



SAMUEL BILLAUD

VIGNERON A CHABLIS

WINE ADVOCATE

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Author : William Kelley

Having parted ways with Domaine Billaud Simon, Samuel Billaud established his own state-of-the-art winery in central Chablis several years ago, and he has rapidly emerged as one of the town's best half-dozen producers. Working with four hectares of organically farmed estate vineyards, supplemented by purchased grapes, manual harvesting of ripe but bright fruit is the rule here, followed by fermentation at 16 to 20 degrees Celsius in tank and inconspicuous wood, and maturation for 15 to 18 months on the lees for the premiers crus and grand cru bottlings. The 2019 vintage has turned out brilliantly at this address, and everything reviewed here comes warmly recommended.

2019 Samuel Billaud • Chablis Grand Cru Les Clos, 95+

Drink Date : 2025 - 2045

William Kelley, 5th Aug 2021

Unwinding in the glass with notes of lemon oil, nutmeg, clear honey, apple blossom, fresh bread and oyster shell, the 2019 Chablis Grand Cru Les Clos is full-bodied, deep and layered, with huge reserves of concentration that are framed by lively acids and chalky extract. Racy and saline, it's a muscular but precise Les Clos that will demand a bit of patience.

2019 Samuel Billaud • Chablis Grand Cru Vaudésir, 95+

Drink Date : 2025 - 2045

William Kelley, 5th Aug 2021

The 2019 Chablis Grand Cru Vaudésir is lovely, wafting from the glass with aromas of orange blossom, citrus zest and peaches mingled with honeycomb and white flowers. Full-bodied, satiny and enveloping, it's concentrated and layered, with a racy spine of acidity and a long, searingly intense finish. This is a benchmark rendition for this climat.

2019 Samuel Billaud • Chablis Grand Cru Valmur, 95

Drink Date : 2025 - 2045

William Kelley, 5th Aug 2021

The 2019 Chablis Grand Cru Valmur is a particular success, unwinding in the glass with notes of citrus oil, fresh bread, pear, white flowers and iodine. Full-bodied, layered and muscular, it's concentrated and multidimensional, with huge depth at the core, racy acids and a searingly mineral finish. It's one of the broadest shouldered wines in the range.

2019 Samuel Billaud • Chablis 1er Cru Séchet Vieilles Vignes, 94

Drink Date : 2025 - 2045

William Kelley, 5th Aug 2021

The 2019 Chablis 1er Cru Séchet Vieilles Vignes is wonderful, offering up enticingly marine aromas of citrus oil, oyster shell and rock salt. Medium to full-bodied, satiny and concentrated, it's layered and multidimensional, with superb depth at the core, racy acids and a long, chalky finish. As ever, it's one of Billaud's finest cuvées.

2019 Samuel Billaud • Chablis Grand Cru Blanchot, 94

Drink Date : 2025 - 2045

William Kelley, 5th Aug 2021

The 2019 Chablis Grand Cru Blanchot wafts from the glass with notes of orange oil, crisp yellow orchard fruit, white flowers and nutmeg. Full-bodied, fleshy and textural, with a deep and layered core, racy acids and a long, saline finish, it's a real success.

2019 Samuel Billaud • Chablis Grand Cru Les Preuses, 94

Drink Date : 2025 - 2045

William Kelley, 5th Aug 2021

Aromas of orange oil, mirabelle plum, citrus blossom, oyster shell and pastry cream introduce Billaud's 2019 Chablis Grand Cru Les Preuses, a medium to full-bodied, satiny and layered wine that's elegantly textural, bright and concentrated. Concluding with a long, saline finish, it has turned out very well indeed.

2019 Samuel Billaud • Chablis 1er Cru Les Fourchaumes, 93+

Drink Date : 2025 - 2045

William Kelley, 5th Aug 2021

Deriving from Vaulorent, Billaud's 2019 Chablis 1er Cru Les Fourchaumes mingles notes of citrus oil and green apple with hints of beeswax and pastry cream in an inviting bouquet. Medium to full-bodied, satiny and layered, it's a tangy, tightly wound wine that's structured and reserved. This will merit and reward a bit of bottle age.

2019 Samuel Billaud • Chablis 1er Cru Mont de Milieu, 93+

Drink Date : 2025 - 2045

William Kelley, 5th Aug 2021

The 2019 Chablis 1er Cru Mont de Milieu is another taut, structured wine that had only recently been bottled when I tasted it. Unwinding in the glass with notes of orange oil, oyster shell, beeswax, buttery pastry and white flowers, it's medium to full-bodied, layered and precise, with a tightly wound core and a long, saline finish.

2019 Samuel Billaud • Chablis 1er Cru Montée de Tonnerre, 93+

Drink Date : 2025 - 2045

William Kelley, 5th Aug 2021

The 2019 Chablis 1er Cru Montée de Tonnerre is excellent, unwinding in the glass with scents of citrus zest, white flowers, wet stones, crushed chalk and iodine. Medium to full-bodied, layered and concentrated, it's intense and tightly wound, with a racy spine of acidity and chalky grip. Concluding with a long, penetrating finish, this is another wine from Billaud that will merit and reward some patience.

2019 Samuel Billaud • Chablis 1er Cru Vaillons Vieilles Vignes, 93

Drink Date : 2023 - 2038

William Kelley, 5th Aug 2021

A particular success, the 2019 Chablis 1er Cru Vaillons Vieilles Vignes unwinds to reveal notions of grapefruit, dried white flowers, freshly baked bread and oyster shell. Medium to full-bodied, layered and concentrated, it's taut and chiseled, with racy acids and chalky structure, concluding with a penetrating finish.

2019 Samuel Billaud • Chablis Grand Cru Bougros, 93

Drink Date : 2025 - 2045

William Kelley, 5th Aug 2021

The 2019 Chablis Grand Cru Bougros is lovely, bursting with aromas of golden orchard fruit, mandarin oil, white flowers, buttery pastry and vanilla pod. Full-bodied, layered and concentrated, it's ample and enveloping, with racy girdling acids and a long, intense finish.

2019 Samuel Billaud • Chablis 1er Cru Fourneaux, 92

Drink Date : 2023 - 2038

William Kelley, 5th Aug 2021

Aromas of orange blossom, nutmeg, crisp orchard fruit and white flowers preface the 2019 Chablis 1er Cru Fourneaux, a medium to full-bodied, satiny and concentrated wine that's racy and chiseled, with a bright spine of acidity and a long, mineral finish.

2019 Samuel Billaud • Chablis 1er Cru Montmains, 92

Drink Date : 2023 - 2038

William Kelley, 5th Aug 2021

Aromas of green apple, white flowers, oyster shell and beeswax introduce the 2019 Chablis 1er Cru Montmains, a medium to full-bodied, satiny and incisive wine that's quite tightly wound, built around tangy acids and chalky dry extract. This Montmains retains a very classic profile in this ripe vintage.

2019 Samuel Billaud • Chablis Les Grands Terroirs, 90

Drink Date : 2021 - 2035

William Kelley, 5th Aug 2021

The 2019 Chablis Les Grands Terroirs is lovely, bursting with aromas of crisp yellow orchard fruit, citrus oil, warm bread and orange blossom. Medium to full-bodied, satiny and precise, with bright acids and a long, intensely mineral finish, it's the usual blend of Les Pargés, Chapelot and Les Cartes.

2019 Samuel Billaud • Bourgogne Chardonnay, 88

Drink Date : 2021 - 2026

William Kelley, 5th Aug 2021

A blend of Mâconnais and Auxerrois musts, the 2019 Bourgogne Chardonnay offers up notes of white flowers, orange zest, pear and clear honey. Medium-bodied, satiny and precise, it's a bright, lively white that concludes with a saline finish.

2019 Samuel Billaud • Petit Chablis, 88

Drink Date : 2021 - 2030

William Kelley, 5th Aug 2021

Billaud's 2019 Petit Chablis mingles notions of lemon oil and beeswax with hints of white flowers and iodine. Medium to full-bodied, satiny and precise, with tangy acids and chalky grip, it's once again an outperforming cuvée.