

Domaine Joseph Voillot (Volnay)

Etienne Chaix has crafted absolutely brilliant wines in 2024! In fact, these may yet be the finest range of wines from him yet in any vintage that I have had the pleasure to taste. Monsieur Chaix commented that he felt that he and his fellow vigneronns and vigneronnes in the Côte de Beaune may have been luckier than their colleagues in the Côte de Nuits and Chablis in this vintage of constant struggle, as at the end of the day, his yields were “only” down by fifty percent.

Given how catastrophically smaller many other domaines' yields were in 2024, he is probably right that to only lose fifty percent of the potential crop was “good luck” this year. As was the case also last year, everything here from 2024 was already bottled by the time of my visit on January 10th, with his two Meursaults and his Bourgogne Rouge Vieilles Vignes having been bottled in July of 2025 and all the rest of the range of red wines having been bottled in the weeks leading up to Christmas. After the quite black fruity personalities of many of the 2023s chez Voillot, it was nice to see the following red wines from this vintage generally being very red fruity in personalities. Etienne Chaix describes the 2024 vintage “as very classic, with each wine very much defined by its underlying terroir.” I asked Monsieur Chaix if his chardonnay vineyards or his pinot noir vineyards were more affected by the loss of crop to mildew and he responded “it was probably a bit harder vintage for the white wines for us, but as we have much more pinot noir vineyards, that was probably better for us personally.” He continued, the most we make of our Meursault “Chevalières” or “les Cras” is three barrels of either wine in a big crop, so to only have two barrels, or even one, is not too bad.” Which is actually what Domaine Voillot ended up with in 2024, with two casks of Chevalières and one of the les Cras. Both of the Meursaults here this year are stellar, with the les Cras a bit more closed down out of the blocks, but the Chevalières absolutely delicious from the get go and it was clearly one of the finest white wines I tasted during my entire trip! In a world with plenty of over-priced Meursault, Monsieur Chaix's Meursault “les Chevalières” is still a stellar value!

But, the depth of the cellar here is in its red wines and the 2024s were absolutely singing at the time of my visit. Across the board, they are quite red fruity this year, with extremely soil-driven personalities that revel in their underlying terroir. There is a nice sense of sappiness in the core of many of the red wines, with very pretty spice tones and their overall sense of balance and completeness was most impressive. It was funny, but as we tasted through the range of the premier crus from both Volnay and Pommard here, I thought to myself, this or that wine really reminds me of the style of the wines from Jacques d'Angerville during his long career making the wines at Domaine Marquis d'Angerville. Etienne Chaix uses a bit more new oak for his top premier crus than Jacques d'Angerville did during his day, but the 2024s from Domaine Joseph Voillot are really a beautiful throwback stylistically and if one is old enough to remember and miss the utterly classical style of wines from Monsieur d'Angerville back in the day, these are 2024s for you. When I mentioned to Etienne how classic his wines tasted to me in the 2024 vintage, he commented “that our goal here is always to try and be consistent with our cellar techniques every year and across every wine, so that the only differences will be the differences of terroir.” He continued, “our style, with all of the bunches destemmed, may not be fashionable at the moment, but it is always the way we have made our wines for generations, and sometimes, if you stay constant, you just may find that you are fashionable once again.”

Vins Blancs

2024 Meursault “les Chevalières”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

The 2024 Meursault “les Chevalières” here strikes me as the finest white wine I have yet tasted from Etienne Chaix, as the wine has everything one could ask for in a top flight Meursault.

The bouquet is already beautifully expressive, soaring from the glass in a mix of pear, almond, golden delicious apple, a delicate touch of passion fruit, a complex base of chalky soil tones, vanillin oak and a lovely floral topnote redolent of fruit blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and vibrant, with a superb core of fruit, fine soil signature, a really terrific girdle of acidity and impeccable balance on the long, precise and complex finish. Fine, fine juice. 2026-2050. 93+.

2024 Meursault “les Cras” Premier Cru- Domaine Joseph Voillot

Monsieur Chaix’s 2024 Meursault “les Cras” is also excellent, but this wine is more reserved in personality at the moment than is the case with the gorgeous Chevalières. The bouquet offers up a lovely blend of lemon, green apple, pear, chalky minerality, raw almond, just a touch of oak and citrus zest. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, crisp and shows off excellent depth of fruit, with fine focus and balance, again, excellent acids and a very long, mineral-driven and promising finish. This may well catch up to the Chevalières with some bottle age, as it really has fine backend lift and energy. 2028-2050. 93.

Vins Rouges

2024 Bourgogne Rouge “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

The domaine’s 2024 Bourgogne Vieilles Vignes is going to be a very good bottle with a couple of years in the cellar. The wine is bright and red fruity on the nose, hopping from the glass in a mix of wild strawberries, cherries, a touch of gamebird, coffee, a fine base of soil and a topnote of nutskin. On the palate the wine is bright, full-bodied and tangy in personality, with a good, a nice touch of buried tannin and lovely length and grip on the well-balanced finish. A good example. 2030-2045. 88.

2024 Volnay “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

The youngest vines that go into this old vine cuvée of Volnay were planted in 1987, but most were planted in the decade of the 1940s and one parcel dates back all the way to 1930! The 2024 version is really quite lovely and absolutely classical in its blend of cherries, red plums, coffee bean, gamebird, a dollop of fresh thyme, coffee bean, a lovely base of dark soil tones and just a touch of oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a fine core of red fruit, good soil signature and grip, ripe tannins and fine balance on the long and focused finish. Good juice in the making. 2034-2075+. 90+.

2024 Pommard “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

The 2024 old vine bottling of Pommard is beautifully transparent down to its soil in this vintage. Monsieur Chaix notes that the wine hails from two parcels that lie further on down the slope in clay soils, and two parcels up above the premier crus, where the soils are thinner and much more chalky. The combination of the two makes for a very elegant example of Pommard villages.

The 2024 version delivers a fine nose of cherries, quince, pigeon, a complex base of soil, a touch of mustard seed, gentle oak tones and a topnote of distant bonfire. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, tangy and complex, with a fine core, excellent soil undertone and grip, well-integrated tannins and a long, well balanced and promising finish. A lovely example. 2036-2080. 90+.

2024 Beaune “aux Coucheries”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

The 2024 Beaune “aux Coucheries” from Domaine Joseph Voillot is another beautifully red fruity wine this year, delivering a bright and refined aromatic constellation of cherries, pomegranate, gamebird, coffee bean, a fine base of soil, woodsmoke, a deft framing of new oak and a lovely array of spice tones in the upper register. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, tangy and complex, with a nice touch of sappiness at the core, a fine foundation of soil, suave tannins and fine length and grip on the beautifully balanced finish. This is a classy bottle of Beaune in the making. 2034-2080+. 92.

2024 Volnay “les Fremiets”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

The 2024 Fremiets was the first wine in the red wine lineup here that got me thinking about the similarity of these wines to those of Jacques d’Angerville back in the day. So, I asked Monsieur Chaix where their vines were in this premier cru in comparison to the d’Angerville family’s parcel, and it turns out that they are next to each other, both located on the Pommard border, with the d’Angerville parcel just about the Voillot vines on the slope. The wine has really turned out beautifully in 2024, offering up scents of red plums, cherries, pigeon, a lovely array of spice tones, a complex base of soil, just a touch of cedary oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, focused and tangy, with a lovely core of sappy red fruit, fine-grained tannins, excellent balance and a long, soil-driven and complex finish. Classy juice. 2036-2085. 92+.

2024 Volnay “les Champans”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

The traditional d’Angerville style of the 2024s from Etienne Chaix was every bit as evident in this beautiful bottle of young Champans. The bouquet is deep and focused, wafting from the glass in a refined blend of red plums, cherries, gamebird, mustard seed, a superb base of dark soil tones, cedar and a lovely touch of lavender in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, complex and full-bodied, with a great core of fruit, fine soil inflection and grip, fine-grained tannins and good backend bounce from the lovely acids on the long and impeccably balanced finish. First class Volnay in the making! 2038-2085+. 94.

2024 Volnay “les Caillerets”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

Monsieur Chaix’s 2024 Caillerets is every bit as superb as his Champans in this vintage. The wine’s aromatic constellation reveals a complex blend of cherries, red plums, a touch of pomegranate, pigeon, a fine array of Caillerets’ signature spice tones, a superb base of soil, lavender and cedary oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off excellent depth at the core, with impeccable balance, ripe and buried tannins and fine focus on the long, complex and very classy finish. Impressive. 2038-2085+. 94.

2024 Pommard “Clos Micault”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

Etienne Chaix’s 2024 Clos Micault is a fine young wine. The bouquet is already very expressive, wafting from the glass in a complex mix of cherries, quince, coffee, venison, distant bonfire, dark soil tones and a nice touch of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, focused and nascently complex, with a lovely core of fruit, excellent soil inflection and grip, ripe tannins and a long, well balanced and promising finish. Like all fine young Pommards, all this wine needs is time in the cellar to soften up its undercarriage of tannin. 2038-2085. 92+.

2024 Pommard “les Epenots”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

Domaine Voillot’s vines in les Epenots are all old, as they were planted in 1961. These old vines have turned out a stunning example of the 2024 vintage, which offers up a superb nose of red plums, cherries, pigeon, a delicate touch of mustard seed, woodsmoke, a stunning base of soil tones and a deft framing of cedary oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, suave and sappy at the core, with great soil transparency and grip, fine-grained tannins and a very, very long, seamlessly balanced and elegant finish. Great juice. 2037-2085+. 94.

2024 Pommard “les Pézerolles”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

When we got to the Pézerolles, Etienne Chaix commented that he has profound respect for the past generations who planted vines here by hand back in the day, as there is so little topsoil in the vineyard before one reaches the chalky bedrock. Pretty hard work when doing it by hand! His 2024 Pézerolles is another stunning young wine, offering up scents of red and black cherries, red plums, gamebird, espresso, a superb base of soil tones, bonfire, cedar and a lovely topnote of violet. On the palate the wine is pure, precise and full-bodied, with a sappy core of fruit, great focus and balance and a long, complex and soil-driven finish. This is another stunning young Pommard. 2038-2085+. 94.

2024 Pommard “les Rugiens”- Domaine Joseph Voillot

If all of the top examples of 2024 Rugiens are as good as Etienne’s version in this vintage, it would seem that promotion to grand cru is just around the corner! This is the most complex of his fine roster of Pommards this year, offering up superb complexity in its aromatic constellation of red and black cherries, a touch of dark berry, spit-roasted venison, a beautiful array of spice tones, a complex foundation of soil and a nice framing of cedary oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, focused and properly structured out of the blocks, with a great core of fruit, superb mineral undertow, ripe, buried tannins and a very, very long, complex and impeccably balanced finish. Great juice. 2040-2100. 94+.