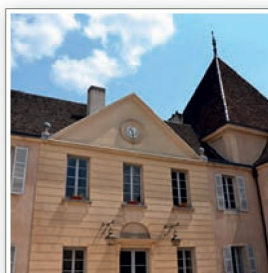
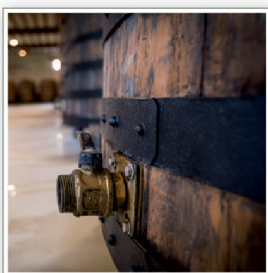


DOMAINES

ALBERT  BICHOT

— MAISON FONDÉE EN 1831 —

REVUE DE PRESSE  
Millésime 2020



Photos ©Flore Deronzier



## L'esprit bio d'Albéric Bichot

Fort de ses 47 certifications, le producteur bourguignon prône un « changement de logiciel » concernant l'usage des pesticides

BEAUNE (CÔTE-D'OR) - envoyé spécial

**S**i son prénom sort du lot, lui se fond dans le groupe. Albéric Bichot multiplie les signaux de la modestie. Voix douce, écoute attentive, sourire discret, vêtements simples. Assis au milieu de vendangeurs, en bout de table, il n'affiche aucun des traits du patron. Il nomme « mes complices » ses collaborateurs qui, en écho, disent « nos propriétés ». Il explique : « Ni gourou ni tâcherons chez nous. »

En fait-il trop ? Il est tout de même un des quatre plus gros négociants traditionnels de Bourgogne, à la tête, depuis 1996, de la maison Albert Bichot, à Beaune (Côte-d'Or), qui perpétue l'esprit familial depuis six générations. Il gère 105 hectares de vignes et six domaines, qui s'étirent du nord au sud de la région, produisant du chablis, du moulin-à-vent, du côte-de-nuits ou du côte-de-beaune.

Il achète aussi des raisins cultivés sur plus de 350 hectares par 70 vigneronnaires, raisins qu'il transforme en vins Bichot. Pas moins de 137 différents, bien dans l'esprit de la mosaïque de Bourgogne. La plus petite production est le magnifique richebourg grand cru, avec 300 bouteilles à peine, fruits d'une parcelle de 0,06 hectare. La plus grosse est le beau chablis de son domaine Long-Depaquit (40 hectares), qui donne plus de 180 000 bouteilles. Il emploie 172 personnes et réalise 60 millions d'euros de chiffre d'affaires. Il est, enfin, le principal acheteur à la traditionnelle vente aux enchères de vins des hospices de Beaune – il a dépensé 2,8 millions d'euros en 2019.

### « Un concentré du grand capital »

Un notable donc, installé dans une maison racée à Pommard. Sauf qu'avant de vous mener dans ses vignes il nous fait découvrir de prestigieux voisins, à Morey-Saint-Denis, où un chemin abrupt divise deux vignes. D'un côté, le Clos de Tart, qui appartient à François Pinault, de l'autre, le Clos des Lambrays, de Bernard Arnault – deux vignobles minuscules que les industriels ont achetés à prix d'or. « Ici, c'est un concentré du grand capital. »

Albéric Bichot s'inquiète des investisseurs qui font flamber la terre. « Quand je suis informé d'une vigne à vendre, c'est souvent très cher et très tard. Ce serait débile d'endetter l'entreprise juste pour deux rangs. Je préfère acheter du raisin. » Il a cette formule : « En Bourgogne, il y a moins de valeurs et plus de valeur. »

Une de ses valeurs est de s'intéresser à ses voisins : « On vit ici dans des vignes collées les unes aux autres. Vous ne pouvez pas rester cloîtré dans votre château. Il

Albéric Bichot, en 2016, dans la vigne du clos des Ursulines, au Domaine du Pavillon, à Pommard.  
FLORE DERONZIER



faut cohabiter, respecter la communauté. D'autant que c'est une oasis, où règne le plein-emploi. Il faut avoir conscience de notre chance. »

Pour un peu, Albéric Bichot défend plus la région que ses propriétés. Par exemple en mécénant pas moins de six festivals et événements, dont Livres en vignes au château du Clos de Vougeot. Se sent-il bourguignon ? « Ah oui ! J'ai beaucoup voyagé, mais je m'enracine... » En 1983, en effet, il a réalisé sa première expédition dans le Grand Nord canadien en compagnie de Nicolas Vanier. Il est allé jusqu'en terre Adélie – Adélie est le prénom de sa fille –, à les yeux qui pétillent quand il évoque l'écrivain Jack London, a passé en 1989 une journée en Polynésie avec Paul-Emile Victor, son idole d'adolescent, a rencontré Jean-Louis Etienne avant sa deuxième expédition dans le Grand Nord canadien en 1997.

« Mes convictions viennent de mes voyages. » La principale est que le vin ne doit pas abîmer la nature ni ceux qui vivent autour. Il explique : « Il ne faut jamais oublier que le vin n'est pas un produit de

première nécessité mais un plaisir. Un plaisir, on peut s'en passer. Surtout s'il fait du mal. Il est normal que la société demande des comptes aux vigneronnaires sur les pesticides. Tout le vignoble doit changer de logiciel. »

**« On nous prend pour des dingues, mais on est dingues ! Ce sera le consommateur qui tranchera »**

Lui est en train de le faire. Ses domaines de côte-de-nuits, côte-de-beaune et côte-chalonnaise sont certifiés (Ecoert) en viticulture biologique depuis 2014, soit 36 hectares. Son domaine Long-Depaquit à Chablis (65 hectares) est certifié « haute valeur environnementale » (HVE) niveau 3,

le plus élevé, depuis 2019. Il y fait en ce moment de gros essais en bio, sur 9 hectares de premiers crus et grands crus afin de mieux comprendre comment la terre réagit dans cette partie la plus septentrionale de la Bourgogne. Et puis les raisins qu'il achète ailleurs sont bio sur 30 hectares, et ça va aller grandissant. Enfin il dialogue avec ses voisins. « Si leur terre est traitée, vous êtes bien obligé de discuter ! »

Avec une offre de 47 appellations certifiées, Albéric Bichot est probablement le producteur qui offre la plus grande variété de vins bio en Bourgogne. Mais il ne le mentionne sur les étiquettes que depuis 2018. « Ça sert à quoi de fanfaronner si c'est pour revenir au conventionnel deux ans après à cause de vendanges difficiles ? » L'année 2019 a, par exemple, connu une météo chaotique et une récolte moitié moindre que celles de 2018. Ces aléas ne vont pas le faire sortir de son sillon. « Nous sommes investis totalement, nous avons revu toute notre façon de faire, nous avons formé nos équipes », explique Christophe Chauvel, régisseur des domaines, qui ajoute : « J'en vois, des propriétés qui

passent en bio pour l'image commerciale et qui finissent par renoncer. Alors qu'ici, vous n'imaginez pas comme je m'écâte. »

Le bio coûte un peu plus cher car il demande plus de travail dans la vigne. « Mais pas énormément plus cher !, corrige Albéric Bichot. S'il faut rentrer de vacances le 10 août, s'il faut cicatriser la vigne après un coup de grêle, on le fait. » Il aimerait même que le cahier des charges pour être en bio soit plus restrictif. « On nous prend pour des dingues, mais on est dingues ! Ce sera le consommateur qui tranchera. »

L'esprit bio, Albéric Bichot le pousse jusqu'à opter pour des circuits courts. Chacun des six domaines a sa propre unité de production, son équipe, autonome, qui permet de responsabiliser le personnel. « Nous sommes petits et grands à la fois, une grande maison et de petits domaines. » Les vins font le grand écart. Des appellations à prix doux et des grands crus chers. Avec une unité : « Ce que j'aime avec le bourgogne, c'est qu'il donne des vins digestes, qu'on peut boire jeunes, alors que ce ne fut pas toujours le cas. » ■

MICHEL GUERRIN





## A Bullseye for Bichot

By Michael Apstein

Jun 1, 2022

The house of Albert Bichot made an outstanding line-up of both red and white Burgundies in **2020**, no mean feat since the growing conditions made success with both colors difficult because of the heat. Many critics, myself included, have raved about the overall success of the 2020 vintage for white Burgundies. I was equally enthusiastic about the reds initially, but now, having tasted a greater range of them, I realize that there is enormous variability among them. Some are spectacular and others, reflecting the heat of the growing season, are overblown, heavy, and alcoholic. However, my enthusiasm for the whites, from the Chablis in the north to the Mâconnais in the south, remains strong.

I tasted only two wines from Bichot during my three visits to Burgundy in the fall of 2021 and March 2022, a stellar **Corton-Charlemagne**, and an equally superb **Corton Grand Cru Clos des Maréchaudes**, so I was especially pleased when they sent me a dozen samples nicely packaged in glass-stopper-sealed 200-ml bottles. Among the samples was **Corton Grand Cru Clos des Maréchaudes**, which showed just as beautifully from the 200-ml tasting sample as it did from the normal 750-ml bottle from which it was poured in March. It reinforced my opinion of the stature of the wine. It also assured me that the samples overall were in good condition and accurately reflected the wines.

Founded in 1831, Albert Bichot, still a family-run business, is one of Burgundy's venerable négociants. Like other top houses such as Maison Louis Jadot, Maison Louis Latour, and Maison Robert Drouhin, they both own vineyards throughout Burgundy and buy grapes or must from growers. The wines Bichot makes from their own vineyards are bottled under the names of six different domaines, which are, moving, from north to south, the 165-acre Domaine Long-Depaquit in Chablis, the 18.5-acre Domaine du Clos Frantin and almost 9-acre Château Gris in Nuits-St.-Georges, (both in Côte du Nuits), the 38-acre Domaine du Pavillon in Pommard (Côte de Beaune), and the almost 20-acre Domaine Adélie in Mercurey (Côte Chalonnaise) and the 13-acre Domaine du Rochegrès in Moulin-à-Vent (Beaujolais).

Not only was Bichot successful with both colors, they succeeded with both their négociant bottlings and their domaine wines.

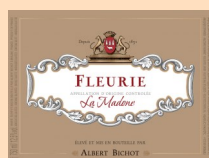
Bichot's charming **Fleurie La Madone** had just the right amount of spice and energy to balance its fruitiness (**90 pts**). It's delicious now.

With a seamless combination of red fruit and earthy notes, their floral **Beaune Clos de l'Ermitage** showed just how enticing a village red wine can be in 2020 (**93 pts**). Enjoyable even now, a few years in the cellars with amplify its charms.

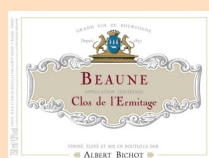
Bénigne Joliet, owner of the famed **1er Cru Clos de la Perrière** monopole in **Fixin** sells a bit of his harvest to Bichot. In 2020 Bichot made an elegant wine showing the darker-fruited and alluring character of the Côte de Nuits (**93 pts**). This one will benefit from up to a decade in the cellar.

From the Domaine Adélie comes a delightful **Mercurey En Pierre Milley** delivering bright, cherry-like fruit offset by a hint of stoniness that makes it ideal for current consumption (**90 pts**).

In contrast, the Domaine du Pavillon's velvety **Volnay 1er Cru Les Santenots**, needs time. It's poised, possessing lovely structure and concentration without a trace of heaviness (**94 pts**).



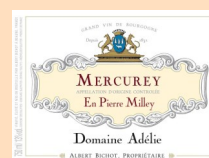
90 pts



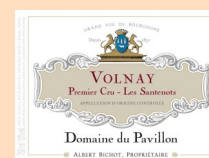
93 pts



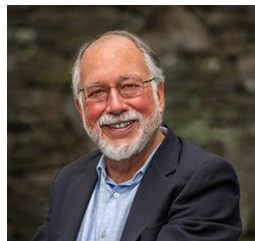
93 pts



90 pts



94 pts



## A Bullseye for Bichot

By Michael Apstein

Jun 1, 2022

The Clos de Maréchaudes vineyard on the east-facing side of the hill of Corton is emblematic of the complexities of Burgundy: a portion is classified as Grand Cru, whereas another portion was only awarded Premier Cru status. Bichot's youthful **Corton Grand Cru Clos des Maréchaudes** (1.3-acre monopole of the Domaine du Pavillon) displays an appealing iron-tinged character. Layered and luxurious, it is truly worthy of its Grand Cru status. It's explosive, yet not heavy, with invigorating acidity that keeps it fresh (**96 pts**). You will be rewarded for a decade of cellaring.

Turning to the whites, we come to Bichot's lip-smacking **Bourgogne Aligoté Champ Renard** from Domaine Adélie. Though ripe for Aligoté—here, again, the vintage speaking—it nonetheless has the great verve you'd expect from that grape. It's a refreshing white that's sure to cut through this or next summer's heat and humidity (**91 pts**).

Bichot's white, **Bourgogne Hautes-Côtes de Nuits**, may lack the breeding of the best Côte de Beaune whites, but it has good density, is amiable and refreshing, and will be more affordable than its Côte de Beaune cousins (**90 pts**).

If you needed more evidence that village wines should be embraced, look no further than **Domaine du Pavillon's Meursault**. Rich, creamy and energetic, it towers above many lesser producers' Premier Crus (**93 pts**). With its 165 acres, the Domaine Long-Depaquit is a long-time leader in Chablis.



Their monopole, **Moutonne**, a nearly 6-acre plot, 95 percent of which lies in Vaudésir and the remainder in Les Preuses, is unique, spanning two Grand Cru vineyards in the heart of the appellation, but carrying the name of neither. Though I didn't taste it this round, it's always one of their top Chablis.

Domaine Long-Depaquit's youthful and penetrating **Chablis Les Vaudésirs** is ripe yet stone-y and tight as a coiled spring (**94 pts**). Chablis-lovers should put this in their cellars for a decade. In the meantime, look for their floral and mineral **Chablis 1er Cru Les Vaucopins**, which is seemingly delicate, but amazes with its presence and length (**93 pts**).

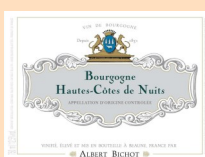
In short, judging from these samples, you can close your eyes and point when buying Bichot's 2020 and be very happy. These wines are pure, reflective of their origins, balanced and—most important—energetic. Not a single one is hot, disjointed or overdone.



96 pts



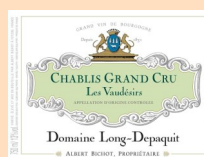
91 pts



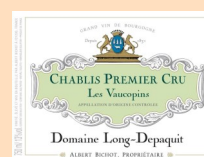
90 pts



93 pts



93 pts



93 pts





**MEDAILLES D'OR**

**MOREY-SAINT-DENIS 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU LES SORBETS 2020**  
96/100

**FIXIN 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU CLOS DE LA PERRIÈRE 2020**  
95/100



**MEDAILLES D'ARGENT**

**VOSNE-ROMANÉE 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU LES MALCONSORTS 2020**  
*Domaine du Clos Frantin*  
93/100

**BEAUNE 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU CLOS DES MOUCHES 2020**  
*Domaine du Pavillon*  
93/100

**CHABLIS GRAND CRU LES PREUSES 2020**  
*Domaine Long-Depaquit*  
91/100

**MEURSAULT 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU LES CHARMES 2020**  
*Hospices de Beaune Cuvée Albert Grivault*  
90/100







Mai 2022

## INTERNATIONAL WINE CHALLENGE 2022

7 TROPHÉES  
6 MÉDAILLES D'OR  
5 MÉDAILLES D'ARGENT



### TROPHÉE DU MEILLEUR VIN BLANC DE FRANCE

pour le

**MEURSAULT 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU LES CHARMES**  
**Hospices de Beaune Cuvée Albert Grivault 2020**

*Nez aromatique et intense avec des agrumes et des épices.  
La bouche est ronde, concentrée et expressive avec un  
fond minéral et une longue finale épicée.*



TROPHÉE DU MEILLEUR VIN BLANC DE BOURGOGNE  
TROPHÉE DU MEURSAULT  
MÉDAILLE D'OR  
97 points



### TROPHÉE INTERNATIONAL DU MEILLEUR PINOT NOIR

pour le

**CLOS DE LA ROCHE GRAND CRU**  
**Hospices de Beaune Cuvée Cyrot Chaudron 2020**

*Arômes intenses de feuilletés sucrés à la framboise et  
d'épices. Merveilleuse intensité de fruits mûrs, avec un  
suspçon de surmaturité. Ambitieux et structuré avec un  
bel équilibre entre des fruits mûrs et une structure  
savoureuse.*



TROPHÉE DU MEILLEUR VIN ROUGE DE BOURGOGNE  
TROPHÉE DU CLOS DE LA ROCHE  
MÉDAILLE D'OR  
96 points







Mai 2022

# INTERNATIONAL WINE CHALLENGE 2022

## 7 TROPHÉES

## 6 MÉDAILLES D'OR

## 5 MÉDAILLES D'ARGENT



### CHAMBOLLE-MUSIGNY 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU LES AMOUREUSES 2020

MEDAILLE D'OR ET TROPHÉE DU CHAMBOLLE-MUSIGNY

*Robe profonde, notes de fruits noirs encore jeunes, framboise, épices fumées. Bouche concentrée avec une rondeur juvénile, un corps serré et une longue finale. 95 points*



### VOSNE-ROMANÉE 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU LES MALCONSORTS Domaine du Clos Frantin 2020

MEDAILLE D'OR

*Notes de prune noire avec un soupçon de violette et de fût grillé. Arômes de clou de girofle fumé, framboise et myrtille. Tanins suaves et finale persistante. 95 points*



### MOREY-SAINT-DENIS 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU LES SORBETS 2020

MEDAILLE D'OR

*Arômes épicés, fumés et toastés. Notes de cake aux fruits et d'épices. Acidité raffinée et boisé bien intégré se terminant par une longue finale. Sera encore meilleur dans 10 ans ! 95 points*



### BEAUNE 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU CLOS DES MOUCHES Domaine du Pavillon 2020

MEDAILLE D'OR

*Beurre, noisette grillée. Pêche très mûre, pomme et goyave. Savoureuses notes fumées, finale équilibrée et élégante. 95 points*



### CHABLIS GRAND CRU LES CLOS Domaine Long-Depaquit 2020

MEDAILLE D'ARGENT

*Élégant avec une acidité minérale, notes de pierre à fusil, banane verte mûre, agrumes. Crémeux, moyennement corsé, d'un grand équilibre. Long potentiel de garde avec une acidité bien intégrée. 94 points*



### CORTON-CHARLEMAGNE GRAND CRU Domaine du Pavillon 2020

MEDAILLE D'ARGENT

*Très frais, pommes cuites au miel, acidité équilibrée, fruité, accents de fruits secs. Belle texture. 92 points*



### POUILLY-FUISSÉ 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU CLOS REYSSIÉ 2020

MEDAILLE D'ARGENT

*Couleur or citron. Frais et parfumé avec des notes d'huile d'agrumes et de pomme. Meringue au citron en bouche, arrière bouche crémeuse. Succulent. 92 points*



### FIXIN 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU CLOS DE LA PERRIÈRE 2020

MEDAILLE D'ARGENT

*Robe profonde, arômes de fraise, framboise et épices du fût. Prunes noires, minéralité graphite, fruits rouges mûrs et pain grillé en finale. 92 points*



### VOLNAY 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU LES SANTENOTS Domaine du Pavillon 2020

MEDAILLE D'ARGENT

*Jeune, réservé mais avec un fond moelleux de fruits noirs, une structure ferme mais raffinée. A attendre. 92 points*





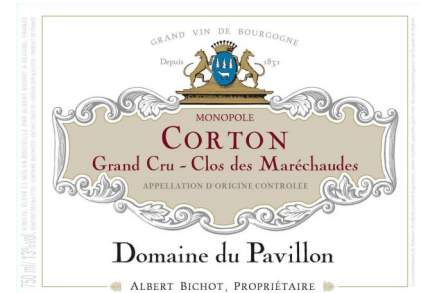
Taster: Bruce Sanderson

## VINTAGE 2020

### **94 ALBERT BICHOT**

#### **Corton Grand Cru Clos des Maréchaudes 2020** **Domaine du Pavillon**

Delivers depth, with a well of black cherry shaded by earth, sweet spice, vegetal and iron notes. Balanced, approachable even, with a supple texture and terrific length. A mineral underpinning gathers steam through the finish. Best from 2024 through 2040. *(Issue: web only - 2022)*



### **93 ALBERT BICHOT**

#### **Fixin 1er Cru Clos de la Perrière 2020**

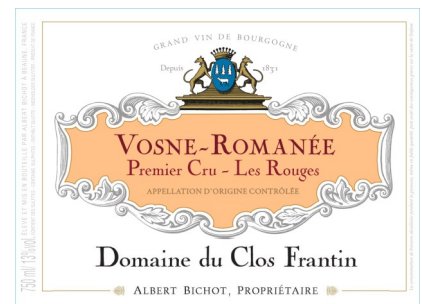
A classy red, with supple cherry, strawberry, floral and mineral flavors underscored by a deft touch of new oak. Balanced, with the refined structure exerting itself as this winds down on the lingering, spicy finish. Impressively elegant. Best from 2024 through 2040. *(Issue: web only - 2022)*

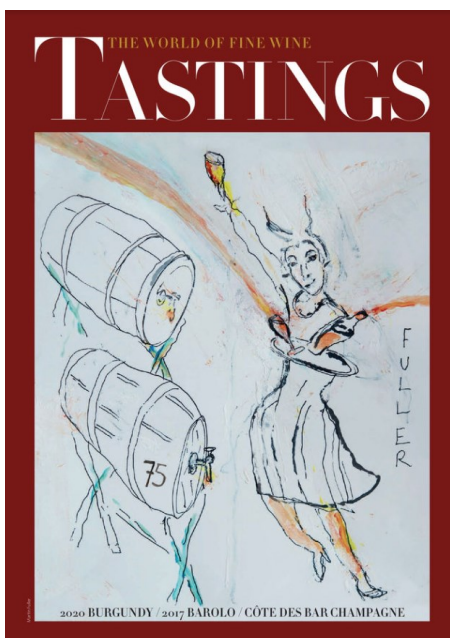


### **93 ALBERT BICHOT**

#### **Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru Les Rouges 2020** **Domaine du Clos Frantin**

Succulent and layered, revealing cherry, black currant, violet, mineral and toasty oak aromas and flavors. Lithe and defined, with a vibrant structure and a long fruity, mineral aftertaste. Best from 2024 through 2038. *(Issue: web only - 2022)*





2022 - Issue 75

## 2020 BURGUNDY

Taster : Sarah Marsh MW

### Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru

Expressive, warm but cool, raspberry-ripe aroma. Quite a lot of oak showing and some lifted notes. It mixes a hint of the exotic with herbal tarragon notes. It's racy and intense and has a well-sustained silky-powdery finish. 2026–35. **95–96**

### Echézeaux Grand Cru Domaine du Clos Frantin

An intriguing aroma with blueberry fruit, white pepper, and orange zest. Supple and richly textured, with a glossy cruise onto the palate. Quite sumptuous, it develops an exotic, purple aromatic profile on the nicely sustained finish. 2026–35. **94–95**

### Vosne-Romanée Premier Cru Les Malconsorts Domaine du Clos Frantin

Intense, rather sophisticated forest-fruit aroma. Silky and fresh on the attack. Fine-textured, with a crisp snap to the black-chocolate tannin. It certainly has a zesty herbal freshness which carries the finish. 2026–35. **93**

### Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru Château-Gris

Upright, ripe, but cool redcurrant aroma. Clean-cut edges. Concentrated but precise. Brushes off its 14% ABV. Good tension. Fine-textured tannins, with an airy, herbal touch, and I like the fresh, sappy follow through, with a touch of silk to finish. A stylish and refined NSG. 2025–30. **93–94+**

### Pommard Premier Cru Les Rugiens Domaine du Pavillon

Spicy, cocoa power and mint aromas. A high-toned and arresting scent. This is from the lower, *bas* part. Showing super-tight and reserved. Compact energy. Fine-grained tannins and a well-sustained, cold, sappy finish. The tannins catch a little on the finish, but this shows good potential. 2027–35+. **94**

### Beaune Premier Cru Clos des Mouches Domaine du Pavillon

From the top of the *climat*. Gently rounded and creamy, with smooth minerality and a coolish undercut of freshness. I like the savory quality contrasting with sweet notes, and the bitter-lemon, slightly phenolic, salty finish. 2024–30. **93–94**

### Meursault Domaine du Pavillon

Sturdy, rich, and vigorous. Surprisingly, as the vines are located lower down on the north side, the wine has a smooth stone element and earthy minerality to finish. Bold and punchy vigor and plenty of freshness to boot. It's a jolly good Meursault. 2024–27. **90**







## • SPÉCIAL MILLÉSIME 2020 •

# Côte de Beaune : ils se rapprochent de l'Olympe

### MAISON ALBERT BICHOT

Implantée en plein cœur de Beaune, la maison vinifie 25 % de sa production à partir de ses propres raisins. Toutes les vignes situées en Côte-d'Or sont certifiées bio.

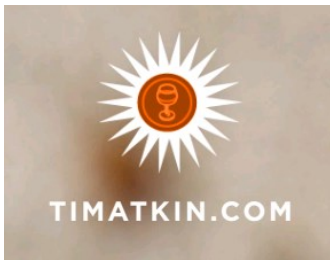
**LES VINS :** dense, le meursault 1<sup>er</sup> cru Les Charmes (94/100, ) possède une matière pleine, avec de beaux amers. Véritable boule de fruit, le corton-charlemagne Grand cru (93/100, ) est sphérique avec un léger boisé qui sucre le fruit. Vif et droit, le volnay 1<sup>er</sup> cru Les Santenots (91/100, ) a un cœur de bouche ferme, une texture peu épaisse et une matière serrée.

94/100

93/100

91/100





# Burgundy 2020 Special Report

BY CHRISTY CANTERBURY MW



Christy Canterbury MW

February 2022

## Top 25 Chablis Producers: *Domaine Long-Depaquit*

96

### Albert Bichot, Dom. Long-Depaquit 2020 Chablis GC Les Clos

Two parcels combine to form this wine: one mid-slope and another at the top of the slope. This is as impressively big as one would expect a Clos to be, yet in contrast, it shows delicate fresh herb and yeasty notes. On the finish, the wine is an echo chamber of its concentration and needs time to settle down. 2025-34

95

### Albert Bichot, Dom. Long-Depaquit 2020 Chablis GC Les Vaudésirs

An exuberant Les Vaudésirs, this oozes tropical fruit, vanilla bean and toasted oats. Sensuously rounded on the palate - for a Chablis, even a Grand Cru, this is silky, long and tastes of sunshine. This is the domaine's largest Chablis Grand Cru holding at 2.6 hectares. 2024-30

95

### Albert Bichot, Dom. Long-Depaquit 2020 Chablis GC Moutonne Monopole

Made of Les Vaudésirs with a 5% dollop of Les Preuses, this is always a unique wine. This vintage shows good cut with chiselled acidity and lifting minerality. The sappy mid-palate is a combination of golden apples, sweet peaches and crushed oyster shells. 2023-2034

94

### Albert Bichot, Dom. Long-Depaquit 2020 Chablis GC Bougros

Like the Preuses, this undergoes aging entirely in oak, but in oak of two to three uses. The oak is slightly less marked here as the wine is more exotic with pineapple, mango and green tea notes. The mid-palate is slightly custardy, and there's a hint of tannin on the finish that cleans up the concentrated palate with the punchy acidity. 2023-32

94

### Albert Bichot, Dom. Long-Depaquit 2020 Chablis GC Les Preuses

Though Bichot owns 65 hectares of vines in Chablis, this is the smallest holding at only 0.25 hectare. These recently replanted vines stand next to La Moutonne. This spends 10 months in oak, from new to five uses, and there are clear vanilla and caramel notes that cling to the poached apples and pears. Supple and smooth, this is a broad-shouldered Chablis. 2024-30

93

### Albert Bichot, Dom. Long-Depaquit, Chablis GC Les Blanchots

93

### Albert Bichot, Dom. Long-Depaquit, Chablis PC Les Vaucopins

93

### Albert Bichot, Dom. Long-Depaquit, Chablis PC Montmains

93

### Albert Bichot, Dom. Long-Depaquit, Chablis PC Les Beugnons

92

### Albert Bichot, Dom. Long-Depaquit, Chablis PC Les Lys

92

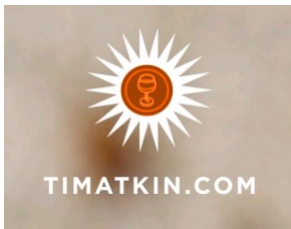
### Albert Bichot, Dom. Long-Depaquit, Chablis PC Les Vaillons

90

### Albert Bichot, Dom. Long-Depaquit, Chablis







February 2022

# Burgundy 2020 Special Report

BY CHRISTY CANTERBURY MW



Christy Canterbury MW

## Top 25 *Négociants*:

### *Maison Albert Bichot*

95

#### Albert Bichot 2020 Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet GC

Christophe Chauvel says Bichot usually buys one to three barrels of Criots grape must and bought two in 2020. The scintillatingly pure nose pops with a very stylish, Puligny nose of garden flowers, minerals and ripe pears. The palate follows with a waterfall of juicy, flavorful fruit that feels remarkably light thanks to the racy acidity. Toasty notes come out on the long finish. All in all, this is already very well knit. 2022-34



95

#### Albert Bichot, Domaine du Pavillon 2020 Corton-Charlemagne GC

Bichot's Pavillon owns a 1.2-hectare parcel in the Les Languettes sector that averages 40 years in age. This, like all the Pavillon wines, are certified organic. Apple peels and white flowers start the nose, and the palate turns on flavors of fresh pineapple cake and cinnamon. The curvy, concentrated palate finishes with buoyant acidic lift. 2023-32



94

#### Albert Bichot, Domaine du Pavillon 2020 Beaune PC Clos des Mouches

Pavillon's 75 ares are in the upper and final part of Clos des Mouches. The nose starts with buttered and toasted cinnamon bread then follows with baked apples. The palate is smooth and much perkier than the rich nose initially suggests. There's excellent tension that draws out the solid finish. 2022-30



94

#### Albert Bichot, Domaine du Pavillon 2020 Meursault PC Les Charmes

Domaine du Pavillon holds 1 ha 17 across three parcels in the Dessus, or upper, and Dessous, or lower, portions of Charmes. Unsurprisingly, this wine shows the breadth of Meursault with more ethereal, floral aromatics – fitting for vines that lie both in clay (evoking the former) and on limestone (providing the latter.) Lovely floral notes intertwine with melon, yellow cherry and tapioca pudding on the palate. 2022-28

93

#### Albert Bichot, Dom. du Pavillon, Meursault Les Criots

92

#### Albert Bichot, Château-Gris, Nuits-Saint-Georges Les Terrasses

90

#### Albert Bichot, Dom. Adélie, Mercurey Les Champs Michaux

89

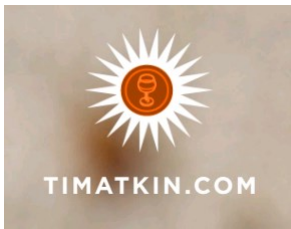
#### Albert Bichot, Macon Lugny Les Charmes

89

#### Albert Bichot, Dom. Adélie, Bourgogne Aligoté Champ Renard

88

#### Albert Bichot, Bourgogne Côte d'Or Chardonnay Secret de Famille



# Burgundy 2020 Special Report

BY CHRISTY CANTERBURY MW



Christy Canterbury MW

February 2022

98

**Albert Bichot, Domaine du Clos Frantin 2020 Chambertin GC**

This is a flamboyant, wildly perfumed Chambertin! Its vines lie in the chilly upper reaches of the Grand Cru, which certainly contributes to the wine's vivacity. Dark cherry fruits meet pain au chocolat on the nose. As it opens, evergreen and struck flint weave into the mix. Rather masculine in style, the tannins are dense and somewhat strappy. Blazing acidity pulls the wine into a long finish dappled with smoky minerality. 2025-45

96

**Albert Bichot 2020 Latricières-Chambertin GC**

Bichot harvests these purchased grapes whose vines are planted in clay and limestone soils. The nose starts with tangy red fruits layered with potpourri nuances. Excellent acidic tension and drizzle soft tannins give this simultaneously delicate and powerful Grand Cru instant allure. 2023-40

96

**Albert Bichot, Domaine du Clos Frantin 2020 Clos-de-Vougeot GC**

Domaine du Clos Frantin has parcels in the top and bottom of the Clos. The combination makes for a vibrantly intense palate with excellent density. The blueberry coulis and forest berry core are shaped by silky, caressing tannins and bracing acidity. While built for the long-term, this should be accessible fairly early, too. 2024-40

95

**Albert Bichot, Domaine du Clos Frantin 2020 Echézeaux GC**

This 1 hectare of vines is in the Champs Traversins, which has rather sandy soils and lies in the line of the Combe d'Orveau. Blueberries and bramble pour from the glass while perky acidity pounces on the palate. The tannins are fine and persistent through the generous finish. 2023-40

95

**Albert Bichot, Domaine du Clos Frantin 2020 Vosne-Romanée PC Les Malconsorts**

A generous 1.75 hectares of this coveted Premier Cru are in the hands of Bichot, which is its largest landowner. Romanée-Conti and Richebourg are neighboring vineyards. As one would suspect, this is sheer class and very, very moreish. The nose starts with spicy oak, bramble and black cherries. The fruit-filled palate is framed by soaring freshness and suave, powdery tannins. 2023-38

95

**Albert Bichot, Domaine du Pavillon 2020 Corton GC Clos des Maréchaudes Monopole**

Planted in the early 1950s, these 2 hectares of vines sit close to the bedrock on a solid slope. The resulting wine is seriously dense in fruit concentration and structure. Field strawberries, plum compote and cherry preserves slide across the palate into a vividly fruit-driven finish. 2024-40

94

**Albert Bichot, Nuits-Saint-Georges PC Château-Gris**

93

**Albert Bichot, Chambolle-Musigny PC Les Chabiots**

93

**Albert Bichot, Dom. du Clos Frantin Vosne-Romanée**

93

**Albert Bichot, Gevrey-Chambertin Les Evocelles**

93

**Albert Bichot, Dom. du Pavillon, Pommard PC Les Rugiens**

92

**Albert Bichot, Morey-Saint-Denis PC Les Sorbets**

92

**Albert Bichot, Fixin PC Clos de la Perrière**

92

**Albert Bichot, Dom. du Pavillon, Aloxe-Corton PC Clos des Maréchaudes**

92

**Albert Bichot, Dom. du Pavillon, Pommard Clos des Ursulines**

90

**Albert Bichot, Dom. Adélie, Mercurey PC Champs Martin**

89

**Albert Bichot, Bourgogne Pinot Noir Côte d'Or Secret de Famille**





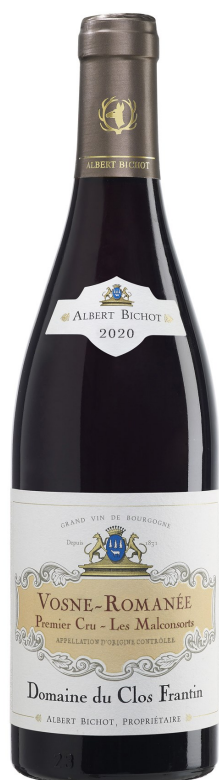
January 24, 2022

## Best Burgundy 2020 premier cru wines

In his Burgundy 2020 en primeur report, Charles Curtis MW concludes that across both red and white wines, 2020 is certainly a vintage worth buying. Here he highlights some of the top-scoring premier cru wines worth seeking out.



Charles Curtis MW  
January 24, 2022



Tasted by Charles Curtis MW (at Burgundy, 10 Nov 2021)  
Part of **Best Burgundy 2020 premier cru wines**

The wine shows a pronounced aroma of ripe black cherry and floral notes the winemaker describes as peony, mingled with notes of mineral, spice and smoke. Initially somewhat reserved on the palate, the texture is silky and with time reveals substantial but fine-grained tannins, good freshness and impressive length. Bichot owns two parcels of Malconsorts that total 1.75ha at the southern extremity of the lieu-dit bordering Nuits. Picking began on the 31st August, right after the first small shower that refreshed the vines.

Drinking Window 2025 - 2060



Charles Curtis MW

## Vintage 2020

### **CRIOTS-BATARD-MONTRACHET GRAND CRU: 95**

A wine with subtle ripe pear and floral notes that are refreshingly not overly marked by the wood. The texture is silky and fine, and despite the warmth of the year there is very pleasant tension and balance. Well done. Made from purchased grapes picked on the 24th of August. The grapes were gently pressed and briefly settled before fermentation in used casks.



### **CHAMBERTIN GRAND CRU Domaine du Clos Frantin: 95**

Dark blackberry fruit, with notes of mineral and spice. On the palate the wine is very tannic, structured and very long. It is a bit closed and backwards, but there is great potential for ageing and it should open well with time. Bichot owns a 0.17ha parcel of Chambertin at the very top of the slope, planted north-south. The grapes are fermented slowly in open-top wood fermenters and punched down regularly.



### **LATRICIÈRES-CHAMBERTIN GRAND CRU: 93**

A pleasant cherry and floral aroma, and a silky texture. Made from purchased grapes that the team from Bichot picked. The harvest here was among the very last (4th September) when the grapes had reached almost 14% potential alcohol. The grapes were partially destemmed and gently fermented before ageing in 35% new casks.



### **CLOS DE VOUGEOT GRAND CRU Domaine du Clos Frantin: 94**

Lovely and ripe cassis fruit, in a silky yet dense texture, balanced by abundant freshness that leads to a pleasant persistence on the finish. Produced from two parcels, one that passes from Baudes Basses to Baudes Hautes, and the other in Grand Maupertuis. The total is 0.71ha and harvest began on the 31st August. A long, slow fermentation in conical wooden vats and ageing in cask (60% new).



### **VOSNE-ROMANÉE 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU LES MALCONSORTS Domaine du Clos Frantin: 96**

The wine shows a pronounced aroma of ripe black cherry and floral notes the winemaker describes as peony, mingled with notes of mineral, spice and smoke. Initially somewhat reserved on the palate, the texture is silky and with time reveals substantial but fine-grained tannins, good freshness and impressive length. Bichot owns two parcels of Malconsorts that total 1.75ha at the southern extremity of the lieu-dit bordering Nuits. Picking began on the 31st August, right after the first small shower that refreshed the vines.



### **CHAMBOLLE-MUSIGNY 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU LES CHABIOTS: 91**

Inky dark colour, with aromas of cassis and fig, plus an undercurrent of chocolate within a rich and soft texture. This wine was produced from purchased fruit from a parcel of 0.8ha in Chabiots. The tiny grapes were fermented with one-third whole clusters in the tank.



### **MOREY-SAINT-DENIS 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU LES SORBETS: 92**

Very forward plum and fig fruit, with a note of dark chocolate. The texture is ripe and velvety, but there is plenty of depth here. Very pleasant. Bichot purchases the fruit from this parcel of 1.28ha in Les Sorbets. In 2020 it was picked on the 28th of August and fermented with one-third whole clusters.



### **VOSNE-ROMANÉE Domaine du Clos Frantin: 93**

Ripe and forward, with a lush, liquorice-scented mulberry fruit and a brambly edge. The texture is plump and round in this altogether very pleasant wine. Blended from three parcels in Vosne of 0.5ha each: two in Damaudes, including one at the top of the slope, and one in Basses Maizières. In Damaudes - the sunnier spot - picking commenced on the 28th August.



### **GEVREY-CHAMBERTIN LES MUROTS Domaine du Clos Frantin: 91**

The nose is perfumed, with an aroma of bright red cherry and smoke, while the grippy tannins are typical of the village. This is about elegance rather than power.







Andy Howard MW

CÔTE DE NUITS REDS

**ECHEZEUX GRAND CRU Domaine du Clos Frantin 2020: 17+**

Toasty, mocha evident on the nose. Sweet fruit – dark cherry and raspberry. Subtle, understated oak. An elegant, precise Echezeaux which is more about finesse than power.

**LATRICIÈRES-CHAMBERTIN GRAND CRU 2020: 16.5++**

Violets on the nose. Great elegance on the palate, concentrated, fine and dense. There is a hint of rusticity here but in a very good way, adding more character to this grand cru and suggesting plenty of upward potential.

**CLOS DE VOUGEOT GRAND CRU Domaine du Clos Frantin 2020: 16.5+**

Earthy, spicy, long and exotic. Lovely balance with fresh black fruit – blackberry and damson. Firm tannins, hit of oak which needs a year or two to settle. Substantially better than many a Clos de Vougeot.

**VOSNE-ROMANÉE 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU LES MALCONSORTS Domaine du Clos Frantin 2020: 17.5++**

Closed, intense but still complex. Deep hue, violet and rose-petal nose, plenty of substance. Pure, black fruit, oak evident. An electric, energetic Vosne which has a wonderful balance of precision, acidity and density. Will age several decades.

**CHAMBOLLE-MUSIGNY 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU LES AMOUREUSES 2020: 18++**

A massive step up from the Chablots. Intense, inky colour. Brooding dark blackberry fruit with a lovely leafy lift on the nose. Plush and luscious in texture, great smoothness of tannin with crisp acidity all in great balance. More than delivers what is expected for a premier cru.

**CHAMBOLLE-MUSIGNY 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU LES CHABIOTS 2020: 16.5+**

A bit lighter in hue, lifted floral aromas. Elegant and with sweet fruit on the palate. Very classy, quite typical Chambolle, no blockbuster but will age. Ballet dancer.

**MOREY-SAINT-DENIS 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU LES SORBETS 2020: 16+**

Intriguing, floral, violet nose, intense dark hue, plenty of weight here. Savoury palate. Firm tannins, needs more time to soften.

**FIXIN 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU CLOS DE LA PERRIÈRE 2020: 16.5+**

Fresh, quite delicate and elegant with rose petal on the nose. Seems to favour purity over power and extract. Lively, blackberry fruit, bright acidity and subtle oak. Clos de La Perrière is Fixin's top climat. Worth a punt.



18++



17.5++

CÔTE DE BEAUNE REDS

**CORTON GRAND CRU CLOS DES MARECHAUDES Domaine du Pavillon 2020: 16.5++**

Restrained, dark redcurrant and cherry on the palate. Plenty of purity and finesse for Corton. Freshness in the mouth combined with spicy oak, bright acidity and a lingering, savoury finish. Not a blockbuster but certainly classy.

**POMMARD 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU LES RUGIENS Domaine du Pavillon 2020: 16.5+**

Plenty of intensity and weight. Old-school 'four-square' Pommard feel to the palate. Black fruit, plenty of acid and some firm tannins, this has the purity and concentration to develop very well. I suspect this will gain a lot of elegance with a few years' ageing.

**VOLNAY 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU LES SANTENOTS Domaine du Pavillon 2020: 16+**

Lives up to the Santenots name. Floral, purity on the palate, deep colour, very good texture with fine grain to the tannins, cleansing acidity and a good balance of oak which should enable this concentrated, classy Volnay to evolve very well.





Andy Howard MW

OTHER REDS

**MERCUREY 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU LES CHAMPS MARTIN Domaine Adélie 2020: 16**

Toasty oak dominates the nose, deep colour, youthful appearance. Dark berry and raspberry on palate. Very fine texture – fine tannins should enable this to age well. A pretty good introduction to ‘lieu-dit’ Mercurey.

**MOULIN À VENT Domaine de Rochegrès 2020: 15.5**

Deep colour, intense, inky. Primary blackberry fruit, lots of drive here. Not the densest or most structured Moulin on the palate but there is plenty of freshness and vitality here. Violet notes to finish.

WHITES

**CHABLIS GRAND CRU MOUTONNE Domaine Long-Depaquit 2020: 17.5+**

Full-bodied, ripe and exotic (for Chablis) there is great purity here with plenty of acidity to promote long-term ageing. Apple fruit with a touch of creamy almond on the finish. I suspect this has a great future ahead of it.

**CORTON-CHARLEMAGNE GRAND CRU Domaine du Pavillon 2020: 17.5+**

This could almost be mistaken for the Chablis Grand Cru. Restrained nose. Pebbly/mineral palate. Lime zest adds complexity to the light peach/green-apple fruit. Stony finish with depth and length. Will age very well.

**MEURSAULT 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU LES CHARMES Domaine du Pavillon 2020: 16.5**

Much more floral. Restraint. Fine balance of spice, concentration, oak and ripeness of tree fruit. Attractive already, best in a year or two.

**BOURGOGNE CÔTE D’OR CHARDONNAY SECRET DE FAMILLE 2020: 16**

Each year, Bichot’s interpretation of the (relatively) new Bourgogne Côte d’Or AOP improves. Oak is more evident here, allied with some ripe peach and cedar notes together with a fleshy palate. Sourced from vineyards in Puligny and Meursault. Should be pretty fair value for what it offers.

**BOURGOGNE ALIGOTÉ CHAMP RENARD Domaine Adélie 2020: 16**

Aligoté really seems to be hitting new heights in the warmer vintages of 2018, 2019 and 2020. Touch of golden honey on the palate, some spice notes and with quite a deep colour in the glass, this is balanced by green-apple freshness with plenty of acidity. Not complex but certainly enjoyable.







## 2020 Côte de Nuits reds

Technical director Alain Serveau, and Cyrille Jacquelin (who is also responsible for the Clos Frantin wines) commented that 2020, much like 2019 “was another hot and dry growing season though 2020 was even more precocious as the vegetative cycle was some 3 weeks ahead of a normal season. We picked between the 25th of August up to the 5th of September. The fruit was very clean, and the only sorting needed was to eliminate a few sunburned or wilted berries. The quality of the fruit was excellent but unfortunately, there was even less of it than in 2019 and much less than 2018. Ripeness levels were very good, indeed to the point that the average potential alcohols ranged between 13.5 and 14%. Phenolic ripeness levels were also good and, again like 2019, this was very favorable to the use of whole clusters, so we fermented softly while using very high percentages of them. And in another parallel with 2019, the solid to liquid ratios were quite high so it would have been exceptionally easy to over-extract had we not vinified gently. Once we barreled down the new wines, they were initially very closed and didn't seem to have much personality but as the élevage progressed, they have really improved and particularly so with respect to terroir transparency. Thanks to the excellent concentrations, the 2020s are built to last and should age gracefully for years.”

### 2020 Bourgogne Côte d'Or Secret de Famille: (86-89)

(made with fruit entirely from the Côte de Nuits and most if from Morey). Ripe and fresh aromas display a mentholated top note on the dark berry and earth scented nose. There is excellent volume to the medium weight for a wine at this level along with good verve and length. This delicious effort should benefit from 2 to 3 years of cellaring and is worth a look. 2023+

### 2020 Bourgogne Côte d'Or “Clos Frantin” Domaine du Clos Frantin: 86

This had just been bottled and not surprisingly, the nose was somewhat reduced though I doubt that it will last. Otherwise, there is good vibrancy and freshness to the succulent, round and seductively textured flavors that terminate in a clean if somewhat tangy finish that may also be related to the recent bottling. 2023+

### 2020 Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Evocelles”: (88-90)

A brooding, cool and more deeply pitched nose reflects notes of wild dark cherry, plum and underbrush. The succulent, fleshy and solidly concentrated flavors exude an almost bracing minerality on the punchy, youthfully austere and nicely long finale. 2026+

### 2020 Fixin “Clos de la Perrière”: (89-92)

There is enough reduction present to push the underlying fruit to the background. Otherwise, there is both good vibrancy and freshness to the tautly muscular middle weight flavors that also flash good minerality on the slightly more austere finale. At least some patience advised. 2028+

### 2020 Nuits St. Georges 1er Cru “Château Gris”: (89-91)

Pretty aromas of kirsch, poached plum and earth give way to finely detailed and delicious middle weight flavors that exude a subtle bead of minerality on the moderately persistent and mildly rustic finish that firms up. This needs to add depth and I would suggest allowing it at least a few years of bottle aging. 2027+

### 2020 Morey St. Denis 1er Cru “Les Sorbets”: (89-92)

An interesting nose of very ripe pepper, ripe plum, dark raspberry and warm earth precedes relatively refined and liling flavors that contrast significantly with the mildly rustic finish that really firms up as it sits on the palate. Note that this has the stuffing to reward a decade or so of cellaring. 2030+





## **2020 Côte de Nuits reds**

### **2020 Chambolle-Musigny 1er Cru “Les Chabiots”: (90-92)**

A slightly more elegant and slightly fresher nose speaks of both red and dark cherry, raspberry, spice and pretty floral nuances. The mouthfeel of the medium-bodied flavors is finer still with good minerality suffusing the moderately firm and youthfully austere finale. This too should have no problem cellaring well for a decade or more. 2030+

### **2020 Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru “Les Rouges” *Domaine du Clos Frantin*: (90-93)**

A slightly more elegant and airier nose freely offers up its array of cool dark berries, anise and violet. There is fine volume and excellent punch to more mineral-driven flavors that also conclude in a dusty and chewy but not really rustic finale. 2032+

### **2020 Vosne-Romanée 1<sup>er</sup> Cru “Les Malconsorts” *Domaine du Clos Frantin*: (90-93)**

(from a large 1.76 ha parcel). A pungent nose of wood toast and reduction introduces the supple, round and surprisingly forward medium-bodied flavors that flash evident minerality on the powerful and dusty finish that really tightens up. This youthfully austere effort is going to require extended patience before it will be ready for prime time drinking. 2035+



### **2020 Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru *Domaine du Clos Frantin*: (90-93)**

(from a .72 ha parcel). There is a mentholated top note present on the nicely layered nose of warm earth, black cherry and a touch of oak. There is fine volume to the round, velvety and succulent larger-scaled flavors that also conclude in a firm, austere, mouth coating and serious finale. Patience will again be required. 2035+



### **2020 Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru: (91-93)**

Pungent aromas are comprised of firm reduction and wood toast. The sleek, vibrant and intense bigger-bodied flavors brim with minerality on the rich, sappy and palate soaking finale that flashes excellent length. 2032+

### **2020 Echézeaux Grand Cru *Domaine du Clos Frantin*: (91-93)**

(from a .99 ha parcel in Champs Traversin). This is aromatically quite similar to the Clos de Vougeot but with markedly more spice elements to be appreciated. There is good volume to the relatively finely textured medium-bodied flavors that coat the palate with sappy dry extract that also helps to buffer the firm tannins supporting the powerful, serious and built-to-age finale. 2035+



### **2020 Grands-Echézeaux *Domaine du Clos Frantin*: (91-94)**

(from a .6 ha parcel). Pungent aromas of wood, menthol and firm reduction render the nose virtually impossible to assess. Interestingly, the mid-palate of the larger-scaled flavors is quite supple and round, indeed it's almost easy-going, though the finish gathers intensity and power on the saline-infused and strikingly persistent finale. 2037+

### **2020 Richebourg Grand Cru *Domaine du Clos Frantin*: (91-94)**

This too is pungently reduced with hints of menthol and wood. More interesting are the impressively rich and concentrated broad-shouldered flavors that exhibit focused power on the sappy and lingering finish where hints of warmth and bitter chocolate slowly emerge. This needs to develop more depth but the underlying structure is such that it should have no trouble developing it in time. 2037+



Jasper Morris MW

## 2020: THE VINTAGE REPORT - CHABLIS

### 2020, Chablis Les Beugnons 1er Cru, Domaine Long-Depaquit 92

In bottle. Pale lemon colour, this has a much more classical Chablis nose, white fruit with marine notes, excellent tension, deeply crisp apple notes, a hint of lemon zest, full body, good persistence. Will need some ageing.

### 2020, Chablis Les Vaillons 1er Cru, Domaine Long-Depaquit 92

In bottle. Clear attractive yellow, the nose is delightful and very typical, with that drier style, a little bit of dry lemon on the stones, this is very classical on the palate too, with a fine consistency throughout. Some verbena notes as well, pretty long and some flesh on the bones.

### 2020, Chablis Les Vaucopins 1er Cru, Domaine Long-Depaquit 90

In bottle. Pale lemon yellow. Some weight of fruit and a little flesh on the nose, then an extra strong lemon, middleweight, pretty persistent.

### 2020, Chablis Les Blanchots Grand Cru, Domaine Long-Depaquit 92-94

Mid lemon yellow. The bouquet is remarkably elegant, given its power, strongly floral but more summer flowers than the usual edelweiss, this is really pretty too in the mouth with ripe nectarines infused by the kimmeridgian purity.

### 2020, Chablis Les Vaudésirs Grand Cru, Domaine Long-Depaquit 93-95

Good clear lemon yellow. The bouquet combined sunshine and a more classical nerviness. Some sensuality comes up behind, more fruit than flowers after Blanchots. There is a fine core of pure white fruit, sitting on its limestone bench and just at the very finish a peachy note showing the ripeness of the vintage. But the acidity and structure are impeccable.

### 2020, Chablis Les Clos Grand Cru, Domaine Long-Depaquit 92-95

Full yellow, just when you think the bouquet is going to be rich and ripe there is a certain balancing grassiness, and they use a little more wood here. Grassy and grapey, with a little heat at the back and now the wood kicks in. This needs longer élevage and may well come out at a higher level.

### 2020, Chablis Moutonne Grand Cru, Domaine Long-Depaquit 93-96

Pale lemon colour. The nose indicates class and power but is not quite ready to speak to us yet. More intense than Vaudésirs, with a very clean powerful backbone of white fruit, that just opens up a little at the end, and in a more harmonious place than Les Clos at the moment. The finish is very precise but with extra intensity lurking. Should be very good.







Jasper Morris MW

## 2020: THE VINTAGE REPORT - WHITE WINES



### 2020, Criots-Batard-Montrachet Grand Cru

93-96

Powerful lemon yellow. Waxy, rich, just short of volatile, a touch of banana, huge intensity, certainly grand cru, some lemon rind inset in the otherwise ripe fruit, offering several little waves of flavour. This could possibly be fresher but it has its place. Not only long but the finish is properly nuanced. If post-bottling this Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet gains in refinement, as it well may, the score will reach the upper part of the range.

### 2020, Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru, Domaine du Pavillon

92-95

From Les Languettes. Glowing fresh yellow, with plenty of energy and a light overlay of oak. There's a lot going on here. Superbly concentrated without being overly weighty, good acidity, this Corton-Charlemagne is in a fairly bombastic rather than lightly stony style.

### 2020, Meursault Les Charmes 1er Cru, Domaine du Pavillon

92-94

Rich yellow colour, a very clear-cut bouquet with fresh wax, the roundness of Charmes. The fruit is certainly not too ripe, and there's a lovely tingle factor. Very crisp and crunchy, and particularly persistent.

### 2020, Meursault Les Criots, Domaine du Pavillon

89-91

Powerful mid yellow. The bouquet combines rich sunshine fruit with something cooler, fresher, stonier. Interesting mix of ripenesses in the fruit on the palate, some bacon fat, some yellow fruit, some salinity.

### 2020, Nuits-St-Georges Les Terrasses, Château-Gris

89-91

Clear pure lemon yellow. This wine is grown at relative altitude, with a variety of exposures using low yielding gobelet pruned vines. Splendid intensity with only at the end a little extra ripeness showing through. This has considerable weight infused with lively zest. A touch of bacon to finish.

### 2020, Mercurey Les Champs-Michaux, Domaine Adélie

87-88

Grown on a northern facing plateau. A fuller vibrant yellow, the nose shows a touch of lactic oak and plenty of sunshine. The typical touch of liquorice is followed by powerful lemon acidity and a sizeable lick of oak.

### 2020, Bourgogne Chardonnay Côte d'Or Secret de Famille

88-89

Largely from Bourgogne territory in Puligny, St-Aubin and St-Romain. Lovely vibrant fresh lemon yellow. The nose is quite classy too, plenty of flesh on the palate but with an excellent backbone, customers will get their money's worth from this excellent Bourgogne.

### 2020, Bourgogne Aligoté Champ Renard, Domaine Adélie

88

In bottle. From the commune of Mercurey. Light reduction, but a strong and interesting Aligoté with a grassy tang, and the feel of adequate ripeness. Though there is ripe fruit and flesh, the acidity comes up behind in fairly trenchant fashion. 50% in wood and you can see a touch at the finish, though it will be rapidly assimilated. Really very long finish.

### 2020, Mâcon-Lugny Les Charmes

86

In bottle. The bouquet shows a muscatty element in a very cheerful way, which seems to be characteristic of these hotter years. A pretty, medium bodied wine which will be attractive to drink early on.



Jasper Morris MW

## 2020: THE VINTAGE REPORT - RED WINES



### 2020, Chambertin Grand Cru, Domaine du Clos Frantin

93-97

Rich imperial purple, a little bit of oak, perhaps something lightly oxidative in this sample. High acidity, ripe supple tannins, a very significant intensity of a pure red concentrated fruit. Pretty much all whole bunch. There is a very significant wealth of fruit towards the back, full of energy, I think this will come through, and the wine will be fresher than the first nose suggested.

### 2020, Echezeaux Grand Cru, Domaine du Clos Frantin

92-95

From the Champ Traversin sector. Rich deep purple. The bulk of the fruit has stayed in balance, the tannins are ripe, fine even and there is just a little acidity to hold it all together. Quite long and detailed. Champ Traversin is a sandy site which drains quickly, but they got there in time.

### 2020 Chambolle-Musigny Les Chabiots 1er Cru

91-93

Quite rich purple, attractive, raspberry and plum, not over-ripe, there is potential here. Fresh acidity behind and sufficiently ripe tannins, the fruit has all the concentration it needs. Some ripe cherry notes too. Promising.

### 2020, Morey-St-Denis Les Sorbets 1er Cru

90-92

Deep but not exaggerated purple. Ripe plums on the nose, this has not gone over the limit. A couple of chocolate notes mixed in with the dark red fruit, good acidity of course, considerable length. Attractive wine of middling density and good balance.

### 2020, Nuits-St-Georges Château-Gris 1er Cru

91-94

Royal, indeed imperial, purple, with rather a wonderful bouquet. Quite a mix of fruits, fresh lively intense, purple fruit once could day, not too plummy, lively dark raspberry, a lot of power at the back of the palate for a wine which is aiming at elegance, with a finely poised finish.

### 2020, Vosne Romanée, Domaine du Clos Frantin ★ 5 Star Wine

91-94

From Les Damaudes and Basses Maizières. Rich deep purple. The bouquet is very pleasing, it has depth but does not overwhelm. Such power at the back and then the chiselled limestone fresh acidity, the liveliness comes from the hillside, the ballast from Basses Maizières. Together they work really well, with an excellent long finish.

### 2020, Gevrey-Chambertin Les Evocelles

88-90

Clear deep purple, the bouquet is taking a bit of coaxing. Rather on the ripe side. Clean pure but overpowerful, almost blackcurrant, or at least black cherry, and a little bit forced at the finish. The tannins and acidity are fine.

### 2020, Pommard Les Rugiens 1er Cru, Domaine du Pavillon

89-92

Plump purple, exceptionally concentrated but in living fruit. A bit like the Mercurey it has a riotous explosion followed by rather firm structure but the fruit is fresh enough that it will live to win the battle. Crisp fresh apples too.

### 2020, Aloxe-Corton Clos des Maréchaudes 1er Cru, Domaine du Pavillon

90-93

A brilliant purple with a pinkish edge and rather a high-class fresh raspberry and cherry fruited nose. The wood is a little bit present on the palate at the moment but will soon be swamped by the sumptuous fruit. Ripe, but this has not gone too far and the tannins also have good maturity. Quite a long, balanced finish.

### 2020, Mercurey Champs Martin 1er Cru, Domaine Adélie

89-91

Hugely intense deep dark purple, with a flamboyant richness of dark raspberry and plum fruit, heady and possibly heavy. Super-massive on the palate but still in red fruit, a very sunny fruit, tannins present but ripe enough, good acidity too – I think this will make it, and in style. Needs time though. A little bit of blood orange at the finish.

### 2020, Bourgogne Côte d'Or Clos Frantin, Domaine du Clos Frantin

88

In bottle. Punchy purple with considerable but not exaggerated ripeness of fruit, and once again the good acidity of the vintage, the fruit becoming fresher at the back of the palate. All red fruit, a little more raspberry than cherry. A pleasure with the possibility of further ageing!

### 2020, Rochevrès Moulin-à-Vent, Domaine de Rochevrès

90-93

Some of the elevage is in 350 litre barrel. Glowing intense purple, some reduction just after the bottling. Heavyweight but the fruit is fresh. Strawberry notes but otherwise dark red fruit with some bite to it. There is a nice touch of crystalline acidity and ripe enough tannins. Very long.

**VINTAGE 2020**

**Red wines**



Neal Martin

The **2020 CHAMBERTIN GRAND CRU** comes from parcels in close proximity to Latricières. It has a well-defined bouquet with blackberry, briary, crushed stone and a touch of menthol, the latter just a little incongruous. The palate is medium-bodied with a succulent opening, a fleshy and quite generous Chambertin, caressing and velvety with a deep, almost "plump" finish. This should be approachable vis-a-vis its peers, though there is satisfying substance here. **(93-95)**

The **2020 LATRICIÈRES-CHAMBERTIN GRAND CRU**, which does not come from the estate but is harvested by their team, has a very sorbet, menthol-fresh bouquet that has a hard time following the excellent Grands-Echézeaux. The palate is sweet on the entry with candied black cherry and boysenberry fruit, lightly spiced with good weight on the finish. This actually meliorates as it goes along and if the aromatics can gain more complexity in bottle, this should end up being a fine Latricières. **(92-94)**

The **2020 GRANDS-ECHÉZEUX GRAND CRU** has a much more complexity and a more nuanced bouquet, dark berry fruit and briary, crushed stone, clove and a touch of sage. Lovely. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy red fruit, fine tannins and perfectly judged acidity. This is a fine Grands-Echézeaux that will age well in bottle. Two barrels produced. **(93-95)**

The **2020 CLOS DE VOUGEOT GRAND CRU** offers a mélange of red and black fruit on the nose, touches of tobacco and sous-bois, quite well-defined. The palate is medium-bodied with saturated tannins on the entry, fine structure, good acidity, slightly candied with veins of blood orange and marmalade towards the grippy finish. This should age well in bottle. **(92-94)**

The **2020 CHAMBOLLE-MUSIGNY LES AMOUREUSES 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU** has a glorious bouquet, very pure with plenty of black cherries, blueberry, violet and mineral scents. This is beautifully-defined. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit, fine acidity, quite caressing in terms of its silky texture but with real backbone behind it. This is one of the standouts from Albert Bichot this vintage. **(95-97)**

The **2020 NUITS SAINT-GEORGES CHÂTEAU-GRIS 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU** has a clean and ripe bouquet with black cherries, raspberry coulis and light cassis scents. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy red fruit, fine grip, a little granular in texture with a touch of salinity on the finish. Fine. **(89-91)**

The **2020 GEVREY-CHAMBERTIN LES EVOCELLES** offers black cherries, cassis and light violet aromas on the nose, a little heady in style, though it manages to retain delineation. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, a fine bead of acidity, quite an elegant Les Evocelles with a lightly spiced finish. Give this 3-5 years in bottle. **(89-91)**

The **2020 POMMARD LES RUGIENS 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU**, which comes from Rugiens-Bas, certainly has one of the best aromatics from Bichot in this vintage with well-defined red berry fruit, briary and crushed rose petals, sous-bois scents emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with crunchy red fruit, partial whole bunch lending pepperiness towards the finish. This is definitely worth seeking out. **(91-93)**

The **2020 POMMARD CLOS DES URSULINES** has a clean and pure bouquet with black cherries and blueberry fruit, quite rich for a Pommard. The palate is well balanced, the 30% new oak neatly integrated, quite sinewy towards the black olive-tinged finish. Give this two or three years in bottle. **(87-89)**

The **2020 MERCUREY CHAMPS-MARTIN 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU** offers lifted red cherry and strawberry scents on the nose, touches of violet emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with dark berry fruit, fine acidity and decent freshness towards the finish. **(88-90)**



**95-97**



**93-95**





Neal Martin

December 2021

**VINTAGE 2020**  
**White wines**

Côte de Beaune

The **2020 CRIOTS-BÂTARD-MONTRACHET** Grand Cru, which comes from purchased must, has an attractive bouquet with pretty white peach, Conference pear and orange pith aromas, fine delineation. The palate is well balanced with fine acidity, good weight with a peach, apricot and grapefruit tinged finish. Fine length. **(91-93)**

The **2020 CORTON-CHARLEMAGNE GRAND CRU** has a light, fresh bouquet with pressed white flowers, white linen and light peachy aromas. The palate is well balanced with fine acidity, quite taut for a Corton-Charlemagne, certainly one of the better Bichot whites with more mineralité on the finish. This should age well. **(91-93)**

The **2020 MEURSAULT LES CHARMES 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU**, mostly from Charmes-Dessus, has a well-defined bouquet with touches of orange pith and white peach, a hint of almond. The palate is well balanced with a viscous opening, a fine line of acidity. Fine. **(88-90)**

The **2020 CHASSAGNE-MONTRACHET MORGEOT 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU** had been bottled when I visited. It has a clean and focused bouquet with white peach and touches of fresh pear. The palate is well balanced with fine acidity, lime cordial and orange zest, just a touch of reduction on the finish that works to its advantage. Fine. **(88-90)**



Chablis

The **2020 CHABLIS MOUTONNE GRAND CRU** shows quite a bit of reduction on the nose, which is unsurprising given how young it is. The palate is fresh and crisp with a fine line of acidity, touches of blood orange and quince, and fine salinity developing toward the finish. This is very primal at present and needs to cohere, but there is plenty of potential. **92+**

The **2020 CHABLIS LES BLANCHOTS GRAND CRU** has an attractive bouquet of honeysuckle and jasmine scents, sultry at first but opening with 10 minutes' aeration. The palate is well balanced with a citric entry. A fine, driving bead of acidity engenders a tensile, quite steely finish for a Blanchot. I think this will age with style. **92**

The **2020 CHABLIS MONTMAINS 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU** has a lovely floral bouquet of orange blossom with hints of honeysuckle and jasmine. The palate is well balanced with a supple opening, slightly honeyed in texture and pithy toward the finish, revealing hints of peach skin and spices. This is a very promising Montmains that should age with style. **92**

December 1 & 15, 2021

## Chablis 2020: top-scoring wines

Andy Howard MW reports on the consistent quality of the 2020 vintage in Chablis, which continues a run of fine vintages for this key Burgundian appellation, and picks his top-scoring wines from almost 200 tasted.

### Domaine Long-Depaquit, Chablis, Moutonne Grand Cru Monopole 2020



As hoped for, this is another fantastic example of the special qualities of Moutonne, with great intensity of pear and apple fruit, with a faint tropical edge. Despite the concentration the fruit is pure and the focused acidity keeps the palate fresh and wanting more. The oak is barely noticeable and the wine finishes with a chalky, dry note which adds even more to the appeal. Very, very classy.

Drinking Window 2023 - 2037



## Chablis 2020: top-value wines

After tasting almost two hundred Chablis 2020 wines, Andy Howard MW selects a dozen that should represent both good quality and value for money when the wines are available to buy.

### Domaine Long-Depaquit, Chablis, 1er Cru Les Vaucopins, 2020



Showing a steely edge to balance the slightly exotic, stone fruit characters on the nose, this is another classy Chablis from Long-Depaquit. A Premier Cru Chablis with plenty of concentration on the palate and a sunny character, yet framed by citrus acidity and a lingering mineral, saline finish. This has the power to age very well.

Drinking Window 2022 - 2027





## 2020 Chablis and Chablis Premier Crus

Before starting the tasting, Régisseur (estate manager) Matthieu Mangenot explained that the conversion to organic farming is continuing. With respect to the 2020 vintage, he noted that "the season once again started early and thankfully the winter was relatively wet as we would definitely need those water reserves later. There were a few cold nights in April that made us nervous but in the end there was no real damage. The vegetative cycle advanced quickly and the flowering started in mid-May, almost one month in advance of a normal season, at least historically. June and July were exceptionally warm, indeed almost 2° C warmer than average, which means that those months were warmer than 2003! As a result, the vines used up the excess water from the winter and by the end of July we found ourselves with close to a 40% precipitation deficit. As such there were sectors where hydric stress was a problem. Thankfully, we had just enough rain in August to allow the vines to finish their ripening cycle. We chose to begin picking on the 24th of August as we had the alcohol levels we wanted but we also really wanted to preserve acidities. Other than some sunburned berries, the thick-skinned fruit was as clean as could be so we could pick relatively quickly. Yields were barely average to good at between 35 to 40 hl/ha with potential alcohols of 12.5 to 13%. As to the wines, perhaps the most surprising thing is how good the acidities are as this was totally unexpected. To be sure, the aromas are ripe but not really exotic and I really like the interplay of tension and delicacy. In short, the 2020s are clearly the product of a very ripe vintage yet they don't drink like it." Mangenot also mentioned that in 2020, and for the next few years, there will be no Montée de Tonnerre as the vines were pulled up.

### 2020 Chablis *Domaine Long-Depaquit: (88-90)*

(100% stainless). There is good Chablis typicity to the ripe and fresh aromas of pear, apple and citrus confit. In the same vein, there is good energy, volume and richness to the medium weight flavors that conclude in a delicious, markedly saline and refreshing finish that is topped off by a touch of bitter lemon. 2024+

### 2020 Chablis 1er Cru *Les Lys Domaine Long-Depaquit: (90-92)*

(from a 2-ha holding; all stainless). A more elegant if more restrained nose combines notes of mineral reduction, honeysuckle and citrus zest. The finer and more intense flavors possess a lovely sense of underlying tension while displaying solid length on the chalky and bone-dry finish. Lovely and understated in style. 2026+

### 2020 Chablis 1er Cru *Les Beugnons Domaine Long-Depaquit: (90-92)*

(from a 2.3 ha parcel). Significantly riper aromas include those of white peach, citrus confit and quinine along with a similar note of mineral reduction. The succulent, round and generously proportioned middle weight flavors possess very good punch that carries over to the clean and dry finish that is supported by bright acidity. 2025+



### 2020 Chablis 1er Cru *Les Vaillons Domaine Long-Depaquit: (90-93)*

(from a holding of 4.3 ha that is 80% from Epinottes with the balance from Séchet and Les Lys; 10% wood). Cool, pure and airy array is comprised by notes of freshly sliced white-fleshed fruit, oyster shell and a hint of iodine. There is excellent intensity and lovely detail to the medium-bodied flavors that also conclude in a lingering and bone dry finish that, like the Les Lys, is noticeably chalky. One to check out. 2026+

### 2020 Chablis 1er Cru *Les Vaucopins Domaine Long-Depaquit: (89-92)*

(raised in ~15% wood). A whiff of the exotic that includes lychee and passion fruit is laced with floral and lemongrass wisps. The caressing and round if not especially dense middle weight flavors exude a subtle minerality on the focused and lingering finish. 2025+

### 2020 Chablis 1er Cru *Montmains Domaine Long-Depaquit: (91-93)*

(from .5 ha parcel in Forêts). Restrained aromas of citrus confit, iodine, spice and apple give way to notably denser medium-bodied flavors that flash evident power that builds on the bitter lemon-inflected finish that is markedly dry, sleek and balanced. This is quite good and worth your interest plus it's very Forêts in character. 2027+





## 2020 Chablis Grand Crus

### **2020 Chablis Grand Cru Les Blanchots *Domaine Long-Depaquit*: (91-93)**

(from a 1.5 ha parcel of 40+ year old vines; ~25% wood). Moderate wood surrounds the overtly floral suffused nose of softly exotic white peach, sea breeze and pretty spice whiffs. The succulent, round and plump flavors exude a refreshing salinity on the very dry and sneaky long finish. Like several wines in the range, this needs to develop more depth, but the underlying material appears to be present for that to occur. 2027+

### **2020 Chablis Grand Cru Les Vaudésirs *Domaine Long-Depaquit*: (91-94)**

(from a holding of 2.6 ha; ~25% new wood). Here the wafting nose flirts with exoticism with its aromas of both white and yellow peach, mineral reduction, salt water and algae. The refined and almost delicate flavors dance across the palate though there is good richness on the sappy, clean and equally dry finale. This too needs to develop more depth but it's promising. 2027+

### **2020 Chablis Grand Cru Moutonne *Domaine Long-Depaquit*: (91-94)**

(2.35 ha monopole that spans a parcel of vines situated in both Vaudésir and Preuses though 95% of it is in Vaudésir; the site is protected from the wind and often gives very ripe wines; ~25% new wood). Once again there is good Chablis typicity to the ripe but cool and reserved aromas of dried orchard fruit, anise, acacia and orange peel. There is an appealing tension and refinement to the succulent medium weight flavors that are supported by lemon-tinged acidity on the refreshingly dry finale. This is firm enough to need at least a few years of patience. 2028+

### **2020 Chablis Grand Cru Les Preuses *Domaine Long-Depaquit*: (92-94) Sweet spot wine**

Discreet though certainly perceptible wood sets off the ripe aromas of citrus confit, spring flowers, iodine and shellfish. The mouthfeel of the medium weight plus flavors is nothing short of gorgeous as it's at once caressing but punchy on the sappy and strikingly long finish. This too would benefit from having better depth, but the density of material is such that more will almost certainly develop if allowed a few years first. 2028+

### **2020 Chablis Grand Cru Les Clos *Domaine Long-Depaquit*: (90-93)**

(from a 1.5 ha parcel; ~35% new wood). Here too the nose is cool, airy and restrained with its combination of oyster shell, floral, quinine and green apple aromas. There is equally good refinement though not the same mid-palate density to the beautifully detailed and even drier finale. Like both the style and the delivery but this is presently somewhat one dimensional though with that said, there is ample cellaring potential present. 2030+

### **2020 Chablis Grand Cru Bougros *Domaine Long-Depaquit*: (91-94)**

The aromas of green fruit, lemon-lime and tidal pool are trimmed in hints of wood toast and menthol. There is again very solid mid-palate density to the more powerful and muscular flavors that possess a generous mouthfeel before tightening up on the impressively persistent if slightly rustic finale. 2030+

*The "Sweet Spot Wines" section addresses the wide gulf between the under \$60 Top Value wines and the generally over \$150.*



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