

Meursault premiers crus 2010

There may be no grands crus, but the 17 premiers crus from one of Burgundy's most famous white regions offer serious wines – both rich and racy, says Stephen Brook

MEURSAULT, THE LARGEST of the white wine villages of the Côte de Beaune, has become the hardest to get to grips with. Unlike Puligny-Montrachet or Chassagne-Montrachet (or Corton) it has no grands crus, so the consumer is deprived of one rung of the usual Burgundian hierarchy.

As if to compensate at the other end of the scale, many growers focus on individual village sites (lieux-dits). There are 132ha (hectares) of premiers crus, but more than 300ha of village wine. The latter sites vary enormously in quality, but many growers are persuaded that the best village sites, such as Tillets, Narvaux and Luchet, have such individuality that they are worth bottling separately, rather than blending them into a generic Meursault wine. They are right to do so, and even the finest producers bottle a number of these lieu-dit wines, but for consumers it does make matters even more complex than usual in Burgundy. Anyone who wants to make the most of Meursault needs some idea of the characters of these individual village sites, as well as some understanding of the 17 premiers crus.

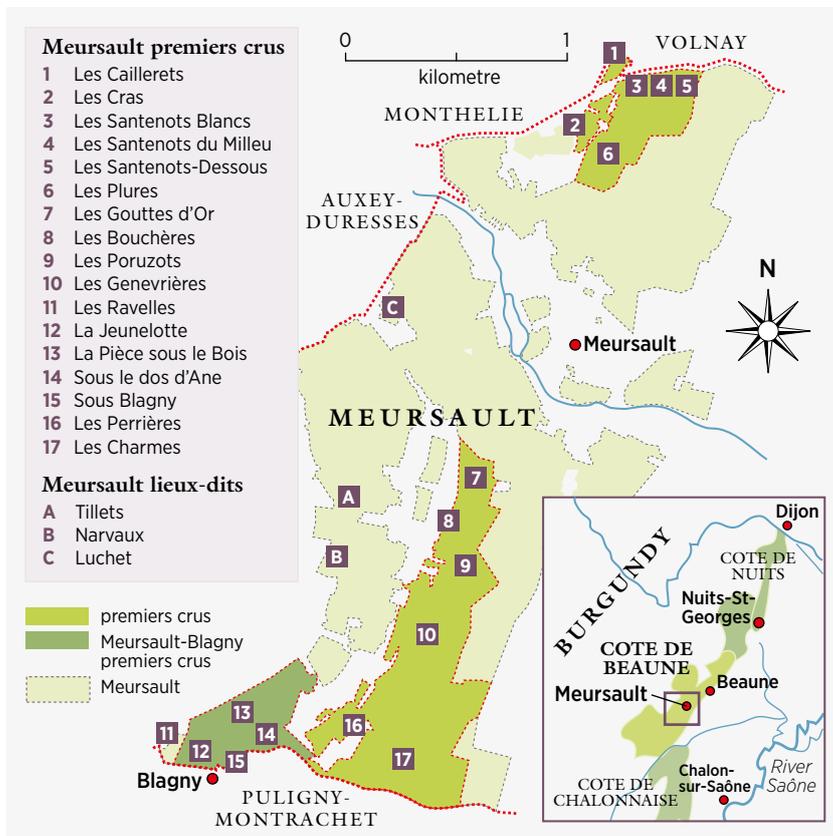
As in Nuits-St-Georges, the lack of grands crus means that there is much debate about which are the best of the premiers crus. Many would cite Perrières. As its name suggests, it is one of the stoniest vineyards. It certainly gives very mineral wines, and thus stands in complete contrast to another esteemed premier cru: Les Charmes. These wines usually conform to the stereotype of Meursault as a wine of richness, breadth and texture, unlike the racier, steelier wines so typical of Puligny. It's a large site, and the higher part is valued more than the lower, but it gives lush, accessible wines that are understandably popular.

Site specifics

Another top site, Genevrières, has more in common with Perrières than Charmes, and produces wines with distinct minerality. Les Gouttes d'Or, with only 5ha under vine, is well regarded, as is the larger Poruzots. Since in many of these top premiers crus, the higher sector is the more esteemed, some growers distinguish on the label whether their wine is sourced from Dessus (above) or Dessous (below), and the same is true of some lieux-dits. Moreover, some premiers crus lie quite high up in the hamlet of Blagny, and can be labelled as Meursault-Blagny. So it's not surprising that many consumers find Meursault baffling.

Fortunately there are many top producers in Meursault, and often it seems easier to latch on to a favourite rather than search for a specific vineyard. The best producers tend to be stylistically distinctive, often departing from the stereotype – or possible caricature – of Meursault as big and buttery. Many can have a thrilling minerality and precision, though not at the expense of weight of fruit.

After the breadth of the very ripe 2009 vintage, the greater raciness and tension of the 2010 will be welcome to many lovers of classic white Burgundy. The crop was low after a poor flowering, which proved a godsend over the cool summer, as a normal crop might not have ripened. The grapes remained healthy but retained their high acidity. The wines that succeeded will have achieved a balance between the fruit and acidity.



Meursault: know your vintages

2011 As yet unbottled, but the quality should be good. Despite much summer rainfall, rot and dilution were apparently rare. A small crop.

2010 Poor flowering and the cool summer did not bode well, but naturally low yields brought grapes to full ripeness while acidities remained high.

2009 A warm summer and dry September delivered fleshy, forward wines, though the best have ample acidity.

2008 A tricky vintage: mildew, hail in July and a small crop. But good

sugars and acidity levels led to some excellent wines.

2007 A wet August hurt the red wines, but the whites were ripe and had good acidity. Very good quality, but probably surpassed by 2010.

2006 High sugars led to full-bodied whites, but acidities were adequate rather than exceptional. Not for long ageing.

2005 Very ripe wines, and thick-skinned berries ensured good extract. Some whites may suffer from excessive sugars and thus alcohols.

Meursault: the facts

Total area under vine 448 hectares

Village vineyards 316ha

17 premiers crus 132ha: Perrières, Charmes, Genevrières, Poruzots, Bouchères, Gouttes d'Or, those sold under Meursault-Blagny (Jeunelotte, Pièce sous le Bois, Sous le dos d'Ane, Ravelles and Sous Blagny) and the Santenots family (Santenots du Milieu, Santenots Blanc and Santenots-Dessous, Plures, Cras, Caillerets)

The results

An impressive tasting that exceeded all expectation, with our judges praising the 'grand cru-like quality' of the ripe yet racy wines. White Burgundy lovers can buy with confidence. Mark O'Halleron reports

'CLASSIC WHITE BURGUNDY,' was Stephen Brook's assessment of the wines in this great tasting. 'The overall standard of winemaking was extremely high. I thought the wines were going to be good, but they surpassed my expectations; it was very impressive.' Steven Spurrier was also keen to shower the wines with praise: 'Amazing! This tasting proves that Meursault is an incredible commune. Meursault doesn't have any grand cru vineyards, but there were grand cru-quality wines here; the Meursault-ness of them was absolutely fantastic.' Gearoid Devaney MS was also enthusiastic, while noting the wider picture: 'The young winemakers are so quality conscious and they're all pushing hard to improve. Some people thought that because 2010 wasn't a warm summer we weren't going to get good wines, but this shows that even with cooler conditions, you can get beautiful examples of white Burgundy. Meursault is as exciting as any region today.'

Expanding on the vintage conditions, Brook confirmed they played a significant part in the style of the finished wines: 'Because of problems with flowering etc, yields were down at least 30%. So, as the vines were carrying a low crop, it helped them get through a cool summer –

'Amazing! This tasting proves that Meursault is an incredible commune' Steven Spurrier

there wasn't much sunshine. The grapes eventually ripened but they probably wouldn't have had the vines been carrying a normal crop, and because of the cool conditions, acidity stayed way up, so you had ripeness and high acidity. It's just what you want in white Burgundy.'

All three judges, however, were keen to get across that the raciness of the wines was not purely down to the vintage. Spurrier said: 'The days of buttery, creamy Meursault have gone.' Brook confirmed the change in style: 'Meursault has been caricatured – probably through a lot of négociant wines trying to conform to what the market thinks white Burgundy should be like. Those of us who love the wines have always tended to prefer Puligny-Montrachet for that classic purity and minerality, but this tasting shows that Meursault is capable of exactly the

The scores

85 wines tasted

4
Outstanding

35
Highly recommended

41
Recommended

5
Fair

0
Poor

0
Faulty

9
Good value (€35 and under)

The tasters' verdicts

Stephen Brook



Brook has been a contributing editor to Decanter since 1996. He is an awarded author of more than 30 books, including Complete Bordeaux, the definitive study of the region, and The Wines of California. Brook also revised the last two editions of Hugh Johnson's Wine Companion.

Brook's verdict

'This was a sensorially good tasting. My expectations were high, but I was still cautious. This had been a difficult growing

season and full ripening was far from assured until well into September. As always in the great vintages for white Burgundy, the grapes achieved just the right balance between fruit and acidity. It was striking how well made the wines were. True, there were some showing worrying oxidation so soon after bottling, but apart from those there was scarcely a poor wine.

'The most celebrated premiers crus performed very well, but there were also very good wines from more obscure sites such as Cras and Bouchères. Although Perrières is the most renowned premier cru, for me the star was Genevrières, where there were fewer disappointments than in Perrières. Charmes, not surprisingly, was patchier, since this is a very large site with an uneven quality of terroir within it.

'Many wines showed a good deal of new oak, but generally handled it well, and with further age the oakiness should integrate further. Freshness and elegant acidity rather than oak were the hallmarks of this tasting. It's a classic vintage in that the wines showed few tropical fruit flavours. Recalling how dull Meursault could be in the 1980s and early 1990s, it's thrilling to see this great commune firing once again on all cylinders.'

Gearoid Devaney MS



Devaney is a Master Sommelier who works for Flint Wines, an independent specialist Burgundy wine merchant based in London. He was voted UK Sommelier of the Year 2008 and Restaurant magazine's Sommelier of the Year 2007.

Devaney's verdict

'The feeling I had during the tasting was mainly positive – the wines on the whole, were very good and at times excellent. 2010 had been difficult for the growers,

with problems at flowering resulting in low yields – not always such a bad thing, but the season had not been as warm as they might have liked.

'These wines were mostly very good and expressed their terroir and vintage very well. For the most part they had great structure and refreshing acidity with a taut mineral undertone – very much a style that I like and that I think Decanter readers will like too. I was glad to see that there were not many examples of late picking or misjudgments of oak.

'Some of the lesser-known and smaller crus such as Caillerets, Cras and Bouchères had good wines to offer, and the Genevrières and Perrières were outstanding. I thought that Poruzots and Charmes were less homogenous but the quality was still high. The wines of Blagny had lots of charm, and while I know that they are small vineyards, it's a pity we don't see them more often.

'This was a great tasting. I had high expectations, as I liked the 2010s in barrel and in January 2011 at the Burgundy *en primeur* tastings, the wines did not disappoint. They will start to drink well in the next year or two and the best should last for at least 20 years – for those who have restraint!'

same qualities; it can be just as exciting and racy.' Devaney felt the trend away from creamy styles had been creeping in for the past few years, though it was more obvious in the 2010s: 'In 2009 the winemakers would still have made wines with minerality, with acidity; they may have been plumper but you still get backbone.'

In terms of the best-performing vineyards, there were great wines scattered among them, although Perrières certainly shone according to Brook: 'If there were to be a grand cru in Meursault, then many people would put Perrières forward. It's quite a stony vineyard – there is a quarry near the site – and the wines are very mineral. But I was equally impressed with Genevrières, which is also a contender for the top premier cru.' Devaney agreed: 'They were definitely the two vineyards where I saw a lot of exciting wines. But that freshness, good acidity and backbone is what I love in Burgundy and I found it here, almost across the board.'

Echoing comments made following the Vosne-Romanée panel tasting (*December 2012 issue*), Spurrier said Burgundy was flying high: 'It's a golden age for the region. Everybody wants to make the best wine they can and there are very few poor producers around now.' Brook was in no doubt about what readers should do: 'Go for these wines; it's a terrific vintage. You can't really go wrong, so buy with confidence.'

Entry criteria:
producers and UK merchants were invited to submit any Meursault 2010 premier crus

Outstanding 18.5–20pts (95–100pts)



Domaine des Comtes Lafon, Genevrières

Decanter average score: 18.75/20pts (95+/100pts)

Individual judge's scores:

Stephen Brook 18.5 Gearoid Devaney MS 18.5 Steven Spurrier 19

POA Berry Bros & Rudd, Domaine Direct

No surprise that a wine from this famous property was the highest-scoring wine in the tasting. For almost three decades Dominique Lafon has maintained the highest standards, in the vineyard and the winery, and many consider him the finest white wine producer in Burgundy. Farmed biodynamically, the grapes would have been fermented in roughly 50% new oak, and aged through a second winter in older barrels.

Stephen Brook Delicate, oaky, appley nose. Lean and tight – has precision rather than opulence – taut and stony with a pronounced minerality and considerable finesse. The fruit is subdued but that's fine with a young white Burgundy. This is classy and very long.

Gearoid Devaney MS Spicy, smoky nose with straw touches. Palate is intense and complex with stone fruits, salty minerals and high-toned acidity. Really focused with a long finish and great potential.

Steven Spurrier Fine nose of herbs and honey. Beautiful expression, vigour and depth, lots of energy and clarity, this is grand cru-standard. Great texture, depth, length and a superb future.

Drink 2013–2024 Alcohol 13%

Steven Spurrier



Spurrier is Decanter's consultant editor. He is an author, renowned taster, and set up the Christie's Wine Course with Michael Broadbent. Spurrier is also a wine consultant to Singapore Airlines and founded The Wine Society of India.

Spurrier's verdict

'This was an exceptional tasting, not only for the confirmation that 2010 is an excellent vintage for white Burgundies, but also for showing the overall high

quality from Meursault – perhaps the highest ever. Of course, these were premier cru wines, and many from the top domaines, but I don't think we would have seen such consistency from either Puligny-Montrachet or Chassagne-Montrachet.

'What stood out for me was the vibrancy of the fruit, the expression of vineyard character, and the fact that most wines could be opened now, but will improve for several years. The quality came through especially in the top crus: Perrières (in line to become a grand cru perhaps), Genevrières (should join Perrières as a grand cru) and a very wide selection from the broader style of Charmes.

'This said, each cru had its own personality and the style of Meursault was present throughout. This was due to the good vintage, the lower yields, very good vineyard management and certainly, in my view, less use of new oak and especially the virtual abandonment of battonage (lees stirring), which good Meursaults have never needed. There was a verticality and a minerality in these wines which simply did not exist a generation ago. Long may it continue.'



Domaine Jean Monnier, Genevrières 18.5 (95)

SB 18.5 GD 18.5 SS 18.5

N/A UK www.domaine-jeanmonnier.com

This long-established property, founded in the early 18th century, is now run by two generations of the family: Jean-Claude and his son Nicolas. The domaine has 16 hectares under vine, with parcels spread out from Puligny to Beaune. The Genevrières vines were pulled out and replanted about 10 years ago, and it is somewhat surprising that a wine of such complexity could be produced from such young vines.

SB Oaky but bright nose with apricots, pears and wet stones. Lean and precise, with a silky texture and great finesse. There's intensity, purity and admirable acidity to lift the mid-palate and finish. Not that expressive now, but the oak is well integrated, the fruit poised and lifted with a saline finish.

GD Clean and open with a medium intensity of aroma. Notes of cashew and macadamias with stony minerals and white peach. Palate is dry and concentrated with oatmeal, citrus notes and stone fruits. Lovely acidity and minerality with lots of potential. Plenty of pleasure here.

SS Yellow fruits on the nose, over herbs and honey. Already showing complexity and the naturally concentrated fruits show this. Good, grippy, fruit palate with quite high acidity to help it mature. A vigorously assertive wine with a very good future – lots of complexity to come.

Drink 2013–2022 Alc 13%

Outstanding (continued) 18.5–20pts (95–100pts)



François Mikulski, Perrières 18.5 (95) SB 18.5 GD 18.5 SS 18.5

£62–£64 **Bordeaux Index, Fine & Rare**

The nephew of grower Pierre Boillot, Mikulski took over and renamed his domaine more than 20 years ago, also sourcing grapes from 8ha of vines. However, the grapes for the Perrières are purchased. His use of new oak is moderate – no more than 20% – and it shows in this wine, which is lean and exact, requiring more time for the fruit and the palate to fill out. Although the wines can spend as long as 18 months in oak, the wood remains very much in the background.

SB Light citric nose, with a herbal tang. Lean and precise, concentrated and forthright, with integrated oak and a linear structure. Needs time to fill out and gain more complexity. Depth of flavour and very good length.

GD Fragrant with lots of stone fruits and wet stone. Palate is elegant, the soft peachy fruit backed up with precise acidity and lovely saline minerals. This wine has good definition and a long finish, and will get better,

SS Fine, precise, apple, pear and lemon nose with fine oak. Beautiful ripe fruit palate with acidity and citrus elements still a bit dominant, but a very classy wine to emerge and to last well. This should become a real classic.

Drink 2014–2025 **Alc** 13.2%



Henri de Villamont, Caillerets 18.5 (95)

SB 18.5 GD 18.5 SS 18.5

N/A UK www.hdv.fr

De Villamont is an established domaine, founded in 1880, and best known as a négociant. The firm is based in Savigny-lès-Beaune, where most of its 10ha are located. Its wines are well known in Switzerland, as the company is owned by Schenk, a major wine producer based there, with brands throughout Europe, but it has a lower profile in Britain. Caillerets is a 1ha premier cru close to Volnay, planted with Pinot Noir as well as Chardonnay.

SB Sprightly, tangy nose, very mineral and reminiscent of Chablis with green apples and moderate oak. Plump, generous fruit and considerable depth of flavour, all supported by fine acidity. Mouthwatering and long.

GD Inviting yellow peach and oatmeal. The palate is textured with lovely, crushed sea shell minerals and warmth in the middle. Ripe stone fruits and toasty, balanced oak. This is a wine with lots of complexity and depth.

SS Concentrated, lemony nose with good depth and phenolic nuttiness. Ripe natural fruit on the palate and seems fleshier than its 12.5% alcohol would suggest. Very well-made wine. Impressive now with great potential.

Drink 2013–2022 **Alc** 12.5%

Highly Recommended 17–18.25pts (90–94pts)



Domaine Jacques Prieur, Perrières

18 (93) SB 18 GD 18 SS 18

POA **Marc Fine Wines**

Nose has stone fruit characters and minerality with nicely toned oak. Fine, full flavour, concentrated, citric and racy. Taut and tangy, very mineral and pure, yet it also has depth of flavour and considerable complexity too.

Drink 2014–2022 **Alc** 14%



Bouchard Père & Fils, Genevrières

17.75 (92) SB 17.5 GD 17.5 SS 18

£47–£52 **Fine & Rare, Morgan Classic Wines**

Brisk nose of lime, green apples and yellow fruits – really pure. Palate is taut, with lovely lines and saline minerals. Superb concentration without excess. Closed in its fruit expression now, but has an appealing raciness and great finesse. **Drink** 2013–2020 **Alc** 14%



Bouchard Père et Fils, Perrières

17.75 (92) SB 17 GD 18 SS 18

£57–£69 **Fine & Rare, Hedonism Wines**

Fine yellow fruit nose, almost creamy but with a citrusy twist, lovely florality and lifted fruit. The palate is open with stone fruits and conference pear notes, lovely acidity and pure minerals; really precise, expressive and toned.

Drink 2013–2022 **Alc** 14%



Domaine du Château de Meursault, Charmes

17.75 (92) SB 18 GD 18 SS 17.5

N/A UK www.meursault.com

Ripe mango aroma with cinnamon spice, apricot fruit and herbs. Full bodied with lots of texture and minerals. Broad, classy wine with potential, it may lack elegance, but has complexity and power to compensate. **Drink** 2013–2022 **Alc** 14%



Domaine Latour-Giraud, Genevrières

17.75 (92) SB 18.5 GD 18 SS 16.5

£54 **Fine & Rare**

Rich and creamy with great weight of apricot fruit and citrus elements, but not at the expense of acidity. There's spicy oak, considerable minerality and great drive. The wine is very well put together and has a wonderful long, tasty finish. Great potential. **Drink** 2013–2025 **Alc** 14%



Olivier Leflaive, Perrières

17.75 (92) SB 18 GD 17 SS 18

N/A UK www.olivier-leflaive.com

Nose is open and smoky, with yellow spices and ripe apricot fruit. Oak beautifully blended in, full of vibrancy and almost grippy fruit. Pungent, direct and a bit one-dimensional now, but has a lively citrus persistence that bodes well. Elegant and long. **Drink** 2013–2022 **Alc** 13%

Highly Recommended (continued) 17–18.25pts (90–94pts)



Seguin-Manuel, Bouchères

17.75 (92) SB 18 GD 18 SS 17.5

£35–£45 **Haynes Hanson & Clarke, Private Cellar**

Intense nose with yellow spices, stone fruits, white flowers and stylish oak. A pretty, elegantly lifted Meursault: complex with plenty of richness, but limpid too, with no trace of heaviness. Natural vigour with a lovely, long, elegant finish showing saline minerality.

Drink 2013–2022 **Alc** 13.5%



Domaine Chanson, Perrières

17.5 (91) SB 18 GD 17 SS 17.5

£35 **Millesima, Wimbledon Wine Cellars**

Quite a rich nose of oak and white flowers. Tastes more like Charmes than Perrières. Nonetheless a good and concentrated wine, with firm acidity, a fine-grained texture and considerable drive and persistence.

Drink 2013–2022 **Alc** 13.5%



Domaine du Château de Meursault, Meursault

17.5 (91) SB 17.5 GD 17.5 SS 17.5

£24 **Millesima**

Lovely nose with stone fruits and yellow apple, with the oak well blended in. Good attack – concentrated, firm acidity. It is taut, not fruit-expressive yet, but has admirable minerality and a long finish. A good future in store. **Drink** 2013–2020 **Alc** 13.5%



Domaine Latour-Giraud, Cuvée des Pierre, Genevrières

17.5 (91) SB 18 GD 17.5 SS 17

N/A UK www.domaine-latour-giraud.com

Real grandeur here. Rich, very concentrated, dense and dramatic, with considerable power and weight. Very good potential with the richness to show more complexity as it ages. Backbone is here but the wine has not filled out yet. **Drink** 2013–2024 **Alc** 13.5%



François Mikulski, Genevrières

17.5 (91) SB 17 GD 17 SS 18.5

£54.17 **Great Western Wine**

Lush toasty nose, ripe apples, flowers, honey and dry herbs. Very pure Chardonnay on the palate. Sleek texture, beautifully controlled and expressed. Not yet showing all its flair, this is a fine wine with a very good future ahead of it.

Drink 2013–2020 **Alc** 13.2%



Antoine Jobard, Genevrières

17.25 (90+) SB 18 GD 17.5 SS 16.5

£56–£60 **Fine & Rare, Goedhuis, Justerini & Brooks**

Ripe, oaky nose, rich and powerful with a hint of hazelnuts. Palate is also dominated by the oak but there is lots of stone fruits underneath. Impressive, open style, with good weight of fruit and some spice and grainy phenolic tones from the oak. Needs time. **Drink** 2013–2022 **Alc** 13%



Buisson Battault, Charmes

17.25 (90+) SB 17.5 GD 17.5 SS 16.5

£34.50 **Robert Rolls**

Quite heady, almost exotic yellow summer fruits on the nose with apple, peach and almonds. Lush and ripe, with a strong, lemony core of acidity. This has the heft of Charmes but not at the expense of minerality and vigour.

Drink 2013–2022 **Alc** 13.5%



Château de Côteaux, Perrières

17.25 (90+) SB 17.5 GD 18 SS 16

£60 **Coe Vintners**

Attractive dry herb nose, with lemony and slightly creamy fruit. The palate is rich with layers of flavour and a smoky, flinty edge. A hedonistic style, with very ripe fruit and lovely, linear acidity. The finish is long and textured.

Drink 2013–2020 **Alc** 14%



Domaine Antonin Guyon, Les Charmes Dessus

17.25 (90+) SB 18 GD 17 SS 17

POA **Friarwood**

Bright, tangy mineral nose with apricots, pears, minerals and yellow fruits. Good vigour and grip; very ripe fruit is balanced by stylish acidity, making a harmonious wine with no rough edges. Very good future. **Drink** 2013–2020 **Alc** 13.5%



Domaine Bitouzet-Prieur, Perrières

17.25 (90+) SB 18 GD 16.5 SS 17.5

£49 **McKinley Vintners**

Exotic fruit nose but not very showy, with citrus fruit, dried herbs and honey. Fine palate: creamy, spicy, very tight and taut. The fruit concentration is impressive and there's ample minerality too. This should go the distance. **Drink** 2013–2022 **Alc** 13.5%



Domaine des Comtes Lafon, Goutte d'Or

17.25 (90+) SB 17.5 GD 17.5 SS 17

POA **Berry Bros & Rudd, Domaine Direct**

The nose is intense, with yellow fruits, straw and spices. Lovely balance of citrus fruit, stone fruit and natural ripeness. Already attractive, with impeccable balance, but still has a certain reserve. The minerality on the finish guarantees a long future. **Drink** 2013–2020 **Alc** 13%



Domaine des Comtes Lafon, Perrières

17.25 (90+) SB 16.5 GD 17 SS 18.5

POA **Berry Bros & Rudd, Domaine Direct**

Bright lemon curd nose, with a slight grassiness. The palate is intense and rich with great grip and length. The oak is still prominent but there are many more layers that will be revealed in time. A very fine example of this cru, with a great future. **Drink** 2013–2022 **Alc** 13.5%

Highly Recommended (continued) 17-18.25pts (90-94pts)



Domaine des Comtes Lafon, Charmes 17.25 (90+) SB 17 GD 17.5 SS 17
 POA Berry Bros & Rudd, Domaine Direct
 Creamy, toasty nose with ripe yellow peach and apricot fruit. Plump, upfront, juicy, oaky fruit – a style with swagger rather than finesse, but with a nice, mineral backbone and a refreshing finish. Should open up to reveal a classy wine.
Drink 2013-2022 **Alc** 13%



Domaine Henri Germain, Charmes 17.25 (90+) SB 16 GD 17 SS 18.5
 £55-£60 Domaine Direct, Lea & Sandeman
 Sweet, oaky nose of apricot jam, peach, mango and honey. Rich flavours, typical of Charmes, with a lifted citrusy element and great presence and length. There's a backbone of limestone minerality leading to a long, complex finish.
Drink 2013-2022 **Alc** 13.5%



Domaine Jean-Marie Bouzereau, Poruzot 17.25 (90+) SB SB 17.5 GD 18 SS 16
 POA Anthony Byrne Fine Wines
 Lush, oaky nose with muted apple fruit, stone fruit, citrus elements and slightly nutty tones. Stony minerality on the palate which does show layers of flavour but not much complexity currently. But this is mouthwatering, youthful, long and racy, and will probably fill out more with time. **Drink** 2013-2020 **Alc** 13%



Domaine Roulot, Charmes 17.25 (90+) SB 17.5 GD 17.5 SS 17
 POA Domaine Direct
 Rich, creamy and full-bodied – a luxurious style that has Charmes typicity but retains considerable freshness and elegance. Vibrant, exotic fruit lifted by excellent acidity, this will broaden out into classic Meursault.
Drink 2013-2020 **Alc** 13%



Jean-Luc & Paul Aegerter, Les Genevrières 17.25 (90+) SB 17.5 GD 17 SS 17.5
 N/A UK www.aegerter.fr
 Ample oak on the nose, with plenty of ripe, yellow peach and apricot fruit. Very fine expression of Genevrières, with the firmness and grip of this cru. For hedonists, this is rich but has enough backbone and acidity to keep it going. **Drink** 2013-2020 **Alc** 13%



Olivier Leflaive, Genevrières 17.25 (90+) SB 16 GD 18 SS 18
 £35 Millesima €
 Assertively oaky nose, leaving the fruit rather submerged at present. Lots of tension and energy on the palate which is intense, with stone fruits, flinty smoke and nutty oak. This is a finely tuned, textured wine, with a long life in front of it. **Drink** 2013-2022 **Alc** 14%



Olivier Leflaive, Charmes 17.25 (90+) SB 17.5 GD 17 SS 17.5
 N/A UK www.olivier-leflaive.com
 Yellow fruits, ripe peaches and pears on the nose, along with apples and spice. The palate is concentrated with peachy fruit and there are minerals underneath the oak. Not very nuanced now, but needs time to fill out. **Drink** 2013-2020 **Alc** 13.5%



Ropiteau, Charmes 17.25 (90+) SB 18 GD 17 SS 17
 £50 Fine & Rare, Wine Studio
 Broad and rich, exuberant and concentrated. It has some freshness despite the weight of fruit – great spice and complexity. The finish is very pure and elegant, and there should be more to come. Has Charmes typicity. **Drink** 2013-2018 **Alc** 13.5%



Vincent Girardin, Les Perrières 17.25 (90+) SB 18 GD 17.5 SS 16.5
 £45 Fine & Rare, Thorman Hunt
 The nose has smoky oak with underlying peach and nectarine fruit. Good weighty palate; very concentrated with precision and drive, and there's minerality beneath the ripe fruit – fine acidity too. Classic, elegant and poised. **Drink** 2013-2022 **Alc** 13.5%



Buisson Battault, Goutte d'Or 17 (90) SB 17.5 GD 17 SS 16.5
 £34 Majestic, Robert Rolls €
 Ripe, floral nose with a rich, nutty, almost earthy fruit aspect. Vibrant fruit palate with natural vigour from the vineyard. Has lots of weight and concentration, but there's good underlying acidity to give structure and persistence. Tangy, long succulent finish. **Drink** 2013-2020 **Alc** 13.5%



Domaine Bernard Millot, Les Perrières 17 (90) SB 17 GD 17.5 SS 16.5
 N/A UK www.domaine-millot.com
 Quite exotic, with apricot fruit, hay and dried herb notes. Good attack, leading to a massive and concentrated palate of depth and power. The oak is a bit strident now, but it will integrate with more time. **Drink** 2013-2018 **Alc** 14%



Domaine Bitouzet-Prieur, Charmes 17 (90) SB 16.5 GD 17 SS 17.5
 £48 McKinley Vintners
 Nicely floral nose with dried herbs. Good attack, fresh and crisp, and ample concentration leading to a more stony mid-palate. It doesn't seem that complex, though the minerality adds interest to the long finish. **Drink** 2013-2020 **Alc** 13.5%

Highly Recommended (continued) 17-18.25pts (90-94pts)



Domaine René Monnier, Charmes 17 (90) SB 18 GD 16 SS 17
 £43-£49 Christopher Keiller, Corking Wines
 Rich and assertive. A bold style with a lot of presence. Rich honey and dried herb nose and lots of citrusy summer fruits. Palate is dry and textured but needs a year or two to settle down. It's rewarding to find such power not being allied to high alcohol. **Drink** 2013-2022 **Alc** 13.5%



Henri Darnat, Clos Richemont, Monopole 17 (90) SB 17 GD 17 SS 17
 POA Corney & Barrow
 Broad appley nose – a bit subdued, but with white and yellow flower aromas. Clearly youthful and not harmonious yet. Elegant, rather than fleshy with evident citrus notes. A very attractive wine in a leaner style, with a long, vigorous, tangy finish and a saline mineral backbone. **Drink** 2013-2020 **Alc** 13.5%



Henri de Villamont, Blagny 17 (90) SB 17.5 GD 16 SS 17.5
 N/A UK www.hdv.fr
 Lifted and spicy nose with fresh apple fruit present. Fine and elegant palate that is lean, taut, racy and zesty. Not a fruit-forward style but has drive and finesse, with the tension that Blagny should deliver. A very good future. **Drink** 2013-2020 **Alc** 12.5%



Louis Jadot, Charmes 17 (90) SB 16 GD 17 SS 18
 £52 Farr Vintners, Wimbledon Wine Cellars,
 Firm, nutty, oaky nose – quite pungent. Rich and powerful but elegant palate, definite terroir influence and lifted fruit on the finish. A fine, classy wine with very good length and lots of minerality. **Drink** 2013-2020 **Alc** 13.5%

'Freshness, good acidity and backbone is what I love in Burgundy and I found it here, almost across the board' Gearoid Devaney MS



Lupé-Cholet, Les Charmes 17 (90) SB 17.5 GD 17 SS 16.5
 £35 Chalié Richards €
 Stone fruits and wet stone minerality with toasty oak notes on the nose. The acidity is assertive and needs time to settle down, but this shows finesse and flair, with refreshing acidity and a textured finish. Lots of personality here. **Drink** 2013-2020 **Alc** 13.5%

Recommended 15-16.75pts (83-89pts)

Wine	Score	SB	GD	SS	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Albert Bichot, Les Charmes	16.75 (89)	16.5	17	16.5	Honeyed, ripe nose. Concentrated, lively green apple fruit, perkier than the nose with apples and honeysuckle. Not complex but very drinkable.	13%	2013-2018	£36	Humble Grape, Oxford Wine Co
Butterfield, Les Charmes	16.75 (89)	17	16	17	Brisk attack, fresh and lean, concentrated but lively. Not much depth of fruit – somewhat one-dimensional – but this is well balanced and elegant.	13%	2013-2018	N/A UK	www.butterfieldwine.com
Château de Côteaux, Charmes	16.75 (89)	16.5	16.5	17	Herby, honeyed nose. Fresh and juicy, but has weight and depth. Palate is intense and stony, with lime and attractive bite of acidity. A little shut in now.	13.5%	2013-2027	£60	Coe Vintners
Domaine Albert Grivault, Clos des Perrières	16.75 (89)	16	17	17	Lively lime nose, has delicacy and charm. Juicy, ample, upfront fruit such as lime and green apple, plus good acidity and well-managed oak.	14%	2013-2018	£62	Domaine Direct, Fine & Rare
Domaine Jean-Marie Bouzereau, Charmes	16.75 (89)	16	18	16.5	Lovely nose of white stone fruit, flinty smoke and limestone. Broad, juicy and full-bodied, creamy and weighty palate with long flavours and good texture.	13%	2013-2022	POA	Anthony Byrne Fine Wines
Domaine Matrot, Perrières	16.75 (89)	16.5	16.5	17	Dry herb and honey nose with apple and pear fruits. Rich and opulent, with good concentration, but there's a slight heaviness and lack of vigour.	13%	2013-2019	£60-£65.55	Corney & Barrow, Laithwaites Wine
Domaine Vincent Bouzereau, Les Charmes	16.75 (89)	16	17.5	17	Ripe peach and citrus with a touch of creamy oak on the nose. Vigorous with good, underlying acidity. Well-made, decent Charmes.	13%	2013-2018	£40	Bordeaux Index, Gunson Fine Wines
Olivier Leflaive, Poruzots	16.75 (89)	17.5	16	17	Lively lime nose with lift and delicate oak. Tight, lean palate with a natural richness and citrus notes dominating. Grainy texture and admirable acidity.	13.5%	2013-2020	£40.95	Corney & Barrow
Olivier Leflaive, Sous le Dos d'Ane, Blagny	16.75 (89)	17	17	16	Honeyed herb nose – ripe but crisp. Has charm and is taut and well-defined, with a juicy middle. Not overly complex but has finesse and is quite long.	14%	2013-2018	N/A UK	www.olivier-leflaive.com
Buisson Battault, Poruzots	16.5 (88)	17	17	15.5	Opulent oaky nose, a buttery style, with ripe stone fruits, herbs and a hint of aniseed. Broad and rich – not elegant – with a nice lift from the acidity.	13.5%	2013-2018	£32.95	Majestic, Robert Rolls
Domaine Jean Monnier, Charmes	16.5 (88)	17.5	16	16	Lively, perky and vivacious for Charmes, with peppery, spicy, smoky tones. Not very complex but vigorous and satisfying.	13%	2013-2020	N/A UK	www.domaine-jeanmonnier.com
Domaine Jean-Marie Bouzereau, Goutte d'Or	16.5 (88)	16.5	16.5	16.5	Lightly toasty nose with mango, apricot and lime fruit. Lush and creamy – a full-bodied style, oaky and spicy, with good if not great acidity and minerality.	13%	2013-2018	POA	Anthony Byrne Fine Wines
Domaine Latour-Giraud, Charmes	16.5 (88)	15	18	16.5	Rich, oily fruit nose but much better vigour on the palate. Chunky and phenolic, with minerals, tautness and lots of nervous energy. Will improve.	13.5%	2013-2020	£45	Bibendum

Recommended (continued) 15–16.75pts (83–89pts)

Wine	Score	SB	GD	SS	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Domaine Roux Père & Fils, Clos des Poruzots, Monopole	16.5 (88)	17	16	16.5	Fine, complex nose with florality, yellow fruits and almonds. Fresh, lean, pretty and delicate, not a heavyweight but has charm and finesse. Tingling finish.	13.5%	2013–2018	£45	Bibendum
Louis Jadot, Blagny	16.5 (88)	16.5	15.5	17.5	Wet stone and mineral nose, quite floral and citrus influenced. Very good depth of fruit and true Blagny character with its lift and elegant fruit.	13.5%	2013–2017	£48	Hatch Mansfield
Vincent Dancer, Perrières	16.5 (88)	14.5	18	17	Pure nose with stone fruit and gunflint smoke. Lifted, fresh fruit still a bit lean and limey but has finesse with salty minerals on the mid-palate.	13.5%	2013–2022	£54.78	Justerini & Brooks
Domaine de la Confrérie, Les Cras	16.25 (87)	15	17	17	Light, frisky appley nose, a bit simple but has charm with floral, stone fruits and smoky undertones. Elegant expression of Meursault, open and fresh.	13.5%	2013–2018	N/A UK	www.domaine-pauchard.fr
Domaine du Cerberon, Les Cras	16.25 (87)	16.5	17	15.5	Rich apricot and apple nose with stylish oak and a beeswax character. Plump with salty minerals. Creamy texture; may lack structure for long ageing.	13.5%	2013–2020	N/A UK	+33 3 80 21 22 95
Domaine Faiveley, Blagny	16.25 (87)	16.5	15.5	17	Open stone fruits on the nose. Very good lift of acidity and excellent expression of fruit and terroir with a rounded, long, stylish finish.	13%	2013–2018	£25	Millesima, Jeroboams, Laytons, Milroy's of Soho, Nickolls and Perks
Domaine Martelet de Cherisey, Blagny	16.25 (87)	17	16.5	15.5	Rich stone fruits and banana nose along with smoky oak. It has the austerity typical of Blagny, but there's ample fruit, slightly honeyed, with good balance.	13.5%	2013–2020	£45.28	Justerini & Brooks, Lay & Wheeler
François Mikulski, Poruzots	16.25 (87)	15.5	16.5	17	Attractive floral nose with citrus and dried herbs. Not very expressive but has good vineyard personality and depth. Solid rather than exciting but has grip.	13.2%	2013–2018	£46.87	Blanco & Gomez
Hubert Bouzereau-Gruère & Filles, Charmes	16.25 (87)	17	16	16	Plump, juicy, round, full-bodied and dominated by spice and vanilla, although it has a sweet middle and nice acidity. Open rather than subtle or nuanced.	13.5%	2013–2018	N/A UK	www.bouzereaugruere.com
Louis Max, Porusot	16.25 (87)	17	16	16	Ripe, buttery nose, apple and apricot with phenolic oak. The palate is full with crisp acidity. Taut and wiry. Has fine zip, persistence and very good length.	13%	2013–2022	N/A UK	www.louismax.com
Marchand-Tawse, Blagny	16.25 (87)	17.5	16.5	15	Lush, appley nose. Sleek palate with lots of fruit including granny smith apple and limes, with purity and minerality, and a long finish.	13.5%	2013–2020	£38.95	Folly Wines
Michel Picard, Charmes	16.25 (87)	17	15	16.5	Surprisingly neutral nose, though some discernible oak. Ripe and succulent on the palate with good acidity to back it up, a broad flavoured wine.	13.5%	2013–2020	N/A UK	www.michelpicard.com
Pierre André, Genevrières	16.25 (87)	16.5	15	17	Oaky but complex nose of lime, apricot, and apple. Good floral palate – a supple, suave if softer style with good concentration and bright acidity.	13%	2013–2017	£36	Richard Banks
Reine Pédauque, Les Charmes	16.25 (87)	15	16.5	17	Rich, buttery peach nose with apricot and smoky oak. Good structure and depth on the palate, still firm and vigorous, and very good length.	13%	2013–2020	£36	Richard Banks
Vincent Girardin, Les Genevrières	16.25 (87)	15	17.5	16.5	Full and rich nose of stone fruits and minerality. Honeyed and evolved. Equally rich on the palate, but there is good natural acidity to hold it.	13.5%	2013–2020	£41	Fine & Rare, Thorman Hunt
Antoine Jobard, Poruzots	15.75 (85+)	16.5	15	16	Ripe yellow fruit nose with hints of citrus and honey. Silky, lean and limpid palate. Concentrated fruit but lacks a little flesh and weight.	13%	2013–2018	£45–£59	Bancroft, Fine & Rare, Justerini & Brooks
Bouchard Aîné & Fils, Le Porusot	15.75 (85+)	16.5	15	16	Rich and full, with sumptuous fruit and a good deal of oak, but it lacks some acidity and energy. Quite good now but not much potential complexity.	13.5%	2013–2018	N/A UK	www.bouchard-aine.fr
Château Génot-Boulangier, Les Bouchères	15.75 (85+)	15	16	16	Saline but oaky nose with ripe grapefruit, honey and almonds. Palate is rich and full of sweet fruits with tangy acidity, but lacks the structure of others.	14%	2013–2018	N/A UK	www.genot-boulangier.com
Domaine Bitouzet-Prieur, Santenots	15.75 (85+)	16	15	16	Floral with apricots and fresh almonds. Has the weight of good Meursault without being heavy. Could have more finesse, but will show well mid-term.	13.5%	2013–2018	£44	McKinley Vintners
Domaine du Château de Meursault, Perrières	15.75 (85+)	16	15.5	16	Rich, spicy nose, ripe citrus fruit. Intense, smoky yellow spice flavours and some back-up acidity, but a bit broad and assertive for Perrières.	14%	2013–2020	N/A UK	www.meursault.com
Jean-Claude Boisset, Charmes	15.75 (85+)	14.5	16.5	16.5	Exotic, spicy and buttery with dried herbs and ripe pears. Palate is intense, with gunflint notes, stony minerality and good acidity bringing some lift.	13%	2013–2018	POA	Liberty Wines
Louis Jadot, Genevrières	15.75 (85+)	15	15	17	White flowers on nose with honeyed element. Moderately concentrated, a soft style, still a bit oaky but has precocious charm and elegance.	13.5%	2013–2016	£57	Elliston & Southwick, Farr Vintners
Morey-Blanc, Genevrières	15.75 (85+)	15	16	16	Nutty, summer meadow nose. Rich, broad flavours. Good acidity and minerals, acidity quite aggressive, and needs to knit before it can show well.	13.5%	2013–2020	POA	Justerini & Brooks
Ropiteau, Perrières	15.75 (85+)	15	16.5	16	The nose has stone fruits and minerals but oak is very present. A natural sweetness and acidity that is very attractive with the stony aspect of the cru.	13.5%	2013–2020	POA	Wine Studio
Champy, Blagny	15.5 (85)	14	16.5	16	Spicy yellow fruit nose, which is quite phenolic with the oak still showing. Juicy and attractive palate of spicy, smoky oak. Not complex but has merit.	13%	2013–2017	£50	Haynes Hanson & Clark
Domaine Bernard Millot, La Goutte d'Or	15.5 (85)	14.5	16	16	Yellow fruit nose, quite honeyed and herby, with smoky oak. A bit heavy and phenolic but with good acidity. A broad, robust wine for mid-term drinking.	14%	2013–2016	N/A UK	www.domaine-millot.com
Maison Ambroise, Les Poruzots	15.25 (84)	15	16	15	Nose of toffee apple, lacking the florality of most. A crowd pleaser; broad, rich and oaky. It has freshness but little elegance, length or complexity.	13.5%	2013–2016	£50	Montrachet Fine Wines
Vincent Girardin, Les Charmes-Dessus	15.25 (84)	14.5	15	16	Candied limes and pear aromas with toasty oak. Opulent and creamy, perhaps lacking freshness. A full, rich wine that owes more to weight than finesse.	13.5%	2013–2016	£37	Fine & Rare, Thorman Hunt

Fair 13–14.75pts (76–82pts)

■ **Domaine Bernard-Bonin, Charmes-Dessus 14.25 (80+)** ■ **Patrick Javillier, Charmes 14.25 (80+)** ■ **Yves Boyer-Martenot, Perrières 14.25 (80+)** ■ **Champy, Les Cras 13.5 (78)** ■ **Domaine Bernard-Bonin, Genevrières 13.25 (77)**

For full UK stockist details, see p111

My top three Stephen Brook

■ **Domaine Jacques Prieur, Perrières** Although based in Meursault this important 20ha domaine has fabulous holdings in sites such as Montrachet and Musigny. The style has long been rich and oaky after long ageing in barrels, yet this wine shows impeccable purity and minerality. **18/20pts (93/100pts) Drink 2014–2022**

■ **Olivier Leflaive, Perrières** A négociant often overshadowed Domaine Leflaive, but winemaker Franck Grux has been a steady hand for decades. Village wines are reliable, while top crus are often outstanding. This Perrières is no exception, with a pungency to cut the rich fruit. **18 (93) Drink 2013–2022**

■ **Antoine Jobard, Genevrières** The former Domaine François Jobard (name change in 2007) has always made austere minerally wines, but this shows more power and concentration than the 2009s. Given more bottle age, this will have great complexity. **18 (93) Drink 2013–2022**

My top three Gearoid Devaney MS

■ **Domaine des Comtes Lafon, Genevrières** This got me buzzing. The nose was immense, then the palate had huge stone fruits and nuttiness, there was a salty mineral backbone that had the taste buds dancing and ready for action. I was not surprised to hear it was Dominique's wine. **18.5/20pts (95/100pts) Drink 2013–2024**

■ **François Mikulski, Perrières** I love this vineyard and when it's right it's unforgettable. Sometimes they don't always rock, but more often than not they do. Consistency has improved in recent years and this wine certainly proves it. **18.5 (95) Drink 2014–2025**

■ **Vincent Dancer, Perrières** This wine was stunning. Pure aromas of gunflint and stony intensity; very inviting. The nervous acidity and taut, salty minerality on the finish is always exciting and moreish. A wine of class that speaks of its vineyard, year and maker. **18 (93) Drink 2013–2022**

My top three Steven Spurrier

■ **Domaine des Comtes Lafon, Genevrières** A nose of dried herbs and honey, shows terrific vigour, energy and clarity of flavour, while the texture builds on palate, but remains refreshing. From one of Meursault's very best domaines, this is of grand cru standard and will improve. **19/20pts (96/100pts) Drink 2013–2024**

■ **Bouchard Père & Fils, Perrières** This is the largest owner of premier and grand cru vineyards in the Côte d'Or and its holdings in Meursault are particularly well-placed. This is pure minerally, stony Perrières, but with a lovely florality and a citrusy twist above a certain creaminess of texture. A wine for the coming decade, but lovely now. **18 (93) Drink 2013–2022**

■ **Louis Jadot, Charmes** Another Beaune négociant with superb vineyards, this was the penultimate vintage by great winemaker Jacques Lardière: a honey nose overlaid by green apple, endless length on the palate and very elegant for the often over-rich Charmes, but still fleshy and charming, of course. **18 (93) Drink 2013–2020**

NB: the tasters' top wines are not necessarily their top-scoring, rather those which, on learning the wines' identity, they feel are the most notable given their provenance, price or other factors

Expert summary: Stephen Brook

The ageworthy and high-quality 2010 vintage in Meursault can be bought with confidence, with the wines exceeding the panel's already lofty preconceptions



Stephen Brook has been a contributing editor to *Decanter* since 1996 and is an awarded author of more than 30 books.

THE TOP PREMIERS crus showed well, especially Genevrières, which, together with Perrières, showed the greatest finesse. Charmes tended to be bolder and oakier with, arguably, more power but less elegance than the other leading sites. The wines from Blagny had a family resemblance, being attractive, balanced and relatively forward, but lacking in complexity. Two other well-known vineyards, Poruzots and Goutte d'Or, were less consistent. As always in Burgundy, the individual producer matters. Possession of vines in a great site is no guarantee of quality. Between the soil and the bottle lie the farming practices, vinification and the ageing of each wine. That takes skill and flair, as well as an understanding of the process. So it is no coincidence that Dominique Lafon performed outstandingly well in this tasting. His three wines all impressed, each scoring 17 or higher.

Mikulski's Genevrières, as well as his award-winning Perrières, also showed very well, and although not in the top tier, the trio from Jean-Marie Bouzereau impressed. Two wines from Domaine du Château de Meursault, owned by the large négociant house Patriarche and not renowned for exceptional quality, were superb, notably the Charmes.

As well as his award-winning Perrières, three other top crus submitted by Olivier Leflaive scored well, confirming that often this producer is not taken as seriously as he deserves. Bouchard Père et Fils was the other high-scoring

négociant, while Champy did not do as well as expected. The same is true of Meursault specialists Vincent Girardin (other than an excellent Perrières) and Patrick Javillier.

Premature oxidation remains a problem, though on the basis of this tasting it's hard to say how grave it is. Some wines, such as one from Boyer-Martineau showed oxidation on two bottles, but in other cases there were no second bottles to allow the panel to establish whether the problem was a single duff bottle or a more widespread fault. Other producers showing traces of early oxidation were Champy and Bernard-Bonin (two wines). There were also some rather coarse or clumsy wines from Ambroise, Ropiteau, Boisset and, surprisingly, Morey-Blanc.

But given the overall high scores in this tasting, even wines that were not in the top 20 were still of excellent quality, with few duds. This confirms that 2010 is a vintage that can be bought with confidence and cellared for many years. It says much for the quality of modern Burgundy that the wines surpassed the panel's high expectations. **D**

Even wines not in the top 20 were still of excellent quality, with few duds'