

2019 Côte de Nuits reds

Technical director Alain Serveau, and Cyrille Jacquelin (who is also responsible for the Clos Frantin wines) commented that 2019, much like 2018 “gave us excellent quality but not nearly the same quantities. Ripeness levels were very good, indeed to the point that the average potential alcohol was right about 14%, something that one doesn’t see all time. Phenolic ripeness levels were also good and 2019 was very favorable to the use of whole clusters so we fermented softly while using very high percentages of them. One key difference though with 2019 is that the solid to liquid ratios were much higher than in 2018 so that was another reason to vinify softly. As to the style of the 2019 reds, in much the same fashion as their 2018 counterparts, they are supple and elegant but with even finer tannins, slightly better freshness and better terroir transparency.”

Note that all of the Clos Frantin vineyards are now organically farmed. I would further note that Clos Frantin seemed to do especially well in 2019.

2019 Bourgogne Côte d’Or Secret de Famille: (86-89)

(made with fruit entirely from the Côte de Nuits). A reserved but pretty nose combines notes of both red and dark currant along with touches of earth and a hint of wood. The sleek, vibrant and delicious flavors possess a lovely sense of vibrancy that carries over to the balanced and lingering finish. Good stuff for this level. 2023+

2019 Bourgogne Côte d’Or “Clos Frantin” Domaine du Clos Frantin: (86-89)

Reserved aromas of both red and dark berry aromas that trimmed in subtle floral and earth nuances. The sleek and nicely punchy middle weight flavors possess very good precision before concluding in a youthfully austere and firm finale. This age-worthy Bourgogne is quite good for its level. 2024+

2019 Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Murots” Domaine du Clos Frantin: (89-91) TOP VALUE WINE

A slightly riper and definitely more sauvage-inflected nose reflected notes of plum, red currant and underbrush. There is fine volume and very good intensity to the attractively textured, even suave, flavors possess solid depth and persistence on the moderately structured finish. 2026+

2019 Gevrey-Chambertin “Les Evocelles”: (89-91) TOP VALUE WINE

This too is agreeably cool but ripe with its nose combination of earth, red currant, spice and a whiff of plum. The succulent yet nicely vibrant flavors also exhibit a lovely, even bracing, minerality, that adds a sense of lift to the clean and lingering finish that offers very good cut. This is a lovely Gevrey villages. 2027+

2019 Nuits St. Georges 1er Cru “Château Gris”: (89-91)

A ripe and nicely fresh nose offers up notes of plum, soft spice and a whiff of the sauvage that are trimmed in discreet wood nuances. The racy and quite finely detailed flavors possess very good focus while being shaped by sleek and moderately firm tannins. 2027+

2019 Nuits St.-Georges 1er Cru “Chaînes Carteaux”: (89-92)

Ripe red cherry and dark currant scents where a hint of the sauvage can be found. There is freshness to the nicely energetic middle weight flavors that possess very good volume while exhibiting excellent length. 2029+

2019 Morey St. Denis 1er Cru “Les Sorbets”: (90-93)

A restrained, cool and relatively elegant nose reflects notes of earth-suffused redberries and pretty floral elements. The sleek and attractively textured medium-bodied flavors culminate in a balanced and lingering finish that is shaped by relatively fine-grained tannins. This lovely effort needs to develop better depth, but the potential appears to be present for that to gradually occur. 2029+

2019 Chambolle-Musigny 1er Cru “Les Chabiots”: (90-93)

Not surprisingly this is aromatically more elegant with its cool aromas of essence of red currant, cherry, lavender and discreet spice wisps. There is excellent verve to the quite finely detailed flavors that exude evident minerality on the chiseled, youthfully austere and sneaky long finale. This is lovely and very Chambollesque; indeed it’s pretty much textbook Chabiots. 2031+

2019 Chambolle-Musigny 1er Cru “Les Amoureuses”: (92-94) SWEET SPOT WINE

Once again the nose is quite restrained while remaining wonderfully elegant and even more floral with its cool and admirably pure aromas of pomegranate, cherry, spiced tea and plenty of violet and lavender nuances. There is outstanding intensity, in fact it’s presently almost painful, to the pungently mineral-driven middle weight flavors that display terrific persistence on the youthfully austere and equally chiseled finish. This is impressive though note well that it’s very compact and a wine that will require extended patience. 2034+

Burghound.com 2019 Vintage Selections: The “Top Value Wines” are those that are generally available in the marketplace at a price point of no more than approximately \$100 US; The “Sweet Spot Wines” section addresses the wide gulf between the under \$100 Top Value wines and the generally over \$250 “Don’t Miss Wines”; note that I have tried to layer these selections to portray a representative range between the two price points.

2019 Côte de Nuits reds**2019 Vosne-Romanée *Domaine du Clos Frantin*: (89-92)**

(the blend is mostly from Damaudes with a small proportion of Basses Maizières). A fresh, cool and restrained nose combines notes of cherry, plum and a whiff of spiced tea. I very much like the texture of the nicely detailed and quite powerful medium weight flavors that terminate in a youthfully austere, and sneaky long finish that displays fine complexity. This is an impressive Vosne village and worth your interest. 2029+

2019 Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru "Les Rouges" *Domaine du Clos Frantin*: (91-93)

Subtle but by no means imperceptible wood frames an airy and layered mix of plum, red cherry, clove, violet and a hint of anise. There is again very good vibrancy to the delicious, caressing and much more mineral-driven medium-bodied flavors that exhibit focused power on the youthfully austere finish. This needs to develop more depth, but it has the potential to do so if allowed sufficient time in bottle. 2031+

2019 Vosne-Romanée 1^{er} Cru "Les Malconsorts" *Domaine du Clos Frantin*: (92-94) SWEET SPOT WINE

(from a large 1.76 ha parcel). Here too there is enough wood to notice but not to intrude on the exceptionally spicy and overtly floral-suffused nose of dark currant and plum. There is outstanding intensity, muscle and power to the broad-shouldered flavors that brim with both minerality and dry extract on the sappy, mouth coating, robust and youthfully austere finish that goes on and on. This is excellent and worth checking out. 2037+

2019 Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru *Domaine du Clos Frantin*: (91-93)

(from a .72 ha parcel). Moderate reduction is enough to knock down the expressiveness and nuances of the earthy and ripe dark berry fruit scents. There is by contrast very good freshness and energy on the delicious and nicely detailed middle weight flavors that also culminate in a youthfully austere, serious and very firmly structured finale. 2039+

2019 Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru: (90-93)

An elegant, pure and, much like the Amoureuses, overtly floral nose speaks of plum, dark cherry and newly turned earth scents. There is fine volume to the intense and equally stony middle weight flavors that demonstrate lovely cut. This is classy and solidly persistent. 2034+

2019 Griotte-Chambertin Grand Cru: (91-94)

More interesting are the denser and richer medium-bodied flavors that flash good power on the youthfully austere and overtly structured finale that also displays excellent persistence. Like several wines in the range, this will need to develop better depth to achieve the top end of my projected range, but it has the potential to do so. 2037+

2019 Chambertin Grand Cru *Domaine du Clos Frantin*: (91-94)

Here too there is enough wood to mention though not enough to be especially intrusive on the equally good and restrained nose that grudgingly offers up notes of red and dark cherry, sauvage, cool earth and a whiff of game. There is excellent intensity to the dense, powerful and muscular large-scaled flavors that exude an abundance of minerality on the austere, backward and sneaky long finish. This too needs to develop better depth, but the apogee of this wine is so far into the future that more is all but guaranteed to emerge with time. 2039+

2019 Echézeaux Grand Cru *Domaine du Clos Frantin*: (91-93)

(from a .99 ha parcel in Champs Traversin). More noticeable wood is present on the very spicy and ripe yet cool aromas of various red berries, especially raspberry, along with ample floral elements. There is impressive richness to the medium-bodied and vibrant flavors that are also quite firmly austere, structured and compact. Patience will again be required though not so much as with the Clos de Vougeot. 2034+

2019 Grands-Echézeaux Grand Cru *Domaine du Clos Frantin*: (92-95)

(from a .6 ha parcel). This is restrained to the point of being almost mute and the nose requires aggressive swirling to gradually reveal attractively layered aromas of mostly red currant along with an impressive array of floral, spice and tea nuances. There is excellent volume and power to the big-bodied and overtly muscular flavors that possess a beguiling inner mouth perfume before culminating in a very backward, serious and built-to-age finale. This bad boy of a GE is packed with potential but be prepared to buy it and forget it deep in the back of your cellar. 2039+

2019 Richebourg Grand Cru *Domaine du Clos Frantin*: (92-95)

An exceptionally floral and herbal tea-suffused nose freely offers up notes of black raspberry, hoisin, soy and sandalwood. The caressing and elegant yet impressively intense flavors that are tautly muscular while offering evident salinity on the beautifully lengthy finish. This poised effort isn't especially dense, but it is imposingly structured and like the Chambertin, a wine that is constructed to last for decades. 2039+

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