

# Burgundy-Report

December 2019 Report / Published on January 29th, 2020



Bill NANSON

## Albert Bichot - 2018

### The wines...

*Very good whites. The reds here have an uncommon sophistication for the vintage – nothing opaque or alcoholic. It's a great return I think! "I think it was easier in 2018 than 2019, the lower volume of 2019 further magnifies the differences in maturities and harvesting/elevage choices."*

*One or two of the entry wines have been bottled, the rest are a mix of barrel and tank samples:*

### The whites

#### 2018 Macon-Lugny Les Charmes

A pretty sweetness to this nose, slightly muscaté. Mouth-filling a subtle impression of richness, but also a saline mineral impression that brings balance.



#### 2018 Bourgogne Côte d'Or Chardonnay Secret de Famille

Fresh, wide, a little spicy, perhaps reductive, less obviously fruity. This is rather mineral and beautifully shaped – yes a little touch of savoury reduction. Carafe for a really delicious Bourgogne!

#### 2018 Mercurey Les Champs-Michaux, Domaine Adélie

Deeper, some biscuit reduction, but a very fine mineral shape. Full, energetic, complex – what a great mouthful of wine! Delicious pineapple and minerality. Great Mercurey Blanc!



#### 2018 Nuits Saint Georges Les Terrasses Château-Gris

Again a faint whiff of savoury reduction – it's not the corks, these are tank samples. Nice shape and super energy in the mouth – a little more clarity and energy after the Mercurey – more intensity of agrume-styled flavour. Delicious finishing too! Yes!



#### 2018 Meursault, Domaine du Pavillon

This smells a little of the fining, dulling the aroma a little. But there's an energy and open freshness across the palate – that's mouth-watering and delicious. This will be excellent!

#### 2018 Meursault 1er Cru Les Charmes, Domaine du Pavillon

More depth of aroma here, riper citrus fruit but with energy too. Hmm, that's fine – its mouth-filling but very open slightly spiced complexity here. Melting over the palate, a grain of tannin always present. It's a great year for Charmes I think and here is a slightly different interpretation – super wine – probably carafe to get the best from this. As a minimum, excellent!

#### 2018 Beaune 1er Cru Clos des Mouches, Domaine du Pavillon

A touch of cushioning to fresh, slightly mineral, comforting fruit. Super in the mouth – ultra-mineral, mouth-watering and complex. That's really something. Bravo! Touched, by a suggestion of barrel today, but it's obviously great wine!

#### 2018 Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru, Domaine du Pavillon

Hmm, a silky depth of mineral aroma, a suggestion of caramel too. Lots of mouth-filling volume here – silkier wine too – the grain of tannin less visible than for the last 2 but there is still something here. Intense – wide, melting flavour long flavour that's a super Charlemagne.

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## The reds

### **2018 Moulin-à-Vent, Domaine de Rochegrès**

*Not bottled.*

An easy and wide nose with tighter depth. Nice shape in the mouth, clearly gamay, with layers of acid-led flavour. Really deliciously, finishing with a fine blend of clarity and complexity – lovely here.

### **2018 Moulin-à-Vent Rochegrès, Domaine de Rochegrès**

Hmm, a more floral and perfumed aroma here, fine minerality at the base. Beautiful extra volume but clarity too – this is gorgeous in the mouth – a clarion of deliciousness but with proper open structure too – bravo – and again great finishing!

### **2018 Bourgogne Côte d'Or Pinot Noir Secret de Famille**

Hmm, this, to start, seems a little harder than the Rochegrès, but slowly opens with some attractive violet flowers over a more savoury depth. Fine width and shape – there is freshness and a lovely ripe but fresh liqueur fruit in the middle – this is an attractive 18 Bourgogne nothing here out of balance – carafe – it's excellent.

### **2018 Mercurey 1er Cru Champs Martin, Domaine Adélie**

Plenty of colour – still a waft of creamy oak on this nose. Quite full but layered and delicious. This sample has far too much oak for today – but the shape, balance and concentration are excellent...

### **2018 Pommard Clos des Ursulines, Domaine du Pavillon**

Hmm, that's a fine nose – of amplitude, depth and enticing perfume. Fine texture and mouth-filling volume. Deliciously finishing – bravo – top villages Pommard.

### **2018 Pommard 1er Cru Les Rugiens, Domaine du Pavillon**

More freshness – a more vertical (up and down) nose – super, slightly spiced, but the villages is the more inviting today. More open, more structural but the tannin is modest – this has great open shape – architecture – super finishing complexity – mouth-watering all the way. A great finish!

### **2018 Aloxe-Corton 1er Cru Clos des Maréchaudes, Domaine du Pavillon**

A more powerful nose, some floral aspects too – nicely presented. Nice drive and energy but a rather wide presentation too – not so sweet either for an Aloxe in 2018. Fine finishing – delicious.

### **2018 Corton Grand Cru Clos des Maréchaudes, Domaine du Pavillon**

A narrower but deep nose, subtly floral and more obviously complex and inviting. Mouth-filling but in a well-judged way, slowly, slowly developing complexity and a more mouth-watering middle and finishing flavour. Not a bit overdone, some practically grain-free tannin. A great and open finish – great Corton.

### **2018 Fixin 1er Cru Clos de la Perrière**

A waft, indeed a raft of oak – not quite to the level of the Mercurey – but redolent! Very fine shape in the mouth – a little less in all directions after the Corton – of course – but layered, open and really beautifully constructed. This is great Fixin – hopefully, the assemblage will be less oaked – anyway it will last very well.

### **2018 Morey Saint Denis 1er Cru Les Sorbets**

Hmm, that's a fine, open, fresh and complex nose – faintly spiced complexity – a great invitation. Round, supple, a lovely fresh and wide wave of flavour flowing over the palate. Lovely texture too. Wide finishing – classy, delicious wine! Bravo!



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## 2018 Nuits Saint Georges 1er Cru Chaines Carteaux

Fresh and deep – some creamy oak – but less than the others that are affected. This has cool fruit and drive – a bubbling undercurrent of energy and slowly growing intensity. Excellent!

## 2018 Nuits Saint Georges 1er Cru Château-Gris

Aromas of nice depth, a little narrower than the ‘Chaines.’ Fuller but open in style – architectural – a little like the Fixin today – but here with more impact. Really a fuller finish – quite some power here in the finish. Very nice.

## 2018 Chambolle-Musigny 1er Cru Les Chabiots

Plenty of aromatic volume – quite attractive too. Actually this has nice freshness and an airy style despite the obvious volume in the mouth. Truly an elegant and enticing 2018 Chambolle!

## 2018 Vosne-Romanée, Domaine du Clos Frantin

Hmm – now that’s an attractive perfume! Mouth-filling, not too much. Mobile complex, changing over the palate. Lovely villages, correct, mouth-watering complexity – delicious!

## 2018 Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru Les Malconsorts, Domaine du Clos Frantin

Less depth of aroma but much more width and complexity. More zip of freshness and energy – ooh this is a bundle of energy. Dynamic, complex – brilliant finishing – bravo!

## 2018 Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru, Domaine du Clos Frantin

A fine herb and floral top note – deep too – less width – a vertical high and low nose. Fresh, open, complex, fine energy, proper but not daunting structure. I love my wine like this – so intense and mouth-watering in the finish. Bravo!

## 2018 Echézeaux Grand Cru, Domaine du Clos Frantin

A little more colour but still clear at the rim. A deep, deep nose but freshly floral above. Fuller, but actually freshly mineral too. Very wide, slow waves of mouth-watering flavour in the finish – a different beast. Super.

## 2018 Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru

A nice volume of aroma, and of attractive freshness within. Full, but depth of finely concentrated texture – energy and fine fruit – juicily delicious. Very long. Another Charmes of character in 2018! Excellent.

## 2018 Clos de la Roche Grand Cru

Plenty of colour but again clear at the rim. An extra freshness – indeed clarity, of complexity – deep, not so wide – hyper-attractive and adding further floral references. This is mouth-watering, mineral, and a touch saline. Easy energy over the palate, fine finishing intensity too – slowly fading here. Lovely wine.

## 2018 Chambertin, Domaine du Clos Frantin

Hmm – the most perfumed nose of all – super. Supple, deep, mouth-filling wine – always mouth-watering, touched by a little oak, but just an anecdote. Mouth-wateringly long, impressive weight to this finishing flavour too. Great wine!

