

Our En Primeur Pick of Crop

Following our visit to the Louis Jadot cellars in November I have hand-picked a special selection of En Primeur wines from their cellars in the heart of Beaune.

From the tip of Chablis to the toe of Beaujolais Louis Jadot produces an impressive range of wines encompassing regional and village appellations to the finest Premier and Grand Cru wines. The Bacchus Head which is present on all their labels is the reliable stamp of quality and consistency from what can often be a complicated region. Louis Jadot have been making fine wine for 150 years and Jacques Lardière, their celebrated winemaker, has been making wine for 40 of those. I was lucky enough to spend time with Jacques making our favourite selection from the 2008 vintage which I am delighted to offer you.

Vince Fusaro

2008 Burgundy Vintage Report

“Genius winemaker, Jacques Lardière makes his mark on a rollercoaster 39th Vintage.”

By Mark O’Bryen MW, Louis Jadot Representative – Scotland

Jacques Lardière has a reputation for producing outstanding wines given any conditions, and 2008 is testament to his remarkable winemaking skill. Louis Jadot has one of the most desirable collections of small vineyards from many of the best villages in Burgundy – vineyards which have been assembled over the last 150 years – and this is Jacques’ 39th vintage overseeing Louis Jadot’s winemaking.

The vintage itself was challenging as anyone from the region will be the first to tell you. However, every cloud has a silver lining and as is the case from a testing vintage, great vineyard sites, careful vineyard management and diligent selection at the sorting table come into their own. There is no doubt that many will be delightfully surprised by what they taste given the growing conditions, and the prices have softened despite the depressing Euro; there are some great buys to be had.

The Weather

Each season is a rollercoaster in winemaking – the team constantly wondering what Mother Nature will do next, and how she will make her mark on the final harvest.

The winter of 2007 and early spring of 2008 were mild and gave little cause for concern. April then turned wet, very wet. Perhaps twice as much rain as one might typically expect, which led to an uneven bud burst. Fortunately May was warm, and at this stage things were on a par with the magnificent 2005 vintage, therefore looking good. June was uniformly cold and wet and this led to an uneven flowering which brought its own set of challenges for the viticulturist. July was then very cold with unseasonal rain, which meant careful treatment was needed in the vineyards to beat off the threat of mildew. August was better but changeable. In September the skies cleared, the north wind blew, and the vintage was saved.

Harvest started under clear skies on 22nd September. In 2009 the harvest finished on the 22nd September – giving you an indication of just how unpredictable that rollercoaster can be!

The Wines (the technical bit)

Sugar accumulation was tricky in the 2008 fruit and most wines were chaptalised to a degree (this is where a small amount of permitted sugar is added to enrich the alcohol). Acid levels are correspondingly high, both malic and tartaric, so many wines are very fine with a lean structure. The whites have all gone through a full malolactic conversion this year although, for some reason, at widely differing speeds. The juice yield from a given weight of grapes was well down on the average (which also suggested a degree of physiological

unripeness) so Jacques decided to keep the whites on gross lees for much longer than usual which helped them to fatten up. No battonage though, as this might spoil the delicate texture (given the full malos). The triage table, where only the best grapes are allowed to pass, was a hive of activity and Jacques discarded as much as 30% of the fruit from some areas. Such judicious selection is key to good quality.

The whites are very attractive – clean and lean – although I expect them to put on weight and many are already very promising.

The reds show a wider range of styles and are generally on the elegant side. The best have that hauntingly seductive perfume only found in Burgundian Pinot Noirs watched over by great winemakers.

My favourites are from the Côte de Nuits, and vineyard sites with old vines and a good track record tend to come up trumps.

Overall the wines of 2008 will be wines to enjoy a little younger than some other vintages and give you the opportunity to enjoy some good Burgundy early on compared to, say, the classic vintage of 2005.

BOURGOGNE BLANC 2008	£ price per bottle	Drinking Guide
Côte de Nuits Villages “Le Vaucrain”, DOMAINE LOUIS JADOT Very much a ‘mini’ Puligny. Lean, minerally and vibrant.	15.11	2010 to 2014
Santenay “Clos de Malte”, DOMAINE LOUIS JADOT A small parcel from this picturesque walled vineyard. Rich and succulent.	17.28	2011 to 2015
Pernand Vergelesses “Clos de la Croix de Pierre”, DOMAINE LOUIS JADOT Excellent depth and character for the vintage. 1er Cru quality at “Village” prices.	16.74	2010 to 2014
Savigny les Beaune 1er Cru “Clos des Guettes”, DOMAINE GAGEY An impressive wine from a village which suffered from the elements this vintage.	17.82	2010 to 2014
Beaune 1er Cru “Les Grèves” Le Clos Blanc, DOMAINE GAGEY Lovely core of greengage and white peachy fruit.	29.77	2011 to 2015
Meursault 1er Cru “Charmes” The most typical of Meursault 1er Crus – seductive and generous.	38.99	2012 to 2017
Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru “Clos de la Garenne”, DOMAINE DU DUC DE MAGENTA Quite forward, but impressive with well integrated acidity and oak.	41.16	2012 to 2017
Chassagne Montrachet 1er Cru “Morgeot” Clos de la Chapelle, DOMAINE DU DUC DE MAGENTA This old favourite is again one of the best of the 1er Crus. Lots of depth and beguiling purity.	34.65	2012 to 2017
Chevalier Montrachet Les Demoiselles Grand Cru, DOMAINE DES HÉRITIERS LOUIS JADOT Producing some of the world’s most sublime wines. Quite shy at the moment but will develop into a beauty.	165.46	2013 to 2021
Montrachet Grand Cru Displaying all the hallmark of Montrachet complexity. Open and expressive. A wine to be selfish with.	214.31	2013 to 2021

BOURGOGNE ROUGE 2008	£ price per bottle	Drinking Guide
Côte de Nuits Villages “Le Vaucrain”, DOMAINE LOUIS JADOT Very “Nuits” in style. A low yield per ha this vintage and the intensity shows. Great value.	14.57	2010 to 2015
Santenay “Clos de Malte”, DOMAINE LOUIS JADOT A light, pretty wine with delicate cherry fruit.	15.11	2010 to 2015
Savigny les Beaune 1er Cru “Les Guettes”, DOMAINE LOUIS JADOT The best of the Savignys this vintage – expressive and generous on the nose.	16.20	2010 to 2015
Pernand Vergelesses “Clos de la Croix de Pierre”, DOMAINE LOUIS JADOT Plump and exotic on the nose. Medium bodied with attractive purity on the palate.	15.11	2010 to 2015
Beaune 1er Cru “Clos des Ursules”, DOMAINE DES HÉRITIERS LOUIS JADOT This classic wine never disappoints. Lovely Pinot Noir intensity and concentration.	28.14	2012 to 2025
Volnay 1er Cru “Clos de la Barre”, MONOPOLE Louis Jadot manage this Monopole and control every aspect which is displayed in this silky, fragrant wine.	27.59	2012 to 2018
Pommard 1er Cru “Grand Epenots” Softer than in most vintages making it an approachable buy.	30.31	2012 to 2023
Nuits St Georges 1er Cru “Les Boudots” Very good. Floral and delicate but aromatically complex. For those that appreciate style.	40.62	2012 to 2025
Vosne Romanée 1er Cru “Les Suchots” An excellent result from this great site. Velvety, balanced with complex finish.	45.51	2012 to 2025
Chambolle Musigny 1er Cru “Baudes”, DOMAINE GAGEY As ever, reliably impressive. Underlying elegance with good intensity of fruit.	39.54	2012 to 2025

Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru "Clos St Jacques", DOMAINE LOUIS JADOT One of the wines of the vintage if one is to be had. Attractive, seductive, complex.	60.16	2013 to 2025
Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru "Lavaux St Jacques", DOMAINE LOUIS JADOT The elegant sister of "Clos St Jacques". Lovely, creamy fruit and rounded tannins.	39.54	2012 to 2025
Corton Pougets Grand Cru, DOMAINE DES HÉRITIERS LOUIS JADOT Affordable Grand Cru. Lighter style than usual – a reflection of the vintage.	32.48	2013 to 2025
Echezeaux Grand Cru, DOMAINE LOUIS JADOT Unforgettable name. Displaying its usual elegance and complexity.	67.22	2013 to 2030
Clos Vougeot Grand Cru, DOMAINE LOUIS JADOT Great effort and a keeper. Firm tannins and marked acidity but the structure to last.	62.33	2013 to 2025
Chapelle Chambertin Grand Cru, DOMAINE LOUIS JADOT Serious stuff. Forward and expressive but typically firm and robust on the long, balanced finish.	87.30	2013 to 2030

Terms of the offer: All orders to be placed with Luvians. Prices include all shipping, VAT and duty.

Wines will be delivered to Luvians for collection late 2010. Collection date to be advised by Luvians.