



Burgundy Club

FALL 2021



Welcome to the latest edition of the **Caveau Burgundy Club** – a twice-yearly tutored tasting and exploration of the great wines and terroirs of Burgundy.

This club functions just like our **Champagne Club** - (and if you're not already a member, email us - scott@caveauselections.com. Also, check out our new **"House Wine" Clubs** if you're interested in a steady supply of delicious Burgs at \$20-25 per bottle.

The wines in each 6-bottle Burgundy Club shipment have been specifically selected to help educate and illustrate – each shipment is essentially a Burgundy seminar-in-a-box. You can use all of this to stage your own tasting seminar at home, or of course you can just drink the wines one by one. Whichever path you choose – there's lots of good Burgundy in your future!

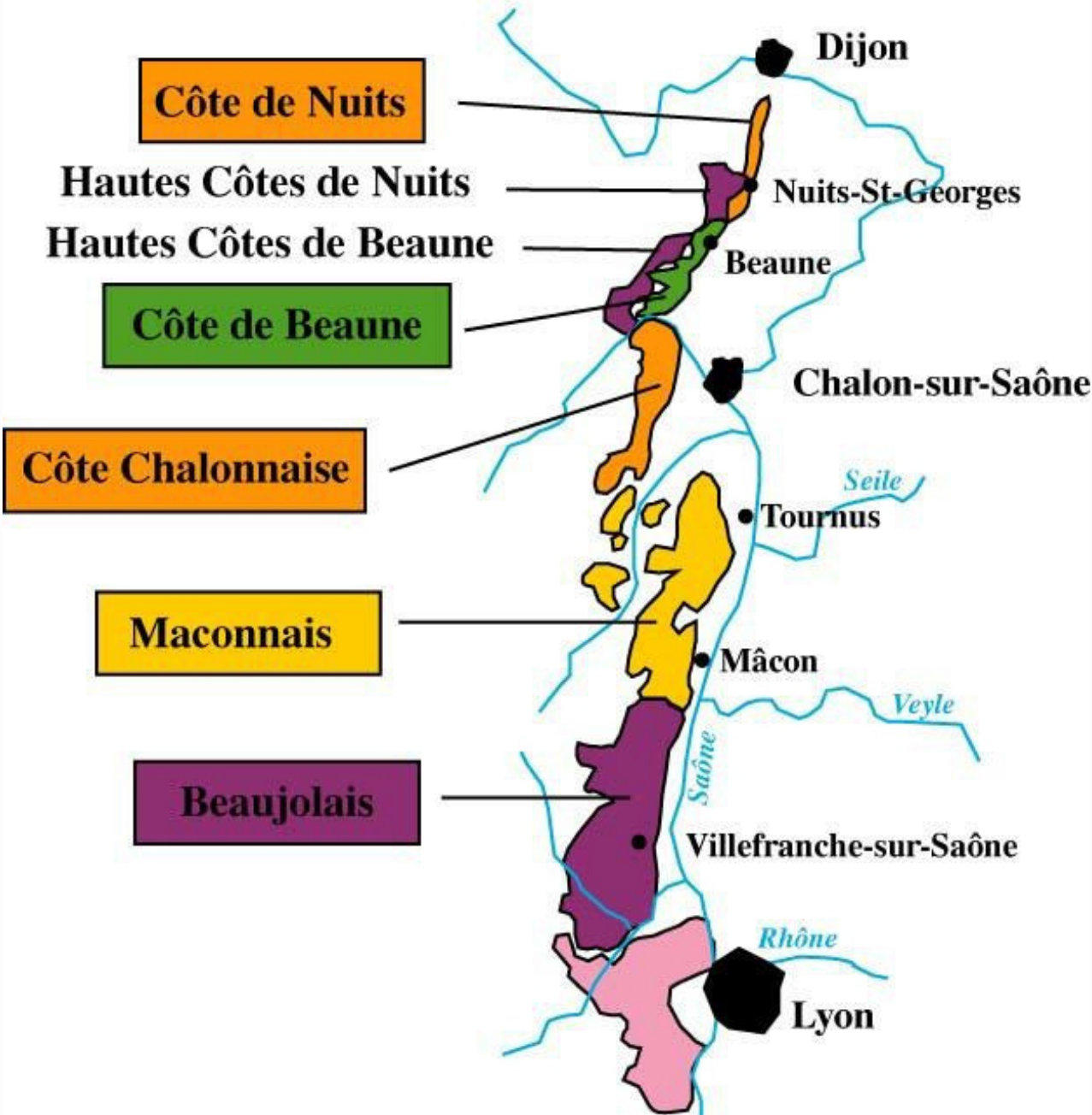
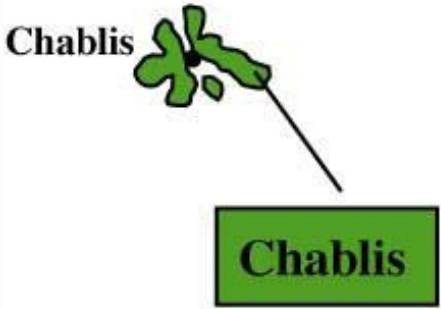
Burgundy - from South to North

In this package we'll be taking you on a little tour, from the southern reaches of the **Côte Chalonnaise**, then on to the **Côte de Beaune**, and then a couple of stops in Burgundy's northern end - the revered **Côte de Nuits**. We'll cover a lot of ground in just six wines, discovering that there is excellence to be found throughout the region. Get your tasting glasses and corkscrews ready!



Flavien Ninot - Harvest time in Mercurey

BURGUNDY



Burgundy Basics

The Burgundy region of France has been producing what are widely considered to be the world's finest Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays for nearly a thousand years. Burgundy is a relatively small area (only about 13,500 acres of vines in Burgundy's Côte d'Or, as opposed to Bordeaux's 235,000 acres or California's 515,000.) Oregon has recently grown larger than Burgundy, with some 18,000 vineyard acres now planted.

As in Oregon, most of the winegrowers and producers in Burgundy are small, family operations. The average estate size is about 15 acres, enough to produce about 3,500 cases of wine each year. Those 15 acres are often split into 10 or more tiny parcels of vineyards scattered around several different vineyards and villages — so production of each wine is often only a few hundred cases or less. While it can seem quite complicated, even perplexing at times, in reality Burgundy is fairly simple to decipher.

Red = Pinot Noir. If it's a red wine from Burgundy, it is made from the Pinot Noir grape. (Beaujolais, while technically part of the Burgundy region, is truly a different world altogether. Beaujolais reds are made from the Gamay Noir grape.)

White = Chardonnay. If it's a white wine from Burgundy, it's a Chardonnay. (Again, there are minor exceptions you'll rarely see — there's a white grape known as Aligoté that produces some very inexpensive, lower-level wines — but it will not come into play in anything we're discussing here.)

Unlike America, France has legal classifications for their wines. In Burgundy, the actual vineyards themselves, rather than the producer or wines, are given a level of classification. There are four levels:

Grand Cru — The best of the best. There are 32 Grand Cru vineyards in Burgundy, accounting for less than 2% of all Burgundy wine production. Grand Cru wines mention on the label only the producer and name of the vineyard — as in "Montrachet" or "Musigny" — the name of the village is not deemed necessary in the case of these great vineyards.

Premier Cru — (Also written as 1er Cru) One notch below the Grand Crus — there are hundreds at this level, and the quality varies widely. The best Premiers rival the Grand Crus, the lesser ones seem barely deserving of the ranking. These makeup about 10% of total production. A Premier Cru wine will mention the name of the village and possibly an individual vineyard on the label, as in "Pommard-Rugiens" or "Vosne-Romanée - Les Suchots" – if it indeed comes from a single vineyard. It will always bear the mark "Premier Cru" or "1er Cru". If the wine is a blend of more than one 1er Cru vineyard within a given village, it will simply bear the designation "1er Cru" without any vineyard designation.

Village — Grapes for a village wine come from one or many vineyards surrounding a specific Burgundian village, for example Vosne-Romanée or Puligny-Montrachet. These are classified below the 1er Cru level, but can often be lovely wines and great values. Village wines are about 43% of the total pie. The label will simply state the name of the village (although in some cases the name of a specific vineyard will also be mentioned, even though it is not of Premier Cru status.)

Regional (Bourgogne) — A bit less than half of all Burgundy vineyards (45%) are classified at the regional level. In the hands of dedicated and talented producers these can be lovely wines. In the hands of others they can be thin, weedy, and rather unpleasant. These wines are labeled as Bourgogne Rouge or Bourgogne Blanc, or Bourgogne Pinot Noir or Bourgogne Chardonnay.

Most of the vineyards in Burgundy are owned by multiple owners — as many as 70 or 80 different owners in some cases. (In the rare cases that a single producer owns the entirety of a specific vineyard, this is designated as a “Monopole.”) This means that each winery may own only a few rows of the vineyard, and will make only a few barrels of that specific wine each year (but they are likely to own small pieces of several other vineyards as well.) So, not all wines from the same vineyard are created equal. The quality can vary widely from producer to producer. In Burgundy, the most important consideration is in fact the producer. **Get to know the styles of different producers, and zero in on the ones you like best.** They will likely give you the most enjoyment year in and year out regardless of the classification level.



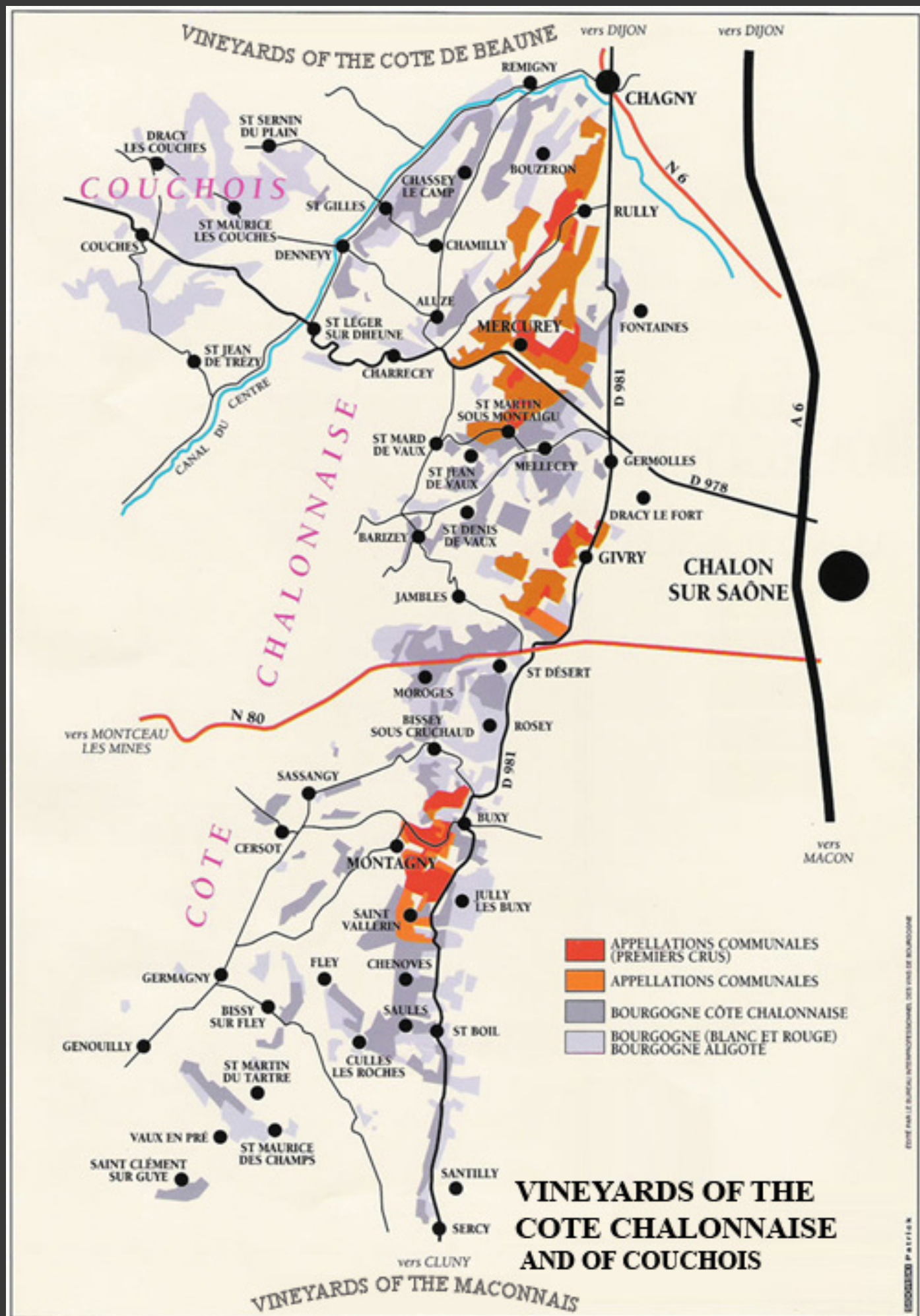
The Côte Chalonnaise

The region is named for its proximity to the city of Chalon-sur-Saône (a rather drab town with nothing to really recommend it. But I digress...) The hillsides just to the south of the Côte de Beaune have been producing wine for nearly a thousand years, but have never achieved the fame of their neighbors to the north. There are two main reasons that explain this. First, for most of that time most of the wines were simply not very good. The grapes often went to local cooperatives or the big negociants to be blended into generic cuvées, and there was very little estate-bottled wine here. Secondly, there was no consumer demand for the wines, thus there was no incentive for the growers to spend the extra time and expense to produce something of quality. The emergence of Burgundy as the most in-demand wine region in the world over the last 30-40 years has brought massive changes to the Chalonnaise. Now we see more and more top-quality artisanal wines from the region, with viticulture and winemaking at the highest level.

Because they lack the cachet of the more famous appellations, the Chalonnaise wines have become superb bargains, as you'll see in the first two wines in this package. This is now a premiere spot to look for wines with superior **quality-to-price ratio**. The wines may never hit the heights of the "big boys", but you're not likely to find wines this good for this little anywhere else in Burgundy.

From north to south, the main villages of the Chalonnaise are: ***Bouzeron, Rully, Mercurey, Givry and Montagny***. All together they account for just over 5,000 acres of vines, with the vast majority of the production still going to the negociants. There are excellent wines to be found in both red and white here - the grapes being of course Pinot Noir for the reds and Chardonnay for the whites (with the exception of the Bouzeron appellation - where the whites are made from Burgundy's "other" white grape, **Aligoté**. (Bouzeron is in fact Burgundy's only designated appellation for Aligoté-based wines. Aligoté from anywhere else in Burgundy must be labeled as "Bourgogne Aligoté.")

We'll be taking a look at two fine reds from Rully and Mercurey, which tend to be the cream of the crop in the Chalonnaise. These are wines that are on our table on a regular basis - delicious on their own, great with food, and priced for daily use. Yes, please!



ÉDITÉ PAR LE BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DES VINS DE BOURGOGNE

REPRODUCTION P. A. F. S. A.

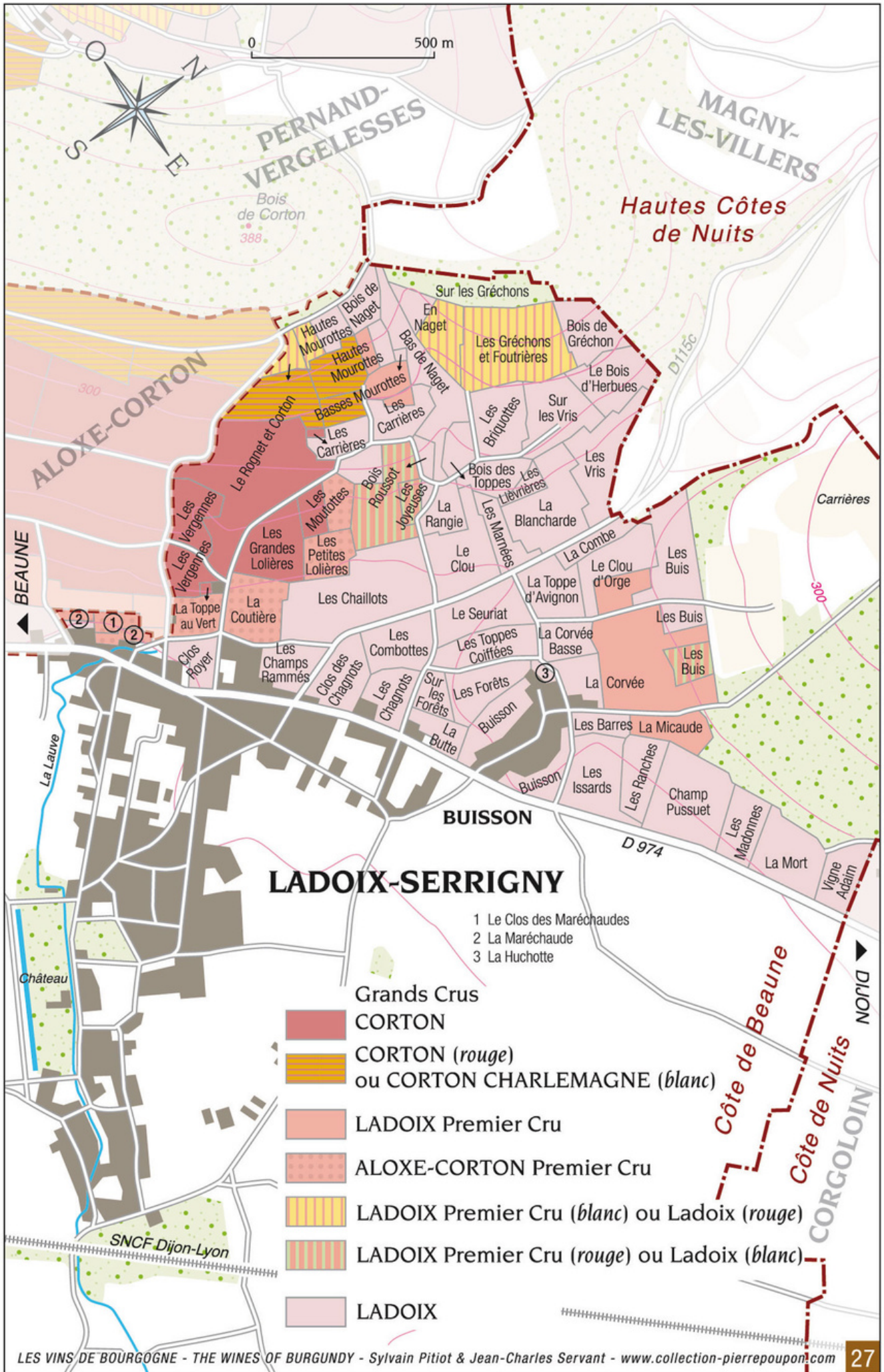
The Côte de Beaune

Home to undisputably Burgundy's best whites (Meursault & Puligny-Montrachet) and great reds (Volnay, Pommard and Beaune), the Côte de Beaune remains nonetheless in the shadow of the Côte de Nuits. This is a good thing, however - as one pays quite a premium for wines from the Côte de Nuits, even though many Côte de Beaune wines are equal in quality. 30-40 years ago, Volnay and Pommard were a tough sell, if you can believe that. Now they command serious prices that match their serious quality, as prices have continued to rise for all of Burgundy.

Nothing in the Côte de Beaune can compete with the likes of La Tâche or Musigny or Romanée-Conti or other elite Côte de Nuits Grand Crus, but then nothing else in the world of wine is on that level either!

Today we're going to turn you on to an often overlooked, and little-known CDB appellation - **Ladoix** (lah-dwah). It's a tiny village at the very northern edge of the CDB, just before you cross the line into the Côte de Nuits. The vineyards lie on the lower slopes of the hill of Corton. The better 1er Cru sites sit just below the Grand Cru Corton Rognet, and the better Village sites just below them on the east-facing hillside. This terroir does not produce the silky refinement you'd find in Volnay, for example, but if you know where to look there are some lovely, elegant examples to be found.

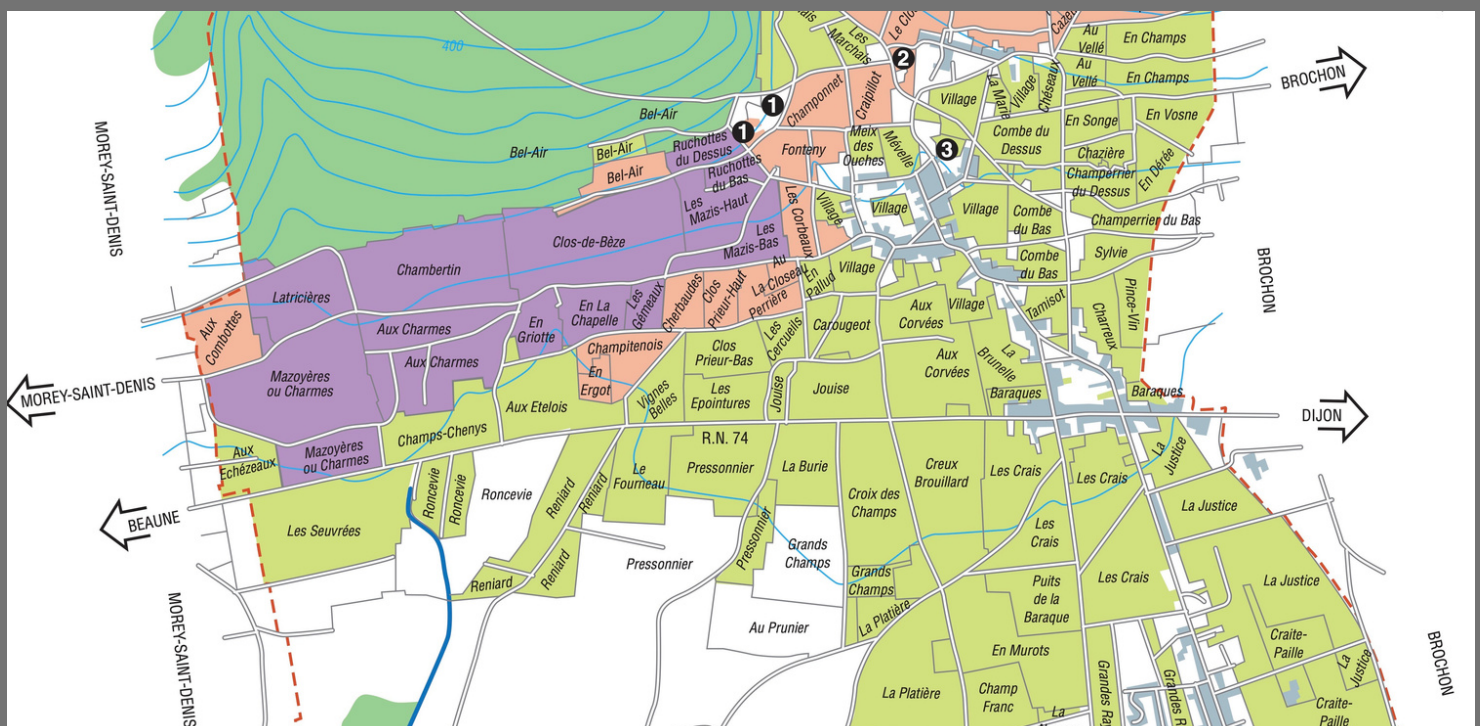




The Côte de Nuits

Home to the most exquisite (and pricey) wines in the world, the Côte de Nuits has rightly earned its reputation as the producer of the best Pinot Noir on the planet. You can pay thousands of dollars for the famous Grand Crus and many hundreds for the top 1er Crus, but the better Village-level wines can still be relative bargains. We've got three Côte de Nuits beauties in this package for you. These are not at a price level that makes them "daily-drinkers" for most, but I've selected these for you as excellent examples of good bang-for-your-buck wines for something really special.

We're going to focus on two appellations this time - **Nuits-St. Georges** and **Gevrey-Chambertin**. They're both world famous, both capable of producing mind-blowing wines, but relatively speaking they can remain affordable. Why? Because they are larger than the other CDN villages, and there's just so much more wine to go around. There are over 1,100 acres of vines in Gevrey and some 800 acres in Nuits - with many of the other villages being less than half that size.



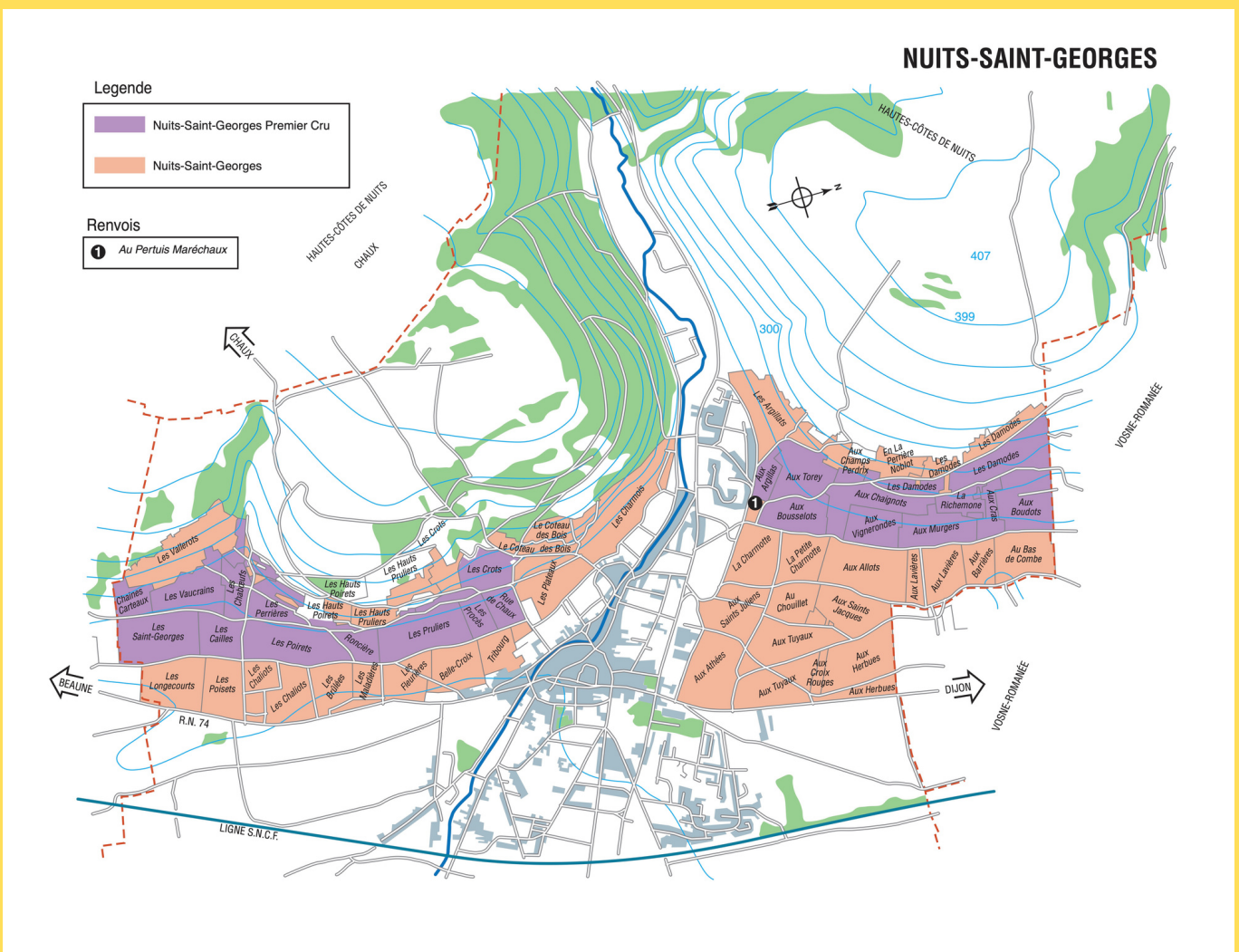
Vineyard map of Gevrey-Chambertin

Gevrey-Chambertin

One of Burgundy's most famous villages, it's home to 9 Grand Crus (more than any other village), and has been reputed for its great wines since the 5th century. The terroir here produces wines that are generally dominated by black fruits (blackberries, black cherries, currants), with a lot of muscle, power and structure - what winemakers refer to as "backbone". Gevrey wines are never shy, but rather are focused on big fruit and a deep earthiness.

Nuits-St. Georges

A large appellation that spreads out on both sides on the actual village - the northern section abuts Vosne-Romanée, and the southern section spreads out below the marble quarries further down the Côte. Wines from these two halves are often distinctly quite different, which we'll explore with examples from each for you in this package. In general, wines from Nuits-St. Georges are earthy, dense, have a distinct and intense minerality to them, with a powerful tannic structure.





1. 2019 Rully Chaponnière - Domaine Ninot - \$25

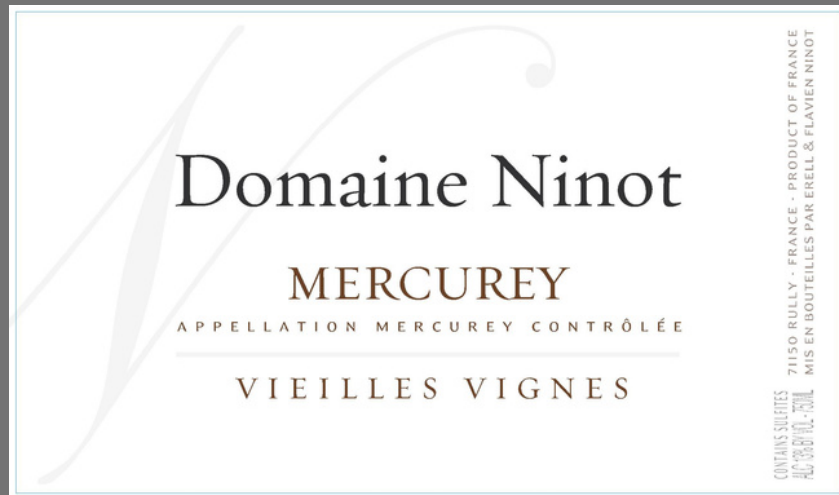
The sister & brother team of **Errell and Flavien Ninot** are the current guardians of the venerable Domaine Ninot - which traces its roots back to 1313! Some of their current vineyard parcels have been in family hands for over 700 years. Let that sink in for a minute! Flavien is in charge of the vines (which he farms organically) and Errell makes the wines (which she does exquisitely). They're based in the center of the village of Rully (ruh-ye), with extensive holdings there as well as in neighboring Mercurey.

The Ninots were one of the first of the new generation vigneronns to focus on lower yields and higher quality in the Côte Chalonnaise. I discovered her when she a finalist for Burgundy's Best Young Winemaker Trophy in 2008. Her wines blew me away from the first sip, and have continued to delight year after year. The '19 Rully Chaponnière is from a single vineyard on the northern edge of the village, old vines on a south-east facing slope. There are just under 900 acres total in Rully, about two-thirds of which produce Chardonnay. The better reds display a lovely perfume, and are softer and less tannic than their neighbors in Mercurey.

This wine is a bit of an insider's secret, and just may be a leading candidate for the best \$25 red Burg around. Packed with appealing fruit, nicely balanced structure, and way more depth than you'd typically find from a Rully rouge.



2. 2019 Mercurey Vieilles Vignes - Domaine Ninot - \$29



For at least the past 12 years, this has been our go-to red at home when we want something that goes fabulously with food. Three-fourths of the 1600 acres in Mercurey produce Pinot Noir, with the best examples, like this one, being flat-out delicious and simply a joy to drink.

"Vieilles Vignes" means "old vines", and this is a selection of five different parcels from the Ninot estate, with average vine age now 75+ years. That means the vines are in their peak era of quality production. (Vines tend to produce top quality from age 40+, with yields diminishing significantly after the age of 50 or so.)

Mercurey reds are typically deep, firm, and rich, with a nice mix of red and black fruits. The terroir is essentially a continuation of the southern portion of the Côte de Beaune, with Jurassic-era limestone underneath the rocky topsoils.

This may be the most popular red Burg in our portfolio ever - with good reason. Yummy, versatile, and excellent bang-for-the-buck. Enjoy!



3. 2018 Ladoix "Les Buis" - Michel Mallard - \$39



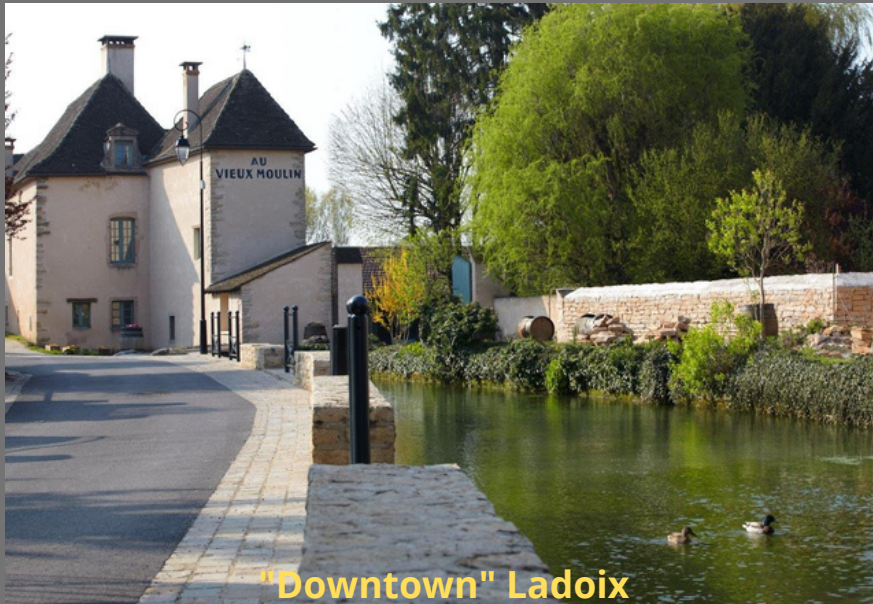
Michel Mallard

Domaine Michel Mallard has extensive holdings in the northern end of the Côte de Beaune, including four Grand Crus on the Hill of Corton. Their top-end wines are made for long-term cellaring, but their Village-level wines are very user friendly in their youth - no need for delayed gratification!

Michel is also the winemaker for superstar estate Domaine Eugène in Vosne-Romanée, but I think we get the fullest expression of his considerable talents in his own wines. As we mentioned earlier - **Ladoix** is an often overlooked appellation that can deliver excellent wines when farmed and vinified with care. There is a very appealing, ripe dark-cherry fruit quality on display here, with considerable length on a refined finish.

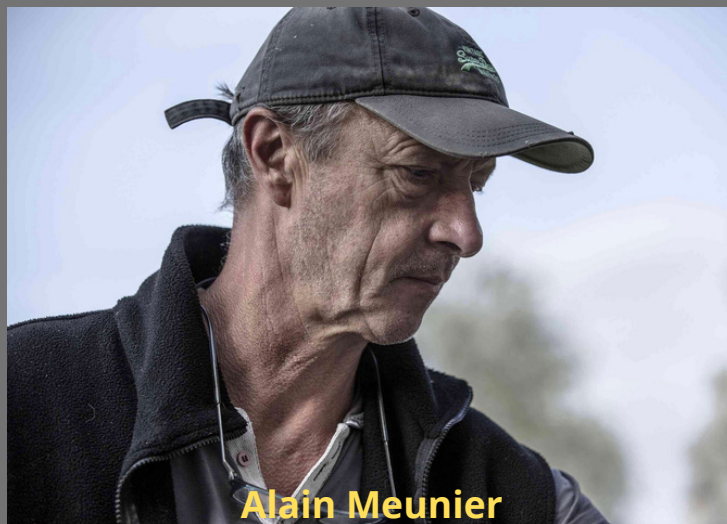
"Les Buis" is a single vineyard on the northern edge of the village. There's a small portion of Les Buis that is classified 1er Cru (see map above), with this one being from the Village section.





"Downtown" Ladoix

4. 2019 Nuits-St. Georges "les Fleurières" - J-J Confuron - \$59



Alain Meunier

Driving up from Ladoix, in just a few miles you'll hit the first major village of the Côte de Nuits, **Nuits-St. Georges**. Long and thin and nestled into the hillsides below the marble quarries, the vineyards produce legendary wines of power and intensity.

The tiny hamlet of Premeaux-Prissey is included in the Nuits-St. Georges appellation, and it's home base to the famous **Domaine J-J Confuron**, run by winemaker **Alain Meunier** and his wife **Sophie Meunier-Confuron**. Their impressive holdings include prime parcels of Romanée-St. Vivant, Clos Vougeot, and top 1er Crus in Chambolle-Musigny and Vosne-Romanée. Alain is humble and keeps a low profile, and is massively respected by his peers - he's often referred to as the "winemaker's winemaker".

"Les Fleurières" is on the southern half of the appellation, just above the RN74 as you head south from the village heading toward Beaune. This section of Nuits-St. Georges tends to produce more elegant, less tannic wines than other portions of the southern half, but it takes someone with the deft touch of Alain to capture the terroir in its best light. One step too far in one direction or another and wines from these parts can become overly tannic and chewy. That's clearly not the case here - this is a wine that caresses rather than bludgeons. (For those of you who can read French - here's a little treat!)



NUITS-SAINT-GEORGES

APPELLATION NUITS-SAINT-GEORGES CONTRÔLÉE

Les Fleurières

GRAND VIN DE BOURGOGNE



Mis en bouteille à la propriété par

DOMAINE JEAN-JACQUES CONFURON

PROPRIÉTAIRE À PREMEAUX PAR NUITS-ST-GEORGES (CÔTE-D'OR)

Produit de France

13% vol.

750 ml

Classification & localisation :

Nuits-Saint-Georges est bien sûr une appellation communale de la Côte de Nuits. C'est en 1892 que le village de Nuits ajouta le nom de ses meilleurs climats, «Les Saint-Georges», à son propre nom pour asseoir sa notoriété. «Les Fleurières» est un lieu-dit situé au sud du village, entre la route départementale et le climat classé en 1^{er} cru « Les Pruliers » (où devaient être cultivés des pruniers).

Origine du nom :

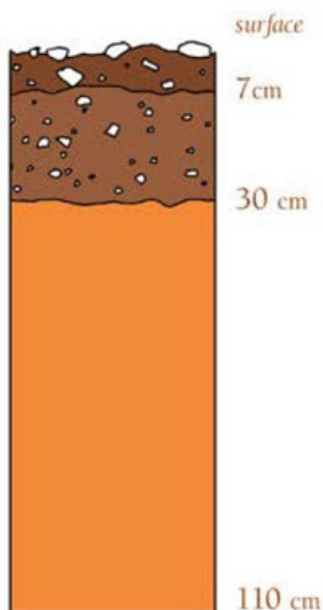
«Les Fleurières» doivent bien sûr leur nom à des fleurs qui pouvaient être celles d'arbres fruitiers (largement répandus dans les vignes à une certaine époque).

Vinification :

Macération pré-fermentaire de quatre à cinq jours. Départ spontané en fermentation grâce aux levures indigènes.

Durée totale de cuvaison, 15 jours.

Vieillessement en fûts de 15 à 18 mois.

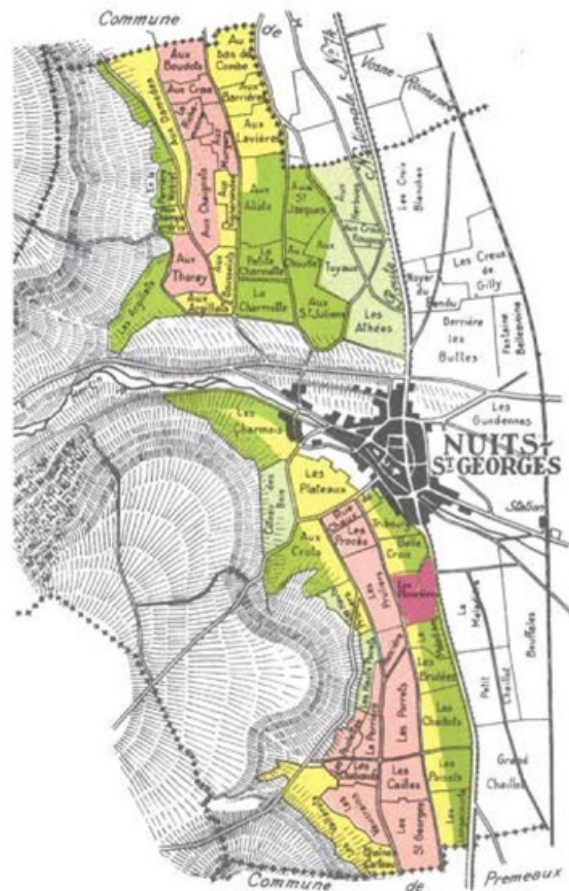


Sol brun calcaire peu épais. Riche en sables et cailloutis, ce sol brun repose sur une très épaisse couche de limons fins d'origine marine. Faiblement calcaire cette couche limoneuse compacte ralentit la percolation de l'eau en profondeur. L'alimentation hydrique de la vigne reste régulière même au cours des périodes les plus sèches.

Les Fleurières :

1,23 ha composé de parcelles âgées de 22 à 46 ans. Moyenne d'âge 35 ans.

- Cépage : pinot noir
- Taille : guyot
- Protection du vignoble : lutte biologique
- Récolte manuelle
- Production moyenne : 6 500 bouteilles/an
- Vin élevé sous bois (30% de fûts neufs)
- Mise en bouteille sans collage ni filtration



Caractère : Quand on pense «Nuits» on pense à des vins très robustes, assez carrés. Pour ce «Fleurières», il n'en est rien. C'est un vin aimable qui séduit avec ses arômes puissants de fruits noirs et doux, de terre, d'épices. En bouche un caractère moyennement corsé, musclé et modérément tannique. Avec les millésimes souples, choisissez une viande blanche, telle une poule au pot, un jarret de veau. Pour les millésimes plus vieux, la délicatesse du cru doit venir caresser une poularde, un veau de 7 heures avec des légumes tendres, un filet de bœuf ou des fromages doux.



Axelle Machard de Gramont

5. 2019 Nuits-St. Georges "Aux Allots" -

Bertrand et Axelle Machard de Gramont - \$68

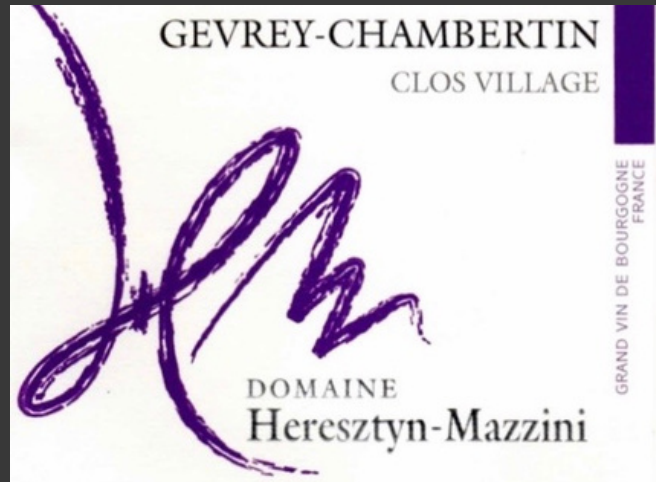
Continuing our exploration of Nuits-St. Georges, we'll move over to the northern side of the village, where the vineyards fan out to the north and eventually abut Vosne-Romanée. This is usually considered the part of Nuits that produces wines that are more elegant and refined, but still pack a lot of power and structure into your glass.

Winemaker **Axelle Machard de Gramont** has now taken over the domaine from her father, and she's become a rising star on the Côte. Her wines are the prettiest, silkiest examples of NSG I've ever come across. They're beautifully sculpted, with no seams, no jagged edges. 2019 was an outstanding vintage in Burgundy, and this is a great example why the wines are so coveted.



6. 2019 Gevrey-Chambertin "Clos le Village" -

Domaine Heresztyn-Mazzini - \$89

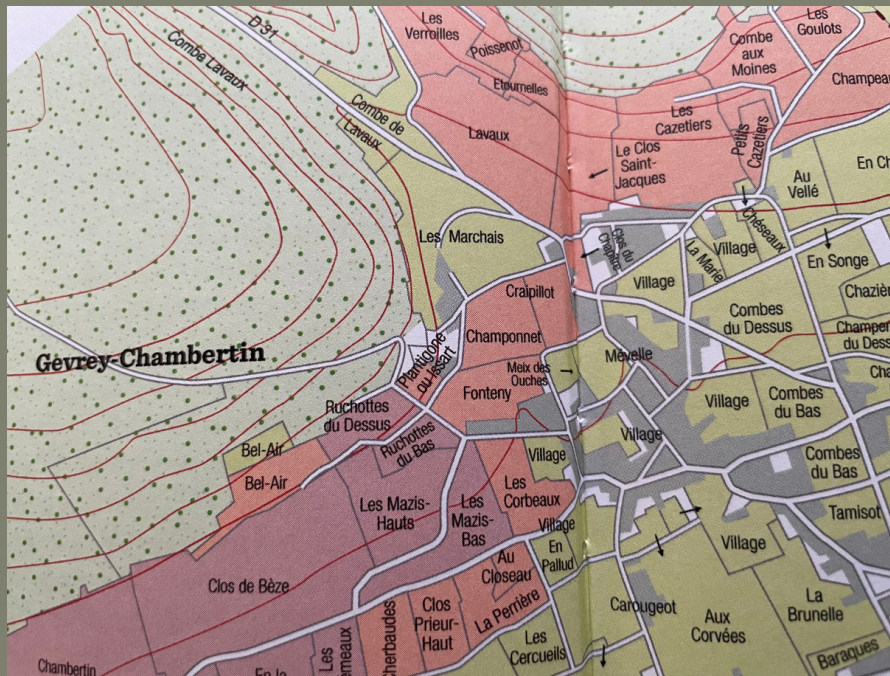


And now we continue up the RN74, making our final stop at one of Burgundy's most legendary villages, Gevrey-Chambertin. Right in the center of the village we'll pull into the driveway of Domaine Heresztyn-Mazzina (air-ess-teen maht-zeenee), to be greeted by winemaker **Florence Heresztyn**. Florence and her husband took over the old Domaine Heresztyn from her parents, added his surname to label, and quickly took the wines from mediocre to outstanding. They moved right away to reduce yields, switch the farming to organic with some Biodynamic practices, and the results have been simply extraordinary.

There's a vineyard in the center of the village, aptly named "Le Village", and part of that vineyard is enclosed by stone walls and is called "**Clos le Village**". That portion just happens to be Florence's back yard!



Florence Heresztyn, in Clos le Village



Wines from Gevrey-Chambertin are often described as the proverbial "Iron Fist in a Velvet Glove". They never lack for power and intensity, but the best examples, like this one, also exhibit a plush, velvety texture. The wines are weighty on the palate, packed full of ripe black fruits on a big-boned structure. It's the texture of this one that knocks me out - a very classy wine that I hope you'll enjoy with a fabulous meal (An oven-roasted Veal Chop, perhaps, or maybe Venison loin, or a great Rib-Eye? Oh my...) While it's certainly yummy now, if you want to see this wine at its best I'd give it 3-5 years in the cellar to let it really shine.



Next shipment in the Spring...

I hope you've enjoyed our continuing exploration of all things Burgundian. Thanks for joining us! Watch your email for information on our next Caveau Burgundy Club shipment coming in the spring, and for pre-arrival offerings on all the yummy wines headed your way throughout the year. All the latest information is always available on our website: www.CaveauSelections.com

Please let us know if we need to make any changes to your account. You can update us on our secure form online at <https://www.caveauselections.com/credit-card-update-form>

- If you have a new or updated credit card
- If you have a change of billing or shipping address
- If you want to change your order from "ship" to "pick-up", or vice-versa
- If you have any questions about your Club membership

Launched in 2005, Caveau Selections is owned and operated by Martha & Scott Wright, importers and winemakers in Oregon, Burgundy and Campagne since 1999. Scott has been drinking and studying the wines and regions of Burgundy and Champagne since the 1970s, and visiting regularly since the 1980s. He Co-produced and directed the award winning Burgundy documentary film **Three Days of Glory**, leads annual Insiders' Tours of both Burgundy and Champagne, and teaches seminars here and abroad. Email Scott@caveauselections.com for more information.

