

WINE News

*Shedding conventional wisdom
and finding the values in
Burgundy.*



JANUARY 25, 2021 FEATURES

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The Burgundian Conundrum

By Alex Pross

There's good reason that many a consumer's wine journey ends once they get to purchasing Burgundy. Arguably, nowhere else in the world does the Pinot Noir grape beguile like it does when it's grown in the terroir of Burgundy. It can reach dizzying heights of quality—which can also make the failures feel even more crushing. Chardonnay, too, just feels and tastes different from here, with an energy and depth rarely found in other regions. Unfortunately for the wine consumer, because of the region's limited annual production, unpredictable weather, and ever-increasing demand, prices in Burgundy have risen faster here than in almost any other wine region in the world. Appellations that were

once considered affordable are not anywhere near their old prices. So, we must venture further to ferret out the new regions and villages in Burgundy that are producing excellent wines that are still affordable.

To find the emerging regions where value abounds in red Burgundy, we like to explore Fixin and Marsannay to the north, villages like Auxey-Duresses, Santenay, Savigny-lès-Beaune, and Maranges in Côte-de-Beaune, and Givry and Mercurey to the south. These once passed-over villages are experiencing a renaissance of sorts, due to

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2018 Olivier Leflaive Bourgogne Blanc “Oncle Vincent” (\$29.99) A West Coast exclusive for us, the Oncle Vincent is a perennial best value. Sourced from eight plots located throughout Puligny-Montrachet, the wine is aged for 12 months, with the first three months being in stainless steel and the final nine months in oak, 15% new. A great peek into the majesty of Puligny-Montrachet, this beautiful white has the telltale notes of wet stone, orchard fruits, and grapefruit, with hints of lemongrass and aniseed. A great wine for those that love everything about Puligny-Montrachet—but the price! **91 DC**

2018 Domaine Faiveley Mercurey 1er Cru “Myglands” (\$49.99) A great example of what this emerging region can accomplish! Domaine Faiveley is so committed to Mercurey, they built a winemaking facility there so the grapes would not have to travel far after harvest, and they would be able to maximize quality. With this wine, they have done exactly that: Layered aromas of black and red fruits, plus subtle notes of spice and crushed rock, give way to a succulent palate of rich red fruits, licorice, notes of beef blood, and a hint of iron. The finish is smooth and long, with a touch of oak that harmonizes

all the components. This is a great expression of what Burgundy can accomplish, and a great introduction for the California Pinot Noir lover who wants to get into Burgundy. **93 JS, 92 DC, 91 RP, 89-91 BH**

Cover: It's never too early to snatch up our great, new Burgundy values. (Photo: Bourgogne Wine Board)



Seven Red Burgundy Values for Under \$30

Finding red Burgundy values used to be incredibly challenging.

Now, thanks to an impressive streak of good-to-great vintages from 2014 to 2019, it has never been a better time to explore the wealth of amazing values currently available. Much like Bourgogne blancs, Bourgogne rouges have dramatically increased in quality, thanks to renewed commitments to quality and warmer vintages that have given producers better raw material than they have had in prior vintages.

2017 Joseph Faiveley Bourgogne Rouge (\$19.99) This energetic red benefits from the enormous resources at Faiveley's disposal. Made at their recently remodeled facility in Nuits-St-Georges, this red is sourced from Côte de Nuits, Côte de Beaune, and Côte Chalonnaise. Crunchy red fruits and subtle floral notes reveal a rich palate replete with red cherry and strawberry flavors. So pretty, and so Burgundian in feel, this is an amazing value for less than \$20.

2018 Domaine Jean-Michel Giboulot Hautes-Côtes de Beaune Rouge (\$23.99) One of the most underrated red Burgundy values we have, this is just brimming with rich purple fruit. Made with grapes sourced from throughout Savigny-lès-Beaune, this wine is filled to the brim with fruit flavors of black cherry, boysenberry, and blueberry, with spice notes. Full-bodied, with great minerality, this is a full-throttle red Burgundy that won't break the bank.

2018 Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret Bourgogne Rouge (\$25.99) As we climb the price ladder, this is still a screaming value. Classic in its feel, this wine is loaded with beautiful fruit notes, incredible depth, and layers of complexity. A beautiful Bourgogne rouge, this wine sells out very quickly, as shrewd buyers know it's always a great value, and new buyers realize it's a stunning deal.



2018 Domaine Frédéric Esmonin Hautes-Côte de Nuits Rouge (\$25.99) Frédéric Esmonin has impressive holdings throughout Gevrey-Chambertin, meaning that this 2018 Hautes-Côte de Nuits Rouge has declassified Gevrey-Chambertin fruit in it. Loaded with purple fruit, cola notes, and crème de cassis, this supple, loaded red is a stellar value.

2018 Château de la Maltroye Bourgogne Rouge (\$26.99) Better known for their whites, Château de la Maltroye has fashioned an excellent red here with grapes from Chassagne-Montrachet. This beautiful red has aromas of sour cherry, pomegranate, and red licorice, while the energetic palate delivers red cherry, hibiscus tea, and spicy cinnamon flavors. Incredibly complex and regal, this feels like a wine that could easily pass for a wine double the price.



2018 Domaine Jean et Gilles Lafouge Côte-d'Or Bourgogne Rouge (\$27.99) If you're looking for a seductive red, this fits the bill with its aromas of spice and cherry pie that lead to a palate bursting with bright cherry, red plum, and raspberry flavors that feel freshly picked. Great acidity and balance give this red an energetic lift.

2018 Domaine Jean-Michel Giboulot Savigny-lès-Beaune (\$29.99) This is a hands-down, must-buy wine if you're looking for great Burgundy values. Savigny-lès-Beaune is exploding when it comes to great quality reds, and Jean-Michel Giboulot is one of the area's top talents fashioning great wines. The 2018 Domaine Jean-Michel Giboulot Savigny-lès-Beaune is spectacular, showing notes of cola, spice, and fresh, dark berry fruit, all wrapped up in a sleek and sexy package. This is a delicious red Burgundy that feels much more expensive than its price point, and delivers a great drinking experience that should not be missed out on.



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combining factors of climate change, new technology, and a younger, better-educated generation of vigneron taking over and making their commitments to higher-quality wines. Thanks to all these factors, many of these lesser-known, or once marginal, regions are making better wines today than they ever have before. It's time to put aside past biases and check out wines from these unheralded villages. You'll be pleasantly surprised by what you find.

For white Burgundy, moving on from Puligny-Montrachet and Chassagne-Montrachet can be difficult. The typicity found in these two villages defines white Burgundy, yet many of these wines have gone from being priced for almost daily drinking, to a level that's more "reserved for special occasions." But if you want to drink great

white Burgundy on a daily basis, check out the Mâcon to the south, with excellent wines found in Pouilly-Fuissé, Viré-Clessé, and the multiple subappellations of the region. In the Côte-de-Beaune, Ladoix, Rully, Pernand-Vergelesses, Auxey-Duresses, St-Romain, and sometimes still St-Aubin all make great renditions that won't break the bank. The excitement of discovering white Burgundy values in lesser-known regions can be immensely rewarding.

In this newsletter we'll explore value regions, producers we love, and a few picks for when you want to spend that extra dollar for a truly fantastic wine. Cheers!

Alex Pross is the Burgundy buyer for K&L Wine Merchants.

Value Plays in White Burgundy: Seven Scintillating Selections

In our household we drink more white wine today than ever before, and consequently, the need for affordable Burgundy has never been more acute. Luckily, there are more value plays than ever before coming out of Burgundy. The Mâcon is a source of so many great values, my head starts to spin when I try to list them all. And so many producers throughout Burgundy have redoubled their efforts to elevate the quality of their Bourgogne blancs. Below are seven great examples of white Burgundy that are both drinking wonderfully, and are wonderfully affordable.

2018 Domaine des Niales Rhedon-Marin Mâcon-Villages Vieilles Vignes (\$14.99) Easily one of the best values we have company-wide, this wine comes from a small producer located in the Mâcon. It's exactly what I want from a Mâcon-Village wine. A beautiful bouquet of white flowers and a hint of mint are present on the nose, while the palate is a mix of pear and apple flavors, with just a hint of citrus zest and a fleeting note of dried herbs. Balanced and medium-bodied, this is a great everyday white.



2018 Vignerons des Terres Secrètes Mâcon Milly-Lamartine Blanc (\$14.99) Another stunning value from the Mâcon, this comes from a cooperative located just on the outskirts of the town of Beaune. Much like famed cooperative La Chablisienne, Vignerons des Terres Secrètes has contracts throughout the Mâcon, and makes excellent wine values. The 2018 Milly-Lamartine is richly structured, with orchard fruits, spice, and a touch of earth that slowly unwind as the wine expands with a swirl of the glass. Surprisingly rich and structured for the price, this is a serious daily drinker.



2018 Château Vitallis Mâcon-Fuissé (\$16.99) The last of our trio of Mâcon-based values, this perennial value from the Dutron family in Fuissé is loaded with warm apple flavors, subtle spice notes, and a kiss of minerality.

So easy to drink and delicious, this stands toe-to-toe qualitatively with California Chardonnay twice the price.

It is so exciting to see the jump qualitatively in Bourgogne blanc. Once an afterthought for producers, in which they banished fruit not worthy of village or Premier Cru status, Bourgogne blancs are now looked at as a producer's initial calling card. This has resulted in new efforts to boost quality, and a boom in the amount of tasty Bourgogne blancs. We have several worth checking out.

2018 Château de la Charrière Bourgogne Blanc (\$17.99) Showing beautiful orchard fruit notes that are layered throughout, while winding in notes of citrus, this beauty is a great Bourgogne blanc from this stalwart producer located in Santenay.

2018 J. J. Famille Vincent Bourgogne Blanc (\$19.99) This comes from one of the top producers in Pouilly-Fuissé, Château Fuissé. The fruit here is sourced from various vineyards scattered around the Mâcon, and the wine is vinted at Château Fuissé. With nice density and surprising complexity, this wine has pretty fruit nicely buffered by spice, vanilla, and brioche notes. A great example of value from unheralded vineyards in the Mâcon.

2018 Francois Carillon Bourgogne Blanc (\$23.99) If you want a great example of where Bourgogne blanc really pops with citrus, brioche, hazelnut, and white flower flavors, try this wine. The pedigree here is undoubtedly Puligny-Montrachet, but without the price.

2018 Domaine Paul Pernot Côte d'Or Bourgogne Blanc (\$27.99) A great example of where Bourgogne blancs are headed, this is such a serious Bourgogne blanc, it deserved an appellation designation. From one of Puligny-Montrachet's largest land owners, the 2018 Côte d'Or Bourgogne blanc feels like a Premier Cru trapped in the body of a Bourgogne blanc. Subtle notes of flower and wet stone are present, as well as a tightly wound core of orchard fruits and mineral notes. Structured and complex, the wine is detailed with hints of oak. A serious Bourgogne blanc that challenges the notion that Bourgogne blancs are simple table wines.



Chablis: More Values Than Space to Write!

I could write an entire Burgundy newsletter about the amazing values we have from Chablis. When taken in the context of Burgundy, pretty much everything from Chablis could be considered a value—except for a few Grand Crus from a handful of top producers. There are a ton of wines that fall within the \$17 to \$40 sweet spot for values, even with a newly imposed 25% tariff. Names like William Fèvre, La Chablisienne, Gérard Tremblay, and Domaine Servin dominate the list of great values from Chablis.

One of the areas where we're seeing exceptional values is Petit Chablis. In order to understand the Petit Chablis region, just imagine the Premier and Grand Cru Chablis vineyards located within a bubble surrounding the village of Chablis on the river Serein. Then, village-level Chablis comes from the second bubble surrounding those. And the land surrounding village-level Chablis is where Petit Chablis come from. Petit Chablis is a newer classification, but we are quickly finding that there are several Petit Chablis offerings that qualitatively stand up to and even surpass village-level Chablis offerings. We have three that immediately spring to mind:

2019 Gérard Tremblay Petit Chablis (\$17.99) This has a pretty nose of white flowers and crushed seashells. The palate is bright, with notes of dried hay, iodine, bitter lime, and grapefruit notes. Perfect for seafood and oysters, this is a wonderful introduction to the strong 2019 Chablis vintage.

2018 Charlène et Laurent Pinson Petit Chablis (\$19.99) Made by one of the region's up-and-coming producers from a parcel of vines above the famed Les Clos Grand Cru vineyard, this is a brilliant wine. This richly textured Chablis offers up flavors of pear, spice, and hazelnut.

2018 La Chablisienne Petit Chablis "Dame Nature" (\$24.99) The last of our incredible Petit Chablis values is made from organically grown grapes. This steely, taut offering is full-bodied and complex, showing nuances and layers not commonly found in a Petit Chablis. This is an impressive wine that stands on its own. **93 DC**

As we step away from Petit Chablis, there are numerous exciting offers at the village Chablis level for under \$30.

2018 Domaines Albert Bichot Chablis (\$19.99) From one of Burgundy's top négociants, with impressive holdings as well as contracts in Burgundy, this tremendous wine is replete with almond, pear, and floral notes. What a pretty wine.

2018 Domaine Vocoret Chablis (\$23.99) Made by the Vocoret family, whose fourth generation is now running the property, this entry-level Chablis is sourced primarily from the Les Pargues vineyard, with the balance coming from a vineyard right next to Montée de Tonnerre. While this wine comes from vineyards considered to be Premier Cru in quality, you're only paying a village-level price for this amazing value, which shows bright citrus notes, crushed stone, iodine, and hints of dried foliage.

2018 William Fèvre Chablis "Champs Royaux" (\$24.99) William Fèvre is considered to be one of the top producers in Chablis, and their entry-level offering has it all in spades: brilliant citrus fruit, subtle orchard fruit flavors, and a hint of minerality all wrapped up in a perfectly balanced package. I expected nothing less from Fèvre. **93 WE, 90 WS**

2019 Domaine Gérard Tremblay Chablis Vieilles Vignes (\$24.99) Gérard Tremblay is back again with a wine sourced from older vines. A vivid nose of crushed sea shells and lemon curd, and a citrus-laden palate with a salty feel make this zesty Chablis a fantastic value.

2017 La Chablisienne Chablis "Les Vénérables" Vieilles Vignes (\$26.99) An insanely great value, this wine comes from one of the best vintages in recent memory, and from a strong producer. And it shows. Gorgeous fruit, excellent balance, saline notes, and a long, lingering finish. This is a fabulous wine for the money. **93 DC, 91 VN**

2018 Domaine Laroche Chablis "Saint Martin" (\$27.99) This is an impressive, proprietary assemblage from another venerable producer, displaying tangerine, ginger, iodine, and dried hay notes. Fresh and lively, it's a wonderful entry-level offering.

2018 Domaine William Fèvre Chablis "Estate" (\$29.99) The last of our Chablis values for under \$30, and once again from Domaine William Fèvre, this is an unanimous hit among the critics. Textured, layered, and impeccably balanced, this wine offers orchard fruits, citrus notes, and a saline quality, all melded into a wonderful expression of Chablis. **92 WE, 92 JS, 91 WS**



A Stunning Set of Values From Château de la Charrière

Easily one of my all-time favorite producers that we import is **Château de la Charrière**. This small property located in Santenay is under the stewardship of the Yves Girardin family, which is related to famed vintner Vincent Girardin. The quality here has always been impressive, but there has been an uptick under the son, Benoît Girardin, who assumed the winemaker role a few years back. Under his steady hand the wines have more structure, complexity, and pure fruit. What is so exciting here is the quality of these wines in relation to their price. They truly represent some of the best values we have not only in Burgundy, but company-wide.



Yves and Benoît Girardin. (Photos courtesy of Château de la Charrière).

We have three wonderful whites from Château de la Charrière. All are from the 2018 vintage, and all are drinking great! Our first wine is an entry-level offering. The **2018 Château de la Charrière Bourgogne Blanc (\$17.99)** has beautiful orchard fruits, subtle spice notes, and just the lightest note of dried herbs. One of the more underrated offerings from Château de la Charrière, the **2018 Château de la Charrière Santenay Blanc 1er Cru “Beauregard” (\$34.99)** comes out the gate with nutmeg, hazelnut, baked apple, and pear flavors. Richly textured, this is a great value and shows off its Premier Cru pedigree. One of our most popular offerings from Château de la Charrière, the **2018 Château de la Charrière Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Champs Morjot” (\$44.99)** is also one of the best values to be found in Chassagne-Montrachet. Most Chassagne-Montrachets on the market start at mid-to-high \$60s, with many now going easily into the \$70-and-up range. At \$45 a bottle, this is a stunning value. Anyone looking for an affordable Chassagne-Montrachet would be wise to snatch this wine up.

As much as I like the whites from Château de la Charrière, the reds really are the calling card here.

A flat-out stunning value, the **2019 Château de la Charrière Bourgogne Rouge (\$17.99)** offers a great first look into the heralded 2019 Burgundy vintage. With sappy red fruits and layer after layer of complexity, this is a beauty in the making.

Next, we have a trio of Santenays, with the **2018 Château de la Charrière Santenay Rouge “Les Charmes Dessus” (\$26.99)** having impeccable balance, ample red fruits, spice notes, and a hint of fresh garden herbs. As we move onto the Premier Crus, the **2018 Château de la Charrière Santenay Rouge 1er Cru “Clos Rousseau” (\$29.99)** really is the kind of value I am in constant search for. This is a Premier Cru red Burgundy for under \$30 that is absolutely mind-blowing. Dark cherry fruit, spice, cola notes, and ample tannins flow throughout to make this a beautiful Burgundian value. From one of the better Premier Cru sites in Santenay, the **2018 Château de la Charrière Santenay 1er Cru “Gravières” (\$32.99)** really takes the complexity and focus up a notch, as well the purity of fruit. This is a stunning wine that showcases the great quality of the Gravières vineyard.

As we pick up the power, the **2018 Château de la Charrière Beaune 1er Cru “Clos des Vignes Franches” (\$37.99)** has ample weight, depth and density with dark fruits, cola, and spice notes, with a faint hint of dark chocolate.

We finish with an incredibly approachable Pommard from Château de la Charrière. The **2018 Château de la Charrière Pommard “Les Vignots” (\$42.99)** is a full-bodied, rich, complex, and delicious Pommard that, unlike many Pommards, is open for business rather than shut down. These are really some of the best values around. If you want to drink Burgundy that doesn't empty your wallet, these are the wines for you!



A Property You Need to Know: Château de la Maltroye

The wines of Château de la Maltroye are precise and refined, thanks to former aeronautical engineer and owner-winemaker Jean-Pierre Cornutt. With impressive holdings throughout the commune of Chassagne-Montrachet, Cornutt is fashioning impressive reds as well as whites. What makes the wines of Château de la Maltroye so impressive is their wealth of fruit, depth, and a phenolic mouthfeel that are achieved without the wines feeling heavy, sweet, or overripe.

As much as I adore the whites by Château de la Maltroye—and they are the calling card for the property—I am even more excited by the reds. Jean-Pierre Cornutt believes the 2018 vintage is his best vintage for red wines to date, and I have to agree with his assessment.

The **2018 Château de la Maltroye Bourgogne Rouge (\$26.99)** gets the ball rolling with sappy red fruits, impressive length, density, and layers of fruit with just a hint of spice and oak. A firm red, this wine feels like it has a bunch of declassified Chassagne-Montrachet rouge fruit in it.

The **2018 Château de la Maltroye Chassagne-Montrachet Rouge (\$44.99)** is a wonderful introduction to the quality of Chassagne-Montrachet rouge. For a long time they've been overlooked, but this set of offerings should be convincing evidence that these wines may be the best values in red Burgundy. Pepper, spice, black fruits, and earth all coalesce into a gorgeous package. **87-90 BH**

The **2018 Château de la Maltroye Chassagne-Montrachet Rouge 1er Cru “Boudriotte” (\$59.99)** has the complexity and depth rarely found outside of Grand Cru territory. From arguably the top vineyard for Chassagne-Montrachet rouge (Boudriotte), this fruit-packed offering is both sumptuous and restrained in a seemingly paradoxical blending of two worlds. **90-92 BH**

From the Maltroye home vineyard, the **2018 Château de la Maltroye Chassagne-Montrachet Rouge 1er Cru “Clos du Château Maltroye” (\$59.99)** has more complexity and depth, with a tightly wound core of fruit and spice. If you want to discover the charms of Chassagne-Montrachet rouge, check out the offerings from Château de la Maltroye. **92 BH**



Deep in winter, sometime in the not-too-distant past: dormant vines prepare to produce a new vintage of refreshing Burgundy values. (Photo: Bourgogne Wine Board)

I went out on a bit of a limb this year and purchased more Aligoté than I have ever before. Instead of going with the Bourgogne blanc from Château de la Maltroye, I decided to go with their Aligoté. For about \$10 less than the Bourgogne blanc, the **2018 Château de la Maltroye Aligoté (\$19.99)** shows a more interesting intersection of herbal notes, salinity, cool white fruits, and a hint of citrus. The rise in quality overall in Aligoté is a story of resurrection, and Château de la Maltroye's is one worth owning.

The **2018 Château de la Maltroye Chassagne-Montrachet (\$59.99)** is the perfect introduction to the house style. Layered, tropical fruit and citrus weave their way throughout this beautiful wine. The **2018 Château de la Maltroye Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru “Clos du Château” (\$79.99)** is the first rung up the quality ladder, having a richer palate than the base-level Chassagne. **90-93 BH**

The **2018 Château de la Maltroye Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru “Morgeot Vigne Blanche” (\$79.99)** flows from the glass with more apple and pear fruit, and a band of spice that runs throughout this gorgeous offering. **91 BH**

As the prices start to climb, so does the quality. The **2018 Château de la Maltroye Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru “Grand Ruchottes” (\$119.99)** comes from one of my favorite vineyards in Chassagne-Montrachet, which often sells for over \$200 a bottle. Spice, orchard fruits, and a level of fruit clarity, depth, and harmony that's not seen in many wines makes this a cellar-worthy acquisition. **92 BH**

While the Grand Ruchottes slumbers away in your cellar, the **2018 Château de la Maltroye Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru “La Romanée” (\$139.99)** is open for business with brilliant citrus and Asian pear notes, plus hazelnut and slight saline notes. This wine is so pure and precise, with a mouthfeel second to none, that before the first bottle is finished you'll be logging in to order another. **93 BH**

When you sit and taste with Jean-Pierre Cornutt, he likes to pour the last two wines blind. They're the **2018 Château de la Maltroye Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru “La Dent de Chien” (\$249.99)** and the **2018 Château de la Maltroye Batard-Montrachet Grand Cru**, and he does this because it is difficult to tell them apart or choose which wine is superior. The Premier Cru-level La Dent de Chien can hold its own and then some against Grand Cru white Burgundy, and that's the point of this experiment—it's that good. Complex doesn't begin to describe this wine. The fruit is perfectly ripe—not too sweet and not too sour, with mineral, beeswax, and hazelnut notes, and fine-grained tannins. A wine that challenges you to consider—should this wine be a Grand Cru?—and proves how amazing are the Chassagne-Montrachets from Château de la Maltroye. **94 BH**



Bachelet-Monnot: A Name to Remember

“Alexandre and Marc Bachelet have been on fire over recent vintages... My budget would be invested in the outstanding Maranges premier crus such as Fussière and Clos de la Boutière that I strongly suspect will represent some of the best values over the entire of the Côte d’Or...and if I were a millionaire, I would still buy them.” —Neal Martin, Vinous

“The 2018 tasting reinforced my view that not only is Domaine Bachelet-Monnot at the very forefront of white Burgundy production, but that they have made serious strides with their red wines too.”

—Jasper Morris MW, InsideBurgundy.com

Two of the most respected Burgundy critics love Bachelet-Monnot, and I can tell you, from my own recent tastings, they are a producer you need to own. Across the board, they offer winning entry-level wines, as well as more accomplished appellation and Premier Cru and Grand Cru offerings. Like most producers in Burgundy, their production is limited, so you’d better act fast before they sell out.

The red wines from Bachelet-Monnot don’t get the same kind of acclaim—yet—that the whites do. However, I think they are the better values.

The **2018 Domaine Bachelet-Monnot Bourgogne Rouge (\$29.99)** shows spice and dried herb notes. Very lively, this Bourgogne rouge drinks way above its price point, and is easily one of the better Bourgogne rouges I have tasted from the 2018 vintage.

Where the amazing values lie is in the two Maranges offerings from Bachelet-Monnot. This largely unknown appellation is starting to fashion some of the best values found in red Burgundy.

The **2018 Domaine Bachelet-Monnot Maranges 1er Cru “La Fussière” (\$39.99)** has beautiful red fruit flavors, bright and zesty, with black cherry and red berry. This sappy offering is delicious!
90-92 VN, 89-91 BH

One step up qualitatively, the **2018 Domaine Bachelet-Monnot Maranges 1er Cru “Clos de la Boutière” (\$42.99)** is a more serious wine with darker fruits and more density on the palate. This is a wonderful, classically structured Burgundy that blows away Pinot Noir in the same price range from everywhere else in the world.
91-93 VN, 89-91 BH

Not to be outdone, the range of whites from Bachelet-Monnot are also great values.

The **2018 Domaine Bachelet-Monnot Bourgogne Blanc (\$29.99)** is made almost entirely from fruit sourced from Puligny-Montrachet, which gives this wine an impressive pedigree. Outstanding citrus notes and a hint of orchard fruit, with great spice and depth, make this wine a wonderful Bourgogne blanc.

The **2018 Domaine Bachelet-Monnot Chassagne-Montrachet (\$69.99)** really shines and showcases the Chassagne appellation admirably with notes of lemon curd, pear, apple, and spice, all framed by sumptuous oak notes. This wine is singing. **89-92 BH**

2018 Domaine Bachelet-Monnot Puligny-Montrachet (\$74.99) This has that beautiful, elegant, and refined feel that Puligny-Montrachet is famous for. It shows wet stone and iodine notes, along with grapefruit, apple, and lemon-lime flavors. The balance and harmony here are so perfect that the wine is both powerful, and simultaneously light. Bachelet-Monnot is just starting to scratch the surface as far as what they are destined to achieve, in my humble opinion. **90-92 VN, 89-91 BH**

Last year’s old canes are burned during winter. (Photo: Bourgogne Wine Board)





Clos des Mouches opens the gates to winter. (Photo: Maison Joseph Drouhin)

Joseph Drouhin: Consistently Great

In terms of large, there really aren't large producers in Burgundy. But there are some good-sized family domaines that have some pretty good-sized contracts that allow them to produce a wide range of selections. Producers like Louis Jadot, Bouchard, Faiveley, Albert Bichot, and Joseph Drouhin have done an amazing job making wines from a dizzying range of vineyards and appellations. At Joseph Drouhin, under the stewardship of winemaker Véronique Drouhin-Boss, the quality across the board has never been better. With a vintage like 2018, the quality of raw material given to Véronique means we have a very special set of wines for you.

The set of reds that Joseph Drouhin has fashioned from the 2018 vintage are perfectly balanced reds that showcase their respective terroirs. Perhaps the best value of all the reds, the **2018 Joseph Drouhin Côte-de-Nuits Villages (\$27.99)** is a wonderful example of what village-level vineyards can achieve in the Côte-de-Nuits. Bright, with high-toned red fruit, spice and floral notes, this is an elegant and complex value. A bit more rustic, the **2018 Joseph Drouhin Côte-de-Beaune Villages (\$32.99)** is the perfect yin-to-the-yang of the Côte de Nuits Villages. Darker, firmer, and showcasing spicy, earthier notes, this is a classically styled red. A step up in quality, the **2018 Joseph Drouhin Côte-de-Beaune Rouge (\$54.99)** is a masterful red with elegantly wound red fruit, dark cherry, spice, and baking chocolate. Easily one of my favorite reds from Joseph Drouhin, the **2018 Joseph Drouhin Gevrey-Chambertin (\$79.99)** has tons of gorgeous purple fruit, cola notes, and spice all wrapped within suave tannins and hints of oak. **93 DC**

The whites really shine in 2018, and we get off to a great start with the **2018 Joseph Drouhin Meursault (\$69.99)** which is full of lemon curd, wet stone, white flowers, and hazelnuts, all wrapped into an energetic

package. We go over one village to Chassagne-Montrachet, where the **2018 Joseph Drouhin Chassagne-Montrachet (\$79.99)** has deep citrus notes wound around a spicy core of hazelnuts and candied ginger notes. **92 JS, 91 BH, 90 JG**

The **2018 Joseph Drouhin Puligny Montrachet (\$79.99)** has incredible purity and freshness, with pristine orchard fruits and mineral-laden notes. **90 BH**

As we climb the ladder qualitatively, the **2018 Domaine Joseph Drouhin Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru "Embazées" (\$119.99)** really shines with loads of fresh lime, apple, pear notes, and orange blossom notes. **94 JS, 92 BH, 92 JG**

A great example of a Premier Cru Puligny-Montrachet, the **2018 Domaine Joseph Drouhin Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru "Folatières" (\$129.99)** has incredible purity—it feels like fresh mountain stream water passing over smooth stones. Orchard fruit and spice notes weave their way through every layer of this beautiful wine. **91-93 BH, 90-92 VN, 90 RP**

This last offering, from one of the region's top vineyards, is one of the most exciting wines to come out of the Côte-de-Beaune lately. The **2018 Domaine Joseph Drouhin Beaune Blanc 1er Cru "Clos des Mouches" (\$179.99)** is an expressive, distinctive white layered with aromas and flavors of lemon, apple blossom, beeswax, orange zest, and just a kiss of oak. A wine that has very few equals or comparables, this is guaranteed to excite. **96 DC, 94 JS**



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