

Domaine Joseph Voillot (Volnay)

Etienne Chaix is very happy with how his 2023s have turned out and he feels this is an excellent vintage for both reds and whites. As I mentioned in the introductory section, he started picking on September the 5th in this year and finished bringing in his last grapes on the 11th, one day ahead of the massive thunderstorm that struck Burgundy on September the 12th. He had bottled up everything by the time of my visit on January 10th, with his two superb Meursaults and his Bourgogne Rouge having been bottled just ahead of the harvest of 2024. The remainder of the reds had been bottled the second week of December and had been in bottle one month at the time that I tasted them. As is the house style here at Domaine Voillot, all of the reds were completely destemmed this year. Like many other top estates in Burgundy in 2023, the red wines here have a lovely black fruity character that recalls a bit the aromatic signatures of the young 1993s once upon a time, though structurally the two vintages are quite dissimilar. I had started selling this fine domaine's wines all that way back in the aforementioned vintage of 1993 and I am strongly of the impression that in this day and age, the wines of Domaine Voillot are even better than they were back then and are now to be clearly listed amongst the very finest small handful of domaines in the village of Volnay.

Vins Blancs

2023 Meursault “les Chevalières”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

The 2023 Meursault “les Chevalières” from Domaine Voillot is lovely on both the nose and palate. The superb bouquet hops from the glass in a vibrant blend of lime, pear, fresh almond, a fine base of chalky soil tones, apple blossoms and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and sports a lovely core of perfectly ripe fruit, with a fine foundation of minerality, bright, zesty acids and a long, complex, well balanced and very precise finish. Fine juice. 2025-2050. 92.

2023 Meursault “les Cras” Premier Cru- Domaine Joseph Voillot

Etienne Chaix's 2023 Meursault “les Cras” is equally fine in this vintage, showing that impeccable combination of beautifully ripe fruit and fine underlying soil tones. The nose is deep, but a touch more reserved at the present time than the Chevalières, offering up scents of apple, pear, almond, a nice touch of orange peel, a beautiful base of limestone minerality and a gentle framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and rock solid at the core, with absolutely superb backend mineral drive, a fine spine of acidity and great length and grip on the seamlessly balanced finish. This deserves at least a couple of years in the cellar to start to blossom. Another excellent bottle of young Meursault! 2027-2055. 93.

Vins Rouges

2023 Bourgogne Rouge “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

The Bourgogne Rouge V.V. was one of the few 2023 reds in the Voillot cellars to be predominantly a red fruity wine in this vintage. It was showing very nicely at the start of my trip, offering up a bright and complex bouquet of cherries, pomegranate, vinesmoke, dark soil tones, a dollop of fresh thyme and just a hint of oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, complex and very nicely structured, with a very respectable core of fruit, moderate tannins and lovely length and grip. 2027-2040. 88.

2023 Volnay “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

The vintage's calling card of pure sappy fruit and good soil signature is very much in evidence in Monsieur Chaix's old vine Volnay villages bottling. The wine's aromatic constellation reveals scents of cassis, dark berries, woodsmoke, raw cocoa, a lovely base of dark soil tones and a gentle framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and shows off excellent depth at the core, with lovely soil undertow, tangy acids, well-measured tannins and a long, complex and impeccably balanced finish. Fine juice. 2033-2070+. 90+.

2023 Pommard “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

The 2023 Pommard “Vieilles Vignes” from Domaine Voillot was another wine in the cellar that was rather red fruity in personality this year, so a bit out of the stylistic norm for the vintage here. The lovely nose wafts from the glass in a youthful blend of red plums, cherries, gamebird, raw cocoa, dark soil tones, a dollop of fresh herbs and a discreet framing of oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, nascently complex and deep at the core, with fine soil signature and grip, ripe tannins, lovely focus and balance and a long, tangy finish. This is a bit more reserved out of the blocks than the fine Volnay AC and will demand a bit longer in the cellar before it will start to drink with generosity. 2036-2075. 90+.

2023 Beaune “aux Coucheries”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

Etienne Chaix's 2023 Coucheries is another ringing success for the vintage. The wine offers up a refined and already nicely complex bouquet of black cherries, sweet dark berries, currant leaf, a suave foundation of soil tones, gamebird, a touch of oak, fresh thyme and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, tangy and nicely structured, with a fine core of fruit, good soil transparency, lovely balance and a long, focused and ripely tannic finish. Good juice. 2033-2075. 91+.

2023 Volnay “les Fremiets”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

I love Etienne Chaix's version of les Fremiets and the 2023 is another in a string of excellent examples of this fine premier cru. The bouquet is bright, deep and nicely black fruity in personality, offering up scents of cassis, dark berries, pigeon, a complex base of dark soil tones, bitter chocolate, a touch of vanillin oak and a lovely topnote of currant leaf. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, complex and shows a nice touch of sappiness in its core of black fruit, with impressive soil undertow and grip, fine-grained tannins and a long, seamlessly balanced finish. 2035-2085. 92+.

2023 Volnay “les Champans”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

Not surprisingly, the 2023 les Champans from Domaine Voillot is also outstanding this year. It too is quite black fruity in personality, offering up a deep and vibrant aromatic constellation of dark berries, black cherries, coffee bean, a complex base of soil, gamebird and cedar. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, poised and nicely transparent down to its soil component, with an excellent core of fruit, ripe tannins and fine focus and balance on the long, complex and very pure finish. A fine, fine bottle in the making. 2035-2085. 93.

2023 Volnay “les Caillerets”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

Fairly often in the Voillot cellars, the Caillerets will be a red fruity example in the lineup of Volnays, but not this year, where it too shares that signature black fruity profile of the Fremiets

and Champans. It offers up a deep and classy nose of sweet dark berries, cassis, bitter chocolate, currant leaf, gamebird, stony soil tones, cedar and plenty of upper register smokiness. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and the most reserved in personality of these three fine Volnay premier crus, with a superb core of fruit, lovely soil signature, ripe tannins and a long, well balanced and nascently complex finish. This will need time to blossom, but it is going to be an excellent wine once it is ready to drink. 2036-2085. 93+.

2023 Pommard “Clos Micault”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

Etienne Chaix’s 2023 Clos Micault has turned out beautifully in this vintage. The bouquet is really quite expressive for young Pommard today, wafting from the glass in a classy blend of black cherries, black plums, gamebird, woodsmoke, a fine base of soil, coffee bean, gentle savory notes and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and complex, with fine transparency down to its soil, a superb core of fruit, ripe tannins and a long, vibrant and balanced finish. Fine juice. 2035-2075+. 92.

2023 Pommard “les Epenots”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

The 2023 Pommard “Epenots” is really outstanding this year. The wine offers up a simply beautiful black fruity nose today, wafting from the glass in a sappy blend of black plums, black cherries, raw cocoa, pigeon, a complex base of soil tones, woodsmoke, a hint of fresh thyme and a lovely framing of cedary oak. On the palate the wine is pure, precise and full-bodied, with a great core of fruit, excellent soil undertow, fine-grained tannins and impeccable balance on the long, tangy and complex finish. This is going to be stellar. 2037-2085+. 93+.

2023 Pommard “les Pézerolles”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

The 2023 Pommard “les Pézerolles” from Domaine Voillot is an equally stunning young wine. The wine’s aromatic constellation is sappy, pure and very refined, offering up scents of sweet dark berries, black plums, raw cocoa, pigeon, currant leaf, dark soil tones, a hint of anise, woodsmoke and a gentle framing of cedary oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and sports a superb core of fruit, with lovely mineral drive and grip, tangy acids, ripe, buried tannins and a long, impeccably balanced, complex and very precise finish. Great juice. 2037-2085+. 94.

2023 Pommard “les Rugiens”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

My favorite red wine in the Voillot cellars this year was this utterly beautiful Rugiens. The wine offers stunning purity and depth in its aromatic constellation, hopping from the glass in a mix of red and black plums, black cherries, venison, currant leaf, a complex foundation of minerality, raw cocoa, woodsmoke and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, refined, full-bodied and complex, with a stunning core of fruit, superb soil signature and grip, ripe, fine-grained tannins, very good acids and a very long, balanced finish that closes with exceptional lift and backend energy. Grand cru quality without a doubt! 2039-2090. 94+.