



RED BURGUNDY CLUB

SPRING 2024

THE CÔTE-DE-BEAUNE

The latest edition of the Caveau Red Burgundy Club – a twice-yearly tutored tasting and exploration of the great wines and terroirs of Burgundy – will soon be in your cellar.

The wines in each 6-bottle Burgundy Club shipment have been specifically selected to help educate and illuminate – 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!

From a base in the lovely city of Beaune, twice a year we branch out in all directions to visit our winemakers. However, it is the villages immediately surrounding Beaune that form our most oft-traveled route.

Within 10 minutes drive one can be in the heart of some of the most well-known addresses in the Burgundy world-- Pommard, Volnay, Montrachet, Corton, Meursault--and on and on.

Here then for you with this season's red Burgundy 6-pack, are six of those villages, half of them 1er Crus, crafted by four different of our winemakers, and an interesting look at what is known as the Côte-de-Beaune.

Enjoy!

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.

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.





SIX VILLAGES AROUND BEAUNE

A SPOTLIGHT

Monthélie

Monthélie (pronounced Mont-ay-lee) is situated between Volnay and Meursault, looking out at the first hills of the Côte de Beaune. As burgundian author Pierre Poupon puts it: "Prettily nestled into the curve of the hillside like the head of Saint John against the shoulder of Jesus,."

Beaune

The Beaune vineyards are among the most extensive of the Côte. From here originates the Pinot grape of the Dukes of Burgundy- a red wine, aromatic and full of fire, whose reputation goes back to the late Middle Ages.

Pommard

For centuries Pommard has been considered the typical Bourgogne: deep red in color, powerfully aromatic, solid and trustworthy. The very name Pommard has a generous ring to it and fills the mouth as it fills the glass. Pommard with its pretty vineyards lies between Beaune and Volnay where the Côtes-de-Beaune makes a slight turn towards Autun.

Maranges

The countryside surrounding Maranges has a character of its own - gentle and warm-hearted - which has been lovingly described by the Burgundian writer Henri Vincenot. The area is filled with charming old winemaker's homes and is a photographic essay paradise

Ladoix

If you are coming from Dijon, it is at Ladoix that the Côte de Beaune begins. Since 1937, Ladoix shares with Aloxe-Corton and Pernand-Vergelesses the honor of producing the wines of the hill of Corton.

Savigny-lès-Beaune

Between the Hill of Corton and Beaune, the landscape opens up like a map unfolding. The hills of the Côte de Beaune recede a little on either side of the little river Rhoin. These vineyards are of ancient lineage. For much of their history, they belonged to the domaine of the Dukes of Burgundy, to neighbouring religious houses, or to the Knights of Malta.

MARCHAND-TAWSE

The affable Pascal Marchand might be from Quebec, but his story is full-throttle French, and more specifically, deeply Burgundian. As a teen he became a merchant marine and following a few years at sea landed in Burgundy at 22, with no experience in the wine business.

Yet over the past 45 years he has built a resumé as good as anyone's in all of Burgundy, and even though Canadian, is considered today to be one of the originalists of what can be thought of as modern Burgundy.



Starting in 1989 at the famed Comte Armand, he introduced organic farming, modernized the winery, and gained almost overnight acclaim for their now famous Pommard 'Clos des Epeneaux'. Following his tenure there he pivoted to the Boisset family's Domaine de la Vougeraie where until 2006 he converted their vast holdings into an organic and biodynamic treasure trove.

Finally, in 2011, along with partner Moray Tawse, another Canadian, he founded Domaine Marchand-Tawse, having purchased the old Maume cellars in Nuits St. Georges. Together, Marchand and Tawse have accumulated a staggering collection of vineyards in 68 different appellations up and down the Côte. Their price list covers nearly 3 pages, and spans 5+ vintages with current releases.

The Marchand-Tawse cellars are found in the center of Nuits-Saint-Georges on the Rue Julie Godemet. There are 4 buildings on either side of the street that make up the winery, and all surrounding a lovely old stone-filled courtyard.

At the end of the day what we found among those 40+ wines and their tasting notes scribbled in our notebooks, was an unparalleled lineup of complex, elegant, beautiful and often extraordinary burgundy.



BEAUNE

1ER CRU TUVILAINS 2020 ~
\$68

The domaine owns three of their own plots in the Beaune appellation--all premier cru, with sites in Clos de Roi, Bas de Teurons, and this gem in Tuvilains.

All of their Beaune wines come from old vines, some up to 60 years, and Tuvilains, on the Pommard side of the town, is a prime example.

The Marchand-Tawse parcel lies at the bottom of the hill, just below Les Avaux, a somewhat warmer site than others in the appellation. As such it is always filled with more supple, ripe, and round fruit.

This red has a strikingly dark color, almost purple in the glass and immediately points you to fruits such as blackberry, fresh mission figs, and blueberry. All the Marchand-Tawse Beaune wines ultimately feature a 'sous bois' or underbrush characteristic that leads to dried leaves, truffles and fresh earth.

It is total aromatic fireworks.

Please enjoy this, your first introduction to the Marchand-Tawse lineup. There will be many, many more to come over the years as we explore their vast holdings together.

HUBER- VERDEREAU


Thiébault Huber is a force of nature. He's about 50-something, but with the kind of energy that is hard to imagine. It's not all just physical energy though. This dude is involved in a LOT of different things. On the day we visited him, he had two Americans coming to see him later to taste their Hospices barrels that he was babying to completion.



Additionally, Thiébault is in the middle of a 4-year term as president of CAVB, the Confederation of Appellations and Burgundy Winemakers, which in many ways makes him a politician.

He is deeply involved in all things Burgundy and his cheerleading around the world for Burgundy is an important part of the region's notoriety (in today terms anyway). Burgundy has had its share of noisy champions over the years that has built its mystique, lore, and economics. Thiébault Huber is clearly a part of that long history today.

The Domaine Huber-Verdereau has been a centerpiece of Caveau's importing work for nearly 15 years, and it is easy to understand why. Despite all the above, Thiébault is first and foremost, a winemaker. And with one of the nicest collections of vines in the Côtes-de-Beaune, covering Monthelie, Volnay, Pommard, Auxey-Duresses and Meursault, his name must be considered one of the most important on the Côte.



MONTHÉLIE

'LA COMBE DANAY 2022 ~
\$49

Thiébaul's style is one more of prettiness, high-toned aromatics, and finesse than say nearby Violot-Guillemard. The color of his wines are brilliant and bright, and the lift in the palate with a focus on acidity and lower pH creates a mouth-watering element to all his bottlings.

This is the first village-level 2022 we're seeing, and it bears some commentary on the vintage in general. In a word, we're **BULLISH!**

To put the vintage into perspective, it rivals the best of the recent 'fully saturated' years that have become the norm, being bracketed with 2019, and looking back, 2015 and 2010.

Essentially, we can say it is a 5 star vintage, though in the new style. But no one should be in any doubt, we are not going back to years that point to classic and delicate being the norm.

Monthélie, like Volnay, is thought of as a somewhat feminine wine, often with a lovely dark garnet color and aromas of tiny red fruits--currants and raspberries. Floral notes like rose and peony round this out into a magnificent wine.

POMMARD

'CLOS DU COLOMBIER 2019 ~
\$75



This magnificent Clos immediately became the flagship of the Huber-Verdereau estate when the family bought it in 2011. Smack in the center of Pommard, mid-slope, right in the sweet-spot where you get the best of both the power and the finesse that come from these iron-rich soils. This 2.14-acre monopole is actually partially a 1er Cru - one-third of the vineyard is technically in the 1er Cru Les Vergers.

This is annually a Caveau fan favorite. Bursting with ripe black fruits, it displays a fine, velvety texture and packs layers and layers of flavors and aromas into a very harmonious package.

While we tasted with Thiébault this past November, he ceremoniously suggested to US, that this wine would look perfect in our burgundy club and that he had just enough for one for everyone.

This is one of those bottles that seems to change minute over minute in the glass. Over the course of an hour, you might taste 40 different wines! The ultimate definition of complexity.

MICHEL MALLARD

Michel Mallard greeted us with a serious look, grim pursed lips, and positioned himself face to face with Scott, maybe 10 inches apart at the nose. We have a problem, he explained. Things are no good.

Was Mallard going out of business? Or worse, had they found a national US importer?!! None of the above thankfully. This particular crisis had to do with his village-level wines of Aloxe-Corton, Chorey-lès-Beaune, Ladoix, and more. There will be none, Michel explained, until I release the 2021's next summer. So, you will only be able to buy the premier cru and grand cru wines today Scott. I'm sorry.

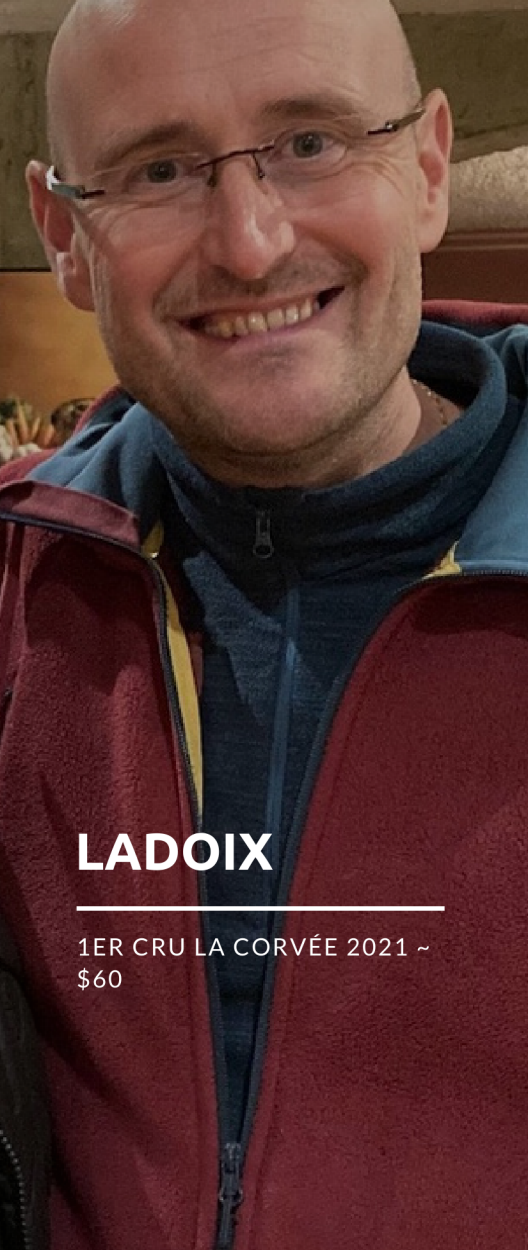


This was last November, and we've patiently waited 9 months to tell that story, and to release this wine. Like many of the '21s, it is a wine that is classic and magical--a refined, gorgeous example of why pinot noir remains the pinnacle of greatness in the red wine world.

Michel Mallard is one of those magicians, blessed with nice chunks of four of the greatest Grand Crus on the storied Hill of Corton, as well as plum sites in the surrounding villages of Ladoix, Chorey-lès-Beaune, and Aloxe-Corton.

Michel jointly runs the estate with his father Patrick, which is named for Michel's grandfather. Michel makes the wines, and he has an interesting side-hustle - he's also the winemaker for the revered Domaine d'Eugénie in Vosne-Romanée.

Caveau disciples that have traveled to Burgundy with us always comment that a tasting at Chez Mallard is the highlight of their trip. A LOT of bottles are opened over the course of three hours, and that little spittoon just doesn't do the trick!



LADOIX

1ER CRU LA CORVÉE 2021 ~
\$60

A quick French lesson:

A wine's *attaque*, both on the lips and on the nose, sets the tone for what's to come. Then, it is *longueur en bouche* to see what the wine continues giving following the first taste. But, is in the *mi-palate*, the vaunted middle, where a truly great wine can be identified.

In Burgundy especially, this is where the magic lies, and this beauty has it all-- silky sweet on the lips, oh so subtle fruit explosions right through the mid-palate, and pulsating finish that lasts long after the tasting is completed.

These kinds of wines are the reason people duplicate a mortgage payment on a single bottle of red burgundy. But not with this bottle.

The *crachoir* (spit bucket) didn't get much use recently while we stood in the cool Mallard cellar tasting this wine. It was 6pm anyway, and time for an *apéritif*!

With other premier cru wines from neighboring villages gaining double the price of this one, this a rock we are delighted to have kicked over.



SAVIGNY-LÈS- BEAUNE

1ER CRU AUX SERPENTIÈRES
2021 ~ \$55

Not long ago, the village of Savigny-lès-Beaune was the insiders secret for where to look for excellent Burgs at excellent prices. That cat has been out of the bag for a number of years now, and with everybody rushing in to grab some Savigny, the prices went up according to demand. They are no longer the amazing bargains they once were.

Top notch 1er juice at under \$60 is basically a unicorn these days.

"Les Serpentières" is from a 2.7-acre parcel of 40+ year-old vines on a gentle slope. It's a standout value 1er Cru, a rich and dense offering that showcases rich raspberries and cherries and a layered, structured and dense finish.

This 2021 is something of an advance release. Typically Mallard holds his wines years longer than most, and releases them when they're starting to mature. They tend to be very long lived .

However, this is one of his most approachable wines, ready to drink now and enjoy with pleasure over the coming 3-5 years.

DOMAINE CHEVROT

Brothers Pablo and Vincent Chevrot's wines are going from strength to strength at the southern tip of the Côte d'Or. In a region where wines can go for hundreds, sometimes thousands of dollars per bottle, there are still excellent bottles that us mere mortals can afford. You've just got to know where to look - and that's where Caveau comes in!

An addition to the Caveau lineup as of 2017, Domaine Chevrot has exploded onto the scene and become an immediate favorite with those who appreciate excellent quality at great prices.



The Chevrot winery is based in Cheilly-les-Maranges - at the far southern edge of the Côte de Beaune below Chassagne-Montrachet. They have significant Village and 1er Cru holdings in Santenay and Maranges totaling 49 certified organic acres, and have been around since 1830. However, it is from their vineyards in the Hautes-Côtes de Beaune where we find today's bottle.

Like all wines made at the domaine, the Chevrot viticulture regimen has been herbicide and pesticide free since 2006, and also certified organic. Five of their 19 hectares are worked by horse. Bravo Vincent and Pablo!

The Hautes-Côtes has become an insider's secret, at least in terms of great-value Burgundy these days. Climate change and a 20+ year run of historically warm growing seasons have been nothing but good for the vines on Burgundy's Hautes-Côtes - the upper tier of hillsides above the Côte de Nuits and Côte de Beaune. These grapes used to get ripe about once every 10 years or so - now they're in the sweet-spot seemingly every vintage.



MARANGES

SUR LA CHÊNE 2021 ~
\$39

From our visit together last fall we have about 4 pages of notes about Pablo and Vincent Chevrot's reds, from their youthful and delicious Bourgogne Pinot Noir to the complex and structured Maranges from Roussots and Aux Moines.

The notebook is filled with a panoply of adjectives and descriptors that cover things like baie de timut, dried figs, juicy blackberries, currants, dried sage, and peppercorns. If we were playing wine adjective bingo, the Chevrot boys would be the clear winners of that game.

Like all the Chevrot wines - organically farmed, treated in the cellar as if it was a Grand Cru, and it outperforms its level by miles. Maranges - the hillside hamlet right next to Santenay, is becoming another insider's secret for shockingly good village red wine for Bourgogne-level prices.

This is from 50 year-old vines in a 5-acre parcel, with striking notes of cocoa and roses on the nose, beautifully ripe and juicy red fruits on the mid-palate, and succulent minerality running underneath it all.

This is a **WHOLE** lotta wine for the money.

THE LAST DROP



Thanks for joining us on our exploration of the great wines of Burgundy! Watch your email for information on our next Caveau Burgundy Club shipment coming in fall 2024, and for pre-arrival offerings on all the magnificent Bubblicies and Burgundies headed your way throughout the year. All the latest information is always available on our website:

www.CaveauSelections.com

Care to join us in Champagne or Burgundy next year? Please drop us a line if you're interested!

orders@caveauselections.com

Enjoy!