



Handford

W I N E S



Painted for the festival of St Vincent in Puligny Montrachet, Jan 2023

Handford Wines

Burgundy En Primeur 2023 Offer

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The Offer

The Weather

Unusually uneventful would be the headline. Vines would have preferred a deeper cold snap at some point in a warmish winter. There was no frost damage to speak of and only one hail storm of note. That came through St Aubin and Meursault with only light damage and plenty of time for vines to recover. Record fruit set wasn't threatened as drying breezes through the ripening period kept disease at bay, almost the polar opposite conditions of their colleagues on the Atlantic side of France. There were a couple of modest heat spikes towards the end of August and into September. Some whites were picked in these uncomfortable conditions but most waited for the cooler, first days of September. Reds came in after the second of those hot weeks. So the challenge was to retain freshness and character in a higher yielding vintage with warm weather at harvest time.

Our growers have done a tremendous job of this. Tasting 2023s was a joy as wines were generous, forward and yet remained true to their origin. They were way beyond expectation and that always puts a smile on my face. Whites are beautifully ripe, almost tropical in their fruit style, but with a squeeze of citrus and refreshing bite. They are for the medium term as it was never going to be easy to manage pH and acidity in perfect order. There are plump and eye-catching reds in the Cotes de Nuits with a fair number of classic 1er and Grand Crus. Cotes de Beaune reds are supple and sumptuous, often making gorgeous early drinking.

Following a few lean vintages and with stock levels, especially of whites, only reducing, this is a great opportunity to replenish cellars with some delicious Burgundy.

The Market

Almost all prices are held, exchange remains in our favour and quality is high; ideal conditions for en Primeur buying. Understandably the fine wine market is a little nervous but, where production is limited in areas such as Burgundy, Piemonte, some Tuscan beauties and the best of South Africa, especially white, we are finding the best wines ever more hard to come by. Put another way, Burgundy is one of a few regions whose best wines will be tough to find in a few years time.

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 2025 for onward delivery. When you choose to receive wines the duty (currently £16.03 per case of 6 for wines 11.5%-14.5% ABV) and VAT 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 £1.30 per case (up to 12 bottles) per month and £0.65 (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 an excellent vintage like this will cellar for much longer.

Please Note

Once again we have unprecedented enquiries on Burgundy 2023. **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 31st January 2025.** 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

Frederic Esmonin, Gevrey Chambertin

These wonderful vineyards will still be managed by the apparently immortal Andre, Frederic's father, who was bottling quality reds here at les Estournelles long before the fashion for Domaine bottled burgundy took off. The vines are managed to achieve a balance between expression and concentration; a good deal of finesse and some fat too. Andre is, in his modest way, one of most knowledgeable of Nuits vigneronns. 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'. Exclusive to Handford Wines and with very limited quantities bottled for us.

Gevrey Chambertin Clos Prieur 2023

£345.00 (12)

This adjoins the 1er Cru vineyard of the same name, first planted by monks from the Abbey of Cluny. The style of Clos Prieur has suited recent vintages with its mid weight, fruit forward approach. Always made for drinking young the first feel is even riper than 2021 and 2022. Raspberry coulis, strawberry and a note of vanilla sponge lie above a gentle but persistent freshness. The response to this is fantastic. Having been one of the wines of a recent tasting of smaller, drinking-now red Burgundies, the 2021 is already gone. I'm sure 2023 will follow suit. Another mouthful of joy! 2026 to 2031

Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru Estournelles Saint Jacques 2023

£675.00 (12)

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. This is fabulous in 2023 as that vigour is just what is needed to balance the super lush and ripe raspberry and loganberry fruits. Classic Gevrey. 2029 to 2034

Ruchottes Chambertin Grand Cru 2023

£645.00

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. Another beautifully ripe example and with more of a slate and cordite note of minerals that gives an edgy finish. This needs 7 to 9 years in the cellar to round off those angles. It's tip top Grand Cru. 2032 to 2045



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. As the years go on he's becoming ever more effusive about working sustainably and saving the planet. He will always dabble with wine making fashions 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 2023. 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 2023

£60.00

Picked early on 24th August, just before a hot period, and hoping to keep acids up. That's just about worked as the very rich mid-palate does have a frame of stony lime. Fruit character is still lime and lemon pith but so much softer and riper in 2023. This showcases the attractive and more-ish style of 2023 whites. A delight. 2025 to 2027

Morey Saint Denis Blanc 2023

£199.00

Dense, creamy, citrus and peach with a gentle hint of smoke from the barrels. Very long and even on the finish. I really enjoyed the intensity and immediacy of this. Excellent. 2025 to 2029



Benoit Stehly with cask samples

Morey Saint Denis 2023

£195.00

Tasting this as my first Nuits red of the vintage is becoming a tradition! Benoit's Morey seems to be an excellent bell-weather for the vintage so it was a joy to find this lively Morey, packed full of sweet, classical raspberry and redcurrant fruits and with frisky and balancing acidity. It's an open and generous red with great length of flavour and to enjoy in its youth. Classy. 2026 to 2031.

Morey Saint Denis 1er Cru Clos des Ormes 2023

£295.00

We tasted this further down the usual pecking order as Benoit is particularly proud of its depth and forcefulness. Opaque in colour and with deep loganberry juice notes, there is plenty of aromatic complexity, ripe and polished tannic structure and with undertones of slate and winter savoury. This is a superb plot and it's worth noting that if you continue the line northwards along the hillside to Gevrey you hit the Grand Cru vineyards. A firm Handford favourite. 2028 to 2039

Morey Saint Denis 1er Cru les Sorbes 2023

£295.00

Benoit has recently acquired a small house along with these vines. It's the 1er Cru closest to the village and immediate below Tres Girard. Sorbes refers to a type of crab apple that was grown for both fruit and wood in times past. I couldn't find any crab apple flavour in the wine but I did taste plenty of dense red fruits and firm structure that will sanction a little more time in the cellar than many 2023s. Only 8 barrels from this tiny plot. 2030 to 2041.

Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru les Combottes 2023

£525.00

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. Showing a bit of reduction which is not a bad thing as this is highly strung, full of vigour. Exceptional concentration with rounded, cool, black and red fruits. Both acids and tannins are balancing but supple in a wine whose quality is all in the brilliance of its fruit concentration. Clos des Ormes and Combottes are firm recommendations this year. 2030 to 2041

Clos Saint Denis 2023

£795.00

Dense, yet dazzling in appearance, St Denis has a fine and focussed nose of sweet spice and soft, red fruits. That spice is evident on the palate alongside sandalwood, sage and forest fruit flavours. Some integration of the structure in barrel is needed but there's plenty of time for that. There's a natural feel of both minerality and soft leafy notes, emulating both soil and ground cover of this carefully farmed vineyard. We have been lucky to try a few back vintages recently proving that this is a truly grand Burgundy worthy of its place in the cellar. 2031 to 2043.

Clos de la Roche 2023

£995.00

Another fabulous wine to collect in recent years, this is pure red, intense to both the eye and the palate. Tannins and acids are notably stronger to match the concentration of briar and pomegranate fruits. Super length of flavour, a little edgy in youth but with a largesse that seemed to defy the vintage character (though as I tasted at more domaines I found myself pleasantly surprised by the power of many reds.) 2034 to 2044.

Bonnes Mares 2023

£1250.00

A little under one third of a hectare normally produces around 1300 bottles. As in 2022 we have the full compliment of four barrels produced, though sadly we know already that that won't be the case in 2024. Alluring, all spice, loganberry and some exotic fruit notes, the Bonnes Mares has a velvet texture akin to near neighbour, Musigny. Outstanding quality though, as ever, this may have to be allocated. 2035 to 2046.

Christian Clerget, Vougeot

Justine is completely in charge now but another baby means that I taste with Mum, Isabelle, who is delightful. Justine's biodynamic techniques have been tested to the full in 2024 but, in 2023, have resulted in another astounding set of reds. There's a little less whole bunch fermentation, a function of the sheer volume. The tasting was as impressive as last year and with wines equally pure and perfect, reflecting the beauty and elegance of both the vineyards and the grower. A stunning range; even the Bourgogne Rouge has become one of our most asked for red Burgundies.

Morey Saint Denis Blanc 'les Crais' 2023

£240.00

A quirky white from this famous red wine village, this is immediate on the nose and with great complexity of ground almond, lemon sorbet, tangerine, and a twist of grapefruit zest to keep it honest. There's a rare conjunction of density and lift and an indulgent rose petal and peach skin finish. Beautiful, and a sign of the level of ripeness and complexity we can get excited about in the Cotes de Nuits in 2023. 2025 to 2028

Bourgogne Rouge 2023

£135.00

We prefer not to offer too many of these smaller wines en Primeur but this one is so good and so popular that it will all disappear before it hits the shelf. Justine's red from the Nuits makes an excellent foil for Nicolas Potel's Volnay based Bourgogne Rouge. Perfumed, vivacious and with fine acids to balance the delicate, wild strawberry and basketfuls of other fruits of the forest. Delicious. 2025 to 2029

Chambolle Musigny 2023

£275.00

The Chambolle was harvested in three tranches this year with each crop vinified separately before careful 10 months maturation. There's a sense of progression here as the resulting red is more elegant, silk, lace and velvet, and with a supple, milk chocolate finish. It's a great result and will give a lot of pleasure through the rest of the decade. 2026 to 2030.

Vosne Romanee 'les Violettes' 2023

£360.00

These vines are high up by the famous Bize whites of Vougeot. It's a wonderful spot sandwiched between the mid to high point of Clos Vougeot and the best known lieu dit of Maizieres. Open, generous with more silk and lace. So much of Clerget is about elegance and fine texture! I've tasted both 2021 and 2022 recently and both are outstanding. It's worth leaving for 3 or 4 years to allow the fire cracker, mineral note to fully integrate with those beautifully rich, red fruits. 2027 to 2032.

Vougeot 1er Cru les Petits Vougeots 2023

£399.00

Magnums £425.00 (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. Again, there is an air of finesse, elegance and super purity here. The mouthfeel goes on an on as fine acids build in harmony with pomegranate, redcurrant and raspberry fruits. So often this shows a mouth-watering and cool, fresh finish and 2023 is no exception. Very fine. 2027 to 2033.

Chambolle Musigny 'aux Croix' 2023

£299.00

Along with the lieu 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. Still with the velvet touch of Chambolle, this has a more dark chocolate and star anise note. A sinewy red that will need a little more time in the cellar. 2029 to 2035.

Chambolle Musigny 2023 1er Cru les Charmes

£425.00

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 super charged in 2023. Full of energy, croquant red fruits, ripe but crisp tannins and racy, plum skin acidity. Another example that establishes the emerging genius that is Justine Clerget. Yes, it's a bit of change in style and perhaps not textbook Chambolle. For me, Justine is re writing the textbooks! Very fine indeed. 2029 to 2037

Echezeaux 'en Orveaux' 2023

£795.00

Magnums £835.00 (3)

Another enviable vineyard area of nearly a hectare from two parcels in the 'Orveau' sector. More magic in the vineyard and winery here; that racy, lively tone continues but this time there is so much depth of black fruit, spice, savoury, flint and polished tannins, all in good balance, that you get the very best of both the old and the new style of Clerget. 2030 to 2041



James with Christian and Isabelle 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. There was a fair amount of green harvesting in 2023. That serves to reduce the yield a little in the middle of the season, thereby increasing the quality of the remaining bunches.

Bourgogne Blanc Terres de Familles 2023

£115.00

Spectacular white with extraordinary provenance. A good chunk of the grapes come from their la l'Ormeau vineyard in Chassagne Montrachet. The open and rounded 2023 vintage exemplifies the wonderfully indulgent characters of Vougeraie. It's rich, intense and with piercing concentration of citrus and stone fruits. 2025 to 2027

Puligny Montrachet 2023

£315.00

This is from the three 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. There's more force of both fruit and character to this than in 2021 and 2022. A taut, energetic style that combines richness and mineral zing in equal measure. 2026 to 2031

Vougeot, Clos du Prieure Blanc 2023 Monopole

£345.00

One of the few iconic whites of the Cotes de Nuits this is pale, yet brilliant, to the eye but feels dense in the glass. Closed at the outset with more a feeling for layer upon layer of citrus and apricot skin fruits. Pale but star-bright with a little reduction at this stage. It's always a tight wine and this augers well for a multi-dimensional, citrus flesh and floral white. This classic will age gracefully in the medium term. 2026 to 2031

Clos Blanc de Vougeot 1er Cru 2023

£645.00

Wine has been produced from this chalky outcrop since the early 12th century. With a little more colour, intensity and the soft vanilla notes of oak, the 2023 flies the Vougeraie flag as high as the hills. Difficult to compare with anything but for the Vougeot above, Clos Blanc has a rich side, a herbal, almost absinthe note, a delicate, nectarine skin feel and a more classical lemon and lime zing to the long finish. A unique white and a thing of great beauty. 2028 to 2034

Le Charlemagne Blanc 2023

£480.00 (3)

Shall I compare thee to, well, another great Corton Charlemagne, the best that money can buy. Dense yet fine, fragile yet strong, creamy yet refreshing, there are so many conflicting harmonies that this serves to confuse as much as it pleases! A note of reduction that bodes well for a long life. Fabulous. 2030 to 2038

Chevalier Montrachet Grand Cru 2023

£1295.00 (3)

15 ares (that's 0.15 of a hectare!) 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. A completely different animal to the big whites above, Chevalier is a wine of minerality, expression of that austere soil and east facing aspect. Grown up Puligny, for sure. 2031 to 2042

Bourgogne Rouge Terres de Familles 2023

£125.00

Much of the fruit is from vineyards in and around Vougeot and the southern Cotes de Nuits, along with some from holdings in Volnay. There's a density about this, you can almost chew it! Licorice, blackberry, sloe and hints of baked earth. Not the most elegant example, but certainly packs a punch! 2027 to 2031

Vougeot Clos du Prieure 2023

£345.00

Unusually the appellation of Vougeot has more Grand Cru, Clos Vougeot, than 1er Cru, and even less of village wine! This has a little 1er Cru wine in the mix and, once again, offers the most delightful rose, Turkish delight and light red fruit aromatics. Strokes the tongue and persists in a delicate, silky style on the palate. Alluring. 2028 to 2034

Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru 2023

SOLD

Famously planted in one plot of a single 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. Normally a portion of this undergoes whole bunch fermentation giving both depth and freshness. In 2023 there is a little less room in the winery for fermenting whole bunches but nature has compensated in its own inimitable way. Lifted raspberry, loganberry and sweet rhubarb with just a hint of mocha and chocolate. Complexity builds and builds. This will develop evenly over 2 decades. 2028 to 2041



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 Boussselots, Vaucrains, and Perrieres, Christophe has some of the finest 1er Cru vineyards in the Côte de Nuits. Truly outstanding in recent years, such as 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022 and now 2023. He harvests into very small crates so that cleaner and less damaged fruit can be moved directly into the fermentation vats without the need for an auger or pump. Almost all the fruit is 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. Another of the smaller vineyards has proved too small to manage effectively, and so further improves the village wine. We have no Poulettes or Rue de Chaux now.

Nuits Saint Georges Vieilles Vignes 2023

£185.00

Fruit comes from 5 parcels in 4 climats; Alliotics, Charmottes, St Jacques and St Julien. I tasted the components separately this time; St Julien and Charmottes are on rich, red clay soil and give an ethereal tone, not intense but ripe, rounded and high in the palate. Alliotics, on a more austere soil is stricter, sinewy and with bulging biceps and St Jacques, with its lighter, sandy soil, is lighter, more angular and with super tension and vivacity. I tasted the wines before blending this year. Charmottes and St Julien are deeply coloured, spiced and with green herb, myrtle, black olive and slightly saline notes. Alliotics is super rich with all the length of ripe and fresh pomegranate and raspberry that you'd need for a great blend. St Jacques is a monster; it's all about the extract here. This bodes well for a stunning ensemble! 2026 to 2030.



Christophe Drag

Nuits Saint Georges 1er Cru les Damodes 2023**£345.00**

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. Back to its bumptious best, Damodes offers a whiff of gingerbread, gunflint and dusky, black fruits. On the palate there is more density and ripe tannin than in 2022. Classically styled and more in the mould of a great keeping vintage like 2015. Christophe's vines are just below an outcrop of rock on very sparse soil. He is convinced he has a unique expression here this year. Fascinating stuff. 2029 to 2038.

Nuits Saint Georges 1er Cru Aux Busselots 2023**£275.00**

Still north of the villages but sheltered and a little lower down the hill. Soils are contiguous with Vosne Romanee les Ravioles resulting in perhaps the silky smoothest example in this range. Dark red/black in colour and with a slightly vegetal, green raspberry note that heralds a more appealing and aromatic wild strawberry. This is more consistent with previous tastings, as are the layers of fruit, almost sweet fruit on the palate. The finish grows in freshness too. A very good result this and well put together. Busselots is becoming my slight favourite in this successful stable. 2027 to 2035.

Nuits Saint Georges 1er Cru les Perrieres 2023**£345.00**

Sadly no Rue de Chaux to buy, but these 89 year old vines have produced another gem. A little in the blended village wine makes that one a great buy! Perrieres is more sturdy (Clive Coates would have called it 'four square'), dark, dense and voluminous. To be fair, the finish opens into a medley of cassis, blackberry and loganberry with some ripe and crumbly, biscuit tannins. A red for the gourmet and another super result from Christophe. 2028 to 2037.

Nuits Saint Georges 1er Cru Vaucrains 2023**£415.00**

Christophe has 42 ares that yielded 2 more barrels than in 2023. That's 11 and five barrels is the highest in the previous three years! Deep and very even in appearance, nose give little away now. Focussed black cherry compote with a little wood spice, clove perhaps. It's more open on the palate with lashings of strawberries and cream, black forest gateau and with uplifting acidity too. This excellent range, comparing with the past three years, is just a little more fruit forward, straightforward, yet with energy and purity. These Nuits are great reds to own as they show such individuality, as well as sheer class. 2029 to 2038.

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. The Savigny is from three different plots inherited from Jean Marc's uncle and makes a very attractive, early drinker. Alix will be expecting her second child around the time of our tasting so we'll be raising a glass of her finest to the latest Millot.

Cotes de Nuits Villages Vieilles Vignes 2023

£160.00

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. There are two more vineyards from Alix's mother, Christine's side. They are les Essards, a few metres south of Faulques and Vignottes. The Vignottes vineyard, with 90 odd year old vines, is in the Nuits appellation, just to the west of Clos de la Marechale and Clos Arlot. As the vines and the project matures this is starting to look very promising. Cotes de Nuits is an appellation to follow for sure! A quarter of bunches are fermented before the press and there is a generous 10% of the wine matured in new oak barrels. Huge concentration, a hint of sweetness to the dense, forest fruits, this is beautifully crafted and again, a quality level above its station. Very good indeed. 2025 to 2033.

Savigny les Beaune 2023

£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. This sample was only bottled days before tasting but there's a feel of soft and cool red fruits, many dimensions and good integration of oak and tannins. Always good to see this develop over the next half a decade or so. A big favourite of mine and good to have a few cases of it this year! 2025 to 2031

Vosne Romanee 2023

£199.00 (3)

Fruit comes from prime parcels in Maizieres and Hautes Maizieres, immediately below the mighty 1er Cru Suchots vineyard. Sandalwood and spice from the wood is matched by soft, shortbread tannins and intense, loganberry with a twist of mint and cardamom in the background. Another powerful Vosne. 2028 to 2034.

Vosne Romanee 1er Cru Suchots 2023

£360.00 (3)

Between Echezeaux and Clos Vougeot this is one of the great 1er Crus of the Cotes de Nuits. The moniker Suchots holds many possibilities though it's likely to be named for tree stumps (souches) in what was a forested area. Unlike recent vintages this mirrors the village wine, though with even more intensity and definition. There is an extra dose of vibrant acidity that will keep the Suchots alive for a long time to come. I'm being very conservative when I say 2029 to 2038!

Echezeaux 2023

£550.00 (3)

Most of the grapes are from two plots in en Dessus planted in 1949 and in 1980. There are a couple of rows in Poulaillieres, all of these vines touching Grand Echezeaux. The last plot is in Clos St Denis (not that Grand Cru!), the southern most vineyard of Vougeot that neighbours Vosne Romanee, les Suchots vineyard to be precise. There's some variation in soils but free draining, sandy soils dominate. These work very well in a vintage of little water stress and give an even more generous Echezeaux than ever. It's perfumed and sumptuous, uplifting and lengthy. Sublime and, for me, a finer example than in 2021 or 2022. 2032 to 2046.

Clos de Vougeot 2023

£550.00 (3)

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. More muscled, sinewy and wild than neighbouring Echezeaux; there is heavy set, bramble fruit and sweet spice. Alix took care to downplay the pigeage so as not to over-extract from another bountiful return. Very good for the long term. 2034 to 2045.



Jean Marc Millot with the Amphora of Aligote

Philippe Cheron, Nuits Saint Georges

Domaine Cheron is rooted in Phillippe's grandfather's vineyard acquisitions from the 1930s and 1950s. Leases expired in the nineties and noughties in perfect time for Paul's grandchildren to kick start Domaine Cheron. 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. Philippe's approach is gentle and natural, with minimal intervention: limited de-stemming, cool settling, no fining, and rarely any filtration. Now fully organic, the Gevrey wines are bottled under the original domaine label, while the remarkable Romanée is reserved for Philippe's label. This is rare and exceptional. This range is massively underrated and I am proud to import from Philippe and now his sons. I tasted with Paul in November and he will come to London in January.

Vosne Romanee les Barreaux 2023

£375.00

This vineyard boasts an idyllic location, nestled just under the trees with breathtaking views. To the right, it overlooks Richebourg and Romanée Saint Vivant, and to the left, the 1er Crus of Beaux Monts and Suchots stretch towards Échezeaux and Clos Vougeot. Shared by only three growers (including Anne Gros), the steep, chalky slope produces a lively, finely tuned Vosne with vibrant red cherry fruit. The purity of ripe cherry is exceptional, complemented by soft notes of rhubarb and custard, vanilla cream, and nutmeg. Perfectly integrated, this is a stunning showcase of Philippe Cheron's artistry. 2025 to 2031.

Chambolle Musigny les 8 Climats 2023

£345.00

A blend from eight plots, most of them close to the village and some of them miniscule! I had a taste of a couple of the components of the blend in November so must reserve judgement until my first taste of the final blend, albeit still a barrel sample, at our en Primeur tasting.

Chambolle Musigny 'Clos de l'Orme' 2023

£375.00

Bordering the 1er Cru les Charmes, this vineyard lies on a gentle, well-drained slope of limestone scree from the Chambolle valley. Its dry, austere soil typically produces a ripe yet structured red. The vines, averaging 60 years old, contribute to its depth. The 2023 vintage is unusually tight, reflecting its seriousness and exceeding expectations. Bright red fruit notes, lively acidity, and seamless tannins frame a beautifully integrated wine. Clos de l'Orme promises longevity while retaining the terroir's distinct character over time. 2028 to 2034.

Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru Champonnet 2023

£395.00

Along with neighbouring Issarts and Ruchottes, this is land that was cleared of trees in the middle ages and lie immediately below the forests atop the ridge. The style leans to the more classic, light and piercing red fruits of vineyards in the middle of the village; red cherry, rhubarb, redcurrant and raspberry. Perfect ripeness to allow for a little time in bottle and expertly handled in the cuverie. This is a special range. 2028 to 2037

Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru la Romanee 2023

£495.00

Like the Charmes Chambertin, this vineyard, previously sold as a monopole, is now partially available to us and is among the best buys on offer. Perched at the highest south-facing cliff edge of the village, its unique location benefits from a natural water source, avoiding water stress even in 2023. This is Grand Cru quality. The opaque red colour is striking, and the fine, floral nose is focused and elegant. The hallmark density is balanced by Gevrey's signature lift, clarity, coolness, and peppery fruit. Though currently shy, it reveals penetrating dark red fruit notes and immense density. Paul compares it to the great 1999, claiming the 2023 is even better due to improvements in the winery. Quite outstanding. 2029 to 2045

Chambolle Musigny 1er Cru Feusselottes

£525.00

I haven't offered this before as it's a tiny plot in what is a relatively large 1er Cru vineyard, on the higher ground and just along from Musigny. It's only the third vintage since taking the vineyard back into their own hands, so the learning curve is steep. Feusselottes is a diminutive of fosse, a pit or quarry. The style is somewhat austere with a chalky, mineral and chocolate powder feel to the nose, and with a multi-layered palate that will need five years in the cellar before it flowers into another rose petal smooth, perfumed Chambolle. 2029 to 2038.

Clos Vougeot 2023

£895.00

Philippe has managed to find room to ferment a good proportion of this before pressing. The result is a red of so much substance that you can almost chew it. Layers and layers of pure forest fruit with extraordinary persistence. I've always been more of an Echezeaux man but this would be the one to turn me! 2030 to 2041

Domaine Faiveley, Nuits St Georges

I've always enjoyed a visit to these famous old cellars in the back streets of Nuits st Georges. It's not every year that I pick a few wines to offer. Indeed I sometimes find their mantra of innovation can go a little too far! The 7th generation are the brother and sister team of Eve and Erwin who have always been most generous in their welcome and in giving time when in London. Though the majority of the business is as negociants, here are three great wines from their own vineyards.

Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Champs Gain 2023

£499.00

In the past this has been a little overbearing and perhaps with too much lees stirring. It may be the time I taste but this year the Puligny was singing. Gain is an old French word, still used in the north, for a grazing pasture. These few rows lie adjacent to some notable locals, Pierre-Yves Colin Morey and Jean-Noel Gagnard. The wine is a good mix of the modern and the traditional showing frisky fresh white peach and melon fruits but with a certain, old fashioned austerity and strict formation that bodes well for medium term maturation in bottle. In a year of slightly earlier drinking whites, this is a great addition to the cellar. 2028 to 2034.

Corton Charlemagne 2023

£1350.00

One of the flagships of this long established company, and a vineyard they have owned and managed for some time now. Notably deeper in colour and with layers of peaches and cream fruit balanced by a polished pebble mineral and an acid bite that is, surprisingly for 2023, a little more obvious this year. One of those great whites that will be difficult to resist in youth but will age gracefully too. A test of will power! 2028 to 2040.

Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru les Cazetiers 2023

£625.00

On my previous visit Erwan reported that they had lost many more vines than usual to the deep winter frosts of 2021/22. It is a fairly big site and so still some to go round. The style is classical Gevrey; lifted, with lighter, wild strawberry and green raspberry fruits. Plenty of purity and fine structure to give it an ethereal and even immortal feel! 2029 to 2040.

Domaine 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 farms as organically and indeed, biodynamically as possible in the vineyard, but is fiercely 'natural' in the now completed winery in Savigny. He has turned the old winery into 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! The flax bottles that I have mentioned before have not materialised. This seems to be linked into another ambitious and longer term project from the talented, if impulsive Potel. Domaine wines are from his own vineyards where Maison Roche de Bellene is a traditional negoce.

Savigny les Beaune Blanc 2023

£110.00

A bit of a throwback in the clonal stakes as much of this is from post war plantings of that old work horse 161-49C, the C is for Couderc who made this cross breed back in 1888. Its strong point is tolerance, and indeed enjoyment of heavy limestone soils and resistance to drought. Though it went out of favour at the end of the last century, many are beginning to reap the benefits of standing by such a plant that is a big part of French heritage being so widely planted for so many years. The wine is as giving as ever with ripe citrus, nectarine skin, vanilla and grapefruit. I note a little less of the caramel and crystalline fruits than in 2022. The bottle is beautifully presented with yellow wax capsule. 2025 to 2029

Savigny les Beaune Rouge 'Hommage a Jean Ferte' 2023

£195.00

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. Nicolas removes an unusual amount of lees on racking post ferment. That's indicative of a rich vintage. He compares these dense reds with 1999 and 2019. This is a 1er Cru from les Peuillets and Haut Jarrons, all but half and half. Plum skin, crushed red fruits and with quite intense tannins and acidity for the vintage, this will soften in the medium term to leave that classic, melt in the mouth, Beaune style, cherry pie fruit. Delicious. 2026 to 2032.

Beaune 1er Cru 'Hommage a Francoise Potel' 2023

£220.00

Sourced from five 1er Cru vineyards, with vines no younger than 50 years, this is fascinating mix of Beaune's finest terroirs. Clos du Roi and Les Bressandes, from the Savigny side, meet Les Pertuisots from the Pommard side, complemented by high and low parcels from Montée Rouge and Les Reversées. Nicolas placed this late in the tasting lineup, considering it on par with some of Vosne's great 1er Crus. On the nose, it's delicate, floral, and perfumed. The palate, however, reveals richness and complexity, with layers of violet, chocolate, and vanilla cream wrapped in a subtle sucrosity. This exquisite wine is a delightful reintroduction to a somewhat overlooked appellation. 2027 to 2034

Vosne Romanee 1er Cru Suchots 2023

£595.00

From one of the best plots in Vosne, a magical triangle between Romanee Saint Vivant and Grands Echezeaux, this is a monster. Often fermented before the crush there was simply no room to do that this year! Opaque and dense to the eye, closed for now to the nose, and with concentrated but cool and elegant mid palate cherry and raspberry notes, the Suchots fits the en Primeur bill perfectly. Top wine, pretty rare and long lived. Near perfect in 2023. 2031 to 2049.

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 being largely from vineyard in Volnay that had been so carefully manicured by Nicolas' father Gerard. Nicolas has switched to the latest and lightest 400g bottles, another of many nods to sustainability.

Chassagne Montrachet 1er Cru Clos Saint Jean

£495.00

From one of the bigger 1er Crus in the village this white offers a fine and delicate, nectarine skin nose with a veneer of butter, vanilla cream and soft wood. I noted this to be broad and giving on the palate, rather like the Blagny from Matrot tasted earlier in the day. It gives all the density, ripeness and length of flavour that you would expect from Chassagne. Opulent, persuasive and pervasive though perhaps needing a little more time than the Puligny. A great pair of whites here. 2027 to 2033

Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Folatières

£575.00

This is a huge favourite and as good as the great 2020. Just 6 barrels made, one in new oak, and every drop is finely crafted for sheer pleasure. Classis, citrus, nectarine skin and white flower notes that are a little riper, and even tropical, in 2023. It's the mineral coolness that draws me to this one, almost like being in a cave on a hot day! Striking stuff. 2027 to 2032

Bourgogne Pinot Noir Cuvee Reserve 2023**£60.00**

The majority of the fruit is still from the excellent Volnay vines cared for by Gerard, his Dad, and then Nicolas for the past six decades or so. One recent addition is a small parcel in Chorey and they are finalising the purchase of vines in Pommard now. This gets better and better as the years go by. Deeply coloured and Nicolas says this is an even and easy vintage akin to the 2020. There is peppery, red fruit and a pulpy middle that persists well despite a soft acidity. Great for early drinking. 2025 to 2028

Volnay Vieilles Vignes 2023**£165.00**

It makes me happy when I like this enough to list it, as it reminds me of Gerard Potel. I learnt so much from him in the early days and was privileged to be with him to celebrate Epiphany, with the special gallette cake, just a few weeks before he died. The red has a tremendous crunch of redcurrant, red apple and raspberry. It's pure, ethereal and with a very long finish. Super fine acidity. Excellent. 2027 to 2032.

Pommard 2023**£175.00**

High up the hill and almost due south facing resulting in a fresh but very full Pommard in a vintage as good as 2023. Pommard is the more opulent of the Cotes de Beaune reds; this year it's packed with black cherry jam, cassis, more delicate spice, mincemeat and with a mouth-watering finish. There's a certain sucrosity and extra weight here. This and the remaining reds were sampled from barrel. 2028 to 2036.

Chambolle Musigny 1er Groseilles 2023**£475.00**

It's tempting to assume that the vineyard is named for the style of fruits as Groseille is a redcurrant. It is more likely to be a corruption of Gresille, old French for land covered with small stones. So it's a rich and well drained patch close to the centre of sleepy Chambolle. The wine is richly fruited, supple and with a big heart. Juicy, rounded and alluring with that stunning velvet texture so characteristic of Chambolle. 2029 to 2038

Charmes Chambertin Grand Cru 2023**£595.00 (3)**

One of the busiest vineyards in the Cotes as its 12 hectares is home to over 40 growers. Three barrels this year, that's still less than 1000 bottles. It is, of course, difficult to taste so soon after racking into barrels for the first time. No doubt the wine is immense but the more I concentrate the more I felt a certain elegance, finesse and delicacy. Both of these Grand Cru do go on for ever in the mouth. 2033 to 2045

Le Chambertin 2023**£1395.00 (3)**

Only 2 barrels and so the impression of the one new barrel dominates to begin with. Toasty, with juicy, bramble fruits and a touch of cream to the cool and long finish. Magnificent. 2035 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.

Paul has signed a map of the vineyard for our new cellar. His wines are a way better than his handwriting!



Bourgogne Aligote 2023

£110.00

50% is aged in 600 litre barrels and 50% in tank. Wines are settled and raked with no need for fining or filtration. This feels so natural and intense with typical notes of greengage, apple skin and lime fruit with a rich, creamy seam through the finish. It takes Aligote to yet another level. With refreshing and delicate acids it is incredibly more-ish. Worth keeping a bottle or two for 5 years or more to watch those green fruit notes ripen further. 2026 to 2030

Auxey Duresses 1er Cru 2023

£260.00

From les Breterons and les Duresses 1er Cru vineyards, cut into the slopes below the Montagne du Bourdon, the hill that overlooks the village of Meursault. Fruits were free of disease here but there was some variable ripeness and so Paul has done a very assiduous selection, rejecting whole bunches, rather than berry by berry, before de-stemming and fermenting. The result is a super intense and pure example. Great depth of colour and retention of freshness is important in a wine that has almost soupy concentration. 2028 to 2037.

Volnay 1er Cru Fremiets 2023

£495.00

It took me a while to get on the ladder for the Auxey 1er. This year and last I have a few cases of this delicious Volnay. Paul has always preferred to pick this one early. Last year that was as soon as August 23rd! 2023 allowed for a summer holiday with harvest of the first reds in mid September. Not surprisingly Fremiets borders Pommard and so has that deeper, black fruits; bramble, loganberry and even a drop of cassis. This is an individual red; call it Fremiets and not Volnay! 2029 to 2038

Pommard 1er Cru Clos des Epeneaux 2023

£690.00

Magnums £699.00 (3)

At just over 5 hectares, this is one of Burgundy's largest monopole vineyards. Named for the thorns and brushwood in the meagre soils, it is biodynamically managed with utmost respect for the vineyard's expression. This year, Paul vinified parcels by soil type rather than vine age. The south-east is austere with botanical and redcurrant notes; the south-west, stony and limestone-rich, is riper and more opulent. The north-west, with loam soils and old Pinot clones, offers classic Côte de Beaune coolness and delicate red fruits. The north-east stands out with intensity, depth, and fine tannins. Combined with a little press wine, it's another classic Epeneaux. 2033 to 2047

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, now made by his daughter and son in law, Lydie and François Alzingre, are exceptional and every bit as good as the great 2020s.

Bourgogne Blanc 2023

SOLD

Most of these vines are from a little vineyard on the border of Chassagne and Puligny, with some in Volnay. One of the first whites I tasted, and so exciting as the wine showed as much or more potential than the great 2022. Yes there is a premium for the best of these generic wines but the quality really is up there with Puligny. Long, pure, mineral, elegant, watery, Clementine fruits. Silky, alluring, persistent and harmonious this has everything. Very fine. 2025 to 2027.

Puligny Montrachet 2023

£295.00

Exceptional provenance here; the bulk of the fruit comes from Rue Rousseau, les Meix and les Enseigneres, all immediately below Bienvenue Batard Montrachet. There is a little addition from nearly mature vines in the 1er Cru Garenne vineyard. Caresses the palate with its serene, satsuma juice and soft lime fruits. More elegant and seductive than either 2021 or 2022 if not quite as fine as the exceptional 2020. Minerality is present if not evident though complexity of style and structure does build nicely on the palate. 2027 to 2032

Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Champ Canet 2023

£420.00

Higher on the slope, Champs Canet is contiguous with Meursault's top vineyard and Grand Cru contender, les Perrieres. This combines that cool, ripe and soft citrus with a more floral and subtle mineral note. This range is other worldly; so many flavours with nothing dominating and nothing missing. For the moment the style is down played but I imagine these will open up early in life. Great tension. Excellent. 2027 to 2034

Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru La Truffiere 2023

£550.00

Truffiere, where truffles are still found, is higher still and just below Blagny. Only five growers in this secluded spot that yields a fuller and more textured white with distinct lemon fruits and rigid acidity. Will be thankful for a year or two more ripen in bottle. Solid, concentrated and more long lived. 2028 to 2037

Montagny 1er Cru Blanc 2023

£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 that surround the old castle at Buxy. Montagny is perhaps the most Cotes d'Or like of the Chalonnais whites. This offers citrus, minerals, white flowers and a dash of crème caramel on the finish. 2025 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.

Bourgogne Aligote Raisins Dorees 2023

£85.00

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. Harvested on during the week of 11th September and, again, the later of the whites to come in to allow that extra complexity to develop. Berries were large, fleshy and with bags of potential. Aligote has naturally high levels of acidity and so works superbly in 2023, a ripe and generous year in which a bit of acid goes a long way to keeping the balance and allowing for some development in bottle. Baked apple, plump sultana and sweet lime. 2025 to 2029.

Meursault 2023

£199.00

Some green harvesting in these Meursault vineyards in order to increase the power and concentration of the remaining bunches. And powerful it is! Singular, sweet lime and lemon fruits, so pure and expressive, perhaps more of the natural style of wine making than of Meursault itself. Fred doesn't make too much of these but they are worth collecting. 2027 to 2033

Meursault Vendanges Selectionnees 2023

£215.00

Selected from two zones at the top of the hill, towards Blagny and the Volnay border. The latter is en Gargouillot. This is one of the best named vineyards of all. It's the furthest away from the village and so is named for the noise the farmer's stomach makes knowing it's a bit of a hike to get back for lunch! There's more zest to the lime and lemon notes and a bit more peach skin and juice concentration. This is balanced by some chalky grip. Under rated and under priced! 2028 to 2035.

Beaune 1er Cru Clos des Aigrots Blanc 2023

£295.00

I was tasting on the 20th anniversary of this vineyard, bought by the Lafarges in November 2005. The style is bold yet supple, plush and plump orange fruits and flowers. Rich yet refreshing. When the Lafarge daughters came over in April the 2020 proved a massive hit. Beautiful. 2027 to 2033.

Bourgogne Passetoutgrains a l'Exception 2023 **£85.00**

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. Just a touch of hail damage in the lower parts of Volnay reduced yield a little. With no Anthologie made in 2023 there is added power of loganberry and bramble fruit to the usual, vibrant and floral red fruits. Wild strawberry on the finish. As pleasing as ever. 2025 to 2028.

Bourgogne Pinot Noir 2023 **£105.00**

From two parcels of very old vines in Volnay; 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. Where the 2022 seemed a little extracted and closed up, the 2023 is back on form with its usual, refreshing red cherry notes. Long and mouth-watering. 2025 to 2029.

Volnay 2023 **£199.00**

It's rare to see two vintages of both quality and quantity in a row in Volnay. Catastrophes avoided this is an attractive Volnay with an open, rose hip and raspberry nose, a hint of rhubarb and vanilla custard in the mid palate and a crunchy, red apple acid to round it all off. Lively and long lasting. Excellent. 2027 to 2033.

Volnay Vendanges Selectionnees 2023 **£245.00**

Fruit is selected from four vineyards immediately below the 1er Cru, and from the upper parts of those. There's a little new oak that gives another layer of that custard cream to balance those quintessential, crisp red fruits. Acids are pure and fine, and there is that sensuous, black cherry flesh feel that so often makes this a favourite for me. Ethereal and with exceptional length of flavour. I loved this. 2028 to 2035

Beaune 1er Cru les Aigrots 2023 **£295.00**

This was still undergoing malolactic conversion when I tasted in early November. I could only feel the ripeness and intensity with hints of cassis and a vanilla cream finish; a softness so typical of the greatest Beaune reds. 2028 to 2033.

Beaune 1er Cru les Greves 2023 **£345.00**

The oldest vines here have turned 100 and again the barrels were undergoing malo. I did find a more subtle, red fruit side to the Greves than is usual. Red cherries and raspberries where there are so often notes of black fruits. Fred is confident and rightly proud of these two great Beaunes. 2029 to 2037.

Volnay 1er Cru Mitans 2023

£485.00

Mitans is an old French word that places this vineyard in the middle of the slope. There are two small plots in the upper part, both abutting les Brouillards. These 1er Crus are generally a little more piquant, floral and immediately inspirational; this one starts with a little more austerity than usual but builds to a crescendo of creamy red fruits with a punch of compote concentration in the very core of the mouth. The 1er Crus here will be good reds for more extensive cellaring this year. 2029 to 2040.

Volnay 1er Cru Pitures 2023 (Magnum only)

£499.00 (3)

Only bottled into magnums as this is just a tiny parcel of vines and it's a wine for the long haul. Broad and with plenty of power, Pitures is perhaps the most mineral of this great selection. There are bite sized chunks of wild cherry, truffle and salty spice in a profoundly forceful middle palate. 2030 to 2041

Volnay 1er Cru Caillerets 2023

SOLD

There's another Fred project going on here. We've had no electricity, chickens in the vineyard and the triage sleeve. Now we have a portion of the vineyard planted in helix formation. This gives a different energy to the vines as the aspect changes slightly for each. The resulting wine is made separately and then blended back into the remainder from 67 year old vines. There is intense minerality and a feel of the earth that is more than matched by layers of soft, raspberry jam and vanilla pod. It's a Victoria sponge of a wine! Extraordinary. 2029 to 2044.

Frédéric Lafarge and his Triage Sleeve



Volnay 1er Cru Clos de Chenes 2023

SOLD

I have written more on this than any other in 2023! Closed but clearly generous, rounded, ripe strawberry that has some sucrosity but freshened with a squeeze of lemon. It's another explosive example, almost popping candy on the tongue and so vibrant. There is solid frame of ripe and silky tannins. Pure and delicious and, as for many truly great wines, will drink well both early and late. 2028 to 2046.

Volnay 1er Cru Clos du Chateau des Ducs 2023

SOLD



Famous for those chickens, the vineyard is immediately behind the house and winery and owned entirely by the Lafarges. There's a certain fragility here; mineral, cherry skin and lifted, dark fruits. It's all been de stemmed by hand and handled like a new born child, which I suppose it is in a way! I noted an extra density, almost Cab Franc like, and an evolving and sumptuous finish. 2030 to 2045

Our Lafarge Order – Ready To Ship!

Thierry et Pascal 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. 2023 is generous and of a quality more like the excellent 2020s. Harvests begun at the very end of August and were a little more staggered than usual hoping for that extra ripeness and complexity.

Bourgogne Chardonnay 2023

£99.00

Bottled in early August and showing a more ample and fleshy profile of lemon and apricot juices. This has rarely been so attractive at such an early stage and will give a lot of pleasure this summer. 2024 to 2027.

Meursault 2023

£265.00

They continue to shun new oak in any Meursault wines and this sample had just been fined with the fine clay, Kieselguhr. They have switched from cork to Diam and move to wax instead of capsules. Ailsa was happy to report a successful and relatively stress free harvest and vinification for these excellent whites. Delicate, white flower nose with just a hint of ripe citrus for now. Acids are a little more tender than usual and so this will come round fairly soon. Delicious and worth bagging as many growers, including the Matrots, lost more vines than is usual in the winter of 2023/24. Full yet fresh and as fine as ever. 2026 to 2030.

Meursault Chevalieres 2023

£295.00

A new one for us, but not for the Matrots as this has been sold only on other markets, mainly in USA. Chevalieres is at the top of the village and named for the fine horses that were bred and liveried here. Meursault was likely a resting point for ancient travellers, as long ago as Roman times, and the Forges vineyard over the stream is named after the blacksmiths who plied their trade there until the early Middle Ages. The wine is more tactile, with layers of lemon and lime pith fruit. Pointed, vibrant and with a pinch of salty mineral. Serious stuff for enjoying after 2 or 3 years in bottle. 2027 to 2032.

Meursault 1er Cru Blagny 2023

£425.00

Star bright yellow in colour and with a compact nose highlighting the clay, mineral tone of Blagny. The palate is as weighty as ever with a cream finish to this broad, green plum and citrus white. Almost tactile on the finish. Vines are up the hill on the western boundary of Meursault and, though a little more backward in 2023, this still shows the unique and brazen charm of these vines at the very top of Meursault. 2028 to 2033

Meursault 1er Cru Charmes 2023

£435.00

Much of the fruit comes from vines high up and closer to the Perrieres vineyard. There's a beautiful sheen to this and plenty of guts on the palate. All is perfectly framed with bright and pure acids. I loved the natural feel. The Matrots see Charmes as the business card of the village; the most expressive of their homeland. Dense and developing well in the mouth. Lovely. 2029 to 2034.

Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru les Chalumeaux 2023 **£435.00**

A small 1er Cru on the Meursault side, but well above the Combettes and with just a little new oak this year. Tight but focussed nose that seems to come from way below the bottom of the glass! As well as the plentiful Meursault fruit there is a savoury biscuit note and an oyster shell minerality. These are becoming ever more expressive and this one finishes superbly with more open, honeyed fruit. Outstanding. 2029 to 2035.

Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru les Combettes 2023 **£625.00**

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. Showing very well on the day its crystalline, spring water clear fruits are squared off by firm but fine acids and just a dab of vanilla spice from the wood. Cool finish and opening to a ripe, quince and tarte tatin finale. 2029 to 3036.

Meursault 1er Cru les Perrieres 2023 **£625.00**

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 all over 50 years old producing a miserly 150 dozen bottles. I tasted the day before racking and this will be left in tank and on its fine lees for another four months. Piercing concentration, these top wines are as good as the very best in the village now. Lemon drizzle, lemon pith and ever so mouth watering. Perhaps a little earlier drinking than usual but still all but Grand Cru in quality. 2029 to 2037.

Maranges Rouge 2023 **£115.00**

One of our most popular wines and back to normal volumes this year. I said that last year but both of these reds have sold by the end of 2024. Soft and supple Pinot with a bite of red apple skin acidity. Huge bunches this year, the biggest Thierry has seen, and that results in a juicy and fleshy red to enjoy in the near term. Excellent stuff once again. 2025 to 2029.

Maranges 1er Cru Fuissiere 2023 **£165.00**

This is already racked and ageing nicely on its finest yeast lees. It will be bottled in February. Extra care in the selection has led to volumes that are somewhat mean in comparison to the actual harvest. Good tension, fine, lively and pervasive Pinot acidity lifts the super ripe, loganberry and black cherry fruit. Delicious as ever and one of the most reliable of the smaller reds. 2027 to 2031.

Blagny Rouge 1er Cru la Piece sous le Bois 2023 **£250.00**

A favourite at Handford, the Blagny is showing off all of its good sides in 2023. Rich, loganberry fruits with a twist of ginger and rhubarb jam. Complexity grows on the palate with black spice, vanilla cream, and vibrant, powdery acidity and tannin. Very good indeed. 2028 to 2035.

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.

What a tasting here with Thomas! No fewer than eight Meursaults, some prior to blending of course, and with all the trimmings. The reds are getting better and better too. Monthelie is well worth a try.

Bourgogne Aligote 2023

£120.00

Given the fruitfulness of the vintage, Thomas has opted for no oak at all here. Acid retention is the key. Gentle racking and tank ageing on fine lees to add complexity all results in thick and creamy Aligote of density, Key lime pie and an almost soda water caress on the palate. A premium vintage for Aligote! 2025 to 2028

Bourgogne Cotes d'Or Blanc 2023

£150.00

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). These are higher up than most on the 'wrong side of the road'! The nose is very Meursault with delicate citrus and mineral. Mid palate is dominated by custard apple, vanilla and brioche with bright and focussed Amalfi lemon at the heart. Perfect ripeness being not too exotic and with plenty of verve. Outstanding. 2025 to 2029

Bourgogne Hautes Cotes de Beaune Blanc 2023

£175.00

From Meloisey and Nantoux vineyards situated in the outlying areas of Auxey Duresses, there is a little less fat but more nervy, sinewy Chardonnay here. Thomas has tamed this beast with a little more new oak giving a creamy balance to the lingering finish. Excellent. 2026 to 2029.

Meursault 2023**£345.00**

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. This year I tasted even more vineyards separately. Quite an education and culminating in what is one of the greatest white Burgundies of all, the very old vines of the Charmes vineyard. As ever we won't which will be bottled separately and which will make the village wine. The result is bound to be outrageous! 2027 to 2031

Meursault Pre de Manche 2023**£375.00**

High up and bordering Monthelie Toisieres, this is next to the village camp site. We always joke that this has to be the most valuable camping land in the world, and that the wine should smell of back packers. Of course it doesn't! Another rich and rewarding example with slightly more austere notes of ground almond, a hint of caramel and very ripe citrus. 2026 to 2030.

Meursault Limozin 2023**£425.00**

Immediately below Genevrières and taking its name from the stream that rises here, Limozin does allow for Pinot Noir to be grown though I don't know of any! The soils here are richer and naturally irrigated resulting in a ripe and rich style. This is a supple and forward Meursault with brightness and persistence of exotic fruits as well as a subtle note of truffle and slate. Some very old vines here. More-ish, mouth-watering and truly scrumptious. 2026 to 2030.

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. Charmes is softer and with a silky texture, a drop of acacia honey and searing concentration in the middle of the mouth. Lime and pulpy lime pith notes build on the long finish. Memorable stuff. 2026 to 2032

Meursault 1er Cru Goutte d'Or**SOLD**

These are indeed 'golden drops', but the name probably refers to the small flints that are found here and the way they reflect the morning sunlight. These old vines are contiguous to the plot in Poruzots. Almond, butter cream, ripe lemon, and with a sucrosity that gives a sheen to the palate. Astounding length of flavour and, like all the wine here, it retains elegance and harmony throughout that aftertaste. 2026 to 2031.

Meursault 1er Cru Poruzots**SOLD**

Explosive and willful, nectarine fruit freshness. This has retained plenty of acidity. Slightly salty mineral finish and with fruits tightly bound in the heart of the palate. Super long. 2027 to 2033.

Meursault 1er Cru Genevrieres 2023

SOLD

Genevrieres offers a notch up in intensity and always seems to take in a little more of the barrel toast than others. More spice here; cinnamon and raisin, hot cross bun and more serene, clementine fruit. Another super complex example, especially so in the context of the vintage, and with lifted acids to balance. Amazing and a set of 1er Crus that, if you are still hunting for points, would score in the late nineties. 2028 to 2033



François and Marie Pierre Mikulski

Bourgogne Cotes d'Or Rouge 2023

£145.00

Carefully selected fruit is de-stemmed and cold soaked for a lengthy 15 days before a cool fermentation and maceration. This preserves freshness and allows for a long and gentle extract. This seems to get better with each vintage despite the conditions. Thomas is making super progress in the red wine department, witness this and the outstanding Monthelie below. Plump, open, grape flesh fruits with a jaunty spritz of fraichure and a sprinkle of ripe tannin. Pure and even on the finish. Excellent. 2025 to 2029

Monthelie les Toisieres 2023

£215.00

Just the third year we've been offered this and quantities are a little more commercial this year, approaching 2000 bottles! This has to be tried. Deep, deep, black fruits of the forest and spice. Long, fresh, elegant and with a warming, compote fruit finish. The 2021 and 2022 have proved a hit for their density, ripeness and concentration. It's a bold and bumptious expression of Pinot not to be missed. 2025 to 2030.

Volnay 1er Cru les Santenots 2023

£399.00

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 (though some tell me off as some say it might be the other way around! There are both red and white here). Tasting Santenots often reminds me of the soft tufa chalk in Saumur that you can scoop out with your hands. Lighter and more lifted in the Volnay mould but with more black cherry fruit and a cakey texture on the finish. With great concentration and distinction, this is a lovely wine to own. 2029 to 2034.

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. He has finally succumbed to the modern bottling line so his poor back should feel the benefit of not crouching in front of the vats for days on end! 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. He found the 2023s to be even more rounded and flattering than the 2022s. Expressive, energetic, exacting and exquisite.



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

Bourgogne Aligote 2023

£80.00

Two parcels of vines south of the village yield what is usually a nervy Aligoté. My first impression was that the style of wine has matured, elevating Philippe from very good to one of the greats. This wine is marked by vivacity and precision, qualities sometimes lacking in 2023. The fruit definition has significantly improved, shifting from vague pear notes in previous years to bright, fresh green plum and lime. It retains its persistence and concentration. Very fine, this is a lovely introduction to an increasingly refined and improved range. 2025 to 2029.

Chardonnay 2023

£115.00

Deep and bright yellow with a silver green sheen heralds a more subtle, tangerine peel and sweet lemon nose. Lively, fruit filled and a bit more solid than in recent years. Bold yet beautiful. 2025 to 2028.

Meursault 2023

£235.00

Again the appearance of bright yellow, green and gold is striking. No fining or filtration here on a Meursault that offers a deep and brooding richesse with length. It's a little closed, as it should be, but you can feel the energy, the sprightly citrus and just a hint of oyster shell minerality. I'm starting to feel that natural style that is the hallmark of Chavy. It's all biodynamic. A wine of real character. 2027 to 2032.



Philippe Chavy

Meursault les Narvaux 2023**£260.00**

Chavy's smaller appellations (lieu-dits) rival his own and many other 1er Cru whites, with Narvaux being one of the most exciting. Located high up between the Perrières and Blagny sites, the Narvaux vines sit on the Puligny side, just below Blagny as you descend into the village. The wine reflects the minerality and flint of Perrières and Genevrières, combined with the density of Blagny. With no filtration or other intervention, the nose is captivating, offering a bit more richness and a touch more spiky acidity. It remains beautifully balanced on the long finish. In my notebook, I simply wrote, "outstanding!" 2028 to 2033.

Puligny Montrachet Corvees les Vignes 2023**£275.00**

A selection of vines from the Meursault side of the village and along the same seam as 1er Cru Charmes. This makes a full bodied yet still charming Puligny. These vines were planted in the 1950s. Already quite generous, but brushed a little more with the chalky mineral note that seems to have been better expressed in 2023 by Philippe. Citrus and kiwi fruits with flower and peach skin. There's a hint of crème fraiche on the finish. I found the 2020, 2021 and 2022 to be remarkably similar, despite the varied conditions. I see the resemblance here but repeat that the quality is up a notch. This is proving an excellent find and we are proud to do business here. 2028 to 2033.

Puligny Montrachet Rue Rousseau 2023**£299.00**

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 and Philippe's are the nearest to the Grand Cru sector. It's a rare and much demanded wine. This drinks more akin to a very great vintage such as 2014 or 2020. Astounding. 2029 to 2035

Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Folatieres 2023**£575.00**

Just 5 barrels of perfection here. A little more density and with earthy acidity and structure. A growling engine revving up to roar into the distance. Rocky, expressive, gritty citrus and steely acids. You don't quite need protective clothing but this one does need some time in the cellar. It's full of energy. 2030 to 2038.

Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Pucelles 2023**£599.00**

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. Last year we tasted Folatieres last as Philippe thought that the flagship. This year it's the turn of Pucelles that is more elegant now, floral, aromatic, with umami and hints of vanilla cream. Beautifully scented and with a luxurious finish. A wine of silk texture as much as appealing flavour. Extraordinary. 2029 to 2034

Domaine Leflaive, Puligny Montrachet

Brice de La Morandière, the late, great Anne Claude's cousin, has been in charge for 6 vintages now. The last few bristles of the new broom have worn down leaving time to focus on these great whites. Though the Domaine was founded by Joseph in 1905, his extended family has tended these fine vineyards for more than three centuries now and you might argue that two thirds of their innovation has been in the past 3 decades. They are well known as pioneers of biodynamic farming in the eighties and nineties, gaining full certification in 1997. They have been generous in sharing their knowledge and growing the movement throughout the wine world. Domaine Leflaive is one of the great white wine estates of the world.

Bourgogne Blanc 2023

£425.00

Abrupt and powerful with plenty of substance, biscuit oak and deep, citrus notes. The wood is more evident here than at any of our other growers, but there is more body than most to sustain that. That power does hide a degree of elegant, lace textured and cool citrus fruits. 2026 to 2030.

Puligny Montrachet 2023

SOLD

Another sample drawn from several tiny parcels of Puligny, this is a model of complexity over sheer force. Beautifully perfumed, again an alluring texture that seems to hold the soft nectarine fruit in a silken web across the tongue. A benchmark for both Puligny and Leflaive. 2027 to 2032

Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Clavoillon 2023

£1125.00

Leflaive farm nearly 5 hectares of this 5.5 hectares vineyard that shares the mid slope with Pucelles, and on the Meursault side. Soils are varied but tend to be little heavier, resulting in more ripe fruit characters and consistency from year to year. So this is a fulsome white in 2023, rounded with a touch of cream and marzipan to compliment those apricot and lemon fruit notes. 2023 has yielded so many memorable wines for me and this is certainly one of them. 2027 to 2034.

Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Pucelles 2023

SOLD

Far more open and immediately pleasing than any vintage I can remember. More down to earth, palpable stone fruits where I would normally find these wines more other worldly. The classic minerality and slightly salty edge come in at the very end of a lingering aftertaste. I see a bit of a metamorphosis coming here; give it 3 or 4 years for the more customary traits of Pucelles to come to the fore. 2029 to 2035.

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 2023s here are very representative with plenty of vineyard character. Isabelle and Anne have done well to retain crisp acids and minerality across the range.

Saint Aubin 'Champ Tirant' 2023

£125.00

Named for the shape of the plot that stretches across the hillside, this is steely green, yellow in appearance and with an open, herbal, willow bark and citrus nose with a hint of winter savoury. On the palate the wine is more generous than the nose would suggest with many layers of green fruit, peach skin and a dusting of ground almond at the core. Racy finish and very pleasing. 2025 to 2028.

Saint Aubin 1er Cru Murgers des Dents de Chien 2023

£160.00

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. Classic Dents de Chien with deep, lemon fruits, a dusting of icing sugar and bags of youthful energy. Zesty finish and with a mineral zing very much in line with neighbouring Puligny. 2026 to 2029.

Saint Aubin 1er Cru la Chateniere 2023

£170.00

Down the slope, and close to chez Thomas at the southern end of the village, though the vineyard is named after the chestnut trees Gerard always liked to joke that wild cats would 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. The 2023 fills the top of the palate with its riper, apricot and peach fruits. As ever the style is more Chassagne where Dog's Tooth is more Puligny. I did find a trace of almond paste and salinity this year though and it will need a few extra months for the various flavours to marry in bottle. Promising! 2027 to 2030.

Chassagne Montrachet 1er Cru les Chenevottes 2023

£275.00

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. A great white of power and generosity of white flower, honey and honeycomb with delicious aromas of cherry blossom and white cherry. Cool, classy and worth holding a bottle or two back for 8 or 10 years. 2028 to 2033.

Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru la Garenne 2023

£285.00

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. A little more closed showing almond and a dash of lime. Rounded and with some watery, tangerine fruits. It does have that bit more power but I'm finding the Chassagne slightly edges for once. 2027 to 2032.

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 2023

£145.00

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. Montaigu looks fantastic in 2023. There's often a gritty, rusty note that needs 3 or 4 years to soften. This year it's much smoother, with soft Pinot ripeness and fine tannins that will develop well in the short term. It's a good chance to get a taste of this great vineyard without having to sit on it for a decade! 2026 to 2031.



Agnes Dewe de Launey

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 trio this year.



Mercurey Clos Rochette Monopole 2023

£130.00

Faiveley were even more careful than ever in selecting the very best fruit from these tough soils scattered with very hard and small rocks, 'rochettes'. More exotic than ever in 2023 with pineapple, mango and sweet orange. This will be difficult to resist from the get go! 2025 to 2027.

Mercurey Framboisiere Monopole 2023

£150.00

Neighbouring Rochette and again, entirely owned by Faiveley, this is named, not surprisingly, for wild raspberry bushes that grew in the fields here. It's a slightly cooler, more chalk terroir that results in a little less of the exotic and a little more of the bright raspberry fruit. Not so much de-stemming this year, but plenty of sorting to be sure that only the best berries make it to the fermentation vats. Sweet, soft, almost Californian style of Pinot that will drink well in just a year or two. You will love this one! 2025 to 2027.

Mercurey 1er Cru Clos des Myglans 2023

£170.00

To the north east, and the more outlying of the 1er Crus here. Soils are still miserly but more iron red. That gives a rusty, rustic hint of austerity to what is still a concentrated and warming Pinot. It does need a couple of years in the cellar. 2026 to 2030.

**Please call 020 7589 6113 for more advice,
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