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THE ULTIMATE BURGUNDY REFERENCE

In This Issue – 140 Producers & 1174 Wines Reviewed

2011 and 2010 Côte de Beaune Reds	3-138
More Current Release California and Oregon Pinot Noirs	139-156
En Plus – More 2011 and 2010 Côte d'Or Reds	157-165
Progress Report – Verticals of Lafon Meursault "Perrières" & "Clos de la Barre" . . .	166-171

Statement of Principles

It is important that readers understand how I collect and evaluate the information that is reported in the pages of **Burghound.com** (the tasting notes and information are the sole responsibility of the author).

- I am personally responsible for all of my business expenses without exception. This includes airfare, hotels and effectively all of my meals. The purpose is as clear as it is simple: No conflicts of interest. *I do not accept nor do I seek any subsidy, in any form, from anybody.*
- Sample bottles are accepted for evaluation and commentary, much as book reviewers accept advance copies of new releases. I insist, however, that these sample bottles represent the final wines to be sold under that particular label.
- Finished, bottled wines are assigned scores as these wines are market-ready. Wines tasted from barrel, however, are scored within a range. This reflects the reality that a wine tasted from barrel is not a finished product.
- Wines are evaluated within the context of their *appellations*. Simply put, that means I expect a *grand cru* Burgundy to reflect its exalted status.

While the concept of *terroir* remains a controversial issue in the opinion of many people, it is not controversial to the Burgundian mindset—or to me, either. I attempt to convey, where appropriate, how certain wines are particularly good, or particularly bad, at expressing their underlying *terroir*. This is admittedly a difficult thing, rightly open to discussion among the Burgundians themselves, never mind an outside observer such as myself. Nevertheless, it is fundamental to great Burgundy. Mere "hedonism" is just that: empty pleasure seeking. Burgundy can deliver so much more—if it is asked.

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2011 Aloxe-Corton "Les Fournières": There is a hint of herbaceousness to the otherwise fresh and ripe red pinot fruit, spice and earth elements that actually adds breadth. The broad-shouldered, concentrated and punchy medium weight plus flavors possess fine size and weight along with a certain muscularity on the extract-rich finish. In typical Fournières fashion, this is a robust and rustic effort with mouth coating tannins and as such it will require extended cellaring. 90/2021+

2011 Corton: (from Les Combes; aged in 60% new wood). An attractively layered nose offers up notes of violet, plum, smoked meat hints and plenty of warm earth character to the wild dark berry fruit aromas. There is excellent volume to the ripe, intense and powerful large-scaled flavors that exhibit fine intensity on the powerful, balanced and vibrant finish that delivers its usual fine length. This isn't quite a robust as it usually is though it's a big wine all the same and will require an extended cellar siesta. 92/2023+

2011 Corton-Bressandes: This is both slightly riper and notably more refined with its elegant mélange of mostly cool red berry fruit aromas that are liberally seeded with stone, spice, earth and black tea hints. There is excellent richness, intensity, energy and focused power to the attractively well-delineated flavors that display the same fine complexity as the nose. The sleekly muscular, beautifully balanced and impressively lingering finish is shaped by relatively fine-grained tannins and this should amply reward 12 to 15 years of cellar time. 93/2023+

Domaine Thierry Violot-Guillemard (Pommard)

2011	» Auxey-Duresses "Les Reugnes" 1er	red	90
2011	» Beaune "Clos des Mouches" 1er	red	91
2011	Bourgogne	red	86
2011	» Bourgogne - Maison Dieu	red	87
2011	Monthelie "Les Duresses" 1er	red	89
2011	» Pommard	red	89
2011	» Pommard "Clos Derrière St. Jean" 1er	red	(90-92)
2011	» Pommard "Les Epenots" 1er	red	(91-93)
2011	Pommard "La Platière" 1er	red	(89-92)
2011	» Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	(91-94)
2011	Volnay "Cros Martin"	red	88

The always upbeat Thierry Violot described 2011 as a "vintage that was full of surprises as it wasn't clear what we were going to wind up with quality-wise. We had an early, dry and very hot spring but an only average flowering, a lousy summer and a fine September. But when you stare up at somber clouds day after day in the middle of the summer when the sugars just are not budging at all, it does start to make you wonder whether the fruit is ever going to ripen. But the good weather returned in the middle of August and maturities sky-rocketed. I waited until the 4th of September to begin and while in most vintages that date would mean that I was among the very first to pick, in this case it means that many of my neighbors were already finished by the time that I had begun! The fruit was reasonably clean if not perfect with good potential alcohols that averaged right at 12.5% and I chaptalized nothing. Yields were correct and I did my normal vinification. As to the quality of the wines, I view them as superior to 2009 but not quite as good as what we obtained in 2010. I love the vintage and people are going to be surprised at just how good it is." I have been singing the praises of the Violot wines for several years now and once again he has outperformed with a really lovely set of wines. Moreover, they typically sell for very reasonable prices and thus offer excellent value. (Scott Paul Wines, www.scottpaul.com, Portland, OR, Fine Wine, Maywood, IL; A Patrick Lesec Selection, Paris, France; no known UK importers).

2011 Bourgogne: A very fresh, cool and exuberantly expressive nose of earthy red berries leads to delicious, round and supple middle weight flavors that are quite forward and accessible. There is solid depth, length and balance and this should drink well almost immediately though it could be cellared for a few years first if desired. 86/2014+

2011 Bourgogne – Maison Dieu: A discreet touch of wood frames a nose that is compositionally similar to the straight Bourgogne but with just a bit more complexity. There is a lovely sense of underlying tension to the delicious, round and supple flavors that also possess better depth on the balanced and solidly persistent finish. Recommended. 87/2015+

2011 Volnay "Cros Martin": This offers a step up in aromatic refinement with its pure, cool and restrained nose of essence of red pinot fruit, spice and earth nuances. There is really lovely detail and punch to the silky and lilting middle weight flavors that exude a fine minerality on the complex, balanced and dusty finish. A quality *villages* that should be accessible and enjoyable young. 88/2015+

2011 Pommard: This is also admirably pure with both upper and lower register aromas that include essence of red pinot, earth and underbrush. There is a terrific sense of energy and fine delineation to the more obviously mineral-inflected medium-bodied flavors, all wrapped in a firm, complex and slightly rustic finish. This is an excellent *villages* that already displays much better than average depth for its level. 89/2017+

2011 Auxey-Duresses "Les Reugnes": (from a .20 ha parcel). A discreet but not invisible touch of wood sets off the more deeply pitched and distinctly earthy dark berry fruit aromas. There is fine detail and excellent punch to the delicious mineral-inflected medium weight flavors that are shaped by relatively fine-grained tannins before terminating in a complex finish that is less rustic and austere than it typically is. This well-balanced effort displays fine length and overall, this is really very good. Worth a look. 90/2018+

2011 Monthelie "Les Duresses": (from a .18 ha parcel). This is slightly riper and more deeply pitched still with an abundance of earth and humus character on the floral, in particular violets, and red currant suffused nose. There is a velvety texture to the moderately rustic and vibrant flavors that possess fine depth on the persistent and again, moderately rustic finish. This is textbook Les Duresses, which is to say a wine of character rather than finesse. 89/2018+

2011 Beaune "Clos des Mouches": (from vines planted in 1947). A background application of wood is sufficiently subtle to allow the high-toned and delicate red pinot fruit, currant and softly spicy aromas to shine. There is a cool and restrained mouth feel to the beautifully well-delineated middle weight flavors that deliver fine depth and length on the impeccably well-balanced finish. This is lovely stuff and fashioned in an understated style. 91/2018+

2011 Pommard "La Platière": (from a .7 ha parcel containing the Domaine's oldest vines planted in 1936). A very fresh, bright and airy nose features pure essence of red pinot fruit that is cut with wisps of stone and earth. There is excellent verve to the precise, intense and utterly delicious flavors where the underlying tannins display a very different texture compared to those of the Beaune. The finale is quite firm yet not hard and while this is very Pommard, it is not especially rustic. Also worth considering. (89-92)/2019+

2011 Pommard "Clos Derrière St. Jean": (a *monopole* of the Domaine that once measured 11 ares but after the construction of a swimming pool, now measures only 9.81 ares or the equivalent of only one-quarter acre; the vines were planted in 1947). A deeply pitched nose grudgingly offers up nose of red currant, dark berries, warm earth and underbrush hints. There is a beguiling mouth feel to the supple, round and utterly delicious flavors that possess a dusty texture before culminating in a focused, powerful and impressively long finish that displays impeccable balance. (90-92)/2019+

2011 Pommard "Les Epenots": A complex and attractively perfumed nose of red currant, spice elements, earth and a gamey hint gives way to impressively rich, round and delicious big-bodied flavors that possess a wonderfully seductive mouth feel. There is fine verve to the firmly structured, deep, balanced and beautifully persistent finish that really coats the palate thanks to the excellent reserve of dry extract. Recommended. (91-93)/2021+

2011 Pommard "Les Rugiens": (from a .5 ha parcel located at the bottom of Rugiens Haut). A very subtle touch of wood sets off a wonderfully pure and fresh nose that is comprised of essence of red pinot fruit, wet stone, spice and again a hint of game. There is a sublime sense of underlying tension to the intensely mineral-driven, focused and delineated medium weight plus flavors that possess outstanding depth on the seamlessly balanced, driving and long finish. This is a terrific Rugiens that is built-to-age but isn't so robust that it won't be approachable young if desired. That said, I would advise holding it as there is excellent upside development potential. (91-94)/2023+

Domaine Joseph Voillot (Volnay)

2011	Bourgogne - Vieilles Vignes	red	86
2011	Pommard - Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2011	➡ Pommard "Les Epenots" 1er	red	92
2011	➡ Pommard "Clos Micault" 1er	red	91
2011	➡ Pommard "Les Pézerolles" 1er	red	92
2011	➡ Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	91
2011	Volnay - Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2011	Volnay "Brouillards" 1er	red	89
2011	Volnay "Caillerets" 1er	red	90
2011	Volnay "Carelle Sous La Chapelle" 1er	red	90
2011	➡ Volnay "Les Champans" 1er	red	91