

B U R G H O U N D . C O M[®]

THE ULTIMATE BURGUNDY REFERENCE

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Statement of Principles

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

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

While the concept of *terroir* remains a controversial issue in the opinion of many people, it is not controversial to the Burgundian mindset—or to me, either. I attempt to convey, where appropriate, how certain wines are particularly good, or particularly bad, at expressing their underlying *terroir*.

This is admittedly a difficult thing, rightly open to discussion among the Burgundians themselves, never mind an outside observer such as myself. Nevertheless, it is fundamental to great Burgundy. Mere "hedonism" is just that: empty pleasure seeking. Burgundy can deliver so much more—if it is asked.

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A Brief Word About Scores:

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

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

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

Please note: Wines are scored based on their expected quality at peak drinkability. Many *grands crus* that will, I believe, "be" a 92 may not necessarily taste like a 92-point wine when young, thanks to the prominent tannins or general inaccessibility.

Wines rated 90 points or above are worth a special effort to find and cellar. Wines rated 85 or above are recommended, **especially among regional and villages level wines**. There will be relatively few 90+ point wines, simply because there are relatively few outstanding and superlative wines. Finished, bottled wines are assigned specific scores as these wines are market-ready. Wines tasted from barrel are scored within a range. This reflects the reality that a wine tasted from barrel is not a finished, market-ready product.

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

Estimated Maturities:

Estimating a window of when any 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.

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CÔTE DE BEAUNE – The 2009 and 2008 Vintages

2009 Summary – An Excellent, and very Consistent, Vintage of Opulence, Charm and Seduction

As I observed in Issue 41, there can be no question that 2009 is an excellent vintage, in fact the only legitimate question that I see is simply how good is it? As usual, let me get straight to the point and answer *the* question that I have already been asked probably 500 times in the last few months: Is 2009 as good as, better than or less interesting than 2005? In my view, 2009 is not quite as good as 2005 overall but there are certainly some growers that performed better or made a few wines that are superior to their 2005 counterparts. There is a nuance in this statement however because while 2005 is undeniably superior to 2009 in the Côte de Nuits, it is much closer in terms of absolute quality in the Côte de Beaune. This is because there was less rainfall in 2005 in the Côte de Beaune and thus some wines are almost aggressively hard. Though 2005 is still better overall, there will certainly be some 2009 Côte de Beaune that outclass their 2005 counterparts.

As is the case in the Côte de Nuits, the respective characters of the two vintages are distinctly different from one another and any attempt to compare them is really an apples and oranges exercise. The 2009s in the Côte de Beaune are much more forward and accessible wines than their 2005 counterparts were at the same time, in fact I would go so far as to say that they are more accessible today even with their four years of youthful remove relative to the 2005s. While the 2009s will age very well, indeed better than many recent vintages, it is also fair to observe that they are not the '05s in terms of potential longevity.

It is also worth noting that in more than a few cases, the comments that you will read below from various domaines will unequivocally state that they believe their '09s are better than their '05s. The most frequently cited reason is that of better balance and sometimes, finer tannins or more charm. And these comments are not necessarily marketing hype or apologies for a softer vintage as there really are some potentially stupendous '09s.

Before you begin to ask yourself what could there possibly be not to like, let me provide a few cautions. First, some of the '09s are over ripe or *surmature* as the Burgundians would say and lack freshness and verve. No, it's nowhere near to the point that say the '03s were at this early stage but there are indeed some pretty ripe '09s. Second, 2009 was an abundant crop, particularly in the Côte de Beaune and thus there are some dilute '09s. Thirdly, because of the elevated degrees of ripeness, there are some flabby and/or soft '09s that make them agreeable today but do not bode well for aging gracefully. Lastly, relatively few '09s are true laser beams of *terroir* and while they are much better than say the '03s, they certainly are not 2001 or 2008 in this regard.

As was the case in the Côte de Nuits, growers in the Côte de Beaune also said that they feared making wines with excessively low acidities and high pHs. And even though there wasn't necessarily much malic acidity, the malos were often quite long though as you will see in the grower comments, they were often quite variable as well. In the end, because the amount of malic acid was limited, the pre-malo and post-malo pHs didn't change dramatically. The point is that despite the fear that the '09s could be unduly flabby or dull, this is generally not the case and the wines impart the impression that their acidities are much more vibrant than the figures would otherwise suggest. There are relatively few fat and heavy '09s, in fact you will see the adjective 'fresh' used much more often in the tasting notes than one might think given the elevated ripeness levels.

Yields in the Côte de Beaune ranged between normal to generous. As readers know, I am an advocate of making the distinction between reported yields and effective yields, which is the variance between what is either thrown out on the sorting room floor or not picked in the first place. For the first time since 2005 there is almost no difference between the reported yields and the effective yields because there was uniform ripeness thanks to the rapid flowering with no rot and thus almost everything was picked, and more importantly, retained. And because the bunches and maturity levels were so uniform, most growers reported throwing out less than 5% and in many cases, virtually none at all. Thus a reported yield of 35 hl/ha really is just that and not 42 hl/ha because of 20% sorting losses.

One of the best aspects of the 2009 vintage is the palpable sense of dry extract present in the average wine. This is true even though yields were not low and the skins were not particularly thick due to the heavy July rainfall. It would be reasonable to expect to find plenty of wines with "holes in the middle" yet this is infrequent. The average '09 has that wonderful sense of "inner" concentration (as distinct from extraction) that only natural sap can bring. It is what you will see referred to in the tasting notes as 'dry extract' and that is always a positive sign of top quality. Moreover, the perfect weather meant that phenolic maturity was high, which is winemaker lingo for ripeness of the structural and physiological elements of the grapes, such as anthocyanins (essentially pigmentation) and tannins. This density of extract can probably be explained by the relatively high proportion of *millerandage*, or shot berries, which have very high solids to liquids ratios.

While it is more common for growers in the Côte de Nuits to vinify with some proportion of the stems, there were any number that also did so in the Côte de Beaune in 2009. And among those few who typically do use them, they used more without fear as the stems had completely lignified (turned brown). As to potential alcohols, sugars were also excellent but not excessive and while obviously variable, a range of 12.5 to 13.5% is a rough average of what Côte de Beaune growers reported to me,

which also meant that there was minimal if any chaptalization. The average pH came in around 3.5 and ranged from about 3.4 to 3.65, which is about ideal.

If there are any differences between the Côte de Nuits and the Côte de Beaune, they are slight. Slight though they may be, they are worth bringing to your attention. The first is that notwithstanding the fact that 2009 is a very consistent vintage in both Côtes, it is a bit more consistent in the Côte de Nuits. The second is that the wines of the Côte de Beaune are ever-so-mildly riper, both in terms of the alcohols but also in the ripeness levels of the fruit. There are more roasted and prune-suffused noses though happily for all concerned, these examples are very much in the minority. The third is that there was more rot pressure in the Côte de Beaune though among the 86 high-quality growers that I visited, I detected very little in the way of off aromas or flavors.

The Weather and Harvest:

For a much more in depth and detailed discussion about the overall characteristics of 2009 vintage, including specifics about the growing season, I refer you to my comments in Issue 41. With respect to the Côte de Beaune, as noted above, save for somewhat more rainfall, the weather patterns were not significantly different from those experienced in the Côte de Nuits. Hail fell on the 17th of April in Puligny and Chassagne though this was more a matter of reduced quantities for reds than whites.

Essentially, the main keys to success in 2009 were controlling yields so that one did not make dilute wines and not harvesting the fruit too ripe so that the resulting wines were unduly heavy, roasted or flat. Otherwise, there were a number of margin-for-error buffers that raised significantly the overall quality of the vintage.

The 2009 Côte de Beaune Reds:

As I observed at the very beginning, the most successful 2009s are wonderfully fresh, seductively opulent, elegant and refined burgundies that should be more than capable of successfully rewarding short-to-mid-term cellaring out to 20 years or so. There is also a tenderness to the wines that render them most beguiling. Moreover, the wines adhere quite closely to the *appellation* hierarchy though at the same time, many wines indeed transcend their respective levels, particularly at the lower levels. The other aspect of the better '09s is how fine the tannins are and this contributes to the seductive and charming character that so many of them exude. As was the case in 2008, when the more rustic *appellations* such as Aloxe, Savigny, Auxey-Duresses, Monthelie, Santenay and Chassagne are good, they tend to be more refined than usual.

The average wine is firmly structured but not at all aggressive because of the abundance of mid-palate concentration to buffer the structure. The structural elements are also quite ripe, which takes away any sense of aggressiveness from the tannins, and the acid levels are in keeping with the ripeness of the tannins, which means that the acidity does not have the tendency to accentuate the perception of astringency. As with the better 2005s, the best '09s have a highly seductive textural impact on the palate, which you will see the tasting notes make reference to again and again. There is a real sense of volume and punch but at the same time, no sense of undue heaviness. Indeed I would go so far as to say that the best '09s, again as with the greatest of the '05s, epitomize the intrinsic genius of a great burgundy's ability to deliver power without weight. Stated differently, the better '09s are gorgeously balanced wines with a real sense of underlying harmony as there is everything they need to age gracefully for years if not as long as the '05s.

Overall, the best wines are truly transcendental and should provide for magical drinking experiences over a period of several decades and the best wines should see 30 years in fine shape. What's harder to predict is how they will react after they have been in bottle for a few years. Some believe that they will shut down after a few years but my sense is that they will probably remain relatively open or, if they do shut down, it will not be in a hard "don't touch me until I'm ready" fashion. The better wines have so much depth of material that they will probably always be accessible if not necessarily always at their optimum.

What to Buy in 2009:

As I mentioned at the very beginning of this analysis, quality is relatively uniform up and down the Côte de Beaune. And while there are many standout communes, in particular Volnay and Pommard, it may surprise you to know that my pick for the MVA (most valuable *appellation*) in 2009 is the Hill of Corton. Never have I seen so many excellent to great examples of Corton, and this includes *villages* wines, 1ers and of course the *grands crus*. The balance, copious amounts of dry extract and ripe tannins permit these to be approached already and while they will of course age for decades, they are much less forbidding and austere than usual. So, for those of you looking for high-quality but affordable ageworthy '09s, the Hill of Corton is a great hunting ground.

As I did with the Côte de Nuits reds, my advice in the Côte de Beaune is to buy up and down the food chain and do NOT avoid purchasing regional and *villages* level wines. This approach makes sense because it will enable your available funds to buy

more wine and it will also enable you to purchase “protection” as it were for the top ‘09s because you will have something else to try while you wait for your top quality gems to fully mature.

Outside of the hill of Corton, quality is frankly excellent up and down the Côte de Beaune even in such out of fashion communes such as Santenay, Auxey, Monthelie, Ladoix and Chassagne; in all of these communes there will be great values to be had. Of course there are superb wines to be had from Volnay, Pommard, Beaune and Savigny though if I had to pick a second MVA, it would be Pommard. It has been many a vintage since I have seen so many potentially great wines from Pommard, in particular from Rugiens, Epenots and Pézerolles but also from Fremiers, Chanlins, Jarolières, Chaponnières and even any number of *villages* vineyards such as Noizons, Vignots and Vaumuriens. For other value ideas, be sure to consult the charts of Top Value and Sweet Spot Selections.

As I observed in Issue 41, demand for the better 2009s is red hot and London merchants continue to tell me that their allocations are selling well. This of course means there aren’t likely to be many bargains available, particularly for the better known wines. Even so, that in and of itself is no reason to pay ridiculous prices because as good as the ‘09s are, remember: there is always another vintage and the quality standard in Burgundy has never been higher. Indeed, as in the Côte de Nuits, more than one Côte de Beaune grower told me that they believe that their 2010s will be better than their ‘09s. So pay what you believe is fair or don’t buy. Besides, it’s possible that you’ll find it later for less because if you really search most wines will turn up sooner or later. Lastly, 2009 will undoubtedly attract its share of speculators and competing with stupid money is never a good idea. And if prices really get whacky, backfill with 2005s in the auction market because if you believe it’s necessary to pay absolute top dollar for something that you really want, I’d rather put my money on the 2005 equivalent.

2008 in the Côte de Beaune – More Interesting than Originally Previewed:

My in-bottle tastings of the 2008 vintage have served to confirm that, like the 2007 vintage, it is a very good to sometimes excellent but highly variable vintage. As was described in considerable detail in Issue 37, a lot of things had to go right for the best wines to be made and some growers were either good enough, or lucky enough, to do just that. Most wines scored within their predicted ranges and while there were a few surprises, and in both directions, the average 2008 will make for really lovely medium-term drinking though there will also be a few long distance runners.

As such, there were very few significant modifications other than in some cases I extended by a year or two my predicted drinking windows. In a tiny minority of cases, the windows were extended by as much as five years but these were the exceptions. Otherwise, there were no dramatic changes. The best ‘08s are fresh, intense, bright, vibrant and very *terroir*-driven – in short it’s a classic Burgundian vintage. And as I noted in my vintage analysis last year, it is on the whole more interesting than either 2007 or 2006. And in a few cases, the wines are truly brilliant so don’t overlook them.

An Important Word about the Tasting Notes:

99% of the following red burgundy notes are based on tastings conducted in February, 2011. Please 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 tables are listed alphabetically while the wines in the tasting notes that follow are presented in the order the winemaker chose to present them; this often is an indication as to the esteem in which the winemaker regards each wine. Regional, *villages* or *premiers crus* receiving a ➤ symbol are particularly outstanding for their respective *appellations* and especially merit your attention; *grands crus* necessarily stand on their own merits (as well they should).

Readers should also be aware that unfortunately, there are approximately 10 domaines that I typically visit that I could not this February. I managed to crack a rib which caused me to lose the equivalent of two tasting days because for the first few days after the accident, it was impossible to maintain my normal all day appointment schedule. I will try to either obtain samples or to visit these domaines this summer so as to ensure that you have access to the information you expect and deserve.

Burghound.com 2009 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 \$50 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, particularly the dollar, against the euro. “Sweet Spot Wines” address the wide gulf between the under \$50 Top Value wines and the over \$125 “Don’t Miss” wines. The “Don’t Miss” wines are chosen based on 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 2009 Vintage Selections

61 "Top Value" Wines from the 2009 vintage in this Issue

2009	Aloxe-Corton	des Croix	(89-91)
2009	Aloxe-Corton	Follin-Arbelet	89
2009	Aloxe-Corton	Patrick Javillier	89
2009	Aloxe-Corton	Roland Rapet	89
2009	Aloxe-Corton	Comte Senard	89
2009	Aloxe-Corton Vieilles Vignes	Edmund Cornu	(89-91)
2009	Aloxe-Corton "Les Moutottes" 1er	Edmund Cornu	(90-93)
2009	Aloxe-Corton "Les Valozières" 1er	Edmund Cornu	(90-92)
2009	Auxey-Duresses "Les Reugnes" 1er	Thierry Violot-Guillemard	89
2009	Bourgogne	Marquis d'Angerville	87
2009	Bourgogne	Jean-Claude Bachelet	(86-88)
2009	Bourgogne	Buisson-Charles	87
2009	Bourgogne	de Courcel	(86-88)
2009	Bourgogne	Michel Lafarge	(86-88)
2009	Bourgogne	Benjamin Leroux	87
2009	Bourgogne	Domaine Parent	(86-88)
2009	Bourgogne	F&L Pillot	87
2009	Bourgogne – Cuvée L'Héritière	Nicolas Rossignol	(86-89)
2009	Bourgogne – Les Deux Papies	Alex Gambal	87
2009	Bourgogne – Maison Dieux	Violot-Guillemard	87
2009	Bourgogne "Perrières"	Simon Bize	88
2009	Bourgogne – Signature	Maison Champy	87
2009	Bourgogne - Vieilles Vignes	François Labet	(86-88)
2009	Bourgogne - Vieilles Vignes	Joseph Voillot	87
2009	Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune	Jean-Marc Bouley	87
2009	Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits	Anne-Françoise Gros	(86-88)
2009	Chassagne-Montrachet	Blain-Gagnard	89
2009	Chassagne-Montrachet	Morey-Coffinet	89
2009	Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes	F&L Pillot	89
2009	Chassagne-Montrachet "Morqeot - La Cardeuse" 1er	Bernard Moreau	(89-92)
2009	Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean" 1er	Jean-Marc Pillot	(90-92)
2009	Chassagne-Montrachet "Morqeot" 1er	Morey-Coffinet	91
2009	Ladoix "Les Corvées" 1er	Edmund Cornu	(90-92)
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2009	Monthelie	Domaines Matrot	89
2009	Monthelie "Les Duresses" 1er	Violot-Guillemard	90
2009	Nuits St. Georges	Joseph Drouhin	90
2009	Nuits St. Georges	Philippe Pacalet	90
2009	Nuits St. Georges Vieilles Vignes	de Bellene	(89-91)
2009	Pernand-Vergelesses	Patrick Javillier	89
2009	Pommard	Pascal Bouley	(89-91)
2009	Pommard	Jean-Jacques Girard	89
2009	Pommard	Huber-Verdereau	90
2009	Pommard	Domaine Parent	(89-91)
2009	Pommard	Violot-Guillemard	90
2009	Pommard - Vieilles Vignes	Joseph Voillot	89
2009	Pommard "En Chiveau"	Buisson-Charles	89
2009	Pommard "Noizons"	Aleth Girardin	(89-92)
2009	Pommard "Petits Noizons"	Jean-Marc Bouley	(89-91)
2009	Pommard "Clos des Ursulines"	du Pavillon	89
2009	Pommard "Vignots"	Nicolas Rossignol	(89-91)
2009	St. Aubin "Derrière Chez Edouard – Vieilles Vignes" 1er	Hubert et Olivier Lamy	91
2009	Santenay "Clos des Hâtes"	Hubert et Olivier Lamy	90
2009	Volnay	Henri Boillot	90

2009	Volnay	Huber-Verdereau	89
2009	Volnay	Benjamin Leroux	89
2009	Volnay	F&L Pillot	89
2009	Volnay Vieilles Vignes	Jean-Marc Bouley	(89-91)
2009	Volnay Vieilles Vignes	Jean-Jacques Girard	89

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2009	Beaune "Grèves" 1er	de Bellene	(90-93)
2009	Beaune "Grèves – Vigne de l'Enfant Jésus" 1er	Bouchard Père et Fils	(91-94)
2009	Beaune "Grèves" 1er	Michel Lafarge	(91-93)
2009	Beaune "Grèves" 1er	de Montille	(91-93)
2009	Beaune "Grèves" 1er	Roland Rapet	92
2009	Beaune "Teurons" 1er	de Bellene	(90-93)
2009	Beaune "Les Teurons" 1er	Albert Morot	(91-93)
2009	Chambolle-Musigny "1er" 1er	Joseph Drouhin	92
2009	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses" 1er	Joseph Drouhin	(93-95)
2009	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses" 1er	Lucien Le Moine	(91-94)
2009	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses" 1er	Pousse d'Or	94
2009	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Charmes" 1er	Pousse d'Or	93
2009	Chorey-lès-Beaune	Alex Gambal	89
2009	Corton Grand Cru	Bonneau du Martray	(92-94)
2009	Corton Grand Cru	Maison Champy	92
2009	Corton Grand Cru	Roland Rapet	92
2009	Le Corton Grand Cru	Bouchard Père et Fils	(93-95)
2009	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	Chandon de Briailles	(92-94)
2009	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	Follin-Arbelet	(92-94)
2009	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	Antonin Guyon	(91-94)
2009	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	Lucien Le Moine	(92-95)
2009	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	Pousse d'Or	94
2009	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	Jacques Prieur	(92-94)
2009	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	Comte Senard	93
2009	Corton-Clos des Maréchaudes Grand Cru	du Pavillon	92
2009	Corton-Clos des Meix Grand Cru	Comte Senard	92
2009	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	Chandon de Briailles	(93-95)
2009	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	Camille Giroud	(91-94)
2009	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	Antonin Guyon	(92-95)
2009	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	de Montille	(92-94)
2009	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	Pousse d'Or	95
2009	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	Comte Senard	93
2009	Corton-Les Paulands Grand Cru	Comte Senard	92
2009	Corton-Pougets Grand Cru	Roland Rapet	93
2009	Corton-Renardes Grand Cru	Domaine Parent	(91-94)
2009	Côte de Beaune	Joseph Drouhin	89
2009	Gevrey-Chambertin	Bouchard Père et Fils	89
2009	Gevrey-Chambertin	Joseph Drouhin	90
2009	Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes	François Labet	(89-91)
2009	Gevrey-Chambertin "1er" 1er	Jacques Prieur	(90-92)
2009	Gevrey-Chambertin "Cazetiers" 1er	Bouchard Père et Fils	(91-93)
2009	Gevrey-Chambertin "Cazetiers" 1er	Lucien Le Moine	(92-94)
2009	Gevrey-Chambertin "Estournelles St. Jacques" 1er	Lucien Le Moine	(91-93)
2009	Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaut St. Jacques" 1er	Lucien Le Moine	(91-93)
2009	Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaut St. Jacques" 1er	Philippe Pacalet	(91-93)
2009	Nuits St. Georges "Aux Thorey" 1er	de Montille	92
2009	Nuits St. Georges "Chaignots" 1er	de Bellene	(90-93)

2009	Nuits St. Georges "Vaucrains" 1er	Camille Giroud	(91-94)
2009	Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses"	Jean-Marc Pavelot	(91-93)
2009	Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses"	Roland Rapet	91
2009	Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses"	Rémi Rollin	91
2009	Pommard "Les Bertins" 1er	Huber-Verdereau	91
2009	Pommard "Chanlins" 1er	Nicolas Rossignol	(92-94)
2009	Pommard "Chaponnières" 1er	Domaine Parent	(90-93)
2009	Pommard "Chaponnières" 1er	Nicolas Rossignol	(90-93)
2009	Pommard "Chaponnières Vieilles Vignes" 1er	Philippe Billard	(91-93)
2009	Pommard "Clos Derrière St. Jean" 1er	Violot-Guillemard	92
2009	Pommard "Clos des Epenaux" 1er	Comte Armand	(92-95)
2009	Pommard "Grand Clos des Epenots" 1er	de Courcel	(92-94)
2009	Pommard "Epenots" 1er	Aleth Girardin	(91-94)
2009	Pommard "Epenots" 1er	de Montille	93
2009	Pommard "Epenots" 1er	Domaine Parent	(91-93)
2009	Pommard "Epenots" 1er	François Parent	(91-93)
2009	Pommard "Epenots" 1er	Nicolas Rossignol	(92-94)
2009	Pommard "Epenots" 1er	Violot-Guillemard	93
2009	Pommard "Epenots" 1er	Joseph Voillot	(91-94)
2009	Pommard "Fremiers" 1er	Jean-Marc Bouley	(91-94)
2009	Pommard "Fremiers" 1er	de Courcel	(91-94)
2009	Pommard "Fremiers" 1er	Nicolas Rossignol	(91-94)
2009	Pommard "Jarolières" 1er	Pousse d'Or	93
2009	Pommard "Jarolières" 1er	Nicolas Rossignol	(90-93)
2009	Pommard "Pézerolles" 1er	Bouchard Père et Fils	(91-93)
2009	Pommard "Pézerolles" 1er	Michel Lafarge	(92-94)
2009	Pommard "Pézerolles" 1er	de Montille	(91-93)
2009	Pommard "Pézerolles" 1er	François Parent	(91-93)
2009	Pommard "Pézerolles" 1er	Joseph Voillot	(90-93)
2009	Pommard "Rugiens-Bas" 1er	Philippe Billard	(92-95)
2009	Pommard "Rugiens-Bas" 1er	de Montille	(92-94)
2009	Pommard "Rugiens" 1er	Henri Boillot	93
2009	Pommard "Rugiens" 1er	Jean-Marc Bouley	(92-94)
2009	Pommard "Rugiens" 1er	de Courcel	(92-95)
2009	Pommard "Rugiens" 1er	Aleth Girardin	(92-94)
2009	Pommard "Rugiens" 1er	du Pavillon	93
2009	Pommard "Rugiens" 1er	F&L Pillot	(91-93)
2009	Pommard "Rugiens" 1er	Violot-Guillemard	93
2009	Pommard "Rugiens" 1er	Joseph Voillot	(92-94)
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune "La Dominode" 1er	Jean-Marc Pavelot	(92-94)
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fourneaux" 1er	Simon Bize	(91-94)
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Guettes" 1er	Simon Bize	93
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Guettes" 1er	Jean-Marc Pavelot	(91-93)
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Lavières" 1er	Jean-Jacques Girard	92
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Talmettes" 1er	Simon Bize	93
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Vergelesses" 1er	Simon Bize	(92-94)
2009	Volnay "Clos de la Bousse d'Or" 1er	Pousse d'Or	93
2009	Volnay "Caillerets" 1er	Marquis d'Angerville	93
2009	Volnay "Caillerets" 1er	Bitouzet-Prieur	(91-93)
2009	Volnay "Caillerets" 1er	Henri Boillot	93
2009	Volnay "Caillerets" 1er	Chandon de Briailles	(91-94)
2009	Volnay "Caillerets" 1er	Michel Lafarge	(92-95)
2009	Volnay "Caillerets" 1er	Nicolas Rossignol	(92-94)
2009	Volnay "Caillerets - Clos des Soixante Ouvrées" 1er	Pousse d'Or	94
2009	Volnay "Carelles" 1er	Jean-Marc Bouley	(91-93)
2009	Volnay "Champans" 1er	Marquis d'Angerville	(93-95)
2009	Volnay "Champans" 1er	Pascal Bouley	(91-94)
2009	Volnay "Champans" 1er	Joseph Voillot	(91-93)
2009	Volnay "Chevret" 1er	Nicolas Rossignol	(91-93)
2009	Volnay "Clos de la Cave des Ducs" 1er	Benjamin Leroux	92
2009	Volnay "Clos du Château des Ducs" 1er	Michel Lafarge	(91-94)
2009	Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	Bouchard Père et Fils	(91-93)

2009	Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	Jean-Marc Bouley	(91-93)
2009	Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	Pascal Bouley	(91-94)
2009	Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	Michel Lafarge	(93-95)
2009	Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	Latour-Giraud	(91-93)
2009	Volnay "Les Frémiets" 1er	Marquis d'Angerville	(91-93)
2009	Volnay "Les Frémiets" 1er	Henri Boillot	92
2009	Volnay "Les Frémiets" 1er	Joseph Voillot	91
2009	Volnay "Mitans" 1er	Michel Lafarge	(91-94)
2009	Volnay "Mitans" 1er	de Montille	(91-93)
2009	Volnay "Roncerets" 1er	Nicolas Rossignol	(92-95)
2009	Volnay "Santenots" 1er	Pascal Bouley	(91-93)
2009	Volnay "Santenots" 1er	Buisson-Charles	92
2009	Volnay "Santenots" 1er	du Pavillon	92
2009	Volnay "Santenots" 1er	Nicolas Rossignol	(91-93)
2009	Volnay "Clos des Santenots" 1er	Jacques Prieur	(91-93)
2009	Volnay "Taillepieds" 1er	Marquis d'Angerville	(92-94)
2009	Volnay "Taillepieds" 1er	Bitouzet-Prieur	(90-93)
2009	Volnay "Taillepieds" 1er	Dublère	(91-93)
2009	Volnay "Taillepieds" 1er	de Montille	(92-94)
2009	Volnay "Taillepieds" 1er	Nicolas Rossignol	(93-95)
2009	Vosne-Romanée	Bouchard Père et Fils	(89-92)
2009	Vosne-Romanée	Camille Giroud	(89-92)
2009	Vosne-Romanée "Malconsorts" 1er	Roche de Bellene	(91-94)
2009	Vosne-Romanée "Malconsorts" 1er	Lucien Le Moine	(92-94)
2009	Vosne-Romanée "Malconsorts" 1er	de Montille	(92-95)
2009	Vosne-Romanée "Les Petits-Monts" 1er	Joseph Drouhin	(91-94)

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2009	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	Bouchard Père et Fils	(93-95)
2009	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	Joseph Drouhin	94
2009	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	Benjamin Leroux	(92-94)
2009	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	Pousse d'Or	95
2009	Chambertin Grand Cru	Henri Boillot	94
2009	Chambertin Grand Cru	Alex Gambal	(92-94)
2009	Chambertin Grand Cru	Camille Giroud	(92-95)
2009	Chambertin Grand Cru	Jacques Prieur	(92-95)
2009	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	Henri Boillot	94
2009	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	Bouchard Père et Fils	(94-96)
2009	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	Lucien Le Moine	(93-95)
2009	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	Maison Champy	(92-94)
2009	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	Joseph Drouhin	93
2009	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	Lucien Le Moine	(93-95)
2009	Clos St. Denis Grand Cru	Benjamin Leroux	(92-94)
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2009	Clos de Vougeot	Joseph Drouhin	93
2009	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	Camille Giroud	(92-94)
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2009	Echézeaux Grand Cru	Bouchard Père et Fils	(92-94)
2009	Echézeaux Grand Cru	Anne-Françoise Gros	(92-94)
2009	Echézeaux Grand Cru	Philippe Pacalet	(92-94)
2009	Echézeaux Grand Cru	Jacques Prieur	(92-94)
2009	Grands Echézeaux Grand Cru	Joseph Drouhin	95
2009	Grands Echézeaux Grand Cru	Lucien Le Moine	(92-95)
2009	Griotte-Chambertin Grand Cru	Joseph Drouhin	93
2009	Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru	Simon Bize	(92-95)

2009	Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru	Camille Giroud	(92-94)
2009	Mazis-Chambertin Grand Cru	Lucien Le Moine	(93-95)
2009	Musigny Grand Cru	Joseph Drouhin	96
2009	Musigny Grand Cru	Jacques Prieur	(93-95)
2009	Richebourg Grand Cru	Anne-Françoise Gros	(93-96)
2009	Richebourg Grand Cru	Lucien Le Moine	(93-96)
2009	Romanée St. Vivant Grand Cru	Follin-Arbelet	(92-94)
2009	Romanée St. Vivant Grand Cru	Lucien Le Moine	(92-95)
2009	Romanée St. Vivant – Les Quatre Journaux Grand Cru	Louis Latour	94
2009	Ruchottes-Chambertin Grand Cru	Philippe Pacalet	94
2009	Volnay “Clos des Ducs” 1er	Marquis d’Angerville	(93-96)
2009	Vosne-Romanée “Les Gaudichots” 1er	Lucien Le Moine	(93-96)
2009	Vosne-Romanée “Malconsorts - Christiane” 1er	de Montille	(93-95)

CÔTE DE BEAUNE Reds – The 2009 and 2008 Vintages

Domaine Guy et Thierry Amiot (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2009	Bourgogne	red	86
2009	Chassagne-Montrachet – Vieilles Vignes	red	(86-89)
2009	Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Chaumes”	red	(86-89)
2009	Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean” 1er	red	(88-91)
2009	Chassagne-Montrachet “Maltroie” 1er	red	(88-91)

Thierry Amiot told me that 2009 “was an easy vintage. The pinot was quite ripe and very clean so there wasn’t much sorting required. We began picking on the 10th of September and brought in phenolically ripe fruit with potential alcohols of between 12.5 and 13.5%. The fermentations were easy and the malos relatively early and about the only thing you had to watch was not to extract too much so the balance was maintained. Otherwise, the wines are delicious and forward and should offer much pleasure, both immediately and over time.” With the exception of the Bourgogne, the present plan is to bottle the reds in February and March. Note that Amiot said that the unbottled reds would be fined, which makes judging their in-bottle tannic structures tricky. (Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, www.kermitlynch.com, Berkeley, CA, Robert Chadderdon Selections, 212/332.4999 N.Y., 510/638.5200 S.F., and Diageo Château and Estate Wines, www.diageowines.com, NY, NY; Richards Walford, www.r-w.co.uk, Lea & Sandeman, www.londonfinewine.co.uk, H & H Bancroft Wines, www.bancroftwines.com, House of Townend, www.hotwines.co.uk, all UK).

2009 Bourgogne: (from 40 year old vines raised half in wood and half in stainless; bottled in September). A notably fresh nose of earth and ripe red and dark berry fruit aromas leads to nicely rich and naturally sweet flavors that carry only a mild touch of rusticity on the otherwise delicious if not especially complex finish. This is solidly attractive for its level. 86/2013+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet – Vieilles Vignes: (also from 40+ year old vines). A similar if slightly more refined nose slides seamlessly into relatively precise and rich middle weight flavors supported by phenolically ripe tannins and fine length. There was a lot of gas on the finish, which exacerbates the perceived firmness of the tannins. (86-89)/2014+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Chaumes”: (from 45 year old vines located just below the Route de Santenay near Boudriotte; raised in 50% new wood). Here the nose is slightly more complex with its aromatic profile of ripe red and black cherry fruit trimmed in notes of both pepper and warm earth where the latter component carries over to the rich, round and firm medium-bodied flavors that possess good volume and length but also distinct rusticity. The fining may diminish the rusticity. (86-89)/2016+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet “Maltroie”: (from 60+ year old vines – aged in 50% new wood). Here too there is moderate wood influence though it’s not enough to really detract materially from the fresh and very pinot nose that is cut with pepper and earth nuances, both of which infuse the rich, round, supple and fleshy flavors that possess good minerality and very good length on the sappy and mouth coating finish. If this can add a bit more depth, it may finish at the top of my predicted range. (88-91)/2015+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean”: (from 50+ year old vines, aged in 50% new wood). A deft touch of wood sets off liqueur-like notes of red cherry and red pinot fruit that complement well the rich, sweet and relatively full-bodied flavors that possess good detail and a touch of minerality on the longer and notably finer finish. Lovely. (88-91)/2015+

Domaine Marquis d'Angerville (Volnay)

2009	➔ Bourgogne	red	87
2009	Volnay	red	89
2009	➔ Volnay “1er”	red	91
2009	➔ Volnay “Caillerets” 1er	red	93
2009	➔ Volnay “Champans” 1er	red	(93-95)
2009	➔ Volnay “Clos des Angles” 1er	red	91
2009	➔ Volnay “Clos des Ducs” 1er	red	(93-96)
2009	➔ Volnay “Frémiets” 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	➔ Volnay “Taillepieds” 1er	red	(92-94)
2008	➔ Volnay “Clos des Ducs” 1er	red	94

Guillaume d'Angerville characterized 2009 as a “great vintage. It produced harmonious and distinguished wines that are less concentrated and exuberant than their 2005 counterparts but classier and more refined. We picked between the 10th and the 14th of September and brought in extremely clean fruit that ranged between 12.5 and 13.5% in potential alcohols, which obviously required no chaptalization. One of the big changes that I have made relative to my father's approach is that we have doubled the size of our harvest team. I am hardly the only one to have noticed how fast maturities seem to climb in the last few years and given that fruit can progress from barely ripe to over ripe in the space of only 2 to 3 days, it's now necessary to be able to react quickly. As such, the larger picking team allows us to be where we need to be when we need to be there and then pick efficiently and swiftly. Otherwise, we did a normal vinification during the roughly 15 day *cuvaison*. One interesting aspect of the '09s is how much they changed during the *élevage* period. I was honestly not that impressed just after we racked the new wines into barrel but each month they became progressively more refined. The malos did not have that big an impact as the amount of malic acidity was not all that high to begin with. Overall, I really like the '09s because while they're definitely ripe, they're not over ripe. Moreover, even though there is less acidity than in a completely classic vintage, the wines absolutely do not taste like it, indeed if anything they seem exceptionally well-balanced. We'll see how they age but because they are so harmonious, I see no reason why they shouldn't age quite well.” I have to agree with d'Angerville's take on his '09s as they are indeed marvelous and this includes the Bourgogne. In fact, the d'Angerville '09s are so good that they are competitive, if not superior, to their brilliant '05s. (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).

2009 Bourgogne: A ripe and very pinot nose is cut with ample earth nuances that also characterize the rich, delicious and relatively concentrated flavors that display only mildly rustic tannins on the otherwise long and solidly complex finish. This is a terrific Bourgogne and should be an excellent candidate for a house wine that will improve. 87/2013+

2009 Volnay: (from Grands Champs and Pluchots). As one would reasonably expect, this is aromatically more elegant with a fresh and ripe nose of cassis and violets that precedes the rich, round and succulent medium-bodied flavors that possess a discreet hint of minerality on the complex, balanced and persistent finish. An excellent *villages* with better subtlety than is typical at this level. 89/2014+

2009 Volnay “1er”: (from Pitures, Les Angles, l'Ormeau and in certain vintages, young vine fruit from Clos des Ducs and Caillerets). This is also notably ripe with red berry liqueur and cassis hints complementing rich, detailed and admirably pure flavors that possess plenty of vibrancy and more obvious minerality on the supple, seductive, lacy and long finish. This is very Volnay in personality and should mature relatively quickly. 91/2015+

2009 Volnay “Clos des Angles”: (2008 was the first vintage). Very fresh and overtly ripe aromas of red currant, plum and raspberry give way to rich, supple and seductively round medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a delicious and discreetly mineral-infused finish. This is really quite lacy and notably finer than it usually is. 91/2016+

2009 Volnay “Frémiets”: Here the nose is appreciably fresher and also displays notes of red currant though the minerality now extends to the aromas and in hallmark Frémiets style, also suffuses the rich, supple and refined middle weight flavors blessed with ample amounts of dry extract that buffer the moderately firm tannins on the impressively long finish. The minerality is so strong that there is a Chablis-like saline character. A classy effort of finesse. (91-93)/2016+

2009 Volnay “Caillerets”: (from 20+ year old vines). This is also quite ripe with liqueur-like aromas of raspberry, cassis and plum that cannot hide the almost aggressive wet stone nuances that carry over to the detailed, mouth coating and intense flavors that possess impeccable balance and outstanding length on the gorgeously complex and seriously long finish. This is terrific and absolutely worth your consideration. 93/2017+

2009 Volnay “Taillepieds”: (from 35+ year old vines). A ripe yet cool nose features notes of cherry liqueur, raspberry, stone and soil-tones, all of which can be found on the rich, generous and beautifully well-detailed middle weight flavors that exude an equally fine minerality on the driving, punch and strikingly long finish where the hallmark touch of austerity in a young Taillepieds is in evidence. A lovely effort of class and grace that is less forbidding than usual. (92-94)/2021+

2009 Volnay “Champans”: An incredibly complex, fresh and seductively perfumed nose offers up a wonderfully layered set of ripe red berry fruit, cassis, mineral and spice aromas that introduce sappy and lacy yet serious middle weight flavors that possess both excellent power and fine volume, all wrapped in a magnificently long finish. The tannins are quite firm yet they're also well-integrated as the abundant dry extract pushes them to the background. In a word, sensational. (93-95)/2021+

2009 Volnay “Clos des Ducs”: A fresh, perfumed and relatively high-toned nose of elegant and ultra-pure red pinot fruit that is liberally laced with stone and soil nuances that merges seamlessly into rich, detailed and precise flavors that ooze a wet stone character on the energetic, hugely complex and explosively long finish. This is almost always a classy effort but in 2009 it is also beautifully stylish despite the tannins being by far and away the firmest in the range. This has the concentration and balance to age for several decades and while it's probably not going to outlive the '05, it's an unusually structured 2009. If you can find it, buy it. (93-96)/2024+

2008 Volnay “Clos des Ducs”: The '08 is not quite as aromatically complex as its 2009 counterpart though it's close with a superbly layered nose of cool red berry fruit, floral notes and wet stone, the latter of which is present in abundance on the rich yet beautifully detailed middle weight flavors brimming with minerality and energy, all wrapped in a focused, linear and precise finish of huge length, which remains at present youthfully austere. A classic Ducster that will require 10 to 12 years to be at its peak. 94/2018+

Domaine Comte Armand/Clos des Epeneaux (Pommard)

2009	➔ Auxey-Duresses “1er”	red	(89-91)
2009	➔ Pommard “1er” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	➔ Pommard “Clos des Epeneaux” 1er	red	(92-95)
2009	➔ Volnay	red	(89-91)
2009	➔ Volnay “Frémiets” 1er	red	(90-93)

Benjamin Leroux described the 2009 vintage as a “relatively easy one because the growing season wasn’t difficult and the harvest produced fruit that was ripe, clean and balanced. We began picking on the 12th of September and the vinification was straightforward. I like the '09 reds because unlike some of the whites that suffer from a bit of *surmaturité*, they are quite pure and reflect well the underlying *terroir*.” 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 & TX, Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, Lake Success, NY 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).

2009 Volnay: (vinified with 15% whole clusters). An elegant and ripe yet airy nose of red pinot and plum aromas liberally laced with earth notes leads to fine and lacy middle weight flavors that exude a discreet minerality on the persistent finish. This is a fine *villages* crafted in the classic image of Volnay. (89-91)/2016+

2009 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). A completely different nose of pungent earth and ripe dark berry fruit aromas that are in keeping with the serious, concentrated and seductively rich medium-bodied flavors that possess plenty of tannin-buffering extract, all wrapped in a long, focused and complex finish. This is really quite good for what it is and is actually less rustic than it typically is, probably because the phenolic ripeness of the tannins is so high. Worth considering for value. (89-91)/2017+

2009 Volnay “Frémiets”: (vinified with about 12% whole clusters). Cool and very fresh aromas of red berry, stone and floral hints give way to vibrant, intense, detailed and mildly austere middle weight flavors that are shaped by phenolically ripe and quite fine tannins. The length is impressive and this is a classic Frémiets of finesse and minerality. (90-93)/2019+

2009 Pommard “1er”: An impressively layered and ripe nose of spiced plum, warm earth and cassis merges into velvety middle weight flavors that are supported by firm tannins and ample amounts of dry extract that coat the mouth on the balanced, long and harmonious finish. This is a delicious yet quite serious effort that will require up to a decade of cellar time to reach its peak. (90-92)/2017+

2009 Pommard “Clos des Epeneaux”: (the vine ages in this 5+ ha vineyard run from 18 to 75+ years of age. The 2009 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). This is also very fresh and bright with pure aromas of ripe red currant, warm earth, violets and subtle spice hints that are in keeping with the energetic, intense and admirably rich full-bodied flavors that envelope the palate with velvety sap on the beautifully balanced and impressively persistent finish. I very much like the sense of underlying tension because despite this being a big wine with plenty of concentration, the balance is impeccable and there is absolutely nothing ponderous about this complete effort that is well-structured but not so much so that it is in the “buy and forget” category. In short, buy it. (92-95)/2021+

Domaine Jean-Claude Bachelet (Gamay)

2009	➔ Bourgogne	red	(86-88)
2009	Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes	red	(87-90)
2009	Chassagne-Montrachet “Boudriotte” 1er	red	(88-91)
2009	St. Aubin “1er Vieilles Vignes”	red	(87-89)
2009	St. Aubin “Derrière la Tour Vieilles Vignes” 1er	red	(88-91)

Brothers Benoit and Jean-Baptiste Bachelet called 2009 an “almost perfect growing season. The flowering was uniform and there was no serious disease pressure, which means that ripeness levels were consistent and the fruit was clean. We began picking on the 10th of September and realized normal yields of 50 to 55 hl/ha in white and 40 to 45 in red. Sugars were equally good at between 13 and 14% for the chardonnay and 12.5 to 13.5% for the pinot. Interestingly, the malos were quite rapid for the whites yet relatively slow for the pinot. Overall, we like the quality of the reds as it’s quite consistent from the bottom to the top of the range.” (David Bowler Wine, www.bowlerwine.com, NY, NY, Wine Warehouse, Los Angeles, CA, www.winewarehouse.com and Elite Wines Imports, 703/339.8150, Lorton, VA; Richards Walford & Company, Ltd., www.r-w.co.uk, UK).

2009 Bourgogne: A very pinot nose speaks of red berry fruit nuanced by background hints of earth and pepper that lead to ripe, round and relatively generous middle weight flavors that are delicious and while there is a bit of rusticity to the otherwise solidly persistent finish, overall, this is really quite good for its level. Worth a look. (86-88)/2013+

2009 St. Aubin “1er Vieilles Vignes”: Here the nose is notably more elegant with very fresh red berry fruit that displays hints of minerality, anise and earth, all three of which carry over to the rich and nicely detailed flavors that possess reasonably good complexity and fine length on the mouth coating finish where a touch of wood surfaces. (87-89)/2013+

2009 St. Aubin “Derrière la Tour Vieilles Vignes”: (a 1er that is rarely seen as it’s quite small). An earthier but ever fresher nose of primarily red berry, plum and violets gives way to energetic and well-detailed mineral-driven flavors that possess excellent intensity and a bit more complexity as well on the persistent and delicious finish. I like the overall sense of balance and there is also more underlying material. (88-91)/2014+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: A slightly rustic nose of extract of red berry liqueur, pepper and a floral note complements the equally rustic, rich and concentrated medium-bodied flavors that possess quality levels of dry extract that buffer the moderately firm tannins and coat the palate on the layered and delicious finish. (87-90)/2014+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet “Boudriotte”: A similar if slightly more elegant nose marries into rich and solidly well-concentrated flavors that are underpinned by moderately rustic tannins and excellent length on the mouth coating finish. This won’t win any awards for elegance by there is good power, plenty of depth and good balance. (88-91)/2015+

Domaine de Bellene (Beaune)

2009	Beaune “Blanches Fleurs”	red	(87-89)
2009	➔ Beaune “Grèves” 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	Beaune “Montée Rouge” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	➔ Beaune “Perrières” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	➔ Beaune “Pertuisots” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	Beaune “Clos du Roi” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	➔ Beaune “Teurons” 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	➔ Bourgogne – Maison Dieu Vieilles Vignes	red	(85-88)
2009	Côte de Nuits-Villages Vieilles Vignes	red	(86-88)
2009	➔ Nuits St. Georges Vieilles Vignes	red	(89-91)
2009	➔ Nuits St. Georges “Chaignots” 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune Vieilles Vignes	red	(86-89)
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Hauts Jarrons” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Peuillets” 1er	red	(88-91)
2009	Volnay “Les Grands Poisots”	red	(87-90)
2009	Vosne-Romanée “Quartiers de Nuits”	red	(89-91)
2009	Vosne-Romanée “Suchots” 1er	red	(90-92)

Nicolas Potel, whose wines have been reviewed many times in these pages in the past when his operation was located in Nuits St. Georges, has begun anew with the goal of establishing a completely green and organic domaine. After leaving the employ of Cottin Frères, Potel began with 1.2 ha and has enlarged the domaine portion of the operation now to 22 ha; there is also a *négociant* operation called Maison Roche de Bellene (see below). Potel explains that the majority of his vines are older, in fact sufficiently so that most of the selections are from cuttings taken before the era of clones, which he asserts is what gives him excellent fruit. The first vintage for the new domaine was in 2007 and he produces both reds and whites. He uses no additives of any kind and in 2009, most wines were vinified with between 20 and 100% whole clusters. The wines typically see two winters in barrel and then are bottle unfined and unfiltered. Potel is now an old hand in the Côte and it shows as the quality, particularly of his domaine wines, is excellent. Stylistically, if you've enjoyed the Potel wines in the past, there is no reason that you would not enjoy either variation of the Bellene wines as they are classic in the best sense of the term. (Loosen Bros. USA, Oregon City, OR, www.loosenbrosusa.com/contact.asp; the UK agent is Graham Gardner through Folly Wines, www.follywines.co.uk; note that there are many well-known resellers).

2009 Bourgogne – Maison Dieu Vieilles Vignes: A discreet floral hint adds a touch of elegance to the otherwise earthy dark berry fruit nose that precedes rich, intense and mildly austere flavors that culminate in a focused and lingering finish. This is a serious Bourgogne that will require a few years of cellar time before becoming more civilized. (85-88)/2014+

2009 Côte de Nuits-Villages Vieilles Vignes: A slightly more refined nose features more red fruit influence though the same earth and dark berry notes found in the Bourgogne are present here as well. The round, supple and delicious flavors are already approachable as they are underpinned by relatively fine tannins and good length. This could be drunk now or held for a few years first. (86-88)/2013+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune Vieilles Vignes: Here the nose is bursting with Savigny-style earth on the ripe and pretty red pinot fruit nose that introduces nicely rich, round and fleshy middle weight flavors that are also admirably delicious and while there is a touch of rusticity to the supporting tannins, the overall impression is a straightforward wine that should drink well relatively early. (86-89)/2014+

2009 Beaune “Blanches Fleurs”: (from the *villages* portion of the vineyard). A very fresh and relatively high-toned nose of primarily red berry fruit that is both pure and elegant before sliding gracefully into precise, balanced and lightly stony flavors that retain a fine sense of harmony with good underlying tension on the solidly persistent finish. Lovely. (87-89)/2015+

2009 Volnay “Les Grands Poisots”: This is more elegant still with lightly earthy red pinot fruit aromas complementing well the rich, supple and silky medium-bodied flavors that are relatively fine though sufficiently firm as to benefit from 5 to 7 years of cellar time. A quality *villages*. (87-90)/2015+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Peuillets”: A deft application of wood sets off very ripe red currant, blue berry, plum and earth-suffused aromas that are in keeping with the equally ripe, rich and velvety flavors that are delicious though the supporting tannins are mildly rustic on the moderately firm and attractively long finish. (88-91)/2016+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Hauts Jarrons”: This is riper still with notes of cassis, plum and warm earth aromas leading to fresh and dry extract-rich medium-bodied flavors that possess a seductive mouth feel and plenty of power and volume on the mouth coating finish that displays just a bit more overall complexity. (89-91)/2016+

2009 Beaune “Montée Rouge”: (from the *premier cru* portion of the vineyard). Discreet wood does not interfere with the otherwise clear expression of the ripe, pure and stony aromas of mostly fresh red berry fruit. In like vein, there is a stoniness to the rich, full and sappy flavors where the finish also exhibits some wood as well as mildly rustic tannins. There is sufficient mid-palate concentration that this shouldn't have any trouble integrating the oak in time. (89-91)/2017+

2009 Beaune “Pertuisots”: This offers a step up in aromatic elegance with very pretty red currant, rose petal and raspberry aromas that precede finer, and somewhat purer, middle weight flavors that are given shape by the firm but phenolically ripe tannins on the solidly deep, long and satisfying finish. Worth a look. (89-92)/2016+

2009 Beaune “Perrières”: Background hints of wood frame cool and fresh red berry fruit and floral notes that marry into stony and precise medium-bodied flavors that possess an abundance of dry extract that completely buffers the otherwise firm and ripe tannins on the balanced, focused and tension-filled finish. This is really quite lovely as there is an underlying reserve present with only mild austerity. (90-92)/2017+

2009 Beaune “Clos du Roi”: As is typical for this *cru*, it is quite ripe with a liqueur of red pinot fruit nose that is in keeping with the very generous, rich and overtly fleshy soil-inflected medium weight flavors that are supported by firm, ripe and dusty tannins that are well integrated. I like the delivery though there is less overall complexity than the best of these Beaune 1ers. (89-91)/2017+

2009 Beaune “Teurons”: A very ripe yet extremely fresh nose offers up notes of red currant, warm earth and a hint of game where the firmly structured and beautifully complex flavors are more intensely soil-driven, all wrapped in a long, mouth coating and impeccably well-balanced finish. This is a classic Teurons that flirts with a hint of rusticity yet stops just short of it while delivering good power and plenty of volume. An excellent example. (90-93)/2019+

2009 Beaune “Grèves”: Discreet wood notes allow the ripe but reserved mix of earth-suffused red berry and plum aromas to shine freely. The solidly concentrated, firm and quite serious flavors are shaped by moderately burly but not really rustic tannins on the impressively long finish. Like the Teurons, this is not really an elegant wine but neither is it rustic and should be capable of amply rewarding 12 to 15 years of cellar time. (90-93)/2021+

2009 Nuits St. Georges Vieilles Vignes: A completely different nose expresses itself with *animale* and earth notes to the primarily floral, red currant and plum fragrances. The fresh, vibrant, supple and quite round middle weight flavors culminate in a delicious and only mildly rustic finish. A high quality *villages*. (89-91)/2017+

2009 Nuits St. Georges “Chaignots”: Here the nose is much spicier though its Nuits origins are in evidence as there is plenty of earth present on the blackberry and lightly menthol-infused aromas. The mouth coating flavors are seductively textured with excellent volume though the finish is quite firm and moderately rustic with a touch of austerity. This should be excellent in time as there is the necessary mid-palate concentration to buffer the tannins. (90-93)/2019+

2009 Vosne-Romanée “Quartiers de Nuits”: This is spicier still and offers up a classic Vosne aromatic profile with its ripe black cherry and cassis aromas that complement perfectly the rich, velvety and supple flavors that are delicious and admirably long for a *villages* level wine. The close proximity to Clos de Vougeot is signaled by the mildly rustic tannins and hint of austerity but overall, this is really quite good, particularly in terms of complexity. (89-91)/2017+

2009 Vosne-Romanée “Suchots”: This is aromatically quite similar to the Quartiers though here there is better layering but also moderate wood influence. The rich, broad and expansive flavors possess ample dry extract that confers an opulent mouth feel to the fleshy but firm, focused, balanced and long finish of moderate complexity. (90-92)/2017+

Maison Roche de Bellene (Beaune)

2009	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	red	(90-92)
2009	Bourgogne Cuvée Réserve	red	86
2009	Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(90-93?)
2009	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2009	Chambolle-Musigny	red	(87-89)
2009	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Amoureuses" 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2009	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(89-92)
2009	Gevrey-Chambertin	red	(87-89)
2009	Gevrey-Chambertin "Cazetiers" 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	Gevrey-Chambertin "Combe Aux Moines" 1er	red	NR
2009	Gevrey-Chambertin "Combottes" 1er	red	NR
2009	Griotte-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	NR
2009	Grands Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(90-92)
2009	Nuits St. Georges "Damodes" 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	Nuits St. Georges "Murgers" 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	Pommard "Grands Epenots" 1er	red	NR
2009	Richebourg Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2009	Vosne-Romanée	red	(88-90)
2009	➔ Vosne-Romanée "Malconsorts" 1er	red	(91-94)
2009	➔ Vosne-Romanée "Petits Monts" 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	➔ Vosne-Romanée "Suchots" 1er	red	(91-93)

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

2009 Bourgogne – Cuvée Réserve: A very pinot nose of primarily raspberry and red currant cut with earth nuances leads to round and utterly delicious flavors that possess a hint of finishing austerity and fine length on the sappy finish. This balanced effort is quite understated plus it will reward a few years of cellar time if desired. 86/2013+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin: A fresh and cool but notably ripe red berry fruit nose that is very Gevrey as the earthiness and *sauvage* characters are almost pungent and they continue onto the detailed middle weight flavors that culminate in an equally understated and moderately austere finish. This is solid if not genuinely special. (87-89)/2015+

2009 Chambolle-Musigny: A very pretty and relatively high-toned red pinot fruit nose is liberally laced with stone and cool earth notes that can also be found on the detailed precise and pure flavors that are not quite as ripe as those of the Gevrey though they are notably finer on the focused and lingering finish. (87-89)/2016+

2009 Vosne-Romanée: Here the nose is completely different as the hallmark Vosne spice is present in abundance and adds interest to the ripe red and blue pinot fruit and plum notes that give way to detailed, intense and vibrant flavors that exude a fine minerality on the firm and persistent finish. A lovely *villages*. (88-90)/2017+

2009 Pommard "Grands Epenots": A heavily reduced nose fades into vibrant, detailed and precise flavors that possess a distinctly odd character that I could not place. While this may be fine by the time it's bottled, I choose not to guess. Not Rated.

2009 Nuits St. Georges "Murgers": Discreet wood allows the otherwise fresh, earthy and moderately spicy dark berry fruit aromas free reign while introducing rich, full-bodied and solidly powerful medium-bodied flavors that are underpinned by firm but ripe tannins and excellent length. This serious effort will need ample cellar time to reach its full potential. (90-92)/2021+

2009 Nuits St. Georges "Damodes": This is also spicy but less exuberantly so along with similarly earthy dark berry fruit aromas that give way to rich and seductively textured flavors that are also quite firm but not really rustic, all wrapped in a mouth coating and persistent finish. These two Nuits 1ers are qualitatively comparable but the intrinsic characters are noticeably different. (90-92)/2021+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin “Combe Aux Moines”: Like the Pommard, the curious flavor character is reflected on the nose rendering any guess as to the future quality suspect. Not Rated.

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin “Combottes”: Once again there is a very odd character to the finish and while the wine may clean up, I repeat that I am not comfortable guessing. Not Rated.

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin “Cazetiers”: A fresh, cool and pure nose of stone and ripe red pinot fruit reflects none of the bizarre character of the prior two Gevrey 1ers nor do the detailed, intense and energetic flavors that are not especially concentrated but they do possess fine balance and reasonably good length. (89-91)/2019+

2009 Vosne-Romanée “Petits Monts”: This is also quite aromatically cool with its spicy but reserved nose of red pinot and plum aromas that also offer up touches of spice that carry over to the detailed and tautly muscular medium-bodied flavors that are balanced, reserved and in the classic Petits Monts fashion, youthfully austere. An understated wine of grace and harmony. (90-93)/2021+

2009 Vosne-Romanée “Suchots”: This is slightly riper and exceptionally spicy with plum and black berry liqueur aromas complementing silky and opulent medium-bodied flavors that brim with dry extract that buffers the firm structural elements on the balanced, focused and impressively persistent finale. (91-93)/2021+

2009 Vosne-Romanée “Malconsorts”: This is presently the spiciest of the three Vosne 1ers in the range which adds plenty of background nuance and complexity to the red currant, plum and cassis aromas. The earthy and relatively powerful big-bodied flavors possess excellent intensity and copious amounts of dry extract that coats the palate on the hugely long finish. Despite the youthful expressiveness presently being displayed, this is really quite a serious effort that I suspect will shut down for a good while as it's clearly built to age. (91-94)/2024+

2009 Echézeaux: Noticeable wood just avoids being unduly intrusive as there is still good expressiveness to the spicy and ripe dark berry fruit aromas. There is an admirable amount of dry extract and mid-palate fat though not the depth and precision of the Malconsorts. This is very good to perhaps excellent rather than outstanding for its level. (89-92)/2021+

2009 Grands Echézeaux: A more complex nose reflects notes of a range of primarily red berry fruit, anise, hoisin and soy that is in keeping with the spicy, pure, intense and lightly mineral-driven flavors that possess better depth if less mid-palate concentration than would be necessary to propel this to the next level. (90-92)/2021+

2009 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Amoureuses”: An expressive and layered nose of red currant, spiced plum, wet stone and a hint of rose petal gives way to mineral-inflected, precise and delicious middle weight flavors of acceptable concentration and fine length. This is a lighter wine of harmony and balance but like several of the wines here, could benefit from more mid-palate density. (90-92)/2017+

2009 Bonnes Mares: In contrast to the expressiveness of the Amoureuses, this reserved and brooding effort is still highly complex with a layered mix of red and dark berry fruit aromas that are framed in a discreet application of wood. The moderately-sized flavors are supple, round and agreeable with good balance and excellent length if much more limited complexity than is displayed by the nose. While it's possible that this will develop more depth with age, I prefer to remain conservative. (90-92)/2019+

2009 Clos de Vougeot: Medium level wood influence fights a bit with the otherwise ripe and earthy wild red berry fruit aromas that slide gracefully into rich, full-bodied and generous middle weight plus flavors that still manage to be attractively precise on the firm, serious and youthfully austere finish that displays excellent depth. (91-94)/2024+

2009 Griotte-Chambertin: Between an overtly oaky nose that is presently so dominated by its wood and high level reduction, this is essentially impossible to read. Given that the other wines in the range evidence little to moderate wood influence rather than this extreme level, I am assuming that the sample was not representative. Not rated.

2009 Chambertin: Moderate wood toast sets off earth and very cool mineral-laced red currant, plum and underbrush-infused aromas that complement well the supple and generous flavors that culminate in a linear and persistent finish where the wood resurfaces. The structural elements are very firm, indeed to the point where this is borderline strict, which in and of itself is not unusual for Chambertin but it is unusual within the context of the 2009 vintage. (90-93?)/2021+

2009 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: This was sufficiently reduced to hide everything but the wood though its influence on the palate was considerably less if not invisible. The rich, minerally and utterly delicious medium-bodied flavors possess a subtle minerality that continues onto the mouth coating finish where the wood resurfaces. I suspect that this reasonably well-balanced effort will always display some wood influence but not enough to affect the finishing texture. (91-93)/2024+

2009 Richebourg: A strongly reduced nose renders it impossible to fairly evaluate though the focused, powerful and mineral-inflected broad-shouldered flavors possess excellent underlying tension and impressive length on the palate staining and notably firm finish. This is quite classy and very stylish and while it does not appear to have the underlying material to match the best examples of the appellation in the 2009 vintage, this is still a laudable effort. (91-94)/2024+

Maison Albert Bichot (Beaune)

2009	Beaune “Clos de l’Ermitage”	red	87
2009	Bourgogne – Secret de Famille	red	86
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Peuillets” 1er	red	87?

See also Domaine du Pavillon, another Bichot property, that is reviewed separately below. (Atherton Wine Imports, www.awiwine.com, Atherton, CA, Eagle Eye Imports, www.eagleeyeimports.com for IL, MI and OH, Global Quality Imports, www.globalqualityimports.com, TX, Arborway Imports, www.arborwayimports.com, MA and Cobblestone Cellars, www.cobblestonecellars.com in VA and DC; Direct Wine, www.directwine.co.uk, Oddbins, www.oddbins.com and Harrison Vintners, www.harrisonvintners.co.uk, all UK).

2009 Bourgogne – Secret de Famille: A very subtle hint of wood allows the ripe and pretty red and blue pinot fruit and earth nuances to shine though. The supple, delicious and forward middle weight flavors possess good grip and very good length on the slightly austere finish. This is really very good for its level and it should reward a few years in the cellar. 86/2013+

2009 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). Here too there is a background touch of wood that sets off slightly more elegant red currant and plum aromas that are liberally laced with both stone and earth notes that can also be found on the silky, round and fleshy flavors that possess good energy and acceptable length if limited depth. 87/2013+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Peuillets”: Noticeable reduction is sufficient to completely knock down the nose. While there is good richness to the round yet firm middle weight flavors, the otherwise persistent finish is distinctly tough and this is hard to read at present. Be sure to decant this if you’re going to try one young. 87?/2014+

Domaine Billard-Gonnet (Pommard)

2009	➔ Pommard “Les Chaponnières Vieilles Vignes” 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	➔ Pommard “Clos de Verger” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	➔ Pommard “Pézerolles” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	➔ Pommard “Les Rugiens-Bas” 1er	red	(92-95)
2008	➔ Pommard “Les Chaponnières Vieilles Vignes” 1er	red	91
2008	Pommard “Clos de Verger” 1er	red	88
2008	Pommard “Pézerolles” 1er	red	90
2008	➔ Pommard “Les Rugiens-Bas” 1er	red	92

Philippe Billard continues his quality roll as he has once again fashioned excellent wines. His take on 2009 is that it is a vintage of “quality and quantity. Yields were generous without being excessive. We began picking on the 8th of September and brought in an extremely clean crop that averaged between 12 and 13% in potential alcohols, which means that I chaptalized about .25% for wines that came in in the low 12% range. I did a 15 day *cuvaison* while vinifying the way that I always do as I didn’t see any reason to change what I know works. I do sometimes modify things a bit like I did in 2008 where I did a few less punch downs just to be sure that I didn’t inadvertently break any seeds. [Seeds can have bitter tannins.] I like the vintage as the wines are very seductive and will drink well early. To be sure, I like the vintage but I believe that 2008 will ultimately prove to be more interesting than 2009 and will live longer as well. Time will of course tell whether I’m right or not but it will surprise me greatly if I’m not.” I have said this before to readers but it bears repeating: the Billard wines deliver outstanding quality at very reasonable prices. 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. (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).

2009 Pommard “Pézerolles”: (from 60+ year old vines). A notably ripe nose of pure extract of blue and black pinot fruit that complements well the seductively textured, rich and mouth coating flavors that are shaped by buried tannins that are firm but not aggressive, all wrapped in a mineral-laden and solidly persistent finish. A lovely effort. (90-92)/2019+

2009 Pommard “Clos de Verger”: (from a 1.5 ha parcel of 30+ year old vines). A slightly riper nose speaks primarily of dark berry fruit and warm earth aromas that are in keeping with the intensely earthy and opulent full-bodied flavors that possess good power and ample mid-palate density before culminating in a quite firmly structured and lasting finish. This is a well-balanced and classically crafted old school Pommard and as such, patience will be required. (90-92)/2024+

2009 Pommard “Les Chaponnières Vieilles Vignes”: (from 65+ year old vines). A highly perfumed and expressive nose of red currant, plum and violet aromas marries into rich, seductive and concentrated medium-bodied flavors that brim with dry extract that does an excellent job of buffering the otherwise very firm tannic spine on the mouth coating and highly complex finish. This is not an especially refined wine but it is well-balanced and should age well – and will need it. (91-93)/2026+

2009 Pommard “Les Rugiens-Bas”: (from 3 separate parcels totaling .75 ha). As it almost always is *chez* Billard, this is the most elegant wine in the range with a pure and strikingly complex, if very backward, nose of pure red berry fruit, minerals and spice hints where the refinement carries over to the tautly muscular and powerful flavors that are underpinned by more sophisticated tannins and outstanding length. This is not only a big wine but it is among the more firmly structured wines from the '09 vintage as it will require at least 20 years to arrive at its peak. If you can find it, buy it. (92-95)/2029+

Note: the 2008s were bottled in April, 2010.

2008 Pommard “Pézerolles”: (from 60+ year old vines). A ripe and very pure nose of perfumed cassis and red berry fruit aromas gives way to supple, refined and mineral-driven middle weight flavors that are supported by fine tannins and excellent length on the dusty finish. I like the balance and if this can add depth with bottle age, my score may be on the conservative side. 90/2016+

2008 Pommard “Clos de Verger”: (from a 1.5 ha parcel of 30+ year old vines). This is also ripe and perfumed with very pretty dark berry fruit that is liberally laced with earth and spice notes. The rich, full-bodied and serious middle weight plus flavors possess excellent character and ample power though the finish is presently a bit dry as the moderately rustic tannins are quite prominent. This may round out as it showed materially better from cask. 88/2020+

2008 Pommard “Les Chaponnières Vieilles Vignes”: (from 65+ year old vines). This is also quite pretty though less elegant as there is a distinct *sauvage* character to the otherwise complex mix of earthy red currant and plum aromas. The precise middle weight flavors possess a cool and silky mouth feel though the supporting tannins are firm and mildly austere on the balanced, long and energetic finish. This is definitely worth a look. 91/2018+

2008 Pommard “Les Rugiens-Bas”: (from 3 separate parcels totaling .75 ha). As is generally the case, this is more elegant and refined than any of the preceding wines save perhaps for the Pézerolles, offering up a layered and distinctly cool red berry and pinot fruit nose that also speaks quite clearly of an intense minerality that can be found on the powerful, dense and focused medium full-bodied flavors that are supported by youthfully austere tannins and excellent length. This is a classic Rugiens and will need 12 to 15 years to be at its best. 92/2020+

Domaine Bitouzet-Prieur (Volnay)

2009	Beaune “Cents Vignes” 1er	red	(87-90)
2009	Bourgogne	red	(85-87)
2009	Volnay	red	88
2009	Volnay “Les Aussy” 1er	red	(88-91)
2009	➔ Volnay “Les Caillerets” 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	➔ Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	Volnay “Mitans” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	➔ Volnay “Les Pitures” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	➔ Volnay “Taillepieds” 1er	red	(90-93)

Vincent Bitouzet's son François, who is responsible for the reds, noted that "2009 was a relatively easy vintage. We began picking on the 7th of September with our parcel of Beaune Cents Vignes. The fruit was exceptionally clean and averaged between 12 and 13% potential alcohols. When you start with excellent raw materials, the vinification can't help but be easy. The only hard part was deciding when to stop as the reds seemed to improve each day and finally, after about three weeks, I elected to rack the new wines into barrel. I believe that the '09s will be popular with everyone as they're forward but well balanced and should drink well young but age reasonably well too." (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, Shekomeko, NY; Direct Wine, www.directwine.co.uk and McKinley Vintners, www.mckinleyvintners.co.uk, UK).

2009 Bourgogne: A ripe, pure and really quite pretty nose speaks of red and blue fruit, violets and a touch of warm earth that carries over to the rich, round and delicious flavors that do display some mild rusticity on the otherwise persistent finish. This is a Bourgogne worth considering. (85-87)/2014+

2009 Volnay: (from several parcels of vines on the Meursault side of the village). A more elegant nose of red currant, plum and similar warm earth notes leads to nicely voluminous but well-detailed middle weight flavors that possess an attractive texture plus a touch of minerality on the balanced and lingering finish. The only nit is that there is, at present anyway, limited depth and thus if it can add depth in bottle, my score may be on the conservative side. 88/2015+

2009 Beaune "Cents Vignes": Mild reduction doesn't completely hide the ripe red and blue pinot fruit aromas that precede supple, round and quite generous flavors that possess a fleshy mouth feel and a subtle trace of minerality on the delicious finish that possesses sneaky length if not superior complexity. (87-90)/2015+

2009 Volnay "Les Aussy": (from Roncerets, which due to the recent *regroupment* can be declared as Les Aussy). A fresh, cool and ripe nose offers up notably pure red pinot fruit and wet stone aromas that introduce equally pure, round and intense medium-bodied flavors that possess a lovely mouth feel even though the finish is quite firm though not rustic. This should be lovely with 6 to 8 years of bottle age. (88-91)/2016+

2009 Volnay "Mitans": (this was previously declared as L'Ormeau but with the reclassification of L'Ormeau into Mitans, they now have the legal right to declare it as Mitans). Here the nose is not quite as refined as the largely red berry fruit aromas are both riper and more deeply pitched. However the round, supple and admirably pure middle weight flavors possess better overall depth and length even if the tannins are not quite as fine. (89-91)/2017+

2009 Volnay "Taillepieds": This was sufficiently reduced to block an evaluation of the nose but the rich, vibrant and intensely mineral-driven flavors are both complex and wonderfully precise with the driving and youthfully austere finish carrying the hallmark Taillepieds stoniness. I very much like the complexity and overall sense of balance and this should be excellent in time. (90-93)/2019+

2009 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": (from 20+ year old vines). A ripe, pure and wonderfully airy nose of red pinot fruit is cut with hints of earth and minerals, both of which can be found on the rich, full-bodied and relatively powerful medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a well-detailed, focused and lingering finish. This long and serious effort is very Clos des Chênes as there is a robustness to the firm tannins and this will require all of 10 to 12 years to arrive at its peak. (90-93)/2019+

2009 Volnay "Les Pitures": (from 35+ year old vines). A discreet hint of wood sets off a reduced nose that is clearly quite ripe. The firm middle weight flavors also possess an intense minerality that continues onto the structured, long and quite serious finish. This will require ample cellar time to soften and resolve the compact tannins. (90-92)/2021+

2009 Volnay "Les Caillerets": An elegant nose that is quite floral also reflect notes of plum and cassis that is in keeping with the ripe, rich, pure and refined middle weight flavors that possess a seductive mid-palate as well as a lacy but detailed and mineral-driven finish where a touch of wood surfaces. This classy effort is a combination of power and finesse that should improve for up to a decade. (91-93)/2017+

Domaine Simon Bize (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2009	Aloxe-Corton "Le Suchot"	red	(89-91)
2009	➔ Bourgogne "Perrières"	red	88
2009	Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2009	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Bourgeots"	red	(88-91)
2009	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Grands Liards"	red	(88-91)
2009	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Guettes" 1er	red	93
2009	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fourneaux" 1er	red	(91-94)

2009	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Marconnets” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Serpentières” 1er	red	91
2009	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Talmettes” 1er	red	93
2009	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Vergelesses” 1er	red	(92-94)

Patrick Bize told me that 2009 was a “near perfect vintage that produced wines that can be summed up in two words: serious and pure. I began picking on the 10th of September and brought in splendid and perfectly clean fruit that averaged between 13 and 13.5% in potential alcohols. At those levels there was of course no chaptalization. Yields were all over the place from a high of 47 hl/ha in some of the *villages* parcels to down around 30 for the 1ers. I honestly don’t know why there was this kind of discrepancy because it has nothing to do with anything that we did in the vineyards. I kept roughly 90% of the stems for most wines and the vinification was easy and straightforward. I believe that the use of stems in a vintage like 2009 was very important as it added needed structure. Even so, the wines are velvety, round and supple. The pHs are also perfectly reasonable at between 3.5 and 3.6 and I very much like the fruit, acid and tannin balance of the ‘09s. As to the wines, they remind me of the 1979s, which means that they should drink well young but as the ‘79s have amply demonstrated, they will be able to age very well too.” As the scores and comments corroborate, the Bize ‘09s are simply fantastic wines and this includes his brilliant Bourgogne. Don’t miss them. (A Becky Wasserman Selection, Le Serbet, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France, Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, Lake Success, NY; Vineyard Brands, www.vineyardbrands.com, Birmingham, AL; John Armit Wines, www.armit.co.uk, Howard Ripley, www.howardripley.com, Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, Ball Brothers, www.merchant.ballbrothers.co.uk, O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, and S. H. Jones Ltd., www.shjoneswines.com, all UK).

2009 Bourgogne “Perrières”: A ripe, fresh and unusually complex nose of violets, red berry fruit and earth that gives way to rich, firm and equally complex flavors that are long, serious and deep. This is a terrific Bourgogne and easily delivers *villages*-level quality plus it will age if desired. 88/2014+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Bourgeots”: Here the nose is similar if a bit more elegant with more obvious floral influence that slides into ripe, pure and solidly complex middle weight flavors that possess even better overall depth and length. This is a potentially outstanding Savigny *villages*. (88-91)/2015+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Grands Liards”: This is a classic Savigny in character with an intensely earthy nose that also reflect notes of violets and plum that complement well the round, supple and delicious flavors that possess excellent complexity for a wine of this level, all wrapped in a firm but balanced finish. Lovely juice for what this is. (88-91)/2016+

2009 Aloxe-Corton “Le Suchot”: (from vines planted in 1985). This is notably riper though the aromatic components are actually similar. The big-bodied flavors are rich, round, supple and quite fleshy with the same excellent depth and even better length. While the requisite structure is certainly in place to allow this to successfully improve for up to a decade, the abundant dry extract will allow it to be enjoyed young. (89-91)/2016+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Serpentières”: A more reserved if much more elegant nose features aromas of wet stone, plum, cassis and earth that merge into velvety, sappy and opulent medium-bodied flavors that coat the mouth with extract, which also buffers the otherwise very firm but ripe tannins. This is clearly built to age. 91/2017+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Guettes”: A reserved but elegant, pure and highly complex nose offers up intense floral aromas, especially violets and lavender along with black berry liqueur notes. The earthy and overtly mineral-driven middle weight flavors possess good richness but also excellent detail on the velvety and extract-rich finish. I very much like this as the balance is impeccable though note that this will need every bit of a decade to fully mature. 93/2019+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Marconnets”: This is also very pretty with an elegant mix of cassis, plum, violets and warm earth where the latter element continues onto the vibrant and attractively fresh flavors that possess fine definition on the punchy and focused backend. This is quite serious and will also need all of a decade to reach its majority. (90-92)/2019+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Fourneaux”: (from 40+ year old vines). While the aromatic profile is similar, this doesn’t offer quite the same level of aromatic refinement as the Guettes but it’s even more complex. The rich, powerful and opulent big-bodied flavors possess a taut muscularity and seemingly endless reserves of dry extract that relegate the otherwise very firm tannic spine to the background. This is not an elegant Savigny but it will live for years. (91-94)/2021+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Talmettes”: A fresh and relatively cool red berry liqueur and violet-infused nose introduces rich but beautifully well-detailed medium-bodied flavors that exude a fine minerality on the energetic, balanced and driving finish. This is a really lovely wine of harmony and grace though note that the underlying structure is quite firm. 93/2021+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Vergelesses”: This possesses the most elegant nose among these Savigny 1ers with complex and fresh aromas of violets, plum, earth, wet stone and a smoky hint that precede rich, intense, detailed and highly energetic middle weight flavors that are shaped by the very firm tannins on the impressively persistent finish. This doesn't have quite the same level of complexity as the Talmettes but it may in time as there is ample underlying material and like many of the Bize '09s, this is unapologetically built to age. (92-94)/2021+

2009 Latricières-Chambertin: (from a leased .3 ha parcel of 35+ year old vines). A deft touch of wood sets off a beautifully complex and relatively high-toned nose that combines notes of spice, red and blue pinot fruit, plum and pungent mineral notes. The rich, intense and defined medium-weight plus flavors are also blessed with copious amounts of dry extract that stains the palate on the on the impressively persistent finish. This should be terrific in time. (92-95)/2024+

Domaine Blain-Gagnard (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2009	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet	red	89
2009	Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean”	red	90

Jean-Marc Blain, who has directed this 8 ha domaine since 1980, told me that 2009 “produced reds that remind me of the 1989s. One of the more interesting aspects of the '89s is that they never really did close down and I don't think that the '09s will either. Yields in '09 were higher than they were in '89 and in this regard, the vintage is more like '99, which is to say around 50 hl/ha rather than my normal 40 hl/ha.” These two '09s were bottled in February, 2011 without fining or filtration. Note that the Morgeot, Pitures and Champans were not available for evaluation at the time of my visit. (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).

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet: A very pretty nose of red raspberry, pepper and distinct earth aromas leads to round, supple and forward middle weight flavors that possess good detail and better than usual energy on the delicious, sappy and lingering finish. This is perhaps more fruit-driven than I typically find it but I suspect that it will transform quickly with a few years of bottle age. Worth a look. 89/2014+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean”: A similar if slightly fresher and more elegant nose complements well the rich and well-detailed medium-bodied flavors that exude a fine minerality on the delicious and persistent finish. Like the villages, this is on the fruit-driven side at present but there is too much material present for it to remain this way for very long. 90/2015+

Domaine Henri Boillot (Volnay)

2009	Beaune “Clos du Roi” 1er	red	90
2009	Bourgogne	red	86
2009	Pommard	red	89
2009	➔ Pommard “Rugiens” 1er	red	93
2009	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Lavières” 1er	red	91
2009	➔ Volnay	red	90
2009	➔ Volnay “Les Caillerets” 1er	red	93
2009	➔ Volnay “En Chevre” 1er	red	91
2009	➔ Volnay “Les Frémiets” 1er	red	92

Henri Boillot described 2009 as a vintage that “possesses excellent phenolic maturity but does not fall over into *surmaturité*. I began picking the whites on the 3rd of September but waited to start on the reds until the 14th. There was no sorting of any consequence required, in fact in my 27 years of vinifying pinot, I have never seen finer raw materials. Because there was no sorting necessary, I realized normal yields of between 32 and 35 hl/ha with excellent sugars that came in with potential alcohols of between 13 and 13.4%. As such there was no chaptalization and because the grape skins were so thick, I elected to do a relatively soft vinification as the extraction happened quickly during the 25 day *cuvaison*. In fact, I vinified a bit like I did in 2005 but for me, the '09s are more interesting than the '05s because they have better overall balance. In fact, they remind me somewhat of the '99s.” The Boillot '09s were bottled in January, 2011 without fining or filtration. See below for notes on the Maison Henri Boillot stable of Nuits *grands crus*. (The Sorting Table, www.thesortingtable.com, Napa, CA; Enotria Winecellars Ltd., www.enotria.co.uk, Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk, and Georges Barbier, all UK).

2009 Bourgogne: (from 100% *villages* level *appellations*). A mildly rustic and overtly ripe nose of earthy dark berry fruit aromas leads to rich, round and naturally sweet middle weight flavors that are delicious, serious and persistent. 86/2013+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Lavières”: Mild reduction doesn’t completely hide the earthy dark berry fruit nose that is in keeping with the somber and firm middle weight flavors that are supported by very ripe tannins and lovely finishing detail on the lightly mineral-infused finish that offers excellent complexity. 91/2015+

2009 Beaune “Clos du Roi”: Here too there is a mild touch of reduction that does in this case largely mute the ripe red fruit and warm earth suffused nose. However there is good vibrancy to the textured middle weight flavors that possess good extract that buffers the dense but ripe tannins on the persistent finish. This should drink well young. 90/2015+

2009 Volnay: (all from the 1ers Cavelles and Clos des Rougeotte). Here the reduction is more noticeable so be sure to decant it for 20 to 30 minutes first. Otherwise there is good delineation to the full-bodied and energetic flavors that possess good minerality if not the same complexity as the Volnay 1ers that follow even though this is quite good. 90/2015+

2009 Volnay “Les Frémiets”: Reduction knocks down the nose. The intense, detailed and cool extract-rich middle weight flavors ooze a fine minerality on the mouth coating finish that delivers excellent persistence. This serious effort is clearly built to age and will need every bit of a decade to reach its full maturity. 92/2019+

2009 Volnay “En Chevret”: (from 25+ year old vines). Moderate reduction is strong enough to completely hide the fruit though the beautifully detailed, fresh and vibrant middle weight flavors don’t lack for energy or punch on the almost pungently mineral-infused finish that possesses a velvety and seductive texture. There is good power but there is also a delicate side to this effort. 91/2017+

2009 Volnay “Les Caillerets”: (from a .60 ha parcel). Very mild reduction suppresses the red berry fruit somewhat but the notes of mocha, plum, stone and spice still shine through. The rich, minerally and impressively concentrated flavors brim with dry extract that buffers the solid tannic spine on the elegant, pure and balanced finish. Lovely. 93/2021+

2009 Pommard: (the second vintage from the 1er Le Clos Blanc). Reduction and *sauvage* notes presently dominate the cool nose that introduces rich, dense and velvety medium-bodied flavors that possess ample volume and reasonably good precision on the firm and lingering finish. A good *villages*. 89/2019+

2009 Pommard “Rugiens”: (the second vintage from Rugiens Hauts and Bas). Moderate reduction dominates the nose to the point where the fruit is masked. There is good freshness and energy though to the strongly mineral-inflected and beautifully well-detailed medium-weight plus flavors that are presently austere and quite right on the otherwise impressively long finish. This old school and very serious effort is quite firm though stops short of overt rusticity. 93/2024+

Maison Henri Boillot (Meursault)

2009	Bonnes Mares	Grand Cru	red	93
2009	Chambertin	Grand Cru	red	94
2009	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze	Grand Cru	red	94
2009	Clos de Vougeot	Grand Cru	red	93

See Domaine Henri Boillot for 2009 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. (The Sorting Table, www.thesortingtable.com, Napa, CA; Enotria Winecellars Ltd., www.enotria.co.uk, Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk and Georges Barbier, all UK).

2009 Bonnes Mares: (from Chambolle fruit). Moderate reduction again flattens the nose but there is excellent verve to the rich, intense and quite finely detailed medium plus weight flavors that brim with an abundance of dry extract that serves as an excellent cushion to the firm and phenolically ripe tannins that impart a dusty feel to the mouth coating and striking long finish. This is a big but relatively refined effort that should reward well 15 to 20 years of cellar time. 93/2024+

2009 Chambertin: (near the very top of the vineyard and atypically, the rows are planted North-South). In contrast to the other wines in the range, there is no reduction present to mute the elegant, pure and noticeably cool aromas of red and blue pinot fruit, wet stone, warm earth and a *sauvage* hint. The big-bodied flavors are rich, intense and serious with ample muscularity and mid-palate concentration that does a fine job of buffering the exceptionally firm tannic spine. This is a classic Chambertin of imposing length, size and weight but also one that will require two decades to come together. 94/2029+

2009 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: Here the reduction is such that it's enough to mute the fruit but not the panoply of spice notes that can also be found on the rich, supple and mineral-driven flavors that possess a supple mouth feel yet no lack of power, all wrapped in a focused, intense and gorgeously persistent finish. A classy effort built to age. 94/2024+

2009 Clos de Vougeot: (from Grand Maupertuis). Moderate reduction blocks a fair evaluation of the nose but the broad-scaled and taut flavors are rich and powerful yet at the same time relatively refined with lovely detail and a hint of minerality on the harmonious and impressively persistent finish. The ripe tannins are quite firm and this is less youthfully austere than it usually is though note that considerable patience will still be required. 93/2024+

Domaine Bonneau du Martray (Pernand-Vergelesses)

2009	Corton Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2008	Corton Grand Cru	red	92

Jean-Charles le Bault de la Morinière told me that 2009 was “probably a once in a lifetime kind of vintage simply because the climatic conditions were so remarkable. We noticed bud break around the 15th of April and this was followed by what was essentially a dry and relatively warm May that really jump started the vegetative cycle. As such the flowering, which took place around the first of June, was also not only uniform but extraordinarily fast as it was finished by the 4th. July was relatively wet with a general warming trend that was broken by two periods of relatively cool temperatures. By contrast, August was quite dry with excellent luminosity and warm temperatures but without excess. But it was the quality of the light that was truly spectacular and even more remarkable still was that there was not even the threat of a storm for the entire month. I have never seen this before. *Véraison* was first noticed around the 25th of July and was completely finished by the 24th of August. The perfect weather continued for all of September and we picked from the 9th to the 15th under perfect conditions of warm and sunny skies without a cloud to be seen. We picked our pinot parcels in two passes, the first occurring on the 9th and the second on the 12th. The fruit could not really have been much cleaner or more uniform as we discarded no more than 3% that was due to dried berries. The yield for the pinot was 27 hl/ha and we did a cuvaison of between 19 and 22 days. [There are two fermenters.] The malos did not start until May of 2010 and were finished by August. At this point, I believe that I'll bottle the red in April, 2011. For me, 2009 is a complete vintage that gave us impeccably balanced wines.” (Le Serbet is the US agent, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France who works primarily with Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, Lake Success, NY and Chambers and Chambers in CA for the Martray wines; Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com, UK).

2009 Corton: (from a 1.5 ha parcel in Le Charlemagne). A very fresh but attractively fresh nose features liqueur-like aromas of black cherry and plum that are nuanced by hints of earth and game. The very rich, full and velvet-textured flavors possess an abundance of dry extract that confers a seductive mouth feel onto the robust and ever-so-mildly rustic finish that is at once long, serious and moderately austere. This well-balanced effort should age well for many years. (92-94)/2024+

Note: the 2008 was bottled in April, 2010.

2008 Corton: (from a 1.5 ha parcel in Le Charlemagne). A notably ripe, earthy and exceptionally fresh nose of cassis and black cherries precedes equally ripe, rich and impressively scaled flavors that are balanced, pure and tight on the moderately austere and impressively long finish that displays noticeable rusticity. This is filled with both plenty of dry extract and energy and you can easily sense the underlying tension and vibrancy running through the wine. Like its 2009 counterpart, this should be terrific in time but note that plenty of it will be required. 92/2023+

Maison Bouchard Père et Fils (Beaune)

2009	Beaune du Château “1er”	red	(89-91)
2009	➔ Beaune “Grèves – Vigne de l’Enfant Jésus” 1er	red	(91-94)
2009	Beaune “Clos de la Mousse” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	Beaune “Teurons” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	red	(93-95)
2009	Bourgogne – Réserve	red	(84-87)
2009	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	red	(94-96)
2009	Chambolle-Musigny “Les Noirot” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	Chapelle-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2009	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(93-96)

2009	Le Corton Grand Cru	red	(93-95)
2009	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2009	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin	red	89
2009	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin "Cazetiers" 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	➔ Monthelie	red	89
2009	Monthelie "Champs Fulliot" 1er	red	(88-91)
2009	Monthelie "Les Duresses" 1er	red	(88-91)
2009	Nuits St.-Georges	red	88
2009	Nuits St.-Georges "Les Cailles" 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	Nuits St.-Georges "Les Porrets St. Georges" 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	➔ Pommard	red	89
2009	➔ Pommard "Pézerolles" 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	Pommard "Rugiens" 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	88
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières"	red	90
2009	Volnay "Les Caillerets – Ancienne Cuvée Carnot" 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	➔ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	➔ Vosne-Romanée	red	89
2009	Vosne-Romanée "Les Suchots" 1er	red	(89-92)

Christophe Bouchard and Philippe Prost, Bouchard's managing director and winemaker respectively, noted that 2009 "is not as easy to pigeon-hole as some people seem to believe. It's of course natural to believe that each vintage has a unique character and as such, it becomes easier to discuss the wines of that vintage as though they all resembled each other due to these shared characteristics. But that's not necessarily the case with 2009 because there were, in a sense, two flowerings, one early and one late depending on the sector in question. Because of this, you could easily have *surmaturité* in the precocious sectors and better balanced wines, especially from an acidity standpoint in later maturing sectors. The early *terroirs* are almost easy with very generous and round characters whereas the late maturing *terroirs* are much more classic. We picked from the 7th to the 21st of September and leading up to the harvest, and then every day thereafter, we systematically visited the vineyards to decide exactly when the optimum moment to pick might be. It's rare to see such a clean crop and there was almost nothing to sort. The lack of any sorting losses contributed to the relatively generous yields even though we did a green harvest in July. We were actually worried about the yields in August because it appeared that we dropped too much fruit. Yet when we started crushing the fruit everyone was surprised by the amount of juice and this explains why the acidities were lower than we expected. In the end, we believe that our lower yields going into the final part of the growing season helped us because the lower the bunch load, the earlier that you had phenolic maturity and thus the earlier that you could pick, thus helping to preserve acidity. Even with this advantage, we did have to acidify a few wines but not much and only in red. The whites were tricky in the sense that even 24 hours was enough to pass from having enough acidity to having a deficit so you had to be especially vigilant. While it's hard to be sure, this may be due to the fact that there was a lot of sunshine in 2009, in fact 5 to 7% more than in a normal year. The skies were almost always clear and this helps to explain the high degree of phenolic ripeness. Because of this, we did a fair amount of whole cluster fermentations in the Côte de Nuits, which ranged between 20 and 50% except for the Cazetiers which was 100%. As to the wines, 2009 is riper than 2005 but it doesn't have the same solid to liquid ratio and thus the wines are not as concentrated. Despite the fact that 2009 doesn't have just one style, the classification hierarchy was well respected because unlike say 2003, each level is clearly better than the one below it. One of the interesting aspects of the vintage is how much many of the reds improved during the course of the *élevage* and it probably unlike the '05s, the '09s will probably not shut down in their youth. But in the end, as good as the '09s are, it's clear that it's not 2005 in red or 2008 in white. That said, we really like the quality of the tannins in '09 and believe that there will be some very special wines in time." (Henriot, Inc., www.henriotinc.com, NY, NY; John E. Fells and Sons, www.fells.co.uk, UK).

In an important development, Prost told me that Bouchard has decided to use Diam agglomerate corks for all of their lower and middle level reds, which is to say all but the very top 1ers and *grands crus* and, perhaps even more significantly, all of their whites *regardless* of level. Prost explained that "we have been experimenting with the Diam corks for the last seven years and have found them to be the best alternative solution to natural cork and Diam is guaranteed to be TCA-free. [Less than 1 part per trillion, which is a sub-threshold perception level.] They may not be the best solution in 50 years but today, we believe that it is the best current solution. Moreover, unlike natural cork Diam does not lose its elasticity." For those readers who may be interested in knowing more about Diam corks and the manufacturing process, there is a moderately informative site here: www.diam-cork.com

2009 Bourgogne - Réserve: (from many villages in the Côte d'Or and Mercurey). A ripe, pure and mildly rustic nose features both black and dark berry fruit aromas as well as plenty of earth that can also be found on the delicious flavors that possess good mid-palate density and a dusty if not dry finish. (84-87)/2014+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune: A nose fully redolent of Savigny-style earth adds nuance to the otherwise ripe and fresh red pinot and cassis-infused nose that complements the textured and suave middle weight flavors that, somewhat surprisingly, culminate in a moderately austere finish. This is also really quite good for a "modest" *appellation*. 88/2015+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières": (from a domaine parcel that was purchased in 1909). A very ripe nose of plum, cassis, earth and a hint of wet stone gives way to rich and rather supple medium-bodied flavors that possess an attractive fleshiness, all wrapped in a complex, long and mouth coating finish where the tannins are quite firm. 90/2016+

2009 Monthelie: (from Domaine grown fruit). A wonderfully expressive, even perfumed nose of warm earth and red berry fruit aromas leads to rich, full and seductively textured flavors that possess a generous mid-palate and solid length. There is only average complexity but overall this is a lovely effort for what this is. 89/2015+

2009 Monthelie "Les Duresses": A cassis and black cherry nose that also displays some Porto notes in the best sense of the descriptor as there is no excess ripeness associated with it. The rich, full-bodied and serious medium-bodied flavors that display good underlying tension and fine length on the finish where again, the tannins are very firm. (88-91)/2017+

2009 Monthelie "Champs Fulliot": This is not as aromatically ripe and thus it's a bit more elegant with a touch of minerality to the moderately ripe red pinot fruit aromas that introduce supple yet precise and admirably pure middle weight flavors that are shaped by very firm and dusty tannins on the balanced, persistent and mildly rustic finish. (88-91)/2019+

2009 Beaune du Château "1er": (the first vintage for this wine was in 1907). In 2009 this blends 12 different Beaune 1ers to create a wine with a very ripe yet high-toned red and blue pinot fruit nose that is in keeping with the equally ripe, supple, round and rather forward flavors that possess a silky mid-palate and fine length. This is not overly complex but it is well-balanced and should drink well young. (89-91)/2015+

2009 Beaune "Clos de la Mousse": (a *monopole* of Bouchard Père). This is also quite ripe with aromas of spiced cassis and plum that lead to fleshy and generous medium-bodied flavors that possess good richness and a seductively textured mid-palate, all wrapped in a mouth coating finish that delivers fine length. There is a subtle touch of minerality and the very firm tannins are clearly phenolically ripe plus with the wine's solid balance, this should be capable of aging well. (89-92)/2021+

2009 Beaune "Teurons": This is very ripe, indeed even a bit jammy (but not Porto-like) with surprisingly good freshness given the elevated level of ripeness. The seductively-textured flavors possess excellent volume and are extremely rich before culminating in a suave and rather round finish that coats the mouth with firm tannins and plenty of buffering sap. This is riper than I personally prefer but there is no heaviness and solid balance. (89-92)/2021+

2009 Beaune "Grèves – Vigne de L'Enfant Jésus": (from a 4 ha parcel). Moderate wood sets off very ripe aromas of black cherry, plum and wet stone that also characterizes the extremely rich yet beautifully detailed flavors that possess superb intensity as well as fine complexity on the tension-filled and wonderfully persistent finish. Terrific. (91-94)/2024+

2009 Pommard: Proust said that about 60% of this blend was from domaine fruit. An expressive nose speaks of pretty red berry fruit with subtle earth and *sauvage* hints that carry over to the rich and relatively full-bodied flavors that are shaped by moderately rustic tannins and a notably firm finish where a hint of wood surfaces. This is quite good but note that patience will be required, especially for a *villages*-level wine. 89/2019+

2009 Pommard "Pézerolles": A notably ripe yet elegant and admirably pure nose features both hints of stone and earth that can also be found on the detailed, precise and energetic middle weight flavors that possess relatively fine tannins and excellent length. There is good buffering sap and I very much like the balance of this classy effort. (91-93)/2021+

2009 Pommard "Rugiens": This is also quite elegant and pure with perfumed aromas of wet stone and ripe red currants that introduce detailed, focused and relatively powerful medium weight flavors that deliver excellent length on the mildly oaky finish. This is really quite stylish if a bit less concentrated than the Pézerolles. (90-92)/2021+

2009 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": A pure and ripe nose of cherry and plum liqueur marries into rich, powerful and mineral-driven medium-bodied flavors that brim with dry extract which confers a seductive texture on the firm, dusty and beautifully detailed and intense finish that delivers impressive length. This is a classy effort that will require ample cellar time to reach its full maturity yet one that should be approachable in its youth. (91-93)/2024+

2009 Volnay “Les Caillerets – Ancienne Cuvée Carnot”: Proust noted that hail damage ruined about 15% of the crop but that Bouchard took no chances and declassified about 50% of the total. Relatively strong reduction dominates the nose though there is ample body and richness to the suave yet precise flavors that exude a fine minerality on the very ripe finish that offers excellent volume if less complexity than usual. This is also extremely ripe and some, including me, will likely find it to be a bit too much so. (89-92)/2021+

2009 Le Corton: Reduction blocks the nose but there is excellent verve to the intense, pure, robust and beautifully well-detailed flavors that are underpinned by moderately rustic tannins, all wrapped in a reserved, structured, powerful and impressively persistent finish. This is a big wine and should be capable of a long life. (93-95)/2024+

2009 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Noirots”: This is also quite ripe with an expressive nose that combines notes of menthol, spice and cassia that merges with supple, round and relatively fine middle weight flavors that possess a sappy mouth feel and good length. While this is undeniably delicious, there is noticeable wood on the finish and it lacks the requisite complexity to be at the next level, at least for the time being. (89-91)/2017+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin: A ripe yet cool nose that is very Gevrey with its pungent earth and *sauvage* character on the wild red and blue berry fruit aromas that complement well the equally ripe yet reserved mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that possess a touch of youthful asperity on the balanced, focused and lingering finish. A lovely if quite firmly structured *villages*. 89/2017+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin “Cazetiers”: The stems show on the nose as this is quite floral with a cool and ripe plum and red berry fruit nose that is distinctly *sauvage* in character that is also reflected by the rich, delineated and tension-filled flavors that exude a fine minerality on the balanced, austere and understated finish. This is very Cazetiers. (91-93)/2021+

2009 Nuits St.-Georges: A ripe, earthy and somber red and dark berry fruit nose gives way to rich, forward and utterly delicious flavors that are quite firm but only mildly rustic, all wrapped in a mocha-infused finish where a hint of bitter chocolate can be found. In short, this is solid but not truly exceptional for its level. 88/2017+

2009 Nuits St.-Georges “Les Porrets St. Georges”: This is quite ripe but stops just short of being *surmature* with its spicy, earth and liqueur-like aromas of black cherry and a hint of menthol. The rich, seductive and suave medium-bodied flavors finish with mild austerity on the surprisingly cool and well-balanced finish. (90-92)/2021+

2009 Nuits St.-Georges “Les Cailles”: A very ripe, indeed even slightly *surmature* nose of mild reduction, mocha and menthol aromas introduces extremely rich yet reasonably delineated medium weight plus flavors that are unexpectedly cool and tension-filled on the dusty and palate staining finish. Notwithstanding the cool impression of the finish, this is riper than I like and it affects the expression of the underlying *terroir*. (89-91)/2021+

2009 Vosne-Romanée: A deft touch of wood frames spicy and notably ripe purple fruit, in particular plum, that precedes suave, supple and attractively refined middle weight flavors that possess lovely verve and excellent freshness on the long and complex finish. While not especially concentrated, the balance is impeccable and this is very Vosne. 89/2016+

2009 Vosne-Romanée “Les Suchots”: Proust said that this was not vinified by Bouchard. A ripe, spicy and intensely menthol-suffused nose gives way to rich, mouth coating and opulently sappy flavors are shaped by notably firm tannins that are robust and, somewhat unusually, actually rustic, all wrapped in a solidly lingering finish. This is quite good without ascending to distinguished status. (89-92)/2021+

2009 Echézeaux: (from a Domaine-owned parcel in En Orveaux). A gorgeously spicy nose that is pure and elegant speaks of blue and black pinot fruit, warm earth and hoisin nuances. The extremely rich, suave and silky medium weight plus flavors also display an abundance of tannin-buffering dry extract that coats the palate on the long, serious and mildly austere finish. This is built to age and offers impressive depth. (92-94)/2024+

2009 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). An elegant and admirably pure nose of warm earth, subtle spice and relatively fresh red currant and plum aromas leads to rich, detailed and tension-filled flavors that display a taut muscularity on the mouth coating and relatively refined finish that is supported by firm and buried tannins as well as stunningly good length. The Echézeaux is an excellent wine but this has another dimension present. A superb effort though patience will be required. (93-96)/2026+

2009 Chapelle-Chambertin: (from purchased grapes in Chapelle proper). Strong reduction blocks the nose though there is plenty of energy and punch to the detailed, powerful and lightly mineral-driven flavors that possess both good size and solid weight, especially on the vibrant, balanced and seriously persistent finish. There is fine depth of material here and while this is somewhat awkward today, I see no reason why this shouldn't be excellent in time. (91-94)/2024+

2009 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: (from purchased grapes). A strikingly spiced and highly perfumed nose of ripe yet cool red berry fruit, wet stone, underbrush and a hint of *animale* merges gracefully into highly complex and gorgeously intense flavors that also brim with minerality and plenty of extract on the palate staining and stunningly long finish. This has the potential to be great in time but note carefully that it will need an ample amount of it to arrive at its full potential. (94-96)/2029+

2009 Bonnes Mares: (from a .24 ha mix of *terres rouges* and *terres blanches* but with a bit more of the former). In contrast to many of the wines in the range that are quite expressive, this is actually quite reticent if not downright mute with very ripe but elusive aromas of mocha, plum and spicy cassis. The extremely rich, powerful and concentrated big-bodied flavors possess a suave mouth feel as the sap almost completely buffers the unusually generous but quite serious and long finish. This is a classic Bonnes Mares in terms of its underlying architecture and should require between 15 and 20 years to be at its best. (93-95)/2026+

Domaine Jean-Marc Bouley (Volnay)

2009	➔ Beaune “Reversées” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	Bourgogne	red	86
2009	➔ Bourgogne – Hautes Côtes de Beaune	red	87
2009	➔ Pommard	red	(89-91)
2009	➔ Pommard “Fremiers” 1er	red	(91-94)
2009	➔ Pommard “Petits Noizons”	red	(89-91)
2009	➔ Pommard “Rugiens” 1er	red	(92-94)
2009	Volnay	red	(87-89)
2009	➔ Volnay “Caillerets” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	➔ Volnay “Les Carelles” 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	Volnay “Clos de la Cave”	red	(87-89)
2009	➔ Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	➔ Volnay – Vieilles Vignes	red	(89-91)

Jean-Marc Bouley’s son Thomas (who has been making the wines for the last several vintages) told me that in 2009 “we began picking on the 7th of September with the Caillerets as it was clearly several days in advance of our other parcels. Thus we harvested the Caillerets with a small team of pickers and then took a break before recommencing on the 10th. The crop was extremely clean and there was very little sorting required. Potential alcohols were quite strong at between 13.2 and 14% which of course means that there was no chaptalization. I vinified over about three weeks time and as the stems were sufficiently ripe, I used varying proportions in some wines. As to the wines, they are naturally sweet and very rich wines that possess moderate *terroir* expression at present though I believe that it will become more apparent with age. The ‘09s are easy to understand and will be popular though personally I think that my ‘08s are more interesting.” As in 2008, the 2009s will be bottled without fining or filtration. (Russell Herman/World Wine Source, Berkeley Heights, NJ; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, UK and O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, UK).

2009 Bourgogne: A discreet hint of wood sets off ripe red and dark berry fruit plus warm earth aromas that lead to rich, round and relatively concentrated middle weight flavors that are supported by mildly rustic tannins as well as fine complexity and persistence for what this is. Worth a look. 86/2014+

2009 Bourgogne – Hautes Côtes de Beaune: Here too there is a deft application of oak though it remains in the background as the notably ripe aromas of dark berry fruit, wet stone and menthol are allowed center stage. The precise and minerally middle weight flavors are firm and dusty with fine intensity on the austere but more complex finish. An excellent Bourgogne fashioned in a rather serious style. Recommended. 87/2015+

2009 Beaune “Reversées”: (Bouley noted that this was made with 30% whole cluster in 2009). This is also quite ripe with floral, cassis, plum and earth aromas that introduce rich and relatively full-bodied flavors that possess fine mid-palate concentration and excellent complexity on the long, mouth coating and firmly structured finish. (90-92)/2017+

2009 Volnay: (from vines down on the plain). A ripe, earthy and brooding nose features dark pinot fruit and plum aromas that precede rich, supple and fleshy earth-inflected medium-bodied flavors that possess a textured, indeed even velvety mouth feel and culminate in a quite firm and mildly rustic finish. (87-89)/2016+

2009 Volnay “Clos de la Cave”: (made with 30% whole bunches). As is usually the case, this is both more elegant and cooler with a fruit profile that runs more toward the red side of the spectrum along with hints of wet stone and earth, both of which can be found on the supple, forward and round flavors though the persistent finish is quite firm. (87-89)/2016+

2009 Volnay – Vieilles Vignes: (from 40+ year old vines). This is also quite ripe without falling over into *surmaturité* as there is a trace of mocha to the lightly spiced plum and warm earth aromas. The medium-bodied flavors are rich, suave and very round yet there is good detail to the intense, complex, focused and persistent finish. This is an excellent, if very serious, *villages* that will require up to a decade of rest in a cool cellar but it should be worth the wait. (89-91)/2017+

2009 Volnay “Les Cavelles”: This is aromatically elegant and attractively pure with ripe aromas of red berry liqueur and violets that marry into rich, full and supple flavors that possess a chalky character on the firm, intense and wonderfully mineral-inflected finish. A classic Volnay of charm and grace that will require a decade to be at its best. (90-93)/2019+

2009 Volnay “Caillerets”: (this is from very young vines planted in 2002). A very ripe nose, indeed this plays right on the edge of *surmaturité*, evidencing aromas of cassis, black berry and wet stone. The supple, round and almost easy flavors possess good detail and ample minerality on the delicious finish that firms up quickly. This is not as dense as the best in the range but the hallmark finesse of a fine Caillerets is certainly present. Excellent for such young vines. (90-92)/2017+

2009 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”: (vinified with 25% whole clusters). This is quite ripe with a complex and layered nose of plum, cassis, lavender and warm earth that gives way to rich, full-bodied and quite powerful middle weight flavors that are well-muscled, focused and extremely firm though not hard. This is a serious and almost painfully intense effort that will require between 12 and 15 years of cellar time to arrive at its majority. (91-93)/2021+

2009 Pommard: (from Vaumuriens). An expressive nose speaks of ripe cassis, black cherry and iron hints that also suffuse the dense and mouth coating tautly muscled flavors that are minerally but rustic, intense and impressively long for a *villages* level wine. This is a classic Pommard in both style and character that will need plenty of cellar time. Recommended for those who don't mind waiting for what should be a lovely wine in time. (89-91)/2019+

2009 Pommard “Petits Noizons”: Reduction knocks down the expressiveness of the nose though the underlying fruit is clearly quite ripe. The attractively textured, delineated and intense flavors exude a lovely minerality that continues onto the velvety and impressively long finish that is shaped by firm but much finer tannins. Excellent. (89-91)/2016+

2009 Pommard “Fremiers”: (made with 30% whole bunches). This is really quite pretty with an airy and ripe but cool nose of primarily red and blue pinot fruit, earth and hints of minerality that continue onto the rich, full-bodied and overtly powerful big-bodied flavors that possess a seductive mouth feel as there is an abundance of sap on the voluminous and wonderfully complex finish. This is a serious yet refined Pommard with real style. Definitely worth considering if you have the patience as plenty will be required. (91-94)/2024+

2009 Pommard “Rugiens”: (from Rugiens Haut and vinified with 20% whole clusters). This is more elegant still with background notes of violets and menthol that add depth to the red and blue pinot fruit aromas. The full-bodied, rich and mouth coating flavors possess a supple and concentrated mid-palate that exudes a fine minerality that continues onto the very firmly tannic, austere and hugely long finish. This is destined to be a long-distance runner and I would advise not even considering opening a bottle for at least ten years. (92-94)/2026+

Domaine Pascal Bouley (Volnay)

2009	Beaune “Le Bas des Teurons” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	Bourgogne	red	86
2009	➔ Monthelie “Les Clous” 1er	red	90
2009	Monthelie “Aux Fournereaux”	red	88
2009	➔ Pommard	red	(89-91)
2009	Volnay	red	88
2009	➔ Volnay “Champans” 1er	red	(91-94)
2009	➔ Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	red	(91-94)
2009	Volnay “Les Pluchots”	red	(87-90)
2009	Volnay “Robardelle” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	➔ Volnay “Roncerets” 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	➔ Volnay “Santenots” 1er	red	(91-93)

Pascal Bouley told me that 2009 was a “relatively easy vintage as the warm growing season didn’t have much disease pressure and thus the fruit was both ripe and very clean. We began picking on the 8th of September and brought in fruit with potential alcohols that ran between 12.5 and 13.5%. Because the fruit was so clean that there were, for all intents and purposes, no sorting losses, yields were generous at around 40 hl/ha with obviously more at the regional and *villages* level and less at the 1er level. The vinification was straightforward and for the first time, I used around 25% whole clusters for all the *cuvées*. The stems were clearly quite ripe and completely clean and there was a high degree of phenolic ripeness so I reasoned that if ever there was a vintage to experiment with a whole cluster fermentation, 2009 was it. As to the wines, for me the ‘09s will be a ‘drink now/drink later/drink anytime’ sort of vintage as I don’t think the wines will ever shut down.” (Scott Paul Wines, www.scottpaul.com, Portland, OR; no known UK importers).

2009 Bourgogne: An earthy and ripe yet reasonably fresh nose of red berry fruit leads to delicious, pretty and nicely detailed middle weight flavors that possess good precision and punch on the mildly rustic finish. I like the complexity and this evidences lovely balance. A quality Bourgogne. 86/2013+

2009 Monthelie “Aux Fournereaux”: A more elegant nose of red and blue pinot fruit that is cut with earth and underbrush aromas, both of which can be found on the concentrated and textured middle weight flavors that possess a bit more volume and are also supported by mildly rustic tannins on the balanced finish. This is quite good for what it is. 88/2015+

2009 Monthelie “Les Clous”: This offers another small step up in refinement with a pretty mix of upper and lower register plum, red currant and warm earth aromas that give way to seductively textured and sappy middle weight flavors that possess good dry extract that buffers the otherwise firm, complex and lingering finish. Recommended. 90/2016+

2009 Volnay: (from Ez Echards). A pretty nose of ripe raspberry liqueur, minerals and a touch of earth marries into detailed, pure and quite supple flavors that are shaped by the ripe tannins as well as a sappy and stone-inflected finish. This should drink well young but age reasonably well too. 88/2014+

2009 Volnay “Les Pluchots”: Bouley noted that in contrast to the other wines where he used about 25% whole clusters, here he used 100% as an experiment. An intensely floral and spicy nose also displays fresh and bright red pinot fruit and earth notes that are in keeping with the detailed, intense and precise medium-bodied flavors that are quite supple and round on the mid-palate yet the finish is extremely firm and energetic. The stems are in evidence and this will not be to everyone’s taste though the finish is impressively long for its level. (87-90)/2017+

2009 Pommard: (from the *villages* level portion of Chanlins). As Chanlins can often be, this is really quite pretty with relatively cool red berry fruit, violet, plum and stone aromas that merge into rich, delicious and mouth coating flavors that possess a taut muscularity on the complex, balanced and lingering finish. An excellent *villages* that is worth a look. (89-91)/2016+

2009 Beaune “Le Bas des Teurons”: A discreet touch of wood sets off ripe red pinot fruit, earth and iron hints that can also be found on the silky flavors that possess a supple and round mouth feel and culminate in a long and mouth coating finish. The tannins here are really quite fine and this has a sophisticated character to it. (89-92)/2016+

2009 Volnay “Roncerets”: A cool, airy and ultra-pure red berry fruit nose is nuanced by barely discernable spice, warm earth and underbrush hints, all of which also infuse the rich, seductive and highly complex middle weight flavors that are at once very Volnay yet also quite serious as this well-balanced effort is built to age. Lovely juice. (90-93)/2017+

2009 Volnay “Santenots”: A very ripe yet still reasonably fresh nose of impressively dense black berry fruit and red currant aromas leads to rich, concentrated and mouth coating medium-bodied flavors that possess excellent underlying tension as well as notably firm tannins on the balanced, focused and powerful finish. In a word, terrific. (91-93)/2019+

2009 Volnay “Robardelle”: An elegant and admirably pure nose of ripe plum and red currants gives way to supple, forward and almost easy medium-bodied flavors that tighten up quickly on the firm, precise and well-balanced finish. This is classic Robardelle in that it’s lacy and very Volnay in character though it lacks the same depth as the best here. (89-91)/2015+

2009 Volnay “Champans”: The very ripe nose is strikingly complex with less elegance but more aromatic density as well as a background hint of violets on the dark berry fruit that introduces supple, round and mineral-inflected flavors that possess an abundance of tannin buffering sap on the beautifully balanced and impressively long finish. This is an impeccable effort that is very Zen in basic character. One to buy, at least if you have a modicum of patience. (91-94)/2019+

2009 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”: Here the nose is quite similar to that of the Champans with perhaps a touch more minerality that continues onto the round, supple and relatively accessible flavors that possess excellent detail and precision, all wrapped in a dense, palate staining, intense and mild youthful austerity on the hugely long finish. This is not as complex as the Champans at present but there is so much material present that it’s easy to believe that the depth will come with 10 to 12 years of bottle age. (91-94)/2021+

Domaine Buisson-Charles (Meursault)

2009	➔ Bourgogne	red	87
2009	➔ Pommard “En Chiveau”	red	89
2009	➔ Volnay “Santenots” 1er	red	92

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. The reds are normally 100% destemmed though in 2009, some whole clusters were used for all three wines. Essa noted that 2009 was “a relatively easy vintage. The fruit was clean, there wasn’t much disease pressure and the phenolics were also quite ripe. We began picking on the 12th of September under perfect weather and while there was some sorting required, it wasn’t much. Yields were quite good at around 42 hl/ha for the reds and 48 hl/ha for the whites with sugars that ranged between 13 and 13.4%. I was a bit worried about the acidities but as it turns out, the post-malo pHs were in the 3.5 area, which is just fine. We had absolutely no additions of any kind save for some SO₂ and the wines should please everyone as they are drinking well already.” The 2009s are the best reds that I have seen from this domaine. The wines were bottled without fining or filtration in December. (Vintage Trading, e-mail vintagetrading@aol.com, NY, NY; Thomas Calder Selections; Vignoble & Millesime, vignoble.millesime@wanadoo.fr, Beaune France; Roberson Wine, www.roberson.co.uk, Uncorked Ltd, www.uncorked.co.uk, both UK).

2009 Bourgogne: (vinified with 50% whole bunches). A ripe, fresh and very pinot nose is also nuanced by hints of cassis, earth and floral notes. The rich, velvety and suave flavors possess excellent volume and complexity for a Bourgogne as well as fine length on the firm but balanced finish. This is an excellent example of the *appellation* that is built to reward mid-term aging. Recommended. 87/2014+

2009 Pommard “En Chiveau”: (En Chiveau sits at considerable altitude high above the village; vinified with 20% whole bunches). A subtle touch of reduction is not enough to completely hide the earthy black berry liqueur nose that precedes firm and beautiful well-detailed flavors that also possess a suave but serious mouth feel on the balanced and lingering finish. A lovely *villages* that is worth your consideration. 89/2016+

2009 Volnay “Santenots”: (from vines situated in the upper part of the vineyard that is distinctly rockier and actually more like Caillerets than a classically rich and generous Santenots; vinified with 70% whole bunches). A ripe, spicy and expressive nose features notes of plum, red currant and floral hints that complement well the rich, mineral and precise medium-bodied flavors that possess excellent mid-palate concentration and volume. The tannins are quite firm but there is an abundance of buffering-sap and the balance is impeccable on the wonderfully long finish. Note that this a relatively delicate Santenots and while it’s built to age, the structure is not aggressive. 92/2019+

Maison Champy (Beaune)

2009	➔ Beaune “Champs Pimont” 1er	red	91
2009	➔ Beaune “Les Cras” 1er	red	91
2009	Beaune Vieilles Vignes	red	(88-90)
2009	Bourgogne	red	86
2009	➔ Bourgogne Signature	red	87
2009	Chambolle-Musigny	red	(88-91)
2009	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2009	Chorey-lès-Beaune	red	88
2009	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2009	Corton Grand Cru	red	92
2009	Côte de Beaune-Villages	red	(86-88)
2009	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(90-92?)
2009	Gevrey-Chambertin “Cazetiers” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin “Lavaut St. Jacques” 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin Organic Cuvée	red	(89-91)
2009	Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes	red	(88-91)
2009	Mazis-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2009	➔ Nuits St. Georges	red	89

2009	➔ Pernand-Vergelesses “Clos du Bully”	red	89
2009	Pernand-Vergelesses “Fichots” 1er	red	90
2009	➔ Pommard	red	89
2009	➔ Pommard “Les Grands Epenots” 1er	red	91
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	88
2009	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Fourches”	red	89
2009	Volnay	red	(88-91)
2009	➔ Volnay “Taillepieds” 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	➔ Vosne-Romanée	red	90
2009	➔ Vosne-Romanée “Les Suchots” 1er	red	(91-93)

As I noted in Issue 41, winemaker Dimitri Bazas and director Pierre Meurgey proudly told me that they had just purchased Domaine Laleure-Piot, which was based in Pernand. In the process they have added about 9.5 ha with vineyards primarily in Pernand, Aloxe and Savigny, including Corton-Charlemagne, Corton *grand cru*, Ile de Vergelesses and Savigny “Vergelesses” among an assortment of *villages* level sites. As to the 2009 vintage, Bazas noted that “the region was blessed with an excellent flowering that was both quick and uniform. There was no real disease pressure and thanks to 70 mm of rain in June, another 130 in July plus another 30 in August, there was no hydric stress either as there was during some parts of the 2005 vintage. We began picking on the 10th of September and while yields were generous, they certainly weren’t at 1999 levels. Potential alcohols averaged around 13% and the post malo pHs were in a range of 3.5 to 3.6, which is analytically just fine. We did a 15 to 20 day cuvaision and there was no trouble with the wines finishing their sugars. As to the wines, they are open, generous and easy to appreciate but in the best sense of the term as they are not at all banal. Pierre’s father compares them to the ‘59s at the same stage, which can only be a good thing!” (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).

2009 Bourgogne: A pure, ripe and pretty nose that is very pinot with its relatively high-toned red berry fruit aromas trimmed in a touch of earth that leads to delicious, agreeable and easy to like flavors that culminate in a sappy finish. This is really quite good and fashioned in a “drink me now” style. 86/now+

2009 Bourgogne - Signature: (from Pommard and Volnay fruit with partial *élevage* in tank, the rest in wood, 30% of it being new). This is more obviously Bourgogne in character as there is a much more pronounced earth influence to the ripe red and blue fruit that is set off in a discreet touch of wood. The bigger and richer flavors are also moderately more concentrated with good mid-palate sap and a finishing hint of austerity. An excellent Bourgogne and worth a look. 87/2013+

2009 Côte de Beaune-Villages: (from Pernand-Vergelesses). A deft touch of wood allows the earthy dark berry fruit aromas to shine. The generous and easy-to-like flavors possess a suave mouth feel with reasonably good length. Though it is a nit, the finish lacks a bit of definition but otherwise, this is really quite pretty. (86-88)/2013+

2009 Choresy-lès-Beaune: (from Beau Monts). A similar nose introduces rich, fleshy and sappy flavors that possess good volume and much better than average depth and length than one typically finds for the *appellation*. In sum, this is very solid if not truly sensational for what it is. 88/2013+

2009 Pernand-Vergelesses “Clos du Bully”: (this vineyard was estimated to have been first planted in 1158). Mild wood frames very earthy dark pinot fruit aromas cut with a hint of the *sauvage* that continues onto the ripe, delicious and vibrant middle weight flavors that possess a fleshy mouth feel and good balance if limited elegance. Still, this delivers excellent quality in a wine that is fashioned in a serious and moderately somber style. Worth considering. 89/2014+

2009 Pernand-Vergelesses “Fichots”: An intensely earthy and overtly rustic nose offers a mix of dark berry aromas that are well nuanced by hints of game and underbrush, both of which can be found on the rich, full-bodied and relatively powerful middle weight flavors that possess excellent volume as well as fine depth on the balanced finish. Good stuff fashioned in an old school style that will require 6 to 8 years of cellar time. 90/2016+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune: A ripe, clean and fresh nose is intensely redolent of warm Savigny-style earth and medium-toned wild red berry fruit aromas. The generous and round medium-bodied flavors possess good mid-palate concentration and fine balance on the delicious and persistent finish. Like the Clos de Bully, this is not an elegant wine but then few Savigny *villages* examples are. 88/2013+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Fourches”: (from owned 45+ year old vines planted in very deep soil). This is earthier still with ripe plum and blue pinot fruit aromas giving way to rich, generous and quite supple medium weight flavors that possess a

bit more structure than the straight *villages*, all wrapped in a delicious, complex and nicely focused finish. This lovely effort could actually be drunk now with pleasure though I personally would allow it 5 years or so in the cellar first. 89/2014+

2009 Beaune Vieilles Vignes: A deft touch of wood does not compromise the otherwise expressive nose of red and blue pinot fruit, plum and prominent earth aromas that give way to rich and relatively full-bodied flavors that possess better than average size and weight as well as good muscle on the persistent finish that is shaped by firm but ripe tannins. This should offer good development over the medium-term. (88-90)/2015+

2009 Beaune “Champs Pimont”: A rustic and somber dark berry fruit nose is set off by a discreet touch of oak that does not continue onto the rich, full and attractively textured flavors that possess excellent vibrancy as well as obvious minerality on the complex, palate staining and lingering finish. This moderately structured effort is a wine of harmony if not necessarily great refinement. 91/2017+

2009 Beaune “Les Cras”: A similar but more elegant nose with higher-toned red berry fruit and wet stone aromas that signal the presence of the intense minerality that suffuses the precise and vibrant middle weight flavors that culminate in a delicious, intense and balanced finish. The Les Cras is generally better than the Champs Pimont but in 2009, it's more of a qualitative standoff even though the character of the two wines is quite different. A choice. 91/2017+

2009 Volnay: (a 50/50 mix of Robardelle and Sur Roches). A notably ripe nose features pretty red currant and plum aromas that are well-sprinkled with a mixture of earth and underbrush nuances that also add interest to the rich and generous middle weight flavors that possess good mid-palate concentration that helps to buffer the firm and mildly rustic tannins on the balanced and lingering finish. A lovely *villages*. (88-91)/2016+

2009 Volnay “Taillepieds”: This is notably ripe yet the aromatic profile is composed of relatively high-toned and cool red berry fruit that is liberally laced with wet stone notes that are even more prominent on the beautifully well-delineated and precise flavors that culminate in a serious, mouth coating and moderately austere finish. This is impressive and very much built to age. A classic Taillepieds. (90-93)/2019+

2009 Pommard: (from Lambots). Mild reduction is not enough to completely hide the somewhat somber red currant and warm earth aromas that marry into rich, round and rather fleshy flavors that possess excellent volume and much better than average complexity on the firm and mouth coating finish. This is an excellent *villages* and is not especially structured for the appellation and should drink well relatively young. 89/2015+

2009 Pommard “Les Grands Epenots”: A serious and brooding yet pretty nose displays notes of ripe cherry, blue berry and plenty of warm earth that slides gracefully into rich, big-bodied and relatively powerful flavors that are blessed with ample extract that buffers the otherwise very firm tannins on the long and complex finish. This is a sizeable but not forbidding Epenots and it should reach its peak within a decade. 91/2017+

2009 Nuits St. Georges: (from the Prémieux side). An intensely earthy, *sauvage* and rustic nose also speaks of primarily dark berry fruit nuances that precede a rich, bold and full-flavored mid-palate that culminates in a sappy, dusty and impressively long finish. As one would reasonably expect, this is not particularly refined but there is plenty of wine present. Worth your attention for cellaring over the mid-term. 89/2015+

2009 Chambolle-Musigny: A pretty if not actually elegant nose offers up notes of soft wood, earth and ripe red currant aromas that merge gracefully into rich, delicious and quite round middle weight flavors that juxtapose a suave mouth feel against a mildly austere and solidly persistent finish. This is quite good if not exactly an archetype of a classic Chambolle. (88-91)/2015+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin – Vieilles Vignes: (from vines planted in 1959 located in Billard, Meix Bas, Sylvie and Champ Perdrix). Moderate wood influence isn't enough to detract much from the rustic, ripe yet cool and quite serious dark berry fruit aromas that merge into suave and velvety middle weight flavors that possess a supple and round mouth feel, all wrapped in a balanced, long and palate coating finish. A quality *villages*. (88-91)/2016+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin Organic Cuvée: A somber and complex nose of restrained earth-infused red berry fruit aromas gives way to rich and relatively full-bodied flavors that possess both good volume and ample amounts of dry extract that buffer the firm tannins on the vibrant finish. This offers a bit more overall depth than the old vines *cuvée*. (89-91)/2016+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin “Cazetiers”: A deft application of oak does not compromise the expressiveness of the unusually high-toned cherry and red pinot fruit though the hallmark earth and *animale* notes are present if in the background. There is very good energy to the mineral-inflected flavors that possess reasonably good depth and length. As good as this is however, it doesn't appear to have the same underlying raw material to compete with the best 1ers in the range such as the Taillepieds, Suchots or Lavaut. (89-92)/2021+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin “Lavaut St. Jacques”: Bazas indicated that this had not been racked and it showed as there was significant reduction present which dominated the nose. However there is good vibrancy and freshness to the detailed, racy and stony flavors that are notably finer than those of the Cazetiers while culminating in a focused, refined and admirably pure finish. This harmonious effort is really quite lovely and worth considering. (90-93)/2021+

2009 Vosne-Romanée: (from Basses Maizières). A modest touch of wood allows the spicy, ripe and impressively complex aromas of blue and black pinot fruit to shine. The equally ripe and seductive medium-bodied flavors possess mouth coating extract that also serves to buffer the otherwise firm tannic spine and while there is some additional wood influence on the finish, there is sufficient underlying material to eventually absorb it. A very fine *villages*. 90/2016+

2009 Vosne-Romanée “Les Suchots”: A highly spiced red and black fruit suffused nose also displays hints of soy and hoisin that are picked up by the very rich and wonderfully seductive flavors that brim with dry extract that completely coats the palate and pushes the firm tannins to the background on the balanced and strikingly long finish. This is quintessential Vosne in character and should mature into a really lovely example of the vineyard. (91-93)/2021+

2009 Echézeaux: (from Echézeaux du Dessus). Moderate wood influence is not enough to dominate the nose but neither is it subtle as it fights somewhat with the ripe and exuberantly spicy black berry fruit aromas that merge into rich, full and quite serious big-bodied flavors that display firm and dusty tannins on the finish. This is a bit like the Cazetiers in that it's not quite as complex as one might expect. Moreover, this is awkward at present as the balance isn't what it could be. (90-92?)/2021+

2009 Corton: (from Combes, Clos des Meix and Perrières). A somber, reserved and almost mute nose grudgingly offers up notes of dark berry fruit, warm earth and hints of game and underbrush. The rich, full-bodied and overtly muscular flavors possess solid power and excellent length. This is not a monster of a Corton though not surprisingly in a vintage like 2009, it will still need 12 to 15 years to shed its considerable tannins. 92/2021+

2009 Charmes-Chambertin: (from Charmes proper). A more elegant if not necessarily more complex nose blends together hints of earth, spice, underbrush, game and ripe but cool wild red berry fruit. There is good volume and mid-palate concentration to the full-bodied and brooding flavors that are shaped by very firm but phenolically ripe tannins and outstanding length. This should be excellent in time but note that patience will definitely be required. (92-94)/2024+

2009 Mazis-Chambertin: (from Mazis-Bas). This was relatively strongly reduced though it's clear that the underlying fruit is quite ripe. Otherwise, the rich, full, mouth coating and broad-scaled flavors possess good power and ample length if more limited complexity than it should have. This of course may very well change during the course of its evolution, particularly since there is ample underlying material and my score offers the benefit of the doubt in this regard. (91-93)/2024+

2009 Clos de Vougeot: (from Petit Maupertuis). A surprisingly expressive nose presents highly complex red berry, game and warm earth nuances that introduce delicious, sappy and mouth coating medium plus weight flavors that possess a firm muscularity and the classic youthfully austere finish of imposing length. I like the balance here and while the tannins are presently unyielding, sufficient mid-palate sap exists to buffer it over time. (91-94)/2024+

Domaine Chandon de Briailles (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2009	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2009	Corton-Maréchaudes Grand Cru	red	(90-92)
2009	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	red	(93-95)
2009	➔ Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Vergelesses” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	➔ Pernand-Vergelesses “Ile de Vergelesses” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	(86-89)
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Fournaux” 1er	red	(88-91)
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Lavières” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	➔ Volnay “Caillerets” 1er	red	(91-94)

François de Nicolay and his sister and winemaker Claude described 2009 as “one where we had an excellent flowering, which is to say short, sweet and uniform. This always makes for easier harvests as the fruit quality is consistent. We picked between the 10th and the 17th of September and brought in a bit less yield than normal though this is probably due to the now full conversion of the domaine to biodynamic farming. The lower yields may very well have helped with the equilibrium as our post-malo pHs are excellent. Sugars were also quite good as everything, including the Savigny *villages*, came in between 13 and 14% and thus nothing was chaptalized. The vinifications were easy and we destemmed on average about 40% of the fruit

though the percentages did vary from wine to wine during the 15 to 21 day *cuvaisons*. One of the things that surprised us is how dark the colors are even for the wines where we kept the highest percentage of stems.” [Stems usually absorb anthocyanins and thus wines vinified with them are typically lighter in color.] (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).

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune: This is quite ripe with a liqueur of blackberry fruit and cassis aromas though the rich, full and seductively textured middle weight flavors exhibit plenty of Savigny-style earth that also inflects the mouth coating finish where a subtle touch of warmth can also be found. (86-89)/2015+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Fournaux”: (from 60+ year old vines). This is also quite ripe though slightly fresher with more overall complexity as well to the otherwise similar nose. The rich, sappy and relatively big-bodied flavors possess plenty of extract on the powerful and muscular finish that displays a mocha and coffee character. The firm tannins will likely require the better part of a decade to soften. (88-91)/2017+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Lavières”: An extremely ripe nose of spiced plum and background hints of prune and violets introduces rich and opulent flavors that are given lift by the presence of ample minerality on the detailed, energetic and rather firm finish. The nose is riper than I prefer yet there is good punch and freshness to the finish. (89-91)/2017+

2009 Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Vergèsses”: An expressive nose of roasted plum and warm earth complements ripe, suave and very rich flavors that possess a seductive texture as well as good size and weight, all wrapped in a relatively powerful and vibrant finish that is underpinned by borderline rustic, and very firm, tannins. (89-92)/2019+

2009 Pernand-Vergelesses “Ile de Vergèsses”: (a mix of vine ages though the oldest date from 1938). This too features roasted plum aromas along with hints of spice, wet stone, earth and a hint of violets. The more elegant and somewhat finer flavors exude minerality that continues onto the very firm but balanced finish that delivers impressive length. This is built to age and is really quite lovely. (90-92)/2021+

2009 Volnay “Caillerets”: An extremely ripe nose combines spiced plum, floral, mineral and prune notes that lead to attractively textured, suave, supple and utterly delicious medium-bodied flavors blessed with seemingly endless reserves of extract that buffer the firm tannic spine on the long and serious finish. I very much like the underlying sense of tension and this should be most impressive in 10 to 15 years. Note that this is not a classic Caillerets as it’s exceptionally ripe. (91-94)/2021+

2009 Corton-Maréchaudes: (from 30+ year old vines). An extremely ripe but not over ripe nose speak of roasted fruit and distinct earth aromas that precede rich, full and serious medium weight plus flavors that possess a mocha and liqueur-like finish that is clearly very well structured. This certainly has the potential to be quite good in time but it lacks the freshness and verve of the Bressandes and Clos du Roi. (90-92)/2024+

2009 Corton-Bressandes: (three separate plantings with an average vine age of about 35 years). This is also very ripe but here the cassis, violet and black berry aromas are noticeably fresher. The rich, intense and broad-shouldered flavors display a distinct mineral character and better elegance to the dense but fine tannins that shape the hugely long finish. This has the potential to be outstanding but it will require the better part of two decades to arrive at its peak. (92-94)/2024+

2009 Corton-Clos du Roi: (this has the highest average vine age of these *grands crus* at 40+ years of age). This is especially ripe, indeed to the point where there are notes of dry Porto yet, almost incongruously, it seems fresh. There are also notes of spice, *animale* and cassis-liqueur, all of which can be found on the rich, powerful and impressively concentrated flavors that brim with dry extract that renders the particularly firm tannins almost invisible. This deceptive amiability will not last for long though as the hallmark austerity is already apparent and this is going to require close to 20 years to fully realize its considerable potential. (93-95)/2027+

Chanson Père et Fils (Beaune)

2009	Beaune “Bressandes” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	Beaune “Champimonts” 1er	red	(88-91)
2009	➤ Beaune “Clos des Fèves” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	Beaune “Clos des Marconnets” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	➤ Beaune “Clos des Mouches” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	Beaune “Grèves” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	Bourgogne	red	86
2009	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	red	(91-94)

2009	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2009	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2009	Gevrey-Chambertin	red	(87-90)
2009	Fleurie	red	89
2009	Nuits St. Georges	red	(87-90)
2009	➔ Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses" 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	Savigny "Dominode" 1er	red	(88-91)
2009	Santenay "Beauregard" 1er	red	(88-91)
2009	Volnay	red	(86-88)

Maison Chanson is directed by Gilles de Courcel, owner of Domaine de Courcel (see herein) of Pommard and the winemaker is Jean-Pierre Confuron (Yves Confuron's brother who is the winemaker for de Courcel; both brothers also work at the family domaine Confuron-Cotéridot). On this visit I met with both de Courcel and Confuron, who describe 2009 as a "vintage of both quantity and quality. There were excellent phenolic maturity levels and we took advantage of this by using, for the most part, 100% whole cluster fermentations. We like the '09s quite a bit but at this early juncture, we're not comfortable saying that they're better than the '05s. Or, to put it differently, if they are, it will only be apparent in time. This is a better approach because there were plenty of people proclaiming the '09s as one of the great vintages of all time before the wines were even made. To be sure, 2009 is a lovely vintage but waiting a few years to be certain if it's truly great cannot be asking too much." 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).

2009 Fleurie: A very ripe nose of black berry fruit that displays nuances of pepper and warm earth that are in keeping with the equally ripe, concentrated, mouth coating and impressively long finish. This is really quite good and worth a look. 89/2013+

2009 Bourgogne: This is relatively elegant in the context of the *appellation* with its very fresh and very red pinot fruit nose that is liberally laced with earth influences as are the firm, delicious and solidly complex flavors that are sufficiently well-structured to require 3 to 4 years of cellar time first. A very good example and worth a look. 86/2014+

2009 Volnay: A discreet touch of wood frames pretty red berry fruit with underbrush and iron-infused earth that gives way to detailed, firm and moderately austere flavors as the stems are very much in evidence on the acceptably long finish. This serious effort is a bit awkward today though if it harmonizes, my predicted range will seem unduly conservative. (86-88)/2015+

2009 Santenay "Beauregard": An intensely earthy and wild berry fruit nose marries into detailed, minerally and vibrant middle weight flavors that culminate in a moderately austere and solidly persistent finish. This offers very good if not truly exceptionally quality for the *appellation*. (88-91)/2016+

2009 Nuits St. Georges: A ripe and attractively layered nose features earthy and slightly *sauvage* red and black pinot fruit that is in keeping with the equally ripe, concentrated and admirably rich medium-bodied flavors that are quite firm but possess good buffering sap on the mouth coating finish. A quality *villages*. (87-90)/2016+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin: A cool, restrained and even airy red berry fruit nose that displays background notes of violets leads to rich, intense and detailed middle weight flavors that possess fine richness but also good delineation that continues onto the balanced, long, dusty and very firm finish. (87-90)/2016+

2009 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses": Mild reduction compromises the nose at present though there is good freshness and energy to the beautifully well-detailed and subtly mineral-inflected flavors that possess good volume and are shaped by ripe if moderately rustic tannins on the impressively complex and persistent finish. This is an excellent effort and worth considering though note that patience will be required. (89-92)/2019+

2009 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). In contrast to the reduced character of the Vergelesses, here the nose is exuberantly fresh and bright with plenty of Savigny-style earth to the ripe red pinot fruit nose. The rich yet well-delineated flavors are notably firm yet the underlying tannins possess complete phenolic ripeness, all wrapped in a long if only moderately complex finish. (88-91)/2017+

2009 Beaune "Grèves": A very ripe and expressive nose speaks of red and black berry fruit that are liberally laced with warm earth nuances that continue onto the rich and quite finely detailed middle weight flavors that possess both good volume and fine complexity on the firm, complex and mildly austere finish. (89-91)/2016+

2009 Beaune “Clos des Marconnets”: Discreet but not invisible wood sets off extremely ripe aromas of cassis and black raspberry liqueur. The equally ripe flavors possess excellent richness and a supple mid-palate that coats the palate with extract on the seductively textured finish. Good juice with fine aging potential. (89-92)/2019+

2009 Beaune “Bressandes”: This is aromatically among the most complex of these Beaune 1ers with a highly layered nose of red and blue pinot fruit, earth, wet stone and floral hints. The rich, intense and tension-filled flavors possess equally good complexity on the balanced, concentrated and lingering finish. This is very Beaune as it's generous and fleshy yet the Bressandes class and stony character are well represented. (89-92)/2017+

2009 Beaune “Champimonts”: A reduced nose doesn't offer much to fairly evaluate though there is ample energy to the detailed, intense and delicious flavors that offer only average complexity but much better than average length. If this can add depth in time, and it may very well as there is good mid-palate concentration and relatively robust tannins, this should merit the upper end of my predicted range. (88-91)/2016+

2009 Beaune “Clos des Mouches”: Mild reduction hides the nuance of the fruit but not the fact that it's quite ripe. This ripeness extends to the rich, refined and mineral-driven middle weight flavors that possess a relatively delicate mouth feel and excellent length. This is a wine of finesse, which is rare in 2009. (90-92)/2016+

2009 Beaune “Clos des Fèves”: (a *monopole* of Chanson). This appears to be even riper though not *surmature* with an expressive nose of raspberry liqueur, cassis and warm earth where the latter element also suffuses the rich, mouth coating and relatively powerful medium-bodied flavors that are structured, intense and impressively persistent. There is a robustness to this that will require 12 to 15 years to fully soften. (90-92)/2021+

2009 Charmes-Chambertin: (from Charmes proper). A very floral nose also displays notes of earth, *animale*, red berries and a vegetal character that adds depth. The rich, fresh and solidly well-concentrated big-bodied flavors exude subtle spice notes on the complex and seriously long finish where the stems are in clear evidence. This is really very good but the presence of the stems is obvious and thus this will not be for everyone. (90-93)/2024+

2009 Chambertin- Clos de Bèze: In contrast to the expressiveness of many of the foregoing wines, this is almost mute aromatically though aggressive swirling coaxes grudging notes of spice and ripe red berry fruit. The cool, restrained and discreetly mineral-driven flavors possess real drive and gorgeous detail on the extremely firm but persistent finish. This classy effort is very much built for long-term aging and as such, will not be for everyone. (91-94)/2029+

2009 Clos de Vougeot: A deft touch of wood sets off a similar earthy red berry fruit nose in the sense that it is reserved to the point of being mute. The equally earthy and broad-scaled flavors possess excellent volume and the tannins are fully ripe and are buffered by an abundance of dry extract, all wrapped in a hugely long and mouth coating finish. Like the Clos de Bèze, this is unabashedly built to age and will need all of 20 years to arrive at its peak. In a word, terrific. (92-94)/2029+

Domaine Chevalier Père et Fils (Ladoix-Serrigny)

2009	Aloxe-Corton	red	(87-89)
2009	Aloxe-Corton “Valozières” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	Corton-Rognets Grand Cru	red	(89-93?)
2009	Côte de Nuits-Villages	red	(87-89)
2009	Gevrey-Chambertin	red	(87-90)
2009	Ladoix	red	(85-88)
2009	Ladoix “La Clou d’Orge” 1er	red	(86-89)
2009	Ladoix “La Corvée” 1er	red	(87-89)

The plain speaking and often brutally honest Claude Chevalier, who is also the president of the trade group Viticulteurs de la Côte d’Or, uncharacteristically said that he was “very happy with the vintage. We had good but not exceptional yields of around 48 hl/ha including the regional wines and with good sugars of between 13 and 13.5%. At those levels we certainly did not chaptalize. Interestingly though, we did have quite a bit of sorting work but not of rotten or damaged berries but for less than optimally ripe fruit. Overall, it’s a lovely vintage that should please everyone as the wines are round, rich and delicious.” (No official US importer; Great Western Wine and Charles Mitchell, both UK).

2009 Ladoix: A notably ripe nose of borderline roasted fruit and warm earth aromas leads to rich and reasonably concentrated flavors that possess an opulent texture though a blurry finish. This may sort itself out but it's a bit heavy and inelegant at present. (85-88)/2014+

2009 Côtes de Nuits-Villages: (from Corgoloin and Comblanchien vines). This is aromatically fresher though still quite ripe as well with red and blue fruit liqueur and *sauvage* aromas that give way to suave middle weight flavors that retain a reasonably good sense of precision while culminating a complex and only mildly rustic finish. A competent example of the *appellation*. (87-89)/2015+

2009 Ladoix “La Corvée”: This is also very ripe though the cassis, plum and warm earth aromas stop just short of that roasted character that some '09s display. The supple, round and forward middle weight flavors possess good complexity if not the same degree of freshness. The energy may return though as this seemed a bit fatigued. (87-89)/2016+

2009 Ladoix “La Clou d’Orge”: (from vines of approximately 60 years of age). An interesting and distinctly ripe nose of red currant, plum and violets merges into vibrant and reasonably precise flavors that possess only average depth and length. This is perfectly good but not distinguished. (86-89)/2015+

2009 Aloxe-Corton: This offers a bit more aromatic complexity with a mildly rustic nose of red berry fruit, game and the usual intense earthy character that also infuses the rich, full-bodied and rather serious flavors that possess a suave yet relatively precise mouth feel, all wrapped in an intense and punchy finish. A quality *villages* that will age if desired. (87-89)/2016+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin: (from Les Crais and Eteois). A completely different nose as the character of the earth is different, the fruit is cooler and there is more of a *sauvage* quality to both the aromas and the medium-bodied flavors that offer good richness on the moderately rustic but long finish. Another quality *villages*. (87-90)/2015+

2009 Aloxe-Corton “Valozières”: Moderate reduction is enough to hide the nose but the rich, full-bodied and brooding flavors possess good ripeness and plenty of dry extract that buffers the firm and rustic tannins that surface on the complex and solidly persistent finish. This is very much in keeping with a classic Valozières that borders on toughness in its youth but has the underlying material to age out in time. (89-91)/2017+

2009 Corton-Rognets: Very ripe (indeed there are background hints of roasted fruit) and complex aromas give way to rich, intense and overtly muscular flavors that possess imposing size and weight as well as ample mid-palate concentration culminate in a mouth coating and ever-so-slightly warm finish. There is a lot of gas present which renders this difficult to easily judge but the absence of freshness is a question mark at present and hence the wider predicted range. (89-93?)/2019+

Domaine Marc Colin (Gamay/St. Aubin)

2009	Bourgogne	red	85
2009	Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2009	St. Aubin “Les Argillers”	red	87
2009	St. Aubin “1er”	red	88
2009	Santenay “Les Champs Claude Vieilles Vignes”	red	88
2009	Santenay “La Comme” 1er	red	89

Damian Colin explained that the “very hot end-of-August beginning-of-September temperatures necessitated an early harvest picking date. We began picking on the 4th of September as we saw sugars rising and of equal concern were falling acidities so we knew it was time to go as we really wanted to preserve freshness. We picked through the 13th and brought in generous yields of extremely clean fruit. Sugars were reasonable at between 12.5 and 13%, which is perfect. As the harvest progressed, we didn’t really see any spikes in sugar accumulation but we did notice the acidities falling so we were even happier with our decision to begin picking early on. We picked the pinot on the 12th and 13th and the phenolic maturity of the fruit was pretty much perfect and this will enable the reds to drink well young.” The reds were bottled in November of 2010 without fining or filtration. (Robert Chadderdon, New York, NY; Richards Walford, Bibendum, A&B Vintners and Goedhuis & Co., www.goedhuis.com, all UK).

2009 Bourgogne: (from St. Aubin and Chassagne). An earthy and notably ripe nose of dark berry fruit leads to very supple, round and generous flavors that are supported by slightly rustic tannins and a fruity finish. 85/2012+

2009 St. Aubin “Les Argillers”: A slightly more elegant nose that is also relatively fruity with a hint of minerality gives way to detailed light to barely medium-weight flavors that culminate in a focused and dusty finish of moderate depth and length. 87/2013+

2009 St. Aubin “1er”: (from Frionnes and Sur Gamay). This offers another step up in aromatic complexity if not necessarily much in the way of additional refinement to the earthy, ripe and pretty red berry fruit. The supple, round and attractively detailed flavors possess a bit more fullness and flesh, particularly on the dusty, firm and persistent finish. 88/2014+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: (from Encégnières - ~60 year old vines). A ripe nose of pepper, fresh earth and red berry liqueur aromas. There is good richness and volume to the nicely detailed medium-bodied flavors that possess good complexity if limited backend refinement. 88/2014+

2009 Santenay “Les Champs Claude Vieilles Vignes”: Here too there is good freshness to the rustic and iron-infused earthy red pinot fruit that complements the light-weight flavors that evidence a dusty, clean and mildly austere finish. 88/2014+

2009 Santenay “La Comme”: (the first vintage). A more elegant if similar nose complements well detailed and lightly mineral-suffused flavors that possess a bit more mid-palate concentration as well as good verve on the sappy and slightly austere finish. This is really quite pretty and should drink well young or age for a few years first if desired. 89/2014+

Domaine Philippe Colin (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2009	Bourgogne	red	85
2009	Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Chênes”	red	87
2009	Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot” 1er	red	89
2009	Santenay “La Gravière” 1er	red	88

Philippe Colin, who is the brother of Bruno (see above), calls 2009 a “vintage that gave us elevated maturities in both colors. For example, we began picking on the 9th of September and we already had the pinot between 13 and 13.5% in potential alcohols, which is rare in Burgundy if not unheard of. Moreover, the fruit was super clean, which made it easy to vinify as there was really not much to worry about. Overall, I very much like the style of the reds as they should give much pleasure and probably for all of their lives.” Except for the Bourgogne, the reds were bottled in January, 2011. (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 Berkman Wine Cellars, www.berkman.co.uk, all UK).

2009 Bourgogne: A notably ripe nose speaks of cassis, red berries and plenty of earth influence that can also be found on the attractively textured flavors that are largely fruit-driven yet there is enough backend earth character for this to avoid being simple for its level. 85/2012+

2009 Santenay “La Gravière”: An intensely earthy and mildly gamy nose of primarily ripe red berry fruit aromas leads to suave, round and very supple flavors that possess a smooth mouth feel due to the abundant levels of dry extract, all wrapped in a mineral-inflected and persistent finish. 88/2013+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Chênes”: There is good freshness to the moderately earthy red currant and plum-infused nose that complements well the rich, round and juicy middle weight flavors that culminate in a mildly sweet and sappy finish. This is perfectly good but lacks the depth of the Gravière. 87/2013+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot”: (from Les Brussonnes). An expressive nose is composed mainly of pepper, warm earth and a hint of the *sauvage* on the red plum and raspberry aromas. The rich and ripe yet cool medium-bodied flavors possess good mid-palate fat and are shaped by light weight tannins on the fruity yet complex finish. This should drink well almost immediately. 89/2013+

Domaine Edmund Cornu (Ladoix-Serrigny)

2009	➔ Aloxe-Corton Vieilles Vignes	red	(89-91)
2009	➔ Aloxe-Corton “Les Moutottes” 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	➔ Aloxe-Corton “Valozières” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	Bourgogne “Les Barrigards”	red	85
2009	Chorey-lès-Beaune “Les Bons Ores”	red	(87-89)

2009	Corton-Bressandes	red	(91-94)
2009	Côte de Nuits-Villages	red	(87-89)
2009	Ladoix – Vieilles Vignes	red	(88-90)
2009	Ladoix “Bois Rousseau” 1er	red	(88-90)
2009	➔ Ladoix “Les Carrières”	red	(89-92)
2009	➔ Ladoix “Les Corvées” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	(86-88)

Edmond's son Pierre Cornu told me that 2009 is a “charming vintage that produced forward, round and agreeable wines that are, for all their seductive appeal, serious in their fashion. The vintage was more or less consistent from start to finish in the sense that it was an easy growing season, the easy harvest took place under perfect conditions and the fruit was clean, the fruit was easy to vinify and the wines are easy to enjoy. While I'm sure that 2009 is going to be very popular, in my view both 2008 and 2010 are better vintages. Time will of course prove me right or wrong but my sense is that '09 is a very good but ultimately not a great vintage.” Cornu is correct that we will see in time but color me impressed all the same. (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, Shekomeko, NY; Peter McKinley - agent, UK).

2009 Bourgogne “Les Barrigards”: A notably ripe but fresh nose features warm earth and primarily red berry fruit aromas that lead to equally ripe middle weight flavors that are round, agreeable and delicious, all wrapped in a balanced and persistent if somewhat simple finish. This could easily be drunk now. 85/2012+

2009 Chorey-lès-Beaune “Les Bons Ores”: This is both noticeably fresher and a bit more elegant as well with its bright red pinot fruit nose that gives way to detailed, pure and slightly firmer flavors that display fine delineation on the balanced and persistent finish. This is really quite good for what it is. (87-89)/2014+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune: (entirely from Les Petits Liards). A discreet touch of wood frames ripe, pungently earthy and reasonably complex aromas of plum and red currant that marry into rich, round, supple and already accessible flavors that culminate in a dusty and balanced finish. A competent *villages*. (86-88)/2013+

2009 Côte de Nuits-Villages: (from Corgoloin fruit). This is quite pretty and a bit more aromatically complex with an array of red and blue pinot fruit nuances plus earth and violets that merge into rich and clearly ripe and seductive medium-bodied flavors that finish with fine length, concentration and moderate firmness. (87-89)/2015+

2009 Ladoix – Vieilles Vignes: (from vines between 50 and 75 years of age). Here too there is a discreet application of wood in evidence though it does not interfere with the otherwise fresh and distinctly earthy red currant and mild game aromas that precede the rich, solidly well-concentrated and mouth coating flavors that are blessed with an abundance of extract on the delicious but serious and balanced finish. This offers very good if not exceptional quality. (88-90)/2015+

2009 Ladoix “Les Carrières”: A ripe yet cool nose that is also quite pretty offers up notes of plum and dark berry fruit that introduce earthy, rich, round and attractively detailed medium-bodied flavors that possess ample minerality and a textured, complex and palate staining finish. This is really quite good and worth a look. (89-92)/2016+

2009 Ladoix “Bois Rousseau”: An admirably fresh nose is relatively elegant and quite pure with floral and red berry fruit aromas that are in keeping with the refined, round, supple and attractively detailed middle weight flavors that are less concentrated and while persistent, ultimately a good deal less complex. (88-90)/2015+

2009 Ladoix “Les Corvées”: Soft wood toast notes still allow the agreeably expansive earthy and almost entirely wild red berry fruit nose to freely express itself. The supple and seductively textured flavors possess a subtle minerality that continues onto the energetic, detailed and driving finish. This is excellent and the backend firms up quickly to suggest that while this could be enjoyed young, it should also age effortlessly. (90-92)/2017+

2009 Aloxe-Corton - Vieilles Vignes: (from 40 to 60 year old vines, primarily from Les Cras). This is a classic Aloxe with an earthy and quite serious nose of muted red and blue pinot fruit cut with game and underbrush notes, both of which can be found on the rich and relatively full-bodied flavors that possess plenty of extract and fine length. This doesn't have the size and mid-palate volume of the Corvées but this is a very solid *villages* all the same and with less overall rusticity than one might normally expect. (89-91)/2016+

2009 Aloxe-Corton “Les Moutottes”: A more elegant and slightly cooler nose offers up notes of red berry fruit, earth and a hint of wet stone that give way to naturally sweet, round and delicious medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a pure, dusty, long and balanced finish. Along with the Carrières, this is almost always the finest and most elegant wine in the range and the inherent refinement of Moutottes in on display in 2009. (90-93)/2017+

2009 Aloxe-Corton “Valozières”: In contrast to the natural elegance of the Moutottes, this expresses more of the classic Aloxe masculinity with its ripe and fresh red pinot fruit nose that is liberally laced with notes of earth, game and crushed herbs. The rich, full-bodied and voluminous flavors possess fine mid-palate concentration and a lovely sense of focused and controlled power, all wrapped in a firmly tannic and robust finish. This will require time in bottle. (90-92)/2019+

2009 Corton-Bressandes: An exceptionally fresh and bright nose of mostly red berries also carries a whiff of wet stone that continues onto the rich and broad-shouldered flavors that brim with dry extract and culminate in a detailed, vibrant and driving finish. This beautifully balanced effort that combines finesse with power is a real beauty and worth a look. (91-94)/2021+

Domaine de Courcel (Pommard)

2009	➔ Bourgogne	red	(86-88)
2009	Pommard “Les Croix Noires” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	➔ Pommard “Les Fremiers” 1er	red	(91-94)
2009	➔ Pommard “Grand Clos des Epenots” 1er	red	(92-94)
2009	➔ Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	red	(92-95)
2009	Pommard “Vaumuriens”	red	(87-89)
2008	➔ Pommard “Les Croix Noires” 1er	red	92
2008	➔ Pommard “Les Fremiers” 1er	red	93
2008	➔ Pommard “Grand Clos des Epenots” 1er	red	94
2008	➔ Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	red	94
2008	➔ Pommard “Vaumuriens”	red	90

Régisseur Yves Confuron describes 2009 as a “vintage that was necessary to harvest late if you were going to obtain true phenolic ripeness with all of the elements. Because we employ 100% whole clusters in our vinifications, we necessarily need high ripeness levels. We picked from the 20th to the 30th of September and brought in extremely clean fruit that ranged in potential alcohols from 12.7 to 14%. The fruit had a full 30 days of cuvaision and the malos were extremely long, indeed some only just finished. Overall, 2009 produced excellent wines though it remains to be seen whether they are genuinely great. Time is really the only proof of that.” The Confuron style is for crafting old school burgs (the domaine doesn’t even own a destemmer) with long maceration times and almost two years in barrel. However, if you like the serious built-to-age old school style, this is one of the very best addresses around. The reviews of the now in-bottle ‘08s (bottled without fining or filtration) confirm that the domaine’s late harvesting philosophy paid enormous dividends in a vintage where ripeness was an issue as they are terrific wines. The ‘08s were not bottled until August and September 2010, which means a full 24 months of *élevage*. (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).

2009 Bourgogne: A very ripe but fresh nose speaks of floral and cassis aromas that precede the rich, round and solidly well-concentrated flavors that possess excellent volume and length on the mouth coating finish. This is a serious Bourgogne that is clearly built to age. (86-88)/2014+

2009 Pommard “Vaumuriens”: A slightly more elegant nose is also more complex with its aromas of cassis, spice, violets, earth and stone hints that continue onto the rich, intense and vibrant middle weight flavors that culminate in an overtly austere and palate staining finish of good but not special length. This is mildly rustic as well and if the length improves, this could surprise to the upside. (87-89)/2016+

2009 Pommard “Les Croix Noires”: This too is very ripe with floral, cassis and blackberry aromas cut with warm earth notes that are also reflected by the detailed and very firm mineral-driven medium-bodied flavors that evidence moderate rusticity on the tannic and mouth coating finish. This is very Pommard in character and will require plenty of time to arrive at full maturity. (89-92)/2021+

2009 Pommard “Les Fremiers”: This is also quite ripe but a bit fresher as there is more lift to the red berry and dark pinot aromas that evidence nuances of violets and wet stone. The concentrated and beautifully well-detailed middle weight flavors exude a fine minerality as well as a beguiling sense of underlying tension on the impressively persistent and very firmly structured finish. This is a lovely effort and very Fremiers in character. (91-94)/2024+

2009 Pommard “Grand Clos des Epenots”: (from an enormous 4.8 ha parcel with vines ranging from 50 to 65 years of age). Here the nose is less elegant but more complex still with a dazzling array of spice, floral, earth, underbrush and red currant aromas that lead to rich, powerful and velvet-textured big-bodied flavors brimming with ample amounts of dry extract that relegate the firm tannic spine to the background on the mouth coating and hugely long finish. This is quite a serious effort but it’s not especially rustic and this too will require plenty of cellar time to reach its peak. (92-94)/2024+

2009 Pommard “Les Rugiens”: (from a 1.07 ha parcel in Rugiens-Hauts). This is also notably ripe with an expressive and very fresh nose of black cherry, floral and stone aromas that complement well the intensely mineral-inflected broad-shouldered and precise flavors where the supporting structure possesses excellent phenolic maturity, all wrapped in a driving, serious, austere and stunningly long finish. This is simply terrific though note that it will not be an early drinker. (92-95)/2026+

Note that the following ‘08s were bottled in August and September 2010.

2008 Pommard “Vaumuriens”: A relatively elegant and expressive nose features dark berry fruit and plum aromas with a muted earth character as the natural minerality of Vaumuriens comes to the forefront on the rich, detailed and very cool middle weight flavors that possess fine detail on the linear and lingering finish. A lovely *villages*. 90/2016+

2008 Pommard “Les Croix Noires”: As one would reasonably expect, this offers a small step up in both aromatic elegance and complexity with a pure red pinot fruit, plum, earth and hints of underbrush suffused nose that complements well the full-bodied, dense and mouth coating flavors that are supported by very firm but buried tannins and excellent length. This is very Pommard but avoids any sense of overt rusticity. Ample patience required. 92/2023+

2008 Pommard “Les Fremiers”: A gentle touch of wood frames a densely fruited and relatively high-toned red pinot fruit nose replete with notes of stone and crushed herb, both of which can be found on the rich, full and impressively scaled flavors that are underpinned by ripe and relatively fine tannins on the exceptionally rich, mouth coating and explosive finish. For the patient but this is a knockout. 93/2023+

2008 Pommard “Grand Clos des Epenots”: (from an enormous 4.8 ha parcel with vines ranging from 50 to 65 years of age). An unusually high-toned nose also displays a touch of wood that sets off subtle lower register notes of earth and humus that carry over to the textured and relatively supple medium weight plus flavors that possess excellent dry extract levels that completely buffer the firm and dense tannins on the deep, long and sappy finish. Terrific quality here but again, for the patient. 94/2020+

2008 Pommard “Les Rugiens”: (from a 1.07 ha parcel in Rugiens-Hauts). A distinctly cooler nose features wet stone and equally high-toned but even more refined red pinot fruit aromas that are in perfect keeping with the detailed, pure and tension-filled middle weight and ultra-precise flavors that are quite serious, all wrapped in a racy and mineral finish that is crisp and offers a fine sense of relief and detail. This will definitely require patience, which is to say on the order of 15 to 20 years to be at its best. If you can find it, buy it. 94/2028+

Domaine des Croix (Beaune)

2009	➔ Aloxe-Corton	red	(89-91)
2009	Beaune	red	(86-89)
2009	➔ Beaune “Bressandes” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	Beaune “Cent Vignes” 1er	red	(88-91)
2009	➔ Beaune “Grèves” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	Beaune “Pertuisots” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	Bourgogne	red	(85-87)
2009	Corton-Grèves Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2009	Corton-La Vigne au Saint Grand Cru	red	(90-93)

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). Fans of the domaine will notice the presence of three new wines in the Aloxe-Corton *villages* and now two *grands crus*. (A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet is the US agent, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, UK).

2009 Bourgogne: (from declassified *villages* juice). A pretty and very pinot nose of red berries and earth aromas leads to supple, round and soft middle weight flavors that are delicious and moderately complex with solid if not truly exceptional persistence. This should drink well early. (85-87)/2012+

2009 Beaune: This is notably more complex with a layered nose of lightly spiced red and blue pinot fruit aromas that merge into nicely rich and round flavors that possess both good volume and fine depth. There is a hint of finishing bitterness though I suspect that this is due to the high level of CO₂ rather than an under ripe structural element. (86-89)/2014+

2009 Beaune “Cent Vignes”: This is both more elegant and a bit more complex, offering up aromas of warm earth, red currant and a hint of underbrush that can also be found on the silky-textured, detailed and delicious flavors that deliver good length if only average depth. (88-91)/2016+

2009 Beaune “Pertuisots”: A more refined and slightly riper nose reflect notes of cassis and dark berry fruit aromas that complement well the textured, supple and mouth coating flavors that possess good mid-palate concentration and enough dry extract to buffer well the firm tannic spine on the lingering finish. This is really quite pretty. (89-91)/2016+

2009 Beaune “Bressandes”: An expressive blend of floral, spice, stone and both red and blue berry fruit aromas marries into nice rich, round and plump medium-bodied flavors that possess good detail as well as better depth and length on the firm finish. This is really quite stylish and should reward up to a decade of cellar time. (90-92)/2017+

2009 Beaune “Grèves”: A discreet touch of wood frames a ripe, somber and densely fruited plum and cassis suffused nose that precedes rich and velvet-textured flavors that possess excellent complexity and very fine length where a bit of wood resurfaces. There is so much dry extract that there should be no issue with the wood over time. (90-92)/2017+

2009 Aloxe-Corton: An extremely pretty and relatively high-toned nose speaks of red pinot fruit, currants, earth and a hint of the *sauvage* that carries over to the supple and attractively vibrant medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a dusty, firm and moderately austere finish. This is an excellent if rather serious *villages* worthy of cellaring. (89-91)/2017+

2009 Corton-La Vigne au Saint: Discreet but not invisible oak influence does not really intrude upon the transparency of the red berry fruit, spice, earth and violet aromas that complement well the complex, rich, supple and seductively textured flavors that possess good power and punch on the moderately firm, long and intense finish. This is not an especially elegant Corton yet neither is it overtly rustic. (90-93)/2019+

2009 Corton-Grèves: Here the dense and serious nose offers a similar profile to that of the La Vigne au Saint though with more earth and game influence. The rich, supple and mouth coating flavors are surprisingly forward, indeed even lilted, with good length to the velvety finish, which while firm, is not unduly austere. (90-93)/2017+

Domaine Vincent Dancer (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2009	Bourgogne	red	86
2009	Chassagne-Montrachet “La Grande Borne” 1er	red	90
2009	➤ Pommard “La Perrière”	red	89
2009	➤ Pommard “Pézerolles” 1er	red	91

Vincent Dancer describes 2009 as a “vintage that had a growing season somewhat like 2005 did and happily, just like 2005, the cleanliness of the fruit was absolutely impeccable, particularly for the pinot. We had about the same yields as we did in '05 as well as there were essentially no sorting losses. We began picking on the 5th of September and there really isn't much else to report other than the primary goal was to do everything to maintain the balance. I believe that we did that and I'm very happy with the quality.” The reds were bottled in September, 2010. (A Roy Cloud Selection for Vintage '59 Imports, www.vintage59.com, Washington D.C.; Richards Walford, Co., Ltd., www.r-w.co.uk and Justerini & Brooks, www.justerinis.com, UK).

2009 Bourgogne: A complex, ripe and admirably pure nose of primarily red berry fruit that is nuanced by warm earth aromas leads to rich, round and utterly delicious flavors that possess a velvety texture and enough length to be interesting. While this will be capable of aging, there is enough pinot baby fat to allow it to be drunk now. 86/2013+

2009 Pommard “La Perrière”: A mildly rustic nose features a mix of red and ripe dark berry fruit aromas that are liberally laced with earth and underbrush notes, both of which also characterize the rich, sappy and balanced medium-bodied flavors that deliver excellent depth and length on the persistent finish. This is an excellent *villages* and worth a look. 89/2015+

2009 Pommard “Pézerolles”: Here the nose is notably more elegant with very ripe yet attractively fresh mineral-infused red pinot fruit aromas that complement well the rich, detailed and seductively textured middle weight flavors that are supported by moderately firm tannins and fine balance on the lingering finish. A wine of harmony and finesse. 91/2016+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet “La Grande Borne”: (from vines planted in 1984 and aged in 40% new wood). A discreet though not invisible touch of reduction does not materially detract from the otherwise obviously ripe earthy and peppery nose. The rich, full-bodied and extract-rich medium weight flavors possess very good intensity and here too the tannins are quite firm without being aggressive on the delicious and persistent finish. This is really quite good and while I cannot guarantee it, I suspect that 20 to 30 minutes of aeration will eliminate the reduction. 90/2016+

Domaine Darvot-Perrin (Monthelie)

2009	Beaune “Belissand” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	Bourgogne “Les Magnys”	red	(85-87)
2009	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Bondues” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Chambres”	red	(88-91)
2009	Monthelie “Les Crays”	red	(87-89)
2009	Volnay “Les Blanchés”	red	(88-91)
2009	➔ Volnay “La Gigotte” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	➔ Volnay “Les Santenots” 1er	red	(90-92)

Didier Darvot reported that 2009 was “an easy vintage. The fruit was extremely clean so there was almost nothing to sort and thus you could pick everything as it was also completely ripe. Sugars were good and the extractions happened easily so the alcoholic fermentations went smoothly. Likewise, because the lees were clean the malos went smoothly as well even in our extremely cold cellars where the malos sometimes have trouble finishing. Overall, 2009 is an excellent vintage that should offer clients plenty of pleasure.” The reds will be bottled in April, probably without fining or filtration.” (Michael Stephens/Vins Divins, www.divine-burgundy-wine.com, Beaune, France).

2009 Bourgogne “Les Magnys”: (from vines planted in 1950). A ripe, earthy and plum suffused nose combines with red berry fruit aromas that introduce rich, concentrated and relatively voluminous flavors that possess solid length if not quite the complexity to be at the next level. A serious Bourgogne that will require a few years in the cellar first. (85-87)/2014+

2009 Monthelie “Les Crays”: (from 20+ year old vines). A ripe and attractively perfumed nose offers up notes of cassis, plum, violets and earth where the latter element can also be found on the rich yet energetic and well-detailed flavors that possess reasonably good complexity and only a touch of backend rusticity. (87-89)/2015+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Chambres”: By contrast, this is much more reserved though with solid aromatic depth to the dark berry and pepper-infused nose that complements the rich, detailed and vibrant flavors that do carry some of the classic Chassagne rusticity but not aggressively so, all wrapped in a balanced and long finish. This is a lovely *villages* and worth a look. (88-91)/2016+

2009 Beaune “Belissand”: (from vines planted in 1940). A notably ripe and very densely fruited nose of cassis and black raspberry liqueur aromas that leads to rich and supple yet quite serious flavors where the supporting structural elements possess excellent phenolic maturity and fine length. If this develops more depth in bottle, my predicted range could be unduly conservative. (89-91)/2016+

2009 Volnay “Les Blanchés”: (from a *villages* level vineyard planted in 1949 that sits above Clos des Chênes). This is also quite ripe yet remains attractively fresh with a pretty nose of red and blue berry liqueur aromas that are well cut with warm earth nuances. The rich and relatively full-bodied flavors are shaped by fine tannins and fine length for a *villages* level wine. Like the Belissand, if this can add depth in bottle, it may surprise to the upside. (88-91)/2014+

2009 Volnay “La Gigotte”: (a *monopole* of the Darvot family, of which Darvot-Perrin farms half). A ripe, pure and relatively elegant nose of red berry fruit and violet aromas marries into rich, seductive and velvet-textured flavors that possess a subtle underlying minerality on the balanced, firm and pure finish. A classic Volnay. (90-92)/2017+

2009 Volnay “Les Santenots”: (from vines planted in 1941 from the *subclimat* of Les Plures). An almost invisible touch of wood allows the very ripe yet still fresh aromas of plum liqueur and warm earth to shine while complementing the impressively rich and full-bodied flavors brimming with dry extract on the velvety and mouth coating finish. Lovely potential and built to age. (90-92)/2019+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Bondues”: (from vines planted in 1969). In contrast to the expressiveness of most of the prior wines, this is reserved to the point of being almost mute. There is good character however to the rich, intense and robustly constituted flavors that possess good concentration and fine power if not the refinement of the Santenots. Overall, this is quite good for what it is and should make for a fine effort in time. (89-92)/2017+

Maison Joseph Drouhin (Beaune)

2009	➔ Beaune “Clos des Mouches” 1er	red	92
2009	➔ Beaune “Grèves” 1er	red	91
2009	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	red	94
2009	Bourgogne - Laforêt	red	86
2009	➔ Chambolle-Musigny “1er”	red	92
2009	➔ Chambolle-Musigny “Les Amoureuses” 1er	red	(93-95)
2009	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	93
2009	Chorey-lès-Beaune	red	88
2009	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	93
2009	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	92
2009	➔ Côte de Beaune	red	89
2009	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin	red	90
2009	Grands Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	95
2009	Griotte-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	93
2009	Musigny Grand Cru	red	96
2009	➔ Nuits St. Georges	red	90
2009	➔ Nuits St. Georges “Les Procès” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	St. Amour	red	89
2009	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Clos des Godeaux”	red	89
2009	Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	red	89?
2009	➔ Vosne-Romanée “Les Petits-Monts” 1er	red	(91-94)

I tasted this visit with Véronique Drouhin and her father Robert, who noted that 2009 was a “relatively easy vintage as there wasn’t much disease pressure during the growing season and as such, not much sorting work was required during the harvest. Yields were good to very good without being excessive, which is always a plus as well. The vinifications were also straightforward and because the stems were ripe, we used about 30% of them for the *grands crus* and the Petits Monts. The malos were finished by December, which allowed us to bottle a bit earlier than normal.” When I brought up the always tricky question about what vintage might resemble 2009, Robert nominated 1985. When I noted that some had invoked 1959, he responded “I don’t think the comparison with 1959 is apt because while there are certain similarities, 1959 was much richer in sugar and thus the alcohols were higher.” (Dreyfus, Ashby & Co., www.dreyfusashby.com, NY, NY; with a number of additional UK sources, including Howard Ripley, www.howardripley.com, Ballantynes of Cowbridge, www.ballantynes.co.uk, Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk, and Decorum Vintners, www.decvin.com).

2009 St. Amour: A very ripe nose of black raspberry, pepper and crushed herbs leads to round, rich and relatively solid flavors where the tannins are firm but not aggressive and this should reward 5 to 7 years of cellar time. 89/2015+

2009 Bourgogne - Laforêt: (from Rully vines and bottled under screwcap). A ripe, pretty and attractively complex nose features red berry fruit and cassis aromas that are in keeping with the rich, round and delicious flavors that possess unusually good volume at this level. A fine if not truly exceptional Bourgogne. 86/2013+

2009 Côte de Beaune: (Drouhin indicated that this has a high percentage of declassified Beaune 1ers in it). A very fresh red pinot fruit nose is nuanced by floral and spice hints as well as a touch of the *sauvage* that can also be found on the lightly mineral-suffused middle weight flavors that possess fine complexity on the slightly firmer finish. Lovely and worth a look. 89/2014+

2009 Chorey-lès-Beaune: This is also ripe with a very pinot nose that complements well the round, fleshy and generous flavors that possess good mid-palate fat, all wrapped in a mouth coating and seductive finish. This could already be enjoyed if desired. 88/2013+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Clos des Godeaux”: (a *monopole* of the Maison). This is also very fresh and very pinot in character with background notes of Savigny-style earth that become more prominent on the rich, mouth coating and velvety medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a stony, balanced and firm finish. This is an unusually good Savigny *villages*. 89/2015+

2009 Beaune “Clos des Mouches”: Very mild reduction is not enough to completely hide the otherwise pretty nose of red berry fruit, violets and earth aromas though if you're going to drink one young, I would recommend 20 to 30 minutes of aeration first. The rich but well detailed and quite finely mineral-inflected flavors possess a fleshy mouth feel as well as excellent volume and length. This is quite ripe but not over the top and this should age well. 92/2017+

2009 Beaune “Grèves”: This is less elegant than the Clos des Mouches with a greater aromatic emphasis on earth, iron and game characters that are also present on the intense, stony and serious flavors that possess an abundance of dry extract that buffers well the firm tannins on the long finish. This is also quite good and about the only nit is a hint of backend warmth. 91/2017+

2009 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”: This is very ripe, indeed it flirts with being *surmature* as there is a mildly roasted quality to the warm earth and mocha-infused nose. There is somewhat better freshness to the very rich, round and seductively-textured flavors that manage to display reasonably good balance. This may appeal to some but it's a bit too ripe for me. 89?/2017+

2009 Nuits St. Georges: A beautifully complex nose combines spice, floral, red berry, game and earth aromas that introduce rich and delicious flavors that envelope the palate on the firm but only mildly rustic finish that delivers impressive length for a *villages* level wine. Excellent quality here. 90/2016+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin: This is notably ripe with blue and red berry liqueur aromas that are liberally laced with an intense floral component. There is fine volume to the delicious, vibrant and relatively powerful medium-bodied flavors that also enjoy an abundance of dry extract that coats the palate on the long and balanced finish. Again, an excellent quality level for a *villages* level wine. 90/2016+

2009 Nuits St. Georges “Les Procès”: A very ripe nose blends together notes of mocha, spice, earth and dark berry fruit aromas that give way to rich and very generous medium weight flavors that possess plenty of extract which confers a suave and seductive mouth feel onto the long finish. The tannins are firm yet the sap renders them deceptively less prominent than they would otherwise be. (90-92)/2019+

2009 Chambolle-Musigny “1er”: Not surprisingly, here the nose is completely different from that of the Procès as it's ripe yet fresher and more elegant with lovely purity to the blue berry and red currant mineral-infused aromas. The precise, intense and refined flavors possess a silky texture on the long, mouth coating and palate staining finish. A classy wine. 92/2017+

2009 Vosne-Romanée “Les Petits Monts”: (this vineyard is worked by horse and plow because there is no path for a tractor; vinified with 30% whole clusters). An intensely floral nose also displays plenty of Vosne spice along with red currant and plum aromas. The middle weight flavors are rich, cool and minerally with ample mid-palate concentration and outstanding length. This should be excellent. (91-94)/2021+

2009 Corton-Bressandes: This is also very ripe with aromas of plum, cassis, earth and wet stone that continue onto the rich, velvety and palate enveloping big-bodied flavors that are utterly delicious yet entirely serious, all wrapped in a very firm and lengthy finish. This has so much dry extract that it will actually be approachable young but should age magnificently well if desired. 92/2021+

2009 Charmes-Chambertin: A highly expressive nose offers up very ripe but not roasted aromas of plum, cassis, earth, underbrush and a hint of the *sauvage*. The attractively rich, detailed and mouth coating flavors are blessed with seemingly endless reserves of sap that completely buffer the otherwise very firm tannins on the long finish. This is really quite stylish and like several wines in the range, will drink well young if desired but this has the material to age for years. 93/2024+

2009 Griotte-Chambertin: A discreet touch of reduction still allows the earthy red berry and black cherry aromas to express themselves. The rich, pure and mouth coating flavors possess excellent volume and ample minerality on the gorgeously complex and beautifully balanced finish that delivers superb length. This is not as complex as the Charmes but it's notably finer and should also age extremely well. 93/2024+

2009 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Amoureuses”: A stunningly broad, even kaleidoscopic nose displays a gorgeous spiciness to the violet, cassis and plum aromas that complement to perfection the extremely rich yet admirably precise mineral-driven flavors that brim with dry extract and culminate in an elegant, pure and driving finish. This beautifully balanced and extremely stylish effort is a classic Amoureuses. Buy it. (93-95)/2021+

2009 Clos de Vougeot: This is also quite floral with a ripe and somber nose of earthy liqueur-like aromas that give way to exceptionally rich, intense and full-bodied flavors that possess fine complexity and excellent length. I quite like this though it's not quite in the league of the very best wines in the range. This should age well over the next 20 years and live for much longer. 93/2024+

2009 Grands Echézeaux: (from a .47 ha parcel). A ripe yet airy and fresh nose speaks of spice and pure plum aromas that display background hints of cassis and floral aromas that are followed by intense, powerful and broad-shouldered flavors that possess superb depth of material and knockout complexity on the hugely long finish. This is very serious juice that is most impressive. 95/2024+

2009 Bonnes Mares: An especially ripe nose displays notes of mocha, stone, cassis, plum and spice hints that precede rich, dense, powerful and palate drenching flavors that possess excellent concentration and focused power that is shaped by the very firm tannic spine that should assure an exceptionally long life. At present, there isn't quite the sheer complexity of the Amoureuses or the Musigny but there is so much underlying material that this aspect will undoubtedly improve with time in bottle. 94/2026+

2009 Musigny: A notably more complex nose of violets, red berries and spice notes, especially anise leads to full-bodied and generous broad-scaled flavors that possess a seductive mouth feel as there is superb dry extract which buffers the very firm tannins and coats the palate on the strikingly long finish. This is a wonderfully harmonious, indeed to the point that the word "Zen-like" comes to mind which will enable it to be approached young but as the extended drinking window prediction suggests, the impeccable balance will enable this to live for decades. 96/2024+

Domaine Dublère (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2009	Beaune "Blanches Fleur" 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2009	➔ Morey St. Denis "Blanchards" 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Planchots du Nord"	red	(87-90)
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Talmettes" 1er	red	(88-91)
2009	➔ Volnay "Pitures" 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	➔ Volnay "Taillepieds" 1er	red	(91-93)

Blair Pethel told me that "while 2009 gave superb raw materials, it still required close attention to detail in the vineyards. It's certainly true that there wasn't much rot pressure but there was still plenty to do, in particular to control yields and to drop any fruit that didn't look perfect. This paid off at harvest time because the grapes were so clean that I was able to run the sorting table at high speed. There was also no chaptalization in either color because everything, even the Bourgogne blanc, came in between 12.8 and 13.9% potential alcohols. I did do some sorting in the sense that we selected the best whole clusters to retain during the fermentations. I used about 50% for most *cuvées* though a few of them saw 30%. Overall, 2009 is an excellent vintage and should make for both early and long-term drinking." Pethel noted that he is not planning to bottle until May or June. 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. Do yourself a favor and try an example or two and you'll see what I mean. (A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France, Schneider's of Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.; 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).

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Planchots du Nord": An exceptionally pretty nose that is pure red pinot fruit that is cut with plenty of Savigny-style earth and floral notes leads to detailed, rich and supple flavors brimming with energy on the solidly persistent finish. This is a lovely *villages* and I particularly like the underlying sense of tension. (87-90)/2014+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Talmettes": (from a very rarely seen vineyard that abuts Vergelesses). A relatively high-toned nose speaks of red berry fruit, warm earth, spice and similar floral notes that introduce detailed and admirably pure flavors that are litting yet punchy on the delicious finish. This is a delicate and refined Savigny. (88-91)/2014+

2009 Beaune "Blanches Fleur": (a rarely seen split-rated vineyard that adjoins Clos du Roi; this example is from the upper portion that is a 1er). A perfumed, floral and lightly spiced nose also display notes of fresh cherry and raspberry that slide gracefully into supple, silky and attractively detailed flavors that possess a delicate minerality on the pure, vibrant and solidly persistent finish where a touch of stemminess shows though it should abate quickly. A wine of finesse. (89-91)/2015+

2009 Volnay “Pitures”: This too is highly perfumed and expressive with elegant red pinot fruit aromas that possess added nuance in the form of subtle spice and violet hints. As one might reasonably expect, here the minerality is more prominent on the round, supple and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a silky finish. This is very Volnay in basic character and delivers positively terrific length. (90-93)/2016+

2009 Volnay “Taillepieds”: This offers yet another notch up in overall refinement, particularly on the equally perfumed and refined nose where the stone component is front and center on the high-toned and ultra-pure red pinot fruit and floral suffused nose. There is an equally strong mineral component to the detailed, energetic and precise flavors that possess ample mid-palate concentration that buffers the moderately austere finish. This is a classy and long effort that is perhaps a bit less Cistercian in character than usual but young Taillepieds is rarely ever open for business immediately. (91-93)/2016+

2009 Morey St. Denis “Blanchards”: All I could say when I put my nose in the glass of this wine was “wow, this is something!” The perfumed and highly spiced nose is intensely floral and leads to essence of pinot fruit flavors that possess excellent freshness and detail on the driving finish. This can’t match the Taillepieds for sheer class but this is quite impressive all the same and unlike the Taillepieds, could actually be approached young. (90-92)/2016+

2009 Charmes-Chambertin: (all from Charmes proper). A deft touch of wood sets off more complex and slightly riper red and dark berry fruit aromas that also evidence nuances of violets, spice and warm earth. The rich, round and solidly intense large-bodied flavors possess a textured mouth feel and plenty of volume before culminating in a hugely long, serious and notably firm finish. Good potential for improvement here. (91-94)/2017+

Domaine Arnaud Ente (Meursault)

2009	Bourgogne-Grand Ordinaire	red	85
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Arnaud Ente succinctly describes 2009 as “offering the best raw materials that I have seen since I began in 1998. I started picking early on the 4th of September and there was virtually no sorting necessary with perfect sugars in the 12.2 to 12.7% range. There is really nothing to criticize.” Ente chose not to present his Santenots. (Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, www.kermitlynch.com, Berkeley, CA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, UK).

2009 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 SO₂ except at the bottling). A pretty nose combines notes of raspberry, strawberry, cherry and a hint of earth that can also be found on the detailed, fresh and energetic flavors that finish dry and clean in the best sense. To enjoy young. 85/2012+

Domaine Jean-Philippe Fichet (Meursault)

2009	Bourgogne	red	(84-87)
2009	Auxey-Duresses	red	(86-89)
2009	Monthelie “1er”	red	(86-88)

Jean-Philippe Fichet told me that he picked “between the 9th and the 13th of September. The fruit was clean, yields were generous but not unreasonable and overall, the resulting wines are balanced and pleasurable. But let’s be honest, 2009 is a very good but not an excellent vintage even though it will please many people.” (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).

2009 Bourgogne: A ripe, fresh and reasonably pretty nose of primarily red berry fruit and earth aromas precedes nicely rich, round and generous flavors that are delicious if not especially refined or persistent, at least not at present. (84-87)/2013+

2009 Monthelie “1er”: (from Les Clous, which was recently elevated to *premier cru* status; Fichet flatly states that the vineyard shouldn’t have been upgraded). This offers a step up in aromatic elegance with a mix of upper and lower register red currant, plum and soft earth aromas. The fresh, vibrant and attractively detailed middle weight flavors possess finer tannins if limited depth and length. In sum, this is perfectly good but not distinguished. (86-88)/2014+

2009 Auxey-Duresses: (from vines planted in '23). This is less elegant but more complex than the Monthelie with a slightly *sauvage* character to the red berry fruit, earth and underbrush suffused nose. There is good richness and volume to the generous and fleshy medium-bodied flavors that are very Auxey in character, all wrapped in a slightly warm but persistent finish. (86-89)/2014+

Domaine Follin-Arbelet (Aloxe-Corton)

2009	➔ Aloxe-Corton	red	89
2009	Aloxe-Corton "Clos du Chapitre" 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	Aloxe-Corton "Vercots" 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	Corton Grand Cru	red	92
2009	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2009	Pernand-Vergelesses "En Caradeux" 1er	red	(87-89)
2009	Pernand-Vergelesses "Fichots" 1er	red	(87-90)
2009	Romanée St. Vivant Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2008	Aloxe-Corton "Clos du Chapitre" 1er	red	89
2008	➔ Aloxe-Corton "Vercots" 1er	red	91
2008	Corton Grand Cru	red	92
2008	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	92
2008	Romanée St. Vivant Grand Cru	red	93
1999	Romanée St. Vivant Grand Cru	red	91

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). The approach is fairly traditional with 100% manual harvesting, *triage* work in the vineyard, 100% destemming with the fermentation occurring in wooden fermenters. There is a modified cold soak that typically lasts for 3 to 4 days as the temperature is lowered to about 15 degrees Centigrade and then left to its own course. Punch downs are performed twice daily and there is an occasional pump over to ensure that the must remains uniform. The total *cuvaison* lasts approximately 12 days, followed by a 24 hour settling period and the new wine is then decanted into oak barrels, which range from 15 to 70% new and carry a medium light toast. The *élevage* period lasts for approximately 18 months. The whites (which include a Corton-Charlemagne) are filtered though the reds are not and in both colors there is fining only when warranted; note that the whites will be reviewed in Issue 43. (Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, www.kermitlynch.com, Berkeley, CA; Richards Walford, www.r-w.co.uk).

2009 Pernand-Vergelesses "En Caradeux": A notably ripe yet fresh nose of dark berry fruit liqueur and earth aromas gives way to rich, fleshy and mouth coating flavors that possess good mid-palate concentration on the lingering if not especially complex finish. (87-89)/2015+

2009 Pernand-Vergelesses "Fichots": This is even riper though not roasted with plum red currant and pungent earth and underbrush aromas that complements velvet-textured, rich and opulent flavors that possess excellent volume, all wrapped in a very firm and structured finish. This isn't an elegant wine but there is ample character. (87-90)/2017+

2009 Aloxe-Corton: Here the nose is ripe but less so and is correspondingly fresher as well with pretty red pinot fruit aromas that are nuanced by earth and iron hints, both of which are reflected by the rich and relatively broad-scaled flavors that are shaped by tannins that are not overly rustic though they are firm. Lovely at this level. 89/2015+

2009 Aloxe-Corton "Vercots": This displays aromas that are relatively high-toned with floral and ripe red currant aromas that introduce dense, serious and very firmly structured medium weight plus flavors that possess an abundance of buffering sap on the long finish. This is clearly built to age and will require at least a decade of cellar time. (89-92)/2019+

2009 Aloxe-Corton "Clos du Chapitre": This is also relatively high-toned with an exuberant nose of dried rose petals, violets and red pinot fruit aromas that slide gracefully into the rich yet precise flavors that exude a fine minerality on the complex and solidly persistent finish. This isn't as structured or complex as the Vercots though it's finer. (89-91)/2016+

2009 Corton: (from Le Charlemagne). A somber and mildly rustic nose speaks of plum liqueur and violets that are in keeping with the rich, serious and velvety big-bodied flavors that also exude a fine minerality on the dense, firmly structured and palate staining finish. This won't win any awards for refinement but it is a classic Corton of power and muscle. 92/2021+

2009 Corton-Bressandes: (from 45 to 50 year old vines). A similar if slightly more complex nose leads to rich, suave and velvety broad-shouldered flavors that are generous as well as seductively textured, all wrapped in a beautifully persistent finish that possesses an abundance of tannin-buffering sap. This is also a very powerful and altogether serious Corton that should age extremely well. Impressive cellar potential. (91-94)/2021+

2009 Romanée St. Vivant: A ripe and exuberantly spicy nose also features an expansive range of fruit aromas that include red, blue and black berries plus plum nuances. The rich, seductive and mouth coating flavors are underpinned by phenolically mature tannins and excellent length where a touch of menthol surfaces. If there is a nit, it seems that this does not have the same level of energy of the best in the range but at this stage of development, this could easily change. (92-94)/2021+

2008 Aloxe-Corton “Clos du Chapitre”: An agreeably perfumed nose speaks mostly of red berry fruit aromas that are nuanced by hints of stone and earth, both of which continue onto the detailed, pure and energetic middle weight flavors that possess fine balance and length if only average complexity. 89/2015+

2008 Aloxe-Corton “Vercots”: Here the nose is riper if a bit less elegant with a more pungent earth character to the red and dark berry fruit. The big, robust and entirely serious flavors possess both good richness and mid-palate concentration. The tannins are prominent but not overly rustic and the balance is such that this should be capable of aging extremely well. Worth considering as this is well made. 91/2016+

2008 Corton: (from Le Charlemagne). A trace of reduction isn't enough to completely suppress the otherwise pretty red currant and iron-suffused earth aromas that introduce rich, full-bodied flavors that are blessed with solid concentration and structural maturity, all wrapped in a long, minerally and precise finish. Excellent quality though as is typically the case with Corton, patience will be required. 92/2020+

2008 Corton-Bressandes: (from 45 to 50 year old vines). An elegant nose of rose petal, red currant and wet stone gives way to rich, fresh and wonderfully vibrant big-bodied flavors that also evidence obvious minerality on the mouth coating and impressively long finish. This doesn't have the same level of complexity of the regular Corton but given that it will need 12 to 15 years to arrive at its peak, my score offers the benefit of the doubt in this regard. 92/2020+

2008 Romanée St. Vivant: A discreet, cool and reserved nose is at once spicy, elegant and complex, offering up primarily red berry fruit and plum aromas. The intense and relatively precise middle weight flavors are shaped by refined tannins and integrated acidity before culminating in a long, classy and stylish finish. This is lovely and should age extremely well. 93/2023+

1999 Romanée St. Vivant: Here the nose has begun to turn secondary with notes of tobacco, anise, hoisin and mature fruit aromas complementing vibrant and still moderately youthful flavors that possess good concentration and plenty of sap and punch on the lingering finish. This is quite good and could be drunk now though it will be better in 5 to 7 years. 91/2016+

Domaine Jean-Noël Gagnard (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2009	Chassagne-Montrachet - Cuvée l'Estimée	red	87
2009	Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot” 1er	red	88
2009	Santenay “Clos Tavannes” 1er	red	89

Caroline L'Estimée reports that 2009 is a “very rich vintage that brought us both quality and quantity. Except for our vineyard in the Hautes Côtes, we picked between the 10th and 14th of September and brought in fruit that ranged in potential alcohols from 13 to 14.2%. The maturities rose rapidly at the end and I was worried that we might produce heavy and unduly alcoholic wines but that wasn't at all the case as they're very well balanced. I liken them to a pretty woman with intelligence.” (A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France, Ex-Cellars Wine Agencies, www.excellars.com, Solvang, CA, Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA & 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).

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet - Cuvée l'Estimée: A peppery, fruity and ripe red berry fruit nose leads to equally fruity middle weight flavors that offer an interesting juxtaposition between a naturally sweet mid-palate and a touch of finishing austerity on the delicious if somewhat simple finish. 87/2013+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot”: (from Clos Charreau and Grand Clos). A more serious nose that is aromatically similar but more complex gives way to rich, full and reasonably concentrated medium-bodied flavors that possess good volume and the same finishing hint of austerity that also displays a bit more overall depth. 88/2014+

2009 Santenay “Clos Tavannes”: A more elegant nose of red pinot fruit, stone and touches of plum and oak marry into rich, round and attractively detailed flavors that possess good balance and fine length. As it usually is, this is an understated but entirely lovely effort that should drink well young. 89/2013+

Maison Alex Gambal (Beaune)

2009	➔ Bourgogne – Les Deux Papies	red	87
2009	Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2009	➔ Chambolle-Musigny	red	(89-91)
2009	➔ Chambolle-Musigny “Charmes” 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	➔ Chorey-lès-Beaune	red	89
2009	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2009	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune – Vieilles Vignes	red	(87-90)
2009	Vosne-Romanée – Vieilles Vignes	red	(88-91)

Alex Gambal described 2009 as “one of those really rare years where all kinds of fruit were uniformly ripe at the same time. This was true for cherries, tomatoes, pumpkins, peaches and apricots. Mother Nature sometimes gives you perfect fruit and it was the same with our grapes. We began picking on the 10th of September and the fruit that we harvested is the most beautiful that I have ever seen. There were almost no sorting losses and potential alcohols were in the 12.5 to 13.5% range, which is completely acceptable. Yields were normal in white and a bit higher in red. Interestingly, the skins in 2009 were riper than those of 2005 but the seeds were riper in 2005. Another aspect that I found remarkable was that the grapes tasted like grape bubble gum, which I have never seen before either. Normally when you chew the grapes, there is a burst of flavor and then it’s quickly finished. But in 2009 when you did that, the flavors lasted and lasted. During the vinification, the colors came easily but the trick was not to over extract as the skins were loaded with tannins due to their thickness. As such, we did not push the extraction too much and didn’t beat up the skins. The total cuvaizon was between 28 and 30 days, which is slightly shorter than what I used in 2005. Another aspect that surprised me somewhat is how much weight the wines put on during their *élevage* as they were already well concentrated. Analytically, the tannins in ’09 resemble those of 1990, which can only be a positive sign. Overall, it’s hard to see how the ’09s can be anything but hugely popular as they offer much to admire and without the youthful austerity of their ’05 counterparts.” I have to agree with Gambal that his ’09s should attract plenty of attention as these are the best reds from him that I have tasted since 1996. In other news Gambal and a group of investors have succeeded in acquiring parcels in Bâtard-Montrachet (on the Chassagne side), the gifted Puligny *villages* of Enseignères and a bit of Chassagne villages; there will be more details in Issue 43 but this is obviously very promising. (Ruby Wines, www.rubywines.com, Boston, MA, Grapevine Distributors, www.grapevinedistributors.com, NC & SC, Southern Wines & Spirits, www.southernwine.com, FL, Lemma Wine Co., 503/231.4033, OR and Wine House, www.winesf.com, San Francisco, CA; O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, and New Generation Wines, www.newgenerationwines.com, both UK).

2009 Bourgogne – Les Deux Papies: (from Pommard and Volnay fruit). A notably ripe and quite earthy red and dark pinot fruit suffused nose introduces rich, round and supple middle weight flavors that possess a hint of austerity on the mouth coating and lingering finish. This delivers *villages* level quality and would be a great choice for a house red as it could be drunk now or held for a few years first to soften further. 87/2013+

2009 Chorey-lès-Beaune: This is prettier still with ultra-pure and very fresh red pinot fruit that complements well the supple, vibrant and equally fresh flavors that are shaped by unusually fine tannins for what this is as well as very solid length. This is a beautiful Chorey and worthy of consideration as well. 89/2013+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune – Vieilles Vignes: This is also pretty but noticeably earthier with plenty of Savigny-style earth on the appealingly fresh red berry fruit nose. The rich and nicely detailed flavors possess good detail and a bit more structure on the persistent finish. (87-90)/2014+

2009 Chambolle-Musigny: (vinified with ~20% whole clusters). A spicy, ripe and noticeably floral component is present on the red and blue pinot fruit aromas that precede the rich, elegant and admirably pure medium-bodied flavors that possess really lovely detail on the mineral-inflected finish. This displays excellent complexity for a *villages* level wine as well fine balance and length. (89-91)/2016+

2009 Vosne-Romanée – Vieilles Vignes: A lightly spiced and exuberant nose of red currant, plum and blue berries is trimmed in a subtle earthiness that can also be found on the rich, cool and admirably pure flavors that possess good mid-palate concentration and solid complexity on the balanced and persistent finish. This too is a lovely *villages* if not quite as fine as the Chambolle. (88-91)/2016+

2009 Chambolle-Musigny “Charmes”: This offers a substantial step up in aromatic refinement and elegance with a very pretty and very Chambolle nose of achingly beautiful red berries and wet stone notes. The clean, precise, detailed and energetic medium-bodied flavors possess a lovely sense of underlying tension on the ripe youthfully austere finish. An excellent Charmes and worth considering. (90-93)/2017+

2009 Clos de Vougeot: Reserved yet elegant and airy aromas of spice, red and blue pinot fruit plus bass notes of warm earth give way to powerful and well-muscled flavors that display excellent mid-palate density and only mild austerity on the palate staining finish. Despite the power, this is less robust than one might expect from such a young Clos de Vougeot though it should be capable of 12 to 15 years of improvement. (91-93)/2021+

2009 Echézeaux: Relatively heavy reduction knocks down the nose though the rich, full-bodied and serious flavors possess good verve, volume and phenolic maturity as well as impressive breadth and depth on the extract-rich finish. Based on the apparent quality of the underlying material, this should be excellent in time. (91-94)/2021+

2009 Chambertin: This is also troubled by enough reduction to render the nose unreadable. There is however good vibrancy to the rich, serious and big-bodied flavors that possess ample power and weight before culminating in a mineral-driven and explosive finish that delivers outstanding length. This too should be capable of rewarding long-term cellaring, indeed patience will be a necessity. (92-94)/2024+

Domaine Michel Gaunoux (Pommard)

2008	➔ Pommard “Grand Epenots” 1er	red	92
2008	➔ Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	red	94
2005	➔ Pommard “Grands Epenots	red	94
2005	Corton-Renardes Grand Cru	red	94
2003	➔ Pommard “Grands Epenots	red	93
2003	➔ Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	red	95
2002	➔ Pommard “Grands Epenots	red	93
2001	➔ Pommard “Grands Epenots	red	93
2001	➔ Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	red	95
1999	➔ Pommard “Grands Epenots	red	95
1998	Corton-Renardes Grand Cru	red	93
1997	➔ Pommard “Grands Epenots	red	92
1988	➔ Pommard “Grands Epenots	red	92
1979	➔ Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	red	93
1971	Pommard “Grands Epenots	red	89
1962	➔ Pommard “Grands Epenots	red	95
1937	➔ Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	red	96
1926	➔ Pommard “Grands Epenots	red	96

This domaine is not a regular stop on my travels in Burgundy for the simple reason that they, like Domaine Robert Ampeau, don't allow for tasting from barrel. They have a policy of releasing wines after several years in bottle and sometimes, after several decades. The history of the domaine is an interesting one and in a sense, is a microcosm of Burgundian succession issues. The domaine was originally founded by Alexandre Gaunoux in 1885 and the vineyard holdings were slowly accumulated. The first was the parcel of Grand Epenots, followed by the Rugiens in 1940 and the Renardes in 1957. Other bits and pieces were added here and there and include the Pommard 1ers of Arvelets, Charmots and Combes as well as four different parcels in Beaune. Michel Gaunoux started at the domaine in 1957 and worked there until he passed away in 1983. His wife knew little about running a domaine but rather than give the 7.5 ha of prime old-vine vineyards to other extended family members or sell out, she decided to operate it herself along with the domaine's long-time cellar master. Things changed in 1990 as her son Alexandre took over responsibility for day to day operations (which includes the winemaking) though Mme Gaunoux is still very much involved.

The younger, and very well-spoken, Gaunoux describes their approach as always favoring old vines and thus they follow the time-honored approach of replacing dead or dying vines individually though a process known as *repiquage*. The philosophy in the vineyard is to prune short and to plow between the rows to aerate the soil and control weeds rather than to use herbicides. Harvesting is done manually with the sorting work performed in the vineyard. The fruit is 100% destemmed and punch downs are done by hand. The *cuvaison* generally lasts between 18 and 21 days followed by lees settling only if necessary. The wines are then racked into barrel where new wood averages between zero and 20%. The *élevage* process lasts on average

18 months but some vintages, like the 2008 for example, are given 24. Gaunoux avers that he is, in general, against fining or filtration but is careful to note that “if a given wine will benefit from either process, we won’t hesitate to use these tools because the goal is to make the best wine possible, not brag that we don’t fine or filter.” As to what he wants to create, there is again no doubt as he explains that “since the very beginning the domaine has always made *vins de garde* [long-aging wines] and my goal is to make elegant *vins de garde*.” And in fact that’s what he has accomplished as the more recent vintages are every bit as impressive as the older ones but with slightly finer tannins and more refined mouth feels. 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.

The domaine’s policy of releasing older vintages means that every wine reviewed below is, according to Mme Gaunoux, available. Note 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; no authorized UK importer).

2008 Pommard “Grand Epenots”: (from a large 1.74 ha parcel). A pretty, perfumed and quite elegant nose of liqueur-like red and blue berry fruit aromas is trimmed in soft earth nuances that can also be found on the concentrated, delicious and intense middle weight flavors that possess an attractively textured mouth feel and outstanding length. I like the level of phenolic maturity and this should reward well another decade of cellar time. 92/2020+

2008 Pommard “Les Rugiens”: (from a .69 ha parcel in Rugiens-Bas). This is also highly perfumed and perhaps even purer with high-toned red pinot fruit liberally laced with wet stone influences. The detailed and intensely mineral-driven medium-bodied flavors possess a silky texture and a highly sophisticated mouth feel, all wrapped in a long, refined and utterly classic finish. This is quite simply terrific. 94/2020+

2005 Pommard “Grand Epenots”: (from a large 1.74 ha parcel). A ripe, serious and brooding nose is composed of impressively complex red currant, blue berry, plum, violet and warm earth aromas. Given how the ’05s are generally showing today, the tannins are actually quite fine and like the ’08 Rugiens, the mouth feel of the robust yet focused flavors is highly sophisticated. This should be capable of aging for decades and will need at least one more. 94/2020+

2005 Corton-Renardes: (from a .63 ha parcel). This is less elegant but more complex still than the ’05 Grand Epenots with very ripe notes of plum and dark berry fruit along with the classic *animale* undertones. The big-bodied flavors possess the same highly sophisticated mouth feel with excellent mid-palate concentration as well as an abundance of extract that largely, if not completely, buffers the almost chewy but not rustic finish. There is an opulence to this wine but make no mistake, this is a very serious wine that is unapologetically built to age. 94/2025+

2003 Pommard “Grand Epenots”: (from a large 1.74 ha parcel). The initial hints of secondary aromas can be discerned though the plum, red currant and blue berry liqueur aromas are still reasonably fresh and not at all roasted in character. The rich, full-bodied and concentrated flavors possess good power but again, the mouth feel is quite sophisticated, especially in the context of the vintage. An elegant but built-to-age 2003. 93/2023+

2003 Pommard “Les Rugiens”: (from a .69 ha parcel in Rugiens-Bas). Here the nose is similar to the Grand Epenots but offers a touch more in the way of elegance before sliding gracefully into rich, concentrated and overtly powerful broad-shouldered flavors that possess a velvety texture and a more obvious tannic spine, all wrapped in a hugely long finish. This is also definitely built to age but there is so much sap that it could actually be approached now if desired. 95/2028+

2002 Pommard “Grand Epenots”: (from a large 1.74 ha parcel). This too evidences the barest hints of secondary development on the otherwise pretty, fresh and perfumed red berry fruit nose that also signals hints of earth and iron. The cool, detailed and lightly mineral-inflected middle weight flavors possess excellent energy and focus on the lingering and mouth coating finish. 93/2017+

2001 Pommard “Grand Epenots”: (from a large 1.74 ha parcel). This remains beautifully fresh and pure with complex and elegant aromas that speak of red currant, plum and violets. The detailed and delicately mineral-infused medium-bodied flavors exhibit admirable purity on the balanced and linear finish blessed with plenty of verve. Lovely. 93/2017+

2001 Pommard “Les Rugiens”: (from a .69 ha parcel in Rugiens-Bas). In contrast to the completely primary nose of the ’01 Grand Epenots, here there is some secondary development that only adds to the overall appeal of the aromas. The rich, pure and noticeably more mineral-driven flavors exude precision on the powerful, concentrated and simply stunningly persistent finish that explodes onto the palate. This is a ‘wow’ wine for its intensity and impeccable balance. 95/2021+

1999 Pommard “Grand Epenots”: (from a large 1.74 ha parcel). A perfumed, complex and mostly still primary nose offers up earthy red berry fruit, underbrush and a touch of *animale* that can also be found on the generous and quite fleshy flavors that possess excellent volume as well as buckets of dry extract that almost render the firm and ripe tannins invisible on the massively long finish. Wow, this is a stunner of a wine with still plenty of upside potential remaining. 95/2019+

1998 Corton-Renardes: (from a .63 ha parcel). A classic Renardes nose features plenty of *sauvage* character as well as a hint of *sous bois* that leads to full-bodied and admirably concentrated flavors that retain a fine sense of detail as well as ample structure that is firm but not aggressive, all wrapped in a gorgeously complex and impressively long finish. 93/2018+

1997 Pommard “Grand Epenots”: (from a large 1.74 ha parcel). This has gone mostly, if not entirely, secondary with a mildly *sauvage* character on the warm earth and red berry aromas. The rich, full, supple and forward medium weight flavors possess excellent volume as well as fine depth and length. While this could easily be enjoyed now, for my taste I would allow another 2 to 4 years in the cellar first. 92/2014+

1988 Pommard “Grand Epenots”: (from a large 1.74 ha parcel). Mild bricking. The nose is now almost completely secondary, indeed there is a hint of *sous bois* present along with plenty of earth influence. The rich, full-bodied and equally earthy flavors are still quite powerful and concentrated and while there is some of the typical '88 austerity present on the finish, there is also excellent complexity and real finishing verve. 92/now+

1979 Pommard “Les Rugiens”: (from a .69 ha parcel in Rugiens-Bas). Exactly in the fashion of most '79s today, here the nose is highly aromatic with notes of *sous bois*, earth and subtle spice and stone hints. Most '79s are relatively light but this is actually quite concentrated for the vintage with rich, delicious and mineral-suffused flavors that culminate in a naturally sweet and lingering finish where the only nit is the barest hint of dryness. Still, this is absolutely lovely. 93/now

1971 Pommard “Grand Epenots”: (from a large 1.74 ha parcel). Given how well the Gaunoux wines age and coupled with a vintage that is still very much alive, I was somewhat disappointed with this wine. Bricked through. A clean and age appropriate nose speaks of *sous bois*, mature fruit and distinct earth notes, the latter of which can also be found on the round, supple and completely resolved flavors that are pleasant enough but lack the depth that this wine typically delivers. To be sure, this is a perfectly good wine but not at the level that I expected. Tasted twice in the last 6 months. 89/now

1962 Pommard “Grand Epenots”: (from a large 1.74 ha parcel). A notably ripe and exquisitely perfumed nose that is akin to fireworks in a glass. As with the '79, this is more concentrated than the typical '62 today with excellent complexity and punch to the still robust flavors that deliver simply superb length. Somewhat oddly in the context of the vintage, this is quite muscular, indeed there is almost a hint of finishing rusticity but overall, this is dazzling. 95/now

1937 Pommard “Les Rugiens”: (from a .69 ha parcel in Rugiens-Bas). This is also highly aromatic with *sous bois*, spice, earth and plenty of wet stone nuances. The intense and extremely powerful flavors are refined and elegant with plenty of verve and drive on the finish that seems to go on and on. In contrast to the usual robustness of the average '37 today, this is impressively sophisticated. To wit, I was served this blind and guessed '49 Rugiens which is testament to just how harmonious this wine is. 96/now

1926 Pommard “Grand Epenots”: (from a large 1.74 ha parcel). It's difficult to choose among this wine and the '62 and '37 as to which possesses the most kaleidoscopic nose but to call this astonishing aromatically is a definite understatement. There is still plenty of life to the mouth coating, complex and seductively textured flavors that are Zen-like in their sense of harmony and impeccable balance. I was also served this blind and I guessed 1928 Grand Epenots, which is a tribute to this wine's staying power and intensity. In sum, this is a complete knockout. 96/now

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

2009	Aloxe-Corton	red	88
2009	Beaune “Clos du Roi” 1er	red	90
2009	Bourgogne	red	86
2009	Chorey-lès-Beaune	red	87
2009	Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Fichots” 1er	red	90
2009	Pernand-Vergelesses “Aux Vergelesses” 1er	red	90
2009	➤ Pommard	red	89
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	88
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Fourneaux” 1er	red	90
2009	➤ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Lavières” 1er	red	92
2009	➤ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Peuillets” 1er	red	91
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Rouvrettes” 1er	red	89
2009	➤ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Serpentières” 1er	red	91
2009	➤ Volnay Vieilles Vignes	red	89

Jean-Jacques Girard describes 2009 as a “relatively easy vintage without too much drama during the growing season. We began picking on the 10th of September and brought in essentially perfect fruit that required virtually no sorting of any consequence. Sugars were excellent at between 12.5 and 13.5% and yields, because of the absence of any sorting losses, were comfortable though we didn’t have the maximum permissible. I did a slightly longer cool maceration because the fruit was so clean that there was no risk in doing so. As to the wines, they remind me of the 1990s as they are tenderer than either the 1999s or the 2005s.” Fans of the domaine will notice yet another new *appellation* in a Chorey-lès Beaune that joins the Volnay that was added in 2006 and parcels of Aloxe-Corton and Pommard that were added in 2008. (Scott Levy Selections, 770/730.0361, Atlanta, GA, Vintage Trading, e-mail vintagetrading@aol.com, NY, NY; Charles Taylor Wines, E-mail: charles@charlestaylorwines.com, UK; Vignoble & Millésime, vignoble.millesime@wanadoo.fr, Beaune France).

2009 Bourgogne: A rustic, ripe and quite earthy red and blue pinot fruit nose leads to precise and energetic flavors that are delicious and while this could be drunk now, I would advise cellaring it for 2 to 3 years first. Note that there was a bit of gas on the finish and thus a quick aeration of 15 minutes or so would be all to the good. 86/2013+

2009 Chorey-lès-Beaune: A mild touch of reduction is enough to knock down the expressiveness of the otherwise ripe red berry fruit aromas; be sure to decant this first. The rich, round and easy-to-like middle weight flavors possess a bit more complexity as well as slightly finer structural elements. 87/2014+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune: (a blend from 5 separate parcels). A pretty if reserved nose speaks of Savigny-style earth that combines with very fresh red currant aromas. The detailed, vibrant and utterly delicious light to barely medium weight flavors possess a lilting mouth feel and almost no rusticity, which is unusual for a Savigny *villages*. 88/2014+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Rouvrettes”: (one of the very few examples from this steep hillside vineyard of almost no rock that faces almost due north). An earthy and quite somber dark berry fruit nose amply laced with earth and underbrush nuances, both of which can be found on the supple, round and reasonably precise flavors that are shaped by firm tannins and a linear though not strict finish of solid if not special length. 89/2016+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Serpentières”: (a mix of chalk and deep clay and not much rock but the exposure is almost due south). An elegant, pure and relatively high-toned nose speaks of ripe cherry, plum and wet stone aromas that complement the equally pure, detailed and appealingly vibrant flavors that are quite fine on the complex and persistent finish. Along with the Peuillets, this is the most refined wine in the range in 2009. 91/2015+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Peuillets”: (sandy soil with tennis ball size stones). This is also highly perfumed with pure and lilting aromas of ripe red berries that carry nuances of cassis and plum over to the suave and almost silky medium-bodied flavors that evidence mineral hints on the balanced, refined and lingering finish. This is a wine of finesse. 91/2015+

2009 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). A reserved and almost reticent nose of red berry liqueur and soft earth nuances precedes pleasantly rich and round flavors that possess good volume and solid mid-palate density if not necessarily the refinement of the best here. A straight forward wine of character. 90/2017+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Lavières”: (from relatively level soil with deep, high clay content and lots of flat, round rocks). While not the most elegant wine in the range, this is the most complex with a superb nose of blue berry liqueur, spiced plum and stone. The very ripe yet fresh flavors are at once energetic and seductive, all wrapped in a firm, minerally and beautifully well-balanced finish. Lovely juice. 92/2017+

2009 Pernand-Vergelesses “Aux Vergelesses”: (from deep, extremely hard soil that has plenty of what the French call *têtes de moines*, or large round stones that resemble a monk’s head). This is aromatically quite fine and impressively complex with pretty and perfumed red currant aromas that merge into pure, cool and mineral-inflected medium-bodied flavors that deliver fine length on the balanced and intense finish. I like the underlying sense of tension here. 90/2015+

2009 Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Fichots”: Somewhat curiously, this is aromatically more elegant, which is not typically the case as the red cherry, plum and warm earth notes introduce detailed and precise flavors that possess an attractive mouth feel, all wrapped in a moderately firmer though not more complex or more persistent finish. 90/2016+

2009 Beaune “Clos du Roi”: An expressive and airy nose of fruit-like perfume leads to ripe, fresh and delicious flavors that display real verve on the fleshy and generous flavors that are very Beaune in character while culminating in an admirably long finish. This is really quite good with enough upside potential to merit 6 to 8 years of cellar time. 90/2015+

2009 Aloxe-Corton: (primarily from Les Combes). A very fresh and exceptionally pure red pinot fruit nose gives way to supple, round and quite forward flavors that are delicious if not especially complex. There is more size and weight here than with the Beaune but less overall depth and refinement. 88/2015+

2009 Volnay - Vieilles Vignes: This is the first wine to evidence any wood influence and even though it is discreet, it's not invisible as it frames a ripe nose of cassis, plum and warm earth. The fresh, vibrant and intense medium-bodied flavors possess excellent depth for a *villages* level wine as well as a firm and impressively persistent finish. This is very good for what it is and quite promising. 89/2016+

2009 Pommard: This is also quite admirably complex if much more somber with ripe dark berry fruit aromas that are liberally sprinkled with pungent earth nuances. The fresh, intense and attractively rich flavors possess excellent vibrancy while being shaped by dense but unusually fine tannins. While this is certainly firm, overall this is more a wine of finesse than is typical for a *villages* level Pommard. 89/2016+

Domaine Aleth Girardin (Pommard)

2009	Beaune "Clos des Mouches" 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	➔ Pommard "Charmots" 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	➔ Pommard "Epenots" 1er	red	(91-94)
2009	➔ Pommard "Noizons"	red	(89-92)
2009	➔ Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	(92-94)
2008	➔ Pommard "Epenots" 1er	red	92
2008	➔ Pommard "Noizons"	red	89
2008	➔ Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	92

Aleth Girardin unequivocally stated that 2009 "is a magnificent vintage. It was the most stress free vintage that I have ever seen and the fruit was simply text book in quality. In fact I would go so far as to say that if you made mistakes with your '09s, you should probably find another line of work! I began picking on the 9th of September and brought in ultra-clean fruit that ranged in potential alcohols from 12.5 to 13.5%. Yields were comfortable though by no means high at between 38 to 40 hl/ha. I did my normal vinification of around 20 days total and I have to say that it was a huge pleasure as it was easy. The wines were so fresh and they all smelled excellent from the very beginning. Overall, I think the '09s will please most people as they have everything they need." The now in-bottle Girardin '08s have turned out as predicted, which is to say beautifully and are well worth your attention. (Scott Paul Wines, www.scottpaul.com, Portland, OR; Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, UK).

2009 Beaune "Clos des Mouches": A discreet touch of wood sets off spicy, ripe and pure aromas of cassis and red berry fruit that leads to rich and seductively textured middle weight flavors that border on the opulent, all wrapped in a lightly mineral-inflected finish of much better than average length. The structural elements are quite ripe and the concentration here is unusually good for the vintage. (89-92)/2015+

2009 Pommard "Noizons": Here the nose is similar to that of the Clos des Mouches though with a bit more earth influence that continues onto the rich, mouth coating and equally seductively-textured flavors that brim with dry extract on the opulent and lingering finish. Again, this is unusually well-concentrated and a terrific *villages*. (89-92)/2016+

2009 Pommard "Charmots": (from almost a .5 ha parcel). This also displays a touch of wood though not enough to really detract from the clear expression of the very ripe cassis, plum and warm earth aromas. The rich, full-bodied and sappy flavors exude dry extract that buffers well the buried tannins on the impressively long finish. This is quite concentrated and well-balanced. (90-93)/2017+

2009 Pommard "Epenots": (from a .5 ha parcel situated in both Grands and Petits). An attractively spicy and notably ripe nose offers up notes of plum, cassis and red currant that introduce rich, full and quite serious broad-shouldered flavors that again possess unusually good concentration for the vintage before culminating in a complex, powerful and driving finish. There is a slight touch of warmth present but not enough to detract materially from the overall sense of balance. (91-94)/219+

2009 Pommard "Les Rugiens": (from .4 ha parcel situated in Rugiens-Bas). A more elegant if more reserved nose speaks of notably ripe black fruit compote, spice and wet stone where the latter element can also be found on the rich, precise and energetic flavors that possess outstanding length. At present the tannins are less refined than those of the Epenots but there is slightly better overall depth and length. This should be lovely. (92-94)/2021+

Note that the 2008s were bottled in April, 2010.

2008 Pommard "Noizons": A discreet touch of wood frames an elegant red and dark pinot fruit nose that is trimmed in subtle earth and stone nuances that merge into relatively refined middle weight flavors that possess ripe and firm tannins as well as excellent length for a *villages* level wine. Lovely and this is quite a ripe '08. 89/2016+

2008 Pommard “Epenots”: (from a .5 ha parcel situated in both Grands and Petits). A more elegant and more complex nose offers up restrained spice hints that add interest to the fresh, ripe and expressive red pinot fruit and pungent earth aromas that give way gracefully to the textured, powerful and focused middle weight plus flavors that possess an attractively textured mouth feel on the balanced, mouth coating and impressively long finish. This should be an excellent cellar candidate. 92/2018+

2008 Pommard “Les Rugiens”: (from .4 ha parcel situated in Rugiens-Bas). This is quite reserved, even reticent with moderate wood influence setting off cool, elegant and very pure red pinot fruit and stone aromas that marry seamlessly into the intensely mineral driven, powerful, detailed and impressively precise tautly muscled flavors that culminate in a very firm, explosive and remarkably persistent finish. This is presently an understated effort that also has everything it needs for a long life. 92/2020+

Maison Vincent Girardin (Meursault)

2009	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(89-91)
2009	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	(87-90)
2009	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(89-92)
2009	Gevrey-Chambertin “Cazetiers” 1er	red	(88-90)
2009	Pommard “Epenots” 1er	red	(87-90)
2009	Volnay “Champans” 1er	red	(87-89)
2009	Vosne-Romanée “Suchots” 1er	red	(88-91)

As I have mentioned in the past, in contrast to the style of the whites where the wines have become progressively purer and more revelatory of their underlying *terroir*, I find that the style of the Vincent Girardin reds has not really evolved much as they remain relatively modern. This is to say there is an emphasis on juicy and very ripe fruit coupled with suave mouth feels, all wrapped in noticeable but by no means dominant oak. Otherwise expressed, the Girardin reds are clearly marked by the winemaking imprint, which as I noted, is much less true today of his whites. Interestingly though, Girardin remarked that for 2009 he used between 50 and 60% whole clusters with no punch downs for the vinification. See the En Plus section for reviews on la Tour du Bief, Girardin’s new project in Moulin-à-Vent. (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.sequinrobillard.ca, Canada).

2009 Volnay “Champans”: A soft touch of reduction doesn’t hide the toasty and somewhat macerated dark berry fruit nose that leads to lightly mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that display mild finishing bitterness. Given the ripeness of the tannins, I suspect the bitterness will eventually dissipate. (87-89)/2015+

2009 Pommard “Epenots”: Here the reduction is stronger and enough to hide the nose. Otherwise, there is good punch to the rich, full, forward and quite generous medium-bodied flavors that possess a supple mouth feel on the mouth coating finish that delivers slightly better length and none of the bitterness of the Champans. (87-90)/2014+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin “Cazetiers”: An earthy and overtly *sauvage* nose also offers up notes of cassis, stone and ripe red currant. The round, suave and generous flavors are exceptionally rich with ample amounts of mouth coating extract present on the mocha-infused finish. Perhaps this will add detail with age but for now, it’s a bit unfocused though there is good underlying material that is clearly ripe. (88-90)/2016+

2009 Vosne-Romanée “Suchots”: Strong reduction renders the nose impossible to fairly evaluate. There is however excellent richness to the suave and velvety middle weight flavors that exude plenty of palate staining extract and an attractive mineral streak that adds a bit of lift to the mildly macerated finish. This is appealing if a bit stylistically particular because like the Cazetiers, there is some blurriness to the mid-palate and finish. (88-91)/2016+

2009 Charmes-Chambertin: (from Charmes proper). Strong reduction is framed in noticeable wood. There is good depth to the impressively voluminous and solidly concentrated flavors that possess a suave mouth feel, all wrapped in a mouth coating finish of good if not truly exceptional length. This balanced and moderately structured effort is pretty enough but not really my style. (89-91)/2017+

2009 Corton-Bressandes: This is really quite pretty aromatically with an attractive blend of ripe red berry fruit, floral hints, earth nuances and a background note of minerality that continues onto the round, suave and plush middle weight flavors that culminate in a moderately toasty finish of average persistence. (87-90)/2016+

2009 Clos de Vougeot: In contrast to the reduction evidenced by many of the preceding wines, this is admirably fresh with ripe red berry fruit, warm earth and a hint of underbrush. There is excellent concentration and plenty of power to the extracted and suave middle weight plus flavors that are shaped by firm but not aggressive tannins and fine length. Again, there is very good underlying material but the absence of precision prevents this from ascending to the next level. (89-92)/2017+

Maison Camille Giroud (Beaune)

2009	➔ Beaune “Les Avaux” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	Beaune “Cent Vignes” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	Beaune “Les Cras” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	Bourgogne	red	(85-87)
2009	Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits	red	(85-87)
2009	Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2009	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2009	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2009	Corton Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2009	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2009	Corton-Rognets Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2009	Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Crais”	red	(88-91)
2009	Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2009	Maranges “Le Croix Aux Moines” 1er	red	(86-89)
2009	➔ Marsannay “Longeroies”	red	(89-91)
2009	➔ Nuits St. Georges “Vaucrains” 1er	red	(91-94)
2009	Santenay	red	(87-89)
2009	Santenay “Clos Rousseau” 1er	red	(88-91)
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Peuillets” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	Volnay	red	(86-89)
2009	➔ Vosne-Romanée	red	(89-92)

Winemaker and *régisseur* (domaine manager) David Croix told me that 2009 “was easy. The growing season was largely stress free with a good amount of rain, which helps to explain why the fruit, and the resulting wines, are so different than 2005. The phenolic maturity of the fruit was extremely high which is why the wines are already so charming. In fact, I suspect that the wines won’t ever close down. The high degree of ripeness though contributes to generally higher levels of alcohol though interestingly, the pHs are still almost perfect at around 3.5. The fruit that we brought in ranged from 12.8 to 14% in terms of potential alcohols with a rough average of about 13.2%. Yields were reasonable though by no means low partially because sorting losses were extremely low. In terms of the wines, they are quite seductive and while I did not vinify these vintages, they remind me of what I have tasted from 1985 and 1990.” (In both the US and the UK, A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet is the agent, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA & TX).

2009 Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits: A very fresh if mildly rustic nose of primarily red berry fruit leads to supple, round and already pleasant flavors that are given shape by a finish that offers good character if limited finesse. Still, this is quite good for what it is. (85-87)/2013+

2009 Bourgogne: (from vines in Meursault). Reduction knocks down the nose though there is plenty of energy to the solidly well-defined middle weight flavors that possess moderately firm and rustic tannins plus good length. (85-87)/2014+

2009 Marsannay “Longeroies”: An extremely fresh and bright nose of red berry fruit offers additional breadth with notes of cherry and raspberry plus a soft earth influence that continues onto the impressively pure, intense and vibrant flavors that culminate in a finish that possesses a sophisticated mouth feel. This is really very good for what it is. (89-91)/2015+

2009 Santenay: An intensely earthy but fresh red currant and blue berry suffused nose merges into rich, full and naturally sweet medium-bodied flavors that possess good mid-palate fat and though the supporting tannins are mildly rustic, there is fine length and depth. This is a good Santenay villages and worth a look for value. (87-89)/2015+

2009 Santenay “Clos Rousseau”: A more complex and slightly more elegant nose speaks of red and blue pinot fruit that is laced with notes of violets and warm earth. The nicely rich, round and solidly concentrated middle weight flavors are shaped by unusually refined tannins for the *appellation*, all wrapped in a complex and persistent finish. (88-91)/2016+

2009 Maranges “Le Croix Aux Moines”: Here the nose blends both upper and lower register aromas as the pretty red berry liqueur-like notes combine with pungent earth and iron nuances. There is a slight sweetness to the rich, supple and mouth coating medium-bodied flavors where the firm supporting tannins display relatively little rusticity on the sappy and delicious finish. I like the touch of minerality that surfaces on the finish and if this can develop additional depth in bottle, my predicted range could be unduly conservative. (86-89)/2016+

2009 Volnay: Mild reduction renders the nose difficult to read though the supple, round and delicious flavors possess good depth and while there is some rusticity to the moderately firm structure, I like the finishing persistence. (86-89)/2015+

2009 Beaune “Cent Vignes”: A pretty and airy mix of red currant, plum and mineral notes leads to vibrant, fresh and appealingly detailed flavors where the stoniness really comes up on the youthfully austere and persistent finish. This moderately complex effort is an understated wine of balance and harmony. (89-91)/2016+

2009 Beaune “Les Cras”: This too evidences mild reductive notes that precede otherwise vibrant, pure and beautifully well-detailed mineral-inflected flavors that possess a seductive mouth feel, all wrapped in a firm, focused and lingering finish. This understated and harmonious effort should require 6 to 8 years to be at its best. (89-91)/2016+

2009 Beaune “Les Avaux”: As there is no reduction, not surprisingly this is more elegant with a ripe red cherry and wet stone nose that introduces seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that possess good richness and plenty of punch on the dusty and serious finish that delivers excellent length. Lovely juice. (89-92)/2017+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Peuilllets”: A noticeably riper nose of black cherry liqueur, earth and soft stone notes precedes the nicely rich and rather fleshy middle weight flavors that nonetheless retain a good sense of detail and tension on the mouth coating finish that also exhibits a touch of youthful austerity. This is very Savigny in character but there is a sense of refinement present as well. (89-91)/2016+

2009 Corton: This also reflects notes of cherry liqueur but here there is a more overt *sauvage* and warm earth character that also suffuses the rich, full-bodied and muscular flavors that possess excellent mid-palate concentration and plenty of tannin-buffering extract that confers a velvety quality to the otherwise moderately austere and tannic finish. (90-93)/2019+

2009 Corton-Rognets: A similar if somewhat more elegant nose also leads to very rich, full and serious broad-shouldered flavors that are tautly muscular and quite powerful on the focused, intense and explosive finish. This is a big but balanced effort that should amply repay aging over the moderately long-term. (91-93)/2021+

2009 Corton-Clos du Roi: A somber, serious and highly complex nose features an abundance of floral influences, in particular violets, along with plenty of earth and *animale* character on the red currant and plum aromas. There is excellent size and weight to the rich, full-bodied and quite powerful flavors that are supported by noticeably firmer tannins and this will require the better part of two decades to be at its best. An impressive effort. (91-94)/2021+

2009 Vosne-Romanée: (from Chalandins). This is very Vosne with the intense spiciness exhibited by the expressive nose of ripe cassis and blue berry aromas that complement the anise and cinnamon notes that can be found on the rich and silky flavors that brim with dry extract, all wrapped in a dusty, mouth coating and naturally sweet finish. This is a terrific *villages* and highly recommended. (89-92)/2016+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Crais”: A very Gevrey nose of fresh and cool red berry fruit, underbrush, earth and a hint of game gives way to supple and relatively forward middle weight flavors that possess an attractive sense of underlying tension as well as ample minerality on the precise and detailed finish. A lovely *villages*. (88-91)/2016+

2009 Nuits St. Georges “Vaucrains”: Croix generally seems to do very well with this wine and 2009 is no exception because despite the reduction that presently compromises the nose, the depth of material on the extremely rich, full-bodied and powerful flavors is simply outstanding. The phenolically ripe tannins are quite firm and while the *appellation* naturally produces robust wines, this is a big wine even by those standards. Patience required but it should be more than worth the wait. (91-94)/2024+

2009 Charmes-Chambertin: (from Charmes proper). A pretty and perfumed nose of notably ripe red currant and pungent iron-infused earth gives way to rich, generous and quite round large-bodied flavors that somehow manage to retain a reasonably good sense of both precision and underlying tension, all wrapped in a firm but not hard finish that delivers impressive persistence. (91-93)/2021+

2009 Latricières-Chambertin: Reduction renders the nose all but unreadable as only glimpses of ripe red berry fruit and a bit of earth can be discerned. There is good intensity and richness however to the cool, vibrant, intense and beautifully well-detailed mineral-driven flavors that are also quite firm but here the tannins are much finer on the materially more persistent finish. As with the next two wines, plenty of patience will be required before this is fully ready to drink. (92-94)/2024+

2009 Chambertin: This too exhibits heavy reduction that obliterates the nose. There is excellent energy and real muscle though to the rich, full-bodied and intense flavors that also display the classic Chambertin “coolness” that manifests itself on the minerally, linear and overtly austere finish that delivers dazzling length. I very much like the balance here and this is textbook Chambertin though be prepared to wait. (92-95)/2026+

2009 Clos de Vougeot: A fresh, earthy and somewhat somber nose offers up notes of primarily red berry fruit and floral hints that give way to rich, intense and supple medium weight plus flavors that possess excellent detail and vibrancy before culminating in a linear, pure and youthfully austere finish of outstanding length. This possesses excellent aging potential as the underlying material is most impressive. Again though, patience required. (92-94)/2024+

Domaine Anne-Françoise Gros (Pommard/Beaune)

2009	➔ Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits	red	(86-88)
2009	➔ Chambolle-Musigny	red	(89-91)
2009	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2009	Richebourg Grand Cru	red	(93-96)
2009	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Clos des Guettes” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	Vosne-Romanée “Clos de la Fontaine”	red	(87-89)
2009	Vosne-Romanée “Maizières”	red	(88-91)
2009	➔ Vosne-Romanée “Aux Réas”	red	(89-91)

François Parent (see below), who is married to Anne-Françoise Gros and directs both his domaine and that of his wife’s, describes 2009 as a “beautiful vintage where the only problem is perhaps a lack of acidity. There were no early season disruptions or disease pressure and because of that, yields were excellent and the berries had normal skin thicknesses. We began picking on the 12th of September and if I had it to do over again, I would have started picking 4 to 5 days earlier. There was a lot of sugar and the alcoholics had trouble finishing though in the end, they managed on their own. Because of this, I did not concentrate any of the wines in 2009. As to the wines, they are very suave and charming and will probably age a bit like the ‘99s have but definitely more rapidly than the 2005s. In my view, 2009 is an excellent vintage but not a great one.” (Cellar Door Selections, www.cellardoorselections.com, Columbia, MD, New Castle Imports, www.newcastleimports.com, Myrtle Beach, SC; Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, La Réserve and Tanners Wine, www.tanners-wines.co.uk, all UK).

2009 Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits: A ripe but perfumed and pretty nose offers up delicate red berry fruit and stone aromas that merge into pure, precise and utterly delicious flavors that possess a hint of *animale* on the persistent finish. This is a lovely Bourgogne and worth a look. (86-88)/2013+

2009 Vosne-Romanée “Clos de la Fontaine”: An attractively spiced nose of earth, cassis and red currant aromas leads to fresh, intense and detailed anise-infused flavors that exhibit a touch of oak on the delicious and mouth coating finish. This is not especially concentrated but I like the balance. (87-89)/2015+

2009 Vosne-Romanée “Maizières”: (from 45+ year old vines). A slightly riper nose reveals notes of cassis, soy, hoisin, cassis and red berry liqueur notes. The rich and relatively full-bodied flavors are both velvety and seductively textured with a floral quality to the impressively long finish. A fine if not truly exceptional *villages*. (88-91)/2016+

2009 Vosne-Romanée “Aux Réas”: A ripe, elegant and admirably pure blend of red and blue pinot fruit, spice, earth and hints of violets leads to rich, supple and opulent flavors that are underpinned by relatively fine tannins and excellent length. This forward and supple offering is very Vosne in character and worth a look. (89-91)/2015+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Clos des Guettes”: (from a vineyard purchased in 1995). An expressive and pretty nose reveals notes of pungent earth, wet stone and red currant that introduce rich, detailed, intense and vibrant medium-bodied flavors that possess dense but fine tannins and excellent balance and length. There is some wood influence on the finish though there is sufficient mid-palate concentration that this should have no trouble integrating it. (89-92)/2016+

2009 Chambolle-Musigny: A very ripe though reasonably fresh and bright nose of red currant that is nuanced by hints of minerality and blue berry liqueur. There is good richness to the full, delicious and voluminous flavors that enjoy an abundance of dry extract that buffers the firm, balanced and persistent finish. A lovely *villages*. (89-91)/2015+

2009 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). Mild reduction is not sufficient to completely hide the spiciness of the nose that continues onto the rich, full and very serious broad-shouldered flavors that retain an excellent sense of underlying tension as well as fine precision on the powerful, palate staining and beautifully long finish. Impressive potential here. (92-94)/2021+

2009 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). Strong reduction obliterates the nose though there is plenty of vibrancy and life to the mineral-driven, intense and focused big-bodied and overtly muscular flavors that are beautifully precise on the incredibly backward and austere finish. This will require at least 15 years to be at its best and 20 would not surprise me. Impressive as hell but don't buy it if you don't have the discipline to wait as it would be a waste to open this too young. (93-96)/2024+

Domaine Antonin Guyon (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2009	Aloxe-Corton "Les Fournières" 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	➔ Aloxe-Corton "Les Vercots" 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	Beaune "Clos de la Chaume Gaufriot"	red	(87-90)
2009	Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune "Cuvée des Dames de Vergy" red		86
2009	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Cras"	red	(88-91)
2009	Chambolle-Musigny "Clos du Village"	red	(88-91)
2009	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2009	Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Champs Longs"	red	88
2009	Corton Grand Cru	red	(90-92)
2009	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2009	Corton-Clos du Roy Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2009	Gevrey-Chambertin "La Justice"	red	(88-90)
2009	➔ Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Fichots" 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	➔ Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses" 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Goudelettes"	red	88
2009	➔ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	(90-93)

Dominique Guyon told me that 2009 "resembled the growing season we had in 2005 except there was a lot more rain. We began picking on the 10th of September and brought in fruit that ranged between 12.5 and 13.5% in terms of potential alcohols. We destemmed 100% and because the skins were quite thick, we did less punching down than usual too. Another change was that we reduced the amount of new wood from roughly one-third to a range of 15 to 25%. We also racked out of cask and into stainless steel earlier as well to help preserve freshness. As to the wines, they're a bit riper than the '05s and definitely at this early stage, possess a more velvety mouth feel. While it's early and still hard to predict, I don't think that the '09s will close up like the '05s have though time will tell." Note that these are among the best wines that I have ever seen at this address and they are relative bargains as well. Guyon indicated that the present plan was to bottle the '08s in March. (Palm Bay Imports, Boca Raton, FL, www.palmbay.com; Friarwood Ltd., www.friarwood.com, UK).

2009 Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune – "Cuvée des Dames de Vergy": (note that this is labeled as Dominique Guyon). A very pretty and relatively elegant nose of fresh and cool red berry fruit trimmed in a discreet touch of minerality leads to nicely rich but well detailed flavors that are finer than what is typically encountered at this level. 86/2013+

2009 Chorey-lès-Beaune "Les Champs Longs": This offers a notable step up in aromatic complexity with notes of red berry liqueur and warm earth that also suffuse the rich, fleshy and generous medium-bodied flavors that are frank, ripe and persistent. Worth a look for what this is. 88/2013+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Goudelettes": This is very Savigny in character with pungent earth, iron and humus notes adding nuance to the fresh red pinot fruit. There is good richness to the ripe and reasonably concentrated flavors that don't display the same complexity as the nose but there is solid persistence. This is pretty rather than deep. 88/2014+

2009 Beaune “Clos de la Chaume Gaufriot”: (*monopole*). Quite ripe yet this remains distinctly pinot with liqueur-like and stone aromas leading to rich yet detailed flavors that offer very good volume on the delicious, balanced and persistent finish. This is a seductive effort that while not typical, is still lovely in its fashion. (87-90)/2014+

2009 Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Fichots”: This displays much more aromatic complexity if not more elegance with its panoply of ripe black raspberry and earth-infused nose that is followed by rich, concentrated and relatively powerful flavors that coat the mouth on the textured, serious and solidly structured finish that evidences a mild trace of rusticity. (89-92)/2019+

2009 Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Vergelesses”: (from much whiter soil and with less clay content; also labeled as Dominique Guyon). A reticent nose that is similar to that of the Fichots but notably more somber gives way to ripe, earthy and lightly mineral-driven flavors that also reveals a distinct *sauvage* character on the wonderfully persistent finish. This is a bit finer than the Fichots but no more complex or persistent. (90-92)/2019+

2009 Chambolle-Musigny “Clos du Village”: (*a monopole*). As one might reasonably expect, this is much more elegant and airy than the Pernand entries with a ripe and very pretty red pinot fruit nose trimmed in discreet wet stone notes that can also be found on the precise, lacy and detailed flavors. This is very Chambolle in personality with fine tannins if limited finishing depth. (88-91)/2015+

2009 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Cras”: (Les Cras is a split-rated vineyard and this is from the *villages* portion). A subtle touch of wood frames a slightly riper mix of red and blue pinot fruit that is in keeping with the equally ripe, rich, round and delicious medium-bodied flavors that are both fleshy and forward while culminating in a lingering finish. This is actually already accessible on the mid-palate yet the sappy backend is sufficiently firm to warrant some cellar time. (88-91)/2014+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin “La Justice”: Here the nose is quite floral with *sauvage* hints to the very ripe dark and black berry fruit aromas. There is good volume if only moderate depth to the generous middle weight flavors that possess a seductive texture on the attractively persistent finish. A wine of harmony. (88-90)/2016+

2009 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”: A highly complex nose features ripe, airy and very pretty aromas of violets, crushed red berries and earth nuances. The rich and quite powerful flavors possess fine mid-palate density as well as dense but fine tannins on the very serious and impressively long finish. A tautly muscular effort that is built to age. (90-93)/2021+

2009 Charmes-Chambertin: (from a tiny .085 ha parcel, enough for only 1 barrel). A very fresh and like the La Justice, quite floral nose of elegant and pure red pinot fruit merges into detailed, intense and focused flavors that possess fine concentration and excellent depth. While there is a sense of controlled power here this is essentially a Charmes of finesse. (90-93)/2021+

2009 Aloxe-Corton “Les Fournières”: (from rocky, flinty soil that drains extremely well). Discreet but not invisible wood sets off a very earthy and slightly *animale* nose of both red and dark berry fruit aromas. There is fine volume and punch to the mouth coating middle weight plus flavors that possess plenty of tannin buffering dry extract but even so, there is a distinctly serious character to the firm though not austere finish. (89-91)/2019+

2009 Aloxe-Corton “Les Vercots”: (from soil that is much deeper with a high clay content). This is ever-so-slightly more aromatically refined with a fresh, ripe and nuanced red currant, plum and violet suffused nose. The rich, full, serious and powerful flavors exude dry extract that helps to buffer the firm tannic spine on the moderately austere finish. This is really quite good and while the tannins are firm, they're not tough or strict. (89-92)/2021+

2009 Corton: (from Chaumes). This is relatively restrained at present with a cool and admirably pure red pinot fruit and earth-inflected nose that complements the rich, full-bodied, concentrated and sappy flavors that are quite structured though not hard, all wrapped in an attractively textured finish of fine if not exceptional length. (90-92)/2024+

2009 Corton-Bressandes: This is also aromatically quite discreet with aromas of red berry fruit, earth and mineral undertones that can also be found on the relatively fine medium-bodied flavors that are blessed with ample dry extract on the moderately austere but impressively persistent finish that is less overtly structured than the straight Corton. This should be lovely in time. (91-94)/2021+

2009 Corton-Clos du Roy: A deft touch of wood frames a classic Clos du Roy nose as there is a distinct *animale* character to the intensely earthy and spicy dark berry fruit nose that introduces dense, serious and highly complex flavors that brim with dry extract on the stunningly long and gorgeously deep finish. A very, very impressive effort. (92-95)/2024+

Domaine Huber-Verdereau (Volnay)

2009	Bourgogne	red	86
2009	Bourgogne - Hautes Côtes de Beaune	red	86
2009	➔ Pommard	red	90
2009	➔ Pommard "Les Bertins" 1er	red	91
2009	➔ Volnay	red	89
2009	➔ Volnay "Les Frémiets" 1er	red	91
2009	➔ Volnay "Robardelle"	red	89

Thiébauld Huber told me that 2009 was "basically a very easy vintage to manage and other than a massive rainstorm on the 14th of July, there really wasn't much drama. I elected to begin picking on the 7th of September and brought in comfortable yields as there were essentially no sorting losses due to the super clean fruit. Potential alcohols were strong at between 13 and 13.5% and because the color and extraction came easily, the vinification itself was about as stress free as I can remember. In fact, it was even easier than 2005 because the skins were not quite as thick and thus you didn't really have to worry much about over extraction as you did in '05. Overall, I think the '09s will be very popular as they're already pleasant and I don't think that they will close down the way the '05s have." Huber has followed up his excellent '07s and '08s with the best set of wines that he has crafted since I have begun reviewing them. Note that all wines had been opened 24 hours in advance of me tasting them. (Scott Paul Wines, www.scottpaul.com, Portland, OR and Bayfield Imports, www.bayfieldimporting.com, Brooklyn, NY; no known UK importers).

2009 Bourgogne: (50% stainless). A ripe and intensely earthy nose that is somehow still quite pretty slides into textured, round and utterly delicious flavors that are quite serious as there is a hint of finishing austerity. While this could be drunk now with an hour of air, I would suggest giving it a few years in the cellar first to round off the edges. 86/2013+

2009 Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune: A ripe yet cool nose of upper register red berries is trimmed in subtle mineral notes that continue onto the detailed and attractively energetic flavors that culminate in a mildly austere finish. This is lighter than the straight Bourgogne but the flavor authority is very solid. And like the Bourgogne, while this could easily be drunk now, I would also advise giving this 2 to 3 years in the cellar first. 86/2013+

2009 Volnay: (from a mix of vineyards, most of which are on the Pommard side of the village). A wonderfully complex nose of red berries, plum, cassis and stone leads to rich, velvety and sappy medium-bodied flavors that possess fine volume and length. This is very ripe yet the balance is impeccable. A lovely *villages* and worth a look. 89/2015+

2009 Volnay "Robardelle": (from the *villages* portion of the vineyard). A slightly fresher and more elegant nose speaks of cool and relatively high-toned red pinot fruit with a top note of violets. The round, supple, detailed and gorgeously pure flavors also evidence a hint of minerality that continues all the way through to the balanced finish. This is finer than the straight Volnay but not quite as structured or complex. A qualitative choice. 89/2014+

2009 Volnay "Les Frémiets": A densely fruited and beautifully nuanced red pinot fruit and wet stone nose gives way to round, generous and quite fleshy flavors that possess fine richness and evident minerality that also suffuses the firm but not aggressively structured and persistent finish. This has the balance and underlying material to age well. 91/2016+

2009 Pommard: (mostly from Vaumuriens). Here the nose is not quite as fresh though its impressively complex notes of violet, red berry and plum are quite ripe without falling over into *surmaturité*. The dense, mouth coating and relatively powerful flavors are blessed with an abundance of dry extract that culminate in a mildly rustic and quite serious finish. This is an excellent *villages* that is built to age and will need it as this is less precocious than the Volnay entries. 90/2017+

2009 Pommard "Les Bertins": A deft touch of wood frames very ripe yet pretty aromas of plum, violet and warm earth that complement the equally ripe, rich and mouth filling flavors that also enjoy an abundance of dry extract that confers a textured mouth feel onto the long, generous and relatively powerful finish. This too is built to age. 91/2017+

Maison Louis Jadot (Beaune)

2009	Moulin-à-Vent	red	89
2009	Moulin-à-Vent "Clos des Thorins"	red	88
2009	➔ Moulin-à-Vent "Clos du Grand Carquelin"	red	89
2009	Moulin-à-Vent "Clos de Rochegrès"	red	90
2008	Beaune "Boucherottes" 1er	red	88
2008	Beaune "Bressandes" 1er	red	89
2008	Beaune "Clos de Couchereaux" 1er	red	89
2008	Beaune "Teurons" 1er	red	90
2008	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	red	94
2008	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Fuées" 1er	red	86
2008	Chapelle-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	93
2008	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	red	90
2008	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	92
2008	Côte de Nuits-Villages "Le Vaucrain"	red	87
2008	Gevrey-Chambertin	red	88
2008	Gevrey-Chambertin "Clos St. Jacques" 1er	red	90
2008	Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	91
2008	➔ Pommard	red	89
2008	Pommard "Epenots" 1er	red	90
2008	Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	89
2008	Santenay "Clos de Malte"	red	87
2008	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Clos des Guettes" 1er	red	87
2008	Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	90
2008	Vosne-Romanée "Les Beaux Monts" 1er	red	90

I know that the absence of reviews for the 2009 reds will disappoint some readers but as I have said from the very beginning, getting things "right" has always been my overriding goal. Allow me to explain. In February during my rounds in the Côte de Beaune, as per usual I visited with Jacques Lardière, winemaker and technical director for Maison Jadot, who presented some 60+ red samples from their extensive portfolio. For reasons that neither he nor I can explain, the reds did not show as well as might be expected given the quality of the vintage yet the whites were impeccable. I left the Jadot premises scratching my head because I have been visiting Jadot and tasting from barrel there for more than 20 years and never have I seen wines show this awkwardly. I decided to follow up with another small tasting in the U.S. and as I thought they might, the limited group showed quite well, and in two cases, completely differently than what I had tasted in Burgundy. I conferred with Lardière over the discrepancy and he was as puzzled as I was. In trying to work out a solution, he generously offered to send me the entire range of reds but for logistical reasons, that required a considerable amount of time and the wines have only just arrived three days before I am writing these words. Given the deadline for this Issue, it is not only not practicable but not fair to the wines to attempt to review 66 samples in such a brief period of time. Thus I regret to inform readers that reviews for the 2009 Jadot reds will appear along with their white counterparts in Issue 43. I have however included in this Issue reviews for an extensive range of in-bottle 2008s plus several examples of Beaujolais from 2009. Please do not write to inquire about individual 2009 reds as in fairness to all readers, I have an inviolable policy of never disclosing scores or reviews before their publication. Thank you in advance for your understanding. (Kobrand, Inc., www.kobrandwine.com, NY, NY; Hatch Mansfield Ltd., www.hatchmansfield.com, Uncorked Ltd, www.uncorked.co.uk, both UK).

Note: the following four Beaujolais are sold under the Domaine Louis Jadot/Château des Jacques label.

2009 Moulin-à-Vent: A ripe but not jammy nose of pepper, earth and blackberries leads to rich, round and delicious medium-bodied flavors that possess reasonably good depth on the menthol-suffused finish. This is at the limit of ripeness for my taste though it is not over the top. 89/2014+

2009 Moulin-à-Vent "Clos des Thorins": This is also very ripe, indeed even riper than the straight Moulin-à-Vent and there are hints of blackberry jam and cassis to go with the pepper and warm earth notes. The very rich, round and plush flavors also exhibit a touch of jam that one either likes or doesn't, all wrapped in a mouth coating and lingering finish that evidences a mild touch of warmth. This is simply too ripe for me as it lacks a bit of freshness and vibrancy. 88/2014+

2009 Moulin-à-Vent “Clos de Rochegrès”: Here the nose is similar to the Clos des Thorins but there is more overall complexity and it is ever-so-slightly less overtly ripe. The generous and fleshy medium-weight flavors are plush and round while delivering good length and better precision. To be sure, this is still very, very ripe but somehow manages to avoid the jammy character. This is too ripe for me but I can see some liking this very much. 90/2015+

2009 Moulin-à-Vent “Clos du Grand Carquelin”: An expressive nose of pepper, menthol, subtle spice, earth and very ripe cassis gives way to well-concentrated and extremely rich flavors that possess plenty of tannin-buffering dry extract before culminating in a firm and moderately austere finish that evidences noticeable if not really intrusive warmth. Again, this is too ripe for my taste but some will undoubtedly find much to admire as the flavors are concentrated. 89/2015+

2008 Santenay “Clos de Malte”: This is really quite attractive aromatically with a ripe, earthy and pretty red and blue pinot fruit nose that also displays a hint of violet before moving into supple and relatively smooth middle weight flavors that culminate in a racy and linear finish of only mild rusticity. This is nice enough if lacking in just a bit of flesh. 87/2013+

2008 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Clos des Guettes”: A relatively pretty nose of fresh red berry fruit and pungent Savigny-style earth leads to vibrant and firm medium-bodied flavors that possess reasonably good complexity but there is a trace of finishing bitterness on the somewhat short finish. My score offers the benefit of the doubt that this will round out with a few years of bottle age, which it will need as this is quite Cistercian at present. 87/2015+

2008 Beaune “Clos de Couchereaux”: This required several hours to fully open but when it finally did, the plum and black cherry fruit aromas harmonized well with the focused, detailed, intense and energetic middle weight flavors that displayed relatively sophisticated tannins on the detailed, pure and linear finish that is, at present anyway, overtly austere. I would suggest allowing this at least 5 additional years of cellar time as this is really tight. 89/2016+

2008 Beaune “Teurons”: Initially there was a touch of reduction that slowly dissipated over the course of 30 minutes to reveal fresh and ripe red pinot, cassis and dark cherry-infused aromas that merge into supple and silky-textured middle weight flavors that possess reasonably good depth on the focused and moderately firm finish that displays some youthful austerity. There is good underlying material and this should mature into a lovely wine in 6 to 8 years. 90/2015+

2008 Beaune “Boucherottes”: The moderate wood this displayed from barrel has been completely integrated which allows the ripe cherry and raspberry aromas to freely express themselves before giving way to nicely detailed, vibrant and admirably precise middle weight flavors that culminate in a linear, dusty and balanced finish where the underlying phenolics seem sufficiently ripe to allow this to age gracefully even though it should mature relatively early. Solid if not truly special quality. 88/2014+

2008 Beaune “Bressandes”: A very fresh and distinctly pinot nose speaks of a variety of medium-pitched red berry fruit that display an attractive dollop of warm earth that continues onto the round and supple yet solidly precise middle weight flavors that possess good vibrancy and persistence on the reasonably lengthy finish. I like the balance and this should be capable of developing more depth over time as there is quality underlying material. 89/2015+

2008 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”: Initially this was quite closed but with 45 minutes of aeration the nose opened to reveal aromas of violets, earth, stone and a mix of perfumed red and blue pinot fruit. The medium-bodied flavors were equally tight though focused with good mid-palate concentration and enough sap to buffer the otherwise very firm tannic spine, all wrapped in a moderately austere but solidly long finish. There is good power and robustness here and this will require all of a decade to arrive at its majority. Note that the austerity is sufficient that this will not make for easy drinking in its youth. 90/2018+

2008 Pommard: An exceptionally pretty, fresh and very red pinot fruit nose cut with discreet earth notes that also bleed over to the naturally sweet, energetic and admirably precise middle weight flavors that possess good depth for a *villages* level wine on the solidly persistent finish that displays almost no rusticity. A fine effort at this level and worth a look. Note that this possesses enough mid-palate fat to render it both approachable, and enjoyable, now. 89/2014+

2008 Pommard “Epenots”: An expressive nose of now almost invisible oak that surrounds red currant plus warm earth notes slides gracefully into supple and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that possess good detail and vibrancy on the lingering but firm finish where there is good vibrancy and length. The point of acid tang this displayed from cask has now disappeared, which allows for notably better balance and if this can add depth with time in bottle, my score may be unduly conservative. 90/2016+

2008 Pommard “Les Rugiens”: A ripe but cool nose of dense dark berry fruit aromas complements the supple, intense and tautly muscular mineral-driven flavors that deliver excellent length on the youthfully reserved and moderately austere finish. Very good if not exceptional quality in a package that will need the better part of a decade to fully mature. 89/2017+

2008 Côte de Nuits-Villages “Le Vaucrain”: While a touch of wood can still barely be discerned, it has integrated well with the cassis and warm earth suffused nose that marries into mildly rustic but solidly voluminous flavors that are ever so slightly austere but no longer display the dryness they did from cask. This is solid and understated if not exceptional for what it is as I like the clean and detailed finish. 87/2014+

2008 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Fuées”: Though it requires several hours of aeration a beautifully complex and refined nose emerges to reveal cool, indeed almost detached red pinot fruit and a pungent minerality that is akin to struck flint. The beautifully detailed flavors brim with an underlying tension and more minerality before culminating in an acceptably long but mildly bitter finish that seems firmer than the supporting mid-palate can buffer. This may come together but it is more than a little austere today and I find this disappointing relative to what I originally saw from cask. 86/2016

2008 Bonnes-Mares: (now 100% from Chambolle vines). This offers simply terrific aromatic complexity with elegant and layered ripe black cherry, plum and violet aromas that complement well the textured, serious and solidly concentrated medium weight plus flavors, all wrapped in a powerful, chewy and driving finish that possesses excellent balance and knockout length. This is a seriously impressive young Bonnes Mares that should age gracefully for several decades. 94/2025+

2008 Vosne-Romanée “Les Beaux Monts”: A gentle hint of wood allows the elegant, pure and airy plum and black cherry nose to shine as it does not continue onto the spice and mineral-driven middle weight flavors that possess plenty of verve and fine length on the linear, focused and moderately austere finish. If this understated effort can add depth over the next 6 to 8 years, it could surprise to the upside. 90/2016+

2008 Clos de Vougeot: A tight and backward nose features moderately ripe aromas of earthy blue and black fruit, spice and subtle *animale* hints that carry over to the powerful, mouth coating and very serious broad-shouldered flavors brimming with dry extract and plenty of muscle on the mouth coating and palate staining finish that has plenty of the classic Clos de Vougeot youthful austerity. This is a big wine in the context of the vintage and will require the better part of two decades to arrive at its majority. Patience required. 92/2023+

2008 Clos de la Roche: Initially there was noticeable reduction that required some 30 minutes in a decanter to fully dissipate and finally reveal admirably pure if somber aromas of red berry fruit, stone, jerky and a hint of violet that precedes the supple and strikingly detailed medium-bodied flavors that possess a taut muscularity on the linear and moderately firm finish that delivers respectable but not truly special length, at least not for a *grand cru* of this caliber. 90/2020+

2008 Gevrey-Chambertin: A pungently earthy nose that is very Gevrey, combines cool red berry fruit, underbrush and slightly *animale* nuances that also extend to the firm and rustic middle weight flavors that possess good energy and firm finishing tannins on the overtly austere finish. Solid quality for a *villages* level wine though this is sufficiently linear that it will not be for everyone and note that 6 to 8 years of cellar time is recommended. 88/2015+

2008 Gevrey-Chambertin “Clos St. Jacques”: A discreetly wooded nose of ripe but cool red and blue berry fruit aromas trimmed in notes of violets and minerality of which the latter amply suffuses the supple, vibrant and beautifully detailed middle weight flavors that offer excellent length if only moderate depth compared to the usual extremely high standards of this wine. This will require 10 to 12 years to arrive at its full potential. 90/2018+

2008 Latricières-Chambertin: A very cool and reticent nose of red pinot fruit and stone aromas where the stoniness carries over to the almost taciturn medium weight plus flavors that seem built on a base of firm minerality on the detailed finish that doesn't quite offer its usual level of dramatic persistence. This is a very good vintage for this wine but perhaps not a great one. 91/2020+

2008 Chapelle-Chambertin: (from the oldest vines of the entire Jadot portfolio of owned vineyards located in Chapelle proper). An elegant, pure, complex and stylish nose of dense red berry fruit is heavily laced with warm earth and stone notes that also characterize the vibrant, rich and impressive full-bodied flavors blessed with ample amounts of dry extract that renders the otherwise firm tannins almost invisible at present. Still, this will require 12 to 15 years to see its full, and considerable, potential realized. 93/2020+

Domaine Patrick Javillier (Meursault)

2009	➔ Aloxe-Corton	red	89
2009	➔ Pernand-Vergelesses	red	89
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Grands Liards”	red	88
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Serpentières” 1er	red	90

The professorial Patrick Javillier explained that 2009 “basically achieved perfect maturity. We began picking on the 6th of September and brought in perfectly clean and ripe fruit that ranged in potential alcohols from 12.8 to 13.3%. Interestingly, the fruit had normal total acidities but relatively low pHs. The wines have more flesh than their 2008 counterparts and should drink well earlier too.” The reds were bottled between August and November, 2010. Note: 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 & TX, 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).

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Grands Liards”: A very earthy dark berry fruit nose slides into rich, round and quite fleshy flavors that are shaped by ripe and firm tannins that culminate in a delicious finish of solid length. This balanced effort is attractively complex if not particularly elegant. 88/2015+

2009 Pernand-Vergelesses: Interestingly, this is earthier still with a slightly rustic nose of *sauvage*-infused dark berries and violets that lead to equally rustic middle weight flavors that possess good richness and plenty of volume for a *villages* level wine, all wrapped in a complex and persistent finish. This won’t win any prizes for refinement but there is no lack of character. Worth considering. 89/2015+

2009 Aloxe-Corton: A pretty mix of red currant, blue berry, earth and iron hints that merge into rich, full-bodied and admirably concentrated flavors that possess a textured mouth feel as there is an abundance of tannin-buffering sap on the complex, balanced and persistent finish. This is a very good *villages* and again, worth your attention. 89/2015+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Serpentières”: As is typically the case *chez* Javillier, this is the most elegant wine in the range with its red and blue pinot fruit trimmed in subtle earth, violet and wet stone aromas that give way to rich and lightly mineral-inflected flavors that are supple and suave before culminating in a balanced, textured and lingering finish. 90/2015+

Domaine Rémi Jobard (Meursault)

2009	➔ Bourgogne Passe Tout Grains	red	86
2009	Monthelie “Champs Fuillot” 1er	red	89
2009	Monthelie “Les Vignes Rondes” 1er	red	88
2009	Volnay “Les Santenots” 1er	red	90

Rémi Jobard said that he began picking on September 1 noting that “I was afraid of losing too much acidity so it was important to begin earlier than normal. There was plenty of sugar as potential alcohols were in the 13 to 13.5% range and I’ve basically never seen cleaner fruit. The wines are highly aromatic with good underlying material and really good balance. I think they will offer much to like and be enjoyable almost immediately.” (Weygandt-Metzler, www.weygandtmetzler.com, Unionville, PA; Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk, UK).

2009 Bourgogne Passe Tout Grains: (60% gamay). A peppery and earthy ripe red berry fruit nose leads to rich, round and unusually well concentrated flavors that possess good detail and only mild rusticity on the otherwise persistent finish. This is a very good PTG and worth considering if you like the genre. This will drink well almost immediately. 86/2012+

2009 Monthelie “Les Vignes Rondes”: A slightly rustic but attractively complex nose speaks of mostly red berry fruit aromas that reflect notes of earth and a hint of underbrush, both of which continue onto the nicely detailed flavors that exude a finer minerality on the delicious and equally rustic finish. Pretty if not especially refined. 88/2014+

2009 Monthelie “Champs Fuillot”: A similar if less rustic nose to that of the Vignes Rondes merges into rich and solidly well-concentrated flavors that possess better extract as well as somewhat finer tannins on the delicious finish. A quality Monthelie. 89/2015+

2009 Volnay “Les Santenots”: A pretty nose of red currant and raspberry liqueur marries into rich, dense and mineral-inflected medium-bodied flavors that possess good dry extract levels on the lingering finish that is shaped by much finer tannins. There is a trace of bitterness but given how ripe the tannins are, I suspect that this may be a transitory phase and thus my score offers the benefit of the doubt. 90/2016+

Domaine Pierre et François Labet (Beaune/Vougeot)

2009	➔ Beaune “Coucherias” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	Beaune “Au Dessus de Marconnets”	red	(87-90)
2009	➔ Bourgogne Vieilles Vignes	red	(86-88)
2009	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes	red	(89-91)

François Labet told me that 2009 was “a textbook kind of vintage. The growing season was relatively straightforward, indeed even easy with normal yields, excellent sugars with potential alcohols in the 13% range so there was no chaptalization and the stems were completely ripe so I vinified with 100% whole clusters. What I like about the ‘09s is that they’re charming and seductive but underneath the sex appeal is first-rate balance which is what will allow the wines to successfully age.” (Beaune Imports, www.beauneimports.com, Berkeley, CA, Polaner Selections, www.polanerselections.com, Mt. Kisco, NY; Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com, UK).

2009 Bourgogne Vieilles Vignes: (from 45+ year old vines located in Chorey-lès-Beaune). A very ripe yet fresh nose that is intensely floral with violet and red berry fruit aromas that introduce utterly delicious, suave and concentrated flavors that possess fine detail and excellent balance. A terrific Bourgogne. (86-88)/2013+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes”: (from La Justice, Les Crais and Jouise). A deft touch of wood sets off a completely different fruit profile as here the nose is quite earthy, serious and somber with dark berries and a hint of *animale*. There is good richness and lovely intensity to the suave yet precise middle weight flavors that possess good dry extract that buffers the mildly rustic tannins. A very solid *villages* that is worth considering. (89-91)/2016+

2009 Beaune “Au Dessus de Marconnets”: This is very fresh and really very pretty with a relatively elegant nose that is very pinot while being liberally laced with hints of both earth and wet stone, the latter of which continues onto the detailed and attractively precise flavors that possess a seductive mouth feel and a focused and delicious finish. The supporting tannins are firm but well integrated and this should reward 5 to 7 years of cellar time. (87-90)/2015+

2009 Beaune “Coucherias”: A wonderfully dense and complex nose speaks of black berry liqueur and stone aromas that precede the silky, pure and vibrant medium-bodied flavors that possess plenty of mid-palate fat on the firm, balanced and impressively long finish. This is a lovely and harmonious effort that is recommended. (89-92)/2016+

Domaine Michel Lafarge (Volnay)

2009	➔ Beaune “Les Aigrots” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	➔ Beaune “Les Grèves” 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	➔ Bourgogne	red	(86-88)
2009	➔ Bourgogne-Passe Tout Grains	red	(85-87)
2009	➔ Bourgogne-Passe Tout Grains A l’Exception	red	(86-88)
2009	Côte de Beaune-Villages	red	(87-89)
2009	➔ Pommard “Pézerolles” 1er	red	(92-94)
2009	Volnay	red	(88-91)
2009	Volnay “1er” 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	➔ Volnay “Caillerets” 1er	red	(93-95)
2009	➔ Volnay “Clos du Château des Ducs” 1er	red	(91-94)
2009	➔ Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	red	(93-95)
2009	➔ Volnay “Mitans” 1er	red	(91-94)
2009	➔ Volnay – Vendange Sélectionnées	red	(89-91)
2008	➔ Beaune “Les Aigrots” 1er	red	91
2008	➔ Beaune “Les Grèves” 1er	red	92
2008	➔ Pommard “Pézerolles” 1er	red	92
2008	➔ Volnay “Caillerets” 1er	red	94
2008	➔ Volnay “Clos de Château des Ducs” 1er	red	93
2008	➔ Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	red	94
2008	Volnay “Mitans” 1er	red	92
2008	➔ Volnay – Vendange Sélectionnées	red	90

Michel Lafarge, and his son Frédéric, called 2009 a “vintage of regularity almost from start to finish with really no excesses of any kind. We began picking on the 9th of September and brought in flawless fruit that was in the 12.8 to 13.3% range in terms of potential alcohols. Yields were comfortable but not excessive at 38 to 40 hl/ha. What we really like about the ‘09s is that the *terroir* remains clear because even though it’s a genuinely great vintage, it doesn’t dominate the wines as great vintages often have a tendency to do. It’s important to note that not only is 2009 great in red but it’s also great in white and it’s relatively rare when you have a great vintage in both colors. For us, 2009 is a vintage of charm but one that will age as there is plenty of ripe tannin lurking beneath the seductive baby fat. The key to their potential longevity is that even though the vintage is exceptionally ripe with very high levels of phenolic maturity, the wines remain impeccably well balanced.” Michel, who has vast experience with older vintages, likened 2009 to a hypothetical blend of 1964 and 1966 observing that “2009 has the ripeness of ‘64 with the elegance and *terroir* transparency of ‘66.” With respect to the Lafarge ‘08s, they virtually all came in at, or near, the top of my predicted ranges, which is to say that they’re exceptionally good. (A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA & TX, Scott Paul Wines, www.scottpaul.com, Portland, OR and Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, Lake Success, NY; Richards Walford, www.r-w.co.uk and Uncorked Ltd, www.uncorked.co.uk, UK).

2009 Bourgogne – Passe Tout Grains: (from 55 to 60 year old vines and made from a 50/50 mix of pinot and gamay). A peppery, complex and quite pretty nose of mostly ripe red berry fruit aromas introduces warm earth-inflected nicely rich and round flavors that possess solid depth and length for what this is. Moreover, it’s the kind of wine that really makes you feel like drinking it for its exuberant fruit. (85-87)/2012+

2009 Bourgogne – Passe Tout Grains A l’Exception: (from 85+ year old vines, also made from a 50/50 mix of pinot and gamay). While the aromas are similar to the regular PTG, here they’re slightly riper and a bit more complex as well with very fresh and vibrant middle weight flavors culminating in a moderately firmer and longer finish. It’s rare to find a PTG at this quality level. (86-88)/2013+

2009 Bourgogne: (from 40+ year old vines that were once classified as Volnay *villages*). A slightly more elegant nose is attractively fresh and expressive with pretty red berry fruit and warm earth aromas where the latter element can also be found on the detailed, rich and utterly delicious flavors that possess much better than average concentration and length for the *appellation*. Recommended. (86-88)/2013+

2009 Côte de Beaune-Villages: This is also exuberantly expressive and exceptionally fresh with airy and cool red pinot fruit cut with lovely mineral traces that continue onto the rich, mouth coating and textured middle weight flavors that are eminently gulpable yet possess fine depth and length plus this will improve for 5 or so years if desired. (87-89)/2014+

2009 Volnay: An ultra-elegant nose features beautiful raspberry, red currant and wet stone hints that are in keeping with the rich, silky and pure flavors that possess a lilting mouth feel that is very Volnay in character, all wrapped in a lacy, balanced and energetic finish. A classic Volnay of charm and grace. (88-91)/2015+

2009 Volnay - Vendange Sélectionnées: This is also ripe, pretty, ultra-pure and airy with a mix of red and blue pinot fruit with the hallmark stone nuances that complement perfectly the detailed, precise and intense medium-bodied flavors that display textbook purity on the delicious, firm, complex and beautifully long finish. A terrific *villages*. (89-91)/2015+

2009 Beaune “Les Aigrots”: (from 40+ year old vines). A more complex and broader range of fruit aromas include red currant, plum, blue berry, violets and the classic Aigrots minerality lead to fleshy but well detailed flavors that possess good richness as there is ample extract to buffer the otherwise firm tannins on the vibrant and delicious finish. (90-92)/2016+

2009 Beaune “Les Grèves”: (from 80+ year old vines). This is aromatically more complex than the Aigrots with more iron and earth nuances to the panoply of red berry fruit aromas that carry liqueur-like scents. The rich, delicious and charming flavors display good power and focus on the balanced, concentrated and palate staining finish. This is deceptively open at present yet it should repay up to a decade of cellar time. (91-93)/2017+

2009 Volnay “1er”: (from Chanlins). A more elegant but not more complex nose reveals very fresh red pinot and floral aromas that give way to almost surprisingly rich and relatively full-bodied flavors that possess a buried but extremely firm tannic spine, all wrapped in a long, serious, deep and driving finish. This is a really lovely effort. (90-93)/2019+

2009 Volnay “Mitans”: (from Mitans proper, not l’Ormeau). As is usually the case, this is an exercise in finesse and understatement with a high-toned, cool and pure mineral-infused red pinot fruit nose that slides seamlessly into detailed, harmonious and mouth coating flavors that are very Volnay, all wrapped in a delicate, refined and mineral-driven finish. A classy and age-worthy effort that is decidedly Zen-like. (91-94)/2019+

2009 Volnay “Clos du Château des Ducs”: (from 50+ year old vines; a *monopole* of the domaine). This is aromatically a bit less elegant than the Mitans but it is more complex with cool red and blue pinot fruit, violet, earth and stone nuances introducing attractively rich and equally pure middle weight flavors that exhibit real verve on the mouth coating and exceptionally persistent finish. As good as this is, for the first time that I can remember, it is not obviously better than the Mitans, at least not at this early point. As usual, this is built to age and will need 12 to 15 years to be at its best. (91-94)/2021+

2009 Volnay “Caillerets”: (from a parcel measuring *Touvrées*, or around .3 ha of 40+ year old vines). This offers another dimension in aromatic breadth and depth with a kaleidoscopic range of aromas that are like fireworks in a glass. The rich, full-bodied and tautly muscular flavors brim with both dry extract and an almost pungent minerality that adds lift to the already energetic and palate staining finish. A classic Caillerets that should reward long-term aging. (92-95)/2024+

2009 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”: (from 45+ year old vines that sit just above Champans). Here the nose is presently marked by noticeable reduction but it's not so strong that the sheer complexity of the aromas cannot be appreciated. Moreover, this impressive depth continues onto the rich, full-bodied and very serious big-bodied flavors that ooze dry extract on the concentrated, intense and vibrant finish that seems to go on and on. I very much like the balance and while this is certainly extremely rich and ripe, there is absolutely no sense of heaviness or undue weightiness. This should be magnificent in time. (93-95)/2024+

2009 Pommard “Pézerolles”: (the Domaine's smallest holding at only .14 ha with vines that are now 50+ years of age). This is also exceptionally pretty with the classic elegance and minerality of a fine Pézerolles very much on display. The rich, full and deep flavors enjoy exceptionally good precision and drive on the focused, even laser-like finish that delivers outstanding length. A beautiful effort that should also reward up to 15 years in the cellar. (92-94)/2021+

Note: the following '08s were bottled in April, 2010. Lafarge said that he didn't believe that the '08s would shut down now that they're in bottle.

2008 Volnay - Vendange Sélectionnées: This evidences a restrained but complex nose of dense red berry fruit trimmed in earth and wet stone nuances, both of which can also be found on the concentrated, naturally sweet and delicious medium-bodied flavors that display firm but not aggressive tannins and excellent length. I very much like the underlying sense of tension as well as the fine minerality. A terrific *villages*. 90/2015+

2008 Beaune “Les Aigrots”: (from 40+ year old vines). A very fresh and high-toned nose offers up notes of cherry, raspberry and red pinot fruit as well as stone hints that continue onto the equally fresh, vibrant, indeed even racy middle weight flavors that possess plenty of underlying tension on the long, linear and mineral-driven finish. A wine of finesse and minerality. 91/2015+

2008 Beaune “Les Grèves”: (from 80+ year old vines). An elegant and admirably pure nose of ripe, refined and airy earthy red berry fruit and discreet spice and violet notes gives way to solidly well-detailed, supple and palate staining flavors blessed with plenty of old vine sap that renders the moderately firm tannins almost invisible on the balanced finish. 92/2016+

2008 Volnay “Mitans”: (from Mitans proper, not l'Ormeau). This too is extremely elegant and refined with its very cool and ultra-pure red pinot fruit, stone and plum fragrances that precede beautifully well detailed and tension-filled medium-bodied flavors that possess very fine tannins and perfect balance. This highly complex effort should be lovely. 92/2016+

2008 Volnay “Clos du Château des Ducs”: (from 50+ year old vines; a *monopole* of the domaine). A nose of pure pinot, violets and dissolved mineral notes complement to perfection the detailed and stone-driven medium-bodied flavors that possess fine volume and a gorgeously balanced finish. The harmony here is Zen-like. 93/2018+

2008 Volnay “Caillerets”: (from a parcel measuring *Touvrées*, or around .3 ha of 40+ year old vines). A superbly complex nose, indeed it's close between this and the Clos des Chênes for which possesses the most aromatic complexity. Red currant, plum, earth, spice and violet aromas marry into rich, intense and strikingly precise stone-driven medium-bodied flavors that display gorgeous purity of expression on the precise and tension filled finish that delivers excellent length. In sum, this is a wine of crystalline purity. 94/2020+

2008 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”: (from 45+ year old vines that sit just above Champans). This too serves up a remarkably layered if extremely reserved nose that displays plenty of earth and spice as well as very fresh and cool aromas of red and blue pinot, floral notes and an obvious mineral influence that continues onto the tautly muscular and overtly powerful big-bodied flavors that are long, serious and focused on the presently austere finish. It's interesting to compare the quality of the tannins between this and the Caillerets – here they are denser but less fine and as a consequence, this will need a few extra years of cellar time. 94/2023+

2008 Pommard “Pézerolles”: (the Domaine’s smallest holding at only .14 ha with vines that are now 50+ years of age). A strikingly fresh and highly complex nose is quite cool and restrained and only grudgingly offers up notes of bright red pinot fruit and mineral nuances that characterize the racy, precise and driving middle weight flavors that culminate in a moderately austere finish of beautiful length and impeccable balance. As it typically does, this manages to combine power with finesse. 92/2020+

Domaine Comtes Lafon (Meursault)

2009	Monthelie “Les Duresses” 1er	red	88
2009	➔ Volnay	red	89
2009	➔ Volnay “Champans” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	➔ Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	➔ Volnay “Santenots du Milieu” 1er	red	(91-93)

Dominique Lafon describes 2009 as a “very simple vintage. It’s a good vintage in red but it’s a genuinely great vintage in white. I view the press as having given excessive praise for the reds and insufficient kudos for the whites. I began picking the whites on the 7th of September and the 11th for the reds. The chardonnay was impeccably clean and the pinot was also reasonably, but not as, clean. For example, in both 2005 and 2010 I had cleaner pinot than in 2009. I mostly, but not completely, destemmed as the stalks were definitely ripe enough to use. For me, the ’09 reds remind me of the 1985s, which means that they should be popular.” (Beaune Imports, www.beauneimports.com, Berkeley, CA; Classic Wine Imports, www.classicwineimports.com, Boston, MA; Ex-Cellars Wine Agencies, www.excellars.com, Solvang, CA; Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA & TX; 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.sequinrobillard.ca, Canada).

2009 Monthelie “Les Duresses”: A ripe, fresh and attractively spiced nose of violets, plum and red berry fruit aromas leads to rich and relatively full-bodied flavors that possess fine volume and good if not special length. This could easily be drunk now. 88/2012+

2009 Volnay: (from young vines Santenots). This is also quite fresh and notably ripe with notes of blue and black berry, violets and warm earth hints that transfer over to the detailed and lightly mineral-suffused medium-weight flavors that possess good dry extract and a vibrant, focused, balanced and lingering finish. A lovely *villages*. 89/2014+

2009 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”: A ripe, complex and vibrant earth and cassis suffused nose gives way to very rich, full-bodied and delicious flavors that are supported and shaped by phenolically mature tannins and excellent finishing depth and length. This should be excellent. (91-93)/2016+

2009 Volnay “Champans”: (from 85+ year old vines planted in deep sandy soil with dense but small rocks). A slightly riper nose features aromas of red berry liqueur, plum, cassis and iron-infused earth that can also be found on the mineral-inflected, rich and full-bodied flavors that possess more power than the Clos des Chênes but less finesse. (90-92)/2016+

2009 Volnay “Santenots du Milieu”: (from 40+ year old vines planted in shallow, high clay content soil sitting on a bed of solid rock). This possesses the ripest nose of the group with cassis and pinot liqueur aromas dissolving into rich, mouth coating and relatively muscular flavors that possess an abundance of dry extract with lovely detail on the impressively complex and persistent finish. This should reward up to a decade of cellar time. (91-93)/2017+

Domaine Hubert et Olivier Lamy (St. Aubin)

2009	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet “La Goujonne – Vieilles Vignes”	red	89
2009	➔ St. Aubin “Derrière Chez Edouard – Vieilles Vignes” 1er	red	91
2009	St. Aubin “1er” – Le Paradis 1er	red	88
2009	➔ Santenay “Clos des Hâtes”	red	90

Olivier Lamy describes 2009 as having an “excellent early growing season with a perfect flowering. Later we had a modicum of disease pressure but not enough to really be of concern. You had to be watchful and in this sense, I wouldn’t call ’09 an easy vintage but at the same time, it was certainly less challenging than say ’07 or ’08. I began picking on the 7th of September and brought in reasonable but not great yields. Acids were good and the average potential alcohol was right at 13.1%. Overall, I like the vintage and in both colors.” (A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA & 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).

2009 St. Aubin “1er” - Le Paradis: (this is now 100% from young vine 1ers). A very ripe yet still quite fresh nose speaks of cassis, plum and warm earth aromas that lead to dense, sappy and serious flavors that possess plenty of verve on the balanced and reasonably persistent finish. 88/2015+

2009 Santenay “Clos des Hâtes”: (from 50+ and 10+ year old vines – the young vines are planted on riparia rootstock and produce very tiny berries). Lamy indicated that this was vinified with 25% whole clusters and the influence of the stems is clear as the mildly rustic nose is quite floral along with plenty of earth and ripe red berry fruit. The delicious, intense and notably rich flavors possess plenty of volume and good mid-palate concentration, all wrapped in a long and beautifully well-balanced finish. This delivers excellent quality for its level. 90/2015+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet “La Goujonne – Vieilles Vignes”: (50+ year old vines). Here the nose is very ripe yet remains very pinot in character with red berry aromas that are nuanced by earth and cassis undertones. The rich, full and fleshy medium-bodied flavors possess excellent complexity and reasonably good power as well on the lingering finish. This is a fine *villages* and worth a look. 89/2014+

2009 St. Aubin “Derrière Chez Edouard – Vieilles Vignes”: (from 50+ year old vines). Very mild reduction knocks down the expressiveness of the otherwise pretty and ripe red berry fruit and wet stone infused nose. The rich, cool and equally stony middle weight flavors possess an abundance of dry extract that renders the firm tannins to the background on the moderately austere and impressively persistent finish. Lovely quality here and this is quite stylish as well. 91/2016+

Maison Louis Latour (Aloxe-Corton)

2009	Aloxe-Corton	red	86
2009	Aloxe-Corton “Les Chaillots” 1er	red	88
2009	Beaune “Vignes Franches” 1er	red	89
2009	Chambertin-Cuvée Héritiers Latour Grand Cru	red	92
2009	Chambolle-Musigny	red	87
2009	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	92
2009	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	red	90
2009	Corton-Grancey Grand Cru	red	91
2009	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	92
2009	Gevrey-Chambertin	red	87
2009	Grands Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	92
2009	Nuits St. Georges “Les Crots” 1er	red	88
2009	Pommard “Les Epenots” 1er	red	89
2009	Romanée St. Vivant – Les Quatre Journaux Grand Cru	red	94
2009	Volnay “En Chevret” 1er	red	89
2009	Vosne-Romanée	red	88
2009	Vosne-Romanée “Les Beaumonts” 1er	red	90
2009	➔ Vosne-Romanée “Les Petits Monts” 1er	red	91
2009	Vosne-Romanée “Les Suchots” 1er	red	90

Louis-Fabrice Latour and winemaker Jean-Charles Thomas told me that 2009 is an “excellent vintage that should be extremely popular. It’s ripe, the acids are average to slightly below average and thus the wines will be more accessible young. However, they should age well too because there is reasonably good concentration and the supporting phenolics are quite ripe. Because of the elevated levels of ripeness we elected to start bottling in November to preserve as much freshness as possible. The wines were already drinking well and we didn’t see anything further to be gained by leaving them in cask.”

Latour went on to observe that he prefers 2009 to 1999 as he believes that it is more consistent. (Louis Latour, Inc./Ltd., www.louislatour.com, US, UK, France).

2009 Aloxe-Corton: A notably ripe nose of plum and dark berry fruit liqueur leads to earth-suffused, rich and rather suave middle weight flavors that offer good flesh and extract on the somewhat short and flat finish. Could this sense of fatigue be from the recent bottling? 86/2014+

2009 Aloxe-Corton “Les Chaillots”: A ripe and mildly spicy red berry fruit nose gives way to round, supple and reasonably rich medium-bodied flavors that possess good mid-palate volume as well as a delicious, balanced and persistent finish. There is a much better sense of energy here if only average depth. 88/2015+

2009 Beaune “Vignes Franches”: A deft touch of wood sets off notably ripe dark berry fruit aromas that precede the rich, supple and very round medium weight flavors that possess good balance and fine persistence. This delicious and easy-to-like offering should age well over the medium-term. 89/2015+

2009 Pommard “Les Epenots”: Here too mild wood influence frames fresh and ripe red pinot, plum and earth aromas that give way to rich, naturally sweet and quite suave flavors that possess fine depth and solid length. The tannins are firm but not hard and this will need the better part of the next decade to be at its peak. 89/2017+

2009 Volnay “En Chevret”: A high-toned nose of fresh and airy red pinot fruit liberally cut with mineral notes that continue onto the rich, intense and vibrant flavors that are blessed with good dry extract that buffers the moderately firm tannic spine on the attractively long finish. This is very Volnay in character and should drink well relatively early. 89/2015+

2009 Chambolle-Musigny: Fresh aromas of red currant and wet stone marry into light-weight flavors that possess limited depth though there is reasonably good persistence. Perhaps this will add weight in bottle? In short, this is pretty enough but not very deep. 87/2014+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin: An attractively fresh and unusually high-toned nose speaks of primarily red berry fruit and Gevrey-style earth nuances that introduce supple, round and fleshy flavors that possess reasonably good length if less mid-palate concentration than the better *villages* level wines in the range. 87/2014+

2009 Nuits St. Georges “Les Crots”: An almost invisible touch of volatile acidity actually adds lift to the otherwise fresh and bright nose of earthy red currant aromas that complement well the round, rich and quite forward flavors that offer reasonably good length if only average complexity. Still, this is pretty enough in its fashion. 88/2016+

2009 Vosne-Romanée: A spicy and overtly ripe nose of cassis and plum merges into supple, delicious and sappy middle weight flavors that exhibit an appealing trace of minerality that adds lift to the mouth coating finish. This should drink well young or age for 5 to 7 years if desired. 88/2014+

2009 Vosne-Romanée “Les Beaumonts”: A lightly spiced mix of red and blue pinot fruit that also evidences soft mineral notes that can be found on the supple and refined middle weight flavors that possess fine detail and very good precision on the slightly sweet but persistent finish. 90/2016+

2009 Vosne-Romanée “Les Petits Monts”: This is more obvious Vosne as the nose is overtly spicy with notes of soy, hoisin and anise adding breadth to the black pinot fruit and cassis infused nose. There is very good richness to the detailed flavors that exude a fine minerality on the firm, serious and lingering finish. This is both classy and refined. 91/2017+

2009 Vosne-Romanée “Les Suchots”: This is also quite spicy if a touch less elegant with red and blue pinot fruit, plum and a background note of wet stone that also infuses the rich, generous and relatively full-bodied flavors that are supported by firm but not hard tannins, all wrapped in a velvety and mouth coating finish. Lovely if not as complex as the Petits Monts. 90/2017+

2009 Corton-Grancey: (the Clos du Roi was pulled out of the blend in 2009 as was the case in 2008). A ripe, pretty and surprisingly expressive nose features aromas of red berries, warm earth, cassis and a hint of the *sauvage* that can also be found on the open and already accessible flavors that possess fine complexity on the long and mildly austere finish. This should age and improve over the next 12 to 15 years. 91/2021+

2009 Corton-Clos du Roi: Soft wood influence does not detract materially from the red berry liqueur, spice, earth and slightly *animale*-inflected nose that is very much in keeping with the ripe, suave, round and velvet-textured flavors that possess excellent mid-palate concentration and fine power and length. While it may develop more with additional bottle age, there is presently limited depth and my score offers the benefit of the doubt. 90/2019+

2009 Echézeaux: (a blend of different climats). A very spicy dark berry fruit and warm earth nose is followed by rich, round and seductively velvety flavors that possess fine intensity on the very firm and impressively long finish. This is really quite good as well as stylish. 92/2021+

2009 Grands Echézeaux: A slightly more elegant but no more complex nose of red berry liqueur, earth and a broad range of spices gives way to big, rich and muscular flavors that possess plenty of tannin-buffering dry extract on the admirably long finish. This is also really quite good. 92/2021+

2009 Clos de Vougeot: A relatively high-toned nose of fresh red currant, raspberry and cassis hints leads to earthy and serious medium-bodied flavors that possess fine mid-palate density as well as excellent length on the moderately austere finish. While the mid-palate is supple, the tannins are present to ensure a long life. 92/2024+

2009 Chambertin-Cuvée Héritiers Latour: A completely different nose of wild red berries, underbrush, pungent Gevrey-style earth and hints of game leads to rich, detailed and intensely mineral-suffused medium-bodied flavors that evidence excellent length where both a touch of wood and stone surface. This supple effort is really quite stylish and should age well. 92/2021+

2009 Romanée St. Vivant – Les Quatre Journaux: A highly spiced, pure and elegant nose that is sheer class in a glass complements perfectly the rich yet well-detailed flavors blessed with an abundance of dry extract that culminate in a delicious, complex, long and beautifully balanced finish. This stunning effort is easily the best wine in the range in 2009 and should amply reward long-term cellaring. 94/2024+

Domaine Latour-Giraud (Meursault)

2009	Meursault “Caillerets” 1er	red	(88-90)
2009	Pommard - Cuvée Carmen	red	(87-89)
2009	➔ Pommard “La Refène” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	➔ Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	red	(91-93)

Jean-Pierre Latour told me that 2009 is an “extremely seductive vintage, especially in terms of the wonderful aromatic purity and breadth. I began picking on the 8th of September and brought in extremely clean fruit that required virtually no sorting. Potential alcohols were strong at between 13 and 14% with an average of about 13.5%. For the reds, the fruit was 100% destemmed and given a total cuvaison of between 18 and 19 days during which we punched down 2 to 3 times per day. The new wines were then raked into barrel [of which 25 to 30% were new] for 15 to 16 months. As to the quality of the wines, I would say that the 2009 vintage is between very good and excellent.” Latour said that he would probably bottle in March. (Classic Wine Imports, www.classicwineimports.com, Boston, MA; Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, Thorman Hunt & Co., e-mail: Camille@thormanhunt.co.uk, Claret-E Ltd, www.claret-e.com, and Churchill Vintners, www.churchill-vintners.co.uk, all UK).

2009 Pommard – Cuvée Carmen: (from Les Vignots). A notably ripe and intensely *sauvage* nose of purple fruit, cassis and earth leads to rich, concentrated and extract-rich flavors that exude a fine minerality, all wrapped in a complex, long and nicely balanced finish. (87-89)/2014+

2009 Meursault “Caillerets”: An overtly ripe and mildly earthy nose speaks of cassis and violets plus soft stone nuances that transfer to the rich, mouth coating and velvety middle weight flavors that also possess an abundance of dry extract that completely buffers the solidly complex if slightly rustic finish. (88-90)/2015+

2009 Pommard “La Refène”: A hint of the *sauvage* adds interest to the attractively fresh red currant, blue pinot and earth aromas that precede rich, full-bodied and tautly muscular flavors that possess plenty of tannin buffering dry extract on the racy, complex and relatively fine finish. This lovely effort is decidedly understated and I like the balance. (90-92)/2017+

2009 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”: Here the elegant and pure nose is the essence of cassis and violets trimmed in subtle spice and earth nuances, both of which can be found on the rich, full-bodied and serious flavors that possess ample volume before culminating in a suave and velvety finish. There is excellent complexity and lovely intensity and while there isn't quite the detail one might prefer, the depth and length are excellent. (91-93)/2019+

Maison Olivier Leflaive (Puligny-Montrachet)

2009	Pommard	red	(87-89)
2009	Pommard "Epenots" 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	Volnay	red	(86-89)
2009	Volnay "Clos des Angles" 1er	red	(87-89)
2009	Volnay "Mitans" 1er	red	(89-91)

The always direct Franck Grux told me that "if the vines had produced a bit less fruit, 2009 would have been a truly grand vintage. Let's be honest, it's a very good vintage but it's not a great one, or even an excellent one. It doesn't have the remarkable aromatics of a great vintage nor does it have the superb length one expects and that is true for both the whites and the reds. In my view, the absence of these things is simply explained, which is that yields were just a bit too high. To be clear, I like 2009 but I'm not knocked-out. The last truly great vintage was 1990 and I prefer most 2008s to their 2009 counterparts. There was some mildew in pinot and while not the case everywhere, it was clear that in some vineyards that there was enough of it to affect the overall level of ripeness. As to the Leflaive reds, I vinified them to have limited extraction so that they could be accessible young." Note: It is Maison Leflaive's policy to delay the release of their reds for 1 to 2 years after the *mise* so these 2009s will not be available immediately. As reported last year, Olivier Leflaive and his brother have elected as of November 2009 to claim their share of the Domaine Leflaive vineyards. This amounts to about 2 ha of vines, which doesn't sound like much until you consider the *appellations* involved (the approximate production totals are noted accordingly): Chevalier-Montrachet (5 barrels); Bâtard-Montrachet (5), Pucelles (8), Folatières (5-6) and Sous le Dos d'Ane (2). (Frederick Wildman and Sons, www.frederickwildman.com New York, NY; Corney & Barrow, www.corneyandbarrow.com Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, Private Cellar Ltd., www.privatecellar.co.uk and Haynes, Hanson & Clark, www.hhandc.com, UK).

2009 Volnay: A ripe nose of primarily red berry fruit and earth aromas is trimmed in discreet wood notes that precede the refined middle weight flavors that possess good detail on the clean, dry and firm finish of moderate depth and length. This should drink well early on. (86-89)/2013+

2009 Volnay "Clos des Angles": A more complex if not necessarily more elegant nose offers up aromas of cassis, violets and red currants. There is good richness to the silky and nicely detailed medium-bodied flavors that are linear and slightly austere on the otherwise lingering finish. (87-89)/2014+

2009 Volnay "Mitans": (from Mitans proper). A ripe and expressive dark berry fruit nose evidences a discreet minerality that can also be found on the finer and more elegant middle weight flavors that possess fine detail and a lovely underlying sense of tension that culminate in a long and moderately austere finish. This is a classic Volnay and really quite lovely. (89-91)/2015+

2009 Pommard: (vinified with about 15% whole clusters). A fresh and slightly floral nose of fresh raspberry and red pinot fruit gives way to nicely rich, round and quite supple flavors that are shaped by moderately firm tannins that I suspect will soften relatively quickly. The mouth coating finish displays a note of mocha and this should drink well young. (87-89)/2014+

2009 Pommard "Epenots": Here the nose is notably riper yet still reasonably fresh with aromas of cassis, violets, warm earth and a hint of underbrush that gives way to richer and more voluminous flavors blessed with an abundance of extract that renders the moderately firm tannic spine to the background on the serious but not rustic finish. (89-91)/2015+

2009 Pommard "Les Rugiens": (from both Hauts and Bas). A discreet touch of wood frames more elegant and more complex aromas of very fresh dark berry fruit, earth and wet stone notes that continue onto the detailed, vibrant and sophisticated flavors that possess fine balance and excellent length on the moderately austere finish. If this can add depth with a few years in bottle, my predicted ranged may be unduly conservative. (89-92)/2016+

Maison Benjamin Leroux (Beaune)

2009	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2009	➔ Bourgogne	red	87
2009	Clos St. Denis Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2009	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin	red	(89-91)
2009	➔ Nuits St. Georges "Aux Allots"	red	89

2009	➔ Nuits St. Georges “Aux Thorey”	red	(89-92)
2009	Mazoyères-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	87
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Hauts Jarrons” 1er	red	(87-90)
2009	➔ Volnay	red	89
2009	➔ Volnay “Clos de la Cave des Ducs” 1er	red	92
2009	➔ Volnay “Mitans” 1er	red	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 Dominique Lafon. 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. For Leroux’s take on the 2009 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 & TX, Scott Paul Wines, www.scottpaul.com, Portland, OR and Willette Wines, www.willettewines.com, NY, NY; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, UK).

2009 Bourgogne: (Leroux indicated that 95% of this was from a blend of Santenay 1ers). Mild reduction doesn’t completely hide the earthy and ripe dark berry fruit aromas but I would definitely recommend decanting this for 20 minutes or so first. The rich and delicious flavors are agreeable already and there is impressive depth and length for a wine at this level though it’s not hard to understand why. 87/2012+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune: (about 20% of the blend is declassified 1^{er}). A slightly more elegant nose of dark berry fruit and pungent Savigny-style earth where the latter component transfers to the rich, round and very supple middle weight flavors that are also already agreeable and while there is a trace of austerity on the finish, it should round out quickly. 87/2013+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Hauts Jarrons”: This is aromatically quite pretty with lovely upper register red pinot fruit aromas that are given breadth by the earth and mineral undertones. The fleshy, delicious and supple flavors possess plenty of verve and vibrancy on the moderately firm and dusty finish. (87-90)/2015+

2009 Volnay: (Leroux indicated that there was some declassified 1er juice in the blend). This is also extremely pretty and relatively high-toned with airy and cool yet ripe red pinot fruit aromas that lead to detailed, lacy and pure middle weight flavors that are underpinned by supple tannins and a trace of minerality. A lovely *villages*. 89/2014+

2009 Volnay “Mitans”: (from Mitans proper). This offers another step up in aromatic elegance with high-toned aromas of red currant, wet stone and cherry that slide gracefully into detailed and ultra-pure flavors brimming with dry extract and plenty of minerality that surfaces on the silky and delicate finish. A classic Volnay of harmony and purity. 91/2015+

2009 Volnay “Clos de la Cave des Ducs”: (from a rarely seen 1^{er} that measures only .64 ha). A slightly riper and more deeply pitched nose speaks of cassis, plum, earth and minerals that also characterize the equally well detailed and wonderfully pure flavors that possess excellent richness and drive on the velvety finish. Excellent juice with very fine medium-term potential. 92/2016+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin: (100% from Sevrées). Not surprisingly, this is completely different aromatically as the earthy, *sauvage*, ripe and cool dark berry fruit and underbrush-infused nose is not nearly as refined. The rich and mineral suffused flavors possess good richness and a velvety mouth feel on the focused and lingering finish. This is a very fine *villages* and worth a look. (89-91)/2015+

2009 Nuits St. Georges “Aux Allots”: An intensely earthy, ripe and mildly *animale* nose of both red and dark berry fruit trimmed in subtle spice hints gives way to velvety, rich and seductively textured flavors that possess good mid-palate concentration as well as a mouth coating, dusty and lingering finish. This too is quite a good *villages*. 89/2016+

2009 Nuits St. Georges “Aux Thorey”: Moderate reduction renders the nose difficult to evaluate but there is good vibrancy and punch to the extract-rich flavors that are shaped by firm tannins and excellent length. There is some finishing rusticity but overall, this offers terrific depth and length for what this is and is absolutely worth considering. (89-92)/2017+

2009 Mazoyères-Chambertin: This is also relatively strongly reduced though there is plenty of Gevrey character to the earthy, *animale* and underbrush suffused big-bodied flavors that possess good detail and excellent power on the concentrated, textured and velvety finish that displays both fine depth and length. This should be very promising. (91-94)/2021+

2009 Bonnes Mares: (from *terres blanches*). A discreet touch of wood sets off a fresh, ripe and densely fruited nose that speaks primarily of red berry fruit and stone aromas. The powerful, rich and admirably concentrated flavors evidence an overt muscularity before culminating in a driving, focused and palate staining finish. This is most impressive but note that patience will be required because despite the presence of plenty of extract, this remains very firmly structured. (92-94)/2024+

2009 Clos St. Denis: Here too there is enough wood to be seen without it actually being intrusive. The fresh, spicy and elegant nose is composed of cool, earthy and airy dark berry fruit aromas that give way to rich, full and velvety broad-shouldered flavors that possess really lovely harmony and good vibrancy, all wrapped in a mouth coating finish that delivers seriously impressive length. This too appears extremely promising. (92-94)/2024+

Domaines Matrot (Meursault)

2009	Blagny “La Pièce Sous la Bois” 1er	red	90
2009	Bourgogne	red	86
2009	➔ Meursault	red	89
2009	➔ Monthelie	red	89
2009	Volnay “Santenots” 1er	red	88

Thierry Matrot has a way with fashioning striking comparisons, observing that “as bad as the growing season was in 2008 is as good as it was in 2009. We began picking on the 9th of September and brought in only moderate yields in the regional and *villages* vineyards as the hail damage the vines suffered in 2008 definitely served to reduce the crop in 2009. Happily, yields in the 1ers was normal, which is to say in the 42 to 43 hl/ha range for the whites and a bit less for the reds.” 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).

2009 Bourgogne: A very bright and expressive nose of red and blue pinot fruit trimmed in soft warm earth notes leads to velvety, round and utterly delicious flavors that are shaped by ripe tannins and good length. A quality Bourgogne that could be aged if desired. 86/2013+

2009 Monthelie: (from very old vines situated in Les Hauts Brins that have approximately 20% pinot beurot interspersed with the pinot vines). A similar but more elegant nose gives way to middle weight flavors that possess more volume on the nicely rich and attractively textured finish that delivers good length. Like the Bourgogne, this could be drunk now with pleasure but will definitely be better with a few years of bottle age. A very fine *villages*. 89/2014+

2009 Meursault: An earthier, riper and more deeply pitched nose of red and blue pinot fruit introduces rich and delicious yet entirely serious medium-bodied flavors that possess ample amounts of dry extract that buffers well the moderate firm tannins, all wrapped in a long and moderately austere finish. This is a very good wine on any level but an even better example of Meursault *villages*. 89/2015+

2009 Volnay “Santenots”: A cornucopia of fresh fruit aromas that include violets and cassis aromas that complement the extremely ripe and very rich flavors that have a hint of *surmaturité* to the mouth coating and concentrated finish. While the balance appears to be fine, this is too ripe for my taste though some may find it to their liking. 88/2015+

2009 Blagny “La Pièce Sous la Bois”: A distinctly fresher and brighter nose of high-toned red currant and black raspberry trimmed in pretty floral hints marries into rich, round and well-detailed flavors that possess fine verve on the delicious finish. This is on the fruit-driven side at present but there is a lovely sense of harmony and I suspect that this will add depth with time in bottle. 90/2015+

Domaine François Mikulski (Meursault)

2009	Bourgogne	red	(85-87)
2009	➔ Bourgogne – Passe Tout Grains	red	86
2009	➔ Meursault “Caillerets” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	Volnay “Santenots” 1er	red	(89-92)

François Mikulski said that 2009 was “a relatively straightforward vintage. There was no real disease pressure to speak of and the harvest was such that we were able to take our time because the fruit was so clean and the weather clement. I began picking the whites on the 6th of September and continued through to the 14th where most of the pinot and gamay was picked. Yields were good because of the ultra-clean fruit and sugars were strong but not ridiculous as my highest potential alcohol was 13.2%. 2009 is a pretty if not genuinely great vintage and should please everyone as there isn’t really anything to dislike.” (A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA & TX; Enotria Winecellars Ltd., www.enotria.co.uk, Seckford and Bordeaux Index, www.bordeauxindex.com, all UK).

2009 Bourgogne – Passe Tout Grains: (from a blend of 1/3 pinot and 2/3 gamay). A ripe, peppery and earthy dark berry fruit nose leads to rich, delicious and generous flavors that possess mouth coating sap and good length on the mildly rustic finish. This offers excellent quality for what it is. 86/2012+

2009 Bourgogne: Moderate reduction disguises the nose but there is good intensity and mid-palate concentration to the delicious flavors that are shaped by mildly rustic tannins and fine length. This isn’t refined but it is complex. (85-87)/2013+

2009 Meursault “Caillerets”: A notably ripe and deep nose features aromas of red currant, blue berry, cassis, stone and earth notes that can also be found on the dense, mouth coating and intense medium-bodied flavors that possess excellent length and fine finishing balance. Lovely. (89-92)/2016+

2009 Volnay “Santenots”: This is also quite ripe but a bit more aromatically refined with pretty red pinot, plum and spice aromas that lead to firm, intense and well-detailed flavors that possess good volume and first rate complexity. I quite like this though the tannins are a bit rustic compared to those of the Caillerets. (89-92)/2017+

Maison Lucien Le Moine (Beaune)

2009	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	red	(93-96)
2009	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	red	(93-95)
2009	➔ Chambolle-Musigny “Amoureuses” 1er	red	(91-94)
2009	Chambolle-Musigny “Charmes” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	➔ Chambolle-Musigny “Haut Doix” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-93)
2009	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	red	(93-95)
2009	Clos St. Denis Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2009	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2009	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2009	Corton-Renardes Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2009	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(90-93)
2009	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin “Cazetiers” 1er	red	(92-94)
2009	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin “Estournelles St. Jacques” 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin “Lavaut St. Jacques” 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	Grands Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2009	Griotte-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2009	Mazis-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(93-95)
2009	Morey St. Denis “Clos des Ormes” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	➔ Morey St. Denis “Genevrières” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	➔ Nuits St. Georges “Les Cailles” 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	➔ Nuits St. Georges “Les St. Georges” 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	➔ Nuits St. Georges “Vaucrains” 1er	red	(91-93)

2009	Pommard “Epenots” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	➔ Pommard “Les Grands Epenots” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	Pommard “Rugiens” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	Richebourg Grand Cru	red	(93-96)
2009	Romanée St. Vivant Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2009	➔ Volnay “Caillerets” 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	Volnay “Santenots” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	➔ Vosne-Romanée “Gaudichots” 1er	red	(93-96)
2009	➔ Vosne-Romanée “Malconsorts” 1er	red	(92-94)
2009	➔ Vosne-Romanée “Suchots” 1er	red	(91-93)

Mounir and Rotem Saouma established their two-person *micro-négoce* in 1999. They describe the 2009 vintage as unique in that “typically, when you taste a pinot grape, you enjoy the juice and the pulp and then spit out the skin as it’s mildly astringent. In 2009 the skins were sweet too. Which we believe is in a way representative of the entire vintage, which is to say that nothing was exaggerated. It’s the best vintage that we have ever seen and that includes 2005. The tenderness, finesse and *terroir* transparency are simply magnificent.” As you might reasonably expect from two people who focus on buying the best new wine that they can and then mature those wines in barrel, team Saouma told me that in 2009 the *élevage* was critical to each wine achieving its full potential. They explained that long contact with the lees was absolutely essential and thus they delayed the malos for as long as possible. Further, because the lees were so clean due to the overall top flight health of the fruit in 2009, there was really no risk in having extended lees contact. And consistent with their explanation, when I tasted the wines in February, now 18 months after the harvest, the ‘09s still had not been racked. The Le Moine ‘09s, like the ‘07s and ‘08s before them, are again most impressive though their sources in Gevrey and Vosne seem to be a cut above those in the other villages. One other point bears mentioning, which is that the wines always have noticeable residual CO₂ 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).

2009 Volnay “Santenots”: Strong reduction. Otherwise this is very Volnay in character with good minerality and volume to the precise, intense and delicious medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a serious, linear and persistent finish. This will require from 12 to 15 years to be at its best. (90-92)/2021+

2009 Volnay “Caillerets”: Here too the nose is strongly reduced. There is ample minerality and dry extract though to the stony, precise and refined flavors that culminate in a dry, clean, linear and pure finish that delivers outstanding persistence. A classy wine of harmony and style that is built to age. (91-93)/2021+

2009 Pommard “Rugiens”: A ripe but fresh nose speaks of plum, earth and wet stone nuances, all of which continue onto the rich and relatively dense middle weight flavors that possess fine volume and a taut muscularity that also suffuses the long, intense and palate staining finish. This is not as complex as some in the range though this may come with bottle age and if so, the wine should merit the upper end of my predicted range. (89-92)/2019+

2009 Pommard “Epenots”: (from Petits Epenots). Strong reduction. There is wonderful richness and a velvety texture to the very ripe flavors that are shaped by the phenolically mature and firm tannins as well as a wonderfully persistent and enveloping finish. There isn’t the detail of the Rugiens but the finish offers slightly better length. A choice. (89-92)/2019+

2009 Pommard “Les Grands Epenots”: A complex and expressive nose combines aromas of plum, earth and red currant that introduce richer yet tighter and more precise big-bodied flavors blessed with an abundance of tannin-buffering dry extract that renders the very firm structure almost invisible. That said, this is also clearly built to age, indeed this will need all of 12 to 15 years to reach its apogee. (90-92)/2021+

2009 Morey St. Denis “Genevrières”: A deeply pitched and notably ripe nose offers up both red and dark berry fruit plus plenty of earth influence that transfers over to the rich and quite full-bodied flavors that evidence notes of spice and smoke on the firmly structured and admirably persistent finish. This is *sauvage* in character without being rustic. (90-92)/2021+

2009 Morey St. Denis “Clos des Ormes”: Here the red berry fruit also exhibits a nose of underbrush, earth and a spice component that leads to supple yet nicely detailed, round and utterly delicious flavors that possess very good depth on the sneaky long and quite subtle finish. An understated wine of harmony and balance. (89-92)/2021+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin “Estournelles St. Jacques”: A cool red berry and kirsch-like nose also offers up notes of *animale* and stone that can be found on the elegant, pure and refined middle weight flavors brimming with more minerality on the detailed, understated and linear finish. This moderately austere effort is an exercise in harmony and is text book Estournelles. (91-93)/2021+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin “Lavaut St. Jacques”: Reduction. There is excellent verve though to the detached and restrained mineral-inflected medium-bodied flavors that possess strikingly good detail and focus on the mildly *animale*, linear and austere finish. This too is very Lavaut in character and should age extremely well as the balance and underlying material are impeccable. (91-93)/2024+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin “Cazetiers”: A spicy, earthy and very *sauvage* nose of red and dark berry fruit plus stone notes leads to very rich, serious and tautly muscular flavors that display excellent power and volume and culminate in a deep, long and highly complex finish. This stunning effort will also require 15 to 20 years to arrive at its peak. (92-94)/2024+

2009 Nuits St. Georges “Les Cailles”: Moderate reduction blocks an evaluation of the nose. The detailed, intense and beautifully precise medium-bodied flavors possess good volume and fine length on the mocha-infused finish. Despite a high level of ripeness and extremely firm tannins this is essentially a wine of finesse and elegance. (90-93)/2024+

2009 Nuits St. Georges “Vaucraains”: Reduction. As one would expect, this is bigger, richer and more powerful with broad-scaled and overtly muscular flavors that are extremely serious and somber, all wrapped in a palate staining and imposingly structured finish that exhibits huge length. There isn't the refinement of the Les Cailles or Les St. Georges but for fans of power Burgundy, this delivers. (91-93)/2026+

2009 Nuits St. Georges “Les St. Georges”: Reduction. The more elegant and attractively textured flavors possess less of a velvety quality and more rigor to the rich, complex and beautifully detailed finish that oozes plenty of mouth coating extract and a mocha character. This is riper than I personally prefer but quite good all the same. (90-93)/2021+

2009 Chambolle-Musigny “Charmes”: A high-toned and appealingly elegant nose features aromas of ripe cherry and red pinot fruit that precede moderately complex and delicious middle weight flavors that possess good precision but not the depth of the best 1ers in the range. This is by no means simple but there is a dimension missing relative to the Les St. Georges for example. (89-91)/2019+

2009 Chambolle-Musigny “Haut Doix”: A seductive nose of sandalwood, spice and very fresh red currant aromas gives way to moderately complex and relatively fine middle weight flavors that ooze a discreet minerality on the harmonious, sappy and understated finish. This is very Chambolle in basic character and really very pretty. (90-92)/2019+

2009 Chambolle-Musigny “Amoureuses”: A highly complex, indeed kaleidoscopically so, nose of plum, violet, spice and red and blue pinot fruit complements to perfection the rich, generous and delicious flavors that do not, at least not at present, quite have the beguiling of the nose, all wrapped in a stylish, lingering and palate coating finish. This should be lovely and the minerality adds a bit of lift to the backend. (91-94)/2021+

2009 Vosne-Romanée “Suchots”: (from the upper portion of the vineyard). Reduction and plenty of wood influence make for a difficult to appreciate nose. By contrast, there is more to like with the rich, velvety and mouth coating flavors blessed with plenty of dry extract that buffers well the suave and mocha-infused finish. There is plenty of flesh and volume to the mid-palate and once this is done with its youthful awkwardness, it should be excellent. (91-93)/2021+

2009 Vosne-Romanée “Malconsorts”: A spicy but reserved densely fruited nose exhibits notes of ripe black pinot and cassis aromas that are followed by rich, pure and palate staining flavors that possess plenty of grip and muscle, all wrapped in a long, serious, complex and gorgeously well balanced if quite firmly structured finale. In a word, terrific. (92-94)/2024+

2009 Vosne-Romanée “Gaudichots”: A highly floral and extremely expressive nose offers a cornucopia of spice nuances to the ripe, pure and airy red and black berry fruit aromas. The rich, intense and vibrant medium-bodied flavors exude a fine minerality on the composed and focused yet explosive finish that exhibits stunning length and a brilliant amount of underling tension that almost makes this seem as though it's vibrating in the mouth. In brief, this is seriously impressive and among a short list of the very best 1ers of the 2009 vintage. (93-96)/2024+

2009 Corton-Bressandes: Light reduction cannot completely hide the red berry fruit, warm earth and wet stone aromas. There is good richness to the relatively refined and admirably pure broad-shouldered flavors that possess excellent precision and detail on the balanced, classy and hugely long finish. A classic Bressandes though note that patience will be required. (92-95)/2024+

2009 Corton-Renardes: A classic Renardes nose speaks of spice, earth, cassis, plum and plenty of the *sauvage* that also extends to the rich, full-bodied and velvety flavors that possess excellent power and muscle that culminate in a focused, palate staining and impressive long finish. This serious effort should age extremely well and moreover, be well worth the investment of your patience. (92-94)/2024+

2009 Clos St. Denis: (from 90+ year old vines). Reduction cannot totally hide the class of this extract-rich offering that completely buffers the firm structure that surfaces on the dazzlingly complex and persistent finish. This stylish effort is impeccably well-balanced and should amply reward 15 to 20 years of cellar time. (92-94)/2024+

2009 Clos de la Roche: Reduction. The broad-shouldered flavors are bigger, richer and deeper as the underlying material seems to have endless waves of depth on the extremely ripe and mocha-infused finish that delivers simply huge length. To its credit, this well-endowed effort underscores perfectly the difference between a fine Clos St. Denis and a great Clos de la Roche. Patience will also be required here. (93-95)/2024+

2009 Clos de Vougeot: Moderate reduction hides everything but the intense earthy character that also extends to the quite serious, precise and extract-rich flavors that are supported by phenolically mature and extremely firm tannins as well as an extremely ripe mocha-suffused and mouth coating finish that is youthfully austere. (91-94)/2024+

2009 Echézeaux: (from En Orveaux). A highly spiced nose of hoisin and anise adds breadth to the sexy blue and black pinot fruit aromas that give way to rich, sappy and mouth coating big-bodied flavors that possess excellent volume and plenty of mid-palate density before culminating in a mocha and oak-infused finish that exhibits a dusty quality. (90-93)/2021+

2009 Grands Echézeaux: A highly floral and equally spicy nose speaks of earth, red currant and plum aromas that complement the rich, intense and lightly mineral-inflected broad-scaled flavors that possess plenty of overt muscularity on the powerful, driving and palate staining finish. The tannins are quite evident and it will require upwards of 20 years for this to completely resolve the extremely firm tannic spine but it should be well worth the wait. (92-95)/2026+

2009 Charmes-Chambertin: (from both Charmes and Mazoyères). An earthy and extremely ripe nose of red berry liqueur aromas is very much in keeping with the sappy yet detailed and lightly mineral-inflected big-bodied flavors that are quite linear and focused on the lingering finish. It's interesting as the texture here is completely different from that displayed by the Bonnes Mares, which is neither good nor bad though the underlying material is not quite as strong. (91-93)/2021+

2009 Mazis-Chambertin: (from both Mazis-Haut and Bas). Very mild reduction detracts only a bit from the otherwise intensely *sauvage*, earth and wild red berry fruit aromas. There is excellent richness yet fine detail to the mineral-driven, intense and superbly complex broad-based flavors that are underpinned by extremely firm yet ripe tannins and stunning length. I very much like this as it's text book Mazis and should age superbly well. (93-95)/2026+

2009 Griotte-Chambertin: A more elegant if slightly less complex nose of very ripe red currant, plum, warm earth and subtle spice hints slides seamlessly into rich, generous and very fleshy flavors that are supported by notably finer tannins and excellent length. This doesn't have the sheer depth and length of the amazing Mazis but I admire this for its understated class. (92-94)/2021+

2009 Chambertin-Clos de Bèze: Here the nose is similar to that of the Mazis though this is a bit spicier with plenty of the same *sauvage* character that bleeds over to the rich, supple, detailed and intensely mineral-driven big-bodied flavors that brim with dry extract on the restrained, focused and imposingly powerful finish. This should be fantastic in time as the balance and underlying sense of tension is marvelous. (93-95)/2026+

2009 Bonnes Mares: (from both Chambolle and Morey). Moderate reduction kills an evaluation of the nose. However there is marvelous density to the serious and muscular broad-shouldered flavors that brim with tannin buffering dry extract and flat out incredible length, indeed it's possible that this, along with the Richebourg, possesses the longest finish of any wine in the range. A stunner of a Bonnes Mares built for the long haul. (93-96)/2026+

2009 Romanée St. Vivant: A mildly floral and intensely spicy nose features notes of violets, rose petal, hoisin, soy and anise that add excellent breadth to the red currant aromas. The rich, detailed and utterly seductive medium-bodied flavors possess striking complexity to the impressively long finish. As good as this is, and it is spectacular, it doesn't quite have the sheer depth of material of the Richebourg even though it's close. (92-95)/2024+

2009 Richebourg: A reserved and almost reluctant nose of elegant dried rose petal, violet, red berry liqueur and a wonderfully broad range of spice nuances. The minerally, rich and regally powerful broad-scaled flavors are taut and classy as the underlying tension is palpable on the precise, driving and explosively long and linear finish. This is quite youthfully austere at present and may remain that way for some years as the flavors seem quite introverted and backward today. But, given enough cellar time, this has the potential to be brilliant. (93-96)/2029+

Domaine Hubert de Montille (Volnay)

2009	➔ Beaune “Grèves” 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	Beaune “Sizies” 1er	red	89
2009	➔ Beaune “Les Perrières” 1er	red	91
2009	➔ Bourgogne	red	87
2009	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2009	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2009	➔ Nuits St. Georges “Aux St. Juliens”	red	89
2009	➔ Nuits St. Georges “Aux Thorey” 1er	red	92
2009	➔ Pommard “Epenots” 1er	red	93
2009	➔ Pommard “Les Pézerolles” 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	➔ Pommard “Les Rugiens-Bas” 1er	red	(92-94)
2009	Volnay “Brouillards” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	Volnay “Carelles” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	➔ Volnay “Les Champans” 1er	red	92
2009	➔ Volnay “Les Mitans” 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	➔ Volnay “Taillepieds” 1er	red	(92-94)
2009	➔ Vosne-Romanée “Les Malconsorts” 1er	red	(92-95)
2009	➔ Vosne-Romanée “Les Malconsorts - Christiane” 1er	red	(93-95)

Etienne de Montille describes the 2009 vintage as having produced “sexy and irresistible wines that should be hugely popular. I began picking on the 6th of September and the real trick was to preserve the freshness in the wines. Potential alcohols were in the 12.3 to 13.3% range and while the fruit was ultra-clean, there was still plenty of sorting to be done. By this though I don’t mean fruit that was rot-affected or not clean but rather fruit that might have been slightly figgy or less than completely fresh. The vinifications were easy and the stems were ripe so I used, in most cases, a relatively high proportion of them. What is clear at this early junction is that 2009 is, at a minimum, a very good vintage but it’s an open question as to whether it’s truly great. But even if it’s not a great vintage, it’s not a vintage like 2005 as there isn’t the same quality, or quantity of tannins. The ‘09s are lighter and a bit more elegant as well and as such, they will probably always be accessible, even when young. I don’t see them needing anywhere near as much time as the ‘05s to come around, which is to say around 10 years for even the most serious of the ‘09s.” As the scores and commentaries suggest, this is a knockout set of wines and many of them are not to be missed. Perhaps more importantly, de Montille’s emphasis on keeping only the freshest fruit paid big dividends as the aromatics are almost like a hypothetical blend of his ‘08s and his ‘09s rather than the fruit compute noses of many ‘09s. (Beaune Imports, www.beauneimports.com, Berkeley, CA, Martin Scott Wines, www.martinscottwines.com, Lake Success, NY and Veritas Imports, www.veritaswine.com, CA & TX; 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).

2009 Bourgogne: (0% stems). A pretty and very pinot nose of red berry fruit and subtle earth notes leads to fresh, vibrant and attractively cool middle weight flavors that possess a lovely sense of definition on the solidly complex and persistent finish. This could be enjoyed now or held for 2 to 3 years first. A quality Bourgogne. 87/2013+

2009 Beaune “Sizies”: (from a 1 ha parcel; 30% stems). An elegant and ultra-pure nose of essence of pinot fruit, violets and rose petal that is liberally laced with wet stone and attractive spice nuances. The equally pure, refined and generous medium-bodied flavors possess fine balance and length though not the complexity of the best of these Beaune 1ers. 89/2016+

2009 Beaune “Les Perrières”: (33% stems). An extremely fresh and expressive nose speaks of floral notes, red currant and hints of red berry liqueur while the mineral-inflected and well-detailed flavors possess real verve on the energetic and wonderfully harmonious finish. I quite like the style of this as it’s a wine of grace and harmony. 91/2017+

2009 Beaune “Grèves”: (66% stems). Here there is a more obvious floral and spice influence to the earthier and more serious, even somber dark berry fruit aromas that introduce cool, intense and almost pungently mineral-infused medium weight flavors blessed with plenty of tannin-buffering dry extract, all wrapped in a firm and impressively long finish. This should reward up to a decade of cellar time, perhaps a bit more. (91-93)/2019+

2009 Volnay “Carelles”: (66% stems). A classic Volnay nose that is stony, airy, and delicate offers up a cool essence of red pinot fruit that leads to defined, pure and quite fine flavors that are more refined than those of the Grèves but not as complex or imposing. Still, this understated and restrained effort is a real beauty with excellent persistence. (89-92)/2017+

2009 Volnay “Brouillards”: (66% stems). This is aromatically much more reticent at present with more obvious floral and spice influence along with the somber and quite earthy red berry fruit notes. There is good richness and intensity to the medium-bodied and fleshy flavors that possess an emphatic finishing austerity. I like the Cistercian character this displays though it will not be to everyone’s taste. Note that I suspect the current reserved quality will pass with a few years of bottle age. (89-91)/2019+

2009 Volnay “Les Champans”: (from a mix of 10+ and 30+ year old vines; 66% stems). This offers a notable step up in aromatic breadth with intense floral nuances as well as earth, wet stone, underbrush and a hint of spice. The rich, powerful and focused flavors possess plenty of dry extract that confers a velvety texture to the mid-palate yet the moderately austere finish is quite fine, indeed almost delicate. A lovely effort that should age beautifully. 92/2019+

2009 Volnay “Les Mitans”: (25+ year old vines; 100% stems). A fascinating nose of dried rose petal, spice and ultra-pure essence of pinot liqueur aromas gives way to beautifully detailed and lacy middle weight flavors that are precise to the point of being crystalline, indeed this is like rolling rocks around in your mouth on the delicate but driving finish. This understated effort should be excellent after 6 to 8 years of cellar time. (91-93)/2017+

2009 Volnay “Taillepieds”: (100% stems). A restrained yet perfumed nose is the essence of wet stone and ripe pinot, all trimmed in dried floral notes. Like the Mitans, this is also positively crystalline as the flavors seem to be composed from liquid rock and deliver positively huge length along with the hallmark finishing austerity of a young Taillepieds. A highly impressive effort of impeccable balance. (92-94)/2021+

2009 Pommard “Epenots”: (66% stems). A discrete touch of wood sets off a seductively spicy nose of warm earth, floral notes and red currant that leads to very fresh and pure medium weight plus flavors that possess plenty of mid-palate concentration on the delicious, intense and lingering finish. This is not a big Epenots by the standards of the *appellation* but there is excellent flavor authority and I very much like the sophisticated mouth feel. Recommended. 93/2021+

2009 Pommard “Les Pézerolles”: (33% stems). Like the Taillepieds, this is also highly perfumed with rose petal, fresh red berries, wet stone and an earthy component that can also be found on the equally mineral-inflected, cool and pure flavors that evidence excellent detail and real verve on the delicious, intense and persistent finish. A lovely and understated Pommard of finesse. (91-93)/2019+

2009 Pommard “Les Rugiens-Bas”: (66% stems). A relatively high-toned and beautifully complex nose of stone-infused red currant, raspberry and spice hints marries into supple and silky-textured medium-bodied flavors that tighten up considerably on the explosive and intensely mineral-driven finish. I very much like the focus and calm poise this powerful effort exudes and like many of the ‘09 de Montille wines, this should age effortlessly. (92-94)/2021+

2009 Corton-Clos du Roi: (100% stems). Soft wood frames the spicy and discreetly earth and *animale*-infused mix of red and dark berry fruit aromas where the earth continues onto the big, muscular and powerful flavors that brim with an abundance of dry extract that renders the firm tannic spine less prominent on the serious, long and explosive finish. This is a big wine with plenty of focused brawn yet there is almost no rusticity. (92-94)/2024+

2009 Clos de Vougeot: (100% stems). An elegant and ultra-pure red pinot fruit nose is liberally laced with warm earth and floral nuances, both of which can be found on the equally pure and almost painfully intense flavors that possess excellent power and pin point detail, all wrapped in a youthfully austere and dramatically long finish. If this can add depth over the next decade or so, it should merit the top of my predicted range. (91-94)/2024+

2009 Nuits St. Georges “Aux St. Juliens”: (% stems). An intensely floral component adds elegance to the otherwise fresh and earthy red pinot fruit that evidences a *sauvage* hint. The pure, intense and vibrant medium-bodied flavors possess a discreet touch of minerality that adds lift to the understated and relatively fine finish. A lovely *villages*. 89/2015+

2009 Nuits St. Georges “Aux Thorey”: (located at the southern end of the Vosne section of Nuits; 100% stems). A deft application of wood does not interfere with the clear expression of the otherwise fresh, cool and admirably pure red berry fruit and spice aromas. There is good richness to the refined, detailed and lightly mineral-infused flavors that are shaped by a firm lashing of ripe tannins and noticeable finishing austerity on the long and mouth coating finish. A serious Nuits. 92/2021+

2009 Vosne-Romanée “Les Malconsorts”: (100% stems). A spicy, cool, elegant and very fresh nose features notes of hoisin, soy, anise and sandalwood while seamlessly integrating with rich, full-bodied and tautly muscular flavors that possess a silky mouth feel and supple mid-palate yet the robust tannins are extremely firm as is the explosive finish. Despite the muscular aspect, this is essentially an elegant wine that is more in the vein of a gymnast than a weight lifter. (92-95)/2024+

2009 Vosne-Romanée “Les Malconsorts - Christiane”: (100% stems). Mild wood sets off a similar if perhaps not quite as fresh a nose though the sophisticated flavors are denser and more concentrated with more obvious dry extract that confers a velvety and seductive texture onto the serious, long and austere finish. While the difference is relatively minor, there is a bit more underlying material as well as slightly better length though whether this will make a material difference at full maturity is an open question. No matter the answer to that question, this is a striking wine of immense potential. (93-95)/2024+

Domaine Bernard Moreau (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2009	Bourgogne	red	85
2009	Chassagne-Montrachet – Vieilles Vignes	red	87
2009	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot - La Cardeuse” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	Volnay “Caillerets” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	Volnay “Santenots” 1er	red	(86-89)

Bernard Moreau’s sons Alexandre and Benoit told me that 2009 was a vintage that “we were afraid that we might have low acidities and thus not be able to make the style of wine that we strongly prefer. We elected to begin picking on the 9th of September and brought in normal yields as the pinot was quite clean and there was almost no sorting necessary. We decided to do a relatively soft vinification as the tannins were easily extracted and we didn’t want to inadvertently create excessively structured wines. Now that they have completed their malos, while it’s true that there isn’t the acidity of say 2007 or 2008, they are balanced just the same. In fact, they remind us a bit of the 1999s.” (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).

2009 Bourgogne: (from Chassagne vines and 100% barrel aged in 4 to 5 year old oak). A ripe but fresh and very pinot nose has added breadth due to pepper and warm earth nuances where the latter element continues onto the delicious and solidly persistent finish that is only mildly rustic. This should drink well young. 85/2012+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet – Vieilles Vignes: (from 35+ year old vines). A similar if more complex nose leads to rich, intense and suave middle weight flavors that also possess more complex and slightly bigger flavors that are shaped by somewhat firmer ripe tannins and good if not exceptional length. 87/2014+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot - La Cardeuse”: (vinified with 33% whole clusters). A very ripe nose of pepper, earth, violets and pungent earth aromas marries into rich, full, suave and opulent medium weight flavors that possess excellent complexity on the mouth coating and lingering finish. This is really quite good and should age well. (89-92)/2016+

2009 Volnay “Santenots”: (from purchased grapes). A discreet touch of wood sets off very ripe dark berry fruit and plum aromas that lead to rich, round, suave and mouth coating flavors that seem somewhat flat and heavy on the moderately persistent finish. While this avoids being roasted it is riper than I can personally appreciate. (86-89)/2014+

2009 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”: (from purchased grapes). This is significantly fresher than the Santenots though here too the nose is quite ripe with cassis and red berry liqueur aromas that are cut with warm earth notes. The opulent and suave medium-bodied flavors possess good concentration and power on the persistent finish. (89-91)/2016+

2009 Volnay “Caillerets”: (from purchased grapes and vinified with 33% whole clusters). An extremely ripe nose of cassis, plum liqueur and wet stone nuances give way to rich, intense and detailed flavors that also evidence obvious minerality on the quite powerful and notably persistent finish. This is a bit too ripe for me but there is no denying that this is a quality effort as it’s balanced. (89-92)/2016+

Domaine Pierre Morey (Meursault)

2009	Bourgogne	red	(85-87)
2009	Meursault "Les Durots"	red	(87-89)
2009	Monthelie	red	(87-89)
2009	➔ Pommard "Les Grands Epenots" 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	➔ Volnay "Les Santenots" 1er	red	(90-92)

Pierre Morey (who for 20 years was the winemaker for Domaine Leflaive but has now retired from that position), commented that 2009 was "much easier than 2008 if not necessarily an easy vintage. The flowering was early and uniform and while July was tumultuous with all of the rain, there wasn't much disease pressure. We picked from the 7th to the 14th of September and brought in ultra-clean fruit that possessed very good potential alcohols that ranged from 12.5 to 14% with an average in the 12.8 to 13.2% range. There was almost no sorting work required and no chaptalization either. By contrast, given how good the growing season was, yields were good but not exceptional in white but relatively generous in red. As to the wines, there seems to be a prevailing view that they're going to be very open and remain that way all their lives but I am not so sure. They certainly changed a lot during the course of the *élevage* and they are much firmer now than when we first racked them to barrel. But the good news is that whenever they open, they're going to be lovely wines." (Wilson & Daniels, www.wilsondaniels.com, St. Helena, CA; 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).

2009 Bourgogne: (from vines situated in Volnay). An earthy and mildly rustic nose of red and dark berry fruit aromas leads to nicely rich flavors that possess good volume for a regional wine, all wrapped in a moderately firm finish. (85-87)/2014+

2009 Monthelie: This too is quite ripe and pungently earthy yet there isn't the same mild rusticity displayed by the Bourgogne as the plum and violet aromas add a touch of elegance. There is good richness and mid-palate volume to the medium-bodied flavors that possess a velvety mouth feel though the finish is on the rustic side. Still, this is quite good for its humble *appellation*. (87-89)/2015+

2009 Meursault "Les Durots": (from a vineyard not far from Santenots). A somber and intensely earthy nose of ripe dark berry fruit and plum aromas gives way to rich, dense and relatively full-bodied flavors that possess a serious, intense and firm finish that is a bit rustic but notably less than is typical. (87-89)/2015+

2009 Volnay "Les Santenots": As it always is, this offers a huge step up in aromatic elegance with a pure and ripe red berry fruit, spice and stone infused nose. The firm, serious, intense and well-concentrated flavors are given added lift by the presence of ample minerality on the firm, balanced and highly persistent finish. Lovely juice. (90-92)/2017+

2009 Pommard "Les Grands Epenots": Strong reduction blocks an appreciation of the nose but there is good vibrancy to the wonderfully rich, dense and serious big-bodied flavors that are blessed with an abundance of dry extract that helps to buffer what are very firm but ripe tannins. Complementing the powerful flavors is a strikingly long finish and this is built to reward 10 to 12 years of cellar time. (90-93)/2019+

Maison Morey-Blanc (Meursault)

2009	Aloxe-Corton "Clos du Chapitre" 1er	red	(89-91)
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See Domaine Pierre Morey (directly above) for comments as Maison Morey-Blanc is owned and operated by Morey. He told me that since 2005 he has cut back his *négociant* activities on the red side and only produced this one wine. (Wilson & Daniels, www.wilsondaniels.com, St. Helena, CA; 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).

2009 Aloxe-Corton "Clos du Chapitre": Strong reduction renders the nose difficult to evaluate. Otherwise, the rich, full-bodied and well-concentrated flavors possess a mouth coating texture and good balance on the firm but not especially rustic finish that delivers fine length. This should reward up to a decade of cellaring. (89-91)/2017+

Domaine Morey-Coffinet (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2009	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet	red	89
2009	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean” 1er	red	90
2009	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot” 1er	red	91

Michel Morey calls 2009 “a lovely vintage that should give a lot of pleasure. If there’s a fault, it is that there is perhaps a small lack of underlying tension, which is due to there being scarcely enough acidity to maintain the proper balance. By contrast, the reds are extremely pretty and while they may not be long agers, they will be very pretty young.” (Martine’s Wines, Novato, CA; Richards Walford, Bibendum, Berry Brothers & Rudd, The Wine Society and Lay & Wheeler, all UK).

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet: Classic ruby color. An expressive and quite pretty nose of pepper, earth and ripe raspberries leads to rich and utterly delicious flavors that possess good volume but also good detail on the attractively textured finish. This is a fine *villages* that should drink well young. 89/2013+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean”: A slightly riper nose speaks of stone and red berry liqueur aromas that are in keeping with the equally delicious and attractive medium-bodied flavors that exude a lovely spice component and a lingering and balanced finish that displays almost no rusticity. This too is very well done and should drink well young. 90/2013+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot”: (from the sub-climats of Fairendes and Francemont). A similar if slightly less elegant but more complex nose that evidences more obvious earth influence gives way to fresh, rich and delicious medium-bodied flavors that possess plenty of mid-palate concentration and fine volume on the long and balanced finish. This is a terrific effort that has so much pinot baby fat that it could be enjoyed now though it should age over the medium-term too if desired. 91/2014+

Domaine Albert Morot (Beaune)

2009	Beaune “Les Aigrots”	red	(89-92)
2009	➔ Beaune “Les Bressandes” 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	Beaune “Cents Vignes” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	➔ Beaune “Grèves” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	➔ Beaune “Les Marconnets” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	➔ Beaune “Les Teurons” 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	➔ Beaune “Toussaints” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	➔ Pommard	red	(89-91)
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune “La Bataillère” 1er	red	(88-91)
2008	Beaune “Les Aigrots”	red	89
2008	Beaune “Les Bressandes” 1er	red	89
2008	Beaune “Cents Vignes” 1er	red	88
2008	Beaune “Grèves” 1er	red	88
2008	Beaune “Les Marconnets” 1er	red	90
2008	Beaune “Les Teurons” 1er	red	90
2008	Beaune “Toussaints” 1er	red	86
2008	Savigny-lès-Beaune “La Bataillère” 1er	red	87

Geoffroy Choppin de Janvry said that 2009 is “not a typical Burgundian vintage. While the quality of the wines is very good, they are built on their fruit and they’re very round and suave. They are more international in style as opposed to the 2008 vintage which is more typical of the region. I began picking on the 11th of September and brought in very ripe fruit that in hindsight might have been better if it had been harvested one day earlier. We had no significant sorting losses to speak of though they were a bit higher than in 2005. Potential alcohols were in the 13.5% range and thus there was no chaptalization. The wines should be popular as they’re easy to appreciate and I think that they will age better than many people presently think.” Fans of the domaine will notice a new wine in the form of a *villages* Pommard. (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).

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “La Bataillère”: (a *monopole* within Les Vergelesses). A notably ripe nose of red currant, blue berry and plenty of Savigny-style earth precedes detailed, energetic and fresh flavors that are supported by phenolically mature tannins and a touch of finishing austerity on the sappy and mouth coating finish. (88-91)/2015+

2009 Beaune “Cents Vignes”: This is also quite ripe but the fresh cherry aromas stop short of being *surmature*. The rich, round and quite supple middle weight flavors possess good verve and mid-palate concentration, all wrapped in a lingering finish that delivers solid depth. (89-91)/2016+

2009 Beaune “Les Marconnets”: (a .67 ha parcel of 50+ year old vines). Ripe black berry and cherry aromas cut with plenty of earth and underbrush give way to very rich, full-bodied and seductively textured flavors that possess seemingly buckets of dry extract that render the otherwise firm and dusty tannins almost invisible on the serious and impressively persistent finish. This should reward up to a decade of cellar time. (90-92)/2017+

2009 Beaune “Toussaints”: A beguiling nose features black berry and red currant liqueur that merges into rich, generous and opulent flavors that possess a touch of finishing asperity that presently offsets the mid-palate sweetness. There is excellent concentration and a high level of phenolic maturity to the structural elements and that should also amply reward mid-term cellaring. (90-92)/2016+

2009 Beaune “Les Aigrots”: (2001 was the first vintage for this wine from 15+ year old vines). An earthy yet relatively high-toned nose speaks of red raspberry, violets and plum aromas that marry into rich and full-bodied yet finely detailed and mineral-infused flavors that culminate in a mildly austere finish of very solid length. This is on the awkward side today but the underlying material is such that it should harmonize once in bottle. (89-92)/2017+

2009 Beaune “Grèves”: An elegant and admirably pure nose offers up very fresh and overtly ripe red berry fruit liqueur, wet stone and a hint of *animale* that can also be found on the rich, vibrant and borderline chewy middle weight flavors that also display a hint of finishing asperity on the firm, long and mouth coating backend. (90-92)/2017+

2009 Beaune “Les Bressandes”: Cassis and plum aromas are nuanced by hints of minerality that continue onto the refined, pure and energetic medium-bodied flavors that are blessed with an abundance of dry extract that buffers the very firm tannic spine on the unusually powerful and persistent finish. This should be excellent in time as it has everything that it needs to improve for up to a decade. (90-93)/2017+

2009 Beaune “Les Teurons”: Moderate reduction renders the nose difficult to evaluate but there is good energy and tension to the classy, pure and refined middle weight flavors that display focused power on the serious and very ripe finish that delivers excellent length. This is very stylish and should reward well 10 to 12 years in the cellar. (91-93)/2019+

2009 Pommard: (from La Rue au Porc). An earthy and quite somber nose of red berries, plum and a floral hint slides gracefully into serious, powerful and admirably well-concentrated flavors that possess impressive power and length. This is an excellent *villages* and is worth investigating if you have the patience to allow it to mature. (89-91)/2019+

The Morot '08s were bottled in March, 2010.

2008 Savigny-lès-Beaune “La Bataillère”: (a *monopole* within Les Vergelesses). Very earthy and fresh dark berry fruit aromas lead to supple, round and delicious middle weight flavors that possess an attractive mouth feel, all wrapped in a somewhat tangy and slightly drying finish that may or may not round out in time. My score offers the benefit of the doubt to this compact and firm effort. 87/2015+

2008 Beaune “Cents Vignes”: A very pretty nose that is notably floral in character also evidences notes of earth and red pinot fruit that precede supple, round and liting medium-bodied flavors that possess both good energy and detail on the similarly firm and compact but not dry finish as the underlying phenolics appear to be slightly riper. 88/2015+

2008 Beaune “Les Marconnets”: (a .67 ha parcel of 50+ year old vines). A pretty and ripe nose features aromas of violets, earth and cool red pinot fruit that introduce rich and relatively full-bodied flavors that possess a textured mouth feel, all wrapped in an austere and serious finish. This won't be for everyone while young but if given a decade in the cellar, it should be lovely. 90/2018+

2008 Beaune “Toussaints”: Not surprisingly, the aromatic profile here is quite different with ripe and quite somber red and blue pinot fruit plus a hint of the *sauvage* that can also be found on the supple, round and relatively accessible medium-bodied flavors that possess a smooth and silky mid-palate though the finish is a bit dry and tangy. 86/2014+

2008 Beaune “Les Aigrots”: (2001 was the first vintage for this wine from 15+ year old vines). An attractive and expressive nose speaks of dark cherry, black berry and damp earth aromas that introduce seductively textured flavors that possess a sophisticated mouth feel as well as a discreet minerality before culminating in a persistent and balanced finish that does display a bit of youthful asperity. 89/2016+

2008 Beaune “Grèves”: This possesses the most complex aromatic profile to this point with notes of black cherry, spice hints and obvious earth influence that continues onto the soil-driven middle weight flavors that are forward, supple and relatively accessible, all wrapped in an austere but solidly persistent finish. 88/2016+

2008 Beaune “Les Bressandes”: An expressive and high-toned nose offers up notes of red currant and wild raspberry trimmed in soft earth nuances that also characterize the nicely rich and round medium-bodied flavors that display fine depth and length. I like the palpable sense of underlying tension and minerality and while there is the same hint of youthful asperity here as elsewhere in the range in 2008, this should mature nicely over the medium-term. 89/2016+

2008 Beaune “Les Teurons”: Mild reduction cannot completely dampen the complex nose that evidences an appealing spice component before merging smoothly into rich, supple and delicious middle weight flavors that culminate in an austere and linear finish. This is presently borderline strict in character yet there is ample underlying material which should permit this to mature gracefully though I doubt that it will ever be a seductively textured effort. 90/2018+

Domaine Michel Niellon (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2009	Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos de la Maltroie” 1er	red	88
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Michel Niellon is obviously world famous for the excellent whites that he consistently crafts. But relatively few people know that he also makes a red or two because in the past, Niellon has always been reluctant to present them, modestly explaining that he doesn't think they are very good because they're too light. Thus I was quite surprised when he asked if I was interested in trying his most recent effort and the result is below. (Diageo Château and Estate Wines, www.diageowines.com, NY, NY; O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com and Robert Rolls & Co., Tel: 020 76061166, all UK).

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos de la Maltroie”: Light ruby. A pretty and highly expressive nose of raspberry, pepper and a hint of earth leads to nicely rich and round flavors with an attractively fresh character and solid detail on the delicious finish. This is clearly meant to be enjoyed young yet it is not without appeal. 88/2012+

Maison Philippe Pacalet (Beaune)

2009	➔ Chambolle-Musigny	red	89
2009	Chambolle-Musigny “1er”	red	(89-92)
2009	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2009	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2009	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin	red	89
2009	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin “Bel Air” 1er	red	91
2009	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin “Lavaut St. Jacques” 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	➔ Nuits St. Georges	red	90
2009	➔ Nuits St. Georges “1er” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	Pommard	red	(88-90)
2009	➔ Pommard “Clos des Arvelets” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	Ruchottes-Chambertin Grand Cru	red	94

The iconoclastic Philippe Pacalet, 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. For more information about Pacalet's approach, please see Issue 30 or the database. Pacalet makes lovely wines as well though sometimes I find them to be a little too round even though he uses a very high percentage of stems. When it's present, this overly suave mouth feel comes from his practice of rolling the barrels to essentially keep the lees in constant suspension. One often sees this effect with the wines of domaines who routinely stir the lees of their reds. With regard to the 2009 vintage, Pacalet described it as

"having an ideal flowering that was uniform. I waited to harvest my fruit until the 16th of September and brought in perfectly clean fruit and comfortable yields. Potential alcohols were in the 12.5 to 14% range with post-malo pHs of around 3.7, which is perhaps a bit high but not enough to be of concern. I destemmed nothing and gave the fruit 3 weeks of total *cuvaision*. The trick in vinifying was to preserve the freshness and the underlying terroir as 2009 is quite a ripe vintage that makes me think of 1959 with its extremely ripe tannins and high phenolic maturity." The wines will be (or have been) bottled without fining or filtration. (Louis Dressner Selections, www.louisdressner.com, NY, NY; Le Cave des Pyrénées, www.lescaves.co.uk, UK).

2009 Pommard: A very floral, spicy and red berry fruit nose with very slight hints of volatile acidity leads to rich, pure and attractively detailed flavors that possess a textured mouth feel and solid balance on the somewhat one-dimensional finish though this may change with a few years of bottle age. (88-90)/2015+

2009 Pommard "Clos des Arvelets": Here too there is a hint of volatile acidity though not really enough to materially detract from the highly floral and mostly red berry fruit aromas. The rich, pure and vibrant flavors possess a lovely mouth feel and excellent complexity on the long and palate staining finish. This should age well over the next decade. (90-92)/2017+

2009 Nuits St. Georges: A lightly spiced and pungently earthy nose of ripe red currant and cassis aromas that marry into rich, intense and solidly-structured flavors that evidence a hint of animale on the serious, driving and impressively complex finish. This is an excellent *villages* and well worth considering. 90/2016+

2009 Nuits St. Georges "1er": Mild reduction does not completely eradicate the spice and floral nuances though it does knock down the fruit. There is excellent richness to the relatively full-bodied, supple and round medium-bodied flavors that are firm but not necessarily rustic, all wrapped in a long, sappy and solidly well-structured finish. This should also benefit from a decade in the cellar. (90-92)/2019+

2009 Chambolle-Musigny: An exuberantly fresh and expressive red pinot fruit and rose petal-infused nose also offers up subtle spice notes that give way to detailed, refined, supple and seductively round middle weight flavors that culminate in a delicate and very Chambolle finish. Lovely and impeccably well-balanced. 89/2015+

2009 Chambolle-Musigny "1er": (equally from Gruenchers, Chabiots and Feusselottes). Very spicy and floral nuances add breadth to the pretty and ripe cranberry and raspberry fruit aromas that are in keeping with the supple, round and quite fine flavors that have a certain fruit-driven character to them though the lacy finish evidences ample minerality. This very Chambolle effort is quite good if not as complex as the best of these 1ers. (89-92)/2016+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin: This also displays a hint of volatile acidity on the pungently earthy nose that also offers up floral and spice notes. The energetic and appealingly fresh flavors exude a fine minerality on the ever-so-mildly austere finish. This is really quite good for its level and worth a look. 89/2016+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin "Bel Air": This is also lightly spiced with prominent mineral nuances to the cool red berry fruit aromas that are followed by rich, detailed and delicious medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a chalky finish that is mildly austere while delivering excellent length. 91/2017+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaut St. Jacques": An elegant and relatively high-toned nose of red currant and freshly crushed raspberry aromas cut with plenty of wet stone and floral hints merges into supple, seductive and mineral-driven middle weight flavors that possess good richness and a seductive texture that culminates in a firm and impressively long finish. This classy and refined effort will require at least a decade to see its full majority. (91-93)/2019+

2009 Charmes-Chambertin: (from Mazoyères). Dried roses, *animale* hints and very fresh yet quite ripe red berry fruit and earth aromas complement the equally earthy and *sauvage* infused flavors that possess good muscle, size and weight on the very firm finish where the influence of the stems is more prominent than with most of the wines in the range. (91-94)/2021+

2009 Echézeaux: (from Clos St. Denis). An intense and very spicy nose of violets, rose petal and cool red berry fruit aromas merges into rich, intense and well-structured medium-weight plus flavors that possess excellent depth and length if not necessarily great refinement. Still, this is an excellent effort that should age extremely well. (92-94)/2021+

2009 Ruchottes-Chambertin: This compelling effort exhibits outstanding aromatic complexity with a spicy yet cool and ripe nose of essence of red pinot fruit, violet and truffle aromas. The clean, detailed and elegant flavors are given lift by the almost aggressively mineral-driven and hugely long finish that is at once velvety and linear. This is a stunning wine that is text book Ruchottes in character. 94/2024+

Domaine Parent (Pommard)

2009	Beaune “Les Epenotes” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	➔ Bourgogne	red	(86-88)
2009	Corton-Renardes Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2009	Ladoix “Corvées” 1er	red	(88-91)
2009	➔ Pommard	red	(89-91)
2009	Pommard “Argillières” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	➔ Pommard “Chanlins” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	➔ Pommard “Les Chaponnières” 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	Pommard “La Croix Blanche”	red	(87-90)
2009	➔ Pommard “Les Epenots” 1er	red	(91-93)

The ever energetic Anne Parent told me that 2009 was a “fun and easy vintage. There was no real disease pressure, no weather issues during the harvest and no sorting work to speak of either. In short, it was a low stress year. We began picking on the 12th of September and brought in extremely clean fruit with high levels of both phenolic and sugar maturity. Yields were comfortable, which is to say more than 2005 but much less than 1999. Potential alcohols were in the 13 to 13.6% range, which of course means that there was no chaptalization. You can easily imagine that when even the regional wines hit 13%, you have a very ripe vintage on your hands. The vinification was straightforward and while not quite as easy as 2005 was, still much easier than any number of other recent vintages. As to the wines, they are charming and opulent with less structure and aging potential than 2005. I would describe the ‘09s as being a hypothetical blend of 2002 and 2005.” (Commonwealth Wines, Boston, MA and The Chicago Wine Company, www.twc.com, Chicago, IL; the UK agent is Charles Hawkins Fine Wines, www.charleshawkinsandpartners.com with additional sources in S. H. Jones Ltd, www.shjoneswines.com and Decorum Vintners, www.decvin.com).

2009 Bourgogne: A ripe nose of black cherry, red currant and earth aromas leads to rich, precise and admirably pure middle weight flavors that culminate in an austere and backwards finish. This is a very serious Bourgogne of excellent quality though it will not drink well early as the tannins are quite firm for what this is. (86-88)/2014+

2009 Ladoix “Corvées”: This is aromatically even riper with a seductive nose of cassis and black cherry that is cut with underbrush nuances that continue onto the supple, round and delicious flavors that finish with a firm tannic spine and very good persistence. (88-91)/2016+

2009 Beaune “Les Epenotes”: (from two parcels of vines – one of 60+ year old vines and the other from 30+ year old vines). A reticent yet elegant red berry fruit and earth nose introduces silky, refined and supple flavors where the lingering finish is mildly austere. This is very Beaune as there is a plump generosity to the mid-palate though the overall impression is pretty rather than deep. Still, this is not without its appeal though this too is clearly built to age. (89-91)/2019+

2009 Pommard: (mostly from Noizons). Very mild reduction cannot completely hide the spice and earth nuances though it does render the fruit invisible. The rich, full and also quite serious medium-bodied flavors possess ripe and very firm tannins that display some rusticity but overall, this is quite impressive and built to age. There is some wood on the finish but the underlying material is such that it should have no trouble absorbing it in time. Worth your attention. (89-91)/2017+

2009 Pommard “La Croix Blanche”: (not to be confused with the 1er Clos Blanc). Here too mild reduction knocks down the nose though there is good vibrancy to the slightly wood influenced, precise and energetic medium-bodied flavors that are classic Pommard as they are robust, indeed even rugged on the mocha-infused and well-muscled finish. (87-90)/2017+

2009 Pommard “Argillières”: A somber and brooding nose that is presently dominated by an intense earthiness gives way to rich, serious and relatively concentrated flavors that possess plenty of Pommard character on the long finish that isn’t especially rustic though there is good power. This should be good in time but until then, patience is required. (89-92)/2019+

2009 Pommard “Chanlins”: A notably more elegant nose features fresh and ripe yet cool red berry fruit and wet stone aromas that merge into precise, mouth coating and mineral-inflected flavors that possess an abundance of dry extract that renders the firm tannic spine less prominent than it otherwise would be. This is a relatively fine Pommard. (90-92)/2019+

2009 Pommard “Les Chaponnières”: (from 60+ year old vines). Again, mild reduction limits the expressiveness of the nose but the big-bodied and extract-rich flavors possess real verve and punch on the detailed, stony and mouth coating finish that is underpinned by moderately rustic tannins and outstanding depth and length. Worth a look. (90-93)/2019+

2009 Pommard “Les Epenots”: (from both Grands and Petits). Reduction. It’s clear that a deft touch was used in the vinification as this is quite fine in the context of the appellation as the middle weight plus flavors are refined and supple while evidencing a silky mouth feel though the cool and persistent finish is presently rather austere. This should age beautifully and reward 12 to 15 years of cellar time. (91-93)/2021+

2009 Corton-Renardes: Hints of the *sauvage* add breadth to the very ripe plum and black berry liqueur nose that introduces rich, full and boldly powerful broad-shouldered flavors that possess a textured mouth feel as the dry extract stains the palate while pushing the firm tannins to the background, at least for the moment. A classic Renardes that should age like one as well. (91-94)/2021+

Domaine/Maison François Parent (Pommard/Beaune)

2009	Beaune “Les Boucherottes” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2009	Morey St. Denis	red	(88-91)
2009	➔ Pommard “Les Arvelets” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	➔ Pommard “Pézerolles” 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	➔ Pommard “Epenots” 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	➔ Volnay “Frémiets” 1er	red	(90-92)

François Parent also directs and makes the wine for his wife’s domaine, A.-F. Gros (see above); please also see Domaine A.-F. Gros for 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).

2009 Morey St. Denis: (from purchased grapes). A relatively reticent nose of red berry fruit, warm earth and ripe plum aromas leads to rich, fresh and attractively vibrant middle weight flavors that possess a textured and quite supple mouth feel. There is good balance and length to the finish that is shaped by ever-so-mildly rustic tannins. A fine *villages*. (88-91)/2016+

2009 Beaune “Les Boucherottes”: (from 50+ year old vines). A relatively high-toned nose of red currants and raspberries is laced with soft earth notes that continue onto the rich, supple and very round flavors that are generous and quite plump, all wrapped in a fresh, utterly delicious and impressively persistent finish. This makes you feel like drinking it though it will also age if desired. (89-92)/2016+

2009 Volnay “Frémiets”: A deft touch of wood sets off red currant and pungent mineral notes that can also be found on the beautifully well-detailed middle weight flavors that possess fine precision and a lovely sense of underlying tension on the refined and focused finish. A classic Volnay of finesse and grace. (90-92)/2016+

2009 Pommard “Pézerolles”: Here the nose is noticeably riper though not *surmature* with its mix of red and blue pinot, plum, stone and earth aromas. There is good verve and plenty of punch to the detailed, intense and mineral-inflected medium-bodied flavors that deliver excellent length and like the Frémiets, are an exercise in finesse. Lovely juice. (91-93)/2017+

2009 Pommard “Les Arvelets”: Reduction renders the nose difficult to read but there is ample vivacity to the bigger, richer and more overtly powerful flavors that possess plenty of dry extract that buffers the very firm tannins on the focused and mouth coating finish. This is a very serious effort that will benefit from up to a decade of cellar time. (90-92)/2017+

2009 Pommard “Epenots”: (50% each from Grands and Petits). Strong reduction completely dominates the nose. There is excellent volume though to the powerful, concentrated and built-to-age flavors yet almost surprisingly, the mouth feel is really quite fine and if not exactly delicate, elegant would be a good description. That said, the tannins are quite firm on the impressively persistent finish and this offers an ideal combination of power and refinement. (91-93)/2019+

2009 Clos de Vougeot: Again, strong reduction renders the nose impossible to evaluate. The cool, pure and powerful big-bodied flavors possess excellent size and weight along with excellent concentration and mid-palate fat that buffers the very firm and mildly rustic tannins on the hugely long finish where touches of minerality and wood surface. This is less youthfully austere than it typically is but this is going to require all of 12 to 15 years to reach full maturity. (92-94)/2021+

Domaine Jean-Marc Pavelot (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2009	Aloxe-Corton	red	(88-91)
2009	➔ Beaune “Bressandes” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	➔ Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Vergelesses” 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	(87-90)
2009	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “La Dominode” 1er	red	(92-94)
2009	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Gravains” 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Guettes” 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	➔ Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Narbantons” 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Peuillets” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Serpentières” 1er	red	(89-92)

Jean-Marc Pavelot’s son Jean-Hugues told me that the “fruit in 2009 achieved excellent maturity. We began picking on the 9th of September and brought in very clean fruit that averaged in potential alcohols between 13 and 14% and thus there was no chaptalization. The legal limit for *villages* wines was 52 hl/ha and 50 for the 1ers and we were well under those ceilings even though there were virtually no sorting losses. We did a normal vinification and we wanted to emphasize the freshness and limit undue extraction, which would have been easy to do as the extractability was high in 2009. In terms of the wines, I would compare the ‘09s to a hypothetical blend of 2003 and 2005.” (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, Portland, OR and Pas Mal Selections, NY, NY; Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, UK).

2009 Aloxe-Corton: A pretty and quite ripe nose of dark berry fruit and earth aromas leads to solidly complex and admirably pure middle weight flavors that offer good richness and fine detail on the balanced, long and delicious finish. This is classic in style and a very good *villages*. Worth a look. (88-91)/2014+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune: (this derives mostly from Guetottes, which abuts Les Guettes). This is also aromatically quite pretty with ripe red berry and plum aromas liberally laced with ample amounts of Savigny-style earth that continues onto the round, supple and appealing flavors that culminate in a balanced and naturally sweet finish. Lovely and fashioned in Pavelot’s usual understated style. (87-90)/2014+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Peuillets”: (because the soil drains so well here the vines can suffer greatly from drought conditions). As it almost always is, this is notably more elegant with attractive notes of violets, red currant and wet stone that also suffuse the supple and moderately earthy middle weight flavors that terminate with a firm, dusty and naturally sweet finish. This is already approachable though will certainly benefit from a few years of cellar time. (88-91)/2015+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Serpentières”: (from a .17 ha parcel). A deft touch of wood frames more complex if less elegant aromas of red and dark pinot fruit. The rich, generous and quite forward medium-bodied flavors possess a sophisticated mouth feel with well-integrated tannins and fine finishing detail and persistence. Lovely juice that combines mild minerality with moderate earth influence. (89-92)/2016+

2009 Beaune “Bressandes”: (from leased vines). A very ripe yet agreeably fresh and expressive nose of dark berry fruit, earth and light stone hints gives way to rich, fleshy and utterly delicious medium weight flavors that possess good volume and excellent length on the balanced finale. A classic Bressandes of both style and finesse. (90-92)/2016+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Narbantons”: This possesses a step up in ripeness with aromas of cassis, plum and plenty of warm earth that merge into rich and admirably well-concentrated flavors that are shaped by firm and phenolically mature tannins as well as a complex, intense and mouth coating finish. This isn’t as fine as the Bressandes but it’s ever-so-slightly longer and complex. (90-93)/2017+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Guettes”: (the vineyard is quite stony with very little top soil). Here the nose is similar but more reserved and offers just a bit more overt minerality that also characterizes the firm, precise and pure flavors that possess so much extract that it confers a textured character to the vibrant and exceptionally persistent finish. This is a focused effort that exhibits controlled power and a lovely sense of underlying tension. Worth a look as this is quite good. (91-93)/2017+

2009 Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Vergelesses”: (from vines planted in '76). Discreet oak influence does not interfere with the brooding, serious and ripe dark berry fruit and plum aromas. There is good body and flesh to the very firm and tight medium weight plus flavors where the tannins possess a high level of ripeness and hint of rusticity on the otherwise impressively long finish. This is not a refined effort but it is beautifully balanced and should make for a terrific bottle in 10 years. (91-93)/2019+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Les Gravains”: (from a .60 ha parcel where two-thirds of the vines are more than 70+ years of age). An elegant, pure and ripe nose of cassis, plum-liqueur and earth is followed by supple, refined and equally pure middle weight flavors that are mineral-inflected and quite firm while finishing with verve and excellent persistence. This stylish effort is really quite classy. (90-93)/2017+

2009 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). This is perhaps the ripest wine in the range with a liqueur-like nose of black cherry, earth and underbrush hints that introduce rich, serious and concentrated flavors that possess an abundance of mid-palate extract as it almost completely buffers the otherwise very firm tannic spine, all wrapped in a palate staining finish. This stunning effort should reward at least a dozen years in the cellar and drink well for another decade thereafter. (92-94)/2021+

Domaine du Pavillon (Pommard)

2009	Aloxe-Corton “Clos des Maréchaudes” 1er	red	90
2009	Corton-Clos des Maréchaudes Grand Cru	red	92
2009	➔ Pommard “Clos des Ursulines”	red	89
2009	➔ Pommard “Rugiens” 1er	red	93
2009	➔ Volnay “Les Santenots” 1er	red	92
2008	Aloxe-Corton “Clos des Maréchaudes” 1er	red	90
2008	Corton-Clos des Maréchaudes Grand Cru	red	90
2008	➔ Pommard “Clos des Ursulines”	red	89
2008	➔ Pommard “Rugiens” 1er	red	93
2008	Volnay “Les Santenots” 1er	red	88

This 17 ha domaine based in Pommard was acquired in 1993 by the Bichot conglomerate, and operates in the same fashion that Chablis-based Long-Depaquit and Clos Frantin do. All of its vineyards are situated in the Côte de Beaune and the grapes are almost completely destemmed, macerated for 15 to 20 days, raised in approximately 60% new oak and only lightly filtered before bottling. Please see the comments for Maison Albert Bichot (see above) for more specific vintage comments. (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).

2009 Volnay “Les Santenots”: A deft touch of wood sets off notably elegant aromas of red and blue pinot fruit mixed with violets and earth where the latter element continues onto the mineral-inflected medium-bodied flavors that possess excellent phenolic maturity and length. I very much like the balance to this firm and stylish offering. 92/2017+

2009 Pommard “Clos des Ursulines”: (a huge 4 ha *monopole* of the domaine). A somber and pungently earthy dark berry fruit nose introduces the admirably pure, rich, suave and generous flavors that possess an attractive mouth feel, all wrapped in an intense finish that is supported by moderately rustic tannin and excellent length. This is very Pommard in character with fine depth and overall, it is a very good *villages*. 89/2016+

2009 Pommard “Rugiens”: (from Rugiens Bas). This is also notably elegant and admirably pure with ripe red berry fruit, wet stone and subtle earth aromas leading to rich, full-bodied and suave medium-bodied flavors that possess a velvety mouth feel on the serious, long and clearly built-to-age finish. A terrific Rugiens and worth consideration. 93/2019+

2009 Aloxe-Corton “Clos des Maréchaudes”: Mild reduction knocks down the expressiveness of the nose though the aromas are overtly ripe and carry the expected hint of the *sauvage* as well. The earth-inflected, rich and suave middle weight flavors possess good phenolic maturity as the tannins are well-integrated on the moderately rustic but lengthy finish. This delicious effort should amply reward mid-term cellaring. 90/2017+

2009 Corton-Clos des Maréchaudes: (a 2 ha *monopole* that is split between .5 ha classified as *grand cru* and the remaining portion as 1er). Very ripe, indeed even slightly roasted aromas of plum and prune introduce big-bodied and exceptionally rich flavors that seem fresher and more energetic in the mouth. This is quite a serious effort with fine concentration and my score offers the benefit of the doubt on the nose because it's too ripe for me to appreciate. 92/2021+

2008 Volnay “Les Santenots”: An elegant, pure and clean red pinot fruit nose trimmed in discreet wood introduces suave, round and supple medium-bodied flavors that are delicious and intense and about the only nit is a bit of acidity that pokes through on the mildly tangy finish. The supporting phenolics are not as ripe as the best here and this is undoubtedly an effect of the hail. 88/2016+

2008 Pommard “Clos des Ursulines”: (a huge 4 ha *monopole* of the domaine). A fresh and somber if distinctly earthy dark berry fruit nose precedes serious, dense and compact middle weight flavors that are overtly rustic on the long and serious finish. This is a Pommard *villages* with attitude and worth a look though note that patience will be required. 89/2015+

2008 Pommard “Rugiens”: (from Rugiens Bas). Not surprisingly, here the nose is much, much more elegant with fresh and refined aromas of wet stone, red pinot fruit and bass notes of warm earth that continue onto the equally refined and pure middle weight flavors that are precise, detailed and solidly complex on the driving, mouth coating and mineral-driven finish. This is an explosive wine blessed with an ample amount of extract, especially for the vintage. Recommended. 93/2020+

2008 Aloxe-Corton “Clos des Maréchaudes”: A deft touch of wood sets off an attractive nose of violets, red currant and plum that merges into rich and quite found flavors that offer up a hint of minerality on the delicious, intense, firm and persistent finish. The velvety mouth feel is appealing yet this manages to come across as very Aloxe too as the finish is distinctly rustic and altogether serious. 90/2018+

2008 Corton-Clos des Maréchaudes: (a 2 ha *monopole* that is split between .5 ha classified as *grand cru* and the remaining portion as 1er). A quite similar nose that is ever-so-slightly riper and more complex complements textured, dense and serious medium weight plus flavors that possess good power and fine length on the mildly tangy finish. This is a big, rustic and classic Corton that is awkward today and one that may or may not come together. As with the '09, my score offers the benefit of the doubt. 90/2020+

Domaine Paul Pernot (Puligny-Montrachet)

2009	Beaune “Clos au Dessus des Marconnets”	red	88
2009	Bourgogne	red	85
2009	Pommard “Noizons”	red	88
2009	➔ Volnay “Carelles Sous La Chapelle”	red	89

The very understated Paul Pernot, who in my experience is never given to hyperbole, noted that the 2009 was “very abundant, perhaps a bit too much. Even so the fruit got quite ripe in the fashion of the 1999s even though the wines are not at all the same. I think the '09 reds will please everyone and will probably age better than people presently think.” While I'm sure most readers are familiar with the Pernot whites, for which the domaine is justly famous, the style of the reds is lighter and fruit forward yet focused and intense and these 2009s are very much fashioned in that spirit. (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, Berkman Wine Cellars, www.berkmann.co.uk, and L'Assemblage, www.lassemblage.co.uk, all UK).

2009 Bourgogne: An expressive and very fresh nose of raspberry, red pinot fruit and hints of earth leads to delicious, round and supple flavors that evidence a mild touch of finishing rusticity. This is easy to like and will drink well young. 85/2012+

2009 Beaune “Clos au Dessus des Marconnets”: A rustic, earthy and notably ripe yet fresh nose of dark berry fruit that precedes rich and relatively full-bodied flavors that possess good mid-palate volume on the moderately firm and well-balanced finish. This pretty *villages* should offer good drinking over the medium term and mature in 5 years or so. 88/2014+

2009 Volnay “Carelles Sous La Chapelle”: (from old vines of an indeterminate age; note that despite being a 1er, it is not declared as such). This offers a clear step up in aromatic elegance with pretty red berry fruit and mineral notes leading to supple, lacy and admirably pure light to medium weight flavors that are delicious and well-balanced if not especially complex. This is very pretty rather than deep though it is picture perfect Volnay in character. 89/2013+

2009 Pommard “Noizons”: Mild reduction renders the nose somewhat mute though there is good authority to the lighter weight flavors that possess a dusty mouth feel on the reasonably persistent finish. Like the Volnay, this is not especially complex and certainly less fine though it is not without a certain appeal, particularly for a *villages* level wine. 88/2014+

Domaine Fernand et Laurent Pillot (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2009	Beaune “Boucherottes” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	➔ Bourgogne	red	87
2009	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes	red	89
2009	Chassagne-Montrachet “Morquet” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	Pommard “Charmots” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	Pommard “Clos de Vergers” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	➔ Pommard “Rugiens” 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	➔ Pommard “Les Tavannes”	red	90
2009	Santenay “Prarons Dessous”	red	88
2009	➔ Volnay	red	89

Laurent Pillot describes 2009 as an “easy vintage as there was really only one thing to worry about and that one thing was yields. You really had to control them as the vintage was naturally abundant. But if you managed to do that, you obtained superb raw materials. We began picking on the 8th of September and brought in impeccably clean fruit that averaged between 13 and 13.8% in potential alcohols. I used between zero and 20% whole clusters in the vinification and did very little punching down as the extractions happened quickly and easily. I like the vintage and expect that it will be quite popular.” The Pillot ‘09s are the most interesting reds that I have seen him make in the 11 years that I have been visiting. (Thorman Hunt & Co., e-mail: Camille@thormanhunt.co.uk and Lea & Sandeman, www.leaandsandeman.co.uk, both UK).

2009 Bourgogne: (from vines situated in Pommard). An earthy and mildly rustic nose of fresh and ripe dark berry fruit aromas leads to solidly dense and vibrant middle weight flavors that possess fine complexity and an utterly delicious finish. This is an excellent Bourgogne and very much worth your consideration. 87/2013+

2009 Santenay “Prarons Dessous”: Here the nose is earthier still but quite fresh with an attractive mix of red and dark berry fruit aromas that introduces middle weight flavors that possess good energy, all wrapped in a serious and persistent finish. Solid quality for what this is. 88/2013+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: (45 to 50 year old vines). A highly complex nose of pepper, earth, violets, dark berry fruit and menthol hints gives way to suave and very rich flavors that possess an abundance of dry extract on the equally complex and palate coating finish. This isn’t overly precise but it offers a lush mouth feel and excellent depth for what this is. Worth a look. 89/2014+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morquet”: A deft touch of wood sets off a complex, ripe and admirably pure nose of plum, earth and subtle pepper nuances that also infuse the impressively rich, vibrant and still well-detailed flavors that are shaped by mildly rustic and firm tannins as well as very solid length. (89-91)/2015+

2009 Volnay: (one-third of this is from the 1er vineyards of Les Brouillards and Roncerets). As one might reasonably expect, this is notably more refined with a fresh and cool nose of red currant and plum that also evidences discreet traces of earth and wet stone. The textured and attractively precise flavors culminate in a dry, clean and well-balanced finish. This pretty effort delivers fine quality for a *villages* level wine and is worth a look. 89/2014+

2009 Pommard “Les Tavannes”: An earthier and deeply pitched nose features aromas of red and blue liqueur-like fruit, violets and plenty of earth that also characterize the rich, concentrated and mouth coating medium-bodied flavors that are supported by ripe and buried tannins and a balanced finish. But what I really like here is the sheer length of the finish which is unusually good for a *villages*. In short, this delivers excellent quality. 90/2014+

2009 Beaune “Boucherottes”: A ripe, fresh and expressive mixture of red and blue pinot fruit that is trimmed in warm earth aromas gives way to vibrant, well-detailed and pure middle weight flavors that possess a fleshy mouth feel, all wrapped in a supple finish that offers very good to excellent depth and length. This is very Beaune in style and should reward 5 to 7 years of cellar time. (89-91)/2015+

2009 Pommard “Clos de Vergers”: This is less elegant aromatically than the Boucherottes with a very earthy and overtly *sauvage* character to the dark berry fruit nose. There is excellent richness to the serious, brooding and extract filled medium weight flavors that exhibit a mild rusticity on the mouth coating and lingering finish where a discreet touch of wood surfaces. (89-92)/2017+

2009 Pommard “Charmots”: (20% whole cluster). There is also a discreet touch of wood that highlights the ripe aromas of plum, earth and cassis while complementing the textured, firm and suave middle weight flavors that exude a fine minerality on the delicious, serious and impressively persistent finish. This is not quite as complex as the Clos de Vergers but it’s much finer. (89-92)/2017+

2009 Pommard “Rugiens”: (20% whole cluster). Here too there is a deft touch of wood that sets off very ripe mocha and cassis-infused aromas that lead to mineral-inflected, precise and quite firm medium-bodied flavors that possess excellent depth and length. This will need at least a decade in the cellar and perhaps more but it should be more than worth the wait. (91-93)/2019+

Domaine Jean-Marc Pillot (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2009	Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes	red	(87-89)
2009	➤ Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean” 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Macherelles” 1er	red	(88-91)
2009	➤ Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot - Fairendes” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	Santenay “Champs Claude”	red	(87-90)

Jean-Marc Pillot noted that 2009 was a “relatively easy vintage. We began picking on the 7th of September and brought in super clean fruit and with comfortable yields. The pinot had potential alcohols of between 12.5 and 13.5% with phenolic maturities that resembled those of 2003 except with better acidities. The nose and attack of the ‘09s also resembles those of the ‘03s except that the balance is better and they remain very pinot in character whereas that’s not always the case with the ‘03s.” (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, Shekomeko, NY; Champagnes et Châteaux, www.champagnesandchateaux.co.uk, UK).

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: A ripe and very earthy nose of plum, red berry fruit, pepper and warm earth aromas leads to rich, round and quite generous middle weight flavors that culminate in a mouth coating and delicious finish. This isn’t overly precise but there is good depth. (87-89)/2014+

2009 Santenay “Champs Claude”: Here too the nose is very ripe with plum, earth and black raspberry aromas preceding rich, round and fleshy flavors that possess good depth and very good length on the mildly rustic finish. This is quite good for a humble Santenay *villages*. (87-90)/2015+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Macherelles”: A slightly fresher nose of violets, plum and liqueur-like red berry fruit cut with stone hints leads to attractively supple and round flavors that possess both greater refinement as well as better persistence. I like the balance and this should reward 5 years or so of patience. (88-91)/2014+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot - Fairendes”: This is relatively cool and fresh yet still quite ripe as the nose also displays liqueur-like aromas of red berries and warm earth trimmed in pepper nuances that give way to delicious, rich and only mildly rustic flavors that finish with fine length and more than enough depth to be deemed attractive. (89-91)/2015+

2009 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 such old vines). An elegant, pure and ripe nose of red berry liqueur aromas and stone notes is highlighted by a discreet touch of oak that precede the mineral-inflected, vibrant, delicious, intense and admirably persistent finish. This is really quite good. (90-92)/2015+

Domaine Paul Pillot (Chassagne-Montrachet)

2009	Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2009	➤ Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean” 1er	red	89
2009	Santenay – Vieilles Vignes	red	88

Thierry Pillot noted that 2009 was one of those vintages where “you had to pick quickly to preserve acidity. We picked from the 7th to the 12th of September and began with the 1ers and brought in exceptionally clean fruit that ranged from 12.5 to 13.2% in potential alcohols. The skins were relatively thick and it was necessary to press relatively firmly. I’m happy that we started when we did as the wines had good acidity even after the malos were finished.” (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).

2009 Santenay – Vieilles Vignes: An earthy, ripe and mildly rustic nose of red berry fruit, plum and pepper leads to delicious, round and nicely plump flavors that possess good mid-palate concentration and verve on the persistent finish. This could already be approached though it will be better with a few years of cellar time first. 88/2014+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet Vieilles Vignes: A riper nose of plum, violets, earth and raspberry liqueur gives way to rich and attractively complex middle weight flavors that possess more overall depth than the Santenay but seemingly less energy on the otherwise similarly persistent finish. A qualitative choice. 88/2014+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean”: This is also notably ripe yet more elegant as the touch of minerality adds to the sense of refinement and it continues onto the rich, detailed and delicious medium-bodied flavors that possess good phenolic maturity to the supporting tannins on the solidly long finale. This is really quite pretty. 89/2014+

Domaine Pousse d’Or (Volnay)

2009	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	red	95
2009	Chambolle-Musigny	red	89
2009	➔ Chambolle-Musigny “Les Amoureuses” 1er	red	94
2009	➔ Chambolle-Musigny “Les Charmes” 1er	red	93
2009	➔ Chambolle-Musigny “Les Feusselottes” 1er	red	92
2009	➔ Chambolle-Musigny “Les Groseilles” 1er	red	91
2009	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	red	93?
2009	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	94
2009	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	red	95
2009	➔ Pommard “Les Jarolières” 1er	red	93
2009	➔ Santenay “Clos des Tavannes” 1er	red	90
2009	➔ Volnay “Clos l’Audignac” 1er	red	92
2009	➔ Volnay “En Caillerets” 1er	red	92
2009	➔ Volnay “Clos de la Bousse d’Or” 1er	red	93
2009	➔ Volnay “Caillerets - Clos des Soixante Ouvrées” 1er	red	94

Patrick Landanger professed himself to be “very happy” with the 2009 vintage. He was, understandably, more interested in discussing his latest acquisition, which has been explained in these pages before. However, 2009 was the first vintage in which the wines will appear under the Pousse d’Or label. In the comments next to each wine, I give the specific details for each of them. As to the quality of the 2009s, as the scores and comments suggest with the exception of the Clos de la Roche, I was extremely impressed with the wines and they should amply reward extended cellaring. (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).

2009 Santenay “Clos des Tavannes”: A very ripe nose of plum and red berry fruit trimmed in light stone aromas leads to rich, earthy and very generous middle weight flavors that possess a complex, vibrant and utterly delicious finish. This is lovely and worth considering. 90/2016+

2009 Volnay “En Caillerets”: A discreet touch of wood frames notably elegant aromas of plum, violets and stone where the latter element also suffuses the rich, fleshy and delicious middle weight flavors that possess an abundance of dry extract that buffers the moderately firm tannins on the impressively persistent finish. This should be lovely in time. 92/2017+

2009 Volnay “Clos de la Bousse d’Or”: A slightly more refined nose speaks of red berry fruit that is liberally laced with notes of cassis and blue berry while introducing rich and even more elegant medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a firm, long and serious finish that possesses real verve. This beauty should amply reward a decade of cellar time. 93/2019+

2009 Volnay “Clos l’Audignac”: (a northeast facing vineyard that rarely gets the same degree of sunlight as the other Volnay 1ers in the portfolio and thus it can often be more Pommard than Volnay in character). A more complex if less elegant nose offers notes of ripe dark berry fruit, warm earth and subtle spice notes that give way to rich and relatively full-bodied flavors that brim with dry extract on the quite firm and powerful finish. This is a classic Clos l’Audignac that should be capable of aging effortlessly for at least ten years. 92/2019+

2009 Volnay “Caillerets - Clos des Soixante Ouvrées”: The ripest nose to this point exhibits liqueur-like notes of plum, blue berry and violets that complement well the equally ripe, opulent and mineral-inflected flavors that are also quite full-bodied, all wrapped in a detailed, vibrant and hugely long finish. The underlying material here is superb and this should easily improve for the next 12 to 15 years and last for an equivalent period thereafter. 94/2021+

2009 Pommard “Les Jarolières”: A completely different fruit profile is present here as the red currant, earth and wet stone aromas are followed by rich, full and naturally sweet mineral-driven flavors possess excellent mid-palate density and outstanding precision and length on the palate staining finish. I very much like the sense of underlying tension though fans of this wine should note that plenty of patience will be required. 93/2024+

2009 Corton-Bressandes: (from a .5 ha parcel). A very ripe liqueur of red pinot fruit, plum and violet-infused nose leads to rich, elegant and very pure big-bodied and well-muscled flavors that possess impressively detailed and ample minerality on the firm but not hard, long and impeccably well-balanced finish. This explodes on the finish and like the Jarolières, it possesses plenty of underlying tension that imparts a highly attractive sense of vibrancy and life. 94/2024+

2009 Corton-Clos du Roi: As is typically the case, this is earthier and much more *sauvage* than the Bressandes though it retains good freshness and pinot noir character. The nose speaks primarily of plum and floral aromas that are in keeping with the sappy, rich, powerful and broad-shouldered flavors that drench the palate with dry extract on the very firmly structured and hugely long finish. This should be a great wine in time. 95/2027+

2009 Chambolle-Musigny: (from a 1.41 ha parcel). Not surprisingly, this is aromatically much more elegant though significantly less complex with a cool and very fresh nose of red pinot fruit and stone. The nicely rich, round and delicious middle weight flavors are moderately structured and well balanced and should reward 5 to 7 years of bottle age. 89/2015+

2009 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Groseilles”: (from a .52 ha parcel). A similar if more reserved and more complex though no more elegant nose introduces rich, round, fleshy and naturally sweet flavors that possess really lovely detail and fine overall balance and length. This is a classic Chambolle that is relatively forward in that it could be approached now if desired though for my taste, it will require the better part of a decade to arrive at its peak. 91/2016+

2009 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Feusselottes”: (from a .42 ha parcel). This is also on the reserved side but there is striking elegance to the airy, pure and lilting nose of red berry fruit and wet stone aromas. There is excellent detail to the lacy and equally pure middle weight flavors that also evidence mineral notes that add lift to the energetic and tension-filled finish. Lovely juice that is classic Chambolle. 92/2017+

2009 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Charmes”: (from a .19 ha parcel). Mild reduction compromises the expressiveness of the nose so be sure to decant this first. Otherwise, there is clear ripeness and richness to the voluminous and extract-dense flavors that coat the mouth and stain the palate on the gorgeously persistent finish. This is beautifully well-balanced and very Charmes as there is both a generosity and refinement to the seductive flavors and very firm finish. 93/2019+

2009 Chambolle-Musigny “Les Amoureuses”: (from a .20 ha parcel). A spicy, pure and expansive nose features a ripe mix of red currant, blue berry, plum and violet aromas that slide seamlessly into rich, generous and well-detailed mineral-inflected flavors that are shaped by very firm but phenolically mature tannins. There is an impeccable sense of balance to the serious, firm and mouth coating finish. This stylish and classy effort should repay well 12 to 15 years of cellar time. 94/2021+

2009 Bonnes Mares: (from a .17 ha parcel). A restrained and almost mute nose grudgingly offers up notes of plum, earth and violets that precede the rich, concentrated and powerful big-bodied flavors that are blessed with an abundance of dry extract that helps to push the extremely firm but not hard or aggressive tannins to the background on the explosive and hugely long finish. This is an impressive effort as the balance is Zen-like. 95/2024+

2009 Clos de la Roche: (from a .32 ha parcel). This is the ripest wine in the range with plum, mocha and notes of prune that merge into rich, powerful and impressively dense broad-shouldered flavors that possess a velvety texture on the dazzlingly persistent finish. There are plenty of fireworks with this wine and it is undeniably dramatic but it’s quite a bit riper than I personally prefer and it’s not clear at this early stage whether it will become port-like in time. Optimists will age the wine and pessimists will drink it young. 93/2024+

Domaine Jacques Prieur (Meursault)

2009	Beaune “Champs Pimont” 1er	red	(87-90?)
2009	Beaune “Clos de la Féguine” 1er	red	89
2009	Beaune “Grèves” 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(92-95)
2009	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2009	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2009	Echézeaux Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2009	Gevrey-Chambertin “1er”	red	(90-92)
2009	Meursault “Clos de Mazeray”	red	88
2009	Musigny Grand Cru	red	(93-95)
2009	Volnay “Champans” 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	➔ Volnay “Clos des Santenots” 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	➔ Volnay “Santenots” 1er	red	(90-92)

Consulting enologist Nadine Gublin told me that 2009 had “the ideal growing season. Yields were generous in the vein of 1990 and 1999 yet consistent with those vintages, phenolic maturities were excellent. We began picking on the 8th of September and brought in very clean fruit that needed only cursory sorting attention. Sugars were strong without being excessive as potential alcohols ran between 13 and 13.5%. The stems were quite ripe but I elected to destem everything 100% except the Champs Pimont where I left about 20% of them. One interesting aspect is that even though there wasn’t much in the way of malic acidity, I was shocked at how much the wines had changed after the very long and slow malos. I was worried that the wines would be too soft but this wasn’t at all the case.” (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).

2009 Meursault “Clos de Mazeray”: A notably ripe nose of cassis and black cherry liqueur notes that are nuanced by warm earth hints that continue onto the rich, round and seductively textured flavors that possess good energy on the solidly well-concentrated finish. This is delicious if not especially refined. 88/2014+

2009 Beaune “Clos de la Féguine”: (a sub-climat of Coucheries and a *monopole* of the Domaine). A perfumed and quite pure nose of raspberry liqueur, spice and wet stone notes where the latter element also characterizes the pure, chiseled and mineral-inflected middle weight flavors that display lovely refinement on the reasonably persistent finish. This is not overly complex but it certainly is very pretty. 89/2015+

2009 Beaune “Grèves”: A slightly riper and almost as elegant nose offers up hints of red currant and blue pinot fruit along with the typical warm earth nuances. The rich, textured and mouth coating medium-bodied flavors are quite firm though not aggressive, all wrapped in a delicious, long and moderately complex but persistent finish. (89-91)/2016+

2009 Beaune “Champs Pimont”: An extremely ripe nose speaks of plum and hints of prune that lead to very rich, round and generous flavors that evidence a light minerality on the clean and dusty finish that possesses good verve and persistence. At present this seems somewhat awkward as the nose is borderline over ripe yet the finish is balanced and doesn’t display any of the surmature hints of the nose. (87-90?)/2015+

2009 Volnay “Champans”: (from a .35 ha parcel). This is also quite ripe yet much fresher with cassis and raspberry liqueur aromas introducing vibrant, minerally and solidly well-delineated flavors that culminate in a firm, elegant and classy finish. A lovely Champans. (89-92)/2017+

2009 Volnay “Santenots”: (from young vines Clos des Santenots). A very subtle hint of wood frames ripe raspberry, violet and earth aromas that give way to rich, fleshy and velvety middle weight flavors that possess fine volume and good phenolic maturity to the supporting tannins on the admirably lengthy finish. Lovely juice. (90-92)/2017+

2009 Volnay “Clos des Santenots”: (a 1.2 ha *monopole* of the Domaine). An almost invisible application of oak sets off a similar nose that is if anything slightly riper while complementing the rich, round and more obviously concentrated flavors where the mid-palate is denser and the minerality is more evident on the impressively long and mouth coating finish. This ageworthy effort is impressive and I like the overall sense of harmony. (91-93)/2019+

2009 Gevrey-Chambertin “1er”: (from Chambertin vines less than 20 years of age). Strong reduction compromises the nose at present but there is an admirable sophistication to the velvety and refined mouth feel that is dominated by an almost aggressive minerality on the cool and moderately austere but persistent finish. Worth a look. (90-92)/2021+

2009 Chambertin: (from 5 separate parcels in both Chambertin and Clos de Bèze, which measures .14 ha). Moderate reduction renders the nose difficult to read though there is good energy to the cool, reserved and tight broad-shouldered flavors that are stunningly complex and hugely long on the mineral-driven finish. This is a seriously impressive effort that just oozes class. (92-95)/2024+

2009 Corton-Bressandes: A notably ripe yet somehow cool and elegant nose offers up black berry, stone, warm earth and violet aromas that are in keeping with the equally ripe, dense and serious flavors that evidence an overt muscularity on the textured and palate staining yet refined finish. 2009 seems to have been a banner year in Corton and this terrific effort won't contradict that pattern. (92-94)/2021+

2009 Clos de Vougeot: (from a parcel of vines at the bottom of the slope). Somewhat surprisingly, this is every bit as elegant as the Bressandes with a ripe nose that includes floral elements to the red currant and black berry fruit aromas. There is excellent density to the quite serious, brooding and concentrated medium weight plus flavors that exude plenty of dry extract that buffers the otherwise very firm yet fine tannins that add to the mild finishing austerity on the explosively long finish. Prieur's Clos de Vougeot is rarely top flight given the position of the vines yet in years like 2009 where position with the Clos is less important, an excellent wine can be fashioned and such is the case with this one. (92-94)/2024+

2009 Echézeaux: (located in the sub-climat of Champs Traversin). A very ripe and highly expressive nose offers up a beguiling array of spice elements that include soy, hoisin and anise that add breadth to the violet and plum liqueur aromas. There is excellent volume to the rich, concentrated and velvet-textured big-bodied flavors that brim with dry extract on the balanced, deep and seriously persistent finish. This is an excellent Ech with plenty of aging potential. (92-94)/2024+

2009 Musigny: (from a .77 ha parcel in the sub-climat Combe d'Orveau). Very mild reduction reduces the expressiveness of the nose yet it is still relatively easy to discern that the dark berry fruit is ripe and nuanced by plenty of spice notes that can also be found on the rich and palate staining velvety flavors that possess imposing size and weight as well as a seemingly endless reserve of dry extract that buffers the firm tannic spine on the wonderfully long finish. This is a big yet balanced wine that possesses excellent energy with plenty of underlying tension and about the only nit is a hint of warmth on the powerful and driving finish. This should be most impressive in time if you have the patience to wait. (93-95)/2026+

Domaine Henri Prudhon (St. Aubin)

2009	Bourgogne	red	84
2009	Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Chambres”	red	88
2009	St. Aubin “Les Argillers”	red	(86-88)
2009	➔ St. Aubin “1er” Cuvée les Rouges Gorges	red	89
2009	St. Aubin “Les Frionnes” 1er	red	88
2009	St. Aubin “Sur le Sentier du Clou” Vieilles Vignes 1er	red	89

Vincent Prudhon calls 2009 a “vintage that gave us excellent maturities and in both colors. We began picking on the 9th of September and brought in very ripe fruit that was super clean and possessed potential alcohols in the 12.5 to 13% range. The fruit we picked in St. Aubin was a bit fresher than that of Chassagne but it wasn't really all that different. For us, the wines resemble a blend of 2005 and 2006, which should make them popular with our clients.” (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).

2009 Bourgogne: A very pinot nose of red berry fruit leads to delicious, complex and only mildly rustic middle weight flavors that possess a slightly candied finish that is a bit too sweet for my taste. 84/now+

2009 St. Aubin “Les Argillers”: A similar if slightly more complex nose gives way to pure middle weight flavors that exude a subtle minerality that continues onto the delicious but also mildly rustic finish. This is really quite pretty and while not especially complex, I like the understated style. This should drink well young. (86-88)/2012+

2009 St. Aubin “Les Frionnes”: A more complex nose features fresh and ripe aromas of red currant and blue berry fruit that merge into rich, generous and fleshy medium-bodied flavors that offer a subtle touch of minerality on the dusty and moderately firm finish. I like the balance and underlying sense of tension here. 88/2013+

2009 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). A ripe, high-toned and quite pretty extract of red pinot fruit nose complements the fresh, intense and attractively rich flavors that possess fine complexity and real verve on the persistent finish. This is picture perfect St. Aubin with mineral undertones adding a sense of refinement and lift. Worth a look. 89/2014+

2009 St. Aubin “Sur les Sentier du Clou” – Vieilles Vignes: (55+ year old vines). A ripe and highly expressive nose of red currant and raspberry liqueur complements the equally ripe, round and fleshy flavors that possess a seductive texture even though they are not especially concentrated. There is lovely complexity as well as a fine sense of harmony on the spicy and slightly candied finish except here there isn't the undue sweetness. 89/2013+

2009 Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Chambres”: A very pinot nose offers up hints of spice, smoke and pepper on the red and blue berry liqueur aromas that slide gracefully into the serious, mouth coating and naturally sweet medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a long if not overly complex and ever-so-slightly warm finish. This easy to like effort should mature quickly. 88/2013+

Château de Puligny-Montrachet (Puligny-Montrachet)

2009	Monthelie	red	(86-88)
2009	Nuits St. Georges “1er”	red	(86-89)
2009	Nuits St. Georges “Clos des Grandes Vignes” 1er	red	(88-91)

As has been explained in these pages before, Etienne de Montille of Domaine de Montille (see above) is now the *régisseur* of this old Domaine. Please see Domaine de Montille for more 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).

2009 Monthelie: (vinified with 33% whole clusters). An extremely pretty nose of red berry fruit, warm earth and a floral note leads to suave and very round middle weight flavors that are delicious if slightly fruit-driven on the easy to like finish. This is not especially complex but it's attractive in its fashion. (86-88)/2013+

2009 Nuits St. Georges “1er”: This is also quite pretty with a very pinot nose of red currant, earth and distant *sauvage* hints that also characterize the rich, pure and nicely detailed flavors that, like the Monthelie, are not particularly complex but there is solid finishing balance and persistence. This should drink well early but offer a few years of upside development potential. (86-89)/2014+

2009 Nuits St. Georges “Clos des Grandes Vignes”: (a *monopole* and vinified with 100% whole clusters). A somewhat rustic but notably floral nose of dark berry fruit and intense earth influences gives way to rich, suave and very generous medium-bodied flavors that possess good dry extract that buffers the moderately firm if not especially detailed finish that offers much better depth and length. In sum, this is very good if not better than that. (88-91)/2015+

Domaine Roland Rapet (Pernand-Vergelesses)

2009	➔ Aloxe-Corton	red	89
2009	➔ Beaune “Bressandes” 1er	red	91
2009	➔ Beaune “Grèves” 1er	red	92
2009	Beaune “Clos du Roi” 1er	red	90
2009	Corton Grand Cru	red	93
2009	Corton-Pougets Grand Cru	red	93
2009	Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Belles Filles”	red	88
2009	Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Vergelesses” 1er	red	90
2009	➔ Pernand-Vergelesses “Ile de Vergelesses” 1er	red	91

2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Aux Fourneaux”	red	88
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Fourneaux” 1er	red	90

Vincent Rapet directs this 20+ ha domaine that is split roughly 50/50 between the production of reds and whites. He calls 2009 a “very ripe vintage that provided good yields and lovely wines. We began picking on the 7th of September and realized potential alcohols of between 12 and 13.5%, which here in Pernand where it’s naturally cool is very ripe indeed. The crop was quite clean and required very little in the way of sorting. The vinifications were relatively straightforward as the skins were thick and the extractions happened both quickly and easily. The stems were also quite ripe so I used around 20% of them for all wines. Overall, the reds are seductive and should prove to be very popular.” The reds were bottled between December and January, 2011. (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).

2009 Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Belles Filles”: This is a ripe Pernand with very pretty aromas of red berries and plum nuances that lead to earthy and mildly rustic middle weight flavors that possess good punch and plenty of verve on the moderately persistent finish. This should drink well young but offer a few years of development potential as well. 88/2013+

2009 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; prior to 2007 the 1er proportion was declassified into the *villages*). A complex if somber nose of earth, floral notes and red and blue pinot fruit gives way to rich, serious and relatively concentrated medium-bodied flavors that are shaped by robust and ripe tannins on the dusty and mouth coating finish. 88/2014+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Fourneaux”: (from the 1er portion of the vineyard). This is aromatically much more elegant and finer as well even though the composition of the aromas is almost the same. Otherwise the middle weight flavors are supple, pure and well-delineated before culminating in a firm and persistent finish with notably better complexity. 90/2015+

2009 Aloxe-Corton: (from 4 different parcels in Les Combes, Les Boutières, Les Citernes and Les Crapousuets). The floral influence here is quite pronounced though there are also notes of warm earth and ripe red currant. The rich, full and very generous medium-bodied flavors possess a textured mouth feel and culminate in a firm, dusty and mildly rustic finish. This is a very serious *villages* that offers excellent length. Worth your consideration. 89/2015+

2009 Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Vergelesses”: (from a 1.2 ha parcel). A deft touch of wood sets off ripe aromas of violets, plum and warm earth that merge into rich, generous and extract-rich flavors that possess a seductive texture on the long, delicious and mineral-inflected finish. While the tannins are firm, this is essentially a wine of finesse. 90/2015+

2009 Pernand-Vergelesses “Ile de Vergelesses”: (from 40+ year old vines). Here too there is a discreet application of wood that does not inhibit the clear expression of the more elegant and cooler red and dark berry fruit aromas that evidence an overt minerality. There is solid detail to the mouth coating, delicious and stony medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a dusty and naturally sweet finish of much better than average length. 91/2016+

2009 Beaune “Clos du Roi”: The wood is a bit more obvious but it still is not unduly intrusive with fresh, ripe and expressive red berry fruit and warm earth aromas that complement the equally earthy, rich, generous and sappy middle weight flavors that are not only delicious but very Beaune in character. Moreover, there is enough depth presence to make for a lovely drink already yet there is sufficient underlying material to suggest that there is 5 to 7 years of upside potential. 90/2015+

2009 Beaune “Bressandes”: Somewhat surprisingly, this is actually a bit less elegant though it offers more aromatic breadth to the obviously earthy red and blue pinot fruit that precedes the rich, generous and relatively voluminous flavors that enjoy fine mid-palate concentration as well as a touch of minerality on the more firmly structured and more persistent finish. 91/2016+

2009 Beaune “Grèves”: (from 50+ year old vines). A mildly rustic nose speaks of ripe red berry fruit, iron and warm earth that carry a whiff of the *sauvage* as well. The textured, firm and somewhat somber middle weight flavors are quite serious and deliver excellent length on the equally rustic but wonderfully long finish. This is not a wine of finesse or refinement but the underlying material is terrific and this should reward aging out to a decade. 92/2017+

2009 Corton-Pougets: A reserved if attractively fresh and ripe nose of red currant, plum and almost pungent wet stone notes that carry over to the rich, full and generous yet impressively precise big-bodied flavors that possess excellent depth and length. This is a big wine by the typical standards of Pougets and is notably mineral-driven though it seems to sacrifice none of its usual elegance. 93/2021+

2009 Corton: (from Les Perrières and Les Chaumes et Voierosse – the former has 50 year old vines and the latter 30 to 35 year old vines). This is aromatically less elegant but a bit more complex with a wide ranging nose of earth, *animale*, ripe red currant and plum aromas that give way to surprisingly refined yet powerful and well-muscled broad-shouldered flavors that brim with dry extract. The hugely long finish is palate staining and almost painfully intense and there is a subtle touch of wood that surfaces as well though with this much underlying material, it should be integrated quickly. 93/2021+

Domaine Rollin Père et Fils (Pernand-Vergelesses)

2009	Aloxe-Corton	red	88
2009	Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune	red	86
2009	Pernand-Vergelesses	red	(87-89)
2009	Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Fichots” 1er	red	90
2009	➔ Pernand-Vergelesses “Ile de Vergelesses” 1er	red	91
2009	Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Vergelesses” 1er	red	89
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune “Grands Liards”	red	(87-89)

Rémi Rollin said that 2009 was a “very easy vintage, indeed it was as easy for reds as it was for whites. We obtained superb maturities, even in the Hautes Côtes which hit 13% in potential alcohol which is extremely rare. The crop was super clean with almost no sorting necessary. Yields though were quite variable as the Hautes Côtes and the Pernand *villages* were only around 30 hl/ha but the rest were relatively generous. As to the wines, it’s remarkable but they’re open and accessible already though I believe that they will age well.” (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, Shekomeko, NY; Richards Walford, www.r-w.co.uk, UK; Sequin & Robillard/Vinifera, www.sequinrobillard.ca, Canada).

2009 Bourgogne – Hautes Côtes de Beaune: A notably ripe nose, in fact this is very ripe in the context of what is typical for the *appellation*, revealing notes of red and blue pinot fruit and plum aromas. There is good richness to the round and naturally sweet middle weight flavors that evidence a mineral component on the delicious and persistent finish. This is not a classic Hautes Côtes but it certainly is pretty and will drink well almost immediately. 86/2012+

2009 Pernand-Vergelesses: (no new oak and 25% one year old oak). This is also quite ripe with a dark berry fruit and raspberry liqueur suffused nose that complements the delicious, generous and energetic flavors that exhibit good delineation on the lingering finish. (87-89)/2014+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune “Grands Liards”: An abundance of Savigny-style earth characterizes the relatively pretty red currant aromas that lead to rich, round, supple and fleshy middle weight flavors that culminate in a firm, delicious and only mildly rustic finish. This should make for a lovely *villages* with a few years of bottle age. (87-89)/2014+

2009 Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Vergelesses: (from 40 to 45 year old vine fruit aged 20% new oak). This is also quite ripe with aromas of cassis, black cherry and warm earth that precede rich, full-bodied and palate enveloping flavors blessed with copious dry extract that renders the moderately firm tannins less prominent than they would otherwise be. This is an extremely ripe wine though it avoids any sense of heaviness or that excessive roasted character. 89/2015+

2009 Pernand-Vergelesses “Les Fichots”: (a mix of 35 and 65+ year old vines and 25% new oak). This is also very ripe yet manages to convey a slightly better sense of freshness to the red berry liqueur and warm earth aromas that merge into the rich, concentrated and serious medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a long, powerful and relatively firm backend. 90/2016+

2009 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). Here the ripe mineral-inflected and liqueur-like nose displays both more elegance as well as greater freshness that continues onto the rich, full-bodied and naturally sweet flavors that possess a seductive mouth feel as well as excellent length. This could be enjoyed young but I would advise cellaring it for up to a decade. 91/2017+

2009 Aloxe-Corton: (25% new oak and 25% is from the 1er Les Guérets). A very bright and completely different nose of ripe red pinot, raspberry and cherry aromas that enjoy added depth from the warm earth and underbrush hints, both of which can also be found on the rich, full and relatively powerful flavors that possess solid mid-palate density, all wrapped in a balanced and long if slightly warm finish. 88/2015+

Domaine Nicolas Rossignol (Volnay)

2009	Aloxe-Corton	red	(87-90)
2009	Beaune "Clos des Mouches" 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	Beaune "Clos du Roi" 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	Beaune "Reversées" 1er	red	(89-91)
2009	➔ Bourgogne – Cuvée L'Héritière	red	(86-89)
2009	➔ Pommard "Argillières" 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	➔ Pommard "Chaponnières" 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	➔ Pommard "Chanlins" 1er	red	(92-94)
2009	➔ Pommard "Epenots" 1er	red	(92-94)
2009	➔ Pommard "Fremiers" 1er	red	(91-94)
2009	➔ Pommard "Jarolières" 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	➔ Pommard "Rugiens" 1er	red	(92-95)
2009	➔ Pommard "Les Vignots"	red	(89-91)
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Fourneaux" 1er	red	(89-92)
2009	➔ Volnay "Caillerets" 1er	red	(92-94)
2009	➔ Volnay "Chevret" 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	➔ Volnay "Clos des Angles" 1er	red	(90-92)
2009	➔ Volnay "Roncerets" 1er	red	(92-95)
2009	➔ Volnay "Santenots" 1er	red	(91-93)
2009	➔ Volnay "Taillepieds" 1er	red	(93-95)

Nicolas Rossignol, who directs this 20+ ha domaine, enthusiastically commented that 2009 was "a rather particular vintage. I describe it this way because in my view strong *terroirs* can handle the ripeness levels but the lesser ones are dominated by it. We began picking on the 12th of September and brought in very ripe and super clean fruit that required almost no sorting. Partially because of the absence of sorting losses yields were generous, which is to say between 35 and 40 hl/ha. Sugars were also high with potential alcohols of between 13 and 14.5% so obviously nothing was chaptalized. As I say, the fruit was very ripe as were the seeds and the stems. As such, I used quite a bit of whole clusters in the vinifications, even for wines where I typically don't use any. Overall, the '09s are attractive wines and will most please those who enjoy very ripe and opulent burgundies." As the scores and comments confirm, the Rossignol '09s are among the very best wines that I sampled in the Côte de Beaune and there are several wines, in particular the Rugiens, Taillepieds and Roncerets that are not to be missed. Note that there is a distinction without a true meaning between the wines labeled as domaine and those which are not so indicated. This is because Rossignol has his own vineyards as well as buying in fruit from family members but the key point is that he controls every aspect of the viticulture and harvest. As a consequence, there is only a legal distinction between his domaine wines and those that are technically *négociant* wines. (A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; Bibendum, www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, UK).

2009 Bourgogne - Cuvée L'Héritière: (from vines planted in 1922; 50% whole clusters). An earthy and distinctly floral dark berry fruit nose leads to quite rich and altogether serious flavors that possess unusually good volume and a really lovely texture on the mocha-infused finish. While certainly riper than is typical, this is an impressive Bourgogne. (86-89)/2015+

2009 Aloxe-Corton: This is also quite ripe with an earthy and rustic dark berry fruit suffused nose that gives way to rich, powerful and admirably concentrated middle weight flavors that possess an explosive and intense finish. This is a serious and age-worthy Aloxe *villages* and while it's not especially refined, I like the mouth coating texture. (87-90)/2017+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Fourneaux": (60% whole clusters). Moderate wood frames an expressive nose of ripe aromas of dark berry fruit, violets and plenty of Savigny-style earth that is in keeping with the relatively fine medium-bodied flavors that possess a supple and round mouth feel, all wrapped in a very firm and lingering finish. A lovely Savigny. (89-92)/2019+

2009 Beaune "Clos des Mouches": An expressive and ripe nose of menthol, spice and red berry liqueur aromas complements the equally ripe and mineral-inflected flavors that brim with dry extract on the serious, mouth coating and intense finish that displays impeccable balance. This pretty and solidly complex effort should age well. (89-92)/2017+

2009 Beaune "Clos du Roi": (60% whole clusters). A deft application of oak sets off floral and very ripe aromas of plum, blue berry and cherry that marry into rich, round and fleshy middle weight flavors that are easy to like and culminate in a spicy and mouth coating finish. This is very Beaune in character. (89-91)/2016+

2009 Beaune “Reversées”: Reduction renders the nose difficult to read but there is good verve and freshness to the mouth coating, intense and serious flavors that possess an abundance of dry extract that pushes the firm tannins to the background on the moderately complex and austere finish. (89-91)/2017+

2009 Volnay “Clos des Angles”: (50% whole clusters). An intensely floral nose also exhibits notes of black berry, red currant and wet stone where the latter element can also be found on the pure, elegant, supple and well-detailed flavors that deliver an impressively long after taste on the notably firm finish. Patience will be required. (90-92)/2019+

2009 Volnay “Caillerets”: (30% whole clusters). A very ripe, floral, refined and dazzlingly spicy black fruit nose introduces pure, detailed and almost aggressively mineral-infused flavors that possess a beautiful mouth feel while culminating in an explosive and overtly austere finish that borders on the painfully intense. This poised and harmonious effort will need every bit of 15 years to arrive at its full majority but it should be well worth the wait. (92-94)/2024+

2009 Volnay “Chevret”: (50% whole clusters). Reduction renders the nose impossible to evaluate. Otherwise the rich, refined and well-detailed medium-bodied flavors possess excellent intensity on the long, focused and palate staining finish. This beauty is very Volnay in character and should offer 12 to 15 years of upside development potential. (91-93)/2021+

2009 Volnay “Taillepieds”: A notably ripe yet still cool, fresh and elegant nose speaks of stone and menthol hints to the spiced plum aromas. The rich, serious and densely textured middle weight flavors are blessed with seemingly endless reserves of sap that render the very firm tannic spine to the background on the explosive, austere and hugely long finish. This is not refined in the inimitable fashion of a classic Taillepieds but I sense that it will become so in time. This breathtaking effort will require a plenitude of patience though and it is one of the few wines in the range that will probably not drink well in its youth. (93-95)/2026+

2009 Volnay “Santenots”: An extremely ripe yet not *surmature* nose of menthol, plus liqueur and cassis aromas lead to very rich, indeed even opulent medium-bodied flavors that exude an abundance of palate coating dry extract on the velvety, powerful and coffee-infused finish of dramatic persistence. This is not an especially elegant version of the *appellation* nor does it have the intense minerality of the best examples yet it is compelling in its own right. (91-93)/2021+

2009 Volnay “Roncerets”: (30% whole clusters). In contrast to the expressiveness of many wines in the range, this is restrained to the point of reticence though aggressive swirling liberating grudging aromas of black fruit, wet stone and lovely floral notes. The dense, powerful and tautly muscular medium-bodied flavors ooze a fine extract that confers a textured and almost chewy mouth feel to the fantastically long and explosive finish. This wonderfully impressive effort is built for the long haul and about the only nit is a subtle touch of warmth that doesn't detract significantly from the sense of harmony. A real stunner of a Roncerets and highly recommended if you have the requisite patience. (92-95)/2024+

2009 Pommard “Les Vignots”: (30% whole clusters). A floral and quite ripe nose speaks of liqueur of red berry fruit, wet stone and earth aromas that are followed by energetic, fresh and silky-textured medium weight flavors that are surprisingly fine as the tannins on the mildly warm finish are not at all rustic. A high-quality *villages* that is built to age. (89-91)/2017+

2009 Pommard “Jarolières”: (100% whole clusters). This is also very floral and quite elegant with primarily black pinot fruit and warm earth aromas serving as a refined introduction to the rich, full-bodied, velvet-textured and bold flavors that possess an overt muscularity on the detailed and attractively mineral-inflected if austere finish that coats the palate. This moderately structured effort will need plenty of time to fully mature. (90-93)/2021+

2009 Pommard “Argillières”: An exceptionally pretty and attractive nose offers up aromas of violet and black raspberry cut with warm earth nuances that continue onto the relatively fine and well-detailed flavors that culminate in a supple, round, mouth coating and palate staining finish. A wine of harmony that will be approachable young yet has the underlying material and tannic spine to require 10 to 12 years of cellar time for full maturity. (90-92)/2019+

2009 Pommard “Chaponnières”: A highly expressive nose of liqueur of plum and purple fruits slides gracefully into rich, full-bodied and serious flavors yet the mouth feel is really quite fine. There is good generosity to the palate coating finish as there is an impressive amount of dry extract that renders the very firm tannins less prominent than they would otherwise be. A potentially superb Chaponnières. (90-93)/2021+

2009 Pommard “Chanlins”: A very ripe nose sidles up to the edge of being *surmature* yet does not quite fall over the edge although there are aromas of coffee, mocha and plum liqueur. The dusty, powerful and intensely mineral-driven large-scaled flavors brim with buckets of dry extract, all wrapped in a palate staining finish of stunning length where there is a slight touch of warmth. This very firmly structured wine is ripe to the point that it will divide collectors as some will love it and others will find it to be too ripe. I stress though that this is a balanced effort and just a question of how ripe is too ripe. (92-94)/2024+

2009 Pommard “Fremiers”: (100% whole clusters). A highly floral and spicy nose of elegant and ripe red pinot fruit and earth nuances that transfer over to the complex, intense, powerful and mineral-driven medium weight plus flavors that possess excellent detail and ample tannin-buffering extract on the superbly persistent and firmly structured finish. This should amply reward long-term cellaring and overall, this is a Pommard that combines power with finesse. In a word, terrific. (91-94)/2024+

2009 Pommard “Epenots”: A broad and highly complex nose features aromas of violets, plum, red currant and black cherry that is trimmed in plenty of warm earth character that also suffuses the rich, generous, powerful and mouth coating broad-shouldered flavors that are shaped by dense but relatively fine tannins and outstanding length. This is a classic Epenots with power and a certain refinement. Lovely juice with ample upside potential, which is a good thing because it will need plenty of cellar time. (92-94)/2024+

2009 Pommard “Rugiens”: This is also exceptionally ripe yet again, the plum, cassis and wet stone aromas stop short of being *surmature*. There is excellent richness yet superb detail to the mineral-inflected, powerful and driving flavors that culminate in a dusty, precise, mouth coating and explosive finish. I very much like the balance even though the extremely firm but ripe tannins suggest that this stunning Rugiens may very well require 20 years of cellar time before it reaches its peak. A most impressive effort but I wouldn't buy this unless you have a lot of patience and cool storage. (92-95)/2026+

Domaine Comte Senard (Aloxe-Corton)

2009	➔ Aloxe-Corton	red	89
2009	Aloxe-Corton “Les Valozières” 1er	red	90
2009	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	93
2009	Corton-En Charlemagne Grand Cru	red	90
2009	Corton-Clos des Meix Grand Cru	red	92
2009	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	red	93
2009	Corton-Les Paulands Grand Cru	red	92

Lorraine Senard told me that “we waited until the 16th of September to begin picking and brought in a super clean crop that averaged between 13 and 14% in terms of potential alcohols for the reds. Yields were very good though not excessive and because the stems were also quite ripe, I used quite a bit of them in the vinification. I gave them 8 full days of cool maceration rather than the 2 to 3 days that we normally allow. I very much like the wines because even though they're quite ripe, they are not over ripe, heavy or lacking in acidity. They should actually age very well though time will be the final arbiter of that.”

2009 Aloxe-Corton: (from 5 different vineyards). A rustic and earthy yet somehow quite attractive nose of ripe red berry fruit and plum aromas lead to rich, textured and delicious flavors that possess excellent volume and fine length. This is a very good and moderately structured *villages* that is worth a look. 89/2016+

2009 Aloxe-Corton “Les Valozières”: (vinified with 100% whole clusters). A highly floral and well-spiced nose of ripe red pinot fruit gives way to detailed and admirably pure medium-bodied flavors that possess a silky mouth feel on the balanced and persistent finish. If this can add complexity in time, my score may be viewed as unduly conservative as this is really quite good. 90/2017+

2009 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; vinified with 50% whole clusters). A floral but intensely earthy and overtly *sauvage* nose of ripe red and dark berry fruit aromas marries into rich, full-bodied and broad-shouldered flavors that possess excellent volume as well as impressive length on the mouth coating if mildly rustic finish. This should amply reward longer-term cellaring. 92/2021+

2009 Corton-Les Paulands: (vinified with 100% whole clusters). Almost invisible wood sets off a distinctly ripe red berry liqueur-like nose liberally laced with warm earth nuances that continue to characterize the generous and quite fleshy big-bodied flavors that are seductively textured, all wrapped in a robust and powerful if slightly rustic finish. I quite like this though the prominent tannins will require at least 15 years to fully resolve. 92/2024+

2009 Corton-En Charlemagne: Discreet but not invisible wood frames very ripe black cherry liqueur and warm earth hints that introduce rich, full-bodied and intense flavors that possess moderate austerity on the otherwise long finish. Like the Valozières, if this adds depth with bottle age, this could prove to be better than my early score suggests. 90/2021+

2009 Corton-Bressandes: A markedly ripe yet attractively elegant nose displays notes of pure and seductive red currant, plum, menthol and stone hints, the latter of which also suffuses the firm, intense and full-bodied flavors that evidence a taut muscularity on the energetic, mouth coating, dusty and strikingly long finish. This is finer than the Clos du Roi but not as complex. A qualitative choice but both are terrific. 93/2024+

2009 Corton-Clos du Roi: A conspicuously ripe, serious, earthy and mildly *animale* nose features notes of red and blue pinot fruit compote that complements the equally serious, rich, full and overtly tannic flavors that possess a manifestly chewy mouth feel on the hugely persistent finish. This is perhaps a bit riper than a classic Clos du Roi but otherwise, this is text book. Note well that this will be suitable only for the very patient. 93/2029+

Domaine Tollot-Beaut (Chorey-lès-Beaune)

2009	Aloxe-Corton	red	88
2009	➔ Aloxe-Corton "Les Fournières" 1er	red	90
2009	Aloxe-Corton "Les Vercots" 1er	red	88
2009	Beaune "Clos du Roi" 1er	red	89
2009	Beaune "Grèves" 1er	red	89
2009	Bourgogne	red	84
2009	Chorey-lès-Beaune	red	86
2009	Chorey-lès-Beaune "La Pièce du Chapître"	red	87
2009	Corton Grand Cru	red	91
2009	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	92
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Champs Chenevery" 1er	red	89
2009	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières" 1er	red	88

Nathalie Tollot said that 2009 is an "excellent vintage that started well and ended well. We picked from the 12th to the 21st of September and brought in extremely clean fruit that required almost no sorting of any kind save for the odd leaf or insect. Potential alcohols were strong as between 13 and 14% as were yields as they were between 35 and 50 hl/ha. We destemmed 100% and did a 10 to 15 day total *cuvaison*. As to the wines, they remind me of the 1999s, which is to say lovely quality." Note that the Tollot wines are deliberately bottled with slightly higher levels of CO₂ so decanting the wines is always a good idea. (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).

2009 Bourgogne: A clearly ripe nose of black berry, plum and earth aromas leads to rich, round and relatively generous middle weight flavors that are delicious. The finish, while not heavy, is a bit flat though perhaps this is due to the recent bottling. 84/now

2009 Chorey-lès-Beaune: This is also markedly ripe if a fraction fresher with red berry liqueur aromas giving way to rich, round and naturally sweet flavors that culminate in an easy to like finish that like the Bourgogne seems to lack a bit of energy. 86/2012+

2009 Chorey-lès-Beaune "La Pièce du Chapître": (from a 1.7 ha parcel of 50+ year old vines). This is also conspicuously ripe though not roasted with red cherry, plum and warm earth aromas marrying into more vibrant middle weight flavors that possess an attractively textured mouth feel, all wrapped in a reasonably persistent and dusty finish. 87/2013+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières": A conspicuously ripe nose speaks of plum with hints of prune and Savigny-style earth that also suffuses the velvety and extract-rich flavors that possess good complexity and solid persistence on the mouth coating finish. This is riper than I personally prefer but it's not heavy or roasted. 88/2014+

2009 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Champs Chenevery": (note that Champs Chenevery is a climat within Fourneaux). Here the nose is noticeably fresher with red berry liqueur and underbrush aromas that complement well the rich, delicious, vibrant and seductive middle weight flavors that offer up mineral hints on the mouth coating and solidly complex finish. This is really very pretty and worth a look. 89/2014+

2009 Beaune "Clos du Roi": This is also plainly quite ripe though is perhaps just a touch fresher still with notes of plum and red cherry liqueur that gives way to rich, fleshy and overtly generous medium-bodied flavors that are delicious, well-balanced and attractively persistent. This forward and already open effort is very Beaune in style. 89/2014+

2009 Beaune “Grèves”: A similar if slightly earthier nose is followed by rich, full and naturally sweet flavors that possess both good volume as well as a textured mouth feel, all wrapped in a slightly austere finish that is shaped by mildly firmer tannic spine. Delicious and this too is very Beaune in character. 89/2015+

2009 Aloxe-Corton: A highly complex and patently ripe nose offers up notes of black raspberry, plum and prune aromas that are in keeping with the equally ripe, rich, full and naturally sweet flavors that possess fine mid-palate sap that helps to buffer the firm, robust and mildly rustic finish that delivers moderate length. This is riper than I prefer. 88/2016+

2009 Aloxe-Corton “Les Vercots”: (from vines planted in 1928 though 50% of them were ripped up after the 2005 vintage). This is aromatically quite similar to the Aloxe *villages* except that here there is no prune influence. The rich, concentrated and quite serious medium-bodied flavors are robust, powerful and more firmly structured on the lingering and slightly heavy finish where a hint of prune does surface. This may pick up energy in time but at present, it’s a bit flat. 88/2016+

2009 Aloxe-Corton “Les Fournières”: A markedly fresher nose speaks of red berry liqueur, plum and warm earth aromas that merge seamlessly into rich and full-bodied flavors that are shaped by firm but finer tannins than those of the Vercots on the complex, long and balanced finish. This is really quite pretty and worth considering. 90/2016+

2009 Corton: (from Les Combes aged in 60% new wood). A ripe but attractively fresh nose evidences classic Corton aromas of *animale*, earth, underbrush and dark berry fruit aromas that lead to rich, full-bodied and serious broad-shouldered flavors that possess excellent volume on the textured if slightly sweet finish. I suspect that the sweetness will dissipate as the wine ages but it’s enough to detract ever-so-mildly from the finale. 91/2019+

2009 Corton-Bressandes: This is noticeably riper though it avoids falling over into *surmature* fruit or prune notes. The wonderfully textured, intense and tautly muscled flavors possess excellent depth of material as well as mineral notes that add a sense of lift to the mouth coating finish that also displays a touch of sweetness. Like the straight Corton, I suspect that this sweetness will dissipate with bottle age. 92/2021+

Domaine Thierry Viot-Guillemard (Pommard)

2009	➔ Auxey-Duresses “Les Reugnes” 1er	red	89
2009	Beaune “Montagne St. Désirée”	red	88
2009	Beaune “Clos des Mouches” 1er	red	90
2009	Bourgogne	red	86
2009	➔ Bourgogne Maison Dieu	red	87
2009	➔ Monthelie “Les Duresses” 1er	red	90
2009	➔ Pommard	red	90
2009	➔ Pommard “Clos Derrière St. Jean” 1er	red	92
2009	➔ Pommard “Les Epenots” 1er	red	93
2009	➔ Pommard “La Platière” 1er	red	92
2009	➔ Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	red	93
2009	Volnay “Cros Martin”	red	88

The always upbeat Thierry Viot calls 2009 a “good to very good vintage that gave us super clean fruit and highly seductive wines. We began picking on the 11th of September and brought in ripe but not roasted fruit that averaged between 12.5 and 13% in terms of potential alcohols. Yields were generous but not ridiculous at about 48 hl/ha though note that this includes both regional wines. I did a normal vinification with a total cuvaison that lasted approximately 3 weeks and then racked into barrel for which about two-thirds of them were new, at least for the upper level wines. 2009 is a lovely vintage that should prove to be very popular but let’s be honest, it’s not 2005.” Viot indicated that the wines had just been bottled before my February tasting. (Scott Paul Wines, www.scottpaul.com, Portland, OR, Fine Wine, Maywood, IL; A Patrick Lesec Selection, Paris, France; no known UK importers).

2009 Bourgogne: The barest hint of wood sets off ripe red berry fruit and earth aromas that lead to rich, round and delicious flavors that are quite supple and generous, all wrapped in a mildly rustic finish. A very solid Bourgogne that will drink well almost immediately. 86/2012+

2009 Bourgogne – Maison Dieu: Here the wood is slightly more evident though it still remains discreet with a somewhat riper and more complex nose of red currant, earth and violet hints that introduce supple, round and utterly delicious flavors that possess fine underlying material and fine depth and length. This is a first-rate Bourgogne. 87/2013+

2009 Beaune “Montagne St. Désirée”: Subtle if not invisible wood frames very fresh red pinot fruit and discreet mineral notes that also suffuse the nicely rich and well-detailed middle weight flavors that possess good verve and punch on the dusty and moderately persistent finish. This is not overly complex but I like the balance and sense of energy. 88/2014+

2009 Volnay “Cros Martin”: This also evidences unobtrusive oak influence that allows the notably earthier and riper liqueur of red berry fruit aromas free reign to express themselves. The richer and fuller medium-bodied flavors possess good minerality and are supported by mildly rustic tannins on the solidly persistent and dusty finish. 88/2015+

2009 Pommard: Well-integrated and understated nuances of toasty oak do not unduly intrude on the very fresh and exuberant red pinot fruit nuanced by hints of earth and underbrush, both of which can be found on the detailed, voluminous and solidly concentrated medium-bodied flavors that possess ample dry extract. The supporting tannins are dense but fine and overall, this is an excellent *villages* that should require 6 to 8 years of cellar time. Recommended. 90/2016+

2009 Auxey-Duresses “Les Reugnes”: (from a .20 ha parcel). A restrained nose of barely detectable wood allows the impressively complex and densely dark berry fruit and earth-suffused aromas to gracefully introduce somewhat *sauvage* and full-bodied flavors that culminate in a velvety and lingering finish. The supporting tannins are mildly rustic but overall, this is really quite good and worth a look. 89/2016+

2009 Monthelie “Les Duresses”: (from a .18 ha parcel). A slightly more elegant red and dark berry fruit nose precedes rich, fleshy and delicious flavors that are shaped by notably finer tannins and excellent finishing intensity on the palate staining finish. I like the underlying sense of tension and solid balance. This should be quite good in a few years. 90/2016+

2009 Beaune “Clos des Mouches”: (from vines planted in '47). A *soupeçon* of wood does not interfere with the transparency of the very fresh mineral-inflected red pinot fruit aromas that complement the equally fresh and energetic middle weight flavors that possess good mid-palate density and culminate in a racy, detailed and focused finish. Lovely and while this is not especially complex at present, the underlying material is such that it appears that more depth will develop. 90/2016+

2009 Pommard “La Platière”: (from a .7 ha parcel containing the Domaine's oldest vines planted in '36). A wonderfully pure, cool and ultra-fresh nose of relatively high-toned red pinot fruit and subtle warm earth notes gives way to velvety and seductively textured medium weight flavors that possess a mouth coating and highly persistent finish. The balance is impeccable and this is a Pommard of finesse in 2009. 92/2017+

2009 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 '47). This is also ultra-elegant, high-toned and admirably pure with essence of red pinot fruit trimmed in hints of underbrush merging seamlessly into detailed and lightly mineral-infused flavors that possess excellent mid-palate concentration and absolutely impeccable balance. An ageworthy Pommard of finesse and refinement. 92/2017+

2009 Pommard “Les Epenots”: A pure and soft red berry fruit nose that is elegant, airy and solidly complex is trimmed in a judicious amount of wood. The suave, seductive and beautifully textured flavors coat the palate with dry extract that renders the otherwise firm tannic spine less prominent on the strikingly well-balanced finish. This is really quite classy and stylish and should make for a terrific Epenots in 10 to 12 years. Highly recommended. 93/2019+

2009 Pommard “Les Rugiens”: (from a .5 ha parcel located at the bottom of Rugiens Haut). Soft wood notes allow the clear expression of slightly cooler and more elegant still mineral-inflected red pinot fruit aromas. The rich, detailed and stony medium weight plus flavors evidence a taut muscularity, fine power and excellent focus, all wrapped in a vibrant, palate staining and gorgeously persistent finish. This is a classic Rugiens of class and grace and one that should amply reward 12 to 15 years of cellar time. 93/2021+

Domaine Joseph Voillot (Volnay)

2009	➔ Bourgogne Vieilles Vignes	red	87
2009	➔ Pommard Vieilles Vignes	red	89
2009	➔ Pommard “Les Epenots” 1er	red	(91-94)
2009	➔ Pommard “Les Pézerolles” 1er	red	(90-93)
2009	➔ Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	red	(92-94)
2009	Volnay Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2009	➔ Volnay “Brouillards” 1er	red	91
2009	Volnay “Caillerets” 1er	red	90
2009	➔ Volnay “Les Champans” 1er	red	(91-93)

Jean-Pierre Charlot explained that 2009 was “a vintage where it was important to harvest early to avoid excess ripeness and a loss of freshness. We began picking on the 7th of September and brought in an extremely clean crop where sorting was if anything an afterthought. Yields were strong at between 45 and 48 hl/ha and potential alcohols were also very good at between 12 and 12.9%. Mother Nature gave us everything we needed to make very good wines and anyone who didn’t just wasn’t paying attention. I like the ‘09s though I’m not sure that they’re quite as good as the press is generally making them out to be. For me, I would call 2009 a good to very good vintage rather than a great one.” Note the Clos Micault was not presented for evaluation. (A Roy Cloud Selection for Vintage ’59 Imports, www.vintage59.com, Washington, D.C.; Adnams, www.adnams.co.uk, Ball Brothers, www.merchantballsbrothers.co.uk, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Decorum Vintners, www.decvin.com, Goedhuis & Co., www.goedhuis.com, and Richard Harvey Wines, all UK).

2009 Bourgogne - Vieilles Vignes: (from a parcel of vines located near Volnay). An earthy and notably ripe dark berry fruit nose leads to mildly rustic middle weight flavors that possess good punch and unusually good finishing depth and length. This is an excellent Bourgogne and recommended. 87/2013+

2009 Volnay - Vieilles Vignes: A slightly more elegant nose offers up red and dark berry fruit trimmed in earth and stone notes, both of which continue onto the rich, textured and delicious medium-bodied flavors that deliver fine length. The tannins are sufficiently firm to suggest that 5 to 6 years in the cellar will be required. 88/2014+

2009 Pommard - Vieilles Vignes: (from Les Cras though not labeled as such). As it typically is, this is more interesting than its Volnay *villages* counterpart with very pretty, fresh and ripe red currant and earth suffused aromas that complement well the rich, supple and utterly delicious medium-bodied flavors that are shaped by moderately firm tannins and excellent length. This is worth considering. 89/2015+

2009 Volnay “Brouillards”: (from vines that average 65+ years of age). A restrained nose features notes of ripe blue berry, red currant, warm earth and underbrush hints that give way to vibrant, intense and mouth coating middle weight flavors that possess good detail and plenty of minerality on the firm, long and focused finish. Lovely. 91/2017+

2009 Volnay “Les Frémiets”: (from vines that average 50+ years of age). A deft touch of wood sets off an attractive mix of violets, wet stone and ripe red cherry aromas. The rich, full and seductively textured flavors possess excellent delineation and fine length. This is on the awkward side today as it hasn’t fully harmonized but the underlying material is of sufficiently high quality that it should do so in time. 91/2016+

2009 Volnay “Les Champans”: (from vines that average 50 years of age). A somber, serious and reserved nose features a dense array of dark berry fruit aromas that are nuanced by notes of iron-infused earth and wet stone. The rich, intense and relatively powerful flavors possess ample verve and excellent persistence on the decidedly firm finale. A classic Champans. (91-93)/2021+

2009 Volnay “Caillerets”: (from a small .14 ha parcel planted in 1984). A highly complex *mélange* of red and blue berry liqueur notes trimmed in an almost pungent minerality that also characterizes the detailed, mouth coating and palate staining flavors that possess good balance on the firm finish but not the complexity of the best here. To be sure, this is solid and quite good, just not truly distinguished in the context of the *appellation*. 90/2019+

2009 Pommard “Les Pézerolles”: (from a .4 ha parcel planted in 1963). An understated *souçon* of wood does not interfere with the transparency of the pretty and ripe red pinot fruit, spice and earth aromas. The supple, round and beautifully detailed medium-bodied flavors possess plenty of dry extract that buffers the firm tannins on the mineral-inflected and impressively persistent finish. This should be lovely in time though prepare to wait at least a decade. (90-93)/2019+

2009 Pommard “Les Epenots”: (from a .18 ha parcel in Les Petits Epenots planted in 1961). An extremely pretty and perfumed nose offers up dense red berry fruit aromas that complement rich, round and attractively textured flavors that possess excellent intensity and real drive on the balanced, complex and highly persistent finish. (91-94)/2021+

2009 Pommard “Les Rugiens”: (from a .25 ha parcel planted in 1959). An elegant and expressive nose of picture perfect red pinot and stone aromas merges seamlessly into detailed, pure, intense and harmonious flavors that also exude a fine minerality on the impeccably well-balanced and strikingly persistent finish. Textbook Rugiens built for the long haul even though the copious sap will allow this to be enjoyed young if desired. (92-94)/2024+

Current Release California and Oregon Pinot Noir

Acacia Vineyard (Sonoma, CA)

2008	Pinot Noir – Lone Tree Vineyard	red	87
2008	Pinot Noir – St. Clair Vineyard	red	90
2008	Pinot Noir – Winery Lake Vineyard	red	88

Acacia was founded in 1979 with Matthew Glynn now serving as senior winemaker with a production level of approximately 300,000 cases annually. The winery sources pinot noir and also has their estate planted to 82 acres with 11 different pinot clones. For further information visit: www.diageowines.com.

2008 Pinot Noir – St. Clair Vineyard: (from Carneros fruit; 13.8%). Here the fresh aromas are distinctly high-toned in character with notes of cranberry, raspberry and cherry. The energetic and well-detailed medium-bodied flavors possess good depth and I very much like the mouth feel of the delicious, balanced and pure finish. This is lovely and while it's not super complex at present, this may very well come as the balance should permit it to age gracefully. 90/2014+

2008 Pinot Noir – Winery Lake Vineyard: (from Carneros fruit; 14.7%). A very fresh and relatively cool red and blue pinot fruit nose leads to rich and attractively voluminous flavors that possess reasonably good delineation and punch on the delicious if ever-so-mildly edgy finish that also evidences a trace of warmth. 88/2014+

2008 Pinot Noir – Lone Tree Vineyard: (from Carneros fruit; 14.9%). This is aromatically similar to the Winery Lake if perhaps a bit more complex with rich, sappy and nicely concentrated middle weight flavors that possess a suave mid-palate with the same edginess to the slightly warmer finish. 87/2013+

Arterberry Maresh (Dayton, OR)

2008	Pinot Noir – Dundee Hills	red	90
2008	➔ Pinot Noir – Juliard Vineyard	red	93
2008	➔ Pinot Noir – Maresh Vineyard	red	92

From winemaker Jim Arterberry Maresh. 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 or email jam@arterberrymaresh.com.

2008 Pinot Noir – Dundee Hills: (bottled at 13.5%). An elegant, pure and ripe nose blends both upper and medium-register fruit that includes cranberry, raspberry, cherry and red pinot. The rich, delicious and intense middle weight flavors possess good mid-palate density and fine precision on the still tight and focused finish that delivers fine length. This is presently only showing a fraction of its full potential and clearly needs another 4 to 6 years to fully blossom. 90/2015+

2008 Pinot Noir – Maresh Vineyard: (from Dundee Hills fruit and bottled at 13.5%). This is more elegant still though noticeably more reserved with excellent complexity to the pretty red and dark pinot fruit cut with briar notes. The rich, full and quite generous flavors possess admirably good mid-palate density as well as a seductive mouth feel, all wrapped in a sappy, dusty and lingering finish. This is overtly austere at present and is very much in need of cellar time as this is indisputably built to age. 92/2016+

2008 Pinot Noir – Juliard Vineyard: (from Dundee Hills fruit and bottled at 13.5%). Here the very similar nose isn't more elegant than that of the Maresh but it is more complex as it offers a bit more breadth. There is good richness but also excellent detail to the silky, pure and seductive medium-bodied flavors that possess an abundance of dry extract that helps to buffer the firm tannic spine on the mouth coating and palate staining finish. This is also relatively austere but really quite appealing in its fashion. Lovely juice and worth a look provided that you intend to age it. 93/2016+

Brooks Wines (Amity, OR)

2008	Pinot Noir – Janus	red	90
2008	Pinot Noir – Rastaban	red	90
2008	Pinot Noir – Red Letter	red	89

For more information, contact: (503) 435-1278 or visit www.brookswines.com

2008 Pinot Noir – Red Letter: (Willamette Valley, 13.4%). A *cuvée* fashioned to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Brooks Wines, this pretty offering features a mix of red and blue pinot fruit with violet and plum hints that precedes delicious, supple and suave middle weight flavors that possess good depth and solid finishing persistence. It should also reward mid-term aging even though it could be approached now if desired. 89/2014+

2008 Pinot Noir – Janus: (Willamette Valley, 13.4%). A perfumed and solidly complex nose offers up notes of subtle spice, earth, briar and a *mélange* of dark berry fruit aromas. The fleshy but well-detailed medium-bodied flavors possess a sophisticated mouth feel as the supporting tannins are quite fine on the attractively intense and mildly austere finish. This is lovely though it will need a few years to round off the youthful asperity. 90/2015+

2008 Pinot Noir – Rastaban: (Eola-Amity Hills, 13.4%). This is a bit less aromatically interesting than the Janus as it's more somber and less perfumed, at least at present. The rich, round and suave flavors possess good balance and verve on the delicious, solidly complex and lingering finish. This also has a touch of austerity to the finish but less than that of the Janus and about the only nit here is a very mild touch of finishing warmth. A qualitative choice. 90/2015+

Chehalem (Newberg, OR)

2008	Pinot Noir – 3 Vineyard	red	88
2008	Pinot Noir – Corral Creek Vineyards	red	90
2008	Pinot Noir – Reserve	red	89
2008	➔ Pinot Noir – Ridgecrest	red	91
2008	Pinot Noir – Wind Ridge	red	90
2006	Pinot Noir – Ridgecrest Vineyards –Statement	red	88

Harry Peterson-Nedry is the founder, winemaker, and managing partner of Chehalem, one of Oregon's premier wineries. In 1990, Harry founded Chehalem, and his hands-on approach to winemaking began. Within five years, he had expanded the winery's estate holdings to include partnerships in Corral Creek Vineyards (adjacent to the winery) and Stoller Vineyards in the southern Dundee Hills, developed by his Chehalem partners, Bill and Cathy Stoller. The vineyards were originally planted in 1980 but the fruit was sold off until Chehalem's first commercial release in 1990. The general style here is usually for elegance, purity and obvious pinot character. For further information, contact: (503) 538-4700 or visit www.chehalemwines.com.

2008 Pinot Noir – 3 Vineyard: (A blend from all estate vineyards, 13.1%). An initial bit of reduction quickly dissipates to reveal fresh and bright cherry and red pinot fruit aromas that precede the round, supple and nicely detailed middle weight flavors that possess reasonably good depth and plenty of energy on the mostly fruit-driven finish. This is delicious and easy to like and while it could be drunk now, I would suggest 2 to 3 years of cellar time. 88/2013+

2008 Pinot Noir – Corral Creek Vineyards: (Chehalem Mountains; 13.5%). A high-toned cranberry and red currant-suffused nose is in keeping with the fresh, vibrant and beautifully well-detailed flavors blessed with good dry extract levels that buffer the moderately firm tannins on the intense and lingering finish. This possesses good personality that is very much in the Chehalem style, which is to say fruit-forward yet elegant. 90/2014+

2008 Pinot Noir – Wind Ridge: (Ribbon Ridge, 13.5%). Here the refined and highly expressive nose is still mostly red berry fruit dominated but there are attractive nuances of violets, plum and spice that add considerably to the overall sense of depth. There is good richness and volume to the delicious and mouth coating medium-bodied flavors that possess good balance and fine length. There is presently a touch of youthful asperity to the finish but it should round off with a few years in bottle. Worth a look. 90/2014+

2008 Pinot Noir – Ridgecrest: (Ribbon Ridge, 12.7%). A wonderfully perfumed red currant, blue berry and violet-infused nose marries into rich, delicious, supple and seductively textured medium weight flavors that possess a velvet mouth feel on

the balanced and solidly persistent finish. This is really very pretty and could actually be enjoyed now as the tannins are quite silky and while it will clearly age, the overall impression is of a wine that is deceptively approachable. 91/2013+

2008 Pinot Noir – Reserve: (13.2%; bottled under screw cap). Here the nose blends both upper and middle register fruit and briar notes, in particular cranberry and raspberry. The delicious and largely fruit-driven middle weight flavors possess good detail and reasonably good depth on the focused and moderately long finish. This is pretty rather than deep at present though the underlying material is sufficiently good that it may develop in time. 89/2014+

2006 Pinot Noir – Ridgecrest Vineyards - Statement: (Ribbon Ridge, 14.95%). This is notably riper than any of the preceding '08s with a much more deeply pitched nose of cassis, plum and violets. The big-bodied flavors possess plenty of mid-palate concentration and a velvety texture, all wrapped in a mouth coating and firmly tannic finish that evidences obvious warmth but in fairness, less than one might expect given the reported alcohol level. While I understand that the point of this wine is to make a "statement", this is not really my style as it lacks elegance and there is enough warmth that I prefer most of the '08 offerings. 88/2014+

Dierberg Estate Winery (Santa Ynez, CA)

2007	Pinot Noir – Santa Maria Valley	red	86
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In 1997 owners Mary and Jim Dierberg planted their first vines and are building their dream winery, designed with the caves 3 stories below the crush pad allowing all grapes, juice and wine to be moved entirely by gravity to ensure gentle handling. Destemmed grapes are trolled along the crush pad at level one and tipped into the fermentation tanks on level two. Later, the free run wine descends to the third and lowest level, the caves, for cellaring. Winemaker is Nick de Luca. For further information contact: (805) 693-0744 or visit www.dierbergvineyard.com

2007 Pinot Noir – Santa Maria Valley: (bottled at 14.1%). A ripe and notably spicy nose speaks of plum and dark berry pinot aromas that introduce rich, delicious and mouth coating middle weight flavors that possess a mild tanginess on the moderately persistent and ever-so-slightly warm finish. At present this is somewhat awkward and while it may come around, for the moment this is difficult though I do like the mid-palate concentration. 86/2013+

El Molino Winery (St. Helena, CA)

2007	Pinot Noir – Rutherford	red	89
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El Molino was originally founded in 1871, and was one of the first wineries in the Napa Valley and operated until Prohibition. It was purchased in the late 1930's by Lily Berlin's aunt and then brought from dormancy into active production after Lily's father purchased it in 1976. Now owned by winemaking partners, Lily and Jon Berlin with a current annual average pinot production of 900 cases; they produce about the same quantity in chardonnay. The pinot is whole cluster fermented with indigenous yeast and spends the first 18 months in mostly new François Frères cooperage. For further information, contact: (707) 963-3632 or visit www.elmolinowinery.com.

2007 Pinot Noir – Rutherford: (Rutherford, 14.5%). A pretty mix of upper and medium-toned red berry fruit, earth and a touch of spice leads to delicious, round and nicely intense middle weight flavors that possess fine complexity and persistence on the dusty and mouth coating finish. There is noticeable warmth that is not enough to disrupt the overall sense of harmony but it's not subtle. 89/2013+

Eric Kent Wine Cellars (Santa Rosa, CA)

2008	Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley	red	89
2008	Pinot Noir – Small Town	red	84
2008	Pinot Noir – Stiling Vineyard	red	88

From owner/winemaker Kent Humphrey. Most of the wine is now sold through their on-line mailing list and discounts are offered to members of the winery's E/K Direct Club. As an aside, original artwork showcasing various artists adorns each

bottle with a portion of sales donated to help artists continue their work. For further information contact: (707) 527-9700 or visit: www.erickentwines.com.

2008 Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley: (14.6%). A pretty and quite fresh nose displays red berry fruit, plum and subtle spice notes that precede detailed and nicely precise middle weight flavors that are delicious and vibrant, all wrapped in a balanced, persistent and solidly complex finish that evidences virtually no trace of warmth. Lovely. 89/2013+

2008 Pinot Noir – Small Town: (Russian River Valley, 14.3%). Noticeable reduction knocks down the cranberry and raspberry-infused nose and there is a very curious taste to the flavors. A bit disjointed and odd today. 84/2012+

2008 Pinot Noir – Stiling Vineyard: (Russian River Valley, 14.7%). Ripe aromas of cranberry, red pinot and strawberry lead to round, supple and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that possess good energy on the delicious and sappy finish. There is a slight touch of warmth on the backend but if the proper serving temperature is maintained, it shouldn't be a significant issue for most readers. 88/2013+

Gloria Ferrer (Sonoma, CA)

2006	Pinot Noir – Carneros	red	88
2006	➡ Pinot Noir – Gravel Knob Vineyard	red	91
2005	Pinot Noir – Rust Rock Terrace Vineyard	red	90

For further information visit: www.gloriaferrer.com

2006 Pinot Noir – Carneros: (13.5%). A very fresh, high-toned and highly expressive red pinot fruit nose leads to nicely detailed light to barely middle weight flavors that possess limited complexity but I like the style of this as it's dry, clean and energetic. A solid entry level wine with enough persistence to be more than just interesting. 88/now+

2006 Pinot Noir – Gravel Knob Vineyard: (from estate grown Carneros fruit that produced 3,462 bottles at 13.5%). A ripe, elegant, attractively complex and expressive nose of mostly red berry fruit that displays the initial traces of secondary development. The delicious, detailed and equally complex middle weight flavors possess good mid-palate concentration and fine length. This is a lovely effort with excellent balance that is drinking perfectly. 91/now+

2005 Pinot Noir – Rust Rock Terrace Vineyard: (Carneros, 13.5%). The expressive and perfumed earthy red berry fruit nose is beginning to display some secondary notes but otherwise remains fresh and largely primary. The textured, supple and rather forward medium-bodied flavors are delicious and offer reasonably good depth and vibrancy on the clean and dry finish. I quite like the style and about the only nit is a hint of backend warmth. Lovely. 90/2013+

Thomas Fogarty Winery (Woodside, CA)

2007	Pinot Noir – Rapley Trail Vineyard	red	90
2007	➡ Pinot Noir – Rapley Trail Vineyard Block M	red	91
2007	Pinot Noir – Windy Hill Vineyard	red	90
2003	➡ Pinot Noir – Rapley Trail Vineyard Block B	red	91

Fogarty produces all of its own fruit from a cool climate site situated at 2000 feet above sea level and located 12 miles from the Pacific Ocean. They have had a philosophical shift in farming and winemaking practices in recent years, bringing on associate winemaker Nathan Kandler. For more information contact (650) 851-6777 or visit: www.fogartywinery.com

2007 Pinot Noir – Windy Hill Vineyard: (Santa Cruz Mountains; 14.1%). A ripe yet cool and very pinot nose combines blue berry, red currant and plum hints. The nicely rich and round middle weight flavors possess an attractive mouth feel as well as good verve on the balanced, focused and lingering finish where the barest hint of warmth can be discerned. This is quite forward and could easily be drunk now though I would like to see a bit more bottle age to allow a bit more depth to develop. 90/2012+

2007 Pinot Noir – Rapley Trail Vineyard: (Santa Cruz Mountains; 14.5%). This is actually quite aromatically similar to that of the Windy Hill except here the nose is notably spicier. The rich, round and vibrant flavors possess good mid-palate

concentration and fine length with the same hints of backend warmth. This is lovely and could also easily be drunk now though I personally would allow for another year or two in the cellar first. 90/2013+

2007 Pinot Noir – Rapley Trail Vineyard Block M: (Santa Cruz Mountains; 13.7%). A deft though noticeable touch of wood sets off the airy, cool and perfumed red berry fruit and oak spice aromas that give way to supple, forward and silky flavors that display fine balance, focus and excellent length. Drink now or cellar for another 2 to 4 years. 91/2013+

2003 Pinot Noir – Rapley Trail Vineyard Block B: (Santa Cruz Mountains; 14.5%). This is still quite deeply colored with no bricking. By contrast, there is some modest secondary fruit development on the menthol-suffused nose (though no *sous bois*) and leads to rich, full and mouth-filling flavors that still possess solid mid-palate concentration, all wrapped in a mouth coating and velvety finish. While it's a nit, there is noticeable warmth but overall, this is really quite good. Drink or hold though I doubt that there is material upside potential remaining. 91/now+

Foxen Winery & Vineyard (Santa Maria, CA)

2008	Pinot Noir – Bien Nacido Vineyard Block 8	red	88
2008	Pinot Noir – Bien Nacido Vineyard Block N	red	88
2008	Pinot Noir – Julia's Vineyard	red	89
2008	Pinot Noir – Sea Smoke Vineyard	red	87

Foxen was founded in 1985 by Dick Doré and Bill Wathen with Wathen serving as winemaker. They produced their first pinot noir in 1989 and the focus has remained on small production, vineyard-designate wines. Bill noted to me that he hopes Sea Smoke will start being picked earlier (due to a prior arrangement for these grapes Bill has no input into the picking date) as he'd like to see the alcohols come down. For further information, contact: (805) 937-4251 or visit www.foxenvineyard.com.

2008 Pinot Noir – Bien Nacido Vineyard, Block 8: (Santa Maria Valley, 14.7%). Here the nose exudes plenty of the natural Bien Nacido spice with very ripe yet fresh red raspberry and plum aromas that precede rich, full and reasonably detailed medium plus weight flavors that possess good length and limited, if not invisible, warmth on the lingering mocha-infused finish. This is dustier and not quite as refined but not as obviously sweet as the Block N. A stylistic choice. 88/2013+

2008 Pinot Noir – Bien Nacido Vineyard, Block N: (Santa Maria Valley, 14.6%). A notably ripe nose of red and blue pinot fruit, menthol and a hint of cinnamon leads to rich and relatively full-bodied flavors that possess an attractive mouth feel as there is good dry extract to buffer the moderately firm tannins on the palate coating finish. There is a natural sweetness to the backend and while there is mild warmth, it is not really intrusive. 88/2013+

2008 Pinot Noir – Julia's Vineyard: (Santa Maria Valley, 14.6%). This is riper still with plum and prune aromas that are nuanced by abundant hints of spice and earth, both of which are reflected by the round, supple and nicely vibrant medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a sappy and nicely complex finish. This is riper than I personally prefer but there is good depth and limited, though not invisible, warmth. 89/2013+

2008 Pinot Noir – Sea Smoke Vineyard: (Sta Rita Hills, 15.8%). A discreet touch of wood sets off extremely ripe aromas of menthol and cherry cough drop aromas that marry into concentrated, intense and big-bodied flavors that possess good dry extract and a palate coating finish that display noticeable warmth. This is not my style as it's simply too ripe though to be fair, while the balance is not as good as the prior wines, neither is it as top heavy as the elevated level of alcohol would typically suggest. 87/2013+

Freeman Vineyard & Winery (Sebastopol, CA)

2008	Pinot Noir – Keefer Ranch	red	90
2008	Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley	red	89

Freeman was founded in 2001 by Akiko and Ken Freeman. The family owned and run operation, together with winemaker Ed Kurtzman, produces about 5,500 cases annually; the wines are bottled unfined and unfiltered. The Freemans recently acquired a new 50-acre property, originally known as the Montafi Ranch and have been preparing the soil for a future vineyard that will be called Freeman Ranch, which will be planted primarily to pinot. They are also beginning the 3-year process required for organic certification. Because they are conservation supporters, they have donated 24 acres to the Bodega Land

Trust so the land will be preserved in its natural state. For further information, contact Akiko and Ken Freeman: (415) 831-4756 or visit: www.freemanwinery.com.

2008 Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley: (bottled at 14.2%). A pretty blend of attractively ripe and spiced red cherry, plum and red currant precedes nicely rich, supple and mouth coating medium-bodied flavors that possess a dusty mouth feel and good vibrancy on the moderately complex and persistent finish. There is a slightly tanginess but I suspect that it will round out with 2 to 4 years in bottle. 89/2014+

2008 Pinot Noir – Keefer Ranch: (bottled at 14.2%). A more elegant if not quite as spicy or complex nose features an attractive mix of ripe red berry fruit aromas that complement well the rich, delicious and supple middle weight flavors that possess a seductive mouth feel and excellent length with none of the tanginess of the RRV. There is also a trace of warmth here as well but it's relatively subtle and should not detract material from the overall sense of harmony. 90/2014+

Grey Stack Cellars (Santa Rosa, CA)

2008	Pinot Noir – The Fisherman, Connell Family Vineyard	red	86
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A name change has taken place and Dry Stack Cellars is now Grey Stack Cellars. The name is the only change. Owners Marie and Peter Young founded their property in 1999 just before Bennett Valley became a new appellation. The vineyard was planted in 2001 and the first harvest was in 2005. The 2008 vintage is Grey Stack's second release. Pat Sullivan became their winemaker in 2009. For more information, contact (707) 228-1338 or visit www.greystackcellars.com.

2008 Pinot Noir – The Fisherman, Connell Family Vineyard: (Bennett Valley, Sonoma County 14.8%, 65 cases). A discreet touch of wood sets of somber and notably ripe aromas of spiced plum and violets that introduce rich, round and supple medium-bodied flavors that possess a mild tangy finish where the warmth and wood influence come up noticeably. I quite liked the 2007 release but I don't find its '08 counterpart to have the same elegance and the wood seems less well-integrated. 86/2013+

Walter Hansel Winery & Vineyard (Santa Rosa, CA)

2008	Pinot Noir – Cahill Lane Vineyard	red	87
2008	Pinot Noir – Cuvée Alyce	red	88
2008	Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley	red	83
2008	Pinot Noir – The North Slope Vineyard	red	88
2008	Pinot Noir – The South Slope Vineyard	red	85

The Hansel name has been well known in Sonoma for more than 20 years, with the first commercial release in 1996. Since 2002, everything produced is 100% estate grown, a small but important fact that I believe will become increasingly relevant in the years to come. The winery is now producing about 4,500 cases of pinot annually. For further information, contact: (707) 525-3614 or visit www.walterhanselwinery.com

2008 Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley: (bottled at 14.2%). A lightly spiced nose of plum, blue berry and raspberry leads to vibrant and well-detailed flavors that display a distinct edginess as well as a touch of bitterness on the somewhat short backend. It's not clear that this will round into better form but it's not especially pleasurable now. 83/?

2008 Pinot Noir – Cahill Lane Vineyard: (bottled at 14.4%). A notably ripe nose of mentholated cherry and plum aromas with background hints of cranberry give way to attractively rich, round and almost suave medium-bodied flavors that possess good verve on the mildly dry and sappy finish. This is pretty enough though a bit awkward at present. 87/2014+

2008 Pinot Noir – Cuvée Alyce: (bottled at 14.6%). Here the nose is similar to that of the Cahill but offers a bit more overall complexity that continues onto the delicious, fresh and solidly intense flavors that possess reasonably good mid-palate concentration as well as less edginess though there is a noticeable touch of warmth. 88/2014+

2008 Pinot Noir – The South Slope Vineyard: (bottled at 14.3%). This offers another step up in aromatic complexity with its pretty and layered nose of cranberry and blue pinot fruit that precedes the rich, delicious and delineated medium-bodied flavors that also possess a noticeable finishing edginess that cuts the mildly warm finale short. 85/2013+

2008 Pinot Noir – The North Slope Vineyard: (bottled at 14.4%). A ripe but restrained nose of red currant, raspberry and lightly spiced plum aromas introduce suave, cool and attractively textured flavors that display only a touch of edginess and it's not enough to really detract from the overall sense of balance though there is a subtle trace of warmth. 88/2014+

Hitching Post (Santa Maria, CA)

2007	Pinot Noir – Bien Nacido	red	90
2007	Pinot Noir – Cargasacchi	red	90
2007	Pinot Noir – Cork Dancer 7.1	red	88
2007	Pinot Noir – Fiddlestix	red	89
2007	Pinot Noir – Highliner	red	86
2007	Pinot Noir – Julia's Vineyard	red	85
2007	Pinot Noir – Perfect Set	red	88
2007	Pinot Noir – Rio Vista Vineyard	red	89
2007	Pinot Noir – St. Rita's Earth	red	89

From Gray Hartley and Frank Ostini, winemakers and proprietors of the famed Hitching Post restaurant. For further information visit: HPwines.com

2007 Pinot Noir – Highliner: (from Santa Barbara County fruit; 14.2% - bottled under screwcap). A fresh and overtly fruited high-toned red berry nose leads to delicious, round and supple middle weight flavors that possess acceptable concentration and length if limited depth. This is certainly pretty enough with good balance and very much built on its fruit. 86/now+

2007 Pinot Noir – Cork Dancer 7.1: (from Santa Barbara County fruit; 14.3% - bottled under screwcap). Here the nose is somewhat riper and with more deeply pitched aromas that include dark berries along with the typical red fruit. There is good detail and energy to the attractively textured flavors that possess notably better complexity and fine length. While not especially concentrated, this offers lovely balance and could be drunk now or aged for a few years first. 88/2013+

2007 Pinot Noir – Perfect Set: (from Sta. Rita Hills fruit; 14.3%). An elegant nose features notes of raspberry and cherry with background notes of cranberry and strawberry. The medium-bodied flavors possess good verve and I like the mouth feel as it's clean and detailed without being commercial, all wrapped in a mildly tangy if persistent finish. 88/2013+

2007 Pinot Noir – Julia's Vineyard: (from Santa Maria Valley fruit; 14.7%). This is noticeably riper though by no means jammy and there is no menthol character to the overtly fruited nose that derives primarily from the red side of the spectrum. The rounded and quite supple flavors possess an attractive mid-palate though the somewhat awkward finish is distinctly tangy and a bit warm as well. Not really my style. 85/2012+

2007 Pinot Noir – Rio Vista Vineyard: (from Sta. Rita Hills fruit; 14.5%). A mix of upper and middle register aromas includes cranberry, cherry and plum that introduce delicious, fresh and vibrant flavors that possess reasonably good mid-palate concentration and fine balance if only moderate complexity on the ever-so-mildly warm finish. However, it's possible that this will develop additional depth in bottle as the balance is there to permit it to happen. 89/2014+

2007 Pinot Noir – St. Rita's Earth: (from Sta. Rita Hills; 14.5%). The fresh nose combines both upper and lower pitch aromas that include both lightly spiced red and blue pinot fruit along with discreet earth notes that can also be found on the delicious, detailed and quite finely textured flavors that deliver good length on the moderately firm finish. This will require 2 to 3 years to be at its best. 89/2013+

2007 Pinot Noir – Fiddlestix: (from Sta. Rita Hills fruit; 14.4%). A nicely layered nose offers up primarily notes of plum, dark cherry and raspberry as it merges into delicious, detailed and attractively textured middle weight flavors that culminate in a balanced, focused and mildly austere finish where a discreet touch of warmth is noticeable. While not especially complex at present, I suspect that more depth will develop in 2 to 3 years. 89/2014+

2007 Pinot Noir – Bien Nacido: (from Santa Maria Valley fruit; 14.3%). Here the nose is classic Bien Nacido with its lovely and complex range of both red and blue fruits, plum and a distinct spiciness. There is good ripeness yet plenty of freshness to the detailed medium weight flavors that possess the same fine depth as the nose, all wrapped in a focused, balanced and

dusty finish that coats the palate. This is really quite pretty and about the only nit is a touch of warmth but it's not enough to disrupt the overall sense of harmony. 90/2014+

2007 Pinot Noir – Cargasacchi: (from Santa Rita Hills fruit; 14.2%). A fresh and relatively airy nose blends together both red and purple fruits that possess an interesting touch of spiciness that carries over to the energetic and well-delineated medium-bodied flavors that possess solid depth on the balanced and lingering finish. This is really quite good and though there is presently a touch of youthful asperity, it should round off in a year or two as the requisite ripeness is clearly there. 90/2013+

Holdredge Wines (Healdsburg, CA)

2007	Pinot Noir – Bucher Vineyard	red	87
2007	Pinot Noir – Mazie Rose	red	86
2007	Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley	red	84
2007	Pinot Noir – Selection Massale	red	87
2007	Pinot Noir – Wren Hop Vineyard	red	88

For further information contact: (707) 431-1424 or visit: www.holdredge.com.

2007 Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley: (14.3%). A moderately high-toned nose of cherry, cranberry and strawberry leads to round and mildly sweet middle weight flavors that possess reasonably good detail but the sweetness reappears on the finish and renders it somewhat cloying. Not for me. 84/now

2007 Pinot Noir – Selection Massale: (Russian River Valley, 14.6%). A discreet touch of wood frames slightly riper and more deeply pitched red and blue pinot fruit aromas that precede supple, round and attractively textured medium-bodied flavors that display good vibrancy and enough length to be interesting on the mildly warm finish. There is not great depth though more may develop with a year or two in bottle. 87/2013+

2007 Pinot Noir – Mazie Rose: (from Russian River Valley fruit, 14.5%). A very fresh and particularly pinot nose, indeed this radiates the smell of just crushed pinot fruit. Like the RRV, the round, supple and almost delicate flavors possess noticeable sweetness though there is less of it on the otherwise persistent finish. I like the nose but the sweetness detracts from the wine's overall appeal. 86/2012+

2007 Pinot Noir – Bucher Vineyard: (from Russian River Valley fruit, 14.2%). This initially displayed enough reduction to knock down the nose and hide the fruit so be sure to give it 15 to 20 minutes of aeration first. With air, notes of cranberry, raspberry and red cherries emerge and complement the largely fruit-driven flavors that possess good detail and punch on the drier and more persistent finish. There is a trace of sweetness here as well though it is less obvious. 87/2013+

2007 Pinot Noir – Wren Hop Vineyard: (Russian River Valley, 14.7%). An expressive nose of moderately sweet red berry fruit gives way to textured and rounded flavors that possess an attractive mouth feel and better depth and length though there are hints of both wood and warmth that surface on the backend. There is less obvious sweetness present than in any of the foregoing wines. 88/2013+

Longoria Wines (Los Olivos, CA)

2008	Pinot Noir – Bien Nacido Vineyard	red	90
2008	➔ Pinot Noir – Fe Ciega Vineyard	red	92
2008	Pinot Noir – Lovely Rita	red	88
2008	Pinot Noir – Rancho Santa Rosa Vineyard	red	90

This family run winery established in 1982 is owned by Diana and Richard Longoria and produces small amounts of hand-crafted wines ranging from 50-500 cases with total production currently being about 3,500 cases. Rick worked with Andre Tchelistcheff at Buena Vista Winery in Sonoma in 1974. I've said this before but Longoria is crafting some lovely wines that display a definite sense of place, particularly with the Fe Ciega vineyard. For further information, contact Rick Longoria: (866) 759-4637 or visit www.longoriawine.com.

2008 Pinot Noir – Lovely Rita: (Sta. Rita Hills, 14.1%; this is a new bottling that the winery calls “a budget version of Fe Ciega”). A somber and somewhat deeply pitched nose speaks of briar and dark pinot fruit aromas that lead to nicely rich, supple, forward and round flavors that possess reasonably good depth and solid balance on the nicely persistent finish. This delivers good freshness and it actually could be enjoyed now or held for a few years first. 88/2013+

2008 Pinot Noir – Rancho Santa Rosa Vineyard: (Sta Rita Hills, 14.5%). Here the nose is quite similar to that of the Lovely Rita though the flavor profile is noticeably different as there is more refinement to the seductive mouth feel that culminates in a clean, cool and focused finish. This is really a lovely effort that again could be drunk now or cellared to good advantage. I quite like the delivery and it would take some discipline not to drink it now for the fruit. 90/2014+

2008 Pinot Noir – Bien Nacido Vineyard: (Santa Maria Valley, 13.9%). Low level reduction knocks down the expressiveness of the otherwise nicely complex red and blue pinot fruit that is nuanced by discreet spice notes. The supple, round and delicious medium-bodied flavors possess reasonably good depth and fine length though not quite the same structural sophistication of the Rancho Santa Rosa. Still, this is a lovely effort as it’s fresh, well-balanced and should age well too. Be sure to give this 20+ minutes of aeration if you’re going to try one young. 90/2014+

2008 Pinot Noir – Fe Ciega Vineyard: (Sta Rita Hills, 14.2%). An exceptionally pretty nose offers up both upper and medium register ripe red berry fruit notes that include raspberry and cranberry as well as hints of earth and spice. The round, supple and pure middle weight flavors possess a sophisticated mouth feel as the refined tannins are quite well-integrated though unlike several wines in the range that are already approachable, the Fe Ciega is best left in the cellar for a few years first. An impressive effort, especially for its balance and overall sense of harmony. 92/2014+

Luminesce (Santa Maria, CA)

2008	Pinot Noir – Arroyo Grande Valley	red	87
2008	Pinot Noir – Laetitia Vineyard	red	89
2006	Pinot Noir – Arroyo Grande Valley	red	89

From the folks at Tantara Winery.

2008 Pinot Noir – Arroyo Grande Valley: (14.1%). A cool and fresh nose of primarily dark berry fruit aromas blends into delicious and easy to like middle weight flavors that possess sufficient depth to be interesting if not captivating, all wrapped in a dusty and moderately structured finish of acceptable length. 87/2014+

2008 Pinot Noir – Laetitia Vineyard: (Arroyo Grande Valley, 14.1%). Mild reduction doesn’t completely block the lightly spiced dark pinot fruit and earth notes that precede detailed, pure and attractively vibrant medium-bodied flavors that possess better overall depth and solid length. This is relatively tight at present and should benefit from 5 to 7 years of cellar time. 89/2014+

2006 Pinot Noir – Arroyo Grande Valley: (14.1%). This is easily the most complex and interesting nose of the group as the two extra years of bottle age definitely show in terms of depth. The fresh and still almost completely primary nose offers up layered aromas of plum, cassis and red currant that are in keeping with the rich, sappy and mouth coating flavors that are definitely ripe yet vibrant, all wrapped in a dusty, focused and nicely balanced finish. While in this case it’s a nit, I should note that there is a barely discernable touch of backend warmth. 89/2013+

Luminous Hills (Dundee, OR)

2008	Pinot Noir – Lux	red	87
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For further information visit: www.luminoushills.com

2008 Pinot Noir – Lux: (Yamhill-Carlton District; 71 cases bottled at 13.4%; \$35). Initially this was heavily reduced and required more than 30 minutes for the funk to dissipate to eventually reveal notes of fresh, ripe and pretty red and briar-infused dark berry fruit. The nicely rich yet well-detailed middle weight flavors possess a seductive mouth feel and enough depth and length on the ever-so-slightly tangy finish to be interesting. Good if not truly distinguished. 87/2013+

Lynmar Winery (Sebastopol, CA)

2008	Pinot Noir – Hawk Hill Vineyard	red	88
2008	Pinot Noir – Freestone	red	89
2007	Pinot Noir – Quail Hill Vineyard	red	88
2007	Pinot Noir – Quail Hill Vineyard Bliss Block	red	89
2007	Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley	red	87
2007	Pinot Noir – Terra de Promissio Vineyard	red	89

Owner Lynn Fritz and winemaker Hugh Chappelle are responsible for these wines. For further information contact: (707) 829-3374 or email info@lynmarwinery.com or point your browser to www.lynmarwinery.com

2008 Pinot Noir – Hawk Hill Vineyard: (Russian River Valley; 14.5%). A pretty and very fruity nose of cherries, raspberries and a hint of red pinot fruit gives way to vibrant, naturally sweet and nicely detailed flavors that are already accessible yet there is good punch and enough buried structure to suggest a few years of upside. This is not as complex as the '07 Promissio but I like the sense of verve and underlying tension. Note that while there is a trace of warmth present, it's almost invisible if the proper serving temperature is maintained. 88/2014+

2008 Pinot Noir – Freestone: (Russian River Valley; 14.3%). This is very pinot in character with exuberant notes of red berries and a hint of raspberry liqueur that opens to fresh, vibrant and attractively detailed flavors that possess good complexity and a dry if noticeably warm finish. Still, this is quite good with fine persistence. 89/2014+

2007 Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley: (14.4%). An attractively spicy nose of plum, dark raspberry and cherries leads to delicious, round and solidly well-concentrated medium-bodied flavors that possess a supple mid-palate and an ever-so-mildly tangy but persistent finish. There is a slight trace of warmth as well though it's not really invasive. 87/2013+

2007 Pinot Noir – Quail Hill Vineyard: (Russian River Valley; 14.4%). This is aromatically similar to the '07 RRV though there is more depth to the middle weight flavors that possess good punch and detail, especially on the mildly firm finish that display touches of asperity and warmth. 88/2013+

2007 Pinot Noir – Quail Hill Vineyard Bliss Block: (Russian River Valley; 14.4%). Though similar to the nose of the straight Quail Hill, this is slightly more elegant as a portion of the fruit is relatively high-toned in character. The delicious and fresh flavors offer good mid-palate concentration and I like the delineation that also is present on the sappy and nicely complex finish that is less obviously warm though here too there is a trace of it. 89/2014+

2007 Pinot Noir – Terra de Promissio Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast; 14.4%). Here the expressive nose is more complex if not quite as spicy with ripe and fresh blend of blue and red pinot fruit that merges into textured, rich and supple middle weight flavors that possess good depth on the mouth coating, balanced and persistent finish. There is also a very mild trace of warmth but it's less obvious. 89/2014+

Marimar Estate (Sebastopol, CA)

2006	Pinot Noir – Doña Margarita Vineyard Mas Cavalls	red	87
2006	Pinot Noir – Don Miguel Vineyard Earthquake Block	red	89
2006	Pinot Noir – Don Miguel Vineyard La Masia	red	86
2006	Pinot Noir – Don Miguel Vineyard Stony Block	red	86
2005	Pinot Noir – Don Miguel Vineyard Cristina	red	87

For further information, contact: (707) 823-4365 or visit www.marimarestate.com

2006 Pinot Noir – Doña Margarita Vineyard Mas Cavalls: (from Sonoma Coast fruit bottled at 14.2%). A pretty and relatively high-toned red berry fruit nose that includes cranberry and raspberry nuances leads to nicely detailed and supple middle weight flavors that display reasonably good balance and enough finishing depth to be interesting. 87/now+

2006 Pinot Noir – Don Miguel Vineyard La Masia: (from Russian River Valley fruit bottled at 14.2%). A bright and fresh blend of both red and blue pinot fruit aromas introduces easy to like, round and generous flavors that possess reasonably good precision and vibrancy on the slightly dry finish that evidences a touch of asperity. This could be drunk now but it may add depth with another year or two in bottle. 86/now+

2006 Pinot Noir – Don Miguel Vineyard Stony Block: (from Russian River Valley fruit bottled at 14.4%). A pretty and perfumed mix of both red and blue pinot fruit that is trimmed in soft earth nuances gives way to delicious, rich and attractively voluminous flavors that possess good depth but also a touch of backend bitterness that is just enough to detract from the overall appeal. 86/2013+

2006 Pinot Noir – Don Miguel Vineyard Earthquake: (from Russian River Valley fruit bottled at 14.8%). A ripe, somber and solidly complex nose of briar, earth and spice hints merges into rich, round and quite supple medium-bodied flavors that possess fine mid-palate density, all wrapped in a mouth coating, serious and lingering finish. There is a slight touch of warmth but as long as the proper serving temperature is maintained, it's not enough to significantly detract from the overall sense of balance. Lovely. 89/now+

2005 Pinot Noir – Don Miguel Vineyard Cristina: (from Russian River Valley fruit bottled at 14.1%). Noticeable oak sets off quite ripe red berry and red pinot fruit aromas that still remain largely primary in character. The round and fleshy middle weight flavors are delicious if not overly complex on the mouth coating and ever-so-mildly warm finish. 87/now+

Native⁹ (Santa Maria, CA)

2008	Pinot Noir – Rancho Ontiveros Vineyard	red	88
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This is a relatively new project launched by James Ontiveros and consulting winemaker Paul Wilkins. For further information, contact: (805) 937 1991 or visit www.native9wine.com

As an aside, because of severe frost damage there was no 2007 vintage as the crop was almost completely wiped out.

2008 Pinot Noir – Rancho Ontiveros Vineyard: (14.5%). A discreet touch of wood frames deeply pitched dark berry fruit aromas that are trimmed in light spice notes. The medium-bodied flavors are attractively red and textured with good mid-palate concentration and good if not special depth and length on the mildly tangy backend where the wood influence resurfaces. This is perfectly good but not at the same level as the excellent 2006 version. 88/2014+

Pali Wine Co. (Lompoc, CA)

2008	Pinot Noir – Durell Vineyard	red	85
2008	Pinot Noir – Fiddlestix Vineyard	red	85
2008	Pinot Noir – Keefer Ranch Vineyard	red	87
2008	Pinot Noir – Momtazi Vineyard	red	90
2008	Pinot Noir – Shea Vineyard	red	89
2008	Pinot Noir – Summit	red	88
2008	Pinot Noir – Zenith Vineyard	red	88

Founded in 2005, Pali Wine Co. is owned “by a group of friends and co-workers” and admitted pinot fans with Tim Perr as managing partner. Kenneth Juhasz joined Pali as winemaker in 2007. 2005 was the inaugural vintage. 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 all wines are bottled under screwcap. For more information visit www.paliwineco.com.

2008 Pinot Noir – Summit: (a blend of 55% Monterey County and 45% Santa Barbara County fruit, 14.6%). A fruity, fresh and expressive nose speaks of primarily red berries though there are discreet background hints of crushed leaves present. There is good density to the supple, forward and seductively textured flavors that possess good dry extract that confers a sappy mouth feel to the clean, dusty and easy-to-like finish. There is a trace of warmth but it is sufficiently subtle that only those exceptionally sensitive will likely find it objectionable, provided of course that the proper serving temperature is maintained. 88/2013+

2008 Pinot Noir – Fiddlestix Vineyard: (Sta. Rita Hills, 15.1%). A distinctly ripe menthol and cherry-liqueur nose introduces very rich, opulent and even unctuous flavors that possess good freshness and a seductive texture that also characterizes the mouth coating and moderately tangy finish where obvious warmth detracts from the overall sense of balance. 85/2012+

2008 Pinot Noir – Durell Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 15.4%). This is quite ripe with a “liqueur-esque” character to the cassis and Chambord-like aromas that blend into very rich, round and satin-textured flavors that possess plenty of mid-palate concentration before culminating in a sweet and mildly tangy finish that evidences noticeable, though not dominate, warmth. This isn’t for me and I fear that it will not age especially gracefully either so my suggestion would be to drink it young for its fruit. 85/2012+

2008 Pinot Noir – Keefer Ranch Vineyard: (Russian River Valley, 14.5%). A relatively high-toned red berry fruit nose highlights hints of strawberry, cherry and raspberry, all of which can be seen on the fruit-driven middle weight flavors that possess good vibrancy and a naturally sweet and mildly sappy finish. The appeal here is the fruit as there is only limited depth and I don’t see much additional complexity developing as the flavors are already approachable. 87/2013+

2008 Pinot Noir – Momtazi Vineyard: (Willamette Valley, 14.1%). This is also quite fresh and while there is plenty of briar character present, the nose is slightly higher-toned and a bit more elegant compared to the Shea. There is good richness and mid-palate concentration to the middle weight flavors that possess a really lovely texture on the sappy, complex and lingering finish. This is lovely as I do like the balance that would allow it to be drunk now if desired. 90/2014+

2008 Pinot Noir – Shea Vineyard: (Willamette Valley, 14.2%). An attractively complex nose speaks of a pretty mix of both red and dark berry fruit, briar and a hint of earth that carries over to the round, fresh and vibrant medium-bodied flavors that possess reasonably good depth on the delicious and mouth coating finish. This is crafted in a relatively forward style but there is enough underlying material to suggest 2 to 4 years of upside, depending on your preference. 89/2014+

2008 Pinot Noir – Zenith Vineyard: (Willamette Valley, 13.8%). Here the nose is more elegant than either the Momtazi or the Shea with the typical briar notes of Willamette Valley-based wines coupled with medium-pitched red berry fruit aromas. The fresh, energetic and solidly well-detailed flavors possess good precision and punch on the delicious, focused and lingering finish. I like the balance though there isn’t quite the same overall depth. 88/2014+

Peay Vineyards (Annapolis, CA)

2007	Pinot Noir – Scallop Shelf	red	87
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Annapolis is situated not far from the Mendocino border in the far west corner of Sonoma Country. For further information, contact: (707) 886-0731 or visit www.peayvineyards.com

2007 Pinot Noir – Scallop Shelf: (from Sonoma Coast fruit; 14.2%). An extremely fresh and relatively high-toned red berry fruit nose, in particular raspberry and cranberry, leads to supple, round and vibrant middle weight flavors that possess medium complexity and enough length to be interesting. There is noticeable warmth and this is not as interesting as I typically find it. 87/2013+

Penner-Ash Wine Cellars (Newberg, OR)

2008	Pinot Noir – Dussin Vineyard	red	90
2008	Pinot Noir – Willamette Valley	red	88

Lynn Penner-Ash started Penner-Ash Wine Cellars with husband Ron in 1998 while still President and COO at Rex Hill. In 2001 she began focusing full time on her new venture completing the winery in 2005. They have grown their production from 125 cases of pinot noir in 1998 to their max capacity of 8,000 cases of pinot and Syrah in 2007. For further information, contact: 503-554-5545 or visit: www.pennerash.com.

2008 Pinot Noir – Willamette Valley: (13.5%). A pretty and solidly complex nose of plum, violets and spice hints leads to nicely rich, round and supple flavors that possess reasonably good depth and length where the finish has a slight edge to it but not really enough to disturb the overall sense of balance. A very good if not better effort. 88/2013+

2008 Pinot Noir – Dussin Vineyard: (Willamette Valley, 13.5%). This is both aromatically more elegant and more complex than the Willamette Valley cuvée with an attractively spiced nose of dark red berry fruit and floral notes. There is good richness to the utterly delicious yet serious middle weight flavors that possess good phenolic ripeness and ample dry extract that buffers the otherwise firm tannins on the mouth coating and solidly complex if slightly warm finish. This should age well as there is fine balance and plenty of underlying material. 90/2014+

Petite Abeille Vineyard (Novato, CA)

2008 Pinot Noir	red	87
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For further information visit www.petiteabeillevineyard.com

2008 Pinot Noir: (from Russian River Valley fruit; 14.3%). A fruity and relatively high-toned nose speaks of cranberry, raspberry and red currants before merging into fruit-driven and vibrant flavors that possess limited complexity but are pleasant enough on the moderately persistent finish. To be enjoyed young. 87/now

Petito Wines (San Francisco, CA)

2008 Pinot Noir – Split Rock Vineyard	red	89
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From winemakers Thomas Petito and Chris Nelson. For more info visit www.petitowines.com.

2008 Pinot Noir – Split Rock Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 1800 bottles produced; 14.1%). A notably ripe yet fresh nose of plum, mocha and dark pinot fruit introduces rich, round, succulent and suave medium-bodied flavors that are on the grapey side yet possess excellent complexity and overall balance on the lingering and mouth coating finish. This is not an especially elegant pinot though it's delicious and quite satisfying. Worth a look. 89/2014+

Pfendler Vineyards (Santa Rosa, CA)

2008 Pinot Noir	red	88
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For further information visit www.pfendlervineyards.com

2008 Pinot Noir: (from Sonoma Coast estate-grown fruit; 14.5%). A background application of wood sets off ripe aromas of lightly spiced plum, dark cherry and a floral hint that introduce rich and delicious medium-bodied flavors that possess good mid-palate concentration, all wrapped in a seductively textured mocha-infused finish. While I do I like the general overall sense of balance, there is a slight touch of warmth on the ever-so-slightly tangy finish. In sum, this is very good rather than special. 88/2013+

Picket Fence Vineyards (Sonoma, CA)

2007 Pinot Noir – Rogers Creek	red	89
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For more info visit www.picketfencevineyards.com.

2007 Pinot Noir – Rogers Creek: (Sonoma Coast, about 3000 bottles produced; 14.5%). The expressive nose displays an initial hint of reduction that blows off quickly to reveal a fresh and relatively high-toned nose of cool red berries and a hint of crushed leaf. There is good detail to the light to middle weight flavors that possess good intensity and fine complexity, all wrapped in a lingering and mouth coating finish. This delicately styled entry is really quite pretty and while there is noticeable finishing warmth, as long as the proper serving temperature is maintained, it does not become unduly intrusive. 89/2013+

Red Car Wine Company (Santa Maria, CA)

2008	Pinot Noir – The Aphorist – Bartolomei Vineyard	red	88
2008	Pinot Noir – Dreamland – Platt Vineyard	red	89
2008	Pinot Noir – Heaven & Earth – La Bohème Vineyard	red	87

Red Car was founded by Carroll Kemp and Mark Estrin (the latter passing in 2005) in 2000. 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 – which you can find on their web-site. Red Car's winery is located in Santa Maria and the main office is in Culver City, California. Contact (213) 229-2800 or visit: www.redcarwine.com.

2008 Pinot Noir – The Aphorist – Bartolomei Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 14.3%). A perfumed nose of primarily dark berry fruit aromas trimmed in discreet spice hints gives way to supple, round and suave medium-bodied flavors that possess good depth on the delicious, complex and moderately austere finish. I like the touch of austerity but those who prefer the lush and naturally sweet character of many Sonoma pinots may find this to be more than they like. 88/2014+

2008 Pinot Noir – Dreamland – Platt Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 13.9%). Here the nose is quite similar to that of The Aphorist though it's more elegant and airier still with rich, round and delicious flavors that possess good mid-palate concentration and solid finishing depth and length. While there is a touch of backend austerity, it is noticeably less than the other wines in the range. While only a nit, there is a small hint of finishing warmth but it's minor. 89/2014+

2008 Pinot Noir – Heaven & Earth – La Bohème Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 14.4%). An interesting blend of upper and lower register dark berry fruit and earth aromas leads to nicely rich, round and quite supple flavors that possess enough complexity to be interesting. The finish though is austere to the point of having a mild touch of bitterness and it's not clear that it will dissipate with a few years of bottle age; my score offers the benefit of the doubt in this regard. 87/2014+

Rex Hill Vineyards (Newberg, OR)

2008	Pinot Noir	red	88
2007	➤➤ Pinot Noir – Jacob-Hart Vineyard	red	91
2007	➤➤ Pinot Noir – Reserve	red	91

A former fruit farm, Rex Hill was acquired by Paul Hart and his wife Jan Jacobsen in 1982. They promptly planted pinot noir, and officially opened the doors in 1985. In 2007 they sold to another family owned Oregon winery, A to Z Wineworks, owned by the William Hatcher and Francis Tannahill families and a few partners. The new owners brought wine education to Rex Hill which now offers classes and seminars to professionals and the public. Sam Tannahill is the winemaker. For more information contact (503) 538.0666 or visit www.rexhill.com.

2008 Pinot Noir: (Willamette Valley, 13.5%). Initially this was mildly reduced though the funk blew off quickly to reveal moderately deeply pitched aromas of dark pinot fruit, briar and earth hints. The nicely rich, round and supple medium-bodied flavors possess reasonably good concentration and a sappy, balanced and persistent finish. This could easily be enjoyed now or held for a few years first. 88/2013+

2007 Pinot Noir – Jacob-Hart Vineyard: (13.5%). The barest trace of wood easily allows the fresh, clean and restrained dark berry fruit aromas to shine. The detailed, pure and litting middle weight flavors possess good balance and solid depth on the delicious, clean, dusty and dry finish (in the best sense of the term). This understated effort is really quite good and very much worthy of consideration. 91/2014+

2007 Pinot Noir – Reserve: (13.5%). A pretty and cool mix of upper and medium register red berry fruit aromas introduces rich, round and delicious medium weight flavors that possess both good detail and complexity before culminating in a balanced, dusty and mouth coating finish where the only nit is a hint of warmth. This is lovely and very drinkable yet not at all simple. Lovely juice, especially for the vintage. 91/2013+

Rusack Vineyards (Solvang, CA)

2008	➔ Pinot Noir – Rancho Santa Rosa Vineyard	red	91
2008	Pinot Noir – Santa Maria Valley	red	90
2008	Pinot Noir – Solomon Hills Vineyard	red	89

Established in 1995 by Alison and Geoff Rusack. The winemakers are the husband-wife team of Helen and John Falcone, the latter being born into an Italian winemaking family with his career in the industry beginning at the age of 19. The Rusack's farm 48 acres, 17 of which were replanted in 2003 and they supplement their production with purchased grapes. In 2007 Rusack planted a Catalina Island vineyard with some of it planted to pinot noir. For further information, visit: www.rusackvineyards.com or call (805) 688-1278.

2008 Pinot Noir – Santa Maria Valley: (14.3%). A ripe and relatively deeply pitched nose offers notes of violets, blue berry, smoke and hints of cassis that introduce rich, delicious and round medium-bodied flavors that enjoy good mid-palate density and fine balance on the understated, pure and harmonious finish. This is lovely juice that could be drunk now or held for a few years first. Definitely worth a look. 90/2013+

2008 Pinot Noir – Rancho Santa Rosa Vineyard: (Sta. Rita Hills, 14.6%). A discreet touch of wood sets off spicy, ripe and fresh aromas of sandalwood, anise, violets, cassis and red currant that complement well the complex, intense, delicious and mouth coating medium weight flavors that possess plenty of tannin buffering dry extract, all wrapped in a mouth coating, balanced and lingering finish. This is impressive and while there is a trace of warmth, it's sufficiently subtle so as to not compromise the overall sense of balance and about the only nit is that there is some overt sweetness. 91/2014+

2008 Pinot Noir – Solomon Hills Vineyard: (Santa Maria Valley, 14.7%). Here the nose is similar to that of the Rancho Santa Rosa though there is no sandalwood component present. The supple, suave and opulent flavors offer good complexity and a seductively textured mouth feel that culminate in dusty, mouth coating and firm finish of even better depth and length. Conversely, the warmth is more evident and it's enough that it's no longer a background element. To be sure, this is still quite good but I prefer the verve and freshness of the Rancho. 89/2014+

Samsara Wine Company (Solvang, CA)

2008	Pinot Noir – Ampelos Vineyard	red	88
2008	➔ Pinot Noir – Las Hermanas Vineyard	red	87
2008	Pinot Noir – Melville Vineyard	red	87
2008	Pinot Noir – Turner Vineyard	red	88

At Samsara, proprietors Chad and Mary Melville focus on their winegrowing talents after founding the winery in 2002 with Chad serving as winemaker. The wines are not fined or filtered before being bottled via gravity. Due to the small size of the vineyard selections, each wine is produced in very small quantities, typically 75 to 100 cases. Melville told me that his wines are made using around 25% whole cluster with natural ferments for both alcoholics and malos. Note that all of the Samsara '08s displayed some gas and thus I would recommend decanting them if possible as all of these offerings were distinctly better the next day. For more information visit: www.samsarawine.com or call (805) 331-2292.

2008 Pinot Noir- Las Hermanas Vineyard: (from what used to be called Ashley's Vineyard, Sta Rita Hills, 14.4%). A background note of wood frames somber but spicy violet and dark pinot fruit aromas that merge seamlessly into rich, round and silky flavors blessed with fine dry extract that buffers the moderately firm tannins on the mouth coating, warm and slightly bitter finish, which I suspect is exacerbated by the noticeable gas. This may need time to harmonize but for the present, it resembles the Melville Vineyard in that the finish is consistent with the rest of the wine. 87/2014+

2008 Pinot Noir- Turner Vineyard: (Sta Rita Hills, 14.7%). An aromatic and lightly perfumed nose offers a mix of ripe red berry fruit, sandalwood and a hint of incense that gives way to supple, round and quite forward medium-bodied flavors that are delicious and possess good balance and length on the sappy and mildly warm finish. This is less obviously structured than the Ampelos and should be approachable sooner. 88/2013+

2008 Pinot Noir- Ampelos Vineyard: (Sta Rita Hills, 14.6%). A somber yet complex and pretty nose features notes of dark berry fruit along with spice and menthol hints that precede rich, supple and suave middle weight flavors that possess a background touch of wood and noticeable warmth on the moderately long finish that displays a hint of gas. There is plenty of underlying material and this will age if desired or it could be drunk now with an hour of air. 88/2014+

2008 Pinot Noir- Melville Vineyard: (Sta Rita Hills, 14.1%). Here the aromatic profile is interesting because the ripe cherry and raspberry nose also evidences hints of cranberry and red currant plus a distinct herbal note. There is good richness to the suave, even opulent flavors that possess excellent mid-palate concentration and a seductive mouth feel, all wrapped in a palate coating if slightly edgy finish. I like everything but the finish, which may round out in time but for now seems a little awkward and disjointed. I tasted this over a 3 day period and the finish did not ever completely integrate. 87/2014+

Sierra Madre Vineyard (Santa Maria, CA)

2008	Pinot Noir – Sierra Madre Vineyard	red	89
2008	Pinot Noir – Sierra Madre Vineyard Block 216	red	88

From Doug Circle. For further information visit: www.sierramadrevineyard.com.

2008 Pinot Noir – Sierra Madre Vineyard: (Santa Maria Valley, 14.2%). An expressive nose of herb, spice and both red and blue pinot fruit aromas complements the fresh, vibrant and attractively well-detailed middle weight flavors that possess reasonably good complexity and solid balance on the sappy and lingering finish. This cool and understated effort is really quite pretty and if it can add depth with 2 to 4 years in bottle, it could merit a rating upgrade. 89/2013+

2008 Pinot Noir – Sierra Madre Vineyard – Block 216: (Santa Maria Valley, 14.2% - noted as “Clone 5 Pommard”). Here the nose is similar to that of the regular *cuvée* but with slightly more red berry fruit emphasis. There is good freshness and vibrancy to the medium-bodied flavors that also possess less overall complexity, in fact this is a bit monotone though I do like the textured finish. 88/2013+

Sinor-LaVallee (Arroyo Grande, CA)

2007	Pinot Noir	red	87
2007	Pinot Noir – Anniversary Cuvée	red	89
2007	Pinot Noir – Aubaine Vineyard	red	88

Mike Sinor financed his college education by working in wineries which fueled his passion. After his “winemaker experiences” in Burgundy, Bordeaux, the Rhone Valley and Australia, as well as being the winemaker at Domaine Alfred, Sinor and his wife Cheri Sinor-La Vallee founded Sinor-La Vallee. For more information call (805) 801-2502 or visit www.sinorlavallee.com.

2007 Pinot Noir: (from Central Coast and San Luis Obispo County fruit; 14.0%). A very pretty, even perfumed red and blue pinot fruit nose introduces nicely round, delicious and seductively textured medium weight flavors that possess reasonably good balance and fine length on the mildly tangy and discreetly warm finish. Approachable now. 87/now+

2007 Pinot Noir – Anniversary Cuvée: (from Central Coast fruit; 14.3%). This is also quite pretty and slightly more complex as well with a *mélange* of red currant, plum and earth nuances that are in keeping with the round, suave and velvety flavors that culminate in a mouth coating finish of solid length. There is a mild finishing tang but it’s discreet. This could be enjoyed now or held for a few years first. 89/2013+

2007 Pinot Noir – Aubaine Vineyard: (from Central Coast fruit; 14.9%). A very ripe nose of dark berries, plum and a hint of spice leads to rich and quite full-bodied flavors that possess good mid-palate concentration, all wrapped in a mouth coating and noticeably warm finish that offers good if not special persistence. At present this is a bit monolithic though that may change with a few years in bottle. 88/2014+

Spell Winery (Sebastopol, CA)

2008	Pinot Noir – Barton Vineyard	red	90
2008	Pinot Noir – Guidici Vineyard	red	90
2008	Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley	red	87
2008	Pinot Noir – Sonoma Coast	red	88

From Shane Finley who is the associate winemaker for Kosta Browne Winery. Visit www.spellwinery.com for more information.

2008 Pinot Noir – Sonoma Coast: (170 cases produced; 14.1%). A ripe blend of red and dark pinot fruit trimmed in discreet floral notes leads to rich, suave and quite supple medium-bodied flavors that possess reasonably good complexity and length on the dusty and ever-so-mildly oaky finish. There is a mild touch of warmth but it's not really intrusive. 88/2013+

2008 Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley: (170 cases produced; 14.4%). A slightly more elegant as well as more complex nose possesses a similar aromatic profile save for more obvious spice notes that can also be found on the rich, delicious and nicely concentrated middle weight flavors that display good levels of dry extract and acceptable length on the dusty and slightly sweet finish. This is certainly good but I prefer the Sonoma Coast for its better overall detail. 87/2013+

2008 Pinot Noir – Guidici Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast - 45 cases produced; 13.7%). Distinct floral notes add interest to the ripe and admirably pure dark berry fruit and plum-suffused nose that precedes fresh and vibrant flavors that possess fine volume on the textured and dusty finish. While there is a touch of wood on the finish, it will very likely integrate in a few years and I admire the overall sense of harmony here. Worth considering. 90/2014+

2008 Pinot Noir – Barton Vineyard: (Russian River Valley - 45 cases produced; 13.8%). Ripe notes of plum, black berry and sandalwood nuanced by a hint of cranberry give way to rich, round and attractively textured flavors that culminate in a sappy and extract-laden finish that possesses an understated sense of reserve with fine balance and length. This offers an interesting contrast between the generosity of the mid-palate and the reserved backend. Also worth a look. 90/2014+

Stephen Ross Wine (San Luis Obispo, CA)

2008 Pinot Noir – Bien Nacido Vineyards	red	89
2008 Pinot Noir – Central Coast	red	86
2008 Pinot Noir – Chorro Creek Vineyard	red	86
2008 Pinot Noir – Edna Valley	red	87
2007 Pinot Noir – Aubaine Vineyards	red	88
2007 Pinot Noir – Stone Corral Vineyard	red	85

From Stephen Ross Dooley. For more information visit www.stephenrosswine.com.

2008 Pinot Noir – Central Coast: (bottled under screw cap, 14.5%). An exuberantly fruity nose speaks of raspberry, strawberry and cranberry and leads to light weight, fresh and easy-to-like flavors that are simple and agreeable if not particularly complex. I like the delivery as there is good freshness and energy but not much depth. 86/nw

2008 Pinot Noir – Edna Valley: (14.5%). Here the ripe, pretty and fresh nose is more complex with darker red berry fruit aromas compared to the Central Coast bottling. The middle weight flavors are clean, refreshing and well-detailed, offering a bit more depth and volume with a similar delivery plus slightly more length. A fruity if delicious effort. 87/2012+

2008 Pinot Noir – Chorro Creek Vineyard: (San Luis Obispo County, 14.8%). A very ripe nose offers up notes of menthol, cherry and plum that introduce rich, round and generous medium-bodied flavors that culminate in a somewhat somber finish that evidences a trace of bitterness and noticeable warmth. While it's possible that the bitterness will round out with a year or two of bottle age, the warmth is not likely to ever be subtle. 86/2013+

2008 Pinot Noir – Bien Nacido Vineyards: (Santa Maria Valley, 14.5%). A blend of upper and lower register red, blue and dark pinot fruit aromas liberally laced with earth notes marries into rich, delicious and seductively textured medium weight flavors that possess good depth and fine length on the balanced finish. There is a trace of warmth but it's sufficiently subtle that if the proper serving temperature is maintained, it should present an issue for only those who are extremely sensitive. 89/2013+

2007 Pinot Noir – Aubaine Vineyards: (San Luis Obispo County, 15.0%). This was surprisingly inexpressive and even aggressive swirling could coax only grudging aromas of menthol-suffused red cherry cough lozenge style aromas. The rich and generous flavors possess good dry extract and mid-palate concentration as well as fine volume. While there is some

warmth, it's less than most pinots typically display when carrying a substantial level such as this example does. To be sure, the warmth is not invisible but it's noticeably less evident than it is in the Chorro. 88/2013+

2007 Pinot Noir – Stone Corral Vineyard: (Edna Valley, 15.2%). This is also somewhat shut down and mute with a similar if slightly more elegant aromatic profile that is a bit higher-toned as well. There is good volume to the medium-bodied flavors that possess reasonably good depth but like the Chorro Creek, display a trace of backend bitterness that may or may not round out. There is also noticeable warmth and overall, this is pretty disjointed at present though perhaps it will recover with a few years of bottle age. 85/2013+

Talbott Vineyards (Carmel Valley, CA)

2008 Pinot Noir – Logan	red	87
2008 Pinot Noir – Cuvée Sarah Case	red	86

Founded in 1982 by the Talbott family, this 100% estate winery is owned by Robert (Robb) Sharpe Talbott. Consulting winemaker Dan Karlsen crafts wine from fruit coming from vines from 10 to 35-plus years of age. For more info visit www.talbottvineyards.com.

2008 Pinot Noir – Logan: (Santa Lucia Highlands, 15.1%). A ripe dark fruit nose displays light floral hints, in particular violet, before introducing rich, round and suave middle weight flavors that possess good concentration and reasonably good balance as it manages to carry the considerable alcohol without undue weight or warmth. This isn't my style but it's not a monster either. 87/2013+

2008 Pinot Noir – Cuvée Sarah Case: (Santa Lucia Highlands, 15.3%). A slightly riper nose speaks of primarily red berry fruit and spice hints that carry over to the rich, round, supple and seductively textured flavors that possess a bit more structure on the dusty and mouth coating finish where more obvious warmth is in evidence. Like the Logan, this manages to carry its significant alcohol levels better than most pinots breaking 15% but it's certainly not invisible. 86/2013+

Talisman Cellars (Napa, CA)

2007 Pinot Noir – Adastra Vineyard	red	87
2007 Pinot Noir – Gunsalus Vineyard	red	89
2007 Pinot Noir – Hawk Hill Vineyard	red	86
2007 Pinot Noir – Red Dog Vineyard Dijon Clones	red	88
2007 Pinot Noir – Red Dog Vineyard Pommard Clones	red	88
2007 Pinot Noir – Wildcat Mountain Vineyard	red	89

Marta and Scott Rich are making some lovely wines in very small quantities and those that have followed the evolution of Carneros and Sonoma pinot will recognize Scott Rich as the former winemaker behind Etude. Scott Rich clearly states that one of his objectives is ageability and he practices what is preached as all of their wines have a minimum of one-year of bottle age before they are released. For further information, contact: (707) 258-5722 or visit www.talismanwine.com.

2007 Pinot Noir – Adastra Vineyard: (Carneros, 14.3%, \$46, 193 cases). A ripe aromatic profile speaks of raspberry, cherry and a hint of cranberry that leads to supple, fresh and vibrant middle weight largely fruit-driven flavors that possess average depth and acceptable length on the sappy finish. There is plenty of wood present, indeed to the point where there are some oak tannins discernible though I wish to stress that the wood is not to the point of dominating the finish. Perhaps this will add depth in time but for the moment, my primary reservation is that the wine is a bit simple. 87/2014+

2007 Pinot Noir – Red Dog Vineyard Dijon Clones: (Sonoma Mountain, 14.3%, \$46, 256 cases). Initially there was a background trace of reduction and I would recommend decanting this if you elect to try one young. After 20 or so minutes of aeration, somber dark berry fruit aromas cut with a hint of cranberry emerge to reveal nicely detailed and vibrant medium-bodied flavors that display an attractive mouth feel on the moderately complex and slightly warm if persistent finish. Here there is better integration of the oak even though it is not invisible. 88/2014+

2007 Pinot Noir – Red Dog Vineyard Pommard Clones: (Sonoma Mountain, 14.3%, \$46, 218 cases). Here the nose is slightly spicier with bluer fruit than the Dijon Clones counterpart. The rich, round and supple flavors possess reasonably good

complexity as well as a rather suave texture before culminating in a mouth coating and moderately oaky finish. The mid-palate concentration is such that the wood will probably be absorbed in time but its influence is such that the texture of the backend is altered. I should further note that like the Dijon version, there is noticeable warmth. 88/2014+

2007 Pinot Noir – Hawk Hill Vineyard: (Russian River Valley, 14.3%, 169 cases). Initially this was quite high-toned but extended aeration leads to the largely red berry fruit toning down to include some dark berry fruit notes as well. The delicious, round and attractively textured flavors are noticeably tangy on the energetic and slightly warm finish. The tanginess may subside with age but for the moment, it's enough to be mildly bothersome. 86/2013+

2007 Pinot Noir – Gunsalus Vineyard: (Russian River Valley, 14.3%, 296 cases). A relatively high-toned nose of cranberry, strawberry and red pinot fruit merges into rich, round and utterly delicious flavors that are quite stylish as there is good energy as well as precision on the persistent and focused finish. As with the prior wines, there is noticeable wood as well as a touch of warmth but the overall sense of depth is better. 89/2013+

2007 Pinot Noir – Wildcat Mountain Vineyard: (Carneros, 14.3%, 230 cases). As is often the case with Los Carneros pinots, despite the presence of ripe red berry fruit aromas there is also a touch of the vegetal, which is typically a "like it/hate it" characteristic for pinot lovers. I don't find it objectionable here, in fact it actually adds a bit of complexity. The middle weight flavors are supple, round and seductive with good vibrancy and punch to the focused and lingering finish with none of the warmth displayed by the prior wines. If this can add complexity with bottle age, my score may be on the conservative side. 89/2013+

Francis Tannahill (Newberg, OR)

2006	Pinot Noir – The Hermit	red	89
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For more info visit www.francistannahill.com.

2006 Pinot Noir – The Hermit: (Willamette Valley, 590 cases produced; 13.7%). A spicy and expressive nose of sandalwood, ripe plum and dark cherry aromas leads to rich, round, supple and quite forward medium-bodied flavors that possess good dry extract that really coats the mouth on the velvety and solidly persistent finish. This is not super complex but it is satisfying and while not quite at its peak, another 2 years or so should see it there. Worth a look. 89/2013+

Tandem Winery (Sebastopol, CA)

2007	Pinot Noir – Sangiacomo Vineyard	red	88
2007	Pinot Noir – Van Der Kamp Vineyard	red	87

Tandem was founded by Greg La Follette in 2001. Follette's background includes stints with Tchelistcheff and Kongsgaard. For his pinot he uses "open-top dairy tanks to allow more surface-to-volume ratio and to be able to perform punch downs by hand." For further information, contact (707) 823-2796 or visit www.tandemwinery.com.

2007 Pinot Noir – Sangiacomo Vineyards: (Sonoma Coast; 14.3%). Here the nose is similar to that of the Van der Kamp if perhaps just a touch fresher and in keeping with the attractively energetic medium-bodied flavors that possess better balance and overall length. This is not especially complex but there is good underlying material and thus it may develop with a few years in the cellar. 88/2014+

2007 Pinot Noir – Van der Kamp Vineyard: (Sonoma Mountain; 14.6%). A pretty nose blends both upper and middle register aromas that include raspberry, cranberry and plum aromas. The vibrant and rounded yet nicely detailed medium-bodied flavors possess a suave mouth feel and a mildly tangy and slightly warm finish that offers only limited persistence. 87/2013+

Terlato Family Vineyards (Healdsburg, CA)

2008	Pinot Noir	red	88
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Anthony Terlato is the founder and co-owns this winery with sons John and Bill. The first wine to be released was a Pinot Grigio in 2003 after his history in the industry that included founding Santa Margherita, well known for its Pinot Grigio. The purchase of land in the Russian River Valley prompted adding pinot noir to the portfolio. Doug Fletcher is the Vice-President of Winemaking for the Terlato Wine Group. For more information visit www.terlatovineyards.com or call (888) 241-0259.

2008 Pinot Noir: (Russian River Valley, 14.2%). A relatively high-toned nose of cranberry and, interestingly rhubarb introduces round and naturally sweet medium-bodied flavors that possess reasonably good detail on the balanced and persistent finish. There is good energy and I like the focus though at present this is very much built on its fruit. A wine that could easily be enjoyed now or held for 2 to 3 years first. 88/2013+

Château de la Terrière (Cercié en Beaujolais)

2009	➔ Beaujolais-Villages Vieilles Vignes	red	90
2009	Moulin-à-Vent Cuvée de la Lure	red	91
2008	➔ Brouilly Cuvée Jules du Souzy Vieilles Vignes	red	92

I was quite impressed with the quality of these wines and commend them to your attention. (Fedway Imports Co., Inc., www.fedwayimports.com, Kearny, NJ, Ruby Wines, www.rubywines.com, Avon, MA, Worldwide Cellars, www.wvcellars.com, Minneapolis, MN, Wine D.O.C. Wine Company, www.winedocwines.com, Chicago IL, Galaxy Wine Company, www.galaxywinecompany.com, Portland, OR, Cellar Selections, www.lyndaallisoncellarselections.com, Marietta, GA, Lauber Imports, NY).

2009 Beaujolais-Villages Vieilles Vignes: This is notably ripe with plenty of Gamay-like pepper on the earth dark berry fruit aromas that introduce rich and quite full-bodied flavors that possess good mid-palate concentration and plenty of supporting dry extract as the old vines really show, which is a blessing as this is a seriously structured effort for the appellation. Indeed, while this could be drunk now with pleasure, for those who enjoy the aromas and taste of well-aged Gamay, this would amply repay extended aging. An excellent effort though note that it's definitely on the riper side. 90/2015+

2009 Moulin-à-Vent Cuvée de la Lure: This is even riper though it stops short of being excessively ripe with similar notes of warm earth, pepper, plum and dark berry fruit. There is good richness and solid depth to the equally ripe, intense and quite firmly structured big-bodied flavors that also possess an abundance of dry extract on the mouth coating and impressively persistent finish. I admire this for its complexity and length though there will be some who find it just too ripe. For the record, it's not my preferred style but this is clearly a wine of quality. 91/2016+

2008 Brouilly Cuvée Jules du Souzy Vieilles Vignes: 2008 doesn't have near the cachet of 2009, especially in Beaujolais but I found this to be more interesting and fresher than the two '09s reviewed above. To be sure, the other wines in the range are definitely good but there is another dimension of energy and complexity though there is also a touch of austerity but rather than coming across as lean and green, the palate impression is rather clean and balanced. This is lovely and worth your consideration. 92/2014+

Domaine de la Tour du Bief (Meursault)

2009	➔ Moulin-à-Vent "La Bernadine"	red	91
2009	➔ Moulin-à-Vent "Les Hauts de la Rochelle"	red	92
2009	Moulin-à-Vent "Clos de la Tour"	red	88

This domaine is now the personal holding of Vincent Girardin (see above). (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; Seguin & Robillard/Vinifera, www.seguinrobillard.ca, Canada).

2009 Moulin-à-Vent "La Bernadine": Deep violet color. This is quite ripe but seriously complex with notes of pepper, spicy plum, earth and a hint of roasted meat. The rich, delicious, moderately structured and concentrated flavors convey the same fine complexity as the nose, all wrapped in a long, intense and mouth coating finish where a subtle trace of warmth does

surface. Still, this is extremely good and should age for years if desired though the ripeness of the tannins will allow this to be enjoyed young. 91/2016+

2009 Moulin-à-Vent “Les Hauts de la Rochelle”: This trades aromatic elegance for complexity because while the nose does not possess the same depth as the La Bernadine, it’s finer and while ripe, it’s not quite as ripe as there is none of the roasted meat character. The pure, intense and admirably concentrated flavors are reserved and less fleshy but I very much like the overall sense of depth and length. It is less immediate at present than its partner, indeed it’s even a bit austere, but at maturity it should ultimately deliver a slightly better drinking experience. 92/2017+

2009 Moulin-à-Vent “Clos de la Tour”: This is also quite pretty and while overtly ripe, it’s not over the top in the fashion of some '09 Beaujolais that I have tasted. There is good vibrancy and detail to the menthol-suffused flavors that display enough finishing warmth to be clearly noticeable though this aspect is diminished if the wine is kept at the proper serving temperature. In sum, this is perfectly good but it’s not at the same level as its two stable mates. 88/2014+

Valerie’s Vineyard (Sonoma, CA)

2007	Pinot Noir – One Acre	red	90
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The first commercial release of only 42 cases was in 2004 and the wine was made by BR Cohn’s winemaker Tom Montgomery. For information visit: www.valeriesvineyard.com.

2007 Pinot Noir – One Acre: (14.1%). A wonderfully complex nose of plum, spice and a panoply of red berry fruit aromas. There is good richness to the velvety, even silky flavors that possess a seductive mouth feel and fine length on the ever-so-slightly warm finish. About the only nit is that at present, there is only average depth though the underlying material appears to be there to allow it to develop over the next few years in bottle. Worth a look. 90/2013+

Vergari Wine Company (Sebastopol, CA)

2007	Pinot Noir – Marin County	red	87
2007	Pinot Noir – Sangiacomo Vineyard	red	89
2007	Pinot Noir - Van der Kamp Vineyard	red	88

After “years of experience working at wineries on 3 different continents” David Vergari founded his winery in 2003 after stints at Joseph Phelps, Rutz Cellars (to name just two) and posts in both Australia and Spain. For more info call (626) 818-8398 or visit www.vergariwines.com.

2007 Pinot Noir – Marin County: (14.4%, 188 cases). A pretty mix of upper and lower register red and dark berry fruit aromas leads to slightly sweet middle weight flavors that possess a seductive mouth feel and a fruit-driven finish where a subtle touch of warmth can be felt. This is attractive enough if not particularly complex. 87/now+

2007 Pinot Noir – Van der Kamp Vineyard: (Sonoma Mountain, 14.3%, 135 cases). Aromas of cranberry, raspberry, cherry and a floral hint combine to introduce round, supple and suave medium-bodied flavors that possess reasonably good mid-palate concentration and a soft finish that, like the Marin County, is on the fruit-driven side. 88/2012+

2007 Pinot Noir - Sangiacomo Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast, 14.4%, 188 cases). A similar if more somber and notably more complex nose complements well the delicious, round and quite supple middle weight flavors that also display solid depth on the balanced and persistent finish. This is on the fruit-driven side but there is enough overall complexity that it rises above its two stable mates. This could be enjoyed now or held for a few years first if desired. 89/2012+

VML Wines (Healdsburg, CA)

2008	Pinot Noir - Boudreaux	red	88
2008	Pinot Noir - Swicegood	red	88

The new project from winemaker Virginia Lambrix in conjunction with partners Bill Hambrecht, Phil Hurst, Mark De Meulenaere, Paul and Health Dolan. For more information visit www.vmlwine.com

2008 Pinot Noir - Swicegood: (Russian River Valley, 95 cases, 14.5%). A ripe and intense red berry nose offers notes of cranberry, red currant and raspberry that precede delicious, supple and very rounded middle weight flavors that possess good precision and moderate oak influence on the sappy and mouth coating finish. This is very pinot in character and mouth feel with a discreet hint of finishing warmth. Note that this could easily be enjoyed now. 88/2013+

2008 Pinot Noir - Boudreaux: (Russian River Valley, 205 cases, 14.5%). A discreet touch of wood sets off ripe aromas of spice, smoke and fresh red pinot fruit that merges into nicely rich, supple and attractively textured medium-bodied flavors blessed with good dry extract, balance and length. While not overly complex at present, this may come with a few years in bottle though like the Swicegood, this ever-so-slightly warm effort could be drunk and enjoyed now. 88/2013+

White Rose Wines (Dayton, OR)

2008	Pinot Noir – Dundee Hills AVA	red	89
2008	Pinot Noir – Sovarae	red	89
2008	Pinot Noir – White Rose Vineyard	red	90
2008	Pinot Noir – Willamette Valley	red	88
2008	➔ Pinot Noir – Whole Cluster	red	92

For further information, contact (949) 275-8021 or visit www.whiterosewines.com

2008 Pinot Noir – Willamette Valley: (13.6%). A fresh and relatively bright nose mixes upper and lower register fruit and earth aromas that are in keeping with the delicious and forward flavors that possess a silky mid-palate and a dusty finish of moderate depth and length. This is quite dry in the best sense of the term. 88/2013+

2008 Pinot Noir – Dundee Hills AVA: (13.2%). A very pretty and expressive nose of mostly red berry fruit aromas is cut with earth, spice and briar hints that introduce nicely rich, fleshy and rather generous medium-bodied flavors that offer fine balance and enough depth and length to be worth your attention. 89/2014+

2008 Pinot Noir – White Rose Vineyard: (Dundee Hills AVA; 13.9%). Here the fruit is slightly riper with red berry liqueur and plum aromas preceding opulent, rich and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that possess reasonably good depth but excellent balance and fine length. A few years in bottle should see the depth improve. 90/2014+

2008 Pinot Noir – Sovarae: (from White Rose Vineyard in the Dundee Hills AVA; 13.9%). A gentle touch of wood sets off clearly ripe yet cool dark berry fruit and briar aromas that lead to delicious, round and easy-to-like medium-bodied flavors that possess good balance and fine length but not the complexity of the Whole Cluster *cuvée*. Note that this was noticeably better after an hour or so of air. 89/2014+

2008 Pinot Noir – Whole Cluster: (from White Rose Vineyard in the Dundee Hills AVA; 13.8%). A slightly floral-infused dark pinot fruit and briar nose marries seamlessly into firm, precise and beautifully textured middle weight flavors that possess the best overall depth in the range, all wrapped in a firm, lingering and mouth coating finish. This is quite serious and will require 7 to 10 years to be at its best. In a word, excellent. 92/2016+

Woodenhead Wine (Forestville, CA)

2006	Pinot Noir – Buena Tierra Vineyard	red	90
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For more information visit www.woodenheadwine.com

2006 Pinot Noir – Buena Tierra Vineyard: (Russian River Valley, 14.5%). A pretty and very pinot nose features admirably fresh and moderately high-toned red berry fruit aromas that complement the energetic, delicious, supple yet detailed middle weight flavors that possess fine balance and excellent length. There is a slight touch of warmth but if the proper serving temperature is maintained, it is not really intrusive. This could be drunk now or held for a year or two. Worth a look. 90/2013+

Zepaltas Wines (Santa Rosa, CA)

2008	Pinot Noir – W.E. Bottoms Vineyard	red	89
2008	Pinot Noir – La Cruz Vineyard	red	88
2008	Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley	red	88
2008	Pinot Noir – Sonoma Coast	red	87
2008	Pinot Noir – Suacci Vineyard	red	86

Ryan Zepaltas, winemaker for Siduri, also produces his own wine where the main goal "is to produce wines that are balanced, pure and reflect the places and people who had a hand in making the wines what they are. Our favorite sources for fruit are the cooler parts of Western Sonoma County [Russian River Valley & Sonoma Coast], and the Santa Lucia Highlands in Monterey County." For further information visit: www.zepaltaswines.com

2008 Pinot Noir – Sonoma Coast: (14%). An exceptionally fresh and bright nose offers up aromas of cranberry, spice and red current that give way to delicious, detailed and liting light to medium weight flavors that possess good persistence and a balanced if not especially complex finish. 87/2012+

2008 Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley: (14.4%). The aromatic profile here is notably spicier and the fruit is bluer than in the Sonoma Coast and complements the rich, delicious and attractively textured flavors that culminate in a delicious and lingering finish that displays just a touch of austerity. 88/2013+

2008 Pinot Noir – La Cruz Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast; 14.2%). A perfumed mix of cranberry, raspberry and red cherry aromas merges into attractively supple, round and silky-textured flavors that display good energy and persistence on the sappy finish. This is not especially complex at present though it should add depth with a year or two in bottle. 88/2013+

2008 Pinot Noir – Suacci Vineyard: (Sonoma Coast; 13.7%). A high-toned cranberry and raspberry suffused nose leads to fruit-driven and very supple middle weight flavors that possess just enough complexity to be interesting on the mildly tangy finish. This is very much built on its fruit and could actually be drunk now. 86/2013+

2008 Pinot Noir – W.E. Bottoms Vineyard: (Russian River Valley; 14.1%). A classic red pinot fruit nose is liberally laced with spice and sandalwood notes and is in keeping with the delicious, round and supple medium weight flavors that possess good depth on the impeccably well balanced finish. There is a slight touch of natural sweetness but I suspect that this will diminish with a bit of bottle age. 89/2013+

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