

HOWARD RIPLEY

Burgundy and German Wine

2017 Burgundy Offer

You are walking through a meadow of wildflowers on a summer morning; the air is cool, full of fresh floral scents, but you can feel the sun on your face, the edge of heat that signals a hot day. This is 2017 in Burgundy: the wines have a cool freshness to them, which gives definition and balance, but they also have ripe seductive fruit, a combination of wines that are both *terroir*-driven and solar. They have a relaxed charm and will be approachable early.

There was only one big scare in the growing season. In late spring of the previous year, frost and bright sunshine had caused extensive damage to the budding vines. At the end of April 2017 the danger threatened again, but this time the growers were ready: in an unprecedented and coordinated campaign up and down the Côte they set light to strawbales, creating a haze through which the sun could not burn the freezing buds, and incidentally causing chaos on the roads during the morning rush hour.

After that the growing season was easy: there was explosive vegetative growth at the end of May and lots of light over the summer, with some warmer periods and just the right amount of rain and almost no disease or rot pressure. Most harvests began at the end of August, and the fruit was so healthy that there was no need for sorting. The grapes were large, but they contained less juice than growers expected, so they have a high level of dry extract. There was little malic acid in the wines. As every child knows, harsh malic acid is converted to the richer, softer lactic acid by malolactic fermentation. If, as in 2017, the acid is mostly tartaric, the process is early and rapid, and does not affect the taste profile of the wines, leaving them instead with a bright freshening acidity.

Most growers handled the crop very carefully, going for infusion rather than extraction, with less punching down and pumping over of the fermenting must, judicious use of stems, and care not to overdo the use of new oak. Most wines will be bottled early to preserve the fruit.

White wines are considered more serious this year than reds. Certainly they are balanced and forward, but as there are many fine examples of red wines, I question this opinion.

2017 is a good example of how growing seasons are changing in Burgundy. Budbreak is early, and it is common for harvests to begin in August. Ripening patterns are different: instead of rushing to get all their fruit in on time, growers are having to stagger their harvests while they wait for separate plots to ripen (*vendanges fractionnées*). Radical change to viticultural practice may be necessary. In the past, everything a grower did was focussed on getting his fruit ripe; now it is more a question of preventing over-ripening.

So what can we compare it to? Opinions vary, with some mentioning 2000, but with more definition, and others 2007 or 2012, but I would choose 2014, which tasted seductive in cask. The 2017s have a similar freshness and crunch, but they differ in that they are much riper, and the fruit even more gorgeous.

Is it a great vintage? There is a tendency to measure greatness by how long wines will keep, and 2017 has a fair share that will make old bones, but the glory of this year is that it tastes so delicious young. It may not have the density of 2015 or 2016, but there is an easy fluid charm that is quite beguiling. And what more can a drinker want?

The prices in our offer are valid until 28th February 2019.

As usual, we give priority to customers who support us every year and across the board.

Please let us know your requests by the 14th of January 2019.

Prices are in bond London.

Unless otherwise marked, wines are packed in:

6-BOTTLE CASES (750ml)

12-BOTTLE CASES (375ml)

3-BOTTLE CASES (1500ml)

Wines may be ordered by the case only.

If your shipping address differs from your invoicing address, please let us know when placing your order.

Contents

Commune	Page
CHABLIS	
William Fèvre	5
Ventoura Fontenay	6
MACONNAIS	
Daniel, Julien et Martine Barraud Vergisson	7-8
COTE CHALONNAISE	
Des Moirots Bissey-Sous-Cruchaud	9
COTE DE BEAUNE Chassagne-Montrachet	
Fontaine-Gagnard	10-11
COTE DE BEAUNE Puligny-Montrachet	
Alain Chavy	12
Leflaive	13
Paul Pernet	14
COTE DE BEAUNE Meursault	
Darviot-Perrin Monthélie	15-16
Douhairet-Porcheret Monthélie	16
Guy Roulot	17
COTE DE BEAUNE Volnay	
Jean-Marc et Thomas Bouley	18-19
Michel Lafarge	20-21
Lafarge-Vial	22
COTE DE BEAUNE Pommard	
Comte Armand	23-24
de Courcel	24-25
COTE DE BEAUNE Beaune	
Maison Camille-Giroud	26-28
Joseph Drouhin	28-29

Jean Guiton Bligny-Lès-Beaune	29-30
Benjamin Leroux	30-31
COTE DE NUITS	
Nuits-Saint-Georges	
de l’Arlot Prémieux	32-33
Faiveley	33-34
Didier Fornerol Corgoloin	35
Henri Gouges	36
Frédéric Mugnier Chambolle-Musigny	37
COTE DE NUITS	
Vosne-Romanée	
Bruno Clavelier	38-39
Jean Grivot	39-40
Mugneret-Gibourg	40
Hudelot-Noëllat Vougeot	41-42
COTE DE NUITS	
Chambolle-Musigny	
Hudelot-Baillet	43
COTE DE NUITS	
Morey-Saint-Denis	
Dujac Fils et Père	44
Castagnier	44
Robert Groffier	45-46
des Lambrays	46
COTE DE NUITS	
Gevrey-Chambertin	
Denis Bachelet	47
René Bouvier	48
Claude Dugat	49
Fourrier	50-51
Geantet-Pansiot	52
Terms of Business	53

CHABLIS

DOMAINE

William Fèvre

Another difficult year in Chablis: ten days of very cold weather in April decimated the crop, and uneven temperatures and rain during the rest of the growing season presented the Fèvre team with considerable challenges. Yields are down, but the quality is superb: the wines are ripe and fruity, with excellent minerality, freshness and precision.

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Chablis 1er cru, Vaillons

Appealing floral notes and salty, stony flavours lead to a vibrant, harmonious finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£156
---	--	------

Chablis 1er cru, Vaulorent

As near to a <i>grand cru</i> as you can get: the Fèvre parcel adjoins Preuses, benefiting from the same Kimmeridgian soils, and the length and complexity indicate a wine punching well above its weight. This year it is perfumed and exuberant, bursting with ripe orange flavours, pithy lemony acidity and a long juicy stony finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£246
---	--	------

Chablis grand cru, Vaudésir

The warmest site in Chablis gives a scented wine with ripe peach fruit and hints of spice that give way to a silky fresh stony and salty finish. Quite lovely. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£342
---	--	------

Chablis grand cru, Les Clos

Clos is always powerful and rich; this year the supple ripe very fresh floral and stony flavours are extraordinarily elegant, and the finish long and fine. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£438
--	--	------

DOMAINE Ventoura Fontenay

This relatively young domaine, founded by Thomas Ventoura's grandfather, used to sell all its grapes to the cooperative. Four years after joining the estate in 2009, Thomas decided to make and bottle the wines himself. His eleven hectares are limited to Petit Chablis, Chablis and a single 1er cru, Fourchaume, although there may be another addition soon. Like any serious grower, he spends all his time in the vineyards. His methods are mostly organic, with the minimum of treatments.

A very small crop of exceptionally pure and *terroir*-driven wines was made in 2017.

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Chablis 1er cru, Fourchaume

A wine in balance: a little new wood softens the bright lemony fruit, and there is great intensity and a powerful mineral element, moving to a rounded rich finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2030</i>		£102
--	--	------

MACONNAIS

DOMAINE

Daniel et Julien Barraud Vergisson

In comparison to 2016, when a hailstorm caused heavy damage to vineyards around Fuissé, the Mâconnais had an easy run in 2017. The weather was fine, there was no disease pressure, and the only problem was a shortage of water, which caused springs to dry up little juice to remain in the grapes. The vines were still recovering from the previous year's battering, so gave few grapes. This meant more rapid ripening, and so great care had to be taken to pick on time, resulting in an early harvest, starting on 30th August.

The wines are similar in style to the 2015s, but with more freshness, and less alcohol. They will be approachable young.

'I have said this before but I will say it again: no one makes better wine in the Mâconnais than Barraud. There are a few domaines that produce wines that are sometimes just as good...but none of them surpasses the quality he consistently produces.' Allen Meadows, *Burghound*, Issue 64, October 2016.

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Mâcon-Chaintré 'Pierres Polies'

The first grapes to be harvested, on 30 th August. Ripe aromatic fruit and creamy melon flavours are balanced by fresh citrus and a hint of stone on the finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2023</i>		£51
--	--	-----

Pouilly-Fuissé 'Alliance' Vieilles Vignes

A rich, spicy wine with bold peachy fruit and silky salty mineral flavours on the long fresh finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£75
---	--	-----

Pouilly-Fuissé 'En France'

Smooth stony flavours are to the fore here, giving more structure to the opulent ripe fruit that shades to the tropical, all suspended in perfect balance by juicy lemony acidity. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£96
---	--	-----

Pouilly-Fuissé 'La Verchère' Vieilles Vignes

Made from 70-year-old vines grown on a warmer site behind the <i>cuvée</i> . Smooth, powerful ripe pithy grapefruit flavours dominate this rich intense wine that runs and runs. <i>Drink 2021 - 2028</i>		£111
<i>Drink 2021 - 2034</i>	3 Magnums	£120

Pouilly-Fuissé 'Sur La Roche'

The highest vineyard of the domaine's holdings, with an eastern exposure and good ventilation, is usually the first to ripen. The wine is powerful and rich, with an abundance of pithy citrus fruit balanced by fresh, creamy mineral flavours and a long, rounded salty finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2030</i>		£114
<i>Drink 2021 - 2034</i>	3 Magnums	£126

Pouilly-Fuissé 'En Buland' Vieilles Vignes

Powerful, rich but also silky, this elegant creamy wine bursts with ripe citrus fruit, strong bitter saline notes and a long, pure, very focussed finish. It is unusually forward and will be a pleasure to drink in its youth. <i>Drink 2021 - 2032</i>		£132
<i>Drink 2021 - 2038</i>	3 Magnums	£150

COTE CHALONNAISE

DOMAINE

Des Moirots Bissey-Sous-Cruchaud

The Denizots were delighted with their reds this year: hot, but not too hot weather gave them an appealing richness. Christophe's father Lucien remarked that he had not seen such perfect grapes since 1959. The drought became acute in August, and some vines shut down, preventing overripening and preserving acidity, vital to retaining freshness.

In Montagny, cool weather in April hit the earlier ripening Chardonnay buds, resulting in a dramatic loss of yield.

Like many growers, Christophe Denizot was careful to avoid over-extraction, allowing just over a week of cold maceration and then punching down the must no more than twice during fermentation.

White

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Montagny 1er cru, Le Vieux Château

A dense wine with a higher proportion of wood than usual. There is fresh ripe pear fruit, a hint of citrus and a rich creamy finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2023</i>		£66
---	--	-----

Red

Givry

What the French call <i>gourmand</i> : generous, rich spicy red cherry fruit, rounded rich tannins that give structure and freshness, and a ripe juicy finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2026</i>		£66
---	--	-----

Givry 1er cru, A Vigne Rouge

A greater proportion of limestone in the clay soils (the same composition as Chambolle, says Christophe) makes this lighter and finer than the <i>village</i> . There is some new oak, but more than enough fine black cherry fruit to carry it, supple elegant tannins and a long rich fresh finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2028</i>		£105
--	--	------

COTE DE BEAUNE Chassagne-Montrachet

DOMAINE

Fontaine-Gagnard

A confusing number of Chassagne estates carry the Gagnard name. This branch derives from the Gagnard-Delagrance estate, split between two daughters. One of them, Laurence, married an air force engineer, Richard Fontaine, who made the wine until recently handing over control to his daughter Céline. Both white and red wines here have always had an easy elegance, but the many small refinements introduced by Céline, such as a different oak regime, have taken them to a new level.

Vines in Chassagne compensated for the frost in 2016 – when they produced almost nothing – with generous yields the following year. The commune saw little rain, and ripening slowed in some of the rockier vineyards towards the end of the season. The wines are ripe, bright and refreshing.

White

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Chassagne-Montrachet

The pithy grapefruit and citrus fruit in this fresh, forward wine has a melting elegance, and there is density and persistence, too. <i>Drink 2020 - 2025</i>		£162
--	--	------

Chassagne-Montrachet 1er cru, Les Vergers

Richness without weight: there is dense, pithy grapefruit, fresh ripe citrus acidity and a very gentle, long broad salty finish. A particularly successful Vergers. <i>Drink 2020 - 2026</i>		£222
--	--	------

Chassagne-Montrachet 1er cru, Les Caillerets

From 50-year-old vines in two parcels. The higher of the two, with chalky soils, lends a mineral tension, while the lower, with a higher clay content, gives richness and a spice note. A powerful, elegant minerality gives structure and a lean edge to the dense, sweet lemony fruit. There is purity and great energy here, and a long, fresh finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2027</i>		£304
--	--	------

Chassagne-Montrachet 1er cru, La Romanée

From a vineyard that does not get much sun and is always the last to ripen: this year it has density and power, and the ripe, fresh citrus fruit is counterbalanced by a broad bitter mineral seam that tapers to a gentle stony finish. Quite beautiful. <i>Drink 2020 - 2029</i>		£354
--	--	------

Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet

A relief: two casks in 2016, eight in 2017, and it shows. The wine is more relaxed and forward, with very floral fruit, vibrant seductive citrus notes and a hint of menthol to go with the creamy fresh minerality, which builds to a long powerful salty finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2030</i>	3 Bottles	£417
<i>Drink 2024 - 2035</i>	Magnums Each	£280

Fontaine-Gagnard (contd.)

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Bâtard-Montrachet

OK, it's a Bâtard, so it's got to be butch, but this one is nimble and fresh, with pure vibrant citrus fruit and a very long powerful creamy finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2030</i>	3 Bottles	£417
<i>Drink 2024 - 2035</i>	Magnums Each	£280

Red

Chassagne-Montrachet Rouge

Very seductive spicy raspberry fruit is backed by soft rounded tannins and a bright energetic finish. This is forward and quite delicious. <i>Drink 2020 - 2025</i>		£132
---	--	------

Chassagne-Montrachet Rouge 1er cru, Clos Saint Jean

A knot of perfumed and delicate fruit is enveloped by rich, silky tannins and bright acidity; the finish is spicy, fresh and persistent. <i>Drink 2020 - 2029</i>		£192
---	--	------

Volnay 1er cru, Clos-des-Chênes

Under the powerful violet-scented red fruit are notes of clove and a hint of orange peel; the tannins are typically firm, but they are fine and supple, and no barrier to drinking this delicious fresh wine young. <i>Drink 2021 - 2033</i>		£228
--	--	------

COTE DE BEAUNE Puligny-Montrachet

DOMAINE

Alain Chavy

For years Alain and his brother Jean-Louis made wine together at their parents' estate, Gérard Chavy, but in 2003 they went their separate ways. Alain's wines are very much in the mould of his father's: pure, racy and delicate.

Dry summer weather meant that young vines in the Folatières suffered a little from stress, but otherwise Alain was very happy with his healthy fruit. There was little juice in the grapes, but lots of pulp, and the wines have an appealing density as well as freshness.

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Bourgogne Blanc

Bright, forward and citrusy, with pretty floral fruit and a fresh finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2023</i>		£48
--	--	-----

Puligny-Montrachet, Les Charmes

In 2014 the domaine reclaimed a particularly fine part of the Charmes vineyard that had been leased, and quality has since greatly improved. There is a fine, delicate floral nose, ripe grapefruit and very vibrant lemon notes; the wine is intense and round without being heavy, and has a steely stony finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£192
<i>Drink 2020 - 2023</i>	12 Halves	£198
<i>Drink 2022 - 2031</i>	3 Magnums	£198

Puligny-Montrachet 1er cru, Les Clavoillons

At seventy, these are the estate's oldest vines. The wine is dominated by rich citrus flavours and finishes on a long creamy note. <i>Drink 2020 - 2027</i>		£252
---	--	------

Puligny-Montrachet 1er cru, Les Folatières

Powerful and rich, with floral and vibrant citrus fruit given definition by a fine lean stoniness that keeps it just the right side of ripeness; finishing on a long juicy note. <i>Drink 2020 - 2027</i>		£252
<i>Drink 2020 - 2023</i>	12 Halves	£258
<i>Drink 2023 - 2028</i>	3 Magnums	£258

Puligny-Montrachet 1er cru, Les Pucelles

Lemony, fine and very intense, the Pucelles gets ever better. It is pure, bright and angular, the texture is silky, and there is a delicious interplay of bitter salty minerals and sweet ripe fruit on the long fresh finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2025</i>		£300
---	--	------

Chevalier-Montrachet

There is an appealing, relaxed elegance to the perfumed citrus fruit as it mingles with the fine angular mineral flavours. Everything is in place, everything correct: a beautifully balanced and delicious wine. <i>Drink 2023 - 2033</i>		£1,200
--	--	--------

DOMAINE Leflaive

There have been many positive developments since Brice de la Morandière took over this famous domaine, and one of the happiest has been the appointment of Pierre Vincent as winemaker. Together with the brilliant vineyard manager Sylvain Pellegrini, this is a formidable team.

The domaine was among the first to harvest in 2017 and it shows in the brightness and tension that give definition to the ripe fruit.

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Bourgogne Blanc

Lively, bright and lemony, with a hint of cream on the finish: it may have become clichéd to say that it has the length and intensity of a good <i>village</i> , but that doesn't make it any the less true! <i>Drink 2020 – 2022</i>		£245
---	--	------

Puligny-Montrachet

Vibrant citrus fruit, subtle floral notes and a powerful stony middle give way to a long rich creamy finish. Quite electrifying. <i>Drink 2021 - 2025</i>		£425
---	--	------

Puligny-Montrachet 1er cru, Le Clavoillon

A deep, rich wine with lots of lemony acidity, powerful pithy grapefruit flavours, and a middle that fans out towards a broad, rich finish. <i>Drink 2022 - 2028</i>		£595
--	--	------

Puligny-Montrachet 1er cru, Les Folatières

As ever, a big step up in finesse from Clavoillon. While still very ripe, it is leaner and more angular, with a bitter stony tension counterbalancing the sweet rich fruit, and there is a lovely relaxed purity to the whole thing. <i>Drink 2022 - 2030</i>		£995
---	--	------

Puligny-Montrachet 1er cru, Les Pucelles

Always the finest and tautest of the <i>1ers crus</i> , there seems to be extra intensity this year. It is pure and powerful, chock-full of very fine floral and citrus flavours the finish is charged with mineral heat. <i>Drink 2022 - 2032</i>		£1,175
--	--	--------

Bâtard-Montrachet

It starts gently enough on a bright lemony note, but you realise you are drinking a <i>grand cru</i> when the powerful, intense stony flavours kick in, building to a very dense long finish. <i>Drink 2024 - 2035</i>	3 Bottles	£1,195
--	-----------	--------

Chevalier-Montrachet

Intense, ethereal, fine, powerful and long. Need I say more? <i>Drink 2025 - 2035</i>	3 Bottles	£1,475
---	-----------	--------

DOMAINE Paul Pernot

This twenty-hectare estate has some of the finest holdings in Puligny, and although much of it goes to *négociants*, the choicest parcels are used for the domaine's own bottlings. The patriarch Paul Pernot gradually seems to be handing control to his sons and their children, and they are carrying on the work very much in his image. There is a remarkable consistency in style: methods are traditional, and the wines always powerful and rich.

Paul senior was pleased with the vintage. Although some spring rain caused disease pressure in the lower part of the village, yields were up, especially in the *grands crus*, and which grower would not welcome that?

White

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Puligny-Montrachet

Ripe round pear fruit and a creamy richness in the middle lead to a fresh, pleasingly bitter finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2026</i>		£186
---	--	------

Puligny-Montrachet 1er cru, Les Folatières

The ripeness of the supple, juicy fruit here suits the <i>terroir</i> : it is a successful counterbalance to the powerful earthy, stony flavours, and they merge beautifully on the long finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2030</i>		£264
---	--	------

Puligny-Montrachet 1er cru, Les Pucelles

A wine with rich, powerful fruit, but beneath the sweetness the class of the vineyard emerges in the form of taut stony flavours and excellent length. When it has lost its puppy fat it will be superb. <i>Drink 2021 - 2031</i>		£450
---	--	------

Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet

Power, elegance, intensity and length: a wine of considerable charm, with clearly defined weighty fruit and a creamy finish. <i>Drink 2022 - 2030</i>		£900
---	--	------

Bâtard-Montrachet

Dense, intense and very rich, this takes power to another level. The fruit is ripe but there are bags of lemony acidity to match it, helped by the rich stony mineral streak that emerges strongly on the finish. <i>Drink 2022 - 2030</i>		£990
--	--	------

COTE DE BEAUNE Meursault

DOMAINE

Didier Darviot-Perrin Monthélie

This eleven-hectare domaine has holdings in all of Meursault's finest *1er cru* vineyards, including Charmes, Genevrières and Perrières, as well as a choice parcel of Chassagne's Blanchot-Dessus, which lies just under Le Montrachet. It was founded in 1989 from holdings of the Perrin family inherited by Didier Darviot's wife Geneviève, and has gained a reputation for carefully crafted *terroir*-driven wines. It has the good fortune to have old vines in most of its vineyards, which give power and intensity, as well as consistent yields even in difficult vintages. To call Didier meticulous is an understatement: he pays painstaking attention to every detail. Sometimes this results in later bottling and shipment than the norm, but the wait is well worth it. In the last couple of years, he has been joined by his daughter Alix-Anne.

2016 was not an auspicious year to convert to biodynamic methods, and the challenges of that vintage resulted in lower yields than usual. 2017, on the other hand, was a joy: the grapes were healthy and picked at perfect ripeness. They were handled with particular care, and there was minimal intervention during fermentation and maturation.

White

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Bourgogne Blanc, Les Magnys

Easily as good as wines at <i>village</i> level, this hums with energy: there is bright lemony fruit, a hint of cream and excellent length. <i>Drink 2021 - 2025</i>		£114
--	--	------

Meursault, Clos de la Velle

There is delightful tension between the vivacious lemony acidity and the ripe fruit, given further definition by a clear creamy mineral seam. <i>Drink 2021 - 2025</i>		£240
--	--	------

Meursault 1er cru, Les Charmes

Vines planted in the 1950s give a dense, rounded wine with pure bright citrus fruit and a long, nutty, intensely stony finish. The energy here is astonishing. <i>Drink 2022 - 2026</i>		£420
---	--	------

Meursault 1er cru, Les Genevrières

Planted in 1951, the vine roots have had ample time to grow deep into the rock and bring out the pure mineral flavours typical of the vineyard. They are paired this year with a juicy core of vibrant citrus fruit and a hint of spice, making for a complex, rich wine of great promise. <i>Drink 2022 - 2027</i>		£486
---	--	------

Meursault 1er cru, Les Perrières

A steely, stony backbone sets the tone from the start, but there is nothing stern here: the fine yellow fruit is charming and juicy, giving a relaxed, gentle feel despite its richness and density, and there is a very long saline finish. <i>Drink 2024 - 2030</i>		£624
---	--	------

Darviot-Perrin (contd.)

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Chassagne-Montrachet 1er cru, Blanchot-Dessus

Not surprisingly, given its location just under Le Montrachet, this has power and depth, with a broad earthy minerality, but it is tempered by focussed lemony fruit of great purity and elegance, and a long juicy finish. <i>Drink 2024 - 2030</i>		£584
--	--	------

Red

Volnay 1er cru, Santenots

The fruit is ripe and dark, but so bright that it has a crunchy edge and there is finely woven minerality leading to a silky finish. <i>Drink 2022 - 2029</i>		£282
---	--	------

DOMAINE

Douhairet-Porcheret Monthélie

We are excited to take on the wines of Cataldina Lippo.

Domaine Monthélie-Douhairet-Porcheret, to give it its full name, was founded over three hundred years ago. In recent times, its rise was due to Armande Douhairet, who never married, and was known affectionately as 'Miss'. She was one of the few women to run a Burgundy domaine at that time, and forged a reputation for distinctive, terroir-driven wines. Her adoptive son André Porcheret was joined by his grand-daughter Cataldina in 2004, and she now runs the 6.5 ha with the assistance of her father Vincent. She has carried on the work of her grandmother and produces pure, elegant wines from Monthélie, Volnay, Pommard and Meursault that perfectly reflect their origins, and they are excellent value.

2017 was an easy vintage here. The domaine has the good fortune to have old vines, which managed the warmth and lack of water with equanimity.

White

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Monthélie Blanc, Cuvée 'Miss Armande'

Rich ripe fruit with bright lemony acidity and elegant broad earthy mineral flavours linger on a long finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2023</i>		£84
--	--	-----

Monthélie Blanc 1er cru, Les Duresses

A rock-heavy vineyard gives sweet ripe yellow fruit with vibrant citrus notes and a long juicy pithy finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2024</i>		£126
---	--	------

Meursault, Le Pré de Manche

Just under Les Santenots, this is rounded, juicy and ripe, with lovely yellow fruit and a gentle mineral streak building to a long sweet juicy finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2024</i>		£150
---	--	------

Meursault 1er cru, Les Santenots

The fruit is generous and bright, but the real joy here is the angular elegance of the stony minerality that gives it extraordinary purity, intensity and length. It is full of energy, balance, and finesse. <i>Drink 2021 - 2028</i>		£192
--	--	------

Douhairet-Porcheret (contd.)

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Red

Monthélie Rouge, Cuvée ‘Miss Armande’

A charmer: fresh strawberry fruit, ripe tannins and a definition-giving mineral edge make this a delicious easy-drinker. <i>Drink 2020 - 2025</i>		£84
--	--	-----

Monthélie Rouge 1er cru, Le Meix Bataille

A vineyard on the Volnay border, next to Clos-des-Chênes, with deep red soils, gives black fruit and firm tannins, and there is appealing freshness, elegance, and a long juicy finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2027</i>		£126
---	--	------

**DOMAINE
Guy Roulot**

Domaine Roulot has been one of the stars of Burgundy for many decades. Jean-Marc Roulot arrived at the domaine in 1989, and has made ever purer wines during his tenure. He bottles no less than five different *village* Meursaults, each with a distinct flavour profile, and three *1ers crus*. And he is famous for his superb Bourgogne Blanc.

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Bourgogne Blanc

One of the best of its kind: vibrant, lemony and rich, with pure juicy pithy fruit and a long, fresh finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£138
---	--	------

COTE DE BEAUNE Volnay

DOMAINE

Jean-Marc et Thomas Bouley

When Thomas Bouley joined his father Jean-Marc at the age of twenty in 2002, he vowed to make the domaine one of the finest in Volnay. Since taking over completely in 2012, he has more than achieved his goal, and is spoken of in the same terms as Frédéric Lafarge. His knowledge and enthusiasm are breathtaking.

He is entirely focussed on making the best wine possible, and this means constant work in the vineyards: you get the impression he knows the foibles of each individual vine on his nine hectares, and he can certainly tell you the exact soil composition and microclimate of each of his 29 plots. Here intervention is kept to a minimum, and he believes in encouraging the vines' natural vigour: no fertiliser is used, no systemic treatments, no green harvesting, and hedging as late as possible after flowering. This gives him a greater number of smaller bunches, with a better skin-to-juice ratio.

Thomas has some of the choicer vineyards in Volnay and Pommard: Clos des Chênes, Caillerets, Carelles, Fremiers and Rugiens, as well as a *1er cru* in Beaune. His wines are expressive, pure and full of energy.

2017 saw a welcome return to normal yields after years of hail and frost. Rain in the spring caused a little disease pressure, but flowering conditions were perfect, although towards the end of the growing season the lack of rain started to become an issue. Fortunately, it rained at the end of August, saving his vintage. The wines are a delight: fresh, relaxed and full of life.

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Bourgogne Rouge

Plump sweet spicy raspberry fruit with a distinctive crunch, soft agreeable tannins and a smooth relaxed finish: what more can you want from a wine like this? <i>Drink 2020 - 2025</i>		£75
---	--	-----

Bourgogne Rouge Hautes Côtes de Beaune

Well, you may want this: a distinct step up in intensity and structure, showing very fresh spicy bramble fruit and a long finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2027</i>		£105
--	--	------

Volnay

From three plots with soils shading from white to red. The red gives sweet black cherry fruit, the white contributes structure and a fresh salinity, the whole topped off with ripe spicy notes on a long fresh finish. Drop dead gorgeous. <i>Drink 2020 - 2027</i>		£174
--	--	------

Volnay Clos de la Cave

The steep vineyard adjacent to the <i>cuvée</i> is composed of white pebbly sandy soils and some clay. The wine is relaxed and elegant, with pure ripe red fruit, and a brightness and energy that last to the long pure finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2028</i>		£204
---	--	------

Bouley (contd.)

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Volnay 1er cru, Carelles

From old vines in the middle of the slope that catch the sun, growing in deep red soils mixed with chalk. The fruit is supple, ripe and fresh; thanks to the chalk the tannins are a little bitty at this stage, but will quickly soften and melt in, and there is a long bright finish. <i>Drink 2022 - 2033</i>		£297
---	--	------

Volnay 1er cru, Caillerets

Packed with very ripe blackish fruit and rounded supple tannins, this has density but also real elegance, and it finishes on a smooth saline note. <i>Drink 2022 - 2035</i>		£324
---	--	------

Volnay 1er cru, Clos des Chênes

Made from two separate parcels: the lower one with reddish soils, the higher with paler ones. It is harmonious, not massive, but with a relaxed fluidity that makes it very moreish (' <i>qui donne soif</i> '). The tannins are there of course, but they are elegant and covered by the ripe spicy fruit and smooth dark minerality on the finish. <i>Drink 2023 - 2038</i>		£324
---	--	------

Pommard 1er cru, Fremiers

In 2017 more wine was made from Fremiers than in the previous five vintages combined. And very lovely it is, with silky complex sweet fruit, very smooth ripe tannins and an exceptionally pure lean saline finish. <i>Drink 2024 - 2038</i>		£324
--	--	------

Pommard 1er cru, Rugiens

From vines planted high on the slope on very poor thin white soils. The wine is exceptionally seductive, fine, full of energy and bright red fruit, with seamless tannins and a fresh, long fruity saline finish. One of the most exciting wines tried this year. <i>Drink 2025 - 2038</i>		£432
--	--	------

DOMAINE

Lafarge

Frédéric Lafarge produces some of the most consistently fine wines in the Côte de Beaune. The domaine was one of the first to adopt biodynamic methods, and Frédéric is well-known for being at the forefront of viti- and -vicultural practice, which often means going back to the methods of his ancestors, including in some instances destemming by hand. His small holding of ten hectares enables speed and flexibility, vital in years like 2016, when the windows for treating diseases – actual or potential – were very small. Vineyards always ripen at slightly different times, depending on their microclimates, but in 2017 this phenomenon became much more pronounced, so he adopted a staggered harvest: waiting for perfect ripeness in each plot before picking, something a larger estate, under pressure to get the fruit in on time from all its holdings, is unable to do.

Often ready with a comparison to another vintage, Frédéric and his father Michel have settled on a combination of two great years: 1947 (very warm) and 1964 (with real *terroir* character.) Certainly, they are very pleased with it, and not just because yields are up from the last few years of frost and hail. ‘It is a charming and complex vintage,’ says Frédéric, ‘and will provide much pleasure.’

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

White

Bourgogne Aligoté, Raisins Dorés

All the clear brightness of a good Aligoté combined with the ripe roundness of the vintage: lovely! <i>Drink 2020 - 2023</i>		£66
--	--	-----

Meursault

Not produced since 2015. The fruit is rounded, nutty and ripe, and kept on the straight and narrow by a vibrant streak of lemony acidity. <i>Drink 2020 - 2026</i>		£174
--	--	------

Beaune Blanc 1er cru, Clos des Aigrots

The fruit is poised and ripe, and there is energy and depth to this rounded balanced wine, which finishes on refreshing saline note. <i>Drink 2021 - 2027</i>		£312
---	--	------

Red

Passetoutgrain L'Exception

Half Pinot and half Gamay from 90-year-old vines give a very spicy, ripe and rounded wine with lovely energy, fine tannins and considerable charm. <i>Drink 2020 - 2023</i>		£72
<i>Drink 2020 - 2025</i>	3 Magnums	£84

Bourgogne Rouge

Rich red fruit shades to a spice-laden black, and there is lots of bright energy through to the smooth plummy finish, adding up to something very enticing. <i>Drink 2020 - 2025</i>		£96
--	--	-----

Volnay

There is depth and sweetness to the juicy red fruit, the tannins are firmly on the silky spectrum and there is a pleasant mineral note on the finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2028</i>		£204
--	--	------

Lafarge (contd.)

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Volnay Vendanges Selectionnées

From vines just below the <i>Iers crus</i> , this is warm, spicy and rich, with depth, balance and bright crunchy acidity. <i>Drink 2021 - 2029</i>		£240
---	--	------

Beaune 1er cru, Grèves

96-year-old vines in one of Beaune's best vineyards give generous, juicy, very spicy wine with supple rounded tannins that build in intensity, joined on the intense long finish by a fresh saline note. <i>Drink 2022 - 2030</i>		£336
<i>Drink 2024 - 2035</i>	3 Magnums	£348

Volnay 1er cru, Mitans

What's this - a gentle stemmy note at Lafarge? For the first time Frédéric has experimented with whole-bunch fermentation, and it is a singular success: this most Volnay of Volnays has structure, generous ripe spicy fruit and a fine fresh finish. <i>Drink 2024 - 2037</i>		£504
---	--	------

Volnay 1er cru, Clos-du-Château-des-Ducs

The grapes here were destemmed by hand, and it took six people thirty hours. Why bother? Frédéric explained that the synergy between man and grape without mechanical assistance gives the wine extra energy and purity. Certainly there is something magical here: the purity is breathtaking, and each component is clearly defined: the sweet dense core of fruit, the silky tannins, the bright acidity and the fine mineral seam. <i>Drink 2024 - 2038</i>		£600
<i>Drink 2026 - 2042</i>	3 Magnums	£612

Volnay 1er cru, Caillerets

Years of frost and hail hit the old vines of the Caillerets hard, and so in 2017 half of them were grubbed up. Sadly, this means that quantities, already small, will diminish further. And yet the wine is spectacular: there is very pure red fruit and fine elegant tannins; despite its great intensity it has a relaxed seamless feel to it, and the finish is vibrant and long. <i>Drink 2024 - 2038</i>		£570
<i>Drink 2026 - 2042</i>	3 Magnums	£582

Volnay 1er cru, Clos-des-Chênes

A dense knot of generous red fruit lies at the heart of this intense ripe wine, enveloped by silky smooth tannins, lively crunchy acidity and a very fine, very long salty finish. <i>Drink 2024 - 2038</i>		£570
<i>Drink 2026 - 2042</i>	3 Magnums	£582

DOMAINE Lafarge-Vial

The fourth crop of a domaine purchased by the Lafarge family in Beaujolais, and lovingly made by Eddie Lachaux in the same way as the Pinots in the Côte de Beaune. Two hailstorms in July greatly reduced the crop, and there is no Fleurie Joie du Palais. The Lafarges are quite used to dealing with hail damage by now, and with painstaking selection were able to produce great wines from even the most hard-hit vineyards. The quality is outstanding.

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Chiroubles

Dense and pure, with rich spicy black fruit and bags of energy and length. <i>Drink 2020 - 2023</i>		£111
---	--	------

Côtes de Brouilly

A new acquisition, leased vines nearly sixty years old on blue granite soil. This is juicy and round, with an abundance of spicy raspberry fruit, structured fine tannins and good persistence. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£141
<i>Drink 2024 - 2035</i>	3 Magnums	£150

Fleurie

A blend of vineyards around the domaine that were damaged by frost, with yields of just 8 hl/ha. It is savoury and juicy, with lots of energy and power, and a great deal of concentration; there is lovely fresh red fruit on the finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2023</i>	6 Bottles	£129
---	-----------	------

Fleurie, Clos Vernay

A monopole of the domaine, on granite and quartz soils surrounded by trees. Spared by the hail, the vines have given a charming, fluid wine with juicy ripe fruit, firm but fine tannins and a bright seamless finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£135
<i>Drink 2024 - 2035</i>	3 Magnums	£150

COTE DE BEAUNE Pommard

DOMAINE

Comte Armand

Up until 1994 the only wine produced by Comte Armand was from their *monopole*, the five-hectare Clos des Epeneaux. At that point the energetic estate manager Pascal Marchand persuaded the Armand family to invest in other vineyards in Volnay and Auxey-Duresses, taking it up to its current size of nine hectares. Since his appointment in 1985, Marchand had transformed the quality of the wines and began farming biodynamically in 1988. Benjamin Leroux, who succeeded him in 2000, built on his work, producing ever finer wines. He in turn was replaced in 2014 by his assistant Paul Zinetti, and today the quality is unprecedented: Pommard's reputation used to be for rustic, brutally tannic wines that took forever to come round. That it is now known for dense, fine wines of great elegance is largely thanks to these three men.

Yields almost tripled in 2017 from the frost-ravaged 2016. The wines are relaxed, charming, and very precise. Paul Zinetti was concerned that the wines were too light, so he punched down a little more and macerated the wines with their skins in the *cuves* after fermentation had finished to give structure and fine the tannins. They will be bottled early to preserve the fruit.

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

White

Bourgogne Aligoté

A blend of two varieties of Aligoté – Doré and Vert. It is perfumed and ripe, with a delicious juicy lemon backbone that keeps it fresh through to the finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2025</i>		£84
---	--	-----

Bourgogne Blanc

Ripe, scented and fresh, with smooth creamy yellow fruit and a bright lemony finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2025</i>		£96
---	--	-----

Red

Auxey-Duresses

The estate's humblest wine, but paradoxically the last to be harvested. There is fresh vibrant spicy raspberry fruit, good depth and an earthy tannic structure that balances it nicely. <i>Drink 2020 - 2026</i>		£132
---	--	------

Auxey-Duresses 1er cru

From a vineyard abutting Monthélie. The fruit is blacker than in the <i>village</i> , but equally spicy, and there is greater intensity and richness. The tannins are structured, but ripe and fine, almost melting, and there is a long, generous and fresh finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£165
---	--	------

Volnay

Nice to have this back after its absence last year due to frost damage. A burst of fresh raspberry fruit settles down to be silky, smooth and gentle, with a lovely relaxed fluidity all the way to the gentle finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£210
---	--	------

Volnay 1er cru, Les Fremiets

Adjacent to Pommard, and thus always on the more powerful side. This year it has that power, but the charm wins through: there is a seductive perfume of violets and raspberries on the nose, and the wine is balanced, gentle and seamless, almost ethereal in its purity. Underneath of course, is the iron glove of Volnay in the form of very fine tannins and a long mineral flourish on the finish. A complex and deliciously seductive wine. <i>Drink 2022 - 2030</i>		£360
---	--	------

Pommard 1er cru, Clos des Epeneaux

Normally there is some whole-bunch fermentation used here, but this year the harvest was so plentiful that there was room only for grapes, and no stems in the <i>cuves</i> . The wine is none the worse for it – in fact it is the most delicious I have tried in cask. It is rich and dense, with a core of ripe spicy black fruit and lots of power but remains elegant and pure with no trace of heaviness. A fresh green minty note balances the ripe chocolaty melting tannins, and the finish has a big hit of saline minerality. This is so seductive it is tempting to drink it right now, but it has considerable potential and will be lovely for years to come. <i>Drink 2021 - 2031</i>		£594
<i>Drink 2025 - 2035</i>	3 Magnums	£606
<i>Drink 2028 - 2040</i>	Jeroboam each	£450

DOMAINE de Courcel

Domaine de Courcel is known for rich, tannic wines that require long ageing. Since 1996, they have been made by Yves Confuron, who somehow manages to find time to run his estate in Vosne-Romanée as well. The estate comprises Pommard's finest vineyards, the *Iers crus* Croix Noires, Frémiers, Grand Clos des Epenots (*monopole*) and Rugiens. Picking is always far later than other estates, and there is very long slow fermentation of whole bunches, with lots of punching down, and extended maturation in cask. The results are something quite unique. The wines are difficult in their youth but given enough time they turn into something very special: rich, elegant and fresh, and very well worth the wait.

After years of depressingly empty cellars, there is finally a little more quantity in 2017, even if it was only 23 hl/ha, far below that of most estates. The wines are full, rich and concentrated, a little less ripe than 2016, and have great capacity to age.

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Pommard Vaumuriens

Surprising intensity and depth for a <i>village</i> . It is ripe, round and intense, with smooth black fruit, lots of energy and a plump fresh finish. <i>Drink 2025 - 2037</i>		£260
---	--	------

Pommard 1er cru, Grand Clos des Epenots

There is supple, smooth, sour cherry and black fruit with a hint of spice, and ripe rich tannins that give freshness and considerable length. It will last very well. <i>Drink 2025 - 2043</i>		£395
--	--	------

Courcel (contd.)

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Pommard 1er cru, Les Rugiens

Juicy, very black fruit with lashings of spice is balanced by very rich chocolaty tannins; this is supple and fresh, with exceptional energy, power and length. A fine Rugiens indeed. <i>Drink 2026 - 2048</i>		£525
--	--	------

COTE DE BEAUNE Beaune

MAISON

Camille-Giroud

Camille-Giroud had a long history as a négociant that released powerful, very long-lived wines. In 2000, it was sold to a group of American investors, and David Croix installed as director, who, to put it simply, is a genius, and made a raft of great wines until his departure in 2016. His successor is Carel Voorhuis, who is crafting similarly pure, seductive and *terroir*-driven wines.

Carel Voorhuis is very pleased with the open, fresh wines of 2017. They do not have the concentration of 2015 or 2016, but more than make up for it in elegance.

White

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Saint-Romain

Elegant and bright, with some weight and bright lemony acidity to accompany the mineral hit on the finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2024</i>		£105
---	--	------

Meursault, Les Vireuils

A very pure mineral-laden wine, full of energy, power and citrus fruit, finishing on a creamy saline note. <i>Drink 2020 - 2024</i>		£189
---	--	------

Corton-Charlemagne

From Le Rognet. An elegant, linear wine that builds and builds on the palate, displaying juicy citrus fruit, fine creamy stony flavours and a hint of oak. Very fresh and lovely. <i>Drink 2021 - 2030</i>		£510
--	--	------

Red

Bourgogne Rouges Hautes Côtes de Beaune 'Au Crêtot'

Crêtot is a north-facing vineyard with limestone soils that is slow to ripen, so one of the last to be harvested. It has excelled in this vintage, producing a pure, poised wine with just the right amount of tannic structure to support the perfumed rich fresh fruit, along with a long salty finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2026</i>		£78
--	--	-----

Santenay

From two plots – Les Bras, with pebbly soil, and Les Saunières, made up of heavier red soils – one below and one above the Clos Rousseau. Here is all that is good about Santenay: a lively wine with gentle, crunchy, soft red fruit, fine structured tannins and a persistent mineral finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2026</i>		£96
--	--	-----

Maranges 1er cru, Le Croix Moines

The last <i>1er cru</i> of the Côte de Beaune, the vineyard has white marl soils. The grapes are sourced from the top of the hill, and are always ripe, but never too much so, as the <i>terroir</i> lends firmness. There is lovely fruit density here, full of strawberry, raspberry and blueberry, with balancing rich tannins and a hint of spice on the long fresh finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£120
--	--	------

Camille Giroud (cont.)

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Marsannay ‘Les Longeroies’

A blend of grapes, some grown on limestone-rich soils on the upper slopes, and others from old vines in clay soils lower down. It is well defined and fresh, with rich ripe black fruit, lashings of spice, dark chocolate tannins and a vibrant finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2026</i>		£111
---	--	------

Santenay 1er cru, Clos Rousseau

There is depth, concentration and complexity to the finely woven red fruit, accompanied by vibrant stony earthy flavours that give definition and balance. A very lovely wine. <i>Drink 2021 – 2028</i>		£144
---	--	------

Vosne-Romanée ‘Les Chalandins’

Les Chalandins is neatly situated below Echézeaux, close to the wall of Clos Vougeot. The vines range in age from 25 to 70, and are prone to millerandage, adding an extra dimension of sweet richness to the fruit. As usual, half of the wine is fermented in whole bunches, giving lifted, spicy, violet-scented red fruit, with vibrancy, power and length. <i>Drink 2021 – 2031</i>		£270
--	--	------

Morey-Saint-Denis, Clos Solon

Spicy sour cherry fruit and bright crunchy acidity are backed by melting rich tannins with a hint of chocolate; the finish is long and fine. <i>Drink 2021 - 2029</i>		£198
---	--	------

Chambolle-Musigny 1er cru, Aux Echanges

A dense wine, with sweet, seductive red cherry fruit supported by silky tannins and a finely structured minerality; the finish is intense and bright. <i>Drink 2023 - 2033</i>		£453
--	--	------

Gevrey-Chambertin 1er cru, Lavaut-Saint-Jacques

100% whole clusters give perfumed bright black cherry fruit. The wine has an airy, ethereal feel, enhanced by the very fine tannic structure and a refreshing saline finish. <i>Drink 2024 - 2038</i>		£384
---	--	------

Vosne-Romanée 1er cru, Les Suchots

Delicate ripe strawberry fruit builds in richness as the wine opens across the palate, joined by spicy peppery notes and velvety tannins. A very seductive and powerful wine indeed. <i>Drink 2024 - 2038</i>		£555
---	--	------

Corton Renardes

A welcome return after some years of absence from the portfolio. Made from organically farmed fruit, and 100% whole bunches, it is a nuanced linear wine with a firm mineral backbone and pure tannins, offset by generous enticing red fruit and a very long juicy finish. <i>Drink 2024 - 2038</i>		£384
--	--	------

Camille Giroud (cont.)

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Clos Vougeot

From two parcels: Petit Maupertuis, with thin, limestone-rich soils, and Hautes Baudes, lower down the slope, which has more clay and gravel. It is fine, fruity and ripe with violet-tinted red fruit, density, smooth tannins and a fresh peppery finish. <i>Drink 2024 - 2038</i>		£642
---	--	------

Charmes-Chambertin

Rounded and rich, with seductive relaxed black fruit tinged with liquorice and spice, fine ripe tannins and lots of energy and freshness. Does what it says on the tin. <i>Drink 2024 - 2038</i>		£642
--	--	------

Chambertin

The big brother of the Charmes – more serious, deeper and very rich. The densely woven black cherry fruit is fragrant and pure, there is a spicy note and then very fine chocolaty tannins and a lean minerality that gives length to this gorgeous complex wine. <i>Drink 2025 - 2040</i>		£1,200
<i>Drink 2027 - 2045</i>	3 Magnums	£1,206

MAISON Joseph Drouhin

We are delighted to include this famous house in our portfolio. As a producer of persistently fine wines from some of the greatest vineyards in Burgundy, it needs no introduction.

White

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Meursault

Fresh, pure and bright, this has typical nutty and yellow fruit flavours, a pithy citrus middle and a juicy finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2026</i>		£330
---	--	------

Beaune Blanc 1er cru, Clos des Mouches

There is fine, rounded fresh floral fruit with ripe lemony acidity and broad earthy flavours fanning out on the long finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2027</i>		£480
--	--	------

Chassagne-Montrachet 1er cru, Morgeot

Juicy and fresh, the yellow fruit is lifted and intense, and there is an appealing density to the fine mineral flavours that build on the pure finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2027</i>		£360
---	--	------

Meursault 1er cru, Les Genevrières

Made from biodynamic fruit, this has fantastic zing in the form of powerful pithy citrus fruit; it is elegant and long with a fine chalky finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2027</i>		£450
--	--	------

Joseph Drouhin (cont.)

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Le Montrachet

The 40% new oak is completely absorbed by the powerful elegant floral fruit; unsurprisingly there is enormous intensity and finesse, lashings of vibrant fresh lemony acidity, and a mineral flourish on the long finish. <i>Drink 2022 - 2030</i>	3 Bottles	£1,200
--	-----------	--------

Red

Vosne-Romanée

Sweet red and black fruit tinged with violets, fairly ripe tannins and a long rich finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2028</i>		£246
---	--	------

Beaune 1er cru, Clos de Mouches

Lots of whole bunch in the form of lifted, spicy fruit that starts gently and builds in intensity, with a note of white pepper and a deep long finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2028</i>		£420
---	--	------

Chambolle-Musigny, 1er cru

Very pretty red raspberry, a fine silky texture and a gentle minerality on the long fresh finish. <i>Drink 2022 - 2030</i>		£390
--	--	------

Grands Echézeaux

Perfumed violet-scented red fruit with lashings of spice opens the batting in this fine pure beautifully structured wine, which has a rich juicy and very pure long finish. <i>Drink 2023 - 2034</i>		£1,860
--	--	--------

DOMAINE

Jean Guiton Bligny-Lès-Beaune

Guillaume Guiton joined his father Jean's eleven-hectare estate in 1998 and was handed control in 2005. Its production is almost entirely red, and it has no glamorous appellations. But these pure, beautifully expressive wines are well worth seeking out, and provide excellent value for money.

After the severe frosts of 2016, the vines compensated with greatly increased vigour, so green harvesting was necessary to keep yields down. Otherwise the growing season passed without great incident, and Guillaume was delighted with the quality. The wines are less powerful than 2015 or 2016 but have great finesse.

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Bourgogne Blanc, Hautes Côtes de Beaune

From vines above Pommard, planted in 2005. It is broad, rich and round with pointed lemon acidity and a fresh finish. <i>Drink 2020 – 2022</i>		£60
--	--	-----

Jean Guiton (cont.)

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Ladoix 1er cru, La Corvée

La Corvée is a warm south-facing vineyard on the site of a quarry, with pebbly limestone soils. The fruit is black, juicy and smooth, with a hint of menthol, and the tannins ripe. This is a complex wine: there is density and power here, but also freshness and delicacy, and the finish is long and lively. Guillaume maintains that this is his best wine in 2017, and we can but agree. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£132
--	--	------

Savigny-Lès-Beaune 1er cru, Les Peuillets

A charmer: the elegant end of the Savigny <i>1er cru</i> vineyards gives red and black hedgerow fruit, fresh ripe acidity and melting tannins with an edge of chocolate, firming up on a long stony saline finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£114
---	--	------

MAISON

Benjamin Leroux

Steady growth at this successful *maison*: Benjamin's own vineyard holdings have expanded to over 7 ha (plus 16 ha under contract). He is one of the best winemakers in Burgundy, and although he makes nearly fifty different wines, they are of an astonishingly high standard.

Benjamin is very pleased with the homogenously high quality of 2017. It was an easy vintage after the threat of frost had passed, with little disease pressure. The wines are not super-concentrated, but they have an appealing easy charm, and will be a joy to drink young.

White

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Meursault

A subtle, elegant wine with ripe intense yellow fruit and a lovely mineral flourish on the finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2024</i>		£192
---	--	------

Meursault Vireuils

More new wood, and greater intensity and power than the 'regular' <i>village</i> . The yellow fruit is partnered with bright citrus acidity, and a smooth long dark stony finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2025</i>		£213
---	--	------

Red

Morey-Saint-Denis

From the En Pierre Virant vineyard at the top of the village, above les Chaffots. The generous red fruit has a brambly note to it and the tannins are powerful and thick while remaining melting and ripe; added elegance derives from the fine mineral finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£192
---	--	------

Benjamin Leroux (cont.)

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Gevrey-Chambertin 1er cru, La Perrière

A high proportion of whole-bunch fermentation gives a delightfully transparent wine, each element clearly delineated: the ripe black fruit, rich rounded chocolaty tannins and a long fresh juicy bitter mineral finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2028</i>		£330
---	--	------

Gevrey-Chambertin 1er cru, Les Goulots

From a vineyard just below the treeline, with thin soil washed by water running down from the woods. As ever, this is one of the most elegant wines we tasted this year: there is an ethereal quality to the fresh smoky bramble fruit, beautifully fine minerality and along fresh finish. Very special. <i>Drink 2022 - 2032</i>		£390
---	--	------

Clos Vougeot 'Petit Maupertuis'

65% whole bunches give a fresh, broad-shouldered wine with sour cherry fruit, firm ripe tannins and depth, and a long dark mineral finish.	3 Bottles	£420
--	-----------	------

Mazoyères-Chambertin

A floral quality to the dense silky black fruit gives a pleasant lift, and it bursts with dense spicy energy, finishing on a salty mineral note. <i>Drink 2024 - 2033</i>	3 Bottles	£420
---	-----------	------

COTE DE NUITS Nuits-Saint-Georges

DOMAINE de l’Arlot Prémieux

Domaine de l’Arlot has a rare thing: eleven hectares of *monopole* vineyards. These consist of two *1ers crus* at the southern end of Nuits-Saint-Georges – the seven-hectare Clos-des-Forêts, and the four-hectare Clos de l’Arlot. Before the adventurous Jean-Pierre de Smet created the domaine – with financial support from AXA in 1987 – the wines were rustic. But with the help of the team from Domaine Dujac, where he learned to make wine, and assisted by his number two, Didier Fornerol, quality rapidly improved, and the domaine quickly became internationally recognised. Howard Ripley had the privilege of being their first ever customer and is the proud possessor of *Facture No. 1*.

Along the way, the domaine acquired vineyards in Vosne: some 1er cru Les Suchots, and a tiny parcel of Romanée Saint-Vivant. The Clos de l’Arlot also produces rare – and delicious – white Côte de Nuits, one of whose distinguishing characteristics (something even rarer) is never suffering from premature oxidation. In 1999 Jean-Pierre was joined by Olivier Leriche, who took over completely in 2006 and left in 2011 to start his own domaine in the Ardèche. Géraldine Godot assumed control in 2014.

The wines are not the sturdy, tannic Nuits of popular imagination. From the beginning, a high proportion of whole-bunch fermentation was used, the fruit and musts were handled with the utmost care, and the result is delicate, perfumed wines that are approachable young but have great staying power.

Géraldine was very happy with the 2017s. The growing season was perfect, with just the right amount of rain at the right time for plant growth. Towards the end of August, the sugars in the grapes were ripe, but the acidity was not, so she waited until 7th September to begin harvesting. The wines are fresh, well defined and elegant.

White

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Nuits-Saint-Georges Blanc, La Gerbotte

From young vines in the Clos de l’Arlot, this is ripe and full of zingy lemon flavours and earthy richness on the finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2032</i>		£156
---	--	------

Nuits-Saint-Georges Blanc 1er cru, Clos de l’Arlot

Juicy, fresh and ripe perfumed citrus fruit is partnered by rich broad earthy flavours typical of white Côte de Nuits. A line of pure pointed lemony acidity runs through it, and the finish is mouthfilling and long. <i>Drink 2021 - 2040</i>		£335
---	--	------

Red

Clos du Chapeau

The fruit is fresh, easy-drinking and seductive, and the finish is rounded, ripe and generous. <i>Lovely. Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£126
---	--	------

Nuits-Saint-Georges ‘Mont des Oiseaux’

From young vines in the Clos de l’Arlot. Vibrant redcurrant fruit with notes of fresh herbs and menthol: bright acidity and a round rich middle make it delightfully playful. <i>Drink 2021 - 2030</i>		£240
--	--	------

De l'Arlet (cont.)

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Nuits-Saint-Georges 1er cru, 'Hors Ligne'

A separate parcel of Clos-des-Forêts, this tasted so distinct that it was bottled separately. There is warm, rich strawberry fruit with marked notes of spiced plums and clove, very fine melting tannins and a hint of fresh green flavours from 75% whole-bunch fermentation. <i>Drink 2021 - 2035</i>		£300
--	--	------

Nuits-Saint-Georges 1er cru, Clos de l'Arlet

A dense, rich wine with raspberry fruit and some spice, ripe tannins, discreet mineral flavours and a defining vibrant acidity that drives through to a long fresh finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2035</i>		£336
---	--	------

Nuits-Saint-Georges 1er cru, Clos-des-Forêts

A more concentrated, darker wine than the Clos de l'Arlet, with densely woven red and black fruit, very fine suave tannins and a beautifully fresh pointed long mineral-driven finish. <i>Drink 2022 - 2035</i>		£327
<i>Drink 2020 - 2025</i>	12 Halves	£339
<i>Drink 2024 - 2039</i>	3 Magnums	£339

Vosne-Romanée 1er cru, Les Suchots

The first vineyard to be harvested, it is silky, supple, rich and ripe, with an abundance of dense red fruit, powerful fine tannins and a green freshness joining the salty mineral flavours on the finish. <i>Drink 2022 - 2035</i>		£534
---	--	------

DOMAINE

Faiveley Nuits-Saint-Georges

The last few years have seen a style change here and a dramatic acquisition programme involving the purchase of several domaines. A lot of thought and investment have gone into making the wine finer than in the past, and this is paying off handsomely.

White

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Corton-Charlemagne

Very ripe yellow fruit shading to the tropical is lifted by bright lemony acidity and a powerful seam of very fine salty mineral flavours; the finish is long and satisfying. <i>Drink 2021 - 2027</i>		£792
<i>Drink 2023 - 2035</i>	3 Magnums	£798

Red

Mercurey, La Framboisière

Juicy strawberry fruit with crunchy fresh menthol notes, supple tannins and a long vibrant finish make this lovely indeed. <i>Drink 2020 - 2025</i>		£96
--	--	-----

Faiveley (cont.)

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Gevrey-Chambertin 1er cru, La Combe-aux-Moines

Very ripe red fruit with hints of spiced plum and marzipan give a soft, warm wine, balanced by fresh ripe tannins. The finish is racy and long. <i>Drink 2021 - 2030</i>		£270
--	--	------

Gevrey-Chambertin 1er cru, Les Cazetiers

A denser wine than the Combe-aux-Moines: the fruit is rich, running from strawberry to ripe blackberries, the tannins are soft and ripe, and there is a lovely bass mineral note on the saline finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2030</i>		£348
---	--	------

Corton, Clos-de-Cortons Faiveley

A massive wine as usual, rich and powerful, with a big hit of black fruit, structured ripe tannins and superb finesse on the long smooth finish. <i>Drink 2023 - 2035</i>		£720
---	--	------

Clos-de-Vougeot

A big, powerful wine with something of the monolithic about it; the fruit is rich and rounded, and though very ripe retains freshness and purity. <i>Drink 2023 - 2035</i>		£708
--	--	------

Echézeaux 'En Orveaux'

Dense, ripe strawberry fruit is offset by chunky but still smooth tannins, and there is a bright long finish. <i>Drink 2023 - 2035</i>		£732
--	--	------

Latricières-Chambertin

Stony, thin soil gives an angular, restrained wine at first, but the black fruit fans out on the palate, balanced by a fine minerality and supple restrained tannins. <i>Drink 2023 - 2036</i>		£762
--	--	------

Mazis-Chambertin

A relaxed, fine and fruity wine displaying reddish fruit that becomes gradually blacker as it builds slowly to a big ripe chocolaty tannic crescendo, finishing on a juicy fresh note. <i>Drink 2024 - 2036</i>		£900
---	--	------

Chambertin-Clos-de-Bèze

Supremely elegant as usual, with densely woven spicy black fruit, pure and fresh, and a delicate long very spicy finish. <i>Drink 2025 - 2038</i>		£1,200
<i>Drink 2028 - 2040</i>	3 Magnums	£1,206

Chambertin-Clos-de-Bèze 'les Ouvrées Rodin'

Of the three Faiveley parcels, the <i>vieilles vignes</i> go towards this now very sought-after <i>cuvée</i> . There is density and complexity here: the fruit is rich raspberry tinged with spice, the acidity fresh and crunchy, and a lively salty mineral seam joins the vanishingly fine tannins on the long finish. <i>Drink 2027 - 2040</i>	3 Bottles	£1,710
--	-----------	--------

DOMAINE

Didier Fornerol Corgoloin

Didier Fornerol was managing the wines and wine-making at the rundown Jules Belin estate when Jean-Pierre de Smet purchased it on behalf of AXA in 1986. He became Jean-Pierre's right-hand man, and remained there until 1999, when he devoted himself fully to his family domaine in Corgoloin. They still make wine together every year.

After the devastation by frost in 2016, there was much relief that yields were back to normal. The growing season was relatively uneventful, with few treatments necessary. Small doses of rain in the spring and just enough in the summer kept the vines healthy, and while the fruit was very ripe, the acidity remained fresh and balanced.

White

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Bourgogne Blanc

A ripe, tropical nose with richness and power is harnessed by vibrant lemony acidity; an earthiness on the finish rounds it off nicely. <i>Drink 2020 - 2022</i>		£54
--	--	-----

Red

Côte-de-Nuits Villages

A very lovely wine this year with balance, ripeness and freshness; the fruit is juicy, spicy and pure, and there is a relaxed generosity that makes it very appealing. <i>Drink 2020 - 2027</i>		£102
<i>Drink 2020 - 2026</i>	24 Halves	£204
<i>Drink 2023 - 2029</i>	6 Magnums	£204

Côte-de-Nuits Villages 'Rue des Foins'

From two parcels, one with ninety-year-old vines, the other with vines over fifty. There is spicy, smooth blackberry fruit with power and elegance, fine tannins that provide structure, and a long rich salty fresh finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2030</i>		£132
---	--	------

DOMAINE Henri Gouges

The courteous Gregory Gouges was very pleased with his vintage. He compares it to 2011 and will allow drinkers to put aside their 2015 and 2016 and enjoy these in their youth.

He began harvesting on 12th September, reporting that he could have waited longer but was keen to preserve freshness. Indeed, he believes that the best vintages are those which do not achieve perfect phenolic ripeness, as a slight lack of maturity keeps the tension in the wines. He has been reducing sulphur levels steadily in recent years and will bottle the wines early.

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Nuits-Saint-Georges

Rich, dark fruit, rounded and ripe with a charming relaxed fluidity and fine melting chocolate tannins. This is very drinkable but no less complex for that. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£195
---	--	------

Nuits-Saint-Georges 1er cru, Les Chaignots

Not tasted.		£240
-------------	--	------

Nuits-Saint-Georges 1er cru, Clos-des-Porrets

There is powerful rich black bramble fruit with bags of freshness and firm ripe tannins but it is forward and very appealing now. <i>Drink 2021 - 2032</i>		£250
--	--	------

Nuits-Saint-Georges 1er cru, Les Pruliers

Deep, rich and complex, the vibrant black fruit is accompanied by a flourish of ripe chocolate tannins, and there is a hint of spice on the very long fine finish. A wonderfully elegant and attractive wine. <i>Drink 2021 - 2032</i>		£320
--	--	------

Nuits-Saint-Georges 1er cru, Les Vaucrains

A more rigorous wine than its predecessors, showing dark fruit with a liquorice note, powerful but melting tannins and a lovely mineral hit on the long, angular finish. <i>Drink 2022 - 2033</i>		£425
---	--	------

Nuits-Saint-Georges 1er cru, Les Saint-Georges

A very ripe, rounded and elegant wine that has fine, fresh juicy black fruit and very gentle tannins that build in power towards a very long salty mineral finish. <i>Drink 2022 - 2033</i>		£595
---	--	------

DOMAINE

Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier Chambolle-Musigny

Frédéric Mugnier reported the best-looking grapes he had ever seen. There was no trace of disease, sunburn, botrytis or hail and harvesting them was a pleasure, the culmination of a balanced, easy growing season. He is very pleased with the wines, and maintains that we will be drinking a lot of them.

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Nuits-Saint-Georges 1er cru, Clos de la Maréchale

The usual delicate touch of Chambolle winemaking gives scented, silky fruit in a firm frame of ripe tannins. The wine is focussed, pure and fresh, with a long and seductive finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2033</i>		£348
<i>Drink 2022 - 2030</i>	12 Halves	£348
<i>Drink 2025 - 2037</i>	3 Magnums	£348

COTE DE NUITS Vosne-Romanée

DOMAINE

Bruno Clavelier

Bruno Clavelier was one of the first in Vosne to adopt biodynamic methods. His wines are understated and elegant, and they reflect their *terroirs* perfectly. He took over the estate in 1987 and has enlarged it with holdings in Gevrey, Nuits and Corton. He believes he was very lucky that his grandfather did not use commercial fertilisers on his vineyards, as the potassium residue, which takes generations to break down, lowers the acidity in the grapes. As a result, his wines have levels of freshness that his neighbours find more difficult to achieve.

In 2016 he lost half his crop, and saw that after destemming, the grapes would only half fill his *cuves*, so he used the opportunity to try some whole-bunch fermentation. He was pleased with the extra complexity and energy, so now there is a proportion of it used in most wines. The wines are accessible and relaxed, with both charm and persistence.

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Vosne-Romanée, Les Hautes Maizières

Deep clay soils give a wine that is rich and rounded, and the extra lift from 50% whole bunches gives welcome energy. So we get ripe strawberry fruit, a note of Mediterranean herbs, supple tannins and plenty of freshness on the long juicy finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2029</i>		£330
---	--	------

Vosne-Romanée, La Combe Brûlée

Poor chalky limestone soils give fresh spicy red fruit, more angular than the Hautes Maizières, but still with good density and a long salty finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2029</i>		£330
---	--	------

Vosne-Romanée 1er cru, Aux Brûlées, Vieilles Vignes

This hillside vineyard is south-facing, but its warmth is offset by a constant stream of cool air from the hillside just above it, resulting in energy-giving tension between warm and cool elements. You get warmth in the form of spice, liquorice and supple tannins, and cool notes from crunchy redcurrant fruit, pointed acidity and a fresh green character, combining to make a fresh elegant whole. <i>Drink 2022 - 2033</i>		£522
---	--	------

Vosne-Romanée 1er cru, Les Beaux-Monts, Vieilles Vignes

A rocky hillside vineyard with shallow soils gives a powerful wine with generous fresh black cherry fruit that gradually gives way to a fine salty minerality as it tapers to a long, very elegant finish. <i>Drink 2022 - 2033</i>		£522
---	--	------

Gevrey-Chambertin 1er cru, Les Corbeaux

Les Corbeaux is in the wind corridor of the valley leading to Chambouef, and the grapes benefit from the freshness the breezes bring. Uncommonly, around 10% of the vines here are white – Pinot Blanc, Chardonnay and Aligoté – and harvested with the red, which adds lift to the wine. It is rich and ripe, with a typical note of iron, blackcurrants, liquorice, and a smoky spicy edge, as well as fresh mint on the long finish. <i>Drink 2022 - 2033</i>		£480
--	--	------

Bruno Clavelier (cont.)

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Chambolle-Musigny 1er cru, La Combe d'Orveaux

Situated just across from Le Musigny, this is a <i>1er cru</i> on the verge of <i>grand cru</i> status. It has power, elegance and complexity: there is exuberant strawberry fruit, spice notes, deceptively powerful fine pure tannins and a darker mineral edge, culminating in a juicy, salty fresh finish. <i>Drink 2022 - 2035</i>		£540
---	--	------

Corton, Le Rognet

Always a big wine, and this year very generous, with densely woven spicy red fruit and rich, concentrated ripe tannins. But there is delicacy and elegance here too, and a transparency to each element in the wine. The finish is vibrant and long. <i>Drink 2022 - 2034</i>		£522
---	--	------

DOMAINE

Jean Grivot

Etienne Grivot is a thinker, a man unafraid of risk, constantly searching for ways to make the best wine he can. 'You cannot become good at anything without making mistakes,' he says, and he must have made plenty because he is now one of the most brilliant winemakers in Burgundy. From his prime 15.5-hectare holdings, focussed mainly in Nuits and Vosne, he turns out some of the finest and longest lived wines of the region.

2016 was a great year, but 2017 gave the best tasting we have had here in the last twenty years. The wines were seamless, seductive and full of energy.

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Vosne-Romanée

Delicate spicy strawberry fruit, elegant balancing tannins and a warm rich firm finish tinged with a salty minerality. <i>Drink 2020 - 2030</i>		£282
---	--	------

Chambolle-Musigny, Combe d'Orveaux

A welcome return after its absence due to frost damage last year. It lies next to Le Musigny, just over the border from Vosne, and has generous fresh silky red fruit with a firm mineral core. <i>Drink 2020 - 2030</i>		£312
--	--	------

Nuits-Saint-Georges 1er cru, Les Pruliers

Depth without weight: vivid, dense red cherry fruit is balanced by fine, intense tannins with a hint of chocolate, a whisper of mineral and a long sensual finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2034</i>		£576
---	--	------

Nuits-Saint-Georges 1er cru, Aux Boudots

Much more Vosne-like in style, this is riper and more powerful than the Pruliers, with bags of very spicy clove-tinged black cherry fruit, liquorice, chocolate, and a creamy note on the slightly bitter mineral finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2034</i>		£696
--	--	------

Jean Grivot (cont.)

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Vosne-Romanée 1er cru, Les Rouges

Soils rich in iron and gravel at the top of the hill above Echézeaux give a pure, bright wine with luminous delicately scented strawberry fruit, silky but firm tannins and an intense saline finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2033</i>		£576
--	--	------

Vosne-Romanée 1er cru, Les Beaumonts

There is denser, more spicy red fruit than the Rouges, and more powerful tannins, but it sacrifices none of its purity, and the saline finish is fresh and long. <i>Drink 2022 - 2034</i>	3 Bottles	£438
---	-----------	------

Clos Vougeot

Conventional wisdom holds that the finer Clos Vougeots are made up near the <i>château</i> , and that the vines by the road don't deserve <i>grand cru</i> status. Grivot proves them wrong: year after year he makes a powerful, very elegant wine that encapsulates all that is best about this famous vineyard. This year it is dense, rich and ripe, packed with pure scented strawberry fruit and elegant fine tannins and has a fine saline finish. <i>Drink 2023 - 2038</i>		£960
--	--	------

DOMAINE

Mugneret-Gibourg

After the early death of Dr Georges Mugneret in 1988, his widow and two daughters took over the estate, making consistently fine – and increasingly sought-after – wines. Some of their vines were leased to other growers, and finally in 2017 they have got them back, so their production has increased a little.

2017 very much suits the domaine's style. The wine is ripe, scented and very approachable.

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Vosne-Romanée

Most of the vines are behind the house, and give silky perfumed red fruit of sweetness and power, supple tannins and lovely bright acidity. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£306
<i>Drink 2020 - 2024</i>	12 Halves	£384

Nuits-Saint-Georges 1er cru, Les Chaignots

Fifty-year-old vines give very vibrant spicy black cherry fruit; there is an attractive interplay between sweet and sour, and some mineral bitterness as the wine progresses smoothly towards a dense powerful yet elegant finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2029</i>		£420
---	--	------

DOMAINE Hudelot-Noëllat Vougeot

Charles van Canneyt assumed control of this 12-hectare estate from his grandfather, Alain Hudelot, in 2008. It extends from Nuits to Chambolle, but its heart is in Vosne, with holdings in some of the top *lers* and *grands crus*. The wines are very much at the delicate end of the spectrum: pure and fine but with great staying power.

Charles was very happy both with the quality and quantity of 2017, seeing it as a vintage with freshness, balance and good cellaring potential. Since 2016 he has stopped fermenting whole bunches, as he feels it blurs the differences between the vineyards.

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Bourgogne Rouge

A Bourgogne should be all about uncomplicated, forward fruit, and this has it in spades: fresh, red, and concentrated, accompanied by fine tannins and a pleasingly long finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2023</i>		£96
--	--	-----

Chambolle-Musigny

A textbook Chambolle: perfumed delicate red fruit with a hint of spice partners smooth silky tannins and a mineral edge on the finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2029</i>		£198
---	--	------

Vosne-Romanée

From Les Basses Maizières, below Les Suchots, and a classic Vosne: there is densely woven violet-tinged red fruit, soft tannins that hide a firm edge of minerality, and a long ripe smooth finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2029</i>		£198
--	--	------

Vougeot 1er cru, Les Petits Vougeot

Stony soil gives a more structured wine packed with red fruit and a persistent spicy finish. The wine that Charles most likes to drink young. <i>Drink 2020 - 2030</i>		£336
--	--	------

Nuits-Saint-Georges 1er cru, Les Murgers

Always the first vineyard to be harvested, as the grapes ripen so quickly. It is rich, dense and fruity, with rounded spicy flavours and a long fresh finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2031</i>		£384
--	--	------

Chambolle-Musigny 1er cru, Les Charmes

Gorgeous, precise red fruit – strawberry, raspberry and cherry – dominates at first, but there is a fine minerality too, and ripe tannins, the whole driven to a persistent finish by appealing energy and freshness. <i>Drink 2021 - 2033</i>		£496
--	--	------

Vosne-Romanée 1er cru, Beaumonts

A beautifully smooth, elegant wine bursting with energy and freshness. There is spiced plum and violet fruit, chocolaty tannin and a hint of mineral on a wine that goes on and on. <i>Drink 2021 - 2033</i>		£496
--	--	------

Alain Hudelot-Noëllat (cont.)

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Vosne-Romanée 1er cru, Les Suchots

Vines planted in 1910 in deep clay give a delicate, silky, pure wine with red and black fruit, spice, fine tannins and a very elegant long finish. <i>Drink 2021 – 2033</i>		£600
---	--	------

Clos-de-Vougeot

From vines situated between the <i>château</i> and the wall bordering Le Musigny. The fruit is vibrant and intense, showing black cherry and spice notes, the middle is rounded and ripe, softening the firm tannic structure underneath, and there is a fresh long finish. <i>Drink 2023 - 2034</i>		£670
--	--	------

Romanée-Saint-Vivant

Vines planted in the 1920s give a very dense, very fine seamless wine with scented ripe silky red fruit, spice, fine tannins and a powerful finish that is full of energy. <i>Drink 2024 - 2038</i>	3 Bottles	£900
<i>Drink 2026 - 2041</i>	1 Magnum	£610

Richebourg

Bursting at the seams with powerful black fruit, this manages great elegance and refinement. The tannins are dark and chocolaty and run all the way through to the long saline finish. <i>Drink 2024 - 2041</i>	3 Bottles	£990
<i>Drink 2027 - 2043</i>	1 Magnum	£660

COTE DE NUITS Chambolle-Musigny

DOMAINE

Hudelot-Baillet

Dominique Le Guen was an air force technician when his father-in-law announced his retirement and asked him if he would like to make wine. He took the plunge and joined the almost defunct eight-hectare domaine in 1998, making his first wines on his own in 2002. A supremely skilled craftsman, his production has become ever finer since.

In 2017 the vines compensated for their tiny yields in 2016 by the promise of a large crop, so measures – such as green harvesting – were taken to keep yields down. Otherwise it was a relatively easy vintage, giving wines that maintain good a good balance between freshness and ripeness.

White

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Bourgogne Blanc Hautes Côtes de Nuits

Wonderfully fresh and bright, this has lemony fruit, broad earthy mineral flavours and a taut finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2022</i>		£72
--	--	-----

Red

Bourgogne Rouge

Fruit half from Chambolle, half from Gilly-Le-Citeaux, below the <i>route nationale</i> . The sweet black cherry fruit has good density, and is balanced by fine tannins and a juicy finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2025</i>		£72
---	--	-----

Chambolle-Musigny, Vieilles Vignes

Dominique has reduced the amount of new wood used here to 25%, preferring the fruit to speak for itself. And so it does, in the form of dark, silky black cherry. There is an ethereal feel to the caressing tannins and smooth long finish shot through with mineral. <i>Drink 2021 - 2029</i>		£192
---	--	------

Chambolle-Musigny 1er cru, Les Charmes

From sixty-year-old vines from two separate parcels with deep soils, one lying a little higher than the other. This is a round, smooth and supple wine of some density and considerable power, with a generous helping of fresh black fruit, ripe firm tannins and good length. <i>Drink 2022 - 2031</i>		£276
--	--	------

Chambolle-Musigny 1er cru, Les Cras

A more typically 'masculine' wine, made from 75-year-old vines. It is riper than the Charmes, but a more powerful mineral element gives an angularity that means it will take longer to come round. There is vibrant blackberry fruit, a hint of liquorice, fine tannins and a blast of salty mineral on the long finish. <i>Drink 2022 - 2031</i>		£318
--	--	------

Bonnes Mares

Eighty-year-old vines give power, but there is also delicate raspberry fruit, some freshening menthol, and supple length. In short, it is butch and fine at once. <i>Drink 2024 - 2035</i>	3 Bottles	£450
--	-----------	------

COTE DE NUITS Morey-Saint-Denis

DOMAINE

Dujac Fils et Père

Morey-Saint-Denis was the commune least affected by frost in 2016, but in 2017 was hit by a hailstorm that affected some *lers* and *grands crus*. The *village* vineyards were largely spared.

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Morey-Saint-Denis

The usual 90% whole-bunch fermentation. Ripe spicy dark fruit and very pure soft tannins in a supple, long wine. <i>Drink 2020 - 2026</i>		£162
---	--	------

DOMAINE

Jérôme Castagnier

Jérôme Castagnier did not intend to join the family business and became a professional musician, but as the only son, he was persuaded to return from Paris in 2004, taking over responsibility in 2007. Irrepressibly energetic, charming and optimistic, he has been responsible for a surge in quality at this domaine.

He reported a relatively uneventful growing season, apart from hail in July, which damaged a narrow corridor of vines. He harvested before the rain began in mid-September, which meant lower yields, but also greater concentration, freshness and energy.

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Gevrey-Chambertin 1er cru, Les Cazetiers

Ripe sweet fruit tinged with spice combines with delicious freshness, the supple tannins are velvety and fine, the finish dense and shot through with dark mineral flavours. <i>Drink 2021 - 2030</i>		£300
---	--	------

Morey-Saint-Denis 1er cru, Les Chaffots

Les Chaffots lies high on the slope just under the treeline. It gives an elegant, fresh wine with a pronounced dark mineral note to the generous dense cherry fruit, and the finish is very smooth and long. Very lovely indeed. <i>Drink 2021 - 2030</i>		£276
	Magnums	£288

Echézeaux

From white soils lower down the slope. There is a delicate floral note to the sweet raspberry fruit, finely woven tannins, and a long, relaxed finish. <i>Drink 2026 - 2040</i>		£555
---	--	------

Bonnes Mares

Perfumed, elegant and complex, this is packed with sweet black cherry fruit, concentrated, powerful tannins and a juicy, very long mineral-driven sweet/salty finish. <i>Drink 2026 - 2040</i>		£750
--	--	------

DOMAINE Robert Groffier

Domaine Groffier lies in Morey, but its seven-hectare domaine contains few vines from the commune. Its main holdings are in next-door Chambolle, where it has substantial holdings in the finest *1ers* and *grands crus*, as well as some excellent Gevrey vineyards, including Clos de Bèze. Although it has consistently produced fine, elegant wine, it has been under the radar until recently, when Nicolas Groffier took over from his grandfather Robert and father Serge. A young man of firm opinions, he has taken quality to an unprecedented level, and the wines are now sought-after.

In 2017 the key decision Nicolas made was to wait until after the rain to harvest. After the summer heat he felt the vines needed to relax, and this accounts for the freshness in his wines. He compares it to 2012, which gave great ripeness but also a cool *terroir* definition. He treated his fruit gently, going for infusion rather than extraction.

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Bourgogne Passetoutgrain

Along with Lafarge, the domaine makes the best Passetoutgrain we know. It has 25% Gamay, and the fruit is fresh, ripe and brambly, driving through to a long fine finish. For Nicolas, it is the equivalent of having a beer – delicious, uncomplicated and refreshing. <i>Drink 2020 - 2024</i>		£105
--	--	------

Bourgogne Rouge

From two parcels, one under the Clos Vougeot, the other on the Gevrey side of Morey. The fruit is spicy, black and sweet, and there is lovely density and roundness, along with definition and energy. <i>Drink 2020 - 2024</i>		£177
---	--	------

Gevrey-Chambertin, Les Seuvrées

Vines just under Mazoyères-Chambertin, where lighter, red clay soils mixed with sand give a pure angular, mineral-driven wine. But there is no shortage of fruit: generous black cherry and blackberry mingle with rounded fine tannins, and it tapers to a juicy finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2029</i>		£357
--	--	------

Chambolle Musigny 1er cru, Les Hauts Doix

50% whole bunch fermentation gives lifted, raspberry fruit that shades to darker black cherry as the wine opens. It is rich and sweet, but there is a silky quality too, and the tannins are ripe and fresh. <i>Drink 2022 - 2031</i>		£765
---	--	------

Chambolle Musigny 1er cru, Les Sentiers

Old vines gave very small berries, so here none of the grapes were destemmed. Sentiers gives a stricter, leaner wine of great finesse; there is sour cherry fruit, bright acidity and powerful ripe tannins, and the wine given definition by a cool mineral seam that lasts all the way to the long finish. It will reward cellaring. <i>Drink 2023 - 2035</i>		£810
---	--	------

Robert Groffier (cont.)

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Chambolle Musigny 1er cru, Les Amoureuses

Groffier is the largest holder of Amoureuses, with 1.2 hectares, and the style is usually different to that of most other growers, showing more weight and power. In 2017 the wine is more in line with the vineyard's reputation: it is elegant and ethereal, with silky sweet fruit, spicy notes, vanishingly fine tannins and a long salty mineral finish. <i>Drink 2023 - 2035</i>		£1,650
--	--	--------

DOMAINE des Lambrays

After nearly forty years at the helm, the veteran Thierry Brouin handed control to Boris Champy, who has had ten-year stints at Domaine Moueix in California, and Louis Latour in Beaune. He brings with him not only winemaking skill but great viticultural expertise, and we expect great things.

White

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Puligny-Montrachet 1er cru, Clos du Cailleret

An ethereal elegance here: there is ripe citrus fruit, bright acidity and a creamy stony note on the long powerful finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2028</i>		£624
---	--	------

Red

Morey-Saint-Denis 1er cru 'Les Loups'

50% whole bunches, bright crunchy acidity and racy creamy mineral flavours give energy to the ripe spicy blackcurrant fruit, and there is a delicate fresh leafy note on the vibrant finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2031</i>		£420
---	--	------

Clos-des-Lambrays

90% whole bunches give a slight stemmy quality, and there is a fresh menthol and liquorice note that balances the rich rounded vibrant red fruit, which is pure and fine; the tannins are smooth and the finish spicy and full of dark minerality. <i>Drink 2023 - 2030</i>		£1,128
<i>Drink 2020 - 2026</i>	12 Halves	£1,134
<i>Drink 2026 - 2035</i>	3 Magnums	£1,134

COTE DE NUITS Gevrey-Chambertin

DOMAINE

Denis Bachelet

Denis Bachelet's domaine is tiny, making up just over four hectares; his vines are very old, and his yields correspondingly low. But that only goes some way to explaining why his wines are so scarce: the main reason is that they are quite brilliant. He is a prodigiously talented farmer, and it is his vineyard work that is the secret to quality; the winemaking is simple and a small part of the whole.

There have been some changes since 2014. A new cooper is providing barrels which Denis and his son Nicolas, who joined him in 2007, find bring out the sweetness of fruit more effectively, and they have made efforts to affect a gentler extraction of tannins by reducing the number of punchdowns during fermentation. They have recently converted to biodynamic practice.

2017 was a classic year with normal yields.

White

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Bourgogne Aligoté

A bright ripe harmonious wine with appealing lemony acidity and excellent finesse. <i>Drink 2020 - 2023</i>	£102
---	------

Red

Bourgogne Rouge

From vines just the other side of the main road. Fresh, round and easy-drinking. <i>Drink 2020 - 2025</i>	£186
---	------

Côte-de-Nuits Villages

More intense than the <i>Bourgogne</i> , showing fresh sour cherry fruit and lovely finesse on the long juicy finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2029</i>	£240
--	------

Gevrey-Chambertin, Vieilles Vignes

85-year-old vines give a pure, intense perfumed and silky wine, with a dense core of sweet blackcurrant fruit, lots of spice and a long elegant finish. <i>Drink 2022 - 2032</i>	£396
--	------

Gevrey-Chambertin, Les Evocelles

Very thin soils – less than 20cm deep – high on the slope give a firmer, more mineral-driven wine that is precise and ethereal, and shows an abundance of spicy red cherry fruit. The tannins are silky and the finish saline and long. <i>Drink 2022 - 2032</i>	£546
--	------

DOMAINE René Bouvier

Bernard Bouvier makes polished, very accessible wines mainly in Marsannay and Gevrey, but also from vineyards further down the Côte. He farms entirely organically, and firmly believes that he only began to discern the real *terroir* of his wines after the switch ten years ago. He has the good fortune to possess vines that are mostly over fifty years old.

After the hard frosts of 2016, this year was a relief, with normal yields and delightful, elegant wines.

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Marsannay, En Ouzeloy

Ouzeloy is a little further south on the same strip as the Clos du Roy. The soils are pebbly, and produce a wine with a beautifully angular, ethereal structure, as well as giving a pronounced mineral tone to the ripe black fruit, silky tannins and good length. The whole has seductive freshness and balance. <i>Drink 2020 - 2026</i>		£120
--	--	------

Marsannay, Clos du Roy

Clearly the best vineyard in Marsannay, with sandy limestone-rich soils and sixty-year-old-vines. The wine is ripe and generous, with dense perfumed reddish fruit, soft tannins and a long supple salty finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2027</i>		£132
---	--	------

Gevrey-Chambertin, La Justice

Pebble-rich limestone soils give a perfumed, floral wine with charming ripe black fruit, excellent richness and roundness, and a long fine finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2027</i>		£156
---	--	------

Gevrey-Chambertin, Racine du Temps Très Vieilles Vignes

From three separate parcels in Brochon, just north of Gevrey, in the choice centre of the slope, where there are rich clay soils mixed with limestone. The ninety-year-old vines yield a wine with power, structure and length, accompanied by spicy black fruit. And with all this, it manages a lightness of touch, elegance and purity that make it very special. <i>Drink 2021 - 2033</i>		£228
---	--	------

DOMAINE Claude Dugat

Claude Dugat has now handed over the domaine to his three children, but there has been no change from his meticulous methods. They use the same high proportion of new oak as ever, but over the years its influence has been shrinking. Perhaps this is due to the progressively higher quality of his fruit; at any rate, these are first-class wines. Yields are normal, though there was little juice in the grapes: the *villages* sites were particularly affected, as the vines are planted on gravelly soils, which retain less water than the usual limestone/mix.

After a brief flirtation with biodynamic practice in 2016, when they lost most of their crop and all of their nerve, they have reverted to more conventional methods.

Prices will be released later in the year.

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Bourgogne Rouge

Crunchy pure sour cherry fruit with lots of energy and power. There is extraordinary density and finesse at this level. A great Bourgogne. <i>Drink 2022 – 2032</i>		POA
---	--	-----

Gevrey-Chambertin

The seductive cherry fruit bursts with energy and freshness, and there are elegant balancing tannins on the long finish. Absolutely gorgeous. <i>Drink 2024 - 2035</i>		POA
--	--	-----

Gevrey-Chambertin 1er cru

A blend of Crapillot and La Perrière. The fruit is black, very intense and powerful, joined by a spicy notes and well delineated elegant mineral flavours, and finishing fresh and long. <i>Drink 2024 - 2037</i>		POA
---	--	-----

Gevrey-Chambertin 1er cru, Lavaux-Saint-Jacques

A big step up in finesse, this is more linear and elegant than the basic <i>1er cru</i> , but also more generous. It has enormous fruit density and real power behind it, and is vibrant, spicy and long. <i>Drink 2026 - 2038</i>		POA
--	--	-----

Charmes-Chambertin

There is generous sweet black fruit of great delicacy, and reserves of power too, with fine persistent salty mineral notes and melting tannins on the rich long finish. Despite the intensity, it is astonishingly light and fresh. <i>Drink 2030 - 2043</i>		POA
--	--	-----

DOMAINE Fourrier

Over the last fifteen years, Domaine Fourrier has turned out to be one of the great success stories in Burgundy, proof that a talented grower with good sites can rise out of near-obscurity to make wines that have become some of the most sought-after in the region. The man behind this rapid rise is Jean-Marie Fourrier, whose father handed over control in 1994, when he was twenty-four. He is lucky enough to have a large stock of old vines, but as ever, the secret to his success is meticulous work in the vineyards. Although he does not follow organic methods, he keeps chemical treatments to a minimum and is an intuitive anticipator of problems. While remaining true to their *terroirs*, his wines have a polish and seductiveness that are instantly recognisable.

After the risk of frosts had receded, the year was an easy one, with a lovely summer and abundant light in the autumn. Fewer treatments than usual were necessary, and rain arrived at the right times. The harvest ran from 7th-17th September under lovely conditions. The quality is superb.

White

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Bourgogne Blanc

Rounded scented fruit and fresh vibrant mineral flavours make this very attractive. <i>Drink 2020 - 2023</i>		£108
--	--	------

Red

Gevrey-Chambertin

From a vineyard to the north of the village, planted in 1928, and firmer than its southern brother. Smooth rich cherry fruit covers ripe fine tannins, and the finish is rounded, fresh and long. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£252
--	--	------

Gevrey-Chambertin, Aux Echézeaux

From vines to the south of Gevrey, below the <i>grands crus</i> on the Morey border. Intensely perfumed red fruit that is delicate, pure and fine leads to a rich spicy middle and a bright persistent finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£252
---	--	------

Vougeot 1er cru, Les Petit Vougeots

Always a firmer, more structured wine, this year it is full of bright energy, with aromatic red fruit, a stab of mineral heat and some chocolaty tannins that harden a little towards the pure precise finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2029</i>		£558
---	--	------

Morey-Saint-Denis, Clos Solon

There is perfumed, red cherry fruit, silky and fresh, and a bit of a brambly edge too, kept taut by a pleasantly bitter mineral finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£252
--	--	------

Chambolle-Musigny

A knot of fine red cherry fruit lies at the core here, accompanied by a fresh saline edge. It is forward, relaxed and very well defined. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£252
---	--	------

Fourrier (cont.)

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Chambolle-Musigny 1er cru, Les Gruenchers

A more mineral-driven wine than the <i>village</i> , this has perfumed silky cherry and strawberry fruit, delicately wrought tannins and a pure, precise finish. <i>Drink 2022 - 2031</i>		£558
---	--	------

Gevrey-Chambertin 1er cru, Les Cherbaudes

Densely planted vines from the 1940s give a fine weave of ripe rounded sour cherry and redcurrant, balancing supple tannins and a melting quality surprising for such clay-rich soils. The finish is long, sweet and dense. <i>Drink 2022 - 2031</i>		£518
--	--	------

Gevrey-Chambertin 1er cru, Les Goulots

The most angular and mineral of the 1er crus, due to its position in poor stony soil at the top of the slope just underneath the woods. There is subtle power, lovely juicy black fruit shaded with spice, ripe tannins and a vibrant mineral streak, plus a long and complex finish. <i>Drink 2022 - 2032</i>		£558
--	--	------

Gevrey-Chambertin 1er cru, La Combe-aux-Moines

The vines sit on the site of an old quarry, surrounded by rocks, which store heat during the day that they release at night. Consequently, there is never a problem ripening the fruit, and there is always a broad, rich roundness to the wine. This year is no exception, but the vibrant acidity and well defined stony mineral elements give depth and precision. <i>Drink 2023 - 2032</i>		£558
--	--	------

DOMAINE Geantet-Pansiot

Fabien and Vincent Geantet make superb and unjustly overlooked wines: they taste extremely well young and have a great capacity to age. A new *cuvée* has enabled them to become more flexible in their winemaking and maturation, resulting in wines that reflect their origins more precisely. Bottling used to be very early, as they needed the space in the cellar; now the wines are given more time in cask.

Fabien was delighted with his vintage. The fruit was ripe, and the wines are approachable, with soft tannins and good freshness – this despite a later harvest than other growers.

Case price per 6
bottles in bond

Gevrey-Chambertin

A seductive and elegant wine with energy and freshness: the fruit is black and spicy, the tannins supple, and there is a lightness on the smooth finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£180
---	--	------

Gevrey-Chambertin, Vieilles Vignes

The domaine's flagship wine, from seven hectares, where the average age of the vines is seventy-five. This is dense and powerful, with rich ripe tannins, vibrant black fruit and a creamy finely wrought minerality on the long finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2030</i>		£255
---	--	------

Gevrey-Chambertin, En Champs

Vines planted in 1903 on rocky clay soils give a very fine, rich wine. Unsurprisingly, it is dense and concentrated, but there is a no trace of weight, as the dark black fruit is very juicy and fresh, and there is a seamless feel to the long finish. <i>Drink 2023 - 2033</i>		£294
--	--	------

Chambolle-Musigny, Vieilles Vignes

Old vines with tiny yields give a dense wine that has silky floral notes, lots of dark fruit and a crystalline minerality, finishing on a long elegant note. <i>Drink 2021 - 2030</i>		£264
---	--	------

Gevrey-Chambertin 1er cru, Le Poissenot

Poissenot is a narrow strip of vineyard at the top of the hill, between the Lavaut-Saint-Jacques and the treeline, giving mineral-driven, angular wines that have lightness and freshness even in very ripe years. This has black fruit with notes of smoke and jasmine, huge reserves of energy, chocolaty tannins and a lifted vibrant finish full of a stony heat. <i>Drink 2022 - 2033</i>		£396
<i>Drink 2025 - 2037</i>	3 Magnums	£402

Charmes-Chambertin

The cellar was cold. A snowstorm blew outside. My feet were freezing. And then I tasted this elegant, refined wine, with its poise, energy and freshness, and the world's petty problems faded: it bursts with black cherry fruit, and there are silky chocolate tannins and a seamlessly smooth mineral finish. <i>Drink 2023 - 2035</i>		£696
<i>Drink 2026 - 2039</i>	3 Magnums	£702

Notes

1. All wines are offered subject to remaining unsold.
2. All prices are in bond London.
3. Wines can be ordered by the case only.
4. The wines of certain domaines may not be exported from the UK. Please contact us for details.
5. Shipment of 2017s will be in Winter/Spring 2020. Customers will be informed of the arrival of their wines in the UK.
6. This list cancels all previous lists.

Full terms and conditions are available on our website www.howardripley.com

This list and its contents are © Howard Ripley Limited.
E. & O.E. January 2019.