



Tasted in Beaune with Geoffroy Choppin de Janvry on 18.02.2014.

Geoffroy on 2012: On average less than 20 hl/ha were produced. Geoffroy on the vintage: "I find it a classic, round, Burgundy vintage. I see similarities to 2002 and 2006 but with more concentration."

Geoffroy on 2013: For instance in Beaune 1er Les Aigrots (next to Clos des Mouches), it was faster to take individual berries from bunches, than to cut whole bunches and then sort. From 1 hectare of vines, they managed to find enough grapes to make 1.5 barrels. Generally there was no punching down with these grapes, just "gentle, gentle, gentle..." as Geoffroy puts it.

Geoffroy on winemaking in general: "I began in 2000, and previously my aunt had been using 50% new oak. I reduced this to 30% and did a little less punching down. Today we destem, followed by 20 days fermentation in stainless-steel, with some pump-overs. Not all the press wine is added back, and then the élevage is in medium toasted barrels from François Frères and Chassin."

The wines:

According to Geoffroy, six of these wines are already bottled, three are assembled and ready to bottle, and one is not quite ready for bottling.

2012 Pommard, La Rue au Port

Bottled. A cuvée at the domaine since 2008. The vines are close to the Château Pommard. Geoffroy notes "They are really old vines but the soil is hard to move because there's a lot of clay in it. I purposely do almost no active extraction, and reach no more the 29-30°C for the fermentation, to avoid extracting anything harsh." The nose is warm, dark and welcoming, perhaps with a faint spice. There is power but elegance – a fine combination here. A very lovely 'villages' Pommard.

2012 Beaune 1er, Cents Vignes

Still in tank due to late malos. Will be bottled in 2 weeks. Saw the first mildew in years in these vines this vintage, we realised that our spraying wasn't efficient in some of the steep sections – we went faster so didn't spray enough! Now we've a computer controlled sprayer that adjusts the dose depending how fast you go. Deep, fruity and faintly savoury too. There's lovely depth of flavour here – with another dimension of flavour in the mid-palate. There's velvet tannin, but not too much. Will be good.

2012 Beaune 1er Toussaints

Still in tank due to late malos. Will be bottled in 2 weeks. There are high-tones overlaying the fruit aromas, high-tones that are almost floral – I think this will come. Wide and concentrated with a growing acidity, in-tandem the primary fruit is beginning to show other faces and a lovely brightness. Nice energy and delicious wine.

2012 Beaune 1er Les Grèves

Only place in tank a few days ago and not yet sulfured. It is the 'latest' of the wines in terms of development. The nose is more direct and has some minerality. Very good concentration with flavours that leach from your gums.

2012 Beaune 1er Les Aigrots

In bottle just 5 days. Wide and fresh and with higher-toned fruits than the Grèves. The palate starts with silk but tannin slowly comes through – more velvet as there's grip but little grain. There's concentrated, primary fruit that last long in the finish.

2012 Beaune 1er Les Marconnets

Warmer dark red fruit that's sweet but fresh too. A little more richness, some grip again, and a finishing note that reminds of cherry-stones.

2012 Beaune 1er Les Teurons

The nose is wide with flashed of dark fruit and a slowly developing floral note. Lovely, lovely fruit, crunchy fruit, that has a halo of sweetness to it. Faintly mineral in the finish. Just lovely wine.

2012 Beaune 1er Les Aigrots Blanc

Also bottled last week. Fresh, with concentrated bright fruits at the core and a slowly growing padding to the aromatic texture. Sweet, wide and comforting. There's a growing depth of flavour from fruit that is faintly tropical – yet with a good underlying energy and acidity. A stony finish. Yum!

Stephen Tanzer's
INTERNATIONAL WINE CELLAR

By Stephen Tanzer
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2012 Savigny-les-Beaune La Bataillere Aux Vergelesses : Cherry red. Aromas of cherry and menthol. The palate offers a sweet/tart cranberry fruit character with good vinosity. Just a tad sour on the finish today. The estate pulled up one-third of these vines after the 2012 harvest and will replant to chardonnay in 2014. 85-88 points

2012 Beaune Cent-Vignes : Good deep red. Ripe aromas of cherry, chocolate and herbs. Fat, sweet and rich; a bit thick for my taste but with good vinosity. A very ripe style with solid acids and tannins. 87-89 points

2012 Beaune Toussaints : Deep red. Wild, nuanced nose melds medicinal dark cherry, herbs and leather. A step up from the Cent-Vignes in lift and definition in the mouth. More tannic, too, but has the concentration to support its backbone. 88-90 points

2012 Beaune Aigrots : Bright medium red. Some musky reduction to the aromas of redcurrant, plum, mocha and tobacco. Smooth and silky in the mouth but given shape by nicely integrated acidity. Finishes with some slightly green herb and pepper notes. 88-90 points

2012 Beaune Bressandes : Bright, dark red. Complex, pure, youthfully subdued scents of dark raspberry, smoke and minerals. A step up from the foregoing samples in juiciness and lift, displaying lovely energy to the flavors of cherry, herbs and game. A very solid Beaune wine with nice cut and balance. Finishes firm and long. This wine finished its malolactic fermentation early (most of the other wines here finished much later--until September) but still was holding a lot of gas. 90-92 points

2012 Beaune Marconnets : Bright, dark red. Reticent aromas of dark cherry, redcurrant, herbs, tobacco and leather. At once silky and juicy, showing excellent energy to its red fruit, spice and tobacco leaf flavors. Not a fat wine but boasts very good inner-mouth tension. Finishes lively and long, with fine-grained tannins. 90-92 points

2012 Beaune Teurons : Bright red-ruby, the darkest of these 2012s. Wild, reduced nose hints at redcurrant, black cherry and menthol; a bit cabernet-like in its brooding character. Densely packed and sweet on the palate, with a liqueur-like dark cherry flavor complicated by fresh herbs and smoky underbrush. Large-scaled, broad and palate-saturating, finishing with big, broad tannins and excellent length. The biggest of these 2012s and totally different in texture from the rest, with its brooding fruit still in the background. 91-93 points