



MARTINE'S WINES

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Allen Meadows

BURGHOUND

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### Domaine Denis Mortet (Gevrey-Chambertin)

2012	Bourgogne	red	(85-87)
2012	Chambertin Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2012	Chambolle-Musigny "Les Beaux Bruns" 1er	red	(88-91?)
2012	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	red	(91-94)
2012	Fixin Vieilles Vignes	red	(88-91)
2012	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin	red	(89-91)
2012	Gevrey-Chambertin "1er"	red	(89-92)
2012	Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Champeaux" 1er	red	(90-92)
2012	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin "En Champs"	red	(89-92)
2012	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaut St. Jacques" 1er	red	(91-93)
2012	➔ Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes	red	(89-91)
2012	Marsannay "Longeroies"	red	(88-90)

Arnaud Mortet observed that the 2012 vintage "suffered through a troubled and extended flowering that was responsible for much of the naturally low yields. The bunches were loose and with tiny berries that allowed the fruit to be super clean at the harvest. I decided to start picking on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September and brought in ripe fruit that needed only small amounts of chaptalization and in some cases, none at all. As I have been slowly doing each vintage now, I once again lightened the extraction. I shortened the cool maceration period from 7 days to 5 and did a 21 day total *cuvaison*. In the same vein I used a bit less new wood as well and it now averages about one-third though that of course varies wine by wine. I completely destemmed in 2012 though I have been thinking about doing some more experimenting with using some whole clusters so we will see going forward. As to the style of the 2012s I think it's the kind of vintage that everyone will like. The wines are ripe but fresh and with a mid-palate succulence that makes them a pleasure to drink." As I commented last year the Mortet 2011s are excellent and now that they are in bottle they confirm the quality that I saw last year. Mortet noted that his 2011s, revisited below, were bottled between January and April, 2013.

#### 92-94 points | 2012 Chambertin Grand Cru

(from a .15 ha parcel of 50+ year old vines; 100% new wood). Generous wood all but dominates the intensely *sauvage* wild red and dark currant, spice and wet stone nuances. The large-scaled flavors are pungently earthy with an abundance of mineral hints that continue onto the driving and impeccably well-balanced finish. As Mortet suggested he is vinifying to obtain more refinement in his wines and while I wouldn't necessarily describe this as a Chambertin of finesse, it's definitely finer than it usually is. Note that my range assumes that the wood will be successfully integrated.

#### 91-94 points | 2012 Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru

(from a .32 ha parcel of vines just below those of Château de la Tour in the lower middle of the slope). A more discreet application of wood highlights the ripe and fresh aromas of various dark berries, earth and humus scents. I like the seductive texture of the middle weight plus flavors that manage to retain good delineation on the powerful, dusty and balanced finish that is less youthfully austere than usual.

#### 91-93 points | 2012 Gevrey-Chambertin "Lavaux St.-Jacques" 1<sup>er</sup> Cru

This is the first wine to display what I would describe as generous wood and it fights somewhat with the otherwise layered and complex dark berry fruit, stone and distinctly *sauvage* aromas. There is good volume and excellent power to the dense and serious mineral-inflected medium weight flavors that deliver impressive length on the balanced finish. This is a lovely combination of moderate refinement with good power.

#### 90-92 points | 2012 Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Champeaux" 1<sup>er</sup> Cru

Subtle but not invisible wood sets off cool, pure and impressively elegant aromas of red currant, plum and distinct *sauvage* notes. There is a lovely refined mouth feel to the delineated and equally cool middle weight flavors that brim with minerality on the linear and balanced finish. A classic Champeaux of finesse and refinement.

**89-92 points | 2012 Gevrey-Chambertin 1<sup>er</sup> Cru**

(a blend, listed in order of size: Les Champonnets, Cherbaudes, Bel Air and Petite Chapelle with an average vine age of 60 years). Reduction again renders the nose unreadable. There is however good freshness and vitality to the mineral-inflected, concentrated and ripe middle weight flavors that possess a slightly rustic but long finish where a trace of wood surfaces.

**89-92 points | 2012 Gevrey-Chambertin "En Champs"**

There is a background trace of wood on the ultra-fresh and cool aromas of red currant, humus, earth and a hint of the *sauvage*. The beguilingly textured, concentrated and intense medium weight flavors possess an abundance of dry extract and plenty of minerality before culminating in a long if moderately austere finish. This delivers excellent quality for its level and is well worth considering.

**89-91 points | 2012 Gevrey-Chambertin**

(from a mix of vines up to 50 years of age). A bright, cool and restrained nose speaks of various red berries and plenty of Gevrey style earth scents. There is fine detail and very solid ripeness to the delicious and equally restrained medium-bodied flavors that also exude a fine minerality on the balanced finish. Lovely.

**89-91 points | 2012 Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes**

(from vines over 50 years of age). Reduction flattens the nose. The medium weight flavors are denser and more powerful than those of the straight Gevrey *avé* but not necessarily any finer or longer though the finish is a bit more structured. In sum, this is certainly bigger but not necessarily more interesting.

**88-91 points | 2012 Chambolle-Musigny "Aux Beaux Bruns" 1<sup>er</sup> Cru**

Reduction and wood toast make for an unreadable if pungent nose. There is good volume to the ripe and velvet-textured medium weight flavors that offer reasonably good depth and length. Normally I would not be concerned about the reduction but this wine has a strong tendency toward reduction and thus I underscore my unease with a question mark.

**88-91 points | 2012 Fixin Vieilles Vignes**

(from 40 year old vines in the tiny .74 ha vineyard of Champs Pennebaut, which is near the Couchey border for the inveterate map readers among you). A pungently earthy and quite somber nose of red pinot and dark currant aromas leads to vibrant and well-detailed middle weight flavors that are shaped by surprisingly fine-grained tannins on the only mildly rustic finish where a touch of minerality adds lift. This is really quite good for what it is.

**88-90 points | 2012 Marsannay "Longeroies"**

Here the nose is fresher and a bit more elegant as well with its airy and cool red currant and humus suffused aromas. The attractively detailed middle weight flavors exude a fine minerality on the delicious, dusty and persistent finish. There is a bit more structure and this should reward a few years of cellar time.

**85-87 points | 2012 Bourgogne "Cuvee de Noble Souche"**

A pretty and ripe nose offers up both red and dark berry fruit aromas that are trimmed in warm earth notes. There is good volume to the equally ripe flavors that possess a clean and balanced finish of average complexity. This should drink well immediately.