

# BURGUNDY REPORT

## JANVIER 2021

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### *Burgundy-Report*

## Samuel Billaud – 2019

15.02.2021 - BILLN

*Tasted in Chablis with Samuel Billaud, 12 January 2021.*

*“I think it’s a super year for quality, some problems as regards the volume – less-so for PC and Chablis, but the crus are down – some quite strongly in volume.*

*Partly it was down to frost in the Spring, but July-August had no rain practically so not much volume – on the other hand, 2019 is a concentrated vintage – it was a harvest with much more concentration than 2018 – but with lovely balance.*

*The sunny aspect of the vintage is much less than in 2018, 2015 or 2013 – there’s a nice tension – and they are still in elevage – only 2 wines have been bottled so far – the rest will be done from the start of February until April. There’s some minerality starting to show in the 2018s, but it’s there from the start in the 2019s.*

*We saw lower degrees than in 2018 – the highest was 13.2°.”*



## The wines...

*Year-in, year-out – Samuel produces some of the most texturally sensuous wines of Chablis.*

*I always look forward to my visit – even in the pouring rain, like today!*

*NDTEC corks from Trescases for the GCs, all the rest are DIAM. “I still have deviation with NDtec – the decision is still to be made how to seal the grand crus in the future.”*

## 2019 Bourgogne d’Or

*Bought grapes in the Auxerrois and some must from northern Mâconnais – it was to save the volume in the frosted 2016 vintage but people like it – so it continues but with a bit lower volume. All tank elevage with fine lees – 12 months*

*A freshly mineral attack – that’s fine. Some richness but an energy in the middle too.*

*A core of intense flavour and a little salinity in the finish. That’s a lovely finish.*

## 2019 Petit Chablis Sur Les Clos

*Harvested mid-harvest from their parcel above Les Clos. To be bottled next week.*

*More airy, similarly fresh – a finer citrus fruit – yellow fruit. More incisive, more attack, a little touch of tannin. Wide and mouth-watering – that's very delicious. Bravo PC and so long too.*

## 2019 Chablis Grands Terroirs

*Pargues, Grand Ecart with 80-year-old vines, and Chapelots – roughly equal parts of the three parcels.*

*This the first bottling – done in August*

*The nose is a little more compact, but again with yellow citrus.*

*Great attack again, here with a little more depth to the concentration and flavour, a saline accent to this one.*

*Really a step up a great persistence of flavour – excellent Chablis in 2019*

## 2019 Chablis 1er Cru Montmains

*In the middle of Montmains from 36-year-old vines, all in tank to be bottled in 2-3 weeks.*

*A more overt agrume fruit nose – a blend of citrus. A touch of gas but such a width of energy too.*

*Mouth-watering, lovely energy – so good. That's a great wine.*

## 2019 Chablis 1er Cru Butteaux

*All barrel – 600-litres – 70-year-old vines, to be bottled in the Spring.*

*An easier freshness of simpler lemon citrus, though subtly accented with salinity.*

*That's great in the mouth though – incisive again, super attack – forward minerality*

*but far from austere – a finish that expands further – so complex and long. Even greater than Montmains !*

## 2019 Chablis 1er Cru Fourneaux

*Two parcels, all organic but they are contracts so it's not noted on the label. 43-year-old vines on quite a steep slope, all made in tank.*

*A timid nose today but with freshness. Nice attack again, some lovely mineral, wiry-muscled, energy.*

*The finish – like all here – is simply a great thing. As a minimum excellent wine.*

## 2019 Chablis 1er Cru Vaillons Vieilles-Vignes

*From the heart of Vaillons, vines over 70-years-old.*

*The nose more open – fine and direct ripe lemon with a floral accent. Some gas here.*

*Such energy – an obvious agrume fruit – heading in the direction of a grapefruit energy/acidity.*

*Very moreish and mouth-watering wine. I'd keep this a while but clearly a chance of being great wine.*

## 2019 Chablis 1er Cru Fourchaume

*A small 1,000 bottle cuvée here – to be bottled in Spring. From Vaupulent.*

*A salinity to this nose – as usual with the citrus but always just a little different.*

*Plenty of gas. Mouth-filling with the intensity of citrus and tons of energy too – more overtly mineral in style versus the Vaillons – great finishing again – here with a modest accent of the barrel.*

## 2019 Chablis 1er Cru Mont de Milieu

*3 heights of vines, all harvested by hand and vinified together as they are small parcels. 20% 450l barrel elevage – all assembled in tank on lees. Youngest vines here are well over 60-years-old.*

*A timid nose – there's minerality in the depth though.*

*So wide, so incisive. There's concentration without fat here. You can practically count the seconds as the finish grows – after you have swallowed. The start of the wine currently not the largest but the finish – wow!*

## 2019 Chablis 1er Cru Montée de Tonnerre

*2 parcels of 40 and 45-year-old vines: the top of Chapelots, other at the top of the triangle.*

*Same elevage as Mont de Milieu.*

*Here the nose is a little more alive – certainly much wider than the MdM today.*

*That feels fuller over the palate – but the energy here and the slight grain of tannin bring a really immersive feeling. Not a wine of simple oak complexity – here is wine complexity – and persistence of finishing flavour. Frankly great again.*

## 2019 Chablis 1er Cru Séchets Vieilles-Vignes

*More than 75 years old vines from Samuel's great-grandmother –*

*'The most mineral part of Vaillons.' Long, 18-month, elevage but no barrels for this one*

*Still a slightly compact nose but with character in the width. Fuller – more mouth-filling, a little grain of tannin – there's such a scale and purity to this wine. Fine zesty citrus-skin finishing – that's great again and almost has a complexity of zestiness! Faintly saline too – There is no end!*

## 2019 Chablis Bougros

*Côte de Bougros approaching Preuses.*

*Extra high-tones here – all is citrus but with a little more welcome.*

*A grain of tannin and a width of flavour – deliciously mineral in that width.*

*The finish doesn't mount like in the 1ers – but it's already on a high level to start.*

*Very long – more concentration though, today, less involving in the finish – comfort here rather than complexity.*

## 2019 Chablis Blanchot

*Older 5-7-year-old barrels used here.*

*A different style – a sweetness in this aromatic width – slowly adding flowers too.*

*More energy and more mouth-filling – quite a combination.*

*Here it grows, beautifully saline and complex and long.*

*That's a great wine, a complete wine.*

## 2019 Chablis Les Preuses

*More than 70-year-old vines, Some two-year-old barrels as for Blanchot.*

*Beautiful depth of mineral aroma – suggesting a vibrancy – compelling.*

*Lots of energy – starting a little easy but still a dynamic wine, a complex wine, some mandarin citrus fruit – always a great signal. Super-mineral finish – super-long too.*

## 2019 Chablis Vaudésir

*2 parcels – one near Moutonne the other near Grenouilles – vines between 30 and 40 years old.*

*Not a nose of density but there's an ethereal minerality here.*

*Wide, then mouth-filling from top to bottom too.*

*No sense of richness, of fat, just concentration and energy.*

*Big finishing again – I do prefer the Preuses, but not by very much – this is still a great wine.*

## 2019 Chablis Les Clos

*Top of the hill next the Billaud-Simon/Faiveley. The only wine with some new wood.*

*The nose has a faint barrel-padding – but faint and that will quickly fade.*

*Not the fullest in the mouth – but still bubbling with energy – a wine of dynamism – despite the oak here's a lovely purity of flavour, energy but less overt than the previous.*

*A super finish but also a bit more timid. A wine that will surely add to its resumé with more élevage and cellar time.*