

DOMAINE BERNARD MOREAU et FILS

Reviews of 2019 Vintage Wines *Burghound – Allen Meadows* *3rd Quarter 2021 – Issue 83* *2nd Quarter 2021 Issue 82*

Alexandre Moreau told me that the 2019 growing season “was mostly hot and very dry though some early season frost did a lot of damage, especially here in Chassagne. The flowering did not pass especially well either, so we incurred a lot of shatter and a subsequent high incidence of shot berries. This is of course good for quality but much less propitious for quantity. Otherwise there really wasn’t much else of consequence and we began picking on the 7th of September. While the fruit was impeccably clean and very ripe, there just wasn’t much juice in the berries so yields came in around 25 hl/ha for the pinot and between 27 and 30 hl/ha for the chardonnay. Potential alcohols weren’t all that high at between 12.8 and 13.3% with good but not great acidities. As usual, we vinified the reds quite softly as it seemed clear from the beginning that the extractions would happen almost by themselves. I really like the 2019 vintage as the wines are balanced and vibrant and much more transparent to the underlying terroir than a hot growing season would suggest.”

(The Sorting Table, www.thesortingtable.com, CA, USA; O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, Flint Wines, www.flintwines.com, Uncorked Ltd, www.uncorked.co.uk, all UK; Pearl of Burgundy, www.pearlofburgundy.com, Hong Kong and Macau).

Vins Blancs

2019 St. Aubin “En Remilly” 1er Cru

Here the restrained nose is cooler with more citrus influence on the mostly green apple scents. There is again excellent volume and mid-palate density to the almost painfully intense medium weight flavors that conclude in a youthfully austere and tightly wound finish. This too could use more depth, but it should develop it if allowed a few years of cellaring.

91 / 2026+

2019 Chassagne-Montrachet

(from 3 separate *lieux-dits*). Hints of matchstick character and petrol add breadth to the white peach and citrus confit scented nose. The dense, vibrant and appealingly textured medium-bodied flavors are notably less refined but more powerful while exhibiting fine length on the compact, long and serious finale. This is a very good Chassagne villages and worth considering.

90 / 2025+

2019 Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean” 1er Cru

A more floral suffused nose offers up an array of white orchard fruit and lemon zest aromas that are trimmed in just enough wood to notice. There is a bit more volume and certainly more refinement to the seductively textured middle weight flavors that deliver fine length if not great depth, at least not yet.

(89 - 92) / 2025+

2019 Chassagne-Montrachet “Champ Gains” 1er Cru

A mentholated top note can be found on the mostly white orchard fruit aromas that are trimmed in soft floral and citrus confit hints. The impressively concentrated flavors are rich to the point of opulence while the caressing yet powerful finish offers materially better depth and persistence. Solid quality here and a wine that should repay up to a decade of cellaring.

(91 - 93) / 2027+

2019 Chassagne-Montrachet “Chenevottes” 1er Cru

(from Les Chenevottes proper and Les Bondues). Layered aromas include those of petrol, green fruit, lemon-lime and a subtle dollop of wood. The slightly finer and more intense flavors possess a really lovely texture as well as slightly better length on the balanced finish that could also use better depth. Even so, I very much like the delivery and this should age out successfully.

(90 - 93) / 2026+

2019 Chassagne-Montrachet “La Maltroie” 1er Cru

Firm reduction dominates the nose at present. Otherwise there is fine verve and freshness to the dense, powerful and sappy medium-bodied flavors that also possess a lovely texture before terminating in a rich yet reasonably precise finale that is sufficiently structured to reward 6 to 10 years of keeping.

(90 - 92) / 2026+

2019 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot” 1er Cru

(from the *climats* of La Cardeuse and Fairendes in a rough proportion of one-third to two-thirds). An attractively floral nose reveals additional notes of pear, citrus and rosemary oil. The rich, dense and muscular flavors possess excellent size and weight on the mouth coating and moderately rustic finale. This isn't refined but it is classic Morgeot rusticity. This isn't elegant but it's a very good Morgeot.

(90 - 92) / 2025+

2019 Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Caillerets” 1er Cru

Here there is just enough reduction to suppress everything but ripe citrus hints. The dense, succulent and powerful flavors possess both a seductive texture and ample minerality on the balanced and lingering finale. This will need to add depth to merit the upper end of my projected range, but this stylish big-bodied effort appears to be very promising.

(91 - 94) / 2029+

2019 Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Grand Ruchottes” 1er Cru

(from a .345 ha parcel of vines planted in 1939). Pungent aromas of matchstick, petrol, mineral reduction and essence of pear are also trimmed in just enough wood to remark upon. There is outstanding concentration to the thick and powerful flavors that retain an almost painful intensity on the bitter lemon and highly refreshing finale. Like the Caillerets, this will need to add depth though more should almost certainly develop.

(92 - 94) / 2029+

2019 Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru

(from Puligny side, one barrel made). (from the Puligny side). Ripe if restrained aromas blend notes of both white and yellow peach with those of citrus confit and acacia blossom. The rich, delicious and very punchy larger-scaled flavors that also possess fine mid-palate density conclude in a compact, firm, youthfully austere and built to age finale. This balanced effort is really quite lovely and while it too needs better depth, the underlying material appears more than up to the task.

(92 - 95) / 2031+

2019 Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru

Firm reduction present masks the fruit though there is a beguiling freshness to the borderline painfully intense super-sleek flavors that possess a sophisticated mouthfeel while displaying superb power and minerality on the hugely long and well-balanced finale where a touch of wood gradually emerges. This beauty possesses seriously good development potential.

(94 - 96) / 2031+

2019 Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru

(from Aloxe; two barrels made). An ultra-fresh nose features notes of green apple, citrus rind and discreet hints of mineral reduction and just sliced fennel. The rich, concentrated and stony big-bodied flavors are also muscular and powerful on the compact, tightly wound and youthfully austere finale. This too possesses excellent development potential that should enable it to amply repay 12 to 15 years of aging.

(92 - 94) / 2031+

Vins Rouges

2019 Volnay “Santenots” 1er Cru

(from purchased grapes in Santenots Blanc). A more elegant and more floral suffused nose displays plenty of spice elements on the violet, plum and soft earth scents. The very rich and generously proportioned middle weight flavors exhibit good punch on the mildly austere bitter pit fruit finish. This stylish effort needs to develop better depth though if it adds more than I anticipate, my rating may be too conservative.

90 / 2025+

2019 Volnay “Caillerets” 1er Cru

(from purchased fruit). Discreet though perceptible wood sets off the attractively layered aromas of spiced plum, black cherry and violet. The very supple medium weight flavors possess excellent cut and minerality along with fine intensity that really seems to build from the mid-palate to the youthfully austere and beautifully long finale. This is very classy and offers a highly seductive inner mouth perfume.

92 / 2027+

2019 Pommard “Les Fremiers” 1er Cru

A mentholated top note is present on the agreeably fresh combination of mostly red berries and newly turned earth. The supple, round and delicious medium-bodied flavors are not quite as dense though I very much like the mouthfeel, all wrapped in a lingering youthfully austere finale. While this should easily repay a decade’s worth of cellaring, it’s not so structured that it couldn’t be approached after 5 to 7 years of keeping.

91 / 2029+

2019 Volnay “Clos des Chênes” 1er Cru

(from purchased fruit). This is also beautifully layered with its array of spice and discreet floral elements adding elegance to the black raspberry scents. The moderately dense medium weight plus flavors possess fine volume and plenty of sappy dry extract that mostly buffers the firm tannic spine shaping the stony, impressively persistent and well-balanced finale. In the context of what is typical for young Clos des Chênes, this is not particularly austere and overall, it is very promising.

93 / 2029+