

DOMAINE & MAISON HENRI BOILLOT

Reviews of 2007 Vintage Red Wines

by Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

March /April 2009

Two thousand seven was a nice surprise for those who waited to harvest," said Henri Boillot, who started picking his estate fruit on September 1 and has a stunning set of wines in the works. "And yields were critical," added Boillot, who told me that he never lets two clusters touch and tosses bunches on the ground at harvest time if he doesn't like them. He also told me he eliminated close to 30% of the fruit on his sorting table, and that the ultimate estate-wide yield here averaged just 18 hectoliters per hectare. Boillot describes the wines as thicker and more concentrated than the 2006s, with more coloring material and better acidity. In fact, he added, they have more punch than the 2005s. Boillot de-cuvé with a significant amount of unfermented sugar remaining in 2007, allowing the wines to finish in barrel, and he believes that this measure has given the wines more volume. (The Sorting Table, Napa, CA)

2007 Maison Henri Boillot

Beaune Clos du Roi

Good deep red-ruby. Black cherry, currant, licorice, leather and smoke on the nose. Solid and supple, but less pliant and expressive today than the Lavieres and not yet showing its inherent complexity. Finishes with silky tannins and plenty of energy. 89-91

2007 Maison Henri Boillot

Savigny Les Beaune Les Lavieres

Good deep red. Black raspberry and smoke on the nose, complicated by leather and dark chocolate. Sweet and broad but vinous, with good density to the mineral and smoke flavors. Finishes persistent and vibrant, with repeating leather and chocolate notes. 89-91

2007 Maison Henri Boillot

Volnay Clos de la Rougeotte

Deep ruby-red. Captivating aromas of black raspberry, black cherry, licorice, leather and smoky oak. Full, plush and complex, with lovely viscosity framing and enlivening the flavors of black cherry, dark chocolate, leather and

earth. Finishes nuanced and sweet, with very fine-grained tannins and sexy mineral lift. 90-92

2007 Maison Henri Boillot

Volnay Fremiets

Bright ruby; Boillot's '07s are some of the darkest wines I saw on the Cote de Beaune. The aromas of black cherry, licorice and leather show terrific floral lift. Then compellingly sweet and sappy in the mouth, with thoroughly ripe flavors of black cherry, dark berries, flowers and minerals. Elegant and classy wine, carrying a moderate 12.8% alcohol. Finishes very long, with suave, dusty tannins that are almost invisible today. 91-94

2007 Maison Henri Boillot

Volnay Chevrets

Bright medium red-ruby. Less floral and more black on the nose than the Fremiets, but with superb vibrancy to the aromas of dark berries, licorice and minerals. This is slower to express itself but boasts terrific inner-palate tension and lift, with a mineral component giving it great penetration. The almost weightless finish features noble tannins and captivating mineral perfume. This will need seven or eight years of cellaring upon release. Conveys the concentration of tiny berries. 91-94

2007 Maison Henri Boillot

Volnay Les Caillerets

Bright, saturated ruby-red. Knockout aristocratic nose combines black fruits, menthol, leather, minerals, licorice and spearmint. Incredibly suave, full and seamless, with terrific viscosity to the sweet flavors of black cherry, minerals, leather and dark chocolate. There's a wildness to this wine that's exhilarating. Finishes with outstanding palate-staining length and energy and utterly suave tannins. This impeccably balanced wine conveys a powerful impression of soil. The Chevrets and Fremiets are aging in 75% new oak, while this and the subsequent wines are entirely in new barriques. 92-95

DOMAINE HENRI BOILLOT – MAISON HENRI BOILLOT

2007 Maison Henri Boillot

Clos Vougeot

(Boillot has a fermage agreement on these vines in the lieu-dit Le Maupertuis, working the vines with his team; he waited to harvest here until September 8) Medium ruby-red. Superripe aromas of black cherry, cassis, licorice and bitter chocolate; closed but pure. Then sweet, dense and fine-grained, with a sappy black cherry sweetness but little else showing today. ("The red wine equivalent of Corton-Charlemagne," notes Boillot: "You feel the mass of the wine early but not much else.") Best today on the vibrant, very long back end, where the dusty, fine tannins spread out to take over the palate. 92-94

2007 Maison Henri Boillot

Charmes Chambertin

(just one barrel, from vines in excess of 80 years old) Bright ruby-red. Subtly complex nose offers black fruits, violet, minerals and game. Very intensely flavored and detailed, but a bit more youthfully aggressive today than the Clos Vougeot in spite of its obvious sucrosite, as the tannins make themselves felt a bit earlier. Finishes very sweet and long, with lingering notes of currant, smoke and flowers. This needs time in bottle despite possessing considerable early charm, but the Clos Vougeot will probably be a better bet for the long haul. 91-94

2007 Maison Henri Boillot

Chambertin

Deep, bright, saturated ruby. Soil-driven aromas of black fruits and licorice. Brooding and pure, with brisk acidity giving a medicinal reserve to the sweet flavors of blueberry, licorice and flinty minerality. There's a coolness and suavity here that screams out Chambertin. Penetrating, classy wine with a palate-saturating bitter chocolate finish hinting at great complexity to come. The tannins are perfectly integrated. 93-96

2007 Maison Henri Boillot

Bonnes Mares

Medium ruby-red. Pungent aromas of blueberry, minerals, ginger and licorice. Wonderfully dense and fine-grained, with a delicately lacy texture to its dark fruit, mineral and spice flavors. This 300-pound ballerina saturates the entire palate without leaving any impression of weight. The dynamic finish leaves behind pulsating notes of spices, smoked meat and roasted herbs, with the tannins thoroughly buffered by the wine's sheer volume. 93-96