



Andy Howard MW

CÔTE DE NUITS REDS

ECHEZEUX GRAND CRU Domaine du Clos Frantin 2020: 17+

Toasty, mocha evident on the nose. Sweet fruit – dark cherry and raspberry. Subtle, understated oak. An elegant, precise Echezeaux which is more about finesse than power.

LATRICIÈRES-CHAMBERTIN GRAND CRU 2020: 16.5++

Violets on the nose. Great elegance on the palate, concentrated, fine and dense. There is a hint of rusticity here but in a very good way, adding more character to this grand cru and suggesting plenty of upward potential.

CLOS DE VOUGEOT GRAND CRU Domaine du Clos Frantin 2020: 16.5+

Earthy, spicy, long and exotic. Lovely balance with fresh black fruit – blackberry and damson. Firm tannins, hit of oak which needs a year or two to settle. Substantially better than many a Clos de Vougeot.

VOSNE-ROMANÉE 1^{ER} CRU LES MALCONSORTS Domaine du Clos Frantin 2020: 17.5++

Closed, intense but still complex. Deep hue, violet and rose-petal nose, plenty of substance. Pure, black fruit, oak evident. An electric, energetic Vosne which has a wonderful balance of precision, acidity and density. Will age several decades.

CHAMBOLLE-MUSIGNY 1^{ER} CRU LES AMOUREUSES 2020: 18++

A massive step up from the Chablots. Intense, inky colour. Brooding dark blackberry fruit with a lovely leafy lift on the nose. Plush and luscious in texture, great smoothness of tannin with crisp acidity all in great balance. More than delivers what is expected for a premier cru.

CHAMBOLLE-MUSIGNY 1^{ER} CRU LES CHABIOTS 2020: 16.5+

A bit lighter in hue, lifted floral aromas. Elegant and with sweet fruit on the palate. Very classy, quite typical Chambolle, no blockbuster but will age. Ballet dancer.

MOREY-SAINT-DENIS 1^{ER} CRU LES SORBETS 2020: 16+

Intriguing, floral, violet nose, intense dark hue, plenty of weight here. Savoury palate. Firm tannins, needs more time to soften.

FIXIN 1^{ER} CRU CLOS DE LA PERRIÈRE 2020: 16.5+

Fresh, quite delicate and elegant with rose petal on the nose. Seems to favour purity over power and extract. Lively, blackberry fruit, bright acidity and subtle oak. Clos de La Perrière is Fixin's top climat. Worth a punt.



18++



17.5++

CÔTE DE BEAUNE REDS

CORTON GRAND CRU CLOS DES MARECHAUDES Domaine du Pavillon 2020: 16.5++

Restrained, dark redcurrant and cherry on the palate. Plenty of purity and finesse for Corton. Freshness in the mouth combined with spicy oak, bright acidity and a lingering, savoury finish. Not a blockbuster but certainly classy.

POMMARD 1^{ER} CRU LES RUGIENS Domaine du Pavillon 2020: 16.5+

Plenty of intensity and weight. Old-school 'four-square' Pommard feel to the palate. Black fruit, plenty of acid and some firm tannins, this has the purity and concentration to develop very well. I suspect this will gain a lot of elegance with a few years' ageing.

VOLNAY 1^{ER} CRU LES SANTENOTS Domaine du Pavillon 2020: 16+

Lives up to the Santenots name. Floral, purity on the palate, deep colour, very good texture with fine grain to the tannins, cleansing acidity and a good balance of oak which should enable this concentrated, classy Volnay to evolve very well.





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OTHER REDS

MERCUREY 1^{ER} CRU LES CHAMPS MARTIN Domaine Adélie 2020: 16

Toasty oak dominates the nose, deep colour, youthful appearance. Dark berry and raspberry on palate. Very fine texture – fine tannins should enable this to age well. A pretty good introduction to ‘lieu-dit’ Mercurey.

MOULIN À VENT Domaine de Rochegrès 2020: 15.5

Deep colour, intense, inky. Primary blackberry fruit, lots of drive here. Not the densest or most structured Moulin on the palate but there is plenty of freshness and vitality here. Violet notes to finish.

WHITES

CHABLIS GRAND CRU MOUTONNE Domaine Long-Depaquit 2020: 17.5+

Full-bodied, ripe and exotic (for Chablis) there is great purity here with plenty of acidity to promote long-term ageing. Apple fruit with a touch of creamy almond on the finish. I suspect this has a great future ahead of it.

CORTON-CHARLEMAGNE GRAND CRU Domaine du Pavillon 2020: 17.5+

This could almost be mistaken for the Chablis Grand Cru. Restrained nose. Pebbly/mineral palate. Lime zest adds complexity to the light peach/green-apple fruit. Stony finish with depth and length. Will age very well.

MEURSAULT 1^{ER} CRU LES CHARMES Domaine du Pavillon 2020: 16.5

Much more floral. Restraint. Fine balance of spice, concentration, oak and ripeness of tree fruit. Attractive already, best in a year or two.

BOURGOGNE CÔTE D’OR CHARDONNAY SECRET DE FAMILLE 2020: 16

Each year, Bichot’s interpretation of the (relatively) new Bourgogne Côte d’Or AOP improves. Oak is more evident here, allied with some ripe peach and cedar notes together with a fleshy palate. Sourced from vineyards in Puligny and Meursault. Should be pretty fair value for what it offers.

BOURGOGNE ALIGOTÉ CHAMP RENARD Domaine Adélie 2020: 16

Aligoté really seems to be hitting new heights in the warmer vintages of 2018, 2019 and 2020. Touch of golden honey on the palate, some spice notes and with quite a deep colour in the glass, this is balanced by green-apple freshness with plenty of acidity. Not complex but certainly enjoyable.

