

Burgundy 2016: a year with strong typicity

As James himself has said, "The 2016 vintage has such a great identity so, if you want a lesson in Burgundy with strong typicity, try the 2016s."



A year of transparency and typicity, 2016 is a great vintage to taste young. There are plenty of good qualities to be found in both reds and whites. Fresh and focused, the wines are approachable and energetic. Quantity is down in many areas of the Côte, but high quality and concentration are the trade-offs. So, whilst some wines are in scarce supply, you can still buy with confidence and expect quality from top to bottom of the price scale. They're very drinkable wines with plenty of cellaring potential if you have room to stack the right wines

away. Bright and balanced acidity is a clear feature that underwrites the attractiveness of both whites and reds.

Romanée-Saint-Vivant Grand Cru « Les Quatre Journaux »



Score
100

This is a grand cru that shows its intensity and complexity and greatness from the beginning. Blackberry, licorice and stone aromas. Full body and a center palate that shows ripe fruit and full richness. Then the tannins kick in. Great wine. Drink in 2024.

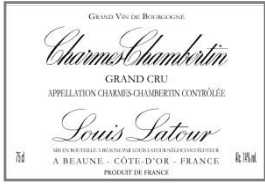
Château Corton Grancey Grand Cru



Score
99

Love the depth of fruit and intensity of this wine. It has dark fruit and floral undertones, as well as meat, which is very captivating. Full body, purity of fruit and nice, powerful tannins. Chewy and powerful. Focused austerity. A wine for the cellar. Try in 2022.

Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru 2016



Score
98

This is a phenomenal wine that reminds me why I love wine. It's a snowball effect. It has a full body with ultra-fine tannins. It just rolls off the palate. A phenomenal finish. The purity, focus and balance to this is mind-blowing. Three barrels. Try in 2024.

Chambertin Grand Cru « Cuvée Héritiers Latour » 2016



Score
97

There's a pretty massive tannin structure behind this concentrated and muscular wine, which needs a lot more time. But it's so vibrant right now. Try to wait at least until 2020. If you can wait five years then this will surely be even more exciting.

Corton Grand Cru « Clos de la Vigne au Saint » 2016



Score
96

This is really classy with beautiful tannins and pretty ripe fruit. Linear and fine. Full body, gorgeous tannins and a breathtaking finish. Wow. Drink in 2022.

Corton Grand Cru « Perrières » 2016



Score
96

Very complex nose with black fruits, as well as spicy, earthy and animal notes. In spite of the power and concentration, the wine is still sleek and racy. Breathtaking finish! Think long term. This will gain so much through two or three years of patience.

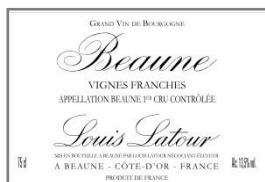
Vosne-Romanée 1^{er} Cru « Les Suchots » 2016



Score
95

A very classic high-end Vosne-Romanee with deep black fruits on the nose. Multifaceted and very beautifully balanced. A really long, refined finish. This is already very seductive. Drink or hold. This has a couple of decades ahead of it.

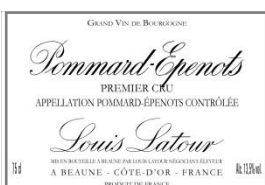
Beaune 1^{er} Cru « Vignes Franches » 2016



Score
94

Even today, Beaune is frequently underrated despite being within Burgundy. And this wine shows what nonsense that is. Great aromas of black fruit and concentration with beautifully integrated tannins. A long and complete finish, making this rather exciting. Drink or hold.

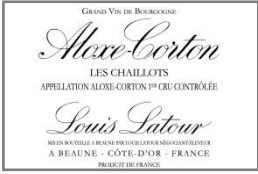
Pommard 1^{er} Cru « Epenots » 2016



Score
93

Another very impressive 2016 that lives up to the reputation of this famous producer. The firm structure that's typical for the appellation is married with great, black cherries. There is also enormous energy driving the very long finish. Drink now or hold.

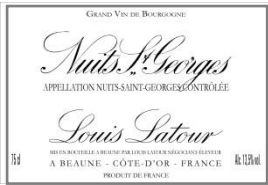
Aloxe-Corton 1^{er} Cru « Les Chaillots » 2016



Score
93

Another generous and firmly structured wine from Louis Latour. Has bright acidity but it'll need some time for all this to knit together. A long, dramatic finish. Shows excellent potential.

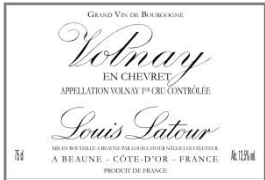
Nuits-Saint-Georges 2016



Score
92

A fragrant, black raspberry and cherry nose. Then a great combination of the firm tannins (which are typical for the appellation), generous fruit, bright acidity and minerality that carries the finish very nicely. Drink or hold.

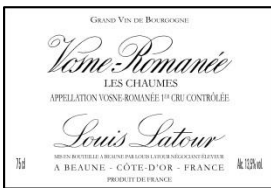
Volnay 1^{er} Cru « En Chevret » 2016



Score
92

This is very fragrant on the nose. Violets and black fruits. But it has a firm tannin structure, which makes this quite austere at the finish. Plenty of good flavors in here and this may be better from 2019.

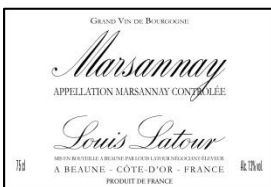
Vosne-Romanée 1^{er} Cru « Les Chaumes » 2016



Score
92

This is a decadent and juicy wine with blackberries and blueberries and meat at the same time. Medium- to full-bodied, layered and pretty. Tight and medium tannins at the finish. Need two or three years to soften. Try in 2020.

Marsannay 2016



Score
91

Quite a fresh and lively style for Marsannay. This nonetheless has quite a firm tannic core. Long, clean finish with some earthy complexity. Drink or hold.

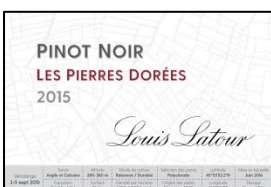
Gevrey-Chambertin 2016



Score
91

Quite shy. This is a delicate wine for an appellation that has a reputation for full and rather earthy wines. Minty freshness and some solid tannins at the finish. Drink or hold.

Pinot Noir « Les Pierres Dorées » 2016



Score
89

An attractively light and charming pinot noir with some nice, warm and dry tannins. There is also friendly acidity for this often-tart category. Drink now or in 2019. Only the second vintage of this wine.

Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru « Les Demoiselles » 2016



Score
97-98

Compacted and powerful yet always in finesse and beauty. Great transparency. Full-bodied, tight and focused with lemongrass, stone, dried lemons and green apples. Excellent length. Drink a couple of years after release and beyond.

Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru 2016



Score
96-97

A layered and sexy Bâtard with sliced cooked apples, pie crust and vanilla. Wet stone. Full body with delicious and pretty ripe fruit. Sexy. Hard not to drink now. But wait until it is released.

Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru 2016



Score
96

This is a formidable white that grows on the palate with dried apples, pears, lemons and hints of lime. Full-bodied, tight and focused. This is a tight and powerful wine. Phenolic and bright. This is an ager as always. Get it on release.

Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Referts 2016



Score
95

This is a very complete white with dried fruits, such as lemons and grapefruit, as well as fresh fruit. Namely, apples and green mangoes. Full-bodied, layered and tight with vivid acidity and brightness. Fantastic. Drink in 2020.

Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru La Grande Montagne 2016



Score
93-94

Fresh and bright with a reductive undertone to the nose. Boasts excellent depth of fruit. Dried lemons and apples. Vivid finish. Drink on release.

Chassagne-Montrachet 2016



Score

93

This is broad-shouldered, extremely well-made and complex. Full body with oily texture, as well as vivid richness and minerality which offers saltiness. Long and very flavorful. Don't miss this one. Drink or hold.

Beaune 1er Cru Aux Cras 2016



Score

93

Decadent aromas of camembert cheese, apples and lemons turn into sliced green apples. Medium- to full-bodied, tight and closed with a pretty finish. Some cream, too. Complex. Drink or hold.

Meursault 1er Cru Perrières 2016

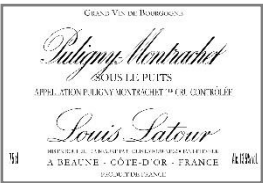


Score

93

Aromas of lemongrass, sherbet, dried lemons and apples. Full-bodied, rich and flavorful with cream, light vanilla and cooked apples. Tangy and bright. This needs two or three years to come together.

Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Sous le Puits 2016



Score

93

Love the candied-lemon and lime aromas to this wine. Green mangoes, too. Full-bodied, and tight with minerality. Linear and focused. A little austere now. Subtle. Give it two or three years to come around.

Meursault-Blagny 1^{er} Cru Château de Blagny 2016

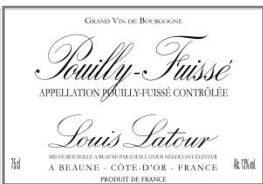


Score

92

This is an almost chewy white with dried apples and lemons, as well as some cream and pear character. Full-bodied and tight yet layered. A rich finish. Contrasty young white. Drink and enjoy.

Pouilly-Fuissé 2016

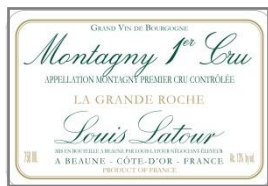


Score

92

This a very fresh and clean chardonnay with energy and focus. Some chalk and lemon-rind undertones yet always crisp and bright. Medium body and pretty finish. Real Pouilly-Fuisse. Drink now.

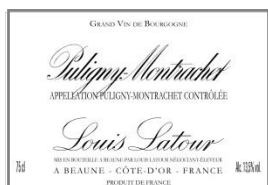
Montagny 1er Cru La Grande Roche 2016



Score
92

This very chalk and salty with minerality and ripe fruit at the same time. Plenty of lemon and grind pineapple character. Medium to full body and a fresh finish. Drink now.

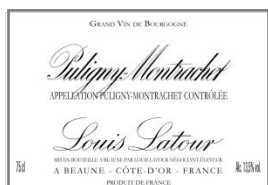
Puligny-Montrachet 2016



Score
92

Aromas of cooked apples, lemons and crush stone follow through to a full body, which is layered and ripe with beautiful fruit. A long and flavorful finish. Transparent and vivid. Fine, phenolic tension and texture. Drink or hold.

Meursault 2016



Score
92

Aromas of cooked apples and pears with hints of straw and crush stone. Full body with tangy and bright acidity. Limey. Zesty. Vivid. Why wait ?

Pernand-Vergelesses 1er Cru En Caradeux 2016



Score
90

A tight and stony wine with crush pebbles and dried fruits. Some lemons, too. Medium body, bright acidity and a vivid, bright finish. Drink now.