



Tasted with Paul
Espitalié in Chablis,
10 January 2023.

Paul on 2022...

"We're very happy with 2022 – 57 hl/ha – no VCI. There's lots of fruit and roundness just here and there while there are places where the acidity is a bit low – it's heterogeneous! We did light some candles in the Grand Crus and had no problems, but we also had no problems in areas where we had no candles!"

Paul on 2021...

"It's about half a harvest here – nearly 30 hl/ha. Irancy with 10-12 hl/ha, was the lowest. About 80% of the cuvées have been bottled – up to and including the Premier Crus but the Grand Crus remain in elevage (maturation). Organic wines were a bit of a catastrophe in 2021. The reds needed a lot of triage (sorting) to remove the unripe and some rot – unlike 2022, where bad grapes were hard to find!"

The Wines...

One of the best tastings I've had here. DIAM style seals for the Petit Chablis and the Chablis – the rest are normal cork.

Burgundy-Report

Bill Nanson

Simonnet-Febvre Vintage Report

2021



BOURGOGNE PINOT NOIR

2021

Has a medium colour, that is very pretty and open with easy red fruit. Mouth-filling – plenty of acidity balanced with some creamy oak today. Just a little austerity – keep this at least 12 months before opening – the finish is long with plenty of finishing bitters.



BOURGOGNE EPINEUIL

2021

Deeper colour. A little smoky, plenty of pyrazine complexity too. Extra sucrosity and extra energy too. I like the texture and there's a small tannin – no grain – which adds a frame of modest astringency. Too green for me but this is broad and interesting in the finish – long too.



IRANCY 2021

More direct red fruit. Again a little deeper colour. More floral aromas. Full, energetic – more incisive fresh red fruit. More mineral and direct finishing This is very good. This not yet bottled. It won't be on the market for two years – currently, they are still selling the 2019 vintage.



IRANCY

"Paradis" 2021

Oak elevage here – and it's directly visible on the, still perfumed nose. More incisive, more mineral – but of course, more oaked – even a little salinity – perhaps from the barrel. Keep 5 years...



SAINT-BRIS

2021

Broad and fresh aromas – actually quite floral too. Direct and mineral – this is a wine with a modest mineral austerity – gooseberry fruit – and good acidity – I like the shape and style of it – it's very good. 'It's a less ripe vintage – more Nordic!'



PETIT CHABLIS 2021

Not as broad a nose as the Saint-Bris but with a good airy freshness. Intense – acid forward – a bit of austerity for sure – let's see how this wine grows before commercialization – it's rather frank today.

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CHABLIS
2021

Extra width and a bit more depth to this nose. Extra energy too – broad – mouth-filling wine – that’s a morning tonic! Lots of minerality and an agrume style fruit. This also needs to calm a little but I think this is much more balanced than the Petit Chablis today. Very good – keep it 2-3 years before attacking!



CHABLIS
“D1840” 2021

A more direct nose but one of fine purity and minerality. Calmer but still energetic – a burst of flavour in the middle and shrinking quickly in the finish but then it holds with lots of interest. This will be super. ‘The left bank wines are all tank elevage, the right bank ‘worked’ with a little barrel’.



CHABLIS 1ER CRU
“Côte de Léchet” 2021

The first nose where I say ‘yes!’. Crystal clean with a suggestion of sucrosity in the citrus energy. A slightly rustic first wave of flavour – but tons of energy like a ragged young puppy. The middle and finishing flavours are super, even a little chalky. Great character and a super wine too.



CHABLIS 1ER CRU
“Vaillons” 2021

A modest extra width to this nose – a little salinity too. Mouth-filling – super volume here – the texture is good and the intensity of this wine grows – but in volume rather than direct. A creamy side to this wine – despite no barrel. I think this is super again. Discussing the non-oak creaminess: ‘There was a lot of malic acidity so with the malo there’s still plenty of lactic.’



CHABLIS 1ER CRU
“Montmains” 2021

Width and just a little extra depth to this very good nose. Fuller, more concentrated, broad – this is fine in the mouth – well-textured wine with both width and a good intensity. The finish, so far, with the most interest and depth. A complex agrume flavour. An excellent wine!



CHABLIS 1ER CRU
“Fourchaume” 2021

Here’s a little smoky salinity. Mouth-filling – there’s a lot of volume here – the texture is fine. The flavour has a suggestion of austerity but no rigour – some tension too. It’s very well put together. The finish is lovely with a bit more floral action – give this time – it’s more than ‘very good.’ The elevage has about 20% barrel elevage but usually with 3-5 year-old barrels.

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CHABLIS 1ER CRU

“Mont de Milieu” 2021

I sense the barrel a little more but it's far from overt – mainly a more saline width of aroma. Incisive – there's plenty of minerality in this leading wave of flavour too – tons of flavour energy in the middle and (the long) finishing flavours too – this has the potential to be excellent.



CHABLIS 1ER CRU

“Montée de Tonnerre” 2021

A nose that's more than just a width of salinity – here are higher and lower tones of complexity too. Some gas but this is still the wine with the most fluid energy and delivery of flavour. It's a bit brusque today but it's a wine, potentially with everything and potentially a great one!



CHABLIS GRAND CRU

“Blanchot” 2021

Half barrel elevage but never with new ones. There's a hint of barrel but what a fine nose – tons of floral perfume and very open – lovely! Fuller, rounder but no less structure and clarity. Not quite the fluidity of the last wine but there's more of everything else here. The barrel is present in the finish too. Wait 5-6 years before dipping your toe into the water but this is a lovely Grand Cru.



CHABLIS GRAND CRU

“Les Clos” 2021

The oak is not visible in the aromas but there's a fine mineral and agrume width for sure. Mouth-filling – here is tons of volume and citrus complexity – even a little citrus skin which is rarer in this vintage. Perhaps, passion fruit? Super wine.



CHABLIS GRAND CRU

“Preuses” 2021

A little narrower nose but much more vertical with mineral depth and slightly floral higher tones. Mouth-filling with such a vibrancy to this flavour – the most dynamic of energies for this one – a wine of managed power with a finishing of almost sparkly complexity. That's a super wine – but be patient.