

« AUX MALCONSORTS-CHRISTIANE » 1^{ER} CRU DE VOSNE ROMANEE 2014

Domaine de Montille

COLOR:	Rouge
GRAPE VARIETY:	Pinot noir
VINTAGE:	2014
SURFACE AREA:	0.49 Hectare
PRODUCTION :	170 caisses (12 x 750ml)
% WHOLE GRAPES:	100%
% NEW BARRELS:	60%
ALCOHOL :	13% VOL
PH :	3.54



The appellation

The second parcel (0.49 hectare) is vinified and bottled separately under the name "Aux Malconsorts - Christiane", in honor of Hubert's wife and Alix's and Etienne's mother, who passed in 2008 and had done so much for the Domaine. This parcel has a unique positioning.

It sits across a path that separates it from the rest of "Les Malconsorts", and it is an enclave nestled against the north and west borders of "La Tâche", a part called "the original". To the south and east are other paths (see map). It should be noted that despite its unique geographic situation and its special placement on the vineyard maps, this parcel is not part of, nor has it historically been part of, the "La Tâche" vineyard.

The wines from this parcel are a different "Les Malconsorts" as tasting have proved. This wine's nose focuses on black fruit (black currants and black cherries) and is even spicier and more mineral. The mouthfeel is fuller and more vinous yet with a stricter tannic frame. The palate is mineral and serious, showing more depth and amplexness, and one can see behind this its superior aging potential. Often more reserved than its twin brother, it pays to be patient.

The wines, the style

Domaine de Montille is known to craft wines with great aromatic purity, always favoring balance and elegance over power and extraction. The wines are classic expressions of Burgundy, produced in the most natural way possible and possessing an impressive ability to age, as the family believes only time can reveal the true potential of the greatest wines. The domaine's current style remains faithful to Hubert's natural and idealistic approach, which demanded considerable patience while waiting for appropriate drinking windows for certain vintages. Etienne, however, has taken up the task to bring greater aromatic expression and silkier and more unctuous textures to the reds, allowing them to drink earlier, without compromising their ability to age. The domaine is known in Burgundy, among others such as Arlot, DRC, Dujac and Leroy, to regularly vinify using a significant proportion of whole clusters, varying by cuvée and by vintage.

Tending the Vines

The Domaine has practiced organic viticulture since 1995. Today, our wines are certified by Ecocert. Additionally, since 2005, biodynamic practices have been implemented to show our full respect for these living soils.

The vintage

Everything started smoothly with a warm and dry spring. Thanks to an early bud-break, the vines were a few weeks ahead of our usual schedule. Then, for the third year in a row, it arrived, hail, on June 28th 2014. Once again Volnay, Pommard, Beaune and Meursault were the most badly hit villages, with variable losses between blocks but a 50% average.

Characteristically, the vines entered a period of dormancy and healing that spanned two to three weeks, thus losing its vegetative head start. The cool summer did nothing to improve that but August and early September's ideal conditions gave us the serenity to begin harvest on September 12th. Low yields, dry conditions and a relative homogeneity of the bunches allowed us to pick everything in a little more than a week.

The early bud break and cool summer resulting in a relatively late harvest - compared to the recent past - allowed for a slow maturation of the berries and gave us an exceptional white vintage. Wines with tension, complexity and intensity of aromas are undoubtedly establishing 2014 amongst the very best Burgundian vintages.

Unlike 2013, light and fruit-forward, 2014 is a structured vintage. Despite a cool growing season, wines show good maturity and a pleasant flesh. The northern wind that blew toward the end of the season allowed for healthy fruits, favouring the whole cluster vinification that is the heart of our philosophy.

Tasting notes

Here the expressive and elegant nose is similar but even spicier. The sleek and even more well-defined flavors possess a superb sense of underlying tension that adds a gorgeous touch of vibrancy and lift to the intensely mineral-driven finish that is slightly less austere and a bit more harmonious than the regular cuvée. To be sure this is a classic Malconsorts in that it is robust and bold but in this particular case there is a lovely element of refinement as well. Refinement or not however this too is explicitly built-to-age and it would be a shame to open this before it has at least a decade of age under its belt.

Score: 92-95 Tasted: Apr 15, 2016 Drink: 2029+ Issue: 62 Outstanding

Allen Meadows - Burghound