

Domaine Humbert Frères 2019

Gevrey-Chambertin performed very well during this vintage and we've got a few cases of this cult favourite.

Frédéric Humbert and his younger brother Emmanuel run this 6 ha domaine though Frédéric has been easing out of the day to day operations. Readers may notice that the vineyard holdings appear similar to both of the Dugat domaines and this is not by chance – the Humbert brothers are cousins of Claude and Bernard. The younger Humbert simply said that 2019 “gave us very ripe and clean fruit but with much smaller yields compared to 2018. We picked from the 16th to the 23rd of September and chose to vinify extremely softly due to the concentrated berries that possessed thick skins and low juice to solid ratios. In fact, we did no punch downs at all as it would have been very easy to create tannic monsters, which is definitely not our stylistic goal. As we usually do, the new wines were barrelled down into new wood that ranged from 30 to 100% new wood. We are actually extremely pleased with 2019 as they are intensely and purely terroir-driven.”

Cousins of the well-known Dugat and Dugat-Py families, the Humberts have Gevrey in their blood. The whole range is well-executed and they make pure, classic examples of Gevrey and Fixin that drink well and age well. The Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru is a particular favourite but please balance your order.

These will give you great drinking pleasure in a few years, all at a fair price.

2019 Fixin Vieilles Vignes

£165 c/s IB – 10 cases available (6 bts per case)

(from 55+ year old vines). Firm reduction presently knocks down the underlying fruit. Otherwise they are juicy, round and seductively textured middle weight flavors possess good vibrancy and a subtle bead of minerality on the highly refreshing, moderately firm and sneaky long finish. This is sufficiently tightly wound that it should repay a few years of keeping though I doubt that it will remain closed for very long.

87-90 Points, Burghound

2019 Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes

£250 c/s IB – 10 cases available (6 bts per case)

(50% of the blend comes from Les Marchais and the rest from a wide range of other lieux-dits spread around the commune). Enough wood to notice frames the ripe, fresh and airy aromas of plum, violet, earth and a whisper of game. There is very good volume to the rich and relatively supple medium weight flavors that possess better depth and persistence on the youthfully austere finale.

88-91 Points, Burghound

2019 Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru Le Poissenot

£450 c/s IB – 8 cases available (6 bts per case)

(from a holding of 20 to 25-year-old vines that total .91 ha). Once again, reduction dominates the fruit but not the wood treatment. There is a bit more refinement if less size, weight and volume to the middle weight flavors that possess a seductive and velvety mid-palate that contrasts significantly with the firm, dusty, austere and quite serious finale. I would advise allowing this at least 5 to 7 years of bottle age first.

90-92 Points, Burghound

2019 Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru Petite Chapelle

£480 c/s IB – 6 cases available (6 bts per case)

(from 25 to 30-year-old vines). Generous wood doesn't overshadow the fresh aromas of essence of dark currant, plum, black raspberry and spice but it is enough to fight with them. There is fine volume to the tautly muscular and rich medium-bodied flavors that are at once succulent and mineral-driven, all wrapped in a youthfully austere, sappy and balanced finale. This firm effort is on the woody side today so at least some bottle age will be necessary to better integrate it.

90-92 Points, Burghound

2019 Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru Craipillot

£480 c/s IB – 2 cases available (6 bts per case)

(from a .18 ha parcel of 65+ year old vines). A very pungent nose is comprised by notes of firm reduction and wood toast. More interesting are the delicious and relatively refined middle weight flavors that terminate in a youthfully austere finale that is firm enough to suggest that up to a decade will likely be required to resolve the underlying structure. This will also need to develop more depth with a few years of bottle age.

89-92 Points, Burghound

2019 Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru Estournelles-Saint-Jacques

£525 c/s IB – 4 cases available (6 bts per case)

(from a .15 ha parcel of 60+ year old vines). Here too the nose is dominated by a pungent combination of reduction and wood toast. There is excellent delineation to the exceptionally ripe, intense and tautly muscular flavors that brim with minerality on the dusty, austere and chiseled finale. This is a bit finer than the Poissenot and should be accessible a few years earlier. Worth checking out.

90-93 Points, Burghound

2019 Charmes-Chambertin, Grand Cru

£775 c/s IB – 6 cases available (6 bts per case)

(from a .20 ha parcel of 60+ year old vines located in Mazoyères). Slightly more moderate wood treatment surrounds the ripe and fresh aromas of black cherry, violet, earth and oak spice. The rich and impressively scaled flavors are seductive to the point of opulence are not super-dense though they are wonderfully refined, sleek and lengthy on the youthfully austere finale. This balanced effort should repay a decade plus of keeping.

90-93 Points, Burghound

Offered subject to remaining unsold and final written confirmation.

Delivery will be charged at cost.

Wines to be shipped Summer 2021.