

# DOMAINE BERNARD MOREAU

## *Reviews of 2015 Vintage Wines*

*by John Gilman's View From The Cellar*

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Alexandre Moreau has produced truly stunning 2015s and this is one of the very best collection of white wines that I tasted from the Côte de Beaune during my November trip. The team at Domaine Moreau began picking on August 28th in this vintage, trying to retain freshness in the resulting wines and they have accomplished this beautifully. As is customary when visiting here in November, the wines were in varying stages of their élevage, with the Bourgogne bottlings bottled before the harvest of 2016, the St. Aubin and Chassagne AC assembled and ready for bottling soon after the new year, the premier crus also assembled, but not yet fined, and the grand crus still in cask. Amongst the reds, other than the Bourgogne, everything else had been assembled in tank two weeks prior to my visit for bottling after the holidays. Across the board here, Alex Moreau's 2015 white wines reminded me very, very strongly of the very finest 1992 white Burgundies that I drank back when they were released, as they share the beautifully pure and generous fruit of the '92s when young, coupled to the vivid typicité and zesty acidity that the vintage also showed out of the blocks. These days, many folks do not remember the 1992s when they were young, as they did not age as gracefully as a vintage such as the 1993 whites, and the wines were less interesting to drink in general at age fifteen or twenty than they were over the first five to seven years after bottling, when they were about as beautifully charming and classical in their soil expressions as one could hope for from a young vintage of white Burgundies. The 2015s from Domaine Moreau share this early beauty with the 1992s, and though it is too early to know how they will age over the long haul, during their early days, these are going to be brilliant white Burgundies that should be absolutely impossible to resist opening!

### Vins Blancs

#### 2015 Bourgogne Blanc

The 2015 Bourgogne Blanc from Domaine Moreau is very pretty, offering up a zesty nose of white flowers, pear, white peach, a touch of fresh almond and chalky soil nuances. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and juicy at the core, with good acids and fine length and grip on the bouncy finish. A lovely example. 2016-2023. **88.**

#### 2015 St. Aubin "en Remilly"

The Moreau family's 2015 example of en Remilly had just been fined right before my visit and was not one hundred percent on form, so it may be that I have underestimated this lovely wine just a tad. Even in its jostled state, the wine was showing lovely potential, with a nose of pear, lemon blossoms, apple, chalky soil tones, a touch of *crème patissière* and a whisper of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and nascently complex, with a succulent core, lovely soil signature and impressive length and grip on the zesty finish. 2016-2025+. **90+.**

#### 2015 Chassagne-Montrachet

If there is anyone in the village that makes a more consistently beautiful bottling of Chassagne *villages* than Domaine Moreau, I would love to taste it! The 2015 version is another excellent example in the making, wafting from the glass in a refined and complex blend of apple, pear, a touch of orange zest, superb minerality, spring flowers, vanillin oak and the first presage of the pastry cream to come with a bit of aging. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and succulent, with excellent mid-palate depth, fine focus and backend mineral drive, bright acids and a long, crisp and classy finish. Fine juice. 2016-2030+. **92.**

#### 2015 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean"

The 2015 Domaine Moreau Clos St. Jean is a very stylish and classic example of this cru, wafting from the glass in a complex blend of apple, pear, a touch of *crème patissière*, a fine base of soil, lemon blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and just a touch more reserved in personality than the *villages*, with a lovely core of fruit, excellent acidity, impressive balance and grip and a long, focused and elegant finish. 2018-2040+. **92+.**

#### 2015 Chassagne-Montrachet "Champgains"

The 2015 Champgains from Alex Moreau was also showing beautifully at the time of my visit, offering up a bright and classy bouquet of lemon, apple, deep soil tones, citrus zest, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with fine acids, lovely focus and grip and a long, nascently complex and youthful finish. This will need a few years to unleash its secondary layers of complexity and will be delicious at its peak. 2019-2040+. **92+.**

### 2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Vergers”

The 2015 Vergers *chez* Moreau is outstanding and will drink with great style and breed with a few years’ worth of bottle age. The bouquet is pure and nascently complex, offering up scents of pear, apple, chalky soil tones, a touch of citrus peel, lemon blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite racy for the vintage, with a rock solid core of pure fruit, fine focus and balance, lovely detail and a long, crisp and very promising finish. 2020-2040+. **93.**

### 2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Chenevottes”

In the mid-1990s, I drank so much beautiful ’92 Chenevottes that the memory of this cru is indelibly etched in my memory. The Domaine Moreau 2015 immediately took me back to those days, as it offers up a gorgeous and absolutely classic expression of Chenevottes in its aromatic constellation of apple, a touch of tangerine, candied lemon, spring flowers, chalky soil tones and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and succulent on the attack, with a great core, impeccable focus and balance and a very long, vibrant and complex finish. This will be even better with a couple of years in the cellar, but good luck trying to keep your hands off of bottles of this beauty! 2018-2040. **93.**

### 2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Maltroie”

In my experience, Maltroie always shows more “wet stone” minerality than chalkiness in its soil component, and this is indeed the case with the lovely 2015 version from Domaine Moreau. The bouquet is superb and utterly classic in its profile of apple, pear, wet stones, lemon blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and a bit more reserved in personality than most of these previous premier crus, with a rock solid core, bright acids and a very long, nascently complex and vibrant finish. This will demand a couple of years to blossom. 2018-2040+. **93.**

### 2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot”

The 2015 Morgeot from Alex Moreau is a brilliant example of the vintage! The bouquet is pure, vibrant and very classy, soaring from the glass in a blaze of lemon, pear, complex, chalky soil tones, vanillin oak and lemon blossoms in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and utterly refined in profile, with a stunning core of pristine fruit, great soil inflection, bright, zesty acids and laser-like focus on the very, very long and very classy finish. Simply brilliant Morgeot! 2017-2045. **94+.**

### 2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Caillerets”

The 2015 Caillerets from Alex Moreau is also stunning young juice, delivering a superb bouquet of apple, pear, chalky minerality, a touch of beeswax, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and complex, with seamless, racy balance, outstanding focus and grip and a very long, youthful finish. This is more

reserved in profile right now than the Morgeot, but it may well be every bit as fine at its apogee! 2019-2045. **94.**

### 2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Grandes Ruchottes”

The 2015 Grandes Ruchottes *chez* Moreau is simply stunning. The bouquet is deep, pure and utterly refined in its constellation of pear, apple, chalky minerality, hints of the *crème patissière* to come, lemon blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, elegant and bottomless, with stunning balance and breed, a great core, bright, zesty acids and a very, very long, primary and scintillating finish. Just add bottle age! 2020-2045+. **95.**

### 2015 Bâtard-Montrachet

The 2015 Bâtard-Montrachet from Domaine Moreau was raised entirely in a one wine cask, with the wine racked into another one wine cask, so this may well be the only example of Bâtard in the Côte de Beaune that saw no new wood in this vintage! The wine is utterly brilliant, soaring from the glass in a pure and magical blend of lemon, apple, chalky soil tones, pear, incipient notes of pastry cream and a nice touch of vanillin oak (despite being raised in one wine casks). On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and utterly beautiful in profile, with a great core, laser-like focus, bright acids and great length and grip on the perfectly balanced finish. A supremely elegant Bâtard in the making! 2020-2050+. **96+.**

### 2015 Chevalier-Montrachet

The Moreau family’s 2015 Chevalier-Montrachet is equally stunning on both the nose and palate. The classic and very beautiful bouquet delivers a classic blend of apple, pear, lemon, hints of the *crème patissière* to come, complex, chalky minerality, lemon blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and utterly seamless, with great balance and focus, a superb core of fruit, marvelous soil signature and a very, very long, vibrant and youthful finish. A wine that is very deep, light on its feet and includes all good things! 2020-2060. **97.**

## Vins Rouges

### 2015 Bourgogne Rouge

Like the Bourgogne Blanc, the Bourgogne Rouge 2015 *chez* Moreau was bottled in mid-September of 2016 and had bounced back nicely by the time of my visit. The bouquet offers up a very pretty and black fruity blend of black cherries, sweet dark berries, woodsmoke, a touch of roasted venison and a good base of dark soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite accessible out of the blocks, with a sappy core, just a touch of tannin and fine length and grip on the finish. Good juice. 2016-2025. **87+.**

### 2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “Vieilles Vignes” Rouge

The 2015 Chassagne V.V. included twenty-five percent whole clusters this year and was raised in ten percent new oak. The wine was showing very nicely, despite only having been racked two weeks ago, as it offers up a pure and black fruity blend of black cherries, bitter chocolate, *pigeon*, a complex base of soil tones and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and a bit chewy today (probably more a result of the recent racking than any sign of less-polished tannins), with a sappy core, fine soil inflection, lovely focus and grip and a long, promising finish. 2019-2045+. **90+**.

### 2015 Chassagne-Montrachet “la Cardeuse” Rouge

The 2015 vintage will be a great one for the Cardeuse *chez* Moreau. The bouquet is deep, sappy and very, very pure out of the blocks, soaring from the glass in a stunning blend of black cherries, blackberries, raw cocoa, a touch of coffee bean, gamebird, dark soil, woodsmoke and already a nice touch of spices from its whole clusters (sixty percent for this bottling in 2015). On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and sappy at the core, with great elegance and focus, finegrained tannins, tangy acids and outstanding balance on the long and impressively light on its feet finish. Young Chassagne *rouge* can be a bit bound up in its structural elements in certain vintages, but the early refinement of the 2015 Cardeuse is exceptional and augurs great things for the future. 2021-2060. **93+**.

### 2015 Volnay “Santenots”

The 2015 Volnay “Santenots” from Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils is another superb wine in the making. This vineyard usually produces very black fruity wines, so when I find some red fruit in the early makeup of the bottling, as is the case here, I get very excited! The bouquet is complex and classy, wafting from the glass in a mix of red and black cherries, *pigeon*, dark soil tones, coffee bean, woodsmoke and a pungent topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a rock solid core, fine focus and grip, suave tannins and a very long, tangy and nascently complex finish. Just add patience. 2022-2060. **93**.