

Vintage preview

Burgundy 2017



A mixed bag is the simplest way to describe this vintage: a bumper crop of early-drinking reds and whites with patches of excellence but also plenty of pitfalls awaiting buyers. Tim Atkin MW gives his expert analysis and selects 102 top wines

BURGUNDY WITNESSED IN 2017 something that it hadn't seen for eight years: a large crop of mostly good-quality wines, red and white. With the significant exception of Chablis and a few isolated spots in Morey-St-Denis, St-Aubin and Rully, the growing season was free of vine

diseases and adverse weather events. Volumes are large – this is Burgundy's biggest-ever red wine harvest – which means most growers and négociants finally have some wine to sell.

The year began with a cold winter (more and more unusual in the region) with three weeks of sub-zero temperatures in January. Spring, however, was mild and dry, leading to

Below: vineyards in the high, cool-climate village of Vergisson in the Mâconnais region

an early bud burst and flowering, 20 days ahead of 2015. The freezing temperatures that did such damage in Chablis also descended on the rest of Burgundy in late April, but a combination of luck, dry soils and the collaborative effort of producers who lit bales of damp straw to create a protective smoke screen helped to avert disaster.

After that, the year began to hot up, with rapid growth in the vineyards – it got to 39°C in Vosne-Romanée on 21 June, marking the first of two heat spikes (the other came at the end of August). There was some rain in mid-July, late August and early September, but this was still a hot vintage where some vines suffered water stress.

It was also a very early vintage for many. Arnaud Ente in Meursault led the way on 23 August, with many top white wine producers

picking before the end of the month. The red wine harvest started in the first week of September and continued until the end of the month in the Hautes Côtes. This was a vintage when acidity levels were low at the end of the summer and fell rapidly thereafter. In September, potential alcohol levels increased at more than twice the normal rate.

The vintage was also shaped by the severe frosts of 2016. Affected vineyards often over-compensate in the ensuing vintage, which is what happened in 2017 – just as it did in 1982, 1992 and 1999. Frost-ravaged villages such as Marsannay, Chambolle-Musigny, parts of Nuits-St-Georges, Meursault and Chassagne-Montrachet were especially prone to high yields. Some opted to try to ripen larger crops, not always successfully, while others did one or more green harvests. ➤

'A mixture of 2007, 2011 and 2014 comes closest to describing the style of the best wines'

Tim Atkin MW

Photograph: Giovanni Simeone/4 Corners



Comparisons and verdict

The heat and early harvest reminded some producers of 2007 and 2011, though it's better than both. Other comparisons included 1979, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2014 and 2015 (but with more freshness), which goes to show that opinions vary, even within Burgundy. A mixture of 2007, 2011 and 2014 probably comes closest to describing the style of the best wines.

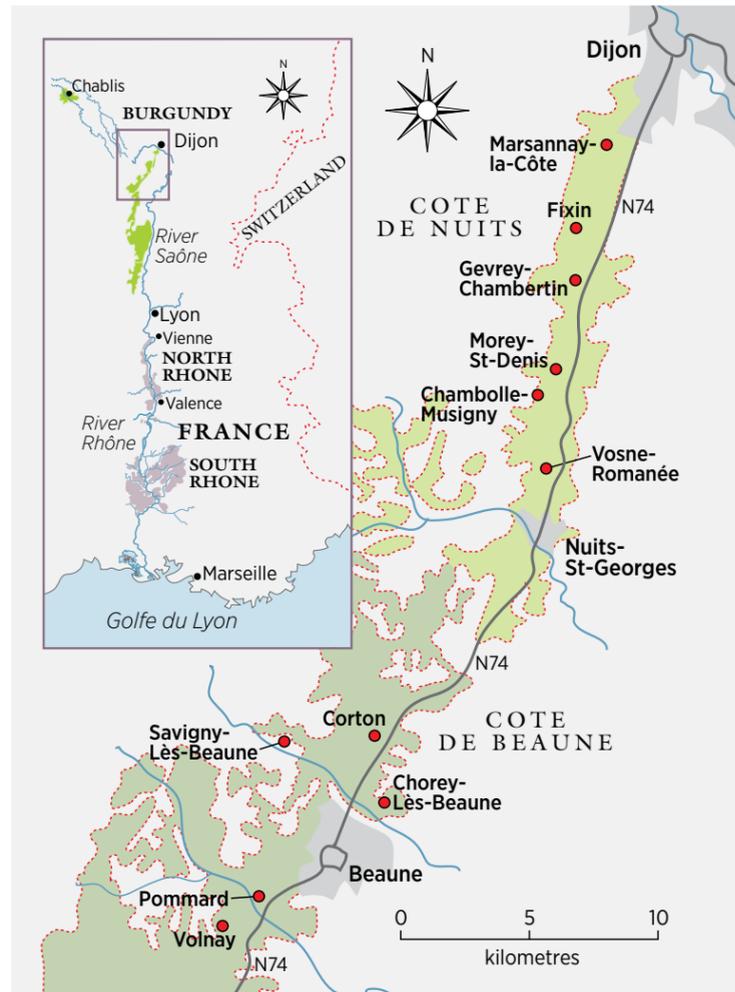
It's an exaggeration to call 2017 a superb harvest, but there are patches of excellence, especially in the whites, which seem to cope better with the combination of heat and high yields. These are wines for comparatively early drinking, though some think they could age better than expected. They are a pleasure to drink in many cases, with supple tannins and lots of sweet fruit in the reds and freshness, focus and minerality in (early-picked) whites.

Situated as it is between the superior 2016 vintage and the powerful, already-hyped 2018s, 2017 could easily be overlooked – which would be a shame. Prices are unlikely to come down, partly as a result of the weak pound but also a reflection of the cost of land and grapes, plus producers' understandable desire to put some money in the bank after seven smaller crops. My advice would be to buy while exercising a degree of caution. When it's good, 2017 is very good indeed. When it's bad, you'd be better off buying what's left of the 2014s, 2015s and 2016s instead.

AROUND THE REGIONS

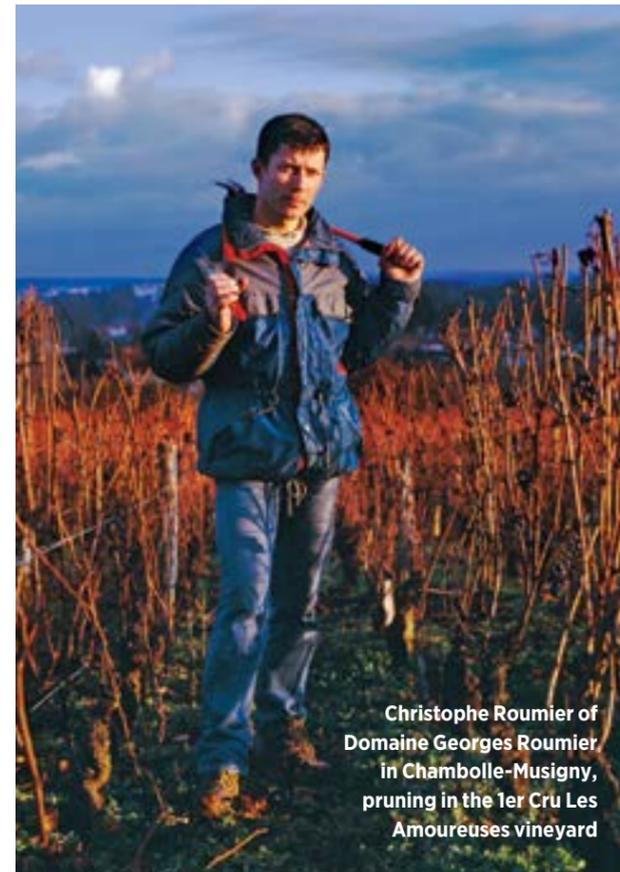
Côte de Nuits

While it is true that 2017 is a vintage that expresses individual terroirs, it is also one in



which human decisions – especially picking dates, crop levels and time in barrel – have had a significant impact. Hailstorms hit the northern part of Morey-St-Denis, but it was the dry conditions and heatwaves at the end of June and August and the number of bunches left on the vines that had a greater influence on vintage style. The harvest was very spread out, with some people waiting to ripen large crops, while others started early to preserve acidity. Green harvests were widely practised by many top names to reduce volumes, while rain at the start of September helped to mitigate heat stress. The conditions even prompted some producers to pick their grands crus first. Overall, this is a vintage that certainly produced some excellent reds, as well as a lot of pleasurable, easy-drinking ones, but also has its share of soft, dilute ones. More than ever, it makes sense to taste before you buy and stick to producers you know and trust. For all that, even some famous names under-performed in 2017.

Best producers: Comte Georges de Vogüé, Comte Liger-Belair, De la Romanée-Conti, Denis Mortet, Drouhin-Laroze, Dugat-Py, Fourrier, Georges Roumier, Jean Grivot, Robert Groffier.



Christophe Roumier of Domaine Georges Roumier in Chambolle-Musigny, pruning in the 1er Cru Les Amoureuxes vineyard

'Between the superior 2016 vintage and the already-hyped 2018s, 2017 could easily be overlooked – which would be a shame'

Tim Atkin MW

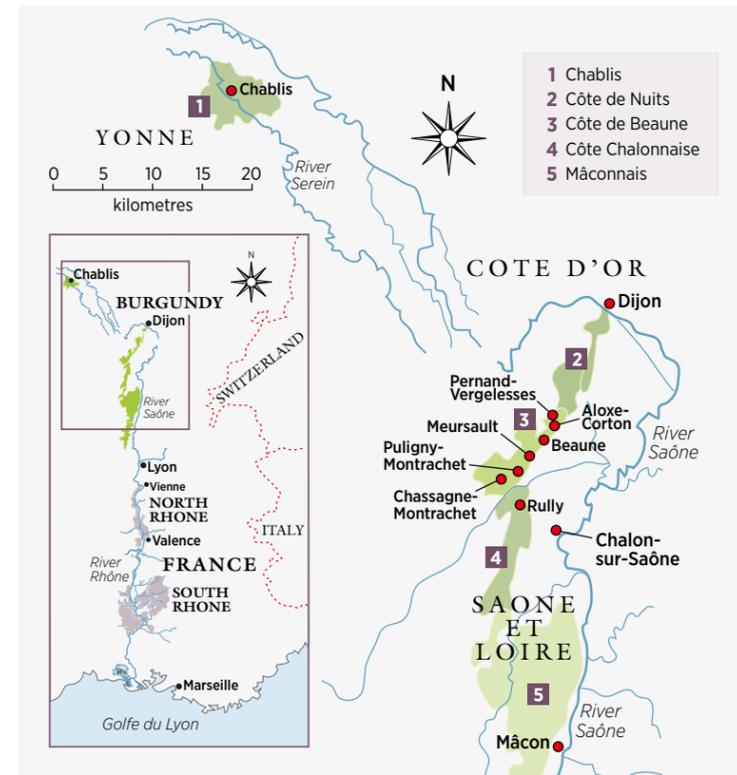
Côte de Beaune

Apart from a frost in St-Aubin on 24 April and sporadic mildew in the southern part of the region, the Côte de Beaune escaped unscathed by the elements in 2017, which was a massive relief after the hail it suffered in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 and the terrible black frost of 2016. Vineyards badly affected in 2016 tended to over-produce, often dramatically, in 2017. The temptation was to leave too many grapes on the vine – understandable after a run of vintages in which some producers made the equivalent of 1.75 crops in five years. Picking dates, as well as yields, varied widely, which makes it difficult to generalise about style and quality. That said, the best whites from Corton-Charlemagne, Puligny-Montrachet, Meursault, St-Aubin, Santenay and Chassagne-Montrachet are outstanding. The reds are more mixed, but highlights include Volnay, the Beaune premiers crus and the hill of Corton – a grand cru that is coming into its own as the climate heats up.

Best producers: Bonneau du Martray, De Montille, Des Comtes, Etienne Sauzet, Lafarge, Lafon, Leflaive, Marquis d'Angerville, Paul Pillot, Pierre-Yves Colin-Morey Roulot.

Côte Chalonnaise

Many producers in the Côte Chalonnaise made bigger volumes of wine in 2016 than they



Decanter vintage ratings

COTE D'OR WHITES REDS

2017



2016



2015



2014



2013



2012



2011



2010



2009



2008



NB: Chablis is not included. This is a broad-brush indicator of overall vintage quality, where 5 is the highest possible score. Take these into account when considering wine scores (ie: a Corton scoring 95 points in 2010 is 'better' than a Corton scoring the same in 2009).

Photographs: Tim Atkin/Cephas; Mick Rock/Cephas



Above: Arnaud Mortet of Domaine Denis Mortet in Gevrey-Chambertin

did in 2017 – especially in Rully, which was beset by the combination of frost, mildew and uneven flowering – and Montagny, where the dry conditions produced small berries with little juice. As was the case elsewhere in Burgundy in 2017, the best producers tended to be those who picked early and didn't over-crop. There are some very good 2017s here, both white and red – particularly in Mercurey and Givry where Pinot Noir is king. This is a vintage when the leading producers came into their own. Wines from co-operatives, where yields were often higher, should be bought with greater caution.

Best producers: Bruno Lorenzon, De Suremain, Faiveley, François Lumpp, François Raquillet, Jean-Baptiste Ponsot, Paul and Marie Jacqueson, Stéphane Aladame, Tupinier-Bautista, Vincent Dureuil-Janthial.

Mâconnais

Chardonnay, which tends to perform better in hot vintages than Pinot Noir, is the dominant grape in the Mâconnais, to the tune of 95% of plantings, so provided producers picked early (some in Fuissé started on 20 August), the results show lovely balance. Spring frosts and July hail reduced the crop in some vineyards, but overall the region produced good volumes of attractive, if often ripe wines. Late summer



Jean-Baptiste Ponsot of his eponymous domaine in Rully

rain (up to 60mm on 31 August) was beneficial for those who hadn't picked, while others blocked malolactics in some cuvées to retain acidity. The best terroirs in Pouilly-Fuissé – many of which will soon be classified as premiers crus – are generally impressive, but look out for wines from higher, cooler sites (especially in Mâcon-Vergisson) that were overlooked in the classification for being too marginal. There are also some lovely crunchy Gamays in 2017, as well as a few delicious Aligotés, here as well as in the overarching Bourgogne appellation.

Best producers: Bret Brothers, Château de Fuissé, Château des Rontets, Christophe Cordier, Clos des Vignes du Maynes, Daniel et Julien Barraud, Dominique Cornin, Ferret, Frantz Chagnoleau, Leflaive.

Atkin's top 10 producers to watch

- **Domaine Bernard & Thierry Glantenay** (Volnay)
- **Domaine Chantal Lescure** (Nuits-St-Georges)
- **Domaine Dominique Cornin** (Pouilly-Fuissé)
- **David Moreau** (Santenay)
- **Domaine de L'Evêché** (Mercurey)
- **Domaine Guillemot-Michel** (Viré-Clessé)
- **Domaine Anne et Hervé Sigaut** (Chambolle-Musigny)
- **Domaine Launay-Horiot** (Pommard)
- **Domaine Lecheneaut** (Nuits-St-Georges)
- **Mark Haisma** (négociant)

A taste of the top 2017 Burgundies

Wines are listed by commune, from north to south, then by score, then alphabetically by producer. The 2017s are bottled in January 2019, hence prices and stockists are not yet set. Contact specialist merchants for allocations or to enquire about en primeur tastings

Gevrey-Chambertin

RED WINE OF THE VINTAGE **Domaine Dugat-Py, Chambertin Grand Cru** 99

Just when you think the Dugat-Py range can't get any better... this is mind-blowing! Focused, floral and beguiling with balletic poise, supple, fine-grained tannins and notes of rose petal, wild strawberry and tangerine. Incredible concentration and length from 90-year-old vines. The Mazis-and-Mazoyères-Chambertins are a point below at 98. **Drink** 2027-2035 **Alcohol** 13%

Domaine Denis Mortet, Chambertin Grand Cru 98

It's close, but this is even better than the Mortet Mazis-Chambertin in 2017 (scoring 97), made with what Arnaud Mortet says are some of the most beautiful grapes he's ever seen. From a 0.15ha plot of 60-year-old vines, it easily handles its 100% new

oak, such is its precision, texture and concentration. One of my wines of the vintage. **Drink** 2025-2032 **Alc** 13%

Domaine Armand Rousseau, Ruchottes-Chambertin Grand Cru 97

The freshest and best balanced of the domaine's grands crus in 2017. Tangy, bright and refined, it has chiselled acidity, fine-grained oak, lacy tannins and superb focus and balance. Long and very satisfying. The 1er Cru Clos St-Jacques scored 96. **Drink** 2027-2035 **Alc** 13%

① **TOP QUALITY** **Domaine Denis Bachelet, Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru** 97

From two parcels of old vines, totalling 0.44ha right on the edge of Mazoyères. The resulting wine is as brilliant as ever, showing sumptuous red fruit sweetness, stylish 50% new wood, filigree tannins

and the racy complexity of this great site. **Drink** 2024-2032 **Alc** 13%

Domaine Drouhin-Laroze, Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru 97

My pick of the Drouhins' grands crus in 2017, partly because of the freshness of its cooler terroir. Intensely focused orange zest and black cherry fruit, pithy, chalky freshness and plush, enveloping tannins. Latricières was one of the outstanding sites in 2017. **Drink** 2025-2032 **Alc** 13%

② **Domaine Faiveley, Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru** 97

The best of the Faiveley grands crus in 2017. Smoky, scented and alluring, with well-handled 40% new wood, this is a precise, elegant, chiselled red with sweet summer pudding flavours and a chalky aftertaste. **Drink** 2025-2032 **Alc** 13%

Domaine Fourrier, 1er Cru Clos St-Jacques 97

A wonderfully dense, layered expression, with flavours of liquorice, plum, black cherry and strawberry, granular tannins and laser-like focus. The pick of the Gevrey premiers; Fourrier's Griotte Grand Cru also scored 97. **Drink** 2025-2032 **Alc** 13%

TOP QUALITY **Domaine JM Fourrier, Latricières-Chambertin Grand Cru** 97

One of Jean-Marie Fourrier's finest in 2017. Fresh, nuanced and detailed, this is a hauntingly complex wine from a 53-year-old parcel. The Chambertin Grand Cru is just as good. **Drink** 2025-2032 **Alc** 13.5%

Morey-St-Denis

③ **Domaine Dujac, Clos de la Roche Grand Cru** 97

This is a complete, self-confident wine with good density and concentration, sappy, spicy undertones, fine-grained fruit and tannins and a very long, tapering finish. Dujac's Clos St-Denis is just a notch lower at 96. **Drink** 2027-2035 **Alc** 13.3%

Domaine Ponsot, Grand Cru 96

The Ponsots' 3.5ha of Monts Luisants and Clos de la Roche produce a fine, elegant, floral cuvée with no new oak, plenty of precision and freshness and a sweet core of raspberry and wild strawberry fruit. **Drink** 2025-2032 **Alc** 13%

④ **Domaine Hubert Lignier, Vieilles Vignes, 1er Cru** 95

The Faconnières and Chenevery premiers crus combine to give a deep, structured cuvée from this increasingly impressive domaine. Rich and spicy, it has 25% stems and 30% new oak, showing precision and fine tannins. **Drink** 2024-2030 **Alc** 13%

Mark Haisma, 1er Cru Les Chaffots 94

Haisma has been making this wine (from vines next to Clos St-Denis) since 2012, but this is the best release yet. Fresh, sappy and bright, it has integrated whole-bunch notes and 30% new wood. Impressive stuff from this Aussie micro-négociant. **Drink** 2023-2029 **Alc** 13%

Chambolle-Musigny

⑤ **TOP QUALITY** **Domaine Georges Roumier, Musigny Grand Cru** 98

Christophe Roumier's parcel of Musigny is

just 0.0996ha, but it is always one of Burgundy's greatest wines, sourced from old vines planted in 1905. Made with 80% whole bunches and 80% new oak, it's sappy, focused, succulent and beautifully poised with very fine tannins and a sweet core of lacy, refreshing fruit. Close to perfection. **Drink** 2023-2032 **Alc** 13%

⑥ **TOP QUALITY** **Domaine Comte Georges de Vogüé, 1er Cru Les Amoureuses** 97

Another brilliant 2017 from François Millet and the best Chambolle premier cru of the vintage. Remarkable purity, focus, length and precision. This has 20% new oak with red cherry and wild strawberry flavours. The domaine's Bonnes Mares Grand Cru also scored 97. **Drink** 2025-2032 **Alc** 13%

Domaine Drouhin-Laroze, Musigny Grand Cru 97

An excellent 0.2ha parcel of 60-year-old vines Effortlessly handling its 100% new oak, it's a precise, focused, very elegant rendition of Musigny. The sappy, chalky, refreshing minerality supports a palate of juicy summer berry fruit flavours. Classy winemaking. **Drink** 2025-2032 **Alc** 13%

Domaine Robert Groffier, Bonnes-Mares Grand Cru 97

The 1ha of vines here may be 80 years old, but this is not a powerful Bonnes-Mares. Floral, juicy, sumptuous and exotic, with a core of sweet bramble and raspberry fruit, it's a beautifully judged wine from a stellar winemaker. **Drink** 2022-2030 **Alc** 13%

Domaine Ghislaine Barthod, 1er Cru Les Charmes 96

Barthod's two parcels of Charmes can

make one of her more reticent wines. That's far from the case in 2017 though, as this is all about rose petals and summer berries, bright, vivacious acidity, subtle 30% new oak integration and a sweet, lingering finish. **Drink** 2023-2029 **Alc** 13%

Domaine Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier, 1er Cru Les Amoureuses 96

Not quite love at first sip, but not far off, this is a characteristically svelte, refined Amoureuses from Fred Mugnier. It has rose petal and peony aromas, fine-boned tannins and a sweet, caressing finish. **Drink** 2024-2030 **Alc** 13%

Domaine Cécile Tremblay, 1er Cru Les Feusselottes 95

This pure, stylish, effortlessly elegant wine is as good as some people's grands crus: fine and nuanced, with subtle layers of intertwined fruit, oak and chalky minerality. **Drink** 2023-2029 **Alc** 13%

Jean-Marie Fourrier 95

Fourrier makes this village Chambolle under his expanding négociant label, sourced from a single supplier. It's stylish, scented and abundantly floral, built around raspberry and red cherry fruit complemented by granular tannins and spicy oak. **Drink** 2023-2030 **Alc** 13%

Vougeot

Château de la Tour, Hommage à Jean Morin Vieilles Vignes, Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru 96

Made every year, but not always released, this is a small-parcel tribute to François Labet's grandfather, made with vines ➤



planted in 1910. It's a textured, hedonistic red with firm tannins, flavours of mulberry, incense and Asian spices and the density to age. **Drink** 2026-2032 **Alc** 13.5%

Domaine Denis Mortet, Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru 96

Located just below Château de la Tour, Arnaud Mortet's parcel runs to 0.35ha hectares. Made with 30% stems and 70% new oak, it has plenty of texture, smooth tannins and layers of sweet, sensuous red berry fruit. **Drink** 2025-2030 **Alc** 13.5%

Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat 1er Cru Les Petits Vougeots 95

Only planted in 1980, this 0.5ha parcel always produces a scented, hedonistic Pinot in the hands of Charles van Canneyt. It's crunchy, juicy and vibrant, with chalky minerality and enticing raspberry and red cherry fruit. His Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru scored 96. **Drink** 2023-2029 **Alc** 13%

Vosne-Romanée

⑦ **TOP QUALITY Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, Romanée-Conti Grand Cru Monopole** 98

Not quite as thrilling as the 2016, but still a special wine that lives up to its exalted reputation – if not its exalted price. Quite forward at this stage, it is sweet, textured and floral – all summer pudding, tobacco and minerality with a peaty undertone and a fresh, taut, self-assured finish. The Romanée St-Vivant and La Tâche scored 97; Grands-Echezeaux and Richbourg 96; Echezeaux 95. **Drink** 2028-2037 **Alc** 13%

TOP QUALITY Domaine Hudelot-Noëllat, Richebourg Grand Cru 98

A 0.29ha plot averaging 55 years, there's lots of concentration and complexity here. It's one of the reds of 2017, with a heavenly perfume of wild strawberry and summer orchard fruit, fine-grained tannins, sweet spices and refreshing minerality. Stunning! The domaine's Romanée St-Vivant scored 97. **Drink** 2023-2035 **Alc** 13.5%

⑧ **TOP QUALITY Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair, La Romanée Grand Cru Monopole** 97

From vines more than 100 years old, this is focused, grippy and intense, with serious, fine-grained tannins, layers of bramble and blueberry fruit, clove spice, chalky freshness and the concentration to

age further in bottle. A superb expression of this special vineyard. The Echezeaux scored 96. **Drink** 2025-2035 **Alc** 13%

TOP QUALITY Domaine Dujac, Romanée-St-Vivant Grand Cru 97

Brilliant wine! Fermented with 100% stems and aged in 60% new oak. Taut, focussed and showing the monastic austerity the vineyard is famous for, this is very floral, chalky and incredibly long. The Echezeaux scored 96. **Drink** 2023-2035 **Alc** 13%

Domaine Jean Grivot, Richebourg Grand Cru 97

The best wine from this domaine for the third vintage in a row. Deceptively easy to taste from barrel, it's a soprano of a wine: elegant, refined and sensuous with beautifully pitched, chalky precision, a hint of earth and subtle wild strawberry fruit. Stunning! **Drink** 2022-2032 **Alc** 13%

⑨ **TOP QUALITY Domaine JJ Confuron, Romanée-St-Vivant Grand Cru** 97

This excellent domaine is not as famous as it should be; this wine might change that. Serious, spicy and intense, from vines first planted in the 1940s. Savoury, focused and beautifully weighted, it has a winning combination of freshness and oceanic depth. Superb! **Drink** 2024-2035 **Alc** 13%

Benjamin Leroux, 1er Cru Au Dessus des Malconsorts 96

A little-known premier cru high on the slope of Vosne-Romanée next to Nuits-St-Georges. This wine is refined, delicate and floral, with crunchy redcurrant and pomegranate notes and two-thirds whole bunches contributing some sap and clove spice. **Drink** 2021-2028 **Alc** 13%

Domaine Georges Noëllat 93

One of my village Burgundies of the year – a superb Vosne from Maxime Cheurlin. It's everything you'd expect from 2017: stylish floral perfume, layers of bramble, red cherry and raspberry fruit, succulent tannins and well-handled 50% new oak. **Drink** 2020-2025 **Alc** 13%

Nuits-St-Georges

Domaine Georges Noëllat, 1er Cru Cras 95
This (and 1er Cru Boudots) is superb in 2017. Subtle, elegant and refined, with layers of raspberry and wild strawberry fruit, aromatic 60% new oak, fine-grained

tannins and refreshing acidity. Hauntingly beautiful. **Drink** 2022-2027 **Alc** 13%

⑩ **Domaine Henri Gouges, 1er Cru Les St-Georges** 95

Appealingly aromatic and not as dense and brooding as it can be, this is a stylish, spicy, savoury red with good focus and a backdrop of blood and iron. The 1er Cru Vaucrains and Clos des Porets are also very good. **Drink** 2024-2029 **Alc** 13%

Domaine Robert Chevillon, 1er Cru Pruliers 95

One of an impressive array from Chevillon (including 1er Crus Roncières, Les Cailles, Vaucrains and Les St-Georges, all scoring 95). Considerable freshness, detail and precision, showing floral aromas, sweet spice, juicy red berry fruit and a focused, chalky finish. **Drink** 2023-2028 **Alc** 13%

Domaine Sylvain Cathiard, 1er Cru Aux Thorey 95

I can't recall a more appealing sample of this premier cru. From Sébastien Cathiard, it's from a 0.43ha parcel planted in 1953. Wonderful sweetness, acidity, structure and plush black cherry and orange zest flavours. **Drink** 2022-2028 **Alc** 13%

Domaine Chantal Lescure, Damodes 94

Damodes can be either a village wine or a premier cru and here it's the former. A serious, dense, beautifully framed Nuits from very old vines. It is balanced, layered and intense with fine aromas and a chiselled, mineral-edged finish. Will be stunning value. **Drink** 2023-2029 **Alc** 13%

Domaine Lecheneaut, 1er Cru Damodes 93

Philippe and Vincent Lecheneaut are making increasingly impressive wines at their family domaine. This shows subtle reduction, skilful oak integration, layers of texture, granular tannins and a fresh finish. **Drink** 2023-2029 **Alc** 13%

Other Côtes de Nuits

Albert Bichot, 1er Cru Clos de la Perrière, Fixin 93

Made with purchased grapes, this is an exceptional wine from the highest premier cru in Fixin. Focused and refined, with racy natural acidity, 30% whole clusters and stylish oak, this has a hint of good reduction and a core of crunchy cranberry and cherry fruit. **Drink** 2021-2025 **Alc** 13%

Domaine René Bouvier, Clos du Roy, Marsannay 93

Clos du Roy has long been considered the supreme terroir of Marsannay, and this 70-year-old parcel wouldn't look out of place in a line-up of Gevrey premiers crus. Polished, perfumed and refined with sap from 50% stems, fine-grained oak and chalky freshness. **Drink** 2022-2027 **Alc** 13%

TOP VALUE Domaine Jean Tardy, La Place, Fixin 91

Guillaume Tardy bought this 0.41ha lieu-dit in 2006 – a smart move given how land prices have increased since. The 45-year-old vines have given mulberry and sweet spice flavours and appealing texture with 30% new wood. **Drink** 2021-2025 **Alc** 13%

Corton

Domaine Faiveley, Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru 97

Hard to beat in 2017, this comes from cool, east-facing vineyards that ripen slowly, even in a warm year. Focused, pithy and fizzing with energy, it's a rich, dense wine with 40% new oak, creamy lees and a tangy mouthwatering finish. The Clos des Cortons Faiveley Grand Cru Monopole red scored 96. **Drink** 2020-2029 **Alc** 13%

⑪ **TOP QUALITY Bonneau du Martray, Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru** 96

The change of ownership at this historic domaine has not affected quality. This is elegant, textured, and saline with superb precision and understated power, with subtle toasty oak and notes of lemongrass and jasmine. The Corton Grand Cru red is equally as good. **Drink** 2021-2029 **Alc** 13%

Domaine de la Vougeraie, Charlemagne Grand Cru 96

This wine, always labelled simply as Charlemagne, is an intense, stylishly oaked white of great presence and weight, showing flavours of vanilla, coconut, lemon butter and nectarine. Thrilling minerality. **Drink** 2020-2027 **Alc** 13%

Domaine des Croix, Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru 96

David Croix's brilliant white shows aromas of flinty, struck match reduction, a leesy, waxy, layered palate, subtle wood, a twist of aniseed and a focused, chiselled finish. His Corton La Vigne au Saint Grand Cru red is just as fine. **Drink** 2020-2030 **Alc** 13%

Pommard

⑫ **Domaine de Courcel, 1er Cru Grand Clos des Epenots** 95

The best of the De Courcel reds in 2017. Intense, scented and rich, this has aromas of incense, white pepper and forest floor, with lots of dark, inky fruit, grainy tannins, balancing freshness and good acidity on the finish. **Drink** 2026-2035 **Alc** 14%

Domaine de Montille, 1er Cru Pézerolles 95

One of my favourite Pommards of 2017 – a focused, mineral, chalky red that wouldn't look out of place in Volnay. Crunchy and refined with complexity from 30% whole clusters and 30% new oak. Rugiens-Bas also scored 95. **Drink** 2024-2032 **Alc** 13%

Albert Bichot, Domaine du Pavillon, 1er Cru Rugiens-Bas 94

Impressive winemaking has given a classic interpretation of this outstanding premier cru. Serious and deep, with 50% new oak and 30% whole clusters, it's sappy, firm and ageworthy but shows nothing in the way of rusticity. **Drink** 2023-2030 **Alc** 13%

Domaine Launay-Horiot, 1er Cru Rugiens-Bas 94

Those who find southern Pommards a bit austere will love the best 2017s. This is one: stylish 50% new oak binds a textured, floral red with savoury strawberry and bramble fruit and just enough ferrous intensity. **Drink** 2022-2029 **Alc** 13%

Volnay

Domaine Marquis d'Angerville, 1er Cru Clos des Ducs Monopole 97

One of the great wines of the vintage in

2017. Powerful, structured and complex with layers of red cherry, raspberry and pomegranate, sinewy tannins and pools of concentration. Stylishly oaked, long and mineral. Taillepiets and En Champans both scored 96. **Drink** 2025-2035 **Alc** 13%

Domaine Lafarge, 1er Cru Clos des Chênes 96

The Lafarge wines are among Burgundy's most delicate, but don't lack intensity or concentration. Chalky, pithy yet sweet and alluringly fruity, this is a transparent, nuanced expression of a great terroir. Les Caillerets and Clos du Château des Ducs are equally as good. **Drink** 2023-2030 **Alc** 13%

Domaine Bernard & Thierry Glantenay, 1er Cru Les Caillerets 95

There are only two (old) barrels of this impressive bottling, fermented with 50% whole bunches. Sweet, textured and rich, with layered bramble and black cherry, silky tannins and aromatic spices. A very fine expression of arguably Volnay's best terroir. **Drink** 2023-2030 **Alc** 13.3%

Domaine de Montille, 1er Cru Les Taillepiets 95

Often the most complete of De Montille's Volnay premiers crus. Floral, malty and nuanced this isn't overly marked by its 100% whole bunches, partly as the wine has such depth, freshness and acidity. **Drink** 2025-2032 **Alc** 13%

Meursault

Domaine des Comtes Lafon, 1er Cru Les Charmes 97

Charmes escaped frost in 2016, so ➤



yields were down in 2017, but Dominique Lafon is more than happy with 20 barrels of this leesy, nutty, textbook Meursault from his 1.85ha parcel. Smoky, fresh and finely oaked, it's a complex, complete wine. Perrières, Genevrières and Poruzots all scored 96. **Drink** 2020-2028 **Aic** 13%

13 TOP QUALITY Domaine Roulot, 1er Cru Perrières 97

The Roulots' 0.26ha parcel here is better positioned than their Charmes. This is a superb wine, up with some of the best whites of 2017. Partician and aristocratic, it's everything you want from a Meursault: finesse, weight, balance, minerality and amazing length. **Drink** 2021-2032 **Aic** 13%

Domaine Arnaud Ente, La Sève du Clos 96

Vines from this plot are 120 years' old, which makes them the most venerable in Meursault. The soils are richer here but this is not a heavy wine. Instead it's tangy, nettley and savoury, with flavours of grapefruit and gooseberry on a textured, rich palate. **Drink** 2020-2030 **Aic** 13%

Domaine François Mikulski, Vieilles Vignes, 1er Cru Les Charmes 96

From vines planted in 1913 and made without new oak, it's a focused, layered, sumptuously aromatic Meursault showing pastry and orange zest with a crunchy, mineral finish. The pick of Mikulski's premier crus. **Drink** 2022-2032 **Aic** 13%

Benjamin Leroux, 1er Cru La Pièce sous le Bois 95

This brilliant white comes from vineyards planted in the 1930s. Saline, chalky and lightly oaked, it's like a top Grand Cru Chablis from Les Preuses or Blanchot. Leroux's Blagny red 1er Cru La Pièce is also very good. **Drink** 2021-2030 **Aic** 12.8%

Puligny-Montrachet

14 WHITE WINE OF THE VINTAGE Domaine de la Vougeraie, Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru 98

Outstanding! This comes from a 0.18ha parcel that always seems to produce a brilliant white. Waxy and aromatic, with sappy oatmeal, citrus and wet stone notes, this is floral, layered and effortlessly nuanced with one-third new oak to enhance its complexity. The domaine's Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet scored 97. **Drink** 2021-2035 **Aic** 12.5%

TOP QUALITY Domaine des Comtes Lafon, Montrachet Grand Cru 97

After a near wipe-out in 2016, this super Montrachet is back with interest in 2017, producing five barrels from 0.32ha. Rich, complex and hauntingly balanced, it's textured, layered, powerful yet ultimately long and fresh. **Drink** 2022-2032 **Aic** 13%

TOP QUALITY Domaine Faiveley, Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru 97

In a very good year for Côte de Beaune grands cru whites (provided people didn't pick too late), this stylish expression is up with the best. Focused, serious and dense, with richness and concentration, scented oak, baking spices and palate-cleansing acidity. **Drink** 2021-2030 **Aic** 12.5%

15 TOP QUALITY Domaine Leflaive, Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru 97

Leflaive's Bienvenues is generally less powerful than its Bâtard (scoring 97, along with Chevalier-Montrachet). But what it lacks in weight it makes up for in precision. Tangerine and pink grapefruit segue into a textured, fresh finish embellished by oak. The Folatières and Combettes 1ers Crus both scored 96. **Drink** 2022-2032 **Aic** 13%

TOP QUALITY Etienne Sauzet, Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru 97

When it's as good as this, Chevalier-Montrachet is every bit as exciting as more famous and expensive Montrachet. This one is particularly delicate and refined. Tangy, crunchy and mouthwateringly fresh, it's a brilliant wine that wasn't easy to make in 2017. **Drink** 2021-2032 **Aic** 13%

TOP QUALITY Pierre-Yves Colin-Morey, Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru 97

One barrel is all Pierre-Yves Colin-Morey makes of this stunning grand cru and there's a long waiting list to get hold of a bottle. But we can dream... It is chiselled, focused and even a little closed right now, but with the promise of considerable riches to come. **Drink** 2021-2032 **Aic** 12.5%

Domaine de Montille, 1er Cru Caillerets 95

The pick of the De Montille whites in 2017, this comes from the same slope as Montrachet and it shows in the wine's quality and class. Taut, textured and beautifully weighted, it's a white that will drink well at every point in its life. Long and mineral. **Drink** 2020-2029 **Aic** 12.8%

Domaine Jacques Carillon, 1er Cru Les Referts 95

It's always hard to choose between this domaine's Referts and Perrières – so why not buy both (and the Puligny village blend)! This offers a winning blend of honey, patisserie and scented oak, with pink grapefruit acidity and impressive concentration. **Drink** 2020-2026 **Aic** N/A

Chassagne-Montrachet

TOP QUALITY Benjamin Leroux, Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru 97

The best of négociant Benjamin Leroux's whites in 2017 – and there's competition for that distinction. It's stony and richly textured with nutty, mineral complexity, stylish oak and a hauntingly refreshing finish. The 1er Cru Tête de Clos scored 96. **Drink** 2021-2030 **Aic** 13%

16 TOP QUALITY Domaine Jean-Noël Gagnard, Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru 97

One of the whites of the vintage from a domaine that excelled in 2017. Sappy, floral and poised beeswax, citrus, pear and orange zest with stylish 50% new oak. Caroline l'Estimé's Les Caillerets (arguably the best 1er Cru in Chassagne) scored 96. **Drink** 2022-2030 **Aic** 13%

Domaine Paul Pillot, 1er Cru La Grande Montagne 97

It's not easy to choose one, so impressive is the overall range, but this is my favourite of Thierry Pillot's Chassagne premier crus this year. Adroitly oaked, it blends texture and density with stunning freshness and minerality on the palate, finishing long and focused. **Drink** 2021-2030 **Aic** 13%

Pierre-Yves Colin-Morey, Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru 97

All the plushness and power of a great Bâtard, with incredible concentration, yet it's not a tiring wine to drink as the minerality and freshness kick in on the palate, bringing crunchy zip to the peach and quince fruit. **Drink** 2021-2030 **Aic** 13%

Other Côte de Beaune

Pierre-Yves Colin-Morey, 1er Cru En Remilly, St-Aubin 96

A very complete expression of this well-located site. It has weight and intensity but is still very fresh, with the balance,

focus and precision you expect from the domaine. The best St-Aubin of the vintage, followed by his 1er Cru Chatenière (scoring 95). **Drink** 2020-2029 **Aic** 12.8%

17 Joseph Drouhin, 1er Cru Clos des Mouches, Beaune 95

There aren't many Côte de Beaune vineyards that make world-class Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, but Clos des Mouches is one. Effortlessly stylish, intense and textured, with scented 30% new oak, vivid minerality, citrus and patisserie notes. Drouhin's 1er Cru Grèves red is also excellent. **Drink** 2020-2027 **Aic** 13%

TOP VALUE Domaine Anne-Marie & Jean-Marc Vincent, 1er Cru Les Hautés, Auxey-Duresses 94

Everything Jean-Marc Vincent makes is worth buying, but this stunning village wine – better than a number of grands crus in 2017 – is doubly so. From 80-year-old vines, it is savoury, subtle and leesy with lovely oak integration, effortless grace and poise. **Drink** 2019-2027 **Aic** 13%

Domaine Hubert Lamy, 1er Cru Les Murgers des Dents de Chien, St-Aubin 94

Fans of top Chablis will find themselves on familiar territory with Olivier Lamy's wines, which rarely see new wood and have intense, chalky minerality. Older vines give a little more concentration and weight here, but this is still a very chiselled style. The 1er Cru Clos de la Chatenière is just as good. **Drink** 2020-2027 **Aic** 12.5%

TOP VALUE Alex Gambal, St-Romain 92

Acquired by Alex Gambal in 2015, this six-parcel, 3ha hillside holding is among the best-value white Burgundies of 2017. Sappy and floral, it has lemon, lime and struck match notes and very well handled 10% new wood. **Drink** 2019-2024 **Aic** 13%

TOP VALUE Mischief & Mayhem, Pernand-Vergelesses 91

The Raggs source this new wine from one grower in the Belles Filles lieu-dit, making a wine that delivers in flavour, complexity and value. Fresh, chiselled and stylishly oaked, it's will appeal to Puligny drinkers on a budget. **Drink** 2019-2024 **Aic** 13%

TOP VALUE Domaine Michel Mallard, Ladoix 90

The most northerly vineyard in the Côte

de Beaune is also an excellent-value white Burgundy. Fermented in 30% new oak, it's a bright, tangy, sappy wine that wouldn't look out of place in Puligny-Montrachet. **Drink** 2019-2023 **Aic** 13%

Domaine Anne-Marie & Jean-Marc Vincent, 1er Cru Beaurepaire, Santenay 95

I'd love to slip this amazing wine into a blind tasting of Côte de Beaune grands crus – it wouldn't be outclassed. With stylish struck match aromas, it's textured, refreshing and mineral with subtle 10% new oak, vivid acidity and oyster shell and citrus flavours. **Drink** 2020-2027 **Aic** 13%

David Moreau, 1er Cru Beaurepaire, Santenay 93

Every bit as good as the wine he makes under his Meursault Les Pellans label, this is not dissimilar in style. Sensitive oak, creamy, leesy and balanced, with vanilla spice, bright acidity and pear and citrus fruit. **Drink** 2020-2024 **Aic** 13%

Domaine des Croix, 1er Cru Grèves, Beaune 95

From a 0.3ha block in what David Croix calls 'our little grand cru'. Subtle, fine and long, it's ripe, juicy and very drinkable, with filigree tannins, clove spice from 25% whole bunches and well-integrated oak. **Drink** 2023-2029 **Aic** 13%

Domaine Michel Mallard, 1er Cru Les Maréchaudes, Aloxe-Corton 94

What a début, confirming this domaine as a rising star of the Côte de Beaune. Fermented with 50% stems and aged in one-year-oak, it's savoury and complex

with fine tannins, raspberry sweetness and savoury complexity. Toppe au Vert 1er Cru scored 93. **Drink** 2020-2027 **Aic** 13%

Domaine Simon Bize, 1er Cru Fourneaux, Savigny-lès-Beaune 93

This is a serious Savigny (if that's not an oxymoron, since the village is known for the elegance of its wines) with impressive freshness and focus, fine-grained tannins and a lengthy spicy and sappy finish. **Drink** 2021-2027 **Aic** N/A

18 TOP VALUE Domaine de Bellene, Vieilles Vignes, Savigny-lès-Beaune 91

Nicolas Potel has done an impressive job with his domaine reds and whites in 2017. This alluringly perfumed Pinot Noir is light, sappy and racy with recurrant and raspberry fruit and just a hint of oak. **Drink** 2020-2024 **Aic** N/A

Côte Chalonnaise

Domaine Bruno Lorenzon, Pièce XV, Mercurey 1er Cru 94

A vineyard selection of Lorenzon's best Chardonnay. It's a brilliant white, showing stony and fresh mineral and tangerine notes with deftly integrated oak. His 1er Cru Clos de Barraults scored just as highly. **Drink** 2020-2026 **Aic** N/A

TOP VALUE Domaine Paul & Marie Jacquesson, 1er Cru Les Margotés, Rully 92

From one of Rully's best premiers crus. With well-judged 20% new wood, it has subtle struck-match aromas and floral top-notes, a leesy texture and crunchy acidity. **Drink** 2019-2021 **Aic** N/A ➤



19 **TOP VALUE** **Domaine Bruno Lorenzon, 1er Cru Truffière, Montagny** 92

A rare detour outside Mercurey for Bruno Lorenzon here (the vineyard belongs to his wife). This wine is smooth, profound and textured, with impressive density and scented oak. **Drink** 2020-2024 **Alc** N/A

Domaine Francois Lumpp, 1er Cru Clos du Cras Long, Givry 95

From one of the best locations in Givry, this is a fine, nuanced red with floral, complex berry fruit, a backbone of tannin, savoury oak and enough concentration to age in bottle. Lumpp's Clos Jus is equally excellent. **Drink** 2021-2028 **Alc** N/A

20 **TOP VALUE** **Domaine François Raquillet, Vieilles Vignes, Mercurey** 92

A superb old-vine cuvée: sweetly oaked, with an appealing interplay between red plum and strawberry fruit. Tangy acidity and Asian spices complete the picture. Great value. **Drink** 2020-2024 **Alc** N/A

TOP VALUE **Domaine Tupinier-Bautista, 1er Cru En Sazenay, Mercurey** 92

From 50-year-old vines, this offers great freshness and lightness of touch in 2017. It's balanced and elegant, with raspberry and redcurrant fruit and a spicy, peppery finish. **Drink** 2020-2025 **Alc** N/A

21 **TOP VALUE** **Domaine Faiveley, La Framboisière, Mercurey** 91

A textbook Mercurey from this much-improved Nuits-St-Georges-based négociant. Fermented with 20% whole bunches and aged in 20% new wood, it shows good underlying focus of clove

spice with sweet red cherry and raspberry fruit. **Drink** 2019-2023 **Alc** N/A

Mâconnais

22 **Château de Fuissé, Le Clos, Pouilly-Fuissé** 95

If you only buy one Pouilly-Fuissé in 2017, this should be it (followed by the château's Les Combettes). It's a world-class wine from old vines on a superb site. Elegant, focussed yet profound, it has everything in proportion, with flavours of grapefruit, pear and subtle baking spices. Brilliantly exciting. **Drink** 2020-2026 **Alc** 13.5%

Château des Rontets, Les Birbettes, Pouilly-Fuissé 94

Made with the oldest vines from the château, planted from the 1920s. It's a rich, dense wine with effortless complexity. Floral and complete, it has plenty of sappy acidity and minerality with understated oak. **Drink** 2020-2025 **Alc** 13%

Christophe Cordier, Ménétrières, Pouilly-Fuissé 94

From one of the best sites in Pouilly-Fuissé, soon to be promoted to premier cru. Toasty and rich, with layers sweet spice, honeyed concentration and supporting acidity, ending with a chalky bite. Cordier's Vers Cras and En Carmentrant are just as good. **Drink** 2019-2024 **Alc** 13%

TOP VALUE **Domaine Dominique Cornin, Chevrières, Pouilly-Fuissé** 94

The Cornin's top Pouilly-Fuissé, from a village soon to be elevated to premier cru status – and rightly so. As ever, the oak is



Olivier Leflaive sources grapes for his Bourgogne Les Sétilles white from his Puligny-Montrachet vineyards, among others

adroitly handled, complementing pithy, racy Chardonnay fruit with a hint of vanilla spice. **Drink** 2019-2023 **Alc** 13%

Clos des Vignes du Maynes, Manganite, Mâcon-Cruzille 94

I don't wish to damn this wine with faint praise, but it's up there with the world's best Gamays. Sourced from old vines and made without sulphur, the 90% whole bunches add texture and peppery spice to fine raspberry and red cherry fruit and savoury tannins. **Drink** 2020-2028 **Alc** 13%

Bourgogne

TOP VALUE **Bret Brothers, Aligato Cuvée Zen, Bourgogne Aligoté** 92

This biodynamically-farmed Aligoté is barrel fermented in old wood. It's pithy, crunchy and wonderfully transparent, with flavours of white pepper, apple and citrus peel followed by a bracing finish. **Drink** 2019-2023 **Alc** 12.5%

23 **TOP VALUE** **Albert Bichot, Secret de Famille Chardonnay** 90

This large and always enjoyable cuvée marries fruit from Meursault, Puligny-Montrachet and St-Romain. Lightly wooded, balanced, spicy and mineral-edged. **Drink** 2019-2022 **Alc** 13%

TOP VALUE **Olivier Leflaive, Les Sétilles** 90

A commendably reliable cuvée from vineyards in Rully, Meursault, Puligny-Montrachet and the Hautes Côtes. Lightly wooded and appealingly fresh with citrus zing. **Drink** 2019-2022 **Alc** 13%

Clos des Vignes du Maynes, Cuvée Auguste 93

Burgundy's first organic vineyard, planted in the 1950s. Unfiltered, unsulphured and lightly oaked, 90% whole bunches add

spice and texture to delicate, floral fruit. It's not cheap, but justifies its price tag. A revelation! **Drink** 2020-2024 **Drink** 13%

TOP VALUE **Domaine Duroché** 91

Supple and appealingly aromatic Pinot from Gevrey is bright, balanced and lightly oaked with the finesse typical of the Duroché wines. A classic 2017 at its youthful best. **Drink** 2019-2023 **Alc** 13%

24 **TOP VALUE** **Domaine François Lamarche, Bourgogne Hautes-Côtes de Nuits** 91

Delicate and refined, showing subtle reduction and real freshness of red cherry and pomegranate. No new oak. Sourced from a 1.53ha parcel above Vosne-Romanée. **Drink** 2019-2023 **Alc** 12.8%

TOP VALUE **Domaine Francois Lumpp, La Paulée** 91

From young vines in Givry, this is highly aromatic with well-integrated oak, 70% new. It's juicy and textured, with crunchy fruit, balancing acidity and a spring in its step. **Drink** 2020-2023 **Alc** 13%

TOP VALUE **Domaine Lafarge, L'Exception, Bourgogne Passetoutgrains** 91

From a co-planted 89-year-old parcel of equal parts Gamay and Pinot Noir, close to Meursault. It's elegant, sappy and refined, with caressing tannins and fresh, tangy cherry and raspberry fruit flavours. **Drink** 2019-2024 **Alc** 12.5%

Tim Atkin MW is Decanter's Burgundy correspondent and a contributing editor. He spent three weeks in the Côte d'Or in October and November 2018 tasting more than 800 wines for Decanter



Decanter PREMIUM For full tasting notes of the wines featured here, and more than 800 other reds and whites
 Tim Atkin MW tasted from the Côte d'Or and Chablis, PLUS comprehensive vintage analysis and all the prices and stockists on release – see Decanter.com/premium