If you enjoy minerality in your Chablis, this vintage is one to snap up, says Rosemary George MW, who says a reliable producer, more than cru, is still the key factor

EVEN THOUGH CHABLIS can overcome most climatic vagaries, and frost damage is less of a problem than it was, vintage variation here can be significant. Many is the year that has been saved by a fine September. The key factor in 2010, though, was the cool weather during flowering in June which reduced the size of the crop. Spring and early summer were dry, but not especially hot; August was cooler and wetter than usual; and then things looked up in September, and the harvest began later in the month. The wines are classic Chablis. If you enjoy firm minerality, this is your vintage. From Petit Chablis to grand crus, the wines have a firm backbone of acidity and minerality, which is wonderfully refreshing after the richer 2009s. They should reward further ageing in bottle.

Premier cru Chablis forms the perfect bridge between simple village wines and the more concentrated, complex grands crus. Good premier cru Chablis should have some depth with a firm minerality, without the weight of the richer grands crus. They are less likely to be aged in oak than a grand cru, but that will depend on the grower.

And what about the different crus? Until recently there were 79 names that could feature on a label. Happily those have now been reduced to a more manageable 40 (despite the surface area given to premiers crus remaining the same). and there are several you rarely see. The better known names act as an umbrella for several smaller vineyards. The example of Fourchaume is pertinent. With 132ha, it is larger than the entire slope of grands crus and is divided into Vaupulent, Côte de Fontenay, l'Homme Mort and Vaulorent. The wine grower decides which to use.

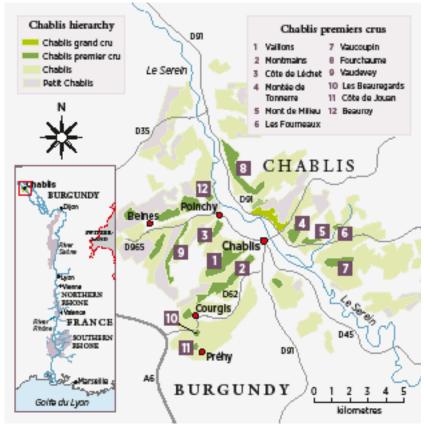
### **Producer is key**

In broad terms the premier crus can be distinguished as to whether they are on the right bank of the Serein and adjacent to the slope of grand crus, or on the left bank facing the grands crus across the valley. Those on the right bank, namely Montée de Tonnerre, Mont de Milieu Vaucoupin and Fourchaume, are generally considered to be richer and more structured, enjoying a similar aspect to the grands crus. The wines of the left bank include Vaillons, Montmains and Côte de Léchet, which may seem more elegant, but again much depends on grower preference.

When the vineyards of Chablis were extended during the 1970s and 1980s, more premiers crus were established on vineyard sites where there had once been vines before phylloxera, and which were said to produce similar quality to the sites closer to the town of Chablis. Vaudevey outside the village of Beines was the most significant of these, but Beauregards near Courgis and Côte de Jouan near Préhy also appeared in the list of premiers crus. These wines tend to be lighter. Beauroy outside the village of Poinchy is generally one of the least steely crus.

The vineyards on either side of the river enjoy a similar climate and the vines are grown in similar soil, so that the differences in the crus stems from their aspect - a sunnier g or a less sunny site – and distincted, .... differences. I find it easier to taste the differences in or a less sunny site - and ultimately depend on winemaking winemaking than the nuances between different crus.

Hence to my mind huving decisions should be determine Hence to my mind buying decisions should be determined by the producer's name on the label, rather than the cru.



## The facts

Area under vine Petit Chablis 843.32ha Chablis 3 318,34ha Premier cru 778,19ha Grand cru 104,08ha

**Key premiers crus** Beauroy (Côte de Savant, Troesmes); Côte de Jouan; Côte de Léchet; Fourchaume (Côte de Fontenay, L'Homme Mort, Vaulorent, Vaupulent); Beauregards (Côte de Cuisy); Les Fourneaux (Côte des Prés-Girots, Morein); Mont de Milieu; Montée de Tonnerre; (Chapelot, Côte de Bréchain, Pied d'Aloup); Montmains (Butteaux, Forêts); Vaillons (Beugnons, Chatains, Les Epinottes, Les Lys, Mélinots);

Vaudevey (Vaux Ragons);

Vaucoupin

## **Premier cru Chablis: know your vintages**

2011 A riper year and a bigger vintage

2010 Yields lower than average. Classic Chablis with good minerality

2009 A warm summer, so wines can lack that benchmark acidity and minerality. Drink before 2008

 $2008\,$  Saved by a warm September after a cool summer. A late harvest gave very classic

Chablis, with firm minerality and elegance

2007 An early spring and early flowering, followed by a hot summer. Ripe wines, but with good acidity

2006 Wines tend to be guite soft, and lacking the Chablis grip. For earlier drinking.

2005 Hail in early May. A very good summer making for nicely balanced wines.

Rosemary George MW is an awarded wine writer and judge and author of The Wines of Chablis (Segrave Foulkes, 2007)

Entry criteria: producers and UK agents were invited to submit any of

**Decanter Award** 

their 2010 premier cru Chablis (finished bottles and tank samples)

## The results

Our judges had high expectations that were mostly met - the main criticism being real variability in quality and typicity. But for approachable, good-value Burgundy, these are hard to beat. Amy Payne reports

#### How was the overall quality of the vintage?

Steven Spurrier put a very positive spin on the vintage, saying: 'I don't think any other region could have come up with 182 wines that are so well made.' Matt Smith agreed: 'On the whole, this is a delicious vintage. They are wines you can rely on if you choose a decent producer.' Philip Tuck MW rated the vintage four stars out of five and Stephen Brook noted that there were very few faulty wines over the two days of tasting. 'There were also perhaps a lack of truly thrilling wines, so most of my scores sat in that middle ground between 16 and 17 points,' he said. Many of the judges agreed that the defining factor for the 2010 premiers crus was the linear acidity of the wines.

#### How was the typicity of the vintage?

'Given that it is very easy to make extremely disappointing, nondescript Chablis, this tasting did at least illustrate that there are plenty of producers trying very hard to make concentrated, elegant wines that reflect their origins which is, after all, what good Chablis is all about,' said Tuck. Brook disagreed, saying that the vintage lacked typicity, and if he hadn't known these were all Chablis, he would have guessed that some wines came from '30 miles further south'. Gearoid Devaney MS also disagreed with Tuck: 'Some of the flavour profiles were wrong.' Jason Haynes countered: 'People are trying to make more typical Chablis than they were 10 years ago. There is a movement in the past few years to try to make much more mineral-based wines which is what they should be all about.'

#### How would you compare 2010 with recent vintages?

'It's quite an exciting vintage coming off the back of quite a fat one,' said Smith, 'It's nice to see some of that acidity and intensity back again.' Haynes and Devaney agreed that 2009 was forward and easy, with the latter adding that '2010 will be compared to 2008 in terms of structure, acidity and pH levels'. Haynes predicted there would be discussions as to whether 2010 trumped 2008.

## vou wanting more?

With the extra complexity that the region brings, it is quite important for the winemaking to sit in the background. And I think that my highest scoring wines were along the

## The scores

182 wines tasted \*\*\*\* **Decanter Award** 

58 \*\*\*\* Highly recommended

> 97 \*\*\* Recommended

> > 16 \*\*

Fair 4

 $\star$ Poor

 $\bigcirc$ Faulty

33 **€** Good value (£18 and under) some of the cooler appellations, such as Montée de Tonnerre, the highest. Beverley Blanning MW preferred Fourchaume, while Devaney conversely felt both Fourchaume and Montée de Tonnerre were not showing well; he thought Vaillons and Côte de Léchet were much stronger performers. Haynes agreed with Devaney and additionally found Montmains to be disappointing. Brook

preferred Vaillons and thought Mont de Milieu was the

more mineral and tense styles,' said Smith, who scored

#### Any criticisms?

most mineral-driven cru.

Blanning noticed a lot of sulphur on the wines. She said this 'possibly has the upside of enhancing minerality' because she found the wines extremely mineral. She added: 'The only other thing that I would possibly criticise is the malolactic fermentation. To me I found a lot of these wines to be acid-driven in a linear way. But it seems like some of the winemakers tried to compensate for this high acidity with malolactic fermentation. Some of the wines I tasted were quite creamy in a way that I didn't appreciate.'

Haynes was disappointed by inconsistent quality: 'It really varied. The best examples were certainly very good premiers crus. The lesser wines I actually wouldn't have even liked if they had been grands crus - they just weren't particularly appealing in any sense. At the end of the day, if the quality isn't there it doesn't make a difference whether these wines are village, premier or grand cru. That lack of consistency I found really disappointing.' Lance Foyster MW agreed with Blanning and Haynes: 'I did notice quite a few wines with overtly creamy, yeasty flavours. I assume that these were the ones that have seen a little bit too much oak oak on them, and it wasn't a coincidence that I gave these wines my lowest marks.'

#### Is this an ageworthy vintage?

'I have a perverse view in that the less fruit there is in a wine, the more I like it,' said Brook. 'I want some austerity in premier cru Chablis because I want a wine that is going to age in an interesting way.' Haynes thought the wines would best be enjoyed between two to five years post-vintage and suggested the latest drinking window for most between 2015 and 2018. 'Maybe the wines were a little bit more advanced than I'd have thought,' he added.

**((**It wasn't a coincidence that I gave my lowest marks to wines with a little bit too much oak ??

## The tasters

Matt Smith is a buyer at UK supermarket Waitrose, focusing on a number of areas including Burgundy

Stephen Philip Tuck Brook is a MW is wine Decanter director at contributing UK wine editor and agent Hatch Mansfield. won the 2006 which he Trophée set up in des Grands 1993 Jours de Bourgogne

Gearoid Devaney MS was UK Sommelier of the Year 2008 Today he works for Burgundy

Burgundy specialist, in specialist Flint Wines

the

Beverley Steven Michael

Lance Foyster MW set up UK wine agent Clark Foyster in 2002, where he looks after buying and selling

Blanning MW is a Decanter contributor. author and competition judge

And are these good value wines?

more pleasure. Vive Chablis!'

Our judges agreed unanimously that Chablis premiers crus

represent much better value for money than the grands

taste very similar but there is frequently a significant price

crus,' said Tuck. 'To the average consumer, they would

differential.' Devaney added: 'Village and premier cru

wines still offer good value on a restaurant list and these

2010s will be no different.' Spurrier and Brook said their

value was extraordinary, with the latter adding: 'There are

some premier cru white Burgundies that are now pushing

£85 a bottle. Some are maybe great wines, but who could

about far more modestly priced wines that will give much

afford them? With premier cru Chablis, you are talking

have a very good price-to-value ratio. 'For me they

Spurrier is Schuster is Decanter's consultant Decanter editor, an World author and Wine a consultant Awards Regional for, among Chair for others. Singapore Burgundy Airlines

**C**Premier cru

good value on

a restaurant

list and these

2010s will be

no different ??

Gearoid Devaney MS

wines still offer

Also tasted: Rosemary

Jason

up Flint

Wines, a

Haynes set

George MW and Sebastian Thomas

**Simonnet-Febvre, Montée de Tonnerre** 18.75

Classic Chablis aromas of herb, apples, citrus and wet stony minerals. Good freshness and lifted minerality on the mouthwatering palate – it is enticingly complex. Pristine in its youth, it is beautifully balanced: nothing s overdone. Drink: 2013-2023. Alcohol: 13%



## **Domaine des Malandes, Fourchaume** 18.67

£21 Charles Hawkins

A touch of oak on the nose. Rich, ripe and juicy Chablis which is generous and fresh with an abundance of flavour and fine length across the palate. Clear premier cru quality. Very fine. Drink: 2013-2018. Alc: 13%



## **Domaine Charly Nicolle, Mont de Millieu** 18.63

N/A UK www.chablis-charlynicolle.com

Swirling aromas of lemon, mineral, butter, chalk, lime and wet stone. Classic Chablis, displaying fine balance and high acidity with strong minerality and good concentration. Textured, savoury and long. Very good. Drink: 2012-2022. Alc: 13%



## **Domaine William Fèvre. Fourchaume 18.56**

£24-£29 Fine & Rare, Lay & Wheeler

Enticing, complex nose of green apple. Fabulous concentration of everything Chablis should be: buckets of minerals, super elegance, power and restraint. There is real character and complexity here. Long and very drinkable. Drink: 2012-2023. Alc: 12.5%

## What vineyard sites showed best, and which ones left



Lance Foyster MW

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## Albert Bichot, Domaine Long Depaguit. Vaucoupin 18.5

£18 Fine & Rare £

Fine aromas of salt, honey and oak. The palate shows appealing minerality with an underlying richness. Quite a textured wine which is mouthfilling and youthful with clear premier cru tenacity of flavour and class. Excellent Drink: 2013-2020. Alc: 13%



## Samuel Billaud, Mont de Milieu 18.5

Citrus, stone fruit and oak on the nose. It has lovely texture and mouthfeel, with ripe stone fruit and floral flavours melding with Chablis acidity and minerality on the finish. Subtle and complex, the oak helps to give the



## **Domaine Barat. Les Fourneaux** 18.5

£14 Fine & Rare £

Smoke, earth, truffle, citrus, minerals and flint on the nose. Certainly complex with definite class, it is very vinous and characterful. It has good intensity and minerality with savoury notes too. Textured and dense wine with a long mineral finish. Drink: 2012-2022. Alc: 13.5%

> **66** There are plenty of producers trying very hard to make concentrated, elegant wines that reflect their Origins )) Philip Tuck MW

# £14-£15 Whittalls Wine Merchant, Lay & Wheeler € palate a lift. Impressive. Drink: 2013-2016. Alc: 13%



## Highly recommended 16.5-18.49pts



## Domaine Chanson, Montée de Tonnerre (tank sample) 18

£22 Mentzendorff

Restrained nose of flowers, honey, green and stony fruit. Plenty of oak shows through but it is well done so adds lovely complexity. It is almost chewy with pure, zippy citrus fruit flavour and a good minerally finish. Lots of potential. Classic and delicious. Drink: 2013-2018. Alc: 12.5%



## Louis Michel & Fils, Vieilles Vignes, Butteaux (tank sample) 18

POA Enotria

Lovely white flower, granny smith and apricot bouquet. It is lean and textured with a minerally, sea shell note. Really good weight and precision of flavour - a beautifully made wine. Has good power and potential. Drink: 2012-2018. Alc: 13%



## Domaine Jean-Paul & Benoît **Droin. Montmains** 17.67

£29 Richards Walford

Fresh yellow fruit, smoky apricot, lemon and zingy sherbet bouquet. Good zippy attack and broad, concentrated fruit flavours with lively but not excessive acidity and a long mineral finish. It is taut, persistent and has real typicity. Drink: 2012-2015. Alc: 13%



## **Domaine Pinson.** Mont de Milieu 17.58

£22 Christopher Piper, Vine Trail

Delicate nose of oak, spice and smoke. Nicely balanced, ripe fruited yet vital wine. It has concentration, vigour and length. Rounded, textured and layered with good acidity. Fine and youthful. Drink: 2013-2020. Alc: 13%



## Domaine des Malandes, Montmains 17.5

£20 Charles Hawkins

Aromas of citrus, white flower, pear and green fruit. Rich, vibrant and juicy with good concentration and acidity. It is taut, tangy and really well balanced. Firm, steely mineral finish. Drink: 2012-2018. Alc: 13%



## Domaine William Fèvre, Mont de Milieu 17.5

£29 Lay & Wheeler

Intense and complex bouquet of citrus, nuts, flowers, apple and yellow fruit - classic. Dense, powerful, tight and opulent wine with an earthy mineral tang creeping up on the aftertaste. It displays classic Chablis minerality and acidity on the finish. Drink: 2013-2018. Alc: 13%



## Highly recommended (continued) 16.5-18.49pts



## Corinne & Jean-Pierre Grossot, C Perchaud, Fourchaume 17.33

POA Liberty

Complex and lean nose displaying wet stone, lees, flint and minerals. Everything just so in the mouth: minerally fruit, very high acidity and a long, lean but not overly austere finish. Excellent and very classic. Drink: 2012-2022. Alc: 13%



## **Albert Bichot, Domaine Long** Depaquit, Vaillons 17.25

£13 Whittalls Wine Merchant €

Aromas of citrus, pear, apricot, light toast and floral perfume. Broad, compact and powerful palate with attractive florality, minerality and tang. It is textured, layered and concentrated. Very classic structure and excellent potential. Drink: 2012-2016. Alc: 13%



## Samuel Billaud. Les Fourneaux 17.17

£13 Lay & Wheeler £

Classic Chablis aromas of tangy lime, white flowers and honey. Good clarity, crispness and precision on the delicate fruit which is light on its feet. Bracing, lively, minerally, tangy palate in a very lean style. Drink: 2013-2017. Alc: 13%



## Domaine de la Motte, Beauroy 17.13

£16 Boutinot £

Very fresh nose of appealing tangerine and lemon fruit. More on the palate displaying a firm structure, acidity and a hint of oak. Vibrant and very brisk with lovely freshness, intensity and good terroir. Plenty to come. Very classic. Drink: 2014-2023. Alc: 12.5%



## Louis Michel & Fils, Butteaux 17.13

£24.50 Enotria

A solid nose with a touch of oak. Nice fresh ripeness, some gentle minerality, vital acidity and length across the mouthfilling palate. Needs some bottle age but will be a classic and classy premier cru Chablis. Drink: 2014-2020. Alc: 13%



## **Domaine Christian Moreau Père et** Fils, Cuvée Guy Moreau, Vaillons 17

£18 Haynes Hanson & Clark €

Creamy oak and yellow fruit bouquet. Very good attack of bracing bitter lemon and mineral fruit. Textured and long; oaky style with very good depth. Not that complex now but in time will open up. Drink: 2012-2017. Alc: 12.5%



## **Domaine Dampt, Les Fourneaux** 17

£18 Laithwaites £

Quite firm, classic stony and mineral aromas - fairly inexpressive now. Fresh and fruity, solid palate which has nice bite on the finish. Good scope for the future but is not yet very expressive. Drink: 2013-2020. Alc: 13%



### Domaine du Chardonnay. Mont de Milieu 17

£17 Champagne & Chateaux € Restrained nose of flowers, pear and lime. Rich, concentrated wine with ample grip and extract. It has typicity and good expression of white fruit, floral notes and mineral characters. Drink: 2013-2016. Alc: 13%



### **Domaine Gautheron.** Les Fourneaux 17

POA Ellis of Richmond

Pretty, classic nose showing a hint of honey and oak. Nice concentration of ripe, mineral fruit, good balance and lively acidity. Very juicy for Chablis. There's plenty more to come from this. Drink: 2013-2020. Alc: 13%



## Domaine Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin, Mont de Milieu 17

£16-£25 Armit, Howard Ripley, Berry Bros & Rudd, Lay & Wheeler £

Benchmark bouquet of minerals, butter, stones, apple and flint. Lovely balance of restraint and fullness of flavour. Ripe and concentrated fruit, zippy acidity and a long seamless finish. Has real terroir. Benchmark. Drink: 2012-2023. Alc: 13%



## **Domaine Testut,** Montée de Tonnerre 17

N/A UK www.domaine-testut.fr

Pure bouquet of citrus and apricot. Good attack of very ripe fruit with striking acidity and concentration. It is assertive and mineral with more typicity than the nose suggests. Excellently balanced in the classic Chablis style. Drink: 2013-2016. Alc: 13%



#### **Jean-Marc Brocard, Montmains** 17

£17 The Wine Society £

Muted nose of spice, yellow fruit, citrus and green bean. Good acidity frames this powerful, robust wine which has plenty of grip and extract. It packs a punch. Has complexity and a nice, chalky fossil edge. Young now but will improve. Drink: 2013-2018. Alc: 12.5%

## Highly recommended (continued) 16.5-18.49pts



## **La Chablisienne, Côte de Léchet** 16.94

£13-£18.90 Astrum Wine Cellars, Whitebridge Wines £

Leesy, honeyed character on the nose. A clear, solid premier cru, showing finesse, subtlety and length across the palate and on the finish. Very good, classic example. Lots to come. **Drink:** 2014–2020. **Alc:** 13%



### Domaine Nathalie & Gilles Fevre, Mont de Milieu 16.92

£23 Ellis of Richmond, Thorman Hunt, Winehound Firm, tight-knit nose. Fresh, elegant, minerally and wet stone character with zesty acidity. Subtle style with class and tenacity of flavour. Fine. **Drink**: 2014–2020. **Alc**: 13%



## Daniel Dampt, Côte de Léchet 16.88

£14-£17 Coe Vintners, Vine Trail, Haynes Hanson & Clark €

Attractive florality and good sappy fruit with saline and oyster shell aromas. Textured, intense and stony with good acidity. Not very expressive now but will be serious and rewarding with time. Classic. **Drink**: 2012–2015. **Alc**: 13%



## Highly recommended (continued) 16.5-18.49pts



### **Jean-Marc Brocard, Vaillons** 16.75

POA Julian Baker

Good intensity of firm, flinty, oaky and honeyed hints on the nose. Rich, fresh and leesy with nice vital acidity, balance and power. It has a textured palate with layers of flavour showing both depth and youth. **Drink:** 2014–2020. **Alc:** 12.5%



## La Chablisienne, Beauroy 16.75

£18 (2008) Cambridge Wine Merchants

Delicate, precise nose of citrus, smoke and floral white fruit. Richer and weightier on the palate with lifted yet broad fruit, lovely minerality and good extract. A serious Chablis. Textured, stylish and long. **Drink:** 2012–2017. **Alc:** 13%



## Louis Michel & Fils, Sechets (tank sample) 16.75

£23 Enotria

Citrus and apricot nose. Rich palate with broad flavours which are almost the weight and complexity of grand cru. Attractive and zesty with a delicate attack. Lean and precise with good acidity. Will be a very good wine.

Drink: 2012-2017. Alc: 13%



## Domain Jean Collet & Fils, Vaillons

N/A UK www.domaine.collet.fr

Gentle honeysuckle notes with white and yellow fruit and an apple nose. A taut, racy style with intensity and vigour and delicious fruit. Very good purity, clarity, finesse, balance and length. **Drink:** 2012–2017. **Alc:** 12.5%



## Isabelle & Denis Pommier, Beauroy

£17 Goedhuis €

New oak, citrus and peach bouquet. It has a Chablis bite of tight acidity, an almost spritzy attack and a fresh, vibrant finish. More oak on the palate is noticeable but it is quite elegant and still youthful. **Drink**: 2014–2020. **Alc**: 12.5%



### Caves Gendraud-Patrice, Beauregards 16.83

N/A UK +33 3 86 52 17 42

Pure nose of butter, lemon, minerals and oyster shell. Creamy, smooth classically proportioned wine with a deep minerally core. Bright acidity adds freshness. Ripe and wholly savoury style. Very good. **Drink:** 2012–2018. **Alc:** 12.5%



## Lupé Cholet, Château de Viviers, Vaillons 16.69

POA Chalié Richards

Delicate apricot, oyster shell, mineral, citrus and apple bouquet. Precise and long with tangy citrus notes and florality on the palate. Textured style and very well made – classic Vaillons.

Drink: 2012–2017. Alc: 13%

Movement to make much more mineral-based wines which is what Chablis should be all about 39 Jason Haynes



## Corinne & Jean-Pierre Grossot, Les Fourneaux 16.67

N/A UK +33 3 86 42 44 64

Flowers, honey, smoke, toast and tropical fruit bouquet. Broad, creamy and sumptuous with generous tangy fruit, yet it till manages to be lean and shows lots of minerality. An impressive, elegant wine. **Drink:** 2013–2017. **Alc:** 13%



## Daniel Dampt, Les Lys 16.83

£14 Haynes Hanson & Clark £

Lovely salty, minerally aroma on the nose. It has ripe fruit, brisk acidity and some textured fruit on the palate which develops in the glass. Quite rich and full bodied with good energy. Vivid premier cru. **Drink:** 2012–2017. **Alc:** 13%



## Domaine Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin, Fourchaume 16.83

£25 Howard Ripley Wines, Laytons

Firm, tight nose. Quite nervy acidity with nice weight and bite, this is rich, lively and vital. A fine Chablis with ripe fruit and minerality across the palate and on the finish. Really fine and very attractive. **Drink:** 2014–2022. **Alc:** 13%



## Domaine Nathalie & Gilles Fèvre, Vaulorent 16.83

£23 Ellis of Richmond

Oak, honey, yellow fruit and apple compote on the nose. Reined in and compact style with taut, minerally, steely and citrussy fruit. It has lots of grip, depth and well integrated oak. Almost of grand cru quality. **Drink:** 2013–2018. **Alc:** 13%



## Domain Jean Collet & Fils, Mont de Millieu 16.67

N/A UK www.domaine-collet.fr

Rich, ripe aromas of banana, honey, white fruit and mango. The palate shows elegance, clarity, depth and complexity – it is sweet and generous with atypical ripe characters but manages its weight very well. **Drink:** 2013–2017. **Alc:** 12.5%



## Domaine Louis Moreau, Vaulignot 16.67

N/A UK www.louismoreau.com

Firm, closed nose showing a touch of oak. Quite backward yet substantial palate with easy, juicy, freshly ripe fruit, moderate complexity and a little oak. This needs time to develop, as the fruit is quite shy now. **Drink:** 2012–2019. **Alc:** 12.5%



## Domaine Pinson, Les Fôrets 16.67

£24 (2009) Berry Bros & Rudd

Rich, powerful aromas of minerals. A very crisp and super minerally palate with plenty of fruitiness. Open knit and quite full, freshened by good acidity which gives it a clean, long finish. **Drink:** 2012–2022. **Alc:** 13%



### La Chablisienne, Montmains 16.83

£18 (2009) Addison Wines

Bright citrus and smoke on the nose. A silkily textured palate with good weight and minerality and spice on the finish. Quite unusual but has lovely depth of fruit, complexity, excellent length and balance. **Drink:** 2012–2018. **Alc:** 13%



## Simonnet-Febvre, Fourchaume 16.83

10.00

Honey, floral notes and apple on the nose. Quite rich and juicy – a broad style with a nice texture, good concentration and minerality on the finish. Still a little shut in now but will be good in time. Impressive. **Drink:** 2013–2017. **Alc:** 13%



## **Domaine Fourrey, Vaillons** 16.75

£17.50 Revelstoke Wines €

Smoke, flint, floral notes and yellow and white fruit aromas. Very good expression and precision of fruit, displaying lots of minerality. Rich, juicy and full bodied – quite powerful for Chablis. It has fine lift and a good future ahead. **Drink:** 2012–2017. **Alc:** 13.5%



## Jean Durup Père & Fils, Vaudevey 16.67

N/A UK www.durup-chablis.com

Delicate nose of ripe fruit. It has good grip and is ripe and supple (in the Chablis context) with modest scope and length for a premier cru. Quite lightweight but nicely balanced.

Drink: 2013–2020. Alc: 12.5%



## Louis Michel & Fils, Les Fôrets 16.67

£23 Enotria

Lovely creamy apricot, citrus and honey bouquet. Lavish fruit – more Chassagne than Chablis – with good acidity to balance the weight of fruit. It has a touch of chalky minerality on the finish. Seems oaky.

Drink: 2012–2016. Alc: 13%



## Domaine des Malandes, Côte de Léchet 16.63

£15 Averys €

Fragrant citrus peel, white flower and apricot bouquet. Rich, rounded, accessible and juicy with good citric acidity. Very typical Chablis – it is still firm yet the florality and fruit will come out in time. **Drink:** 2013–2017. **Alc:** 13%



## Highly recommended (continued) 16.5-18.49pts



## Domaine des Malandes, Vaudevey 16.63

#### £18 Charles Hawkins £

Bright mineral fruit and hints of oak on the nose. Fine minerally fruit balance, lively, defining acidity and clear premier cru complexity. It has a rich oaky feel to the palate and a mineral kick on the sweet finish. Well made and attractive. Drink: 2014-2020. Alc: 13%



## Domaine William Fèvre, Vaillons 16.63

## £22-£25 Armit, Fine & Rare

Very fresh bouquet of citrus. Needs time to evolve but it is a good example of that chalky, lean style of Chardonnay, unique to Chablis. It has good intensity and minerality and a long, spicy length. Drink: 2012-2018. Alc: 12.5%



### **Domaine Drouhin Vaudon,** Vaillons 16.63

#### £25 Taurus Wines

Pear, lime and white florality on the nose. Very precise, lifted, nutty, bracing and clear wine with nice texture, extract and welcome austerity. It is a classic style that some might find too austere. Drink: 2013-2016. Alc: 12.5%





## Domaine Jean-Paul & Benoît **Droin. Vaillons** 16.63

#### £18-£21 Armit, Howard Ripley 6

Firm, closed, stony mineral nose. The palate is tight knit and compact with firm, structured citrus fruit and minerality mixed with oak. Finely crafted and framed by very good acidity. Lots of potential. Drink: 2013-2020. Alc: 13%



## Sainsbury's, Taste the Difference

## £14 Sainsbury's €

Tight, discreet bouquet of minerals, succulent lime, vellow fruit and floral perfume, Broad cream, citrus and minerally fruit palate, bracing acidity and good length. Fine future: racy, zesty and refreshing. Drink: 2012-2016. Alc: 12.5%



## Domaine du Chardonnay, Montmains 16.58

## £17 Champagnes & Chateaux €

Subtle aroma but it's ripe, fine, fresh and fragrant. Quite a firm and austere style which is gently minerally. A racy Chablis - fruit is still to develop as it isn't yet expressive. Give it time. Drink: 2012-2020. Alc: 13%



### Damien & Romain Bouchard, Montée de Tonnerre 16.5

£22.50-£28.50 Enotria, Swig

A rounded, fresh, clean and salty nose. Ripe, lively, rounded, solid palate freshened with good acidity. Nice balance, depth and concentration. Plenty to come. Drink: 2013-2020. Alc: 12.5%



## **Domaine Faiveley, Fourchaume 16.5**

### £30 Maisons Marques et Domaines

Honey, yellow fruit, oak and ripe apple bouquet. It has lots of oaky spice but this is nicely in balance. It shows fine acidity, sweet fruit and good length. Still a bit foursquare but has weight and depth to mature. Drink: 2012-2017. Alc: 12%



## **Domaine Gautheron, Vaucoupin**

## £21 Ellis of Richmond

Lovely nose of lively floral, apple and lime fruit. It has fresh acidity framing a fine mineral palate. It has excellent balance between weight and concentration, steely Chablis character and ripe, sweet fruit. Very nice. Persistent and long. Drink: 2012-2022. Alc: 13%



## **Domaine Pascal Bouchard,** Beauroy 16.5

## £23 (2008) Heritage Wine

Nice intensity of fresh citrus, pear and yellow fruit on the nose. Broad palate in which the chalk and iron soil comes through. It has good weight and fine premier cru definition. Tangy, crisp and vigorous with a zippy attack. Drink: 2012-2016. Alc: 12.5%



## Domaine William Fèvre, Montée de Tonnerre 16.5

#### £25-£32 Armit, Lay & Wheeler

Fresh minerally nose. Very elegant, ripe, lively, juicy and fresh mouthful with a minerally acidity and lovely balance. Quite understated and should develop. Drink: 2012-2020. Alc: 12.5%

## Highly recommended (continued) 16.5-18.49pts



## Domaine William Fèvre, Vaulorent 16.5

## £33–£36 Armit, Justerini & Brooks, Lay & Wheeler Aromas of wet stone, earth and yeasty notes. It

is very minerally and tight in the mouth with good ripeness and taut acidity. Should improve. Very long and elegant in the classic Chablis mould. Good. **Drink:** 2014–2017. **Alc:** 13%



## Isabelle & Denis Pommier, Côte de Léchet 16.5

#### £20.50 Private Cellar

Complex and powerful nose of oak and yellow and white fruit. Good depth, weight and typicity. Lots of concentration and juicy bright acidity balanced by a creamy texture and a whiff of oak spice. Long. **Drink:** 2013–2018. **Alc:** 12.5%



### **Jean-Marc Brocard. Butteaux** 16.5

#### POA Julian Baker

Smoke, flint, citrus, honey, chalk, salt and apple on the nose. Textured and long, this is a solid rather than zesty style with good complex minerality on the finish. It has a certain heaviness due to the oak. A good wine. Drink: 2012-2016. Alc: 12.5%



## Louis Michel & Fils, Vaillons 16.5

#### £22.50 Enotria

Ripe minerals, smoke, flowers and zesty lime on the nose. It has good crisp fruit and precision on the palate with a chalky minerality. Good potential length and will evolve well. Drink: 2012-2017. Alc: 13%



### Samuel Billaud, Montée de Tonnerre 16.5

#### £22-£23 (2009) Bancroft, Berry Bros & Rudd, Charles Taylor, Goedhuis

Ripe aromas of stone fruit, flowers, honey, banana and apple. In its style it is really quite good. Quite austere with good concentration, crisp acidity and minerality, it is all in balance. Good, typical Chablis. Drink: 2013-2017. Alc: 13%



### Simonnet-Febvre, Vaillons 16.5

#### £21 Bretby Wine Co, Campbell Moore, Hailsham Cellars, Handford Wines, Mounts Bay Wine, Partridges, Shenfield Wine Co, Slurp, Whole Foods Market

Elegant nose of brisk lime, white and yellow fruit and floral notes. Very good length and purity of flavour, all in balance. Pure with bright acidity. Shows total precision and still has all the Chablis fruit. Drink: 2012-2017. Alc: 13.5%

## 3-STAR WINES Recommended 14 5-16 49pts

WINE	SCORE	TASTING NOTE	ALC	DRINK	PRICE	STOCKISTS
Domaine William Fèvre, Beauroy	16.44	Bright pithy orange peel and stony minerally bouquet. Attractively juicy fruit, vitality and fine minerality with good acidity and length.	12.5%	2013- 2020	£24	Lay & Wheeler
Jean-Marc Brocard, Beauregard	16.42	Delicate fresh nose of green fruit. Elegant yet ripe palate of flowers and minerals which is fresh, vivid and has a light length. Good without singing. Elegant.	12.5%	2014- 2020	£12	Milton Sandford Wines
Damien & Romain Bouchard, Vaillons	16.38	Very discreet nose of apple, honey and yellow fruit. Broad yet still precise with natural ripeness. It has good intensity of fruit and lots of minerality.	12.5%	2012- 2018	£20- £28	Domaine Direct, Richard Walfords, Swig
Domaine J-Paul & Benoît Droin, Côte de Léchet	16.38	Good richness and intensity on the nose of honey and leaf. Tight and restrained palate with firm acidity and moderate complexity. It has a mineral-driven finish.	13%	2014- 2020	£22	Richards Walford
Domaine Long Depaquit, Les Lys	16.38	Fine florality, white fruit and lime nose. Rich and juicy fruit and a mineral grip. Elegant and very Chablis. Lovely fruit expression, precision and length.	13%	2012- 2017	£16 (2009)	Fine & Rare
La Chablisienne, La Singulière	16.38	Brisk lemon, apple, citrus and white fruit aromas. It has nice purity, high acidity and tangy citrus flavours. Good weight and balance with a long tangy finish.	13%	2012- 2015	N/A UK	www.chablisienne.com
Domaine Barat, Vaillons	16.33	Good, stony, minerally nose. Decent quality with firm, elegant minerally fruit and a medium minerally finish. Very good balance. Still needs time to develop.	13.5%	2012- 2018	N/A UK	www.domaine-barat.fr
Domaine Chanson, Montmains	16.33	Fine mineral etched nose. Quite substantial in the mouth with lovely balance of ripe fruit to lively acidity. It has both length and finesse.	13.5%	2012- 2020	£22.50	Mentzendorff
Domaine Chanson, Fourchaume	16.33	Toasty oak on the nose and palate. Elegant, crisp, round fruit and textured palate. It has a lovely mineral finish. Long and concentrated with a steely minerality.	13.5%	2012- 2022	POA	Mentzendorff
Domaine Charly Nicolle, Les Fourneaux	16.33	Fresh citrus, white flowers and apricot bouquet. Nicely textured with fresh, lean, precise and ripe, juicy citrus fruit and minerality. On the green side; quite austere.	13%	2012- 2017	N/A UK	www.chablis-charlynicolle.com
Domaine de Oliveira Lecestre, Fourchaume	16.33	Smoky nose of fresh citrus and apricot. Attractive and fresh with a lightly mineral tone and a tangy, bright length. Has acidity and depth for the future.	13.5%	2012- 2017	N/A UK	www.societe-vin-deoliveira.fr
Domaine Nathalie & Gilles Fevre, Fourchaume	16.33	Pure lemon and sappy aromas. Nice concentration of crisp and ripe fruit, good acidity and crystal purity. Will be impressive and complex but a bit phenolic.	13%	2012- 2017	£23- £25	Ellis of Richmond, Thorman Hunt
Domaine Servin, Les Fôrets	16.33	Delicate nose of flowers. Elegant palate with ripe, rounded, minerally fruit and fresh acidity. Good length. Attractive and good rather than special.	12.5%	2012- 2019	N/A UK	www.domaine-servin.net
Hervé Azu, Vaudevey	16.33	Flint, minerals, floral yellow fruit, spicy apple and apricot aroma. Broad citrus flavours with pronounced acidity and good attack. Needs time to knit. Long.	12.5%	2012- 2017	N/A UK	+33 3 86 42 43 56
Lamblin & Fils, Fourchaume	16.33	Open, appealing nose of wet stone, dry herbs, apples and minerals. Fresh, citrus palate with lemon fruit and pointed acidity on the finish. Textured and good.	13%	2012- 2020	POA	PLB

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## **3-STAR WINES Recommended (continued)** 14.5-16.49pts

WINE		rcommended (continued) TASTINGNOTE	ALC	DRINK	PRICE	STOCKISTS
Lupé Cholet, Château de Viviers, Vaucoupin	16.33	Chalk, oyster shell, stone fruit, butter, earth and lactic aromas. Creamy fruit on the palate with a savoury, toasty finish. Fresh, nicely balanced, riper style.	13.%	2012- 2018	POA	Challé, Richards & Co
Domaine Bernard Defaix, Côte de Léchet	16.25	Lively and bright aromas of minerals. Firm and tight-knit minerality on the palate. Fine with a decent length. For lovers of austere Chablis.	13%	2013- 2021	£18 (2009)	Flint Wines
Domaine du Chardonnay, Vaillons	16.25	Refined, bright, lively aromas showing creamy and oaky hints. Lively acidity, good intensity and lots of concentration. Rounded, solid and a touch chunky.	13%	2014- 2020	£17	Champagne & Chateaux
Hervé Azu, Beauroy	16.25	Restrained nose of smoke, apricot, wax, honey, yellow fruit and green apple. Rich, plump and full with solid fruit enlivened by brisk acidity. Complex and classic.	12.5%	2013- 2016	N/A UK	+33 3 86 42 43 56
Lamblin & Fils, Beauroy	16.25	Delicate, understated aromas of citrus. Bright and brisk palate showing nicely balanced minerality, ripeness, fresh acidity and length. A lovely, pure wine.	13%	2012- 2020	POA	PLB
Domaine Gilbert Picq & Fils, Vosgros (tank sample)	16.17	Ripe apple compote, cream, citrus and honey nose. Rich palate with good depth, lovely texture and ripeness, and finesse on the finish. Still brooding.	12.5%	2013- 2018	£19 (2009)	Matthew Clark
Domaine Pinson, Montmains	16.17	Enticing nose of minerals, flowers and citrus. Round, slatey palate with stony fruit flavours and white pepper finish. Fresh and crisp with a sense of place.	13%	2012- 2020	£24 (2009)	Berry Bros & Rudd
Domaine William Fèvre, Montmains	16.17	Very ripe, fine nose of apple, flowers and citrus peel. Rich, broad and forward; crunchy style with good acidity and nice, spicy length. Very tasty.	13%	2012- 2016	£24	Slurp
Moreau-Naudet, Les Fôrets (tank sample)	16.17	Tropical fruit, apricot, oak and yellow flower aroma. Rich with a firm backbone, pure lime characters and modest acidity. Good character. Promising but tight.	12.5%	2012- 2017	£21.75	Lea & Sandeman
Séguinot-Bordet, Fourchaume	16.17	Firm bouquet with nice purity. It has fine balance and is attractively juicy white Burgundy though not typical Chablis. Ripe and lively acidity. Plenty to come.	13%	2013- 2016	£20-£21	Majestic, The Wine Co
Domaine Long Depaquit, Les Beugnons	16.13	Slightly confected bouquet. Leesy, flinty flavour and a mineral streak. Lots of fruit on the attack and a firm finish. Could improve with time.	13%	2014- 2020	N/A UK	www.bourgogne-bichot.com
Domaine Sébastien Dampt, Vaillons	16.13	Delicate and pretty nose which is firm and minerally. It has elegant fruit with good youthful minerality, green lime flavours and lovely balance.	13%	2013- 2016	£19.95	Armit
Domaine William Fèvre, Les Lys	16.13	Floral white fruit, smoky flint and citrus nose. Tight, classic and mouthwatering grapefruit flavours and tangy mineral aftertaste. Good balance and complexity.	12.5%	2012- 2016	£23- £24	Slurp, Bordeaux Index
Domaines Brocard, Selection	16.13	Intense lemon, orange peel, mineral and stone aromas. Tight-knit and firm palate with good minerality and vitality. Taut, linear and long. Stylish wine.	12.5%	2014- 2023	N/A UK	www.brocard.fr
Daniel Dampt, Vaillons	16	Green apple, earth and fine floral nose. Elegant wine with an added sappiness of fruit to give weight to the florality. Layered, minerally, complex and long.	13%	2012- 2016	N/A UK	www.chablis-dampt.com
Domaine Alain Geoffroy, Fourchaume	16	Sleek butter, apple and apricot nose. Good balance of sweet citrus fruit, pleasant acidity and a soft texture. Classically structured with no obvious oak.	13%	2012- 2018	£20	Handford Wines
Domaine Christian Moreau Père et Fils, Vaillons	16	A touch of oak on the nose. Quite brisk and pleasant with a ripe, juicy core, clear Chablis style and proportions. Needs time to gain full harmony.	12.5%	2014-	POA	Thorman Hunt
Domaine de la Motte, Vau Ligneau	16	Bright, fruity lemon, wet stone minerality and pear drop nose. Sweet ripe fruit and a long, satisfying finish. Crisp and good but less Chablis-like than most.	12.5%	2012- 2016	£15	D Byrne, Momentum Wines, Noel Young, Boutinot
Domaine Gautheron, Mont de Milieu	16	Ripe peach, pear drop and flint bouquet. Youthful, firm, primary fruit palate which has a fleshiness to it. Good acidity provides a frame. Fairly lightweight.	13%	2013-	£23	Ellis of Richmond
Domaine Gilbert Picq & Fils, Vaucoupin	16	Muted nose of lime, pear and ripe yellow fruit. Rounded, textured and full with sweet fruit characters lined with steel. Not very complex but good broad wine.	12.5%	2012-	£16	OW Loeb
Domaine Mosnier, Côte de Léchet	16	Earthy yellow fruit and cooking apple aromas. Juicy and concentrated with a citrus, steely mineral edge and fresh acidity. Broad and phenolic from the oak.	13%	2012- 2015	N/A UK	
Louis Latour	16	Fresh appley nose with elegant minerality. Pure, steely and fine palate with lean apple fruit and delicate minerals. Youthful and restrained.	13%	2012- 2019	POA	Slurp
Louis Michel & Fils, Montée de Tonnerre	16	Elegant palate offering ripe and supple, fruity flavours. Lovely minerality and delicacy with lift on the finish. Fine white Burgundy but is it premier cru Chablis?	13%	2012- 2020	£21	OW Loeb
Moreau-Naudet, Vaillons (tank sample)	16	Tropical nose of apple, honey and apricot with attractive florality. Quite robust and rounded for Chablis with nice weight and complexity. Well made but not typical.	12.5%	2012- 2016	£21.75	Lea & Sandeman
Jean-Marc Brocard, Vaulorent	15.92	Touch of oak and green fruit on the nose. Pretty wine with racy acidity but not much weight. Quite leesy with some integrated oak. Youthful - should develop.	12.5%	2014- 2020	£25	Julian Baker
Lamblin & Fils, Mont de Milieu	15.92	Delicate minerality. Lively and typical but lacks a bit of projection, concentration and length for top billing. Quite firm. Could improve.	13%	2013- 2019	N/A UK	www.lamblin.com
Lamblin & Fils, Vaillons	15.88	Closed, firm, stony and flinty nose. Ripe, fruity, fresh and pleasing - a good lesser cru. An accessible palate with some firm minerally fruit. A touch dilute.	13%	2013- 2020	N/A UK	www.lamblin.com
Séguinot-Bordet, Vaillons	15.88	Flinty, oaky nose. Tight-knit and firmly structured palate with very good depth.  Mineral and fruit flavours are nicely balanced. Elegantly understated.	13%	2013- 2025	N/A UK	www.seguinot-bordet.fr
Domaine Jean-Claude Courtault, Mont de Milieu	15.83	Delicate nose of apple, smoke and toast. Broad and juicy with some breadth, it has a good fleshy texture and minerality. Already quite open but will last.	12.5%	2012- 2017	£20	Drinks of France
Domaine Pascal Bouchard, Les Vielles Vignes Fourchaume	15.83	Ripe, lifted sweet 'n sour nose of lactic notes, minerals, saline and sea shells. Quite creamy palate – a bold, fruity and full-flavoured wine. Well done.	12.5%	2012-	N/A UK	www.pascalbouchard.com
Garnier & Fils, Mont de Milieu	15.83	Stone fruit, citrus, apple, mineral and gunflint nose. Fresh, lively palate which has been well crafted. More powerful and full-bodied than most. Fine minerally finish.	12.5%	2012- 2015	£21 (2009)	Sommelier's Choice
Jean-Marc Brocard, Montée de Tonnerre	15.83	Stewed apricot nose. A big mouthful with plenty of juicy notes. It is quite broad showing oak influence and finishes rather sweet but has the acidity to last.	12.5%	2012- 2017	POA	Julian Baker
Domaine Long Depaquit , Les Fôrets	15.75	Firm nose of minerals and oak. The Chablis acidity is there but it is on the lean side. A full style with rich oakiness and good length. Well integrated.	13%	2012- 2020	£17	Fine & Rare
Domaine Testut	15.75	Firm, lifted minerals, white flowers and citrus aromas. Pure stone fruit palate, good clarity, lots of acidity and a nice chalky edge. Needs to open up.	13%	2012- 2014	N/A UK	
Domaine Vincent Dampt, Côte de Léchet	15.75	Charming nose of apple, stone, saline, honey and smoky fruit. Well balanced with	13%	2012-	£19	Corney & Barrow
Louis Michel & Fils, Montmains	15.75	citrus and apple flavours. Will be very good; has fine length and depth.  Firm, closed nose. A riper style of Chablis displaying plenty of fruit, lively acidity	13%	2016	£22.50	Great Western Wine, Turton Wines
		and good length. Quite closed now but a youthful, attractive style.		2020		

WINE		ecommended (continued) TASTING NOTE	ALC		PRICE	STOCKISTS
Olivier Leflaive, Fourchaume	15.75	Attractive nose with spicy mineral and tangy citrus notes. A very fresh, crisp wine which shows excellent concentration, minerality and elegance.		2012- 2017	£23.50	Corney & Barrow
Romain Bouchard, Vaudevey	15.75	Butter, citrus, minerals and apple aromas. Balanced, fruity, complex and broad palate. It has a lovely mineral kick on the finish. Vital and juicy with fresh acidity.	12.5%	2013-2020	£23	Jascots
Domaine Drouhin Vaudon, Montmains	15.67	Delicate nose of leaf and new wood. It has a dry texture, vital acidity, elegant fruit and good minerality. Quite a ripe finish.	12.5%	2012- 2020	POA	Pol Roger
Billaud-Simon, Vaillons	15.63	Ripe, complex nose of intense ripe fruit. Pleasant and fresh with a hint of oak softening the acidity. A commercial style with some spritz and a minerally finish.	13%	2012- 2017	POA	Bancroft Wines
Blason de Bourgogne, Esprit de Chablis (tank sample)	15.63		13%	2014- 2020	£16	Waitrose
Domaine Louis Moreau, Vaillons	15.63	Intriguing aromas of honey and minerals. Not yet knit together but it has a nice balance and decent weight with fruit peeking through. Could improve further.	12.5%	2013- 2020	N/A UK	www.louismoreau.com
Simonnet-Febvre, Côte de Léchet	15.63	Rounded green and minerally fruit nose. It has both ripeness and vitality, in a tauter style. Nice texture and good firm minerality in the mouth. It has potential.	13%	2014- 2020	£21	Slurp
Domain Jean Collet & Fils, Montée de Tonnerre	15.58		12.5%	2012- 2021	N/A UK	www.domaine.collet.fr
Simonnet-Febvre, Montmains	15.58	Quite a delicate nose of light minerality and wet wool. Very fresh, crisp palate with a stony minerality and good acidity. Not a lot of weight. Should develop.	13.5%	2012- 2019	£20	Flagship Wines, General Wine Co, Hailsham Cellars, Milford Wine Centre, Planet of the Grapes, Slurp, The Vineyard
Domain Jean Collet & Fils, Montmains	15.5	Lightly buttery, minerally, floral perfume. The palate has fresh, chalky minerality and elegance and good length. Has some austerity.	12.5%	2012- 2018	N/A UK	www.domaine-collet.fr
Domaine Bernard Defaix, Vaillons	15.5	Appealing aromas of lemon pith and minerals. Rich, vivid and round with brisk acidity, an oaky streak and good potential to develop. Pleasant citrus finish.	13%	2014- 2022	POA	Enotria
Domaine de la Cornasse, Beauroy	15.5	Rich aromas of lime and minerals. Firm palate of brisk lemon fruit initially, broadening out to an elegant mineral finish. More like a lively Mâcon.	13%	2012- 2021	POA	France Domaine
Domaine des Marronniers, Montmains	15.5	Aromas of wet stone, minerals, smoke, green apple and leaf. Fine-textured lemon fruit with lots of minerality. Crisp and balanced but tails away on the finish.	13%	2012-	£21	Peter Watts Wines
Domaine du Chardonnay, Vosgros	15.5	Vibrant floral and pear bouquet. Suave, juicy and concentrated with underlying acidity and a pleasing austerity. Minerally but does it have potential complexity?	13%	2013- 2016	£17	Champagnes & Châteaux
Domaine Fourrey, Côte de Léchet	15.5	Elegant, delicate fruit flavours on this rather old fashioned style. Quite dry and lean with good acidity. Minerality will come with development.	13%	2015- 2020	£17	Revelstoke Wines
Domaine Gérard Tremblay, Beauroy	15.5		13%	2012- 2016	N/A UK	www.chablis-tremblay.com
Domaine Vincent Dampt, Vaillons	15.5	Rounded, leesy nose and palate. Remarkably ready and enjoyable now with moderate concentration. A lesser premier cru in terms of complexity.	13%	2012- 2018	£19	Corney & Barrow
Frédéric Gueguen au Domaine des Chenevières, Côte de Léchet	15.44	Slightly richer, honeyed and minerally bouquet. Austere wine with firm Chablis acidity. Quite elegant, showing nice lift on the finish.	12.5%	2014- 2020	N/A UK	www.fredericgueguen.fr
Domaine Bernard Defaix, Vieilles Vignes, Réserve, Côte de Léchet	15.38	Delicate closed nose, oak covering fruit at the moment. Very ripe style with a firm structure, brisk acidity and a touch of oak which needs to integrate. Well made.	13%	2012- 2018	POA	Enotria
Domaine Sébastien Dampt, Côte de Léchet	15.38	Subdued apple, milk and yellow fruit nose. Good depth of steely minerality to the palate with creamy textural notes. Finishes a bit short.	13%	2012- 2017	£19.95	Armit
Domaine Alain Geoffroy, Vau Ligneau	15.33	Good white fruit, citrus and spice on the nose. Richer than the nose suggests, it is dense and powerful. A tense palate attack and a mid-weight, minerally finish.	13%	2012- 2016	£19.50	Harvey Nichols
Domaine du Chardonnay, Montée de Tonnerre	15.33	Citrus and ripe apple compote bouquet. Rich, suave and concentrated with good depth of steely characters over the ripe fruit. Potentially complex and very good.	13%	2012- 2017	£17	Champagnes & Châteaux
Domaine Vincent Dampt, Les Lys	15.25	Elegant stony minerality and citrus zest aroma. Modest depth and complexity and is a little aggressive on the palate. Good acidity but tastes older than it is.	13%	2012- 2016	£19	Corney & Barrow
Jean Durup Père & Fils, Montmains	15.25	Closed chalky aromas. Ripe and fresh with moderate complexity and light length. Decent middle palate but it lacks depth so it's a bit one-dimensional.	12.5%	2012- 2019	N/A UK	www.durup-chablis.com
Jean-Marc Brocard, Vaudevey	15.25	Intense nose of yellow fruit, apple and citrus. Rich, broad and sumptuous for Chablis with vibrant lemon, lime and apple fruit. Rather heavy but will show well.	12.5%	2012- 2015	POA	Julian Baker
Domaine Gérard Tremblay, Montmains	15.17	White flowers, fruit, smoky gunflint, apricot and pear bouquet. It has good clarity, grip and concentration and has some bite on the aftertaste. Quite lean and fresh.	13%	2012- 2016	N/A UK	www.chablis-tremblay.com
Domaine Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin, Montée de Tonnerre	15.17	Smoky, oaky bouquet. It offers a silky palate with wonderful minerality and high acidity. Oak a distraction over the moderate fruit but has a good sense of place.	13%	2012- 2020	£21-£25	Armit, Berry Bros & Rudd, Domaine Direct, Goedhuis
Jean Durup Père & Fils, Reine Mathilde	15.13	Broad aromas of smoke, white flowers and stewed fruit. Quite weighty for Chablis, with modest acidity, restrained fruit and a steely finish. Long length.	12.5%	2012- 2015	N/A UK	www.durup-chablis.com
Clotilde Davenne, Montmains	15	Lemon, wax, white peach, green apple, slate and earth aromas. Light and fresh in a Mâcon-esque style. Decent concentration and balance and is very lively.	13.5%	2012- 2020	N/A UK	www.chablis-tremblay.com
Domaine Barat, Côte de Léchet	15	Firm aromas of apple, smoke and yellow fruit. Rich, juicy and forthright with a smooth, ripe palate and a light mineral touch. Lacks some precision.	13.5%	2012- 2015	N/A UK	www.domaine-barat.fr
Domaine Gérard Tremblay, Fourchaume	15	Tight, mineral, flint and apple bouquet. A youthful, lean style with a medium body, acidity and length. There is little complexity but it will improve.	13%	2012- 2020	N/A UK	www.chablis-tremblay.com
Jean Durup Père & Fils, Montée de Tonnerre	15	Butter, oyster shell, almonds and creamy aromas. A full palate which is fresh and crisp but has some sweet 'n sour fruit and sulphur notes. Reasonable length.	12.5%	2012- 2015	£17	Domaine Direct
Domaine Verret, Beauroy	14.88	A touch of oak, very appealing ripe citrus and apple fruit with an undertone of pith on the palate. Straightforward, light and lean with a firm streak of acidity.	13%	2013- 2021		www.domaineverret.com
Athenais, Montée de Tonnerre	14.83	Ripe, floral, leesy and stewed fruit aromas. Quite a rich, leesy palate which is pleasant and lively. A 'Plain Jane' for this cru – it is easy and commercial.	12%	2012	£41	Dynamic Vines
Caves Gendraud-Patrice, Montmains	14.83	Honey, flowers, minerals, apricots, apple, smoke and toast aromas. Very classic style which is a bit skeletal. Fresh and tart, it has good weight and clarity.	12.5%	2013- 2018	N/A UK	+33 3 86 52 17 42
Domaine Barat, Mont de Milieu	14.83	Soft nose of lime notes. Attractive, fresh, easy and pleasing but lacking density, complexity and concentration for a premier cru. It has good acidity though.	13.5%	2012- 2017	N/A UK	www.domaine-barat.fr

## 3-STAR WINES Recommended (continued) 14.5-16.49pts

WINE	SCORE	TASTING NOTE	ALC	DRINK	PRICE	STOCKISTS
Jean-Marc Brocard, Vaucoupin	14.83	Lightweight on the nose. Ripe, fresh, pleasing and juicy white Burgundy with light fruit and no real depth. Good wine but is it 1er Cru Chablis?	12.5%	2012- 2015	N/A UK	www.brocard.fr
Jean-Marc Brocard, Fourchaume	14.83	Good mineral backbone with a whiff of creamy oak, alongside rich, creamy yellow stone fruit. Already smooth and rich but lacks typicity.	12.5%	2012- 2016	POA	Berkmann Wine Cellars
La Chablisienne, L'Homme Mort	14.83	Attractive aromas of apples, oak and flowers. Full-bodied and full-flavoured wine which is bright and zesty. Quite oaky and not very Chablis-esque. Pleasant.	13%	2012- 2016	N/A UK	www.chablisienne.com
Billaud-Simon, Montée de Tonnerre	14.67	Flint, citrus and sulphur aromas. Youthful, lean and dry, slightly confected palate with subtle attractive fruit in the middle. Slightly simple, lacking bite and length.	13%	2012- 2016	£23	Averys, Domaine Direct
Domaine Fourrey, Mont de Milieu	14.67	Lifted, overt nose with an obvious core of greengage and bruised apple. A light, and quite dilute palate which is definitely Chablis in flavour and profile.	12.5%	2012- 2014	£19	Revelstoke Wines
J Moreau et Fils, Montmains	14.67	Exotic fruit and tart green apple aromas. Lean, austere, minerally palate which is less fresh than most. Could be better for its level. Lacks a bit of character.	12.5%	2012- 2015	N/A UK	www.jmoreau-fils.com
Jean-Marc Brocard, Mont de Milieu	14.67	Odd nose of stewed apple, smoke and greengage. Ripe, round and creamy with a sweet 'n sour element. Good freshness but lacks purity of flavour. A bit muddled.	12.5%	2012- 2015	£16.99	Sainsbury's
Domaine Vrignaud, Fourchaume	14.5	Lean, toasty, minerally nose with fine florality and purity. Precise flavours, ripe fruit and steely length. Benchmark style – austere but has fine potential.	13%	2013 - 2016	£14	Ann et Vin, Panzer Delicatessen, Pig on Wheels, Wine Therapy
Dominique Gruhier Vigneron, Montée de Tonnerre	14.5	A typical Chablis with very ripe, forward fruit and pleasing acidity. Very individual style, but there's something not quite right - a bit oxidised and maderised.	12.5%	2012	POA	Domaine Direct
Frédéric Gueguen au Domaine des Chenevières, Fourchaume	14.5	Leesy, wishy-washy nose – slightly oxidised. Rich and flat in the mouth displaying oak, big broad flavours and an odd balance. Lacks a bit of definition and grip.	12.5%	2012	N/A UK	www.fredericgueguen.fr

#### 2-STAR WINES Fair 12.5-14.49

■ Daniel Dampt, Beauroy (14.38) ■ Domaine Gérard Tremblay, Côte de Léchet (14.38) ■ Domaine Mosnier, Beauroy (14.38) ■ Domaine du Guette-Soleil, Vaulorent (14.33) ■ Domaine Louis Moreau, Les Fourneaux (14.33) ■ Moreau-Naudet, Montmains (tank sample) (14.33) ■ Domaine Bernard Defaix, Les Lys (14.13) ■ Isabelle & Denis Pommier, Fourchaume (14.08) ■ Jean Durup Père & Fils, Fourchaume (14) ■ La Chablisienne, Montée de Tonnerre (14) ■ Daniel Dampt, Fourchaume

(13.83) ■ Jean Durup Père & Fils, L'Homme Mort (13.83)

- Billaud-Simon, Mont de Milieu (13.67) Domaine Alain Geoffroy, Beauroy (13.5) Domaine Pascal Bouchard, Les Vielles Vignes, Montmains (13.5) Domaine Drouhin Vaudon, Fourchaume (13.33)
- **1-STAR WINES Poor** 10.5-12.49pts
- Domaine Laroche-Pierre, L'Homme Mort (12.33)
- J Moreau et Fils, Fourchaume (12) Frédéric Gueguen au Domaine des Chenevières, L'Homme Mort (11.67) Château de Beru, Vaucoupin (10.5)

**Next month's panel tastings** Brunello 2007 and Rias Baixas Albariño (latest release)

For full UK stockist details, see p91

## **Expert summary:** Michael Schuster

Very variable quality and styles from a difficult year, but the best wines will impress those wanting pure-fruited mineral wines where acidity prevails over oak



Michael Schuster is the Decanter World Wine Awards Regional Chair for Burgundy

AT ITS BEST, 2010 is a first-rate Chablis vintage, from yields about 20% down on average, and from a difficult year rescued by a (mostly) fine September. But it is also Burgundy and, while the overall quality of winemaking is much cleaner than it would have been 10 years ago, the quality was very variable across the 182 wines tasted. If the alcohol and acidity levels are similar to 2008, the best wines are certainly richer to taste. They have more flesh and generosity than the fine, firm 2008s and the tautly leaner 2007s. 1990 comes to mind. The variation in quality is mirrored by great variations in style.

At the top end were wines of vitality, concentration and premier cru raciness and class, while at the other extreme were wines that were just dilute and mean. There were also a suprising number that tasted ripe, supple and juicy – pleasant enough, but simply not Chablis – and which, when tasted blind, you would likely stick in the Mâconnais. Domaines that picked late, perhaps?

Among the Awards were a couple each of Fourchaume and Mont de Milieu and one from Montée de Tonneree, the premiers crus vineyards which flank the grand crus and which are generally regarded as nipping at their heels, so no great suprises there. Nor among the standout names: William Fèvre, Malandes, Long Dépacquit and Samuel Billaud each had a couple of wines in the top 20. Samuel Billaud's new négociant operation is clearly a name to look

out for. His absence from Billaud Simon, where he used to be winemaker, may explain Billaud Simon's lacklustre showing at this tasting. That was a surprise. Another Decanter Award-winning name completely new to me (and in neither Rosemary George MW's book on Chablis, nor Jasper Morris's on Burgundy) was Domaine Charly Nicolle – a fine effort there.

Chablis lovers have been spoiled recently: 2007, 2008 and 2010 have all produced wines to gratify the palates of those who seek purity, mineral sensations, no intrusive new wood aromas, and a mouthwatering bite of acidity. True Chablis that is. 2009? There was good quality, but mostly too supple and sunny for what I want from Chablis. The fine 2010 premiers crus are rich, vigorous wines which, at mostly between £15 and £25, are excellent value in the Burgundy context, which you can buy with confidence to savour over the next four to seven years or, with the top wines, keep for 10 to 15 years.

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