

A burgundy ragbag

A collection of 44 burgundies older than 2019 reviewed by Julia, Tam, Richard and Jancis. Above is from Dom J Coudray-Bizot's website, the En Orveaux corner of the grand cru Échezeaux.

We have been busy tasting the 2019s that have been recently, or are currently, offered en primeur. See this guide to our extensive coverage of 2019 burgundy.

But we have also been lucky enough to taste burgundies from older vintages, from 2018, through the very drinkable 2017s and some older vintages back to a very special 1989. We have collected all these tasting notes below, grouping them by colour and then presenting them by vintage and then in descending score order.

Dom Daniel-Étienne Defaix, Vieilles Vignes 2017

Chablis

Bright, very clear gold. Lightly reductive on the nose – to the extent I personally like. This seems a tad older than three years, but there's nothing wrong with accelerated ageing if the result is pleasing! Not intense but very Chablis and appetising. I wouldn't hang on to it but it should please true Chablis lovers already.

There is no wet wool and only a hint of water flowing over wet stones, but it certainly has more character than supermarket Chablis. Not as thrilling as the 2015 but certainly creditable. Lots of flavour and not much alcohol. Double tick!

12.5%, Drink 2019 – 2023, rating 16.5

Dom Daniel-Étienne Defaix, Côte de Léchet

Premier Cru 2006 Chablis

The nerviest of these three 2006 Chablis premiers crus from Defaix (tasted alongside Vaillons and Les Lys).

High toned and with a lightly reductive note, a little smoky, this would make a very luxurious aperitif. I could so easily imagine it on Christmas morning with smoked salmon for those who eschew bubbles. Notes of lime and honey act as counterpoints in this 'vibrating' wine with an impressively long finish. In view of its great age, it's **GV**.

13%, Drink 2015 – 2030, £32–£34 RRP, rating 17

Dom Daniel-Étienne Defaix, Vaillons Premier Cru

2006 Chablis

Defaix calls it 'Vaillon'.

Quite a rich nose and then a spread of tense green fruit spreads across the palate. The wet stones that so often characterise Chablis are subsumed here by the fruit. Masses of concentration and potential. This is just starting to unfurl.

13%, Drink 2018 – 2032, £32–£34 RRP, rating 17

Dom Daniel-Étienne Defaix, Les Lys Premier Cru

2006 Chablis

Green liquid jelly (of the edible kind) somehow on the nose, with a hint of the wetwool aroma that characterises decent Chablis with some age. Precise acidity complements quite a charge of fruit. But it's all quite tightly wound. This is a fairly robust, emphatic Chablis with considerable extract that I'd be tempted to decant. It's impressively persistent, which bodes well. (My guess at when this started to drink well is just that: a wild guess.) For a 14-year-old wine, this is **GV**.

13%, Drink 2014 – 2028, £32–£34 RRP, rating 16.5