

## My top three

Stephen Brook

■ **Jean-Claude Boisset, Château London Mâcon-Igé** Grégory Patriat makes a range of wines for this négociant house, from grands crus to lowly village wines. As an example of the latter, this is impeccable: fresh, lightly exotic, and racy. **17.5/20 (91/100)** Drink 2014-2018

■ **Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon, Mâcon-Milly-Lamartine** For some years Dominique Lafon has been making simply delicious wines from a handful of sites in Mâcon, and this is no exception. He brings out a vividness and precision that few can match, without striving to express more than the terroir can deliver. **17.5 (91)** Drink 2014-2018

■ **Domaine du Château de Vergisson Mâcon-Solutré** Château de Vergisson makes good Pouilly-Fuissés, but this lesser appellation shows that you don't always need to go for the more prestigious big brothers. This is lush, fruity and thoroughly enjoyable, but not without finesse and length. **17.5 (91)** Drink 2014-2016

## My top three

Andy Howard MW

■ **Verget, La Roche, Mâcon-Vergisson** The richer, riper fruit character here blends beautifully with oak to give a different, weightier style of Mâcon. Very thoughtfully made, this is no overoaked heavyweight but a classy, interesting alternative to Pouilly-Fuissé. **17/20 (90/100)** Drink 2014-2016

■ **Vincent Girardin, Vieilles Vignes Mâcon-Fuissé** Subtle oak from *foudres* add an extra dimension to this. A serious style, somewhat reminiscent of Chassagne-Montrachet, although perhaps lacking a bit of joy at the moment. However, it was one of the few wines with the capacity to age for several years. **17 (90)** Drink 2014-2018

■ **Julien Collovray, Le Vignes de Joanny, Mâcon-Davayé** Bright, fresh style with purity, stone fruit characters, excellent length and a delicious mineral finish have created an exciting Mâcon with a sense of excitement and verve. Perhaps not such a well known producer but a name to look out for in the future. **17.5 (91)** Drink 2014-2017

## My top three

Jasper Morris MW

■ **Christophe Perrin, La Montagne, Mâcon-Bray** This producer is new to me and I can't even remember tasting a Mâcon-Bray before, tucked away as it is in the hinterland. It's a tiny domaine but evidently promising. I loved the balance between weight of fruit and refreshing energy. **17.5/20 (91/100)** Drink 2014-2016

■ **Domaine Gérald Talmard, Mâcon-Uchizy** A well-known name in this part of the Mâconnais, Talmard evidently knows what he is doing. His Uchizy (the domaine also makes a Mâcon-Chardonnay) is a joy to drink now but clearly capable of ageing well. **18.5 (95)** Drink 2014-2017

■ **Fichet, Terroir de La Cra, Cuvée Prestige, Mâcon-Igé** The Fichets of Igé make several different cuvées according to individual terroirs. This is the top wine and was convincing as such. Any vineyard called Crâ or Cras should show good minerality! **17.5 (91)** Drink 2014-2016

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

## Expert summary: Andy Howard MW

From humble co-ops to well-known producers, quality – and value – was impressive in these approachable whites, showcasing the merits of this often-ignored region



Andy Howard MW runs the wine consultancy Vinetrades, with Burgundy and Bordeaux his key areas of expertise. Previously, he spent more than 30 years as a buyer for Marks & Spencer

EXPECTATIONS WERE HIGH for this tasting of what has been hailed as a great Burgundy vintage. The hype was generally justified, with nine wines out of 66 gaining a Highly Recommended rating, and a further 50 Recommended (90% of the total). Consumers should consider these Mâcons as more than just a source of reasonable quality, good value and rather predictable wines for early consumption.

Though some communes fared better than others, there was no real geographical link between appellation and performance. Producer style seemed a more dominant factor. The highest-rated communes were Milly-Lamartine, Davayé, La Roche-Vineuse and Uchizy (despite one badly oxidised example). Davayé and Uchizy showed a little more richness as befits their earlier-ripening locations whereas Milly-Lamartine, a later-ripening commune, displayed a leaner, tighter, more precise style. Communes performing less strongly were Loché, Bussières, Lugny, Péronne and Bray, although these all averaged at least 15.4/20 points.

A range of producers were on show, from cooperatives such as Cave de Lugny and Vignerons des Terres Secrètes, négociants (Louis Max, Georges DuBoeuf) and a large number of domaines. Of the more well-known domaines, a number had high-scoring wines – Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon (Milly-Lamartine), Talmard (Uchizy) and Fichet (Igé). Sadly, no wines were submitted from Olivier Merlin, one of

the leading producers, with vineyards in La Roche-Vineuse. The Cave Co-op at Prissé achieved a Highly Recommended score at excellent value with its Mâcon-Prissé.

Also noticeable were some styles where oak played a much more dominant role (Verget, Rijckaert). This tended to split the panel – some found the oak excessive and dominant, while others enjoyed the extra complexity and layers of flavour. Alcohol levels were well-controlled with most wines declaring 13%. Of some concern was the dearth of screwcaps, with only one wine bottled under Stelvin. At this level, more producers should consider using them to lock-in the vibrant flavours and early drinking qualities of Mâcon and to preserve as much freshness as possible.

Mâcon 2012s provide some excellent examples of good-value Burgundy – itself a rare statement. Although the wines are not for extending ageing, they will provide lots of pleasure over the next one or two years and provide a great alternative and challenge to the wines from Chablis, St-Véran and Viré-Clessé. **D**

*'At this level, more producers should consider using screwcaps to lock-in the vibrant flavours'*

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

Wine	Score	SB	AH	JM	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Domaine Olivier Fichet, Les Verchères, Mâcon-Burgy	16.25 (87)	16	17	16	Delicate pear nose that is very pretty. A full-bodied palate showing good ripeness, fresh acidity and a terroir-driven style. A pleasure to drink.	13.5%	2014-2016	£20	Stone Vine & Sun
Domaine Paquet, Mâcon-Fuissé	16.25 (87)	16.5	16.5	15.5	A light, fresh nose, with an easy, attractive and rounded palate that displays some spice and stone fruits. A long, mineral finish.	13%	2014-2016	£13.06	Exel Wines
Domaine St-Denis, Mâcon-Lugny	16.25 (87)	15	17	16.5	Restrained nose with hints of pear, apple and touch of wet stone. Lean and zesty with impressive density of fruit. A balanced wine with verve and style.	12.5%	2014-2017	N/A UK	domaine.saintdenis@wanadoo.fr
Domaine Vincent Girardin, Vieilles Vignes, Mâcon-Fuissé	16.25 (87)	15.5	17	16	Both zesty and floral on the nose with notes of apricot and orange rind. A serious style, reminiscent of Chassagne-Montrachet.	13%	2014-2018	N/A UK	www.vincentgirardin.com
Joseph Burrier, Mâcon-Solutré-Pouilly	16.25 (87)	16.5	16	16	Waxy, apricot nose that has charm. Fleshy, medium-bodied stone fruit flavours with medium acidity. Ripe, balanced and long, with a citric finish.	13%	2014-2017	£13.40	Bottle Apostle (2011), Domaine Direct
Nicolas Maillet, Mâcon-Verzé	16.25 (87)	16	16.5	16.5	Delicate quince nose. Fresh, appealing style with good intensity on the palate. A long lime-zest finish with plenty in reserve.	13%	2014-2016	£14.95	H2Vin
Ropiteau, Sous La Roche, Mâcon-Igé	16.25 (87)	15.5	17	16	Warm, toasty oak characters on nose with a fleshy and plump palate. Has a little spritz on finish to keep it fresh.	13%	2014-2017	N/A UK	www.caves-ropiteau.com
Denis Bouchacourt, Mâcon-Solutré	16 (86)	16	17	15	Sweet, ripe, apple and peach nose. Full and rounded palate with fresh acidity, good texture and structure. Finishes with a long, stony character.	13%	2014-2017	£12.55	Vinothentic
Domaine Bourdon, Mâcon-Vergisson	16 (86)	15.5	16.5	16	A little closed on the nose. But the palate has nice purity and good concentration with fair acidity and a zippy, long finish.	13%	2014-2016	£9.80	Carte du Vin, Nickolls & Perks
Dominique Cornin, Serreudières, Mâcon-Chaintré	16 (86)	16.5	16.5	15	Hefty stone fruit nose, with good purity and crystalline fruits on the palate; well-made. Long and vibrant finish that is appealing now or in a few years.	13%	2014-2017	N/A UK	www.cornin.net
La Soufrandière, Le Clos de Grand-Père, Mâcon-Vinzelles	16 (86)	14.5	17	16.5	Ripe, luscious, honeyed fruit characters on a weighty palate; good length and complexity. Generous and full but well-balanced with zippy acidity.	13%	2014-2016	£17	Berry Bros & Rudd
P Ferraud & Fils, Cuvée Marie-Josèphe Franck, Mâcon-Fuissé	16 (86)	15.5	16	16.5	Discreet but oaky nose with notes of lime and apricot. This has heft rather than finesse, though there is some tangy acidity on the finish.	12.5%	2014-2017	£24	Firth & Co
Vergat, La Roche, Mâcon-Vergisson	16 (86)	15.5	17	15.5	Toasty oak flavours dominate the nose and palate but underneath there is fine fruit and structure, with good acidity and fleshy ripeness.	13%	2014-2016	£10.50	Farr Vintners
Collin-Bourisset, Les Monts, Mâcon-Fuissé	15.75 (85+)	16	15.5	15.5	Opulent nose of apricots and tropical fruits. Surprisingly tangy and citrusy, given the exoticism of the nose.	13%	2014-2017	N/A UK	www.collinbourisset.com
Domaine de la Garenne, Mâcon-Azé	15.75 (85+)	16.5	15	16	Subdued nose. Delicious fruit on the palate, though a softness suggests this is for drinking sooner rather than later. Quite good acidity and length.	13%	2014-2017	£13-£22	Charles Taylor, Millésima, Montrachet Fine Wines
Domaine de la Sarazinière, Cuvée Claude Seigneuret, Mâcon-Bussièrès	15.75 (85+)	14	16.5	17	Weighty and full-bodied palate; a luscious example with ripe stone and melon fruit characters. Medium acidity and hints of overripeness on the finish.	13%	2014-2015	N/A UK	www.domainedelasaraziniere.com
Domaine du Clos des Rocs, Mâcon-Loché	15.75 (85+)	16.5	15	16	A fresh fruit bouquet that is also quite floral. Ripe and lush but has good acidity too, though it shows little complexity.	13%	2014-2017	POA	Flint Wines
Domaine Jean-François Gonon, Mâcon-Bussièrès	15.75 (85+)	16.5	15	16	Perky lime nose with a touch of oak. Sleek attack, silky and fresh, with a slight sweetness that is balanced by good acidity.	13%	2014-2017	£10.49-£11 (2011)	Fraziers, The Wine Co
Domaine Sangouard-Guyot, La Roche, Mâcon-Vergisson	15.75 (85+)	16	16.5	15	Rich and creamy, with some underlying acidity to keep it fresh. A concentrated wine with some flair.	13.5%	2014-2016	N/A UK	www.domaine-sangouard-guyot.com
Domaine Yves Giroux et Fils, Mâcon-Fuissé	15.75 (85+)	14.5	16	16.5	Lush passion fruit nose. Quite full bodied with hints of stone and tropical fruit flavours balanced with a lick of citrus acidity at the finish.	13%	2014-2016	N/A UK	domainegiroux@wanadoo.fr
Georges DuBoeuf, Mâcon-Chaintré	15.75 (85+)	15.5	15	16.5	The nose is heady with a bit of spicy bacon fat; you can feel the sunshine. Suave texture and abundant fruit, though it lacks some flair and vivacity.	12.5%	2014-2016	N/A UK	www.duboeuf.com
Les Vignerons de Mancey, Les Essentielles, Mâcon-Mancey	15.75 (85+)	15	16	16	Quite forward aromas of ripe pear and quince. Medium to full bodied with enough acidity behind it. Nice complexity with a clean mineral finish.	12.5%	2014-2016	£8.95	Jeroboams
Louis Latour, Les Genièvres, Mâcon-Lugny	15.75 (85+)	15	16	16	Mango and apple on the nose; quite exotic. Good acidity and additional layers of flavour. A nice mineral length on the finish.	13%	2014-2016	£8.95-£11.95	Bon Coeur, Francis Fine Wines, Hennings Wine, Southwell Vintners, Worsley Wines
Auvigey, Le Moulin du Pont, Mâcon-Solutré	15.5 (85)	15.5	15.5	15.5	Buttery, lactic notes on the nose and palate. Though the wood doesn't mask the vivid fruit, it dominates the finish too much.	13%	2014-2017	£17.95	Corney & Barrow
Domaine du Bicheron, Cuvée Vieilles Vignes, Mâcon-Peronne	15.5 (85)	15.5	15	16	Pronounced aromas of later-harvested grapes, with hints of Muscat and ripe melon. Good attack with rather fierce acidity.	13.5%	2014-2017	£13.70	Thomas Peatling
Bouchard Père et Fils, St-Pierre, Mâcon-Lugny	15.25 (84)	15.5	15	15	Broad apricot nose with a touch of oak. A touch of bacon fat on the palate which is of fair length, though it could use an ounce more complexity.	12.5%	2014-2016	£10.95-£11.99	Amps Fine Wines, Lancelot Wines, Last Drop, Partridges, TJ Wines, Whitley Wines
Collovray & Terrier, Grand VA, Mâcon-Chardonnay	15.25 (84)	15.5	16	14	Aromas of nuts, honey and warm toasty oak. Broad and rounded palate, which has more acidity and zest than the nose suggests.	13%	2014-2015	£12.95	The Vintner
Domaine Cordier Père et Fils, Mâcon-Fuissé	15.25 (84)	15.5	15.5	15	Upfront, ripe, stone fruit on the nose. Very ripe but balanced by acidity; however, it lacks the complexity of other examples.	13.5%	2014-2016	£16.55	Bancroft
Domaine du Château de Pierreclos, Mâcon-Pierreclos	15.25 (84)	15	16	15	Apricot and mango nose; solidly fruity. Broad and lush, with ample fruit but few nuances. Perky acidity on the finish.	13%	2014-2016	£13.50	Robert Rolls
Domaine Marcel Couturier, Les Longues Terres, Mâcon-Loché	15.25 (84)	16	14.5	15.5	Roasted pineapple nose. Warm, honeyed fruit characters on the palate though lacks some finesse.	13%	2014-2016	£12-£18	Bennets, Ten Acre
Jacques Charlet, Château de la Tour Penet, Mâcon-Peronne	15.25 (84)	15	16	15	Rich apple compote nose. Mineral and firm palate with nice weight and concentration. This lacks a bit of vibrancy, warmth and pleasure.	13%	2014-2017	N/A UK	www.jacques-charlet.fr
Jean Loron, Château de Loché, Mâcon-Loché	15.25 (84)	16	14.5	15.5	Slightly heavy nose, but there is good weight of fruit behind this. Assertive and needs time to settle down and become more expressive.	13%	2014-2017	N/A UK	www.loron.fr
Louis Max, Le Clos, Mâcon-Bussièrès	15 (83)	15.5	14.5	15	Toasty, apricot nose. Quite rich and sleek but straightforward. A broad, fruity style rather than one that's nuanced or subtle.	13%	2014-2015	N/A UK	www.louismax.com

## Fair 13-14.75pts (76-82pts)

■ Antonin Rodet, En Thuzot, Mâcon-Igé 14.75 (82)  
 ■ Bouchard Aîné & Fils, Le Chaillou, Mâcon-Igé (14.75 (82))  
 ■ Domaine Guillot-Broux, Les Perrières, Mâcon-Luzille 14.75 (82)  
 ■ Domaine Sophie Cinier, Mâcon-Fuissé 14.75 (82)  
 ■ Cave de Lugny, La Carte, Lieu-Dit,

Mâcon-Lugny 14.25 (80+) ■ Domaine Porcheron, Les Essards, Mâcon-Bray 14.25 (80+)

## Faulty

■ Raphael Sallet, Clos des Ravière, Mâcon-Uchizy (oxidised)

For full UK stockist details, see p110