

Domaine Comte Armand 2019

Many of you will remember this as a domaine that made wines that were tannic and needed a lot of time. However, ever since Paul Zinetti took over in 2010, and also due to climate change and warmer weather, the wines here have really become some of the finest in the region.

The wines are organic and biodynamic, with great purity and freshness, and drink superbly after just a few years. The Auxey and Auxey 1er are simply lovely.

The whites are incredible value and made with the same care as the grander appellations, don't miss them.

Please note: Orders across the board will be looked at more favourably than just orders for Pommard 1er Cru Clos des Épeneaux!

“Winemaker Paul Zinetti has overseen some outstanding wines from this Pommard Domaine since joining back in 2010. “For a few years we haven’t had a cool growing season,” he began as we discussed the 2019 in one of the small barrel cellars. “There was a threat of frost in the beginning of the season, but we did not have to burn any straw. [Vine] growth was very quick, which is why it’s important to have a big team at the moment. Flowering took a long time because of the inclement weather, which is why the production was small in addition to the berries being small in size. But the summer was nice, and August was warm. It was easy as there was very little mildew or oïdium. We lost 20% of the yield compared to a normal year, less than 30hl/ha on average, the smallest in Volnay. I started the harvest on 11 September with Volnay Fremiet and finished 17 September. I used more whole bunches in 2019, especially for the Auxey-Duresses, 30-40% as I wanted to have a full tank and bunches were fully ripe. The vinification was quite easy. You had to be careful with the sugar-levels. When you press the wine is not protected, so there is a risk of brettanomyces or volatile acidity. It was the same in 2020. This is why I keep the press in tank. I think we have to reflect on the work in the vineyard, in terms of canopy management and protecting bunches.” **Neal Martin**

This domaine has been certified Organic for years by Ecocert and is now applying for Demeter Biodynamic certification. There are plans to replant fruit trees around the Clos des Epeneaux to rediscover biodiversity.

“This producer’s small portfolio is headlined by their 5.23-hectare monopole of Clos des Épeneaux, but readers should also seek their oft-overlooked cuvées in Volnay and Auxey-Duresses.” Neal Martin

2019 Auxey-Duresses

£140 c/s In Bond – 13 cases available (6 bts per case)

The 2019 Auxey-Duresses Village, which sees no new oak, has a ripe bouquet with opulent dark cherries, iodine and light violet aromas that soar from the glass. The palate is well balanced with a succulent, almost confit-like entry, fine acidity with a sweet pastille-like finish. This should drink well over the decade.

86-88 Points, Neal Martin

Production was 5 barrels, none new, with 10% whole bunch vinification. Really intense purple with a powerful bouquet of super ripe fruit. Dark cherry, black and red fruit on the palate, firm tannins and quite high acidity. Despite the degree this has not forgotten where it comes from, for which it is a fine ambassador.

87-90 Points, 4 Stars, Jasper Morris MW, InsideBurgundy.com

2019 Volnay

£215 c/s In Bond – 2 cases available (6 bts per case)

The 2019 Volnay Village is a blend of 60% Les Grands Champs and 40% Les Famines. This underwent a 5/6-day cold maceration and was completely de-stemmed. It has more red fruit than the Auxey-Duresses with scents of raspberry coulis and crushed strawberry, very pure and perfumed, quite floral in style. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent ripe tannins, fleshy and fresh in the mouth with a touch of piquancy towards the bright and joyful finish. This Volnay has a lot of sucrosity and will be difficult to resist in its youth.

90-92 Points, Neal Martin

One new barrel in five. No deeper purple than the two Auxeys, but the bouquet is really stylish. Between raspberry and strawberry in fruit profile, middleweight, with good enough acidity and no feeling of heat. Good long finish.

89-91 Points, 4 Stars, Jasper Morris MW, InsideBurgundy.com

2019 Auxey-Duresses 1er Cru

£225 c/s In Bond – 6 cases available (6 bts per case)

The 2019 Auxey-Duresses 1er Cru, a blend of two vineyards Les Beautrains and Les Bas des Duresses as usual, matured in around 25% new oak. It has a refined bouquet with a little more purity and sensuality compared to the Auxey Village. The palate is well balanced with gentle grip on the entry, quite rich but fresh in style with candied orange peel infusing the mixture of black and blueberry fruit. Crunchy, almost brittle texture towards the finish which is surprising given the type of growing season. **Recommended.**

89-91 Points, Neal Martin

15% whole bunch and 20% new wood. Fine purple, with a more sensual bouquet, ripe, but finely balanced, some raspberry notes. Fresh enough in style with enormous fruit weight, and then a certain power at the back. The key is whether or not the fruit stretches out behind and it does, so this gets the thumbs up.

88-90 Points, 4 Stars, Jasper Morris MW, InsideBurgundy.com

2019 Volnay 1er Cru Les Frémiets

£390 c/s In Bond – 7 cases available (6 bts per case)

The 2019 Volnay Les Frémiets 1er Cru was completely de-stemmed. It has a more complex, intellectual bouquet than the Village Cru as you would expect, armed with vivid blueberry, cassis and raspberry scents, blood orange emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with a gentle grip on the entry. I find more red fruit here compared to the Village Cru. This gains decent weight and gifts more salinity towards the chalky-textured finish. **Excellent.**

91-93 Points, Neal Martin

I got some slightly mixed messages from the Volnay Fremiets this year as it seemed a little bit affected by the heat, yet it has the lowest alcohol in the cellar at 13.7%. That apart, there are some attractive deep strawberry notes along with some raspberry. I will be interested to see this again in bottle.

89-92 Points, 4 Stars, Jasper Morris MW, InsideBurgundy.com

2019 Pommard 1er Cru Clos des Épeneaux

£625 c/s In Bond – 12 cases available (6 bts per case)

£660 c/s magnums In Bond – 3 cases available (3 magnums per case)

The 2019 Pommard Clos des Epeneaux 1er Cru was picked over three days starting with the young vines on 14 September. This is almost completely de-stemmed and matured in around 40% new oak. It has a very intense bouquet with black cherries, blueberry, crushed limestone, traces of violet and blood orange. The palate is very well balanced, quite opulent in style with a saline, briny note on the entry. Very good depth, fleshier in style than recent vintages with brown spices and cloves towards the persistent finish. I suspect that this might be more approachable than other vintages of Clos des Epeneaux but it will still age with style.

93-95 Points, Neal Martin

As ever we tried the individual cuvées first before a trial blend – the actual assemblage will only happen a few weeks before bottling. The grapes were picked from 16th September at a yield of 24 hl/ha. Paul Zinetti has used 35% new oak, with less than 10% whole bunches included. The 2019 Pommard Clos des Epeneaux displays a rich deep purple colour. The bouquet is deeply expressive, suggesting an intensity of fruit more than super-ripeness. There is more red fruit than black though the two are present, correct acidity, tannins present, but waiting in the background, the alcohol is controlled, likely to finish around 14.3%. The whole stands up well in its firm, structured fashion. Early days yet, very promising.

93-95 Points, 5 Stars, Jasper Morris MW, InsideBurgundy.com

2019 Bourgogne Aligote

£90 c/s In Bond – 7 cases available (6 bts per case)

The 2019 Bourgogne Aligoté had been racked the morning of my visit with the intention of bottling in a few weeks time. It has a lovely rosewater and apricot tinged bouquet that gets both hands on the grape variety. The palate is well balanced with orange zest and light apricot notes, a very pretty Aligoté with a precise finish. **Lovely.**

86-88 Points, Neal Martin

2019 Bourgogne Blanc

£105 c/s In Bond – 3 cases available (6 bts per case)

The 2019 Bourgogne Chardonnay comes from vines on the Meursault side of Volnay. It has an attractive bouquet of grapefruit and orange pith aromas that are nicely defined. The palate is fresh and lively with orange peel leading to a lightly spiced finish. Very fine.

Offered subject to remaining unsold and final written confirmation.

Wines available for delivery Summer 2021.

Delivery will be charged at cost.