

Grands Maisons Grands Crus

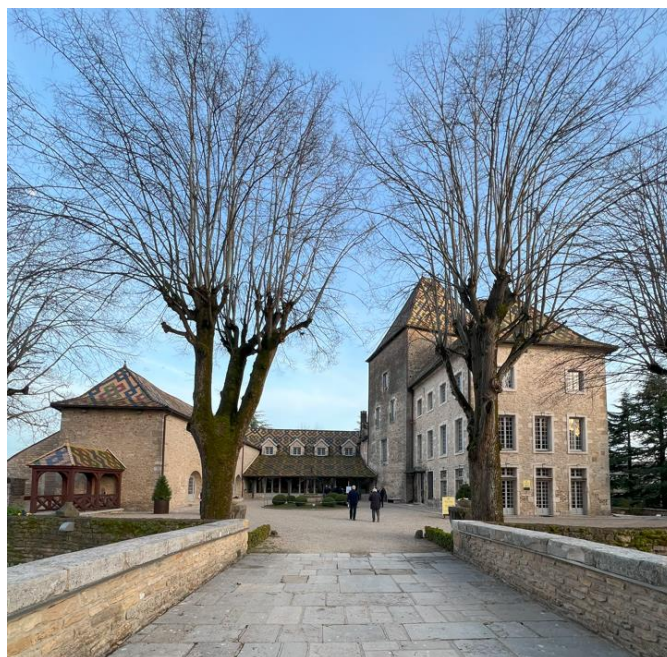
The 2020 Vintage

The Event

The Union de Maisons de Vins de Grande Bourgogne ([link](#)) invited about 80 journalists, wine writers and guests to a tasting event in at the Chateau Philippe Le Hardi ([link](#)) -earlier called Château de Santenay- on the 14th of March 2024, as part of the Grands Jours de Bourgogne 2024. It was a terrific event, probably my favourite of the week, because of the meticulous preparation with a nicely styled tasting note booklet, great location in the cellar of the Chateau Philippe Le Hardi and the intimate atmosphere of limited guests which allowed ample time for tasting and discussions, followed by a dinner.

The 2020 vintage created ripe and rich wines due to the hot and dry summer including a warm September. Burgundy has obviously adapted itself and managed this vintage much better than the hot 2003 for example, which produced wines that are too cooked and today don't present themselves with tension and finesse. Here we have a different picture. The reds remind me of 2015, one of my favourite years combining richness, freshness and structure. The whites are even more surprising. Ripe, generous but with bright acidity, something that for example cannot be universally said for 2022. I think it will be an interesting exercise in 10 years to taste the 2020 next to the cooler and much less heralded 2021 and see which palates prefer which wines.

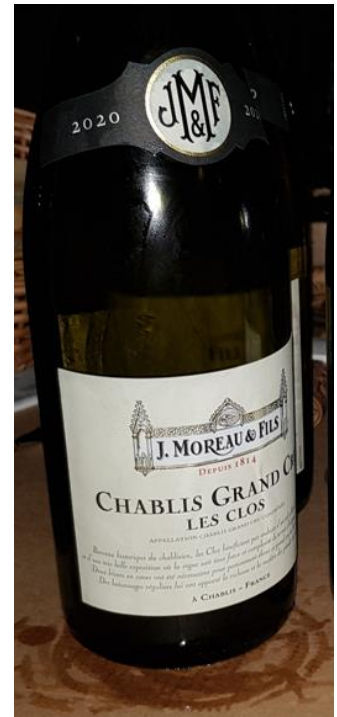
The wines, all Grand Crus showed well and were testimony to the progress that is made by the Maisons de Négoce. While the Domains may have more "cult" status among collectors, I think there is great quality and value to be found by some of the Maison's wines. Something not to miss in your cellar in an environment of elevated Burgundy prices.



The Union des Maisons de Vins de Grande Bourgogne unites and represents 67 négociants from Burgundy and Beaujolais. Maisons are négociants. They are the flag bearers of Burgundy wines both in France and internationally. They are essential players in the production of Burgundy wines and have unique expertise in winemaking and ageing. Prestigious houses such as Joseph Drouhin, Chanson, William Fèvre and Seguin-Manuel, to just mention four, bear witness to the very high standard of the wines produced by the members of the Union. They also play an important role in defending the terroirs and their diversity and in promoting the Climats de Bourgogne in UNESCO. Furthermore, the Union des Maisons de Vins de Bourgogne is a member of the Fédération des négociants-éleveurs de Grande Bourgogne - FNEB- ([link](#)) and has been bringing together the region's wine merchants and estates since 1856. Three other associations are members of the FNEB, namely the Comité Interprofessionnel des Vins du Jura (CIVJ) ([link](#)), the Union de Maisons de Vins du Rhône (UMVR) ([link](#)) and, finally, Bourgogne Wine Alliance.



A part of the 15.5 hectare (38.3 acre) huge 1er Cru plot Santenay Beaurepaire ([Link](#)) that belongs to Joseph Drouhin, Prosper Maufoux, Bouchard Père & Fils, Jean-Claude Boisset among other
View from the Chateau Philippe le Hardi



The tasting

Simonnet-Fèvre ([Link](#))

Chablis Grand Cru Blanchot 2020

50% oak. Floral nose, lots of white flowers, too fruity for my liking. **17/20** (89/100).

Chablis Grand Cru Les Preuses 2020

50% oak. The Chablis Les Preuses is much better than the Blanchot, more restraint and mineral. Good density, medium+ finish. **17.75/20** (92/100).

Domaine Louis Moreau ([link](#))

Chablis Grand Cru Les Clos 2020

Another very fruity wine that was not to my liking. Too floral for a serious chardonnay. **17.25/20** (90/100).

Chablis Grand Cru Vaudésir 2020

Just like the Le Clos shown next to it. I found this wine to be too floral and fruity to be a serious Chardonnay. I am missing minerality and tension. **17.25/20** (90/100).

J. Moreau & Fils ([link](#))

Chablis Grand Cru Les Clos 2020

Another relatively simple fruity Chablis. Missing complexity and tension for a higher score. **17.25/20** (90/100).

Domaine William Fèvre ([link](#))

Chablis Grand Cru Les Preuses 2020

30% oak. I find the Fèvre wines to be too watery for my taste. Maybe it is a purist style that I don't appreciate, but this wine definitely suffered from this deficit. **17/20** (89/100).

Chablis Grand Cru Bougros 2020

30% oak. Like the Preuses very light and fruity. Not really interesting. In general, the Chablis were far away from the Corton-Charlemagne wines tonight, not just in mid-mouth presence but also in attractive aromatics. **17/20** (89/100).

Jean-Marc Brocard ([Link](#))

Chablis Grand Cru Blanchot 2020

Lovely nose of citrus and hazelnut. Not as complex as the Preuses next to it but good mid-level Chard. **17.75/20** (92/100).

Chablis Grand Cru Les Preuses 2020

The first Chablis that convinced me. Beautiful flinty notes with lemon zest, mint and good mouth fill. A success. **18.5/20** (95/100).

Maison Albert Bichot ([link](#))

Corton-Charlemagne Domaine du Pavillon 2020

Ripe nose of lemon curd and butter scotch. Rich entry on the palate but with the acidity and tension to back it up. **18.25/20** (94/100).

Clos de Vougeot Domaine du Clos Fran-tin 2020

Really light bodied for a Grand Cru terroir. Some earthy notes but not much charm. **17/20** (89/100).

Jean-Claude Boisset ([link](#))

Clos de Vougeot 2020

From a mid-slope parcel below the Chateau de La Tour Very smoky nose, a bit too much, liquorice and barnyard. Decent, but a bit rustic. **17.5/20** (91/100).





Louis Jadot ([link](#))

Corton-Charlemagne 2020

Wow, excellent nose here with lemon peel, searing acidity and wonderful mid-mouth presence. Herbs on the finish. Excellent. A clear buy. **18.75/20** (96/100).

Chapelle-Chambertin 2020

Tight and strict, earthy with pine. A little charmless at this point, in need of cellar time. **17.75+/20** (92+/100).

Bouchard Père et Fils ([link](#))

Corton Le Corton 2020

Beautiful nose here, deep aromas of cured meat, red and dark fruit, earthy elements. Polished tannins, especially for a Corton. Great showing. **18.5/20** (95/100).

Corton-Charlemagne Domaine 2020

After the red Corton a great follow-up with this white. Expressive nose of lemon with mint and greens. Complex and balanced. Very good showing of the Bouchard wines indeed. **18.5/20** (95/100).

Chanson ([link](#))

Corton-Vergennes 2020

Expressive nose jumping from the glass with herbs and lemon. Lots of tension. Very good. **18.5/20** (95/100).



Louis Latour ([link](#))

Bâtard-Montrachet Clos Poirier 2020

Great flinty nose here, lemon curd, lime, chiselled, long, aromatic finish. Very good. **18.5/20** (95/100).

Corton-Clos de la Vigne au Saint 2020

Expressive aromas on the earthy side with some animalic notes. Good aromas, but a bit rustic. Would need to shed some tannins for a higher score, but the aromas for it are there. **18-18.5/20** (93-95/100).

Château Philippe-le-Hardi ([link](#))

Corton-Charlemagne 2020

Flinty nose jumping from the glass, flowers mixed with apples and lime. Mineral finish. Great showing just like the Clos de Vougeot next to it. **18.5/20** (95/100).

Clos de Vougeot 2020

From a parcel mid and down slope on the left side (looking up) of the Clos. Wow, very expressive and complex aromas here, attractive red berry fruit with farmyard funk, whole cluster notes. **18.5/20** (95/100).

Au Pied du Mont Chauve ([link](#))

Corton Clos des Fièvres 2020

Nose of red fruit and sous-bois, silky structure, polished for a Corton. Very attractive for a Corton. Very attractive. **18.5/20** (95/100).





Edouard Delaunay & Ses Fils ([link](#))

Corton-Charlemagne 2020

Quite light body for a Corton Charlemagne and also in comparison with the other wines showed at the event. Nose of citrus and white flowers. Rather good than great. **18/20** (93/100).

Echézeaux 2020

Nose of sous-bois a touch rustic but lovely aromas. Missing a bit of elegance for an Echézeaux though. **18+/20** (93+/100).

Faiveley ([link](#))

Corton Clos des Cortons 2020

Very earthy aromas, on the monolithic side, not as much complexity as in the Mazis next to it. Give it cellar time till 2030 at least. **17.75/20** (92/100).

Mazis-Chambertin 2020

Much more aromas here than the Clos de Corton next to it. Underbrush, red and dark berries. Lots of structure made from ripe tannins. Very promising, but also not before 2030. **18.5-18.75/20** (95-96/100).

Prosper Maufoux ([link](#))

Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet 2020

Very toasty nose, rich and ripe, Pina Colada, scents (cream and pineapple). I suspect this was picked a touch too ripe. **17-17.5/20** (89-91/100).



Joseph Drouhin ([link](#))

Marquis de Laguiche Montrachet 2020

This was really elegant for a Montrachet, nothing heavy here, composed and fresh. Really nice, aromatically not really that much ahead (at least at this stage) of the Corton Charlemagne served at the same event, at dinner. **18.5/20** (95/100).

Musigny 2020

OMG, nose of the night and wine of the night. Absolutely stunning, so floral, red fruit with peony, violets and sweet spices. Sublimely elegant palate. A wine to die for. Clearly the wine of the night. Given the prestige, quality, and small production not really a steal anymore unfortunately. **19.25-20/20** (98-100/100).



François Martenot, Marguerite Carillon ([link](#))

Corton-Charlemagne 2020

Wow, this producer was on a roll tonight, Very attractive flinty nose with bright lemon and a touch of wood. Really convincing. **18.5/20** (95/100).

François Martenot, Chartron et Trébuchet ([link](#))

Corton Les Renardes 2020

Expressive and attractive nose here with a kaleidoscope of aromas, wet forest floor with red berries. Very attractive. **18.5/20** (95/100).

Patriarche Père et Fils ([link](#))

Corton-Charlemagne 2020

Lovely flinty nose, light on the palate, fresh, may be not the deepest of all tonight, still very fine. **18.25+/20** (94+/100).

Clos de la Roche 2020

Beautiful red fruit, animalic tones, very fresh entry, crisp, mineral finish. Very nice. **18.5/20** (95/100).



The Patriarche cellars belong to the most fascinating ones in whole Burgundy.



Robin Kick, MW with the Author and Jasper Morris MW taking a look at the wines together with ca. 80 Journalists and guests.

Seguin-Manuel

Corton Le Rognet 2020

30% whole cluster, great aromas here as well, complex, well managed tannins. **18.25/20** (94/100).

Clos de Vougeot 2020

From purchased grapes on the mid slope level. Feels young and primary still, a bit dry on the finish. With air lovely aromas though. Hard to judge where this will end up. **18/20** (93/100).

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