

Burgundy Report by Bill Nanson, tasted in Beaune May 2019

Situated deep in the historic old town of Beaune is one of those very rare things - a producer who actually makes wine within the walls of Beaune. You probably don't need all of your fingers to count the number of domaines who still make wine in the centre of Beaune - water and grape-juice in-combination being classed as 'industrial waste,' thus, most producers have been gently pushed out of the town centre over the last 30 years-or-so. There is a plaque that proclaims the presence of Maison Fatien on the large wooden gate - though it is invariably a closed gate, a place of discretion - Charly Fatien is, however, my welcoming host.

Charly has 4 hectares of domaine vines spread from Rully to Gevrey-Chambertin, he also buys grapes too, to make some of his wines. This domaine essentially had its beginnings in 1999 with the purchase, by Charly's parents, of their house in Beaune - a house with impressive, dark old cellars plus wine-making space - though their vines in Gevrey-Chambertin had long been in the family. In 2005 the family's vineyard worker retired, so Charly, who had worked at other domaines, decided to instal the production here in Beaune.

Charly maintains that his aim to make wine *"By working naturally and without recourse to oenological products!"*

The wines

Wines that I've rarely come across before, but there's high quality to the production here - occasionally some great wines for their labels, and in both colours too. Don't pass these by!

First a few whites from barrel:

2018 Aligoté

Vines are older than 60 years-old. The wine is towards the end of its malo and will have 1 year in barrel then 3 months on tank before bottling.

A wide nose, plenty of interest. Full, round, nice shape, holds a fine weight of persistent finishing flavour. Very good.

2018 Côteaux Bourguignon

Vines in the bottom of Meursault, on the 'other' side of the route nationale

A bigger weight of aroma - quite mineral and forward. Direct, but widening, fine depth, layers of fine flavour - for the label this is really excellent, fine and mineral in the finish. Bravo!

2018 Rully

Here is a more mineral nose, higher toned notes too. A wine with more direction and a melting width of flavour. Long, tasty – this is very tasty, with a lovely finish, if today a little more bravado in the Côteaux Bourguignon. Elegant and long.

2018 Meursault

From Malpoiriers – Charly isn't yet sure if he'll include that reference on the label.

A nice spice to this very Meursault nose. Fuller, more impact, great shape, saline, complex, faintly spiced, modest tension and a super finish. Super.

2018 Meursault Cromin

Charly explains that he started with cuvées of Limozin and Cromin, but commercially everyone preferred the Cromin!

An even more classic Meursault nose – because of the extra oak! – spiced, salt and pepper too. More energy and acidity – also wider. I'd say more classic in all dimensions, including the amount of oak. Actually, today, I prefer the last, but the finish here is a beauty – really excellent wine...

Then some reds from barrel here, and all are from 2017, as they spend a minimum of 2 years in barrel. Charly doesn't always de-stem everything, saying "I like the mechanical help they bring in fermentation, and I have an old, mechanical, wooden press so they can help – but only for that and only when ripe!" Charly is also a buyer of Hospices de Nuits wines too – but not every year:

2017 Bourgogne Pinot Noir

The grapes for this come mainly from Volnay and Pommard, plus one parcel in Savigny – maybe this will wear a Bourgogne Côte d'Or label...

Ooh, that's a bright, nicely floral nose. Wide on the palate, with good intensity – there's fine shape and line here with a very faint tannin. Elegant, floral, delicious wine.

2017 Beaune Les Beaux Fougets

More colour. More aromatic amplitude – ooh, that's good! More drive and intensity – that's really good! Long finishing – excellent wine.

2017 Volnay

A blend of Pluchots and Combes, lots of millerandes from the older Pluchots vines

A very lovely nose – width and florals, a little mineral-like graphite too. More direction to these flavours, less width, finer but not better in flavour. Finely

floral wine. Excellent again, only the finish is more distinguished than the Beaune though.

2017 Gevrey-Chambertin

From Bel-Air

Plenty of colour. A very subtle reduction here - the first - other than that, fresh, pure and impressive aromas. Wide, vibrant, touched by the reduction in the flavour - touched by oak too - but not negative. Lovely, open and airy, but not facile wine... Great finishing again - the hallmark of the wines here!

2017 Pommard 1er Rugiens du bas

Hmm - more volume of aroma - fine, if not obviously complex but all the same it's compelling, inviting, floral perfume. Hmm, beautiful shape. Fine, growing intensity, ooh, this is proper Rugiens - simply excellent before a great finish - bravo!

Some Hospices de Nuits wines - some for the domaine, some for clients:

2017 Nuits St.Georges Maladières Cuvée de Granger

Wide, plenty of floral impact, just a touch of oak. Nice shape, saline, a touch of interesting reduction here too. Broad, delicious wine, without overt structure but with very fine flavour. A super finish too!

2017 Nuits St.Georges 1er Les Terres Blanches

But not white!

Lots of colour here. A bigger nose with lots of aromatic weight. Drive, good intensity, a tiny reduction, growing wider on the palate, and with fine layers of flavour too. Long. Ooh, that's good - concentrated, no overt tannin but it's there if you search!

2017 Nuits St.Georges 1er Les Didiers Cuvée Jacques Duret

The mix of old and young vines.

A narrower nose. Showing a little more oak. Fresh attack, growing in volume, wide, vibrant flavour - yes, certainly with plenty of oak right now - almost coconut in style but deliciously flavoured all the same, concentrated wine, with a great finish

2017 Nuits St.Georges 1er Les St.Georges Cuvée Sires de Vergéy

Plenty of colour. A quieter, more compact nose., slightly floral. More mouth-filling, more structural, plenty of tannin, the flavour layered and wide. This is easily bravo wine - so good!

2017 Nuits St.Georges 1er Boudots Cuvée Mesny de Roisseaux

A little less colour. Also quite a compact nose. Fresher, with more attack. Wide, intense, less depth to the texture but more concentrated. Deeper

layers of flavour in the finish – such excellent wine, and really not very far behind the LSG!

A little wine from bottle:

2015 Rully Blanc

A nice, fresh width of mainly mineral, but sweetly mineral aroma. Supple, plenty of fresh volume – easy, delicious, but not simple Rully – a nice saline line in the sweet citrus... yum!

2012 Meursault Cromin

Not the largest nose but one with florals and minerality entwined. Fine, fresh volume, energy, a little structure – actually a juicy wine. Delicious, with a grain to the texture. Hardly noticeable but with a touch of reduction in the middle. A super bottle.

2013 Meursault Cromin

Here's a faint reduction – but attractively too. More energy, more dynamic, the same grain to the texture. Super again.

2011 Meursault 1er Les Charmes

More colour. A more herbed nose – but one with lots of depth. Energy, minerality, a touch of pyrazine but complex and interesting. Ooh, lots of weight. This has that premier cru 'extra' but today I really like those Cromins more!

2016 Bourgogne Pinot Noir

Lost 80% of the harvest to frost.

Modest colour. Ooh, that's like the 2017 – a lovely, indeed great, berry and floral nose. Supple, concentrated, layers. Great bourgogne!

2015 Bourgogne Pinot Noir

More volume of aroma – a sheen of aroma – red fruit, and quite inviting. Drive, freshness, energy, no lack of concentration, – if the 16 is great, this is excellent – the mid and finishing flavours take on ever-more purity. It finishes great, it just starts with less distinction.

2014 Gevrey-Chambertin

Less aromatic impact but more purity and a growing width in the glass. More structural, more complex, nice energy and flavour – there's a touch of oak here too – wait for that to fade. But this is fine! Lots of textural tannin in the finish but it's completely ripe.

2012 Gevrey-Chambertin

Ooh, I like this fresh, wide, nose a lot! Wide, complex, fresh and tasty – plenty of energy, no oak showing. That's a young but absolutely drinkable, excellent wine. Fine length too. Such a good wine!

2015 Nuits St.Georges Maladières Cuvée de Granger

Some resemblance to the 2012 Gevrey in the aromas. But still some tightness here. Extra concentration, extra intensity. Ooh, that's great and with super freshness, the barrel flavour is almost gone. Intense, concentrated, not oppressive. Bravo!