

# TASTING NOTES

## BY JOHN GILMAN

### **Nuits St. Georges**

#### **Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils (Nuits St. Georges)**

Bertrand Chevillon has made splendid examples of the 2012 vintage, and this was one cellar where it was very easy to taste through the lineup, as Monsieur Chevillon had racked a fair bit earlier than many of his neighbors and I caught these wines in a superb moment for tasting. The village wine was racked in May of 2013, and the entire range of premier crus was racked in July, so that everything was showing well in November. These are classic 2012s, with great succulent and sappy fruit tones of impressive purity coupled to strikingly classic expressions of their respective underlying terroirs. The only deviation I found in the entire cellar from customary was with the stunning 2012 Pruliers, which was remarkably red fruity and elegant out of the blocks, as this wine is customarily a very black fruity wine in its youth and also rather tempestuous out of the blocks and only reveals its inherent elegance with many years of bottle age. But, not this year, as the wine is so polite and classy in its youth that it underscores just how elegant all of these wines are going to be at maturity.

#### **2012 Nuits St. Georges “Vieilles Vignes”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils**

The 2012 old vine Nuits AC was really showing outstanding potential at the time of my visit, offering up a lovely, complex and very red fruity nose of cherries, strawberries, nutskins, a fine base of soil, woodsmoke, a nice dollop of cocoa and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very elegant, with a sappy core of red fruit, lovely soil drive and excellent length and grip on the moderately tannic finish. A very high class villages! 2018-2035+. 90.

#### **2012 Nuits St. Georges “Chaignots”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils**

The Chaignots bottling chez Chevillon is always so appealing out of the blocks that I find that I generally have none left in my cellar five years out from any given vintage, though I buy the with great regularity. The 2012 is certainly going to be difficult to keep one's hands off of once it arrives in the cellar, as it is a beautiful wine that promises to offer up (yet again) very fine drinking in its youth. The superb nose wafts from the glass in a sappy blend of red plums, cherries, cocoa, nutskin, a complex base of soil tones, vanillin oak and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and sappy, with excellent mid-palate depth, lovely transparency, good acids and excellent focus and grip on the long, suavely-tannic finish. This is a beautiful bottle in the making and an absolutely classic vintage for the Chevillon Chaignots. 2020-2045+. 92+.

#### **2012 Nuits St. Georges “Bousselots”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils**

The 2012 Domaine Chevillon Bousselots is also outstanding and truly striking this year in its stunning synthesis of pure, velvety fruit and great soil transparency. The excellent bouquet offers up a blend of red and black cherries, gamebirds, nutskin, woodsmoke, cocoa, great minerally soil tones and a fine base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very precise, with a sappy core, great focus and grip and a very, very long, soil-driven and ripely tannic finish. A beautiful and very elegant rendition of Bousselots that is almost as irresistible as the Chaignots out of the blocks this year! 2020-2045+. 92+.

#### **2012 Nuits St. Georges “Perrières”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils**

Perrières, with its superb location up above Poirêts and Cailles on the slope, is never short of great stony personality, and I find that this terroir really succeeds to its highest expression in vintages such as 2012, when this great base of soil is coupled with vividly beautiful, sappy fruit tones. This is exactly what this superb 2012 offers in spades, as it soars from the glass in a sappy mélange of red and black cherries, cocoa, stony minerality, nutskin, woodsmoke, a nice touch of fresh herbs and a judicious framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and almost flamboyantly sappy at the core, but with striking purity and structural integrity as well, a great signature of stony soil, ripe tannins and superb length and grip on the more reserved, but no less pure and dramatic finish. This will need more time than the Bousselots or Chaignots to really blossom, but it is going to be a real “head-turner” when it reaches maturity. A great wine. 2022-2050. 93+.

**2012 Nuits St. Georges “Roncières”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils**

The 2012 Roncières chez Chevillon is another outstanding and utterly complete young bottle of Nuits St. Georges. The exceptional nose delivers a vibrant constellation of black cherries, plums, dark chocolate, a beautiful base of minerally soil tones, quail, a touch of fresh thyme and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and simply rock solid at the core, with excellent focus and balance, suave, ripe tannins and stunning length and grip on the primary and very poised finish. Another stellar wine. 2022-2050. 93+.

**2012 Nuits St. Georges “Pruliers”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils**

Given how inherently elegant the 2012 vintage is across the board, I knew I should be expecting something special from the Chevillons’ Pruliers, but it was still a very pleasant surprise to see just how red fruity and refined this wine is out of the blocks. The gorgeous and suave nose offers up a fine blend of cherries, pomegranate, great minerality, nutskin, woodsmoke, cocoa, gamebirds and a whisper of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very much defined by its minerality today, with a sappy core of fruit, fine-grained tannins and outstanding focus and grip on the very, very long and still quite primary finish. This is an extra special vintage for the Pruliers. 2025-2065. 94.

**2012 Nuits St. Georges “les Cailles”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils**

I am never surprised by how beautiful the potential is of this wine when tasting the new vintage in the Chevillons family’s cellars, and the 2012 is going to be one of those wines that fans of this estate are just going to have to find some way to purchase- no matter what barriers are constructed in front of them! This brilliant wine is very deep and nicely reserved on the nose, offering up a bottomless blend of red and black cherries, red plums, nutskin, a stunningly complex base of soil, gamebirds, woodsmoke, fresh herbs and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and still very primary, with a great core of fruit, firm, suave tannins, tangy acids and a very, very long, primary and gorgeous finish of enormous potential. Simply a brilliant wine in the making! 2025-2065. 95.

**2012 Nuits St. Georges “Les St. Georges”- Domaine Robert Chevillon et Fils**

The 2012 Les St. Georges is an utterly complete and compelling example of this great terroir, and if I were amongst the vigneron lobbying for the promotion of this vineyard to grand cru status, I might just trot out bottles of this wine and the 2010 version from the Chevillons to show just how magical this vineyard can be. Whether the 2012 will match (or surpass) the 2010 version here is a question that only time will tell in the sweetness of time, but this is certainly going to rank right up there with the greatest wines Bertrand Chevillon has ever fashioned during his long and illustrious career. The brilliant nose delivers a complex blend of cherries, strawberries, red plums, woodsmoke, a glorious base of soil, incipient notes of venison, nutskin and a gentle base of vanillin oak. Again, I am struck by just how beautifully red fruity the Les St. Georges is here this year, as this too is usually a very black fruity wine out of the blocks. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, very transparent and multi-dimensional, with a fine, sappy core of fruit, stunning transparency, fine-grained tannins and a very long, pure and still quite primary finish. Pure magic. 2025-2075. 97.

**2012 Nuits St. Georges “les Vaucrains”- Robert Chevillon et Fils**

The 2012 Chevillon Vaucrains is again a brilliant wine in the making. The stunningly pure and deep bouquet offers up scents of red and black cherries, red plums, cocoa, venison, a very, very pure base of complex soil tones, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and absolutely rock solid at the core, with plenty of firm, well-integrated tannins, and stunning focus and grip on the very, very long, utterly soil-driven finish. I love the 126 blend of sappy fruit elements defining the nose and the very classically structured, pure and seamless palate impression- it is a very promising combination that will deliver a totally stunning wine with sufficient bottle age. Great juice. 2025-2075. 96+.