côte de Nuits offerings are clearly more interesting. For Leroux's take on the 2011 vintage, please see his comments in the Comte Armand section. (A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA/NV/AZ/NM, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, Austin, TX , Scott Paul Wines, www.scottpaul.com, Portland, OR and Willette Wines, www.willettewines.com, NY, NY; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, UK).

2011 Bourgogne: (Leroux noted that a portion of the production was bottled under screw cap). An earthy and quite rustic nose of cool yet ripe dark berries leads to impressively rich and voluminous flavors that possess a hint of minerality on the vibrant and persistent finish. This is really very good for the *appellation* and worth considering. 87/2015+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Hauts Jarrons": A notably more elegant nose of perfumed extract of red berry fruit and soft earth and spice nuances gives way to attractively vibrant and well-detailed middle weight flavors. There is good maturity to the supporting fine-grained tannins that contribute to a relatively refined mouth feel on the balanced finish. (87-90)/2017+

2011 Volnay: This mixes both upper and lower register aromas of cool red currant and ripe dark berries with wisps of warm earth, spice and sandalwood. There is excellent richness but also fine detail to the medium-bodied flavors that exhibit a touch of rusticity on the balanced, persistent and palate coating finish. (87-89)/2017+

2011 Volnay "1er": A slightly more elegant nose speaks of pure and airy red currant, wet stone 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 that possess a lovely mouth feel, all wrapped in a balanced finish that offers good if not exceptional depth and length. (89-91)/2018+

2011 Volnay "Clos de la Cave des Ducs": (from a rarely seen 1er that measures only .64 ha). A discreet hint of wood sets off pure and airy aromas of various dark berry fruit, plum and evanescent whiffs of soft earth and humus. There is good verve and freshness to the tension-filled medium-bodied flavors that exude a lovely minerality onto the ever-so-mildly rustic finish that is otherwise balanced, long and solidly complex. This is not particularly refined but it's certainly pretty. (88-91)/2017+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin: (mostly from Seuvrées and La Justice). A classic Gevrey nose of humus, underbrush and earth nuances add breadth to the cool, fresh and ripe dark berry fruit aromas. There is good energy and a distinct saline character to the detailed, intense and delicious medium weight flavors that culminate in a linear, austere and solidly complex finish. This will need a few years to round off the youthful asperity but should be quite good in time. (87-89)/2018+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Champeaux": Reduction knocks down the nose but there is good verve to the restrained, delicious and moderately *sauvage* flavors that possess good volume and energy before culminating in a refined yet powerful finish. This should also be very good if allowed 8 to 10 years of cellar time to realize its full potential. (89-92)/2019+

2011 Nuits St. Georges "Aux Allots": An overtly spicy and distinctly *sauvage*, even *animale* nose of earthy dark berries introduces ripe, vibrant and solidly constructed medium-bodied flavors that possess excellent complexity on the impressively persistent finish. This won't win any awards for refinement but the depth is first-rate for a *villages* level wine. Recommended. (89-91)/2018+

2011 Nuits St. Georges "Aux Thorey": This is notably more elegant with its pure and expressive nose of red and dark berries that are trimmed in warm earth and subtle sandalwood notes. There is excellent volume and richness to the middle weight flavors that are supported by much finer tannins; indeed the mouth feel here is markedly more refined, all wrapped in a very firm but impeccably balanced finish. Lovely and worth considering. (90-93)/2021+

2011 Clos de Vougeot – Petit Maupertui: Reduction presently dominates the nose but there is good freshness and energy to the cool and restrained mouth feel of the pure medium weight plus flavors that are shaped by a notably ripe and well-integrated tannic spine. In much the same fashion as the Aux Allots there is first rate depth on the perfectly balanced finish that delivers outstanding persistence. A high quality Clos de Vougeot. (92-94)/2023+

2011 Griotte-Chambertin: A conspicuously cool and restrained nose of reticent but elegant red currant is liberally seeded with earth, spice and humus notes. There is a beguiling sense of underlying tension and vibrancy to the middle weight flavors that are underpinned by wonderfully refined tannins that impart a highly sophisticated palate impression to the gorgeously long finish. This doesn't have quite the overall depth of the Clos de Vougeot but it's notably finer. (91-94)/2023+

2011 Bonnes Mares: (from the Chambolle side and *terres blanches*). This is, aromatically speaking, quite similar to the Griotte with its pure, elegant and enticing nose of essence of red berries along with plenty of earth-related nuances. There is ample minerality to the sleekly muscular yet refined flavors that possess excellent size, weight and power before culminating in a moderately austere and highly persistent finish. A classy effort. (92-94)/2023+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Amoureuses": (Leroux indicated that this would be bottled exclusively in magnum). A strikingly spicy nose of airy, cool and refined black pinot fruit, anise, clove and sandalwood leads to intensely mineral-driven medium weight flavors that also possess a refined mouth feel thanks to the fine grain of the tannins. This is pure silk and lace on the palate and the balance is such that it should age gracefully for years, particularly in magnum format. (92-94)/2026+

2011 Clos St. Denis: There is enough reduction to render evaluating the nose impossible. By contrast there is good freshness and verve to the refined, indeed almost delicate flavors that possess a suave and very round mouth feel, all wrapped in a delicious and palate coating finish. This is quite understated and while it may develop the same depth as the best here, for the moment it doesn't have it nor does it appear to have quite the same level of underlying material. That said, it is certainly a lovely effort and I particularly like the fine balance. (91-93)/2021+

2011 Clos de la Roche: This is also quite spicy with a cool and very pure nose of plum, dried flowers, dark currant and sandalwood hints. There is excellent volume and ripeness to the delicious, muscular and imposing big-bodied flavors that are supported by phenolically mature tannins that are firm but well-integrated on the palate staining and hugely long finish. This should age well but be aware that this is best suited for those that possess the patience to wait! (92-95)/2026+

Domaine Château de Maltroye (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2011	➽ Bourgogne	red	(86-88)
2011	Chassagne-Montrachet	red	(87-89)
2011	Chassagne-Montrachet "Boudriotte" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	➽ Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos du Château" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	Santenay "La Comme" 1er	red	(89-91)

Jean-Pierre Cournut says the "quality of 2011 is not far from that of the 2010 vintage. The growing season was up and down but so was that of the prior vintage and it's evident how good those wines are so while I'm not prepared to say that the growing season doesn't matter anymore, it's clear that we've gotten better at our viticulture. We began picking on the 1st of September for both the chardonnay and the pinot noir and while the fruit wasn't perfect there really wasn't all that much sorting necessary. Potential alcohols for the pinots were between 11.9 and 12.4% and I did my normal vinification as the tannins were ripe. The colors came quickly and I didn't have to push the extractions at all. If there was an inconvenience in any of this it was the tiny yields. When you only obtain 22 hl/ha for your Bourgogne and 29 for your *villages* level Chassagne, you know it's not a big crop. But the quality is very good and that is what matters in the end as it's much better to have a little of something excellent than an abundance of *merde*." The wines here have become ever purer and as Cournut has done in the last several vintages, he has definitely outperformed in 2011 relative to the general quality I saw in Chassagne and Santenay. (Frederick Wildman, www.frederickwildman.com, NY, NY; Wine House, www.winesf.com, San Francisco, CA; Waitrose, UK).

2011 Bourgogne: An expressive, ripe and fruity nose of black cherry, cassis and earth leads to rich, delicious and vibrant flavors that possess better than average depth for the *appellation* and fine length. This is worth a look. (86-88)/2015+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet: Here the nose is compositionally similar to the Bourgogne though it's a bit more elegant. There is reasonably good refinement to the mouth feel of the medium-bodied flavors that possess good mid-palate concentration as well as fine length on the ever-so-mildly rustic finish. (87-89)/2017+

2011 Santenay "La Comme": This is both more complex and more elegant with a lovely airiness to the pepper, earth and wet stone nuances that add breadth to the ripe red and dark pinot fruit-infused nose. There is excellent detail to the delicious, lilting and precise medium weight flavors where the mouth feel benefits from the relatively fine-grained tannins, all wrapped in a mildly *sauvage* finish where a touch of wood surfaces. Worth considering. (89-91)/2017+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean": (from sandy and rather light soil). A pure, cool and restrained nose of airy essence of red pinot fruit also sees considerable added breadth in the form of soft earth, pepper and floral hints. The hallmark minerality of a fine Clos St. Jean is present in abundance on the precise, focused and attractively energetic flavors that are supported by ripe tannins and fine length on a finish that also displays a backend touch of oak. This also merits your consideration. (89-92)/2017+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Boudriotte": The wood treatment is a bit more evident though it's not so much that it fights with the dark berry, plum and pungent earth and humus aromas. There is a suave and very round mouth feel to the seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that brim with dry extract on the concentrated, balanced and impressively persistent finish. This doesn't have the refinement of the Clos St. Jean but there is even better depth. (89-92)/2018+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos du Château": (a *monopole* of the Domaine). This is not more elegant than the Clos St. Jean but it is more aromatically complex with a beautiful array of red currant, violet, plum, earth and pepper nuances. There is superb energy and purity of expression to the detailed, intense and driving middle weight flavors that culminate in an austere, backward, mouth coating and balanced finish that delivers outstanding length. This is definitely one to buy if you have the patience to allow it to age. (90-92)/2019+

Domaines Matrot (Meursault)

2011	**Auxey-Duresses**	**red**	**87**
2011	**Blagny "La Pièce Sous la Bois" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2011	**Bourgogne**	**red**	**85**
2011	**Maranges**	**red**	**87**
2011	**Meursault**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Monthelie**	**red**	**87**
2011	**St. Aubin "En Créots" 1er**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Volnay "Santenots" 1er**	**red**	**90**

Thierry Matrot describes 2011 as a "classic Burgundian vintage that resembles a slightly more approachable and softer version of 2010 except with 25% more volume, which is very nice as 2010 was definitely a tiny crop. We began picking on the 29th of August as the fruit was definitely ripe and I saw no reason to delay further as the only result would have been lower acidity levels. There was a bit of rot in the pinot and you had to sort carefully. I was very careful with the vinification as I didn't want to extract too much. To help control this I did a very short cool maceration with almost no sulfur. As to the style of the 2011 reds, they possess good if not truly great concentration and have soft, round and well-integrated tannins. They should drink well early and I would advise my clients to drink the wines young for their fruit. This isn't to say that they won't age, just that I'm not sure that they will necessarily be better older than younger." My sense of the quality here is that Matrot performed more or less in-line with the general quality of the 2011 vintage. Note that "Domaines Matrot" refers to Domaine Pierre Matrot and Domaine Thierry et Pascale Matrot. Thierry Matrot is the winemaker for both and the wines are identical. (the Pierre Matrot wines are distributed by Diageo Château and Estate Wines, www.diageowines.com, NY, NY. Vineyard Brands, www.vineyardbrands.com, Birmingham, AL distributes the Thierry et Pascale Matrot wines; the UK agent is Graham Gardener – other UK sources include James Hanford, Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com, Private Cellar Ltd., www.privatecellar.co.uk and Connolly's Wines, www.connollys-wine.co.uk).

2011 Bourgogne: (bottled under screw cap). A very fresh and bright nose of earth and red pinot fruit leads to round, forward and easy-to-like flavors that terminate in a delicious and refreshing finish. This is a bit simple but it would make a good choice for casual and uncomplicated sipping. 85/now

2011 Maranges: A similar if slightly earthier nose gives way to round, supple and again, very forward middle weight flavors that possess a good sense of underlying energy, all wrapped in a mildly rustic finish that delivers better depth and length. 87/2015+

2011 St. Aubin "En Créots": An earthy, somber and distinctly serious nose offers up aromas of red and dark berries, underbrush and humus. There is a hint of minerality to the notably finer middle weight flavors that display fine length on the more complex finish that is supported by supple tannins. This is really quite pretty in its fashion. 88/2016+

2011 Monthelie: (from very old vines situated in Les Hauts Brins that have approximately 20% pinot beurot interspersed with the pinot vines). This is less refined but a bit more complex with an earthy and mildly rustic nose of dark berries and pungent earth aromas. The same touch of rusticity can be found on the delicious, round and already approachable medium-bodied flavors that possess good depth and reasonably good length. This should drink well almost immediately yet reward a few years of cellar time as well. 87/2016+

2011 Meursault: A very fresh and bright nose of raspberry, dark cherry and earth nuances introduces equally earthy, round and vibrant medium weight flavors that possess ripe tannins that shape the moderately rustic but utterly delicious finish that delivers fine persistence. Like the Monthelie, this could already be enjoyed but should remunerate well a few years of bottle age. 88/2017+

2011 Auxey-Duresses: A reserved, cool and pretty aromatic profile of both red and black pinot fruit that is liberally laced with plenty earth and *sauvage* characters. There is also plenty of earth influence on the moderately intense medium-bodied flavors that are underpinned by mildly rustic tannins on the persistent and balanced finish. This is delicious and quite straightforward if no model of finesse. 87/2018+

2011 Volnay "Santenots": This is also quite cool and restrained with ripe and attractively elegant red currant, spice and plum aromas leading to supple, round and utterly delicious middle weight flavors that exude a fine minerality on the notably longer and more complex finish where some earth character appears. This is quite firm and while it could be appreciated young my advice would be to allow this to cellar for at least 5 to 6 years first. 90/2019+

2011 Blagny "La Pièce Sous la Bois": This is aromatically similar to the Santenots though with an even cooler quality to the fruit. There is plenty of energy to the delineated and utterly delicious flavors that are supported by even finer tannins and ample minerality on the understated, balanced and lingering finish. This isn't quite as complex but it should add depth over the course of a few years of bottle age. A qualitative choice. 90/2018+

Domaine François Mikulski (Meursault)

2011	**➽ Bourgogne**	**red**	**87**
2011	**➽ Bourgogne – Passe Tout Grains**	**red**	**87**
2011	**Meursault "Caillerets" 1er**	**red**	**89?**
2011	**Volnay "Santenots" 1er**	**red**	**90**

François Mikulski described 2011 as a vintage that was "precocious but contrary to most early maturing vintages, not one that produced particularly high sugar levels. It is probably because of this that the fruit maintained good acidities. We started picking on the 28th of August with the chardonnay and then attacked the pinot a few days later. While there was some sorting required it really wasn't much. As far as the wines are concerned, the reds are classic burgundies. In my view 2011 is just as good as 2010 even though it's less firmly structured, there is more finesse it and will drink well earlier." My take is that Mikulski outperformed substantially with his two lower level reds and performed basically in-line with his two 1ers. (A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; M.S. Walker, www.mswalker.com, MA/RI/NH, Fine Vines, www.finevines.com, Chicago, IL, Little Guy Wine, www.littleguywine.com, Dearborn, MI, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, Austin, TX, charles@terranovawine.com, Boulder, CO, Enotria Winecellars Ltd., www.enotria.co.uk, Seckford and Bordeaux Index, www.bordeauxindex.com, all UK).

2011 Bourgogne – Passe Tout Grains: (from a blend of 1/3 pinot and 2/3 gamay). An overtly peppery nose of ripe and fresh aromas of plum, violet and pungent earth leads to delicious, vibrant and admirably well-concentrated flavors that possess fine depth and length on the only mildly rustic finish. This is about as good a PTG as you're going to find. 87/2014+

2011 Bourgogne: An attractively fresh and expressive nose of dark berries, earth and a hint of underbrush gives way to delicious flavors that possess unusually fine-grained tannins in the context of the *appellation*, all wrapped in a clean, balanced, long and again, only mildly rustic finish. This is finer than the PTG but really no more complex. A qualitative choice but either way, both of these are first-rate for what they are. 87/2015+

2011 Volnay "Santenots": A discreet application of wood sets off a spicy, layered and refined nose composed of violets, plum and red currant scents. There is both good volume and vibrancy to the beguilingly textured medium-bodied flavors that possess plenty of mouth coating extract that buffers the moderately firm and well-integrated tannins on the lingering finish. This is lovely if not an absolute knockout that should amply reward mid-term cellaring. 90/2017+

2011 Meursault "Caillerets": The nose is suffering from a bit of post-bottling reduction so if you're going to try an example soon, I would strongly advise decanting it first. There is by contrast good verve and freshness to the appealingly detailed and mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that possess a refined mid-palate yet a somewhat rustic finish that is exacerbated by a hint of dryness that I would again attribute to the bottling as the underlying tannins do seem ripe. 89?/2016+

Domaine Moillard (Meursault)

2011	**Savigny-lès-Beaune**	**red**	**86**
2010	**Vosne-Romanée**	**red**	**87**

(USA Wine West, Sausalito, CA, www.usawinewest.net and Serge Doré Selections, Chappaqua, NY, www.sergedoreselections.com).

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune: Like the Vosne there was a very mild touch of reduction though again not enough to completely conceal the earthy dark berry fruit suffused nose. There is good richness to the very round and mildly grapey medium weight flavors that offer limited depth; indeed this is a bit simple, though there is reasonably good persistence. This could already be enjoyed though one year of cellar time would be of benefit. 86/2014+

2010 Vosne-Romanée: (Maison). There is just a touch of reduction that isn't enough to completely hide the otherwise attractively ripe and distinctively spicy dark berry fruit and plum-tinged aromas that are trimmed in a discreet touch of wood that also can be found on the vibrant and well-detailed middle weight flavors. There is good length though there is noticeable warmth as well as enough gas to be mildly annoying on the slightly edgy finish. The nose is really quite pretty but the palate impression is pretty awkward at present. If you're going to try a bottle young I would strongly advise giving it at least 30 minutes in a decanter and one hour wouldn't be a detriment to the wine. 87/2016+

Maison Lucien Le Moine (Beaune)

2011	Beaune "Clos des Mouches" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	red	(93-95)
2011	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	red	(93-96)
2011	➽ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses" 1er	red	(92-94)
2011	Chambolle-Musigny "Charmes" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Feusselottes" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	➽ Chambolle-Musigny "Haut Doix" 1er	red	(90-93)
2011	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2011	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2011	Clos St. Denis Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2011	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2011	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2011	Corton-Renardes Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2011	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2011	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin "Cazetiers" 1er	red	(91-93)
2011	Gevrey-Chambertin "Estournelles St. Jacques" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaut St. Jacques" 1er	red	(90-93?)
2011	Grands Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(93-95)
2011	Griotte-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2011	Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2011	Mazis-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2011	Morey St. Denis "Clos des Ormes" 1er	red	(86-89)
2011	➽ Morey St. Denis "Les Genavrières" 1er	red	(91-94)
2011	Nuits St. Georges "Les Cailles" 1er	red	NR
2011	Nuits St. Georges "Clos des Argillières" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	➽ Nuits St. Georges "Les St. Georges" 1er	red	(90-93)
2011	➽ Nuits St. Georges "Vaucrains" 1er	red	(91-93)
2011	Pommard "Les Epenots" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	➽ Pommard "Les Grands Epenots" 1er	red	(90-93)
2011	➽ Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	(91-93)
2011	Richebourg Grand Cru	red	(92-94?)
2011	Volnay "Les Caillerets" 1er	red	(90-93?)
2011	Volnay "Carelle Sous La Chapelle" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	➽ Volnay "Santenots" 1er	red	(90-93)
2011	Vosne-Romanée "Au Dessus de Malconsorts" 1er	red	(91-93)
2011	➽ Vosne-Romanée "Les Gaudichots" 1er	red	(93-95)
2011	➽ Vosne-Romanée "Les Malconsorts" 1er	red	(92-95)
2011	➽ Vosne-Romanée "Petits Monts" 1er	red	(90-93)
2011	Vosne-Romanée "Les Suchots" 1er	red	(89-92)

Mounir and Rotem Saouma established their two-person *micro-négoce* in 1999 that focuses exclusively on the very best 1ers and *grands crus*. They describe the 2011 as "another tiny but completely classic vintage that on paper at least closely resembles 2010. The growing seasons though were completely different and it's interesting how you can have what were basically an early harvest and a late harvest and yet wind up with comparable technical parameters. Another interesting aspect is that early on many of the wines resembled one another, in fact it was hard to tell many of them apart from one

another yet as the élevage progressed they began to individualize. Another point of comparison is that both vintages enjoy plenty of dry extract levels and while 2010 produced slightly more concentrated wines, the *terroir* expression of 2011 is, if anything, even clearer. Lastly, I doubt that 2011 will ever close up as I believe that 2010 will after a year or two in bottle." While there were a few question marks in the range due mostly to very heavy reduction that sometimes extended to the palate, the quality is largely consistent and impressive. To that end Saouma indicated that nothing had yet been racked and thus there would naturally be reduction in some wines. In terms of enjoying the Le Moine wines, one point that bears mentioning is that the wines always have noticeable residual CO_2 in them and thus they should absolutely be decanted. (Atherton Wine Imports, www.awiwine.com, Atherton, CA and Vintus, www.vintuswines.com, Pleasantville, NY; Berkmann Wine Cellars, www.berkmann.co.uk, and Laytons, www.laytons.co.uk, UK).

2011 Beaune "Clos des Mouches": A ripe and relatively deeply pitched nose of dark berry, earth and a hint of underbrush leads to complex, fresh and seductively rich medium-bodied flavors that possess a lovely touch of minerality on the balanced and vibrant finish. This should reward 6 to 8 years of cellar time. (89-91)/2018+

2011 Volnay "Carelle Sous La Chapelle": A pretty and appealingly perfumed nose features a mix of both red and dark pinot fruit that gives way to silky and vibrant middle weight flavors that possess a luscious mouth feel, all wrapped in an ever-so-mildly austere finish. This mouth coating and balanced effort should also reward 6 to 8 years of cellar time. (89-91)/2018+

2011 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": Strong reduction buries the fruit from view but there is good energy and a lovely sense of detail and tension to the sleekly muscular and mineral-inflected flavors. There is excellent mid-palate volume and I like the integration of the structure on the moderately austere but persistent finish. Worth considering. (90-92)/2019+

2011 Volnay "Les Caillerets": Here too strong reduction masks the underlying fruit and it extends to the palate where there is good concentration to the medium-bodied flavors that are underpinned by tannins that are clearly ripe. This is quite difficult to judge but the underlying material appears to be present and thus my range offers the benefit of the doubt. (90-93?)/2019+

2011 Volnay "Santenots": A brooding and somber nose of plum, dark currant and plenty of earth. There is good volume and power to the well-delineated, vibrant and solidly complex middle weight flavors that terminate in a finish that is every bit as long and deep if not quite as refined. This should be special if allowed to reach its full maturity. (90-93)/2021+

2011 Pommard "Les Rugiens": There is mild reduction present though not enough to prevent an appreciation of the complexity of the nose. There is excellent intensity to the cool, pure and mineral-driven flavors that display a sleek muscularity before culminating in a textured and round yet very serious finish that delivers outstanding persistence. This powerful effort will need plenty of cellar time. (91-93)/2023+

2011 Pommard "Les Epenots": (from Petits Epenots). Strong reduction renders the nose impossible to evaluate. There is a hint of mocha on the concentrated, suave and serious medium weight flavors that terminate in an austere and very firm but balanced finish. This too will require a moderately long-term sojourn in the cellar to arrive at its full peak. (89-92)/2023+

2011 Pommard "Les Grands Epenots": A beautifully complex and spicy nose of earthy dark berries, earth and smoked game scents. There is excellent richness to the round and supple medium-bodied flavors that possess a ripe core of firm tannins on the impressively long finish. This is less austere than the Les Epenots but still quite serious. (90-93)/2021+

2011 Corton-Bressandes: Strong reduction blocks an evaluation of the nose. There is a relatively sophisticated mouth feel to the detailed and attractively energetic large-scaled flavors that exhibit plenty of minerality on the firm but not austere finish that offers outstanding persistence. While Bressandes is in general one of the more refined examples in the universe of Corton *grands crus*, this is more refined than is typical. (91-93)/2023+

2011 Corton-Renardes: A gamey and distinctly *animale* nose of ripe plum and dark berry fruit aromas gives way to rich, intense and muscular broad-shouldered flavors that possess excellent maturity to the underlying tannic structure. There is a velvety mouth feel to the gorgeously complex finish that is less refined compared to the Bressandes but even more persistent. (91-94)/2023+

2011 Morey St. Denis "Clos des Ormes": Strong reduction. There is a hint of vegetal on the detailed and energetic middle weight flavors that are supported by relatively fine-grained tannins where an herbal nuance shows up again on the finish. This is pretty enough and solidly complex but the slight greenness is a potential issue. (86-89)/2018+

2011 Morey St. Denis "Les Genavrières": A pure, cool and notably elegant, airy and attractively well-layered aromas of floral, spice, earth and a pretty mix of red berries leads to strikingly fine and equally pure medium weight flavors that possess a lacy, even silky mouth feel. There is a fine sense of energy and first-rate depth on the balanced, focused, detailed and wonderfully long finish. In short, this is knockout. (91-94)/2018+

2011 Nuits St. Georges "Clos des Argillières": Strong reduction. There is good richness and plenty of verve to the beautifully well-detailed flavors that exhibit both soil and mineral tones before culminating in a delicious yet entirely serious finish that is both well-balanced and impressively persistent. This should benefit from up to a decade of bottle age yet be approachable before that if desired. (89-92)/2019+

2011 Nuits St. Georges "Les St. Georges": This is also reduced yet it's still possible in this case to detect the complexity, if not the composition of the underlying components. There is equally good depth to the stylish and classy medium-bodied flavors that ooze a palate coating dry extract that buffers the otherwise moderately firm tannins on the lingering and impeccably well-balanced finish. Lovely potential here. (90-93)/2019+

2011 Nuits St. Georges "Vaucrains": A classic and highly complex Vaucrains nose with plenty of *sauvage* character also displays ample amounts of earth, humus and underbrush on the ripe dark berry fruit suffused nose. There is excellent intensity and drive to the sleekly muscular broad-shouldered flavors that are shaped by robust but not hard tannins and outstanding length. This too will require ample cellaring before it's completely ready for prime time. (91-93)/2021+

2011 Nuits St. Georges "Les Cailles": A very curious nose of menthol and herbaceous aromas leads to compact and disjointed flavors that bear no resemblance to any other wine in the range. This may turn out just fine but today it's impossible to assess and I prefer to wait. Not Rated.

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Estournelles St. Jacques": An airy, restrained and cool array of dark berries, wet stone and smoky hints gives way to beautifully vibrant and tension-filled middle weight flavors that possess plenty of mouth coating extract that does a fine job of buffering the moderately firm, ripe and well-integrated tannins. There is fine length on the ever-so-mildly austere finish that is largely defined by the almost pungent minerality. (90-92)/2019+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaut St. Jacques": A perfumed nose features notes of wild red and dark currant and spiced green tea aromas that precede the stony, intense and well-detailed medium-bodied flavors. There is a distinct restraint to the vibrant, intense and focused finish that displays an odd touch of reduction on the finish, which is unlikely to present a longer-term problem but again, I prefer to note its presence with a question mark. (90-93?)/2021+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Cazetiers": Reduction again blocks an evaluation of the nose. By contrast there is good punch and plenty of personality to the solidly well-concentrated middle weight flavors that exhibit an attractive streak of minerality on the firm but extract-rich finish that is both quite firm and very well-balanced. This is most promising. (91-93)/2023+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Feusselottes": This is markedly different from the series of Gevrey 1ers as here the nose is intensely floral, which adds a sense of elegance to the pretty mix of both red and dark pinot fruit scents. The ultra-refined, pure and intense flavors possess firm yet fine-grained tannins, all wrapped in a moderately austere, balanced and impressively long finish. This doesn't have the sheer depth of the best in the range but this is very Chambolle. (90-92)/2019+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Charmes": This also displays some floral character though not quite to the same extent while also offering up notes of spice, earth and red currant aromas. There is a silky mouth feel to the energetic and well-detailed flavors that exhibit a bit less minerality than the Haut Doix before terminating in a seductively textured, firm and persistent finish. (90-92)/2021+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Haut Doix": A pungent nose of reduction and plenty of wood introduces silky, pure and wonderfully vibrant and tension-filled medium weight flavors that exude a fine minerality before culminating in a balanced, intense and highly persistent finish. This is not quite as seductively textured as the Charmes but this is a more complete effort based on the quality of the underlying material. (90-93)/2021+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses": This is also quite floral but with the addition of a wonderful array of spice elements, both of which add breadth and elegance to the cool but ripe dark berry fruit aromas. There is a gorgeously textured mouth feel to the seductive middle weight flavors that also exude a fine minerality on the classy, austere and brilliantly persistent finish. This is a striking wine with plenty of upside aging potential. (92-94)/2023+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Petits Monts": A spicy nose of dried rose petal, sandalwood, wet stone and red currants leads to stylish and intense mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that possess fine delineation on the focused, energetic and wonderfully precise finish that delivers outstanding length. There is noticeable austerity that should dissipate with bottle age. A classic Petits Monts. (90-93)/2023+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Les Suchots": (from the upper portion of the vineyard). This is also quite floral with plenty of spice character to the lightly smoky cassis, plum and soft earth aromas. There is a textured, even velvety mouth feel to the medium-bodied flavors that brim with plenty of palate coating dry extract before culminating in a delicious, well-balanced and notably firm finish. This will require a decade or so of cellaring to arrive at its full majority. (89-92)/2021+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Les Malconsorts": A strikingly complex if brooding nose blends together various ripe wild dark berries that include plenty of spice, earth and game influence. There is outstanding power to the broad-shouldered, intense and muscular flavors that also enjoy an abundance of palate soaking dry extract that pushes the firm tannic spine to the background on the explosively long finish. This is a seriously impressive Malconsorts that should amply repay longer-term cellaring. (92-95)/2023+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Au Dessus de Malconsorts": Reduction dominates the nose at present though there is good freshness to the finer and more obviously mineral-driven flavors that by contrast do not have the power, size, weight or muscle. Still, this is not without its own appeal as this is really quite refined and pure in addition to being well-balanced and solidly persistent. (91-93)/2019+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Les Gaudichots": An intensely floral and highly spiced nose of a beautiful range of both red and blue pinot fruit, cherry liqueur and sandalwood scents. There is superb intensity and tension on the precise and delineated mineral-driven medium-bodied flavors that possess a velvety mouth feel as well as a harmonious and explosively long finish. This is class in a glass and the balance is Zen-like. In a word, terrific. (93-95)/2023+

2011 Clos de la Roche: A beautifully well-layered nose features notes of spice, earth and smoke on the ripe and cool red pinot, dark currant and plum suffused aromas. There is fine detail and a palpable sense of energy to the robust, muscular and firm medium weight plus flavors that avoid any sense of rusticity on the balanced and impressively persistent finish where a touch of wood surfaces. This should be excellent in due time. (92-94)/2023+

2011 Clos St. Denis: (from 90+ year old vines). There is enough reduction present to block everything but evanescent whiffs of floral scents. There is really lovely intensity and focus to the solidly well-concentrated medium weight flavors that are also firm but markedly less powerful and robust than those of the Clos de la Roche, all wrapped in an elegant, pure and well-balanced finish. This is also very promising and while the tannins are fine they're also dense. (91-94)/2023+

2011 Clos de Vougeot: Here too there is enough reduction present to prevent a thorough examination of the nose but the same floral elements are evident. There is outstanding volume and phenolic maturity to the round, velvety and overtly powerful middle weight plus flavors that possess a firm core of tannins on the mouth coating, dusty and impressively persistent finish. This displays excellent mid to long-term aging potential. (91-94)/2023+

2011 Bonnes Mares: (from both Chambolle and Morey). This is also impressively complex and refined aromatically as strikingly pure, complex and cool red and dark berry fruit aromas slide into detailed and intensely mineral-driven broad-shouldered flavors that coat the palate with dry extract. This is still very tight yet focused and driving on the persistent and impeccably well-balanced finish. I quite like this powerful effort that is clearly built for the long-term. (93-95)/2026+

2011 Charmes-Chambertin: (from both Charmes and Mazoyères). Reduction masks the nose though there is a really lovely mouth feel to the medium-bodied flavors courtesy of the unusually fine-grained tannins. There is even a lacy quality that is enhanced by the plentiful amounts of palate coating dry extract that also serves to buffer the tannins. So while this will certainly be capable of amply rewarding longer-term aging, this is one of the few among these *grands crus* that should be approachable young. (91-94)/2023+

2011 Latricières-Chambertin: Noticeable but not prominent oak frames restrained, cool and stony red pinot fruit scents that complement perfectly the textured, mineral-inflected and notably taut medium full-bodied flavors brimming with dry extract on the explosive and energetic finish that is finer than that of the Charmes. There is plenty of underlying tension and I very much admire the balance and obvious class though note that patience will be required. (92-95)/2023+

2011 Griotte-Chambertin: Visible wood mixes with elegant, pure and restrained aromas of perfumed red pinot fruit that displays added depth in the form of Gevrey style earth and spice notes. There is a lightly smoky character to the mineral and soil-driven medium-bodied flavors that retain a fine sense of detail and verve on the long, complex and palate staining finish. This doesn't quite have the sheer depth of material compared to the Bonnes Mares but it's not far off. A classic Griotte that should merit at least a decade of cellar time. (92-94)/2021+

2011 Mazis-Chambertin: (from Mazis-Haut). A magnificently complex nose that is layered, dense and broad with a mix of dark berry fruits, plum, earth, spice and smoked meat with a distinct *animale* character. The wonderfully rich, full and powerful big-bodied flavors possess excellent phenolic ripeness before culminating in a spectacular finish as this really fans out on the palate. This too will require patience. (91-94)/2023+

2011 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: This is at once reserved but intensely spicy with cool aromas of black pinot fruit, cassis, earth and underbrush. There is a discernible touch of wood on the delicious, vibrant and beautifully well-detailed big-bodied flavors that brim with seemingly endless reserves of dry extract, all wrapped in a balanced and seductively textured finish where the wood resurfaces. This is also terrific as the depth of material is remarkable. (93-96)/2023+

2011 Echézeaux: (from En Orveaux). Reduction presently dominates the nose. There is a marvelously seductive texture to the velvety, complex and attractively mineral-inflected medium weight plus flavors that possess a fine sense of balance and deliver excellent finishing persistence if only very good depth. (91-93)/2021+

2011 Grands Echézeaux: A very fresh, cool and admirably pure nose features notes of dark pinot fruit, anise, clove, sandalwood and warm earth. There is outstanding complexity to the extract-rich, textured, intense and mouth coating broad-shouldered flavors that culminate in a firm, highly persistent and energetic finish. This riveting effort is both classy and very stylish. (93-95)/2023+

2011 Richebourg: This is aromatically quite similar to the Grands Echézeaux though there is perhaps even better depth. There is admirable punch, size, weight and concentration to the mid-palate though there is a mildly odd character to the finish that I find difficult to describe other than to say that it is definitely atypical. It's impossible to say whether it will dissipate once the wine is racked and cleaned up but if you can taste first I would do so before committing to quantity. On the plus side this displays superb underlying material so if it does clean up, this should be excellent. (92-94?)/2023+

Domaine Hubert de Montille (Volnay)

2011	Beaune "Grèves" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	Beaune "Sizies" 1er	red	(88-90)
2011	Beaune "Les Perrières" 1er	red	(88-91)
2011	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(89-92)
2011	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2011	Nuits St. Georges "Aux St. Juliens"	red	(88-91)
2011	Nuits St. Georges "Aux Thorey" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	➽ Pommard "Grands Epenots" 1er	red	(91-93)
2011	➽ Pommard "Les Pézerolles" 1er	red	(91-94)
2011	➽ Pommard "Les Rugiens-Bas" 1er	red	(92-94)
2011	Volnay "Brouillards" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	➽ Volnay "Les Champans" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	Volnay "Les Mitans" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	➽ Volnay "Taillepieds" 1er	red	(91-94)
2011	➽ Vosne-Romanée "Les Malconsorts" 1er	red	(92-94)
2011	➽ Vosne-Romanée "Les Malconsorts - Christiane" 1er	red	(93-96)

Etienne de Montille describes the 2011 vintage as "completely surprising with totally unexpected quality. We had such chaotic weather with huge swings from hot, dry and sunny to cool, wet and cloudy that it was difficult to imagine what might transpire. It was one of the particularities of the vintage that once we had the proper phenolic maturities in the last week of August I waited a few days to see what might happen with the sugar levels but they just didn't budge. As such I reasoned that all that would probably happen if I waited would be to have lower acidity levels. We picked from the 28th of August to the 10th of September under near perfect conditions. The maturity of the pinot really varied as I started with it, then went to white and then came back to the pinot in those areas that are slower to mature. We obtained very good phenolic maturities though the potential alcohols were on the low to average side at between 11.8 to 12.7%. The fruit was really pretty clean though there were a few sectors where the pinot required some sorting. I did my usual vinification though I shortened slightly the total *cuvaison*. I used a relatively high percentage of whole clusters though this again varied considerably by *terroir*. As to the wines, they are fresh and energetic and should be relatively easy to drink young." My take on the de Montille 2011s is that they transcend the general quality of vintage, particularly in the Côte de Beaune. (Beaune Imports, www.beauneimports.com, Berkeley, CA, Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, Lake Success, NY and Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, NV/AZ/NM; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, Howard Ripley, www.howardripley.com, The Wine Society, www.thewinesociety.com, Private Cellar Ltd., www.privatecellar.co.uk, and Haynes, Hanson & Clark, www.hhandc.co.uk, all UK).

2011 Beaune "Sizies": (from a 1 ha parcel; vinified with no stems). Relatively strong reduction masks the nose. By contrast there is good punch and lovely detail to the textured middle weight flavors that possess fine depth and length on the well-balanced finish. This is pretty and I like the subtle minerality. (88-90)/2017+

2011 Beaune "Les Perrières": (no stems). A highly perfumed nose of plum, red currant and soft earth nuances leads to slightly rounder and more voluminous flavors that also display a lovely minerality on the balanced, persistent and ever-so-slightly austere finish. There is just a bit more here and the finish is marginally firmer as well. (88-91)/2018+

2011 Beaune "Grèves": (no stems). This gives away a bit of elegance for more complexity, particularly on the cool, pure and airy nose that displays notes of plum, earth, iron and underbrush. There is a slightly smoky character to the round, supple and solidly well-concentrated medium-bodied flavors that offer very fine depth on the balanced and lingering finish. This cellar-worthy effort is the most complete wine among the three Beaune 1ers in 2011. (89-92)/2019+

2011 Volnay "Brouillards": (no stems). This presents a completely different aromatic profile that is distinctly cooler and more restrained with somber and pungently earthy dark berry fruit aromas that carry a hint of rusticity. There is a touch of wood on the attractively textured and lightly mineral-suffused mid-palate that doesn't quite have the same level of concentration before culminating in a dusty, delicious and mildly austere finish of solid but not exceptional persistence. This should benefit from 6 to 8 years of cellar time. (89-91)/2018+

2011 Volnay "Les Champans": (33% stems). There is a background floral element to the perfumed, cool and ultra-pure essence of red pinot fruit, earth and wet stone. There is good verve and refinement to the mineral-inflected medium weight flavors that seduce on the mid-palate though tighten up quickly on the firm, mildly austere and complex finish that delivers excellent persistence. This is both stylish and classy though note that it will need a decade of cellar time. (90-92)/2021+

2011 Volnay "Les Mitans": (100% stems). An intense spicy and floral nose of extract of dark pinot fruit is liberally laced with green tea hints. There is excellent mid-palate density to the delicious middle weight flavors that exude a fine minerality on the moderately complex and persistent finish. This is a classic Mitans. (89-92)/2019+

2011 Volnay "Taillepieds": (100% stems). There is enough reduction present to mask the nuances of the nose though the floral character does sneak past the funk. There is a wonderfully silky texture to the intense mineral and soil-inflected medium-bodied flavors that display really lovely delineation on the moderately austere and very firmly structured finish that delivers outstanding depth and length. This should improve for years to come and this is really most impressive. (91-94)/2021+

2011 Pommard "Grands Epenots": (33% stems). A perfumed, airy and elegant nose offers up notes of essence of red currant, dried flowers, anise and clove along with an abundance of warm earth. There is excellent purity to the delicious, intense and sleekly muscular flavors that are shaped by relatively fine-grained tannins, all wrapped in a long and mouth coating finish that displays just the barest hint of rusticity. I very much like this generous yet refined effort. (91-93)/2021+

2011 Pommard "Les Pézerolles": (66% stems). Reduction hides the aromatic composition but there is good freshness and punch to the strongly mineral-driven middle weight flavors that possess fine delineation as well as very fine shaping tannins, all wrapped in a balanced, restrained and mildly austere finish. There is a wonderfully sophisticated mouth feel and this is textbook Pézerolles though I underscore that patience will be required. (91-94)/2023+

2011 Pommard "Les Rugiens-Bas": (66% stems). This is also quite restrained with ultra-pure aromas of wet stone, floral hints, sandalwood and very fresh red berry fruit scents. There is a focused power to the robust yet refined medium-bodied flavors that possess plenty of supporting sap that helps to buffer the otherwise firm and well-integrated tannic spine on the explosively long, balanced and moderately austere finish. This beauty will also require ample patience. (92-94)/2023+

2011 Corton-Clos du Roi: (66% stems). A highly complex and intensely *sauvage* nose of floral elements, pungent earth, humus, underbrush and discreet spice elements serves as an appropriate introduction to the impressively rich big-bodied flavors that possess a firm but not rustic tannic structure. There is excellent power and plenty of Corton-style muscle on the balanced and strikingly persistent finish. A classically styled example that will require plenty of cellar time. (91-94)/2023+

2011 Clos de Vougeot: (100% stems). An earthy dark berry fruit suffused nose also displays earth and floral tones. There is exceptionally good richness to the very round, even suave middle weight plus flavors that possess fine concentration if not quite the same energy on the mouth coating and solidly persistent finish. (89-92)/2021+

2011 Nuits St. Georges "Aux St. Juliens": (66% stems). A relatively deeply pitched nose is composed of distinctly ripe yet fresh aromas of various wild dark berries, iron-infused earth, spice and black tea. There is good muscle to the cool and admirably pure medium weight flavors that possess good verve on the balanced and delicious finish that delivers good depth and length. (88-91)/2018+

2011 Nuits St. Georges "Aux Thorey": (located at the southern end of the Vosne section of Nuits; 66% stems). Here the presence of the stems is quite noticeable with a green tea and floral character along with spice and red berry fruit nuances. There is a more refined mouth feel to the muscular middle weight flavors that exude a very fine minerality on the firm and ever-so-mildly rustic finish. This is pretty if not profound. (89-92)/2021+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Les Malconsorts": (100% stems). An exuberantly expressive nose offers up an abundance of exotic Vosne spice elements along with notes of violets, plum and cassis. There is good muscle and punch to the broad-shouldered, robust and solidly well-concentrated flavors that possess plenty of supporting dry extract, all wrapped in a mouth coating firm, balanced and impressively persistent finish. Good stuff. (92-94)/2023+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Les Malconsorts - Christiane": (100% stems). This is aromatically similar except for the markedly more pronounced spice component which is broader still and perhaps just a touch more elegant. There is outstanding volume and richness to the large-scaled flavors that display superb delineation and ample minerality before culminating in a mouth coating finish of Zen-like harmony and stunning length. This is an indisputable 'wow' wine. (93-96)/2023+

Domaine Bernard Moreau (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2011	Bourgogne	red	86
2011	Chassagne-Montrachet – Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2011	Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot - La Cardeuse" 1er	red	89
2011	➽ Volnay "Caillerets" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	➽ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	Volnay "Santenots" 1er	red	90

Bernard Moreau's son Alexandre told me that 2011 was the kind of vintage that "produced wines that will offer something for everyone, including purists. The growing season was completely chaotic, which is to say a very early start with a hot and dry spring that degraded into a lousy second half of July and first half of August. We at first welcomed the rain as the vines were beginning to display signs of hydric stress. The problem was that it didn't stop for a full 30 days and it was only after the 15th of August that the hot and relatively dry conditions returned. This allowed the fruit to ripen well because they had all the water necessary to accelerate the maturation process. We began picking on the 1st of September with the chardonnay, which was quite clean though the pinot required a light amount of sorting. The vinifications required some attention because it was so much warmer than usual at the time of the harvest that the fermentations started quickly. As to the wines themselves, they have the attractive quality of being already accessible but there is enough material and balance such that they will be capable of rewarding mid-term cellaring if that's what a collector wants." As I mentioned last year, the 2010s were the best reds that I had ever seen from Moreau and the 2011s, while not quite as good, are certainly worthy successors. (The Sorting Table, www.thesortingtable.com, Napa, CA; O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com and Great Western Wine, www.greatwesternwine.co.uk, Uncorked Ltd, www.uncorked.co.uk, all UK).

2011 Bourgogne: (from Chassagne vines and 100% barrel aged in 4 to 5 year old oak). A very fresh, expressive and cool nose speaks of red berry fruit aromas that also display hints of black cherry and earth. There is good phenolic maturity to the dusty, delicious, round and supple flavors that display a touch of rusticity on the otherwise balanced finish. A quality effort at this level. 86/2015+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet – Vieilles Vignes: (from 35+ year old vines). This possesses a similar fruit profile to the Bourgogne but here the nose is slightly earthier with pepper hints. There is good volume to the seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that possess relatively fine-grained tannins on the balanced finish that offers good persistence but only average depth. 88/2016+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot - La Cardeuse": (vinified with 35% whole clusters). This displays an absolutely lovely nose with soft floral hints on the notably ripe yet very fresh black pinot fruit, pepper and warm earth suffused aromas. There is excellent volume to the delicious, round and mouth coating flavors that are shaped by ripe tannins on the focused, powerful and very rich finish where a discreet touch of wood can be seen. 89/2017+

2011 Volnay "Santenots": (from purchased grapes). This offers a step up in aromatic elegance with a pure and highly complex nose of extract of cassis, plum, violets and black cherries. There is a very suave and seductive texture to the delicious, lacy and lightly mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that firm up on the solidly long finish. This is markedly finer than the Cardeuse but only a bit more complex. 90/2018+

2011 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": (from purchased grapes and vinified with 35% whole clusters). A perfumed, cool and admirably pure nose exhibits essence of red pinot fruit along with dark currant, stone and soft earth hints. There is a really lovely mouth feel to the intensely mineral-driven medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a mouth coating, complex and serious finish that exhibits only a trace of backend rusticity. This should reward mid-term cellaring. (90-92)/2019+

2011 Volnay "Caillerets": (from purchased grapes and vinified with 40% whole clusters). A slightly riper and spicier if slightly less perfumed nose of red berry fruit liqueur and wet stone aromas leads to intensely mineral-driven medium weight flavors that display fine mid-palate concentration with plenty of buffering dry extract. There is good power but also refinement to the balanced, mouth coating and solidly persistent finish. Lovely. (90-92)/2018+

Domaine Jean-Marc Morey (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2011	**Beaune "Grèves" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Champ Gains" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2011	**Santenay "Les Cornières"**	**red**	**(86-88)**
2011	**Santenay "Grand Clos Rousseau" 1er**	**red**	**(87-89)**

The ever genial Jean-Marc Morey succinctly characterized the 2011 vintage that "required diligence in the vineyards but when you've seen as many of them as I have, it was really no big deal. We began picking on the 3rd of September and while the pinot required a bit of sorting, it wasn't any more than usual as there's always something to eliminate. Sugars were adequate without being high at around 12% and I did my normal vinification. Overall, 2011 produced very pretty wines that should please just about everyone as there really isn't anything to dislike." My view is the Morey produced wines that are in-line with the general quality of the vintage. (Atherton Wine Imports, www.awiwine.com, Atherton, CA and Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, Shekomeko, NY; Anthony Sarjeant Wines and Eldridge Pope, both UK).

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet: An earthy and ripe red and dark berry fruit suffused nose leads to round and delicious flavors that possess a mouth coating palate impression, all wrapped in a nicely concentrated finish that offers good if not truly distinguished depth and length. (86-89)/2016+

2011 Santenay "Les Cornières": There are floral and green tea hints to the earthy mélange of various red berry fruit scents. There is a lovely sense of underlying tension to the delicious if mildly rustic middle weight flavors that again possess good if not special depth and length. (86-88)/2016+

2011 Santenay "Grand Clos Rousseau": A more deeply pitched nose of wild dark currant, earth, humus and underbrush hints gives way to agreeably fresh and utterly delicious medium-bodied flavors that exhibit good vibrancy and solid mid-palate density. There is a bit more overall depth and fine length to the saline-infused finish. (87-89)/2017+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Champ Gains": This offers a noticeable step up in aromatic refinement with a cool and restrained nose of red and dark pinot fruit along with pretty rose petal and plum nuances. There is good intensity and a hint of minerality to the solidly intense and well-delineated middle weight flavors that are shaped by phenolically ripe tannins on the vibrant, clean and well-balanced finish. (88-91)/2017+

2011 Beaune "Grèves": This is more elegant still with very pretty nose of spice, smoke, sandalwood, violets, plum and red cherry scents. There is lovely richness and plenty of verve to the attractively textured medium weight flavors that possess good depth on the balanced and lightly mineral-infused finish that delivers quality persistence. This is worth a look and should cellar well for 6 to 8 years. (89-91)/2018+

Domaine Marc Morey (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet**	**red**	**87**
2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot" 1er**	**red**	**88**

The always candid Bernard Mollard commented that 2011 "was not very easy due to a mediocre summer that was wet and rot was constantly threatening. Thankfully, the last 2 weeks of August saved us as it was sunny and largely dry, both of which helped accelerate the maturities and stopped any rot problems. I was worried though because I took some sugar readings and they were definitely on the low side. We decided to begin picking on the 31st of August and the fruit was almost perfect. Sometimes you just can't predict what's going to happen even when you're watching things unfold. The potential alcohols turned out to be sufficient if not high and with good acidity levels. Overall, the 2011s are going to provide a lot of pleasure as the wines are fresh and easy to enjoy. In all honesty though, Burgundy dodged a bullet in 2011 because it easily could have

been really ugly." The reds were bottled in February, 2013. (Robert Kacher Selections, Washington, D.C.; John Armit Wines, Haynes, Hanson & Clark, Richards Walford, Layton's Wine Merchants, all UK).

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet: A complex nose features red and blue berry fruit, cassis, spice pepper, warm earth and a hint of the *sauvage*. There is an attractive texture to the delicious medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a mildly rustic finish that offers acceptable depth and length. 87/2015+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot": Here the expressive nose is ever-so-slightly more elegant as it offers up more refined red pinot fruit, pepper and earth nuances. The somewhat riper and richer middle weight flavors possess good freshness and verve before culminating in a supple, round and delicious finish that also displays mild rusticity with a bit more depth and length. This should drink well early on. 88/2016+

Domaine Pierre Morey (Meursault)

2011	➽ Bourgogne	red	87
2011	Meursault "Les Durots"	red	88
2011	Monthelie	red	88
2011	➽ Pommard "Les Grands Epenots" 1er	red	92
2011	➽ Volnay "Les Santenots" 1er	red	92

Pierre Morey's (who for 20 years was the winemaker for Domaine Leflaive but has now retired from that position) daughter Anne commented that 2011 "once again gave us a tiny crop. Another interesting aspect is that we have never before started a harvest in August and yet in 2011 we began on the 27th and picked until the 2nd of September. There was almost no sorting required for the chardonnay and very little for the pinot. There were reasonably good sugars and the few wines that were chaptalized saw less than .3% of a degree added. We did our normal vinification with 100% destemmed fruit. As to the wines, they're agreeably fresh but their real attribute is how well-balanced they are. They should be accessible when young but age well too if desired." As the scores and commentaries suggest, the Morey 2011s are definitely a cut above the average quality achieved by most in the Côte de Beaune. (A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France and Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, Lake Success, NY; Davy & Co., www.davywine.co.uk, Plowden Fine Wines, www.plowdenfinewines.com, The Sampler Wine Merchant, www.thesampler.co.uk, Justerini & Brooks, www.justerinis.com, Majestic Wine Warehouses, www.majestic.co.uk, Berkmann Wine Cellars, www.berkmann.co.uk and Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, all UK).

2011 Bourgogne: (from vines situated in Volnay). An unusually elegant nose in the context of the *appellation* speaks of ripe essence of red berries, earth and a hint of spice. There is good vibrancy and freshness to the cool and pure middle weight flavors that are not only utterly delicious but offer fine depth and length for what this is. Recommended. 87/2015+

2011 Monthelie: This is also quite pretty if completely different with its markedly earthier nose of plum, violets and dark currant scents. There is good verve and detail along with a lovely mouth feel to the medium-bodied flavors that terminate with just a touch of rusticity on the otherwise solidly well-balanced and persistent finish. 88/2016+

2011 Meursault "Les Durots": (from a vineyard not far from Santenots). Here the nose is quite similar to that of the Monthelie but with a more pronounced floral component. There is also fine vibrancy and solid delineation to the relatively sophisticated mouth feel, indeed this is notably finer than it usually is, all wrapped in a firm, balanced and serious finish. 88/2017+

2011 Volnay "Les Santenots": As is typically the case this is both more elegant and more complex with its refined aromas of extract of red currant, violet, plum and soft spice hints. There is good volume and phenolic maturity to the lightly mineral-inflected medium-bodied flavors that possess an equally lovely mouth feel before culminating in a wonderfully persistent, balanced and well-layered finish. This is well worth your consideration. 92/2019+

2011 Pommard "Les Grands Epenots": A reticent and quite cool nose offers even better depth with its aromas of dark berries, earth, humus, spice and game hints. There is excellent concentration to the velvety and palate coating medium weight flavors that exhibit focused power and fine precision while terminating in an equally complex, driving and impressively lengthy finish. As is often the case between this and the Santenots, this is less elegant but more powerful. A qualitative choice though the personalities of these two wines are distinctly different. 92/2019+

Maison Morey-Blanc (Meursault)

2011	**Aloxe-Corton "Clos du Chapitre" 1er**	**red**	**90**

See Domaine Pierre Morey (directly above) for comments as Maison Morey-Blanc is owned and operated by Morey. He told me that since 2005 he has cut back his *négociant* activities on the red side and only produced this one wine. (A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France and Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, Lake Success, NY; 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).

2011 Aloxe-Corton "Clos du Chapitre": An expressive nose of red berry fruit liqueur and soft earth aromas leads to cool and relatively sophisticated medium-bodied flavors that possess relatively fine-grained tannins that contribute to the silky mouth feel. There is good depth and fine length on the balanced finish and overall, this is a really lovely effort. 90/2018+

Domaine Morey-Coffinet (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2011	**➽ Bourgogne**	**red**	**87**
2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Les Chaumes"**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot" 1er**	**red**	**89**

Michel Morey's son Thibault describes 2011 as "having produced fine and pure wines of *terroir*, indeed they are entirely classic burgundies as they are even fresher than their 2010 counterparts. We began picking on the 2nd of September and the chardonnay was extremely clean though the pinot required a limited amount of sorting. Otherwise, we handled the reds the way that we always do. I like the style of the wines a great deal as they're extremely fresh and I believe that they will drink well both young and in middle age. I don't imagine that it matters very much whether they will make old bones for the simple reason that they will be difficult to resist and all be drunk!" While the domaine is justifiably better known for its whites, the Morey-Coffinet reds are often quite good. In my view the 2011s at this address are consistent with the general quality of the vintage and the Bourgogne is really very good. (Martine's Wines, www.martineswines.com, Novato, CA; Richards Walford & Co., Ltd., www.r-w.co.uk, Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, The Wine Society, www.thewinesociety.com, and Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, all UK).

2011 Bourgogne: An earthy, ripe and distinctly cool nose of both red and dark pinot fruit is cut with plenty of earth character that continues onto the complex and utterly delicious middle weight flavors that possess excellent for what this is. There is a minor nit in that there is a trace of warmth but overall this delivers fine quality for the *appellation*. Worth a look. 87/2015+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Les Chaumes": There is a bit more refinement to the attractive high-toned and pure essence of red berry fruit aromas that slide gracefully into the lightly pepper and earth-inflected flavors that possess relatively fine-grained tannins. There is only a trace of rusticity to the balanced and delicious finish. Lovely and fashioned in an understated style. 88/2016+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean": There is a very mild hint of reduction but not enough to completely mask the otherwise pretty red pinot fruit aromas. There is equally good verve to the soil and mineral tones on the refined, delicious and lacy flavors that possess firm, mildly austere and saline-infused finish. This too is quite attractive though note that if you're going to enjoy a bottle young that I would suggest decanting it first. 89/2017+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot": (from the sub-climats of Fairendes and Francemont). This is a classic Chassagne rouge with its pepper, earth and *sauvage* hints adding breadth to the ripe and very fresh red berry fruit aromas. There is good concentration to the robust and muscular medium-bodied flavors that possess fine complexity and only limited rusticity on the balanced and ever-so-mildly austere finish. Good juice. 89/2018+

Domaine Albert Morot (Beaune)

2011	Beaune "Les Aigrots"	red	(89-92)
2011	➽ Beaune "Les Bressandes" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	Beaune "Cents Vignes" 1er	red	(88-90)
2011	➽ Beaune "Grèves" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	Beaune "Les Marconnets" 1er	red	(89-92?)
2011	➽ Beaune "Les Teurons" 1er	red	(90-93)
2011	Beaune "Toussaints" 1er	red	(88-91)
2011	Pommard	red	(87-89)
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "La Bataillère" 1er	red	(87-90)
2010	Beaune "Les Aigrots"	red	90
2010	➽ Beaune "Les Bressandes" 1er	red	92
2010	➽ Beaune "Cents Vignes" 1er	red	91
2010	➽ Beaune "Les Teurons" 1er	red	93
2010	➽ Beaune "Toussaints" 1er	red	91
2010	Savigny-lès-Beaune "La Bataillère" 1er	red	90

Geoffroy Choppin de Janvry said that 2011 was "an early vintage and the weather was hot and dry which made the treatments easy to make. Unfortunately the good weather didn't last as the second half of July and the first half of August badly deteriorated, requiring many more treatments. We elected to begin picking on the 2nd of September and picked through to the 6th. We had ripe skins and moderate sugars though not nearly the concentration of the 2010s. The sorting was about average as there's always some to do no matter how clean the fruit is generally. I did my normal vinification and while the wines were difficult to read until the malos were finished, they have turned out better than I had hoped. They're not especially structured but they are balanced and delicious and I suspect that they will ultimately be quite popular, especially since the 2010s have already started to shut down." The quality of the Morot wines in both 2010 and 2011 generally outperformed the general standard in the Côte de Beaune though the difference is more significant in 2011. By the way, do not miss their 2010s as they are terrific. In one other item of interest, de Janvry said that he was in the process of replanting La Bataillère and he may plant half of it to chardonnay. (Robert Kacher Selections, www.robertkacherselections.com, Washington, D.C; Majestic Wine Warehouses, www.majestic.co.uk and House of Hallgarten, www.hallgarten.co.uk, both UK).

2011 Pommard: (from .4 ha parcel in La Rue au Porc). A very pretty nose of ripe dark berry fruit aromas displays top notes of violets and spice along with lower register earth nuances. There is a rich and velvety texture to the solidly voluminous middle weight flavors that possess plenty of dry extract that helps to buffer the firm finish. This isn't especially complex but there is good balance and length plus this may very well develop more depth with a few years of bottle age. (87-89)/2016+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "La Bataillère": (a *monopole* within Les Vergelesses). An exceptionally fresh nose features plenty of earth influence to the otherwise very pretty aromas of violets, plum and a hint of the *sauvage*. There is good verve to the very supple, round and delicious medium weight flavors that are easy-to-like and already relatively accessible, all wrapped in a persistent finish that displays a hint of youthful asperity that should round out in a year or two. (87-90)/2016+

2011 Beaune "Cents Vignes": This is a bit more elegant and slightly fruitier with both red and blue pinot fruit aromas that exhibit background nuances of earth, humus and smoke. There is also good verve to the medium-bodied flavors that are not quite as concentrated as those of the La Bataillère though there is slightly better detail and punch on the delicious and quite generous finish. This is very Beaune in style. (88-90)/2017+

2011 Beaune "Toussaints": Here the nose offers just a bit more aromatic complexity with a quite similar if slightly riper set of aromas. The mid-palate is delicious and generous but not at all banal as there is fine depth on the balanced, persistent and focused finish that also displays just a hint of youthful asperity. (88-91)/2018+

2011 Beaune "Les Aigrots": (from 15+ year old vines). This possesses what is arguably the most elegant nose in the range with high-toned, airy and ultra-pure aromas that offer excellent layering with notes of plum, violets, spice and various dark berries. There is really lovely delineation and verve on the coiled, intense and mineral-inflected medium-bodied flavors that deliver fine persistence. Like several wines there is just a background hint of youthful asperity that should round out relatively quickly. (89-92)/2019+

2011 Beaune "Grèves": An earthy and quite spicy nose of reserved purple fruit that includes notes of plum along with blueberry and violets. There is a sophisticated and lush mouth feel to the detailed and punchy middle weight flavors that possess excellent depth on the mildly austere, balanced and impressively persistent finish. This is very good. (90-92)/2020+

2011 Beaune "Les Bressandes": An expressive and relatively densely fruited nose features raspberry liqueur, kirsch, plum, spice and floral elements. There is a really lovely palate impression to the classy middle weight flavors, thanks in large part to the very fine grain of the tannins. Notwithstanding the refinement of the mid-palate the finish is dusty and serious though not particularly austere and I very much admire the balance and overall sense of depth. Excellent. (90-92)/2020+

2011 Beaune "Les Marconnets": (a .67 ha parcel of 50+ year old vines). A very cool and ultra-fresh nose of restrained raspberry liqueur where added breadth is present in the form of spiced plum, black cherry and earth nuances. There is a similar sense of restraint to the delicious and beautifully well-detailed middle weight flavors that exude a fine minerality on the clean and moderately austere finish that stops just short of being dry. There is so much underlying material present that my sense is that this will round out though I should note that it's not a given. (89-92?)/2021+

2011 Beaune "Les Teurons": If not the most elegant nose in the range then it's the most complex with broad-ranging aromas of spice, earth, smoke and both red and blue pinot fruit liqueur. There is a lovely sense of underlying tension to the very fresh and beautifully well-delineated flavors that are at once serious yet generous, all wrapped in a balanced, mouth coating and impressively persistent finish. This is the class of the Morot 2011s. (90-93)/2021+

2010 Savigny-lès-Beaune "La Bataillère": (a *monopole* within Les Vergelesses). An impressively complex nose of earth-infused plum, violet and a hint of game merges into delicious, round and seductively textured middle weight flavors that culminate in a naturally sweet, mouth coating finish. This very forward effort should drink well young but age well too. 90/2018+

2010 Beaune "Cents Vignes": An exceptionally fresh and expressive nose features pretty red currant and raspberry aromas that are cut with notes of earth and wood spice. There is lovely refinement to the medium-bodied flavors that possess that beguiling sense of tension on the balanced and persistent finish. A wine of finesse that offers very fine depth. 91/2018+

2010 Beaune "Toussaints": This is quite restrained even though there is good ripeness to the cool plum, red currant and kirsch suffused nose. There is fine volume to the very round, rich and relatively generous flavors that possess a velvety mouth feel as there is plenty of tannin-buffering dry extract present, especially on the firm, long and beautifully well-balanced finale that displays fine power and punch. Lovely juice that is built to age. 91/2018+

2010 Beaune "Les Aigrots": (from 15+ year old vines). A beautifully high-toned, pure, cool and airy nose of extract of red pinot fruit introduces zesty mineral-driven flavors that possess excellent delineation on the focused, persistent, saline and linear finish. This is often on the edgy side young and while this is clearly quite firm, it is not unduly backward. 90/2018+

2010 Beaune "Les Bressandes": A reserved, pure, cool and airy nose offers up notes of cherry, red pinot fruit, earth and wet stone. There is good volume to the utterly delicious and fleshy flavors where the supporting tannins are clearly much finer than those of the Aigrots, all wrapped in a classy, pure and refined finish. A classic Bressandes of style and grace that should repay 10 to 12 years of cellar time. Well worth your attention. 92/2020+

2010 Beaune "Les Teurons": In contrast to all of the preceding wines here the nose is distinctly floral in character while combining with notes of pungent earth, red currant and dark berry fruit aromas. There is a beautiful sense of tension and delineation to the linear and driving mineral-inflected finish. This is also markedly more firmly structured than any wine in the range with the exception of the Marconnets. Excellent quality and highly recommended, at least if you have the patience. 93/2022+

Maison Philippe Pacalet (Beaune)

2011	Beaune "Les Perrières" 1er	red	90
2011	➽ Chambolle-Musigny "1er"	red	91
2011	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	92?
2011	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(90-92?)
2011	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin	red	89
2011	Gevrey-Chambertin "Bel Air" 1er	red	(89-91?)
2011	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaut St. Jacques" 1er	red	(91-93)
2011	Nuits St. Georges	red	(88-91)
2011	➽ Nuits St. Georges "Aux Argillas" 1er	red	(90-93)

2011	**Pommard**	**red**	**88**
2011	**➽ Pommard "Clos des Arvelets" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2011	**Ruchottes-Chambertin Grand Cru**	**red**	**(91-94)**
2011	**➽ Vosne-Romanée "Les Chaumes" 1er**	**red**	**(90-93)**

The iconoclastic Philippe Pacalet, who is the nephew of the late Marcel Lapierre 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 are ice cold. Pacalet describes 2011 as an "early maturing vintage yet the wines don't taste like it. The growing season started very early and though much of the summer was mediocre the substantial head start afforded the vines in the spring was enough to arrive at the harvest with phenolically mature fruit. We began picking with the chardonnay on the 28th of August but didn't start on the pinot until the 5th of September. There was a bit of sorting required for the pinot but really no more than usual. Yields were a bit less than average at around 33 hl/ha mainly because I didn't lose any to sunburn. This is due to the fact that I did very little leaf pulling as I wanted to promote as much photosynthesis as possible. Yes, you can engender rot due to less air flow but I would rather do a bit more sorting than have under-ripe fruit. Potential alcohols were in the 12 to 12.5% range, which is fine for the style of wine that I wish to make, particularly given that as usual I used 100% whole clusters in the vinifications. As to the style of the 2011s, they are very fresh and round wines with plenty of energy, in fact while it sounds pejorative, they are wonderfully refreshing. In its fashion this is just as well because they will drink earlier than their 2010 counterparts." I found the Pacalet 2011s to be a most interesting group in the sense that they are one of the few where the Côte de Nuits was not head and shoulders above the wines from the Côte de Beaune. This is to say that there are good choices, and a few question marks, in both Côtes. The wines will be (or have been) 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. (Wine Mc^2 Selection, www.winemc2.com, NY; Le Cave des Pyrenées, www.lescaves.co.uk, UK).

2011 Pommard: This is quite floral with pure and cool aromas of a variety of wild red berry fruit scents. The supple, round and naturally sweet middle weight flavors possess really lovely detail and verve before terminating in a lightly mineral-inflected finish that delivers fine length. This isn't particularly complex at present but I very much like the delivery. 88/2017+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin: There is the same floral character present though the red berry, earth, humus and underbrush-suffused scents are even cooler and more restrained. There is an interesting contrast with the almost delicate mouth feel and the *sauvage* character of the medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a firm, delicious, complex and well-balanced finish that displays excellent persistence for a *villages* level wine. Worth considering. 89/2018+

2011 Nuits St. Georges: A discreet touch of wood sets off a distinctly earthy and *animale* nose of soft floral elements and cool dark berry fruit aromas. There is plenty of verve to the well-detailed medium weight flavors where the supporting tannins are admirably fine-grained, all wrapped in a complex and mildly austere finish. This is really quite stylish, particularly for a Nuits *villages*. (88-91)/2018+

2011 Beaune "Les Perrières": A slightly riper nose of dried floral notes, earth and very fresh red currant aromas leads to round, delicious and attractively layered flavors that exude a fine minerality on the focused, balanced and well-detailed finish. This is already accessible and could be enjoyed now though for my taste I would wait a few years first. 90/2017+

2011 Pommard "Clos des Arvelets": Here the nose is noticeably marked by the whole clusters as there is an intensely floral and spicy character to the earthy and pure red pinot fruit aromas. There is equally admirable purity to the mineral-inflected flavors that exhibit a highly sophisticated mouth feel thanks to the fine grain of the supporting tannins. I very much like the complexity as well as the sense of tension on the balanced and solidly persistent finish. Lovely juice. (90-92)/2019+

2011 Nuits St. Georges "Aux Argillas": Mild reduction partially masks the ripe and complex aromas that seem to be primarily composed of dried flowers and red currants. There is a real sense of underlying tension to the pure and well-delineated middle weight flavors that possess outstanding depth on the balanced, lingering and mouth coating finish. This will be accessible young but will require at least a decade to realize its full potential. (90-93)/2021+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Bel Air": A very spicy, pure and airy nose of restrained wild red berries, wet stone and hints of the *sauvage* gives way to detailed and highly energetic medium-bodied flavors that exude a fine minerality on the dusty and mildly austere finish that exhibits a hint of dryness that is probably from the high level of gas. My score offers the benefit of the doubt in this regard though I have noted my uncertainty with a question mark. (89-91?)/2018+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "1er": (equally from Gruenchers, Chabiots and Feusselottes). Not surprisingly, this is markedly more elegant with its essence of plum, black cherry, rose petal and stone. There is good mid-palate flesh to the round, delicious and attractively well-detailed flavors that exhibit fine depth and outstanding persistence on the well-balanced finish. Textbook Chambolle. 91/0019+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Les Chaumes": An intensely spicy nose features aromas of ripe dark berries, warm earth, sandalwood and cinnamon. There is excellent depth to the solidly well-concentrated, firm and vibrant medium-bodied flavors that are shaped by mature tannins on the gorgeously long finish. There is a seductive quality to the palate impression and this is very Vosne in basic character. Definitely worth a look. (90-93)/2019+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaut St. Jacques": Relatively strong reduction presently hides the nose from view. There is a highly restrained mouth feel to the intensely mineral and soil inflected medium weight flavors that display a sleek muscularity on the firmly structured and long but not especially austere finish. This appears to possess impressive upside development potential though it will require at least a decade of cellar time to realize all of it. (91-93)/2021+

2011 Charmes-Chambertin: (from Mazoyères). A slightly curious nose that isn't what it should be though it's not overtly flawed. The round and seductively textured broad-shouldered flavors are on the forward side though the impressively complex finish delivers outstanding length with no trace of the odd aroma. This is frankly difficult to rate because while the nose is odd the flavors and finish are lovely. I would advise due caution here even though my score offers the benefit of the doubt. 92?/2019+

2011 Echézeaux: (from Clos St. Denis). Here the nose displays the same odd element as does the Charmes and again, it's not a flaw so much as atypical. The very round and naturally sweet medium-bodied flavors possess a velvety texture as well as fine depth on the firm, masculine and solidly persistent finish. As with the Charmes, my range offers the benefit of the doubt that the curious nose is a passing phase. (90-92?)/2021+

2011 Ruchottes-Chambertin: This is completely clean and typical with a wonderfully spicy nose of leather, smoked meat, black tea and wild red berries. There is excellent richness and volume to the mineral-driven, intense and energetic flavors that brim with mouth coating dry extract before culminating in a stylish, balanced and persistent finish. Good stuff. (91-94)/2021+

Domaine Parent (Pommard)

2011	Beaune "Les Epenotes" 1er	red	(88-91)
2011	➽ Bourgogne	red	87
2011	Corton-Renardes Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2011	Ladoix	red	(86-89)
2011	Ladoix "Corvées" 1er	red	(87-89)
2011	Pommard	red	(87-89)
2011	Pommard "Argillières" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	Pommard "Chanlins" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	➽ Pommard "Les Chaponnières" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	Pommard "La Croix Blanche"	red	(88-91)
2011	➽ Pommard "Les Epenots" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	➽ Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	(90-93)

The ever energetic Anne Parent told me that 2011 was "an unusually precocious vintage that was at one point up to 3 weeks in advance of a normal growing season. While the spring was hot and dry the flowering was good but not perfect and that cost us some potential yield. A very wet July and first half of August alternated with periods of heat and coolness that slowed the vegetative cycle down somewhat and engendered a bit of rot but thankfully nothing really dramatic. That said, you really had to respect the cadence of your treatments because if you didn't you could really have problems, especially with mildew. We began picking on the 1st of September and brought in reasonably clean fruit that had surprisingly good homogeneity in terms of maturity. I would put our sorting losses at between 5 and 12% depending on the sector. Potential alcohols were at best average and I would put the median value right at 12.5%. What I found to be the most impressive aspect of the fruit was just how good the phenolic maturities were. In terms of the wines, I would describe the 2011s as more robust versions of the 2007s. There are lovely and balanced acidities that impart a real sense of freshness and verve and I suspect that many 2011s will be drunk young just because they are so delicious. They are more supple and approachable than the 2010s and should drink well almost immediately. You just feel like drinking them!" My take on the quality of the domaine's wines is that they slightly outperformed the general quality of the vintage and in particular, I direct your attention to the Bourgogne. I would also

suggest that if you can find any of their 2010s that you do so as I reiterate that it's the best overall vintage that I have ever seen at this address. (Baron François Ltd, NY, Five Grapes Ltd, CA, Mike Corso Selections, IL and PComms International, NC; The Merchant Vintners Members, Private Cellars, Edward Sheldon and Decorum Vintners, www.decvin.com, all UK).

2011 Bourgogne: An exceptionally fresh and already expressive nose of pure essence of red berry fruit, earth and hint of underbrush leads to attractively energetic and well-detailed flavors that possess a textured mouth feel before terminating in a balanced, saline, clean and ever-so-mildly austere finish. This is a very fine example of the *appellation* that could be enjoyed now or held for a few years if desired. Good stuff and worth your attention, particularly for value. 87/2015+

2011 Ladoix: A ripe, fresh and distinctly earthy nose features a pretty mix of both red and dark pinot fruit that gives way to rich and solidly voluminous middle weight flavors that are supported by moderately fine-grained tannins. There is good length to the slightly rustic and austere finish that displays a bit more body and muscle than the Bourgogne. (86-89)/2017+

2011 Ladoix "Corvées": A rustic, earthy and brooding nose of cool dark currant and hints of the *sauvage* introduce rich, delicious and nicely vibrant medium-bodied flavors that are shaped by tannins that are a bit finer than usual, all wrapped in a detailed, balanced and lingering finish. This offers good if not special quality in a package that should reward 6 to 8 years of cellar time. (87-89)/2018+

2011 Pommard: (mostly from Noizons). An appealingly layered nose of plum, dark berries and floral hints is followed by rich, intense and muscular middle weight flavors that possess a textured mid-palate before culminating in a dusty, mouth coating and ever-so-mildly toasty finish. A solid *villages* that is very Pommard in character. (87-89)/2017+

2011 Pommard "La Croix Blanche": (a *villages* vineyard that should not be confused with the 1er Clos Blanc). Moderate reduction masks the finer aspects of the nose though there is good detail and freshness to the supple, round and utterly delicious medium weight flavors that display only mild rusticity and austerity on the attractively persistent and complex finish. This is really a very good *villages* and worth considering. (88-91)/2019+

2011 Beaune "Les Epenotes": (from two parcels of vines – one of 60+ year old vines and the other from 30+ year old vines). This is notably more deeply pitched than most of the wines in the range with its notes of pepper, plum, dark berries and humus. There is good richness to the quite supple and accessible flavors that are shaped by notably ripe tannins on the ever-so-mildly austere finish that offers very good but not truly special depth and length. This is very Beaune in character with its generous mid-palate that makes this a pleasure to drink. (88-91)/2018+

2011 Pommard "Argillières": This is also rather deeply pitched with its intensely earthy aromas of plum, cassis and soft spice hints. There are plenty of soil nuances to the exceptionally rich, round and velvet-textured middle weight flavors that are also shaped by notably ripe tannins on the delicious, complex, balanced and solidly persistent finish. (89-91)/2019+

2011 Pommard "Chanlins": Reduction blocks an evaluation of the nose. This is also attractively rich with excellent volume and an abundance of mouth coating sap that buffers the firm but relatively fine tannins that underpin the intensely mineral-suffused medium-bodied flavors. There is a touch of rusticity on the moderately toasty, balanced and agreeably long finish. Other than the toast, this is textbook Chanlins. (89-92)/2021+

2011 Pommard "Les Chaponnières": (from 60+ year old vines). An elegant, pure, ripe and very fresh nose features essence of red pinot fruit that is liberally laced with hints of warm earth, spice and floral nuances. There is a really lovely mouth feel to the supple, round and solidly concentrated flavors that retain a fine sense of detail before terminating in an impeccably well-balanced finish. A wine of harmony and depth. (90-92)/2023+

2011 Pommard "Les Epenots": (from both Grands and Petits). A toasty nose primarily displays notes of reduction though it seems reasonably clear that the underlying fruit is ripe. There is excellent size, weight and focused power to the impressively well-concentrated middle weight flavors that enjoy a lavish amount of palate coating dry extract that helps to buffer the firm but fine tannins on the balanced finish where a hint of mocha appears. (90-92)/2023+

2011 Pommard "Les Rugiens": (from purchased fruit in Rugiens Bas). Here the nose exhibits a distinct step up in elegance from all the other wines in the range with its cool and admirably pure red pinot, dark currant, wet stone and subtle spice hints trimmed in a discreet application of wood. There is good muscle and excellent delineation to the complex, mineral and soil-inflected flavors that deliver very fine depth and length on the robust but not rustic finish. Worth considering. (90-93)/2023+

2011 Corton-Renardes: This also displays enough reduction to block an evaluation of the nose. There is enough wood to notice on the big-bodied, intense and dense flavors that exhibit the classic *sauvage* character of a fine Renardes, all wrapped in a toasty if impressively persistent finish. As my note suggests, this is rather awkward today but the underlying material is so good that this seems quite promising all the same. (91-93)/2023+

Domaine/Maison François Parent (Pommard/Beaune)

2011	Beaune "Les Boucherottes" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2011	Morey St. Denis	red	88
2011	Pommard "Les Arvelets" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	Pommard "Pézerolles" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	➽ Pommard "Epenots" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	Volnay "Frémiets" 1er	red	(86-89?)

François Parent also directs and makes the wine for his wife's domaine, A.-F. Gros (see above); please see Domaine A.-F. Gros for Parent's vintage comments and other specifics. (New Castle Imports, www.newcastleimports.com, Myrtle Beach, SC and Cellar Door Selections, www.cellardoorselections.com, Columbia MD; Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, La Réserve and Tanners Wine, www.tanners-wines.co.uk, all UK).

2011 Morey St. Denis: (from purchased grapes). Reduction renders the nose impossible to fairly evaluate. There is good energy and fine detail to the supple and very round middle weight flavors that possess a just of austerity on the otherwise persistent finish that is trimmed in enough wood to notice. 88/2017+

2011 Beaune "Les Boucherottes": (from 50+ year old vines). An exceptionally pretty and quite elegant nose features both red and dark pinot fruit as well as soil and spice tones. There is fine energy to the solidly intense, pure and well-delineated medium weight flavors that terminate in a firm, serious, complex, balanced and lingering finish. This is not really a refined Beaune yet neither is it rustic either. (89-91)/2018+

2011 Volnay "Frémiets": This is also exceptionally pretty with a perfumed nose of spicy essence of red pinot fruit that is liberally laced with wet stone nuances that can also be found on the round, supple and equally mineral-inflected medium weight flavors. There is a plush mouth feel to the mid-palate that doesn't have quite the same underlying tension of the Boucherottes and there is a mild touch of dryness on the backend the cuts the finish somewhat short. The tannins seem ripe and thus it's not clear what the source of the dryness might be. (86-89?)/2017+

2011 Pommard "Pézerolles": A completely different aromatic profile is present here with its ripe and distinctly earthy nose of red currant, dark pinot fruit and plenty of humus, game and underbrush characters. There is a beautifully refined mouth feel to the medium-bodied mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that possess good verve as well as really lovely depth and length. There is a bit of wood that shows up on the saline suffused finale but it should be absorbed in due course. (89-92)/2019+

2011 Pommard "Les Arvelets": Somewhat curiously given its considerable altitude relative to the Pézerolles, the nose is a bit riper with extract of raspberry, red currant, cherry, earth and spiced tea aromas. There is a restrained mouth feel to the intensely mineral-driven medium weight flavors that display plenty of underlying tension that adds a sense of lift to the delicious and persistent finish where the only nit is a discreet hint of warmth. (89-91)/2019+

2011 Pommard "Epenots": (50% each from Grands and Petits). A distinctly ripe yet reserved nose grudgingly offers up notes of plum, violet, red currant and plenty of soil tones. There is excellent richness to the mouth coating big-bodied flavors that are underpinned by an equally ripe and notably firm tannic spine, all wrapped in a powerful though not especially rustic finish of very solid length. This is a well-balanced and built-to-age Epenots. (90-92)/2021+

2011 Clos de Vougeot: A cool and quite restrained nose of a ripe, earthy and very fresh mélange of various wild red berries gives way to vibrant, detailed and impressively intense broad-shouldered flavors that possess moderate power and plenty of underlying tension. There is outstanding depth to the focused, youthfully austere and impeccably well-balanced finish that delivers excellent persistence. This is really very good and worth a look. (91-94)/2023+

Domaine Jean-Marc Pavelot (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2011	Aloxe-Corton	red	(87-90)
2011	Beaune "Bressandes" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	➽ Bourgogne	red	(86-88)
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	(87-89)
2011	➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "La Dominode" 1er	red	(91-94)

2011	**➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Gravains" 1er**	**red**	**(91-93)**
2011	**➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Guettes" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2011	**➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières" 1er**	**red**	**(91-93)**
2011	**Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Peuillets" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2011	**➽ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Serpentières" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**

Jean-Marc Pavelot's son Jean-Hugues told me that 2011, much like 2010, produced a "small crop that averaged only 30 hl/ha but one that had excellent phenolic maturity. We began picking on the 31st of August and while there was a bit of sorting required, it was really no more than normal. Potential alcohols were good without being special and ranged from 11.5 to 12.5%. We did our usual vinification though we paid close attention to make sure that we were obtaining a balanced extraction. There is a bit more wood than usual because with two small harvests in a row we had to use the barrels so they wouldn't lose their quality. Overall, the 2011s should give a lot of pleasure both young and old as they will be more accessible than the 2010s in their youth but have the balance and concentration to age well too." I was quite impressed with the Pavelot 2011s, indeed this is one of the very few domaines in the Côte de Beaune where their 2011s may even be better than their 2010s. I would underscore Pavelot's comments about the amount of wood in the 2011s and while it's certainly not enough to upset the balance, fans of the domaine who are used to the relatively oak-neutral style of the Pavelot wines may find oak treatment to be decidedly atypical. As the scores suggest, I don't believe that there will be an issue as there appears to be more than sufficient concentration to successfully integrate it with time in bottle. However, where it could be an issue is for those readers who might have a tendency to drink the Pavelot wines young. (A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; Wines Unlimited, www.winesunlimited.com, New Orleans, LA, Scott Paul Wines, www.scottpaul.com, OR/WA, Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA/NV/AZ/NM, Augustan Wine, www.augustanwine.com, Miramar, FL, Little Guy Wine, www.littleguywine.com, Dearborn, MI, Small Potatoes Wine, www.smallpotatoeswine.com, Boise ID, Terra Nova Wines, www.terranovawines.com, Denver, CO, C'est Vin, LLC, 703/243-3559, Arlington, VA, and Pas Mal Portfolio, mafeuer@mindspring.com, NY/NJ; Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, UK; Woolworths, kkot@danmurphys.com.au, Australia).

2011 Bourgogne: A fruity and exuberant nose of dark berry fruit and soft earth aromas precedes the nicely rich, round and utterly delicious middle weight flavors that possess good verve and detail on the clean, balanced and persistent finish. This offers fine quality for its level and is worth a look. (86-88)/2015+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune: (this derives mostly from Guetottes, which abuts Les Guettes). Here the nose is quite similar to that of the Bourgogne save for subtle menthol hints. There is good volume and solid mid-palate concentration to the very round and velvety medium weight flavors that are shaped by ripe and moderately firm tannins that should resolve in short order. This could be enjoyed young but there is enough underlying material to merit a few years of cellar time. (87-89)/2016+

2011 Aloxe-Corton: A discreet but not invisible touch of wood frames a markedly ripe nose of dark currant, soil tones and once again a hint of menthol. There is impressive richness to the seductively textured and mouth coating medium-bodied flavors that possess fine complexity on the balanced and lingering finish that is ever-so-slightly firmer. (87-90)/2017+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Peuillets": (because the soil drains so well here the vines can suffer greatly from drought conditions). Here too here is a deft but still visible application of wood setting off the otherwise exceptionally fresh aromas of cool wild dark berries along with hints of wet stone and underbrush. There is lovely richness to the enveloping middle weight flavors that exude a fine minerality that imparts a bit of lift to the refined, balanced and attractively lingering finish. This should reward 5 to 8 years of cellar time though be approachable young. (89-91)/2017+

2011 Beaune "Bressandes": (from leased vines). There is enough wood to notice highlighting the menthol-infused red pinot, dark currant and soft earth tones. There is a lovely sense of generosity to the round, delicious and attractively textured medium-bodied flavors that possess good verve and very fine depth and length on the moderately austere finish. This will need a few years of cellar time before it's fully ready for prime time but I like the development potential. (89-92)/2018+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Serpentières": (from a .17 ha parcel). A background application of wood surrounds the ripe, cool and very fresh dark pinot fruit, earth and discreet mineral nuances that are picked up by the elegant and appealingly pure middle weight flavors. The supporting tannins are both relatively fine-grained and well-integrated and not only does this exhibit fine depth and length but really lovely balance. This too should reward amply mid-term cellaring. (90-92)/2018+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Guettes": (the vineyard is quite stony with very little top soil). Moderate wood influence stops just short of inhibiting the clear expression of the pure extract of dark berry fruit, cassis, earth and *sauvage* hints. There is excellent richness to the laudably concentrated mid-palate that coats the mouth with dry extract and is given lift from the presence of an almost pungent minerality. This is a relatively powerful Guettes with outstanding depth and length on the mildly austere finish. (90-92)/2019+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières": A subtle oak treatment allows the distinctly earthy dark berry, plum and wet stone suffused aromas to shine. The stony character is thoroughly reflected by the extremely rich and concentrated middle weight flavors that ooze dry extract that buffers the notably firm tannic spine on the energetic and driving finish. This is more structured than the preceding wines and will require a decade or so of cellaring to realize its full potential. (91-93)/2021+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Gravains": (from a .60 ha parcel where two-thirds of the vines are more than 70+ years of age). Here there is enough wood to notice though not enough to dominate the ripe, cool and airy aromas of Savigny style earth, wet stone, humus, dark pinot fruit and underbrush. There is outstanding richness and volume to the velvety and supple yet very serious flavors that display strikingly good persistence on the saline-infused finish. There is a hint of austerity but overall, this is a basically a Gravains of finesse, which is not always the case *chez* Pavelot. (91-93)/2021+

2011 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). There is stunningly good aromatic complexity to the spicy black cherry, cassis and plum-inflected nose that is trimmed is noticeable wood. Like the Gravains there is outstanding richness and volume to the mouth coating medium-bodied flavors that enjoy a plenitude of dry extract before culminating in a mineral-driven and explosively long finish. This is almost always the best wine and so it is again in 2011 as it possesses the most underlying material as well as the most development potential of any wine in the range though patience will be required. (91-94)/2023+

Domaine Luc et Lise Pavelot (Pernand-Vergelesses)

2010	**Aloxe-Corton**	**red**	**88**
2010	**Corton Grand Cru**	**red**	**87?**
2010	**Pernand-Vergelesses**	**red**	**84**
2010	**Pernand-Vergelesses "En Caradeux" 1er**	**red**	**84**
2010	**Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses" 1er**	**red**	**86**
2010	**Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses" 1er**	**red**	**86**

(Joli Vin Wine Imports, www.jolivin.com, Richmond, CA, Elixirs du Monde, San Diego, CA and Moonlight Wine Imports, NY; Astrum Wine Imports, UK).

2010 Aloxe-Corton: This is really quite pretty aromatically with a perfumed red pinot fruit nose that exhibits soft earth and spice tones. There is good verve to the delicious medium weight flavors that possess relatively fine detail on the clean, intense, focused and balanced finish that doesn't display any of the dryness of several other wines in the range though there is mild austerity present. Still, this is a solid *villages*. 88/2017+

2010 Pernand-Vergelesses: Very mild reduction quickly dissipates after allowing the bottle 15 minutes or so of air to reveal a pretty, fresh and relatively high-toned mélange of various red berry fruit scents. There is good verve and fine detail to the barely middle weight flavors that are mildly edgy on the dry and moderately austere finish. This is a bit difficult and it's not especially likely that age will round off the dryness though optimists could try it. That said I would advise allowing it 30 minutes of air and serving it with an appropriate food choice. 84/2016+

2010 Pernand-Vergelesses "En Caradeux: Here there is enough reduction to notice though it is not nearly as dominant as with several other wines in the range. That said, the reduction extends to the palate and between that and the overt austerity of the finish, this is hard to like as it's lean and ungenerous though not astringent. Whether this will come together is of course an open question but from purely a technical standpoint, it doesn't look very promising. 84/2017+

2010 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses: This opens with enough reduction to largely dominate the nose and even with extended aeration it doesn't significantly dissipate. There is good punch and detail to the lightly mineral-infused middle weight flavors that culminate in a distinctly linear, austere and somewhat lean finish. This may of course come together in time but the obstinate persistence of the reduction is a cause for concern even with longer-term cellaring. Note that my drinking window offers the benefit of the doubt that this will eventually harmonize. 86/2018+

2010 Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses": Though there is no reduction, the tight and inexpressive nose hasn't got much to say as it only grudgingly gives up notes of dark berry fruit, earth and a hint of the *sauvage*. The palate impression is similar in that it's lean, tight and austere and while there is good minerality, the austerity is borderline aggressive and it's not clear that the structural elements are as ripe as should be. This is somewhat less overtly structured than the Vergelesses but I would be inclined to drink this young for its fruit as it risks drying out with age. 86/2015+

2010 Corton: This opened with considerable reduction and it required aggressive swirling in a decanter to dissipate it and reveal notably somber and reluctant *animale*, earth and both red and dark berry fruit aromas. There is good verve but not much charm to the intense, compact and rather lean flavors that do offer solid focus and persistence. That said, this is austere to the point that it's not clear that age is going to save it. I of course could be misjudging the potential but I would be inclined to allow this 3 to 6 years in the cellar and drink it for its fruit rather than risk it drying out by aging it until the tannins are fully resolved. 87?/2017+

Domaine du Pavillon (Pommard)

2011	**Aloxe-Corton**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2011	**Aloxe-Corton "Clos des Maréchaudes" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2011	**Corton-Clos des Maréchaudes Grand Cru**	**red**	**(89-92)**
2011	**Pommard "Clos des Ursulines"**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2011	**Pommard "Rugiens" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2011	**Volnay "Les Santenots" 1er**	**red**	**(87-90?)**
2010	**Aloxe-Corton**	**red**	**88**
2010	**Aloxe-Corton "Clos des Maréchaudes" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2010	**Corton-Clos des Maréchaudes Grand Cru**	**red**	**93**
2010	**➽ Pommard "Clos des Ursulines"**	**red**	**89**
2010	**➽ Pommard "Rugiens" 1er**	**red**	**92**
2010	**➽ Volnay "Les Santenots" 1er**	**red**	**92**

This 17 ha domaine based in Pommard was acquired in 1993 by the Bichot conglomerate (see above), and operates in the same fashion as Chablis-based Long-Depaquit. (Atherton Wine Imports, www.awiwine.com, Atherton, CA and Southern Wines & Spirits, www.southernwine.com, Miami, FL; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Waverley Vintners Ltd., www.waverley-group.co.uk and Alliance Wines, www.alliancewine.co.uk, all of the UK).

2011 Aloxe-Corton: (from Les Crapousuets). An attractively layered nose of both red and dark berries is liberally laced with plenty of soil and underbrush nuances. There is a supple and very round mouth feel to the easy-to-like and generous flavors that possess good verve before terminating in a delicious finish that offers moderate depth and length. (86-89)/2017+

2011 Volnay "Les Santenots": Reduction makes the nose difficult to evaluate but there is good freshness and detail to the equally supple, round and forward middle weight flavors that exude a fine minerality on the somewhat dry and hard finish. There is a lot of gas present which has a tendency to accentuate the structural elements of a wine so this is frankly hard to read in its present condition. (87-90?)/2019+

2011 Pommard "Clos des Ursulines": (a huge 4 ha *monopole* of the domaine). A discreet but not invisible touch of wood frames a strongly reduced nose, though even through the funk, the sense of earth comes through. These soil tones also distinctly mark the round and very suave medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a firm, long and slightly rustic finish that displays mild austerity. (86-89)/2018+

2011 Pommard "Rugiens": (from Rugiens Bas). There is enough wood to notice though not dominate the otherwise fresh, cool and restrained nose of red currant, wet stone, anise and floral hints. There is excellent intensity to the well-delineated medium weight flavors that possess solid power and focus on the long and moderately austere finish. This is a serious effort that will require 10 to 12 years to reach its full apogee. (89-91)/2021+

2011 Aloxe-Corton "Clos des Maréchaudes": Moderate wood influence can be seen on the admirably ripe dark berry fruit suffused nose that also reveals earth, spice, green tea and *animale* scents. The mid-palate is remarkably supple and forward with very round, indeed almost suave middle weight flavors that exhibit excellent intensity and length on the moderately firm finish. If this can add depth in the cellar it should merit the upper end of my predicted range. (88-91)/2019+

2011 Corton-Clos des Maréchaudes: (a 2 ha *monopole* that is split between .5 ha classified as *grand cru* and the remaining 1.5 ha as 1er). Here the composition of the aromas is similar only with better depth and a slightly more pronounced spiciness. There is fine mid-palate concentration and plenty of dry extract that serves to buffer the firm tannic spine as well as to impart a suave mouth feel to the big-bodied flavors that display very good if not exceptional depth and length on the mouth coating finish. (89-92)/2021+

2010 Volnay "Les Santenots": A refined nose combines notes of extract of plum, cassis and discreet hints of stone that are trimmed in just enough wood to notice. The mineral character is also reflected by the supple but concentrated and intense flavors that culminate in a firm, dusty and impressively lingering finish. This mouth coating effort is seductively textured on the mid-palate but the very firm finish makes it clear that this is a serious Santenots that is clearly built-to-age. 92/2020+

2010 Pommard "Clos des Ursulines": (a huge 4 ha *monopole* of the domaine). A hint of wood sets off ripe and impressively complex aromas of violets, plum and plenty of earth influence. There is good richness to the velvety flavors that retain good precision and vibrancy on the firm, moderately austere and solidly persistent finish. This is very Pommard in basic character but at the same time it's not overly rustic. Worth a look for an age-worthy *villages*. 89/2018+

2010 Pommard "Rugiens": (from Rugiens Bas). An admirably fresh, pure and beautifully layered nose speaks of plum, high-toned red pinot fruit, pungent earth and plenty of mineral influence. There is outstanding intensity to the powerful, energetic and well-concentrated medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a focused, well-balanced, persistent and mildly austere finish that exhibits a hint of warmth. This sleekly muscular effort will require plenty of patience because while the tannins are relatively fine they are quite dense and I wouldn't plan on touching a bottle for at least 10 years. 92/2022+

2010 Aloxe-Corton: Distinct wood frames a ripe, intensely earthy and attractively complex nose of black raspberry, cassis and soft floral nuances. The supple, round and delicious middle weight flavors exhibit good punch on the appealingly persistent and very suave finish that delivers fine length. A solid and relatively refined *villages*. 88/2018+

2010 Aloxe-Corton "Clos des Maréchaudes": A discreet but not invisible application of wood frames a notably ripe and plummy nose of cassis, violets and warm earth. There is plenty of volume to the velvety, round and quite suave middle weight flavors that are shaped by the moderately firm tannic spine before terminating in an attractively persistent finish. This appealing effort also possesses a seductive mid-palate and a mildly rustic finale. 90/2018+

2010 Corton-Clos des Maréchaudes: (a 2 ha *monopole* that is split between .5 ha classified as *grand cru* and the remaining portion as 1er). Compared to the 1er this is far less expressive at present even though the fruit is clearly very ripe with an attractively layered nose of black cherry, cassis and menthol-suffused aromas. There is excellent volume and concentration to the broad-shouldered flavors that brim with mouth coating dry extract before concluding in an overtly rustic and austere finish of simply huge length. This is a classic Corton of power, muscle and almost painful intensity but also impeccably good balance. Clos des Maréchaudes is rarely mentioned in the same breath as the best of Corton but this is a seriously impressive wine that is built for the very, very long haul. As such I would strongly advise that you not buy this unless you expressly intend to cellar it accordingly as this is unlikely to drink well young. 93/2025+

Domaine Paul Pernot (Puligny-Montrachet)

2011	**Beaune "Clos au Dessus des Marconnets"**	**red**	**86**
2011	**Santenay "Bieveaux"**	**red**	**88**

I met with Paul Pernot and his son Michael on this trip, who noted that 2011 was an "easy vintage for the whites that made clean and classically styled wines. In reds it required more work and the quality is not as good, in fact we sold off most of them to the *négociants*. We began picking the pinot on the 28th of August and the chardonnay on the 2nd of September. Potential alcohols were relatively low for the pinot but very solid for the chardonnay at between 12.5 and 13.8%. The reds are hard to compare to other vintages but they're pretty wines that will drink well almost immediately. The whites are more serious and resemble a better balanced 2009." (Atherton Wine Imports, www.awiwine.com, Atherton, CA; Burgundy Wine Company, www.burgundywinecompany.com, NY, NY and Robert Chadderdon Selections, 212/332.4999 N.Y., 510/638.5200 S.F.; Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk, Berkmann Wine Cellars, www.berkmann.co.uk, Robert Rolls & Co., www.robertrolls.com, and L'Assemblage, www.lassemblage.co.uk, all UK).

2011 Beaune "Clos au Dessus des Marconnets": A pretty and very fresh nose of various red berries mixes with earth and underbrush hints. There is good punch to the round, supple and very forward flavors that lack a bit of depth on the otherwise acceptably long finish that displays a touch of warmth. To drink young. 86/now

2011 Santenay "Bieveaux": This too is very pretty with clean and fresh aromas of primarily red pinot fruit that is copiously sprinkled with pungent earth scents and a hint of the *sauvage*. There is better mid-palate concentration as well as better depth to the middle weight flavors that retain a good sense of detail and delineation on the refreshing and delicious finish. While this should benefit from a few years of cellar time it is already sufficiently accessible that it could be enjoyed soon. 88/2015+

Domaine Fernand et Laurent Pillot (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2011	Bourgogne	red	86
2011	Beaune "Boucherottes" 1er	red	90
2011	Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2011	Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot" 1er	red	88
2011	Pommard "Charmots" 1er	red	(86-89?)
2011	Pommard "Clos de Vergers" 1er	red	(86-89?)
2011	Pommard "Rugiens" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	➽ Pommard "Les Tavannes"	red	89
2011	Santenay "Prarons Dessous" Vieilles Vignes	red	86
2011	Volnay	red	88

Laurent Pillot describes 2011 as a "good vintage that has turned out better than I imagined that it might be, due to the lousy summer we endured. We began picking on the 1st of September with the pinot and while there was some sorting required, there wasn't much and the chardonnay was impeccably clean. As I have done in the last few vintages, I lightened up a bit on the punch downs. My approach is to punch down until about half the sugar has been converted and then stop. I am deliberately looking to make softer and more approachable reds without making them too forward. There's a fine balance of making wines that will age without making them undrinkable for the first 10 years of their lives. As to the style of the 2011s, it's clearly a vintage of pleasure but one that reflects quite well the underlying *terroir*. They will age but the nice thing is that it won't absolutely be necessary the way for example that 2010 will be." Pillot has moved to bottling all of his white under Diam corks and is also using them for his lower level reds. He also noted that all of his corks now carry the domaine name, *appellation* and vintage. (Thorman Hunt & Co., e-mail: Camille@thormanhunt.co.uk and Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk, both UK).

2011 Bourgogne: (from vines situated in Pommard). A fresh and distinctly earthy and somber nose combines aromas of red currants and wild dark berries. There is a lovely restraint to the pure middle weight flavors that possess good verve before terminating in a delicious and mildly rustic finish. This is pretty and should drink well almost immediately. 86/2014+

2011 Santenay "Prarons Dessous" Vieilles Vignes: Moderate wood sets off a ripe and agreeably fresh mélange of red pinot and dark currant aromas that display plenty of earth influence. The round and supple middle weight flavors offer enough depth to be interesting though there is quite a bit of wood on the finish and it's enough that it alters the texture if not the balance. Not really my style. 86/2016+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: (45 to 50 year old vines). Here the wood treatment is much more discreet if not invisible with more complex aromas of earth and humus-inflect dark berry fruit aromas that evidence is hint of pepper. There is lovely vibrancy to the delicious medium-bodied flavors that are shaped by finer than usual tannins on the ever-so-mildly rustic finish. This is a quality *villages*. 88/2016+

2011 Volnay: (one-third of this is from the 1er vineyards of Les Brouillards and Roncerets). This is notably more elegant with soft earth and spice nuances adding breadth to the fresh red pinot fruit aromas. There is good verve to the attractively well-delineated and silky middle weight flavors that culminate in a clean, balanced and lingering finish. If this can add depth in bottle, my score might be a bit too conservative. 88/2017+

2011 Pommard "Les Tavannes": All but invisible wood frames the cool, pure and airy red and dark pinot fruit aromas that also display notes of earth, underbrush and a hint of the *sauvage*. There is good punch and fine volume to the middle weight flavors that possess an abundance of palate coating dry extract that buffers well the firm tannic spine, all wrapped in a powerful, balanced and moderately austere finish. The austerity is enough that this won't be for everyone but this delivers excellent quality for a *villages* level wine. 89/2018+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot": Softly oak-tinged aromas of pepper, black tea and red berry fruit liqueur lead to nicely detailed and solidly voluminous flavors that possess an enveloping mouth feel. There is good vibrancy to the moderately long finish where the wood resurfaces. It's not completely clear if the wood will integrate over time or not but it's presently enough where it sweetens and rounds off the finish. If it does integrate my score may be too cautious. 88/2016+

2011 Beaune "Boucherottes": The somber and openly *sauvage* nose features notes of dark berries, pungent earth, humus and plenty of underbrush, all of which is trimmed in discreet wood notes. There is fine detail and plenty of energy to the delicious and solidly complex medium-bodied flavors that have a generous feel to them, indeed this is very Beaune in basic character. Worth considering. 90/2017+

2011 Pommard "Clos de Vergers": A very curious nose of tar, wood toast and dark berries and the tar character is evident on the round middle weight flavors that possess good volume as well as a smooth and suave mouth feel. While this may clean up before it's bottled, it would be safe to characterize its present state as atypical. (86-89?)/2016+

2011 Pommard "Charmots": This also displays a very curious aromatic profile of tar, varnish and red and dark pinot fruit scents. There is admirable concentration to the punchy middle weight flavors that also possess good volume before terminating in a finish where the tar character is much less noticeable but not invisible. Again, this may very well clean up before it's bottled but it's frankly pretty atypical today. (86-89?)/2017+

2011 Pommard "Rugiens": (from a .66 ha holding located in both Bas and Hauts). Here too there is the barest hint of the tar character displayed by the two previous wines along with airy, cool and exceptionally pretty red berry fruit aromas. There is a beguiling mouth feel to the focused and sleekly muscular medium-bodied flavors that possess fine volume and solid power on the ever-so-mildly oaky finish. My score offers the benefit of the doubt that this will clean up because as I noted, the tar character is quite gentle. (90-92)/2019+

Domaine/Maison Jean et Jean-Marc Pillot (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2011	**Bourgogne - Les Grandes Terres**	**red**	**(85-88)**
2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Les Macherelles" 1er**	**red**	**(86-88)**
2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot - Fairendes" 1er**	**red**	**(87-90)**
2011	**Santenay "Champ Claude" 1er**	**red**	**(86-89)**

Jean-Marc Pillot's view of the 2011 vintage was both bold and succinct, noting that "we had a growing season that actually quite resembled that of 2007. We had a good early start to the season but the summer conditions really deteriorated. One of the things that we did that I believe helped enormously was to do plenty of leaf pulling to promote good aeration in the vineyards, which prevented an outbreak of rot. We picked from the 1st to the 7th of September and picked the whites in the mornings and the reds in the afternoons. Our pinot was really very clean though we did have some sorting required to eliminate less than completely ripe berries. The reds averaged about 12% in terms of potential alcohols and I did a very light chaptalization. The cuvaison lasted about 14 days give or take a day and I didn't do much punching down as the extractions happened quickly and easily. As to the style of the wines, the reds are fresh, forward and delicious, in fact I believe that they are better than their 2010 counterparts." While I don't doubt that Pillot believes that his 2011s are better than his 2010s, I did not share his impressions. At the same point in time I simply found more depth of material and more upside development potential in the 2010s. Pillot reaffirmed that he was continuing with his policy of doing 18 months of *élevage* for all of his upper level wines. (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, Shekomeko, NY; Champagnes et Châteaux, www.champagnesandchateaux.co.uk, UK).

2011 Bourgogne - Les Grandes Terres: An earthy and mildly rustic nose of primarily red berry fruit and humus leads to delicious and solidly well-concentrated middle weight flavors that are shaped by phenolically mature tannins before terminating in a suave, round and lingering finish. This is not especially refined but there is plenty of character. (85-88)/2015+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: A more complex nose of pepper, red currant, dark berries and a hint of the *sauvage* introduces round and relatively generous medium-bodied flavors that possess good punch on the clean and again mildly rustic finish where a touch of wood surfaces. (86-89)/2016+

2011 Santenay "Champ Claude": This is notably more deeply pitched with somber if agreeably fresh aromas of pepper, pungent earth and wild dark currants. There is a distinct *sauvage* character along with more earthiness to the vibrant and textured flavors that also culminate in a moderately rustic but persistent finish. (86-89)/2016+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Les Macherelles": A discreet touch of wood surrounds the pretty and very pinot nose that slides gracefully into supple, round and already accessible flavors where this forward quality is abetted by the relatively fine-grained tannins that shape the delicious and reasonably persistent finish. This should drink well almost immediately though a few years of cellar time should help to add a bit of depth. (86-88)/2015+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Morgeot - Fairendes": An expressive and appealingly complex nose of black pepper, red currant, briar, earth and wild dark berry scents is trimmed in a subtle application of soft oak. There is good intensity to the rich, robust and muscular flavors that are shaped by markedly ripe tannins before culminating in a mildly rustic, persistent and balanced finish. (87-90)/2017+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean": (from a parcel of 10 *ouvrées* or a .42 ha of what he describes as extremely old vines that were going to be grubbed up but Pillot persuaded the owner to sell rather than sacrifice them). Here too there is just enough wood to notice as it allows the pure, cool, airy and elegant red pinot fruit and wet stone aromas to shine. There is a lilting mouth feel to the attractively intense and well-delineated flavors that are also shaped by relatively fine-grained tannins on the slightly saline-infused finish. A lovely and understated example of the *appellation*. (88-91)/2017+

Domaine Paul Pillot (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2011	**➽ Bourgogne**	**red**	**87**
2011	**➽ Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**89**
2011	**Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2011	**Santenay Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**88**

Paul's son Thierry Pillot noted that 2011 is a "very precocious vintage that was extremely hot and dry early on before conditions deteriorated during the summer. The second half of August though was again quite warm and we decided to attack the harvest early as we had the proper phenolic ripeness if only average potential alcohol levels. Moreover we had begun to see the acid levels fall so we reasoned that there was just nothing further to be gained by waiting. We began picking on the 27th of August and brought in very clean fruit that required almost no sorting. The harvest conditions were quite warm and thus the fermentations started almost immediately. In terms of the élevage I used much less new wood and in some cases none at all. As to the wines, they don't quite have the same purity as 2010 but the quality is almost as good." As the scores suggest, I was impressed with the quality of the Pillot reds and while the whites at this address have always been very good, the reds are showing real progress as well. There will be more perspective from Pillot in the next Issue for his whites. He noted that the reds were bottled in September 2012 and January 2013. (Margate Wine & Spirit Co., www.margatewine.com , Atlantic City, NJ, Ideal Wines, www.idealwine.us, Boston, MA and Scott Levy Selections, 770/730.0361, Atlanta, GA; Anthony Sarjeant Wines, Laytons, www.laytons.co.uk and Tanners Wine, www.tanners-wines.co.uk, all UK).

2011 Bourgogne: A notably ripe and expressive nose of dark berries, earth and softly spiced plum. There is a textured mouth feel to the admirably well-concentrated middle weight flavors that possess equally ripe supporting tannins, all wrapped in a balanced, lingering and only mildly rustic finish. This offers very fine quality for its level and is recommended. 87/2015+

2011 Santenay Vieilles Vignes: Here the nose is similar to that of the Bourgogne but with noticeable black pepper and even more pungent earth influence. There is a *sauvage* character to the concentrated and distinctly earthy medium weight flavors that also are shaped by markedly ripe tannins on the moderately rustic and persistent finish. A quality *villages*. 88/2016+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: This is more aromatically elegant and less overtly *sauvage* with its aromas of dark berries, plum, earth and the hallmark peppery character. There is a discreet hint of minerality to the round and robust medium-bodied flavors that possess excellent depth and persistence on the beautifully well-balanced finish. This is not a wine of finesse but it is notably finer than the typical Chassagne *villages* and overall, this is well worth considering. 89/2017+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean": As one would reasonably expect the aromatic profile is the most elegant in the range with its pretty nose of cassis, plum, red currant and wet stone scents. There is really lovely delineation to the cool and very pure middle weight mineral-inflected flavors that are once again supported by ripe tannins on the long and delicious finish that display a hint of salinity. Good stuff. 90/2017+

Domaine Pousse d'Or (Volnay)

2011	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	red	95
2011	➽ Chambolle-Musigny	red	89
2011	➽ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses" 1er	red	93
2011	➽ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Charmes" 1er	red	93
2011	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Feusselottes" 1er	red	92
2011	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Groseilles" 1er	red	90
2011	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	red	94
2011	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	93
2011	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	red	93
2011	➽ Pommard "Les Jarolières" 1er	red	91
2011	Santenay "Clos des Tavannes" 1er	red	89
2011	Volnay "Clos l'Audignac" 1er	red	90
2011	➽ Volnay "En Caillerets" 1er	red	91
2011	➽ Volnay "Clos de la Bousse d'Or" 1er	red	92
2011	➽ Volnay "Caillerets - Clos des Soixante Ouvrées" 1er	red	93

Patrick Landanger, who directs this 17.5 ha domaine, called 2011 a "difficult vintage. Things got off to a great and very early start but by July it wasn't looking great and half of August provided little reason for optimism. Thankfully the second half of August and beginning of September helped enormously and we managed to bring in ripe and clean fruit between the 2nd and 9th. While the vinifications went just fine I really didn't know what to expect from the wines until after the malos, when they began to take on their final personalities. I confess to being quite agreeably surprised because they are better than I expected, in fact much better. I gave them 12 months in cask and then another 3 months in stainless steel before bottling them in January 2013." As the scores and commentaries confirm, I found the Pousse d'Or 2011s to transcend the general quality of the vintage, particularly in the Côte de Nuits but there are good wines to be found up and down the range. (Langdon-Shiverick, www.shiverick.com, Cleveland, OH, North Berkeley Imports, www.northberkeleyimports.com, Berkeley, CA, Ideal Wines, www.idealwine.us, Boston, MA, Vintner Select, www.vintnerselect.com, Cincinnati, OH and Dionysus Imports, www.dionysusimports.com, Lorton, VA; Majestic Wine Warehouses, www.majestic.co.uk, UK).

2011 Santenay "Clos des Tavannes": A lovely nose of pure extract of dark cherry fruit liqueur and soft earth nuances leads to punchy and well-detailed middle weight flavors that possess an attractive touch of minerality that adds lift to the balanced, long and suave finish. This should reward mid-term cellaring yet be approachable young if desired. 89/2017+

2011 Volnay "En Caillerets": Not surprisingly, this is notably more elegant with its spicy, ripe and equally pure nose of various black berry fruit aromas. The spicy character continues onto the mineral and soil inflected medium-bodied flavors that offer excellent persistent and real depth on the mouth coating and solidly persistent finish. This is a classic Caillerets and worth a look. 91/2018+

2011 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). This is a bit less elegant though just as aromatically complex with markedly earthier and admirably pure dark berry fruit aromas. There is also moderate earth influence on the delicious, intense and well-delineated middle weight flavors that are a bit more refined than usual, all wrapped in a balanced, detailed and solidly persistent finish. Lovely and this should amply reward mid-term cellaring. 90/2018+

2011 Volnay "Clos de la Bousse d'Or": A strikingly elegant nose features notes of ripe, pure and airy red currant, briar, cassis and spice nuances. There is an equally pure and refined character to the lacy medium weight flavors that exude a fine minerality on the beautifully focused, balanced and impressively lengthy finish. As it typically is, this is a wine of finesse and grace. A classic Volnay. 92/2019+

2011 Volnay "Caillerets - Clos des Soixante Ouvrées": A pure and gorgeously complex nose offers up notes of extract of black pinot fruit, stone, anise, sandalwood and lavender nuances. The flavor profile displays more volume and richness than the regular Caillerets with perhaps a bit more minerality as well before culminating in a palate soaking finish that goes on and on. Note however that this is a distinctly firm wine in the context of the 2011 vintage and will need at least a decade of bottle age to arrive at its peak. A beautiful effort. 93/2021+

2011 Pommard "Les Jarolières": This displays aromas that derive primarily from the red side of the fruit spectrum with ample soil and mineral tones that add breadth. There is a relatively refined mouth feel to the medium-bodied flavors thanks to the fine grain of the tannins. The stony character of the nose is reflected on the seductively textured finish that exhibits excellent persistence and balance. 91/2019+

2011 Corton-Bressandes: (from a .5 ha parcel). A slightly riper set of red and black pinot fruit aromas enjoys added latitude by the presence of strong earth, wet stone and a touch of the *sauvage*. There is a sleek muscularity to the rich, intense and big-bodied flavors that also exude a fine minerality that adds a sense of lift and energy on the focused, intense and impressively persistent finish. As it almost always is, this is quite a refined wine in the context of the universe of Corton *grands crus* and this impression is also abetted by the presence of very fine-grained tannins. 93/2023+

2011 Corton-Clos du Roi: This trades elegance for greater complexity with its broad ranging aromas of spicy and pungently earth black berry fruit liqueur, black tea and intensely *animale* suffused nose. There is excellent size, weight and power to the big and well-muscled flavors that possess plenty of supporting dry extract that coats the palate on the driving, even explosive finish. This should abundantly repay mid to longer-term cellaring. 93/2023+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny: (from a 1.41 ha parcel). An exceptionally pretty if distinctly restrained nose of spicy wild red berry fruit aromas is trimmed is very subtle hints of spice and wet stone. There is excellent volume for a *villages* level wine with equally good mid-palate density, all wrapped in a saline, balanced and attractively persistent finish. This is very Chambolle in character and is worth considering. 89/2017+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Groseilles": (from a .52 ha parcel). Interestingly, this is actually not quite as elegant as the villages but it is more complex with a slightly more deeply pitched nose of cassis, softly spiced plum and black pinot fruit liqueur scents. There is good richness to the very round, supple and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that display good verve as well as a hint of finishing wood. 90/2018+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Feusselottes": (from a .42 ha parcel). This offers both a small step up in aromatic elegance and a marked step up in complexity with ripe scents of cherries, red and blue pinot fruit, spice elements and wet stone hints. There is really lovely purity of expression to the intense, delineated and vibrant medium weight flavors that culminate in a balanced and strikingly long finish. A classic Chambolle of finesse. 92/2019+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Charmes": (from a .19 ha parcel). A discreet touch of wood sets off notably ripe yet very fresh aromas of black pinot fruit, cassis, plum and sandalwood. There is fine mid-palate concentration where the extract both coats the mouth but also buffers the moderately firm tannic spine on the succulent but precise finish that displays outstanding depth and length. This is very Charmes in character with its generosity and refinement. 93/2019+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses": (from a .20 ha parcel). This is notably spicier with a pure, elegant, airy and restrained nose of red currants, blue berries, floral hints and exotic tea scents. There is equally good purity on the energetic and mineral-driven middle weight flavors that possess a highly seductive and refined mouth feel as the supporting tannins are beautifully well-integrated on the impeccably well-balanced finish. This is classier than the Charmes but not necessary any more complex or more persistent. 93/2021+

2011 Bonnes Mares: (from a .17 ha parcel). As is typically the case, this is noticeably less elegant but even more complex though it requires considerable swirling at this early stage to coax the aromas of plum, cassis, earth, spice and dried floral notes to reveal themselves. There is outstanding size, weight, power and punch to the broad-shouldered, intense, dense and velvety flavors that culminate in a palate staining finish that delivers flat out amazing length. This is a classic power without weight example of Bonnes Mares. 95/2023+

2011 Clos de la Roche: (from a .32 ha parcel). A broad-ranging nose of spice, smoke, black tea, earth and *sauvage* hints add considerable depth to the dark berry fruit and cassis aromas. There is strikingly good intensity and real power to the overtly muscular big-bodied flavors that ooze a fine dry extract that does an excellent job of buffering the firm and robust tannins on the suave and textured finale that also delivers superbly length. This is also most impressive though note that patience will be required. 94/2023+

Domaine Jacques Prieur (Meursault)

2011	**➽ Beaune "Champs Pimont" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2011	**Beaune "Clos de la Féguine" 1er**	**red**	**(88-91)**
2011	**➽ Beaune "Grèves" 1er**	**red**	**(90-92)**
2011	**Chambertin Grand Cru**	**red**	**(92-95)**

2011	**Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru**	**red**	**(91-93)**
2011	**Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru**	**red**	**(92-94)**
2011	**Echézeaux Grand Cru**	**red**	**(92-94)**
2011	**Gevrey-Chambertin "1er"**	**red**	**(89-91)**
2011	**Meursault "Clos de Mazeray"**	**red**	**(87-89)**
2011	**Musigny Grand Cru**	**red**	**(93-96)**
2011	**Volnay "Champans" 1er**	**red**	**(89-92)**
2011	**➽ Volnay "Clos des Santenots" 1er**	**red**	**(91-93)**
2011	**Volnay "Santenots" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**

Consulting enologist Nadine Gublin told me that 2011 was a "precocious harvest where the growing season began, naturally enough, quite early as well. The flowering didn't go all that well as we had a lot of shatter, which obviously had the effect of materially reducing yields. We elected to begin picking on the 30th of August and brought in relatively clean fruit that averaged between 12 and 12.5% in terms of potential alcohols. One of the interesting nuances of the harvest was that for the first time ever our parcel of Bressandes was the very last to be picked. Usually it is the Chambertin but not in 2011. Everything was completely destemmed save for a bit of whole cluster in the Champs Pimont. Because it was so clean the fruit was easy to vinify and I would put our average *cuvaison* right at 20 days. As to the wines, I like them a lot as they're frank, forward and delicious but they remain true to their *terroirs* and are classic Burgundies that should age well over the mid-term." As the scores and commentaries confirm, I was impressed with the quality I found here and while I might give a small nod to the wines from the Côte de Nuits, the range from the Côte de Beaune is altogether lovely as well. Moreover, while I have mentioned it to readers before, 2011 is one more corroborating data point that the style has definitely changed at this address and in my view it's much for the better as the wines are purer, less extracted, less oaky and more *terroir*-driven. (Frederick Wildman, www.frederickwildman.com, NY, NY; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk and Richard Banks & Co., E-mail: mail@richardbanks.co.uk., Coe Vintners, www.coevintners.com, all UK).

2011 Meursault "Clos de Mazeray": (a .25 ha *monopole* of the domaine). An earthy, brooding and somber nose of ripe black cherry, plum, violet and earth aromas leads to very rich and round middle weight flavors that are blessed with good volume and a succulent texture. The well-balanced finish offers decent length and a refreshing saline quality. This won't win any awards for refinement but it's got plenty of personality. (87-89)/2017+

2011 Beaune "Clos de la Féguine": (a 1.59 ha *climat* of Coucherias and also a *monopole* of the domaine). As is pretty much always the case here, this is notably more elegant with higher-toned aromas of very fresh, cool and airy red pinot fruit and pungent mineral notes. There is lovely detail and excellent punch to the naturally sweet flavors, in fact this reminds me a bit of hard candy bon bons without being cloying as the finish is clean and dry in the best sense. (88-91)/2018+

2011 Beaune "Grèves": (from a 1.17 ha parcel). This is more deeply pitched and more serious with its plum, violet, black cherry, spiced plum and distinct soil tones. There is a silky mouth feel to the admirably pure middle weight flavors that exude a fine minerality on the impressively complex and persistent finish. I very much like the fine grain of the tannins as this is a bit finer than usual. (90-92)/2019+

2011 Beaune "Champs Pimont": (from a very large 2 ha holding). There is a discreet touch of floral influence to the otherwise very fresh and pure extract of red pinot fruit, plum, anise and wet stone scents. I very much like the energy exuded by the racy and equally pure medium-bodied flavors that are built on a base of minerality before culminating in a spicy, intense, balanced and linear finish. This is really quite good though patience will be a necessity. (90-92)/2021+

2011 Volnay "Champans": (from a .35 ha parcel). An exceptionally expressive nose of freshly crushed wild black berries and spiced plum aromas are trimmed in soft earth and humus scents. There is fine verve and excellent volume to the solidly concentrated medium-bodied flavors that possess a lovely sense of underlying tension on the well-delineated finish that offers very good if not truly striking depth and length. Still, this is worth a look. (89-92)/2021+

2011 Volnay "Santenots": (from young vines Clos des Santenots planted in 1995). A deft touch of wood envelops a spicy nose of extract of violets, menthol and cassis along with enough earth character to notice. There is a round, even tender and caressing mouth feel to the middle weight flavors that offer good if not special depth but excellent length. Again, I particularly like the fine grained tannins as they are well-integrated on the palate coating finish. (89-91)/2018+

2011 Volnay "Clos des Santenots": (a 1.2 ha *monopole* of the domaine located in Santenots du Milieu). Here the nose is, not illogically, similar to that of the regular cuvée except with a bit more ripeness but notably better complexity. This displays the same mid-palate tenderness but with more evident concentration and dry extract, which imparts a velvety texture to the long, deep and impeccably well-balanced finish. This is really lovely and if you have the patience to wait, this should be very special in time. (91-93)/2021+

2011 Corton-Bressandes: (from a .63 ha parcel). A very fresh and airy nose features a broad-ranging set of aromas that include menthol, anise, clove, stone, earth, cassis and plum. There is a sophisticated mouth feel to the big-bodied flavors that benefit from an abundance of palate coating dry extract before culminating in a delicious yet serious finish that delivers absolutely outstanding length. This is, in a word, terrific. (92-94)/2023+

2011 Clos de Vougeot: (from a 1.19 ha parcel of vines at the bottom of the slope). An earthy and reticent nose of liqueur of both red and dark pinot fruit aromas combine with violet, plum and plenty of pungent earth and humus notes. There is excellent size, weight and punch to the relatively large-scaled flavors that display fine richness and detail on the moderately austere, balanced and impressively persistent finish. This robust effort should also be quite good in time. (91-93)/2023+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "1er": (from young Chambertin vines planted in 1995). Strong reduction renders the nose completely unreadable. There is by contrast good freshness and verve to the lightly mineral-inflected and well-detailed medium weight flavors that possess a fine sense of energy on the clean and saline-infused finish that delivers moderately good length. This is really pretty good in the context of the young vines. (89-91)/2019+

2011 Chambertin: (from 5 separate parcels in both Chambertin and Clos de Bèze, which measure .14 ha). An intensely spicy if cool and restrained nose of plum, violet, earth and underbrush nuances leads to ultra-refined, tension-filled and mineral-driven broad-shouldered flavors. This is a concentrated, serious and overtly powerful effort that delivers stunningly good length on the driving and palate staining finish. Impressive. (92-95)/2023+

2011 Musigny: (from a .77 ha parcel in the climat Combe d'Orveau, which is also a *monopole* of the domaine). A gentle touch of wood frames ripe but cool red berry aromas that are discreetly floral but exuberantly spicy. There is an equally intense minerality on the wonderfully rich, refined, pure and beautifully detailed flavors that are underpinned by a velvety mouth feel and very firm yet fine tannins on the explosively long finish. A genuinely stunning effort that will require an ample amount of patience but should be well worth the wait. (93-96)/2026+

2011 Echézeaux: (from a .36 ha parcel located in the climat of Champs Traversin). This is also exceptionally spicy which adds considerably breadth to the otherwise somber and restrained nose of pure, cool and airy extract of red and dark berry fruit aromas. There is good size and weight to the tautly muscled, intense and detailed medium weight plus flavors that are underpinned by firm tannins and evident minerality on the succulent, intense and mouth coating finish. This too is well worth considering if you have the patience to wait. (92-94)/2023+

Domaine Henri Prudhon et Fils (St. Aubin)

2011	Bourgogne	red	85
2011	Chassagne-Montrachet "Les Chambres"	red	88
2011	St. Aubin "Les Argillers"	red	(86-88)
2011	St. Aubin "1er" Cuvée Les Rouges Gorges	red	(86-89)
2011	St. Aubin "Les Frionnes" 1er	red	88
2011	St. Aubin "Sur le Sentier du Clou" Vieilles Vignes 1er	red	(88-91)

Vincent Prudhon calls 2011 a "precocious vintage that both began and ended early. The beginning and the end of the vintage were great but the middle, well, not so much as July and the first half of August were pretty mediocre. Given that the conditions were highly conducive to having plenty of rot, we were quite fortunate to have had very little, especially in pinot where clean fruit is absolutely critical. We began picking on the 30th of August and had almost no sorting in either color. Sugars were fine in chardonnay at between 12 and 13% but they were about half a degree lower for the pinot. We did our normal vinification as the fruit was phenolically ripe. Overall, 2011 is a lovely vintage where the wines will be like the growing season, which is to say precocious." I agree with Prudhon's take on his wines in the sense that they will probably drink well early. In terms of relative quality I would peg the domaine's performance as in-line with the general quality of the vintage in the southern Côte de Beaune. (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, Shekomeko, NY; there are a number of UK distributors, including Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, The Wine Society, www.thewinesociety.com, Richards Walford, www.r-w.co.uk, Tanners Wine, www.tanners-wines.co.uk and Ball Brothers, www.merchant.ballsbrothers.co.uk, among others).

2011 Bourgogne: A pretty, fresh and attractively cool nose of mostly red berry fruit and earth nuances leads to supple, round and delicious light weight flavors that display just a touch of rusticity on the clean and balanced finish. This will be approachable young but since it could use a bit more depth, I would suggest cellaring it for a year or two first. 85/2015+

2011 St. Aubin "Les Argillers": Here the nose is a bit more complex if compositionally similar. There is excellent vibrancy to the delicious and well-delineated light weight flavors that exude a very fine minerality on the naturally sweet and solidly persistent finish. Again, this could use a bit of depth so while it could be enjoyed young for its fruit, I would suggest allowing it to slumber for a few years first. (86-88)/2016+

2011 St. Aubin "Les Frionnes": This is both more elegant and more complex with really lovely, airy and restrained essence of red pinot fruit aromas that are laced with hints of stone and spice. There is an appealing sense of energy and fine detail to the delicious middle weight flavors that are shaped by notably fine tannins on the balanced finish that offers better depth and length. 88/2016+

2011 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). This is also quite elegant with the same essence of red pinot, stone and spice suffused nose. There is good verve and fine precision to the delicious medium weight flavors that also exhibit a subtle minerality before terminating in a dusty and ever-so-mildly tangy finish that I suspect is more due to a high level of gas than excess acidity. (86-89)/2017+

2011 St. Aubin "Sur les Sentier du Clou" – Vieilles Vignes: (55+ year old vines). An exceptionally pretty and pure nose features extract of wild red berries that is given added breadth in the form of soft spice, floral and soil nuances. There is solid concentration to the delicious, complex and punchy medium-bodied flavors that are not quite as refined but possess very good length on the well-balanced finish. Lovely. (88-91)/2017+

2011 Chassagne-Montrachet "Les Chambres": An expressive, even perfumed nose features notes of pepper, red currant, cassis and plenty of pungent earth character that can also be found on the supple, round and agreeably vibrant middle weight flavors. There is good intensity and lovely detail to the moderately firm and rustic finish that is both well-balanced and persistent. A classic Chassagne rouge. 88/2018+

Château de Puligny-Montrachet (Puligny-Montrachet)

2011	**Monthelie**	**red**	**(86-89)**
2011	**Pommard**	**red**	**(87-90)**
2011	**Nuits St. Georges "Clos des Grandes Vignes" 1er**	**red**	**(89-91)**

As has been detailed in these pages before, Etienne de Montille of Domaine de Montille (see above) is now the owner of this old Domaine. Please see Domaine de Montille for more 2011 vintage specific comments. (Beaune Imports, www.beauneimports.com, Berkeley, CA, Glazer's, www.glazers.com, Dallas, TX, Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA & TX and Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, Lake Success, NY; the UK agent is Anthony Sarjeant Wines with additional availability through O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, UK).

2011 Monthelie: (vinified with 33% whole clusters). A restrained and cool nose of red berries, floral elements, spice and earth scents leads to supple, round and attractively vibrant middle weight flavors that possess acceptable depth and length. I like the delivery but it would be nice to have a bit more complexity. (86-89)/2017+

2011 Pommard: (vinified with 33% whole clusters). A very pinot nose of exceptionally fresh and cool red berries that is liberally sprinkled with warm earth and floral hints gives way to mineral and soil-inflected medium weight flavors that exhibit fine detail and punch. There is a bit more underlying material present as well as better depth and length. (87-90)/2018+

2011 Nuits St. Georges "Clos des Grandes Vignes": (a *monopole* and vinified with 100% whole clusters). An intensely floral nose combines with notes of spicy green tea, anise, earth and a hint of the *sauvage*. There is a seductive, even silky mouth feel to the very supple, round and delicious flavors that are underpinned by dusty tannins on the well-balanced and persistent finish. Lovely stuff fashioned in an understated style. (89-91)/2018+

Domaine Rapet Père et Fils (Pernand-Vergelesses)

2011	➽ Aloxe-Corton	red	89
2011	Beaune "Bressandes" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	Beaune "Clos du Roi" 1er	red	88
2011	➽ Beaune "Grèves" 1er	red	91
2011	Corton Grand Cru	red	92
2011	Corton-Pougets Grand Cru	red	92
2011	Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Belles Filles" 1er	red	87
2011	Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses" 1er	red	90
2011	➽ Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses" 1er	red	92
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fourneaux"	red	88
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fourneaux" 1er	red	89

The laconic 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 calls 2011 as a "very precocious vintage that gave us significantly lower than average yields but with good phenolic ripeness levels. I started picking on the 31st of August with the Beaune Clos du Roi as it's almost always the first to be ready. There was some sorting required, partially for rot and partially for under-ripe berries. As I typically do, I used between 20 and 40% whole clusters for the vinifications and about the only change is that I punched down less as the sugar levels were finishing. As to the style of the 2011 reds, they remind me of more concentrated versions of the 2007s." As I have noted several times in recent vintages, the quality of the wines *chez* Rapet continues to progress, particularly on the red side and given the generally attractive prices his wines sell for they offer excellent value. Moreover, as the scores confirm Rapet definitely outperformed in 2011. Rapet noted that the reds were bottled in January 2013. (Village Wine Imports, www.villagewineimports.com, NY, NY, Vintage Trading, e-mail vintagetrading@aol.com, NY, NY; Goedhuis & Co., www.goedhuis.com, Howard Ripley, www.howardripley.com and Laytons, www.laytons.co.uk, all UK; Jeanne-Marie de Champs, e-mail: jeanne-marie@jmdechamps.com, Beaune, France; Vignoble & Millésime, vignoble.millesime@wanadoo.fr, Beaune France).

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Belles Filles": A fresh, pretty and very pinot nose leads to generous and easy-to-like middle weight flavors that exhibit a subtle hint of minerality on the delicious if ever-so-mildly austere finish. This is sufficiently forward that it could be drunk now with pleasure. 87/2015+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fourneaux": (Aux Fourneaux is a split rated *appellation* with a portion rated as a *villages* wine and another as a 1er; this is from the *villages* portion). This is notably more complex with the same fresh red pinot fruit aromas but here there are earth, spice and floral elements present. There is good intensity to the attractively rich, round and well-detailed medium weight flavors that are underpinned by ripe and mildly rustic tannins, all wrapped in a slightly austere but long finish. 88/2016+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fourneaux": (from the 1er portion of the vineyard). This is aromatically quite similar to the *villages cuvée* with just a bit more depth. There is an appealing mouth feel to the solidly well-concentrated and voluminous medium weight flavors that also are underpinned by a ripe tannic spine before terminating in a balanced, persistent and mildly rustic finish that is firmer than that of the *villages*. This offers fine if not truly distinguished quality. 89/2018+

2011 Aloxe-Corton: (from 4 different parcels in Les Combes, Les Boutières, Les Citernes and Les Crapousuets). A beguiling fresh and airy nose features ripe aromas of violets, plum, pungent earth and a discreet hint of various spice elements. There is lovely energy and underlying tension to the relatively big-bodied flavors that display both touches of austerity and rusticity on the highly persistent finish. This is very Aloxe with its muscle yet this is well-balanced and offers very fine quality as the rusticity does not dominate. Recommended. 89/2017+

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses": (from a 1.2 ha parcel). A background touch of oak does not impede the appreciation of the intense floral and pungently earthy nose of both red and dark pinot fruit aromas. There is a lovely mineral component to the vibrant, delicious and intense medium weight flavors that display moderate austerity as well as fine depth and length on the mouth coating finish. Good enough to merit consideration. 90/2019+

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses": (from 40+ year old vines). This is indisputably more elegant than the straight Vergelesses with a restrained and ultra-pure nose of freshly crushed red currant, stone, earth, lavender and soil tones. There is an intense minerality present on the beautifully well-delineated and palate coating medium-bodied flavors that are supported by a core of ripe tannins on the serious and impeccably well-balanced finish. This is really very impressive and, if you have the patience to wait, should amply repay mid to longer-term cellaring. 92/2021+

2011 Beaune "Clos du Roi": This is also exceptionally fresh and cool with ripe red pinot fruit aromas that are freely laced with warm earth and spice hints. There is a fleshy, even generous and succulent mouth feel to the medium weight flavors that good reasonably good verve before culminating in a delicious if not overly complex finish. This forward and agreeable effort is certainly very pretty and very Beaune in basic character. 88/2016+

2011 Beaune "Bressandes": This is at once more elegant and more complex with a broad-ranging nose of plum, dried floral elements, earth, anise and sandalwood scents. There is a beguiling mouth feel to the delicious middle weight flavors that are shaped by firm but ripe tannins on the balanced, persistent and ever-so-mildly austere finish. Lovely. (89-91)/2018+

2011 Beaune "Grèves": (from 50+ year old vines in the *climat* Sur les Grèves). A discreet application of wood serves as a backdrop for the beautifully fresh, cool and reserved aromas that mix floral elements with a variety of red berry and earth scents. There are the hallmark soil tones to the punchy and very serious medium-bodied flavors that terminate in a firm, austere and impressively long finish. I very much like the balance here and this is textbook Grèves. 91/2019+

2011 Corton-Pougets: This offers a marked step up in complexity if not refinement with its expressive and cool nose of red currants, anise, wet stone, floral elements and a distinct *sauvage* character. There is obvious minerality to the delicious and sleekly muscular middle weight plus flavors that are supported by relatively fine-grained tannins, all wrapped in a beautifully persistent, balanced and mouth coating finish. This is classic Pougets, which is to say a Corton of finesse. 92/2021+

2011 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). Here the nose is less elegant and more deeply pitched than that of the Pougets with its mostly dark berry fruit aromas that are liberally peppered with pungent earth, smoked meat and *animale* hints. There is excellent volume and power to the broad-shouldered flavors that, interestingly enough possess a caressing mouth feel before culminating in a powerful, firm, austere and impressively long finish. This will require a lengthy cellar stay so patience absolutely required. 92/2023+

Maison Vincent Ravaut (Ladoix-Serrigny)

2010	**Chambolle-Musigny "Les Baudes" 1er**	**red**	**87**
2010	**Nuits St. Georges**	**red**	**84**
2010	**Vosne-Romanée**	**red**	**86**

(Serge Doré Selections Ltd., www.sergedoreselections.com, Chappaqua, NY).

2010 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Baudes": A discreet touch of wood sets off restrained, indeed almost shy aromas of very dark berry fruit that is liberally laced with pungent and warm earth nuances. There is good vibrancy and fine detail to the middle weight flavors that exhibit a hint of minerality on the ever-so-mildly tangy finish where noticeable warmth arises. There is reasonably good complexity but the finish is less well-balanced than one might wish for even if it's not overtly bothersome. While there is sufficient structure to age I would be inclined to drink this on the younger side for its fruit though a year or two of bottle age should help to round off the finish. 87/2015+

2010 Nuits St. Georges: (no new oak and 25% one year old oak). A pretty and very pinot nose of earth and various red berry scents introduces delicious and vibrant middle weight flavors that possess fine detail. Unfortunately there is a lot of gas on the slightly edgy finish, which cuts the finish somewhat short as well as compromises the balance somewhat. This is frankly hard to like but if you're going to try a bottle, be sure to decant it first. 84/2015+

2010 Vosne-Romanée: This was noticeably reduced when first opened and it required several hours for it to dissipate to finally reveal reticent if very fresh aromas of spicy red currant and cherry scents. There is good vibrancy and detail to the slightly edgy medium-bodied flavors that terminate in an ever-so-mildly dry finish. I would suggest drinking this on the early side for its fruit though I strongly advise decanting it first. 86/2015+

Domaine Rollin Père et Fils (Pernand-Vergelesses)

2011	➽ Aloxe-Corton	red	89
2011	➽ Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune	red	87
2011	Pernand-Vergelesses	red	88
2011	➽ Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Fichots" 1er	red	91
2011	Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses" 1er	red	90?
2011	➽ Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses" 1er	red	92
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Grands Liards"	red	88

The always understated Rémi Rollin called 2011 a "surprising vintage as I was worried if the fruit was ever going to ripen. The growing season started very early with hot and dry weather that led to a lousy summer that was wet and cool. Happily the second half of August saved us as all of the water the vines had stocked enabled the vines to ripen the moderate crop loads quickly. We began picking on the 30th of August and while there was some sorting required, it wasn't anything major. Yields were normal for chardonnay but off between 10 and 15% for pinot. Potential alcohols were all over the map at between 11 and 13.2% for the pinot and 11 to 12.5% for the chardonnay. I did my normal vinification for the reds except that I did a bit less extraction for the *villages* level *cuvées*. As to the wines, I frankly did not expect them to be as fresh and well-balanced as they are. They are already approachable and could be drunk for their exuberant fruit though cellared too as they are sufficiently well-concentrated to reward aging." In my view Rollin almost never misses and I share his enthusiasm for his 2011s as they are genuinely beautiful wines crafted in his ultra-understated style. (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, Shekomeko, NY; Richards Walford, www.r-w.co.uk, UK; Sequin & Robillard/Vinifera, www.seguinrobillard.ca, Canada).

2011 Bourgogne – Hautes Côtes de Beaune: A discreet hint of wood frames the very fresh and bright red pinot fruit aromas that display a hint of wet stone as well. There is fine verve and detail to the equally mineral-tinged middle weight flavors that terminate in a distinctly saline and refreshing finish. This is lovely and recommended. 87/2014+

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses: (no new oak with 25% one year old oak). This is not quite as pretty but it offers more aromatic depth with more earth and *sauvage* character on the mélange of both red and dark berry scents. There is fine verve to the equally complex medium weight flavors that exhibit the same *sauvage* tones on the balanced and solidly persistent finish. This delicious effort should drink well almost immediately. 88/2015+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Grands Liards": This is more deeply pitched still with its pungently earthy aromas that see added breadth in the form of humus, violet, plum and a hint of smoked meat. There is good energy to the supple and round flavors that are finer than usual thanks to the relatively fine-grained tannins that add shape to the attractively complex and persistent finish. I wouldn't call this a Savigny of finesse but neither is it rustic. 88/2015+

2011 Aloxe-Corton: (25% new oak; ~25% of the blend is from the 1er Les Guérets). A beautifully layered nose features notes of earth, *sauvage* hints, red currant, underbrush, humus and a soft floral hint. There is a seductive texture to the delicious medium-bodied flavors that also are underpinned by relatively fine-grained tannins before terminating in a sleekly muscled, persistent and balanced finish. This is an excellent *villages* and well worth considering, at least if you're willing to cellar it for a few years first. 89/2017+

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses: (from 40 to 45 year old vine fruit aged in 20% new oak). This is aromatically similar to the Aloxe if ever-so-slightly more complex with the same lovely texture to the attractively mineral-inflected middle weight flavors. The mouth feel is relatively fine and I like the persistence though the finish exhibits the presence of wood tannins that are mildly drying. My score offers the benefit of the doubt that this will harmonize but note the question mark as this is an assumption, not a given. 90?/2017+

2011 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Fichots": (a mix of 35 and 65+ year old vines aged in 25% new oak). Like the Aloxe this is beautifully layered with aromas of very fresh, cool and airy red pinot fruit, iron-inflected earth, floral hints and plenty of *sauvage* character. There is excellent volume and punch to the delicious, intense and well-delineated medium weight flavors that possess focused power and a solid muscularity on the impressively complex and persistent finish. This is a robust but not rustic effort that should age effortlessly for years if desired though it will be approachable after 5 or 6. 91/2018+

2011 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, aged in 25% new oak). As is almost always the case at this address, this is by far the most elegant wine in the range with its pure essence of violet, plum, red currant and cassis suffused nose. There is a strikingly refined mouth feel to the intensely mineral-driven middle weight flavors that possess real verve, all wrapped in a seductively textured, energetic, well-balanced and wonderfully long finish. One to buy. 92/2019+

Domaine Nicolas Rossignol (Volnay)

2011	Beaune	red	88
2011	➳ Beaune "Clos des Mouches" 1er	red	91
2011	Beaune "Clos du Roi" 1er	red	90
2011	Beaune "Reversées" 1er	red	90
2011	Bourgogne	red	86
2011	➳ Bourgogne – Cuvée L'Héritière	red	87
2011	➳ Pommard "Chanlins" 1er	red	93
2011	➳ Pommard "Chaponnières" 1er	red	92
2011	➳ Pommard "Les Epenots" 1er	red	94
2011	➳ Pommard "Les Fremiers" 1er	red	94
2011	➳ Pommard "Jarolières" 1er	red	91
2011	➳ Pommard "Les Vignots"	red	89
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	88
2011	➳ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Fourneaux" 1er	red	91
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Lavières" 1er	red	90
2011	➳ Volnay	red	89
2011	➳ Volnay "Caillerets" 1er	red	92
2011	➳ Volnay "Chevret" 1er	red	91
2011	Volnay "Clos des Angles" 1er	red	89?
2011	➳ Volnay "Frémiets" 1er	red	92
2011	➳ Volnay "Roncerets" 1er	red	93
2011	➳ Volnay "Santenots" 1er	red	92
2011	➳ Volnay "Taillepieds" 1er	red	93

Nicolas Rossignol, who directs this 20+ ha domaine with its incredible range of wines from Volnay and Pommard, described the 2011 vintage as "very complicated to manage but I absolutely love the results. At first the growing season was easy because even though it started very early, it was hot and dry so there wasn't much to do except be vigilant. But the flowering didn't pass all that well and the weather conditions significantly deteriorated in July, which meant that there was incipient rot pressure. As such, there was no pardoning sloppy vineyard work or a failure to respect to the day the cadence of required treatments. While there was some sorting required depending on the sector in question, for the most part the fruit was both ripe and clean, averaging between 11.5 and 12.2%. Given the relatively modest sugar levels we had surprisingly good phenolic maturity levels as the seeds were brown. For the first time since 2002 I chaptalized the musts though in no case above .5%. In terms of the vinifications I used anywhere from 0 to 100% whole clusters. Speaking of the vinifications, it was a great pleasure for the first time to be able to vinify and do the élevage in the same building and I believe that it materially contributed to the quality we managed to achieve. As to the wines, they combine 90% of the maturity we obtained in 2010 with the freshness and vibrancy of 2008." As the scores and comments confirm, Rossignol has once again produced several truly stunning wines and his '11s are among some of the very best wines that I sampled in the Côte de Beaune. They're not quite as spectacular as his range of 2010s but they're not far off either. Rossignol noted that his 2011s were bottled between September 2012 and January 2013. (Paul M. Young Fine Wines, www.pywine.com, Los Angeles, CA, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, Austin, TX, Cordon Selections, www.cordonselections.com, WA/OR, Terra Nova Wines, www.terranovawines.com, Denver, CO, Small Potatoes Wine, www.smallpotatoeswine.com, Boise ID, Fine Vines, www.finevines.com, Chicago, IL, Pas Mal Portfolio, mafeuer@mindspring.com, NY/NJ; A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; Bibendum, www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, UK; Woolworths, kkot@danmurphys.com.au, Australia).

2011 Bourgogne: A slight touch of reduction masks the finer points of the otherwise seemingly ripe red and dark berry fruit aromas. There is good vibrancy and freshness to the delicious and well-detailed middle weight flavors that offers solid if not truly exceptional depth and length for a wine at this level. 86/2015+

2011 Bourgogne - Cuvée L'Héritière: (from vines planted in 1922). Here too very mild reduction hides some of the aromatic nuance though there is no such issue with the textured and clearly riper medium-bodied flavors that possess fine concentration and plenty of punch. There is a touch of austerity on the delicious and impressively complex finish that delivers very good length in the context of the *appellation*. This is one to strongly consider for value. 87/2017+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune: Here the nose is slightly more elegant with good breadth that is supplied by pure and ripe notes of red berries, pungent earth and soft floral hints. There is a relatively structured mouth feel to the intense and saline-infused medium weight flavors that terminate in a delicious, balanced and persistent finish. A fine *villages*. 88/2018+

2011 Beaune: A fresh, ripe and relatively airy nose features aromas of cool essence of red pinot fruit that is copiously laced with earth and soft spice hints. There is a lovely purity to the naturally sweet middle weight flavors that possess a supple mid-palate thanks to the fine grain of the supporting tannins, all wrapped in a firm but balanced finish. 88/2016+

2011 Volnay: This is more refined with a cool, pure and distinctly airy nose that is largely floral in character along with notes of essence of red pinot fruit. There is an earthy character to the appealingly vibrant and distinctly mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that possess good detail on the saline-inflected, balanced and ever-so-mildly austere finish. This is a beauty of a *villages* that could be enjoyed young or aged to good effect as one prefers. 89/2017+

2011 Pommard "Les Vignots": (40% whole clusters). There is plenty of floral influence to the cool cherry, red currant, spice and wet stone infused aromas. I very much like the mouth feel of the equally mineral-driven medium-bodied flavors that possess a beguiling mouth feel thanks to the fine-grained tannins supporting the beautifully long finish. This is unusually ripe for the vineyard that adds to its overall appeal as the structure is less austere than usual. Recommended. 89/2019+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Lavières": An attractively ripe and fresh nose features aromas of wild red berries, plenty of earth, wet stone, spice and *sauvage* hints. There is a very supple and seductive, even suave texture to the succulent medium weight flavors that possess good energy on the detailed, clean and refreshing finish. There is enough structure to suggest 7 to as much as 10 years of upside development potential. 90/2018+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Fourneaux": (40% whole clusters). This is notably riper with a darker fruit profile and copious amounts of warm earth character along with ample dried floral elements. There is an impressively intense and attractively textured palate impression to the sleekly muscular and well-concentrated flavors that culminate in a serious, long and beautifully complex finish. This is a big Savigny and while there isn't much in the way of refinement it does offer outstanding depth in an age-worthy package. 91/2019+

2011 Beaune "Clos du Roi": (60% whole clusters). An intensely floral nose with hints of spice and warm earth add considerable refinement to the ultra-pure red pinot fruit aromas. There is both a lovely mouth feel and detail to the middle weight flavors that culminate in a firm and moderately austere finish that displays solid if not perfect balance as there is a very mild touch of warmth. The austerity is enough that this will not be for everyone. 90/2018+

2011 Beaune "Clos des Mouches": (from a parcel situated on the Pommard border directly adjacent to Pézerolles). An equally pure yet compositionally quite different nose displays much less in the way of floral character along with very fresh wild red berries, smoked meat and exotic black tea scents. There is a sophisticated mouth feel to the solidly complex medium-bodied flavors that terminate in a firm, mildly austere and well-balanced finish. This is lovely. 91/2019+

2011 Beaune "Reversées": A perfumed and very pretty nose of layered black cherry, plum and iron-infused earth aromas lead to rich, delicious and pliant flavors where the mid-palate is succulent and seductive yet the balanced finish is notably firm. There is a trace of rusticity but overall, this is really quite attractive. 90/2019+

2011 Volnay "Clos des Angles": There is hint of lactic fermentation aromas to the otherwise ripe nose of red and dark berry fruit. There is a textured, even silky mouth feel to the round, delicious and vibrant middle weight flavors that possess a core of ripe tannins that are well-integrated on the palate coating finish. This may be fine in time but it's atypical at present. 89?/2019+

2011 Volnay "Chevret": A ripe, pure and alluringly elegant nose features notes of various red orchard fruit aromas that include cherry, apple and plum that slide gracefully into relatively generous and solidly well-concentrated flavors that retain a good sense of tension and precision. There is good ripeness to the supporting tannins that coat the mouth on the wonderfully intense, balanced and enticingly complex finish. Good stuff here. 91/2019+

2011 Volnay "Frémiets": A slightly exotic nose of various red berries and black tea aromas is trimmed in a discreet application of wood. There is excellent volume and a focused sense of power to the extract-rich medium-bodied flavors that exude a fine minerality on the robust, muscular and mouth coating finish. This is a big Volnay by the typical standards of the appellation and will require 10 to 12 years of cellar time to be at its best. 92/2021+

2011 Volnay "Santenots": There is a hint of green tea and crushed herb to the beautifully well-layered nose of primarily red berry fruit aromas that are laced with both earth and spice hints. The powerful, concentrated and quite serious medium weight flavors also exude a fine minerality before terminating in an equally complex, driving and very firm finish. This too is a relatively big wine and will likewise require a solid decade of cellar time to realize its full potential. 92/2021+

2011 Volnay "Caillerets": A wonderfully elegant, pure and airy nose of ripe yet cool red pinot, cassis, plum and violet aromas. There is excellent intensity to the very rich and enveloping medium-bodied flavors that brim with minerality on the driving, delineated and gorgeously long finish. This is already very impressive and if it can add more than the expected degree of depth this could very well surprise to the upside. In short, this is terrific. 92/2019+

2011 Volnay "Roncerets": This is almost as aromatically elegant with pure essence of raspberry and cherry liqueur aromas that evidence background hints of wet stone and spice. There is good volume and excellent punch to the round and supple medium weight flavors that possess a dusty mouth feel before culminating in a relatively powerful and impeccably well-balanced finish. This doesn't have the same overall class as the Caillerets but there is actually more here. Worth a search to find. 93/2021+

2011 Volnay "Taillepieds": This is arguably the most elegant wine in the range with airy, cool and highly restrained aromas of pure essence of red pinot fruit, exotic black tea and mineral nuances. There is equally impressive purity to the laser-like middle weight mineral-driven flavors that display stunning, indeed almost painful intensity that continues onto the superbly complex, long and impeccably well balanced finish. This is austere, classy and absolutely textbook Taillepieds. 93/2021+

2011 Pommard "Chaponnières": An attractively well-layered nose offers up notes of liqueur of red currant, plum, warm earth and soft underbrush hints. There is outstanding volume and punch to the muscular and solidly well-concentrated medium-bodied flavors that possess a generous mouth feel, all wrapped in a delicious, mouth coating and hugely persistent finish. This is a big but not heavy wine, in fact while not refined it's certainly not rustic. Worth a long look. 92/2019

2011 Pommard "Jarolières": This is a bit of an oddball in the range as it's the first wine to display more than wisp of wood and in fact it's relatively prominent, to the point where it fights somewhat with the liqueur of red berry fruit and floral aromas. There is excellent richness and volume to the dense, intense and again muscular flavors that possess a seductive texture as the dry extract really coats the palate. There is good power and not much rusticity as the supporting tannins are quite fine-grained plus the pronounced minerality imparts a sense of lift to the cool, balanced and long finish. My score offers the benefit of the doubt that the wood will successfully integrate in time. 91/2021+

2011 Pommard "Les Fremiers": (100% whole clusters). An intensely floral nose is also exuberantly spicy with very cool yet ripe red berry fruit, pungent earth and hints of smoked meat. There is superb detail and excellent underlying tension to the big-bodied, powerful and overtly muscular flavors that display truly striking complexity on the splendidly persistent finish. This is just flat out marvelous. 94/2023+

2011 Pommard "Chanlins": This partially resembles the Jarolières in that there is copious wood that just avoids dominating the cool liqueur of red berry, plum and wet stone suffused nose. There is a very solid core of ripe tannins that shape the mineral-driven and large-scaled flavors that possess a lovely sense of energy, particularly on the driving, firm and moderately austere finish. This isn't quite as long as the Epenots or the Fremiers but it's close. Note that this stunner of a wine is also explicitly constructed to reward longer-term cellaring. 93/2023+

2011 Pommard "Les Epenots": (from Petits Epenots). A brooding, highly complex and powerfully earthy mélange of red currant, green tea, cassis, plum and dark berries gives way to broad-shouldered, concentrated and extract rich flavors that really coat the palate. There is a supple and round texture to the mouth feel with stunning intensity on the saline, austere and quite finely balanced finish that seems to go on and on. This is clearly built to age and will need plenty of it but the results should more than repay your patience. 94/2023+

Domaine Comte Senard (Aloxe-Corton)

2011	**Aloxe-Corton**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Aloxe-Corton "1er"**	**red**	**89**
2011	**Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru**	**red**	**92**
2011	**Corton-Clos des Meix Grand Cru**	**red**	**90**
2011	**Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru**	**red**	**92**
2011	**Corton-Les Paulands Grand Cru**	**red**	**91**

Lorraine Senard told me that 2011 is a "very good if not great vintage. We had a relatively dry spring but a very wet summer, which of course had us all nervous about rot. While you had to be vigilant, it wasn't too bad in the vineyard as we made only 7 treatments the entire growing season. We elected to begin picking the 2nd of September and brought in very clean fruit that really only needed cursory sorting. We also had very good sugars and I chaptalized nothing on the red side and only two of the whites. I used some whole clusters for certain cuvées but not all of them. As to the wines, they're not as structured or dense as the 2010s but on the other hand, they should be more accessible sooner." My take on the quality of the Senard 2011 is that they are slightly better than the general quality of the vintage. (Pas Mal Portfolio, mafeuer@mindspring.com, NY/NJ and Vineyard Road, www.vineyardroad.net, Framingham, MA).

2011 Aloxe-Corton: (from 5 different vineyards). An intensely earthy nose of dark berry fruit, underbrush and *sauvage* notes leads to supple, round and generous medium weight flavors that possess good if not special complexity on the solidly persistent and well balanced finish that evidences a touch of austerity. 88/2016+

2011 Aloxe-Corton "1er": This is aromatically more elegant with fine freshness to the pretty mélange of wild red berries, earth, floral notes and soft spice hints. There is more obvious muscle to the intense and solidly well-concentrated medium-bodied flavors that possess good power on the robust but not especially rustic finish. This should reward medium-term cellaring. 89/2017+

2011 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 – even though the vines here are mature, Senard doesn't like the plant material that was used and may begin replacing certain sections with better stock). This offers a marked step up in complexity with its dense nose of plum, dark currant, earth, *sauvage* and anise scents. There is excellent underlying tension though not quite the same mid-palate concentration to the somewhat bigger flavors that exude a fine minerality on the firm and mildly austere finish. While this will need time to reach its full apogee, the supporting tannins are relatively fine and thus this will be approachable young if desired. 90/2019+

2011 Corton-Les Paulands: A beautifully fresh, cool and quite airy nose of beautifully layered aromas of wild red berries, humus, cassis and distinct floral notes. This is also relatively supple on the mid-palate with the same lovely sense of underlying tension to the medium-bodied flavors that are also supported by fine-grained tannins before culminating in slightly more persistent finish. There is also a touch of austerity present on the firmer finish and this will require at least a decade of cellar time to realize its full potential. 91/2021+

2011 Corton-Bressandes: This is also exceptionally fresh with lovely dried floral, black cherry, earth, spice and wet stone aromas. This is slightly more concentrated than the Paulands with fine size, weight and focused power to the sleekly muscular flavors that are quite firmly structured, indeed this is markedly austere on the lingering finish. Unlike the prior two *grands crus*, this is not likely to drink nearly as well young and will likely need a minimum of 10 years to be at its best. 92/2023+

2011 Corton-Clos du Roi: An overtly *sauvage* and gamey nose adds notes of spice, smoke, dark berries and plenty of earth character for good measure. There is excellent volume to the broad-shouldered flavors that are bigger, more robust and more powerful than those of the Bressandes though with the same intense minerality that adds a sense of lift to the already vibrant, austere and backwards finish. In the same vein as the Bressandes, this is clearly meant to age and will need plenty of it. 92/2023+

Domaine Tollot-Beaut (Chorey-lès-Beaune)

2011	Aloxe-Corton	red	88
2011	Aloxe-Corton "Les Fournières" 1er	red	90
2011	Aloxe-Corton "Les Vercots" 1er	red	89
2011	Beaune "Blanche Fleur"	red	87?
2011	Beaune "Clos du Roi" 1er	red	89
2011	➽ Beaune "Grèves" 1er	red	91
2011	Bourgogne	red	85
2011	Chorey-lès-Beaune	red	87
2011	Chorey-lès-Beaune "La Pièce du Chapitre"	red	88
2011	Corton Grand Cru	red	92
2011	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	93
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	88
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Champs Chenevery" 1er	red	90
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières" 1er	red	89

Nathalie Tollot described 2011 as a "vintage that is built on its fruit but with excellent concentration and much better phenolic maturity than is typical for fruitier vintages. We began picking on the 29th of August and there wasn't much sorting required except in Chorey where we were hit by hail. Potential alcohols were good but not high at between 12 and 12.7% and I would put the average right at 12.5% so there was virtually no chaptalization. As to the style of the wines, I would compare them to a slightly less concentrated version of 2010." As to relative quality of the Tollot 2011s, I would characterize it as in-line with that of the vintage in general though the Beaune "Grèves" and Bressandes are excellent. Note that the Tollot wines are deliberately bottled with slightly higher levels of CO_2 so decanting the wines is always a good idea. Also, the 2011s were bottled just before my visit in January and February 2013. (Diageo Château and Estate Wines, www.diageowines.com, NY, NY; The Wine Society, www.thewinesociety.com, Tanners Wine, www.tanners-wines.co.uk, Domaine Direct, www.domainedirect.co.uk, Justerini & Brooks, www.justerinis.com and O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, all UK).

2011 Bourgogne: A cool and reserved nose blends notes of both red and black pinot fruit with earth and soft humus nuances that can also be found on the mouth coating, punchy and fruit-driven flavors. There is a hint of austerity on the acceptably long and tight finish. This is a Bourgogne that should benefit from 2 to 3 years of cellar time. 85/2015+

2011 Chorey-lès-Beaune: A pretty, ripe and airy nose of red pinot fruit liqueur, plum and violets leads to delicious, round and seductively textured middle weight flavors that possess a succulent mid-palate before terminating in a firm, reasonably complex and mildly austere finish. 87/2016+

2011 Chorey-lès-Beaune "La Pièce du Chapitre": (from a 1.7 ha parcel of 50+ year old vines). This is a bit more expressive with otherwise similar aromas that are cool, pure and earthy. There is good energy to the delicious medium-bodied flavors that possess fine intensity on the solidly complex, balanced and persistent finish. This is really quite good. 88/2017+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune: A distinctly earthy nose of various dark berries, floral hints and *sauvage* nuances merges into round, supple and relatively forward flavors that possess a touch of rusticity on the solidly complex and persistent finish. I like the balance and again, this is really quite good for what it is. 88/2016+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières": Here the nose is compositionally similar to the straight *villages* with the exceptions of being a bit more elegant and with a bit less emphasis on the earth component. The supple and suave middle weight flavors display the hallmark minerality of a fine Lavières with well-integrated fine-grained tannins adding support to the firm, balanced and beautifully persistent finish. If this can add depth in bottle my score may be overly conservative. 89/2017+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Champs Chenevery": (note that Champs Chenevery is a climat within Fourneaux). A more complex if less elegant nose of red berry fruit liqueur, plum and soft earth nuances complements the very rich and succulent medium-bodied flavors that are blessed with plenty of palate coating dry extract. There is a dusty mouth feel to the firm but not austere finish that exhibits excellent length. A lovely effort that should amply reward mid-term cellaring. 90/2018+

2011 Beaune "Blanche Fleur": (from the *villages* portion of the vineyard). An exuberantly fruity nose of various red berries sees added breadth in the form of floral and spice hints. There is a supple and succulent character to the very round, delicious and forward flavors where a hint of wood shows up on the slightly dry finish. It's possible that the recent bottling has perturbed the balance but in the interest of remaining conservative, I score this with a question mark. 87?/2016+

2011 Beaune "Clos du Roi": Here the nose is slightly riper with notes of plum, violet, red currant and earth. There is a supple and very round mouth feel to the fleshy and succulent middle weight flavors that possess an attractive texture before culminating in a delicious, easy-to-like and reasonably complex finish that delivers solid length. This should drink well young if desired. 89/2018+

2011 Beaune "Grèves": This is both more elegant and more complex if also more restrained with its shy aromas of earth-infused red and blue pinot fruit that display background hints of anise and clove. There is fine volume and excellent verve to the delicious flavors that exhibit mineral and soil tones before culminating in a beautifully deep, mouth coating and persistent finish. There is a hint of warmth but other than that minor nit, this is a lovely effort and worth considering. 91/2019+

2011 Aloxe-Corton: A very fresh and expressive nose features a pretty mix of various wild red berries, pungent earth and *sauvage* hints that are reflected by the delicious, vibrant and well-detailed middle weight flavors that possess a beguiling mouth feel. There is a hint of minerality to the firmly structured but not hard or especially austere finish that will require a few years of bottle age to round out. A fine *villages*. 88/2018+

2011 Aloxe-Corton "Les Vercots": (from vines planted in 1928 though 50% of them were ripped up after the 2005 vintage). There are interesting hints of cinnamon and spiced tea to the predominant aromas of red currant and iron-infused earth. There is the same spicy character to the medium-bodied flavors that are undeniably delicious before culminating in a robust and persistent finish where a touch of wood is evident. This is not a flawed wine in the typical sense but these particular spice elements, which are almost certainly oak-based, are not representative of the *appellation* either. 89?/2019+

2011 Aloxe-Corton "Les Fournières": There is a hint of herbaceousness to the otherwise fresh and ripe red pinot fruit, spice and earth elements that actually adds breadth. The broad-shouldered, concentrated and punchy medium weight plus flavors possess fine size and weight along with a certain muscularity on the extract-rich finish. In typical Fournières fashion, this is a robust and rustic effort with mouth coating tannins and as such it will require extended cellaring. 90/2021+

2011 Corton: (from Les Combes; aged in 60% new wood). An attractively layered nose offers up notes of violet, plum, smoked meat hints and plenty of warm earth character to the wild dark berry fruit aromas. There is excellent volume to the ripe, intense and powerful large-scaled flavors that exhibit fine intensity on the powerful, balanced and vibrant finish that delivers its usual fine length. This isn't quite a robust as it usually is though it's a big wine all the same and will require an extended cellar siesta. 92/2023+

2011 Corton-Bressandes: This is both slightly riper and notably more refined with its elegant mélange of mostly cool red berry fruit aromas that are liberally seeded with stone, spice, earth and black tea hints. There is excellent richness, intensity, energy and focused power to the attractively well-delineated flavors that display the same fine complexity as the nose. The sleekly muscular, beautifully balanced and impressively lingering finish is shaped by relatively fine-grained tannins and this should amply reward 12 to 15 years of cellar time. 93/2023+

Domaine Thierry Violot-Guillemard (Pommard)

2011	➽ Auxey-Duresses "Les Reugnes" 1er	red	90
2011	➽ Beaune "Clos des Mouches" 1er	red	91
2011	Bourgogne	red	86
2011	➽ Bourgogne - Maison Dieu	red	87
2011	Monthelie "Les Duresses" 1er	red	89
2011	➽ Pommard	red	89
2011	➽ Pommard "Clos Derrière St. Jean" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	➽ Pommard "Les Epenots" 1er	red	(91-93)
2011	Pommard "La Platière" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	➽ Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	(91-94)
2011	Volnay "Cros Martin"	red	88

The always upbeat Thierry Violot described 2011 as a "vintage that was full of surprises as it wasn't clear what we were going to wind up with quality-wise. We had an early, dry and very hot spring but an only average flowering, a lousy summer and a fine September. But when you stare up at somber clouds day after day in the middle of the summer when the sugars just are not budging at all, it does start to make you wonder whether the fruit is ever going to ripen. But the good weather returned in the middle of August and maturities sky-rocketed. I waited until the 4th of September to begin and while in most vintages that date would mean that I was among the very first to pick, in this case it means that many of my neighbors were already finished by the time that I had begun! The fruit was reasonably clean if not perfect with good potential alcohols that averaged right at 12.5% and I chaptalized nothing. Yields were correct and I did my normal vinification. As to the quality of the wines, I view them as superior to 2009 but not quite as good as what we obtained in 2010. I love the vintage and people are going to be surprised at just how good it is." I have been singing the praises of the Violot wines for several years now and once again he has outperformed with a really lovely set of wines. Moreover, they typically sell for very reasonable prices and thus offer excellent value. (Scott Paul Wines, www.scottpaul.com, Portland, OR, Fine Wine, Maywood, IL; A Patrick Lesec Selection, Paris, France; no known UK importers).

2011 Bourgogne: A very fresh, cool and exuberantly expressive nose of earthy red berries leads to delicious, round and supple middle weight flavors that are quite forward and accessible. There is solid depth, length and balance and this should drink well almost immediately though it could be cellared for a few years first if desired. 86/2014+

2011 Bourgogne – Maison Dieu: A discreet touch of wood frames a nose that is compositionally similar to the straight Bourgogne but with just a bit more complexity. There is a lovely sense of underlying tension to the delicious, round and supple flavors that also possess better depth on the balanced and solidly persistent finish. Recommended. 87/2015+

2011 Volnay "Cros Martin": This offers a step up in aromatic refinement with its pure, cool and restrained nose of essence of red pinot fruit, spice and earth nuances. There is really lovely detail and punch to the silky and lilting middle weight flavors that exude a fine minerality on the complex, balanced and dusty finish. A quality *villages* that should be accessible and enjoyable young. 88/2015+

2011 Pommard: This is also admirably pure with both upper and lower register aromas that include essence of red pinot, earth and underbrush. There is a terrific sense of energy and fine delineation to the more obviously mineral-inflected medium-bodied flavors, all wrapped in a firm, complex and slightly rustic finish. This is an excellent *villages* that already displays much better than average depth for its level. 89/2017+

2011 Auxey-Duresses "Les Reugnes": (from a .20 ha parcel). A discreet but not invisible touch of wood sets off the more deeply pitched and distinctly earthy dark berry fruit aromas. There is fine detail and excellent punch to the delicious mineral-inflected medium weight flavors that are shaped by relatively fine-grained tannins before terminating in a complex finish that is less rustic and austere than it typically is. This well-balanced effort displays fine length and overall, this is really very good. Worth a look. 90/2018+

2011 Monthelie "Les Duresses": (from a .18 ha parcel). This is slightly riper and more deeply pitched still with an abundance of earth and humus character on the floral, in particular violets, and red currant suffused nose. There is a velvety texture to the moderately rustic and vibrant flavors that possess fine depth on the persistent and again, moderately rustic finish. This is textbook Les Duresses, which is to say a wine of character rather than finesse. 89/2018+

2011 Beaune "Clos des Mouches": (from vines planted in 1947). A background application of wood is sufficiently subtle to allow the high-toned and delicate red pinot fruit, currant and softly spicy aromas to shine. There is a cool and restrained mouth feel to the beautifully well-delineated middle weight flavors that deliver fine depth and length on the impeccably well-balanced finish. This is lovely stuff and fashioned in an understated style. 91/2018+

2011 Pommard "La Platière": (from a .7 ha parcel containing the Domaine's oldest vines planted in 1936). A very fresh, bright and airy nose features pure essence of red pinot fruit that is cut with wisps of stone and earth. There is excellent verve to the precise, intense and utterly delicious flavors where the underlying tannins display a very different texture compared to those of the Beaune. The finale is quite firm yet not hard and while this is very Pommard, it is not especially rustic. Also worth considering. (89-92)/2019+

2011 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). A deeply pitched nose grudgingly offers up nose of red currant, dark berries, warm earth and underbrush hints. There is a beguiling mouth feel to the supple, round and utterly delicious flavors that possess a dusty texture before culminating in a focused, powerful and impressively long finish that displays impeccable balance. (90-92)/2019+

2011 Pommard "Les Epenots": A complex and attractively perfumed nose of red currant, spice elements, earth and a gamey hint gives way to impressively rich, round and delicious big-bodied flavors that possess a wonderfully seductive mouth feel. There is fine verve to the firmly structured, deep, balanced and beautifully persistent finish that really coats the palate thanks to the excellent reserve of dry extract. Recommended. (91-93)/2021+

2011 Pommard "Les Rugiens": (from a .5 ha parcel located at the bottom of Rugiens Haut). A very subtle touch of wood sets off a wonderfully pure and fresh nose that is comprised of essence of red pinot fruit, wet stone, spice and again a hint of game. There is a sublime sense of underlying tension to the intensely mineral-driven, focused and delineated medium weight plus flavors that possess outstanding depth on the seamlessly balanced, driving and long finish. This is a terrific Rugiens that is built-to-age but isn't so robust that it won't be approachable young if desired. That said, I would advise holding it as there is excellent upside development potential. (91-94)/2023+

Domaine Joseph Voillot (Volnay)

2011	**Bourgogne - Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**86**
2011	**Pommard - Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**88**
2011	**➽ Pommard "Les Epenots" 1er**	**red**	**92**
2011	**➽ Pommard "Clos Micault" 1er**	**red**	**91**
2011	**➽ Pommard "Les Pézerolles" 1er**	**red**	**92**
2011	**➽ Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er**	**red**	**91**
2011	**Volnay - Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Volnay "Brouillards" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2011	**Volnay "Caillerets" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2011	**Volnay "Carelle Sous La Chapelle" 1er**	**red**	**90**
2011	**➽ Volnay "Les Champans" 1er**	**red**	**91**

2011	**Volnay "Les Frémiets" 1er**	**red**	**89**
2011	**➽ Volnay "Taillepieds" 1er**	**red**	**91**

Jean-Pierre Charlot forthrightly declared that "I would take 2011 anytime. If it was possible to sign up in advance for this kind of quality every year, I'd sign right now. The growing season started early, was slowed down by a rainy July and first half of August and then our hopes were resuscitated by a near perfect second half of August and September. I only made 6 treatments in 2011 but made 12 in 2012. I made my first treatment against mildew on May 13th but after that, despite conditions that were ripe for all kinds of problems, we really didn't have much to worry about. In fact, probably the factor of greatest concern was to make sure that we harvested before the onset of *surmaturité* because maturities really spiked at the end. I decided to begin the harvest on the 29th of August under perfect harvest conditions that were warm but not hot. The fruit was quite clean though there is always some minor sorting required, if nothing else to remove the stray leaf or insect. The vinifications were pretty much textbook as the extractions came easily, in particular the colors. Whenever you have a vintage that is this easy in the vineyards and in the cuverie, you appreciate it. In fact the only drawback to 2011 was the tiny yields of only 25 to 30 hl/ha thanks to a poor flowering. I like the 2011s a lot and believe that my clients will too." Charlot rarely misses and 2011 is no exception. As the scores and comments clearly confirm, his wines have clearly outperformed the general quality of the vintage, particularly with the range of Pommard 1ers. If there is a nit, it's that the wines are carrying more wood than they typically do but I am optimistic that it will be successfully integrated in time. Charlot noted that the wines were bottled in December 2012 and January 2013. Lastly, Charlot pointed out that because of two consecutive years of reduced production that he supplemented his range of 2011s by purchasing some fruit in the *appellations* of Taillepieds and Carelle Sous La Chapelle. (A Roy Cloud Selection for Vintage '59 Imports, www.vintage59.com, Washington, D.C.; 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).

2011 Bourgogne - Vieilles Vignes: (from a parcel of vines located near Volnay). A ripe, rustic and distinctly earthy nose of mostly dark berry aromas leads to attractively vibrant and detailed middle weight flavors that possess a refreshing saline-infused finish. This should drink well young but has enough underlying material to reward a few years of cellar time if desired. 86/2015+

2011 Volnay - Vieilles Vignes: As one would reasonably expect, this is notably more elegant with better complexity as well to the broad range of dark berry fruit aromas, spice, stone and soft earth nuances. There is equally good layering to the appealingly refined medium weight flavors that display good energy and detail on the clean, balanced and utterly delicious finish. In the same fashion as the Bourgogne, this will be approachable young but be capable of rewarding a few years of cellar time as well. 88/2017+

2011 Pommard - Vieilles Vignes: (from Les Cras though not labeled as such). This is also very pretty with a relatively high-toned nose of essence of red pinot fruit that displays undertones of soil and *sauvage* hints. The well-detailed and vibrant medium-bodied flavors possess good mid-palate density before culminating in a tight, focused and ever-so-slightly clipped finish that should round out with a few years of bottle age. 88/2018+

2011 Volnay "Brouillards": (from vines that average 65+ years of age). Soft wood and mild reduction presently mask the finer points of the nose though it does appear to be ripe. There is a refined mouth feel to the earthy, cool and restrained middle weight flavors that possess good verve on the alluringly textured and well-detailed finish that displays a bit of youthful asperity. My score gives the benefit of the doubt that this is simply a passing post-bottling phase. 89/2018+

2011 Volnay "Les Frémiets": (from vines that average 50+ years of age). A deft but not invisible application of wood still allows the bright and very pinot nose to have center stage. The wood also shows up on the middle weight and tautly muscular yet refined flavors that display a similar touch of youthful asperity. In the same vein, my score offers the benefit of the doubt that the asperity will dissipate in time with bottle age. 89/2018+

2011 Volnay "Les Champans": (from vines that average 50 years of age). This offers a solid step up in aromatic complexity with a broad-ranging nose of smoked tea, warm earth, underbrush and a touch of wet stone on the mélange of perfumed red berry fruit. There is a beguiling texture to the intense and vibrant medium weight flavors that are shaped by phenolically mature and firm tannins on the mouth coating finish where a touch of wood surfaces. This is lovely and there is just clearly more underlying material. 91/2019+

2011 Volnay "Caillerets": (from a small .14 ha parcel planted in 1984). Here again there is enough wood to notice but not enough to dominant the excellent aromatic complexity thanks to the breadth of the red pinot fruit, violets, plum, wet stone and anise scents. There is equally good depth to the seductively textured yet solidly well-delineated middle weight flavors that coat the mouth on the balanced and persistent finish. This is not quite as concentrated as the best here but otherwise, this is really quite lovely. 90/2018+

2011 Volnay "Taillepieds": (from purchased fruit). A pure and elegant nose of red currant and pungent stone aromas is trimmed in subtle wood. There is lovely vibrancy and fine mid-palate density to the intensely mineral-driven flavors that possess impressively good delineation that continues onto the persistent and youthfully austere finish. This is textbook Taillepieds that is built on its minerality. 91/2019+

2011 Volnay "Carelle Sous La Chapelle": (from purchased fruit). This is classic Volnay with its ultra-elegant, cool, pure and airy aromas of enveloping red berry fruit aromas where additional depth is present in the form of dried flowers. The refinement of the nose continues onto the naturally sweet and caressing middle weight flavors that possess a tender, even delicate mouth feel, all wrapped in a balanced and persistent finish. If this can add complexity in bottle my score will be overly conservative as the style is wonderfully seductive. In the same fashion as the Taillepieds, this is textbook Carelle. 90/2017+

2011 Pommard "Clos Micault": This is also exceptionally pretty with its ripe and cool mix of various red berries, earth and the barest hint of the *sauvage*. There is a discreet hint of minerality to the vibrant and attractively well-detailed medium-bodied flavors that display a taut muscularity before terminating in a clean, focused and strongly persistent finish. This is quite a bit better than it usually is and a bit more accessible as well. 91/2017+

2011 Pommard "Les Pézerolles": (from a .4 ha parcel planted in 1963). An exceptionally fresh nose of red raspberry, kirsch, wet stone and iron-inflected earth gives way to intense, precise and highly energetic medium-bodied flavors that exude a fine minerality. There is a saline character to the firm and mouth coating finish that displays seamless balance and a lovely sense of harmony. In a word, this is terrific. 92/2019+

2011 Pommard "Les Epenots": (from a .18 ha parcel in Les Petits Epenots planted in 1961). There is a healthy but not truly invasive application of oak framing the red pinot and dark berry fruit aromas that also display wisps of earth, spice and smoke. There is outstanding richness to the generous, fleshy, broad-shouldered and extract-rich flavors where the extract does a fine job of buffering the firm supporting tannins on the moderately austere, balanced and lingering finish. This is excellent and should amply reward extended cellaring. 92/2021+

2011 Pommard "Les Rugiens": (from a .25 ha parcel planted in 1959). Here too the wood isn't subtle but also stops short of dominating the pure and attractively layered red currant, black tea and wet stone aromas. There is really lovely detail to the intense, muscular and stony medium weight flavors that possess good muscle and punch on the beautifully persistent and well-balanced finish. This is not as complex as the Epenots but the underlying material is certainly present to allow it to further develop. 91/2019+

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.

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's 17 California Pinot Noir Selections

2010	Pinot Noir – Harper's Rest	Arista Winery	91
2010	Pinot Noir – Two Birds	Arista Winery	90
2011	Pinot Noir – Angel Camp Vineyard	Dutton-Goldfield Winery	90
2010	Pinot Noir – McDougall Vineyard	Dutton-Goldfield Winery	91
2010	Pinot Noir – Coopersmith	Merry Edwards	90
2010	Pinot Noir – Olivet Lane	Merry Edwards	91
2010	Pinot Noir – Georganne	Merry Edwards	92
2010	Pinot Noir – Bartolomei Vineyard "The Aphorist"	Red Car Wine Company	91
2010	Pinot Noir – Bohemian Station "Heaven & Earth"	Red Car Wine Company	92
2010	Pinot Noir – Estate – Fort Ross - Seaview	Red Car Wine Company	90
2011	Pinot Noir – Sonoma Coast	Reuling Vineyard	90
2010	Pinot Noir – Baranoff Vineyard	Small Vines Wines	91
2010	Pinot Noir – MK Vineyard	Small Vines Wines	90
2010	Pinot Noir – Rincon Vineyard	Talley Vineyards	90
2010	Pinot Noir – Rosemary's Vineyard	Talley Vineyards	92
2010	Pinot Noir – Stone Corral	Talley Vineyards	90
2009	Pinot Noir – River Road Ranch	Trione Vineyards and Winery	90

Alta Maria Vineyards (Santa Maria, CA)

2010	Pinot Noir – Santa Maria Valley	red	88

Alta Maria was founded by longtime friends James Ontiveros and winemaker Paul Wilkins. For further information, contact: 805.686.1144 or visit: www.altamaria.com

2010 Pinot Noir – Santa Maria Valley: (4,200 cases, SRP $28, 14.5%). A moderately high-toned nose of raspberry, cherry, cranberry and spice hints leads to round, supple and accessible middle weight flavors that are somewhat fruit-driven before culminating in a round, velvety and sappy finish that displays slightly rustic tannins. This is presently showing enough oak to notice as well as a touch of warmth. This could already be approached with pleasure though it should reward a few years in the cellar if desired. 88/2016+

Arista Winery (Healdsburg, CA)

2010	Pinot Noir - Ferrington Vineyard	red	89
2010	➽ Pinot Noir - Harper's Rest	red	91
2010	Pinot Noir – Mononi Vineyard	red	89
2010	Pinot Noir – Perli Vineyard	red	88
2010	Pinot Noir – Toboni Vineyard	red	87
2010	➽ Pinot Noir – Two Birds	red	90

Founded in 2002 in Sonoma County, partners John Copeland and Al McWilliams released their first wine in 2003 with the 2002 vintage. For further information contact Mark McWilliams at 707.473.0606 or visit: www.aristawinery.com

2010 Pinot Noir – Ferrington Vineyards: (Anderson Valley, 216 cases, SRP $58, 14.4%). Classic ruby color. This is really quite elegant and pure with various red berry scents, in particular cherry, along with a mix of spice elements. There is a generous, lush, indeed even suave mouth feel to the medium weight flavors that possess good depth and reasonably good length where about the only nit is a hint of warmth. 89/2016+

2010 Pinot Noir – Harper's Rest: (Russian River Valley, estate grown, 123 cases, SRP $75, 14.2%). A completely different aromatic expression is present here with notes of plum, dark berries and briar. There is excellent volume and fine mid-palate concentration to the seductively textured and mouth coating medium-bodied flavors that possess fine depth and length. This is a big if not necessarily refined effort that is vaguely reminiscent of a muscular Corton. 91/2018+

2010 Pinot Noir – Mononi Vineyard: (Russian River Valley, 240 cases, SRP $60, 14.4%). A relatively high-toned nose is composed of cherry, raspberry and cranberry aromas. There is a very lush and opulent character to the extract-rich flavors that possess good if not special complexity, all wrapped in a long, balanced and intense finish. A satisfying wine that could be drunk now or held for further development. 89/2017+

2010 Pinot Noir – Perli Vineyard: (Mendocino Ridge, 240 cases, SRP $52, 14.5%). This is very pinot in character with its very pretty nose of a variety of red berry scents that see top notes of spice and cranberry. There is a fleshy feel to the round and very generous medium full flavors that culminate in a slightly grapey finish that is clean and reasonably dry if not especially complex. I do like the freshness and verve and it's possible that this may develop a bit more depth with 2 to 3 years of bottle age. 88/2016+

2010 Pinot Noir – Toboni Vineyard: (Russian River Valley, 250 cases, SRP $58, 14.5%). A really lovely nose features notes of plum, spice and black cherry that merge gracefully with the supple, round and forward flavors that exhibit noticeable warmth and a bit of tanginess on the finish. While this may harmonize with a year or so of bottle age, it's somewhat disjointed at present. 87/2015+

2010 Pinot Noir – Two Birds: (Russian River Valley, estate grown, 197 cases, SRP $68, 14.2%). This is one of the more elegant wines in the range with its cool and restrained aromas of raspberry and cherry liqueur that display lovely spice hints as well. There is a lush and very round mouth feel to the solidly well-concentrated flavors that possess a clean, balanced and lingering finish. There is only average plus depth but given the amount of underlying material my score assumes that more will develop in time. 90/2017+

Bailiwick Wines (Menlo Park, CA)

2010	Pinot Noir – Borderline Marin County	red	89
2010	Pinot Noir – Foray	red	88
2010	Pinot Noir – Michaud Vineyard	red	87
2010	Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley	red	87
2010	Pinot Noir – Silver Pines Vineyard	red	89
2010	Pinot Noir – Sonoma Coast	red	87

Bailiwick was founded by brothers and former home winemakers Paul and Bryan Vias in 2009 after careers in engineering, high technology and finance. Bailiwick is based in Sonoma and works with fruit sourced from a variety of California vineyards. For further information, call 707.509.0259 or visit: www.bailiwickwines.com

2010 Pinot Noir – Borderline: (Marin County, 100 cases, SRP $36, 14.4%). Gorgeously pure essence of red pinot fruit with discreet spice hints introduces supple, lilting, even delicate light to barely middle weight flavors that possess a highly seductive mouth feel. There is the barest hint of austerity to the clean and agreeably dry finish that offers solid persistence. This is a lighter but impeccably well-balanced effort that should drink well immediately. 89/2015+

2010 Pinot Noir – Foray: (Russian River Valley, Sonoma County, 140 cases, SRP $40, 14.4%). A lovely and very pinot nose of various red berries, earth and a hint of anise gives way to round, supple and very forward medium-bodied flavors that possess only average depth, all wrapped in an attractively persistent if ever-so-slightly bitter finish. There is enough underlying structure to suggest 3 to 5 years of upside development potential which should allow the soupçon of tartness to round out. 88/2016+

2010 Pinot Noir – Michaud Vineyard: (Chalone, Monterey County, 120 cases, SRP $44, 14.9%). There is a hint of smoke to the exotic tea, red pinot and dark berry fruit nose. There is a lovely mouth feel to the middle weight flavors that possess a dusty and slightly somber finish of moderate depth and length. There is enough warmth to notice though keeping the wine at the appropriate serving temperature helps considerably to dampen it. 87/2016+

2010 Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley: (350 cases, SRP $36, 14.3%). An expressive nose of red currant and freshly crushed cherries leads to cool, detailed and relatively sophisticated, even silky light weight flavors that are supported by notably fine-grained tannins. While I very much like the style and the delivery, one wishes for more content. This should drink well almost immediately. 87/2014+

2010 Pinot Noir – Silver Pines Vineyard: (Sonoma Mountain, Sonoma County, 140 cases, SRP $44, 14.2%). Here the nose is quite similar to that of the Russian River Valley cuvée with the same stylish, pure and supple flavor profile though in this case there is better depth and more evident structure on the mildly austere and ever-so-slightly tart finish. This should reward a few years in the cellar and I like the balance. 89/2016+

2010 Pinot Noir – Sonoma Coast: (Sonoma County, 270 cases, SRP $36, 14.8%). Compared to its relatively expressive stable mates, this is on the restrained side with a mildly fruity nose of cranberries and cherries with a top note of menthol. There is a smooth, even lush mouth feel to the suave medium weight flavors that possess good vibrancy but limited depth on the noticeably warm finish though again it's possible to moderate this by keeping it cool. 87/2014+

Cambria Winery (Santa Maria, CA)

2010	**Pinot Noir – Barbara's Clone 667**	**red**	**87**
2010	**Pinot Noir – Clone 164**	**red**	**85**
2010	**Pinot Noir – Julia's Vineyard**	**red**	**87**

Proprietor Barbara Banke acquired a large portion of the original Tepusquet Vineyard (planted between 1970 and 1971) in 1986 to serve as the site for Cambria Winery. Over the last two decades the vineyard has been expanded, replanted and updated with new clones and rootstocks. There are a total of 483 acres of pinot planted. Winemaker Denise Shurtleff joined Cambria in 1999. For further information, contact 888.339.9463 or visit: www.cambriawines.com.

2010 Pinot Noir – Barbara's Clone 667: (Santa Maria Valley, 297 cases, SRP $80, 15%). A spicy if not especially complex nose of red and dark berry fruit, exotic tea and sandalwood aromas leads to very round, suave and supple flavors that possess an opulent mouth feel before culminating in a dusty and moderately long finish. There is some warmth and a hint of bitterness but this manages to carry its alcohol reasonably well. 87/2015+

2010 Pinot Noir – Clone 164: (Santa Maria Valley, 262 cases, 14.6%). This is both fresher and a bit more aromatically elegant with pretty red berry fruit and spice nuances. There is a distinctly fruity character to the sweet and slightly cloying flavors that display limited depth and length as well as a trace of warmth. This is not for me. 85/now

2010 Pinot Noir – Julia's Vineyard: (Santa Maria Valley, SRP $25, 14.6%). This is the prettiest and most elegant of the three wines in the range with its expressive nose of both red and blue pinot fruit, spice and soft floral elements. There is good verve and reasonably good detail to the refined middle weight flavors that possess limited complexity though I do like the texture on the persistent and mildly austere finish. 87/2015+

Cobb Wines (Cazadero, CA)

2009	**Pinot Noir – Jack Hill Vineyard**	**red**	**88**
2009	**Pinot Noir – Joy Road Vineyard**	**red**	**89**

David Cobb oversees the vineyards, Stephen Cobb handles business matters and Ross Cobb is responsible for the winemaking. For further information contact (707) 981-8381 or visit: www.cobbwines.com

2009 Pinot Noir – Jack Hill Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 140 cases, 13.5%). A very pure and attractively fresh nose of cool but ripe aromas of black cherry and essence of red berries that display liqueur-like nuances leads to supple and textured middle weight flavors that are supported by admirably fine-grained tannins. There is fine length though not necessarily superior depth and this is sufficiently pliable that one could easily enjoy it now. 88/2016+

2009 Pinot Noir – Joy Road Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 270 cases, 12.8%). This is also agreeably pure and fresh with the same cool but ripe aromas of cherry and raspberry scents that are trimmed in soft spices. This is also quite supple and forward with a silky mouth feel to the barely middle weight flavors that culminate in a precise, focused, clean and delicious finish that displays lovely balance. Again, this is not particularly complex but I do like the style. 89/2015+

Dutton-Goldfield Winery (Sebastopol, CA)

2011	**➽ Pinot Noir – Angel Camp Vineyard**	**red**	**90**
2011	**Pinot Noir – Dutton Ranch**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Pinot Noir – Dutton Ranch Emerald Ridge Vineyard**	**red**	**89**
2010	**Pinot Noir – Devil's Gulch Vineyard**	**red**	**88**
2010	**Pinot Noir – Fox Den Vineyard**	**red**	**89**
2010	**➽ Pinot Noir – McDougall Vineyard**	**red**	**91**

Dutton-Goldfield Winery was founded in 1998 by longtime colleagues and friends Steve Dutton and Dan Goldfield, with the latter serving as winemaker. Dutton Ranch is a collection of over 60 non-contiguous parcels in Russian River Valley that comprise approximately 1,300 acres of land that they own, lease or manage. About 1,150 of these acres are planted to grapes. For further information, contact: 707.823.3887 or visit www.duttongoldfield.com.

2011 Pinot Noir – Dutton Ranch: (Russian River Valley, 2,486 cases, SRP $40, 13.5%). Dark pinot fruit, spice, plum and soft floral elements introduce round, velvety and delicious middle weight flavors that possess an opulent but not heavy mouth feel before culminating in a lingering, mouth coating and well-balanced finish that is both clean and dry. I like both the style and the delivery though a bit more depth would be a big plus. Note that this could easily be enjoyed now. 88/2016+

2011 Pinot Noir – Dutton Ranch Emerald Ridge Vineyard: (Russian River Valley, 391 cases, SRP $58, 13.8%). A ripe, spicy and pretty mix of plum, cassis and black cherry leads to impressively rich and voluminous medium-bodied flavors that possess a very suave and lush mouth feel. There is solid complexity and verve and about the only nit is a slight touch of backend warmth. A generous and satisfying pinot that could easily be enjoyed almost immediately. 89/2016+

2011 Pinot Noir – Angel Camp Vineyard: (Anderson Valley, 214 cases, SRP $58, 13.8%). Initially this was quite expressive but with extended aeration the nose became increasingly restrained with grudging aromas of spice, plum, violets and dark currants. There is a really lovely mouth feel to the attractively supple yet nicely delineated middle weight flavors that possess a lush mouth feel before culminating in a moderately complex but persistent and well-balanced finish. This is certainly pretty and if it can add depth it will more than merit my score, which currently extends the benefit of the doubt. 90/2017+

2010 Pinot Noir – Devil's Gulch Vineyard: (Marin County, 394 cases, SRP $58, 13.5%). This is compositionally similar to the Fox Den Vineyard though here the green tea element is more pronounced. The notably supple and round medium full flavors are underpinned by a ripe core of tannins that impart a dusty mouth feel to the slightly grapey finish. This is certainly delicious and generously proportioned but it needs a bit more depth to be at the next level. 88/2017+

2010 Pinot Noir – Fox Den Vineyard: (Green Valley of Russian River Valley, 392 cases, SRP $58, 13.5%). A spicy, ripe and cool nose features notes of black cherry, cassis and kirsch plus a hint of green tea. There is good volume to the velvety and suave middle weight flavors that possess a hint of warmth on the otherwise delicious and well-balanced finish. There is good depth and fine length and this is a wine that could already be enjoyed or held for further development. 89/2017+

2010 Pinot Noir – McDougall Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 239 cases, SRP $58, 13.5%). This is more aromatically reserved than its two 2010 stable mates with a somber nose of ripe plum and various dark berry fruit scents that exude the same spicy character. There is good volume to the silky-textured flavors thanks to the notably fine-grained supporting tannins on the firm, dusty and mouth coating finish that delivers fine length. This will also need to add a bit of depth but I like the balance and my score offers the benefit of the doubt that more complexity will emerge with time. 91/2018+

Kendric Vineyards (Novato, CA)

2009	**Pinot Noir**	**red**	**89**

Kendric Vineyards is a small family operation run by the husband-wife duo of Eileen Burke and Stewart Johnson. Johnson handles all aspects of production - from planting and farming the vineyards, to making the wine and marketing it. Named after Stewart's father, Kendric Johnson, "to honor his memory and impose his high personal standards..." - hence they didn't release a 2003 vintage because it "didn't measure up." For further information, contact 415.806.4944 or visit: www.kendricvineyards.com

2009 Pinot Noir: (Marin County, 60% whole cluster, 580 cases, SRP $36, 13.9%). Light ruby. A very pretty, attractively fresh and spicy nose of pure essence of red pinot fruit that displays fine complexity merges seamlessly into detailed, vibrant and utterly delicious medium-bodied flavors that possess a refined mouth feel. This supple and perfectly ready effort is balanced, clean and refreshing and while the finish can't match the complexity of the nose, this is really quite good. Note that this could be held in the cellar for a few more years if desired though it has basically arrived on the front edge of its peak drinkability. 89/now+

Ladd Cellars (Sonoma, CA)

2008	**Pinot Noir – Cuvée Abigail**	**red**	**87**
2008	**Pinot Noir – Moore Ranch**	**red**	**88**

Founded by Eric Ladd to honor the vision and spirit of his great-great grandparents who came to California in the 1850's and discovered gold. For further information visit: www.laddcellars.com

2008 Pinot Noir – Cuvée Abigail: (Sonoma Coast, 13.9%). A fruity and mildly grapey nose of mostly dark berries and a touch of spice introduces equally fruity, round and moderately suave medium-bodied flavors that offer good volume in a forward and supple package. This is pretty if not especially complex with a mildly tangy finish. This should drink well early yet offer a few years of development potential. 87/2015+

2008 Pinot Noir – Moore Ranch: (Russian River Valley, 14.1%). This is also quite fruity but not necessarily grapey with red berry scents that includes hints of raspberry, cherry and cranberry. There is lovely detail to the very supple and forward flavors that are fully accessible, indeed suave is an apt descriptor, and while there isn't a lot of depth, I like the delivery and persistence on the ever-so-mildly dry finish. Still, this is more of a nit and with food it's unlikely to be an issue. 88/2014+

Laetitia Vineyard & Winery (Arroyo Grande, CA)

2010	**Pinot Noir – Estate**	**red**	**87**
2010	**Pinot Noir – Reserve du Domaine**	**red**	**87**
2010	**Pinot Noir – Whole Cluster**	**red**	**89**
2009	**Pinot Noir – La Colline**	**red**	**89**
2009	**Pinot Noir – La Coupelle**	**red**	**88**
2009	**Pinot Noir – Les Galets**	**red**	**88**

The Laetitia Estate Vineyard was planted in 1982. With a long history that includes the purchase of Maison Deutz in 1997 when the winery was re-named Laetitia and the focus began to change from sparkling to still wine. The winery was then acquired by a partnership that included Selim Zikha and in 2001 Zikha obtained sole ownership. The winemaker is Eric Hickey. For further information, contact 805.481.1772 or visit: www.laetitiawine.com

2010 Pinot Noir – Estate: (Arroyo Grande Valley, 18,000 cases, SRP $25, 14.1%). Initially the nose is quite reserved but 20 minutes or so of air reveals a ripe and relatively deeply pitched nose of dark berries, plum, cassis and a background hint of anise. There is reasonably good volume to the attractively rich and round middle weight flavors that possess good length if limited depth on the finish where a touch of wood surfaces. 87/2015+

2010 Pinot Noir – Reserve du Domaine: (Arroyo Grande Valley, 1,200 cases, SRP $40, 14.3%). An attractively layered nose features notes of plum, dark cherries, spice and black currants. The delicious, round and quite supple medium weight flavors possess good vibrancy and good delineation before terminating in a moderately complex finish that displays just a hint of acid tang though it is agreeably dry in the best sense. 87/2015+

2010 Pinot Noir – Whole Cluster: (Arroyo Grande Valley, 300 cases, SRP $40, 14.5%). There is a distinct floral character to the elegant and pure nose that mixes a variety of red berry fruit and spice scents. The medium-bodied flavors possess good energy and fine detail as well as a sleek muscularity before culminating in a dusty, mouth coating and persistent finish of moderate depth and length. I like the style and it's possible that this could surprise to the upside if it can develop more depth with a few years of bottle age. 89/2016+

2009 Pinot Noir - La Colline: (Arroyo Grande Valley, 220 cases, SRP $60, 13.3%). A ripe and moderately grapey nose is given a bit of added breadth from the presence of spice and earth elements. There is good volume and solid mid-palate concentration to the round and supple middle weight flavors that are supported by buried tannins on the moderately persistent but well-balanced finish. The grapey character of the nose shows up on the finish as well but there is enough underlying material to suggest that this may very well add depth with time in bottle. 89/2017+

2009 Pinot Noir – La Coupelle: (Arroyo Grande Valley, 290 cases, SRP $60, 14.7%). A markedly ripe nose of very dark pinot fruit, cassis and spiced plum aromas introduces very round, supple and impressively rich full-bodied flavors that possess admirably good mid-palate concentration and excellent volume. There is moderately good depth but fine length and while there is a noticeable touch of warmth, this manages to carry its alcohol relatively well. This will most please those who enjoy robust and muscular power pinot though it's not really for me. 88/2017+

2009 Pinot Noir – Les Galets: (Arroyo Grande Valley, 276 cases, SRP $60, 14.2%). A notably ripe nose of menthol and black cherry that exhibit background hints of cough syrup lead to round, generous and velvety medium-bodied flavors that possess a suave texture. There is fine volume and solid concentration to the mid-palate, all wrapped in a sappy and persistent finish that offers good but not truly special complexity. This could be drunk now or held for a few more years. 88/2015+

MacPhail Family Wines (Healdsburg, CA)

2010	**Pinot Noir – Gap's Crown Vineyard**	**red**	**87**
2010	**Pinot Noir – Sangiacomo Vineyard**	**red**	**82**
2010	**Pinot Noir – Wildcat Vineyard**	**red**	**82**

This operation was founded in 2002 by James MacPhail though the winery didn't open until 2008. The annual production is now about 5,000 cases, most of which are sold directly to the consumer. All wines are bottled unfined and unfiltered. In 2011 Hess Collection acquired MacPhail Family Wines. I have in the past enjoyed the MacPhail wines but this group was not at the usual quality level. For further information, contact (707) 433.4780 or visit: www.macphailwines.com

2010 Pinot Noir – Gap's Crown Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 775 cases, SRP $49, 14%). There is noticeable reduction so definitely decant this if you're going to try a bottle young. There is a spicy component to the mid-palate of the round and sappy middle weight flavors that exhibit a somewhat dry and tangy finish that is on the fruit-driven side. I let this sit for an hour and the reduction largely if not completely dissipated. The finish however remained somewhat difficult and my score offers the benefit of the doubt that this will harmonize with a year or two of bottle age. 87/2016+

2010 Pinot Noir – Sangiacomo Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 275 cases, SRP $49, 13.9%). Here the nose was seriously reduced with mercaptans and even extended aeration did not completely eliminate the funk. There is good vibrancy to the middle weight flavors that possess relatively fine-grained tannins but the reduction shows up on the finish as does a trace of bitterness. Assuming that this bottle was representative, it's hard to see this recovering. 82/?

2010 Pinot Noir – Wildcat Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 250 cases, SRP $49, 14.9%). This displayed the same problems as the Sangiacomo and once again extended aeration ameliorated but did not eliminate the problems. I would characterize this in the same fashion, e.g. assuming that this bottle was representative, it's hard to see this recovering. There were no duplicate samples provided. 82/?

Merry Edwards (Sebastopol, CA)

2010	➽ Pinot Noir – Coopersmith	red	90
2010	➽ Pinot Noir – Olivet Lane	red	91
2010	➽ Pinot Noir – Georganne	red	92

Merry Edwards began her winemaking career in 1974 and founded her namesake winery in 1997. For more information visit: www.merryedwards.com or call 888.388.9050.

2010 Pinot Noir – Coopersmith: (Russian River Valley, 670 cases, SRP $60, 14.1%). A ripe and expressive nose of plum, dark cherry, spice and a hint of mocha gives way to rich, supple and attractively textured medium weight flavors. There is a dusty and restrained mouth feel to the solidly complex finish that is both persistent and well-balanced. This is presently ever-so-slightly grapey but it should develop well as the underlying material is certainly present to allow it to do so. 90/2016+

2010 Pinot Noir – Olivet Lane: (Russian River Valley, the vines are nearly 40 years old, 780 cases, SRP $62, 14.2%). Here too there are notes of plum, spice and dark cherry that exhibit even better aromatic depth. The rich, delicious and equally deep middle weight flavors are underpinned by robust tannins before they terminate in an impressively long finish where the only nit is a hint of warmth. This is well worth considering. 91/2017+

2010 Pinot Noir – Georganne: (Russian River Valley, 345 cases, SRP $57, 14.4%). While compositionally similar, this offers another small step up in aromatic elegance and complexity. There is a lush, even seductive mouth feel to the reasonably well-delineated medium full flavors that display seriously good depth on the balanced and lingering finish. There is also a trace of warmth present but it's not enough to material detract from the overall appeal of this lovely effort. 92/2017+

Native^{9} (Santa Maria, CA)

2010	Pinot Noir – Rancho Ontiveros Vineyard	red	89

The inaugural commercial release of this wine was in 2004 for James Ontiveros and consulting winemaker Paul Wilkins. The 8-acre Rancho Ontiveros Vineyard was planted in 1997 and 1998. For further information, contact 805.686.1144 or visit: www.native9wine.com

2010 Pinot Noir – Rancho Ontiveros Vineyard: (Santa Maria Valley, Rancho Ontiveros Vineyards, 75% whole cluster, 310 cases, SRP $64, 14.5%). An elegant, pure and distinctly floral nose features notes of spice, cassis, plum, dark cherries and a hint of earth. There is good volume and concentration to the medium weight flavors that brim with dry extract on the mouth coating, opulent and mocha-infused finish where touches of warmth and youthful asperity show up. This is admirably dense though opinions will vary as to whether the mocha character is a plus or a minus. However one feels about that, this is definitely a dramatic, powerful and concentrated effort though it's not top heavy. 89/2017+

Red Car Wine Company (Sebastopol, CA)

2010	➽ Pinot Noir – Bartolomei Vineyard "The Aphorist"	red	91
2010	➽ Pinot Noir – Bohemian Station "Heaven & Earth"	red	92
2010	Pinot Noir – Doc's Ranch Vineyard	red	89
2010	➽ Pinot Noir – Estate – Fort Ross – Seaview	red	90
2010	Pinot Noir – Falstaff Vineyard	red	86?
2010	Pinot Noir – Platt Vineyard "Dreamland"	red	89

Red Car was founded by Carroll Kemp and Mark Estrin in 2000 (the latter passing in 2005). They picked the name as a tribute to the streetcars of Southern California from the first 60 years of the 20th century. The "red cars" provided transportation in a romanticized time and place – the sentiment behind their wines. With their shared Hollywood background, each label, front and back, has its own novella. You can find more information about them on their web-site. Red Car's winery is located in Santa Maria and the main office is in Culver City, California. Call 213.229.2800 or visit: www.redcarwine.com

2010 Pinot Noir – Bartolomei Vineyard "The Aphorist": (Sonoma Coast, 8% stems, 440 cases, 13.7%). A beautifully fresh and attractively well-layered nose of both red and dark berry liqueur aroma enjoys added breadth in the form of plum, violet and spice hints. There is fine intensity to the delineated, pure and concentrated medium-bodied flavors that possess good verve as well as excellent volume on the balanced and lingering finish. There is a slightly grapey character to the mid-palate that is largely offset by a hint of austerity and overall, this is well worth considering. 91/2017+

2010 Pinot Noir – Bohemian Station "Heaven & Earth": (Sonoma Coast, 10% stems, 335 cases, 13.6%). This is slightly more aromatically elegant with its pure essence of red berries, floral nuances and whiff of spice. There is a lilting and very sophisticated mouth feel to the fresh and vibrant middle weight flavors that display good detail on the wonderfully long and balanced finish. This is less concentrated and powerful than The Aphorist but it's finer. Good stuff here. 92/2016+

2010 Pinot Noir – Doc's Ranch Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 12.4%). An ultra-fresh and again admirably pure nose primarily features red pinot fruit aromas that are cut with red currant, plum and sandalwood nuances. Here too there is a lovely and refined mouth feel to the detailed, vibrant and delicious medium full flavors that are not quite as complex but offer a fine sense of balance on the lingering finish where a hint of asperity arises. My score assumes that this will round off with a few years of bottle age as there is the underlying material to allow it to do so. 89/2017+

2010 Pinot Noir – Estate – Fort Ross - Seaview: (Sonoma Coast, 10% stems, 160 cases, 13.7%). A beautifully layered nose offers up notes of plum, violets, cinnamon and sandalwood before sliding gracefully into the round and almost soft medium weight flavors that possess a silky and seductive mouth feel. The supporting tannins are exceptionally fine-grained and while the mid-palate is quite supple, the finish firms up substantially to suggest that this will need 3 to 5 years of cellaring before it's completely ready to reveal its full potential. 90/2017+

2010 Pinot Noir – Falstaff Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 25 cases, 12.7%). There is enough reduction to render the nose impossible to evaluate and there is quite a bit of gas on the palate. Extended aeration dissipates much of the funk to reveal a mix of red berry fruit aromas that include cranberry and cherry and most of the gas disappears though the overall showing was still mildly problematic. No backup sample was provided. 86?/2014+

2010 Pinot Noir – Platt Vineyard "Dreamland": (Sonoma Coast, 10% stems, 25 cases, 13.1%). A restrained, pure and extremely pretty nose displays a variety of red berry fruit scents as well as spice, dried floral and oak nuances. There is fine detail and plenty of verve to the solidly complex if slightly somber flavors that deliver good intensity on the balanced and persistent finish. This should reward 3 to 4 years of additional bottle age. 89/2016+

Reuling Vineyard (Forestville, CA)

2011	**➽ Pinot Noir – Sonoma Coast**	**red**	**90**

2011 is the inaugural release for Reuling. Founders Jackie and Tim founded their namesake Reuling Vineyard in 1998 and planted 12.2 acres of pinot noir in 2000. After selling fruit to Peter Michael and Aubert for ten years, they made the decision to produce their own wines. The winemaker is Matt Taylor. For more information visit: www.reulingvineyard.com or call 707.820.1052.

2011 Pinot Noir – Sonoma Coast: (25% whole cluster, unfined and unfiltered, 500 cases, SRP $70, 14%). An expressive and attractively layered nose is comprised of dark berry liqueur, menthol and soft spice nuances. There is very good concentration to the suave and opulent large-scaled flavors that brim with dry extract before terminating in a mouth coating finish that offers fine depth and excellent persistence. This is not an especially elegant wine, indeed it's robust and muscular but for those who enjoy power pinot in a style that is not over the top, this would make a good choice. 90/2018+

Rochioli Vineyards and Winery (Sebastopol, CA)

2010	**Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley**	**red**	**89**

In 1938 Joe Rochioli, Sr. purchased the land he was farming in the Russian River Valley and in 1982 produced 150 cases of pinot noir. The winery is now run by Joe Rochioli, Jr. and his son Tom (who also serves as winemaker). It now produces around 10,000 cases annually. Sixty-four of their 162 acres of vineyard plantings are devoted to pinot noir. The wines are available through "The List" on their website – but note that there is a lengthy backlog of prospective clients. For further information, contact: 707.433.2305 or visit: www.rochioliwinery.com

2010 Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley: (Estate fruit, 1,785 cases, SRP $65, 14.5%). A notably ripe nose of menthol, dark berry fruit and green tea aromas introduces delicious and solidly well-concentrated middle weight flavors that possess very good if not truly distinguished complexity. I like the balance and persistence and this could already be drunk with pleasure if desired though it should also reward mid-term cellaring. 89/2017+

Small Vines Wines (Sebastopol, CA)

2010	**Pinot Noir**	**red**	**89**
2010	**➽ Pinot Noir – Baranoff Vineyard**	**red**	**91**
2010	**➽ Pinot Noir – MK Vineyard**	**red**	**90**

From owners Paul and Kathryn Sloan who founded Small Vines in 1998 with their first release in 2007 (vintage 2005). Their range continues to grow steadily as their new high density planted vineyard holdings come into production. They recommend if you are going to open a bottle young, be sure to decant it. For further information contact: 707.823.0886 or visit: www.smallvines.com

2010 Pinot Noir: (Russian River Valley, estate grown, 263 cases, SRP $55, 14.2%). An admirably pure and fresh essence of dark cherry and raspberry fruit aromas slides gracefully into delicious and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors. There is plenty of mouth coating extract that imparts a velvety mouth feel to the balanced and lingering finish that offers a perfectly good if not truly special level of complexity. 89/2017+

2010 Pinot Noir – Baranoff Vineyard: (Russian River Valley, vineyard planted in 2001, 100 cases, SRP $72, 14.2%). Here the nose is compositionally similar to that of the straight pinot cuvée but with a bit more spice and overall complexity. The delicious, round and lush medium full flavors possess very good volume and again plenty of mouth coating dry extract, all wrapped in a dusty and well-balanced finish. This is lovely and should amply reward medium to longer-term storage. 91/2018+

2010 Pinot Noir – MK Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, planted in 1999, 150 cases, SRP $72, 14.1%). This is exceptionally pretty with attractively spicy aromas of plum, black cherry and sandalwood. There is a lovely mouth feel to the extract-rich flavors that are underpinned by ripe tannins on the solidly persistent finish that doesn't display quite the same depth though it's entirely possible that more will develop as there is certainly the underlying material to do so. Worth considering. 90/2018+

Talley Vineyards (Arroyo Grande, CA)

2010	**➽ Pinot Noir – Rincon Vineyard**	**red**	**90**
2010	**➽ Pinot Noir – Rosemary's Vineyard**	**red**	**92**
2010	**➽ Pinot Noir – Stone Corral**	**red**	**90**

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

2010 Pinot Noir – Rincon Vineyard: (Arroyo Grande Valley, 450 cases, SRP $58, 14.6%). An agreeably fresh and admirably pure nose of cherry, raspberry and spice aromas introduce vibrant and solidly well-concentrated flavors that display a lush, even seductive mouth feel. There is really lovely complexity to the rising, balanced and persistent finish that leaves you wanting another sip. Worth your consideration. 90/2017+

2010 Pinot Noir – Rosemary's Vineyard: (Arroyo Grande Valley, 395 cases, SRP $70, 14%). This is the most complex of the three wines reviewed here with a really lovely and broad-ranging nose of red and blue pinot fruit, black cherry, cinnamon and sandalwood elements. There is equally good depth to the supple, round and utterly delicious medium-bodied flavors that possess a highly seductive texture on the dusty, mouth coating and wonderfully persistent finish. This is classic Rosemary's and one to look for. 92/2017+

2010 Pinot Noir – Stone Corral Vineyard: (Edna Valley, 210 cases, SRP $50, 14%). This is also quite fresh and attractively pure with a distinctly spicy nose of red and black pinot fruit and exotic black tea scents. There is good volume to the relatively accessible and forward medium weight flavors that possess a refined mouth feel thanks to the fine grain of the supporting tannins on the balanced and lingering finish. This is not as powerful as the Rincon but it's finer. A qualitative choice but both are worth thinking about. 90/2016+

Trione Vineyards and Winery (Sonoma, CA)

2009	**➽ Pinot Noir – River Road Ranch**	**red**	**90**

The Trione Family, with over three decades of winemaking behind them, farm over 650 acres of vineyards. The winemaker for Trione is Scot Covington. For further information visit: www.trionewinery.com or call 707.814.8100.

2009 Pinot Noir – River Road Ranch: (Russian River Valley, 20% whole cluster, 1,114 cases, SRP $35, 14.2%). A reserved but attractively well-layered nose of dark berries, plum, spice and soft dried flower elements leads to solidly rich and voluminous medium-bodied flavors that possess very good mid-palate concentration. The suave mouth feel is enhanced by the presence of plenty of tannin-buffering dry extract that pushes the structure to the background on the impressively complex, long and lengthy finish. This is a lovely and altogether harmonious effort this is worth a look. 90/2016+

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.

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's 19 Oregon Pinot Noir Selections

2010	**Pinot Noir – Gehrts Vineyard**	**Arterberry Maresh**	**90**
2010	**Pinot Noir – Maresh Vineyard**	**Arterberry Maresh**	**91**
2010	**Pinot Noir – "Loie's" Maresh Vineyard**	**Arterberry Maresh**	**92**
2010	**Pinot Noir – Weber Vineyard**	**Arterberry Maresh**	**91**
2010	**Pinot Noir – Dundee Hills**	**Arterberry Maresh**	**91**
2010	**Pinot Noir – Maresh Vineyard**	**Arterberry Maresh**	**90**
2010	**Pinot Noir – Temperance Hill**	**Brooks Wines**	**90**
2010	**Pinot Noir – La Nuit Magique**	**Erath Winery**	**91**
2010	**Pinot Noir - Cuvée J**	**Evesham Wood Vineyards & Winery**	**92**
2010	**Pinot Noir - Illahe Vineyard**	**Evesham Wood Vineyards & Winery**	**90**
2009	**Pinot Noir - Cuvée J**	**Evesham Wood Vineyards & Winery**	**93**

2009	Pinot Noir - Illahe Vineyard	Evesham Wood Vineyards & Winery	91
2009	Pinot Noir - Le Puits Sec	Evesham Wood Vineyards & Winery	92
2009	Pinot Noir - Temperance Hill Vineyard	Evesham Wood Vineyards & Winery	91
2010	Pinot Noir – Bjornson Vineyard	Haden Fig	90
2010	Pinot Noir – Cancilla Vineyard	Haden Fig	90
2010	Pinot Noir – Équinox	Le Cadeau Wines	90
2010	Pinot Noir – Cathy's Reserve	Stoller Vineyards	90
2010	Pinot Noir – SV Estate	Stoller Vineyards	91

Arterberry Maresh (Dayton, OR)

2010	➽ Pinot Noir – Gehrts Vineyard	red	90
2010	➽ Pinot Noir – Maresh Vineyard	red	91
2010	➽ Pinot Noir – "Loie's" Maresh Vineyard	red	92
2010	➽Pinot Noir – Weber Vineyard	red	91
2009	➽ Pinot Noir – Dundee Hills	red	91
2009	➽ Pinot Noir – Maresh Vineyard	red	90

From winemaker Jim Arterberry Maresh. Their vines are non-irrigated and wines are bottled unfined and unfiltered. Note that if you're going to try one of these very serious pinots young, be sure to allow for at least an hour of aeration as they were noticeably better the next day. For more information call 503.434.7689 or visit: www.arterberrymaresh.com

2010 Pinot Noir – Gehrts Vineyard: (Dundee Hills, vines were planted in 1993, SRP $55, 12.9%). Pale ruby. The intensely floral nose of high-toned red pinot fruit serves as an elegant introduction to the vibrant and agreeably fresh middle weight flavors that display really lovely detail on the clean, focused and balanced finish. This is dry in the best sense with a lightness on the palate that is lovely, indeed this could easily evoke comparisons with a fine Chambolle due to its admirable level of finesse. 90/2016+

2010 Pinot Noir – Maresh Vineyard: (Dundee Hills, from 9 acres of vines planted in 1970, 1974 and 1983, SRP $58, 12.6%). This is more deeply pitched than the Gehrts with a more complex mix of mostly red berry fruit though there is a touch of dark berry present as well along with notes of briar, spice and soft floral elements. There is fine mid-palate concentration to the refined middle weight flavors that possess a seductive mouth feel before culminating in a vibrant, well-balanced and beautifully persistent finish. This is good stuff that is built to reward medium-term cellaring. 91/2017+

2010 Pinot Noir – "Loie's" Maresh Vineyard: (Dundee Hills, a bottling to honor Maresh's late grandmother with much of the proceeds donated to the Loie Maresh Reading Foundation at Dundee Elementary School, produced in years where there are enough for 100% shot clusters, all handpicked by Maresh himself, only 20 cases, SRP $98, 12.6%). This is also pale ruby. The expressive nose is pure, airy and ultra-refined while exhibiting notes of cherry and red pinot fruit aromas that are enveloped by a wonderful array of floral characters. There is a real sense of underlying tension that imparts energy to the beautifully well-delineated flavors that, in the same fashion as the Gehrts, are light on the palate yet deliver wonderful flavor authority and focus on the refreshing, intense and again beautifully balanced finish. This will best please those who appreciate finesse rather than power pinot but if you enjoy that style, then this is worth making a special effort to find. 92/2017+

2010 Pinot Noir – Weber Vineyard: (Dundee Hills, vines were planted in 1983, SRP $55, 12.8%). This is also quite restrained with its aromas of cool, pure and layered red pinot fruit, sandalwood, violet, spice and lavender scents. There is absolutely a terrific sense of purity and refinement to the beautifully vibrant medium weight flavors that deliver the same outstanding focus and authority, all wrapped in a firm, long and serious finish. I very much like the style but there is excellent content as well and this should amply reward mid-term cellaring though it's hard not to enjoy now. 91/2018+

2009 Pinot Noir – Maresh Vineyard: (Dundee Hills, from 9 acres of vines planted in 1970, 1974 and 1983, 13%). A very fresh, cool and expressive nose is composed of menthol, red berry fruit, spice hints and exotic tea aromas. There is good verve to the middle weight flavors that manage to be generous yet retain a good sense of delineation before terminating in a balanced, lingering and mouth coating finish. This clearly has upside development potential yet is also sufficiently accessible that it could be enjoyed now. 90/2016+

2009 Pinot Noir – Dundee Hills: (13%). Here the nose is similar to that of the Dundee Hills cuvée but without the menthol nuances. There is really lovely detail and plenty of vibrancy to the rich, intense and utterly delicious medium-bodied flavors that coat the mouth with dry extract, all wrapped in a balanced and lingering finish where a hint of mocha surfaces. This is a bit riper than its 2010 counterpart and is also well worth considering. Note that this is sufficiently forward that it too could be enjoyed now. 91/2016+

Brooks Wines (Amity, OR)

2011	Pinot Noir	red	88
2011	Pinot Noir – Runaway Red	red	88
2010	Pinot Noir – Janus	red	89
2010	➽ Pinot Noir – Temperance Hill	red	90

The winery was founded in 1998 by Jimi Brooks and upon his passing in 2004, his young son Pascal became the sole owner. His aunt Janie Brooks Heuck is the Managing Director and Chris Williams is the winemaker. For more information, contact: 503.435.1278 or visit www.brookswines.com

2011 Pinot Noir: (Willamette Valley, 12.6%). A very pretty, even elegant nose that offers lovely complexity, features notes of red and dark berries along with spice and briar nuances that add breadth. There is a smooth and polished mouth feel thanks to the silky tannins and the medium weight flavors offer good verve if only moderate depth and length on the otherwise well-balanced finish. 88/2015+

2011 Pinot Noir – Runaway Red: (Willamette Valley, 12.4%). This is also quite pretty with a perfumed nose of cool and airy red pinot fruit, spice and a hint of dried flowers. There is a lilting quality to the light to barely medium weight flavors that retain a fine sense of delineation on the lean, balanced and linear finish. I like the agreeable dry and refreshing finale as it invites another sip. 88/2015+

2010 Pinot Noir - Janus: (Willamette Valley, 12.2%). A more deeply pitched nose blends notes of red currants, briar and earth where the latter is softly reflected by the polished, round and very suave middle weight flavors that possess a sophisticated mouth feel. There is good depth of material as the mid-palate is a bit more concentrated and this will require another year or two of cellar time to realize its full potential. Good quality here. 89/2016+

2010 Pinot Noir – Temperance Hill: (Eola-Amity Hills, 11.8 %). An ultra-elegant, perfumed and spicy nose offers up notes of pure essence of red pinot fruit along with floral, anise and cinnamon nuances. There is really lovely delineation and vibrancy to the equally pure medium weight flavors that culminate in a clean, delicious and saline-inflected finish. I like both the style and the balance here and this should reward 4 to 6 years of cellar time if you can refrain from drinking it now. 90/2017+

Cornerstone Cellars (Yamhill, OR)

2010	Pinot Noir	red	86
2010	Pinot Noir – Stepping Stone	red	85

In 1991 Memphis physicians Dr. Michael Dragutsky and Dr. David Sloas began their winemaking careers with purchased grapes from Howell Mountain. Cornerstone Cellars produces cabs in Napa Valley and pinots in Willamette Valley. Cornerstone Oregon is a collaboration with Craig Camp and Oregon winemaker Tony Rynders of Domaine Serene. They will be sharing a winery with Rynders just outside of Gaston. For more information call 707.945.0388 or visit: www.cornerstonecellars.com

2010 Pinot Noir: (Willamette Valley, 13.5%). A very spicy nose of red currant, briar and raspberries also displays hints of cinnamon and sandalwood. There is an odd tar character to the round and supple medium-bodied flavors that terminate in a mildly bitter and tangy finish. As the description suggests, this is awkward and disjointed today. Optimists could age this and see what develops. 86/2016+

2010 Pinot Noir – Stepping Stone: (Willamette Valley, 13.5%). This isn't as spicy but it's a bit more complex if otherwise similar. There is a slightly finer texture to the middle weight flavors that possess good volume and concentration, all wrapped in a dusty and mouth coating finish where the same tar component and trace of bitterness are present and a bit more pronounced. I'm not sure how this will develop but it's not very interesting today. 85/2016+

Erath Winery (Dundee, OR)

2010	Pinot Noir – Battle Creek	red	87
2010	Pinot Noir – Bishop Creek	red	88
2010	Pinot Noir – Dion	red	87
2010	Pinot Noir – Estate Selection	red	89
2010	Pinot Noir – Hyland	red	89
2010	Pinot Noir – Knight's Gambit	red	88
2010	➽ Pinot Noir – La Nuit Magique	red	91
2010	Pinot Noir – Leland	red	87
2010	Pinot Noir – Prince Hill	red	89
2010	Pinot Noir – Prince Hill 115	red	87
2010	Pinot Noir – Prince Hill 777	red	89
2010	Pinot Noir – Prince Hill Pommard	red	88
2010	Pinot Noir White – Le Jour Magique	white	87

Dick Erath, one of Oregon's wine pioneers, moved to Dundee in 1968 after buying 49 acres on which he planted 23 varieties the following spring. With their first commercial release in 1972 Erath was instrumental in importing French clones to Oregon in 1974. They broke ground on the winery in 1976 and in 2006 Ste. Michelle Wine Estates purchased the Erath winery. The winemaker is now Gary Horner. For further information, contact 800.539.9463 or visit: www.erath.com

2010 Pinot Noir – Battle Creek: (Willamette Valley, 224 cases, SRP $50, 13%). Light ruby. An expressive and pretty nose of raspberry, cherry and strawberry leads to nicely detailed and vibrant light weight flavors that possess a silky mouth feel before terminating in a clean, cool and balanced finish of limited depth. 87/2014+

2010 Pinot Noir – Bishop Creek: (Yamhill-Carlton, 219 cases, SRP $50, 13%). Light ruby. An attractively pure nose of essence of red pinot fruit and a floral hint introduces supple yet precise and energetic light to barely middle weight flavors that also possess a silky texture. The clean and refreshing finish offers just a bit more overall depth and length and the supporting tannins are notably firmer. 88/216+

2010 Pinot Noir - Dion: (Chehalem Mountains, this is a new single vineyard wine from 20 year old vines, 232 cases, SRP $50, 13%). A high-toned nose of cranberry, strawberry and raspberry aromas gives way to very supple and round flavors that display a very smooth mouth feel, all wrapped in a balanced and persistent finish that just doesn't offer much complexity. In sum, this is pretty but not very deep. 87/2015+

2010 Pinot Noir – Estate Selection: (Willamette Valley, 997 cases, SRP $34, 13%). This is also notably high-toned in terms of its fruit profile with an appealing mix of red orchard fruit scents that include apple. There is good punch to the delicious, round and naturally sweet middle weight flavors that culminate in a clean, cool and precise finish that offers fine depth and length. This could easily be enjoyed now if desired though I would advise aging it for a few years first. 89/2016+

2010 Pinot Noir - Hyland: (McMinnville, 230 cases, SRP $50, 13%). This is aromatically similar to the Estate but with dried floral notes adding a bit of breadth. The restrained, supple and delineated medium-bodied flavors possess fine depth and length along with a hint of austerity on the understated finish. Lovely. 89/2016+

2010 Pinot Noir – Knight's Gambit: (Dundee Hills, 231 cases, SRP $50, 13%). A pleasant nose of cherry, apple and plum aromas merges seamlessly into pure, supple and quite silky middle weight flavors that display a touch of youthful tartness on the reasonably persistent finish. This is also very pretty but not quite as well balanced. 88/2016+

2010 Pinot Noir – La Nuit Magique: (Willamette Valley, 209 cases, SRP $65, 13%). A highly perfumed nose offers a bit more aromatic breadth with its notes of violet, red currant, dark berries and plum. There is admirably good precision and energy to the medium weight flavors that possess the best mid-palate concentration of the entire range as well as excellent length and solid complexity. Lovely. 91/2017+

2010 Pinot Noir - Leland: (Willamette Valley, 350 cases, SRP $50, 13%). An expressive nose of bright cherry, raspberry, red currant and spice hints complements well the naturally sweet, pure and restrained flavors that possess a lovely mouth feel though the slightly lean finish terminates with a touch of austerity and mild dryness. My suggested drinking window offers the benefit of the doubt that this will flesh out with a year or two in bottle. 87/2016+

2010 Pinot Noir – Prince Hill: (Dundee Hills, 997 cases, SRP $50, 13%). This is also relatively high-toned with agreeably fresh aromas of cherry, raspberry and cranberry scents. There is good vibrancy to the understated medium-bodied flavors that possess solid precision on the refreshing, balanced and solidly persistent finish. This is not overly complex but it is certainly stylish and there is enough underlying material to bet on more depth developing. 89/2017+

2010 Pinot Noir – Prince Hill 115: (Dundee Hills, 139 cases, SRP $50, 13%). A spicy if somewhat dull nose of red berry fruit aromas leads to supple, round and easy-going flavors that are almost soft on the mid-palate though the slightly lean finish is clean and reasonably persistent if not especially complex. 87/2015+

2010 Pinot Noir – Prince Hill 777: (Dundee Hills, 232 cases, SRP $50, 13%). This is aromatically different if not necessarily more complex or interesting though there is at least one similarity in the spice elements to fresh briar and blue pinot fruit scents. There is good intensity and detail to the middle weight flavors that display an interesting saline character on the clean and crisp finish that offers good if not special depth. 89/2016+

2010 Pinot Noir – Prince Hill Pommard: (Dundee Hills, 232 cases, SRP $50, 13%). A broad-ranging nose of apple, plum, black cherry and spice hints gives way to silky, round and almost soft flavors that tighten up somewhat on the dusty, clean and agreeably dry finish that offers solid persistence and just enough complexity to be interesting. 88/2016+

White:

2010 Pinot Noir White – Le Jour Magique: (Willamette Valley, exceptionally gentle pressing of whole clusters of pinot noir yields a small amount of colorless juice, 234 cases, SRP $55, 13.5%). A fruity mix of melon along with wisps of raspberry and cherry are followed by rich and round middle weight flavors that are delicious but not particularly refined. I would drink this young for its fruit as it risks becoming heavy with age. 87/now

Evesham Wood Vineyards & Winery (Salem, OR)

2011	Pinot Noir	red	88
2010	➽ Pinot Noir – Cuvée J	red	92
2010	➽ Pinot Noir – Illahe Vineyard	red	90
2010	➽ Pinot Noir - Le Puits Sec	red	92
2010	Pinot Noir – Mahonia Vineyard	red	89
2010	Pinot Noir – Temperance Hill Vineyard	red	89
2009	➽ Pinot Noir – Cuvée J	red	93
2009	➽ Pinot Noir – Illahe Vineyard	red	91
2009	➽ Pinot Noir – Le Puits Sec	red	92
2009	➽ Pinot Noir – Temperance Hill Vineyard	red	91

Russ and Mary Raney founded Evesham Wood in 1986. In 2007 Erin Nuccio began making his own wine (now named Haden Fig, see below) at Evesham while working there. When team Raney chose to retire, Nuccio took over Evesham Wood in 2010. All their wines are unfined and unfiltered. For further information, contact 503.371.8478 or visit: www.eveshamwood.com

2011 Pinot Noir - (Willamette Valley, 2,400 cases, SRP $2013%). A very pretty and attractively fresh nose offers up notes of red and dark berries, briar and a hint of spice. There is good energy to the delicious, round and quite supple middle weight flavors that culminate in a balanced, persistent and ever-so-slightly austere finish. I very much like the style as it is clean and refined plus this is a wine that could be enjoyed now or successfully cellared. 88/2017+

2010 Pinot Noir – Cuvée J: (Eola-Amity Hills, a 6-barrel selection from Le Puits Sec, 150 cases, SRP $44, 13%). A strikingly elegant and ultra-pure nose features essence of red currant, anise, cinnamon, dried floral hints and a touch of briar. There is a restrained and cool mouth feel to the sophisticated, intense and beautifully well-delineated medium-bodied flavors that culminate in an impeccably well-balanced, lingering and moderately austere finish. This gorgeous effort should amply reward 8 to 10 years of cellar time and it's a screaming bargain for the price given this level of quality. 92/2019+

2010 Pinot Noir – Illahe Vineyard: (Willamette Valley, 200 cases, SRP $30, 13%). This is also exceptionally pretty with an enveloping nose of red cherry, raspberry, red currant and subtle spice nuances. There is a lacy mouth feel to the detailed, energetic and intense flavors that dance across the palate as the mouth feel is almost delicate. A saline character adds to the refreshing nature of the balanced finish and while the refinement of this wine makes it already approachable, it will also be more than capable of delivering plenty of upside development if allowed to age. Well worth considering. 90/2018

2010 Pinot Noir – Le Puits Sec: (Eola-Amity Hills, 450 cases, SRP $36, 13%). This is every bit as aromatically elegant but with even better depth as the nose exhibits notes of both red and dark currants, spice, briar and warm earth nuances. There is a very restrained and sophisticated mouth feel to the medium weight flavors that is accentuated by the admirably fine-grained tannins that are already well-integrated on the impeccably well-balanced finish that delivers outstanding depth and length. One to buy and again, the price-value ratio is simply fantastic. 92/2018+

2010 Pinot Noir – Mahonia Vineyard: (Willamette Valley, 100 cases, SRP $30, 13%). There is an engaging hint of rose petal to the very fresh and pretty aromas of cherry, raspberry and lavender. The restrained, cool and very precise medium weight flavors also possess a lilting mouth feel before culminating in an attractively complex finish that, while offering fine length, isn't quite in the same league as the best here. Excellent value. 89/2016+

2010 Pinot Noir – Temperance Hill Vineyard: (Eola-Amity Hills, 100 cases, SRP $30, 13%). Here the expressive nose is ever-so-slightly more deeply pitched with a bit more complexity as well to pretty mix of both red and dark berry fruit scents that also display ample floral character. There is a very sophisticated, even polished mouth feel to the middle weight flavors that, somewhat curious, are actually less complex than the Mahonia on the mildly austere finish. The two wines are rough qualitative equivalents though each has their individual personalities. This too offers excellent value. 89/2017+

2009 Pinot Noir – Cuvée J: (Eola-Amity Hills, a 6-barrel selection from Le Puits Sec, 150 cases, SRP $44, 13%). A reserved and distinctly cool, even reluctant if gorgeously complex nose features notes of red and dark berries, briar, plum, violets, spice and sandalwood. There is a lush, even suave mouth feel to the beautifully vibrant and utterly delicious medium weight flavors that possess excellent volume on the elegantly balanced but firm and very serious finish that delivers stunningly good length. This is a more robust effort than the 2010 version but there's just more here in terms of underlying material. That said, they do share one very important characteristic, which is that they both deliver unbelievably good value. 93/3019+

2009 Pinot Noir – Illahe Vineyard: (Willamette Valley, 100 cases, SRP $30, 13%). A discreetly perfumed and lightly spiced essence of red pinot fruit nose that enjoys added breadth in the form of soft floral notes slides gracefully into supple, round and lush flavors that manage to retain a fine sense of verve and detail. There is faultless balance to the dusty and mouth coating finish that offers excellent persistence. This too offers simply phenomenal value. 91/2017+

2009 Pinot Noir – Le Puits Sec: (Eola-Amity Hills, 450 cases, SRP $36, 13%). This is also quite strikingly perfumed but with even better complexity as the spice component is more pronounced. The focused and precise middle weight flavors possess really lovely delineation even while they fan out across the palate. The underlying structure is notably firm yet not austere and like the 2009 Cuvée J, there is a muscular and robust quality to the wonderfully long, balanced and mouth coating finish. I know that I sound like a broken record but again, the price-value ratio here is simply spectacular. 92/2018+

2009 Pinot Noir – Temperance Hill Vineyard: (Eola-Amity Hills, 125 cases, SRP $30, 13%). A wonderfully fresh and layered nose displays notes of ripe plum, briar, spice, violets and lavender hints. There is excellent volume and richness to the well-concentrated medium-bodied flavors that possess a silky mouth feel before culminating in a palate coating, delicious and equally complex finish that delivers remarkably good length. This isn't quite as refined as the 2010 version but there is even better depth. For the price, the value is almost impossible to beat. 91/2017+

Haden Fig (Salem, OR)

2011	Pinot Noir	red	87
2010	➽ Pinot Noir – Bjornson Vineyard	red	90
2010	➽ Pinot Noir – Cancilla Vineyard	red	90

Jordan and Erin Nuccio had their inaugural vintage in 2008 after the latter had worked three harvests at Evesham Wood as an assistant winemaker. They purchase organic, biodynamic and sustainably farmed fruit to produce their wines which are bottled at Evesham Wood Winery. They now have a whole cluster fermenter for the upcoming vintage. For more information call 503.477.6960 or visit: www.hadenfig.com

2011 Pinot Noir: (Willamette Valley, 800 cases, SRP $24, 13.5%). A very pretty nose of bright red pinot fruit that is liberally laced with briar nuances leads to detailed and attractively vibrant light to barely middle weight flavors that display a slightly lean if persistent finish. There is a discreet hint of backend austerity and this should benefit from a year or two of cellar time. 87/2015+

2010 Pinot Noir – Bjornson Vineyard: (Willamette Valley, 75 cases, SRP $30, 13.5%). This is a bit more elegant and certainly more complex with its equally pretty nose of cherry and raspberry liqueur with hints of cranberry and briar scents. There is good concentration to the delicious and beguilingly textured middle weight flavors that possess a sophisticated mouth feel thanks to the notably fine-grained tannins, all wrapped in a lingering finish that offers both good balance and fine depth. This restrained and understated effort offers terrific value. 90/2016+

2011 Pinot Noir – Cancilla Vineyard: (Willamette Valley, 150 cases, SRP $30, 13.5%). A cool and pure red pinot fruit nose enjoys added breadth in the form of spice, underbrush and exotic tea hints. There is a lovely sense of underlying tension to the very fresh, delicious and well-delineated medium-bodied flavors that possess a dusty mouth feel before terminating in a balanced and lingering finish. This also offers outstanding value. 90/2016+

Le Cadeau Wines (Hopland, OR)

2010	**Pinot Noir – Côte Est**	**red**	**88**
2010	**Pinot Noir – Diversité**	**red**	**89**
2010	**➽ Pinot Noir – Équinox**	**red**	**90**
2010	**Pinot Noir – Rocheux**	**red**	**87**

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. Each Le Cadeau wine is hand-crafted in small lots (typically 200 to 400 cases) and each wine is made by a different consulting winemaker. For more information, call 503.625.2777 or visit: www.lecadeauvineyard.com

2010 Pinot Noir – Côte Est: (Chehalem Mountains AVA, 190 cases, SRP $48, 13.1%). Light ruby. A fresh and very pure nose of red pinot fruit and briar nuances leads to equally pure and beautifully well-delineated light weight flavors that possess a silky texture before terminating in a delicious, balanced and saline-infused finish. There is a clean and refreshing character to the attractively persistent finish and while this is not super complex, I very much like the style and delivery. 88/2015+

2010 Pinot Noir – Diversité: (Chehalem Mountains AVA, 73 cases, SRP $48, 13.1%). This is distinctly reduced and while aggressive aeration helped it never did fully dissipate. There is good volume and more size and weight to the medium-bodied flavors that possess good detail on the mildly austere and persistent finish. This will require a few years of bottle age to round out the firm tannins though note that my score offers the benefit of the doubt that the reduction is a passing phase. 89/2017+

2010 Pinot Noir – Équinoxe: (Chehalem Mountains AVA, 192 cases, SRP $48, 13.1%). A somber and reticent nose of earth, briar and dark pinot fruit introduces round, delicious and attractively textured medium weight flavors that possess good tension and fine detail on the complex, cool and ever-so-mildly austere finish. This is really lovely and is the most complete wine among these 2010s. 90/2016+

2010 Pinot Noir – Rocheux: (Chehalem Mountains AVA, 194 cases, SRP $48, 13.1%). This is also quite pure, fresh and elegant with an expressive nose of essence of red pinot fruit and subtle spice hints. There is good verve to the well-detailed medium weight flavors that possess a refined mouth feel on the slightly austere finish where a touch of wood is in evidence. This is certainly very pretty but there just isn't enough depth to be at the next level. Note that this could easily be enjoyed now but I would suggest cellaring it in the hopes of developing more complexity. 87/2015+

Pali Wine Co. (Lompoc, CA/OR)

2011	**Pinot Noir – Alphabets**	**red**	**86**

Founded in 2005, Pali Wine Co. is owned "by a group of friends and co-workers". Tim Perr serves as the managing partner and Kenneth Juhasz has been the consulting winemaker since 2007. The 2008 vintage was the first produced in their new

state of the art winery with a total production of 3,000 cases. Note that their wines are bottled under screwcap. For more information visit: www.paliwineco.com

2011 Pinot Noir – Alphabets: (Willamette Valley, 4,800 cases, SRP $21, 13.3%). A pretty and very fresh nose of red pinot fruit, cherry and currants leads to supple and very round light to barely middle weight flavors that culminate in a dusty, lean and linear finish that displays a touch of asperity. Given how forward this is, I don't see bottle age helping much. 86/2014+

Purple Hands (Newberg, OR)

2011	**Pinot Noir**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Pinot Noir – Holstein Vineyard**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Pinot Noir – Stoller Vineyard**	**red**	**89**

Winemaker Cody Wright, the eldest son of Ken Wright (Ken Wright Cellars), is the founder of Purple Hands. The label was changed as of this vintage. All three wines below are bottled under screwcap. For more information visit: www.purplehandswine.com

2011 Pinot Noir: (Willamette Valley, the first release of a blend of Holstein and of Stoller, 1,000 cases, 12.5%). A cool, spicy and distinctly floral nose offers up notes of essence of red pinot fruit and briar. There is good energy and fine detail to the middle weight flavors that terminate in a clean, dry, focused and balanced finish. There is limited depth but this is undeniably pretty. 88/2015+

2011 Pinot Noir – Holstein Vineyard: (Dundee Hills, 12.5%). This is aromatically quite similar to the straight pinot cuvée. There is excellent verve and detail to the medium weight flavors that possess a lovely mouth feel thanks to the refined tannins, all wrapped in a clean, dry and once again balanced and slightly firmer finish. I would say the same thing here about the depth as it could use a bit more but I certainly like the style and delivery. 88/2016+

2011 Pinot Noir – Stoller Vineyard: (Dundee Hills, 12.5%). Here the nose delivers a bit more aromatic complexity with very pure red berry fruit aromas that are liberally laced with menthol, spice and briar scents. There is good punch, richness and detail to the medium-bodied flavors that display just a hint of austerity on the otherwise persistent, balanced and delicious finish. This could already be enjoyed or held for further development over the next few years. 89/2016+

Sokol Blosser Winery (Dundee, OR)

2010	**Pinot Noir**	**red**	**87**

Bill Blosser and Susan Sokol Blosser planted their first vines in 1971 and released their first wine in 1977. They have continued to expand and there are now 87 acres surrounding the winery. They received their certification as Salmon Safe in 1997, LIVE in 2000, and organic certification in 2005. Bill and Susan's children, Alex and Alison Sokol Blosser, are now co-presidents as of 2008. For further information, contact 503.864.2282 or visit: www.sokolblosser.com

2010 Pinot Noir: (Dundee Hills, 5,200 cases, SRP $38, 13.5%). This opens with noticeable reduction but 10 minutes or so of air is sufficient to reveal notes of red currant, cherry and cranberry. The supple, round and creamy flavors manage to retain reasonably good detail before culminating in a dusty and agreeably clean finish that offers acceptable persistence but limited depth. 87/2015+

Stoller Vineyards (Dayton, OR)

2009	**➽ Pinot Noir – Cathy's Reserve**	**red**	**90**
2009	**➽ Pinot Noir – SV Estate**	**red**	**91**

Cathy and Bill Stoller purchased the 373-acre parcel from a relative in 1993 having already been in the industry as co-owners of Chehalem. Since then approximately 180 acres have been planted to vines, and the first Stoller release was in 2003. Melissa Bur currently serves as the winemaker. The Stoller winery is the first LEED Gold Certified winery in the United States.

It integrates gravity-flow winemaking techniques, energy-efficient heating and cooling, and waste-water reclamation to reduce negative environmental impact. In 2011 friends and family mourned the passing of Cathy Stoller. In 2012 there will be a name change to Stoller Family Estate. For further information, contact (503) 864-3404 or visit: www.stollerfamily estate.com

2009 Pinot Noir – Cathy's Reserve: (Dundee Hills, sourced from the oldest section of the estate vineyard, 100 cases, SRP $100, 14.5%). A very mild hint of reduction is initially present though it passes quickly with a short decantation to reveal ripe and somber dark berry fruit, earth and spice hints that, interestingly, are less complex than those of the Estate. There is good volume and punch to the slightly more concentrated flavors that possess the same suave, opulent and very round palate impression on the long, balanced and serious finish. This is a bigger but not necessarily more interesting wine and I prefer the overall balance of the Estate though fans of size, weight and power may very well prefer this *cuvée*. 90/2018

2009 Pinot Noir – SV Estate: (Dundee Hills, 3,642 cases, SRP $45, 14.5%). A ripe and appealingly complex nose of dark berries, earth and briar gives way to attractively vibrant, detailed and solidly well-concentrated medium-bodied flavors that possess the same lovely complexity of the nose. There is an opulence to the palate impression but no heaviness or lack of delineation to the balanced, persistent and intense finish. This is lovely and worth a look plus it delivers fine value in a package that could easily be enjoyed now but this should be capable of 4 to 6 years of development. 91/2017+

Van Duzer Vineyards (Dallas, OR)

2010	Pinot Noir – Estate	red	89

Jerry Murray, formerly of Patton Valley Vineyards, took over as head winemaker in June, 2010 and the wine reviewed below is the first vintage to be made from start to finish by the new winemaking team. Many changes have been made including the use of a sorting table, a rebuilt destemmer and other new equipment. Vineyard changes have also reportedly been made. Murray immediately set about upgrading the viticulture and winemaking with the goal of eliminating certain problems in Van Duzer's past such as the Brett referred to in the '07 reviews or the mercaptans found in the 2005 Homestead Block (see the database for more details). Based on the 2010 Estate, it would appear that Murray is on the right track. For further information, contact 1-800-884-1927 or visit: www.vanduzer.com

2010 Pinot Noir – Estate: (Willamette Valley, 4,300 cases, SRP $30, 13.5%). Moderately deep ruby. A lovely and solidly layered nose of red and dark pinot fruit, currants and black cherry leads to delicious, supple and sophisticated medium-bodied flavors that possess solid mid-palate concentration. There is just a touch of austerity to the moderately complex, serious and well-balanced finish and overall, this stylish effort has the underlying material to reward 4 to 6 years of cellaring. 89/2017+

Whistling Dog Cellars (Salem, OR)

2009	Pinot Noir – NSV Estate – Heritage Blocks	red	89

Whistling Dog Cellars is a family owned and operated vineyard and winery founded by Celeste and Tom Symonette where Tom serves as the winemaker. For further information call 503-329-5114 or visit: www.whistlingdogcellars.com

2009 Pinot Noir – NSV Estate – Heritage Blocks: (Eola-Amity Hills, from the 16-acre dry-farmed Nuestro Sueño Vineyard, one of the original vineyards planted in the early 80's, 94 cases, 13.8%). An interesting and expressive nose blends together notes of red berries, mint, spice and briar. There is a suppleness to the very round and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that possess plenty of palate coating dry extract before culminating in a very good if not truly exceptional depth and length. To be sure, this is a very pretty effort and if it can add depth with a few years of bottle age, my score may be found to be unduly conservative. 89/2016+

En Plus

Domaine Pierre Amiot et Fils (Morey St.-Denis)

2010	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	red	91
2010	➽ Gevrey-Chambertin "Aux Combottes" 1er	red	91
2010	Morey St.-Denis	red	87
2010	Morey St.-Denis "Les Blanchards" 1er	red	90
2010	Morey St.-Denis "Aux Charmes" 1er	red	88
2010	Morey St.-Denis "Les Millandes" 1er	red	89
2010	Morey St.-Denis "Les Ruchots" 1er	red	89

Jean-Louis Amiot calls the 2010 vintage a "tough one due to the weather, poor flowering and severe December 2009 frosts, all of which served to brutally reduce yields. Moreover, the poor flowering caused a high incidence of shot berries, which is great for quality but not quantity. We began picking on the 22nd of September and thankfully had almost no sorting losses as the fruit was absolutely perfect. I didn't do anything different than I usually do with the exception that there is a bit more new wood than usual due to the tiny yields that were off between 30 and 50% depending on the *appellation* in question." I would describe the Amiot 2010s as competent but not transcending the general quality of the vintage. (No known American importer; La Reserve and Avery's Wine Merchants, www.averys.com, UK).

2010 Morey St.-Denis: A ripe, fresh and earthy mix of dark berry fruit displays top notes of spice before sliding gracefully into vibrant, round and supple flavors that possess good delineation but also a touch of backend bitterness that I suspect will gradually round out with a few years of bottle age. 87/2016+

2010 Morey St.-Denis "Aux Charmes": (from a .45 ha parcel planted in 1959; Aux Charmes is rarely seen as there are only two domaines which produce it). Here the nose is similar to that of the *villages* but with a bit more complexity to the tender, generous and seductively textured middle weight flavors. There is good vibrancy and I like the relatively fine-grain of the tannins though the same slight hint of bitterness is again present. In the same fashion, my score offers the benefit of the doubt that it will dissipate with a year or two of bottle age. 88/2016+

2010 Morey St.-Denis "Les Blanchards": (from a .17 ha parcel). Mild wood can be seen serving as a backdrop for the agreeably fresh nose of solidly complex, earthy and serious dark berry fruit, cassis and earth-inflect aromas. There is excellent energy and delineation to the lightly mineral-driven middle weight flavors that culminate in a slightly austere but lingering finish. This is worth considering. 90/2017+

2010 Morey St.-Denis "Les Millandes": There is also a discreet hint of wood framing an elegant and agreeably complex nose of dark berries, earth and a hint of the *sauvage*. The palate impression is decidedly bigger and richer with good volume to the attractively textured mid-palate that coats the mouth before terminating in a tension-filled and saline-inflected finish. Once again, there is a whisper of bitterness that, given the general ripeness of the tannins, I am assuming will disappear with time. 89/2017+

2010 Morey St.-Denis "Les Ruchots": (from vines planted in 1956 situated just below Clos du Tart). A beautifully fresh, cool and ripe nose of well-layered aromas that feature notes of cassis, plum, violet and earth merge with solidly voluminous, delicious and very suave medium-bodied flavors that are really quite soft and not quite as complex as the best here. This balanced effort should drink well young. 89/2016+

2010 Gevrey-Chambertin "Aux Combottes": (from 3 separate parcels totaling .61 ha with two almost touching Latricières-Chambertin and the other at the southern end of the vineyard by Clos de la Roche). As is usually the case *chez* Amiot, this is the most elegant wine in the range with its cool, airy and restrained nose of high-toned red cherry, raspberry and kirsch aromas that display hints of spice and wet stone. There is a supple, even delicate mouth feel to the utterly delicious and admirably pure medium weight flavors that possess lacy tannins on the lingering finish. A wine of finesse. 91/2017+

2010 Clos de la Roche: (from a 1.2 ha parcel). Discreet if not invisible wood frames a distinctly earthy nose of red currants, plum, underbrush and game hints. There is a textured, even suave palate feel to the medium-bodied flavors that display mineral and smoke hints on the lingering finish. While this is a bigger and more concentrated wine than the Combottes, it's not longer or more complex though that may change with time. 91/2017+

Domaine Amiot-Servelle (Chambolle-Musigny)

2011	➽ Bourgogne	red	(86-88)
2011	Chambolle-Musigny	red	(87-89)
2011	➽ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses" 1er	red	(91-93)
2011	➽ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Charmes" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	Chambolle-Musigny "Derrière la Grange" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	Chambolle-Musigny "Feusselottes" 1er	red	(89-91)
2011	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Plantes" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2011	Clos St. Denis Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2011	Morey St. Denis	red	(86-89)
2010	Chambolle-Musigny	red	88
2010	➽ Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses" 1er	red	93
2010	Chambolle-Musigny "Feusselottes" 1er	red	90
2010	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Fuées" 1er	red	89
2010	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	92
2010	Clos St. Denis Grand Cru	red	93
2010	Morey St. Denis	red	88

Christian Amiot, who welcomed parcels of Clos St. Denis, Charmes-Chambertin and Morey St. Denis *villages* for the 2010 vintage (see Issue 41 or the database for details), described the 2011 vintage as "one where we obtained outstanding phenolic ripeness if perhaps not quite the freshness of the 2010s. We began picking on the 3rd of September and there really wasn't much sorting required, in fact I would put our losses at barely 3%. Unfortunately, because of a mediocre flowering, yields were quite limited, in fact I had better yields in 2010 than I did in 2011. Potential alcohols were in the 12 to 12.5% range and thus there was almost no chaptalization. I used a bit more whole cluster than usual and some wines were up to around 45% give or take a little. Overall I like the vintage because it will drink well early but age well too." I found the Amiot-Servelle 2011s to be slightly better than the overall quality of the vintage in the Côte de Nuits. As to the now bottled 2010s, they have turned out about as predicted; in particular I direct your attention to the Les Amoureuses though the Clos St. Denis is lovely as well. (No US importer; Charles Taylor Wines, E-mail: charles@charlestaylorwines.com, UK).

2011 Bourgogne: A very subtle hint of wood frames a ripe nose of plum, violets, cassis and earth. There is a lovely mouth feel and solid volume to the round, supple and delicious flavors that are underpinned by phenolically mature tannins, all wrapped in a balanced finish. This isn't especially dense but there is solid character and depth. (86-88)/2015+

2011 Morey St. Denis: A pure nose features essence of red pinot fruit along with hints of plum and soft earth nuances. There is a lilting mouth feel to the round and silky middle weight flavors that possess good verve if only moderate depth on the lightly structured finish. A Morey *villages* of finesse. (86-89)/2016+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny: This is notably more reserved at present with an elegant nose of red currant, wet stone, spice nuances and a touch of sandalwood. The mineral character continues onto the detailed and energetic medium-bodied flavors that possess a mouth feel of pure silk, all wrapped in a delicate and refined finish. Like the Bourgogne, this is not especially dense but it's certainly very pretty. (87-89)/2016+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Feusselottes": A slightly more deeply pitched nose of floral, plum, spice and violet nuances leads to energetic, delineated and lightly mineral-infused middle weight flavors that possess a really striking mouth feel. There is lovely balance and a fine sense of underlying tension to the moderately complex and persistent finish. (89-91)/2017+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Plantes": This is charmingly airy and expressive with admirably pure aromas of red currant, plum and dried floral elements. There is a bit more volume and mid-palate concentration to the medium-bodied flavors that also possess a strikingly fine mouth feel before culminating in a saline-infused, persistent and balanced finish. (89-92)/2018+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Charmes": A markedly more restrained nose mixes both red and blue berry fruit aromas with spice, earth and exotic tea scents. There is fine volume to the attractively textured middle weight flavors that also enjoy solid mid-palate concentration before terminating in a complex, balanced and impressively persistent finish where a touch of wood emerges. This should have no trouble integrating the oak with a year or two in bottle. (90-92)/2018+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Derrière la Grange": (Amiot-Servelle is one of only two proprietors). This is aromatically quite similar to the Charmes with equally good freshness that slides seamlessly into seductively textured, mineral-inflected, intense and energetic flavors that display a taut muscularity on the saline, balanced and lingering finish that isn't quite as complex as that of the Charmes. (89-92)/2018+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses": (from a .45 ha parcel of 45+ year old vines aged in 50% new wood). An intensely spicy nose of red cherry liqueur with violet and plum aromas complements the vibrant, detailed and solidly well-concentrated flavors that are presently compact and serious. There is excellent length and while there is a slight hint of youthful asperity, my range assumes that this will dissipate in time as the supporting tannins are clearly ripe. (91-93)/2019+

2011 Charmes-Chambertin: A background application of wood allows the distinctly earthy, fresh and ripe nose of primarily wild red berries, *sauvage* hints and plenty of spice elements to shine. There is a refined mouth feel to the supple and quite round medium-bodied flavors that possess good but not distinguished complexity at present yet there is so much underlying material that my range assumes that it will develop with bottle age. (90-93)/2019+

2011 Clos St. Denis: An expressive and impressively well-layered nose offers up notes of dried flowers, anise, spice and again smoky hints on the blend of red currant and dark currant aromas. There is excellent punch and first-rate detail to the intense, textured and mouth coating medium weight plus flavors that are supported by notably fine-grained tannins. I very much like the overall sense of balance and harmony on the handsomely persistent finish. A classic Clos St. Denis. (91-94)/2021+

2010 Chambolle-Musigny: A lightly spiced nose of red and blue pinot fruit has its expressiveness reduced by noticeable reduction so be sure to decant this if you're going to try one young. The lacy, pure and round mineral-inflected flavors are forward and very supple, all wrapped in a dusty, delicious and mouth coating finish. This notably pretty effort is very Chambollesque in character. 88/2017+

2010 Morey St. Denis: A distinctly earthy nose also features notes of red and blue pinot fruit though here there is a hint of cassis rather than the reduction nuances. The rich, round and smartly detailed middle weight flavors possess reasonably good depth and punch on the delicious and dusty finish. It's clear that this is already beginning to shut down so I would be inclined to let this cellar for a few years first as it's unlikely to drink well young. 88/2017+

2010 Chambolle-Musigny "Feusselottes": This is a very ripe Feusselottes with notes of cassis and black raspberry though here too there is enough reduction to notice. The dense and quite seductively textured medium-bodied flavors possess a silky mouth feel on the balanced and lingering finish where a hint of mineral character emerges. This is almost delicate and is an understated wine of finesse. 90/2017+

2010 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Fuées": (Amiot noted that there wasn't enough yield to make a 2011). This also displays just a hint of reduction that serves to reduce the expressiveness of the nose though aggressive swirling liberates notes of reticent red currant, briar and wet stone. There is excellent verve to the middle weight flavors that exude mineral and soil tones before terminating in a quite finely detailed finish that lacks the same depth as the best here. 89/2018+

2010 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses": (from a .45 ha parcel of 45+ year old vines aged in 50% new wood). An intensely spicy, elegant and quite pure nose speaks of black cherry and plum before merging seamlessly into round, rich and beautifully detailed medium-bodied flavors that possess outstanding length. This ultra-refined and mineral-suffused effort is both classy and very stylish though note that it will need extended cellaring. Lovely juice. 93/2021+

2010 Charmes-Chambertin: A cool, pure and restrained nose features notes of pungent earth, humus, underbrush, spice and freshly crushed red berries. There is a touch of the sauvage to the round, generous and fleshy medium weight plus flavors that possess good size and weight before culminating in a well-detailed, complex and lingering finish. 92/2019+

2010 Clos St. Denis: A spicy, ripe and exuberant nose of plum, raspberry and warm earth is followed by rich, round and very seductive medium-bodied flavors that possess a lovely mix of power and complexity before culminating in a relatively powerful and mouth coating finish. This is very Clos St. Denis in character with its combination of finesse and taut muscularity and the overall impression is one of contrast, which is to say a broad-scaled wine of finesse. As expressive as this is today I got the distinct sense that this is going to close down hard in the near future and will also require extended cellaring before it's again ready for prime time. 93/2023+

Maison Jean-Claude Boisset (Nuits St. Georges)

2010	**Bourgogne – Les Ursulines**	**red**	**84**
2010	**Chambolle-Musigny "Chardannes"**	**red**	**88**
2010	**Chambolle-Musigny "Charmes" 1er**	**red**	**87**

(Veritas Imports, www.veritas.com, CA and TX; Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines, Lake Success, NY; Country Vintner, www.countryvintner.com, Ashland, VA, Lion Imports, CA; Martignetti Wines, www.martignetti.com, Boston, MA; Berry Bros & Rudd, www.bbr.com, and Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, UK).

2010 Bourgogne – Les Ursulines: A pretty red and dark pinot fruit nose is cut with plenty of earth and humus nuances that can also be found on the vibrant and reasonably well-detailed flavors that terminate in an ever-so-slightly edgy finish that bears a trace of vegetal character along with a touch of warmth. 84/now

2010 Chambolle-Musigny "Chardannes": A discreet hint of wood only emerges after 30 minutes or so of air along with ripe and somewhat somber wild dark berry fruit aromas that display hints of spice and warm earth. There is good volume but also solid detail to the medium-bodied flavors that possess a suave and supple mouth feel before culminating in a delicious, focused and attractively intense finish. This is not an especially elegant Chambolle *villages* but there is good complexity and persistence. 88/2016+

2010 Chambolle-Musigny "Charmes": Here too there is a discreet hint of wood framing the more elegant and more complex ripe and dark berry fruit suffused nose. There is a lovely mouth feel to the lightly mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that don't quite have the same phenolic ripeness of the *villages* though the supporting tannins are certainly finer. There is also a noticeable touch of warmth on otherwise clean and agreeably dry if mildly astringent finish. In sum, this is more refined and a bit more complex but the Chardannes is better balanced and pound for pound a better wine. 87/2016+

Domaine Michel Briday (Rully)

2010	**Rully "La Grésigny" 1er**	**white**	**89**
2010	**Rully "La Pucelle" 1er**	**white**	**88**
2010	**Mercurey "Clos Marcilly" 1er**	**red**	**88**

(L'Esprit du Vin, www.esprit-du-vin.com, Seattle, WA).

2010 Rully "La Pucelle": There is a hint of reduction that is framed by noticeable but discreet oak along with hints of pear, apple and citrus. There is good verve to the round and attractively textured medium weight flavors that possess just enough depth and length to be interesting on the moderately dry finish. This is pretty enough but not especially deep. 88/2014+

2010 Rully "La Grésigny": The ripe and very fresh aromas of white flowers, citrus and ever-so-mildly exotic yellow fruit scents lead to attractively vibrant and utterly delicious middle weight flavors that exude a very fine minerality. There is good detail and enough depth and length to already be attractive but this should be capable of rewarding 2 to 3 years of cellar time as well. 89/2015+

2010 Mercurey "Clos Marcilly": Light ruby. An expressive nose of mostly red berry fruit elements that include raspberry, cherry and currants displays some breadth in the form of soft earth and spice hints. There is good focus and detail to the nicely rich and forward medium-bodied flavors that possess good depth and reasonably good length on the persistent and balanced finish. This could be enjoyed now with air but there is enough underlying material to suggest that a few years of cellar time would be beneficial. 88/2017+

Henry Fessy (Saint-Jean d'Ardières)

2011	**Château des Labourons - Fleurie**	**red**	**87**
2011	**Château des Reyssiers - Régnié**	**red**	**87**

(Louis Latour, Inc., www.louislatour.com, San Rafael, CA).

2011 Château des Reyssiers - Régnié: A moderately ripe nose of pepper and wild dark berries with warm earth traces leads to round, generous and reasonably complex flavors that are a bit on the grapey side, all wrapped in an acceptably long finish. This is easy to like and could already be enjoyed though it will reward a year or two of bottle age. Note that an hour of air helped considerably as there was noticeable gas upon opening the bottle. 87/2015+

2011 Château des Labourons - Fleurie: Interestingly, this is not necessarily more aromatically elegant though it is a bit more complex with similar aromas that enjoy top notes of spice. There is good lift to the round, supple and generous flavors that again possess enough depth and length to be interesting without really being distinguished for its *appellation*. This is finer but there is just a hint of backend acidity that I found ever-so-mildly drying. 87/2014+

.

Domaine Gachot-Monot (Corgoloin)

2011	**Côte de Nuits-Villages**	**red**	**88**
2011	**Nuits St. Georges**	**red**	**87**
2011	**Nuits St. Georges "Aux Crots"**	**red**	**86**
2011	**Nuits St. Georges "Les Poulettes" 1er**	**red**	**89**

(Kermit-Lynch, www.kermitlynch.com, Berkeley, CA).

2011 Côte de Nuits-Villages: A restrained, cool and attractively pure red pinot fruit nose is trimmed in earth and *sauvage* hints that lead to delicious, intense and vibrant light to barely medium weight flavors that possess a hint of minerality on the dry, clean and ever-so-mildly rustic finish. I like the touch of austerity on the saline-infused backend and while this will not please everyone because of it, the balance is lovely. 88/2016+

2011 Nuits St. Georges: This is stylistically similar to the Côte de Nuits-Villages with its pure and cool red pinot fruit nose that is amply sprinkled with earth, *sauvage* and subtle smoke hints. This is bigger and more backward as well as more overtly austere and while there is good depth and length, the austerity is such that it's not going to appeal to those who dislike that character. In short, while the tannins are not especially rustic, the overall impression is relatively old school. 87/2018+

2011 Nuits St. Georges "Aux Crots": An earthy, rustic and distinctly *sauvage* nose mixes both red and dark berry fruit with hints of smoke and dried leaves. There is plenty of energy to the detailed and solidly precise flavors that display a lot of gas on the moderately lean and austere finish and as such I strongly suggest that you decant this if you're going to try one young. This seems to lack the last 5% or so of phenolic maturity and it comes across as a bit spare though in fairness, it's not hard. 86/2015+

2011 Nuits St. Georges "Les Poulettes": While similar in style to the preceding wines as this is also restrained and admirably pure, there is more overall depth to the lightly earth-infused red currant, underbrush and slightly *sauvage* aromatic profile. There is plenty of vibrancy if not great concentration to the lightly mineral-driven middle weight flavors that exude a saline character on the balanced, focused and moderately austere finish. This is one of those wines that is the antithesis of lushness and opulence though it's not hard or aggressive. Note that it will go very well with the right foods as the acidity is firm and cleansing. 89/2018+

Leroy (Vosne-Romanée)

2011	Chambertin Grand Cru	red	97
2011	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Charmes" 1er	red	94
2011	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Fremières"	red	92
2011	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	red	96
2011	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	95
2011	Corton-Renardes Grand Cru	red	95
2011	Gevrey-Chambertin "Aux Combottes" 1er	red	93
2011	Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	96
2011	Musigny Grand Cru	red	98
2011	Nuits St. Georges “Au Bas de Combe”	red	91
2011	Nuits St. Georges “Aux Allots”	red	90
2011	Nuits St. Georges "Les Boudots" 1er	red	94
2011	Nuits St. Georges “Aux Lavières”	red	90
2011	Nuits St. Georges "Aux Vignerondes" 1er	red	93
2011	Pommard “Les Vignots”	red	89
2011	Richebourg Grand Cru	red	96
2011	Romanée St. Vivant Grand Cru	red	98
2011	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Narbantons" 1er	red	92
2011	Volnay “Santenots du Milieu” 1er	red	93
2011	Vosne-Romanée "Les Beaux Monts" 1er	red	95
2011	Vosne-Romanée "Aux Brulées" 1er	red	94
2011	Vosne-Romanée “Les Genaivrières”	red	92

Lalou Bize-Leroy rarely has much to say about vintages these days as she mostly just concludes that each of them have their own personalities and that should be a sufficient explanation for what transpired. For 2011 specifically, she did concede that yields were a bit more generous than usual at between 24 and 25 hl/ha but that the growing season did cause some angst. As to the style of the wines, she likens that to her 2006s, calling them “elegant, fresh and refined wines that will age on their balance.” After almost 20 years of visiting the domaine, I am rarely surprised by the typically stupendous quality but I confess that Mme Leroy so far out-performed the general quality of the vintage that it would have been easy to assume that we were tasting a more illustrious one. It’s not so much that the wines are powerhouses of exceptional concentration, so much as they are just so harmonious and seamless that you can’t help but admire their grace and inner beauty. The descriptor “stunning” isn’t praise enough when you put this kind of quality in the context of the 2011 vintage. If you can find them, and then afford them, don’t miss them. The Leroy ‘11s were bottled in December, 2012 and I tasted them in February 2013. (Martine’s Wines, www.martineswines.com, Novato, CA; Justerini & Brooks, www.justerini.com, John Armit, www.armit.co.uk, Howard Ripley, www.howardripley.com, and Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, all UK).

2011 Pommard “Les Vignots”: There is a soft touch of wood to the notably ripe yet cool and airy aromas of plum, cassis and wet stone. There is excellent volume and mid-palate concentration to the medium-bodied flavors that brim with dry extract on the detailed finish that exudes a fine minerality. This balanced effort delivers fine depth and length for its level. 89/2018+

2011 Nuits St. Georges “Aux Lavières”: A cool, pure and relatively refined nose speaks primarily of dark berry fruit liqueur, spice and warm earth notes. The rich, round and succulent middle weight flavors have a suave mouth feel as they too brim with an abundance of dry extract before culminating in a firm and ever-so-mildly rustic finish that delivers outstanding length for a *villages* level wine. 90/2019+

2011 Nuits St. Georges “Aux Allots”: Here the fruit profile is cooler still with restrained aromas that resemble those of the Lavières with perhaps just a bit more in the way of spice elements. There is really lovely detail to the lightly mineral-suffused medium weight flavors that display a bit more austerity on the more firmly structured finish that is well-buffered by the palate coating extract. This too is very impressive for its level. 90/2021+

2011 Nuits St. Georges “Au Bas de Combe”: This is the most complex of the three Nuits *villages* wines with its expressive, ripe and relatively refined nose of violets, spice, earth, red currant and wild dark berries. The mid-palate is rounder and a bit more accessible with opulent medium-bodied flavors that coat the tannins with so much extract that this does not seem to be as structured as it is. I very much like the harmony of expression and the balance is seamless. The best of this group. 91/2019+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Les Genaivrières": There is enough reduction present to notice but not so much that it completely hides the spicy character of what appears to be very ripe black pinot fruit. There is a highly seductive mouth feel and texture to the extract-rich middle weight flavors that possess amazing depth for a *villages* level wine, all wrapped in a highly persistent finish that really fans out like a peacock's tail. An exquisite effort. 92/2021+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Fremières": An ultra-elegant, reserved, cool and distinguished nose is redolent of pure essence of red pinot fruit that is liberally laced with spice and wet stone hints. There is a lovely minerality to the concentrated but silky flavors that dance across the palate and the mouth feel is positively gorgeous. Moreover, the texture is completely different from those of the Vosne or Nuits examples, all wrapped in a long and wonderfully well-balanced finish. I would characterize this as being finer than the Genaivrières but a bit less seductive but both are worth owning. 92/2023+

2011 Volnay "Santenots du Milieu": Here the nose offers a step up in aromatic depth with its very spicy nose of both red and blue pinot fruit that is trimmed in plenty of warm earth and floral character. There is an almost pungent minerality to the broad-shouldered and palate staining medium weight flavors that are utterly delicious before culminating in an explosively long but focused, balanced, chalky and mouth coating finish. A knockout. 93/2023+

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Narbantons": Subtle reduction masks the subtle points of the nose though there appears to be good ripeness to the mostly dark berry fruit and earth aromas. There is excellent volume to the delicious, complex and solidly well-concentrated medium-bodied flavors that terminate in a relatively powerful, balanced and mouth coating finish. It's rare to see a Savigny with this kind of muscle yet have it delivered with grace. 92/2019+

2011 Nuits St. Georges "Aux Vignerondes": (from a .35 ha parcel). Notes of cassis flowers, violets, earth and plenty of spice leads to medium weight flavors that possess a sophisticated mouth feel as the tannins are extremely fine-grained. There is good punch and delineation to the chiseled, intense and moderately austere finish that is not only exceptionally persistent but impeccably well-balanced. In sum, this is textbook Vignerondes with its refined yet tautly muscular palate impression. 93/2023+

2011 Nuits St. Georges "Les Boudots": This also displays hints of cassis flowers with plenty of spicy elements adding breadth to the earthy and ever-so-mildly sauvage-inflected wild red berry aromas. There is excellent richness and volume to the broad-shouldered and extract-rich flavors that are underpinned by a dense but fine tannic spine on the balanced and superbly persistent finish. The balance is exquisite and this should age effortlessly for years. 94/2026+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Aux Brulées": An exceptionally fresh nose features notes of ultra-pure blue and black pinot fruit, violets and rose petal nuances along with an amazing range of exotic spice elements. There is good power and plenty of energy to the intense, detailed and well-muscled flavors that brim with a seemingly endless reserve of dry extract that imparts an almost lavish palate impression to the explosively long finish. In a word, terrific. 94/2026+

2011 Vosne-Romanée "Les Beaux Monts": While the increments to which I refer are small they are nonetheless noticeable as this is aromatically slightly fresher, more elegant and more complex all at once. The highly expressive nose is gorgeously layered, spicy and cool with its ultra-pure dark pinot fruit, plum, cassis and wet stone scents. The medium weight flavors are impressively rich but there is a palpable sense of underlying tension and energy that make this a pleasure to taste. Moreover the borderline pungent minerality adds more lift, particularly on the overtly austere, linear, focused and hugely persistent finish. As good as the Brûlées is, and make no mistake it is terrific, this just offers another level of class and refinement. 95/2026+

2011 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Charmes": A highly restrained nose is all but inexpressive and it requires aggressive swirling to grudgingly liberate the shy but pretty aromas of red berry fruit liqueur, lavender and anise-suffused scents. There is superb mid-palate concentration and intensity to the softly mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that possess an opulent, general and fleshy mouth feel, all wrapped in an austere but explosively long finish where the balance of structural elements is perfect. This isn't quite as structured as the Beaux Monts and while it will certainly reward mid to longer-term cellaring, this is one of the Leroy 2011s that should be approachable after 6 to 8 years of bottle age. 94/2023+

2011 Gevrey-Chambertin "Aux Combottes": Here the nose is composed of pure and very cool extract of red currant liqueur, stone and soft earth aromas. The round, tender, delicious and caressing medium-bodied flavors possess excellent concentration and fine intensity before culminating in an extract-rich and mouth coating finish that, in contrast to the almost delicate mouth feel of the mid-palate, is robust and muscular. This is certainly an admirable effort by any standard but as good as it is, there are better 1ers in the range. 93/2026+

2011 Corton-Renardes: A wonderfully fresh and beautifully layered nose speaks of ripe yet airy plum, dried flowers, in particular violets, cassis and plenty of *sauvage* character. There is outstanding size, weight and intensity to the broad-shouldered and superbly well-concentrated flavors that brim with mouth coating dry extract that pushes the otherwise very firm tannic spine to the background on the almost painfully intense finale. This is a big but not especially rustic or austere effort that should age gracefully for many years to come. I have always believed that the Renardes is the sleeper value among the Leroy *grands crus*, not because it's not as illustrious so much as it requires so much cellar time to reveal its full potential. If you have the patience, this is one to strongly consider. 95/2028+

2011 Romanée St. Vivant: (from a 1 ha parcel planted in 1924). It is what one would expect, but expected or not, this couldn't be more different from the Renardes. A stunningly elegant, pure and almost diaphanous nose displays a dazzling array of spice and floral elements as well as both red and black pinot fruit scents. The mouth feel is concentrated yet incredibly refined with superb depth of material and flat out unbelievable complexity, all wrapped in a brilliantly persistent finish that floats across the palate. A classy and utterly exquisite effort. 98/2028+

2011 Richebourg: As is usually the case, this is less expressive than the Romanée St. Vivant at this early stage and displays discreet notes of cassis flowers, plum liqueur, anise, clove, cinnamon and exotic tea, all trimmed in notes of sandalwood. This is a powerfully concentrated and overtly muscular wine that possesses a seemingly endless reserve of underlying dry extract that both coats the mouth and buffers the very firm tannins on the strikingly long finish. This is more refined than it usually is as the tannins, while firm, are really quite fine though make no mistake, this will still require 15 to 20 years to arrive at its apogee. 96/2028+

2011 Clos de Vougeot: (from 3 separate parcels situated in each of the 3 levels, e.g. upper, middle and lower). An expressive and densely fruited nose features notes of red berry liqueur, pungent earth, dried flowers and subtle spice hints. There is excellent intensity and controlled power to the big-bodied and seductively textured medium weight plus flavors that exhibit formidable size and weight yet absolutely no heaviness on the dusty, palate staining and massively long finish. This is much less austere than it typically is and while it will not be cuddly in its youth, this will probably be approachable after only 10 to 12 years, which is sooner than usual. 95/2028+

2011 Musigny: A brooding and highly reserved yet incredibly complex nose is almost as dazzling as that of the Romanée St. Vivant and if not quite as elegant then it's very close. There is an amazing array of red and black fruit aromas that are liberally cut with spice and floral elements and it's remarkable just how much there is to admire. The intensely stony and overtly powerful flavors are massively scaled yet the texture is silky, refined and ultra-pure before culminating in a painfully intense, explosive and palate staining finish that lasted several minutes. An exceptional effort though one that will need every bit of 20 to 25 years to be at its best but this is a masterpiece in the making. 98/2031+

2011 Clos de la Roche: Mild reduction disguises the more subtle elements of the nose but there is plenty of earth character present on what appears to be ripe red berry aromas that lie beneath the funk. There is a highly seductive texture to the large-scaled, sleekly muscular, intense and massive flavors that again, despite all the sheer size and weight, manage to remain focused and betray absolutely no sense of heaviness. The breathtakingly long finish is quite saline with an almost pungent minerality that adds lift. Mostly wines would have been crushed coming after the Musigny but this more than held its own. This is flat out tremendous and entirely textbook. 96/2029+

2011 Latricières-Chambertin: A reticent, even shy but highly complex nose is cool to the point of being almost cold (if aromas can be legitimately characterized in such a fashion). It features intensely floral aromas of pure wild red berry fruit, wet stone, soft spices and a whiff of the *sauvage*. This is a big and powerful yet entirely elegant wine which makes for an interesting contrast with the silky palate impression of the energetic and muscular flavors that are supported by very firm but ripe tannins on the penetratingly mineral-driven finish that is quite saline in character. This impressively concentrated effort should age brilliantly well for years to come, though once again, note that ample bottle age will be required. Latricières just doesn't get much better than this. 96/2031+

2011 Chambertin: In much the same fashion as the Latricières, this is also quite reserved at present with an exceptionally cool but elegant, airy, and pure nose that is compositionally similar yet even more complex. Also like the Latricières, the palate impression is intensely mineral-driven while the hugely powerful big-bodied flavors possess so much underlying tension that they seem to explode on the focused and almost painfully intense finish that delivers genuinely stunning length. This is a classic Chambertin that is austere, regal and very, very backwards. In short, this is simply marvelous. 97/2031+

Domaine/Maison Aurélien Verdet (Arcenant)

2010	**Chambolle-Musigny "Les Condemennes"**	**red**	**86?**
2010	**Gevrey-Chambertin**	**red**	**86**
2010	**Morey St. Denis "En la Rue de Vergy"**	**red**	**88**

2010	**Nuits St. Georges**	**red**	**86**
2010	**Nuits St. Georges "Boudots" 1er**	**red**	**88**
2010	**➳ Nuits St. Georges "Damodes" 1er**	**red**	**91**
2010	**Vosne-Romanée Vieilles Vignes**	**red**	**88**
2010	**Vosne-Romanée "Les Beaux Monts" 1er**	**red**	**89**

Aurélien Verdet took over 4 ha of family vineyards in the Hautes Côtes de Nuits after a short but successful career as a motorcycle racer that he gave up after a serious crash. As he builds his operation he also works at Domaine David Duband (see above). In order to offer a wider range of wines than just his Hautes Côtes, he also set up a *négoce* activity for the other wines. (Michael Stephens/Vins Divins, www.divine-burgundy-wine.com, Beaune; Diageo Château and Estate Wines, www.diageowines.com, Napa, CA).

2010 Chambolle-Musigny "Les Condemennes": A restrained and pretty nose of ripe yet cool black cherry and cassis suffused nose leads to well-detailed middle weight flavors that possess a linear and notably austere finish that is borderline aggressive. I allowed this to sit in a sealed bottle for 24 hours and there was no change and I tried it again at 48 hours and it had fleshed out considerably though still with an edge on the finish. This is a question mark as it's not clear what this is going to do with age but if you're going to buy it be aware that it is absolutely not a 'pop and pour' 2010. 86?/2017+

2010 Nuits St. Georges: An openly reduced nose obviously reduces its attractiveness and there is substantial gas to the middle weight and slightly tough middle weight flavors. I like the mid-palate concentration as the supporting tannins are clearly ripe but this is difficult at present and it's not clear that age is necessarily going to be a palliative. 86/2017+

2010 Gevrey-Chambertin: While initially a bit funky, 10 minutes or so in a decanter was sufficient to reveal a pretty nose of plum, dark berries, earth and an appealing hint of spice. There is good detail and punch to the lightly mineral-suffused middle weight flavors that possess reasonably good depth before terminating in a somewhat angular finish where the acidity is quite firm. This would be better with food as the balance is not what is could be. 86/2017+

2010 Morey St. Denis "En la Rue de Vergy": This is on the riper side in the context of the vintage yet the aromas remain cool and pure with primarily dark berry fruit and earth scents. There is good verve and fine detail to the lightly mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that possess slightly rustic tannins and solid if not truly special depth and length. There is a hint of warmth though not really enough to upset the balance. 88/2017+

2010 Vosne-Romanée Vieilles Vignes: A spicy if somewhat somber dark currant, cassis and plum suffused nose leads to attractively rich and solidly concentrated medium-bodied flavors that possess reasonably good depth and fine length if limited refinement. I like the density of material and there is certainly good ripeness but the extraction feels a bit pushed and as such there is a mild rusticity to the finish. Still, this receives, and deserves, good marks for having quality material even if it's not a classic Vosne. 88/2017+

2010 Vosne-Romanée "Les Beaux Monts": This opens with noticeable if not completely dominant reduction as there is enough spiciness evident to suggest that the funk is not permanent. And extended aeration did manage to dissipate the reduction though I underscore that it required two days of air to accomplish this. There is a lovely energy to the attractively well-detailed medium-bodied flavors that exude a very fine minerality on the velvety finish that delivers fine depth and length. I would only advise buying this with the proviso that you intend to cellar it as it requires far too long in a decanter at this early stage to open it for dinner. 89/2018+

2010 Nuits St. Georges "Damodes": This significantly improved with an hour of aeration and I strongly recommend decanting this if you're going to try a bottle young. Initially there are somewhat grapey and notably spicy dark berry fruit aromas that deepen considerably as the grapey character dissipates and is replaced by the more typical game, smoke and warm earth notes. There is good volume and solid mid-palate concentration to the rich, intense and tautly muscled middle weight flavors where the supporting structural elements possess good phenolic maturity before terminating in a long, balanced and mouth coating finish. This is built to reward mid-term cellaring and a full decade would not be beyond reason. 91/2018+

2010 Nuits St. Georges "Boudots": Like several wines in the range this was initially quite reduced so I allowed it to aerate for several hours. While the reduction did not completely dissipate there were some dark berry fruit and earth nuances that emerged. On the plus side there is good vibrancy and detail to the ripe middle weight flavors that offer acceptable depth and length but given that this is a top Nuits 1ers, I was under-whelmed plus there is a touch of warmth on the backend. 88/2018+

Progress Report – Two Domaine Comtes Lafon Verticals

11 Vintages of Meursault "Perrières" and 23 of "Clos de la Barre"

In February of this year I had the opportunity to taste through 23 vintages of Domaine Lafon's *monopole* of Meursault "Clos de la Barre" and a smaller 11 vintage vertical of their Meursault "Perrières". The Perrières vertical is of course more illustrious but the Clos de la Barre tasting was more interesting for reasons that will be detailed below. We will start with the Perrières but first a brief description of Domaine Comtes Lafon.

The domaine was founded in 1869 by the Boch family, into which Comte Jules Lafon married in 1894. Today there are a bit more than 17 ha farmed in 4 different communes that include Meursault, Volnay, Monthelie and Chassagne-Montrachet. Pinot noir is farmed in Volnay and Monthelie and chardonnay in Meursault and Chassagne. The current director is Dominique Lafon, who began working with his father René in 1982 and took over entirely in 1985. Lafon notes that while his father made the 1982's, he was responsible for the *élevage* and bottling of them. "I learned much of what I know by doing," he points out. The domaine's vines had been leased to various other domaines, mostly notably the Montrachet, but Dominique undertook to recover his vines and as each lease expired, they were not renewed. By 1993 the domaine had largely been reconstituted in its current form.

In terms of viticulture, the domaine has been certified "bio" since 1998 and farms the entire 17 ha biodynamically. It is quite rightly known throughout Burgundy for the quality of its viticulture and young *vignerons* make no secret of it that they routinely ask Lafon for advice. The vines are typically planted to a density of 10,000 vines per hectare using the rootstocks known as 3309 and 161-49 though there is a small amount planted to SO4 as well. Most of the vines are massale selections though some of the newer plantations utilize a mix of clones. Across the entire domaine the average vine age is calculated at around 32 years of age though with most such estimates, the ages vary considerably.

Though each vintage has its specific quirks, the chardonnay is manually harvested and then the fruit is slowly pressed in two pneumatic presses over a three hour period using whole clusters. [Lafon noted that the domaine acquired its first pneumatic press in 1983.] The must is then typically given 24 hours of lees settling at a cool temperature and then racked into barrels for the fermentations that are done entirely with native yeasts. The wood regimen can range from zero to 100% new wood, depending on the *appellation* in question. In the context of our discussion here, the Clos de la Barre does not typically receive any exposure to new wood though it's usually aged in 100% one year old oak. By contrast, the Perrières sees 60 to 70% new wood. Bâtonnage, or lees stirring, is done on a wine by wine, vintage by vintage basis and there is no set policy. Again, while each vintage is handled individually, the wines are typically first racked in July from barrel to tank to assist in becoming more uniform and then back into cask. Depending on the style of the vintage and the wine in question, the élevage period lasts from 18 to 22 months and then the wines are racked one final time to make sure they are as clear as possible. Lafon typically does a light fining and then the whites are bottled in the second spring following the harvest.

The 13.21 ha *appellation* of Meursault "Perrières" technically consists of three *lieux-dits* even though it is typically thought of as consisting of only two: they are Aux Perrières (.80 ha), Les Perrières Dessus (or upper Perrières, 3.76 ha) and Les Perrières Dessous (lower), which is itself divided into two *lieux-dits*, which are the Clos des Perrières (.95 ha and a *monopole* of Domaine Albert Grivault) and Les Perrières Dessous (8.65 ha). Lafon's holdings total .91 ha and involve three parcels, two of which are located in Les Perrières Dessous (.77 ha) and the third of which is located in Les Perrières Dessus (.14 ha) and has only been included in the final blend since 2010. The majority of the larger holding in Les Perrières Dessous was planted in 1955. Most observers consider Dessous to be superior to that of Dessus because the latter is thought to be too high in altitude to ripen fully in all vintages.

The 2.12 ha Clos de la Barre vineyard is a *monopole* of the domaine and sits directly behind the family dwelling. The parcel is located in the heart of the village and is completely enclosed by walls. It faces due east on a very slight slope with a thin layer of mostly clay-based soil that lies directly atop hard mother rock. Most of the vineyard was planted in 1950 and 1975 with additional plantations done in 1999 and 2004. I find that most vintages of Clos de la Barre need 5 to 10 years to be at their best with 7 to 8 being a good average.

As to the tastings, both involved bottles that the domaine itself had stored and opened for the two occasions. As I hinted at in the first paragraph, of the two, the Clos de la Barre vertical was the more interesting one simply because it was done specifically with the goal of researching potential causes of what is known as premature oxidation, which is known by its shorthand name of "premox". A team of (mostly German) scientists with varying fields of expertise was present and samples of each wine were carefully drawn for further biochemical analysis. In cases where traces of premox were detected, another bottle was opened and samples of it drawn as well. In the case of the 1996, four bottles were opened and samples were again drawn for analysis. The other people present in addition to the scientists and Lafon were a consulting enologist, a winemaker and a professional critic (me).

The idea behind the tasting, and subsequent analysis, was to determine whether common markers could be isolated that might provide clues, or even definitive answers, as to why some wines were oxidized and why others were pristine. The approach involves the use of ultra-high resolution mass spectrometry to identify many of the molecules involved in a set of wines. I witnessed a presentation of this methodology that could identify with exacting precision the provenance of the oak barrels that had been used to age certain wines across nine different forests! Remarkable would be a massive understatement when you consider that the ability to pinpoint the specific forests in which the oaks grew before they were transformed into the barrels used to age wine is now possible.

It is too soon to know the results of the study and whether these mass spectrometry analyses will yield something statistically significant. But whether they do or not, it is entirely to Lafon's credit that he is taking the problem of premox as seriously as anyone in attempting to find a solution. It is refreshing when someone of Lafon's stature freely admits that there is a severe problem with white burgundies and that an explanation, and a resolution, must be found.

Domaine Comtes Lafon – 11 Vintages of Meursault "Perrières"

2009	**Meursault "Perrières" 1er**	**white**	**94**
2008	**Meursault "Perrières" 1er**	**white**	**92?**
2007	**Meursault "Perrières" 1er**	**white**	**95**
2006	**Meursault "Perrières" 1er**	**white**	**93**
2005	**Meursault "Perrières" 1er**	**white**	**92**
2004	**Meursault "Perrières" 1er**	**white**	**94**
2003	**Meursault "Perrières" 1er**	**white**	**91**
2002	**Meursault "Perrières" 1er**	**white**	**95**
1992	**Meursault "Perrières" 1er**	**white**	**94**
1982	**Meursault "Perrières" 1er**	**white**	**93**
1979	**Meursault "Perrières" 1er**	**white**	**89**

2009 Meursault "Perrières": A restrained and ultra-pure nose offers up notably ripe notes of white flower, white and yellow orchard fruit stone and a touch of mineral reduction that complements perfectly the equally mineral-inflected, detailed and attractively fleshy medium weight flavors that possess a minty and tension-filled finish that explodes with almost painful intensity. The elevated ripeness of the '09 vintage is in evidence but it doesn't seem to compromise the balance of this overtly powerful Perrières. 94/2017+

2008 Meursault "Perrières": This still exhibits the barest trace of wood that sets off the mildly exotic yellow orchard fruit that displays a touch of evolution that isn't entirely consistent with the general freshness of the '08 vintage. While it certainly wasn't premox, I don't believe that the aromatic profile of this bottle was entirely representative. There is excellent intensity to the mineral-suffused and well-detailed flavors that are both powerful and explosive on the solidly persistent finish that is quite austere and bone dry, which is curious given the ripeness of the nose. My score offers the benefit of the doubt. 92?/2016+

2007 Meursault "Perrières": Despite several years of bottle age, this remains backward, tight and not revealing much aromatically beyond wonderfully pure white flower, pear and spice aromas. The rich, full and strikingly powerful flavors possess superb depth of dry extract and huge length on the detailed, focused, beautifully balanced and penetrating finish that seems to be extracted directly from liquid rock. This very classy effort is a potentially great Perrières as everything necessary is here and this should age extremely well. The word Zen comes to mind. 95/2017+

2006 Meursault "Perrières": There is a hint of the exotic to the otherwise elegant acacia blossom, citrus peel and softly spiced pear aromas that complement perfectly the pure, detailed, intense and gorgeously delineated medium full flavors that seem almost delicate and then the finish explodes and continues seemingly without end. In the context of the '06 vintage, this is attractively dry and while not quite fully mature, it's not far off. While I would advise holding this for another 2 to 3 years there certainly would be no harm in opening a bottle now, especially if you own several and are curious. 93/2016+

2005 Meursault "Perrières": There is a buttery character that dominates the nose where background lactic nuances detract from the purity of the very ripe white and yellow orchard fruit aromas. There is outstanding concentration, richness, size, weight and power to the medium weight plus flavors that possess an abundance of palate staining dry extract, all wrapped in a long and reasonably well-balanced finish. Still, along with the 2003, this is not particularly elegant, at least not in the rarified circles of refinement that this wine typically travels in. While by no means a poor wine, it's not really for me. I would advise holding this for a few more years first because as the tasting note suggests, this is somewhat awkward today. 92/2017+

2004 Meursault "Perrières": A high-toned nose of white flowers and mineral-inflected aromas display some reduction but not enough to dominate them. The beautifully precise middle weight flavors have begun to round out though to be sure, there remains admirable precision and outstanding length. This is an unusually dense '04 as there is plenty of dry extract that gives a real sense of volume and mid-palate density. A genuinely excellent effort that can already be approached with pleasure though there would be no harm in allowing it to continue to slumber in the cellar for a few more years first. 94/now+

2003 Meursault "Perrières": This remains quite fresh in the context of this super ripe vintage and while there is some evidence of maturity, it's less than one might reasonably imagine for a 10 year old white. There is good purity to the complex yellow orchard aromas that precede the full-bodied, very ripe, round and overtly powerful flavors that culminate in an impressively long finish. This is really very good but no 2003 white burgundy completely escapes the influence of the vintage and for my taste, this is almost too much of a good thing. On the plus side there is flat out incredible intensity if limited finesse and while this is almost ready, I would allow it to cellar for another few years first though note that it will be capable of holding for years to come. 91/2015+

2002 Meursault "Perrières": The now fully mature nose is elegance personified with honeysuckle, green apple, spice, dried floral and limestone aromas. There is impressive precision to the crisp medium full flavors that pack absolutely superb mid-palate punch, the intensity of which continues into the extended palate staining finish. The flavors are quite powerful, firm and crystalline, underscored by pronounced and ripe acidity buffered by a lovely touch of sweet and sappy extract. Simply beautiful juice that is flat out amazingly complex. 95/now+

1992 Meursault "Perrières": There is now a touch of *sous bois* present on the fully mature, spicy and wonderfully complex nose that leads to round, suave and delicious mineral-inflected medium-bodied flavors that possess a really lovely mouth feel. There is really lovely intensity and this is quite a dry wine in the context of the vintage. This wonderfully harmonious effort should continue to drink well for years to come. I would note that I have tasted this wine any number of times from less well-stored bottles that did not show nearly as well as this one did. 94/now+

1982 Meursault "Perrières": Here the nose is remarkably fresh despite the presence of noticeable *sous bois* with expressive aromas of baked bread and hints of botrytis. There is a seductive textured to the round, nicely complex, incredibly pure and sappy flavors that offer excellent depth and plenty of mouth coating extract. This is a strikingly good wine and is in beautiful condition and while it doesn't have the same mid-palate concentration of the '92, this is impeccably well-balanced, particularly at 30+ years of age. Tasted on multiple occasions with largely consistent notes. 93/now

1979 Meursault "Perrières": An expressive and penetrating nose features notes of *sous bois*, apple cider, wet stone and dried floral elements. There is excellent tension and detail to the precise middle weight flavors that exhibit good punch if not the same depth and length as the 1982 as the acid spine is beginning to dominate the finish. I have had this wine on multiple occasions and it's clear that it's declining, albeit slowly, so I would advise drinking up sooner than later as there is nothing to be gained by holding it further. 89/now

Domaine Comtes Lafon – 23 Vintages of Meursault "Clos de la Barre"

2010	Meursault "Clos de la Barre"	white	91
2009	Meursault "Clos de la Barre"	white	90
2008	Meursault "Clos de la Barre"	white	89
2007	Meursault "Clos de la Barre"	white	91
2006	Meursault "Clos de la Barre"	white	87
2005	Meursault "Clos de la Barre"	white	87
2004	Meursault "Clos de la Barre"	white	89
2003	Meursault "Clos de la Barre"	white	90
2002	Meursault "Clos de la Barre"	white	92
2001	Meursault "Clos de la Barre"	white	89
2000	Meursault "Clos de la Barre"	white	89
1999	Meursault "Clos de la Barre"	white	88
1997	Meursault "Clos de la Barre"	white	82
1996	Meursault "Clos de la Barre"	white	90
1992	Meursault "Clos de la Barre"	white	92
1991	Meursault "Clos de la Barre"	white	86
1990	Meursault "Clos de la Barre"	white	90
1989	Meursault "Clos de la Barre"	white	92
1985	Meursault "Clos de la Barre"	white	89

1982	**Meursault "Clos de la Barre"**	**white**	**92**
1979	**Meursault "Clos de la Barre"**	**white**	**91**
1976	**Meursault "Clos de la Barre"**	**white**	**85**
1969	**Meursault "Clos de la Barre"**	**white**	**89**

2010 Meursault "Clos de la Barre": There is a touch of the exotic to the dried yellow fruit aromas that include lychee nut and spice hints. The middle weight flavors are clean, cool and utterly delicious with a really lovely acid/fruit balance on the powerful, intense and lingering finish. There is a saline hint on the long finale where a touch of gas is present so be sure to decant this if you're going to try one young. 91/2017+

2009 Meursault "Clos de la Barre": A notably ripe nose of orchard fruit aromas that include pear, apple and white peach are trimmed in notes of grilled almonds. There is an opulent mouth feel to the detailed and lightly mineral-inflected flavors that possess fine precision on the tension-filled and well-balanced finish. This is really quite good for its level as I particularly like the sense of proportion which will allow it to drink well young if desired. 90/1016+

2008 Meursault "Clos de la Barre": Here the nose plays right on the edge of reduction with restrained aromas of wax, white peach, apricot and floral elements that are laced with discreet exotic fruit and citrus hints that add pretty top notes. There is good volume to the precise and energetic middle weight flavors that possess good underlying material and fine length on the bone dry and overtly austere finish that exhibits a hint of sauvignon blanc-like character. This is quite serious but it may not be for everyone as it's somewhat atypical, at least at present. 89/2016+

2007 Meursault "Clos de la Barre": This is aromatically pure and ripe with beautifully fresh if restrained aromas of spice, brioche, apricot and white peach preceding round, precise and detailed medium-bodied flavors that display a subtle trace of backend minerality on the impressively long finish where the barest hint of warmth can be detected. This remains remarkably young yet it is actually quite approachable and overall, this is an exceptionally fine and one of the more structured vintages of recent memory for Clos de la Barre. In a word, terrific. 91/2017+

2006 Meursault "Clos de la Barre": (Lafon noted that Clos de la Barre was the first vineyard harvested in 2006). There wasn't a uniformity of consensus about this wine. I found a subtle note of oxidation on the otherwise slightly exotic and overtly ripe nose of orchard fruit, especially peach and apricot, that combines with roasted hazelnut notes. The rich, full and admirably concentrated medium-bodied flavors are opulent and lush yet possess plenty of punch and verve on the mouth coating finish that is really quite dry and provides an interesting contrast with the natural sweetness of the mid-palate. I would call 2006 a power vintage for Clos de la Barre that plays on the edge of *surmaturité*. As to an overall assessment, it's hard to say whether this bottle was really representative but I doubt it and in any event it does not closely resemble what I originally reviewed in 2008 (see Issue 35 or the database). However, if it in fact was representative I would advise drinking it up sooner than later. 87/now

2005 Meursault "Clos de la Barre": The first bottle served was clearly evolved and while not oxidized per se, it was nonetheless more advanced than it should have been. A second bottle was opened and was notably fresher with notes of honey, hazelnut and a notably ripe mix of various dried yellow fruit scents. There is impressive power, concentration and richness to the big-bodied and powerful flavors that brim with mouth coating dry extract before terminating in a lingering if somewhat flat and one-dimensional finish. Clos de la Barre typically does not lack for complexity as it ages yet the 2005 version doesn't seem to deliver the depth that one might reasonably expect. In short, I found this to be disappointing. I should note that while this will certainly be capable of holding further, I am not sure to what positive effect. 87/now

2004 Meursault "Clos de la Barre": There is only a hint of the reduction that is so typical of the 2004 vintage and it's sufficiently benign to allow the pretty aromas of white flowers, yellow orchard fruit and petrol to be appreciated. This is solidly well-concentrated in the context of the vintage with evident minerality to the utterly delicious, vibrant and round middle weight flavors that offer a refreshing saline note on the extended finish where a hint of grilled almond surfaces. This is not quite as complex as the very finest vintages of Clos de la Barre but it is certainly a lovely wine. Note that while this impressively refined effort is drinking perfectly now, there is no rush to drink up. 89/now

2003 Meursault "Clos de la Barre": A moderately exotic and exceptionally ripe nose of a broad mix of dried yellow fruit aromas exhibit added breadth in the form of petrol, floral and wood spice hints. There is outstanding size, weight and power to the opulent and imposingly concentrated flavors that possess plenty of drive if not much in the way of refinement. This is a big yet balanced wine that retains a fine level of intensity on the long finish and while it is not at all my style, there is so much underlying material that there is yet more development potential remaining. In sum, whether one likes the vintage or not, this is an undeniably impressive example. 90/2017+

2002 Meursault "Clos de la Barre": The first bottle was corked. The second possessed a surprisingly advanced color yet the aromas are quite fresh with a picture perfect Meursault nose that is beginning to turn secondary in character with notes of apricot, honey, dried flowers and grilled almond. There is good power to the nicely powerful and succulent flavors that go on and on. This is really very good, particularly for its level and while it's not the most complex wine among the vintages tasted, it is wonderfully harmonious and complete. For my taste this is drinking perfectly now with no upside development potential remaining. 92/now

2001 Meursault "Clos de la Barre": A fully mature nose displays full-on secondary fruit aromas that are liberally cut with botrytis notes as well as hints of petrol, honeysuckle and *sous bois*. There is a highly seductive mouth feel to the lush and solidly well-concentrated flavors that retain good definition on the delicious finish where the acidity arrives in a rush at the very end. There is very good complexity and the balance holds up well and overall, this is a quality effort in the context of the vintage. I would be drinking this now and over the next few years as it's clearly altogether ready. 89/now

2000 Meursault "Clos de la Barre": The highly expressive and fully mature nose is slightly exotic but not tropical as the fruit leans more toward spiced pears and peaches rather than bananas and pineapples along with notes of petrol and dried floral notes. The rich, full and ever-so-mildly sweet flavors are round and quite generous yet the acidity is sufficiently firm to provide shape and focus on the admirably persistent and agreeably dry if mildly compact finish. In sum, this is delivers very solid quality for a *villages* level wine that is drinking perfectly now. 89/now

1999 Meursault "Clos de la Barre": The first bottle was definitely evolved and while not so badly that it was undrinkable, it was clearly not what it should have been. The second bottle displayed a deep yellow color and was also slightly evolved but not in the sense of premox. The fully mature nose displayed plenty of dried floral and dried yellow fruit aromas that were in keeping with the ripe, rich and solidly well-concentrated medium-bodied flavors that coat the mouth with dry extract. The finish is quite dry, which provides an interesting contrast to the naturally sweet character of the mid-palate. This is a powerful vintage for this wine though one that has unquestionably arrived at its peak and I would be drinking this up over the next few years. 88/now

1997 Meursault "Clos de la Barre": Quite golden in color. There is a touch of oxidation present yet the distinctly honeyed aromas of dried yellow orchard fruit hide much of it. There is a trace of oxidation on the palate as well and while it does not render the wine undrinkable it isn't what it should be. To underscore the point, had I ordered this in a restaurant I would definitely have rejected the bottle. I have not tasted the '97 Clos de la Barre since it was released and thus I have no notes from truly representative bottles. I have though, tasted several other examples but all of them have been more advanced than they should have been. 82/now

1996 Meursault "Clos de la Barre": There were four bottles opened. One of them was excellent and another was drinkable if not nearly as good as the first; bottles three and four were oxidized through and through. The best bottle displayed a nose of mineral reduction, petrol and fully mature fruit. There is excellent verve and plenty of minerality to the delicious and solidly complex flavors that are supported by bright but not aggressive austerity before terminating in a dry and overtly austere finish. I like this for its fine depth and length but the austerity is sufficiently pronounced that it will bother some. Overall, I have had very inconsistent experiences with the '96 Barre. 90/now

1992 Meursault "Clos de la Barre": While the aromas are fully mature they show no signs of *sous bois* or tertiary notes. There is an almost Riesling-like character to the petrol, tangerine peel, honey and dried apricot suffused scents that give way to round, lush and opulent flavors that retain a good sense of focus on the balanced and lingering finish. This is positively sublime and classic example of aged Meursault. I would observe however that I have had any number of less well-stored bottles and it's clear that for the average example, it's time to drink up as they're beginning to tire unless they've been impeccably kept. 92/now

1991 Meursault "Clos de la Barre": Deep golden color with a nose that exhibits hints of sherry-like aromas along with plenty of *sous bois*, spice and dried exotic fruit notes. The delicious, round and palate coating middle weight flavors still possess good concentration before culminating in a very dry, crisp, compact and linear finish that is overtly austere. There is very solid depth though this has become sufficiently particular that it won't be for everyone. Note that I have had this on multiple occasions and it's clear that it is in decline and should be drunk up sooner rather than later. 86/now

1990 Meursault "Clos de la Barre": This is admirably fresh even though the nose is completely mature, indeed the aromas are full-on secondary in character and are beginning to display hints of *sous bois* along with the grilled almond, dried flower and exotic yellow fruit hints. There is excellent verve and fine detail to the solidly mineral-inflected, cool and beautifully detailed flavors that possess fine length and very good if not truly sensational depth. The finish is beginning to lean out ever-so-mildly and while this isn't going to fall off of a cliff anytime soon as it should continue to hold well, it's clear that this should be consumed over the next decade. 90/now

1989 Meursault "Clos de la Barre": Deep golden. There was initially a touch of reduction though some aggressive stirring liberated a genuinely beautifully complex nose of hazelnut, secondary fruit aromas and hints of *sous bois*, all trimmed in a touch of *pain grillé.* The mellow, rich, opulent and nicely sappy flavors possess a strikingly seductive mouth feel before culminating in a relatively dry, clean and balanced finish. This very stylish effort is lovely in every respect and again, while there's nothing to be gained from holding it further, it should continue to drink well. 92/now

1985 Meursault "Clos de la Barre": Two bottles were opened as the first one was corked. A deep golden color belies the remarkable freshness of the nose with its hints of mineral reduction, cider, menthol, petrol and *sous bois* traces. The delicious medium full flavors still possess good vibrancy and really lovely detail though the acidity is beginning to poke through the finish somewhat and imparting a touch of austerity in the process. In sum, this is lean but long and given how much it changed in the glass in a very short period of time, I would strongly advise drinking this up over the next few years. 89/now

1982 Meursault "Clos de la Barre": This is one of the more complex *villages* level wines that I have ever had the pleasure of trying and the aromatic depth and breadth is simply dazzling. There is a touch of volatile acidity to the dried floral, apricot, petrol and *sous bois*-infused nose along that is trimmed in pretty spice and grilled almond notes. There is a really lovely mouth feel to the silky-textured middle weight flavors that possess equally good depth on the balanced and ever-so-slightly warm but impressively long finish where there is a real sense of verve present that you rarely see in whites of 30+ years of age. To be sure, this is not technically perfect but technical perfection is not the appropriate standard for white burgundy of this age. I would be more than happy to drink this anytime. Tasted several times with consistent notes. 92/now

1979 Meursault "Clos de la Barre": Deep golden but no browning. A remarkably fresh nose displays a hint of reduction but not so much that it completely masks the aromas of *sous bois*, spice and mature fruit and floral aromas. There is a beguiling mouth feel to the energetic and well-detailed medium weight flavors that culminate in a borderline bone dry, linear and impressively persistent finish. This is really quite fine with a saline component on the balanced finale. Like several of the more successful older vintages, this is holding admirably well. 91/now

1976 Meursault "Clos de la Barre": Deep golden with hints of browning at the rim. This has gone almost completely tertiary and the *sous bois* and apple cider infused nose flirts hints of oxidation but doesn't quite fall over the edge. This displays the nose of an old white that is clearly tiring though there is impressive size, weight and density to the mid-palate. The cider component displayed by the nose comes into play on the palate as well though the finish is drying out, almost certainly because it was quite generously acidified. Moreover, Lafon indicated that the wine had spent about 3 years in cask before it was bottled and this undoubtedly contributes to the Mazanilla-like character. In sum, this is still alive but decidedly particular. 85/now

1969 Meursault "Clos de la Barre": Like the '76, this too displays a deep gold color with hints of browning. A ripe nose exhibits impressive breadth with perfumed notes of cider, *sous bois*, truffle and honey along with dried yellow orchard fruit and spice hints. The supple and seductively textured flavors terminate in a very dry, crisp and clean finish that avoids any sense of astringency while offering up interesting traces of grilled almonds. This is really in astonishing condition for a 44 year old *villages* level wine. Lovely if particular. 89/now

In the Next Issue

The 2011 Côte d'Or Whites

More Current Release California and Oregon Pinot Noir – Primarily 2011 and 2010

More 2011 and 2010 Côte d'Or reds

Progress Report: Domaine Méo-Camuzet Vertical of Vosne-Romanée "Aux Brûlées"