

ripe pear and green apples with hints of mineral, smoke and spice. The texture is lively and fresh but not without velvety charm – crisp acidity balanced by moderate body and extract leading to a lingering finish. Only one barrel was produced due to frost damage; it is still maturing in cask and will not be racked for bottling before the end of the second winter. **Drink** 2025-2040

#### **TOP VALUE Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon, Clos du Four Mâcon-Milly-Lamartine 94**

Perhaps the finest site for Lafon in the Mâconnais and a reference for the region. This lower-elevation vineyard at mid-slope has delivered ripe apple aromas with rich notes of cream and butter, and accents of acacia and flint. On the palate it feels richer than many this year, with medium body, balanced acidity and a lush, ripe fruit character. It will not disappoint fans of this vineyard. **Drink** 2022-2040

#### **UNDER THE RADAR Domaine Alvina Pémot, La Rue aux Vaches Puligny-Montrachet 93**

This is an impressive wine, with pronounced aromas of citrus and flint and a hint of acacia flower. The texture is racy and bright, with light body but no lack of intensity, very crisp acidity and a surprisingly long finish. It is raised from the first parcel the couple bought, located just below premier cru Les Pucelles, and bottled only in magnum. Pressed slowly in a vertical press and barrelled down with all the lees before ageing a year in cask and six months in tank before bottling. **Drink** 2023-2035

#### **④ TOP VALUE Henri Boillot, Bourgogne Chardonnay 93**

A superb white Burgundy value wine this year, as it is in most years. It features lovely ripe lemon peel and green apple aromas with delicate nuances of white flowers. The texture is simultaneously crisp and creamy, striking a perfect balance between the richness and freshness. Production is down to one third of an average year, so stock up early to enjoy this perennial favourite. **Drink** 2022-2035

#### **TOP VALUE Domaine A&P de Villaine, Bouzeron 92 ①**

A classic Aligoté that expresses the essence of the grape with profuse aromas of gooseberry, fresh tarragon and flint. The

wine offers bright acidity, medium body and impressive length. The yield was down by an average of 75% this year, with only three bunches per vine, not the 10-12 that are customary, but this light fruit load ensured the grapes ripened to perfection. **Drink** 2022-2030

#### **UNDER THE RADAR Domaine Gilles Morat, Aux Vignes Dessus Pouilly-Fuissé 92 ①**

This is a classic, rich style of Pouilly-Fuissé with rich, ripe apple fruit character accented by notes of nuts and butter on the nose. The texture is dense, with balanced acidity, impressive extract and good length. Tasted blind, this organic wine was one of my discoveries for the vintage. It is produced from high-elevation vines planted on a south-facing slope in Vergisson, gently pressed and fermented in used casks. Worth seeking out. **Drink** 2022-2035

#### **TOP VALUE Domaine Jean-Marc Vincent, Les Hautés Auxey-Duresses 92**

A dazzling wine that far surpasses expectations for this appellation. It has surprising concentration, with a sweet intensity of ripe peach and apple aromas, and an almost salty feel on the palate. The wine is lively and crisp, but there is enough depth and concentration to draw it into a lingering finish. According to Vincent, it is produced from a 0.9ha parcel of 85-year-old vines on north-facing slopes with very little soil. **Drink** 2025-2035

#### **TOP VALUE Domaine Belleville, Rully 1er Cru Les Cloux 91**

This Rully exceeds expectations with lovely bright ripe apple, apricot and quince. The texture is lively, with pleasantly refreshing crisp acidity, yet there is nothing acerbic here. The overall impression is silky and elegant. The wine is from a 0.7ha parcel in lime-rich soils, and the grapes are fermented on native yeasts and aged without batonnage, giving a slightly reductive edge to the finish. **Drink** 2022-2035

#### **⑤ RED WINE OF THE VINTAGE TOP QUALITY Domaine Armand Rousseau, Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru 99**

Comparing the Chambertin and the Clos de Bèze in Rousseau's cellar, traditionally the Bèze is preferred in cool years and the Chambertin in warm ones, which is the case

in 2021. It is spicier and more open, the aromas more voluptuous, with ripe red and black fruit, plenty of earthy, mineral depth of flavour and complexity, and a texture on the palate that is plumper, riper and more 'exhibitioniste', as Cyrielle Rousseau puts it. **Drink** 2030-2060

#### **TOP QUALITY Domaine Georges Roumier, Musigny Grand Cru 99**

This wine is consistently among the very best in Burgundy. As with nearly every year, it shows a superb depth of red and black fruit, earthy, mineral complexity and secondary character. It has depth allied with incredible silky structure, immense length and lovely concentration but no heaviness or awkwardness. It is a supremely delicious wine right out of the gate and one that will only improve with time. On track to being among the best wines in Burgundy. **Drink** 2027-2060

#### **TOP QUALITY Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, La Tâche Grand Cru Monopole 98**

La Tâche is among the vintage's top wines, with explosive ripe red and black fruit aromas ranging from plum and black cherry to mulberry, all accented with liquorice, clove and peppery spice, earth, leather and Havana cigar. The texture is powerfully structured, with ripe, supple tannins, fresh acidity and abundant extract, yet it is not astringent or tight. You should wait at least a decade before enjoying this, but it also has the substance to age further. **Drink** 2027-2060

#### **TOP QUALITY Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, Romanée-Conti Grand Cru Monopole 98**

'In the future, there will still be good wines because there will always be great vineyards,' said Bertrand de Villaine, nephew of retired Romanée-Conti estate co-director Aubert de Villaine. Romanée-Conti proves his point in a challenging vintage. Although the colour is light and the nose is a bit reticent, the fruit opens up on the palate with ripe mulberry, liquorice, truffle, mineral and floral notes. De Villaine compares the 2021 vintage to 1991, since both have more finesse and elegance than the year that preceded them. Hauntingly beautiful rose petal aromas continue to echo on the impossibly long finish – a triumph. **Drink** 2027-2060