

# THE WORLD OF FINE WINE

## 2018 Burgundy

*Louis Latour*

### White wines

#### **94 Montrachet Grand Cru 2018**

Pale lemon-gold. Admirable aromatic restraint, at once enigmatic and enticing, seeming very much itself, so completely does it represent the personalities and qualities of its surrounding grand cru satellites. Very gentle and graceful on the palate; the intensity and subtle minerality are there but it is all so gradually revealed, and it shows its pedigree most persuasively on the finish, where all that detracts very slightly is the warmth of the year.

#### **92-93 Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru « Les Demoiselles » 2018**

Pale lemon-gold. Sheer beauty of scent, with all the finesse and poise one would hope for from this special site: fresh, pure, subtle, light greengage and quince, the oak integrating seamlessly. The discretion, restraint, and subtlety are matched perfectly on the palate by the gentle expansion without any loss of precision or tension, while the light agrumes bitterness counteracts the warmth of the vintage.

#### **92 Chassagne-Montrachet 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « Cailleret » 2018**

Pale lemon, a greenish tinge. Aromatically engaging, properly tense and vibrant, with light apple, quince, and freshly ripe pear, lightly leesy but positive, no sense of being overworked. Dense, quite doux for the site, thanks to the warmth of the vintage, but there is good concentration and still enough tension, which should be ratcheted up once the wine has been filtered and bottled.

#### **91-92 Puligny-Montrachet 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « Sous le Puits » 2018**

A very convincing expression of this helpfully high site. Pale lemon-gold. A beguiling light citrus (lemon) and floral scent, at once mellow, pure, and vibrant, with good integration of the wood. Silky and supple, with considerable finesse but no weakness, as there is good definition and tension through the gently spiraling finish, enhanced and given even more interest by a lightly bitter twist.

#### **90-91 Meursault 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « Château de Blagny » 2018**

Pale gold. An appetizing fragrance, freshly ripe yellow apple. The same excitement and refreshment on the palate, thanks to the higher, cooler vineyards and sensitive treatment in the winery (no bâtonnage but retaining a high proportion of the lees).

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### Red wines

#### **94-95 Romanée-Saint-Vivant Grand Cru « Les Quatre Journaux » 2018**

The Vosne-Romanée Premier Cru Beaux Mont is very promising this year (surprisingly structured), but this consistently impressive RSV, from the heart of this special site, is predictably better still. Deep ruby. A very lovely nose: gentle, but fresh and intense, too, with roseate seduction. Characteristically elegant on entry, with very fine-grain, free-flowing tannin, but there is plenty of support there, too, and greater graceful tenacity than usual through the fresh, flourishing finish.

#### **93-94 Chambertin Grand Cru « Cuvée Héritiers Latour » 2018**

Deep ruby. Admirable aromatic clarity and restraint: dark fruit, but no overripeness and no negative sign of its relatively short spell in 100% new oak (the wine already having been racked into stainless steel). Very gentle and graceful on entry, with some of the minerality and profundity proper to the cru, but this impresses more for its balance, poise, and perfect proportions than for its sheer scale. A light dryness on the finish, but this should integrate, and the wine stays sufficiently succulent thanks to the finely-wrought tannins.

#### **93-94 Château Corton Grancey Grand Cru 2018**

Deep, lustrous ruby. A very enchanting nose. Black-fruited and fully ripe, good depth, but very good freshness, minerality, purity, and vitality as well (the rigor and vigor coming from the Grèves and Perrières climats in this complete and rounded blend); light licorice and spice, more from the terroirs than the wood, which at 50% new is well integrated. An exceptionally fine grain to the tannin, which renders this unusually supple, but there is still sufficient graceful supporting structure, and a fresh, flourishing, long-lasting finish. A compelling, richly satisfying Château Corton Grancey.