

STONE, VINE & SUN

WINE MERCHANTS

# Burgundy 2018 *en primeur*

Stone, Vine & Sun

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**How sales 'en primeur' work.** You choose the wines you want to buy now and we will invoice you at the prices quoted. Effectively you are buying the wine overseas, often before it has been bottled. We will then invoice you for duty at the prevailing rate (currently £26.78 per 12 bottles but it is likely to change in the spring budget), plus VAT (currently 20%), on the cost of the wine and the duty, when it is shipped from the late spring of 2020 onwards. As an example, if you buy a case of wine now for £120.00, then assuming import duty and VAT remains the same (unlikely!) we invoice you for £56.14 prior to sending you your wine. Prices are valid until the end of March 2020.

**Terms and conditions.** Wine is only offered in unsplit cases of 12 bottles or 6 magnums unless otherwise stated. **Please note that wine will NOT be available for delivery in bond.** To enable us to be as competitive as possible we ship all wine to our own warehouse, duty paid. We will then deliver it on to you or to your preferred place of storage at our standard delivery charge of £5.95 per case for orders under £150, or free above £150 (including the duty and VAT). For Highlands, Islands and Northern Ireland please ask us for a quote. Finally, whilst we make every effort to supply the wines listed below, if the wines fail to be made available by the producer, we will either offer to supply similar wines or alternatively refund any payments made.

# 2018 Burgundy En Primeur

## The Weather

Following on from good yields in 2017, 2018 saw another generous harvest. The general mood amongst growers was very upbeat, announcing a vintage of both quality and quantity. François Lequin of Lequin-Colin wished he could have every year like 2018!

After a very wet winter which filled up the water table, the weather started to improve and January through to March saw above average temperatures with sunny days interspersed with heavy downpours. Warm weather arrived in early May to see early and successful flowering. The summer was hot and dry but saw no extreme heat spikes. There were also occasional showers which helped refresh the vines, and cool nights were also good for the grapes. Thankfully the majority of the Côte d'Or avoided the dreaded *grêle* (hail); although just south of Nuits St Georges saw two storms in late June/early July.

Harvest started early, from late August through to early September, with some growers only picking in the morning to avoid the heat of the afternoon. The general consensus among growers was the earlier you picked, the fresher the wines with better acidity levels. There were very few *pigeages* (pumping down) to avoid extracting too much juice as the sugar levels were comfortably high and more *remontage* (pumping over). 2018 was the second hottest year this century (after 2019), with 2003 being the third. However, it didn't have the extremes of high temperatures seen in 2003 and the vines had the benefit of good groundwater after the winter rain to draw on in the summer.

## The Wines

2018 is another fruitful year following on from four successful vintages. In terms of comparables it's probably in line with 2015 and 2009, both years which produced ripe, pleasure-giving and ageworthy reds but also delicious, forward whites. The whites were on the whole very consistent and have a lovely balance of fruit and freshness with mineral characteristics and good acidity. The key to the good acidity was picking early: the wines suffered if the grapes were picked too late, resulting in flabbiness. Among the reds there is great ripeness of fruit and depth of colour, with fine tannins but also evident freshness of fruit (in contrast to 2003 for example). It's a year when the lower-priced wines at Bourgogne and Villages level are especially worth looking out for, as the ripeness of fruit shines through so well. They will be a pleasure to drink early and for the next few years, and we will be filling our boots this year. The more serious reds, 1er and Grand Cru, will develop over time and have the potential to be great wines.

## Prices and Availability

As mentioned above, the yields were very good so availability should not be a problem, despite high worldwide demand for Burgundy. By contrast we know 2019 was a very small crop, so higher prices are in the pipeline. Of course we would say this but it appears to make sense to stock up on these lovely 2018s, especially as prices are flat (or even slightly down) on last year

Alistair Lacy - December 2019



# *2018 Burgundy Tasting*

## *(& Hoddles Creek)*

**Monday 13th January 6.00pm-8.30pm**

The Courtyard (Ground floor),  
The Guildhall, Winchester, SO23 9GH

Join us at the Guildhall for our biggest ever showcase of the 2018 vintage in Burgundy. Whilst the tasting will feature most of the wines in this offer, highlights will be:

- Thiébault will be presenting his beautiful, biodynamic wines from Domaine Huber-Verdereau.
- The amazing range of Domaine Faiveley - from monopoles in the Côte Chalonnaise to their famous 1er and Grand Crus from the Côte de Nuits - plus 1er and Grand Cru wines from their estate in Chablis, Billaud-Simon.
- Beyond Burgundy - the Australian (but wholly Burgundian!) Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs of Wickhams Road in Gippsland and Hoddles Creek in the Yarra Valley.

Join us at the Guildhall for our biggest ever showcase of the vintage in Burgundy. We will be charging £15 a head for the tasting. All the wines will be available en primeur (shipped at a later date with a great discount on future list prices). **Booking your place is essential.** Please let us know if you are planning to attend, by calling us on 01962 712351 or via email to [sales@stonevine.co.uk](mailto:sales@stonevine.co.uk)



# Côte de Nuits

## **Domaine Fourrier, Gevrey-Chambertin & Sylvain Cathiard, Vosne-Romanée**

We will receive an allocation from both Jean-Marie Fourrier and Sylvain Cathiard. Please register your interest if you want to hear from us later this year when we will be allocating them.

## **Domaine Faiveley, Nuits-Saint-Georges**

Domaine Faiveley is one of the real movers and shakers in Burgundy now. Established in 1825, this family owned domaine is controlled by seventh generation Erwan Faiveley. Continuing to acquire some highly sought after plots, Faiveley is one of the grandest vineyard holders in Burgundy, producing an extraordinary array of wines.

Under Erwan the domaine has been completely transformed: in terms of infrastructure with the construction of an impressive winery in Nuits-Saint-Georges; and in winemaking with the appointment of Jérôme Flous. Jérôme has quietly changed the whole profile of the reds from long term keepers, which could be closed

when young, to wines which give great pleasure in their youth as well. This great domaine has changed its standing, making wines which attract great reviews and which seem to improve every year. Whilst we were first drawn to Faiveley by the sheer elegance of their whites, our admiration for the reds has grown. The reds see a high proportion of new oak barrels - 50% for the Grand Crus - so do demand time before opening. Patience will be rewarded though as the top wines are magnificent at 15 years old.

Certain wines are labelled as Joseph Faiveley rather than Domaine Faiveley. This is to mark vineyards not actually owned by the family. However, as the vineyards are rented on long-term contracts and both viticulture and wine making are by the same team, the quality of the wines is equally high.



## **White**

### **Rully, Les Villeranges**

Case £147.00 Code FAJ418

This wine has become more serious in recent vintages: half is now barrel-fermented and aged in barrel (10% new), giving honeyed notes to the appealingly lemony-fresh fruit. Regular *bâtonnage* (lees stirring) gives enhanced texture too. Forward and enticing - no need to wait. Now-2023

### **Mercurey, Clos Rochette**

Case £164.00 Code FAJ118

Wholly owned by the family since 1933, a stony and rocky vineyard, hence the name. About 55% in oak, 25% new. This wine always shows an attractive mealiness and richness, but particularly so in a hot vintage like 2018. Late 2020-2023

### **Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Champ Gain**

Case of 6 bottles £273.00 Code FAJ318

Creamy nose. Well-rounded palate, full-flavoured and complete. Very open - already delivers. 2021-2027

### **Meursault 1er Cru Les Charmes**

(Joseph Faiveley - see above)

Case of 6 bottles £348.00 Code FAJ218

Les Charmes borders the village of Puligny, but this is very much a typical Meursault in its opulence. Lovely nose of white flower and honey. Exciting bittersweet attack; very fat, nutty but also racy. Superb; perfect balance and will age. 2022-2028

## **Red**

### **Mercurey, La Framboisière**

Case £191.00 Code FAJ618

Climate change is good for the Pinot vineyards in the Côte Chalonnaise: this is the ripest, most exuberant vintage we have ever tasted from the Framboisière vineyard, a 10 hectare plot solely owned by Faiveley. High average vine age gives real substance too. All in barrel, about 20% new. Offering “confit” red fruit with a lick of sweet oak, this will make charming drinking over the next few years. Late 2020-2023

## **Chambolle-Musigny**

Case £408.00 Code FAJ518

(Joseph Faiveley - see above)

We have not shipped this wine before, but it seemed very harmonious this vintage: intense and distinguished by a lovely crunchy, red-berried character. Classy. 2021-2025

## **Chambolle-Musigny 1er Cru, Aux Beaux Bruns**

(Joseph Faiveley - see above)

Case of 6 bottles £324.00 Code FAJ818

Again, a new wine to us, but from a well-known site (think Barthod, Mortet etc.) near the centre of the village. Beautiful strawberry nose - consistent with a really pure, fresh and ripe mid palate. Very poised, should keep well. 2022-2029

## **Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru, Les Cazetiers**

Case of 6 bottles £348.00 Code: FAJ718

Case of 3 Magnums £354.00 Code: FAJ718MAG

Les Cazetiers has a distinguished position, sitting high on the slope above the village between the two of the greatest 1er Crus in Gevrey, Clos St-Jacques and Combe aux Moines. Faiveley own about half the vineyard and this wine is always a banker in their cellar, ageing comfortably over 15+ years. Raspberry coulis attack, with old-vine density of fruit. Terrific this year - the staff want to buy some once they win the lottery. 2024-2035+

## **Corton, Clos des Cortons Faiveley, Grand Cru**

Case of 6 bottles £690.00 Code FAJ918

Case of 3 Magnums £695.00 Code FAJ918M

From a 3 hectare vineyard at the Ladoix end of the hill wholly owned by the family since 1874. The family call it their flagship wine, although it's more modestly priced than the Grand Crus of the Côte de Nuits. Deeply coloured, almost opaque. Brooding nose of forest fruits and spice. This appears wonderful in its youth, so intensely and sharply red-fruited, with great depth and a long, long finish. A great Corton. 2025-2035+

## **Mazis Chambertin, Grand Cru**

Case of 6 bottles £864.00 Code FAJ018

Case of 3 Magnums £870.00 Code FAJ018M

We tasted nine grand Crus from the Côte de Nuits chez Faiveley - and this one was arguably the most impressive. Very high average vine age in this northernmost Grand Cru in the Côte de Nuits, some planted between 1930 and 1945, delivers fruit of amazing concentration. From new barrel. Deep colour, brooding smoky nose, great power and depth of fruit - but lush and seductive too. 2025-2040

# Côte de Beaune

## Agnès Paquet, Meloisey

This will be our sixth vintage from Agnès Paquet. Most of her vines lie in the Auxey-Duresses appellation, and it is here that she is carving a reputation for consistently producing wine of value and quality. Her white has attracted favourable reviews in both Decanter magazine and jancisrobinson.com in the last few years. The house style here is to let the wine express itself without too much intervention in the cellar: whole bunch pressing and no lees stirring in order to achieve wines with a linear structure. Agnes's St Aubin always shows backbone and purity. All wines here were tasted from tank prior to bottling.



The price of Auxey-Duresses may increase soon, in a process not dissimilar to Saint-Aubin: i.e. it's a source of mildly underpriced white wine in an appellation adjoining a famous neighbour, Saint-Aubin next to Chassagne and Auxey-Duresses just above Meursault.

## Auxey-Duresses Blanc

Case £210.00 Code PAQ218

From the oldest plot of vines on the estate, averaging 85 years of age. Matured in oak for 12 months, 15% new. Tank sample. Green-gold, citrus fruits with refreshing acidity and fruit concentration. A fine Auxey. 2020-2025

## Saint-Aubin Blanc 1er Cru, Les Perrières

Case £318.00 Code PAQ318

The name of this 1er cru comes from *pierres* for stone in French; lying on an old quarry, the soil is very calcareous. 12 months in oak, 30% new. Fragrant nose with a fine palate of crisp green apple, lemon notes and a long finish. 2021-2028

## Auxey-Duresses Rouge

Case £210.00 Code PAQ618

From two parcels, one of 50 years of age and one planted in 2000. Matured in oak for 12 months, 15% new. Pretty nose of red cherries; vibrant, juicy ripeness of fruit shows through with supple tannins. 2021- 2027

## **Domaine Jean Guiton, Bligny Les Beaune**

Since Guillaume Guiton took over the family domaine in 2005 he has hugely increased quality. He believes in minimal intervention, uses indigenous yeast, doesn't fine his reds and only gives a gentle filtration to the first two wines in this selection. His motto is that a wine should be balanced from the start - this makes selection a very difficult process when tasting in his cellar! The Bourgogne red has been upgraded and given the new Côte d'Or name - so as to differentiate it from inferior wine coming from wider Burgundy. It looks rather smart on the label too.



### **Bourgogne Côte d'Or Pinot Noir**

Case £126.00 Code GUI118

From four parcels, two in Bligny and two between Bligny and Pommard, given 12 months in barrel, second or third fill. Good depth of colour. Strawberry nose, ripe sweetness of fruit, good concentration and soft tannins. This is already quite open, and will give immediate pleasure. Now-2023

### **Savigny Les Beaune**

Case £180.00 Code GUI218

From plots in Les Saucours and Les Fourneaux. Aged in oak for 12 months, 20% new. Perfumed sweet black fruit. Ripe with good freshness of fruit and soft tannins. 2021-2027

### **Savigny Les Beaune 1er Cru, Les Hauts Jarrons**

Case £222.00 Code GUI318

From old vines first planted 60 years ago on a well-drained steep slope, east-facing and very close to Beaune, this is given 14 months in barrel, about 25% new. Again very good depth of colour - this almost looks like a Syrah! Expressive, aromatic nose; impressive intensity of black cherries; and a long finish with silky tannins. 2021-2028

### **Beaune 1er Cru, Les Sizies**

Case £246.00 Code GUI518

From a small south-east facing plot, on limestone and clay. Sweet nose of black cherries, spice. Ripe red fruits on palate, rich with a good backing of tannins. We always think this wine offers good value. 2022-2029

## **Volnay, Les Petits Poisots**

Case £258.00 Code GUI718

From soils with a high proportion of clay, this is always rich and opulent. Aromatic nose of violets and black fruit. Big mouthful, well-structured with black cherries, correct tannins and persistence: a keeper. 2024-2032

## **Pommard**

Case £306.00 Code GUI918

From three plots - Rue au Port, En Mareau and Les Vignots - situated on either side of the village with different soil and exposure, conferring a distinctive complexity. Pretty nose of red fruits. Generous, juicy fruit; elegantly made and approachable. 2022-2030

## **Domaine Huber-Verdereau, Meursault**

We introduced Thiébault Verdereau's wines to the British market last year. They were highly praised by Jancis Robinson, who featured him in a long article on her site and effectively made him winemaker of the week on her round-up of 2017 Burgundy last January, applauding in particular the "excellent value" his wines offered. To our pleasure and surprise no other merchant has picked him up, so we continue to be his sole importer.

I was eagerly looking forward to tasting his 2018s. I am pleased to say they did not disappoint.

Thiébault's first vintage at Domaine Huber-Verdereau was in 1994. He was always driven to work in the vines as naturally as possible and began working organically to achieve certification in 2001. Wanting to go further he began working with the late Pierre Masson, one of the most respected figures in biodynamic agriculture, and by 2005 his whole estate was certified biodynamic. After a few years juggling between his small house in Volnay and another two rented ones, Thiébault decided to buy a plot in 2010 to build a winery in Meursault; his first vintage there was 2016 and his estate now covers 9 hectares.

In terms of work in the cellar, Thiébault has a gentle touch, using 350 and 500 litre barrels, minimum sulphur and no lees stirring. He vinifies and bottles wines coming from each parcel separately, to try and express each *terroir*. His whites are precise and his reds are wonderful expressions of Pinot Noir, showing lovely red fruit and silky texture. All the wines below are certified organic and biodynamic. His goal is to preserve the essence of each plot and believes organic and biodynamic practice is the best way to achieve that.



## **White**

### **Bourgogne Blanc, Pré aux dames**

Case £168.00 Code HUB118

We (and Jancis Robinson) really liked the 2017 so we sold out of the previous vintage very quickly: this year we have more to sell. Picked early on 30th August; raised on lees in 500 and 350l barrels. Expressive and aromatic on the nose, rich with citrus notes and good acidity. 2020-2024

### **Meursault, “En Dressolles”**

Case £348.00 Code HUB218

From vines planted in 1957, raised in 228 litres *pièces*, a third new. Vanilla and hazelnuts on the nose. Rich and broad palate with citrus notes, creamy, with fine underpinning acidity and great length. 2021-2026

## **Red**

### **Bourgogne Côte d’Or Pinot Noir, Les Constances**

Case £144.00 Code HUB318

A new wine for us, from two parcels. Fragrant nose of strawberries. Sappy red fruit on the palate. Great purity and freshness, a lovely Bourgogne Rouge. Now-2024

### **Monthélie, “Combe Danay”**

Case £204.00 Code HUB618

From vines planted in 1981. The plot is quite exposed, so colder and therefore later ripening. Aromatic nose of cherry and vanilla. Lush ripe fruit, well integrated tannins, lovely length. A very elegant Monthélie with enough structure to age. 2021-2026

### **Pommard Les Vaumuriens Hauts**

Case £288.00 Code HUB418

A new wine for us. Les Vaumuriens Hauts is a lieu dit which lies across the road from the grand 1er Cru Rugiens. 15% in new oak, 100% destemmed. Plum and cherry on the nose. Lovely purity of fruit, great depth of flavour and well-structured. Very complete and harmonious. 2022-2028

### **Volnay 1er Cru, Les Fremiets**

Case of 6 bottles £228.00 Code HUB818

From a very small parcel of vines planted in 1984 in this sought after 1er cru, “*un terroir très solaire*”, sheltered and which attracts the morning sun. The soil is orange here, rich in iron oxide. Deep ruby red. Highly perfumed nose - classic Volnay character. Rich, concentrated fruit and tannins. Expansive finish - great promise. 2022-2030

## **Françoise & Denis Clair, Santenay**

Jean-Baptiste is now solely in charge of the domaine created by the late Denis Clair. He has always been more technically minded than his father and the wines have gradually reflected his growing influence in the cellar over the years. The domaine has 15 hectares producing about 2/3 red wine and 1/3 white in the appellations of Santenay and Saint-Aubin. They both represent great value in the Côte de Beaune. The domaine is one of few still offering red Saint-Aubin, and Jean-Baptiste is so far resisting the temptation to convert his land to Chardonnay, which would offer larger yields and higher prices.



### **White**

#### **Santenay Blanc**

Case £183.00 Code CLB118

Little white Santenay is made but it is becoming increasingly popular amongst drinkers seeking a generous and not too expensive Côte de Beaune; here the clay soils give real body. Citrus fruit with a nutty richness and weight. Good acidity. 2020-2025

#### **Saint-Aubin Blanc**

Case £189.00 Code CLB218

From a very calcareous site, and given 10-15% new oak. Bright citrus fruit, stony, a fresh and classic style of Saint-Aubin. 2020-2025

#### **Saint-Aubin Blanc 1er Cru, Sous Roche Dumay**

Case £249.00 Code CLB518

Sous Roche Dumay is well sited, and Jean-Baptiste's vines actually border Murgers des Dents de Chien. Rich and taut, with an underlying fatness with ripeness of fruit and minerality. 2020-2024

#### **Saint-Aubin Blanc 1er Cru, Les Murgers des Dents de Chien**

Case £306.00 Code CLB418

Sited on the rocky slopes above the Montrachets, this is rightly considered one of the two top Premier Crus in the village. Green-gold, citrus fruits with refreshing acidity and fruit concentration, focused and racy. Long length. 2021-2030

## **Red**

### **Hautes Côtes de Beaune Rouge**

Case £123.00 Code CLB618

An appellation which, with climate change, has become a source of great value Pinot in warmer vintages. Inky red, aromatic nose, rich palate of red fruits, supple tannins. Really worth stocking up on at this price. 2020-2025

### **St Aubin Rouge 1er Cru, Sur Le Sentier du Clou**

Case £183.00 Code CLB818

A southern-facing parcel located above the village in the middle of the slope from 45 year old vines. Deep ruby red. Spice and black cherry on nose. Well-structured with rich rounded fruit with dusty tannins and a good length. 2022-2030

### **René Lequin-Colin, Santenay**

We work principally with Francois Lequin's white wines from an amazing range of vineyards -: Bourgogne Chardonnay to Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru - assembled by a marriage between a Santenay Lequin and a Chassagne Colin. Francois's wines offer wonderful value right across the range (at least from us - one other London importer has much fancier aspirations!). Both the Bourgogne Chardonnay Back to the Roots 2016 and his Bourgogne Pinot Noir 2015 were featured twice by Jancis Robinson MW in the Financial Times weekend magazine last year; first in an article about seeking value in Burgundy and again as festive wines in December.



Although not shown on the label (François chooses not to use organic cultivation as a marketing tool), all the wines are organically certified.

## **White**

### **Bourgogne Chardonnay**

Case £102.00 Code LEQ818

From fruit grown in vineyards close to his home village of Santenay, this is fermented 50% in tank and 50% in barrel, with 10% new oak, bottled under screw cap. Our go-to white Burgundy: citrusy with hints of almonds; ripe and generous fruit. Now-2024

## **Bourgogne Chardonnay Back to the Roots**

Case £132.00 Code LEQ518

100% barrel fermented, with 10% new oak; and given regular lees stirring to develop texture and breadth. Open, clean and delicately perfumed, with a palate of creamy, ripe citrus. Always very good value. Late 2020-2025

## **Chassagne-Montrachet, Les Charrières**

Case £264.00 Code LEQ118

The fruit comes from very old, low yielding vines located 100 metres below the Batard-Montrachet Grand Cru; around 25% new oak is used. The result is a elegant wine with floral notes, stone fruit and generous on the finish - but also considerable concentration and poise. 2020-2027

## **Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru, Les Caillerets**

Case of 6 bottles £186.00 Code LEQ318

The name of this 1er cru originates from “*cailloux*”; its calcareous soil is full of stones and known to produce wine with a steely elegance. Fragrant nose, well integrated palate of lemon and stone fruits, a touch toasty. This is a classy Chassagne; already quite open but will age well. 2020-2027

## **Corton Charlemagne Grand Cru**

Case of 6 bottles £348.00 Code LEQ018

From the south facing *lieu dit* Languettes. Brooding and aromatic nose. Penetratingly intense fruit with marked concentration; well-structured and needs time. Beautiful wine. 2023-2033

## **Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru**

Case of 6 bottles £675.00 Code LEQ918

From one of the most famous plots of white wine in the world. Only 750 bottles made. A more open nose, honeyed with tropical fruit coming through. Multi-layered on palate, minerality shows through, very pure fruit with fatness there balanced by sparkling acidity. Very long and perfumed finish. 2025-2035

## **Red**

## **Bourgogne Pinot Noir**

Case £102.00 Code LEQ618

All the wine goes into barrel but only 10% new. Bottled under screw cap, this wine is all about fruit. Deep ruby red, ripe black cherry. Lots of ripe lush fruit, soft tannins, so rounded for a Bourgogne Pinot Noir. Great value. 2020-2025

## **Santenay Rouge, 1er Cru, La Comme**

Case £168.00 Code LEQ718

From a very well-sited south-east facing 1er Cru on the border with Chassagne-Montrachet. Again deep ruby red, almost opaque. More black fruit on the nose, sappy and rich with a good coating of tannins. Will age well. Again it's very good value. 2021-2028

## **Mâconnais**

### **Domaine Sainte Barbe, Viré**

We have been working with Jean-Marie Chaland's family since the 2002 vintage, selling his Mâcon-Villages and Viré-Clessé to good homes and discerning sommeliers. The Mâconnais can be the source of the best value whites in Burgundy and the wines from both estates featured in this list should be enjoyed by our customers for their generosity and balance.



Balance is the key. It is not difficult to ripen grapes in this southern zone of Burgundy but it is an art to deliver wines with freshness and poise. Jean-Marie is a young, determined winemaker tending just over 9 hectares of vines on 23 plots clustered around Viré and Montbellet. All the wines have been organically certified since 2003 and furthermore, all vines are tended biodynamically without certification. The differences in specifications between the two main certification organisations Demeter and Biodyvin are proving a stumbling block for him, and he is perfectly happy to follow the principles without undergoing the herculean task of certification.

Notable here is the age of the vines, with 75% between 50 and 100 years old. Undoubtedly this shows in the quality and lovely texture of his wines. We offer what we consider our top of the range Mâcon-Villages, and two Viré-Clessés.

### **Mâcon-Villages, Les Tilles**

Case £111.00 Code SAB118

From a small, half a hectare parcel, on clay and limestone planted in the late 1960s. Bright citrus nose, with sappy fruit and a good balance of acidity. In a fresher style this vintage; and a giant step up from the thin watery offerings so often now seen in the supermarkets. 2020-2025

## **Viré-Clessé, Les Chazelles, Vieilles Vignes**

Case £126.00 Code CHZ118

From a two hectare sheltered plot on limestone, with vines between 50 and 100 years old including 30% of Chardonnay Musqué, a clone found in the Mâconnais responsible for its inimitable aromatic style. Honeyed nose, fresh ripe fruit, citrus and apple, with good structure and poise. 2021-2026

## **Viré-Clessé, Thurissey**

Case £186.00 Code SAB218

A new wine for us and we couldn't resist buying it; only 2,500 bottles each year from 95 year old vines on a plot north of Viré-Clessé. Ageing on lees in five year old barrels. Apricot on nose ; then a rounded, broad palate, exhibiting that lovely creaminess you get from a Viré-Clessé, with vibrant acidity and splendid length. 2021-2028

## **Domaine Saumaize-Michelin, Vergisson**

Roger Saumaize is at the top of the hierarchy in the southern Mâconnais and his wines always show a perfect balance of generous ripe fruit, well-integrated oak and stimulating minerality. He is a great enthusiast of biodynamic viticulture (without certification) and maybe here, more than anywhere else, one notices the extra freshness and energy this practice promises. Local wine growers are waiting to hear which *Lieux Dits* of Pouilly-Fuisse will gain premier cru status; a long overdue process already ongoing for 10 years!



## **Saint-Véran**

Case £130.00-£135.00 (TBC) Code SAU818

Green citrus leads on to a well-balanced, taut and silky palate. Lovely balance of fruit and good acidity. Finishes well. Barrel-fermented - so a qualitative difference between this and generic tank Saint-Véran. 2020-2025

## **Pouilly-Fuissé, Pentacrine**

Case: £180.00-£190.00 (TBC) Code SAU718

Named after the 5-sided marine fossils found locally, this wine is selected from several parcels across the estate and raised mainly in larger 600 litre *demi-muid*. Ripe citrus fruits, minerality, a more linear focused style. Well balanced. 2021-2027

## **Pouilly-Fuissé, Clos sur la Roche**

Case £215.00-£225.00 (TBC) Code SAU418

From south facing vines at 380m on the lower slopes of the Roche de Vergisson, this is one of his top cuvées and is in line for 1er Cru status next year. Lovely toasty nose, good concentration of fruit on the palate, lots of citrus on the finish. 2022-2029

## **Billaud Simon, Chablis**

The Billaud family built this estate up to be amongst the finest in Chablis in the second half of the 20th century. (We actually shipped their 2002 vintage). It was purchased by Domaine Faiveley in 2014 - a great acquisition as the family owned land in four 1er Crus and four Grand Cru vineyards and had a heritage of old vines. 2018 is a concentrated vintage in Chablis, with the fruit displaying splendid ripeness with floral and exotic fruit hints.

## **Chablis 1er Cru Montée de Tonnerre**

Case of 6 bottles £150.00 Code BIL318

Probably Chablis' best-known 1er Cru, lying just to the east of the sweep of Grand Crus. Open and stimulating, surprisingly approachable, with tangerine notes on the citrus heart. Smooth, refined, fresh and complete. 2021-2026

## **Chablis Grand Cru Vaudesir**

Case of 6 bottles £270.00 Code BIL418

Whether the name of this vineyard really drives from "*la vallée de tous les désirs*" or not is moot - one would like to think so, as it's so romantic! A proportion goes into older barrels. This displays breadth and lightly honeyed volume but also a racy, mineral streak - just what one seeks in Grand Cru Chablis as opposed to wines from the Côte de Beaune. Will benefit from cellaring; Grand Cru Chablis like this lasts a long time. 2021-2030

## Hoddles Creek and Wickhams Road, Victoria, Australia

Given the very Burgundian class and poise of Franco d'Anna's wines we are again including them in our Burgundy *en primeur* list and January tasting. Ever since we introduced these to the UK market two years ago they have been both critical and commercial successes. In part this is because they remain extraordinary value - acknowledged within Australia; and especially relative to a lot of Australian wine which reaches these shores. And thanks to Franco's restraint and a much improved exchange rate we can offer these wines at quite a bit less than last year.

The estate, now run by Franco d'Anna (now the president of Wine Yarra Valley, the growers association) was established in 1997 when the D'Anna family decided to establish a vineyard on land that had been in the family since 1960. Its steeply sloping blocks at about 250m. prohibit mechanical harvesting, with all vines being hand pruned and harvested; and their grapes are crushed at the family's winery, constructed for the 2003 vintage. The family owns ten hectares of Pinot Noir (five clones) and six of Chardonnay, plus some Pinot Gris, Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, situated in the southern, highest and coolest district of the Upper Yarra. Since 2011 the family have also managed an eight hectare vineyard, with vines now 19 years old, planted solely to Chardonnay and Pinot Noir in Gippsland. Gippsland is an up-and-coming coastal region east and south of Melbourne. The wines from this cool, free draining site are sold under Franco's Wickham Road label.

Franco uses a variety of winemaking techniques for his Pinots: some cold soak, some long macerations, some whole bunches in the ferments. There's no doubt his empirical touch adds complexity to these lovely wines. All wines are bottled without fining or filtration (so the reds are slightly hazy) and under screwcap; and all his wines are notable for their lowish alcohol levels, between about 12.8% and 13.2%.

Pre-shipping offer for purchase and payment of these wines before the end of February 2020. **Inclusive of freight, duty and VAT**, these prices represent a large discount on their future retail bottle prices. All six will be available to taste at our *en primeur* tasting in Winchester on January 13th and the wines should arrive by April.



## **Wickhams Road, Chardonnay, Gippsland, 2019**

12 bottles £165.00 Code WIC119

Extraordinary - this smells like a high class Chardonnay from the Mâconnais: ripe citrus with pineapple. More restrained and less oaky than previous vintages, and delivering a really mouthwatering, juicy palate of grapefruit tinged with honeyed notes. Now-2022

## **Hoddles Creek, Chardonnay, Yarra Valley, 2018**

12 bottles £192.00 Code HOD118

Quite overt perfume - oak, tangerine and floral hints. Mid-weight, silky and lightly honeyed. Fine acid spine. Very long. Anthithesis of caricature Aussie Chard of old! Now-2024

## **Hoddles Creek, Syberia Chardonnay, Yarra Valley, 2018**

Case of 6 bottles £195.00 Code HOD318

From Franco's website: "Located on our steepest, highest block at Hoddles Creek. Syberia is always quite different to the standard Hoddles Creek Chardonnay. The row orientation is East-West so it doesn't see a lot of direct sunlight on bunches. The wine is whole bunch pressed straight to cask, no fining and zero filtration". Much more withheld than the Chardonnay above. Very intense attack - green fruit and pink grapefruit - laced by racy minerality. Great weight. The length proves its pedigree. Needs time: decant if you want to broach soon. 2021-2026

## **Wickhams Road, Pinot Noir, Gippsland, 2018**

12 bottles £168.00 Code WIC618

Soft ruby tone. An appeal of this wine is that one doesn't have to wait to drink it. There are vibrant red cherry and red berried fruit flavours, but also an incipient savouriness. So well-balanced, refreshing and more-ish - this would be delicious served lightly chilled with cold meats or even salmon. Now-2023

## **Hoddles Creek, Pinot Noir, Yarra Valley, 2018**

12 bottles £195.00 Code HOD618

11 months in a mix of 30% new, 30% second fill and the rest older barrels. Intense strawberry perfume with the merest whiff of oak. Juicy red and black berry and cherry compôte, displaying marvellous aromatics for a wine at this price. Supple tannins. Classic Pinot character, honestly comparable to much grander wine from Burgundy.

*"When you have a vineyard site as good as Hoddles Creek Estate, and lavish care on it as well as ever, the result is preordained. This is an elegant, spice-infused wine with tannins providing the boundary fence, fruit filling the centre. The length and balance can't be faulted, 95/100", James Halliday's 2019 Top 100 Reds Under \$25. Now-2025*

## **Hoddles Creek, 1er Pinot Noir, Yarra Valley, 2018**

Case of 6 bottles £165.00 Code HOD316

Franco's commentary: "The 2018 1er Pinot Noir will go down as one of the classics, with lots of perfume and structure. The 1er Pinot Noir always comes from a block on our Top Paddock vineyard called 'SRM'. This block faces West but runs down to the South. This is the only block which sees the inclusion of around 20-25% whole bunches in the ferment. I'm not looking for whole bunch characters in the wine but more what it does to the tannins. Normally it should make the wines finer and the tannins more pure".

As with the top Chardonnay above, this is less open than the estate Pinot on the nose. However it opens out magnificently on the palate, with a panoply of red fruit, savoury and mineral nuances. Tannins very subtle, but also a good thread of acidity. Really lasting finish. 2021-2027

# ***2018 Burgundy Tasting*** ***(& Hoddles Creek)***

**Monday 13th January 6.00pm-8.30pm**

The Courtyard (Ground floor),  
The Guildhall, Winchester, SO23 9GH

**SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 4**

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