



Handford

W I N E S



Painted for the festival of St Vincent in Puligny Montrachet, Jan 2022

Handford Wines

Burgundy En Primeur 2021 Offer

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The Offer

The Weather

Cruella de Mother Nature dealt a mean hand. An unusually warm spell in March duped vines in to taking off early, their hopes shattered by a devastating frost on 6th April. Burgundians farmed the 2021 season always knowing that their harvest would be the lowest in living memory. Indeed, the last three vintages have yielded an aggregate of little over half normal capacity in the top appellations. That said, the remaining bunches enjoyed a largely untroubled and long growing season. This is an important departure from those past three vintages, as the longer hang time results in greater complexity of flavour and expression of each site. The early summer remained cool and dank but flowering was largely successful. The all important growing season was exceptional and grapes continued to develop well into September. Harvests were much later than in recent years. Whites came in during the first few days of September. Fruit was healthy and wines are very good, some as good as in the great 2020 vintage. There were short, sharp and very heavy rains towards the end of the month. Many reds were already in. Those that waited enjoyed another perfect week at the end of the month and so quality was not hugely affected.

My first tastings in November 2021, with Esmonin and Clerget, were impressive. Reds seemed fresh, distinct, pure and with potential for fair density and intricate flavours. Tasting a year later was a joy. It's an honest vintage with plenty of expression that has many of the good bits of the classic 2016 and the appealing, if younger drinking, 2017.

Whites tended to be quite punchy and with high malic acids. This converts to a creamier lactic acid giving the wines an instant gloss and attractive mouth-feel to balance refined natural acids. Reds are more variable in style as harvest dates varied and the long season resulted in more pronounced differences between the vineyard sites.

The Market

The market is even hotter than was the climate in 2021. There's not much left of the abundant 2018 vintage. 2019 and 2020 offered similarly dismal yields and global demand is upward only. With 2021 being of very high quality but laughably low volumes (Fred Lafarge has made one blended 1er Cru Volnay from his plots, and in just 30% of the normal quantity), we are relying on a return to normal in 2022 to replenish the cellars of the world.

How the Offer Works

Prices are quoted **per case of 6 (unless stated) in bond** (i.e. duty free) at London City Bond. Wines may be stored by us or transferred in bond. Most wines will be shipped in the spring or autumn of 2023 for onward delivery. When you choose to receive wines the duty (currently £13.39 per case of 6) and V.A.T. on the total value (inc. duty) must be paid prior to delivery.

Transfer under bond and delivery to the UK mainland are free for orders over £500 (in bond value). Otherwise delivery charged at £20.00 per address. Wines may be collected from 105 Old Brompton Road. Storage with us at LCB is £1.20 per case (up to 12 bottles) per month and £0.60 (up to 6 bottles) - inc. VAT.

Wines are listed by producer from north to south. Where possible I have included tasting notes to give an indication of style. Drinking dates give an idea of when the wines will be ready. There are never fixed rules and wines should be enjoyed at as many stages of their life as possible. Village wines and generic Bourgogne should be tried, if not drunk in the early stages. In general we tend to be conservative on 'drink by' dates. Many of the 1er and Grand Crus from a great vintage like this will cellar for longer.

Please note

Once again we have unprecedented enquiries on Burgundy 2021. **Many wines will need to be allocated, in some cases by the single bottle.** Some growers we will allocate to previous buyers. For the most difficult wines we will **finalise allocations on 20th January 2023.** Orders will be confirmed and invoiced for payment by return and by bank transfer or debit cards. We do **not accept credit cards** for en Primeur and in bond offers, or for duty payments. Some growers ask that we do not export their wines.

James Handford MW

The Wines

Domaine Alain Guyard, Marsannay la Cote

I always like to visit at least three new growers in a full 7 day tour. It's not very often I will do any business for a year or three, if at all. This though was not one to pass up, especially with such a thirst for the great appellations like Marsannay: not a household name but offering class that is fit for a palace. Alain and his partner Isabelle are modest in the extreme. They prefer to sell locally and hadn't sold a bottle in England since the devastating death of our brilliant friend, Adam Bancroft MW. I have stock of the excellent 2019 red and may persuade them to come down the en Primeur road at some point. For now, sit back in your deck chairs this summer with an exquisite white and/or Marsannay Rose.

Marsannay Blanc 2021

£90.00

One year in oak and bottled immediately prior to the 2022 harvest this has a distinct exotic side of mango and pineapple. It finishes very cool and refreshing though always giving the classic milky patina on the palate, a common note in Cotes de Nuits whites. 2023 to 2025

Marsannay Rose 2021

£80.00

Alain still does pigeage a pied, but wearing waders these days! With so many vintages under his braces he really gets the feel for how far to go with that extraction and the best fruit to make his pink from. It's an art form here. He is super proud of the frisky, crushed raspberry brightness, gorgeous sucrosity and even, soft red fruit finish. You will love this! 2023 ... it would keep for a year or two but you will drink it all.

Frederic Esmonin, Gevrey Chambertin

These wonderful vineyards are still managed by Frederic's father, Andre, who was bottling quality reds here at les Estournelles long before the fashion for Domaine bottled burgundy took off. The vines are not always managed with the aim of reducing yield to produce soupy concentration, but to achieve a balance between expression and concentration; a good deal of finesse and some fat to the wines. Andre is, in his modest way, one of most knowledgeable of Nuits vigneron. He remembers details of vintages back to the 1950s and planted vines with his father in the 1940s. He is not a big fan of intervention, especially green harvesting, as he believes that 'more often than not, it is an attempt to correct mistakes that have been made in the pruning and longer term management of vineyards'. The cellar was a sad sight in November 2021, filled with hardly one third of the normal volume of the 2021 vintage.

Gevrey Chambertin Clos Prieur 2021

£345.00 (12)

This adjoins the 1er Cru vineyard of the same name, first planted by monks from the Abbey of Cluny. The first thing that struck me here was the high quality despite such meagre volumes. The attack is dominated by that lively acidity you get from crushed raspberry and red apple skin. There's plenty of volume on the palate resulting in a typically uplifting Gevrey that will drink well in youth. An attractive, fruit first red. 2024 to 2029

Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru Estournelles Saint Jacques 2021

SOLD

One of the most classic of all red 1er Crus, this is high up and beside the famous Clos St Jacques. Somewhat sandy and more friable soils spawn a more energized and spring water pure red. There were just 3 barrels (the norm is 9 or 10) but the depth and intensity remains true to this fabulous piece of land. Deep, brooding and almost inky fruits are balanced by the same vigour that resonates on the Clos Prieur. 2028 to 2037

Ruchottes Chambertin Grand Cru 2021

SOLD

This is the wine that stood out all those years ago and so where our wonderful journey with Fred Esmonin began. It was the owner of this vineyard that introduced me to the Esmonins. They have been managing these, their oldest vines for over 40 years. Somehow the fruits are a notch riper than in 2020, showing notes of pomegranate syrup and a raspberry freshness that will persist for many a year. Great value Grand Cru. 2030 to 2050



The Esmonin dogs - Nestor and Léonette

Georges Lignier, Morey Saint Denis

I met Georges at a village tasting in 1994. His nephew Benoit Stehly has been at the helm for a while now. He's a great thinker and happy to share. He will always dabble with wine making fashions (whole bunch fermentation is the current talking point), but is rarely thrown off a course planned to heighten freshness and typicity in his reds. There is more and more work in the vines. Soil structure is vital and he is running extensive trials on grassing between rows to conserve moisture deep in the soil and force the vines roots away from the surface. He felt that 2020 had been impacted by too much grass and so he has ploughed every other row in 2021 and 2022. He's also keenly aware of compaction and does everything to reduce the weight of the tractor. He goes without the cab, even in the rain! Despite that production costs are ever rising and both of us are doing everything we can to keep the lid on prices.

Bourgogne Aligote 2021

£65.00

Generally there was a little more malic acid in the white grapes here. Malolactic conversion switches this to the smoother and creamier lactic acid. That conversion was rapid in 2021 and so the Aligote is supple, concentrated and with a hint of caramel on the finish. One for drinking soon as there are less of those harsh acids to soften in the cellar. 2023 to 2026

Morey Saint Denis Blanc 2021

£199.00

Again, soft and creamy with a gentle, perfumed poached pear note. There is excellent mouth-fill, a touch of quince and a melon-cool, long finish. Perhaps not so fashionable but Cotes de Nuits whites like this and Alain Guyard's Marsannay are very much worth a go. 2023 to 2028.



Benoit Stehly with cask samples

Morey Saint Denis 2021**£195.00**

Classic depth of red, purple and very slightly opaque the Morey Villages is open and generous with its forest fruits, black cherry and a touch of cream. Huge concentration of baked apple, black cherry, blackberry and even a touch of cassis. A solid structure and great energy all point to a very good value red Burgundy. 2024 to 2030.

Morey Saint Denis 1er Cru Clos des Ormes 2021**SOLD**

Last year my order was capped for the very first time. Strangely in 2021 volumes for me are a little higher. I think this may be more the result of loyalty than yield! Wow ... the nose is so strong, the palate tightly structured but with a distinctive stripe of concentration. It's worth noting that if you continue the line northwards along the hillside to Gevrey you hit the Grand Cru vineyards. Really very good indeed and needs some time in the cellar. 2028 to 2041.

Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru les Combottes 2021**SOLD**

Sandwiched between Grand Crus, Combottes is in a slight dip with meagre soils that seem to give a unique style. It's on the Morey side and, like the Grand Cru, has more attributes of Morey than of Gevrey. I found this to be pronounced in 2021 with a broadness and richness of ripe and soft loganberry fruits at the core. There was a hint of reduction with a more savoury and firm tannic feel to the finish giving this good longevity and a slight superiority over both 2019 and 2020 vintages. Very good indeed. 2031 to 2043.

Clos Saint Denis 2021**£775.00**

The Denis is often soft and delicate but 2021 brought a certain opulence of spice, crushed pepper, currant and a sweet strawberry and black cherry centre. There's a delicious cool finish to this very fine example. 2032 to 2044.

Clos de la Roche 2021**SOLD**

A fabulous wine to collect in recent years, being extremely serious and fair value for a Grand Cru. Richer still with a seam of spice and sandalwood running through a wealth of black cherry, damson and bramble fruits. There are hints of mineral and truffle and a calming finish of vanilla cream. Once again the ageing has achieved a sense of roundness, rather than dominance of oak. This bodes well for the future of a truly grand vin. 2033 to 2045.

Bonnes Mares 2021**SOLD**

A little under one third of a hectare normally produces around 1300 bottles. In 2020 the yield was less than half that. In 2021 Benoit's expertise resulted in a little more but still way of the pace! This has all the assets of his other Grand Crus and with more perfect balance and purity. I wrote that there is all the precision of the great 2016 and with the beautifully open fruit style of the 2017. Sublime. 2035 to 2047.

Christian Clerget, Vougeot

Justine is completely in charge now. She's issuing instructions to Dad as I arrive! She is forging ahead with biodynamics and using whole bunch fermentation for almost a third of the harvest. The tasting was even more impressive than in for the 2020s with wines so pure and perfect, reflecting the beauty and elegance of both the vineyards and the grower. A stunning range and a little Bourgogne Rouge is on the way as more fruit is taken back from sales to negoce.

Morey Saint Denis Blanc 'les Crais' 2021

£240.00

A quirky white from this famous red wine village, this is so energetic, super charged and uplifting to balance that extra weight that is so typical of Cotes de Nuits whites. That density is nicely offset by a feather light acidity and apricot skin fruits. Beautiful. 2024 to 2028

Chambolle Musigny 2021

£275.00

Justine always tastes this after the Vosne as it's a little more touched by the oak at this stage. It is heavily laden with dark matter, even appearing gnarled in youth. It is almost a carbon copy of 2020 and similar to the 2018. That one is turning into a wine of both power and elegance as it moves to maturity. You must wait for 3 or 4 years. 2026 to 2029

Vosne Romanee 'les Violettes' 2021

SOLD
Magnums £385.00 (3)

These vines are high up by the famous Bize whites of Vougeot. Once again there is excellent depth of colour here. This year there were larger berries with more delicate skins and a notable difference in the concentration of fruit from older vines, so more of that was saved for this cuvee, which is super persistent, focussed and with sweet, black fruit notes. It reminds me very much of tasting Philippe Engel's Vosne from the cuve! 2025 to 2032

Vougeot 1er Cru les Petits Vougeots 2021

£399.00
Magnums £415.00 (3)

Although the Clergets have a little Echezeaux, this is the flagship wine. 5 generations have worked this land which is a stone's throw from their house in the village. It lies just north east of the road that comes in from the Chateau du Clos Vougeot. There's a great combination of elegance and persistence with so many red fruit characters. I enjoyed the cool, fresh pomegranate juice finish and a hint of spice at the very end. Beautiful. 2026 to 2034.

Chambolle Musigny 'aux Croix' 2021

£299.00

Along with the lieux dits of les Condemennes and Clos de l'Orme this is one of the finest vineyards in the Cotes de Nuits not to be of 1er Cru status. The Clergets have 12 tiny parcels in what is already a small vineyard. They are largely planted north to south as the land slopes down from 1er Cru aux Echanges. The first blast of early morning sun to this east facing land gets the plants going and results in a wine of power and muscle. A chewy and masculine red and, unlike the rest of this fine range, it will need a few extra years. 2028 to 2035.

Chambolle Musigny 2021 1er Cru les Charmes

SOLD
Magnums £445.00 (3)

There is a good holding of over a hectare here and Chambolle Charmes is often thought of as one of the great 1er Crus. The Charmes is both tantalising and delicate in 2021. Almost the polar opposite of aux Croix, being the epitome of that ethereal charm that defines Chambolle. The harmony is as good as in any vintage. This is reminding me of all the best things about the 2016 and 2017 vintages! Very fine indeed. 2026 to 2038

Echezeaux 'en Orveaux' 2021

£895.00
Magnums SOLD

Another enviable vineyard area of nearly a hectare from two parcels in the 'Orveau' sector. Complex, savoury, yeast, flint, fireworks, mineral, chewy black fruits with tannins that are bold for the vintage, this is relatively closed as you'd expect. There is a note of more lifted and delicate raspberry on the finish. In 2020 there were 4 barrels of the normal 20 odd. In 2021 there are just 3. So less than 1000 bottles. Roll up! 2030 to 2042



Terrible selfie with Christian and Justine Clerget

Domaine de la Vougeraie, Vougeot

I became quite a lockdown chum of Jean Charles Boisset via zoom! Though he spent most of that time at his project in California he was in almost daily contact with his brilliant and long time estate manager, Sylvie Poillot. Sylvie is experienced in many aspects of the fine wine trade and looks after an enthusiastic team of wine makers and vineyard managers. The vineyards are biodynamic and most are worked by horse drawn plough. For me the estate is now on a par with Domaine Leflaive. I only tasted the first three whites here, partly as those are the wines I have bought previously and partly due to the ridiculously low amounts that have been made. The rest are general notes and thought of Jean Charles in my conversations with him.

Bourgogne Blanc Terres de Familles 2021

SOLD

Very tiny harvests but does have almost a full compliment of the finest fruit from their la l'Ormeau vineyard in Chassagne . This is supremely intense while still being supple, attractive and not overpowering. 2023 to 2027

Puligny Montrachet 2021

SOLD

This is from the 3 vineyard blocks of Rue Aux Vaches, Paupillot and Noyer Bret that surround the village to the east. Paupillot gives a firm, Meursault-like base, whereas Noyer Bret to the south gives more of that Puligny lift and minerality. A good mix this is, as always, firm but fair! 2025 to 2030

Clos Blanc de Vougeot 1er Cru 2021

SOLD

Very special in 2021 being ever more vibrant, uplifting and pure. The style seems to be very slowly veering toward the Beaunes. Exceptional. 2026 to 2034

Le Charlemagne Blanc 2021

SOLD

A little tighter and with a flinty edge that is not so common to taste here. Though closed now the underlying sensation of ripeness to come is extraordinary. Highly collectable. 2029 to 2037

Chevalier Montrachet Grand Cru 2021

SOLD

15 ares of prime land on the Chassagne side of the vineyard, this is high up on the 'Mont Rachtet' literally 'bald mountain' and how these great Grand Cru vineyards get their name. There is huge tension here with a wealth of citrus and stone fruit all wound up in a mass of energy. 2030 to 2039

Bourgogne Rouge Terres de Familles 2021

SOLD

Grapes from their Vosne vineyard have all gone into this resulting in a soft and floral, velvet and violets Pinot. Delicious. 2025 to 2029

Gevrey Chambertin Evocelle 2021

SOLD

The very first vineyard owned by the domaine, this is high up in the Brochon sector and contiguous with 1er Cru les Champans. Suffering from both frost and hail it was touch and go as to whether this should go into the Bourgogne Rouge too! Hardly 20% of a normal harvest but the wine is ethereal, beautifully uplifting and classic Gevrey in its purity, delicacy and expression. 2028 to 2034

Vougeot Clos du Prieure 2021

SOLD

Unusually the appellation of Vougeot has more Grand Cru, Clos Vougeot, than 1er Cru, and even less of village wine! This has some 1er Cru wine in the mix and shows corresponding depth and complexity. Unusual! 2026 to 2033

Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru 2021

SOLD

Famously planted in one plot of 1 hectare to the left of the driveway to the Chateau. Most of the vines here date back to the 1940s and 50s. A tiny additional plot at the bottom of the hill was planted in 1985 and 1986.



Nathalie and Jean-Charles Boisset

Jean Chauvenet, Nuits Saint Georges

These cellars, carefully managed since 1990 by Jean's son in law Christophe Drag, are just off the main road. Fork right as you go north out of town and you will be treated to some of the best around. Vineyard holdings are relatively large here but in Bouscelots, Vaucrains and Perrieres; Christophe has some of the finest 1er Cru vineyards in the Cotes de Nuits. Truly outstanding in recent years such as 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020 and now 2021. He harvests into very small crates and so cleaner and less damaged fruit can be moved directly into the fermentation vats without the need of auger or pump. Almost all the fruit was de-stemmed and there is a cool pre-fermentation maceration for 5 to 6 days. There are two 1er Cru vineyards north of town and two to the south. As the village wine incorporates some of the 1er Cru and finer village vineyards it is a very good buy for drinking in 2 or 3 years. Once again, Christophe has decided to delay harvest to the end of September. This works especially well in the higher vineyards such as Damodes and Perrieres.

Nuits Saint Georges 2021

£185.00

Normally fruit comes from 5 parcels in 4 climats; Alliois, Charmottes, St Jacques and St Julien. This year is patchier though the net result is that a greater portion of the harvest is taken from the finer parcel of St Jacques. Forceful, biting and crunchy fruits that have exquisite purity and length. A mouth watering and more-ish feel to the finish is a pleasantly common theme in the 2021 vintage. 2023 to 2028.

Nuits Saint Georges 1er Cru Rue de Chaux 2021

SOLD

Last year I thought I'd go to Chaux where this particular rue actually goes. There's not much for the tourist but I did see a baguette vending machine for the first time! Rue de Chaux is a tiny 1er Cru is further subdivided by the six owners and the few rows of vines were planted in 1936, the birth year of Jean Chauvenet. The nose has something of each of Damodes and Bouscelots. Pleasant as they are, notes of the oak dominate early on; sandalwood, vanilla and pine needles. There are bright red fruits along with black cherry and particularly black cherry skin. I've always enjoyed the contrast this gives to this exciting range of 1er Crus. 2027 to 2034.



Christophe Drag

Nuits Saint Georges 1er Cru les Damodes 2021**SOLD**

From high up on the north side, there is a strip of rock running through resulting in just an 8 to 10cm layer of top soil. Damodes bears fruit with an edge of minerality and the seductive power of its immediate neighbour Vosne Romanee. You can almost feel the weight in the glass! Pure, sweet strawberry shortcake; perfumed, vanilla custard notes. Utterly mouth-watering with lifted, orange zest on the finish. The palate has some tightness about it now but won't take long to ripen into a gem of a wine. The pick of the vineyards to the north of town. 2025 to 2035.

Nuits Saint Georges 1er Cru Aux Busselots 2021**£295.00**

Still north of the villages but sheltered, and a little lower down the hill. Soils are contiguous with Vosne Romanee les Ravioles and, with lower yield and more soil moisture than in 2020, these vines are more true to terroir in 2021. Very dark in colour and with spice, bay and wild savoury notes. There's an earthy (beetroot) and feral side to the Busselots though it doesn't lose its cassis finish. This shows both the power and grace of a Grand Cru. 2026 to 2036.

Nuits Saint Georges 1er Cru les Perrieres 2021**£345.00**

A triumph in both quality and quantity being one of few vineyards not badly affected by the frosts. This offers youthful, vibrant fruits, a sprig of mint and another sweet, strawberry fruit core. There are fine tannins and plenty of elegance. Christophe's favourite and one that will drink as well in youth as in ten years. It does need a couple of years to fully knit together but is certainly one of my top few 1er Crus tasted in this vintage. 2025 to 2034.

Nuits Saint Georges 1er Cru Vaucrains 2021**SOLD**

Christophe has 42 ares but produced only 5 barrels in 2021. This reminded me very much of the 2016 and the 2020 and is like a supercharged Perrieres. Wonderfully lush, forward and mouth-watering. Again, it will drink well quite soon which I feel is an asset. It's another remarkable Vaucrains with a super sweet and ripe finish. 2027 to 2040.

Jean Marc Millot, Nuits Saint Georges

Jean Marc and Christine have passed on their hard earned experiences and beautiful vines to their second daughter, Alix. She is very well qualified for the task, making just small changes that result in the Millot label being highly prized. There is just a little new oak on the Grand Crus and the Suchots, but the wines rely on a very natural feel and intensity of fruit. The Cotes de Nuits Villages, originally from a single plot, has been a great value wine for some years. Savigny is from three different plots inherited from Jean Marc's uncle and makes a very attractive, early drinker.

Cotes de Nuits Villages 2021

£150.00

With the gradual demise of the Clos des Faulques, Alix is now selecting from old vines both inside and outside of the Clos. The remainder goes to Bourgogne Rouge. She is rightly proud of this one and has instigated an annual tasting to highlight hers and many other great reds in this appellation. Super concentrated and smooth on the finish. Another stunning achievement. I did dip into the 2022 that is a treat in store ... and in double the quantity! Hurrah! 2024 to 2028.

Savigny les Beaune 2021

£175.00

This is from three plots of village Savigny. The majority is from Aux Fourches, next to 1er Cru Fourneaux on the Aloxe side; the rest is from the south facing and more generous soils of Les Gollardes and les Vermots to the west of the village. Supple, creamy and forward with a balanced and persistent finish. Beautiful as ever. 2023 to 2028

Vosne Romanee 2021

SOLD

Oh dear! I'm afraid the volumes of the rest are so tiny we have had them packed into 3 bottles cartons. Just 2 barrels from these parcels in Maizieres and Hautes Maizieres that are beautifully silk textured, with power and growing on the full finish. 2026 to 2030

Vosne Romanee 1er Cru Suchots 2021

SOLD

Between Echezeaux and Clos Vougeot this is another of the great 1er Crus. The moniker Suchots holds many possibilities though it's likely to be named for tree stumps (souches) in what was a forested area. The 2021s have a power and density that you might expect when forfeiting such huge volumes. Piercing strawberry and redcurrant fruits coupled with a marked increase in natural acids and purity compared to the village wines. Once again this is very fine and incredibly long and balanced on the finish. 2027 to 2034

Echezeaux 2021

SOLD

Sandy soils in this part of Echezeaux allow free drainage. It will be a difficult one to share out but the concentration is right at the top of the dial so perhaps you won't need as much! The 2021 is more dense, with black fruits and a firm, tannic frame. Closed and tight now, just as a great Grand Cru should be. Exceptional and elegant. 2030 to 2041.

Clos Vougeot 2021

SOLD

The upper parts of the Clos were chosen as most suitable by the monks of the Abbey of Citeaux and first planted in 1098. Much of the area known as Grand Mapertui, where the Millot holding is situated, lies within this prestigious section. The fruits are more layered here; pomegranate, red cherry, raspberry and the spiced plum and black cherry again. There is more spice, earth and power. More classic and in the mould of a richer vintage like 2015. 2031 to 2044.



Jean Marc Millot with the Amphora of Aligote

Philippe Cheron, Nuits Saint Georges

Philippe Cheron lost his long time management role at Domaine Belland following the sale of the business. He must have been chuffed to learn that his grandfather, Paul Misset, purchased vineyard land in Clos Vougeot, Vosne Romanee and Chambolle Musigny in the 1930s and 1950s and the leases had finally expired. There are 1.4 hectares in Clos Vougeot, split 50/50 between the high and low part; a stunning lieu dit above Richebourg in Vosne and 12 tiny parcels in Chambolle. With gentle handling, only a little de-stemming, cool settling and no fining and rarely any filtration, Philippe is going for a simple and natural style. He is now fully organic. The wines are Gevrey are now bottled under the original domaine label but Philippe has saved me some of the remarkable Romanee under his own label. This is very rare and exceptional. These wines are massively underrated.

Vosne Romanee les Barreaux 2021

SOLD

This is the most idyllic situation. Just under the trees and looking down over Richebourg and Romanee Saint Vivant to the right and, to the left, over the great 1er Crus of Beaux Monts and Suchots towards Echezeaux and Clos Vougeot. There are only 3 growers to share a little over 3 hectares (one other being Anne Gros); quite a place to go to work and even better to enjoy a bottle with a picnic! It's a steep slope with chalky soil that turns out a lively and finely tuned red cherry fruit Vosne. The nose is as alluring as ever and the palate soft as velvet. This has a delicate, waltzy zing that seems lacking in so many 2021s. Adorable. 2023 to 2029.

Chambolle Musigny '40 Ouvrees' 2021

SOLD

A tiny plot that too often gets a bad rap from the weather; the 40 ouvrees have got lucky in 2021! Only 2018 has produced more in the last 7 vintages and Philippe reckons this is the most typical he has ever made. It is certainly has all the supple and smooth notes of Chambolle though there's an intense and focussed black fruit middle. This perhaps is a little blacker and more brooding than your average Chambolle. Exceptional length here too. So good! 2025 to 2030.

Chambolle Musigny 'Clos de l'Orme' 2021

SOLD

Bordering the 1er Cru les Charmes, this sits on a gentle, well drained slope, as it is made up of a thick layer of limestone scree from the Chambolle valley. It's a dry and mean patch of land that yields a ripe but sturdy and gripping red. Quite a difference against the 40 Ouvrees, half of the fruit is fermented as whole bunches resulting in a little more zing and a generally more youthful impression. It is more dense and chunky, with liquorice and black fruits. Again there is a tension here that is sometimes less evident in 2021s and again the flavours go on and on. Wines to be truly proud of. 2026 to 2031.

Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru la Romanee 2021

SOLD

Like the Charmes Chambertin, this is another prodigal vineyard that has been sold as a monopole until this year. As said a small amount is set aside for us and is one of the very best buys on our offer. The situation is extraordinary, almost hanging off the very highest bit of south facing cliff edge at the very top of the village. There is a source here and so little water stress. Perhaps not quite the wild and herbaceous side of the 2020 and more of the pure red fruits that so define Gevrey. Harmonious and pure with an attractive twist of acidity. Once again it's as close as you can get to 100 points without being Grand Cru! 2028 to 2039

Domaine Roche de Bellene, Beaune

An interesting diversion here as all but the Suchots are blended across a few different sites to give broader, often fuller styles from each appellation. Nicolas remains 'reasonable' rather than organic in the vineyard but fiercely 'natural' in now completed winery in Savigny. He has turned the old winery into a very high end gites (more like an 8 bedroom hotel in my eyes!) if you have enough friends and family to put up in Beaune! Also in the news here is that he hopes to bottle some of the 2021s into flax bottles, the latest green technology advance available next year and, if not in time for 2021 vintage, certainly for 2022s.

Savigny les Beaune Blanc 2021

£115.00

Savigny offers subtle changes in terroir and Nicolas counts seven different soil types in the small area that yields this juicy chardonnay with soft lemon sherbet, creamy macadamia and a honey almond finish. The bottle is beautifully presented with yellow wax capsule. 2023 to 2026

Savigny les Beaune Rouge Hommage a Jean Ferte 2021

£215.00

Jean Ferte was Nicolas' great uncle and, along with his father, a great mentor. Back in the day he was the top man in Savigny. Very dark and dense in appearance, the nose is a little shy in youth but the density of flavour in the palate is immense. Sweet and strong finish with great poise. Delicious and relatively early drinking. 2025 to 2030.

Beaune 1er Cru Hommage a Francoise Potel 2021

£250.00

From five 1er Cru vineyards, the youngest vines are 50 years old. This is a fascinating mix of Beaune more famous vineyards of Clos du Roi and Les Bressandes, both on the Savigny side and les Pertuisots on the Pommard side. Then from the high and low parts come fruit from Montee Rouge and les Reversees. As the frosts are more damaging in some vineyards than others, the blend has changed in 2021. For example there is far more Clos de Roi than Bressandes. The resulting wine is more dense, luxurious and easy on the eye. 2024 to 2029

Vosne Romanee 1er Cru Suchots 2021

SOLD

For the second year running, all of this is fermented on the bunches. From one of the best plots in Vosne, a magical triangle between Romanee Saint Vivant and Grands Echezeaux, this is a monster. Opaque, red, black it looks as if you can stand a spoon in it. A real bomb of a wine at the outset but, eventually, you feel that Vosne serenity and elegance that is promised in a decade or so. 2032 to 2045.

Maison Roche de Bellene, Beaune

This is Nicolas Potel's negociant business. With such a long family history of growing and making top Burgundy Nicolas has an far reaching list of vineyard owners and wine makers willing to sell some prize stocks. The Pinot Noir Cuvee Reserve is a Handford favourite.

Bourgogne Pinot Noir Cuvee Reserve 2021

£90.00

In 2020 Nicolas upgraded the source of this Pinot to Chorey and Volnay, in 2021 he has risked leaving these bunches to hang for a week or two longer than his neighbours. Though sugar ripeness came very early it does not always go hand in hand with flavour ripeness. So that's the benefit, and the wager was won as there followed a fine, but more temperate few days in mid September. Aged in large oak barrels and not bottled until next March, Nicolas does everything possible to keep the standard of his top Bourgogne at village plus level. 2022 to 2027

Pommard aux Vignots 2021

£245.00

High up the hill and almost due south facing resulting in a fresh but very full Pommard in a vintage as good as 2021. I always think of Pommard as the more opulent of the Cotes de Beaune reds; full of spice, mincemeat orange zest and with plump, mouth-watering fruits this is what my son would call a banger. There's an added bonus as Nicolas reports such good health in the vineyards and bunches that much less sulphur was needed in the winery. Great focus and energy here. 2027 to 2038.

Chapelle Chambertin Grand Cru 2021

SOLD

I was lucky enough to try a range of Grand Crus here. These are my favourites. Chapelle is a perhaps the toughest of them all to get through now. That's a good sign as there is plenty of depth, brooding tannin and firm, natural acid feel to take this wine into the second half of this century. The end of the palate ... well it if it did end ... is a bottomless pit of dark and more red fruit compote. Broad, perfectly ripe and hedonistic. 2034 to 2051

Charmes Chambertin Grand Cru 2021

SOLD

This is a little more heady and seems just that bit more ripe. This is a wonderful manifestation of variation in harvest date and site making a profound difference despite being only a few days and a couple of hundred metres apart. There's a distinct density of black fruits here and the extra ripeness brings the drinking date forward a few years. 2031 to 2044

Le Chambertin 2021

SOLD

Just when I thought we'd already gone off the charts I find a drop of this exploding from my final glass of red with Nicolas. The real joy of it is that it doesn't have the mass and immediacy of Charmes; layers of more elegant, delicate but still perfectly ripe red fruits build and build and build. The wine becomes more powerful in the palate, and yet ever more elegant as it persists. Wondrous stuff. 2033 to 2053.

Domaine de Comte Armand, Pommard

After a seven year apprenticeship, the capable Paul Zinetti is now the established here. After some tricky vintages in the early 2010s he has enjoyed outstanding years since 2015 though not many of them without difficulty! Fully organic since 2005 and now certified as biodynamic, the lower parts of the vineyard are worked by horse and the reduced compaction is already resulting in a better soil structure. Epeneaux is, of course, one of the great reds of the Cotes de Beaune.

Bourgogne Aligote 2021

£105.00

Auxey Duresses 1er Cru 2021

£260.00

It took me a long time to work my way up the allocation ladder here but it's been worth the wait. The 2021 is a little more moody and broody, not giving away so much early doors but don't fret, there is plenty to come here. That core of dark spice and black fruit is there, as is the crunchy red apple acid. It's very typical, if a bit shy and needing a year or two more than usual in bottle. 2025 to 2030.

Pommard 1er Cru Clos des Epeneaux 2021

£675.00

Magnums £695.00 (3)

At just over 5 hectares, this is one of the largest monopole vineyards in Burgundy. It is managed biodynamically and with utmost respect not only for the vineyard, but for the expression of its constituent parts. The style of Epeneaux has become ever more friendly in recent years and so the wine will be more approachable within a decade. The 2021 is notable in that the harvest date of 21st September is one of the latest in the region. Paul is working that balance between sugar and flavour ripeness (viz. Maison Roche de Bellene Pinot Noir). This is both soft and alluring with red cherry and raspberry fruits and silky, milky chocolate undertones. Hypnotic. 2026 to 2038

Jean Marc Boillot, Pommard

Jean Marc's is a story of great determination and passion. Grandson of Etienne Sauzet and one time winemaker at Olivier Leflaive, he rented, inherited a little and finally took on his third share of Domaine Etienne Sauzet some thirty years ago. This was about the time of my first visit. I was immediately struck by the Puligny 1er Crus. More recently Jean Marc has expanded into the Chalonnais (Montagny 1er Cru) and Maconnais (Macon Villages). These wines are exceptional and every bit as good as the 2020s.

Bourgogne Blanc 2021

£215.00 (12)

Most of these vines are from Puligny, with some in Volnay. Thankfully they have evaded the frosts to produce an outstanding, Puligny-like white. Superb. 2023 to 2026

Puligny Montrachet 2021

SOLD

Exceptional provenance here; the bulk of the fruit comes from Rue Rousseau, les Meix and les Enseignerres, all immediately below Bienvenue Batard Montrachet. There is a little addition from younger vines in the 1er Cru Garenne vineyard. That adds back a bit of zip to this immensely powerful and classically styled Puligny. Remarkable. 2026 to 2030

Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Champ Canet 2021

SOLD

Higher on the slope, Champs Canet has more spice and grip, with a suggestion of herbal, minty tones over a taut palate and a pithy texture. Wonderful tension here. 2028 to 2032

Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru La Truffiere 2021

SOLD

Truffiere is higher still and these vines are a little more to the Meursault side. This gives a fuller, more textured wine but with that windswept, stony mineral edge from slightly more exposed aspect here. 2027 to 2032

Macon Villages 2021

£215.00 (12)

These whites from southern Burgundy are largely from grapes purchased and then vinified and aged at the estate. The Macon shows a very high degree of concentration with pear skin, white nectarine and some green fruit notes too. A fantastic mix of depth and freshness. 2023 to 2025

Montagny 1er Cru Blanc 2021

£270.00 (12)

Montagny is made up of four distinct chunks of land. The northern-most, by the village of Buxy, is the most concentrated in 1er Cru vineyards with its south facing, sheltered soils. A large part of this wine is from the coveted Vieux Chateau vines. Funnily enough they surround the old castle at Buxy. This combines that extra richness and cream of Montagny with a good dose of chalky acidity. Drinks well in youth and I find it ages very well and somewhat along the lines of a Chablis, developing cep, earth and truffle notes in 3 to 5 years. 2023 to 2028

Michel Lafarge, Volnay

Frédéric has a well earned reputation as a leading biodynamic viticulteur, keeping chickens in the Clos de Chateau des Ducs and reviving some ancient methods. These reds have become the most sought after in the Cotes de Beaune. Of his 8 hectares, only one is of 1er Cru standing, but their fruit combines delicious Pinot flavours with layers of firm mineral character and delicate vanilla from a short-ish oak ageing. I have noted consistent depth, complexity and perfect balance across the range. The 1er Cru ageing cellar is my temple but no pilgrimage this year as the tiny amount of 1er Cru is ageing in the white wine cellar. This year I had the privilege of both Frederic and Chantal, and some stupendous wines of course. A superlative range.

Please note – I have now agreed with Frédéric Lafarge to ship prior to the third harvest following. So these wines will be available Autumn 2024.

Bourgogne Aligote Raisins Dorees 2021

£70.00

A patch of very old vines that tends to ripen with a heavier colour and flavour. Raisins Dorees is a clone or type of Aligote, perhaps best known at the Bouzeron estate of Aubert de Villaine. Again this was left hanging for at least a week longer than other whites to emphasize that deep colour and puppy fat that balances the lime pith, quince and floral fragrance. It does start life a little 'sweet and sour' but it's not long before these protagonists come together to give a generous and complex wine. Worth keeping a bottle or two for 7 or 8 years! 2024 to 2027

Meursault 2021

£175.00

Just one barrel of these so not much wine to write about! It's a great example of biodynamics as the overriding sensation here is one of life, natural tension and vibrancy. In this lean year all the 1er Cru and better sites are made as this one village wine. Though still typically elegant the Meursault does boast an unusual intensity. Lemon drizzle in a bottle. 2024 to 2030

Bourgogne Passetoutgrains a l'Exception 2021

£75.00

As ever this is half Pinot and half Gamay. The vines, planted by Frederic's grandfather, are now well over 90 years old and the planting is mixed and so this is a 'field blend' from an exceptional site just below Meursault. Frederic tells me that, with such old vines, meagre yields and small berries, it is not always easy to tell the Gamay from the Pinot in the field, especially as they seem to synchronise their ripening naturally. This was the first wine to be bottled and sold directly from the domaine in 1934. The 2020 and 2021 have seen a marked uplift in quality here and I can't put my finger on why that is. There is extra depth and intensity but the fruit style remains steadfastly redcurrant, strawberry and red cherry. 2024 to 2026.

Bourgogne Pinot Noir 2021

SOLD

Another parcel of very old vines; these are 50+ years old. There's a bit of debate over the value of old vines at the moment. One of the strong arguments for is that the vigneron are in tune with the vine that they have grown up with. Frederic would have seen every vintage in the life of this vineyard. This as pure and floral as any Volnay with Turkish delight, lily, pomegranate juice. Is it wine or is it perfume? 2024 to 2027

Volnay 2021

SOLD

All parcels are lumped together as one, including a little of the 1er Cru. This is super lifted with a lively basket of red fruit flavours. Cool and fresh on the finish, this is a red that will put on a bit of fat in time. There is some matiere now, perhaps more an aromatic and honeyed feel to the clean and pure finish. Very good indeed. 2025 to 2031.

Beaune 1er Cru les Aigrots 2021

£295.00

I've found a few reds in the Cotes de Beaune that I prefer in 2021 to 2020. These Beaunes are top of the list and I'm so pleased there was enough to make the wines separately. What I secretly like here, and perhaps I shouldn't say, is that it's more Lafarge in style than Beaune 1er Cru. How do elegance, a degree of delicacy and purity merge so seamlessly with depth, intensity and persistence. It's not a heavy wine but it certainly leaves an impression. 2026 to 2032.

Beaune 1er Cru les Greves 2021

SOLD

The oldest vines here have turned 100. There is a darker side here; some black fruit but more a hint of liquorice, clove and blackberry. It's not conspicuous but enough to tell the difference and to work out that the Greves needs a year or three more in the cellar. Unforgettable red. 2029 to 2036

Volnay 1er Cru

SOLD

All Volnay 1er Crus have been blended together following the worst frost damage since 1991. Focussed, red fruits, rose petal, red cherry and in a funny way, reminiscent of the Passetoutgrains! Way more concentrated of course but very few bottles coming our way.



Frédéric Lafarge and his Triage Sleeve

Thierry Matrot, Meursault

Now run by Adele and Ailsa Matrot. Ailsa did a short stint with us back in the cool summer of 2012 and is largely concerned with the business side where Ailsa does more of the wine making. The most exciting development has been acquisition of land in Maranges and Monthelie through both their parents and their respective partners. Although there was plenty of wine in their first vintage, 2018, times have been pretty lean since with 2021 being catastrophic. The wines are excellent and true to type but the quantities are abysmal.

Bourgogne Chardonnay 2021

£99.00

The hope is to make this only from their Meursault and Hautes Cotes vines. In 2021, as in 2019, there is a little input from friends in Chablis. This gives a little more lightness and lift and a more chalky mineral note. There is a soft peach stone note along with a twist of lemon. Fresh, mouth-filling and very good indeed. I have to confess that I skipped the 2019 but felt this 2021 was easily good enough to take up the few cases on offer. 2023 to 2025.

Meursault 2021

£265.00

They continue to shun new oak in any Meursault wines. They will switch from cork to Diam and move to wax instead of capsules. The Meursault has a stripe of citrus and cool stone fruit waiting to burst into flower as the wine evolves. White flowers and orange zest with a hint of clean, crushed rock. Great purity and a great white that will need a couple of years in the cellar to flower. 2025 to 2031

Meursault 1er Cru Charmes 2021

£425.00

Much of the fruit comes from vines high up and closer to the Perrieres vineyard. This shows some of the force and mineral notes that are typical of the higher land, and some more classic soft citrus, floral and aromatic charm. I felt there is a lot of ripeness to come here. It will sweeten and fatten up well in the medium term. 2026 to 2030.

Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru les Chalumeaux 2021

SOLD

On the Meursault side, but well above the Combettes. In great years there is more lift and purity of a classical Puligny. This doesn't give away much on the nose (good sign in such a youthful white!) and tastes of soft lime, fresh tea and a twist of the more exotic mango too. Again there is a little more vigour than usual so just hold on for another year! 2027 to 2031

Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru les Combettes 2021

SOLD

The rest of the range were still in barrel at time of tasting so will appear a little more open and perhaps more true to how they will taste in a year or two. Combettes is low on the Meursault side, with the protected microclimate and slightly richer soils here. It's a more open, sunny and ripe vineyard that took a bit of managing in the drier conditions. This has not only suffered from the frost but also by virtue of being recently re-planted. The Matrots have done a lot of hard work with an eye to the very long term! The wine is more edgy, nervous, and with real tension. Lime, white nectarine and almond are in force. Great strength, depth, balance and persistence. 2027 to 2032

Meursault 1er Cru les Perrieres 2021**SOLD**

The Matrots have half a hectare here which is a pretty decent holding in what is possibly the finest 1er Cru white vineyard. The vines are 50 and 55 years old producing a miserly 150 dozen bottles. It's like the Charmes with bells and whistles. Imposing, intense and incisive, I have rarely enjoyed such a sense of terroir on the nose. Again this has a lot of ripening to do in bottle but again, it is very fine and worthy of all that chat about becoming a Grand Cru one day! 2028 to 2034

Maranges Rouge 2021**SOLD**

One of our most popular wines and I fear we will fall way short on volume. It's a funny one as harvest was almost a full month later than in 2020. The Matrots chose to let the bunches hang to assimilate more and more flavour, despite the sugar levels being up to speed very early in September. In the end they had to work quickly as storms came in as the last of the vintage was poured into the presses. As for many wines the village and 1er Cru fruit is all vinified together to make a simple, but very effective Pinot. Delish! 2023 to 2026

Blagny Rouge 1er Cru la Piece sous le Bois 2021**SOLD**

A favourite at Handford, and will remain so despite the very poor allocation of 2021! The Blagny is showing many of the attributes of recent and great vintages though, like many, it has a bit of evolving to do in the cellar. So many of these 2021s are going to be lush and lovely in just a few years! Soft red cherry and wild strawberry with a note of very gentle vanilla and spice. Understated now but with legs and with elegance. 2026 to 2033

Domaine Francois Mikulski, Meursault

Francois' father was a Free Polish fighter at Arnhem. After the war he married Pierre Boillot's sister and determined to follow a life in the vines. Francois himself has travelled the world, purely for research purposes, of course, working with the greats that are Domaine Roulot and Littorai. The domaine was born from land inherited from Pierre and has been supplemented his wife, Marie-Pierre's family holdings. The vineyards are fully mature now with the newest plantings in les Poruzots now a quarter of a century old.

Fruit is carefully selected and de-stemmed. There is a cool settling before fermentation and ageing in barrels. Francois uses around 20% new oak. There are some 450 litre barrels now and a new cellar has just been finished over the road and conveniently conjoined by the excellent Goutte d'Or restaurant. Francois and Marie-Pierre's son in law, Thomas 'le Boc' Boccon, is doing a lot of the work now and making great strides on the reds, too. These are the safe hands of CS Beaune Rugby's long time number 8.

Quantities have suffered here in 2021 and so likely to be strict allocations.

Bourgogne Aligote 2021

£105.00

Lime, apple pie and cream, extra dense in the mid palate. Another Aligote that seems more rounded this year than last. With all this flesh and suppleness Aligotes have become a fine wine in their own right. Super balance. 2023 to 2028

Bourgogne Cotes d'Or Blanc 2021

SOLD

An annual treat for a few clients, this is as close to Meursault as you get without writing it on the label. It's from 2 parcels on the eastern border of the appellation, Herbeaux and Lombois (long wood). Key lime and lemon with faintly stewed apple and a hint of golden raisin are all in perfect harmony with that Meursault like weight and firm structure. Bold and brilliant! 2024 to 2027

Meursault 2021

SOLD

This has those 100 year old vines in Limousin (some likely to be released as a separate cuvee later on), some of the Poruzots fruit, as well as 3 parcels of Meix Chavaux, Tillets and le Pre de Manche (which is up by the camp site. Tillets is high up and shows the cool peach skin fruits and the force of a Charmes. Pre de Manche has slightly richer soil and so more tropical notes. Meix Chavaux lies across the valley from Pre de Manche and is a bit of a sun trap. This will give extra ripeness and honey note to the finished Meursault. !). I tasted these components separately so difficult to give a note on the final blend and Francois may still decide to bottle some of these separately. To be advised!

Meursault 1er Cru Poruzots 2021

SOLD

From the lower portion of the vineyards that tends to offer a little more ripeness and density. As the vines are fully mature now the Poruzots has reached the supreme quality of the other two with its bottomless depth and chalky mineral note. It has more of the Genevrieres character. A little touch of vanilla cream on the finish rounds it off beautifully. 2024 to 2029



François and Marie Pierre Mikulski

Meursault 1er Cru Charmes

SOLD

Two main plantings here: one in 1930 and one in 1968. One parcel is in the lower Charmes and the majority in the upper vineyard and is the more profound and luxurious of the trio. The keynote here is a spoonful on honey that makes those languid and satisfying citrus and stone fruits go down with extra pleasure. Unforgettable 2024 to 2030

Meursault 1er Cru Genevrières 2021

SOLD

Genevrières offers a notch up in intensity and always seems to take in a little more of the barrel toast than others. There's an extra dimension to the fruit here too; a little more stone fruit coming through. Top notch. 2025 to 2033

Bourgogne Cotes d'Or Rouge 2021

£125.00

Tasted from cuve, these is a another textured, grape fleshy blockbuster with ripe red fruits and black forest gâteau all wrapped up in a crunchy, grape skin acidity and freshness. Long and even. To good to keep! 2023 to 2025

Monthelie les Toisieres 2021

£215.00

Just the second year we've been offered this and quantities are fair with 15 barrels of the expected 20 churned out. It's a soft strawberry juice, easy going red that will fatten up with just a year in bottle. Glorious bright and again, persistent and lush. 2024 to 2027

Volnay 1er Cru les Santenots 2021

£375.00

Grapes are de-stemmed and left to begin fermentation as whole berries. This is followed by normal delestage. (Delestage is a two-step rack and return procedure in which fermenting juice is separated from solids by racking. It is then returned to the fermenting vat to re-soak the solids). Often cited as the red burgundy from a white wine vineyard, this shows a soft chalkiness that you feel you can almost scoop into! Like the Monthelie the attraction here is the ample and forward red fruit basket. Concentration is piercing and there is a nip of chalky acidity on the finish to keep it honest. 2025to 2030

Domaine Philippe Chavy, Puligny Montrachet

Philippe is a bundle of energy and enthusiasm! You don't need to talk to him for long to realise that he genuinely loves the vineyards he so carefully nurtures. In fact he loves them so much he lives and breathes them. In recent years he has reverted to more and more manual operations: ploughing the land to keep the weeds down, managing the vines rather than spraying and even bottling by hand. The vineyards have been certified as biodynamic since 2010. He has risen to the top echelons of Burgundy production by virtue of such diligence, and following some outrageously high scores for his 1er Crus. Expressive, energetic, exacting and exquisite.

Bourgogne Aligote 2021

£80.00

Two parcels of vines to the south of the village produce what is usually a nervy Aligote. I found the reduction in volume seems to have lent more weight and intensity to the lemon and lime centre. What has so often been the balancing act of minimising orders but still keeping Philippe happy has turned into a positive experience whereby we'll all be pleased to have a bit of this to enjoy in the summer. 2023 to 2025

Chardonnay 2021

£115.00

This was racked into cuve in July and so very settled and about to be bottled by Philippe's own fair hand when I arrived in November. It's a smart wine with a truck load of expressive, mineral character and a strong mid palate. Very good indeed. 2024 to 2027

Meursault 2021

£235.00

Enticing, soft, caramel, white flowers and pure as the driven snow. This is as good as the 2020, with plenty of energy and will benefit from 2 or 3 years in the cellar. Very good value in these tricky times for a white burgundy buyer. 2024 to 2028

Meursault les Narvaux 2021

£260.00

There is a short series of smaller appellations (lieux dits) chez Chavy and they almost trump his own and most other's 1er Cru whites. Narvaux is one of the more exciting being high up and between the Perrieres and Blagny sites. As you drop down the hill from Blagny and into the village the Narvaux vines will be on your left. As you would expect it's on the Puligny side. The wine shows some of the Perrieres and Genevrieres minerals and flint as well as the density of Blagny. There's no filtration or any other intervention here. It's a very classy wine indeed and I simply loved it! 2025 to 2029.

Puligny Montrachet Corvees les Vignes 2021

SOLD

A selection of vines from the Meursault side of the village make a powerful yet still delicate and poised Puligny. Already quite generous, there is honey, white flower and peach with a touch of vanilla cream on the finish. Philippe's mother was from a Meursault family and this gives a flavour of both villages in one bottle! 2026 to 2029



Philippe Chavy

Puligny Montrachet Rue Rousseau 2021

SOLD

As you drive south on the Route des Grands Cru you see Bienvenue Batard Montrachet on your right. Look over to your left and there is a low wall. Behind that are the vines of Rue Rousseau. It's a rare and much demanded wine. Sadly it did not behave itself for my visit being 'troubled', or turbid on the day.

Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Folatieres 2021

SOLD

Only 2 barrels (600 bottles) of this are being bottled. This is considerably less than half a normal year. The wine is tightly bound but ready to bloom in the medium term. This is a great wine that really must have a bit of time to grow in bottle. 2029 to 2034

Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Pucelles 2021

SOLD

Being next to the Grands Crus, this is perhaps the most iconic 1er Cru vineyard. There's more though as Philippe's vines are right up in the south west corner at the junction of 1er Cru le Cailleret and Batard Montrachet. The few grapes that have ripened have come in tip top condition and so very little intervention, or sulphur was needed. Again it's closed now but there is so much here to look forward to. Soft citrus pith, delicate apricot and a dash of honey. It's so pure and so complex. Needs time. 2029 to 2035.



In Philippe's Puligny vineyards; perhaps the globe was warm a century ago!

Domaine Leflaive, Puligny Montrachet

Sadly I haven't had a chance to try these in 2021. Just a few cases of these gems!

Bourgogne Blanc 2021 **SOLD**

Puligny Montrachet 2021 **SOLD**

Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Clavoillon 2021 **SOLD**

Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Pucelles 2021 **SOLD**

Bienvenue Batard Montrachet 2021 **SOLD**

Batard Montrachet 2021 **SOLD**

Domaine Leflaive & Associes, Puligny Montrachet

Bourgogne Blanc 2021 **SOLD**

Gerard Thomas, Saint Aubin

Gerard is a kindly, robust and ruddy faced year round Santa, whose life has been dedicated to his vineyards. He has rebuilt some unusually precarious terraces, replanted and maintained his Chardonnay vines with pride. The first Saint Aubin 1er Cru is endearingly known as 'dog's tooth' by many clients; old stone gate posts look like giant canines. The second takes its name from cats that bask in this sun-baked parcel on the lower slopes. The domaine has been run by Gerard's daughters for some time now, though Gerard himself is never far away! The 2021s here show a certain magnetic charm; wines you just want to own.

Saint Aubin 'Champ Tirant' 2021

£220.00 (12)

Shimmering silver, green, and yellow in appearance and not giving too much away on the nose right now. There's crushed slate, fresh mushroom, floral and lemon notes. There are no hard edges here and the wine will have rounded out beautifully by the time it lands in January 2023. Vivacious ... it's spring in a bottle! 2023 to 2025

Saint Aubin 1er Cru Murgers des Dents de Chien 2021

£295.00 (12)

The 'Dog's tooth' vineyard borders Puligny 1er Garenne. It is named after the tooth like stones that form the gate posts. This is a Handford favourite. These are all fermented and aged in oak. 20% of those barrels are new. There's an immediacy about the whole range but this is the 1er Cru to drink first. Delightful, soft peach skin and some even more exotic notes of pineapple and mango. I also found a herbaceous side, camomile perhaps. 2023 to 2027

Saint Aubin 1er Cru la Chateniere 2021

£295.00 (12)

Down the slope, and close to chez Thomas at the southern end of the village, the vineyard is named for the wild cats that bask in the warmth of this sun trap on the lower slopes. The terraces were constructed by Gerard's own hand, though many years ago now. This is a notch up in volume and concentration and shows more restraint too. And there's a soothing coat of milk and honey at the very end too. 2024 to 2029

Chassagne Montrachet 1er Cru les Chenevottes 2021

£450.00 (12)

The vineyard is mid slope and at the St Aubin end of Chassagne. This is tough, stony, loamy site that faces east and a bit north. I stopped to help Isabelle and Anne-Sophie with a huge boulder in the vineyard this time out! Great depth and power with hints of slatey minerals, biscuit and floral notes. Of the range this is the one that really needs time. 2026 to 2031

Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru la Garenne 2021

£450.00 (12)

High up on the hillside, and virtually contiguous to the Murgers des Dents de Chien vineyard of Saint Aubin. Just as the Chassagne is a turbo charged Chateniere, the Puligny is the stronger form of the Dents de Chien. With expressive, mineral, apricot, peach skin and citrus feel, this is fruit foot forward and almost ready to go! Still very good Puligny for the money. 2024 to 2030

Domaine Quentin Jeannot, Santenay

Locals Valerie and Philippe Jeannot took to the vine a little late in life. They began farming these 11 hectares in 1997. Their son, Quentin, studied at the Davaye school in Macon. He has rapidly become well respected amongst his peers as a thoughtful and conscientious producer of expressive reds and whites in the Cotes de Beaune. Santenay is perhaps the flagship of the house. The white is tremendous but I thought this Maranges 1er Cru edged it in 2021! I first met Quentin in 2017 and have been stalking him ever since. We've been proud to show a good part of his excellent range in recent months and look forward to a burgeoning relationship.



Santenay Blanc Clos des Hates 2021

£130.00

Bottled before the 2022 harvest and so retaining maximum freshness if a little youthful reduction. Vibrant lime zest and a charming veneer of delicate and lifted nectarine juice in the mid palate. The zest and ripening weight of fruit will marry well by the spring of 2023. Delicious. 2023 to 2025

Hautes Cotes de Beaune 2021

£80.00

Just a few cases of this new one; I've never had an allocation as it's the pouring red Burgundy at Patrick Henriroux's 2 star Pyramide in Vienne. Chewy bon bons, rose petal and pastille fruits. Lifted fruits with sucrosity and delicate acids to balance. Quentin has an exceptional and somewhat exclusive style to his reds that is worth getting used to! An evocative red. 2023 to 2026.

Maranges 1er Cru Fussiere 2021

£145.00

Concentrated, perfumed and tasting way above its station with a rich and mellow strawberry and cherry fruit centre. Great structure and the palate will put on weight quickly to match the phenomenal aromatics this showed early doors. 2024 to 2028

Pommard 2021

£195.00

There are only a few vines here but I'm getting to know the wine well. The 2020 matured wonderfully late in 2021 and I expect the 2021 to look very good by the end of 2022. Like the Maranges it will flower in middle age; these reds appear heavier on the nose to start with but the palate soon catches up! 2024 to 2029

Domaine Faiveley, Mercurey

The Faiveley family has dominated this wonderful appellation since 1933 when they took whole ownership of the impressive vineyard of 'la Framboisiere'. The wines are juicy, approachable and very popular on the fine dining circuit. Wines are vinified in a bespoke cuverie that is named after this unique parcel of vines. Clos Rochette is another Monopole. It is contiguous with Framboisiere but a little higher, facing more to the east and with more compact, limestone that is more suited to Chardonnay. A very fine pair.

Mercurey Clos Rochette Monopole 2021

£135.00

Faiveley were even more careful than ever in selecting the very best fruit here. This is one of the main secrets of success in 2021 as the fruits are astounding in their concentration and exotic notes. The rich mango and ripe apricot sing louder as the new oak has been toned down a touch. Quite delicious and beautiful to drink from the cask! 2023 to 2025

Mercurey Framboisiere Monopole 2021

£155.00

This has been de-stemmed and again berry by berry selection results in a more forward, almost Californian style of Pinot. Good, honest and straightforward Pinot that will drink well in just a year or two. You will love this one! 2024 to 2027



Domaine de Meix Foulot, Mercurey

I do love popping in to see Agnes de Launey and her fabulous dog. She is so diligent in her hospitality, her sense of collaboration with the vineyards and the familial devotion that continues the great and pioneering works of her father, Paul, not just for the domaine, but for the appellation of Mercurey.

Mercurey 1er Cru Montaigu Monopole 2021

SOLD

Entirely owned by the family this beautiful vineyard oversees the entire appellation. It lies below the ruined castle of the Dukes of Montaigu and would have been the pride of Burgundy in the 15th and early 16th centuries. On the plus side this vineyard is high up and quite sheltered and so less frosty. The downside is that it's a steep slope facing slap bang into the morning sun and so gets the worst of the bud burn on a frosty morning. So less wine but the density is palpable. There is amazing extract and, as ever an expressive red with a wild side to the rich fruit core; wild strawberry, damson and cherry with a slice of truffle, black pepper and a twist of dried herbs. Something different! 2024 to 2032



Agnes Dewe de Launay

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