

WINE News

Beautiful Burgundy That Will Not Break the Bank!



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- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 2 | Puligny's Paul Pernot | 6 | Terres Secretes |
| 3 | Langoureaux in St-Aubin | 7 | Bavard & La Chablisienne |
| 4 | Morot & Charrière | 8 | 2020 Bouchard Pre-Arrivals |
| 5 | New Beaujolais | | |

The Ship Has Finally Landed!

By Alex Pross, Burgundy Buyer



These past two years have been quite challenging! Internationally, we've had inflation, supply-chain issues, and a pandemic. Burgundy-wise, a trio of strong vintages in 2018, 2019, and 2020 coupled with progressively smaller crop size has led to price increases and shortages of Burgundy both white and red. A perfect storm!

Luckily, at K&L we have long standing relationships with producers throughout Burgundy, and those have allowed us not only to procure good quantities of great drinking Burgundy but also to keep prices down. As I taste through the wines arriving from Paul Pernot, Sylvain Langoureaux, Albert Morot, Domaine de la Charriere, Jacques Bavard, and a bevy of Beaujolais and Macon producers—all coming in at unbelievably good prices—all I can say is to load up on these wonderful offerings! With a super small and variable 2021 vintage and a 2022 vintage that has already seen possible frost damage, the next two vintages will be a crapshoot both qualitatively and quantity-wise. In other words, the opportunity to get the fantastic 2019 and 2020s that are just landing should be pounced upon.

We have been breathlessly awaiting several large containers full of goodies to land, and it's been hard to contain my excitement. Just landed: the amazing Puligny-Montrachets from Paul Pernot, the brilliant St-Aubins from Sylvain Langoureaux, the seductive 2019s Beaunes from Albert Morot. All should effectively scratch that Burgundian itch!



One of the best deals we currently have in-stock from Burgundy is the **2018 Domaine Faiveley Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes \$49.99 91-94JM 93DC 93WS**

93JS 92WE 90WA is a stunning value and drinking wonderfully right now! Loaded with red and blue fruits as well as tell-tale cola notes this is a classically-styled Gevrey Chambertin that stacks up well against many others 1er Cru offerings for a fraction of those prices! Sourced from multiple vineyard holdings throughout the appellation this is a Burgundy that can both appeal to the enthusiast as well as the novice drinker.



The 2019 vintage may well be a watershed moment qualitatively for red Burgundy and the **2019 Domaine Faiveley Mercurey 1er Cru "Clos de Myglans" \$49.99 93JS 92WA 92WS 92DC** is a great example of this. Faiveley has invested considerable resources in Mercurey including a winemaking facility which means the fruit is vinified on-site rather than trucked North for processing and the results are impressive. Deep red fruits, spice and the tell-tale notes of graphite and iron pulsate throughout this dazzling Mercurey!

The Majesty of Puligny's Paul Pernot



At over 90 years of age, Paul Pernot and his eponymous winery are easily producing some of the best values in the high-rent district of Puligny-Montrachet. The long standing joke going around is Paul Pernot's sons may retire before he does, as this remarkable gentleman is still firmly in charge of his impressively run family operation. With Paul still at the helm, the rest of the Pernot family has branched out into their own projects, such as his son's project Pernot-Belcard (Philippe Pernot and his wife); as well as his granddaughter's impressive project Domaine Alvina Pernot. Both these undertakings are thanks to the family's large holdings throughout Puligny-Montrachet, especially the prized 1er Cru vineyard "Les Folatières." Paul Pernot's wines are focused, pure, complex, and well-structured, clearly showcasing the unique vineyards and terroir of Puligny-Montrachet.



One of the unsung heroes of the Paul Pernot portfolio is the **2020 Domaine Paul Pernot Bourgogne Aligoté \$19.99**. It is an astounding value and a classic interpretation of a grape varietal that has recently been enjoying renewed consumer enthusiasm. When we tasted this as a staff a few weeks ago, several people commented that this was the best iteration of the grape they'd ever tasted. High in acid and beautifully structured, this wine displays herbal notes, green fruit such as Granny Smith apples and kiwi, as well as the tell-tale

limestone accents.



A wonderful introduction to the Paul Pernot style is the **2020 Domaine Paul Pernot Côte d'Or Bourgogne Blanc \$24.99**. Displaying gorgeous orchard fruits trending toward apples, this medium-bodied white is a great everyday Burgundy.

As we move to his wines with the Puligny-Montrachet appellation, the best place to start is the **2020 Domaine Paul Pernot Puligny-Montrachet \$59.99**—a mind-blowing value! Most entry-level Puligny-Montrachet is easily \$20+ more per bottle and this gives a

great glimpse into what wonderful things await us from the 1er Cru offerings. Pure and elegant with orchard fruits and subtle spice notes, this refined white shimmers with energy and depth.



Our first 1er Cru offering is the **2020 Domaine Paul Pernot Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru "Champ Canet" \$79.99 93JM**, which seamlessly flows with aromas of orange oil and white flowers moving to notes of peaches and pears on the palate. This pretty white is hard to resist!

More structured with hints of mint, oak, and pear flavors, the **2020 Domaine Paul Pernot Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru "Clos de la Garenne" \$79.99 91JM 91WA** showcases the depth and power of the Garenne vineyard.

The largest holding and as usual my favorite the **2020 Domaine Paul Pernot Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru "Les Folatières" \$79.99 93JM 92WA** is a showstopper. Depth and power are the hallmarks here with layered fruit notes as well as an unfolding finish that highlights the deft use of oak and lingering fruit finishes.



Always masculine in style and substance the **2020 Domaine Paul Pernot Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru "Les Pucelles" \$119.99 91JM 90WA** has a toasty and creamy feel with notes of green apples and hazelnuts merging as this behemoth of a wine unfurls.



While Paul Pernot's calling card may be his impressive line-up of 1er Cru Puligny-Montrachets, he also fashions some noteworthy Grand Crus—especially given the price in comparison to many of his neighbors. The **2020 Domaine Paul Pernot Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru \$279.99 93WA 92JM** comes from the Chassagne side and is a large-scaled offering. The depth of pear, peach, and citrus fruit is amazing as it seamlessly evolves on the palate to reveal spice and toast notes. The wine can be enjoyed in its youth, but it will definitely age well and reveal wonders if one has the patience to cellar.

From one of the smaller Grand Cru vineyard the **2020 Domaine Paul Pernot Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru \$259.99 95JM 93WA** is a rare offering that will surely sell out extremely fast! The top offering this year from Paul Pernot is a seamless wine that deftly reveals pure orchard fruits, pure mineral notes, and subtle spice accents that weave into a perfectly balanced palate. An astonishingly great wine, this is truly worthy of the Grand Cru moniker.



Sylvain Langoureau and St-Aubin Should Be on Your Radar

If there is one Burgundian producer that we carry at K&L that I think provides the greatest bang-for-your-buck it is Domaine Sylvain Langoureau. Husband-and-wife-team Sylvain and Nathalie specialize in coaxing out the best possible qualities from the array of St-Aubin vineyards they have access to. St-Aubin has always had great promise because of its location, nestled above Chassagne-Montrachet and Puligny-Montrachet as well as bordering several Grand Cru vineyards. St-Aubins often sell at a fraction of the price of those other wines. The wines of Domaine Sylvain Langoureau offer an amazing value for consumers searching for great Burgundian typicity at a great price.



With a dazzling array of St-Aubins the 2020 lineup from Domaine Sylvain Langoureau really shines. The **2020 Domaine Sylvain Langoureau St-Aubin**

\$29.99 is a wonderful introduction to not only the house style at Domaine Sylvain Langoureau but also to the appellation of St-Aubin. Orchard fruits, subtle hints of spice and minerality all coalesce into a seamless package that

really showcases what the humble appellation of St-Aubin can accomplish.

With an impressive quintet of 1er Cru offerings this is truly where Domaine Sylvain Langoureau shines and where you'll find the greatest values in their portfolio. My perennial favorite is the **2020 Domaine Sylvain Langoureau St-Aubin 1er Cru "En Remilly" \$39.99**, which owes a lot of its genetic makeup to it coming from a vineyard that is the continuation of the Le Montrachet vineyard as it flows west over the slopes. Powerful with great depth and structure, it exudes intense orchard fruits with sandalwood spice and crushed stone accents.

A bit more elegant and refined is the **2020 Domaine Sylvain Langoureau St-Aubin 1er Cru "Bas Vermarain" \$39.99**. Drinking these two side by side really shows that St-Aubin can run the gamut from power to grace. The Bas Vermarain shows freshly picked peaches and wet stone accents all nestled against good acidity.



Another winner in the Sylvain Langoureau portfolio is the **2020 Domaine Sylvain Langoureau St-Aubin 1er Cru "Sur Gamay" \$39.99**. The vineyard sits high on the hill above both "En Remilly" and "Chateniere" and produces wines with many of the same attributes as the "En Remilly," but with a slightly slimmer build and a tad more fruit accents throughout.



Sandwiched between Puligny-Montrachet and Chassagne-Montrachet, St-Aubin provides excellent terroir at affordable prices.

The **2020 Domaine Sylvain Langoureau St-Aubin 1er Cru "Les Sentiers du Clou" \$39.99** sits just above the 1er Cru "Les Frionnes." The 2020 has a focused feel of white flowers and citrus with a subtle note of wood and minerals.

Pulling up the rear in more than one sense is the **2020 Domaine Sylvain Langoureau St-Aubin 1er Cru "Derrière Chez Edouard" \$39.99** feels the most regal with pure orchard fruits, white flowers and crushed stone flavors that cascade over the palate.

While Domaine Sylvain Langoureau is known for the tremendous values their St-Aubins represent they also make some fabulous value-oriented Chassagne-Montrachets. The trio we have are all under \$50—which makes them some of the most affordable Chassagne-Montrachets around! The **2020 Domaine Sylvain Langoureau Chassagne-Montrachet "Les Houillères" \$49.99** consistently displays a wealth of orchard fruits trending towards pear accents with subtle spice and sandalwood accents.

The other two Chassagne-Montrachets are **2020 Domaine Sylvain Langoureau Chassagne-Montrachet "Les Perclos" \$49.99** and **2020 Domaine Sylvain Langoureau Chassagne-Montrachet "Les Pierres" \$49.99**. Both come from vineyards that border each other in the northeast corner of Chassagne-Montrachet. The wines share many similar characteristics such as apple, pear, and citrus notes with hazelnut and brioche accents that flow seamlessly throughout these perfectly-balanced whites.

A great way to fight inflation is to purchase the amazing values from Domaine Sylvain Langoureau which are over-performers for their humble price points.



Morot in the Heart of Beaune

The town of Beaune lies in the middle of Burgundy and acts almost as the demarcation between the Côte de Nuits and Côte de Beaune regions. The vineyards that can be seen dotting the hillsides above the town of Beaune are the birthplace of some of the best red wine values you can find from Burgundy today. The Beaune 1er Cru vineyards are focused on producing great, fruit-forward and usually early drinking red wines of both substance and complexity with supple tannins and sweet fruit.

Domaine Albert Morot has quietly been putting together quite an impressive line-up of 1er cru offerings that are simultaneously great and, most importantly, affordable! Geoffroy Choppin de Janvry took over in 2000 from his aunt Françoise Choppin and immediately went to work upgrading farming techniques, vineyard management, and winemaking procedures. All the vineyards are now ploughed, have been farmed organically since 2009, and were certified organic in 2015. The grapes are 100% destemmed and vinified over three weeks including a cool pre-maceration and aged 14 months in barrel with 30% new oak. The resulting wines are plush, loaded with fruit but retain a classically rustic Burgundian feel.

We have a quartet of 1er Cru offerings from Domaine Albert Morot from the 2019 vintage all at a steal of a price of \$44.99 each. I loved the 2018s from this property but, in all honesty, I think the 2019s are a step above, with deeper more sensual fruit and a tad more complexity and suave tannins. The first wine of our quartet is the



Geoffroy Coppin de Janvry and his puppy on a visit to Beaune in 2019.

2019 Domaine Albert Morot Beaune 1er Cru “Les Aigrots” 92WE 91BH borders the most famous of all Beaune 1er Cru vineyards, “Le Clos des Mouches.” and is also a stone’s throw away from the Pommard appellation which shows in the deep purple fruit, mineral notes, and tightly wound structure. This is the most powerful of the four 1er Crus and will need the most cellar time as well.

The **2019 Domaine Albert Morot Beaune 1er Cru “Les Marconnets” 89-91VN 92BH** comes from a vineyard located on the other side of the appellation close to Savigny-lès-Beaune. Red-fruited with wonderful spice accents, this is a pretty, elegant red that shows a wealth of complexity but is also open-knit and accessible in its youth.

One of the more famous vineyards is the **2019 Domaine Albert Morot Beaune 1er Cru “Les Teurons” 93BH**, located smack dab in the heart of the Beaune appellation. In 2019, it produced a wine that has everything—red fruits that feel crunchy and fresh with spice and floral notes as well as wonderful length and complexity. It’s an awesome Beaune wine that represents a steal at only \$45 a bottle.

We finish with a wine from one of the smaller Beaune 1er Cru vineyards, the **2019 Domaine Albert Morot Beaune 1er Cru “Toussaints” 92BH**. It’s nestled between the 1er Cru vineyards of Les Greves and Les Cent Vignes, which explains the wine’s dazzling array of red fruits and floral accents on the nose with dark cherry and red berry fruit flavors. Structured and complex, this wine has excellent harmony between fruit, minerality and tannins with a long, fresh finish.

You can’t go wrong with any of these four outstanding Beaune 1er Crus from Domaine Albert Morot and buying all of them is a great introduction to the Albert Morot house style—plus it makes for a great intellectual endeavor to learn about the various 1er Crus of the Beaune appellation.



A Stunning Lineup from Château de la Charrière in Santenay

Year-in-and-year-out Château de la Charrière (Yves Girardin) fashions some of the best Burgundian values we offer at K&L. The Yves Girardin family are the cousins of famed vintner Vincent Girardin, and they make wines out of the humble appellation of Santenay. Both their whites as well as their reds drink easily far above their prices and it they seem to get a bit better with each subsequent vintage.

What helps to explain the qualitative increases seen here is the young winemaker Benoît Girardin took over from his parents several years ago. Armed with an enology degree he was able to build upon what his parents were doing—humble farming with little technical winemaking—and elevated the quality of wines dramatically. The wines of Château de la Charrière are a great introduction to Burgundian style, they have pretty fruit, some rusticity but are balanced and pure and can appeal to both the Burgundian enthusiast as well as a fan of California style wines.



The red wines at Château de la Charrière really shine in 2019 and they are in a great place right now, they’re open for business and drinking great! The **2019 Château de la Charrière Santenay “Les Charmes Dessus” Rouge \$22.99** is a great introduction to the wonderful values found in Santenay as well as crafted by Château de la Charrière. The Charmes Dessus is a great value as it borders two 1er Cru vineyards and delivers bright red fruit, spice, and mineral

notes with good depth and complexity. In effect you're getting as close to a 1er Cru experience possible while paying village-level pricing.

A perennial favorite of mine is the **2019 Château de la Charrière Santenay 1er Cru "Les Gravières" \$27.99**—full of pretty red fruit followed by spice notes and a hint of earth and dried herbs. It literally shimmers with energy and vibrancy with such pretty red fruits flowing throughout. A great partner in this dynamic duo of values is the **2019 Château de la Charrière Santenay 1er Cru "Clos Rousseau" \$27.99**, which comes from a vineyard bordering along the Maranges appellation. Deeper and darker with a richer concentration of dark red fruits, this is a larger-scaled red that still displays incredibly beautiful red fruit but on a slightly broader package than the Les Gravières.

The final two reds in the lineup come from northern vineyards much closer to the town of Beaune. The **2019 Château de la Charrière Beaune 1er Cru "Clos des Vignes Franches" \$29.99** is a truly remarkable value—a 1er Cru from Beaune for under \$30! Showcasing everything that is great about a Beaune 1er Cru, it displays rich red fruit flavors, a wealth of spice and floral notes with great complexity and admirable structure.

We finish off the tour of Charrière reds with the **2019 Château de la Charrière Pommard "Les Vignots" \$39.99**. It represents both a stunning value and a surprisingly open-knit Pommard. This wine has all the depth and structure one expects from a Pommard but, rather than being tight and hard in its youth, there's a wealth of gorgeous red fruits that unwind across the palate. A wonderful way to finish off a stunning lineup of red values one after another.

Not to be outdone there's an amazing trio of whites as well. A great entry-level offering and everyday drinking white the **2020 Château de la Charrière Bourgogne Blanc \$16.99** explodes on the palate



with orchard fruits, citrus notes and subtle spice and hazelnuts. Well balanced and medium-bodied this is a great inexpensive white Burgundy that offers a great drinking experience.



Known mostly for their reds the appellation of Santenay also produces some excellent white wines as well and the **2019 Château de la Charrière Santenay Blanc 1er Cru "Beauregard" \$29.99** is a complex white with Asian pear, hazelnuts, spice and white flower aromas. Rich and deeply structured, this is a white that unfurls in the glass to

reveal complexity rarely found in a white Burgundy under \$30.

Let's finish on a high note: the **2020 Château de la Charrière Chassagne-Montrachet "Les Champs Morjot" \$39.99** is an outrageous bargain. With the skyrocketing prices of Chassagne-Montrachets, it's really unheard of to find a wine of this caliber and pedigree for under \$40. Glorious citrus aromas and flavors duel with white flowers and lanolin notes to produce a great Chassagne Montrachet that will only be available for a short while before it inevitably sells out.

The New Beaujolais Has Nothing to Do with Nouveau



Jean-Michele Dupré, one of the best value producers in Beaujolais.

Given that we live in a time when an entry-level Bourgogne Rouge costs at least in the mid-\$20s but often breaks the \$30, \$40, or, gulp...even \$50 price point, the values in Beaujolais will absolutely blow your mind. The number of small farmers fashioning great, easy-drinking red wines that are extremely versatile and just flat-out delicious is increasing every day.

Much like the renaissance going on in the Mâcon and Pouilly-Fuissé, Beaujolais is seeing a strong movement from the younger generation, who

are taking over from their parents with advantages such as enology school under their belts. This generation has been intent on learning the best winemaking techniques and eschewing pesticides for organic

and biodynamic farming—and they have been rewarded by a global increase in demand for their wines. All these factors have led us to a moment when it's never been better to drink Beaujolais.

Upon meeting Jean-Michel Dupré of his eponymous domaine, the first thing you'll notice are the powerful, rough, cracked hands he's earned from working the vineyards. Like many of the producers here, you'll often find him out in the field tending to his vines in the villages of Beaujolais, Regnie, and Morgon. The values from this producer cannot be overstated. The **2020 Domaine Jean-Michel Dupré Beaujolais "Terre Noire" Vieilles Vignes \$11.99** is from a vineyard located on the northwest edge of the region with an altitude of 500 meters. In 2020, this site has produced a deep garnet-colored red with notes of blackcurrant, blackberry, and blueberry flavors along with hints of undergrowth—for under \$12 bucks!

From slightly older vines (over 70 years of age) comes the **2020 Domaine Jean-Michel Dupré "Vignes de 1940" Beaujolais-Villages**

\$12.99. A profusion of dark red fruits, spice, and a nice mineral backbone all combine to create a seamless and sensual Beaujolais Vieilles Vignes.

We move onto the appellation of Morgon with the first of two fantastic offerings the **2019 Domaine Jean-Michel Dupré “Vignes de 1935” Morgon \$13.99 92WE**. It’s an incredible value: to be able to get an old-vine Morgon offering for less than \$20 is a steal—but for under \$15 you’d be wise to purchase this by the case! Deep black fruits, spice, and a mineral, earthy finish make this a great young Morgon.

Saving the best for last we have the **2019 Domaine Jean-Michel Dupré Morgon “Côte du Py” \$17.99 93WE** comes from a top Cru vineyard—easily one of the most famous vineyard sites in all of Beaujolais. Almost magenta in color, this beautiful wine combines gorgeous red fruit notes with subtle spice and crushed stone notes all in a firm, rich finish.

Another wonderful producer stationed in Morgon is Laurent Gauthier. Blessed with a great array of vineyards Laurent focuses on making fruit-forward, complex offerings that can be enjoyed young or cellared for a few years in order to reveal further complexity. The **2020 Domaine Laurent Gauthier Chiroubles “Chatenay” \$13.99 91WE**

has great complexity and depth with ripe, rich blackberry notes. This is a great springtime red. For a wine with a little more age on it is the **2017 Domaine Laurent Gauthier “Javernière” Morgon \$19.99** is a stunning wine made from a plot at the bottom of the famed “Côte du Py” vineyard. Ripe, complex and expansive, this has softened and gained beautiful complexity in the bottle after five years of aging.

The **2020 Château de Juliéas “Tradition” Juliéas \$13.99** comes from the appellation Juliéas, one of the most northern appellations in Beaujolais. The wine is a pretty red in the glass with raspberry, red cherry, red licorice, and mint notes. It’s complex, elegant, and a wonderful example of a fine Julienas. Lastly, we have the **2020 Château de Javernand “Indigène” Chiroubles \$17.99 91JS** is a return to a more classic Beaujolais profile: rustic, wild, gamey, with notes of earth and fresh berries. This is a fun, old-school Beaujolais.



Unlocking the Secret of Burgundian Values

Terres Secretes is a cooperative located just on the southern outskirts of the town of Beaune. This cooperative is fashioning some of the best values I have come across in my travels in Burgundy. Their portfolio concentrates on the Mâcon and its numerous small, village-level whites as well as an exciting bevy of reds from vineyards located in the Mâcon and Côte de Beaune regions. Much like one of our favorite cooperatives, La Chablisienne, Terres Secretes holds its farmers to a very high standard. In the last few years, the quality here has skyrocketed. To be able to offer such high-quality wines for these prices is insane, and they are the absolutely perfect daily drinkers.

One of the best selling wines in recent memory was the 2017 Vignerons des Terres Secrètes Bourgogne Blanc “Les Préludes,” which we truly couldn’t keep in stock and has long since sold out. Luckily we have a very worthy follow up in the **2018 Vignerons des Terres Secretes Bourgogne Blanc “Les Preludes” \$12.99**, earning 90 points from Decanter and a Gold Medal in the 2021 Decanter World Wine Awards. A tad richer on the palate but still loaded with orchard fruits and minerality, the 2018 Preludes is once again a no-brainer value that way overdelivers for its humble price.

Another amazing value is the **2019 Vignerons des Terres Secrètes St-Véran “Croix de Montceau” \$15.99** from the up-and-coming region of St-Véran. The pricing for St-Vérans, much like that of Pouilly-Fuissé, has been quickly rising of late so we’re

thrilled to still be able to offer this appellation at such a great price point. Orchard fruits, subtle citrus notes, and the perfect amount of tannin and acidity—this is a great white wine value!

It has always been a bit easier to find white wine values in Burgundy than reds, but luckily we have two excellent red wines for under \$20.

In the case of the next wine, we’re talking *way* under \$20. A surprisingly supple and fruit-forward offering, the **2020 Vignerons des Terres Secretes Mâcon Rouge “Les Preludes” \$11.99** is made from 100% Gamay grown in the Mâcon, which neighbors Gamay’s home turf, the Beaujolais region. Fruity, light, and so approachable, this is a great, inexpensive summertime red that can be served slightly chilled. It’s absolutely versatile enough to match almost any cuisine or occasion you can think of.

On the more serious side, but still ringing in under \$20 is the **2019 Nuiton-Beaunoy Hautes Côtes de Nuits Rouge “Grande Cuvée” \$17.99**. This Pinot is a stunner with notes of red fruits, cola, and spice underlined by a deft touch of oak. This wine has such beautiful fruit along with great acidity and a complex, unfurling core that it feels like a wine from a much more famous appellation than a humble village-level offering. This bottling easily represents one of the best red Burgundy values we currently have in stock, and I recommend not sleeping on it while we have it.



Jacques Bavard: The Man, the Myth, the Legend

One of our longest-standing direct import producers is Jacques Bavard, who continues to make outstanding Burgundian values from his quaint little winery in the heart of the town Puligny. Jacques Bavard went from being a renowned chef in Paris to a small winemaker making excellent wines from the lesser-known terroirs of Santenay, Auxey, St-Romain, and St-Aubin. With rising prices on purchased grapes he has pivoted to primarily working with Auxey, Santenay, and basic Bourgogne-level vineyards. He strives to achieve wines of structure, fruit, and depth with a creamy and succulent mouthfeel. It's no wonder his wines are some of the most popular and sought-after that we import.



I was amazed to find that Jacques Bavard still had some **2017 Jacques Bavard Bourgogne Blanc \$19.99**. It has all the hallmarks of the fabulous 2017 vintage: great acidity, wonderful balance, depth of fruit, and excellent structure. Beautiful aromas of acacia flowers and lemon crème subtly meld with a creamy orchard fruit palate and a long, lush finish. This is an almost hedonistic Bourgogne blanc that is able to retain its Burgundian roots and feel.

The **2018 Jacques Bavard Santenay Blanc \$29.99** is a beautiful example of how things have positively changed for the appellation of Santenay. Once known for rustic and less-than-ripe wines, now Santenay produces balanced, pretty offerings with fruit, structure, and, most important, harmony. The 2018 has notes of orchard fruit, subtle spice and sandalwood aromas while the palate has a robust and zesty feel with citrus and mineral notes.

Another stunner from the 2017 vintage and the last in our trio of white wines is the **2017 Jacques Bavard Auxey-Duresses Blanc \$29.99** has all the richness and power you'd expect from an Auxey-Duress with remarkable balance and perfect acidity. Lemon crème and a shower of citrus fruit notes deftly meld with a hint of



crushed stone and dried herbs to make this a complex and extremely enjoyable wine. As usual a great trio of whites from the esteemed Jacques Bavard.

You would be remiss to discount and overlook the strength of the red wines made by the humble Jacques Bavard. His whites are sexy and seductive, while the reds are supple and velvety smooth with fantastic aromatics. The **2019 Jacques Bavard Auxey-Duresses Rouge \$29.99** is a great example of the 2019 vintage with gorgeous fruit notes, a hint of spice, and a complex yet velvety smooth palate. The integration of tannins, fruit, and acidity here is so perfect that this red feels light and frisky even though there is plenty of material present.

Pommard can often come off as hard and impenetrable but the **2019 Jacques Bavard Pommard \$39.99** is surprisingly supple and approachable with deep purple fruit nuances, graphite, and iron notes nicely accented with a dollop of oak. This Pommard is open for business and drinking wonderfully right now, but can also be cellared for 5+ years and gain further complexity. This dynamic duo of reds from Jacques Bavard deserve your attention and will handsomely reward you with a great drinking experience.

The Power of the Collective: La Chablisienne

La Chablisienne, along with Produttori del Barbaresco, is the most impressive cooperative in the wine world, and the consistent quality I see from them year-in-and-year-out is frankly astonishing. The relationships they have with growers and their high standards have allowed La Chablisienne to craft values from 1er Cru and Grand Cru vineyards that sell for half the price of their competitors, while matching them qualitatively. If you have not yet discovered these wines you owe it to yourself to give them a try.

A great entry-level example of the quality you can expect from La Chablisienne is the **2018 La Chablisienne Bourgogne Blanc**



\$13.99. From vineyards on the outskirts of Chablis, the pedigree is immediately apparent upon the very first sniff with aromas of iodine and crushed rock. The palate is all citrus and saline with racy acidity and crisp tannins. An excellent wine for lovers of Chablis who

some really solid everyday drinking. Another great value that not too many people are aware of is the **2018 La Chablisienne St-Bris \$12.99**—Sauvignon Blanc from Chablis! This wine has that tell-tale saline note with white flower and zesty citrus notes, while still being unmistakably Sauvignon Blanc.

As we get into the 1er and Grand Cru portion of the La Chablisienne portfolio, we begin with the **2018 La Chablisienne Chablis 1er Cru "Beuroy" \$29.99**. It's an outstanding 1er Cru from a vineyard that typically produces ripe, luscious fruit thanks to the heavy doses of sunlight it sees. With softer acidity and a more approachable palate, this is a great early-drinking Chablis loaded with citrus and orchard fruit flavors.

It is pretty awesome to still be able to offer 2017 Chablis given what an incredible vintage it was. The **2017 La Chablisienne Chablis 1er Cru "Côte de Léchet" \$34.99 92VN 91WA 90JS** does not disappoint with pear, white currant, and spice flavors nuanced

by white flower aromas and crushed rock. The **2017 La Chablisienne Chablis 1er Cru “Vaillons” \$34.99 92VN 92JS 90WA** shows a bit more structure and classic Chablis notes of iodine and citrus with a cool mineral feel running throughout.



A bit bolder and from one of top 1er Cru vineyards is the **2018 La Chablisienne Chablis 1er Cru “Vaulorent” \$39.99 94DC 93JM**. It shimmers from the glass with fine orchard fruit, citrus, and white flower aromas, plus a hint of wet stone and saline. The palate is expansive, and the complexity almost feels

Grand Cru-like in this top-notch 1er Cru.

We end with the **2018 La Chablisienne Chablis Grand Cru “Château Grenouilles” \$64.99 95WE 94JM**. It's the flagship bottling of La Chablisienne, with them owning 75% of the Grenouilles vineyard. This wine always tends to be one of the fuller-bodied offerings from the Grand Crus, and the 2018 does not disappoint: intense Asian pear and candied ginger notes couple with hints of rich oak and zesty acidity. It's a big wine. There is a wealth of power and structure here, with a near opulence balanced by the characteristic Chablis acidity. This is a steal. La Chablisienne has done it again with a line-up of values unrivaled in all of Chablis.

2020 Bouchard Pre-Arrivals!

The 2020 Burgundy vintage is a great one, but sadly it also one of the smallest in recent memory. Prices are going up dramatically while availability is a challenge, so when you can have access to both a top producer with great prices and good availability you should take advantage of the opportunity! The Bouchard wines—both white and red—are fruit forward, balanced, and structured with a classical Burgundian feel. There are eight wines available for under \$100 on pre-arrival and many affordable 1er Cru offerings. They are expected to arrive in December of 2022, so start thinking about filling those holiday stockings now!

2020 Domaine Bouchard Père & Fils Savigny-Lès-Beaune “Les Lavières” \$49.99 91-93WA

2020 Domaine Bouchard Père & Fils Beaune 1er Cru “Teurons” \$59.99 91-93WA 92DC 90-92VN 90-92JM

2020 Domaine Bouchard Père & Fils Beaune Blanc 1er Cru “Clos St-Landry” \$79.99 94DC 91-93JM 89-91WA 88-90VN

2020 Domaine Bouchard Père & Fils Beaune Rouge 1er Cru “Clos de la Mousse” \$79.99 92DC 90-92WA 90-92JM

2020 Domaine Bouchard Père & Fils Meursault 1er Cru “Le Porusot” \$89.99 92-94JM 91-93WA 90-92VN

2020 Domaine Bouchard Père & Fils Volnay 1er Cru “Ancienne Cuvée Carnot - Les Caillerets” \$89.99 92-95JM 92-94WA 90-92VN

2020 Domaine Bouchard Père & Fils Meursault 1er Cru “Gouttes d’Or” \$99.99 94DC 92-94WA 91-93VN 90-92JM

2020 Domaine Bouchard Père & Fils Meursault 1er Cru “Les Genevrières” \$99.99 94DC 92-94WA 92-94JM 91-93VN

2020 Domaine Bouchard Père & Fils Beaune-Grèves 1er Cru “Vigne de L’Enfant Jésus” \$149.99 95DC 92-94WA 91-94JM 91-93VN

2020 Domaine Bouchard Père & Fils Le Corton Grand Cru \$159.99 93-95WA 94DC 92-94JM 91-93VN

2020 Domaine Bouchard Père & Fils Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru \$219.99 95-98JM 95DC 92-94WA 91-93VN

2020 Domaine Bouchard Père & Fils Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru \$279.99 95DC 93-95JM 92-94WA 90-92VN

2020 Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru \$469.99 94-97JM 96DC 94-96VN 93-95WA

2020 Domaine Bouchard Père & Fils Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru \$479.99 94-96WA 92-96JM 92DC 91-93VN

2020 Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils Montrachet Grand Cru \$899.99 98DC 96-98JM 95-97WA 93-95VN



Stock up now on the 2020 vintage— it's an excellent, cellar-worthy one, but quantities are very limited.

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