

## Expert Picks: Lucien Boillot And Joseph Voillot

Two expert selections from Garrett Kowalsky



Burgundy is all about the details. The subtle differences in soil and location can have a marked difference on a wine, even if the two vinevards are just a hundred yards apart. In some cases, two vineyards that adjoin one another, with similar names, can be light years apart in terms of flavor profile. Can this be maddening to comprehend? Absolutely, But this is part of why people love Burgundy: drinking these wines side by side and experiencing

what they have to offer, how they are the same, how they differ, and how they are great. Both Lucien Boillot and Joseph Voillot own property in the adjoining villages of Pommard and Volnay, here are two side-by-side Burgundies that you should definitely try.

#### Lucien Boillot Pommard 1er Cru Les Fremiers 2009 \$77.99

Currently run by Pierre Boillot who inherited half of his holdings from his father Lucien and the other half from his great-grandfather Henri, this estate produces some exceptional wines from more "unheralded" vineyards. Pierre normally strives for elegance and purity of fruit, but he was not altogether displeased with the lush and intense characteristics that the warm 2009 vintage brought. Mouth-coating and plush, this wine has a finish that goes on for a minute or more. Drink now and for the next decade.

### Joseph Voillot Volnay 1er Cru Les Fremiets 2009 \$104.99

Voillot owns some of the top parcels in both Volnay and Pommard. His parcel in Fremiets is particularly large at about 1.5ha, with the youngest vines being planted in 1978 (almost years ago). Violets, stone and red cherry are some of the highlights in this wine, and 2009 being a warmer vintage, there is a lush, plump quality that makes this Fremiets very approachable right now. Drink now and for the next decade.

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# Expert Picks: Domaine De Bellene And Joseph Voillot

Two expert selections from Garrett Kowalsky



When I started four years ago at IWM, the hype surrounding Burgundy's 2009 vintage was huge. Perfect weather had graced nearly every vineyard across the region for the entire season, and the result was a bountiful vintage offering rich, lush and delicious wines with a welcome level of approachability. While they were never going to be wines to lay down for 30 years, these '09 Burgundies gave you insight into these wonderful estates early on in their life. Today I

celebrate a few that we are still lucky to have on hand!

#### Domaine de Bellene 2009 Bourgogne Maison Dieu VV \$27.99

Founded in 2005, Domaine de Bellene is a collection of vineyard plots purchased by the incomparable Nicola Potel. This is not your average "Bourgogne"; the vines for this wine range between 50 and 110 years old. It's a pure treat. Drink now and for 3-4 years.

#### Joseph Voillot 2009 Volnay 1er Cru Les Fremiets \$104.99

Located in the village of Volnay, the Voillot domaine is unassuming that's marked only by a small two-foot by two-foot sign outside of the gate. What lays behind those gates are some of the most fragrant, vibrant and elegant wines in the region. This 1er Cru would normally need ten years before being enjoyed, but the '09 can be provide hedonistic pleasure today if you just decant it for an hour or two. Drink 2016-2036.

# Expert Picks: Joseph Voillot And Domaine De La Pousse D'Or

Two expert selections from Robin Kelley O'Connor



Volnay is one of the great names in Burgundy, renowned for making some of the most velvety, charming, elegant and graceful red wines in the Côte de Beaune. Located between Pommard and Meursault, Volnay offers up wines that are silkier and smoother than the powerful reds of Pommard. Known as Burgundy's most feminine reds, Volnay typically has a light and aromatic style that privileges elegance over power, with considerably less tannin than the Pommard wines from the

neighboring village. There are 30 'Climats' in the Volnay AOC that are rated as Premier Cru, which accounts for over half of the Volnay vineyard area, and in addition, there are 20 Lieux-dits in Volnay. The most prized Premier Crus are located on the mid-slope escarpment of the Côte d'Or, where the vineyards are mostly southeast facing and the soils are rich in limestone. Today's picks are top echelon domaines in Volnay: Joseph Voillot Volnay Vieilles Vignes 2010 and Domaine de la Pousse d'Or Volnay Clos d'Audignac 2009. These two estates are not only among the appellation's finest; they are clearly among the greatest domaines in Burgundy. SANGIOVESE GROSSO SUPER TUSCAN SUPER TUSCANS SUPER TUSCAN WINES VALUE BURGUNDY VALUE WINE WINES WHITE BURGUNDY WINE WINE EDUCATION WINE EVENTS WINE TASTING

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The Joseph Voillot Volnay Vieilles Vignes 2010 is a masterpiece made by stellar winemaker Jean-Luc Charlot. The wine comes from nine different parcels covering nearly five acres with the average age of the vine being 41 years. It has a beautiful ruby color with a lovely perfumed nose with ripe red fruit notes. On the palate it is rich, silky, round, with earthy nuances, and intense red fruit with delicious flavors that last throughout the finish.

### Domaine de la Pousse d'Or Volnay Clos d'Audignac 2009 \$94.36

Domaine de la Pousse d'Or is one of the most recognizable names in all of Burgundy. Since 1997 when Patrick Landanger took ownership of the estate, the wines have grown more concentrated, powerful and slightly more modern in aspect. Landanger's wines are known for their great aromatic intensity, and this 2009 Volnay Clos d'Audignac certainly delivers on that promise—2009 is truly one of the great all time vintages. There is precious little of this wine left, and I highly recommend purchasing this Pousse d'Or Volnay Clos d'Audignac 2009 immediately. Simply put, the wine bursts with incredibly rich fruit and spicy aromas; it's a wine of pure velvet with a spellbinding opulence gives wonderful drinking now or thirty years from now!

# Expert Picks: Michel Barat And Joseph Voillot

Two expert selections from Justin Kowalsky



With spring on the way—no, seriously, it is—my palate cannot help but think of all the delicious wines that make spring so much fun. The crisp and mouthwatering whites of Chablis and the beautifully rich but elegant and silky wines of Volnay are perfect for drinking either alone or with food on spring's warm sunny days and the season's cool evenings.

For several year now, the Chablis of Domaine Michel Barat have

been the most delicious, value-oriented Chablis I have encountered. Now in the hands of Michel's talented son Ludovic, Barat has worked hard to increase the quality of its Chablis, which is amazing considering what has been in the bottle for years. The 2011 Barat Chablis are wonderfully pure, ripe and refreshing. One of Barat's most prized vineyards is the Les Fourneaux Vieilles Vignes with vines averaging nearly 65 years and beautiful southern exposure. This is terrific Chablis and a steal at half the price of most similar Chablis 1er Cru.

#### Michel Barat 2011 Chablis Fourneaux 1er Cru \$29.50

This is classic Chablis: telltale oyster shell and mineral notes accompany rich old-vine fruit with powerful but beautifully balanced flavors of green apple, kiwi, honeysuckle and pear. Coming from one of finest Chablis 1er Cru vineyards, this bottling easily rivals \$50-\$60 bottles. Drink now or enjoy over the next four-to-five years

When it comes down the elite estates of Volnay, one of my truly favorite is Domaine Joseph Voillot. Helmed by the humble but quite funny and mischievous Jean-Pierre Charlot, Voillot's son-in-law, Voillot makes wines that are as true to their origin as they come. There are no heavy hands here, and each wine shows it unique character as clear as day. Of course the single vineyards are great, but the Volnay Vieilles Vignes is always a homerun and a must-have bargain.

### Joseph Voillot 2010 Volnay "Vieilles Vignes" \$64.99

True to Volnay, this wine is extremely pretty with its perfumed notes of wildflowers and its palate replete with tantalizing rich, ripe flavors of kirsch, red plums, and minerals. Accented with ripe tannins and piquant acidity, this wine culminates in a downright beautiful Volnay. This '10 is wonderful Vonay and a superb introduction to this historic tiny estate.

# Expert Picks: Guy Charlemagne And Joseph Voillot

Two expert selections from Justin Kowalsky



With the holiday season in full swing and New Years around the corner, I felt that for my selection this week I would offer up two very special wines that will make everyone of your palates dance with joy and even warm even the coldest of spirits. How can you go wrong with the tiny production Champagnes of Guy Charlemagne or the rich and lush 2009 Joseph Voillot Pommard Vieilles Vignes? Enjoy these wines together for a sumptuous holiday meal. Or hey, enjoy them

both simply by themselves!

#### Guy Charlemagne Brut Extra NV \$39.99

In my opinion, no sparkler has caused as much excitement and fervor for the dollar than the tiny boutique Guy Charlemagne. It packs the palate with ripe apple, pear, hints of honey and crisp clean acidity, and the finish goes on and on and on with this Champagne.

#### Joseph Voillot Pommard Vieilles Vignes 2009 \$59.99

For centuries Pommard was the most sought after of all Cote d'Or Villages. It is Pommard's rich, and lush cherry fruit that tangles with notes of cinnamon, hints of sauvage and others nuances that make it such a comforting wine this time of year, and Joseph Voillot's impeccable 100-year-old-vine Pommard VV is the perfect fit. This wine will make your holiday meals that much more enjoyable.

keep looking »

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