

Domaine Joseph Voillot (Volnay)

2020	Beaune “Aux Coucheries” 1er	red	90
2020	Bourgogne Pinot Noir Vieilles Vignes	red	86
2020	➔ Pommard Vieilles Vignes	red	89
2020	Pommard “Clos Micault” 1er	red	90
2020	➔ Pommard “Les Epenots” 1er	red	92
2020	➔ Pommard “Les Pézerolles” 1er	red	91
2020	➔ Pommard “Les Rugiens” 1er	red	92
2020	Volnay Vieilles Vignes	red	88
2020	➔ Volnay “Les Caillerets” 1er	red	92
2020	Volnay “Les Champans” 1er	red	90
2020	➔ Volnay “Les Frémiets” 1er	red	91

I again met this year with Jean-Pierre Charlot and his nephew Etienne Chaix, who has taken over the direction of the domaine from his uncle, though Jean-Pierre remains involved. They described 2020 as having the “earliest harvest date ever for us at the domaine. The season, while precocious, hot and dry, was relatively easy to manage as there were no climatic incidences and almost no disease pressure. There was however some hydric stress in the vineyards, especially over the first 10 days of August where we lost on the order of one-third to as much as one-half of the potential crop. We picked from the 22nd of August and while the fruit itself was clean, we did have sort carefully to eliminate sunburned berries. The trick was to get the fruit cooled down as quickly as possible so that the fermentations didn’t begin as quickly as it was placed in the fermenters. Yields were not great at between 22 and 25 hl/ha with moderate potential alcohols that ranged between 13.5 to 14%. We vinified softly to avoid over extracting the ripe tannins from the thick skins. As to the wines, they’re supple, fresh and seductive but the underlying structure is deceptive in that it seems quite supple yet the 2020s should age for years.” Chaix noted that the wines were bottled between August and December 2021. (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).

2020 Bourgogne Pinot Noir Vieilles Vignes: (from a parcel of 100% pinot vines located near Volnay). A ripe and moderately high-toned nose speaks mostly of red and dark raspberry plus a hint of earth. There is good vibrancy to the succulent, delicious

and nicely textured middle weight flavors that contrast somewhat with the rustic and youthfully austere finale that offers sneaky good length. 86/2024+

2020 Volnay Vieilles Vignes: Spicier aromas include those of poached plum, red cherry and a floral top note. The velvety, round and seductively textured medium weight flavors coat the palate before concluding in a mildly austere, balanced and, like the Bourgogne, sneaky long finish. This could use better depth, but the material appears to be present for that to occur if held for a few years first. 88/2026+

2020 Pommard Vieilles Vignes: (from Les Cras though not labeled as such). A slightly more deeply pitched nose blends notes of dark raspberry liqueur, newly turned earth and pretty spice wisps. The solidly concentrated and powerful medium-bodied flavors possess a velvety mid-palate that coats the mouth on the youthfully austere, balanced, firm and beautifully long finale. This is a very good Pommard *villages* and worth considering. 89/2028+

2020 Beaune “Aux Coucheries”: An overtly spicy and moderately cool yet ripe nose freely reveals its aromas of red currant, raspberry, violet and a hint of just turned earth. There is evident minerality suffusing the generously proportioned medium weight flavors that tighten up on the lingering finale. This is very Beaune and a wine that should drink well young but also with up to a decade of aging. 90/2027+

2020 Volnay “Les Frémiets”: (from vines that average 50+ years of age). This is even spicier with its slightly riper array of red berry coulis, warm earth and discreet anise and tea wisps. The very supple and surprisingly forward medium-bodied flavors immediately firm up on the slightly less mineral-driven flavors that offer a bit better depth and persistence. This will need at least a few years of patience as it's presently pretty tightly wound. 91/2028+

2020 Volnay “Les Champans”: (from vines that average 50 years of age). This is the first wine to display any appreciable reduction so be sure to decant it if you're tempted to try a bottle young. Otherwise, there is good punch to the lilted, indeed almost delicate, middle weight flavors that possess very good volume on the lingering finish. This could use better depth, but the Voillot Champans has an excellent track record for developing well in bottle. 90/2027+

2020 Volnay “Les Caillerets”: (from a small .14 ha parcel planted in 1984). Like the Champans, this is also sufficiently reduced to obscure the underlying fruit. The slightly finer and more precise flavors exude a subtle minerality as well as an exquisite inner mouth perfume on the lingering, balanced and lingering finale. This is lovely and a wine that should age effortlessly. 92/2027+

2020 Pommard “Clos Micault”: A notably earthier blend of red and dark currant displays a subtle spicy top note. The medium weight flavors are also quite supple that displaying good intensity on the nicely persistent finish where traces of warmth and youthful austerity slowly appear. This deceptively structured effort flashes focused power and is a wine that should also repay up to a decade of keeping. 90/2028+

2020 Pommard “Les Epenots”: A discreet application of wood frames aromas of plum compote, warm earth and an array of subtle spice nuances. The extremely supple barely middle weight flavors also immediately tighten up on the beautifully textured, intense and strikingly long finale. This is also a deceptive wine as it does seem to be on the lighter side, yet the flavor authority and buried structure make clear that the 2020 Epenots should age effortlessly. 92/2030+

2020 Pommard “Les Pézerolles”: (from a .4 ha parcel planted in 1963). A very pretty and airy combination features notes of both red and black cherry with background nuances of earth, humus and just sliced fennel. The succulent, round and utterly delicious middle weight flavors retains reasonably good delineation while culminating in a mildly warm, dusty, chalky and bitter pit fruit-inflected finish. 91/2028+

2020 Pommard “Les Rugiens”: (from a .25 ha parcel planted in 1959). A mentholated top note can be found on the cool, pretty and layered essence of ripe red berries, rose petal and anise. There is fine volume and mid-palate density to the relatively full-bodied flavors that are shaped by a firm and bright acid spine on the balanced, youthfully austere and mineral-driven finale. This should age effortlessly and is a wine that's going to need at least a few years of patience. 92/2030+