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Domaine Joseph Voillot

Volnay producer, Domaine Joseph Voillot has witnessed a gradual changing of hands as Etienne Chaix has taken over from Jean-Pierre Charlot, whom Chaix assures me is enjoying a trip to the Douro during the week of my visit. "It was a complicated season for everyone in Europe," Chaix tells me. "The frost in April saw temperatures of -7° Celsius for five hours with some snow, so we lost 60-90% of volume because of that. I hope it's once in a lifetime, but it's Nature that decides. There was then a lot of mildew because of the rain, but we didn't lose too much more. We were lucky to have three beautiful weeks at the end of August and the beginning of September, the harvest from the 18 September. We had a little botrytis thanks to the dry conditions, so we could wait for ripeness. It was the opposite of 2020, when the three last weeks reduced the volume. We produced less than 75 barrels compared to 130 barrels in a normal year, the Premier Crus particularly impacted: Meursault, Volnay Champans, Fremiets and Beaune. In Beaune, we had just eight cases of grapes [equal to one barrel] compared to 42 this year [2022]. It was complicated to manage the fermentation with small quantities, so we just do pigeage rather than remontage, and we tried to do a strict triage to keep just the best grapes. We had a longer cuvaison to find more structure and fruit concentration. Everything is de-stemmed in 2021, and we will bottle most cuvées at the end of this year or early 2023."

From *Servants of the Seasons: Burgundy 2021 (Jan 2023)* by Neal Martin

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2021 Pommard Les Pezerolles 1er Cru

(91-93)

Color: Red

Drinking Window: 2024 - 2037

Neal Martin, November 2022

The 2021 Pommard Les Pezerolles 1er Cru has attractive finesse on the nose, with red and black fruit, bay leaf and forest floor aromas. I like the way this gains intensity with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy red fruit, fine depth and more nuance and terroir expression on the finish compared to Voillot's other Pommards. Just two barrels this year.

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2021 Beaune Aux Coucherias 1er Cru

(88-90)

Color: Red

Drinking Window: 2024 - 2034

Neal Martin, November 2022

The 2021 Beaune Aux Coucherias 1er Cru has an attractive nose with dark berry fruit, loam and hints of white pepper incorrectly implying there is some whole bunch. The palate is medium-bodied with a smooth and harmonious opening, fine acidity and slightly meaty red fruit with white pepper and bay leaf; it's persistent towards the finish that leaves a spicy residue. Alas, just a single barrel survived.

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2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir Vieilles Vignes

(85-87)

Color: Red

Drinking Window: 2022 - 2024

Neal Martin, November 2022

The 2021 Bourgogne Pinot Noir Vieilles Vignes is the largest cuvée this year - 20 barrels. It has a strong menthol nose with a touch of iodine and spearmint. The palate is medium-bodied with rustic tannins, a little ferrous with a splash of balsamic towards the finish. Drink over the next couple of years.

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2021 Meursault Les Cras 1er Cru

(87-89)

Color: White

Drinking Window: 2024 - 2032

Neal Martin, November 2022

The 2021 Meursault Les Cras 1er Cru was reduced to a single barrel this year (twice as much as the Chevalières!). It has a pretty nose with rosewater-tinged citrus fruit. The palate is soft on the entry with

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2021 Pommard Clos Micault 1er Cru

Color: Red

(87-89)

2033

Neal Martin, November 2022

The 2021 Pommard Clos Micault 1er Cru is quite austere on the nose despite coaxing - leafy red fruit reluctantly emerging. The palate is medium-bodied with a slightly lean entry; however, it gains weight and delivers a short and compact, quite peppery finish. It's really the aromatics that just come up a bit short.

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2021 Pommard les Epenots 1er Cru

Color: Red

(87-89)

Drinking Window: 2024 - 2032

Neal Martin, November 2022

The 2021 Pommard les Epenots 1er Cru has a touch more fruit intensity than the Clos Micault, raspberry and cranberry mixed with bay leaf and clove. The palate is medium-bodied with slightly chewy tannins on the entry and fine depth, though it is missing a bit of complexity towards the sour cherry finish.

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2021 Pommard Les Rugiens 1er Cru

Color: Red

(89-91)

Drinking Window: 2024 - 2036

Neal Martin, November 2022

The 2021 Pommard Les Rugiens 1er Cru has a fiery nose at first, before calming down and delivering attractive raspberry coulis and cranberry scents. There is just a bit of volatility here. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, the fleshiest of the Pommards from the estate, though the Pezerolles has more complexity and personality.

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2021 Pommard Vieilles Vignes

Color: Red

(87-89)

Drinking Window: 2024 - 2032

Neal Martin, November 2022

The 2021 Pommard Vieilles Vignes is a step up from the Volnay with more freshness and delineation - black cherries and raspberry coulis. The palate is medium-bodied with pliant tannins, cohesive with a fine bead of acidity, gentle grip towards the raspberry and blackcurrant finish, cracked black pepper on the aftertaste. Fine.

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2021 Volnay Les Caillerets 1er Cru

Color: Red

(90-92)

Drinking Window: 2024 - 2035

Neal Martin, November 2022

The 2021 Volnay Les Caillerets 1er Cru was reduced to a single barrel for the first time ever. It does not quite have the complexity or terroir expression of the Champans on the nose, a little stoic and distant. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe tannins, a mixture of red and black fruit and fine acidity, plus a healthy sprinkling of white pepper and sage towards the persistent finish. Not quite the élan of the Champans, yet it pulls together nicely.

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2021 Volnay Les Champans 1er Cru

Color: Red

(91-93)

Drinking Window: 2025 - 2038

Neal Martin, November 2022

The 2021 Volnay Les Champans 1er Cru has much more brightness and delineation than the Fremiets this year, with red cherries, wild strawberries and just a touch of iodine and sous-bois. This is nicely focused. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy red fruit, fine structure, pliant tannins and a harmonious finish. Not the most complex Champans encountered from this address, yet it has class.

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2021 Volnay Les Fremiets 1er Cru

(88-90)

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granny tannins, a slightly chunky texture and gentle grip with a structure
Give this a couple of years in bottle.

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2021 Volnay Vieilles Vignes

(85-87)

Color: Red

Drinking Window: **2024 - 2033** ^

Neal Martin, November 2022

The 2021 Volnay Vieilles Vignes is quite deep in colour. It offers dark berries, raspberry coulis and orange blossom on the nose, just a slight underlying reduction. The palate is medium-bodied with smooth tannins. It's tart in style, with black cherries, soy and white pepper, though it just misses a little ripeness on the finish.

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