

DOMAINE BERNARD MOREAU

Reviews of 2013 Vintage Wines

by John Gilman's View From The Cellar

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Alex Moreau and his brother are making absolutely brilliant wines these days at their family domaine in Chassagne-Montrachet. In fact, no one is making better white wines today in the Côte de Beaune and Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils is now one of the superstars of white Burgundy and should be ranked up at the very pinnacle of producers in the region, alongside historically important estates such as Domaines Leflaive and Sauzet in Puligny and Domaine Ramonet in Chassagne. The 2013s that I tasted with Alex this year were amongst the most brilliant groups of wines I tasted anywhere during my sixteen days in the region, with the wines across the board sharing a stunningly pure expressions of each underlying terroir and simply gorgeous fruit tones. The acids here are bright and racy, the texture of the fruit almost silky and the wines simply exude their signatures of soil. While the domaine remains best known for its brilliant white wines, the reds here are better and better with each passing vintage, and if I were told by my Domaine Moreau merchant that I could no longer buy the white wines, but could have all the reds I wished, I would be perfectly content with that outcome! As is typical when I visit here in the winter months, the wines were in various stages of evolution, with the Bourgogne bottlings having been bottled prior to the harvest of 2014, as well as the Chassagne AC Blanc and the St. Aubin “en Remilly”, and the premier cru whites were all assembled in tank and most had been fined two weeks prior to my visit. The red wines chez Moreau are quite black fruity this year, with their “cool vintage” character just exuding soil signatures and the inherent elegance of the vintage really showing in these outstanding young wines. As Alex’s Volnay vineyards were once again hit by hail in 2013, there will not be a lot of bottles from any of his three premier crus in that village, but the crop is quite respectable in size for the pinot noirs in Chassagne, and these are very, very strong this year and will offer up some of the finest values to be found for cellar-worthy red wines from the 2013 vintage. For those who have not yet discovered the brilliance of Domaine Bernard Moreau et Fils, the 2013 vintage would be a

brilliant place to start, as there are no finer wines to be found in this vintage in Burgundy.

Vins Blancs

2013 Bourgogne Blanc

The 2013 Bourgogne Blanc from Domaine Moreau was barrel-fermented entirely in old casks in this vintage and was bottled in September of 2014. The wine is really lovely, offering up a classy nose of pear, apple, a touch of almond, white flowers and a fine base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is fullish, long and very svelte on the attack, with a very good core, bright acids and fine length and grip on the impressively pure finish. A really lovely example. 2015-2025. 89.

2013 St. Aubin “en Remilly”

The 2013 en Remilly had also been bottled in September and was absolutely singing at the time of my visit. The beautiful bouquet soars from the glass in a complex constellation of pear, lemon, complex minerality, incipient notes of crème patissière, citrus zest and a very discreet framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and very soil-driven this year, with beautiful focus and balance, a fine core and a very long, refined and vibrant finish. This is already delicious to drink now, but it is so beautifully balanced that it will have no troubles aging. 2015-2030+. 92.

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet

The 2013 Chassagne villages had been bottled the week before my visit, but had not yet shut down and was really showing superb potential on both the nose and palate. The pure and classy bouquet delivers scents of apple, pear, orange zest, a lovely streak of minerality, white flowers and just a touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is, full-bodied, focused and very long, with lovely elegance, excellent mid-palate depth and very good cut and grip on the long and refined finish. Nobody makes better village level Chassagne-Montrachet these days than Alex Moreau! 2016-2035+. 91+.

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2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Vergers”

As I noted in the introduction, all of the premier cru whites had been fined two weeks prior to my visit, and some were a bit crankier than others. The Vergers was showing no ill effects and was really expressive, wafting from the glass in a complex blend of apple, pear, spring flowers, chalky soil tones, pastry cream and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very minerally in personality (particularly for young Vergers!), with a rock solid core of fruit, great focus and backend energy and a very long, refined and vibrant finish. A beautiful example. 2018-2040. 92+.

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Chenevottes”

The 2013 Chenevottes from Domaine Moreau was also in fine, fine form at the time of my visit. The pure and utterly classic nose delivers a fine mélange of apple, pear, spring flowers, chalky soil tones, lemon blossoms, hints of the butter to come with a bit of bottle age and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off excellent midpalate depth, with bright acids, excellent transparency, fine focus and grip and a very, very long and dancing finish. A great bottle of Chenevottes in the making! 2016-2035+. 93.

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Maltroie”

The 2013 Maltroie was very fine on the nose at the time of my visit, but was still missing a bit of its precision on the palate, as a result of its recent fining. The bouquet is first rate and really exciting, offering up a lovely blend of apple, lime, wet stone minerality, vanillin oak and a topnote of gentle smokiness. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and more reserved in personality than either the Vergers or Chenevottes, with a fine core, lovely balance and a long, crisp and very minerally finish. I am sure this is every bit as laser-like in its focus as the rest of this range, but as it was a bit agitated, I have scored it within a range. 2019-2035+. 92-93.

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Champgains”

The 2013 Champgains was also suffering just a touch on the backend from its recent fining, but aromatically it was spot on and I have little doubt that this too is going to be an outstanding bottle. The excellent bouquet is a mélange of apple, pear, tangerine, a beautifully complex base of soil tones, lime zest and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with lovely balance, zesty acids and excellent length and grip on the finish. Again, I am sure it will be absolutely precise once it has settled back in, but I give it a range again to be my customary cautious self! 2018-2035. 92-93.

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot”

Perhaps it is a result of really having cut my white Burgundy teeth on Domaine Ramonet’s Morgeot back in the 1980s, but when I taste a great example of Morgeot, I

get very excited, and the 2013 from Domaine Moreau is indeed a stunning example of this terroir at its finest. The gorgeous nose soars from the glass in a blaze of apple, lemon, pear, a deep, chalky signature of soil, white flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, racy and very soil-driven this year, with a superb core, laser-like focus and great cut and grip on the pure and very, very long finish. All one needs to do is add a drop of peppermint oil here and be transported back in time to the Ramonet Morgeot bottlings of the early 1980s! A great wine in the making! 2020-2040+. 94.

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Grandes Ruchottes”

The 2013 Grandes Ruchottes from Alex Moreau is a brilliant wine in the making and unmistakably of grand cru quality this year. The magical bouquet is a fine blend of apple, pear, a touch of sweet grapefruit, kaleidoscopic, chalky minerality, citrus zest, a touch of lemon oil and a discreet framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and simply electric on the palate, with a bottomless core, impeccable focus and balance, racy acids and a very long, youthful and supremely elegant finish. 2020-2050. 95+.

2013 Bâtard-Montrachet

The 2013 Domaine Moreau Bâtard-Montrachet had been assembled into its small tank a month before my visit, but had not yet been fined and was showing beautifully. The stunning nose soars from the glass in a mix of apple, pear, lemon, chalky soil tones, citrus zest and a lovely base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and properly reserved out of the blocks, with a rock solid core, great focus and cut, lovely transparency and outstanding length and grip on the poised and perfectly balanced finish. Great juice in the making. 2020-2060+. 95+.

2013 Chevalier-Montrachet

The 2013 Chevalier-Montrachet in the Domaine Moreau cellars is extremely similar to Domaine Leflaive’s this year (and I tasted the two wines a couple of hours apart on the same day), with a beautiful, esthery quality to the bouquet that is very, very special. The glorious bouquet delivers a refined aromatic constellation of apple, pear, lemon, incipient notes of crème pâtissière, a beautifully complex base of chalky soil tones, spring flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep full-bodied, young and impeccably balanced, with a great core, stellar backend energy and a very, very precise, nascently complex and boundless finish. A spectacular beauty! 2021-2060+. 97+.

Vins Rouges

2013 Bourgogne Rouge

The 2013 Bourgogne Rouge from Domaine Moreau is a very pretty example of the vintage, offering up a red fruity nose of cherries, strawberries, a touch of cocoa, a nice dollop of soil and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and tangy, with solid depth, bright acids and just a touch of backend tannin on the long finish. Good juice. 2015-2025. 87+.

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “Vieilles Vignes” Rouge

The old vine Chassagne Rouge had also been bottled prior to my visit, but only two weeks before I arrived, and the wine was not yet shut down and was still showing very well. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a fine mélange of black cherries, woodsmoke, dark berries, cocoa and a lovely base of minerality. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, complex and tangy, with lovely transparency, a very good core of fruit, fine focus and a long, classy and moderately tannic finish. This wine was raised in fifteen percent new wood this year, but I could not find even a whiff of oak anywhere in the wine, as the minerality is so vibrant this year! This wine will age beautifully and will be a superb value for the intrepid red Burgundy shopper. 2019-2040. 90.

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet “la Cardeuse” Rouge

The 2013 la Cardeuse had been racked into tank three weeks before my visit, but was showing no ill effects from its movement and was absolutely singing. The elegance of the vintage is played off to fine advantage here, as the wine jumps from the glass in a lovely blend of sweet dark berries, black cherries, cocoa, a beautiful base of soil, a touch of vanillin oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and sappy at the core, with great focus and grip, suave tannins and a long, complex and vibrant finish. This will need five or six years in the cellar to fully blossom, but it is going to be an outstanding wine and will offer excellent value as well. 2020-2050. 92+.

2013 Volnay “Santenots”

The 2013 Santenots from Alex Moreau is really a lovely wine in the making, wafting from the glass in a mix of black plums, black cherries, coffee, dark soil tones smoke and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off excellent midpalate depth, with fine focus and grip, ripe tannins and excellent length and grip on the soil-driven and nascently complex finish. The tannins here are a bit chewier than in the la Cardeuse, but that is more a reflection of just how suave the 2013 Chassagne red wines are this year, rather than any demerit for this lovely example of Santenots. 2021-2055. 92.

2013 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”

The 2013 Clos des Chênes chez Moreau is a superb example of this great terroir, and it is a pity there is not more of it to go around. The beautiful and utterly classic nose wafts from the glass in a blend of black cherries, cassis, a complex base of dark soil tones, gamebirds, woodsmoke, fresh thyme and a touch of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, long and nascently complex, with fine focus and grip, a lovely core, ripe tannins and a long, transparent and tangy finish. High class Clos des Chênes! 2023-2055. 93.

2013 Volnay “Caillerets”

The 2013 Domaine Moreau Caillerets is also outstanding and really is a quintessential expression of this terroir. The outstanding nose jumps from the glass in a constellation of black cherries, sweet dark berries, cocoa, black plums, stony minerality, pigeon, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely plush on the attack, with a fine core, ripe, well-integrated tannins and a lovely spine of minerality perking up the bright and beautifully focused finish. Fine, fine juice. 2023-2055. 93.