Neal Martin

2015 REDS
Tasted blind at the annual Burgfest tasting

2015 CLOS DE LA ROCHE GRAND CRU   97
The 2015 Clos de la Roche Grand Cru has a tightly coiled bouquet of high-toned red fruit, raspberry, red currant, pressed violets and iris, and later a hint of baking powder. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, coming across as fresh and lively but very linear and strict at the moment - more like a Clos Saint-Denis in style. But there is a nobility about this wine, and it is certainly persistent. This is one of several wines that shot way past my estimation from barrel. Bravo.

2015 VOSNE-ROMANÉE 1ER CRU LES MALCONSORTS Domaine du Clos Frantin   96
The 2015 1er Cru seems to have been born to embarrass my rather tepid reaction to this wine from barrel. Wow! This has me smitten. It offers a very floral, seductive bouquet with pressed violet petals liberally scattered over the black cherry and wild strawberry fruit, and just a hint of vanilla in the background. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannin. This is very cohesive, harmonious and silky-smooth in texture, with a light touch of blood orange and brown spices that impart complexity on the finish. Excellent.

2015 CLOS DE VOUGEOT GRAND CRU Domaine du Clos Frantin   94
The 2015 Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru has a perfumed, peppermint-tinged bouquet, turning more to cough drop scents with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied, offering supple tannin, good balance, smooth texture, well-judged acidity and a silky, sensual, almost flirtatious finish.

2015 POMMARD 1ER CRU LES RUGIENS Domaine du Pavillon   92
The 2015 Pommard Les Rugiens 1er Cru did not impress out of barrel, but it sure makes amends in bottle. It has a very fruit-forward, almost Volnay-like bouquet of plush red cherry and strawberry fruit, quite glossy. The palate is well balanced with a sorbet-fresh entry, and quite minerally, with a lovely grainy texture. There is disarming purity toward the long finish, which is where the Pommard character almost belatedly shows through. Superb.

DOMAINES
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