



ALLEN MEADOWS' BURGHOUND 2022

MILLESIME/VINTAGE 2020

Domaine Michel Magnien

In "Issue 85 – 2020 and 2019 Côte de Nuits Reds," Burgundy authority Allen Meadows published the following reviews:

Clos Saint Denis 2020 – 92-94 points

(From Les Chaffots)

"A wonderfully layered nose is the most complex in the range with its blend of dark cherry, exotic tea, spice elements and lovely violet scents, all trimmed in just enough wood to merit mentioning. The refined and caressing middle weight flavors possess solid punch and excellent depth and persistent. This is at once classy and stylish and a wine that should age effortlessly on its balance."

Charmes-Chambertin 2020 – 91-94 points

(From Mazoyères)

"Once again there is a plethora of floral influences that include violet, lavender and rose petal on the aromas of poached plum, spice and warm earth. The sleeker and finer but not denser medium-bodied flavors conclude in a moderately austere finish that is both slightly more complex and persistent as well as more structured."



Clos de la Roche 2020 – 91-94 points

(From Monts Luisants and Les Fremières)

“A more reserved nose grudgingly offers up its aromas of essence of plum, kirsch, earth and a hint of dark raspberry liqueur. There is notably more power though not the same refinement to the bigger-bodied flavors that possess both good underlying tension and delineation, all wrapped in an austere, tightly wound and more structured finale.”

Gevrey-Chambertin Cazetiers 2020 – 91-93 points

“There is sufficient reduction to overshadow the underlying fruit at present. Otherwise, there is more volume, size, weight and mid-palate density to the bigger-bodied flavors that display evident muscle and power on the rustic, serious and built-to-age finish. One to consider.”

Chambolle-Musigny Sentiers 2020 – 90-93 points

(From a .40 ha parcel)

“An exuberantly floral-suffused nose reflects notes of various dark berries, anise and a hint of exotic tea. I very much like the texture of the more refined yet still solidly powerful, even muscular, flavors that exhibit fine length on the balanced bitter pit fruit-inflected finale. Lovely.”

Morey-Saint-Denis Chaffots 2020 – 90-92 points

“Cool, airy and nicely layered aromas of purple fruit, earth and violet introduce delicious if not especially dense medium-bodied flavors that still possess good power and punch on the more mineral-driven finale. This could use better depth, but the structure and underlying material are present such that more may well develop if given a few years of keeping first.”

Vosne-Romanee Vieilles Vignes 2020 – 89-91 points

(From Aux Saules and Aux Raviolles)

“This is sufficiently reduced that only wisps of the whole cluster vinification are perceptible. Otherwise, there is fine energy and detail to the refined but punchy middle weight flavors that are linear but not really lean on the nicely complex and persistent finale.”

Chambolle-Musigny Argillières 2020 – 88-90 points

“The whole cluster vinification is in evidence on the herbal tea and overtly floral-suffused nose of dark currant and spice wisps. The racy, intense and more mineral-driven flavors possess a finer texture while delivering solidly depth on the youthfully austere and better-balanced finale.”



Chambolle-Musigny Françièrès 2020 – 88-90 points

“Pretty, ripe and airy aromas include those of red and dark raspberry, cherry and violet. There is good vibrancy and a slightly finer texture to the more voluminous if less mineral-driven flavors that also conclude in a bitter pit fruit-inflected finale.”

Fixin 2020 – 87-89 points

(From a 50/50 mix of Les Mogottes and Crèchelin)

“Slightly riper and more deeply pitched aromas offers up notes of plum, dark cherry and a whiff of the sauvage. There is both good punch and an attractive texture to the acceptably concentrated flavors that conclude in a refreshing if slightly rustic and youthfully austere finale.”

Morey-Saint-Denis 2020 – 86-89 points

(From a mix of Les Crais, Les Cognées, Clos Solon, Bas Chenevery and les Herbuottes)

“A markedly earth-suffused nose speaks of poached plum and a plethora of floral nuances. There is good richness to the succulent, round and relatively supple middle weight flavors that possess a velvet-textured mis-palate that contrasts somewhat with the lean bitter pit fruit-inflected finish that is presently mildly edgy though this may be due to the abundant gas.”

Bourgogne Pinot Noir 2020 – 86-89 points

“Côte d’Or Pinot Noir: Fresh aromas are primarily composed of red berries and earth scents that complement the racy and nicely detailed middle weight flavors that conclude in a youthfully austere finish that offers solid depth and persistence. This sleek effort should repay a few years of keeping and is worth a look.”

Gevrey-Chambertin Goulots 2020 – 90-92 points

(From a .15 ha parcel)

“This too is exuberantly floral in character with cool and restrained aromas of herbal tea, red and dark currant plus a whiff of the sauvage. The precise and energetic if slightly less concentrated middle weight flavors possess both good depth and persistence on the saline-inflected finish.”

Morey St. Denis Les Millandes 2020 – 89-92 points

“Enough reduction to mask the underlying fruit renders evaluating the nose tough. More interesting are the sleek, intense and precise middle weight flavors that also display focused power on the slightly more structured finale that is linear but not really lean. Even so, this too could use a bit more flesh.”



Morey St. Denis Aux Charmes 2020 – 89-92 points

“A pretty blend of purple fruit, violet and whiffs of earth and spice give way to equally succulent but more refined middle weight flavors that are at once seductive yet precise, all wrapped in a more complex and persistent finish where a touch of youthful austerity slowly emerges.”

Morey St. Denis Les Blanchards 2020 – 89-91 points

“An earthier and more deeply pitched nose is trimmed in the barest hint of wood influence. There is a bit more volume to the delicious, medium-bodied flavors that flash focused power on the lingering if somewhat linear and lean finish. Note that my range assumes that this will flesh out with time in bottle.”

Gevrey-Chambertin Les Seuvrées Vieilles Vignes 2020 – 88-90 points

“An even earthier and more sauvage-inflected nose reflects mostly aromas of poached plum and dark raspberry along with a floral top note. The succulent and velvet-textured medium-bodied flavors also evidence touches of bitter pit fruit and rusticity on the nicely lingering finale that is firm enough to suggest up to a decade of cellaring would be appropriate.”

Marsannay Les Mogottes 2020 – 87-90 points

(A monopole of the domaine)

“Distinctly earthy dark berry fruit aromas, especially currant and cherry, fold in with hints of earth and smoke. There is a lovely sense of underlying tension to the nicely delineated and stony middle weight flavors that display just a touch of austerity on the balanced and dusty, even chalky, finale.”

Nuits St. Georges Vieilles Vignes 2020 – 87-89 points

(From Les Tuyaux)

“A distinctly earthy and humus-inflected nose consists mostly of various dark berry scents. The delicious and attractively textured if not especially dense medium weight flavors exhibit a lingering if moderately rustic finale.”



In his overview of **DOMAINE MICHEL MAGNIEN**, Meadows writes that “Frédéric Magnien described 2020 as one that ‘was relatively easy to manage as there was relatively little disease pressure though the extreme dryness of the season did cause some hydric stress, particularly for younger vines higher on the slope where there isn’t much soil depth. I started the harvest with a few pickers on the 27th of August for those parcels that were suffering from the heat and then attacked seriously on the 30th with my full team of harvesters. The fruit was exceptionally clean so, remarkably enough, we were able to finish by the 5th of September. The trick was to harvest parcel by parcel just when they were ripe as it was easy to be a day early or a day late. Yields though were low as the fruit lost a lot of water just due to evaporation. For example, the pinot bunches had a normal number of berries but there was not much juice in them so in total, the pinot harvest was down fully 50% and, unfortunately, even more in 2021. The skins were thick for the pinot but normal for the chardonnay. Potential alcohols were good but not overly so as nothing came in over 14%. While it varied considerably, on average I used 50% whole clusters and I even had my sorting teams destem some of the fruit by hand. I vinified softly because with the thick skins and high ripeness levels, the extractability was easy and happened almost by itself. As to the wines, they are very fresh, and I particularly like their transparency.’ I’ve mentioned this before, but it bears repeating that Magnien has become arguably the leading specialist in Burgundy in the use of amphorae and jarres (the difference is essentially one of size) during the élevage. Others, such as Dujac, Pousse d’Or and Jean-Marie Fourrier, are experimenting with them as well though Magnien has made them an essential part of his approach. For example, many of these offerings were raised with significant proportions of amphorae that averaged around 50% with the rest in traditional casks. Magnien believes the amphorae better preserve the freshness and they obviously do not mark the wines with toast or vanilla characteristics.”

