

## Crus Beaujolais 2013

Forget the lightweight wines of old. For a growing number of producers in the 10 best areas in Beaujolais, it's all about individuality and quality, says James Lawther MW

REGISTER THE WORD 'Beaujolais' and then recalibrate. This is not Nouveau we are talking about, but the Beaujolais crus. The Gamay grape is the unique factor, but instead of a light, innocuous beverage these are wines of real personality with a truly authentic touch. And the good news is that they are getting still better and better. Recent vintages have been rewarding and there is a new dynamism pushing quality forward.

The 10 crus are located in a hilly terrain in the north of the Beaujolais region, just south of the Mâconnais, and the poor, granite-based soils here offer great diversity even over a short distance, and individual nuance.

Pink granite is the mainstay of Chiroubles, Fleurie and Moulin-à-Vent, but whereas Chiroubles at a higher altitude produces lively, delicate wines, Fleurie, with its dramatic inclines lower down, is elegant, perfumed and finely textured; Moulin-à-Vent, with its gentler contours, is complex and longer ageing. The blue stone schist found in Juliéna, Côte de Brouilly and part of Morgon provides minerality and structure, particularly in the last two. Granite-based Chénas is also structured, whereas Régnié is supple and fruity. St-Amour and Brouilly have the greatest diversity of soils, the former light, fruity and floral, the latter more generous in style.

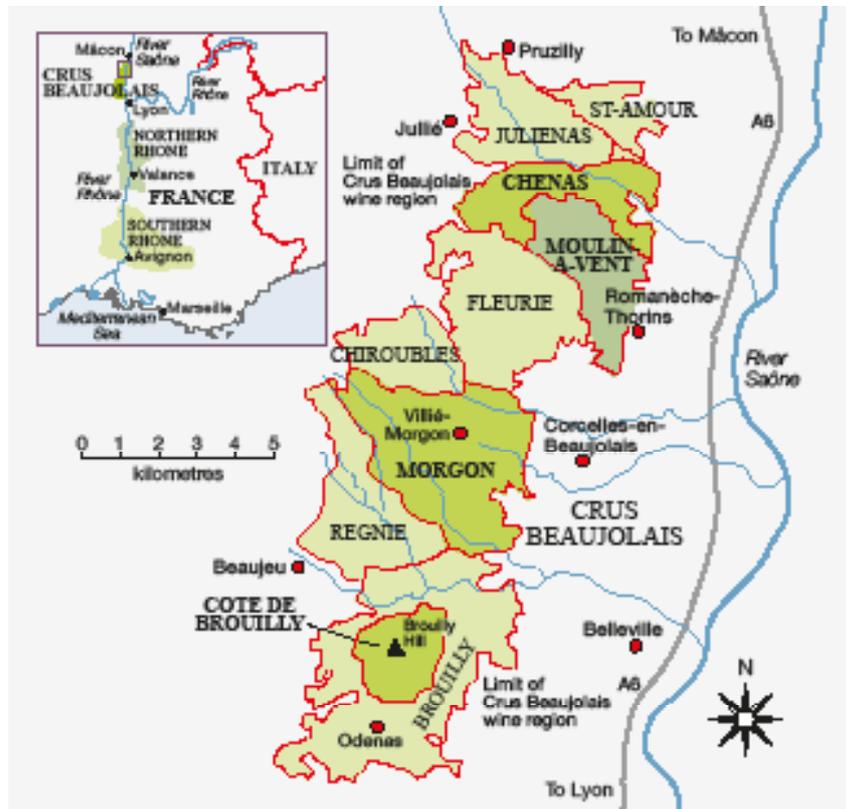
### Quality shift

Add a semi-continental climate to the notion of terroir and a concentration of parcels of old vines ranging in age from 50 to 140 years and clearly the potential has always been there. The exceptional 2009 vintage provided a real fillip and the following years (except 2012) have also been successful. But what has been really gratifying is the newly found qualitative drive of the producers. There has always been a handful of leading names, but a change in generation and the arrival of new investors (particularly from Burgundy) has raised the bar across a broader base.

As for winemaking, machine harvesting is permitted but the crus are still generally picked by hand. The majority of growers practise a form of semi-carbonic maceration coupled with pumping over or pigeage to gain more substance and structure. The wines are then aged in neutral tank or old casks for roughly a year.

Another winemaking practice, known locally as the 'Burgundian method', is to classically destem and crush the grapes then age the wine in barrel. The method suits the more powerful wines, such as Moulin-à-Vent, which, along with Chénas, Morgon and Côte de Brouilly, can age up to 10 years, sometimes longer, acquiring a Pinot-like character as the wines mature.

The 2013 vintage was one of the latest-picked in a number of years, the harvest finishing in mid-October. Cold spring weather with a late flowering around 15 June set the pattern. The early part of July remained cool and rainy but thereafter sunny weather continued into the



### Beaujolais crus: know your vintages

**2014** Highly promising. Fruit, colour and supple tannins. Close to 2011.

**2013** Classic in style. Fine, fresh and structured. Drink now-2020.

**2012** Difficult year: frost, hail and rain. Only the very best wines are worth considering.

**2011** Concentrated, complex and balanced, with eight to 10 years' ageing potential.

**2010** Opposite of 2009. Fresh, elegant and floral. Drink now.

**2009** Exceptional but atypical. Rich and opulent. Will keep 10 years.

### Beaujolais crus: the facts

**Total vine plantings (2013)** 6,191ha  
**Brouilly** 1,257ha; **Chénas** 249ha;  
**Chiroubles** 334ha; **Côte de Brouilly** 340ha; **Fleurie** 914ha; **Juliéna** 578ha;  
**Morgon** 1,114ha; **Moulin-à-Vent** 717ha;

**Régnié** 368ha; **St-Amour** 319ha  
**Total production** 35 million bottles  
**Exports** 20%  
**Structure** approximately 1,350 declared producers, 150 négociants, 12 cooperatives

late season. Ripening was slow but sure, assisted by a little rain in early September. The wines are classic in style, with the freshness and structure of a late harvest coupled with adequate fruit and substance.

*James Lawther MW is a Decanter contributing editor, author, lecturer and tour guide >*

## The results

Morgon, Chénas and Chiroubles emerged as the top-performing villages, and the judges were keen to see less use of oak and an increased focus on fruit, mineral character and structure. Tina Gellie reports

IF THERE WERE ever a time to revisit your opinion of Beaujolais, it's now, our expert panel enthused after this extensive tasting of 158 wines from the region's 10 crus.

'It certainly blew away my misconceptions about Beaujolais,' said Andy Howard MW. 'These cru wines are seriously underrated as a wine style. I'll be looking out for them much more now.'

Rob MacCulloch MW agreed: 'The one thing you can't deny is that the Gamay grape gives flavour, minerality, generosity and ageability as well as both a food-friendliness and a drink-on-its-own deliciousness that is virtually unmatched, especially at the price.'

'With its inherent drinkability of juicy fruit, good acidity and low alcohol, Beaujolais has a great card to play,' added Master Sommelier Xavier Rousset. 'It's surprising we don't drink it more often.'

Our experts agreed that Morgon (with 34 entries) was the standout cru. 'Given the size of this appellation, you'd expect it to be a bit up and down, but the quality was impressively consistent,' said Rousset. Others that impressed included Chénas and Chiroubles (just two

*'The view that Beaujolais should be drunk young was challenged here'* Andy Howard MW

and five wines entered respectively). Fleurie (40 samples), Brouilly (24) and Moulin-à-Vent (31) received the most criticism, with over-extraction or excessive new oak giving 'green sappy tannins'.

MacCulloch urged producers to 'realise that the extra cost of oak ageing isn't an answer', while Howard added: 'When you have no oak, it shows off the purity of the fruit, which is Gamay's calling card.'

Conversely, producers were commended for keeping alcohol levels modest at 12.5% or 13%. 'In other regions, a successful vintage with quite high extraction levels would lead to big, alcoholic wines, and that wasn't the case here. It was great to see,' said MacCulloch.

Howard was also impressed by the ageability of the

### The scores

158 wines tasted

3

Outstanding

14

Highly recommended

119

Recommended

21

Fair

0

Poor

1

Faulty

majority of the wines. 'People assume Beaujolais and the Gamay grape are one-dimensional, to drink as soon as it's bottled. But these cru wines have complexity and structure.' Our judges said these were wines that would drink well over the next five years, with the best able to cellar until 2023. 'I know more than one good taster who has been tricked into thinking a 25-year old Beaujolais was mature Burgundy,' added Rousset.

This comparison was raised more than once. 'Because Beaujolais isn't as popular and doesn't command the same high prices as Burgundy, it does represent great value,' said Howard. 'I'd be surprised if there were many wines here that were more expensive than fairly average Pinot Noir.' For MacCulloch, some cru Beaujolais represented a 'serious alternative' to Syrah. 'The region is closer to the northern Rhône than Burgundy – especially in the southern crus such as Morgon – and the wines showed those delicious pepper, spice and savoury qualities.'

On a final note, our experts implored readers not to chill these wines. 'This is not Beaujolais Nouveau, Beaujolais or Beaujolais Villages!' said Rousset. 'These are serious, concentrated, complex, artisan wines.'

**Entry criteria: producers and UK agents were invited to submit wines from the 2013 vintage in the 10 Beaujolais crus of Brouilly, Chénas, Chiroubles, Côte de Brouilly, Fleurie, Juliéas, Morgon, Moulin-à-Vent, Régnié and St-Amour**

## Outstanding 18.5–20pts (95–100pts)



### Raymond Bouland, Cuvée des Délés Vieilles Vignes, Morgon

Decanter average score: 18.75/20pts (95+/100pts)  
Individual judges' scores: Andy Howard MW 19 Rob MacCulloch MW 18.5 Xavier Rousset MS 19

£13 Haynes Hanson & Clark

This tiny parcel of about half a hectare is located in the lieu-dit Délés and produces on average 2,000 bottles a year. The vines are around 80 years old and the soils in this sector of Morgon (Corcelette) distinctly granitic. Raymond Bouland vinifies in pure Beaujolais fashion, using semi-carbonic maceration. The cuvaion lasts 10 days and the wine is then aged in concrete tanks. Raymond will be retiring in the next couple of years, so take advantage of his last vintages.

**Andy Howard MW** Vibrant nose, hints of wild flowers. Fleshy and fresh, a juicy, forward wine with sufficient tannin and acidity to allow ageing.

**Rob MacCulloch MW** A delicious, complex, spicy nose, quite a fresh, delicate style for Morgon, attractively balanced, with great promise.

**Xavier Rousset MS** Aromatic and mineral with great acidity. A pure and very elegant style with tannins that are very well integrated.

Drink 2015-2019 Alcohol 13%

## The tasters' verdicts

### Andy Howard MW



*With more than 30 years' experience as a buyer at Marks & Spencer, Howard became a Master of Wine in 2011. His key areas of expertise are Burgundy and Bordeaux. In 2013, Howard left M&S to focus on his consultancy, Vinetrades. He has written for both Decanter and JancisRobinson.com, and has chaired the judging at the South East Vineyards Association awards for seven years.*

#### Howard's verdict

'This was a great opportunity to see whether the recent news about the breakaway of the crus from the generic Beaujolais body was likely to be a move in the right direction. The results show that the hype about the quality of Beaujolais crus has been, to a large extent, justified. In quite a few cases, the wines showed the heights that well-made Gamay can reach. They were nearly all refreshing and some of the better examples showed real finesse – in some cases providing an excellent-value alternative to Pinot Noir from Burgundy. Not surprisingly Morgon stood out, but there was real interest in the higher altitude wines of Chiroubles and unexpected success for Chénas. Fleurie was, sadly, rather variable.'

'The view that Beaujolais should be drunk young was challenged at this tasting – some wines will only reach their full potential after several years' cellaring. Taking value into account, it suggests that consumers should acquaint themselves with the crus as soon as possible. They are well worth considering next time you're assessing a restaurant list.'

### Rob MacCulloch MW



*MacCulloch served his apprenticeship in wine after joining Oddbins in 1995, going on to work in New Zealand for Montana Wines, then in the UK for Hatch Mansfield, Bibendum Wines, and recently for Burgundy and Beaujolais specialist Domaine Direct. He is now retraining for a career in viticulture & oenology.*

#### MacCulloch's verdict

'For wines best enjoyed during sunny, charcuterie-laden picnics overlooking some vines, a London tasting room can never do complete justice to cru Beaujolais. Nevertheless, this was a fascinating tasting – where else but Beaujolais produces such delicious wines, from venerable domaines with high average vine ages, and at such reasonable prices?'

'Despite showcasing the sunny, low-yielding 2013 vintage, a few wines displayed underripe, sour, green notes. Variations in oak use, occasionally just plain heavy-handed, can needlessly mask the alluring combination of spices, fresh red fruits and ripe, brisk tannins shown in the best wines from 2013. Apparent too was how successful more southerly crus were in 2013 – Morgon, Brouilly and Côte de Brouilly. The 10 Beaujolais crus really encompass too wide a region, with too many variances in cellar practices, to always produce consistent wines.'

'These are minor points, though. The consistency of cru Beaujolais lies in uncovering wonderfully evocative wines that appeal directly to the senses, all at brilliant value: the best of the 2013s are delicious.'

### Xavier Rousset MS



*Rousset became the youngest Master Sommelier in the world in 2002, having worked at Gerard Basset's Hotel du Vin in Bristol. Appointed head sommelier at Michelin-starred Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons in 2004, he teamed up with head chef Agnar Sverrisson in 2007 to launch Texture restaurant in London, which won a Michelin star in 2010. The pair's second venture, 28°-50° Wine Workshop and Kitchen, was launched in Fetter Lane, London in 2010.*

#### Rousset's verdict

'Overall a great tasting, highlighting Gamay as a more serious grape than most of us give it credit for. I strongly believe sales of cru Beaujolais from quality-driven producers will seriously increase over the next five to eight years. Elegant, easy drinking – a good asset for a wine to have nowadays – generally great value. What's not to like?'

'I was impressed by Morgon's class, purity, depth and character, while Chénas was also attractive, aromatic, with juicy fruit and soft texture. But I was underwhelmed by the overall performance of Moulin-à-Vent and Brouilly, either due to some inconsistency due to their size and number of producers, or in some cases to wines being over-worked with oak or over-extraction, which in my view is the opposite of what Gamay is all about. The elegance and delicacy of Gamay means it should be handled accordingly in the winery.'



### Domaine Lagneau, Vieilles Vignes, Côte de Brouilly 18.5 (95) AH 18.5 RM 18.5 XR 18.5

£11.25 Cadman Fine Wines

The Lagneau family – Gérard, Jeannine and their son Didier – cultivates 17ha in the Beaujolais producing Beaujolais Villages, Régnié, Morgon and Côte de Brouilly. The Vieilles Vignes cuvée of the latter comes from 75-year-old vines planted on blue stone schist soils at about 200 metres altitude on the steep slopes of the Côte de Brouilly. The wine is made using semi-carbonic maceration and aged in neutral concrete tanks. About 3,000 bottles are produced annually.

**AH** Intense black fruit aromas, full bodied with lots of soft, dark, ripe fruits on the palate. A joyous example of Côte de Brouilly with weight, complexity and refinement. Will develop for several years in bottle.

**RM** Delicate raspberry fruit, nice in a burlier appellation such as Côte de Brouilly. Spice and black pepper around a dense core of fruit that balances out the natural structure. Not yet ready, but still delicious.

**XR** Pure, spicy, mineral and well balanced with dark cherries and liquorice notes and flavours.

Drink 2015-2020 Alc 13% ➤

## Outstanding (continued) 18.5–20pts (95–100pts)



### Domaine Piron-Lameloise, Quartz, Chénas

18.5 (95) AH 18.5 RM 18.5 XR 18.5

£17-£19 Domaine Direct

The 10ha Quartz vineyard is jointly owned by Morgon specialist Dominique Piron and the Lameloise family, owners of the eponymous Michelin three-starred restaurant in Burgundy. It is located on a steep granite slope which has a solid base of quartz, hence the name and the minerally, saline character found in the wine. The harvest is partly destemmed to allow a longer period of cuvaison (18 days), 25% of the

wine then aged in barrel. 'I try to preserve the freshness and originality of the wine so avoid the use of too much oak,' says Dominique Piron. The first vintage, 2003, is still tasting well today.

**AH** Nose is quite serious with hints of violets and wild flowers. Strawberry fruits on the palate with ripe tannins and fresh acidity. Good complexity, with a peppery edge. Interesting, individual cru Beaujolais.

**RM** A very pepper-scented nose, with a deep-fruited core of black cherry. There's a really attractive layering of fruit flavour and complexity to this wine too, with persistent flavours. The tannins are firm, as is typical for Chénas, but they're supple too and balance the deep fruit flavours nicely. For cru Beaujolais, this is grand cru.

**XR** Very open and aromatic; a serious wine with sweet fruit, dark cherries, warm spices, firm tannins, and a long finish.

**Drink** 2016-2020 **Alc** 12.5%

## Highly Recommended 17-18.25pts (90-94pts)



### Domaine la Bonne Tonne, Côte du Py, Morgon

18.25 (94) AH 17.5 RM 18.5 XR 18.5

N/A UK [www.bonne-tonne.com](http://www.bonne-tonne.com)

Rich, savoury and spicy, with some attractively balanced oak notes. Soft, juicy palate with nice ripeness and fleshy quality. Delicate style that could challenge Pinot Noir. Very attractive. **Drink** 2015-2020 **Alc** 12.5%



### Château Gaillard, Morgon

17.75 (92) AH 17.5 RM 17.5 XR 18.5

£9.50 Voddens Vintages

Good intensity on the nose, with an elegant structure and crisp acidity. A more savoury, restrained style, with an aristocratic complexity to the gentle red berry fruit. **Drink** 2015-2018 **Alc** 13%



### Château Thivin, Reverdon, Brouilly

17.25 (90+) AH 17.5 RM 16.5 XR 17.5

POA Domaine Direct

Spiced fruit nose, where the lead-pencil, stony fruit character of the region is very apparent. Quite a serious Brouilly with an elegant finish and an extra level of structure for longer ageing. **Drink** 2015-2016 **Alc** 13%



### Domaine de Bel-Air, Les Charmes, Morgon

17.25 (90+) AH 17 RM 18 XR 16.5

£15.50 Earle Wines

Very attractive rich fruit with beautiful layering that adds complexity. Crisp acidity, freshness and a lovely leafy quality that would make this a great match for meat dishes. **Drink** 2016-2022 **Alc** 12.5%



### Domaine des Marrans, Terroir du Pavillon, Fleurie

17.25 (90+) AH 17.5 RM 16.5 XR 17.5

POA Fingal-Rock

Quite a serious nose, not typical of Fleurie as we know it. Sweet red fruit, showing good concentration and minerality. A complex style with grippy tannins. **Drink** 2016-2018 **Alc** 12.5%



### Jean-Marc Burgaud, Côte du Py, Morgon

17.25 (90+) AH 18 RM 16 XR 17.5

£17.50 Berry Bros & Rudd, Campbell Moore, Hay Wines, Vinoteca, Wine Society

Brooding, complex but rather closed nose. Concentrated, red berry palate, with tannic grip and fresh acidity. Very mineral; needs a few more years. **Drink** 2016-2020 **Alc** 13%



### Patrick Tranchand, Roche Grès, Moulin-à-Vent

17.25 (90+) AH 17 RM 17 XR 18

N/A UK +33 (0)6 87 07 51 25

A pepper-scented nose with fresh raspberry and blackberry, almost Pinot Noir-like. Soft and delicate, very elegant with an attractive finish. Delicious now. **Drink** 2015-2020 **Alc** 13%



### Château des Moriers, Miss Vicky, Fleurie

17 (90) AH 17 RM 16.5 XR 17.5

£11.99 The Smiling Grape Company

Immediately attractive, heightened nose, with quite a rich, savoury palate that shows plenty of mineral-toned cherry fruit. An elegant style that makes attractive and rewarding drinking now. **Drink** 2015-2017 **Alc** 12.5%



### Château des Tours, Brouilly

17 (90) AH 17 RM 16.5 XR 17.5

£16-£18 Widely available via UK agent Thorman Hunt

Spicy, ripe and quite mineral toned. Soft, smoky fruits on the palate backed up with crisp acidity. Nice grainy edge to the tannins adds to the complexity of this good example of Brouilly. **Drink** 2015-2016 **Alc** 12.5% ➤

Highly Recommended (continued) 17-18.25pts (90-94pts)



**Clos de la Chapelle des Bois, Fleurie** 17 (90) AH 18 RM 15 XR 18

£13 Christopher Piper  
Layers of richness on the nose with complexity of dark fruits, spices and a hint of chocolate. Firm tannins, lovely dark fruit, spicy finish and well integrated acidity; this has great potential. **Drink** 2016-2018 **Alc** 13%



**Domaine de la Bouronière, Cuvée Prestige, Fleurie** 17 (90) AH 17 RM 17 XR 17

N/A UK +33 (0)4 74 69 82 13  
Attractive notes of red fruit with a hint of carbonic maceration but very well balanced. A rich-fruited palate with complexity, lithe tannins and fresh acidity. A restrained but classy example. **Drink** 2015-2017 **Alc** 12.5%



**Domaine des Marrans, Vieilles Vignes, Chiroubles** 17 (90) AH 17.5 RM 17 XR 16.5

£13 Christopher Piper  
Rich nose, with a weight of red cherry fruit, overlaid with attractive spice and plenty of underlying tannic grip. Full-bodied with extra complexity and very good balance of acidity and fruit ripeness. **Drink** 2015-2017 **Alc** 12.5%



**Domaine Labruyère, Cœur de Terroirs, Moulin-à-Vent** 17 (90) AH 17 RM 17 XR 17

£19.95 Corney & Barrow  
This has intriguingly complex traditional aromas, where there's a touch of old oak-influenced oxidation. It's the sort of cru Beaujolais that can be drunk now as well as being suitable for ageing. Elegant and aromatic. **Drink** 2016-2020 **Alc** 13%



**Jean Loron, Les Thibaults, Brouilly** 17 (90) AH 17 RM 17 XR 17

£10.99 Davy's, Hennings Wine, Vineyards of Sherborne  
Elegant and subtle red fruit with a strong mineral note, backed up and supported by mineral-laced tannins. The fresh acidity on the palate adds structure to this clean, pure, stylish wine, which is not yet fully revealed. **Drink** 2015-2019 **Alc** 12.5%

*'A great tasting, highlighting Gamay as a more serious grape than most of us give it credit for'*

Xavier Rousset MS

Recommended 15-16.75pts (83-89pts)

Wine	Score	AH	RM	XR	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Château du Moulin-à-Vent, Couvent des Thorins, Moulin-à-Vent	16.75 (89)	17.5	16	17	Juicy, forward cherry fruit aromas with a whiff of cinnamon spice. Fleshy, dark fruit flavours on palate, good freshness and crisp tannins; harmonious.	13%	2015-2017	£17	Berry Brothers & Rudd, Flint
Domaine Bertrand, Brouilly	16.75 (89)	16	18	16.5	There's a hint of lead pencil with a nicely underlying minerality to the dense red fruit too. Ripe tannins make for an easy drinking Brouilly.	12.5%	2015-2017	N/A UK	en.domainebertrand.fr
Domaine Chignard, Les Moriers, Fleurie	16.75 (89)	17	16	17	Spice and briar fruits on the nose, very harmonious. Soft redcurrant flavours with good concentration and a mineral edge. Complex finish. Should age well.	12.5%	2015-2016	£17	Field Morris & Verdin
Mommessin, Côte de Brouilly	16.75 (89)	17	18	15.5	Complex, savoury nose, red fruit. Granitic mineral characters on a structured palate, darker fruit notes. Walks a fine line between delicacy and meatiness.	12.5%	2015-2020	N/A UK	www.mommessin.com
Château du Chatelard, Terre de Lumière, Moulin-à-Vent	16.5 (88)	17	16	16.5	Light red fruit nose with a slightly crunchy redcurrant palate. Crisp acidity with nice weight and concentration. Pure, enjoyable style that's ready now.	13%	2015-2018	£14.33-£16.2	Cockburn & Campbell, Exel Wines
Château du Pavé, Brouilly	16.5 (88)	17	15.5	17	Elegant, good intensity on nose with dark fruits, hints of camphor. Crunchy black cherry, soft tannins and lively acidity. A polished example of Brouilly.	13%	2015-2016	£11.87	Christopher Piper
Château Gaillard, Moulin-à-Vent	16.5 (88)	16	16.5	17	Purity of raspberry fruit and floral exuberance on the nose. Expressive palate with vibrant acidity makes for easy drinking and a slightly earthy finish.	13%	2015-2022	N/A UK	www.chateaugaillard.com
Château Thivin, Cuvée la Chapelle, Côte de Brouilly	16.5 (88)	16.5	16	17	Rather subdued on the nose but with good weight of dark fruits on the palate. Juicy black fruit, graphite, a nicely structured wine for the appellation.	13%	2016-2020	£21-£23	Domaine Direct
Domaine Louis Claude Desvignes, La Voûte Saint-Vincent, Morgon	16.5 (88)	16	16.5	17	Red berry fruit nose with a delicate, mineral, silky palate with crisp acidity and raspberry flavours. Clean and pure with structure to age for several years.	13%	2015-2018	£15	Berry Bros & Rudd
Domaine Ruet, La Fontenelle, Chiroubles	16.5 (88)	17	17	15.5	Floral nose with hints of violets and red cherries. Fruit from mountain slopes, as found in Chiroubles, produces genuine aromatic intensity. Good length.	12.5%	2015-2018	N/A UK	www.ruet-beaujolais.fr
Laurent Gauthier, Grands Cras, Morgon	16.5 (88)	16	16	17.5	Perfumed nose of violets, soft and delicate texture with a good level of fruit. A structured wine par excellence but might need some time.	12.5%	2016-2022	£10-£15	Daniel Lambert Wines, Venus Wine Merchants
Vignerons de Bel Air, Été Indien, Brouilly	16.5 (88)	17	15.5	17	Vibrant nose, spices and herbal notes mingle with the red berry characters. The palate has good structure with soft yet grippy tannins and crunchy fruit.	13%	2015-2018	N/A UK	www.vignerons-belair.com
Château de la Terrière, Brouilly	16.25 (87)	17	16	15.5	Briary, blackcurrant leaf notes on the nose, spicy elements, crisp acidity allied with nice concentration and good length. Lacks a bit of tannin, but attractive.	13%	2015-2017	N/A UK	www.terroirs-et-talents.fr

Recommended 15-16.75pts (83-89pts)

Wine	Score	AH	RM	XR	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Château de Pierreux, La Réserve, Brouilly	16.25 (87)	16	17.5	15	Intense aromas of dark cherry fruits, touch of fruit cake and hints of marzipan. Complex aromas allied to a fresh palate, but lacks a bit of weight.	13%	2015-2019	£15.99	Beehive, Drinkmonger, Fine Wine Co, Peckham's, Philgas & Swigot, Valhalla's Goat, Wine Chambers, Wine Reserve
Château du Chatelard, Les Vieux Granits, Fleurie	16.25 (87)	15	17.5	16.5	Fresh, peppery nose with an immediate core of red fruit, backed up with underlying fine tannins and savoury minerals. Precise, with a tight structure.	13%	2015-2017	£13.73-£15.44	Cockburn & Campbell, Exel Wines
Château Grange Cochard, Les Charmes, Morgon	16.25 (87)	16	15.5	17	Modern, polished, very aromatic, coffee bean and violet notes. Crisp acidity, quite restrained on the palate, not overly hefty. Subtle wine with potential.	13%	2017-2022	£15	Berry Bros & Rudd, The Secret Cellar
Château Grange Cochard, Vieilles Vignes, Morgon	16.25 (87)	17	15.5	16	Ripe dark fruit aromas, blackberry and cherry. Very clean, good concentration but needs time to mellow out. A lovely ripeness with grippy tannins.	12.5%	2015-2020	£13	Berry Bros & Rudd, The Secret Cellar
Château Thivin, Cuvée Zaccarie, Côte de Brouilly	16.25 (87)	16	17	15.5	Crunchy fruit flavours combine with smoky, briary, leafy notes on the nose. Ripe supporting tannins and generous fruit on the palate: a modern style.	13%	2015-2020	£24.50-£26.50	Domaine Direct
Domaine Berrod, Les Roches du Vivier, Fleurie	16.25 (87)	16	16	17	Primary aromas of dark fruits, juicy, fresh and lively palate with briary edge. A lighter style of wine for the appellation, with a graphite edge.	13%	2015-	£14.12-£16	Alliance, Exel Wines
Domaine de Haute Molière, Fleurie	16.25 (87)	16.5	17	15.5	Greater intensity on nose, dark fruits and a hint of chocolate. Concentrated palate with attractively balanced, lengthy tannins. Savoury and complex.	12.5%	2015-2017	N/A UK	+33 (0)4 26 74 40 33
Domaine de la Pirolette, Saint Amour	16.25 (87)	16.5	15.5	16.5	Fresh red fruit nose that should open up with time. Soft, juicy palate with crisp acidity, nice weight and concentration. Attractive and very drinkable.	13%	2015-2016	N/A UK	+33 (0)3 85 37 13 82
Domaine des Marrans, Fleurie	16.25 (87)	16.5	16.5	15.5	Aromatic intensity with complexity from the ageing in foudres. Grippy palate, nice texture with red fruits and well managed tannins. A good food wine.	12.5%	2015-2019	£14	ABS
Domaine Labruyère, Le Clos, Moulin-à-Vent	16.25 (87)	17	15.5	16.5	A hint of savoury aromatic meatiness - this could be mistaken for a Syrah. Good density on the palate; polished, but concentrated and well balanced.	13%	2015-2022	£34.95	Corney & Barrow
Domaine Lagneau, Vieilles Vignes, Régnié	16.25 (87)	17	16.5	15.5	Earthy notes on nose, touch of forest floor and darker fruit characters. It's delicately styled with a bit of grip and underlying spice to back up the fruit.	13%	2015-2016	£11.25	Stone Vine & Sun
Domaine Rochette, Côte du Py, Morgon	16.25 (87)	16	17	16	Dusky, dark red fruit characters on the nose. Graphite on the palate, with strong, lengthy, firm tannins. This needs time but will evolve successfully.	13%	2016-2022	£13.75-£13.95	James Nicholson, Lea & Sandeman
Domaine Ruet, Voujon, Brouilly	16.25 (87)	16.5	15.5	17	A perfumed style of fruit with a touch of Turkish Delight. Fleshy palate with cleansing acidity and some complexity. Offers a lot of pleasure now.	12.5%	2015-2016	£14.95	Petter Watts
Laurent Perrachon, Les Versauds, Morgon	16.25 (87)	16.5	17.5	15	A rich, black cherry nose and some density of black cherry fruit flavours too. Fresh, crunchy fruit style with grippy tannin and a complex mineral aftertaste.	13%	2016-2022	£11.50-£16	Christopher Piper, Humble Grape
Paul Janin, Clos du Tremblay, Moulin-à-Vent	16.25 (87)	16	17.5	15	Sweet plums, liquorice and cherry aromas. The palate has good ripeness and fresh acidity with graphite tones that support the fruit. A serious style.	13%	2015-2022	£20-£22	Domaine Direct
Stéphane Aviron, Côte du Py, Morgon	16.25 (87)	16	17.5	15	Robust, quite intense nose with dark red fruit characters. Spicy black fruit flavours, serious tannic grip. An ageworthy style that demands bottle time.	12.5%	2016-2025	N/A UK	+33 (0)3 85 36 76 18
Stéphane Aviron, Vieilles Vignes, Côte de Brouilly	16.25 (87)	17	16.5	15.5	Elegant, complex aromas; lovely ripe red cherry fruits on the palate marry sweetness with crisp acidity. A crowd-pleaser with underpinning minerality.	12.5%	2015-2019	N/A UK	+33 (0)3 85 36 76 18
Château de la Chaize, Brouilly	16 (86)	16	17	15	The oak influence of maturation in large foudres is evident on the aromatics. Plenty of underlying fruit too, although it's very youthful and still quite brisk.	12.5%	2015-2019	POA	Top Selection
Château de Raousset, Douby, Morgon	16 (86)	17	15	16	Ripe and pure, refined dark fruits on the nose. Concentrated fruit palate enveloped in tannic structure, crisp acidity and a long, mineral aftertaste.	%	2016-2020	POA	Justerini & Brooks
Château Grange Cochard, Côte de Py, Morgon	16 (86)	15.5	16.5	16	A serious style with oak maturation evident on the nose. Sweet fruit with a juicy palate that needs a bit of time.	13%	2016-2020	£18	Berry Bros & Rudd, The Secret Cellar
Collin Bourisset, Des Hospices de Romaneche, Moulin-à-Vent	16 (86)	16.5	16.5	15	A delicate, immediately appealing, ripe nose with black and red cherry. An enjoyable and moreish style that should promise a gentle evolution.	13%	2015-2020	£8.33 (2011)	Underwood Wine Warehouse
Domaine de Bel-Air, Briante, Brouilly	16 (86)	16	17	15	Quite a ripe nose of attractive, savoury and rich red fruit. Palate has nice weight and reasonable concentration with fresh acidity to balance.	12.5%	2015-2018	£15.50	Earle Winse
Domaine de Sermezy, Brouilly	16 (86)	16	15	17	Vibrant, fresh redcurrant style of fruit on the nose. Pleasant, juicy fruit and violet, floral flavours with a smooth texture and liquorice finish.	12.5%	2015-2016	£11	Laytons
Domaine Labruyère, Le Carquelin, Moulin-à-Vent	16 (86)	15.5	16	16.5	Attractive nose, floral with ripe dark fruits evident. It's quite a simple and straightforward style, but clean and attractive as a result.	13%	2015-2017	£27.95	Corney & Barrow
Guénaël Jambon, Roches du Py, Côte du Py, Dame de la Côte, Morgon	16 (86)	17	15	16	Rich and powerful with spicy dark cherry notes on the nose. Crisp, chunky cherry character on the palate with a tannic grip and a mineral streak.	13%	2016-2018	POA	McKinley Vintners
Louis Jadot, Château des Jacques, Clos de Rochegrès, Moulin-à-Vent	16 (86)	17	15	16	Lithe, berry fruits on the nose, crunchy and crisp on the palate. Some good density with tannins that are a touch hard but not overdone.	13%	2016-2020	£25	Hatch Mansfield
Château de Bellevue, Les Charmes, Morgon	15.75 (85+)	17	16	14.5	Fresh, pepper-laden nose with complex dark fruits. Structured, tannic palate with concentration to promote ageing for many years. A granitic finish.	12.5%	2016-2018	£12.99	Hennings Wine Merchants, Oxford Wine Company
Château de Durette, Vieilles Vignes, Régnié	15.75 (85+)	16	15.5	16	There's an attractive, lightly spiced nose, with evident mineral-toned fruit. Medium body with nice crunch to the fruit. Not overly complex but well made.	13%	2015-2016	N/A UK	www.chateaudurette.eu
Château du Chatelard, Les Roches, Morgon	15.75 (85+)	15	16	16	A more reserved nose with a red fruit, summer pudding palate. Complex in style with nice balance between acid, fruit and tannins.	13%	2015-2018	£15	Cockburn & Campbell
Château Gaillard, Vieilles Vignes, Morgon	15.75 (85+)	15	15	17	Ripe fruits on the nose, attractive aromas with a hint of spice. Some austere mineral and tannic flavours with leafy red berries.	13%	2015-2019	N/A UK	www.chateaugaillard.com
Collin Bourisset, Brouilly	15.75 (85+)	15	16.5	15.5	Briary fruits with rustic edges. Underneath, there's classic pepper and spice, with the fruit lasting well on the finish too. An old-school style.	12.5%	2015-2020	N/A UK	www.collinbourisset.com
Domaine André Colonge et Fils, Fleurie	15.75 (85+)	16.5	16	14.5	Attractive nose, complex mix of dark fruits, spice and a hint of hedgerow. A more structured, tannic style of Fleurie, with beautiful length.	13%	2016-2023	£13.90-£18	Beaconsfield Wine Cellars, Tanners, The Wine Company

## Recommended 15–16.75pts (83–89pts)

Wine	Score	AH	RM	XR	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Domaine de la Combe au Loup, Morgon	15.75 (85+)	15.5	16.5	15.5	Elegant nose with soft, subtle dark fruit notes and attractive spicing. Complex and long, with tannins that are firm, vibrant fruit and hints of bitter chocolate.	12.5%	2015-2020	£13-£15	Daniel Lambert
Domaine de Leyre-Loup, Morgon	15.75 (85+)	15.5	16.5	15.5	Fresh nose, with a quite mineral, austere, youthful palate. Lots of spicy red fruit underneath the youthful tannins, but this clearly needs time.	12.5%	2016-2023	£18-£25	Bordeaux & Beyond
Domaine des Perelles, Cuvée Spéciale, Moulin-à-Vent	15.75 (85+)	15	15	17	A lighter, seemingly more muted style of Moulin-à-Vent. Tannins in particular are strong, astringent and grippy. Has potential but needs a bit of time.	13%	2015-2022	N/A UK	www.domainedesperelles.com
Domaine Dupré, Morgon	15.75 (85+)	16.5	15.5	15	A pure, scented, delicate style of Morgon, that doesn't lack minerality or fruit. Lovely structured palate: grip from ripe tannins, flesh from ripe fruits.	12.5%	2015-2022	N/A UK	www.jeanmichel-dupre.com
Domaine Richard Rottiers, Dernier Souffle, Moulin-à-Vent	15.75 (85+)	14.75	16	16.5	A full-fruited nose of Morello cherries, and a sour cherry fruit palate. Good texture with aromatic graphite notes; spicy, masculine style with fresh finish.	13%	2015-2023	N/A UK	www.domaine-richardrottiers.com
Domaine Richard Rottiers, Moulin-à-Vent	15.75 (85+)	15.5	15	17	Graphite-scented nose, quite open and with strawberry nuances. Spicy notes on the palate, peppery with good tannin structure and overall balance.	13%	2015-2023	£17.99	Frazier's
Dominique Piron, Côte du Py, Morgon	15.75 (85+)	16.5	16	14.5	Spice evident on the nose, bright, glossy red fruit characters and graphite. Well made with good concentration, if a bit too much extraction.	12.5%	2015-2022	£18-£20	Domaine Direct
Famille Dupond, Côtes de Nervers, Brouilly	15.75 (85+)	15	17	15.5	A fruit bomb with aromatic floral and graphite nuances. Concentrated with fresh acidity to balance the fruit, supported by ripe tannins. Simply enjoyable.	12.5%	2015-2017	N/A UK	www.terroirs-et-talents.fr
Henry Fessy, Morgon	15.75 (85+)	17	15	15.5	Medium-bodied with brisk acidity and clean, pure fruit flavours on the palate, married with touches of minerality on the finish.	12.5%	2016-2023	£10.99-£14.99	Exel Wines, oddbins.com, The Guildford Wine Co, winedirect.co.uk
Jean Loron, Les Sapolites, Fleurie	15.75 (85+)	17	15	15.5	Restrained nose with hints of forest floor; potential for further complexity to evolve. Fresh fruit and good acidity make for a youthful and attractive glass.	12.5%	2015-2020	£11.95	Davy's, Merchant Vintners
Jean-Paul Brun, Les Thorins, Moulin-à-Vent	15.75 (85+)	16	15.5	15.5	A peppered, complex, attractively fruit-cake style of Gamay, where there's some light, Pinot-esque qualities with good purity of fruit on finish.	13%	2016-2020	£16.50	OW Loeb
Jean-Paul Brun, Terres Dorées, Côte de Brouilly	15.75 (85+)	15.5	16.5	15	Lifted, floral bouquet with bright cherry fruits on the palate. This is a traditionalist's dream, well-made and immediately attractive. Enjoyable.	12.5%	2015-2020	POA	OW Loeb
Louis Jadot, Château des Jacques, Morgon	15.75 (85+)	16.5	15.5	15.5	Pinot Noir-like nose with lifted aromas and a grippy palate with lots of character. Good concentration throughout, with a streak of minerality.	13%	2017-2022	£16.15	Hatch Mansfield
Maison Trenal, Fleurie	15.75 (85+)	15	16	16.5	Ripe, full-fruited style with an element of fruit cake about it. Medium weight, with fair concentration of red fruits, but lacks a bit of density on the finish.	13%	2015-2020	£10.50	The Wine Society
Maison Trenal, Juliéas	15.75 (85+)	15	17	15	Ripe and full nose, with attractive, mineral red berry fruit in a crisp, fresh style. Supple tannins with nice length but lacks a bit of intensity.	13%	2015-2023	£9.95	The Wine Society
Manoir du Carra, Fleurie	15.75 (85+)	16.5	15.5	15	Good complexity on the nose, dark berry fruits in evidence. Palate is pure and poised, delicate red fruit and a slab of minerality. Will please many palates.	13%	2015-2018	£12.95	Bowland Forest Vintners, Carte Blanche, Experience Wine, Old Bridge Wines, Raffles, vin-est, Tasting Room, Vineking
Mommessin, Château de Pierreux, Brouilly	15.75 (85+)	15	15.5	17	Attractive and quite complex, spice-laden red fruit flavours with mineral freshness. Very precise and direct in the glass; classy.	12.5%	2015-2023	£15	Scarlet Wines
Patrick Tranchand, Poncié, Fleurie	15.75 (85+)	15.5	15	16.5	Restrained, classy nose with poised red fruit flavours. Perhaps lacks a bit of concentration but has balance of red fruits, grippy tannins and fresh acidity.	13%	2015-2018	N/A UK	+33 (0)6 87 07 51 25
Vignerons de Bel Air, Belairissime, Le Py, Morgon	15.75 (85+)	15	17	15	There's a really rich fruit nose here, ripe and complex. Ripe fruit on the palate, a little broad and one-dimensional but clean and pure.	13%	2015-2023	N/A UK	www.vignerons-belair.com
Château de Durette, Morgon	15.5 (85)	16	16.5	14	Rich and enveloping nose; rustic and earthy with dark fruits. Good concentration on the palate with soft berry fruits and a graphite finish.	13%	2015-2020	N/A UK	www.chateaudurette.eu
Château de Raoussset, Bel-Air, Chiroubles	15.5 (85)	15	15.5	16	Hints of rusticity on the nose with black pepper and a light red fruit palate. Well-structured with balanced acidity, if slightly coarse tannins.	13%	2015-2023	POA	Justerini & Brooks
Château de Raoussset, Grille Midi, Fleurie	15.5 (85)	14.75	17	14.5	Light nose with an immediate hit of bright red fruit that lasts in a deliciously soft style. Firm structure with brisk acidity; lacks a bit of complexity.	13%	2015-2018	£12.57	Exel Wines, Justerini & Brooks
Collin Bourisset, Fleurie	15.5 (85)	16.75	15.5	14.5	Restrained nose, though a serious style of Fleurie. A more muted, brooding, blacker style of fruit on the palate that needs time to blossom fully.	12.5%	2015-2020	£12.05 (2011)	Smithfield Wine
Domaine de la Bouronière, Cuvée Traditionnelle, Fleurie	15.5 (85)	16	15.75	14.5	Crunchy dark fruit flavours on palate with restrained aromatics. A hint of earthiness to the fruit comes out, suggesting it needs more time.	12.5%	2015-2020	N/A UK	+33 (0)4 74 69 82 13
Domaine de la Tour du Bief, Le Clos de la Tour, Moulin-à-Vent	15.5 (85)	16.5	15	15	Leafy, raspberry fruits on the nose; expressive and forward. A bit overwhelmed by oak but has good weight and ripeness.	13%	2016-2020	N/A UK	+33 (0)4 74 66 62 05
Domaine Pascal Aufranc, Probus, Juliéas	15.5 (85)	17	14	15.5	Intense, ripe and spicy with a good tannic backbone and balanced acidity. Built to age, though has a hint of bitterness on the finish.	12.5%	2015-2023	£10-£15	Daniel Lambert Wines
Domaine Ruet, Douby, Morgon	15.5 (85)	16.5	15.5	14.5	Dark fruits, spice and garrigue herbal notes. Ripe, vibrant red fruits with fresh acidity but greenish tannins. A grown-up Morgon, quite serious.	12.5%	2015-2019	N/A UK	www.ruet-beaujolais.fr
Gilbert Chetaille, Côte de Brouilly	15.5 (85)	15.5	14.5	16.5	Heightened nose with delicate raspberry fruit. Crisp red fruits on the palate, lacks a little density but still a refined and well made wine.	13%	2015-2023	£11.55	Haynes Hanson & Clark
Jean-Paul Brun, Terres Dorées, Morgon	15.5 (85)	16.5	16	14	Very Pinot Noir-like on the nose. Elegant structure, good balance of tannins, acid and red berry fruits; subdued but persistent.	12.5%	2015-2022	£12.99	OW Loeb
Maison Jean Loron, Xavier & Nicolas Barbet, Moulin-à-Vent	15.5 (85)	16.5	15.5	14.5	This is a gentle, quite light, slightly drying and traditional style with crunchy acidity and ripe tannins. However, there's a soft appeal to it.	13%	2016-2018	£12.99-£13.99	Hennings Wine, Vineyards of Sherborne
Société des Vins de Pizay, Cuvée Geoffray, Brouilly	15.5 (85)	16	16.5	14	A complex, lightly spiced red fruit nose, with a more mineral, quite complex and tannic palate. Crunchy with a fresh finish.	13%	2015-2019	£13-£14	Red Squirrel Wine
Thibault Liger-Belair, Les Vieilles Vignes, Moulin-à-Vent	15.5 (85)	16	15.5	15	Dark cherry and raspberry fruits on the nose with slightly grainy tannins on the palate. Medium body, balanced concentration and extract.	13%	2016-2022	£21.50	Farthinghoe Fine Wine

## Recommended (continued) 15–16.75pts (83–89pts)

Wine	Score	AH	RM	XR	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Cave de Fleurie, Présidente Marguerite, Subtil, Fleurie	15.25 (84)	17	14	14.5	Restrained nose but promising lots to come. Dark cherry fruits with a hint of violet. Good concentration, purity of fruit, soft tannins and balanced acidity.	13%	2015-2020	£14.99 (2012)	Old Butcher's Wine Cellar
Cave de Fleurie, Fleurie	15.25 (84)	16	13.5	16	Less overtly fruity on nose, rather more briary and woody notes prevail. Nice balance between fruit texture and acidity with slightly grippy tannins.	13%	2015-2023	£10.99-£12.50	Bibendum, Cambridge Wine Merchants, Hawkshead Wines, Oddbins, Sturp
Chanson, Bastion de L'Oratoire, Fleurie	15.25 (84)	15.5	14	16	Attractive nose, vibrant red fruits, hint of forest floor. Quite a serious style on the palate with grippy tannins and a mineral edge.	13%	2015-2023	£12.99	Majestic
Château de Durette, Moulin-à-Vent	15.25 (84)	16	14.5	15	Almost a floral edge to the aromas, ripe red fruit notes, touch of pear drop on the edge. Fresh acidity with semi-carbonic maceration and some complexity.	13%	2015-2019	N/A UK	www.chateaudurette.eu
Château de La Bottière, Juliéas	15.25 (84)	15.5	15.5	15	Lovely cherry-fruited nose and quite a dense palate as well. Shows brisk acidity with a refined and focused style. A bit four-square but balanced.	13%	2015-2023	£16	Christopher Piper, Humble Grape
Château de la Terrière, Cuvée de la Lure, Moulin-à-Vent	15.25 (84)	16	15	14.5	Oak and cherry with smoky bacon aromas. Good concentration on the palate. Nice tannic grip with crunchy acidity on the palate.	13%	2016-2021	N/A UK	www.terroirs-et-talents.fr
Château du Basti, Régnié	15.25 (84)	16	16	14	Sour, Morello cherry fruit palate with nice weight and ripe fruits to complement the fresh acidity. Attractive style for early drinking.	13%	2015-2020	N/A UK	www.chateaubasty.com
Château du Moulin-à-Vent, Les Terrasses du Château, Moulin-à-Vent	15.25 (84)	15.5	14.5	16	Spicy, herbal notes on the nose with fresh red fruits. Not a heavyweight wine but has some concentration and is well-structured.	13%	2016-2019	N/A UK	www.chateaudumoulinavent.com
Château du Moulin-à-Vent, Moulin-à-Vent	15.25 (84)	15.5	15.5	15	Slightly baked red fruits with sawdust aromas. Crisp palate with crunchy red cherry fruits and some grippy tannins. Needs time to mellow.	13%	2015-2022	£20	Flint, The Wine Society
Coudert Père et Fils, Clos de la Roilette, Fleurie	15.25 (84)	16.5	14.5	15	This is on the more delicate side for Fleurie, with a soft and fresh palate and a rosette-tinged minerality. Enjoy while young and fresh.	13%	2015-2017	£12.95-£18	Butler's Wine Cellar, Harvey Nichols, Lea & Sandeman, The Wine Company, Taurus Wines
Dépagneux, La Madone, Fleurie	15.25 (84)	15.75	15.5	14.5	A brooding intensity to the nose, but a lighter style of fruit flavour, that has a creamy, raspberry ripple note. Lacks some concentration but rewarding now.	12.5%	2015-2018	N/A UK	+33 (0) 385238350
Domaine Baron de l'Ecluse, Les Garances, Côte de Brouilly	15.25 (84)	16	14	15.5	Sweet oak making for a polished wine; it has enough ripeness to handle it but not sure it is very reflective of the appellation.	13%	2015-2018	£14.40	Pierre Hourlier
Domaine de Gry-Sablou, Vieilles Vignes, Fleurie	15.25 (84)	15	15	16	Obvious notes on nose suggest partial carbonic maceration, but the red fruit palate is more delicate and poised. Not complex but a real crowd-pleaser.	12.5%	2015-2020	£14.95-£15.99	Widely available via UK agent Liberty Wines
Domaine de la Tour du Bief, Moulin-à-Vent	15.25 (84)	15.5	16	14.5	A clear aroma of black cherry yoghurt with some rusticity. Medium weight with evident tannins and crisp acid to finish.	13%	2015-2022	N/A UK	+33 (0)4 74 66 62 05
Domaine de Roche Guillon, Fleurie	15.25 (84)	14	16	16	Slightly pungent nose of raspberry and a palate of red fruits and a mineral edge. Leaves you with an elegant, spicy finish.	13%	2015-2025	£14-£17	Butler's Wine Cellar, Taurus Wine, Wine Utopia
Domaine de Sermezy, Fleurie	15.25 (84)	15	15	16	A delicious complex nose that's fruity and spicy in one, with some light raspberry flavours to the palate. Pleasurable, if not overly complex.	12.5%	2015-2025	£11.95	Laytons
Domaine Metrat et Fils, La Roilette, Fleurie	15.25 (84)	16	15	15	There's a hint of earthy volatility to the aromas, with a savoury, tannic fruit core. Good concentration and may evolve nicely with 12 months in bottle.	13%	2015-2019	£16.50	Berry Bros & Rudd, Constantine Bay Stores
Laurent Martray, Les Feuillées, Côte de Brouilly	15.25 (84)	15	15	15.5	Floral aromas, and lighter on the nose than the palate. Soft, easy red fruit flavours with a slight green note. Decent to drink now.	12.5%	2015-2020	£14.95	Lea & Sandeman
Manoir du Carra, Les Bottières, Juliéas	15.25 (84)	16	15	14.5	Rather rustic notes on the nose, wild dark fruit character. There are strong lead-pencil mineral elements showing, with dark cherry and a brisk finish.	13%	2016-2020	£13.95	Cambridge Wine Merchants, Carte Blanche, Define Food & Wine, Leamington Wine Co, Raffles, The Vineking
Manoir du Carra, Terre de Combiaty, Brouilly	15.25 (84)	16	15	14.5	Savoury, almost charcuterie-style aromas, with that same savouriness continuing through to the fruit flavours. Soft tannins are in balance.	13%	2015-2017	£13-£14	Cambridge Wine Merchants, Carte Blanche, Leamington Wine Co, Raffles, The Vineking
Mommessin, Le Charmes, Morgon	15.25 (84)	16	14.5	15	Nose shows intense red fruits, almost with a hint of over-ripeness. Redcurrants on the palate, mineral undertones and a bit too much oak.	13%	2016-2020	N/A UK	www.mommessin.com
Château de Corcelles, Brouilly	15 (83)	14.5	15	15.5	Redcurrant fruit characters on nose and palate. Crisp acidity, not overly complex. Pure and fresh, making it good for early drinking.	12.5%	2015-2020	£12-£20	Matthew Clark
Château de Javernand, Vieilles Vignes, Chiroubles	15 (83)	17	14	14	Interesting notes of cinnamon and spice on the nose. In fact, this is more mineral than fruit, with velvet tannins and a touch of tartness.	12.5%	2015-2018	N/A UK	www.javernand.com
Domaine Alain Michaud, Brouilly	15 (83)	15	15	15	Attractive, simple, juicy and fresh aromas on the nose. Uncomplicated palate but with nice ripeness, flesh and good crisp acidity to finish.	13%	2015-2023	£16	Berry Bros & Rudd
Domaine de la Chapelle des Bois, Vieille Vigne de la Cadole, Fleurie	15 (83)	16.5	14.5	14	Good complexity on the nose with dark fruits allied with forest floor characters. Grippy tannins, fresh acidity, hint of oak.	13%	2015-2020	POA	Stone Vine & Sun
Domaine Demiane, Brouilly	15 (83)	15	15	15	Restrained nose at first but with some warm, camphor-like aromas emerging from the glass. Quite mineral with some depth and concentration.	12.5%	2015-2020	£11.25	EWGA, Heritage Wine, Scatchards, Winetime
Domaine Dupré, Le Griottier, Morgon	15 (83)	15	15	15	Good density on the palate with fiery tannins and soft fruit flavours. Lacks a bit of elegance and concentration.	11.5%	2015-2021	N/A UK	www.jeanmichel-dupre.com
Domaine Gérard Charvet, La Réserve d'Amélie, Moulin-à-Vent	15 (83)	14	15	16	Juicy, upfront and forward ripe fruits on the nose. Has some good minerality on the palate, but lacks a little by way of fruit.	13%	2015-2019	£10-£15	Daniel Lambert
Domaine Les Fines Graves, Moulin-à-Vent	15 (83)	14.5	14.5	16	Red fruits on the nose, good ripeness on the palate but lacks a bit of density and complexity. Has some good potential.	13%	2015-2018	£14.30	Tanners
Domaine Richard Rottiers, Champ de Cour, Moulin-à-Vent	15 (83)	16.5	15.5	13	Weighty, with nice dark fruit concentration on the palate. A touch too extracted, but has ripe tannins and fresh acidity.	13%	2015-2022	£19.99-£22.30	Gauntley's, Wine Man
Domaine Rochette, Régnié	15 (83)	15	14.5	15.5	Beautifully fresh, peppery aromas with soft, easy fruit character on the palate. Nice weight of fruit with ripeness and fair acidity.	13%	2015-2023	£12.50	Lea & Sandeman
Domaine Thillardon, Les Carrières, Chénas	15 (83)	16	15	14	There's plenty of fruit aroma here and a light palate of fresh red fruit. Good minerality with freshness and good acidity.	12.5%	2015-2018	£16.19	Christopher Piper

Recommended (continued) 15–16.75pts (83–89pts)

Wine	Score	AH	RM	XR	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Guénaël Jambon, Dom des Roches du Py, Côte du Py Réserve, Morgon	15 (83)	16	14	15	Deep purple core, quite chunky, tannic and four-square at the moment. Will settle down over the next year or two.	13%	2015-2022	£17	Carruthers & Kent, McKinley Vintners
Guénaël Jambon, Domaine des Roches du Py, Fleurie	15 (83)	16	16	13	Complex aromas of dark fruits, touch of forest floor and a hint of floor polish. A heap of minerality and attractively balanced tannic intensity too.	13%	2015-2020	£17	Carruthers & Kent, McKinley Vintners
Henry Fessy, Fleurie	15 (83)	16.75	14	14	Fragrant, interesting balance of red fruits with a floral edge. Soft, juicy and attractive, with fresh acidity to balance good concentration of ripe fruits.	12.5%	2015-2018	£13.49-£15.49	amazon.co.uk, Exel Wines, oddbins.com, TJ Wines
Louis Jadot, Château des Jacques, Moulin-à-Vent	15 (83)	15	15	15	Complex aromas of crunchy red berry fruits on the nose. Evident oak on the soft, ripe palate. Needs a bit more concentration.	13%	2015-2018	£16	Hatch Mansfield
Mommessin, Côte du Py, Morgon	15 (83)	15	15	15	Upfront, hint of forest floor notes on the nose, quite light on the palate with soft red fruits.	12.5%	2015-2022	N/A UK	www.mommessin.com
P. Ferraud & Fils, Le Reposoir, Fleurie	15 (83)	15.5	15	14.5	Good colour, crisp fruit characters in the glass, fresh acidity, not overly complex but displays loads of crunchy dark berry fruits.	12.5%	2015-2017	£12.99	Alexander Wines
P. Ferraud & Fils, Les Charmes, Morgon	15 (83)	15	15	15	Slightly under-ripe redcurrants and raspberries, but soft and easy-going.	13%	2015-2020	£12.65	Alexander Wines
Pierre-Marie Chermette, Domaine du Vissoux, Poncié, Fleurie	15 (83)	15.75	15	14	Slightly higher toned notes on the nose, red fruits, touch of spice. It's balanced between fruit, acidity and tannins, yet retains a little hardness.	12.5%	2015-2018	£14.95-£17.95	Carruthers & Kent, Enotria, Exel, Great Western Wine, Hawkshead, Pall Mall Wines, Slurp, The Wine Cellar, Villeneuve
Stéphane Aviron, Domaine de la Madrière, Fleurie	15 (83)	14.5	16	14.5	A ripe, dark cherry nose, with some sour cherry fruit flavours. Palate has medium concentration but is a classic example of the appellation.	12.5%	2015-2020	N/A UK	+33 (0)3 85 36 76 18
Thibault Liger-Belair, La Roche, Moulin-à-Vent	15 (83)	15.5	15	14.5	Pungent aromas of wet earth, dark fruits with a meaty edge. Powerful, visceral palate; not for the faint-hearted.	N/A	2016-2020	£26-£28.95	Berry Bros & Rudd, Flint, Lea & Sandeman, OW Loeb

**Fair** 13-14.75pts (76-82pts)  
 ■ Château de Saint Lager, Brouilly 14.75 (82)  
 ■ Château du Basti, Morgon 14.75 (82) ■ Domaine André Colonge et Fils, Gorge de Loup, Brouilly 14.75 (82) ■ Domaine de Bel-Air, Granits Roses, Fleurie 14.75 (82) ■ Domaine de la Combe au Loup, Chiroubles 14.75 (82) ■ Domaine des Chaffageons, La Madone, Fleurie 14.75 (82) ■ Domaine les Roches Bleues, Le Cru du Volcan, Brouilly 14.75 (82) ■ Georges Duboeuf, Flower Label, Fleurie 14.75 (82) ■ Henry Fessy, Brouilly 14.75 (82) ■ Maison Trelen, Cote de Brouilly 14.75 (82)

■ P. Ferraud & Fils, Les Ravinets, Juliéas 14.75 (82)  
 ■ Patrice Barraud, Fleurie 14.75 (82) ■ Ropiteau, Fleurie 14.75 (82) ■ Thibault Liger-Belair, Les Rouchaux, Moulin-à-Vent 14.75 (82) ■ Château Chassantour, Régnié 14.5 (81) ■ Domaine Dufour, Moulin-à-Vent 14.5 (81) ■ Domaine Yohan Lardy, Les Michelons, Moulin-à-Vent 14.5 (81) ■ Paul Janin, Les Vignes du Tremblay, Moulin-à-Vent 14.5 (81) ■ Domaine de la Chapelle des Bois, Grand Pré, Fleurie 14.25 (80+) ■ Christophe Pacalet, Fleurie 14 (80) ■ Domaine Bertrand, Pisse-Vieille, Brouilly 13.5 (78)

**Faulty**  
 ■ Domaine Bertrand, Les Déduits, Fleurie (Corked)

For full UK stockist details, see p89

Next month's panel tastings  
 Dolcetto d'Alba and white Rhône

Expert summary: James Lawther MW

Recent talk of a renewed energy among the Beaujolais crus has been borne out in this well-subscribed tasting, and reflected in the number of high-scoring wines



James Lawther MW is a Decanter contributing editor, author, lecturer and tour guide

HIGHLY ENCOURAGING RESULTS. A haul of three Outstanding, 14 Highly Recommended and a plethora of Recommended is not bad, and proves that the crus have far more to offer than simple Beaujolais Nouveau. In the context of the vintage it is also a satisfying result, given that 2013 produced wines that were fresh and structured but less obviously seductive than 2009, 2011 or 2014.

Individually, the big surprise was the Outstanding achievement of the Domaine Piron-Lameloise Quartz Chénas: a winner from Beaujolais' smallest cru (only two entries in the tasting) is an eye-opener. Chénas has a great terroir and is one of the crus partially forgotten in the mad rush to produce Nouveau. The other wines rated Outstanding reveal the size (tiny) and venerable age of a large percentage of vineyards in the crus.

The Highly Recommended selection is unsurprisingly dominated by wines from the larger and better known crus, namely Brouilly, Fleurie and Morgon. Brouilly is represented by three solid producers and as Fleurie and Morgon are leading the quality charge in the region it is good to see they figure prominently and that a leading producer like Jean-Marc Burgaud is rewarded.

The other major cru where there is considerable

change is Moulin-à-Vent. Two Highly Recommended wines could be considered slightly under par but these are wines that are made for ageing and they can be shy early on. A name to remember, though, is Domaine Labruyère (same ownership as Jacques Prieur in Burgundy and Château Rouget in Pomerol), which has seen consistent improvement since 2008. Another is Château du Moulin-à-Vent, which has been under new ownership since 2009 and narrowly missed a top spot.

The larger crus again figure heavily among the Recommended wines. In terms of entries (only four) and results, perhaps the biggest disappointment was Juliéas – a sizeable cru with a fabulous terroir (blue stone schist) that can produce superb, deep coloured, mineral wines and deserves to be better known. Maison Trelen (now owned by Chapoutier) and young Pascal Aufranc do a good job, but the numbers need to swell. ■

*'The Outstanding wines reveal the size (tiny) and venerable age of many vineyards in the crus'*

My top three

Andy Howard MW

■ Raymond Bouland, Cuvée des Délys, Vieilles Vignes, Morgon 2013

Morgon's blue-tinged granite soils and decomposed schist give wines great structure and ageability. This wine really stood out for its balance, purity and great potential. Old vines clearly played a part in the lovely concentration on show. **19/20 (96/100) Drink 2015-2019**

■ Jean-Marc Burgaud, Côte du Py, Morgon 2013 This wine showed all the expected characteristics imparted by the volcanic/granitic soils of the revered Côte du Py, together with finesse from fine exposure on the slopes of this famous hill. Brooding now, but will be exceptional in 2-3 years. **18 (93) Drink 2016-2020**

■ Domaine des Marrans, Vieilles Vignes, Chiroubles 2013 The higher elevations result in later ripening and wines with a lightness of touch, velvety textures and a floral edge. The old vines enhanced the complexity of this elegant example. **17.5 (91) Drink 2015-2017**

My top three

Rob MacCulloch MW

■ Domaine Lagneau, Vieilles Vignes, Côte de Brouilly 2013

Encapsulates the effortless deliciousness produced by some tiny Beaujolais domaines. Beautiful, harmonious, complex wine that really does reflect the mineral qualities of Mont Brouilly's sun-scorched granite slopes. **18.5/20 (95/100) Drink 2015-2020**

■ Raymond Bouland, Cuvée des Délys, Vieilles Vignes, Morgon 2013 Triumphantly bright, fresh, nuanced and very capable of a few years' ageing. For just £13, this is mind-bogglingly brilliant. **18.5 (95) Drink 2015-2019**

■ Jean Loron, Les Thibaults, Brouilly 2013 Négociants often provide the only real outlet for many Beaujolais growers, so they can't be dismissed, particularly when their wines are as consistent as Loron's. This is a stylish, complex Brouilly for only £11. **17 (90) Drink 2015-2018**

My top three

Xavier Rousset MS

■ Raymond Bouland, Cuvée des Délys, Vieilles Vignes, Morgon 2013

A great discovery for me – very impressed by the finesse and elegance of this wine. Not a producer I have come across in the past, but one I will watch from now on. **19/20 (96/100) Drink 2015-2019**

■ Chateau du Moulin-à-Vent, Couvent des Thorins, Moulin-à-Vent 2013 A domaine I've been following over the last 4-5 years. Improving fast, good investment being made, dedicated to quality, thanks to a dynamic family behind it. **17 (90) Drink 2015-2017**

■ Domaine Chignard, Les Moriers, Fleurie 2013 Having visited this producer a few years ago, I was delighted to see it in the top 25 of the 158 wines we tasted. This cuvée has character, minerality and enough tannin structure and fruit to age for a few years if kept in the right conditions. **17 (90) Drink 2015-2016**

NB: the tasters' top wines are not necessarily their top-scoring, rather those which, on learning the wines' identity, they feel are the most notable given their provenance, price or other factors



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**BARON DE L'ÉCLUSE**  
*Les Garances*  
**CÔTE-DE-BROUILLY**

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