

Tate Wine

Burgundy 2011

2011 was another far from predictable year in Burgundy; 'normal' vintage conditions seem to come around with less and less regularity these days. Like the UK, Burgundy bathed in a balmy spring encouraging early flowering, an indicator that this would be one of the earliest harvests of recent decades. Again, very like these shores, the region endured a miserable summer and a picking date that initially looked like mid-August became early September. Crucially the autumn saw fine weather, so the risk of rot brought on by damp weather diminished. The result was grapes that spent an unusually long time on the vine, yet show none of the traits of over-ripeness.

2011 is clearly a difficult act to follow after 2010, a vintage that I increasingly think is the greatest for many years. Even the most optimistic of merchants cannot claim that 2011 whites are of the same quality as 2010. However they are wonderfully fragrant, immediate wines that will give great pleasure in the short term while the dense, acid-driven 10's sit in your cellar. Red is a different matter, they show the pretty, gloriously perfumed side of the vintage with fruits being in the red spectrum. It is Pinot Noir for Pinot lovers and while some critics have the vintage marked down as early-drinking and easy, I disagree. Pinot Noir has an uncanny ability to confound us 'experts'. Vignerons are bullish about 2011 and I think the best will age beautifully, although unlike 2010 they will give huge pleasure when young.

The real story of 2011 is supply and demand. For a third vintage in a row a decrease of the former and a burgeoning of the latter. I think 2011 will be a watershed vintage for Burgundy, prices have already risen sharply for top vineyards and a miniscule crop in 2012 (in the Côte de Beaune in particular) will result in further escalation. Great Burgundy, by worldwide standards, is made in paltry quantities. It is inevitable that the most well-known producers and vineyards will become accessible to fewer and fewer consumers. A reason to be gloomy? Possibly, but with the likes of the Bachelet brothers rejuvenating areas such as Santenay there will always be high-quality, affordable Burgundy around. However if you want to drink Meursault, Chambolle or some Grand Cru buy now, they will not be this cheap again.

All prices are shown duty paid, but excluding VAT. Wines must be purchased by the case (12bts or 6bts where indicated). Please email wine.club@tate.org.uk for any questions or to place an order. We have limited supply on some wines. They will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis. Delivery is charged at cost. Collection from either gallery can be arranged during opening hours.

Wines will be shipped over the course of 2013; some reds will not be available for delivery until the winter of 2013/14.

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White

Domaine Christian Moreau Père et Fils

This Domaine, consisting of father and son team Christian and Fabian, has in a short space of time elevated itself into the upper echelons of Chablis's pecking order. Their hallmarks are the classic ones of the region, purity and minerality. Their 11's are particularly attractive and will provide immediate pleasure

2011 from 2012	Chablis	£125x12 ex vat
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2011 from 2013	Chablis 1er Cru Les Vaillons	£175x12 ex vat
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Domaine des Nembrets

Like many of the Mâconnais's best addresses, Domaine des Nembrets is a relatively new venture set up with family vineyards by Dennis Barraud ten years ago. Dennis's style is one of lightness and purity, with minimal influence of oak.

2011 from 2012	St Véran	£125x12 ex vat
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Domaine Clos des Roccs

I visited this estate, with a group of staff, for the first time a few years ago and left deeply impressed. Unusually Olivier Giroux's bought this estate (rather than inheriting it) and has established a stellar reputation in only eight years. He is meticulous to the point of an obsessive and loathe to cede control of any part of the wine making process – asked when he might come and see us in London the answer was no, he could not bear to leave the Domaine in case something went wrong. The Mâcon is bright, but with weight and texture - a serious offering for what is our 'house' white Burgundy.

2011 from 2012	Macon-Loché	£113x12 ex vat
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White

Domaine Bachelet-Monnot

Many of you will know of my admiration for the Bachelet brothers work. They are no longer the next undiscovered superstars - the wines are now highly regarded by Burgundian critics. However quality continues to surge ahead, these are among the few whites that are on the same level, and better in some cases, than the 2010's. We are lucky to have been there from the beginning and are able to secure a good allocation of wines that could be sold many times over. If there is a better value bottle of white Burgundy on the market than their Bourgogne Blanc (a regular at the Anderson table), then I have not tried it.

2011 from 2013	Bourgogne Blanc	£137x12 ex vat
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2011 from 2013	Santenay Blanc	£180x12 ex vat
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2011 from 2014	Puligny-Montrachet	£297x12 ex vat
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2011 from 2015	Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Hameau de Blagny	£200x6 ex vat
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Domaine Ballot-Millot

This is another estate whose wines have really gone up to the next level in recent vintages. The secret of this wine is Meursault's rich intensity, allied to freshness.

2011 from 2013	Meursault 'Criots'	£320x12 ex vat
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Red

Domaine Bachelet-Monnot

2011 Santenay 'Les Charmes' £190x12 ex vat
from 2014

Domaine Bernard Coillot

Old books on Burgundy dismiss Marsannay as a rustic, vinous backwater. Not today, these 'lesser' appellations are home to the young and ambitious and none more so than Christophe Coillot. I have been drinking the voluptuous 2009 Grasses Têtes at home recently and it is one of the few wines I possess in my cellar that stops the dinner party, everyone wants to know what it is. Coillot has excelled in '11 allying depth and concentration to the vintage's innate charm.

2011 Marsannay 'Grasses Têtes' £180x12 ex vat
from 2014

Domaine Jean Guiton

Domaine Jean Guiton (run by Guillaume Guiton) is hard to find, in Bligny-lès-Beaune. Until last year I had never visited the village in over ten years of trips to the region. Off the beaten track he maybe, but this are wonderful examples of modern red Burgundy – supple, fresh and finely tuned, they are above all deliciously easy to drink. The pure fruit-driven nature of '11 has played to Guillaume's strengths and I had real trouble whittling down the list of wines to show tonight.

2011 Bourgogne Rouge £125x12 ex vat
from 2013

2011 Savigny-lès-Beaune £180x12 ex vat
from 2014

2011 Beaune 1er Cru Sizies £220x12 ex vat
from 2014

2011 Aloxe-Corton £240x12 ex vat
from 2015

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Red

2011 from 2014	Volnay	£234x12 ex vat
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Domaine Duroché

2008 was my first experience of this Domaine which has followed the familiar path of young son (Pierre) taking over from dad and reinvigorating the wines. I got so excited by the 2008's that I bought thirty plus cases for Tate. This is Pierre's fifth vintage and the wines have gone into overdrive, something that has not escaped the notice of the critics. I have no doubt that Pierre's wines will, in a few years time, be classed as some of the finest in Gevrey and with a price tag to match their reputation. For now they remain remarkable value.

2011 from 2014	Gevrey Chambertin 'Jeunes de Rois'	£275x12 ex vat
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2011 from 2016	Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru Lavaux St Jacques	£207x6 ex vat
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2011 from 2015	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	£287x6 ex vat
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Domaine George Noellat

This is only the second vintage from Maxime Cheurlin and I am not alone in calling this Domaine as superstar of the future. Maxime is already making ridiculously assured wine at the tender age of twenty-one with parcels of old vines inherited from his grandmother. Silky, fine and utterly seductive grab them while you can, in future people will be fighting their friends for an allocation.

2011 from 2013	Bourgogne Rouge	£150x12 ex vat
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2011 from 2015	Vosne-Romanée	£206x6 ex vat
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Red

Lignier-Michelot

I have sold Virgile's wines at Tate's restaurants for over ten years. Quietly spoken, wine making reflects Virgile's character. Changes in the winery and vineyard are tweaks rather than revolutions. The result has been a slow, but steady ratcheting up of quality over the years and 2011 is a fine follow up to his brilliant 2010s.

2011 from 2015	Chambolle-Musigny 'Vieilles Vignes'	£150x6 ex vat
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2011 from 2015	Morey-St-Denis 'Rue de Vergy'	£150x6 ex vat
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2011 from 2016	Morey-St-Denis 1er Cru Faconnieres	£225x6 ex vat
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