

WINE News

Travel Off the Beaten Path for the Most Savvy Burgundy Buys



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A Fresh New Guide to Burgundy

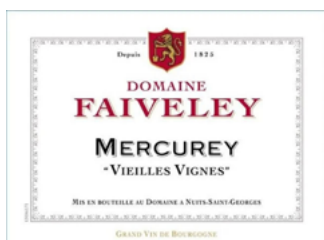
By Alex Pross, Burgundy Buyer



Burgundy is currently at a crossroads in much the same way Bordeaux was 20 years ago. The prices for wines from the top producers have skyrocketed thanks to a string of strong vintages, increased global demand, shrinking yields, and an overall wider appreciation for the greatness that is Burgundy.

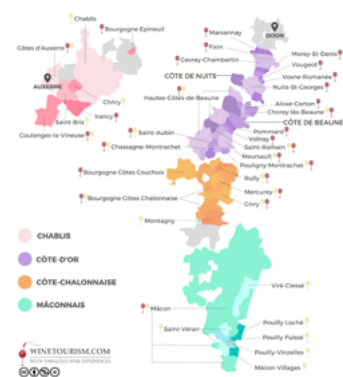
We understand it might be tempting to get discouraged when a wine that you've loved and consistently purchased is now 25 to 100% more expensive than it was just a few years ago. Rather than becoming pessimistic about the whole category, however, we hope you might consider this moment an opportunity to venture out and discover other appellations and under-the-radar producers. The quality has never been better across the board, and the lesser-known appellations are producing some astonishingly good values.

At K&L, that is exactly what we are here for—helping you discover the producers and regions that over-deliver both qualitatively and by price. There is now a plethora of amazing options currently in-stock from Burgundy in the \$20-\$60 range that are guaranteed to help you scratch that Burgundy itch!



A wonderful example of Burgundian value is the **2019 Domaine Faiveley Mercurey Rouge Vieilles Vignes \$34.99 90WA**, which comes from one of Burgundy's up-and-coming

appellations, Mercurey. This beautiful red wine flows across the palate with gorgeous notes of berry fruit, subtle spice, and licorice notes with earth, mineral, and a touch of oak. It is a balanced and superbly textured red. A red Burgundy that can easily appeal to both the Burgundian enthusiast as well as the fledgling Burgundy drinker who is just beginning to explore the myriad of appellations and styles Burgundy has to offer.



Another region we will be discussing extensively in today's newsletter —because it really is ground zero for white Burgundian values—is Pouilly-Fuissé, which is located in the Mâconnais in the southern portion of Burgundy. This region is on fire when it comes to producing incredible white wine values, and, with the recent 1er Cru elevation of numerous vineyards, the arrow is only pointing north on this amazing appellation. The **2020 Domaine Renaud Pouilly-Fuissé 1er**



Cru "Aux Chailloux" \$32.99 is a great representation of Pouilly-Fuissé from a 1er Cru vineyard. The wine displays wonderful aromas of white flowers and hints of hazelnut while the palate presents a striking mix of pristine orchard fruits with hints of citrus and a touch of oak to frame the beautiful fruit and spice notes. A fantastic introduction into the wonderful wines awaiting you in Pouilly-Fuissé.

Château de la Charrière Delivers Scorching Côte de Beaune Values



Château de la Charrière is run by the Yves Girardin family, cousins to famed Burgundy négociant Vincent Girardin. With impressive holdings in Santenay, Pommard, Beaune, and Chassagne-Montrachet, the family crafts wines of stunning value. Benoît

Girardin (pictured above) is the winemaker who took the reins at the family estate from his parents and seriously upped the quality. Like many of the younger generation in Burgundy and in contrast to the older generation, Benoît has a degree in enology and has extensive experience and technical training. This newer and more formally educated generation of winemakers is crafting better wines than their parents could ever have imagined.

One of the most heartening changes in Burgundy of late is the qualitative rise across the board of both Bourgogne Blanc and Rouge. These wines used to feel like an afterthought—made with grapes that didn't make the cut or get ripe enough from the 1er Cru vineyards on the "wrong side" of the road. Now most producers' Bourgognes are treated as an important introduction to their house style. As

first impression for many customers, these entry-level bottles are an important calling card for producers, and producers are finally putting their all into making them sing. The **2021 Château de la Charrière Bourgogne Blanc \$19.99** is a delicious introduction to the whites of Château de la Charrière! This medium-bodied white is flush with citrus and spice notes nicely accented by tannins and bright acidity.



The **2021 Château de la Charrière Bourgogne Rouge \$19.99** consistently overdelivers with a rush of pure red berry fruit, spice, and a hint of earth, giving it a touch of that classic Burgundian rusticity. These are two wonderful introductions to the fabulous wines of Château de la Charrière.



The range of reds from Château de la Charrière is impressive but what is even more impressive are the unbelievable values they represent. Multiple 1er cru offerings for under \$40 that delight and inspire! What is even more exciting is, while many other producers are shipping their 2021s we have a range of the spectacular 2020 vintage from

Château de la Charrière ready to go! At **\$23.99** the **2020 Château de la Charrière Santenay "Les Charmes Dessus" Rouge** is a great way to explore the wondrous values that can be found in Santenay. This once overlooked region is now home to many of the best values to be found in red Burgundy, and the "Les Charmes Dessus" is packed with fruit and alive with zippy acidity and crunchy tannins.



Climbing the ladder a bit we get to one of the top vineyards in Santenay, the **2020 Château de la Charrière Santenay 1er Cru "Clos Rousseau" \$27.99** is an absolute showstopper with gorgeous notes red fruits, plums and spice notes. The energy here is electric and the fruit almost shimmers as this impressively complex offering unfurls in the glass.

The big brother to the Clos Rousseau is the **2020 Château de la Charrière Santenay 1er Cru "Les Gravières" \$29.99**, which displays a wealth of red fruits, spice, and mineral notes all woven across a complex and multi-layered wine.



Transitioning to another often-overlooked appellation the **2020 Château de la Charrière Beaune 1er Cru "Clos des Vignes Franches" \$29.99** comes from a vineyard located on the hills surrounding the outskirts of the quaint town of Beaune. From these vineyards comes many world-class Burgundies, and the "Clos de Vignes Franches" is a sensational example with deeper and darker fruit notes

than the Santenays. "Clos des Vignes Franches" is loaded with black plum and dark cherry notes with more spice and a touch more oak in order to frame the wealth, depth, and complexity of fruit that can be found in this wine.

Lastly, we introduce the **2020 Château de la Charrière Pommard "Les Vignots" \$34.99**, which represents an unbelievable value. To be able to offer a Pommard for under \$50 is practically unheard of and to be able to do so for under \$35 and of this quality is astounding! The Pommard "Les Vignots" is a spicy and dark-fruited beast with loads of black plum, purple fruits, spice, and graphite notes that deftly meld into an amazingly approachable and beautifully drinking Pommard that showcases the outstanding values that Château de la Charrière crafts—Burgundy that's a pleasure to drink.



Formerly run by Yves Girardin, Château de la Charrière is now run by his young son Benoît, who has modernized the winemaking since his first vintage in 2011.

Château Vitallis Brings the Freshness from Pouilly-Fuissé

Among our stable of fabulous Direct Import producers is Château Vitallis in Fuissé whom I would easily rate as one of our top producers of white wine values along with Domaine Renaud in Fuissé and Gerard Tremblay in Chablis. The Dutron family has been running this estate since the 19th century, and the wines have never been better than they are right now! The father-son team of Denis and Maxime Dutron work as a dynamic duo to produce white wines of staggering fruit and dimension. They employ organic farming techniques across the estate and practice minimal intervention, allowing their farming and nature to speak through the quality of the wines. The result of this meticulous farming and winemaking are wines of freshness and fruit with enviable structure and body.



At \$16.99 the **2021 Château Vitallis Mâcon-Fuissé** is a show-stopping value. This wine is loaded with pure apple-tinged fruit with hints of pear and spice notes. Good acidity mixed with harmonic notes of wet stone and earth give this beauty and depth rarely seen in an under \$20 white Burgundy.



views become more spectacular as we ascend. The **2021 Château Vitallis Pouilly-Fuissé "Les Vignes du Château"** \$24.99 as the name translates "Vines From Around the Château," this delicious offering comes from a walled-in vineyard directly across the road from the main house. The wine sees 30% new oak and 70% neutral, imbuing this wine with notes of acacia blossom, citrus and spice. The palate is a vibrant display of citrus and minerals with wonderful acidity and great energy and drive.



A stone's throw away from the village of Fuissé is St. Véran, where we have the **2021 Château Vitallis St-Véran "A La Côte"** \$19.99 which always presents a bit more depth and structure than the Mâcon-Fuissé. The fruit here is more subtle and leans towards orchard fruits with a hint of citrus zest and the wine has a more elegant feel than the pronounced fruit that is apparent on the Mâcon-Fuissé. If the

Mâcon-Fuissé is a Corvette then the St-Véran feels more Porsche-like in its presentation.

The **2021 Château Vitallis Pouilly-Fuissé Vieilles Vignes** \$29.99 always feels like a big step up from Les Vignes du Château. Here we have vines as old as 85 years growing in clay-limestone soil and aged in exclusively oak barrels (some new, some old) for about a year. On the nose the wine has notes of pear, hazelnuts and white flowers, while the palate is flush with flavors of apple, pear and candied grapefruit with brioche and hazelnut notes.



The finish is long with echoes of both spice and fruit slowly slipping away as the last vestiges of the wine disappear from your mouth. The quality of this Vieilles Vignes has skyrocketed the last few vintages.



The grand finale is the **2020 Château Vitallis Pouilly-Fuissé 1er Cru "Les Perrières"** \$34.99 which comes from one of the top 1er Cru vineyard sites in Pouilly-Fuissé. I have always loved this wine and the 2020 is phenomenal with a richness rarely found in Pouilly-Fuissé — the wine beguiles the nose with hints of iodine, grapefruit and brioche, while the palate is rich and oily with lemon crème and orchard fruit notes along with spice and oak accents. A powerful Pouilly-Fuissé that confidently supports the idea of 1er Cru vineyards in Pouilly-Fuissé.



Domaine Jean-Michel Giboulot Sizzles in Savigny-lès-Beaune

The appellation of Savigny-lès-Beaune has been overlooked for way too long. Yet, thanks to climate change, technological winemaking advancements, and a new generation of fastidious producers, Savigny-lès-Beaune is quickly becoming ground zero for Burgundian wine values.

Despite its long history in the region, Domaine Jean-Michel Giboulot has been exceptionally capable at adapting to the modern winemaking scene. Third-generation Jean-Michel Giboulot took over his family winery in 1982, where he now farms organically, seamlessly melding both modern and traditional winemaking to produce wines that favor finesse over power. They have prestigious holdings in many of the top 1er Cru vineyards in Savigny-lès-Beaune.

The 2020 vintage at Domaine Jean-Michel Giboulot is an absolute revelation. Without a doubt they are the best set of wines he has ever produced. Everything is in perfect harmony—fruit, tannin, spice, and acidity all combine making his 2020s absolutely sublime. With the 2021s now landing we are seeing another excellent vintage, albeit a distinctively different style of wines. The 2020s are more powerful and deep, while this set of 2021s are fresh, bright, and surprisingly open for business from the moment they hit the glass. This is exactly what makes Burgundy so exciting—different vintages expressing different styles across a range of wines.



A wine I wished we could get more of is the **2021 Domaine Jean-Michel Giboulot Hautes-Côtes de Beaune Rouge** \$23.99, as it's an ideal introduction to the style of Domaine Jean-Michel Giboulot. Always an alluringly deep shade of red, this wine has a seductive nose of cola, crushed rock, and macerated berry aromas. The palate is alive with zippy acidity and lively tannins, which perfectly complement the complex layers of red

and dark berry fruit that shower the palate. A great value that sells out quickly, this is a year-in-and-year-out winner!

The **2021 Domaine Jean-Michel Giboulot Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Grands Liards"** \$29.99 is a great entry-level offering that should wet your palate for the pricier 1er Cru offerings. The "Aux Grands Liards" is a pretty wine with elegant red fruit notes, fresh acidity, fine tannins, and a medium body. The wine is exceptionally approachable and the fruit has an elegant presence, imparting a light and fresh feel. This is the perfect everyday red Burgundy that can pair with a wide array of foods.



The meat of the Domaine Jean-Michel Giboulot portfolio is the 1er Crus from Savigny-lès-Beaune. We have an impressive trio of 1er Crus from Savigny-lès-Beaune as well as two other stellar offerings from appellations worthy of note. The **2021 Domaine Jean-Michel Giboulot Savigny-lès-Beaune 1er Cru "Aux Fournaux"** \$34.99 is such a wonderful wine with gorgeous fruit notes and beautiful aromas of spice and fresh strawberries. One of



Jean-Michel Giboulot is the third generation in his family to make wine. In his hands, the domaine has switched to organic and modern methods.

the hallmarks of Giboulot's Savigny-lès-Beaune wines is strawberry notes, and, here in the Fournaux, it is beautifully present with layers of strawberry and rhubarb along with spice. The balanced mingling of fruit, minerals, and earth highlight the perfection and elegance of the 2021 vintage.



Going up the ladder in terms of price we have the **2021 Domaine Jean-Michel Giboulot Savigny-lès-Beaune 1er Cru "Aux Gravains"** \$39.99, a decidedly more masculine offering with dark-berry fruit accented by fresh macerated strawberries and a wealth of crushed stone and forest underbrush notes. This wine is rich and more powerful than the Fournaux but is still approachable and infinitely drinkable in its youth.

The last of our trio of stand-out 1er Cru Savigny-lès-Beaune is the **2021 Domaine Jean-Michel Giboulot Savigny-lès-Beaune 1er Cru "Aux Serpentières"** \$39.99, which always feels more complex and structured than the Gravains. The fruit here is still of the dark berry variety with strawberry notes, but this wine weaves the fruit around a note of chocolate and mocha with prevalent spice and oak accents.



The **2021 Domaine Jean-Michel Giboulot Beaune 1er Cru "Clos du Roi"** \$44.99 is a stunning 1er Cru from Beaune that delivers a depth of fruit with spice notes rarely found for under \$50! This wine is big and structured with the dark fruit notes synonymous with the best Beaune vineyards.

Showcasing Pommard in all of its glory, the **2021 Domaine Jean-Michel Giboulot Pommard "En Brescul"** \$44.99 is dark, rich, and powerful with black fruit and graphite notes—an exquisite homage to Pommard for a steal of a deal!



Beaujolais: The World's Most Versatile Red

Tucked in the southern reaches of Burgundy, Beaujolais is a place unlike any other in the region. Its wines are decidedly different than its northern neighbors—famously, Beaujolais wines are made from Gamay and not Pinot or Chardonnay. For far too long, Gamay has been misunderstood thanks to Philip the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, who in 1395 banished Gamay from the Burgundian appellation. He pronounced the grape to be “a very bad and disloyal variety.” As a result, Gamay and, consequently, Beaujolais, have been the “Rodney Dangerfield” of the wine world ever since—never getting any respect!

Their annual Nouveau releases of freshly harvested and pressed young wine hasn't necessarily helped; in many consumers' minds, Beaujolais is merely simple and quaffable. But once you dig in to the real wines of Beaujolais, there's no turning back! What you'll find are wines that are both crunchy and complex, that are among the most food-friendly on the planet.

The fact that Beaujolais is underappreciated does have a few advantages: first and foremost, it's eminently affordable to buy wine from this region. The soil of Beaujolais consists mostly of granite and schist in the north and marl (clay-based soil) to the south. This unique composition is ideal to grow Gamay, which results in medium-bodied wines with slightly more acidity than average, along with medium tannin levels. This variety can pair with a myriad of cuisines, many of which are classically difficult to pair, such as Indian, Mexican, BBQ, any spicy Asian cuisines, as well as almost all meats. It can be served at room temperature or chilled to be enjoyed as a great summertime red. The versatility of Beaujolais never ends!

Beaujolais really shines in its incredible value, and we have numerous fantastic offerings in the \$10-\$20 range from almost all 10 Cru appellations. Jean-Michel Dupré is a humble man who started with just two hectares that he inherited from his father. Jean-Michel tirelessly worked and slowly added vineyards in Morgon, Regnie,

Beaujolais, and Beaujolais-Villages, where he fashions exceptional values. The **2021 Domaine Jean-Michel Dupré "Vignes de 1940" Beaujolais-Villages \$11.99** comes from vines planted in 1940 which give this wine impeccable depth and balance with beautiful cranberry, cherry, and subtle hints of earth, stone, and underbrush. This is an amazing value!



Not to be outdone at **2021 Domaine Jean-Michel Dupré "Vignes de 1935" Morgon \$13.99 92WE** is a tad more muscular than the “Vignes de 1940” given the fact that it comes from Morgon with meatier, darker blue fruits and spice, this richly textured wine flows seamlessly across the palate with ample fruit and subtle tannins.



Stepping up a notch to Cru vineyard status we have the **2020 Domaine Jean-Michel Dupré Morgon "Côte du Py" \$17.99 93WE 93JS**, which represents a stunning value. It shows the depth, structure, and complexity



of a wine that costs three times as much. This gorgeous Cru Morgon, with its blackberry and dark plum fruit, seamless palate, and suave tannins, is a wonderful Morgon.



The hits keep on coming with two wines from the intrepid Robert Perroud from Brouilly. With family holdings and a home, winery, and vineyards all located within a stone's throw of each other, Robert Perroud crafts fantastic Brouillys. The **2021 Domaine Robert Perroud Côte de Brouilly "Foudre No. 5" \$13.99**

91WE shows wonderful lift and energy with berry fruit and mouth-watering acidity. The **2021 Domaine Robert Perroud "Amethyste" Brouilly \$15.99 90WE** shows more structure and depth with firmer tannins and lush blackberry fruit notes.

At **\$16.99** the **2020 Domaine Franck Besson "Le Clos du Fief" Juliéna \$16.99 93WE** shows Pinot Noir-like delicacy and beautiful red fruits one expects from a stellar Juliéna. This drinks way above its meager price!



The **2021 Château de Juliéna "Bessay" Juliéna \$17.99** is an organic wine that is made without added sulfur. The fruit was grown on old vines, which contributes here to great acidity, pretty black fruits, and a wild, earthy feel that harkens back to Beaujolais of a different time.



Lastly, we have the **2021 Château de Javernand "Indigène" Chiroubles \$19.99 91JS** another organically grown, no sulfur added wine that displays dynamic red fruits, violet aromas as well as a wild earthy tinge and a hint of spice. All these wonderful Beaujolais are affordable, unique, and diverse and will handsomely reward you both in the glass and in the bank account.



Beaujolais is a staff favorite for its versatile, delicious crushability. It works for any season!

On Their Way: 2021 William Fèvre Chablis

If asked to name the top three producers in Chablis it would be Raveneau, Dauvissaut, and William Fèvre, with the wines of William Fèvre selling for a fraction of what the other two sell for. What William Fèvre does is amazing—to consistently produce Chablis of the highest quality and fair pricing for this long makes this a producer that serious wine enthusiasts need to have in their cellar.

The 2021 vintage was challenging with frost, hail, and mildew. Fortunately, the vintage was saved by the perfect amount of sunny weather at the end, which resulted in a vintage that is more approachable and elegant than the last three “solar” vintages that produced immensely hot and full-bodied wines. The 2021s are a return to more traditional Chablis with lower alcohol levels and higher acidity. Fans of vintages of yesteryear will absolutely love these wines. The critics all agree and the wines have critical acclaim from nearly all of the reviewers.



2021 William Fèvre Pre-Arrival

These wines are pre-arrival, due in September or October 2023

2021 Domaine William Fèvre Chablis 1er Cru "Montmains" \$49.99
92JG 91DC 90-93BH 90-92VN 90-92JM

2021 Domaine William Fèvre Chablis 1er Cru "Vaillons" \$49.99
93DC 92JG 91-93BH 91-93VN 91-93JM

2021 Domaine William Fèvre Chablis 1er Cru "Vaulorent" \$64.99
95DC 94JG 94TA 92-94BH 92-94JM 90-92VN

2021 Domaine William Fèvre Chablis 1er Cru "Montée de Tonnerre" \$69.99
94DC 94JG 94TA 92-94BH 91-94JM 91-93VN

2021 Domaine William Fèvre Chablis Grand Cru "Bougros" \$79.99
95JG 94TA 91-94BH 91-94JM 91-93VN 92DC

2021 Domaine William Fèvre Chablis Grand Cru "Les Preuses" \$99.99
96JG 95DC 95TA 94-96VN 93-96BH 92-95JM

2021 Domaine William Fèvre Chablis Grand Cru "Valmur" \$99.99
95JG 95TA 93-95VN 93-95BH 92-95JM 92DC

2021 Domaine William Fèvre Chablis Grand Cru "Vaudésir" \$99.99
94JG 94TA 93DC 93-95BH 92-94JM 92-94VN

2021 Domaine William Fèvre Chablis Grand Cru "Les Clos" \$149.99
96JG 96TA 93-96BH 93-95VN 92-96JM



K&L REDWOOD CITY

3005 El Camino Real, Redwood City, CA 94061

P (650) 364-8544 **F** (650) 364-4687

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Email: customerservice@klwines.com

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1400 Vine Street, Hollywood, CA 90028

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