

WINE News

Burgundy Best Buys from a String of Stellar Vintages

SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 FEATURES

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Burgundy: Through the Sipping Glass!

By Alex Pross, Burgundy Buyer



With increasing popularity worldwide and decreasing volume thanks to a warming climate, Burgundy is at a crossroads: though quality is up across the board, prices can be, too. In the last decade, Burgundy has had an amazing string of good-to-great vintages coupled with an influx of young, talented, enthusiastic winemakers. The top regions are making

their best wines ever, while some of the lesser-known regions are now dramatically stepping up their quality.

I should underscore how exciting the developments in these lesser-known villages are—and how they are increasingly becoming the destinations for affordable daily Burgundy. In Santenay, Savigny-lès-Beaune, Marsannay, Mercurey, Monthelie, Auxey-Duresses, and the like, there has been skyrocketing quality, yet still affordable pricing. The wines of these regions remain within reach for everyday drinking, while many from 1er Cru and Grand Cru vineyards unfortunately do not. Thanks to K&L's access to direct importation opportunities, we have both reds and whites that are fantastic and budget friendly!



We sell more and more white Burgundy every year, and we proudly can offer a good majority of it at prices well under \$30 per bottle. The **2020 Domaine des Niales Rhedon-Marin Mâcon-Villages Vieilles Vignes \$14.99** is one such incredible wine, loaded with pretty citrus and orchard fruit notes, buffered by hints of mint and wet stone. This is bright, zesty, and energetic. Domaine des Niales Rhedon-Marin is one of our staples, and the 2020 vintage is another strong offering.



A wine that sells out quickly every year is the Château de la Charrière Bourgogne Blanc, and the **2020 Château de la Charrière Bourgogne Blanc \$16.99** is once again first-rate! Orchard fruits, lemon zest, and a touch of oak nicely accent its complexity and structure. It promises to sell out almost as fast as it will disappear from your glass.

The **2020 Château Vitallis Pouilly-Fuissé "Les Vignes du Château" \$24.99 90WS** is a delicious Pouilly-Fuissé from one of our top partners in the Mâcon. An absolute showstopper. Made from the vineyard surrounding the property (hence its name), the wine explodes with orchard fruits, lemon zest, and rich toasty notes that make this an undeniable value.



One of the best developments of late in Burgundy has been the tremendous increase in quality of Bourgogne Rouge and other entry-level reds. In the past these wines were often made as an afterthought—or so it seemed due to their quality—but now they're made with the same dedication as many 1er Cru and Grand Cru offerings. Another excellent wine from Château de la Charrière is the **2020 Château de la Charrière Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune Rouge \$16.99**, which exudes beautiful red fruits, nice tannin structure, as well as good complexity and a surprisingly long finish.

A new producer for K&L is Charles Père et Fils, with an enviable stable of Bourgogne Rouge, Beaune, and Volnay wines. The **2019 Charles Père et Fille Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune "Cuvée du Menhir" \$24.99** is the perfect introduction to this producer. It has a wealth of berry fruit, spice notes, and a long, lush finish. If you end up loving this wine as much as I do then you owe it to yourself to check out their stellar **2019 Charles Père et Fille Volnay 1er Cru "Fremiets" for only \$49.99!!**

2020 Louis Jadot: Classic Winemaking, Stellar Vintage, Big Value

Every time I pop open an older bottle of Louis Jadot Burgundy, be it red or white, I am almost always pleasantly surprised at how great the wines show. It would be a mistake to discount Louis Jadot because they are a larger negociant house. Their wines are excellent and often excel qualitatively past their price points as well as outpace many more famous producers who enjoy cultish following. Jadot consistently produces wines at all price levels that age gracefully and showcase their terroir and vintage characteristics just as they should.

The 2020 vintage is outstanding and the set of 2020s from Louis Jadot have great press and good availability. Stocking up on these affordable Burgundies will handsomely reward the Burgundian enthusiast.

2020 Louis Jadot pre-arrival wines due by end of 2022.

Whites

Domaine Louis Jadot Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru "Morgeot - Domaine Duc de Magenta - Clos de la Chapelle" \$99.99 94JS 92-94JM 91-93WA 91-93BH 91-93VN

Domaine Louis Jadot Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru "Abbaye de Morgeot" \$109.99 92-94WA 91-94JM 91-93VN 90-93BH

Domaine Louis Jadot Meursault 1er Cru "Les Charmes" \$109.99 95JS 91-93JM 90-93BH 90-92VN 89-91WA

Domaine Louis Jadot Meursault 1er Cru "Genevrières" \$119.99 92-95JM 92-94WA 92-94VN 91-93BH

Domaine Louis Jadot Meursault 1er Cru "Les Perrières" \$129.99 93-96JM 93-95WA 91-93BH 91-93JM

Domaine Louis Jadot (Domaine des Héritiers) Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru \$249.99 98JS 93-96JM 93-95WA 93-95VN 93-95BH

Domaine Louis Jadot Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru \$459.99 97-99JM 93-95WA 92-95BH 94JS 91-93VN

Domaine Louis Jadot (Domaine des Héritiers) Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru "Les Demoiselles" \$659.99 95-97WA 94-96JM 93-96BH 95DC 93-95VN



Frédéric Barnier leads the winemaking team at Jadot.

Reds

Domaine Louis Jadot (Domaine des Héritiers) Beaune 1er Cru "Clos des Ursules" \$99.99 95JS 95DC 92-94JM 92-94WA 91-94BH 91-93VN

Domaine Louis Jadot (Domaine des Héritiers) Corton Grand Cru "Pougets" \$109.99 94-96VN 93-95BH 92-94BH 90-92JM

Domaine Louis Jadot Corton Grand Cru "Greves" \$109.99 92-95JM 92-94WA 92-94VN 91-94BH

Domaine Louis Jadot Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru "Les Cazetiers" \$119.99 92-94WA 92-94VN 91-94JM 91-93BH

Domaine Louis Jadot Chambolle-Musigny 1er Cru "Les Fuées" \$129.99 96JS 92-96JM 92-94WA 91-93BH 91-93VN

Domaine Louis Jadot Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru "Estournelles St-Jacques" \$139.99 96JS 94DC 91-94JM 91-93WA 91-93BH

Domaine Louis Jadot Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru "Lavaux St-Jacques" \$139.99 91-93WA 91-93VN 90-93BH 90-92JM

Domaine Louis Jadot Clos Vougeot Grand Cru \$229.99 97JS 94-96JM 93-95WA 91-93VN 92DC 90-93BH

Domaine Louis Jadot Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru "Clos St-Jacques" \$229.99 95DC 93-95WA 93-95VN 93-95JM 92-94BH

Domaine Louis Jadot Chapelle-Chambertin Grand Cru \$299.99 95-97VN 94-97JM 93-95WA 92-94BH

Domaine Louis Jadot (Domaine Gagey) Clos St-Denis Grand Cru \$389.99 95-97VN 94-97JM 94-96WA 95DC 91-94BH

Domaine Louis Jadot Bonnes-Mares Grand Cru \$459.99 96-98VN 96TA 96DC 94-96JM 94-96WA 93-96BH

Maison Louis Jadot Chambertin Grand Cru \$489.99 96-98VN 92-95BH 92-94VN

Domaine Louis Jadot Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru \$499.99 98JS 95-98JM 96DC 95-97VN 94-96WA 92-95BH

Château Vitallis: Firing On All Cylinders in the Mâconnais

One of our best direct import value producers is Château Vitallis, located in the Mâconnais. This sixth-generation winemaking family crafts an enviable lineup ranging from entry-level charmers all the way up to elegant offerings from the newly minted 1er Cru Pouilly-Fuissé villages. They farm their 17 hectares organically, intervene minimally, and ferment with indigenous yeast—all in an effort to capture the essence of their exceptional terroir.

It is pretty stunning to see the jump in quality that has happened recently across the board in Mâcon, and fans of affordable Chardonnay are reaping the benefits. Château Vitallis is firing on all cylinders—they are beautifully bringing their centuries' of winemaking tradition into the modern renaissance of the region. The current line-up of wines we carry all punch way above their price point.

The Mâcon has benefitted greatly from a string of good-to-great vintages for the past decade. This selection of wines, from the great 2020 and 2019 vintages, is sure to bring a smile to your face.



The **2020 Château Vitallis St-Véran "A La Côte" \$19.99** is a new wine in our portfolio, and it is definitely a welcome addition! The "A La Côte" is sourced from vines that grow at higher altitude in rich clay-limestone soil with an ideal south-facing exposure. This is a brilliant wine—rich golden color in the glass with aromas of pear and apple and a rich streak of oak that helps balance its full body and complexity. It's a wonderful value that displays both admirable complexity and density for a humble wine under \$20!

The estate's calling card is the **2020 Château Vitallis Pouilly-Fuissé "Les Vignes du Château" \$24.99 90WS**, which is sourced from vines surrounding the property with an average age of 35 years, planted in clay-limestone soil. It's a spectacular wine that displays notes of acacia blossoms and orchard fruits. The palate is bursting with citrus notes and spice. Perfectly balanced and totally accessible, this wine is a great introduction to both Château Vitallis as well as Pouilly-Fuissé.



A wine that blew my mind and exceeded my expectations was the **2019 Château Vitallis Pouilly-Fuissé Vieilles Vignes \$29.99**, which comes from 85-year-old vines, the oldest on the estate. These old vines coupled with a hot vintage like 2019 have yielded an incredibly



Denis Dutron and his son Maxime, proprietors of Château Vitallis.

rich and complex offering that shimmers with Asian pear, citrus zest, spice, and hints of lint and iodine. A dollop of oak finishes off this long and lush beauty.

Easily one of the most exciting recent developments in Pouilly-Fuissé has been the long-awaited 1er Cru classification, with 22 vineyards gaining 1er Cru status. Château Vitallis is in possession of two of the elevated vineyards: Les Perrières and Pouilly. Usually with the elevated status comes the unfortunate consequence of rising prices, but luckily our direct relationship with Château Vitallis means we are able to offer these outstanding wines for incredible prices. The **2020 Château Vitallis Pouilly-Fuissé 1er Cru "Pouilly" \$29.99 91DC** is a proper 1er Cru with beautiful aromatics as well as floral and mineral notes. This wine unfurls to reveal complexity, elegance, and depth in a fruit-laced package. Delicious and accessible, this is a beautiful white Burgundy that offers an amazing value.



More powerful, the **2020 Château Vitallis Pouilly-Fuissé 1er Cru "Les Perrières" \$34.99** comes from one of the most renowned vineyard sites in all of Pouilly-Fuissé. The term "Les Perrières" usually refers to the site being a quarry in the past but, in Pouilly-Fuissé, the name more likely alludes to the stoniness of the soil. Château Vitallis makes a more opulent take on the "Les Perrières" vineyard with tense orchard fruit wrapped around oak and spice with a viscous mouthfeel. The power and density of this wine is reminiscent of a wine hailing from St-Romain.

The 1er Crus from Vitallis represent the next evolution of Pouilly-Fuissé into an appellation held in esteem like St-Aubin and Chassagne-Montrachet.



Unbelievable Chablis Value from Gérard Tremblay

Gérard Tremblay is the fifth-generation owner of his eponymous domaine in Chablis with 100 acres planted to vines. Like many properties in Chablis, and Burgundy as a whole, there is the next generation ready to take over—and Vincent, Gérard's son, is in the process of slowly taking the reins. Following Gérard's vision, they farm using sustainable practices, which include working their vineyards with a plow.

In 1990 Gérard Tremblay built a new winery facility and underground cellar that employs gravity throughout the winemaking process. They are judicious in their use of oak, and you will find their wines to be pure expressions of Chardonnay and the coveted Kimmeridgian limestone soil of the region. Year after year, they are excellent.

One of the most exciting recent developments in Chablis is the expansion and startling jump in quality that can be found in humble Petit Chablis. Wines labeled Petit Chablis come from the outermost vineyards in Chablis, from terroir thought not to merit inclusion into estate cuvées or 1er Cru classification. What is stunning now is how many Petit Chablis bottlings can easily challenge the more expensive estate-designated Chablis in both quality and cost. The **2021 Domaine Gérard Tremblay Petit Chablis \$17.99** is a great expression of Petit Chablis, with notes of wet stone and flint coupled with citrus flavors, all nicely buffered by racy acidity. Aged in stainless steel, this wine is so bright and zesty with great energy and verve.



Another great value the **2021 Domaine Gérard Tremblay Chablis \$19.99** sports a bit more body with richness and intense citrus notes.

Gérard Tremblay produces an impressive trio of 2020 1er Crus all for under \$30 a bottle! Chablis is still ground zero for affordable 1er Cru



Domaine Gérard Tremblay has been in the same family for five generations. It is currently run by Gérard, his wife Hélène, and their children Vincent and Eléonore.



and Grand Cru white Burgundy. Starting off with the **2020 Domaine Gérard Tremblay Chablis 1er Cru "Côte de Léchet" \$29.99**, we have a sleek offering loaded with orchard and citrus fruit flavors as well as flint and mineral notes.

From one of the most renowned 1er Cru vineyards, Fourchaume, comes the **2020 Domaine Gérard Tremblay Chablis 1er Cru "Fourchaume" \$29.99 91DC**. This is a richly textured Chablis with intense flavors of lemon, wet stone, and hints of iodine, all wrapped up in a racy and savory package.



The last of our tantalizing trio is the **2020 Domaine Gérard Tremblay Chablis 1er Cru "Montmains" \$29.99 93DC**. It comes from a large vineyard that is often identified by one of its subdivisions on wine labels (e.g., Forêts and Butteaux), but Tremblay prefers to use the Montmains designate. One of the hotter 1er Cru sites, this wine intricately weaves the subtleties of classic Chablis character with hazelnut notes—another great Chablis from Gérard Tremblay!

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