



ARMIT WINES

BURGUNDY 2018

CELLAR PLANS





Navigating Burgundy can be a strenuous endeavour. Even the most seasoned wine buyer can pale when confronted by the patchwork of villages, appellations, terroirs and myriad of domaines in this ancient wine region. Over the last three decades, Armit Wines has had the privilege of building long-term relationships with many of these growers, whilst always keeping an eye open for exciting new wines from young and talented winemakers. From this 2018 vintage release, and following our annual Burgundy trip in November, the Armit Fine Wine team has decided to further guide our valued customers, and make the journey of collecting these thrilling wines a little easier.

Our Burgundy Cellar Plan is a project that comprises five themed parcels, providing a wide breadth of choice from which to begin your cellar. From a ready-to-drink cellar consisting of lively, vibrant village wines, to more complex cellars made up of magnificent Premiers Crus and Grands Crus from the most esteemed producers.

We strongly believe 2018 to be an impressive vintage in the making and the perfect opportunity to approach this truly remarkable wine region.

Quantities, however, are limited, and we encourage you to contact us as soon as possible to confirm your preferred selection.

If you wish to discuss any cellar plan or request alternatives, please contact us at clients@armitwines.co.uk.

Our team will be happy to walk you through our offering and provide more details on any of the wines. We very much look forward to hearing from you!

BURGUNDY 2018 - VINTAGE REPORT

For Armit Wines, mid-October was the time to head off to Burgundy to assess the potential of the 2018 vintage. Having tasted a preview back in April, we were impatient to see the evolution throughout the maturation process. During three intense weeks, we visited many excited growers! All of them were enthusiastic about 2018 and happy to explain the complexity and the challenges of a real “winemaker vintage”.

Twenty eighteen started with an extremely wet winter. With the exception of the month of February, it rained every two days. The soils were waterlogged until mid-April and the risk of mildew was very high. Nevertheless, the rain was to be providential, as the rest of the growing season was almost totally dry, with sporadic showers at the end of May and the occasional summer storm in July.

Then, from end of May, temperatures increased substantially and a hot, dry June helped with flowering. According to Laurent Martelet at Domaine Comtesse de Chérissey, the pollination was very high. In an average year and without coulure, a vine will lose 50 to 60% of its flowers. Interestingly this did not happen in 2018, so the vines were able to generate a lot of berries and sustain a high yield, particularly for Chardonnay.

Twenty eighteen was the warmest year on record in Burgundy. Across appellations temperatures and hours of sunshine were, on average, higher than normal. Vineyards suffered from drought and hydric stress. Summer hailstorms were particularly destructive in the Cotes de Nuits: Nuits St Georges was hit in mid-June and in mid-July, and a producer like Domaine Millot lost 40% of their harvest as a consequence.

In Chablis, temperatures were 1.5°C higher in August and 2°C above average in the Cote de Beaune. The vines managed to adapt well to these extreme conditions, thanks to some cooler nights, which helped enormously with preserving freshness in the fruit.

But the real success of this vintage was determined by the timing of harvest and the intervention and savoir fair of the winegrowers. As we have become accustomed in the last few years, the date of picking is increasingly a key success factor for any Domaine. Producers now are looking at preserving acidity, knowing that the alcohol levels and phenolic ripeness will be there due to the warmer climate. However, freshness and tension are key aspects in determining the ageing potential and drinkability of their wines. Viticulture was important, with many growers adapting their techniques in order to protect the grapes from sunburn, avoiding the feared overconcentration of sugars.

For white wines, harvest stretched from the 25th of August for Domaine de Montille and Domaine Leflaive (26th), up to the 3rd of September for Sabine Mollard at Domaine Marc Morey as well as Domaine William Fevre in Chablis. For two of our growers, Domaine Comtesse de Cherisey and Domaine Hubert Lamy, harvest came as early as the 23rd of August. Olivier Lamy even mentioned that he had to harvest in “tries” (different passages - like in Sauterne) as the ripeness of his different vineyards was completely un-even. He decided when to pick based on the different rootstocks, massale selection versus clonal selection and of course, soils and terroir. The picking window was very short, so in order to avoid over ripeness, producers needed to be fast and efficient. The result is outstanding.

We were charmed by the overall quality of this vintage and amazed by the freshness and acidity that growers managed to retain. They have clearly mastered warm and solar years. All the producers we visited released wines of balance and grace, tension and minerality. Appellations that were particularly endearing are Meursault, Puligny and Saint Aubin. The wines have the flamboyance of youth: charming, open and captivating. They will not have the precision of 2017 but they have superb consistency and if the yields were not too limited they will age gracefully.

Reds in 2018 are already a subject of discussion and praise, but again, growers needed to be careful as Pinot Noir's alcohol levels tend to rise very quickly. This beloved variety suffered more than Chardonnay in term of yields, so demand will be high, and accessibility will be very limited. As for the whites, picking day for the reds was one of the key factors for success. Harvest spanned from the 31st of August at Domaine Rebourgeon -Muré to the 7th of September for Nicolas Potel.

The earlier the growers picked, the better chance they had to keep the level of acidity high, the precision of fruit and the balance between freshness, density and silky tannins. One of the producers we visited, Christophe Roumier, who harvested on the 5th September, found it challenging to determine the date for his harvest, stating that the phenolic maturity versus the alcohol level window was becoming shorter and shorter. His Chambolle Musigny Les Cras 1er Cru reached 14.2% of alcohol, the highest in his career. Christophe was somewhat concerned about alcohol levels, as he found that certain appellations lost at least part of their identity due to rising alcohol, particularly Chambolle. On the other hand, some were more fit to welcome the heat, like Morey-St-Denis or Vosne-Romanée.

A trend we encountered on our visits, is the increasing usage of whole bunch fermentation. Winemakers use this technique to potentially increase the Ph, allowing the development of a distinctive floral and crunchy red fruit character in the wine. The skin of the Pinot Noir was particularly thick in 2018, so pigeage and extraction techniques were kept to a minimum in order to preserve the elegance of this noble grape variety.

In general, the reds are very alluring, expressive and distinguished. Tannins are silky and integrated, and on the palate precise and fresh, with a real sense of harmony. Appellations like Gevrey-Chambertin, where Romain Taupenot produced one of the best wines of his career, are our highlight for 2018. Volnay and Pommard cannot be forgotten, particularly at Domaine de Montille where the quality of 2018 is without dispute. In 2018 Pinot Noirs were made for ageing, having enough balance and precision to gracefully last for decades. Interestingly though we think they will be accessible early, particularly at village level. A vintage which without a doubt will provide drinking pleasure at all levels.

Prices will remain stable or have a small increase compared to 2017. The top appellations from the high-profile estates will be difficult to secure as usual, but we are very proud to offer several newcomers such as Domaine Trapet-Rochelandet, Domaine Rebourgeon-Muré and Domaine Bart. At each of these Domaines the younger generation has taken over their family property and released superb wines in 2018. They are the future of Burgundy and we advise you take the time to taste and discover their range today.

Nicolas Clerc MS

(Burgundy buyer)



THE ‘CLIMATS’ OF BURGUNDY

RED SELECTION				
2018	Marsannay 'Longeroies'	Bart	6x75cl	£110.00
2018	Bourgogne Rouge	Montille	12x75cl	£210.00
2018	Gevrey-Chambertin	Benjamin Leroux	6x75cl	£195.00
2018	Vosne-Romanée	Verdet	6x75cl	£275.00
WHITE SELECTION				
2018	Chablis Village	Fevre	6x75cl	£85.00
2018	Saint Romain	Maison De Montille	12x75cl	£245.00
2018	Bourgogne Blanc	Leflaive	6x75cl	£255.00
2018	Meursault 'Les Clousots'	Patrick Javillier	6x75cl	£250.00
Cellar total : £ 1,625				
Bottles in cellar : 60 bottles				
Potential drinking window : 4-6 years				

This cellar represents an excellent introduction to the region and its sub-appellations, expressing the unique micro-climates and complex soils of Burgundy.

The red selection includes village wines from a handful of our favourite producers, all which capture the finesse and poise of Pinot Noir: from a vibrant, crunchy Marsannay to a deeply coloured Vosne-Romanée, there is plenty of drinking pleasure to be had without the need for years in the cellar.

The cellar also includes a quartet of delicious Chardonnays. The versatility of this noble grape is in great show – from a wonderfully zingy Chablis from historic producer William Fevre, to the rich, concentrated Meursault ‘Les Clousots’ from Javillier.

THE KING OF WHITES

WHITE SELECTION				
2018	Bourgogne Côte d'Or 'Cuvée Oligocène'	Patrick Javillier	6x75cl	£110.00
2018	Bourgogne Blanc	Leflaive	6x75cl	£255.00
2018	Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru 'La Maltroie'	Fontaine Gagnard	6x75cl	£235.00
2018	Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru 'En Virondot'	Marc Morey	6x75cl	£270.00
2018	Puligny-Montrachet	Leflaive	6x75cl	£445.00
2018	Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru 'Les Chalumeaux'	Comtesse de Cherisey	6x75cl	£420.00
2018	Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru 'Hameau de Blagny'	Comtesse de Cherisey	6x75cl	£450.00
2018	Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru	Bouchard Pere et Fils	6x75cl	£750.00
2018	Bienvenues-Bâtard Montrachet Grand Cru	Faiveley	6x75cl	£1,380.00
Cellar total : £ 4,315				
Bottles in cellar : 42 bottles				
Potential drinking window : 5 -10 years				

Known as the “winemaker wine”, Chardonnay is a real chameleon, adapting to all manner of climates and terroirs. The Côte d’Or in Burgundy, however, is the incontrovertible birthplace of this ancient variety. The countless terroirs of the region allow an impressive array of styles to be crafted by winemakers who truly understand the importance of elegance and finesse in the making of this nectar.

This cellar aims to capture the fullest expression of the variety from the most important appellations. From a flamboyant Bourgogne Blanc to the iconic Grands Crus, the selection will certainly impress with the multitude of flavours and complexity found in these site-specific wines.

A cellar for the true connoisseur who loves the sheer class of Burgundian Chardonnay.



DOMAINE LEFLAIVE – CELLAR FOCUS

WHITE SELECTION				
2018	Saint Véran	Leflaive	6x75cl	£110.00
2018	Mâcon-Solutré	Leflaive	6x75cl	£255.00
2018	Auxey-Duresses	Leflaive	6x75cl	£235.00
2018	Pouilly-Fuissé	Leflaive	6x75cl	£270.00
2018	Rully 1er Cru Blanc	Leflaive	6x75cl	£445.00
2018	Bourgogne Blanc	Leflaive	6x75cl	£255.00
2018	Puligny-Montrachet	Leflaive	6x75cl	£420.00
2018	Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Le Clavoillon	Leflaive	3x75cl	£450.00
Cellar total : £2,440				
Bottles in cellar : 45 bottles				
Potential drinking window : 3-7 years				

When talking white burgundy, Domaine Leflaive is one of the first names that spring to any wine collector's mind. For several decades, this biodynamic domaine has crafted some of the purest, most compelling expressions of Chardonnay that we know, achieving cult status in the world of fine wine.

The cellar on offer gathers the full selection of regional wines vinified by the domaine, a recent project that aims at reviving the interest in neighbouring appellations such as Pouilly-Fuissé and Rully. The collection is complemented by a trio of iconic wines from their famed Puligny holdings, showcasing the sophistication and mastery of this legendary domaine.





THE MANY FACES OF PINOT NOIR

RED SELECTION				
2018	Volnay	Lafarge	6x75cl	£185.00
2018	Volnay 1er cru Les Mitans	Rebourgeon Mure	6x75cl	£195.00
2018	Gevrey-Chambertin	Benjamin Leroux	6x75cl	£195.00
2018	Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru Clos des Issarts	Faiveley	6x75cl	£325.00
2018	Savigny-lès-Beaune Rouge	Simon Bize	6x75cl	£125.00
2018	Savigny-lès-Beaune 1er Cru Les Vergelesses Rouge	Simon Bize	6x75cl	£255.00
2018	Pommard	Benjamin Leroux	6x75cl	£195.00
2018	Pommard 1er Cru Pomone	Montille	6x75cl	£290.00
2018	Chambolle-Musigny	Verdet	6x75cl	£275.00
2018	Chambolle-Musigny 1er Cru Les Charmes	Faiveley	6x75cl	£410.00
2018	Vosne-Romanée Aux Réas	AF Gros	6x75cl	£230.00
2018	Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru Les Beaux Monts	Verdet	6x75cl	£440.00
2018	Nuits-Saint-Georges Aux Saints - Juliens	Montille	6x75cl	£205.00
2018	Nuits-Saint-Georges 1er Cru Roncière	Grivot	6x75cl	£576.00
2018	Morey-Saint Denis	AF Gros	6x75cl	£210.00
2018	Morey-Saint-Denis 1er Cru La Riotte	Taupenot	6x75cl	£395.00
Cellar total : £ 4,500				
Bottles in cellar : 96 bottles				
Potential drinking window : 5 -10 years				

There is no doubt that Pinot Noir enjoys a special place in any wine collector’s cellar. This noble variety offers some of the most captivating aromas and flavours, from youthful bright red fruits to decadent earthy notes when the juice evolves over decades in the cellar. The Côte d’Or is where Pinot Noir reaches its pinnacle. The ancient terroirs of the region are at the very heart of the grape’s success. Limestone and clay deposits highlight the variety’s flavour compounds, whilst yielding the perfect marriage of bright fruit and exciting freshness. The latter remains the goal of every winemaker; to capture this unfathomable “mineralité” is a work of art, harnessed through the legacy of generations past.

The cellar is a masterclass in Pinot Noir; all the regions of the Côte D’Or yield wines that have an unique sense of place. Volnay is the starting point with its feminine personality, showcasing remarkable purity along with a fragrance reminiscent of red flowers. Pommard, Nuits-Saint-Georges and Savigny-lès-Beaune display an old-school style of wine which many have now forgotten. They are wines that unfurl in the glass, with a myriad of flavours including juicy red and black berries. The selection ends with the great terroirs of Gevrey-Chambertin, Morey-Saint-Denis and Vosne-Romanée; the fruit here becomes deeper, with silky, enveloping tannins and a length of finish that is truly mesmerising

ONLY THE FINEST – GRAND CRUS

WHITE SELECTION				
2018	Corton Charlemagne Grand Cru	Patrick Javillier	6x75cl	£650.00
2018	Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru	Bouchard Pere et Fils	6x75cl	£1,375.00
2018	Bienvenues-Bâtard Montrachet Grand Cru	Faiveley	6x75cl	£1,380.00
2018	Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru	Roche Bellene	6x75cl	£1,600.00
RED SELECTION				
2018	Corton Clos des Cortons Faiveley Grand Cru	Faiveley	6x75cl	£690.00
2018	Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru	Faiveley	6x75cl	£715.00
2018	Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru	Taupenot	6x75cl	£795.00
2018	Mazoyères-Chambertin Grand Cru	Taupenot	6x75cl	£985.00
2018	Chambertin Clos de Bèze Grand Cru	Roche Bellene	6x75cl	£1,600.00
Cellar total : £ 9,790				
Bottles in cellar : 54 bottles				
Potential drinking window : 6-12+ years				

Our last cellar is one to behold. It is a pleasure to offer some of the most highly-regarded Grands Crus from a handful of exciting producers whom we represent. Only 2% of land is classified as Grand Cru; the origin of this classification can be dated back to the Cistercian monks who worked this ancient land many centuries ago. Their expertise in agricultural practises led to the delineation of a map which isolated specific plots of land producing wines of distinct character and quality. Several generations of winemakers have mastered these terroirs, crafting some legendary bottles from tiny holdings in these great vineyards.

Owning Grand Cru Burgundy is an act of patience. Each wine's powerful structure and fruit concentration require several years to unfold and soften. The rewards are well worth the wait. Opening a perfectly aged bottle of Grand Cru is likely to be the peak of any collectors' wine journey. This special cellar is a rare opportunity to acquire not only the finest bottles of wine, but also a glimpse at the underlying reasons that make Burgundy the most magnificent wine region in the world of fine wine.



We hope you find our cellar plans to be a comprehensive and exciting offering. In case you require a more personalised cellar proposal, our Fine Wine Team will be very happy to assist you in building the right selection. We have a wide range of producers on offer, so please feel free to contact us directly at clients@armitwines.co.uk.

All wines are offered En Primeur, with arrival expected in 2020 and 2021. Prices are In Bond, excluding Duty and VAT. This will be applicable once the wine has been requested for delivery out of bond. Please note that cellars plans are offered subject to prior sale.

We offer professional wine storage to assure your wine will age gracefully at the right temperature and humidity. Please follow the following link for breakdown of storage charges <https://www.armitwines.co.uk/services-events/storage-selling>.

