



BURGUNDY 2014 – TASTING NOTES

Domanine Samuel Billaud

Samuel is one of Chablis' finest wine-makers. For twenty years he was responsible for the superb quality of wine at the family estate, Domaine Billaud-Simon. Following the sale of Domaine Billaud-Simon to Faiveley in 2014, he was able to regain control of his share of the family vineyards, now making magnificent wines, the very best in Chablis today. I have to admit that I have drunk more Chablis in the last 2 months since we shipped the first lot of 2014 than in the previous 10 years.

Chablis 2014 £110.00 per 12 bott under bond

Made from three different parcels, 35 - 60 y old and stuck amongst the best 1er Crus of Chablis. The wine is pure and classy with great aromatic structure and refined balance. A mouthful of summer elegance; a bottle is never enough. Drink 2016-2018.

Chablis 1er Cru Les Fourneaux £145.00 per 12 bott under bond

40 year old vines cultivated organically on a sunny, south-facing slope gives a richer, fleshier style of Chablis - tasted blind I would call this a Chassagne Montrachet and a great one at that. Great intensity and balance with fine, ripe summer fruit and generous finish. At the initial tasting at China Tang restaurant in Park Lane, the Sommelier commented: "Man, you have scored a gold mine with this one". It's now flying out by the glass there. Possibly the greatest value of the vintage. Drink 2016-2020.

Samuel make a very decent Grand Cru Vaudesir, but in all honesty at more than twice the price of Fourneaux (£180 per 60) I cannot see it as a value.

Domaine Jacques Girard, Santenay

This is also a new estate for us, now under a management of young Justin Girardin (13th generation vigneron) based in Santenay, with a single parcel in Chassagne 1er cru. These are not cult wines, but a very decent, honest.

Bourgogne Chardonnay - £74.00 per 12 bott under bond

Easy drinking, summer wine; light and fresh with summer fruit on nose and palate. Just right, and a great deal at just under £10 inc vat.

Santenay, Les Terrasses de Bievaux (White) - £110.00 per 12 bott under bond

From terraces at the back of the village this comes from 30y old vineyards. Quite focused and intense, shows the vintage character very well. There is fine crisp acidity in the back of intense summer fruit. This will drink very well from this summer for some 3 years. At £12 per bott, you would struggle to get a better deal.

Chassagne Montrachet 1er cru Morgeot, (white) - £275.00 per 12 bott in bond

1 er cru Morgeot is placed due south on the way out of the Village producing powerful intense wines. This spends 12 months in Barrels (1\4 new) which gives the wine a serious back bone without being dominant. Very classic white Burgundy, dominated by pears and apricots in 2014, with some hazelnut in the background. Will need couple of years to come around and will drink for another 5.

Bourgogne Rouge - £74.00 per 12 bott under bond

Refreshing and quite light, this is classic village Burgundy. Soft red fruit with balanced acidity. A perfect light lunch drink and a decent house wine.

Santenay 1er cru Clos Rousseau, Rouge - £135.00 per 12 bott under bond

Classic red Burgundy; touch rustic around the edges with dark berries and spicy oak in the background. There is quite serious body here with ripe but firm tannins. Will need couple of years to settle and will drink for 10 more. Very decent.

Domaine Christophe Cordier, Maconnais

Christopher is a talented young winemaker producing wines of much higher quality than the appellation would suggest. Possibly I have picked only 2 out of his selection of wines, but they are both real gems.

Macon Aux Bois d Allier - £96.00 per 12 bott under bond

Really decent little wine, this is ready for drinking now and will go on for some 2 years. Quite full bodied, but not heavy, this has richness you would expect in California but, finely balanced by crisp acidity. A perfect "everyday" drop of vino. A bargain at this price.

Saint Veran En Faux £150.00 per 12 bott under bond

A very jolly drop of sunshine but, with a serious frame underneath - a Puligny in St Veran skin! Peaches and pears run the show with vanilla and cream in supporting roles all supported with fine crisp acidity. Will provide lot of pleasure from this summer for some 2-3 years if you can resist it. A Bargain!!

Domaine Saumaize-Michelin, Pouilly Fuisse

Now this is the real estate for those of you who are not interested in labels. Roger and Christine Saumaize run the finest estate of Vergisson in the heart of the Pouilly-Fuissé appellation. Domaine is cultivated biodynamically, and the juice is fermented in the underground cellar adjacent to their house at the top of the Village. The quality and the style is that of Puligny / Meursault.

Mâcon-Vergisson La Roche £144.00 per 12 bott under bond

About as good and as attractive as one can ask for from Macon. Clos sur La Roche is just outside Pouilly-Fuissé appellation, so priced well below the quality. Attractive and aromatic with excellent balance and texture. Medium body but, with fine refreshing acidity. A joy to drink right now and for another 2-3- years. A Bargain. Drink 2016-2018.

Pouilly-Fuissé Vignes Banches £180.00 per 12 bott under bond

Vignes Blanches feels very much like a decent Puligny; very fine, quite full bodied but not heavy. Just right. As above, it is already a pleasure to drink and will last at least another 3-4 years.

Pouilly-Fuissé Pouilly-Fuissé Les Ronchevats £195.00 per 12 bott under bond

Ronchevats has more clay in the soil which gives a denser, richer wine. Big and concentrated this would give many a 1er cru Meursault a run for its money. Little closed at present but, a serious wine that will develop magnificently. Drink 2014-2022.

Domaine Dureuil-Jonthial, Rully

I have followed this Domaine for few years now and without fail young Vincent delivers quality well above Rully status. His whites are more akin to Meursault than the humble Rully. From the reds, the village Rully stands out as modern, pure style of Pinot Noir; and he has a small parcel of 1er Cru Nuits St Georges, Argillieres which is quite special and very well priced (and very limited in availability). His reds show New World purity of fruit combined with classic Burgundian structure, a rare find.

White

Rully Blanc 2010 £165.00 per 12 bott under bond

Clean, ripe summer fruit throughout, with refreshing citrus in the background. A great little glass of wine on its own or with some smoked salmon and cream cheese. Yum.

Rully Blanc 1er Cru Gresigny £240.00 per 12 bott under bond

Vincent's Gresigny is about as close to a 1er Cru Meursault you will get outside Cotes d'Or. Big, rich and round; very hedonistic. Not shy at this money but, great value if you are not a label collector. One of the values of the vintage.

Red

Rully Rouge 1er Cru, Guessens £175.00 per 12 bott under bond

Light summer red fruit, tannins are just on the right side of firm giving it a solid backbone; this will drink from shipment for about 4-5 years. Quite classic.

Nuits St Georges, 1er Cru Argillieres £375.00 per 12 bott under bond

Another very serious wine from Vincent. This is the only vineyard he has in Nuits and it gets his full attention, it's kind of a cherry on the cake for him. Black cherries dominate the nose and palate with well integrated oak in the background. Will need 4-5 years of sleep but, it will bring a lot of pleasure for 10- 15 after. Well done and about as good a value as you will find for a 1 er cru Nuits!

Domaine Gérard Thomas et Filles

A fine little Domaine in St Aubin now run by Gérard's two daughters, Anne and Isabelle. Their technical training has resulted in fresher, purer wines with more precise flavours. Their Saint Aubin Champ Tirant has improved tremendously over the last few years.

Saint Aubin Champ Tirant £150.00 per 12 bott under bond

Champ Tirant lies adjacent to premier cru Les Castets and in my opinion makes wine just as good. Premier cru quality at a village price. This is serious classic white Burgundy to drink over the next 4-5 years.

Domaine Philippe Colin

One of the best young guns in Chassagne making bright and vibrant wines; the future of Burgundy if you ask me. We do have small allocations, so first come first served.

Chassagne Montrachet £270.00 per 12 bott under bond

This is about as good as Chassagne needs to be. Very classic, lean and precise, it lifts the spirits from the first sniff. It's quite light with just about right amount of oak in the background and great length. Lighter but more precise than Pillot below.

Chassagne Montrachet, 1er Cru Vergers £195.00 per 6 bott under bond

This is another level of refined! My note finishes by "THE REAL THING!!!" Great concentration and some good weight here, but still staying very elegant. This will be a great drop in about 2-3- year. Very yummy!

Domaine Jean-Marc Pillot

Jean-Marc runs one of the finest small Domaines in Chasagne; reassuringly reliable and one of my long time favourites. Jean-Marc's vines lie predominantly on the border between Chassagne and Puligny just below Grand Cru Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet.

Chassagne-Montrachet £275.00 per 12 bott under bond

Very fine classic Chassagne. Fine summer stone fruit dominates throughout with great crisp acidity. A classic! Drink 2017-2022.

Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Chenevottes £395.00 per 12 bott under bond

One of the best 1er Cru vineyards in Chassagne, Les Chenevottes is north-east facing which gives it potential to produce very long lasting wines. Jean Marc's one is planted with the oldest vines of the Domaine delivering wine of impressive concentration and intensity. It will need couple of years and will drink for another 5-10. Great vino! Drink 2017-2025.

Domaine Vincent et François Jouard

Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru Morgeot Les Fairendes £350.00 per 12 bott under bond

Les Fairendes is the best part of Morgeot Vineyard, plot nearest the village. 2014 is rich and powerful, feels more like Puligny with excellent balance of fruit and acidity and creamy finish; will drink quite early, but will last into 20's. Drink 2017-2022.

Domaine Jean-Louis Chavy

Jean-Louis makes forward, fruity style of Puligny for early consumption. The wines are soft and round with low acidity, crowd pleasing and easy drinking.

Puligny-Montrachet £240.00 per 12 bott under bond

2014 Village Puligny is ripe and stylish, fermented and aged in 20% new oak casks. Already fine to drink with plenty of fruit. A fine value easy drinking Puligny. Drink 2016-2019.

Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Folatieres £350.00 per 12 bott under bond

More serious drop than the above, Les Folatières was fermented and aged for twelve months in 25% new oak barrels. Very decent, pure fruit on the palate and long, rich finish. Very classic Puligny and extremely well priced for 1er cru. Drink 2017-2022.

Domaine Patrick Javillier, Meursault

For some years now Patrick had been one of the best producers in the Village of Meursault despite not having any 1er cru Vineyards. His Bourgogne Chardonnays however are at the quality level not far from other peoples Meursaults. Unfortunately, he got hit by hail again in 2014, so the quantities are low, but the concentration and intensity are great; very long lived wines. There is no weak links in his portfolio but, in 2014 Tillets seem to have punched above its weight as did single vineyard Cuvee de Forgets. We will have few bottles of his extraordinary Corton for those special occasions when only the Grand Cru will do. Not shy at this price, but worth every penny.

White

Bourgogne Blanc, Forgets £155.00 per 12 bott under bond

Forgets comes from 25y old vines and feels very much like Chassagne. There is serious intensity and texture here bursting with white summer fruit with great fine , crisp acid background. It will benefit from a year or two lying down and will drink or another 5.

Meursault Les Tillets £160.00 per 6 bott under bond

My favourite Meursault of the vintage. Very fine and serious, pears and peaches dominating palate with fine oak background. Very sophisticated and will drink for at least 10 years. A very fine drop of Vino!

Neal Martin WA - The 2014 Meursault Les Tillets has a very perfumed nose with lime flower, citrus fruit and cold limestone scents that possess more vigour than Javillier's other 2014s. The palate is fresh and vibrant with a citric thread of acidity. Plenty of energy here, quite linear at the moment, but there is commendable precision on the malic finish that leaves the mouth fresh and wanting more.

Corton Charlemagne Grand Cru £440.00 per 6 bott

I am not sure how much of this we might get at the end, which is pity as it was one of my top wines of the vintage. Similar in its make up to the Meursault above, but just with more of everything with great complexity and length. drink 2018 - 25. A very decent price for the wine of this quality.

Neal Martin WA - The 2014 Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru has a fragrant bouquet with hints of vanilla and white chocolate delicately interwoven through the citrus fruit. The palate is very well balanced with a dab of sour lemon on the entry. Nicely weighted in the mouth with freshly squeezed lime and just the right amount of bitterness, this is a beautiful Corton-Charlemagne from Javillier that should drink well over the next 10-15 years.

Domaine Michel Magnien

Another biodynamic estate blossoming under stewardship of Frédéric Magnien, a 5th generation on the family estate based in Morey Saint Denis. He joined his

father Michel in 1993, and has gradually tempered the style, reducing the amount of new oak and producing wines with more aroma, fruit and elegance.

Fixin £175.00 per 12 bott under bond

Little known village that makes full-bodied, intense wines. Tannins are soft and gentle with just about the right balance of red fruit and spice. Quite generous, it will drink well from 2018 for some 5-6 years texture and long aftertaste.

Gevrey-Chambertin Les Seuvrées Vieilles Vignes £275.00 per 12 bott under bond

From vines planted in 1942, Les Seuvrées is adjacent to grand cru Mazoyères-Chambertin. This is a serious red Burgundy on the level of many a 1er cru with intense, concentrated black cherry and griottes dominating. It will need about 5 y in the bottle and drink for another 15. Very well done and a bargain at this price.

Morey-Saint-Denis 1er Cru Les Chaffots £260.00 per 6 bott - limited

Great 1cru on the slope just above grand cru Clos Saint Denis. This is big, rich, intense and powerful. It will need some 5 years of sleep but, will be a great Burgundy and is quite a serious value. Drink 2020-2040.

Domaine Marc Roy

This is an exceptional domain in Gevrey Chambertin run by Alexandrine Roy with tiny production of some of the very best reds that the appellation produces (less than 1800 cases in total). However, a discovery of the 2014 is their white: Marsannay les Champs Perdrix. I have not noticed it in previous vintages, but in 2014 this was a revelation.

White

Marsannay les Champs Perdrix blanc £220.00

I had to go back 3 times to reassure myself of this. On the nose it feels more like a top quality Pessac-Leognan than Burgundy; intense tropical fruit dominates, with hints of honey and soft oak in the background. Normally, I would be pedantic and expect Burgundy to be Burgundy, but when the wine is this good, who cares!?! A great value at this price and one to confuse your mates in a blind tasting. I am taking all I can get of this.

Red

Gevrey Chambertin Vieilles Vignes - £180.00 per 6 bott under bond

Alexandrine make 4 cuvees from tiny holdings here and VV comes from vineyards over 60 y old. One might perceive this to be expensive for the appellation it carries, but the wine is exceptional. Tasted in 3 different tastings, it was consistently focused, intense and pure. Very clean bright black summer fruit dominates all the way with excellent finish and balance. For those who don't much care about the label. This will drink from about 2018 for some 10-15 years.

Gevrey Chambertin La Justice - £200.00 per 6 bott under bond - Allocations will be tiny please register as soon as possible

La Justice is a single vineyard just in the back of the Domaine, producing potent intense wines that give most 1er crus a run for the money. 2104 is very powerful dominated by small black cherries and exotic spice. A very classic Gevrey that will easily drink for 20 years. Great wine!! Allocations will be tiny, please register as soon as possible.

Domaine Bertrand Ambroise

As with Jean-Jacques above, I don't buy Bertrand's wines every year but, the quality here has been on the up over the last few years. From his large offering, I have picked 1 white and 3 reds for 2014, all real gems if little unknown vineyards.

Ladoix 1er Cru Les Gréchons, white £275.00 per 12 bott under bond

This vineyard adjoins Corton-Charlemagne and shares the same chalky marne blanche soil. The best Ladoix I have ever tasted by a long way, this is full of tropical fruit and ripe citrus; very refreshing and with great balance. Great drink with or without food for now and for another 3-4 years. My kind of wine.

Vosne-Romanée Aux Damaudes £300.00 per 12 bott under bond

single vineyard Vosne, quite rich and perfumed. Softer texture and very relaxed. Will drink early, generous but very fine drop of vino. One for lazy Saturday afternoons. Drink 2018-2025.

Vougeot 1er Cru Les Cras £220.00 per 6 bott under bond - limited

Now this is a new one for me and I will have to investigate further (of to Burgundy mid March). It adjoins grand cru Clos Vougeot and if this is anything to go by, should really be a part of it. Very rich, with cassis fruit on both nose and palate, this is especially fine with a seductive texture and long finish. I think I am in love! A bargain of the vintage for the reds Drink 2019-2027 (if you can resist).

Corton Le Rognet £260.00 per 6 bott under bond - limited

Aged in 100% new oak, this is an impressive wine with a magnificent, dense, close-knit texture. A real grown up drop of Pinot Noir. Fabulous fruit quality and explosive finish. Feels more like Richebourg. Drink 2020-2030.

Clos Vougeot £480.00 per 6 bott under bond - very limited

Now this is a proper Grand Cru! It comes from the Monpertuis part of the Clos and shows tremendous concentration of dark summer fruit and spice. Rich and unctuous, this is a majestic wine with great ageing potential. Not shy at this price, but a relative bargain in Burgundy terms. Drink 2020-2030+.

Domaine Jean-Jacques Girard

I don't buy Jean-Jacques wines every year and find his lower end whites to be a bit thin, but his 2014 Corton Charlemagne is exceptional - About the only chance to buy a very decent Grand Cru for less than £100. Reds, on the other hand are very decent all the way across, especially his Savigny and Beaune.

Corton-Charlemagne £345.00 per 6 bott under bond

From the south-facing section of Charlemagne, this is a very serious drop of vino; intense, focused and classy. It has that something that can only be found

in Grand Crus, it combines rich, summer stone fruit with a crisp streak of acidity and hazelnut praline / honey at finish. Drink 2017-2022. Very limited.

Savigny-Lès-Beaune 1er Cru Les Peuillets, Red, £197.00 per 12 bott under bond

An excellent premier cru adjacent to Beaune 1er Cru Clos du Roi. Very clean and pure with vibrant summer berries on nose and palate. Soft red fruit but sufficient tannin and structure to age well. Drink 2017-2022.

Beaune 1er Cru Clos du Roi £225.00 per 12 bott under bond

Clos du Roi is at the northern end of Beaune where the wines are fruitier and less tannic. Ripe and round with a soft, succulent texture and refined, silky tannins. Will be delicious relatively soon and will age gracefully. Drink 2017-2025.

Zoran Ristanovic
City Wine Collection

+44 07801 685 392
ZoranR@citywinecollection.com
www.citywinecollection.co.uk