

Domaine Joseph Voillot (Volnay)

2023	Beaune "Aux Coucheries" 1er	red	90
2023	Bourgogne Pinot Noir Vieilles Vignes	red	86
2023	Pommard Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2023	Pommard "Clos Micault" 1er	red	90
2023	➡ Pommard "Les Epenots" 1er	red	91
2023	➡ Pommard "Les Pézerolles" 1er	red	92
2023	➡ Pommard "Les Rugiens" 1er	red	92
2023	Volnay Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2023	➡ Volnay "Les Caillerets" 1er	red	91
2023	Volnay "Les Champans" 1er	red	90
2023	➡ Volnay "Les Frémiets" 1er	red	91

Etienne Chaix, the current director of this fabled domaine, described 2023 as "one, much like 2022, that had a pretty easy growing season though they were certainly not the same. 2022 was very hot and markedly dry and while 2023 was certainly very warm, there were more periodic showers. The season began with a rapid flowering though the summer turned complicated as the big crop wasn't really budging in terms of advancing the maturities. We had a stroke of luck though as the second half of August turned exceptionally hot and with a small storm on the 15th, maturities began climbing quickly. We chose to begin picking on the 5th of September and continued through to the 11th, which was propitious as it rained on the 12th! There was moderate sorting necessary, mostly for underripe berries, but there was a bit of everything, including botrytis, sunburn and in a few cases, hail. All told, we threw out between 15 and 20% of the potential crop. Maturities, while perfectly good, were not as high as the high temperatures made me think that they might be. Volumes were unusually good at between 42 to 48 hl/ha with potential alcohols that were in the upper 12 to 13% range. Stylistically, the 2023s remind me of a denser but less robust version of our 2017s." The reds were bottled between July and December 2024." (A Roy Cloud Selection for Vintage '59 Imports, www.vintage59.com, Washington, D.C., USA; Anthony Sarjeant, UK; Jalux, www.jalux.com, Japan; Dieckmann's Wein, www.dieckmannswein.de, Germany; Okhuysen, www.okhuysen.nl, Netherlands; Divine Wines, www.divine-burgundy-wine.com, Ireland; La Cave de Reverolle, www.cavedereve.ch, Switzerland; Fine Wine Company, www.sdvf.ca, Canada).

2023 Bourgogne Pinot Noir Vieilles Vignes: (from a parcel located near Volnay). Aromas of ripe black pinot fruit, earth and a whiff of the *sauvage* give way to lilting and vibrant lighter weight flavors that possess a lovely texture while concluding in a lightly austere finish that is just firm enough to repay a few short years of keeping. 86/2027+

2023 Volnay Vieilles Vignes: A mentholated top note is present on the aromas of various ripe dark berries, earth and just enough wood to merit mentioning. The sleek and attractively textured flavors possess both good verve and a subtle minerality that adds to the appeal of the bitter pit fruit-inflected, youthfully austere and balanced finale. 88/2028+

2023 Pommard Vieilles Vignes: (from Les Cras though not labeled as such). An earthier and less obviously wood nose reflects notes of mostly red berries and subtle spice wisps. There is solid power and vibrancy to the bigger-bodied flavors that possess a lovely texture, all wrapped in a slightly firmer and certainly more robust finale. This could use better depth so at least a few years of keeping are advised. 88/2029+

2023 Beaune "Aux Coucheries": A more elegant, airy and agreeably fresh nose presents notes of the essence of spicy red cherry and a whiff of earth. The super-sleek, intense and vibrant middle weight flavors exude a very subtle bead of minerality that adds a sense of lift to the youthfully austere, balanced and lingering finale. This is very Beaune in character and a wine that should drink well either young or with up to a decade of keeping. 90/2030+

2023 Volnay "Les Frémiets": (from vines that average 50+ years of age). A slightly riper, and more deeply pitched, nose combines notes of plum, warm earth and a hint of smoked meat character. Here too the mouthfeel of the medium-bodied flavors is super-sleek with slightly better density, all wrapped in a youthfully austere and slightly firmer finish. Very good quality here though in a package that's going to need at least some bottle aging. 91/2031+

2023 Volnay "Les Champans": (from vines that average 50 years of age). Moderate wood influence surrounds the elegant, ripe and appealingly layered aromas of both red and dark pinot fruit, soft earth and a floral top note. The supple, round and relatively sophisticated middle weight flavors aren't particularly dense but I do like the punch and minerality displayed by the lingering finish where the only nit is a hint of warmth. 90/2031+

2023 Volnay "Les Caillerets": (from a small .14 ha parcel planted in 1984). A markedly spicier nose speaks primarily of black cherry, violet and whiff of exotic tea. Once again there is a super-sleek mouthfeel to the utterly delicious flavors that possess both excellent detail and minerality before terminating in a dusty, compact and built-to-age finale. This is a wine that's definitely going to need at least 5 to 7 years of keeping before it will be ready to entertain guests! 91/2031+

2023 Pommard "Clos Micault": A somber and restrained if still pretty nose reluctantly offers up its array of earthy dark berries along with hints of crushed anise. The punchy and delicious middle weight flavors possess a relatively refined mid-palate mouthfeel that contrasts mildly with the youthfully austere finale that flirts with rusticity. This could also use better depth so a few years of cellaring should prove to be beneficial. 90/2031+

2023 Pommard "Les Epenots": (from Petits Epenots). Moderately generous wood stops short of fighting with the relatively airy mix of red and dark berries, plum and discreet earth nuances. I very much like the texture of the solidly voluminous flavors that possess excellent length, if presently only average depth, on the ever-so-slightly warm finale. Patience is recommended here as well. 91/2033+

2023 Pommard "Les Pézerolles": (from a .4 ha parcel planted in 1963). An exceptionally pretty, even perfumed, nose blends ripe aromas of red and dark cherry, violet, spice and an interesting suggestion of dried tangerine peel, which isn't something that one encounters every day. The wonderfully textured, delicious and more mineral-driven middle weight flavors retain a lovely sense of delineation that carries over to the balanced, moderately austere and built-to-age finale. The Voillot Pézerolles doesn't usually have the same density of tannins as the Epenots but in 2023, it appears that such is the case. 92/2033+

2023 Pommard "Les Rugiens": (from a .25 ha parcel in Rugiens Bas planted in 1959). This is also exuberantly aromatic and expressive and while not quite as perfumed as the Pézerolles, the nose of red cherry, currant and rose petal scents is nonetheless elegant and airy. There is excellent cut and vibrancy to the bigger-bodied and more tautly muscular flavors that brim with minerality before culminating in a chiseled, youthfully austere and quite firm finale. This could use more depth but given that the style in 2023 is borderline old school, though without the rustic tannins – firm yes, rustic no – this should certainly develop more in time. 92/2035+