

Michael Schuster: Comte Liger-Belair 2014. Justerini & Brooks 14th Jan 2016

Where these are cask samples they provisionally scored, in brackets. As usual Louis Michel has crafted a beautiful set of burgundies in 2014, red wines in particular with a notable sweetness of fruit, a textural polish, a crystalline transparency, an overall poise, polish and class. Characteristics which have become his hallmark, and which are an exquisite expression of Pinot Noir. Each wine is a benchmark expression of its origin and its place in Burgundy's hierarchy.

Nuits-St-Georges, Clos des Grand Vignes, 1er Cru, Blanc, Monopole 2014 16.5+/91

Mid gold; peachy ripeness, subtle oak-cedar; fairly full, concentrated yet elegant, with a firm, but not obtrusive, defining acidity; pure, subtly racy, without great aromatic complexity, but good length. 2018 to 2024+

Nuits-St-Georges, Aux Lavières 2014

16.5/90

Mid purple, light, sweet, gently scented but fine and persistent; medium full, fresh, very lightly tannic; pure, sweet, vital red cherry flavour, moderate complexity, but even, fragrant, persistent and most complete at its *lieux-dit*, *village* level. 2018-2026+

Vosne-Romanée 2014

16.5+/91

Mid purple, fresh ripe red cherry nose, marked by oak cedar for the moment; moderately rich, fresh, lightly tannic wine; generous and pure in fruit, gently fleshy, long and even and delicious, and with fine fragrant length. A really lovely top village wine. A beauty at the level. 2018-28+

Vosne-Romanée, La Colombière 2014 (Bottled)

17/92

Pale to mid purple; fresh, sweetly ripe red cherry nose, lightly marked by oak-cedar; fairly rich, vitally fresh lightly tannic Vosne-Romanée; sweet, crisp, long to taste, refined, subtly spicy, gently warm and enveloping in flavour, with a beautiful fruit length. A lovely expression of the commune, with noticeably greater richness and definition than the generic village wine. 2018-30+

Vosne-Romanée, Clos du Chateau, Monopole 2014

17.5/93

Pale to mid purple; currently slightly reduced but a gentle scent there; perfectly poised, complete village Vosne-Romanée. Rich, gently fleshy medium full wine with the year's enticing vitality, and a superfine tannin; long, sweet, pure, transparent, and spicy, with a deliciously succulent core fruit; for the village level, again, this is pretty remarkable, with fruit and spice of an extra aromatic dimension. 2019-30+

Nuits-St-Georges, Aux Cras, 1er Cru 2014 (cask)

(17.5+/93+)

Mid to deep purple; dense, ripe black cherry fruit on the nose; rich, firm, finely tannic, clearly a firmer style, but absolutely harmonious; plush, generous, elegant burgundy, with a most seductive 'wealth' of fruit by comparison with the Vosnes; long and subtly racy to taste and with a firm, long, sweetly spicy, resonating aftertaste. Gorgeous Nuits St Georges from close to the Vosne-Romanée border. 2020-35+

Vosne-Romanée, *Les Petits Monts*, 1er Cru 2014 (cask) (18/94)

Mid purple; restrained, fragrant, persistent nose; medium full, but with a lovely, subtle concentration and vitality, plus the hallmark superfine tannin; sweet, vital and searching in flavour; a gently warm, spicy, enveloping and vibrant yet absolutely effortless 1er Cru; complex, beautifully sustained to taste, and with great length of perfume on the finish. An exceptional 1er Cru from the vineyard next to *Aux Reignots*, and just above *Les Richebourgs*. 2022-37+

Nuits-St-Georges, *Clos des Grand Vignes*, 1er Cru, Monopole 2014 (cask) (17.5+/93+)

Mid to deep purple; closed and tight on the nose at present, much less immediate and black-fruit-showy than "*Aux Cras*"; rich, fresh, elegant, very finely tannic middleweight; a long, gentle, subtle progression of flavours, beautifully sustained, with a clear inner 'energy', a delightfully sweet core of fruit and lovely length. Another beauty, with remarkable poise, harmony, grace and elegance for Nuits St Georges. A really 'fine', in the best sense of the word, 1er Cru. (The *Aux Cras* is richer and more immediate in fruit, this is a touch sweeter, juicier . They are both particularly refined expressions of the commune.) 2021-36+

Vosne-Romanée, *Aux Reignots*, 1er Cru 2014 (cask) (18.5/95)

Darkish red; dense, sweet, precise and subtle black cherry and ripe plum on the nose; a kiss of new oak; rich, generous, ample wine, very fine tannin in tannin; deep and sweet, a quiet power, warm, complex, effortlessly enveloping in flavour; spicy, subtle, and absorbing to taste, and with wonderful length. So understated, so poised, so sweet. A clear step up in density and scope from *Les Petit Monts*. The very image of great Vosne in both proportions and flavour. An outstanding and very grand 1er Cru from the vineyard just up the slope, adjacent to *La Romanée*, itself adjacent to and just above *La Romanée-Conti*. 2023-40+

Echézeaux, Grand Cru 2014 (cask) (19/97)

Mid purple, closed and tight to smell, yet clearly a wonderful bouquet in the making: sweet, subtle, refined and persistent; a very elegantly concentrated fairly full bodied wine; rich and sweet, a wine of great amplitude, generous and fleshy but beautifully defined too, with a marked spiciness, great length of flavour, and a striking aromatic peacock's tail of a finish. An imposing, complete and very flattering Grand Cru. 2024-45+

La Romanée, Grand Cru, Monopole 2014 (cask) (19.5/98)

Darkish red; a noticeable density to smell, closed but with an impression of great matter, a tight, concentrated bud of perfumes, just hinted at for the moment; a wine of considerable concentration, a perfect blend of structural components with a firm but unobtrusive acidity, a satin fine but present tannin, a great yet effortlessly presented core of fruit. This is a profound but quietly spoken presence, juicy, succulent, sensual, spicy; ample and mouthcoating, beautifully prolonged in its energy of flavour, wonderfully complex and complete with, here too, those particular tokens of great burgundy, power and delicacy, and a peacock's tail radiance of aftertaste. Exhaustingly good. 2025-50