

Wine & Spirits

28th Annual BUYING GUIDE

SPECIAL ISSUE

100 Best
Wines

Top 100
Wineries
of the Year

100
Best Buys



WINTER 2014

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Four of our Top 100:
Chapter 24, Jamsheed,
Quinta do Noval, Tenuta San Guido

Domaine de la Vougeraie

France Burgundy

JEAN-CHARLES BOISSET MAY BE BEST KNOWN in the US as half of one of wine's power couples—when he married Gina Gallo, two of wine's most commercially successful families came together, the Gallos of California and the Boisssets, owners of JC Boisset, Burgundy's second largest négociant. In France Jean-Charles may be most respected as the co-proprietor of Le Clos Blanc de Vougeot, part of the Domaine de la Vougeraie, which he founded with his sister, Nathalie Berges-Boisset, in 1999.

Originally assembled from the family's 27 parcels in Burgundy, today the domaine includes grand cru holdings in Charmes-Chambertin, Bonnes Mares, Musigny, Clos du Vougeot, Corton Clos du Roi and Corton-Charlemagne. Pierre Vincent, who has managed the domaine since 2005, farms the vines organically (certified by Ecocert since 2007) and sustains the old vines with biodynamic preparations. In 2007 Vincent purchased his first lot of oak for aging barrel staves from the forest at Cîteaux, establishing a two-year aging regime prior to coo-pering. The 2011s, which earned the domaine its second *Winery of the Year* award in a row, were the second vintage to benefit from the new barrel program.

Some of the domaine's oldest vines grow at the Clos du Prieuré, a 2.47-acre monopole within Vougeot. The walled vineyard along the side of the Château de Clos du Vougeot includes pinot noir dating to 1901, the youngest planted in 1983. Farmed under biodynamic principles since 2001, this is revelatory Burgundy, surging with fresh *fraise de bois* energy.

Perhaps the domaine's most significant holding is a premier cru monopole, also within Clos du Vougeot: a 5.63-acre triangular vineyard that has been planted to white grapes since the 1100s. The domaine calls it Le Clos Blanc de Vougeot. Currently 95 percent chardonnay, four percent pinot gris and one percent pinot blanc, the vines are surrounded by pinot noir with legendary provenance: Musigny and Les Amoureuses are just across the northern wall in Chambolle. It has more gripping power than you'll find in most white wines, a grand and savory Burgundy that explodes with spice in the finish. This was the monks' private stash for centuries—now available whether or not you have a pact with someone on high. —J.G.



Winemaker/viticulturist:

Pierre Vincent

Founded: 1999

Acres owned: 84

Annual production: 7,100 cases

Estate grown: 100%

Owners: Nathalie Berges-Boisset and Jean-Charles Boisset

Known for: Sensitive farmed Burgundies with a focus on Vougeot

Importer: Boisset Family Estates, St. Helena, CA

Website:
domainedelavougeraie.com



TOP-SCORING
WINES 2014

95 '11 Vougeot Monopole Clos du Prieuré \$100 (4/14)

93 '10 Nuits-St-Georges 1er Cru Les Damodes \$110 (10/14)

92 '11 Vougeot 1er Cru Monopole Le Clos Blanc de Vougeot \$150 (4/14)