

Burgundy 2013 En Primeur Offer

'Allen wrote that the 2013 Côte de Nuits reds are turning out to be stunningly good.'

Allen Meadows, Burghound on Twitter, October 2014

"It is certainly true that the hundreds of 2013 burgundies I have tasted to date are generally delightfully terroir-specific. Alcohols are low, generally closer to 12 than 13%. From the right addresses, wines for true burgundy lovers."

Jancis Robinson, January 2015 www.jancisrobinson.com

"In general terms I loved the 2013s I tasted from barrel last November..."

Jancis Robinson, January 2015 www.jancisrobinson.com

'we are looking at the prospect of a very good Burgundy vintage...but not an excellent one.'

Neal Martin, December 2014 www.eRobertParker.com

"it is a fascinating, intellectual vintage full of intrigue and I think they will be an absolute joy to gauge how they mature. They'll be surprises on the way."

Neal Martin, December 2014 www.eRobertParker.com

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Prices are quoted 'in bond' unless otherwise stated and are exclusive of duty, VAT and delivery, which is expected through the course of late 2015. You will be notified by post once your wines have arrived. Bottle sizes are 75cl unless otherwise stated.

For full details please see our terms and conditions on page 39

Burgundy 2013 Vintage View

I start off my vintage review with a quote from the wine critic I both absolutely trust and greatly enjoy reading and I do this because the start of my summary below will probably make you assume that 2013 is a vintage to pass on, but that is simply not the case.

The poor chaps in Burgundy have been on the set of a disaster movie for the last 4 years. Every article I have read and most conversations I have had in the last few years have revolved around inclement weather, hail storms and reduced yields, but they are a resilient bunch in Burgundy, they keep being knocked down by Mother Nature, but refuse to lay on the canvas for long.

“For sure, 2013 was a tumultuous, challenging vintage for the Côte d’Or. They endured deep lows and times of despair but in the end, against all expectations, they’ve ended up on a high. It is no surprise that from their point of view, 2013 is an incredibly emotional vintage. The worried, fretted, toiled, labored, struggled and fought for these wines and in the main part, clutched victory from the hands of defeat. If I scored wines on effort, there would be a slew of perfect scores.”

Neal Martin December 2014, www.eRobertParker.com

So what of 2013? Clearly the weather is the talking point, but I appreciate it is of little relevance to most consumers; what’s in the glass is the key, but I think in a vintage like 2013 it’s important to be able to appreciate how awkward the growing season was and how much work had to be put in in order to make some surprisingly impressive wines. I always feel a wine tastes better when you know the effort and love put into it. Hence, much of the wine I drink is often from the ‘lesser’ vintages or from the friendliest, most charming producers. It’s just so much more satisfying!

It all started with a cold snap at the start of the year, no bad thing as this kills off any bugs from the previous season and gives the vines a much needed rest as they essentially hibernate, but then the heavens opened, it rained and rained and rained a touch more. So much so that in some areas the vines were entirely submerged. The major threat once the waters subsided was rot, so usually you could just spray with tractors in the vineyards, but it was too wet for tractors to be used, so special dispensation was granted to allow spraying by helicopter, but that was not always feasible, so it was a case of lugging tanks on your back up and down the vines; backbreaking work at its worst.

To make matters worse, for the third year in a row hail hit, particularly in Volnay, Pommard, Savigny-Lès-Beaune and Meursault. Some vineyards were devastated with 80-95% of the crop destroyed! So much so that you will see no 1er Cru Savigny in our list this year given very little was made having taken the hail storm square on. One saving grace here was that the hail hit on the 23rd July, early enough in most cases that the berries were not sufficiently developed to be written off, but had time to recover over the next two months. The weather improved and the vines were able to make up for lost time and get close to the ripeness levels required, albeit with the aid of a little chaptalisation.

On arrival into the winery, a careful selection had to take place, with some larger négociants like Drouhin using optical sorting tables, however this was not feasible for the smaller growers of course given limited finances. Instead these smaller domaines needed to get to work yet again and painstakingly sort the bunches by hand. At this stage the forecast for the resultant wine was mixed and post fermentation many winemakers were expecting a slightly leaner than ideal final wine, but after a delayed and very long malo-lactic fermentation those who worked hard throughout the year or those who were just lucky had wines which flourished and surpassed expectations. The mood was certainly brighter when we visited this year versus last year post-fermentation.

The Whites

Given the late ripening and the greater freshness in the wines in 2013, along with reduced total sugar levels it is perhaps no surprise that the whites outshone the reds overall in my opinion. Especially so for my taste where I find those vintages like 2008 or 2010 with elevated acidity and more focussed fruit more appealing than the slight overripeness found in 2009 for example.

I think Chassagne-Montrachet and St Aubin were the most consistent performers here in general, and although Meursault was hit again by hail Domaine Antoine Jobard has to be commended for producing some absolutely magnificent wines proving that while hail reduces volume it doesn't necessarily impact quality.

Producers of note:

Domaine Bernard Moreau

Domaine Antoine Jobard

Domaine Jean Chartron

Domaine Bachelet-Monnot

The Reds

A lot more variable a vintage on the whole with a range of very good wines, but we did try plenty of indifferent wines. Some producers we have entirely dropped this year which could be problematic for future vintages, but we don't want to be offering wines we don't rate. Plenty of charming red fruit, not unlike what you would find in the 2012s; perfumed and aromatic, mid-weight rather than having the density you would find in the 2005s say. In most cases, they are not wines to lay down and forget about for decades whereas I would suggest many of the 2012s now do need to be cellared.

There is far greater consistency in the Côte de Nuits than in the Côte de Beaune and going north of Beaune it's rather difficult to flag up any appellation which had surpassed the others, though Vosne-Romanée and Chambolle-Musigny I think just pip the rest. Special praise must be given to Gregory Gouges again who is producing outstanding Nuits-St-Georges at all levels for mid-long term cellaring. Returning to our offering for the first time since 2006 is the range from Albert Bichot under the smaller Domaine names of Domaine du Clos Frantin, Domaine du Pavillon and Lupé-Cholet, which produced an excellent range with great precision. Despite a couple of vintages which have not stood out quite so much, I'm delighted to report Dujac have probably produced the best wines we tasted in 2013 pound for pound; their entry level village wines were an utter delight.

Producers of note:

Domaine Dujac

Benjamin Leroux

Domaines Albert Bichot

Domaine Henri Gouges

Domaine de la Vougeraie

Angus McLean, Laithwaite's Fine Wine, 15th December 2014

White Summary

(F) – On the table below this indicates a Fine Wine Team Favourite.

(L) – On the table below this indicates a wine which is down to the last case or two.

<u>Code</u>	<u>White Generic Bourgogne</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Case Price (IB)</u>	<u>Case Size</u>
P1315501	Domaine Matrot (F)	Bourgogne	£95	12
P1316401	Laroze de Drouhin	Bourgogne	£120	12
P1315201	Domaine Henri Gouges 'Pinot Blanc' (F) (L)	Bourgogne	£120	12
P1312601	Château de Puligny 'Clos du Château'	Bourgogne	£170	12
P1312701	Domaine Antoine Jobard (F) (L)	Bourgogne	£175	12

<u>Code</u>	<u>Smaller Villages</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Case Price (IB)</u>	<u>Case Size</u>
P2973201	Domaine Chartron 'Montmorin'	Rully	£115	12
P1319601	Maison Drouhin (F)	Côte de Beaune	£160	12
P1315701	Domaine Matrot 'Fleurs de Côteaux'	St-Aubin 1er Cru	SOLD	OUT
P1314901	Domaine de la Vougeraie	Beaune	£195	12
P2973701	Domaine Chartron 'Murgers' (F)	St-Aubin 1er Cru	SOLD	OUT
P1319401	Domaine Benjamin Leroux 'Sur le Chateau'	St Romain	£105	6
P1314801	Domaine de la Vougeraie	Savigny-Lès-Beaune	£220	12
P1315901	Dom. Méo-Camuzet 'Clos St Philibert' (F) (L)	Hautes-Côtes de Nuits	£110	6
P1314101	Domaine Bernard Moreau 'En Remilly' (F)	St-Aubin 1er Cru	SOLD	OUT
P1314701	Château de Puligny 'En Remilly'	St-Aubin 1er Cru	£240	12
P1315101	Domaine Henri Gouges 'La Perrière' Blanc (L)	Nuits-St-Georges	£310	6
P1316301	Domaine du Pavillon (Bichot)	Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru	£370	6
P1314401	Domaine Bonneau du Martray (L)	Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru	£495	6
P1314501	Domaine Bonneau du Martray Magnums (L)	Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru	£520	3

<u>Code</u>	<u>Chassagne-Montrachet</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Case Price (IB)</u>	<u>Case Size</u>
P2973301	Domaine Chartron 'Benoîtes'	Chassagne-Montrachet	£275	12
P1313801	Domaine Bernard Moreau (F) (L)	Chassagne-Montrachet	£275	12
P1313001	Domaine Bachelet-Monnot (F)	Chassagne-Montrachet	£285	12
P1314601	Château de Puligny	Chassagne-Montrachet	£295	12
P1314001	Domaine Bernard Moreau 'Champ Gains' (F)	Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru	£195	6
P1319501	Domaine Benjamin Leroux 'Baudines'	Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru	£240	6
TBC	Maison Drouhin 'Morgeot Clos de Laguiche'	Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru	£295	6

<u>Code</u>	<u>Meursault</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Case Price (IB)</u>	<u>Case Size</u>
P1313201	Domaine Bachelet-Monnot 'Clos du Cromin' (F)	Meursault	£285	12
P1316101	Domaine du Pavillon (Bichot)	Meursault	£150	6
P1315601	Domaine Matrot	Meursault	£285	12
P1312801	Domaine Antoine Jobard (F)	Meursault	£170	6
P1315301	Domaine Jean Monnier et Fils 'Genevrières' (F)	Meursault 1er Cru	£185	6

Laithwaite's

... FINE WINE ...

<u>Code</u>	<u>Puligny Montrachet & Grands Crus</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Case Price (IB)</u>	<u>Case Size</u>
P1313101	Domaine Bachelet-Monnot	Puligny-Montrachet	£285	12
P2973101	Domaine Chartron (F) (L)	Puligny-Montrachet	£295	12
P1312301	Château de Puligny	Puligny-Montrachet	£375	12
P1315801	Domaine Matrot 'La Quintessence'	Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru	£215	6
P1312401	Château de Puligny 'Chalumeaux'	Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru	£250	6
P1312901	Domaine Antoine Jobard 'Champs Gains'	Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru	£325	6
P1313601	Domaine Bachelet-Monnot (F) (L)	Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru	£850	6
P1314201	Domaine Bernard Moreau (L)	Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru	£495	3
P1313901	Domaine Bernard Moreau (L)	Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru	£550	3
P1319701	Maison Drouhin - Marquis de Laguiche (F) (L)	Montrachet	£925	3

Red Summary

(F) – On the table below this indicates a Fine Wine Team Favourite

(L) – On the table below this indicates a wine which is down to the last case or two.

<u>Code</u>	<u>Smaller AOC & Village</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Case Price (IB)</u>	<u>Case Size</u>
P6629901	Maison Roche de Bellene (F)	Bourgogne	£85	12
P6629601	Laroze de Drouhin (F)	Bourgogne	£120	12
P6624101	Domaine Bachelet-Monnot (F)	Bourgogne	£120	12
P6630101	Maison Roche de Bellene	Côte de Nuits-Villages	£125	12
P6627001	Domaine Henri Gouges	Bourgogne	£135	12
P6628201	Méo-Camuzet Frère et Soeurs	Fixin	£130	6
<u>Code</u>	<u>Red Côte de Beaune</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Case Price (IB)</u>	<u>Case Size</u>
P6624801	Domaine Bouard-Bonnefoy (F)	Chassagne-Montrachet	£160	12
P6630001	Maison Roche de Bellene (L)	Volnay	£195	12
P6634201	Maison Drouhin	Côte de Beaune	£195	12
P6626501	Domaine Buffet	Volnay	£235	12
P6634001	Domaine Joseph Voillot	Pommard	£265	12
TBC	Dom. Rossignol-Trapet 'Teurons'	Beaune 1er Cru	£160	6
P6625301	Domaine de la Vougeraie 'Grèves'	Beaune 1er Cru	£170	6
P6626601	Domaine Buffet 'Clos Micot'	Pommard 1er Cru	£175	6
P6625401	Domaine de la Vougeraie (F)	Volnay	£195	6
<u>Code</u>	<u>Nuits-St-Georges</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Case Price (IB)</u>	<u>Case Size</u>
TBC	Roche de Bellene	Nuits-St-Georges	£245	12
P6627101	Domaine Henri Gouges (F)	Nuits-St-Georges	£275	12
P6627201	Domaine Henri Gouges 'Chênes Carteaux'	Nuits-St-Georges 1er Cru	£145	6
P6627301	Domaine Henri Gouges 'Clos de Porrets'	Nuits-St-Georges 1er Cru	£180	6
P6633501	Domaine Henri Gouges 'Vaucrains'	Nuits-St-Georges 1er Cru	£310	6
P6627901	Domaine Méo-Camuzet 'Boudots'	Nuits-St-Georges 1er Cru	SOLD	OUT
P6628001	Domaine Méo-Camuzet 'Murgers'	Nuits-St-Georges 1er Cru	SOLD	OUT
P6626801	Domaine Grivot 'Roncières' (F)	Nuits-St-Georges 1er Cru	£465	6
<u>Code</u>	<u>Morey-St-Denis & Grands Crus</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Case Price (IB)</u>	<u>Case Size</u>
P6626201	Domaine Georges Lignier	Morey-St-Denis	£220	12
P6625701	Dujac Père et Fils (L)	Morey-St-Denis	£280	12
P6626401	Domaine G. Lignier 'Clos des Ormes' (F)	Morey-St-Denis 1er Cru	£160	6
P6628101	Méo-Camuzet Frère et Soeurs	Morey-St-Denis	£170	6
P6626001	Domaine Georges Lignier (L)	Clos St Denis Grand Cru	£340	6
P6629001	Domaine Albert Bichot (L)	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru	£525	6

Laithwaite's

... FINE WINE ...

<u>Code</u>	<u>Gevrey Chambertin & Grands Crus</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Case Price (IB)</u>	<u>Case Size</u>
P6630301	Maison Roche de Bellene	Gevrey-Chambertin	£250	12
P6633601	Domaine Rossignol-Trapet	Gevrey-Chambertin	£250	12
P6626101	Domaine Georges Lignier	Gevrey-Chambertin	£275	12
P6625601	Dujac Père et Fils (F)	Gevrey-Chambertin	SOLD	OUT
P6628401	Domaine Albert Bichot 'Les Evocelles'	Gevrey-Chambertin	£330	12
P6625001	Domaine de la Vougeraie 'La Justice' (F)	Gevrey-Chambertin	£335	12
P6633301	Domaine Benjamin Leroux	Gevrey-Chambertin	£175	6
P6626301	Domaine Georges Lignier 'Combottes'	Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru	£275	6
P6633701	Domaine Rossignol-Trapet 'Clos Prieur'	Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru	£285	6
P6629701	Laroze de Drouhin	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	£360	6
P6634501	Maison Drouhin 'Cazetiers'	Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru	£360	6
P6633801	Domaine Rossignol-Trapet	Chapelle-Chambertin G. Cru	SOLD	OUT
P6624501	Domaine Benjamin Leroux	Mazoyères-Chambertin G. Cru	SOLD	OUT
P6629301	Domaine Lupe Cholet (Bichot) (F)	Chambertin Grand Cru	£965	6
P6634101	Maison Drouhin (F) (L)	Chambertin-Clos de Bèze G Cru	£1,350	6

<u>Code</u>	<u>Chambolle Musigny & Grands Crus</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Case Price (IB)</u>	<u>Case Size</u>
P6583101	Domaine Hudelot-Baillet (F)	Chambolle-Musigny	£290	12
P6625501	Dujac Père et Fils (L)	Chambolle-Musigny	£280	12
P6628501	Domaine Albert Bichot	Chambolle-Musigny	£325	12
P6583201	Domaine Hudelot-Baillet 'Charmes'	Chambolle-Musigny 1er Cru	£205	6
P6628601	Dom. Lupe Chollet 'Les Chabiots' (Bichot) (F)	Chambolle-Musigny 1er Cru	£210	6
P6634301	Maison Drouhin	Chambolle-Musigny 1er Cru	SOLD	OUT
P6628701	Domaine Albert Bichot 'Les Sentiers'	Chambolle-Musigny 1er Cru	£275	6
P6628301	Méo-Camuzet F&S 'Feusselottes'	Chambolle-Musigny 1er Cru	SOLD	OUT
P6625801	Domaine Georges Lignier	Bonnes Mares Grand Cru	£530	6
P6634401	Maison Drouhin	Musigny Grand Cru	SOLD	OUT

<u>Code</u>	<u>Vosne-Romanée, Vougeot & G. Crus</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Case Price (IB)</u>	<u>Case Size</u>
P6630201	Maison Roche de Bellene	Vosne-Romanée	£160	6
P6624401	Domaine B. Leroux 'Clos du Village' (F)	Vougeot	£170	6
P6633401	Domaine Benjamin Leroux	Vosne-Romanée	£220	6
P6627501	Domaine Méo-Camuzet	Vosne-Romanée	£250	6
P6628901	Domaine de Clos Frantin 'Les Malconsorts' (F)	Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru	SOLD	OUT
P6629201	Domaine du Clos Frantin	Échezeaux Grand Cru	£525	6
P6624701	Domaine Benjamin Leroux 'Suchots' (L)	Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru	£575	6
P6626701	Domaine Grivot (L)	Clos Vougeot Grand Cru	£720	6
P6626901	Domaine Grivot 'Suchots'	Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru	SOLD	OUT
P6627701	Domaine Méo-Camuzet 'Brûlées'	Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru	SOLD	OUT
P6627801	Domaine Méo-Camuzet 'Cros Parantoux'	Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru	SOLD	OUT
P6634601	Maison Roche de Bellene	Richebourg Grand Cru	SOLD	OUT
P6634701	Maison Roche de Bellene	Romanée-St-Vivant Grand Cru	SOLD	OUT

The Fine Wine Team's Picks

Given we chose the wines offered here, we are more than happy with everything we selected from hundreds upon hundreds of wines tried. However, if you are in any doubt, our Burgundy buyer Robin and I have each selected our favourites of the trip below factoring in both quality and value for money.

Gus's Picks

- P2973701** **Domaine Chartron St Aubin 1^{er} Cru 'Murgers',** **SOLD OUT**
It's very difficult not to include a wine from Chartron given the price reductions in 2013 and also given the excellent quality across the board, but it's also difficult not to harp on about the quality and value to be found in St Aubin this year.
This was the 2nd white 2013 I tried and its opulence and balance is still etched in my brain. The whole Chartron range is excellent but I can only pick one.
- P1314001** **Dom. Moreau Chassagne-Montrachet 1^{er} Cru 'Champgains' £195 per 6 IB**
I may be biased, I think Alex and his wife are delightful, so I'll always support their wines. But besides from any emotional attachment, these are just cracking wines by anyone's standard. They are pretty powerful, concentrated and juicy, but the acidity is always high which balances the rich fruit. While great fun in their youth, Moreau's 1^{er} Crus age very well too. Whenever I see one of his wines on a wine list it'll always be on my shortlist. While some producers have good vintages and so so vintages I have never had a disappointing wine from this guy. Not one!
- P6625601** **Dujac Fils et Père Gevrey-Chambertin** **SOLD OUT**
Burgundy is a little like Champagne in many ways, bear with me. Sure, there are good wines and there are those at the other end of the scale, but much of it is personal choice. I don't look for big gloopy wines in red Burgundy, just good concentration, elegance, ripe, but not overdone fruit and the aromatics that make Pinot Pinot. This year Dujac's wines were arguably the very best we had and at this entry level price, they are just Burgundy in a nutshell.
- P6628901** **Dom. Du Clos Frantin Vosne-Romanée 1^{er} Cru 'Malconsorts' SOLD OUT**
As per my note on Dujac, the reds from Domaines Albert Bichot relied on textbook elegance and refinement and this was clear throughout the range. More serious than the Dujac range that we have, more structured and will cellar better, but the balance and complexity of this Malconsorts was just so yummy and exciting. It's no surprise really, if you asked some of the biggest names in wine which 1^{er} cru sites would be most likely to be reclassified to Grand Cru, Malconsorts would be on that list without doubt. (Vosne Cros Parantoux, Vosne Suchots, Chambolle Amoreuses and Meursault Perrières would be my other four for reference).

Robin's (our Burgundy Buyer) Picks

Stewart was unable to attend the tastings in Burgundy in October, although is now well versed in the vintage. As such, Stewart's picks have been replaced by Robin's. Robin is a winemaker with extensive experience in the USA, South America and New Zealand making Pinot Noir, to the extent that we call him 'Mr 16% Pinot' (he's not shy of a big, powerful Pinot Noir). Whereas my focus tends to be on charm and the romance of Burgundy, Robin is very much a winemaker, looking at the quality of the winemaking and can pick out faults from 20 yards. Despite my poking fun with his nickname I very much trust his palate, which came in useful in this vintage given there were a few faults due to the weather conditions, which despite plenty of super wines, did cause some challenges.

- P1312801** **Domaine Antoine Jobard, Meursault** **£170 per 6 IB**
Young and highly respected by the best in the area, Jobard walks the walk. Sensuous and exciting, if I could have whites from only one producer on our offer, it would be these. Jobard's wines are taut and muscular but not clumsy or hard. He is quiet and reserved when tasting and lets the wines speak for themselves. Refreshing and charming in more ways than one. I love the aromatic intensity and extract of this wine, with just 15% new oak, it is very well balanced, and has reduction that is very well handled. Complex and exciting, drinking and keeping well for many years.
- P6629601** **Laroze de Drouhin, Bourgogne Rouge** **£120 per 12 IB**
A family business since 1850, Laroze de Drouhin have a diverse and widespread vineyard holding that produce 6 Grands Crus and many lesser(!) appellations. Oak plays a significant part in their wines and so for me (the wine) can sometimes be hard in its youth, however I find the Bourgogne Rouge is the drinking wine of our offer. Intense and dark and with lots of toasty fine grained oak. Tannic but approachable, dark red fruit, tobacco, leather and spice. Huge value for money, great when you want a drinking Burgundy to get you through the week.
- P6625001** **Domaine de la Vougeraie, Gevrey-Chambertin 'La Justice'** **£335 per 12 IB**
I don't want to be predictable, in fact I'd rather be contrary as Gus will attest. However Domaine de la Vougeraie do a bang-up job, across the board, bloody good. Sylvie & Pierre are a perfect partnership - managing the whole operation from vineyard to bottle for quality and typically, in the Vougeraie style. They are biodynamic, organic and age the staves for their barrels on their own property. This commitment to quality and terroir shines through in the wine. You can't go wrong here. Lovely aromatic nose, bright fruit and purity. Spice, red and black notes, grippy but balanced finish. Good depth, approachable but firm. 30% new oak, but well integrated making the wine approachable young. Pure, modern and expressive.
- P6629301** **Domaine Lupe Cholet (Bichot) Chambertin Grand Cru** **£965 per 6 IB**
For me Albert Bichot is a class act. They might be big in terms of scale (for Burgundy) but they think small and act appropriately. The skill and passion of the winemaking team is a pleasure to behold, they continue to go from strength to strength and present incredible value. Overall the house style here is pure and supple, polished and generous but balanced and structured. The oak is evident and just on the toasty side. Overall, elegant but defined. For me this was perhaps the best wine of the week. Intense and concentrated... a step up, Enormous power but elegant and stylish integrated green notes of stem/bunch. Tannic and extracted with refreshing acidity that balances fruit and extract. Needs 10 years to open and balance - oak to integrate. Really very lovely. Closes in the glass - polished.

Domaines Albert Bichot

Having bought and sold an awful lot of wines from the Domaines looked after under Albert Bichot's stewardship up until 2006 I am very pleased to welcome them back to our range after an excellent performance in 2013. Certainly one of the star producers this year! The reds in particular have great elegance and gently remind you of their respective villages in the most softly spoken fashion. Bichot split the labelling of their range based upon the original Domaine name, so Domaine du Clos Frantin being their site based in Nuits-Saint-Georges and Domaine du Pavillon their Pommard estate for example.

"Readers will know that I have given notice about the quality of Albert Bichot's wines in recent vintages. Both my tastings at their winery and perhaps even more crucially under blind conditions, offered proof that these are wines that can surpass expectations, particularly those that mistakenly assume an inverse relationship between size and quality." Neal Martin December 2014

- P1316101 Meursault (Domaine du Pavillon) £150 per 6 IB**
 Often I'll put our Meursault range into two broad categories, the plump and round style from Thierry Matrot or the leaner, fresher style that Jobard produce. This sits wonderfully between the two with a lovely balance between exotic fruit and refreshing acidity. I've been looking for a Meursault of this style for our range for a number of years and this is it, a super wine, especially given the price.
'The palate is crisp and lively with a fine line of acidity, a pretty and approachable Meursault with peach notes on the finish. This is what you might call a "punters' Meursault," and there is nothing wrong with that.' Neal Martin December 2014
- P1316301 Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru (Domaine du Pavillon) £370 per 6 IB**
 Very showy on the nose with plenty of opulent, rich, concentrated fruit. The oak use here is clearly more liberal, but it's offset by the hallmark, refreshing acidity of the vintage, leaving a big, powerful wine, but a finish as clean as a whistle.
'Good attention-grabbing intensity and real fruit weight. Really quite racy.' JancisRobinson.com January 2014
- P6628501 Chambolle-Musigny (Lupé-Cholet) £325 per 12 IB**
 A very typical Chambolle, like many wines in this range it is exactly what you would expect from that particular vineyard or village. Slightly aromatic and perfumed and with lovely sweet, Chinese spice. A very appealing wine that is so easy to get on with, I'd happily drink this right now!
- P6628601 Chambolle-Musigny 1^{er} Cru 'Chabiots' (Lupé-Cholet) £210 per 6 IB**
 A rather more muscular, toasty and ripe wine. Lovely sweet fruit, but typically for the producer it is very well defined and enjoyable, with moreish tannins. Delicious!
'The 2013 Chambolle-Musigny 1er Cru les Chabiots has an attractive bouquet with pure red cherry and pomegranate scents intermingling with rose petals and a smudge of marmalade. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, well-judged acidity and bright red berry fruit. It clams up a little on the finish, but this should age with style as there is clearly precision here. This is an impressive Chambolle '13' Neal Martin December 2014
'A relatively rarely seen premier cru billed as 'just next to Amoureuuses'. Mid ruby. Very appealing nose with breadth, fruit and interest. Lovely lift on the finish. You could almost enjoy this already, so great is the charge of ripe fruit.' JancisRobinson.com January 2014

Domaines Albert Bichot (continued)...

- P6628701** **Chambolle-Musigny 1^{er} Cru 'Sentiers' (Lupé-Cholet)** **£275 per 6 IB**
 A very interesting comparison to the Chabiots above; at this stage a little more closed and less fragrant. Sentiers is a site on the Morey-St-Denis end of Chambolle as opposed to the Chabiot above which is at the Vougeot end. There is a far spicier edge to this cuvée, and rather firmer tannins.
- P6628401** **Gevrey-Chambertin 'Les Evocelles' (Lupé-Cholet)** **£330 per 12 IB**
 An outstanding wine which was the first we tried at the tastings here and prepared us for what to expect for the rest of the flight. Really pure, but generous enough fruit without being jammy. A rewarding little dollop of sweet oak, yet refreshing acidity gives a wonderfully balanced elegant Gevrey. I'd perhaps have guessed Morey if I had this blind?
- P6628901** **Vosne-Romanée 1^{er} Cru 'Malconsorts' (Clos Frantin)** **SOLD OUT**
 Quite opulent and rounded on the nose for a great vineyard which tends to be very refined. A very seriously structured wine with years ahead of it. The palate is far more savoury than the nose would suggest. Slightly smokey, earthy finish. A very compelling, complex wine. You think you've figured it out, then it changes...often a sign of a top top Burgundy in my experience.
'The 2013 Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru les Malconsorts has a ripe, rounded, undergrowth and spice-tinged bouquet with dark plum and redcurrant jus, touch of vanilla with aeration. The palate is smooth and supple on the entry with juicy red fruit, very fleshy in the mouth...' Neal Martin December 2014
Deep crimson. Sweet, dramatic nose. Great palate impact. Wow. Some griottes cherries and massive energy. Clearly these Clos Frantin wines are the jewels in Bichot's crown. JancisRobinson.com January 2014
- P6629201** **Echezeaux Grand Cru (Clos Frantin)** **£525 per 6 IB**
 A slightly reduced sample, but nothing a good shake in the glass cannot remedy. A lot of red fruit here as opposed to the darker fruit one may expect, but the wonderfully rounded texture is offset by very fine tannins indeed. A really charming Echezeaux.
- P6629001** **Clos de la Roche Grand Cru (Lupé-Cholet)** **£525 per 6 IB**
 A big, big wine; perhaps one of the two exceptions to the style this year of elegance over power. Everything is turned up to maximum here – the fruit, the tannins and ripeness. This is a keeper!
'The 2013 Clos de la Roche Grand Cru has an attractive, candied bouquet with ripe black cherries, orange blossom and just a smear of licorice developing in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins and well-judged acidity. It feels quite natural and refined in the mouth, with lush red berry fruit blossoming near the finish. It represents one of Bichot's best wines in 2013.' Neal Martin December 2014
- P6629301** **Chambertin Grand Cru (Lupé-Cholet)** **£965 per 6 IB**
 Like the Clos de la Roche, this Chambertin has such depth and concentration. The nose is reminiscent of a Christmas cake. Dark, spicy and sinister.
'Solid crimson. Scented, medicinal nose. Lots of pure fruit on the front palate and then a bone-dry finish. Very ambitious and muscular. Very embryonic. This tastes as though the fruit had been allowed to speak. Long and reverberant.' JancisRobinson.com January 2014

Domaine Antoine Jobard

Antoine Jobard took over from his father François on his retirement ten years ago, becoming the fifth generation to take charge of the domaine. The 2011 vintage was the first time we had tasted chez Jobard and the wines hugely impressed. Since then the bar has been raised higher still each year. Here is a perfect example of the trend seen in Meursault over the last few years where the archetypal sweet-fruited, buttery, highly-oaked wines that dominate popular perception of the appellation have started to give way to wines that are more lightly oaked and earlier picked, keeping a tension and focus to the wine and allowing the terroir to better express itself. Jobard now produces "some of the most long lived Meursaults" (Andrew Jefford, The New France) The flavour profile too is shifting, from tropical fruits to citrus. This having been said, Jobard's 2013s like the 2012s show plenty of depth and weight of fruit, making our tasting here one of the absolute highlights of the trip, with the wines at the Bourgogne and village level standing up particularly well pound-for-pound versus the 1er Crus.

- P1312701** **Bourgogne Blanc** **£175 per 12 IB**
An absolute cracker again. Twice I had to ask whether this was just the Bourgogne Blanc, such is the concentration, power and precision that it possesses on the nose especially. The palate is leaner and crisper with plenty of citrus and spice. I utterly adore this wine when it's young, as I have previous vintages.
- P1312801** **Meursault** **£170 per 6 IB**
Quite difficult for this to follow the Bourgogne Blanc, you wonder where it will go. Thankfully, it goes in quite a different direction. It's more perfumed, slightly creamy in texture, but with a little zip of limey acidity to bring it back together. It's very much what I would expect from a 1er Cru Meursault from other producers. One for the cellar here. I've tried many mature examples of this, notably a 1978 last year.
- P1312901** **Puligny-Montrachet 1^{er} Cru 'Les Champs Gains'** **£325 per 6 IB**
A new wine for the domaine and regrettably not a wine we were able to taste in October which normally would rule out a purchase but I was not going to say no to increasing our allocation from these chaps. I've yet to taste a bad wine from them so when asked if we would like a few cases it was a simple 'yes please, how many cases?'

Domaine Bachelet-Monnot

Based in Maranges, but with several parcels of Meursault, Chassagne- and Puligny-Montrachet village and 1er Cru vineyards. Domaine Bachelet-Monnot are one of the most exciting and best value Domaines in our range in my view and have already got quite a following. Given they were only founded in 2005 they are making exceptional wine and I foresee a particularly bright future for them. As at Jobard there is a young winemaker driving up quality, in fact there are two – brothers Marc and Alexandre, although they look so similar I didn't realise there were in fact two of them at first! Their wines, both red and white are delicious, each seeming to get the balance between drinkability and structure just right, with the oak well-judged too.

'Brothers Marc and Alec Bachelet are producing exquisite expressions of both Côte Chalonnais and Côte de Beaune wines that I have regaled in previous reports. Their 2013s reaffirmed my position that these boys know exactly what they are doing: mineral-driven, terroir-defined expressions of Chardonnay with a knack for sending tingles down the spine.' Neal Martin, December 2014

P1313101 Puligny-Montrachet £285 per 12 IB
Very much the benchmark wine for Bachelet-Monnot in my view, leaner than many may like and full of citrus and granny smith apple with a little hint of white flowers on the back palate. I rather appreciate that style though and it certainly shows good typicity. There seems to be a little more oak influence this year too.

P1313201 Meursault 'Clos du Cromin' £285 per 12 IB
For the first time they have used larger barrels for this cuvee, bringing it in line with the village Puligny and Chassagne and it shows. Fresher, leaner and more refined than in previous vintages. A little extra fatness to the finish and a little roundness shows that this is still clearly a Meursault.
'In fact, it is more like a Puligny than a Meursault! The palate is very well balanced with extremely well-judged acidity. There is excellent ripeness here, but it is the tension and the energy that is really persuasive. The finish is almost...clinical. Superb.'
Neal Martin, December 2014

P1313001 Chassagne-Montrachet £285 per 12 IB
Vying with the Puligny for my favourite of the three village wines here, this is a little more generous at this stage versus the Puligny. Ripe pears and ginger dominate the nose and attack with the hallmark snap of acidity keeping your palate refreshed. A slight creamy texture is kept in check by a limey finish. Really lovely balance and richness.
'The palate is very crisp on the entry, with touches of orange peel and lime, pink grapefruit in the background and a beautifully focused finish. This is another excellent 2013 from Bachelet-Monnot.' Neal Martin, December 2014

Domaine Bachelet-Monnot (continued)...

- P1313601** **Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru** **£850 per 6 IB**
 Big and bold, absolutely jumps out of the glass. The oak is not inconsiderable, but is tight and balanced. It's really concentrated, but like the rest of the range the acidity balances it perfectly. It is this wine's power that makes it stand out as a Grand Cru compared to the rest of their offering.
'The 2013 Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru has a very refined and focused, what you might describe as "classic" bouquet that is pure class: no frills or self-aggrandizing, just a crystalline mineral-laden nose that will surely be destined to evolve beautifully in bottle. The palate is extremely well balanced with lime, freshly sliced pear; a dash of spice and a very long, controlled and refined finish. I would cellar this Bâtard-Montrachet for several years, if you can resist its charms. Just three barrels produced.' Neal Martin, December 2014
- P6624101** **Bourgogne Rouge** **£120 per 12 IB**
 Quite possibly the best buy of the vintage as far as the reds are concerned. This has a rather savoury, hay-like character to the nose, a touch herbal, but not at the expense of ripeness. There is plenty of primary fruit present, but just a little more serious than you may expect at this price point. The palate is well focussed though although it is suitable generous for early drinking.

Domaine Bonneau du Martray

In 1993 Jean-Charles de la Moernière turned his back on a successful career in architecture and returned to Domaine Bonneau du Martray, the family property in Corton. Remarkably, the Bault de la Moernière family are one of only three different owners of this ancient estate in twelve centuries. This is the only Domaine in Burgundy that makes solely Grand Cru, owning the single largest block of vineyards on the Corton hill, "their Corton-Charlemagne is one of the greatest wines in all Burgundy" (Clive Coates MW).

- P1314401** **Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru** **£495 per 6 IB**
P1314501 **Available in Magnums £520 per 3 IB**
"The sample of 2012 Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru was taken from tank. It had been racked in September and was resting on the fine lees and will be racked again in January. The malolactics were delayed and only finished towards the end of August. It has a very subtle bouquet with hints of chalk, gunflint and citrus fruits – almost Chablis-like in terms of delineation and personality. The palate has a marine-influence on the entry, traces of seaweed, plus a tingle of zesty fruit on the side of the mouth. It is tender and airy towards the finish with traces of lemon sherbet lingering long after the wine has departed. The red grand cru is no longer distributed into the United States since the previous importer declined their allocation. Not the greatest business decision since Jean-Charles has pulled it up by the scruff of its neck in recent years by lowering yields and fine-tuning the vinification."
 93-95 Points, Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, December 2013

Domaine Bouard-Bonnefoy

Having forged a career in the Army, Fabrice Bouard moved the family's domaine away from bottling for négociants and now concentrates on their own five hectares of vines including seven different 1er Crus. While we're reasonably well set for the whites, although volumes here are tiny at the best of times, the red Chassagne-Montrachet really stood out as part of a larger tasting with other producers and always offers excellent value versus the more fashionable whites.

P6624801 Chassagne-Montrachet Rouge £160 per 12 IB

A producer from whom we have not purchased before and the only wine we tried from them in a long line up of more familiar names. It stood out like a sore thumb though in terms of quality versus price. Chassagne Rouge must be one of Burgundy's best kept secrets, I never know why they are so well priced? This is pure, fresh and a delight to drink right away. Plenty of red fruit, with a touch of sweet spice, there is so little not to like about this.

Domaine Buffet

Based in a cracking spot in the heart of Volnay behind the church, Jacques Buffet has some charming cellars comprising not only the 2012s in their barrels, but a selection of bottled wines dating back to the Second World War, alas not available for sale! In his vineyards he is a keen exponent of repiquage, replacing individual wines once they are dead or stopped producing rather than ripping up large plots at one time, thus maximising the age of his vines. He has 7 hectares spanning Volnay, Pommard and Savigny-Lès-Beaune. A popular and good value newcomer to our range in 2011, we've been very selective this year and cut back our offering to two of his very best wines from two villages which suffered from huge losses from hail.

P6626501 Volnay £235 per 12 IB

Buffet tends to perform best on home soil in Volnay and while he produces a selection of Premiers Crus, we feel that the village-level Volnay is the best bet once again. The fruit is sourced from two separate vineyard sites – 'Famines' and 'Gigottes'. The resulting wine is elegant, silky and dominated by red fruits. It's very appealing already and has so much soft, plush strawberry fruit, with a little twist of tannic structure to manage that lush fruit.

P6626601 Pommard 1^{er} Cru 'Clos Micot' £175 per 6 IB

A tiny, tiny cuvée this year given the hail here, but the stand out 1er Cru from Buffet without question. In terms of concentration, purity, complexity and intrigue this was the only 1er Cru Pommard we were unanimous about offering. Although there was the hallmark character of the Domaine with really perfumed aromas of strawberry and violets, there was a density about this too with darker fruits lingering as well as a hefty dollop of spicy oak.

Domaine Chartron

Massive quality improvements at any one particular estate tend to take a few years for consumers to notice. Subsequently the price tends to rise accordingly. Chartron are in that sweet spot for consumers of producing some excellent wines, but the market not yet recognising this, although as you can see from the quote below, some of the critics have. Crucially, and we found out for ourselves earlier last year, the Chartron 2013s are tasting very well indeed. Pricing across the range is very competitive compared to last year and I think the quality is up on 2012.

“His wines have tended to be a little underrated out there in the market place.” “A producer that is improving with every passing vintage.”

Neal Martin

P2973201

Rully 'Montmorin'

£115 per 12 IB

I knew we were in for a good tasting when this wine – the first we tasted and the cheapest in the line up – was showing so well. The weight and texture are impressive, as is the wine's overall balance. Plenty of oomph on the nose with a Chassagne-like linseed oil character. The fruit is bright and zingy on the palate and is more focussed than the nose may suggest. The overall fruit-acidity balance reminds me very much of the 2010s where the fruit is 100% ripe, but doesn't step a foot over the line towards over-ripeness. Savoury, this would work very well with food. It doesn't have the same complexity as the others in the line up, but it does have a lot of class and is impeccably balanced. Very good value.

P2973701

St Aubin 1^{er} Cru 'Murgers des Dents de Chien'

SOLD OUT

Riper and livelier on the attack than the Rully there is an extra depth and richness here too. Like the Rully this will drink well on release, but a spell of two or three years in the cellar would help it to gain extra complexity and the overall structure of the wine would certainly support this. On the finish that extra ripeness and roundedness make their presence felt again meaning that while the Rully's savoury edge would make it ideal with fish, the St Aubin would be happier teamed up with dishes using cream based sauces.

P2973101

Puligny-Montrachet

£295 per 12 IB

Chartron are on home territory with their Puligny-Montrachet. Unlike the previous two wines, on this one the oak is perceptible on the nose. On the palate it expresses itself subtly adding notes of vanilla ice cream, licorice and sweet spices to go with the lime and pineapple primary fruit flavours. The balance and harmony found throughout the range is in play here too without a doubt. What really elevates this above many village Pulignys in my view is not only the wine's focus on the palate and its length, but its subtle power – an oxymoron seemingly, but it is the harmony and complexity that strike you first with the power and weight creeping up on you towards the finish.

P2973301

Chassagne-Montrachet 'Benoîtes'

£275 per 12 IB

While the other three wines were wonderfully expressive even at this very early stage in their development, this was a little more closed. Coming from a 'lieu-dit' vineyard just over the road from the Abbaye de Morgeot and Guerchère 1er Crus, the Benoîtes will have a drinking window akin to that of a 1er Cru with a little time required for all the elements to integrate. There is a notable minerality at play here along with a bright acidity. Licorice is evident on both the nose and palate.

Maison Joseph Drouhin

Maison Drouhin was established in 1880 by Joseph Drouhin and has remained a family affair ever since, being run nowadays by the fourth generation. Frédéric is assuming overall control of the firm from his father Robert while his brother Phillippe and sister Véronique, who both studied at Dijon now look after the vineyards and winemaking respectively. The estate itself occupies the breathtaking Parliament building, one of the most beautiful cellars in all of Beaune, originating from when Beaune was a duchy separate from France. Nearly all of Domaine Drouhin is fully organic and biodynamic, with that very same philosophy being extended to newly acquired vineyards. Benefitting from the use of optical sorting tables in 2013, these wines are darker, denser and more concentrated than most in 2013

“Among the group that included Jasper Morris MW, Bill Nanson and Steve Tanzer, I was not the only one mightily impressed by their wines. The bottom line is that they are as good and occasionally better than many bijou cult producers...” Neal Martin, December 2014

- P1319601 Côte de Beaune Blanc £160 per 12 IB**
Like 2012, a more challenging vintage compared to normal given the hail that decimated the 1^{er} Cru of Clos des Mouches which is where much of the fruit for this is sourced, although that predominantly affects volume here rather than quality. This is typically vibrant and powerful, but fresh on the nose. The palate is surprisingly elegant though. Always a favourite of mine; lovely to tuck into right away.
- P1319801 Chassagne-Montrachet 1^{er} Cru 'Morgeot Clos de Laguiche' £295 per 6 IB**
This is one of my favourites every year. It's pretty indulgent in many ways, but the acidity of the vintage balances this wonderfully. It's really very opulent, certainly not lacking in concentration and really exciting and vibrant fruit. Orange marmalade, ginger and a little vanilla. Very similar in style to the Le Montrachet, but if it's possible to fathom, just a little less bold than the Grand Cru, but very similar.
- P1319701 Le Montrachet Grand Cru 'Marquis de Laguiche' £925 per 3 IB**
A crazy wine! The intensity is like no other wine I have tried, like no other Grand Cru. The intensity here is astonishing, it leaps out of the glass and hits you round the face. A really sherberty character on the nose, along with intense notes of herbs and ginger. The palate is a little more refined though, but it needs time to calm down and integrate. *'There is a touch of fennel on the nose that opens beautifully in the glass. The palate is spicy and vibrant on the entry and then it tapers in toward the finish, as if it had just remembered its status.'* Neal Martin, December 2014
- P6634201 Côte de Beaune Rouge £195 per 12 IB**
Plenty of dark, chunky fruit, but retaining elegance, balance and structure. Really very satisfying.
'Cropped between October 2-16, and undergoing a 19-day maceration (completely destemmed), the 2013 Côte de Beaune shrugs off the hail damage and offers plenty of rounded red currant and Morello fruit on the nose. The palate is medium-bodied with a fine structure, good definition, harmonious, if missing just a little flesh on the austere finish. But there is a sense of control here that is very appealing.' Neal Martin, December 2014

Maison Joseph Drouhin (continued) ...

- P6634301** **Chambolle-Musigny 1^{er} Cru** **SOLD OUT**
Typically more elegant and refined than the Gevrey 1er Crus, this is a blend of four smaller 1^{er} Crus which don't have the volume to vinify separately.
'...a pastille-like purity on the entry with red cherries, wild strawberry and undergrowth scents. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, a fine line of acidity and a harmonious, quite elegant finish that slips down the throat with ease. This should give a decade's worth of drinking pleasure.' Neal Martin, December 2014
- P6634501** **Gevrey-Chambertin 1^{er} Cru 'Cazetiers'** **£360 per 6 IB**
A real monster of a wine with such power, concentration and peppery spice. The palate is equally rounded and robust, with hints of soy, brambles, plums and sweet spice. Lovely texture, big, but very ripe tannins. An enormous wine.
- P6634101** **Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru** **£1350 per 6 IB**
Lovely nose, really sweet red fruit. Very concentrated and firm. Far more perfumed than recent vintages of Clos de Bèze, almost more Musigny-like.
'It appears to have more harmony than the Charmes-Chambertin at the moment, more floral in personality, to the point where it is more Charmes-Chambertin than the Charmes-Chambertin! The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, supple in the mouth, with good volume. There is plenty of red and black fruit here.' Neal Martin, December 2014

Domaine Henri Gouges

Domaine Gouges is one of Nuits-Saint-Georges' most famous domaines and one of the appellation's best – "the doyen of Nuits-Saint-Georges with magnificent wines" says Clive Coates MW. The Gouges family have been owners of this domaine since 1919 and founder Henri is something of a Burgundian revolutionary. He was a key player in the battle against fraud and was the first Burgundian to bottle his own wine because it guarantees provenance and therefore quality. Domaine bottling is now practised throughout Burgundy. Grandson Gregory runs the domaine with the same drive and passion for quality as his legendary grandfather.

The domaine's wines were renowned under Henri as some of the most structured and long-lived of Nuits-Saint-Georges' wines. However, Gregory has been working towards a more approachable style. These are some of the most sought-after red Burgundies and made in very small volumes, so we are delighted to have expanded the range, including not one but two of their rare whites.

- P1315201** **Bourgogne Pinot Blanc** **£120 per 12 IB**
Rather like Méo-Camuzet's Clos St Philibert, this is a wine I love to take to dinner parties or trade dinners as a little oddity. Based on Pinot Blanc rather than Chardonnay this has quite a different profile. Spending less time in oak, this has a rather gun flinty, smokey character, with a rounded nutty element to the palate along with white flowers and apricot. Given the price, it's well worth adding a case to a collection. A super wine to accompany fish.
- P1315101** **Nuits St Georges Blanc 1^{er} Cru 'La Perrière'** **£310 per 6 IB**
In the same mould as the Pinot Blanc above, but using the very best parcels of fruit, so the concentration, texture and power are all turned up a notch. This is certainly more akin to what you would expect from a Chardonnay based Burgundy and in many ways reminds me of a Corton-Charlemagne with its nutty character along with Thai spices, pear and melon.
- P6627001** **Bourgogne Rouge** **£135 per 12 IB**
A fascinating Bourgogne Rouge which tends to show far better with a few years behind it, despite the temptation to tuck into it far sooner. This year I think it's a little easier to understand and it's a little more accessible, largely thanks to Gregory's greater influence in the wines. Dominated by red fruit, this is very pretty wine with good structure. More textbook than it has been for some years.
- P6627101** **Nuits-St-Georges** **£275 per 12 IB**
This is more typical for Gouges, a darker, brooding Nuits-St-Georges which has the hallmarks of Gouges; a little reduction at this stage, but plenty of density beneath it and a really lovely silky texture. A little red fruit hides under the brambles and currants as do some very fine grained tannins. The more I understand about Burgundy the more I crave having mature examples of these wines available.

Domaine Henri Gouges (continued)...

- P6627201** **Nuits-Saint-Georges 1^{er} Cru 'Chênes Carteaux'** **£145 per 6 IB**
Of the Gouges 1er Crus, I often find that two (The 'Chênes Carteaux' and 'Chaignots') tend to be the softer, slightly more approachable styles, with more flesh and less tannic structure. This is wonderfully juicy, viscous and full of sweet red fruit on the nose, but then oodles of black cherries on the palate and sweet spice. For those who perhaps so not have the patience (like me) for the top Gouges labels, this is an excellent option.
'The palate is fleshy and supple in the mouth, with nicely judged acidity.' Neal Martin, December 2014
- P6627301** **Nuits St Georges 1^{er} Cru 'Clos de Porrets St Georges'** **£180 per 6 IB**
This is the first of the darker, denser, more structured 1er Crus from Gouges, although this one is marginally more friendly than I would expect. This does have the ability to age very well, although with such ripe fruit (perhaps harvested later?) I think this will drink a lot sooner than many vintages of this cuvée.
- P6633501** **Nuits St Georges 1^{er} Cru 'Vaucrains'** **£310 per 6 IB**
Surprisingly friendly for this 1er Cru, which I normally find the toughest of seven tasted, but this is probably the most supple Vaucrains I have ever tried. That's not to say the quality is down, but clearly the extraction here has been very careful and it shows. A really generous, charming wine with a hint of red fruit accompanying the traditional darker fruit with Vaucrains. Really top stuff!
'There is also more femininity here and that translates to the palate that is silky smooth and beautifully poised.' Neal Martin, December 2014

Domaine Grivot

One of the Côte d'Or's greatest and longest-established Domaines, Grivot is today in the hands of Etienne, a man who has a particular vision of red Burgundy, which while initially controversial has proved, to my mind certainly, 100% correct. Considering the Pinot Noir grape, when grown in the right sites (of which Domaine Grivot luckily own several) as more robust than most do, he advocates late harvesting and extended periods in oak. The result is muscular, structured styles that can be difficult to taste when young, but which after a few years in the cellar open up to reveal beautiful black-fruit driven wines.

“placing them perhaps just outside the top tier of Domaine de la Romanée-Conti or Leroy however, as was proven in the blind tasting of 2011s earlier this year, these wines do deliver where it matters...in the glass.” (Neal Martin).

- P6626801** **Nuit-Saint-Georges 1^{er} Cru 'Roncières'** **£465 per 6 IB**
A 1^{er} Cru I have often struggled with in the past given it shows like the Clos Vougeot normally (i.e. tight and closed at this stage), but because I have had less experience with more mature versions to have the confidence to trust it to open up given time. However, this year it's a belter, refined elegant and delicate, the oak is not too dominant, so the fruit is wonderfully pure and fresh. Crispy, charming red fruit.
'The 2013 Nuits Saint Georges 1er Cru les Roncières could be one of Etienne Grivot's finest offerings. It has a more red fruit spectrum than the Pruliers with red cherries, mint and then later, earthy aromas developing. There is good transparency here. The palate is very tense and ripe, the acidity more "cutting" than the Pruliers with more mineralité on the vivacious finish. Excellent.' Neal Martin, December 2014
- P6626901** **Vosne-Romanée 1^{er} Cru 'Suchots'** **SOLD OUT**
Very Vosne, absolutely textbook, lovely sweet fruit and fine, albeit firm tannins. A very elegant, serious wine which will reward patience. Typically for Vosne, it's loaded with blueberries, violets and really finely grained tannins.
'This is very elegant for a Suchots, more reserved than its peers, but at the same time very focused and pure with just the right amount of reserve to beg another sip on the finish. Excellent.' Neal Martin, December 2014
- P6626701** **Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru** **£720 per 6 IB**
Typically, quite closed at this stage, rarely does this cuvée show plenty of flesh at from barrel, it certainly needs time. Tightly wound, brambles and grippy with chunky tannins. Quite a lot of savoury spice, black cracked pepper. All the ingredients are there, but as always, this is one for the cellar.

Domaine Hudelot-Baillet

A domaine often thought of for producing big, powerful Chambolle-Musigny has, based on our more recent tastings of their wares produced a selection of wines I feel are perhaps more typical of the appellation; really very charming, precise and elegant. Dominique Leguen looks after the domaine taking over from Joel Hudelot-Baillet in 1998. It seems there is a general consensus that the domaine has been on the rise since with bottling done at the domaine and no nonsense winemaking techniques to carefully manage the extraction of tannins from the skins and minimising the influence from the pips allowing for softer, finer tannins.

“Gotta soft spot for Hudelot-Baillet...I don't mind admitting that. It's just got everything that I like about Burgundy: not too big, congenial winemaker, choice selection of premier crus with a grand cru if you fancy, straightforward winemaking, nothing fancy, nothing self-aggrandising. Just delicious, nuanced wines that need but a sip to compel a purchase” Neal Martin December 2014

P6583101 **Chambolle-Musigny** **£290 per 12 IB**
To call this an easy Chambolle-Musigny would be a disservice to the quality on show here. At our Burgundy tasting this has been the best seller for two years running primarily because of its juicy, friendly fruit and accessibility.
‘The 2013 Chambolle Musigny Villages has a well-defined bouquet with perfumed red plum and cranberry scents, demonstrating good fruit intensity. The palate is vibrant and lively with very good acidity and a sorbet-like freshness on the finish. There is a lot of energy waiting to burst forth here!’ Neal Martin, December 2014

P6583201 **Chambolle-Musigny 1^{er} Cru ‘Charmes’** **£205 per 6 IB**
Clearly from the same stable as the village Chambolle, this ‘Charmes’ just has a bit more of everything, more power, more complexity and even more perfume.
‘There are nine barrels of the 2013 Chambolle-Musigny 1er Cru les Charmes this year. It has a natural, delineated bouquet with brambly red fruit and a light floral scents that possess natural charm. The palate is very intense with keen line of acidity. This a vivacious Charmes with plenty of energy and tension throughout, from start to finish. Glorious!’ Neal Martin, December 2014

Benjamin Leroux

Along with Bachelet-Monnot, one of the producers I am most excited about...as is Jancis and Allen Meadows based on the quotes below. Having started studying viticulture at the age of 13 and started as the general manager of Domaine Comte Armand at just 26 it's fair to say Benjamin was a bit of a child prodigy, it's easy to forget how young he is now despite his wealth of experience garnered already. Now based in a new winery in the heart of the town of Beaune he is buying new vineyard sites at quite a rate, but the quality is rising just as quickly as his vineyard holdings. Given the number of wines made, it is remarkable how consistently excellent these wines are from top to bottom.

*"You may remember that when I asked Allen Meadows, aka Burghound, on this video who he thought might be a natural heir to the late great Henri Jayer of Burgundy, one of the two people he cited was young Benjamin Leroux of Domaine Comte Armand."
Jancis Robinson, www.jancisrobinson.com January 2009*

*"Leroux's passion, ambition and sheer talent have already resulted in a number of stunning, beautiful wines, but my sense is that the best is yet to come."
Wine Advocate Issue 194 May 2011*

*"Suffice to say that this is a strong set of wines from a very talented winemaker."
Neal Martin December 2014*

- P1319401** **St Romain 'Sur le Château'** **£105 per 6 IB**
A really cracking wine this year, even better than last year in my view. Now 100% organic, this has wonderful richness on the nose for an appellation which normally ripens late. The palate is a little leaner, but slightly spicy green apples and pears dominate. The spice opens out on the palate, but finishes clean and fresh.
- P1319501** **Chassagne-Montrachet 1^{er} Cru 'Les Baudines'** **£240 per 6 IB**
Noticably more oak in this 1er Cru than you may expect from a Leroux wine, but works well. Tightly wound and a serious Chassagne that will reward a couple of years in the cellar. One of the highest 1er Crus in Chassagne, on some of the steepest slopes in the South-West of the appellation. Given its slightly more reserved character, I'd put this in the Puligny Montrachet style even though it's from the other end of the appellation.
'The 2013 Chassagne-Montrachet les Baudines 1er Cru, from the highest contours in the appellation, has a taut, linear, Puligny-like bouquet that is reserved, but opens nicely with aeration. The palate is well balanced with a taut line of acidity, a lot of salinity and a precise finish that has a subtle marine influence. Very fine.' Neal Martin, December 2014
- P6633301** **Gevrey-Chambertin** **£175 per 6 IB**
Probably the pick of his range last year, this is once again great on the nose this year, concentrated, dark and perfumed. Very typical for the village. Blueberries and ripe sweet tannins dominate. Relatively firm, suggesting this is another cuvée that will flourish given a few years.
'The malolactic had finished only a month before I tasted the 2013 Gevrey-Chambertin Village. It has a surprisingly introverted bouquet with crisp blackberry leaf and raspberry preserve scents. The palate is ripe and grippy on the entry, plenty of black fruit and a saline finish that begs another sip. Give this a year in bottle, but don't be surprised if it lasts several years or more because there is real substance here.' Neal Martin, December 2014

Benjamin Leroux (continued)...

- P6633401 Vosne-Romanée £220 per 6 IB**
From a site just behind Echezeaux, this is similarly pretty and fragrant, with a lovely texture, but with a rich and rounded finish, along with fine tannins. I think this is possibly the best wine on show from Ben this year.
- P6624401 Vougeot 'Clos du Village' £170 per 6 IB**
The Vougeot, Clos du Village is delicious; a really pretty wine, very pure, with sweet red fruit, delicious Vosne-esque silkiness and seduction. It is a very classy wine. It used to go to a friend of Ben's, but is available for the first time to the market this year, rather than all being held back for personal consumption.
- P6624701 Vosne-Romanée 1^{er} Cru 'Aux Suchots' £575 per 6 IB**
A superbly performing 1er Cru over the last few years, it is little surprise to see how rich and concentrated this is, certainly one of the most full bodied wines of the trip. Black cherries, blackberries and a little hint of ripe, red fruit on the palate. But pretty serious, firm tannins too.
- P6624501 Mazoyères-Chambertin Grand Cru SOLD OUT**
Such an impressive showy wine, it comes across a little sinister on the nose, really dark and brooding, but sweet fruit. Far more soothing on the palate, actually rather comforting. Oodles of sweet red fruit, the tannins very fine and a lovely soft texture.
'The 2013 Mazoyeres-Chambertin Grand Cru , which had been raised in 50% new oak, but will spend the remainder of its maturation in used, has a glorious bouquet with blackberry, boysenberry and mineral scents, augmented by violets with time. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin, very tense in the mouth, but perhaps just a little conservative toward the finish. This just needs to loosen its tie by the time of bottle that should be around next May. '
Neal Martin, December 2014

Domaine Georges Lignier

Among one of the most humble and charming people you would want to meet, Georges Lignier and perhaps crucially Benoît Stehly, are producing some delightful wines at their Domaine in Morey. Benoît has been working there since 1998 and has taken on the day to day management in the last 9 years. We feel that Lignier excelled in 2012 and 2013, producing quite some range of elegant wines across the hierarchy from village level to Grand Cru. Prices at Lignier, whose front door is a mere 10 second walk from Domaine Dujac's by the way, are very reasonable indeed!

- P6626201** **Morey-St-Denis** **£220 per 12 IB**
Lignier are on home turf here and this mid-weighted Morey is a great option for relatively early drinking again. A little smokier than usual, but with a fascinating peachy character on the nose. Lignier's wines are so distinctive. Really elegant and supple. A very soft, appealing wine indeed.
- P6626101** **Gevrey-Chambertin** **£275 per 12 IB**
Lovely rich nose with more soft fruits, apricots here. A creamy texture with very generous and appealing red fruits and a touch of Chinese five spice and ginger.
- P6626401** **Morey-St-Denis 1^{er} Cru 'Clos des Ormes'** **£160 per 6 IB**
One of the best value 1er Crus in our range, more typical of the appellation here rather than typical of the Lignier style. More concentrated red fruit and silky tannins. Such an impressive wine for the price and the pick of the range for me.
- P6626301** **Gevrey-Chambertin 1^{er} Cru 'Les Combottes'** **£275 per 6 IB**
Very pretty red fruit on the nose; far denser and longer lived than the village wines, but still very vibrant and appealing at this stage. Lovely depth and a clean finish.
- P6626001** **Clos St Denis Grand Cru** **£340 per 6 IB**
This reminds me of the 2009 style; great ripeness and concentration, Rich and powerful with firm tannic structure. A very serious wine which will need time. The oak is quite dominant at this stage, but I'd love to try this in 8 years or so. I think it will age excellently.
- P6625801** **Bonnes Mares Grand Cru** **£530 per 6 IB**
A wonderfully complex wine with very refined red fruit. Fine and silky tannins. Once again very elegant and would drink earlier I think than the other two Grands Crus.

Domaine Matrot

Domaine Matrot was established in 1909 by Joseph Matrot and has been run solely by his understated but talented grandson Thierry since 1976. He is now renowned as “a top-class Meursault producer” (Wine International) and owns some of the best plots in Meursault’s finest vineyards. Thierry believes in using oak only very sparingly. He is a firm believer that quality comes from the vineyard, so he lets his fruit do the talking. The result is a portfolio of white burgundies that are intensely flavoured, incredibly pure tasting and have excellent ageing potential. With one exception, Thierry does not use new oak for his 1er crus, instead using the new oak normally reserved for a domaine’s top wines in his entry level offerings to age the wood ready for the top wines.

- P1315501** **Bourgogne Blanc** **£95 per 12 IB**
Given the Matrot style of favouring fruit opulence over oak and acidity, I always feel that cooler vintage suit Thierry’s style, so tasting this first confirmed my suspicion that this would be a very good vintage for Matrot. Less honeyed than normal, but wonderful freshness and grapefruitiness. This is a cracking wine for the money and on a par, if not a touch above the lovely 2012.
- P1315701** **St-Aubin ‘Fleurs de Côteaux’** **£160 per 12 IB**
St-Aubin is one of the stars of the vintage in my view and this complements the others in our range very well. Typically more exuberant being from Matrot, this is rich and rounded with moderate rather than the hallmark high acidity in 2013. Indulgent.
- P1315601** **Meursault** **£285 per 12 IB**
Like the Bourgogne Blanc, this really benefits from the vintage conditions here. Leaner and more lemony on the palate, this will be lovely in its youth. A touch of honey on the palate, but plenty of zesty lime character to balance it.
- P1315801** **Puligny-Montrachet 1^{er} Cru ‘La Quintessence’** **£215 per 6 IB**
Typically captivating in as much as it stands out of the range given the opposing use of oak when compared to the remainder of the wines tasted. This has plenty of new oak compared to the 2nd or 3rd use oak elsewhere in Thierry’s wines. It is however hiding a lot of herbal characteristics this year; I picked up a touch of tarragon. Very Puligny in style and with surprisingly lean fruit given the opulence of years gone by.

Domaine Méo-Camuzet

The Méo-Camuzet tasting was not surprisingly one of the highlights of the week. If you have not had the pleasure of encountering Méo-Camuzet before, they are one of the biggest names, not only in their home town of Vosne, but in all of Burgundy. Stylistically they are very polished, but exotic, rich wines which take oak well. They are very ageworthy, yet show well in their relative youth. Individual vineyard expression is very strong, so it is worth reading the individual notes in detail.

“Domaine Méo-Camuzet boasts one of the most enviable portfolios in Vosne-Romanée, crowned by Richebourg Grand Cru and Cros Parantoux, the latter essentially grand cru in all but name thanks to the late Henri Jayer, who decided that vines might profit more from the land than a few veg.”

Neal Martin December 2013

- P1315901** **Hautes-Côtes de Nuits ‘Clos St Philibert’** **£110 per 6 IB**
If stock levels permit, this is a wine I will invariably try to buy myself each year. With a little Pinot Blanc in the blend, this tends to be a little more aromatic and exotic than its peers. This year though, there is a slightly savoury edge beneath the overt perfume which is more typical of the wine.
‘...an attractive nose already, with lemon curd and apricot blossom that seems a little more exotic than usual.’ Neal Martin, December 2014
- P6628101** **Frère et Sœurs Morey-St-Denis** **£170 per 6 IB**
Given that this wine had just been racked, we were not able to taste this meaningfully, so no tasting note given. However, as it’s the most affordable of their wines, it is one I will buy in small volumes each year if availability permits along with the white above. A more affordable way to enjoy one of my favourite producers.
- P6628201** **Frère et Sœurs Fixin** **£130 per 6 IB**
Lovely vibrant nose, far more expressive than many others in the range given they had recently been racked, so probably not the best day to taste. Typically for Méo, the oak is quite dominant at this stage, but there’s absolutely no shortage of ripe fruit to keep it in check. I think this should be superb.
- P6628301** **Frère et Sœurs Chambolle-Musigny 1^{er} Cru ‘Feusselottes’** **SOLD OUT**
Arguably the best wine in the range pound for pound this year, it was so pretty on the nose, although given it was yet to be racked it was a lot easier to taste than the others at this stage. Very typical for this estate, there was bags of concentration, no lack of oak use, but just magnificently pretty, perfumed and appealing. Wonderful!
- P6627501** **Vosne-Romanée** **£250 per 6 IB**
A little reduction at this stage, so very smokey and flinty. Given a good shake to get air into the wine, plenty of strawberry and raspberry fruit appeared, a little white pepper too and a crisp mineral finish.

Domaine Méo-Camuzet (continued) ...

- P6628001** **Nuits-St-Georges 1er Cru 'Murgers'** **SOLD OUT**
 Very Nuits-Saint-Georges in style, a very serious wine with plenty of firm, but ripe tannins, dark and brooding, this will need time in the cellar.
'Around 30% of the Nuits Saint Georges 1er Cru les Murgers had just finished its malolactic and so there was a touch of reduction on the nose. The palate is quite structured with a persistent grip and a potent saline aftertaste that means you will not forget it in a hurry. This has good potential once the wine is completed and may warrant a higher mark down the line.'
Neal Martin, December 2014
- P6627901** **Nuits-St-Georges 1er Cru 'Boudots'** **SOLD OUT**
 Far prettier at this stage than the 'Murgers'. More vibrant red fruit along with fine, concentrated tannins. I would certainly put this down as a earlier drinking wine than the 'Murgers', but it will still keep for a good 12 years or more.
- P6627701** **Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru 'Brûlées'** **SOLD OUT**
 Remarkably complex, but very pretty with a focus on red fruit which is slightly unusual for this wine in my experience. Ripe, powerful tannins though, suggesting a long life ahead.
'The 2013 Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru les Brûlées has what you might describe as a "steadfast" bouquet, perhaps just a little conservative and constrained at the moment. The palate is medium-bodied with a gentle grip in the mouth, red cherries, strawberry pastilles and a pinch of spice lending the finish personality and length. It will probably demand 4-5 years in bottle before it starts to reach its drinking plateau, but it will be worth the wait.' Neal Martin, December 2014
- P6627801** **Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru 'Cros Parantoux'** **SOLD OUT**
 Regrettably only available in minute volumes, so all on allocation, but being the jewel in Jean-Nicolas's crown, a quite remarkable wine given the challenges of the vintage.
'The 2013 Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru Cros Parantoux has a really quite alluring, complex bouquet with broody dark cherry, blackberry leaf and cold wet stone aromas that are both detailed and intense. The palate is medium-bodied with supple, razor-sharp tannins that form a lattice around a core of red fruit. There is a pastille-like purity and an electrifying finish, whose "current" feels long in the mouth. This is very classy: a great Cros Parantoux, terroir shrugging off what the season threw in its way'
Neal Martin, December 2014.

Domaine Jean Monnier et Fils

"This is an estate whose wines I recommend with much enthusiasm."
Robert Parker

- P1315301** **Meursault 1er Cru 'Genevrières'** **£185 per 6 IB**
 A one off purchase from a producer I am not particularly familiar with, but having tried this at a group tasting, it is one I will heartily recommend. One of the most difficult 1er Crus to source and certainly one of the finest in Merusault it adds up to an excellent purchase at a modest price for a 'Genevrières'. This is very pure indeed, with hints of peach and apricot, but very flinty and a hint of nuttiness intermingled with a little touch of new oak.

Domaine Bernard Moreau

A trip to Domaine Moreau is always a treat. The tiny winery is attached to the bustling family home and the Moreaus are always warm and welcoming. However, they are also very serious Chassagne producers. The winery's roots stretch back to 1809 and original owner Auguste Moreau, but it took on its current guise in 1930 under Marcel Moreau. Bernard started to look after the vineyards at the tender age of fourteen and Moreau's reputation as one of the top Chassagne producers was well established by the 1980s. Bernard's sons Alex and Benoît now assist in the vineyards and winery. The Moreau style is, as Robert Parker puts it, "plump, opulent and delicious". They own plots in six Chassagne 1ers Crus, so it's always a joy and an education to try them alongside each other and note the subtle differences. These are some of the appellation's most compelling wines.

'Readers will already know that I have a lot of admiration for the wines of this domaine that ought to be better known. Certainly in 2013 I feel that the vintage plays to their strengths within a consistent portfolio of white wines, the reds seemingly more affected by the vintage, in particular the Volnays that were missing a little substance. Still, there are many splendid white 2013s here that are clean and crisp, extremely focused and brimming over with minerality right down to the Bourgogne Blanc. Those on a budget should check out Moreau's over-achieving Chassagne-Montrachet Village, those with more spare pennies, the wonderful, exuberant Chassagne-Montrachet Maltroie. The two Grand Crus are impressive although it is the Chassagne premier crus where the real excitement lies.' Neal Martin, December 2014

- P1314101** **St Aubin 1^{er} Cru 'En Remilly'** **SOLD OUT**
 Regrettably we were unable to taste this cuvée, primarily because only a tiny volume was made. Backing onto 'Le Montrachet', it's a great site and surely one of the smartest buys in Burgundy. Given my experience with Moreau I have little doubt that this will be smashing.
'The 2013 Saint Aubin 1er Cru En Remilly had already been bottled just prior to harvest (it takes place either before or after.) It has a lively bouquet with freshly squeezed lime, dewy green apples and a distant flinty scent. The palate is well balanced and disguises the 20% new oak with ease – it is barely noticeable. The palate is clean and fresh with good acidity, a dash of spice on the finish completing this En Remilly with style.' Neal Martin, December 2014
- P1313801** **Chassagne-Montrachet** **£275 per 12 IB**
 This is where my notes can often be a little short, the reason being, I enjoy myself at this tasting far too much and I spend less time writing and more time chatting to Alex and enjoying what I think are the best range of Chassagne in Burgundy factoring in the pricing. This has a delightful nose, balances well between tropical fruit and balancing citrus with a touch of white flowers. Typically it's pretty weighty, but a lovely use of oak and acidity pretty much makes this the perfect white Burgundy in my view.
'It has a delightful bouquet: clean and pure with apricot and light fig scents infusing the citrus fruit. The palate offers commendable weight in the mouth, and as usual, the acidity here is very finely judged and lends the finish impressive tension. It might not have the complexity of Moreau's impressive premier cru, however, there is style and panache about this Chassagne Village, which comes highly recommended.' Neal Martin, December 2014

Domaine Bernard Moreau (continued)...

- P1314001** **Chassagne-Montrachet 1^{er} Cru 'Champgains'** **£195 per 6 IB**
As mentioned already, this is my pick of the whites in 2013. All the 1er Crus here are superb, but this stood out for us because it was a little fresher than the others. Not that the opulence of the others is a bad thing, but it was particularly enjoyable earlier in its life and I love drinking these young.
From a 0.12-hectare parcel, the 2013 Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru Champs Gain represents the smallest cuvee of the domaine. It has a stony, more reticent bouquet compared to the Maltroie '13 at the moment. The palate is crisp and fresh with a keen line of acidity, vibrant citrus fruit and an almost effervescent finish that lingers nicely, yet it does not quite have the bravura of the Vergers of the Maltroie. Still, this is a well-crafted Chassagne that should age nicely over the next decade. Neal Martin, December 2014
- P1313901** **Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru** **£550 per 3 IB**
Regrettably, given volume constraints we were unable to taste this Grand Cru.
'Like the Bâtard-Montrachet, the 2013 Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru comes from purchased grapes. There were just two barrels this year. It has an engaging chalky bouquet accompanied by citrus peel and Granny Smith apple scents, perhaps "stricter" than the domaine's aforementioned grand cru. The palate is very well balanced and powerful in the mouth: citrus lemon, orange zest, a hint of nougat and coconut lending the finish more exoticism than the Bâtard-Montrachet, the finish long and persistent. It is not the most complex of the Chevalier-Montrachet 2013s that I have tasted, but it is certainly beautifully crafted.' Neal Martin, December 2014
- P1314201** **Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru** **£495 per 3 IB**
Regrettably, given volume constraints we were unable to taste this Grand Cru.
'The 2013 Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru comes from purchased grapes sourced from a parcel on the upper slopes planted in 1964 (the domaine's own pickers undertaking the harvest themselves). It had been racked into a small stainless steel vat just the previous week and will be fined and bottled next year. It certainly displays very fine intensity on the nose, although the delineation will only surface once the wine has been completed. The palate is tense on the entry with piercing citric acidity to the point where you could almost describe it as "shrill." But it is not unbalanced and is simply rather penetrating in the mouth. It delivers an enchanting marine note - suggestions of shucked oyster shell toward the finish. This is a wonderful Grand Cru even if pound-for-pound, I find the Chassagnes more thrilling.' Neal Martin, December 2014

Château de Puligny-Montrachet

Château de Puligny has always possessed some of Puligny-Montrachet's finest vineyards, but the domaine was in need of a visionary capable of making the most of these fine natural gifts. So up stepped Etienne de Montille in 2002. Etienne – a Burgundian by birth – awoke this sleeping giant by increasing the focus on quality. The wines now sit in Puligny's top – "Château de Puligny is a very good domaine – you can buy wines with confidence here" (Clive Coates MW).

Etienne made wholesale changes to the winemaking when he came in, which had a big impact on quality and style. Biodynamics replaced chemical crop protection in the vineyard, the amount of new oak was reduced, so the superb purity of the fruit became the star of the show and yields were drastically reduced which increased the intensity and complexity of flavour. Last year Etienne purchased the property outright and it is now run alongside Domaine de Montille.

"I have always liked their take on the Côte de Beaune and the vines benefit from their uncertified biodynamic approach and the fact that there is now a far more prudent approach to new oak that a decade ago. This has given them a lighter, more nuanced touch." Neal Martin, December 2014

- P1312601** **Bourgogne 'Clos du Château'** **£170 per 12 IB**
 Arguably the best 'Clos de Château since the superb 2010. As I am sure most of you know by now this is from a plot in the heart of the village, but cannot be classified as Puligny-Montrachet. It is however, unmistakably Puligny in style, relatively lean and tight, but with a touch of tropical fruit and excellent acidity. Some grippy richness and seems to grow on the palate. A very good example indeed.
- P1314701** **Saint-Aubin 1^{er} Cru 'En Remilly'** **£240 per 12 IB**
 An excellent wine and yet another Saint-Aubin which is overdelivering this year. Really opulent and fragrant, a little more tropical fruit still and a wonderfully rounded texture. Great fun, rich and friendly, possibly the best of their wines this year?
'Broad and friendly. With good density of fruit. Lots of layers and very clean on the finish. Racy'. JancisRobinson.com, January 2015
- P1314601** **Chassagne-Montrachet** **£295 per 12 IB**
 Using larger 600l barrels, the oak influence here is not obvious. The nose is very lively, very Puligny-like too. The palate is wonderfully exciting though, so much going on, very jazzy, super acidity and richness of fruit suggesting it is indeed a Chassagne.
'Lively gold. Fresh and well etched. Lively and pure. Minerally and chalky. Very appetizing. Neat.' JancisRobinson.com, January 2015
- P1312301** **Puligny-Montrachet** **£375 per 12 IB**
 From four parcels including some declassified 'Chalumeaux' 1^{er} Cru, this is rather more fragrant, showing plenty of green apple character on the nose. Pretty firm and serious. Given the fruit source it is perhaps no surprise that this behaves a little like a 1^{er} Cru at this stage.
'The 2013 Puligny-Montrachet Village, which was raised in 15% new oak (less than previous vintages when it could have reached 50%) has commendable precision on the nose considering that this is a village cru. The palate is well balanced with crisp green apple and pear notes, good acidity and fine length. This is well worth seeking out.' Neal Martin, December 2014

P1312401

Puligny-Montrachet 1^{er} Cru 'Les Chalumeaux'

£250 per 6 IB

Very rich indeed, but slightly saline at the same time. A little tighter on the palate compared to the exuberant nose, although still quite a good concentration of tropical fruit on both nose and palate. Grows on you as the palate opens.

'Mid gold. Lightly smoky and tense.. Less fat than most of the whites from this address. Very firm and lots of energy.' JancisRobinson.com, January 2015

'Brian Sieve told me that the 2013 Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru les Chalumeaux was picked a little later than his other 2013s, and is raised in 15% new oak. It has a chalky bouquet with touches of grapefruit and persimmon that open nicely in the glass. The palate is well balanced with a keen thread of acidity, plenty of animation here with orange rind and mandarin toward the finish. This is very well crafted and appears to have plenty of nascent vim 'n' vigor. Neal Martin, December 2014

Domaine Joseph Voillot

Joseph Voillot retired in 1995 and now his domaine is looked after by Jean-Pierre Charlot, a tremendously amusing and welcoming character, who, more importantly is making some superb wine. We are limited to the volumes we are able to offer this year, but this is certainly a domaine I plan to revisit and hopefully expand the range that we can provide. With 35 parcels based in Volnay, Pommard and Meursault, it was their reds which captivated us, and like Matrot in Meursault, Moreau in Chassagne or Gouges in Nuits St Georges it's the individual expression of each of their vineyards which was such fun to experience. What we found here is that while many estates were producing vibrant red fruited wines, here the wines were fleshier, denser, darker and perhaps slighted sweeter fruited. They should offer good balance to our range for those looking for more powerful wines.

"Readers will be aware that I have an immense amount of admiration for winemaker Jean-Pierre Chalot and these days, a great deal of sympathy. When I first heard of the hailstorms in the Côte de Beaune I think of Jean-Pierre, whose holdings cluster around the most affected parts...On top of that, this is not an affluent domaine that can ride such calamities out; And in Jean-Pierre, as I have written before, you have one of the unsung heroes of the Côte de Beaune, the proverbial winemakers' winemaker. He's taught many of the vigneron in Burgundy, put them on the right track and played his own part in elevating quality. As for the wines, these are the types of Pommard and Volnay that I enjoy so much. They can be a bit "stiff" and aloof in their youth, but they certainly repay cellaring. For those who prefer their Burgundy more "classic" in style, for those that might have a penchant for de Montille or Michel Lafarge, Joseph Voillot will be right up your street." Neal Martin, December 2014

P6634001

Pommard

£265 per 6 IB

'The 2013 Pommard Village offers blackberry and briary on the nose, a little more muted than the Volnay village cru but nicely defined and pure. The palate is medium-bodied with good salinity and grip, nicely focused with bilberry coming through on the short but crisp finish. Fine.' Neal Martin, December 2014

Domaine Rossignol-Trapet

Rossignol-Trapet is another old name who made a very welcome return to our list with their 2012s. This year our range increases as a result with a 1^{er} Cru Gevrey and a superb Grand Cru. Just as at Domaine de la Vougeraie, this is a biodynamic estate that is producing a stunning range from top to bottom. The three of us tasting each have pretty different tastes when it comes to Burgundy, but we were united in our praise for the wines here. Neal Martin is clearly on the same page too, praising the improvements seen here over the last few years.

“I have always felt that their wines are a little under-rated by cognoscenti (...) Time to give these fine wines another look if you have not done so recently.” Neal Martin, December 2013

*“Overall, I was immensely pleased with these 2013s and, given that they tend to be more reasonably priced than other Gevrey growers, they come highly recommended.”
Neal Martin, December 2014*

- P6633601** **Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes** **£250 per 12 IB**
Quite an old fashioned Gevrey in many ways. I found with the 2013s that this range was slightly more traditional than many and not at all forced. Very authentic purity of fruit, quite dense, spicy and with a savoury twist. Very refreshing.
‘From 40- to 80-year-old vines, the 2013 Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes has an attractive marine influence on the nose that displays moderate intensity. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, well-judged acidity and a harmonious if slightly simple finish. Effortless.’ Neal Martin, December 2014
- TBC** **Beaune 1^{er} Cru ‘Teurons’** **£160 per 6 IB**
Traditionally a site which is tough in its youth, but shows so well from bottle. ‘Grèves’ is the other one like this I find. Austere, earthy and savoury, this wine is no different, but history tells me this works wonderfully well given time.
- P6633701** **Gevrey-Chambertin 1^{er} Cru ‘Clos Prieur’** **£285 per 6 IB**
Absolutely textbook Gevrey-Chambertin. Firmer, dark and masculine. Dark and sinister on the nose, it’s almost moody and grumpy. But it is super! Powerful tannins and not overly generous at this stage, but again, one for the cellar I think.
‘The 2013 Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru Clos Prieur has a more backward and austere bouquet compared to the Cherbaudes or the Corbeaux, but with aeration it reveals attractive blackberry, raspberry and sous-bois scents interlaced with cold granite. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin, good depth and grip, a little nascent austerity but with a lovely chalky finish. Very fine.’ Neal Martin, December 2014
- P6633801** **Chapelle-Chambertin Grand Cru** **SOLD OUT**
The prettiest of these wines this year, this is well perfumed, generous and full of crunchy red fruit and herbal notes. A wonderful texture and very complex. This has a long long finish. One of the standout Grands Crus this year from any Domaine.
‘The 2013 Chapelle-Chambertin Grand Cru, which is matured in 40% new oak, has a more complex bouquet than the Latricieres-Chambertin ‘13 at present with that marine leitmotif returning here. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannins, good body and energy with touches of orange rind toward the harmonious finish. This is one of the standouts from Rossignol-Trapet this year. Excellent.’ Neal Martin, December 2014

Dujac Fils et Père

Domaine Dujac is unquestionably one of the modern superstars of Burgundy – with demand to match – so we are very excited about securing these rare allocations. It all started in 1967 when visionary Jacques Seysses acquired a small four hectare estate in Morey-St-Denis (Domaine du Jacques = Dujac). Their Fils et Père range is made from fruit sourced from growers with whom Dujac have long standing and very close relationships and offers an affordable taste of this outstanding property. These wines in our view rival Méo-Camuzet's for the best village level négociant wines in Burgundy. Jacques Seysses' winemaking philosophy is simple – “use knowledge and technology to counter accidents, like bad weather – but, if all is going well, don't interfere.” Son Jeremy adds, “stylistically, we aim for elegance, finesse, complexity and charm ahead of alcohol and tannic structure.”

“Their négociant line often represents good value and will drink well over the next four or five years.” Neal Martin, December 2014

P6625701 **Morey Saint Denis** **£280 per 12 IB**
Dujac are on home turf with the Fils et Père Morey. Effortlessly classy and most probably the most easy to appreciate of the three wines with its clean lines and balance between fruit and structure.

P6625601 **Gevrey-Chambertin** **SOLD OUT**
The best of the bunch from Dujac's Fils et Père range this year. Very elegant, but with good concentration. Red fruit dominant still, but hints of the more traditional darker fruits and spice associated with Gevrey. Super value.
'The 2013 Gevrey-Chambertin Village, which had not been racked, has a light but crisp raspberry and Morello bouquet. The palate is crisp with a fine line of acidity, pretty red berry fruit with a light but focused finish. This should constitute a decent Village Cru once bottled. Neal Martin, December 2014

P6625501 **Chambolle-Musigny** **£280 per 12 IB**
Suprisingly dark and hefty, slightly less generous at this stage than the other two, although I was told that this had just been racked so some of the fruit character was masked by a little reduction, so Neal's note below may be more relevant.
'The 2013 Chambolle-Musigny Village (négociant bottling) has a lilting, well-defined bouquet: clean and pure. The palate is supple and clean with bright red cherries and fresh strawberry with a harmonious, svelte finish. This is one of my favorites from Dujac's négociant range and will be well worth looking out for.' Neal Martin, December 2014

Laroze de Drouhin

Domaine Drouhin-Laroze own a number of parcels of land across the Côte de Nuits, as well as having long-term contracts with growers that allow Philippe and Christine Drouhin (and increasingly the next generation Nicolas and Caroline) to get hands-on with this vineyards, treating them as their own. Wine from these contracted vineyards are labelled as 'Laroze de Drouhin' and we are more than happy to put forward from this range not only a Grand Cru, but what must be considered candidates for the best red and white Bourgognes we tried on the trip.

New oak is used extensively and the fruit is late-picked giving the wines at all levels a rich, voluptuous nature that appeals greatly to those with similar tastes to Stewart, although traditionalists may prefer the purity of fruit found at the likes of Domaine Rossignol-Trapet. Neal Martin, we think a member of the latter camp nonetheless says "this is an estate to watch. They have always quietly gone about creating very good wines, but it would not take much with those *grand crus* to see them suddenly elevated to the top league."

"In a nutshell, I just know that this domaine has the parcels of vine to be up there with the Rousseau's of this this world. It just needs a little...fine-tuning." Neal Martin, December 2014

- P1316401** **Bourgogne Blanc** **£120 per 12 IB**
The oak use is not shy here, with plenty of toasty notes to suggest this is a little more serious than most Bourgogne Blanc. The price is terrific too, given the quality. The fruit is pretty pure and direct. More exotic fruit than citrus, but very solid. A little Puligny-like, but serious rather than simply a fun wine.
- P6629601** **Bourgogne Rouge** **£120 per 12 IB**
One of Robin's picks (see page 9). This is pretty dark and serious also, but has a nice lightness of touch on the palate. The fruit profile is more appealing here though and certainly more fun than the white. Well structured though, so no rush to drink it up.
- P6629701** **Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru** **£360 per 6 IB**
A very refined and elegant Grand Cru, rather than simply relying on power. This has a very charming character I would liken to fresh tobacco, black cherries and raspberries. Very affordable for such a good producer.

Roche de Bellene (Nicolas Potel)

Our visits to Nicolas Potel's Maison Roche de Bellene are always memorable for several reasons, including being reminded of how much of a wine nut Nicolas is – his knowledge of the minutest of details of for example specific sub-plots within vineyards illustrates a real attention to detail that very much manifests itself in the winery too. One would hope from a good Burgundy négociant to get a large range of wines at a consistent and good level of quality and at a keen price – Roche de Bellene ticks these boxes and goes far beyond. Nicolas's long-established relationships with several growers allied to his strict quality control and eye for detail offers real drinkability and typicity at the more modest end of the price spectrum as well as some remarkable village wines with great power.

"Nicolas Potel's wines have a strong following in the UK, the United States and Japan and for good reason. His wide portfolio of both domaine and négociant wines can be absolutely delicious, as proven by this year's blind tasting back in August, whereupon a couple of his 2011s surpassed more illustrious names." Neal Martin, December 2014

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| P6629901 | Bourgogne | £85 per 12 IB |
| | <p>The first wine we tasted with Nicolas this year, and still the stand out option for me given the quality and price. A really lovely, elegant, herbal, cherry character on the nose. Very sweet, appealing and typical Pinot. Opulent attack to the palate. Charming, fun and appealing. Such good value.</p> <p><i>'Deep crimson. Pale rim. Fruity and easy. Tastes almost sweet. Raspberries. Lots of fun.'</i>
 <i>JancisRobinson.com, January 2015</i></p> | |
| P6630101 | Côte de Nuits-Villages Vieilles Vignes | £125 per 12 IB |
| | <p>One of our staples for the last few years, but works well alongside the basic Bourgogne this year. On this occasion, this cuvée is a little more serious though. Still very elegant, plenty of red fruit and a similar herbal character to the Bourgogne, but a little more density, a little more spice and more tannic structure. More of a food wine as opposed to a quaffer like the Bourgogne.</p> | |
| P6630001 | Volnay | £195 per 12 IB |
| | <p>Fragrant red fruit dominates here, but not too powerful. A little red cherry on the attack and a wonderfully rounded texture, richness on the palate with sufficient tannins to add balance and show this as a tier above the two wines above.</p> | |
| P6630201 | Vosne-Romanée Vieilles Vignes | £160 per 6 IB |
| | <p>Very polished and vibrant, really very intense. Quite a dollop of new oak and so much power in the fruit. If you are looking for concentration and richness in your Burgundy, this should be on your shortlist, quite a remarkable wine.</p> <p><i>'The 2013 Vosne-Romanée Village has a crisp and quite minerally bouquet that leaps out of the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe, succulent tannins and a grippy, masculine finish. Though just a Village Cru, give this a couple of years and you will have a delicious Pinot.'</i>
 <i>Neal Martin, December 2014</i></p> | |

Roche de Bellene (Nicolas Potel) (continued) ...

- P6630301** **Gevrey-Chambertin** **£250 per 12 IB**
Lovely, appealing dark fruit, in a similar mould to the Vosne above, but a little more spice and a touch more serious. This will be very appealing to many.
'40% new oak. Light scarlet. Fine and sweet fruit. Spicy. Very attractive with a hint of woodsmoke. Sinewy and lip smacking.' JancisRobinson.com, January 2015
- TBC** **Nuits-St-Georges Vieilles Vignes** **£245 per 12 IB**
The hail that hit Nuits actually had a beneficial effect on this wine, insofar as there was insufficient fruit available for Nicolas to bottle his 1^{er} Crus separately. Instead, the fruit went into this wine, comprising 30% of the blend. The palate is ripe and rounded, with a touch of exotic spice. Delicious and easy to appreciate.
- P6634601** **Richebourg Grand Cru** **SOLD OUT**
- P6634701** **Romanée-St-Vivant Grand Cru** **SOLD OUT**
'The 2013 Romanée-Saint-Vivant Grand Cru was waiting to be racked so the nose was a little saccharine and difficult to read. The palate is medium-bodied with crisp tannins, fine structure, superb acidity and lovely salinity toward the finish. It needs a little more persistence, but otherwise this is a regal Grand Cru to enjoy over the next 10-15 years, possibly longer.' Neal Martin, December 2014

Domaine de la Vougeraie

Domaine de la Vougeraie makes a very welcome return indeed to our list this year, having producing some outstanding reds and whites in 2012. Unafraid of using a little new oak, but never overdoing it, Pierre Vincent (Decanter's Red Winemaker of the Year 2010) produces wines of depth and intensity that take it well. Biodynamics are practiced, meaning a lot of loving care and attention is paid to the vineyard. This was a tasting when all three of us we bowled over by the quality on show.

"Pierre Vincent has taken a steady hand to Domaine de la Vougeraie in recent years and in my mind, has begun producing some quite splendid wine from a strong portfolio of holdings, wines that hold their own in blind tastings." Neal Martin, December 2014

P1314901 **Beaune Blanc** **£195 per 12 IB**
'.. pretty white flowers and orange peel on the nose. The palate is fresh and vibrant on the entry, a fine line of acidity and citrus peel and a smudge of tangy marmalade on the finish. This will do nicely over the next couple of years.' Neal Martin, December 2014

P1314801 **Savigny-Lès-Beaune Blanc** **£220 per 12 IB**
'The 2013 Savigny les Beaune Blanc Villages has a hint of licorice on the nose that blossoms nicely upon opening. The palate is fresh and citric on the entry, a fine line of acidity, and finished in lively fashion with quince and citrus lemon. This is actually better than the Marconnets.' Neal Martin, December 2014

P6625001 **Gevrey-Chambertin 'La Justice'** **£335 per 12 IB**
Another of Robin's favourites this year, very pure, Vibrant and typically elegant. A touch of sweet vanilla. So refined. Our best Gevrey this year I suspect, although there are a number of candidates.
'The 2013 Gevrey Chambertin la Justice is a selection of the best parcels on gravel soils, the rest deselected and blended into the village cru. It has a fragrant perfumed, floral bouquet that gently wafts from the glass: fresh strawberry, Morello cherry and touches of limestone. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin and a fine bead of acidity. There is good weight here, fanning out just a little toward the finish with blackberry and raspberry notes, belying the decent structure underneath. This is very fine considering the vineyard and is well worth picking up.' Neal Martin, December 2014

P6625401 **Volnay** **£195 per 6 IB**
'The maiden 2013 Volnay Villages comes from a single hectare of vines in the lieu-dit "Ez Blanche" and was fermented with 50% whole cluster. The bouquet is very attractive, quite floral with crushed strawberry and Morello cherry – very good transparency and detail here. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin: dense for a modest village cru with sinew towards the finish. It will actually deserve two or three years in bottle – an impressive debut.' Neal Martin, December 2014

P6625301 **Beaune 1^{er} Cru 'Grèves'** **£170 per 6 IB**
One of my favourite vineyard sites in Burgundy, although a 1er Cru which benefits from time and tends to be quite austere in its youth. Not so in this case, it's so well looked after at this Domaine.
'There are usually six barrels of the Beaune 1er Cru les Grèves, but in 2013 there are only three because of (you guessed it) hail. It has a pointed red cherry and fresh strawberry bouquet, nicely defined and interwoven with the one-third new oak. The palate is medium-bodied with raspberry, strawberry and a pinch of spice. There is an appreciable sense of energy here with more persistence than expected. Very fine.' Neal Martin, December 2014

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