

DOMAINE BERNARD MOREAU

Reviews of 2008 Vintage Wines

by John Gilman's View From The Cellar

November- December 2009

Alexandre Moreau was in a very good mood at the time of my visit in November, as he was quite content with the quality of his 2008s and also expecting very good things from his 2009s. He had another reason to be happy, which I did not comprehend until I asked innocently about one lonely barrel sitting in the corner of the cuverie, since everything from 2008 had either already been bottled or, in the case of the premier crus, racked into stainless steel tanks to settle together in preparation for early spring bottling.

It turns out that the lone barrel is Alexandre's first grand cru, as he has been able to buy enough grapes to make this one pièce of Bâtard-Montrachet, and will now have twenty five cases (minus what is retained for family needs) of a grand cru to flesh out his fine range of top Chassagne premier crus. And the 2008 Bâtard is indeed a spectacular wine and it will be worth a very special search of the market to latch onto a few bottles of this inaugural vintage. As readers are certainly aware, it is my strong conviction that Alexandre Moreau is making the finest wines in Chassagne-Montrachet after Domaine Ramonet these days, and his 2008s are superb follow-ups to his racy and soil-driven 2007s. Alexandre describes the 2008s "as nearly as crisp and racy as the 2007s, but with much more generous fruit, so that they should be more enjoyable to drink early, while one waits for the 2007s to open up." He ranks the 2008s significantly higher than either 2006 or 2005, and probably feels that they will be superior to 2004 as well. I pleaded with Monsieur Moreau to bottle his 2008s with corks not rinsed in peroxide, just in case it turns out to be a contributory factor for premoxy, and he seemed likely to pursue this course with his '08s. This is a domaine that is currently at the top of its game, and I cannot recommend Alexandre Moreau's racy, pure and transparent 2008s highly enough.

Bourgogne Blanc –

Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

All of the vines here are located in the village of Chassagne, and for the last few years this has been one of my favorite examples made in the Côte d'Or. This and the St. Aubin had been bottled in September. The nose on the '08 Bourgogne offers up a fresh 156 mélange of pear, lemon, apple blossoms and really lovely minerality. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and crisp, with lovely balance and a long and classy finish. Really a lovely example this year. 2009-2019. **88**

St. Aubin "en Remilly"-

Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

True to form, the St. Aubin "en Remilly" was aged in twenty percent new oak in 2008, and it too is excellent. The bouquet is deep and vibrant, as it jumps from the glass in a blend of white flowers, pears, lemon zest, just a touch of vanillin oak and a lovely base of chalky minerality. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and racy, with lovely, succulent fruit on the attack, lovely focus and fine length and grip on the snappy backend. 2009-2022. **90**

Chassagne-Montrachet-

Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The Chassagne villages had been racked into stainless steel tanks at the end of July and was destined to be bottled just before Christmas. This is very pure and very elegant this year, as it offers up a classy mélange of apple, lemon, a lovely base of soil tones and the faintest framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, deep and very soil-driven, with fine mid-palate depth, lovely acids and a very long, nicely reserved finish. A fine AC. 2010-2025. **90+**

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Chassagne-Montrachet “Maltroie”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The Maltroie had also been racked and assembled in stainless steel tanks in July, but had not yet been fined and was not likely to be bottled before the early spring. Maltroie can sometimes be a touch top-heavy, but this is emphatically not the case with Alexandre Moreau's example, and this wine is particularly vibrant and pure in 2008. The wine offers up simply beautiful fruit on the nose, as it wafts from the glass in a mix of pear, lemon zest, tangerine, lovely soil tones and a topnote of citrus blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and racy, with fine mid-palate depth, beautiful focus and a nice sense of reserve on the long finish that nicely balances the succulent fruit on the attack. A very classy bottle. 2012-2025+. **91+**

Chassagne-Montrachet “Vergers”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The Vergers is the one of the premier crus that Alexandre purchases grapes to produce, as the family does not have a holding in this lovely vineyard. The 2008 Vergers is excellent, as it offers up a complex nose of tangerine, lemon, apples, white flowers, chalk and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, long and classy, with excellent mid-palate depth, fine focus and a very long, crisp and youthful finish. Just a very fine bottle of Vergers in the making. 2012-2030. **92**

Chassagne-Montrachet “Champgains”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The 2008 Champgains is a tad more closed than the last two premier crus and will need just a year or two longer in the cellar before it starts to really drink well. The bouquet offers up a fine mélange of lime, pear, stony soil tones, citrus zest and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and a bit brooding at the present time, with a fine core of fruit, brisk acids, lovely focus and a very long, soildriven finish. Where it will be possible to drink the Vergers or the Maltroie relatively early on and find great enjoyment in them, the Champgains really will want to be left alone in the cellar for at least the next three or four years. But the quality here is very promising- just a bit of patience will be needed. 2012-2030. **91+**

Chassagne-Montrachet “Chenevottes”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

Monsieur Moreau observed that the ripeness always mounts quickly in Chenevottes, and this is always the first premier cru that he harvests each year, to make sure that he can keep this wine light on its feet. The 2008 Chenevottes is certainly that, as it offers up an excellent bouquet of oranges, apples, pears, a lovely base of white soil tones and a touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-

bodied, long and quite generous on the attack, with a fine core of fruit, bright acids and lovely grip on the long and focused finish. A lovely bottle. 2012-2025+. **92**

Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

In my experience, the two finest examples of Morgeot made in Chassagne hail from Domaines Moreau and Ramonet, and I am not sure if with this specific cru, Domaine Ramonet does not come in second. The Moreau example of Morgeot is always racy and very minerally in style, and this has dovetailed perfectly with the style of the vintage in 2008, as the wine offers up an exceptional mélange of lemon, orange, apple, stony minerality and a topnote of citrus zest. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and snappy, with great transparency, beautiful focus and a very long, complex and nicely reserved finish. A really fine example of the vintage. 2014-2030+. **92+**

Chassagne-Montrachet “Grandes Ruchottes”- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The Grands Ruchottes is always the finest of this very impressive lineup of premier crus, and the 2008 will be simply outstanding. The deep and complex nose offers up scents of pear, lemon, a great, complex base of soil tones, orange zest, spring flowers 158 and a discreet framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and quite reserved at the present time, with a rock solid core of fruit, bright acids, great focus and a very, very long, racy finish. Grand cru quality without a doubt. 2014-2035. **93+**

Bâtard-Montrachet- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

It is a pity that there is only one barrel of this great wine, but one barrel is a lot better than zero barrels, and it is really gratifying to see Alexandre Moreau now with a grand cru in his lineup. The bouquet is deep, complex and flat out stunning, as it soars from the glass in a beautiful mélange of lemon, apple, orange, lemon blossoms, a great base of soil and a nice touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and absolutely rock solid at the core, with brisk acids, laser-like focus and a huge, racy and very, very long finish. A great Bâtard-Montrachet. 2016-2040. **95+**

Bourgogne Rouge- Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

This was just bottled a couple of days before my visit, but was still showing pretty well. The bouquet is a blend of black cherries, dark berries, chocolate and soil tones. On the palate the wine is fullish, long and juicy, with silky tannins and sneaky length and grip. This will be a good bottle. 2009-2016. **85-87**

**Chassagne-Montrachet “Vieilles Vignes” Rouge-
Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils**

The Chassagne rouge V.V. had been racked a week before my visit, but was nevertheless showing quite well. The nose offers up a very stylish mélange of black cherries, woodsmoke, a touch of game, and lovely soil tones. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, long and quite suave on the attack, with a good core of fruit, modest tannins and good length and grip on the finish. A very tasty example. 2009-2020+. 87+

**Chassagne-Montrachet “Cardeuse” Rouge-
Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils**

In 2008 the La Cardeuse was raised in fifty percent new oak, and the wine will be very good. The nose offers up a complex and classy blend of black cherries, dark berries, espresso, soil and just a touch of spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full bodied and possesses fine mid-palate depth. The tannins here are nicely integrated (though showing just a touch of influence from the higher percentage of new oak in use here than in any of the other wines up until this point), and the wine has lovely length and grip on the still very snappy finish. This will be very good down the road. 2015-2035. **87- 89**

Volnay “Santenots”-

Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils

The Volnay “Santenots” was one of the last wines in the cellar to finish its malo, and this can be felt in the bit of malic acid that is still perking up the backend at the present time. But this will be an excellent wine in time, as it offers up a fine bouquet of black cherries, dark berries, a touch of game, woodsmoke, complex soil tones and a bit of spicy oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely sappy at the core, with tangy acids, moderate tannins and excellent length and grip on the bouncy finish. Once this settles in, it will be quite fine. 2015-2035. **88-90+**