

POMMARD 1^{er} CRU « LES GRANDS ÉPENOTS » 2013

Domaine de Montille

COLOR:	Red
GRAPE VARIETY:	Pinot noir
VINTAGE:	2013
SURFACE AREA:	0.29 Hectare
PRODUCTION :	75 cases (12 x 750ml)
% WHOLE GRAPES:	0%
% NEW BARRELS:	20%
ALCOHOL :	12.5% VOL
PH :	3.55



The appellation

Pommard is an appellation that makes wine lovers dream. Its 312.76 hectares of Pinot Noir (115 hectares of which are Premier Crus) cover two terrains : in the south (on the Volnay side), the wines are elegant yet powerful while in the north (closer to Beaune), the wines are silkier and airier. However, this rule has some exceptions, like "Les Grands Épenots", which is planted on a combination of clay and limestone that is rich and heavy. This Premier Cru initialized a request for reclassification to Grand Cru in 2012.

The words "epeneaux, épenots, epenottes" mostly certainly come from the same root as "épine", or spine. It is possible that there were previously patches of thorny bushes in the middle of the vineyard.

Our Pommard "Grands Épenots" is the most "Pommard" of our Pommards, showing its earthy, masculine side, which has impressive power despite the fact the nobility of the terroir gives it a certain refinement.

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

Harvest begun on October 1st and was narrowed down to a week.

With a cold and rainy spring, 2013 vintage started off badly. A late flowering (3 weeks) leading to a heterogeneous fruit set was announcing a low yield for the third year in a row.

Then, came the salvaging summer: A warm and sunny weather allowed for a perfect vegetative condition and we caught up one week on fruit development.

A damp September showcased our organic and Biodynamic methods: while Botrytis pressure was rising high in the vineyard, our berries were ripening slowly but surely, allowing us to harvest before October's storms which clearly degraded the situation.

Once again, the Côte de Beaune suffered hail storms in 2013, the worst one on July 23rd. However, despite important losses, the quality was barely affected. Indeed, with up to 2 months between those events and harvest, the vines recovered and the damaged bunches dried and fell.

"2013 is the kind of vintage that I absolutely love. It's a burg geek's vintage par excellence." Allen Meadows

2013 is a cool vintage with a fresh, elegant, crisp flesh. The wines are showing well since the first tasting in barrels and our village wine should come to maturity quickly. As for any good vintage, the 1er and Grands crus will provide pleasure in their youth (5yo) and for a long time. To preserve this vintage's fruit, we chose to destem most of our wine on the Côte de Beaune, except for the Corton (2/3 whole cluster) and Volnay Mitans and Taillepieds (respectively 1/3 and 100%). In the Côte de Nuits where the stem maturity and the absence of hail allowed it, we kept around 2/3 of whole cluster, asserting our style.

Tasting notes

-This is earthier than the Pézerolles and not quite as elegant with its aromas of plum, red currant, forest floor and softly oaked nose. There is a sleek, round and velvety mouth feel to the medium-bodied flavors that terminate in a moderately austere and dry finish that may round out but that is far from clear.

Score: 87-90 Tasted: Apr 15, 2015 Drink: 2020+ Issue: 58

Allen Meadows, BURGHOUND