

Domaine Samuel Billaud 2019

We are starting out Burgundy 2019 season with a bang and a new producer for us, the famous Samuel Billaud!

You will all know that Samuel left the eponymous Domaine Billaud-Simon after their purchase by Faiveley. They still make good Chablis there (and we will be offering them soon), but Samuel makes great wines, with clarity, length and that delightful Chablis edge.

We tasted the 2019's recently and were enthused by every single cuvée, including the Petit Chablis which we loved.

We don't have a lot to offer this first year, and all in cases of 12. Nothing beats the value of top Chablis and you can be sure you are getting it with Samuel Billaud.

Domaine Samuel Billaud

2019 was a small crop in the crus, especially those on the right bank, but rather more acceptable for the generics. Samuel, who picked from 4th to 10th September, likes the concentration of the fruit and the structure. He notes that 2019 provided the yellowest grapes and juice that he has ever seen, but alcohol levels, fortunately, have remained at acceptable levels: from 12.2-12.5% for Chablis, 12.8 to 13 and a bit for the crus. He is planning to keep the wines on fine lees for longer than usual. These are great wines (yet again!). The 2019 grands crus and some 1ers crus were not yet ready for tasting, but I did have the opportunity to taste through the full range of 2018s.

2019 Petit Chablis

£130 c/s In Bond – 4 cases available (12 bottles per case)

From Sur Les Clos. Pale lemon with a lime green touch, this is quite a strict, mineral, Chablisian style, so has really kept the tension. Chalky notes, not too fat. There is more clay further back in Sur Les Clos, but Samuel's holding is on the stones. Excellent.

87-88 Points, 4 Stars, Jasper Morris MW, InsideBurgundy.com

Cask sample. Tight and chalky but pure Chablis character in its stony citrus. Decent length too. Surprisingly persistent and the depth of fruit on the mid palate is impressive – will appeal both to lovers of classic Chablis and to those who like a bit more fruit. (JH)

16/20, JancisRobinson.com

2019 Chablis

£165 c/s In Bond – 10 cases available (12 bottles per case)

From the three usual terroirs of Pargues, Cartes and Bas de Chapelot. Fine pale colour with a green tint. This starts tightly though displaying marine character, then rapidly fattens up on the nose. It is medium-bodied, with a little youthful bitterness, not too extravagantly ripe, well judged. On the stones!

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

Three plots on the left and right banks.

Scented with grapefruit and crushed white rocks. Nicely dusty on the nose. On the palate, this has all the stoniness of Chablis and an attractive herbal edge that is more fresh than bitter. **Mouth-watering and absolutely classic Chablis, with a long finish.** (JH)

16.5/20, JancisRobinson.com

2019 Chablis 1er Cru Montmain

£260 c/s In Bond – 5 cases available (12 bottles per case)

From 40 year old vines in the middle of Montmain, offering a pale lemon colour, with a fine chiselled Chablis nose, lightly reductive. Crisp, but full of flavour, leading to a white fruit finish with, some light lemon notes, excellent balance, and great tension.

92-95 Points, 5 Stars, Jasper Morris MW, InsideBurgundy.com

Ripe and lemony. Lots of fruit here but also high-acid tension. Still identifiably Chablis but more focus on the fruit – ie more open – than on the stony character. Mouth-watering and mineral finish. (JH)

16.5/20, JancisRobinson.com

2019 Chablis 1er Cru Montée de Tonnerre

£315 c/s In Bond – 5 cases available (12 bottles per case)

One of the lower yields, at 25 to 30 hl/ha. More lemon than lime in the colour. Restrained nose. Samuel has really got it right this year. Brilliant intensity, not too bold, though with more flesh at the back. Golden glow to this yet strict as well. A lovely, classical, chiselled, chalky finish.

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

Domaine vines. 20% oak for ferment and ageing. Cask sample.

A little bit of spice hinting at oak but it is very subtle. Mostly cedary citrus fruit. On the palate, deep, delicately seasoned with spice, fine tension and length. Quite powerful but no lack of freshness. Very persistent with a long future. (JH)

17+/20, JancisRobinson.com

2019 Chablis Grand Cru Bougros

£595 c/s In Bond – 2 cases available (12 bottles per case)

The 2019 grands crus and some 1ers crus were not yet ready for tasting, but I did have the opportunity to taste through the full range of 2018s. Jasper Morris MW

2019 Chablis Grand Cru Vaudésir

£625 c/s In Bond – 1 case available (12 bottles per case) – **SOLD OUT**

The 2019 grands crus and some 1ers crus were not yet ready for tasting, but I did have the opportunity to taste through the full range of 2018s. Jasper Morris MW

Domaine vines. Fermented in two demi-muids, neither of them new. Cask sample.

The oak shows a little bit more here – more creamy. More creamy and spicy on the palate too with both citrus and stone fruit. Rich, deep and with a fine cutting-edge of citrus freshness on the finish. A long way to go. (JH)

17.5+/20, JancisRobinson.com

2019 Chablis Grand Cru Les Preuses

£625 c/s In Bond – 1 case available (12 bottles per case) – **SOLD OUT**

The 2019 grands crus and some 1ers crus were not yet ready for tasting, but I did have the opportunity to taste through the full range of 2018s. Jasper Morris MW

Offered subject to remaining unsold and final written confirmation.

Wines available for delivery spring / summer 2021.

Delivery will be charged at cost.