Bursting with Burgundian Values

By Alex Pross

One of the few good news stories of the last 18 months or so is the removal of the 25% tariff on all French wines except sparkling. With the tariff gone, Burgundy is bursting with great deals on wines between $10 and $50 that are drinking exceptionally well and come from a trio of good-to-great years: 2017, 2018, and 2019. The 2017 vintage was a great one for whites, while 2018 was especially strong for reds. And 2019 looks to be fantastic for both—I feel that it’s been underrated where the white wines are concerned, at least from what I have been lucky enough to sample thus far. We now have seen numerous containers finally arrive after clearing the challenging gauntlet that the ports have become. We have never had this many great, affordable Burgundy wines to sell you. In this edition of K&L’s Wine News, we feature incredible deals on Beaujolais for under $20; two of our favorite Direct Imports, Sylvain Langoureau from St-Aubin and Château de la Charrière from Santenay; and some of the best prices around on 2019 Domaine Faiveley pre-arrivals. Also, be sure to check out our many recommendations for both red and white values that will surely keep you stocked up for the upcoming holiday season.

2017 Vignerons des Terres Secrètes Bourgogne Blanc “Les Préludes” ($12.99) This is an outstanding value from one of the more successful cooperatives in Burgundy. It’s bright, zesty, complex, and loaded with aromas of citrus and orchard fruits. The palate is lively with intense citrus and green apple flavors, as well as notes of iodine and dried hay. The finish lingers on the palate as the lemon notes slowly fade away. 96 DC

2017 Domaine Guillemot-Michel Viré-Clessé “Quintaine” ($29.99) This wine blew my mind when I tasted it! If you want a bellwether for the quality of the 2017 white Burgundy vintage, this is it. Here’s a delicious Chardonnay that just oozes citrus and orchard fruit flavors, and is detailed with spice and mineral notes. Starting with a laser-beam nose of lemon, it finishes on a silky note. 93 RP, 92 DC, 91 JM, 90 WE

2018 Château-Fuissé Pouilly-Fuissé “Tête de Cuvée” ($39.99) Demonstrating the immense potential of Pouilly-Fuissé to generate white wines that stand toe-to-toe with almost any offering coming out of the Côte de Beaune, this shows notes of white flowers, saline, and orchard fruits. Subtle hints of oak nicely frame this energetic beauty, with a palate that seamlessly melds orchard fruit, citrus, sea breeze, and wet stone notes. 97 DC
The Emergence of Sylvain Langoureau in St-Aubin

As prices for Puligny-Montrachet, Chassagne-Montrachet, and Meursault rise faster than real estate prices in California, many fans of white Burgundy are looking to some of the lesser-known villages for value. One of the appellations that enthusiasts are flocking to is St-Aubin. Nestled nicely between Puligny-Montrachet and Chassagne-Montrachet, St-Aubin offers many of the qualities that people love of both, but for a lesser cost. Unfortunately, this secret garden of inexpensive, wonderful white Burgundies did not stay a secret for very long, and prices have crept up. Up-and-coming producers like Marc Colin, Pierre-Yves Colin-Morey, and Hubert Lamy have fashioned such great wines here that it is now impossible to ignore the appellation.

Luckily we have uncovered a gem of a producer where we can still get incredibly good St-Aubin for unbeatable prices. Sylvain Langoureau is one of my favorites in the region. Every year their wines seemingly get better than the previous vintage, and 2019 is no exception. They’ve fashioned a wonderful interpretation of the appellation through their six current offerings. The 2019 Domaine Sylvain Langoureau St-Aubin ($29.99) is a great introduction to the house style here. Loaded with gorgeous orchard fruits, spice, and hints of oak, this fruity, zesty wine has a cool feel and just the right amount of acidity.

As we enter a quintet of 1er Cru St-Aubins, it’s important to note that each wine is a great expression of its particular terroir, as well as an incredible deal—all at $39.99 a bottle! The 2019 Domaine Sylvain Langoureau St-Aubin 1er Cru “Sur Gamay” ($39.99) has wonderful richness with seductive orchard fruit flavors, spice, and fresh-picked pear. The palate has a textural feel which is balanced perfectly by the acidity and tannins. 91 BH

More structured and a tad less opulent, the 2019 Domaine Sylvain Langoureau St-Aubin 1er Cru “Les Frionnes” ($39.99) flows nicely with cool floral accents, more citrus flavors, and is more firmly structured. 90 BH

The 2019 Domaine Sylvain Langoureau St-Aubin 1er Cru “Les Sentiers du Clou” ($39.99) comes from a perfectly situated vineyard right above Les Frionnes. This displays gorgeous orchard fruit flavors laced with zesty citrus fruit notes.

Our last two offerings happen to be my two favorites of the lot. The En Remilly is a consistently fabulous wine, as the vineyard is basically located on the other side of the hill from Grand Cru vineyards Chevalier-Montrachet and Montrachet, as well as right next to one of the greatest 1er Cru vineyards in Chassagne-Montrachet, Dent de Chien. No wonder, then, that the 2019 Domaine Sylvain Langoureau St-Aubin 1er Cru “En Remilly” ($39.99) feels regal in both size and weight. It has intense flavors of perfectly ripe orchard fruits, heady hazelnut spice aromas, and a wealth of rich oak accents. A truly large-scaled, impressively endowed St-Aubin that drinks wonderfully. 91 BH

One of the most pleasant surprises from this lineup is the 2019 Domaine Sylvain Langoureau St-Aubin 1er Cru “Bas Vermarain” ($39.99). A real beauty, this wine has incredible balance—it feels light on the palate even though it possesses a wealth of orchard and citrus notes along with saline and wet stone flavors that seamlessly lead to a seductive kiss of oak on a surprisingly long finish. 91 BH
An Almost Endless Sea of White Burgundy Values to Sail

One of the most positive developments to come out of Burgundy is the qualitative emergence of areas like the Mâconnais, where villages such as Pouilly-Fuissé are now fashioning wines that shine alongside examples from the Côte de Beaune. With the elimination of tariffs and a set of strong vintages from 2017 through 2019, we have never had a greater set of wonderful values than we do right now.

2018 Vignerons des Terres Secretes Mâcon Milly-Lamartine ($14.99) From one of the top cooperatives in Burgundy, this displays wonderful richness and complexity with spice, hazelnut, and Golden Delicious apple accents, and fresh orchard fruits all wrapped up in a richly textured package that has admirable depth and structure for such a fairly priced wine.

2019 Domaine des Niales Rhédon-Marin Mâcon-Villages Vieilles Vignes ($14.99) From one of our most consistently excellent producers, this not-to-be-missed selection is a sexy wine with copious amounts of citrus notes, plus a seductive underlying note of mint that lends it a fabulous texture and mouthfeel. This wine is always so good that our longtime customers often snatch it up the minute it becomes available in our stores.

One of the top Burgundians in our Direct Import portfolio is Château Vitallis. This overachieving property is located in the small town of Solutré, and has been run by the Dutron family since 1835. Today the father-and-son team of Denis and Maxime are making some of my favorite white Burgundy values.

2019 Château Vitallis Mâcon-Fuissé ($17.99) Seductive aromas of fresh apricots, orchard peach, drawn butter, and roasted hazelnuts spring from the glass. Yet the sweetness found on the nose belies the balanced palate, where orchard fruits and light spice notes beautifully wrap around a complex core of fruit and spice. This is a full-bodied, wonderful daily drinking white wine.

2019 Château Vitallis Pouilly-Fuissé Vieilles Vignes ($27.99) If given a choice I am almost always partial to the vieilles vignes (old vines) offerings, and this one is no exception. Aromas of candied citrus and ginger lead a palate of cool orchard fruits, roasted hazelnuts, iodine, and brioche flavors. The symmetry of this wine, with its layers of complexity and depth of fruit, makes it a stunning offering that you won’t want to miss.

2018 Domaine Sébastien Giroux Pouilly-Fuissé “Les Raidillons” ($23.99) Here’s another great Pouilly-Fuissé offering that has such a beautiful nose of white peach, lemon zest, and acacia flowers, it’s difficult to remove your nose from the glass. The palate is electric with fresh peach and citrus notes, great acidity, and a gorgeous fruit-tinged finish. The energy and drive here is so impressive—the wine feels light and refreshing even with its depth and structure. 91 RP

2017 Domaine Vincent Dureuil-Janthial Rully Blanc ($39.99) Here’s an absolute stunner of a wine to wrap up this list. From a watershed vintage, this is loaded with aromas of meadow flowers, nutmeg, hazelnut, and orchard fruits, and the supple and fresh palate boasts flavors of Granny Smith apple and citrus, with mineral notes. Simultaneously full-bodied and having fantastic acidity, this wine has depth and structure rarely seen outside of the three appellations of Chassagne-Montrachet, Puligny-Montrachet, and Meursault. 94 JD, 90 RP

Get complete tasting notes at KLWines.com
2019 Château de la Charrière: Mind-Blowing Values!

Château de la Charrière is one of the greatest discoveries we have made for the Burgundy selections at K&L. This small, family-run operation is based in Santenay and is operated by the Yves Girardin family, which is related to famed vigneron Vincent Girardin. Under the guidance of young winemaker Benoît Girardin, the wines continue to improve on a yearly basis—and this set of 2019s is easily their best vintage yet!

The 2019 Château de la Charrière Bourgogne Blanc ($16.99) starts off with a wonderful nose of white flowers, dried hay, wet stone, and lemon chiffon notes, while the palate is laced with zesty citrus notes, good acidity, and a lively feel. The finish is surprisingly long and complex. Citrus notes shine from mid-palate all the way to the finish.

If you're on the lookout for an outstanding everyday red Burgundy value, look no further. The 2019 Château de la Charrière Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune Rouge ($18.99) is flat-out stunning, with seductive aromas of red fruits, violets, pepper, spice, and molten rock on top of a palate loaded with red fruit flavors, cinnamon, red licorice, and crackling mineral notes. Fresh and lively, this is a delicious red that oozes fruit while retaining a distinctively Burgundian feel.

A new offering, the 2019 Château de la Charrière Beaune “Les Epenottes” ($19.99) absolutely blows the doors off as far as value goes. Much like the stunning wines coming from Albert Morot’s Beaune vineyards, this is another fabulous wine — and under $20 to boot! Dark cherry aromas welcome you on the nose while the palate is a seamless blend of rich red cherry fruit, black plum, spice, plus hints of mocha and coffee. Smooth and supple, this is a great inaugural release from Château de la Charrière.

There are not many 1er Cru red Burgundies around for under $25, but the 2019 Château de la Charrière Santenay 1er Cru “Clos Rousseau” ($24.99) is a wonderful exception. A wine of exceptional depth, it starts off with a spicy, floral nose of red fruits, white pepper, and sun-dried tomatoes, and then the palate explodes with fresh-picked red berries, red licorice, white pepper, and mineral-laced flavors. The wine is sleek and supple with fine tannins, good acidity, and great verve. This is an excellent example of a 1er Cru offering that does not break the bank.

The 2019 Château de la Charrière Pommard “Les Vignots” ($39.99) entices the eye with a beautiful, almost limpid ruby hue, while aromas of cinnamon, white pepper, red flowers, and candied red fruit greet the nose. The palate zooms ahead with pretty red fruit flavors, spice, red licorice and just a hint of oak all seamlessly blend into a surprisingly long and smooth finish where the constant reminder of the bright fruit slowly fades from memory.

We finish with the wine that for me has epitomized how I feel about this great property. The 2019 Château de la Charrière Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Champs Morjot” ($39.99) is a chart-topper of a value. Year-in-and-year-out, this is one of the best buys in white Burgundy that we carry, and once again the 2019 does not disappoint. A wonderful nose of citrus fruits zips from the glass, while the palate shows great depth and structure as the wine slowly unfurls in the glass. It’s amazing to find so much depth and detail as well as balance in a white Burgundy for under $40, and is truly a testament to what Château de la Charrière has achieved in terms of producing great values from humble terroir.
A Bevy of Outstanding Values from Albert Morot

Beaune is easily one of the most underrated and overlooked appellations in Burgundy. The vineyards surround the small town, basically along the hillsides off the main road. These 1er Cru sites produce wines of depth, power, elegance, and distinction at a fraction of the price of their more accomplished neighbors to both the north and south. Under the direction of Geoffroy Choppin de Janvry, Domaine Albert Morot is fashioning not only some of the best examples of 1er Cru Beaune wines, but easily the greatest values as well. This property has made leaps and bounds qualitatively since Geoffroy took the reins from his aunt, Françoise Choppin. Since 2015 the property has been certified organically farmed.

There are numerous 1er Cru vineyards scattered throughout the hillsides surrounding the town of Beaune and they each have a very individual feel and profile. There are five great offerings currently available from the hands of Geoffroy Choppin de Janvry in 2018, and they are revelatory examples of the great red Burgundy values that can be found here.

The most accessible and fruit-forward offering, the **2018 Domaine Albert Morot Beaune 1er Cru “Cent-Vignes” ($44.99)** is loaded with red and black fruits, spice notes, and just a hint of mocha. This layered, supple red is definitely open for business.  
92 **WE**, 91 **WS**, 91 **BH**

Our second offering, the **2018 Domaine Albert Morot Beaune 1er Cru “Les Aigrots” ($44.99)** is a bit more reserved, with notes of cherry, red plum, crushed volcanic rock, and spice notes.  
93 **WE**, 90 **WS**, 90 **BH**

The most classical in style, the **2018 Domaine Albert Morot Beaune 1er Cru “Les Bressandes” ($44.99)** shows notes of black cherry, violets, minerals, and just a touch of oak.  
93 **WS**, 92 **WE**, 91 **BH**

The last two offerings battle for the title of my favorite, and in many ways are diametrically opposed stylistically.

The **2018 Domaine Albert Morot Beaune 1er Cru “Les Marconnets” ($44.99)** is a delicate offering with pretty aromas of red flowers, crushed raspberries, and plum, while the palate is fresh and lively, with red and black cherry flavors mixed elegantly with cassis and subtle sandalwood notes. This is such a pretty and elegant offering, and it evokes memories of many Burgundies from the ’60s and ’70s.  
93 **WE**, 90 **WS**, 90 **BH**

The **2018 Domaine Albert Morot Beaune 1er Cru “Les Teurons” ($44.99)** is a full-bodied offering with black cherry, vanilla, licorice, and spice notes all splashed across a glossy, ripe palate. This is a Burgundy that is ready to rock, with its copious amounts of black fruits and spice.  
92 **WE**, 92 **WS**, 92 **BH**

And so we have it: with five stellar 1er Cru offerings, there is surely a wine from Albert Morot that is perfect for you.
The Holy Grail: Red Burgundy under $30 that Sings!

It’s a constant question that I get from many of our Burgundy customers in the stores, and well as on the phones and via email: Are there any good Burgundies that won’t break the bank for daily drinking? Luckily, we have had a few containers finally clear customs, and are now flush with a great set of offerings that fit that particular bill.

2019 Nuits-Beaunoy Hautes Côtes de Beaune Rouge “Grande Cuvée” ($16.99) This cooperative of more than 80 growers is a relatively new producer for us, and they’ve been a hit. A great expression of the 2019 vintage, their Grande Cuvée is packed with dark blue fruits, spice, earth, and licorice notes. Smooth and supple, this is a dazzling red Burgundy value that can easily appeal as well to the California Pinot Noir enthusiast.

2018 Domaine Christophe Buisson Bourgogne Rouge ($19.99) This impressive offering comes from a young, up-and-coming winemaker whose skill set is most certainly on display here. The nose is all violets, spice, and hints of earth, and the silky palate of red cherry, kirsch, spice, and crisp tannins lend this wine remarkable depth. Upon opening the wine, it feels like there’s a wealth more complexity and structure waiting to be revealed. And then as the wine sits in the glass and slowly unfurls, it’s clear there’s a surprising amount of body and depth here for a humble sub-$20 red Burgundy.

2019 Domaine Jean-Michel Giboulot Bourgogne Rouge ($19.99) One of our Direct Import stalwarts, Jean-Michel Giboulot has recently converted to organic farming. Already, it seems like it’s allowed him to bump up his already high-quality offerings even further. This feels seductive from the very first sniff from the glass. There are copious aromas of fresh-picked boysenberry, blueberry, and blackberry, with some spice notes as well. The palate is awash in beautiful notes of boysenberry and blackberry fruit, with some spice again, as well as mouth-coating tannins and a splash of oak on the finish.

2018 Jacques Bavard Bourgogne Rouge ($19.99) Another of our wonderful Direct Import produces is Jacques Bavard. He’s based in Puligny-Montrachet, but he fashions wonderful red wines from his closely guarded sources throughout Burgundy. A great showcase for the mastery of this producer, this is loaded with red fruits, spice, and a rich helping of oak. The mouthfeel here is so smooth and seductive, you are almost deceived by how light the wine feels because of the beautiful integration of oak, tannins, and acidity.

2019 Domaine Sylvain Langoureau Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune “Clos Marc” ($23.99) I have always thought of Domaine Sylvain Langoureau as a St-Aubin producer, but they make an exceptional Bourgogne rouge as well. This one’s an exceptional wine that hints at possibly being sourced from vineyards usually associated with pricier offerings. The nose here feels very Chassagne-Montrachet rouge with its aromas of plum, spice, and cocoa, while the palate is sappy with red and blue fruits, as well spice and subtle cocoa notes. A step up from most Bourgogne rouge, this is a regal offering from Hautes Côtes de Beaune.
Beaujolais: An Abundance of Values

Beaujolais has grown up a lot in the last 15 years or so. It has evolved from the days of making barnyardy wines and depending on Beaujolais nouveau for its existence to a thriving commune of producers fashioning world-class values from its multitude of smaller appellations. Beaujolais not only represents incredible values, there are also a multitude of styles from the various terroirs strewn across the rolling hills. Another factor in the increase in popularity of wines from this region is its versatility: Gamay naturally has low tannin levels that complement most spicy cuisines, as well as the ability to take a slight chill, amping up these wines’ appeal during the summer heat. Perfect with meats, charcuterie, cheeses and the like, these are bottlings that are just waiting for you to discover how well they can work into your culinary adventures.

We’re going to focus on the sweet spot in Beaujolais, the under-$20 range of which we are flush with inventory.

2019 Domaine Jean-Michel Dupré Morgon “Vignes de 1935” ($13.99) The first wine from one of the stalwarts in our Beaujolais lineup is Jean-Michel Dupré, a source of outstanding values, this wine is always a favorite. Loaded with pretty red fruits, this mineral-laden, spice-accented, and succulent red is an ideal summer sipper. 92 WE

2019 Domaine Jean-Michel Dupré Morgon “Le Griottier” ($17.99) The next two offerings move up the price ladder a little, but both come from Morgon and are wonderful expressions of the terroir. The Grottier is a bigger, bolder wine than the 1935, with spicy, herbal, and earthy notes mingled with black plum and dark berry fruit. Balanced and complex, this is a classic example of a structured, ageable Beaujolais. 93 JS, 91 WE

2018 Domaine Jean-Michel Dupré Morgon “Côte du Py” ($19.99) From one of the most famous vineyard sites in Beaujolais comes this absolute beauty, loaded with gorgeous berry fruit, seductive spice notes, and touches of scorched earth and crushed rock. This wine is a great example why Côte du Py has become synonymous with Morgon. 91 VN, 90 WE

2019 Domaine Richard Rottiers Brouilly ($15.99) One of our newer producers, Richard Rottiers, makes stupendous wines. Farmed organically and meticulously made, these wines are truly a revelation. This is incredibly floral, with red fruits and spice leading to a fresh and vibrant palate of raspberries and red cherries. 92 RP

2019 Domaine Richard Rottiers Moulin-à-Vent ($19.99) Try this if you want to try a Beaujolais that could easily fool you into thinking it is a fine red Burgundy. Firm tannins and crisp acidity support raspberry and cherry flavors that seamlessly mingle with spice and earth notes to produce this beautiful Moulin-à-Vent. 93 JS, 93 WE, 92 RP

2018 Patrick Tranchand Saint-Amour “Coeur de Gamay” ($14.99) A fabulous example from one of the smaller terroirs in Beaujolais, this wine has gorgeous black and blue fruit notes with scorched stone and spice accents that elevate it to great value status. 91 VN, 90 WE

2018 Lucien Lardy Fleurie “Les Roches” ($15.99) If you haven’t heard the name Lucien Lardy then you have been missing out. He fashions some of my favorite wines, like this balanced and beautiful, prototypical Fleurie that shows gorgeous red fruits, herbal and earthen notes, while feeling distinctively Burgundian in the way it opens up in the glass. 93 VN, 90 WE

2018 Pascal Aufranc Juliénas “Probus” ($15.99) This first of a pair of bottlings from Juliénas feels very organic with its earthy aromas and a bit of funk. But there’s a ton of pretty red fruit flavors and aromas, as well as notes of orange rind and spice, too. 93 WE

2017 Domaine Franck Besson Juliénas “Le Clos du Fief” ($17.99) Lastly, this richly textured, complex wine wraps gorgeous red fruits, spice, floral notes, and a touch of earth into an irresistible package. 93 WE

Cozy home of the Gamay grape. (Photo: Etienne Ramousse/ Inter Beaujolais)
2019 Domaine Faiveley: Insanely Good!

Domaine Faiveley is known for fashioning a wide array of fabulous wines from a multitude of appellations strewn across Burgundy from Mercurey in the south to as far north as Gevrey-Chambertin. With their enviable holdings and two state-of the-art winemaking facilities, the wines of Domaine Faiveley have never been better. The 2019s are sublime! Don’t miss your chance to get these stunning wines on pre-arrival at some of the best prices we have seen.

2019 Domaine Faiveley Pre-Arrivals

- 2019 Domaine Faiveley Mercurey “La Framboisière” ($39.99) 91 RP, 91 JS
- 2019 Domaine Faiveley Mercurey 1er Cru “Clos des Myglands” ($49.99) 93 JS, 92 RP, 92 DC
- 2019 Domaine Faiveley Mercurey 1er Cru “Clos du Roy” ($49.99) 94 JS, 93 RP
- 2019 Domaine Faiveley Mercurey 1er Cru “Clos du Roy – La Favorite” ($59.99) 94 RP
- 2019 Domaine Faiveley Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru “Les Cazetiers” ($134.99) 94-97 JM, 93-95 RP, 92-94 BH, 92 DC, 90-92 VN

- 2019 Domaine Faiveley Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru ($219.99) 94-96 JM, 93-95 RP, 93-95 VN, 92-95 BH, 92 DC
- 2019 Domaine Faiveley Corton-Clos des Cortons Faiveley Grand Cru ($229.99) 98 JS, 93-96 JM, 93-95 RP, 93-95 VN, 93-95 BH, 93 DC
- 2019 Domaine Faiveley Echézeaux Grand Cru “En Orveaux” ($229.99) 93-96 JM, 92-95 BH, 92-94 RP, 93 DC, 91-93 VN
- 2019 Domaine Faiveley Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru ($239.99) 96 DC, 93-95 RP, 93-95 JM, 91-94 BH, 90-92 VN
- 2019 Domaine Faiveley Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru ($299.99) 94-96 RP, 94-96 JM, 91-94 BH, 93 DC
- 2019 Domaine Faiveley Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru ($299.99) 98 DC, 95-98 JM, 94-96 RP, 94-96 VN, 93-95 BH
- 2019 Domaine Faiveley Mazis-Chambertin Grand Cru ($299.99) 98 JS, 96 DC, 94-97 JM, 93-95 RP, 93-95 BH, 93-95 VN
- 2019 Domaine Faiveley Chambertin Clos de Bèze Grand Cru ($399.99) 97 DC, 95-98 JM, 94-96 RP, 94-96 VN, 93-96 BH