

Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard 2019

Today sees the release of Fontaine-Gagnard in Chassagne-Montrachet. These are lovely wines which we highly recommend, though only small volumes are available this year due to the frost that hit on the 5th April. Overall, total volumes were down 30% in 2019, with the vineyard of La Romanée being the worst affected, closely followed by the 1er Crus of Boudriotte and Morgeot.

In a little over 20 years, Domaine Fontaine Gagnard has become one of the most highly regarded producers in Chassagne Montrachet. Founded when Richard Fontaine married Laurence Gagnard in 1982 and combined their respective vineyards, their daughter Céline is now running the show. Céline started working with her father, Richard Fontaine in 2007, and now has taken over the winemaking and general running of the Domaine. The wines at Fontaine-Gagnard have always been elegant, but the small tweaks introduced by Céline have taken them to a new level. The cellar is really crowded, and construction is already underway for a more spacious cellar, this will allow for longer élevages. Céline is looking to extend the time the white wines age prior to bottling; currently they spend 11 months in barrel and are bottled just before harvest, but the intention is to leave the wines for at least another year in tank before bottling to allow them to really harmonise, this should take them from being (already) excellent all the way up to super stardom! The quest for perfection just keeps on going!

Don't miss out on the Chassagne Montrachet Rouge, so often overlooked by UK buyers – these offer stunning value for money compared to reds from the Côte de Nuits and are snapped up by the French restaurants as they overdeliver on quality & price!

Please note: Due to tiny yields in 2019, preference will be given to buyers who purchased these wines in previous years, placed balanced orders and have supported Asset Wines throughout the previous year. Grand Cru will not be sold on their own.

2019 Chassagne-Montrachet

@ £185 c/s IB – 3 cases available (6 bts per case)

The 2019 Chassagne-Montrachet Villages has a delineated bouquet with touches of hazelnut and smoke. The palate is well balanced with a fine line of acidity, a touch of lemon and lime towards its elegant finish. It retains considering poise for a village cru. This will drink well early and provide lots of enjoyment.

2019 Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru La Boudriotte

@ £250 c/s IB – 4 cases available (6 bts per case)

The 2019 Chassagne-Montrachet La Boudriotte 1er Cru has an intense bouquet with a little alcoholic warmth. The palate is medium-bodied with a slightly honeyed opening, lightly spiced with lower acidity than the other cuvées even though the alcohol is a reasonable 13.8 degrees. The frost has really concentrated this wine and it displays very good length, but it just misses a little terroir expression.

90 Points, Neal Martin

2019 Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru Clos St Jean

@ £250 c/s IB – 3 cases available (6 bts per case)

The 2019 Chassagne-Montrachet Clos Saint-Jean 1er Cru, located in the centre of the village, has a tightly wound orange blossom scented bouquet with light granitic scents tucked underneath. The palate is well balanced with a gentle lilting opening, hints of quince and tangy orange rind with an open and expressive finish. It will be difficult to resist in its youth.

91 Points, Neal Martin

2019 Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Vergers

@ £250 c/s IB – 6 cases available (6 bts per case)

The 2019 Chassagne-Montrachet Vergers 1er Cru has a reserved bouquet at first, opening with light walnut and hazelnut scents that impart a Meursault-like allure. The palate is well balance with a lively opening, rounded and slightly honeyed in texture, good acidity with a persistent finish. Excellent.

91 Points, Neal Martin

2019 Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru La Grande Montagne

@ £250 c/s IB – 3 cases available (6 bts per case)

The 2019 Chassagne-Montrachet La Grande Montagne 1er Cru has one of the finest aromatics this year with delineated and focused mineral aromas, touches of orange blossom and grapefruit. The palate is well balanced with a fine bead of acidity, quite focused with a ginger stem tinged finish that lingers in the mouth. Excellent.

92 Points, Neal Martin

2019 Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Chenevottes

@ £250 c/s IB – 2 cases available (6 bts per case)

The 2019 Chassagne-Montrachet Les Chenevottes 1er Cru, one of the smallest crus of the domaine, is limited to just a barrel and a half this year. It has a lifted orange blossom, pear and crushed stone scented bouquet that is very attractive. The palate is well balanced with a fine bead of acidity, lightly spiced with traces of marmalade and quince, a little warmth on the finish coming from the 14.3% alcohol. Exotic in the positive sense of the word since it does not preclude its typicité.

92 Points, Neal Martin

2019 Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru La Romanée

@ £395 c/s IB – 1 case available (6 bts per case) - **SOLD OUT**

@ £70 per bottle IB – 2 bottles available (OCC x 1)

The 2019 Chassagne-Montrachet La Romanée 1er Cru has quite an intense bouquet although it is missing a little terroir expression at the moment. The palate is rounded and honeyed, one of the richest cuvées but thankfully balanced with acidity, quite nutty towards the finish. Probably more short term than other vintages.

91 Points, Neal Martin

2019 Criots Bâtard-Montrachet, Grand Cru

@ £475 c/s IB – 4 cases available (3 bts per case)

@ £165 per bottle IB – 2 bottles available (OCC x 1)

A little more subdued on the nose than the Bâtard-Montrachet. But more intense on the palate. Deeper, creamier and more opulent and still with the right balance between zippy fruit and creamy oak. (JH)

17.5/20, JancisRobinson.com

The 2019 Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru was picked on the first day of the harvest. It has a well defined, quite stony, austere bouquet that will benefit from 3-4 years in bottle. The palate is powerful on the entry with orange rind and apricot notes, quite spicy with good weight on the finish that leaves the mouth tingling on the aftertaste for 45+ seconds. Very fine.

92 Points, Neal Martin

2019 Bâtard-Montrachet, Grand Cru

@ £475 c/s IB – 4 cases available (3 bts per case)

This smells like a grand cru: smart creamy oak not overdone, an intensity of pure fresh fruit with a touch of spice. Fruity, savoury and spicy all at once. Deep and chewy. (JH)

17.5/20, JancisRobinson.com

The 2019 Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru has a rather terse bouquet, more saline than the Criots, touches of oyster shell coming through with time in the glass. The palate is well balanced with more weight and density than the Criots, grippy and saline with a long spicy aftertaste. This is excellent - but serious and warranting cellaring for three or four years.

94 Points, Neal Martin

2019 Le Montrachet, Grand Cru

@ £450 per bottle IB – 2 bottles available (OCC x 1)

The 2019 Montrachet Grand Cru, of which there is one and a half barrels this year (actually the maximum that the domaine produces), has an intense oyster shell and flinty bouquet, touches of hazelnut and white peach developing with aeration. The palate is well balanced with a very slight reduction on the entry, lively and very concentrated with orange rind and quince towards the finish. The new oak from the half barrel is conspicuous at the moment but that will be integrated with time in bottle.

95 Points, Neal Martin

2019 Chassagne-Montrachet (Rouge)

@ £155 c/s IB – 2 cases available (6 bts per case)

The 2019 Chassagne-Montrachet Rouge was showing a bit of reduction on the nose when I tasted it. The palate is medium-bodied with dark berry fruit, quite striking in terms of mineralité with impressive clarity and focus on the silky finish. Lovely.

89-91 Points, Neal Martin

2019 Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru Morgeot (Rouge)

@ £230 c/s IB – 2 cases available (6 bts per case)

The 2019 Chassagne-Montrachet Morgeots 1er Cru Rouge, which comes from Les Chaumes, was more reduced on the nose than the other red cuvées from Fontaine-Gagnard. The palate is structured and dense, quite Pommard-like in terms of personality, with a concentrated finish emanating from the 20hl/ha after frost. Structured and grippy on the finish, this might well blossom in the future and so cellar it for 3-4 years.

91-93 Points, Neal Martin

Offered subject to remaining unsold and final written confirmation.

Delivery will be charged at cost.

Wines to be shipped Summer 2021.