

# DOMAINE BERNARD MOREAU

## *Reviews of 2014 Vintage Wines*

*by John Gilman's View From The Cellar*

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**T**he Moreau brothers have made stunning wines in 2014, but this seems to be a consistent refrain these days! It is always one of the highlights of my trip to visit with Alex Moreau and taste the new vintage here, as the wines get more precise with each passing year. The wines were in varying stages of evolution at the time of my visit, with a few already bottled, all the rest assembled and a few of these already fined and/or filtered in anticipation of bottling, while others were more comfortably resting in tank and had not yet been prepared for their bottling, which will occur in the spring. Alex Moreau began picking on September 11th this year and was very, very happy with the quality of the grapes as they came in from the vineyards. There are two new bottlings in the cellar this year, as the family has produced their first bottling of Clos St. Jean in 2014 from a recently replanted parcel, and has traded with another vigneron some grapes to produce their very first bottling of Caillerets in 2014, which is stunning. Most of the malos here finished up in the spring or early summer, but the Vergers was late and the Champgains even later, as it had only just finished a short time before my visit on November 18th! I did not taste the Champgains this year, given its agitated state, but the remainder of the cellar was absolutely stunning and this is clearly going to be a great vintage chez Moreau. The purity and transparency of the 2014s chez Moreau is truly exceptional, as each premier cru really screamed out its underlying terroir, and if I wanted to teach a master class on the signature nuances of the top premier crus in Chassagne, I would just serve the 2014 roster from Domaine Moreau! I did not taste the full roster of reds on my visit, but the four I did sample were outstanding.

### Vins Blancs

#### 2014 Bourgogne Blanc

The 2014 Bourgogne Blanc was bottled right before the harvest of 2015, as is customary with this bottling. The wine offers up a beautifully pure and classy nose of apple, pear, a touch of fresh almond and a fine base of chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and juicy on the attack, with a good core, lovely balance and really impressive backend energy on the focused finish. This is amazingly good for Bourgogne. 2016-2030. **88.**

#### 2014 St. Aubin “en Remilly”

This was bottled the week before I tasted it, but had not yet shut down and was still showing very well. The bouquet is again, strikingly refined in 2014, wafting from the glass in a blend of apple, pear, acacia blossoms, complex limestone soil tones and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and succulent at the core, with great soil inflection, bright acids and excellent focus and grip on the long and vibrant finish. Superb juice. 2016-2030+. **90+.**

#### 2014 Chassagne-Montrachet

If someone in the village makes a better version of Chassagne AC than Alex Moreau, I would like to taste it! The 2014 *villages* had been assembled and was destined for bottling in two weeks' time, but showed all of the inherent elegance and minerality that are the hallmarks of the very finest Côte de Beaune whites in 2014. The bouquet is stellar, offering up a vibrant and expressive blend of white peach, apple, citrus zest, a fine, complex base of soil, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very refined, with a fine core, bright acids, lovely focus and grip and great length and energy on the focused and transparent finish. Very high class example of AC! 2016-2035. **91.**

#### 2014 Chassagne-Montrachet “Vergers”

The 2014 Vergers was the only wine in the Moreau cellars that I tasted that was not really on form, as its late malo found it quite a bit behind the evolution of the other wines in November. The nose is very pretty in its mélange of apple, a touch of fresh pineapple, chalky soil tones, citrus blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and pure, with fine depth at the core, lovely length and grip and a zesty finish. I am sure this will be excellent in due course. 2017-2035. **92-93.**

#### 2014 Chassagne-Montrachet “Chenevottes”

I fell in love with the early appeal of Chenevottes all the way back in the 1992 vintage, with the wines of Domaine Colin-Deleger, and the memory of that beautiful '92 came right back to me the moment I put my nose in the glass of this stunning 2014. The bouquet is utterly classic in its beautiful blend of apple, pear, acacia blossom, gorgeous chalky soil tones, orange zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off superb mid-palate depth, with bouncy acids, great focus and grip and fine complexity

on the very long, vibrant and utterly seamless finish. Chenevottes simply does not get any better than this! 2016-2035. **93.**

#### 2014 Chassagne-Montrachet “Maltroie”

The 2014 Moreau Maltroie is equally superb this year, jumping from the glass in a blaze of apple, pear, lemon blossoms, a beautifully complex base of soil tones and a bit of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and succulent on the attack, with a great core, even better purity and focus and a very, very long, vibrant and perfectly balanced finish. This has excellent structure for aging, but I would be the farm that the vast, vast majority of this beautiful wine is drunk up before its fifth birthday, as it is just so good out of the blocks this year! 2016-2035. **92.**

#### 2014 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot”

The 2014 Domaine Moreau Morgeot is also a stunning example of the vintage, with more obvious mineral drive than any of the premier crus up to this point in the tasting. The superb bouquet delivers a constellation of lemon, pear, stony minerality, a touch of candied lemon peel to come, citrus blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and nicely reserved in personality, with a rock solid core, bright acids, laser-like focus and a very long, very racy finish. Brilliant juice. 2019-2040. **94.**

#### 2014 Chassagne-Montrachet “Grandes Ruchottes”

The 2014 Grandes Ruchottes from Alex Moreau shows just a touch more depth than the stunning Caillerets, as it offers up a very refined and classic bouquet of apple, pear, lemon oil, a touch of iodine, great limestone minerality, gentle floral tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a rock solid core, vibrant acids and stunning length and grip on the seamless and electric finish. Grand cru quality without a doubt! 2021-2050. **95.**

#### 2014 Bâtard-Montrachet

The Domaine Moreau rows of vines in Bâtard-Montrachet lie on the Puligny-Chassagne border in this vineyard, being the very first rows on the Puligny side, right below Montrachet. This had just been racked two weeks prior to my visit and was a bit grumpy, but its ultimate shape and quality were still fairly apparent. The very primary bouquet is a fine blend of apple, pear, lemon blossoms, a very complex base of chalky soil and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very mineral in personality this year, with a great core, impeccable focus and balance and a very, very long, nascently complex finish that closes with beautiful fruit tones dovetailing into stunning mineral drive. 2022-2050+. **95-97.**

#### 2014 Chevalier-Montrachet

In contrast to the 2014 Bâtard, the Chevalier-Montrachet had not yet been racked and was in perfect shape for tasting. The wine is utterly brilliant this year, soaring from the glass in a magical mélange of pear, apple, chalky minerality, a touch of citrus oil, incipient notes of *crème patissière*, vanillin oak and a beautiful topnote of lemon blossoms. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with vibrant acids, laser-like focus, stunning complexity and great length and grip on the utterly seamless finish. This finishes like a dream and I am fully aware of the crime I committed in spitting this magical young wine! 2022-2060. **98.**