

## Domaine Billaud-Simon 2019

Régisseur Olivier Bailly, who works under the direction of Jérôme Flous, the technical director for Faiveley, described the 2019 vintage as one that "began early and as is often the case when bud break is early, there is the risk of frost and it did cost us a bit of yield. It was also enough to disturb the flowering somewhat and particularly amongst the 1ers, which cost us yet more potential yield. The rest of the growing season was basically hot and extremely dry so there was no disease pressure to speak of. We picked from the 12th to the 19th of September and brought in exceptionally clean fruit with very good potential alcohols that averaged about 13.5%. Somewhat surprisingly, the acidities were also very good as the post malo pHs averaged 3.2. Yields though were on the low side at between 38 and 39 hl/ha though we can't complain too much as 2018 was abundant. The vinification was easy though one interesting aspect is how dry the wines finished as the unfermentable sugars were basically under 1 gram. As to the style of the wines, I like them a lot as they're ripe but fresh and zesty plus they have excellent cellaring potential."

### 2019 Chablis, 'Tête d'Or

**£100 c/s IB** – 10 cases available (6 bts per case)

A cuvée made from the best plots, then given a longer élevage with 15% in (mostly older) barrels. Excellent density of yellow fruit, the wood is well hidden, more sucrosity, more length, this just needs more time compared to the regular Chablis.

**88-90 Points, 4 Stars, Jasper Morris MW, [InsideBurgundy.com](http://InsideBurgundy.com)**

A discreet but not invisible application of wood sets off a ripe mix of both white and yellow orchard fruit with similar nuances of iodine and seashore. The wood treatment extends to the palate as well though not so much that it sweetens the clean and dry finish. This always seems to age extremely well, and the 2019 version should be no different. Worth checking out.

**89-91 Points, Outstanding, Top Value - Burghound**

### 2019 Chablis 1er Cru Vaillons

**£130 c/s IB** – 10 cases available (6 bts per case)

From six plots well distributed across Vaillons. For example, they pick the 75 year old vines in Séchets a week before those in Mélinots at the far end of the valley. Notably pale in colour, very reductive, suggestive of fresh mint on the stones. Almost dainty within the context of the vintage, yet with good grip at the back.

**90-93 Points, 4 Stars, Jasper Morris MW, [InsideBurgundy.com](http://InsideBurgundy.com)**

There is even classic Chablis character suffusing the white peach, pear and pretty floral nuances. The racy, intense and solidly mineral-driven medium weight flavors culminate in a saline and lemony finish that displays a mild touch of austerity.

**90-92 Points, Burghound**

### 2019 Chablis Grand Cru, Les Preuses

**£295 c/s IB** – 2 cases available (6 bts per case) - **SOLD OUT**

From 70 year old vines, which consistently deliver a powerful wine every year. The 2019 has an all-enveloping nose, since this vineyard can carry the sunshine, very complete and the fruit just keeps coming. A touch of sucrosity, but good acidity behind, lemon scented, with a touch of tannin at the back. Long, powerful and balanced.

**93-96 Points, 4 Stars, Jasper Morris MW, [InsideBurgundy.com](http://InsideBurgundy.com)**

Firm reduction masks the underlying fruit at present. The delicious medium weight flavors also possess almost painful intensity along with outstanding minerality that is enhanced by the clean, crisp and strikingly persistent finish. This too is going to need extended forbearance.

**92-94 Points, Sweet Spot - Burghound**

**2019 Chablis Grand Cru, Les Clos**

**£305 c/s IB** – 2 cases available (6 bts per case)

Pale lemon and lime. The nose is backward, but very pure. Mix of barrel and tank. Their plot has been pulled out in 2016, so they get an exchange. The nose still doesn't want to come out. Fat and fleshy and for the moment a little bit oaky. Not quite the same balance as the Vaudésir.

**91-94 Points, 4 Stars, Jasper Morris MW, [InsideBurgundy.com](http://InsideBurgundy.com)**

Aromatically, this is more restrained with its airy and cool array of floral, apple, pear and, iodine nuances. There is fine size, weight and richness to the evidently concentrated and mineral-driven larger-scaled flavors that are succulent but powerful that deliver impressive persistence. Note well though that this is not likely to make for especially good early drinking.

**92-94 Points, Sweet Spot - Burghound**

**2019 Chablis Grand Cru, Les Blanchots**

**£295 c/s IB** – 1 case available (6 bts per case) - **SOLD OUT**

This vineyard is picked early and kept away from wood: it has been made in one 300 litre stainless steel barrel. Pale primrose, very pretty stylish, almost floral nose, but then with precision and intensity behind. Even a beginning of bacon fat. I like the aftertaste.

**92-94 Points, 4 Stars, Jasper Morris MW, [InsideBurgundy.com](http://InsideBurgundy.com)**

Once again, the nose is firmly reduced. By contrast, there is a lovely freshness to the super-sleek and almost painfully intense medium weight flavors that also culminate in a bitter lemon inflected finish where a touch of warmth slowly emerges.

**91-93 Points, Burghound**

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*Delivery will be charged at cost.*