

Wine Spectator

Tasting Report

Different Shades of White Burgundy

The 2022 vintage is classic, with elite wines joined by more affordable versions from nearby parcels.

By Bruce Sanderson

From the Nov 15, 2025, issue

The 2022 vintage in Burgundy is one of the region's best recent years, not only in terms of quality and quantity, but also because it was successful for both white and red wines.

There are a dozen wines rating a classic 96 to 98 points, plus an additional eight white Burgundies earning 95-point scores. Fresh, vibrant, balanced and intense, the top wines deliver plenty of ripe orchard fruit, citrus, floral and mineral flavors, wrapped in a youthful embrace of new oak notes of butterscotch, vanilla, pastry and baking spices.

Not surprisingly though, white Burgundy lovers will have to pay more for their favorite whites from Chassagne, Puligny and Meursault, particularly among the highest-scoring wines. Among my tastings over the past year, more red Burgundies than whites cost \$500 or more, but 16 of 20 of the most expensive Burgundies I reviewed are whites. One reason is that white Burgundy is produced in much smaller volumes than red Burgundy: While 40 percent of the Côte de Beaune production is white, that number falls to 10 percent in the Côte de Nuits. And global demand continues to be strong.

The highest-rated white in this report is Domaine Leflaive's Chevalier-Montrachet 2022 (98, \$3,061). This luscious, creamy white is also tense and bracing, laced with floral, peach, apricot, citronella and mineral flavors. Close behind are three other 2022 offerings from Leflaive: Its focused, intense Bâtard-Montrachet (97, \$2,869); the racy Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet (96, \$2,343), offering finesse rather than power; and the Puligny-Montrachet Clavoillon (96, \$520), creamy and complex (and a wine which, to my palate, continues to improve vintage after vintage).

"I think 2022, although it was still a hot season, it went very well," comments Domaine Leflaive managing director Brice de la Morandière. "I pay a lot of attention to the quality of spring, the quality of the flowering, and that went very, very well. It's one of my top five vintages of the past decade."

When asked about the increase in quality of the wines from the Clavoillon climat, a vineyard adjacent to Les Pucelles yet with a higher percentage of clay, de la Morandière felt they improved over the past 10 to 12 years. "In my opinion, the biodynamic farming has helped," he notes. "The wines are more floral, more elegant."

Since my previous white Burgundy report, "Burgundy's 2022 Surprise" (Oct. 15, 2024), I have blind-tasted close to 300 white Burgundies in Wine Spectator's New York office. Roughly 60 percent are from the 2022 vintage; the rest mostly 2023s, along with just over a dozen from the 2021 harvest. The high quality of the '22s confirms my impression from last year, earning the vintage a 95-point rating.

With few wines from the 2023 growing season scoring 95 points or more, and less than 20 percent landing in the outstanding range (90–94 points) among the new releases reviewed, the 2023 vintage earns a preliminary rating of 89 points.

Louis Jadot also excelled in 2022, its virtually seamless Chevalier-Montrachet Les Demoiselles Héritiers Louis Jadot (97, \$1,120), sleek and all about finesse, equaled by an impressive Montrachet (97, \$1,600) with viscous texture wrapped around flavors of peach, citronella, lemon oil, sweet corn and butterscotch. Just a step behind, the Bâtard-Montrachet Domaine Louis Jadot (96, \$860) exudes peach, hazelnut, citronella and crushed stone notes.

Bouchard Père & Fils contributed a pair of classic-rated whites from 2022: its multidimensional Chevalier-Montrachet Domaine (97, \$650) and the creamy, vibrant Montrachet Domaine (96, \$1,500). I was also impressed with the range from Étienne Sauzet, particularly its classy Montrachet 2022 (96, \$2,115) for its aromas and flavors of white flowers, peach, spiced apple, lemon, toasty oak and mineral.

Sauzet proprietors Emilie Boudot and Benoît Riffault credit the conversion to biodynamic farming 15 years ago for the greater precision between aromatic maturity and vibrant acid levels in the grapes. "For us, 2022 is the perfect example of this alchemy: maturity/density vs. acidity/terroir. The natural balance is excellent [and] the wines are all distinctive and close to their original soil," the couple explains. A maximum of 20 percent new oak also gives the Sauzet wines terrific clarity.

The 2023 white Burgundies tasted so far are lighter in weight and more airy than the 2022s. Their open textures and fluid profiles are often allied to alcohol levels of 13 degrees or less.

Among the standouts from the 2023 harvest are a pair from Louis Latour: the opulent Bâtard-Montrachet Clos Poirier (96, \$948), underscored by lively acidity; and the Montrachet (96, \$1,210), with concentrated, ripe flavors of peach, apple and ginger, accented by butterscotch and macadamia nut.

If many of the recent vintages' best cuvées are fiscally out of reach for most consumers, fans of white Burgundy can take comfort in that there are excellent and affordable versions from Chablis in the north to Pouilly-Fuissé in the south. I reviewed several from both 2023 and 2022 that are authentic and well-crafted.

Beginning with Chablis, négociant Patrick Piuze fielded a number of outstanding versions in the \$40 range that capture the essence of Chablis as well as the specific terroirs they are sourced from (and kudos to Piuze and his U.S. distribution channels for keeping prices stable). Though I found his 2023s lighter in body and more delicate, they improved with aeration over several hours, suggesting they are not fragile. The Piuze Chablis Terroir de Fleys 2023 (91, \$40) exhibits yellow plum, peach, apple and briny seashore flavors. Chablis La Grande Vallée 2023 (90, \$42) offers a mix of apple, lemon and flinty mineral aromas and flavors, while the Chablis Terroir de Courgis 2023 (90, \$38) strikes a nice balance between its orchard fruit, citrus and mineral notes, crisp acidity and creamy texture. Piuze notes that 2023 was “a textbook vintage with a heat wave and rain at perfect times. The last rain [was] three weeks prior to harvest,” he adds, allowing the moisture to refresh the vines while leaving enough time before picking to concentrate the aromas and flavors in the grapes.

The Côte Chalonnaise, a series of well-exposed hillsides south of the Côte de Beaune, is also a source of reasonably priced white Burgundy. One of its five villages, Bouzeron, specializes in Aligoté, a historic white grape from Burgundy. Louis Jadot's rich and vibrant Bouzeron Famille Gagey 2022 (90, \$40) is an excellent starting point, delivering lemon, apple, earth and oyster shell flavors wrapped in a light embrace of oak spice. Heading south from there, one passes Rully, arriving in Mercurey, source of the balanced, juicy, Château de Chamirey Mercurey White 2022 (90, \$45).

Farther south, the Mâconnais offers a range of whites—from fresh, fruity Mâcon-Villages to more complex and ageworthy Pouilly-Fuissé. In the former category, look for the Pascal & Mireille Renaud Mâcon-Villages 2023 (90, \$28) and Château Vitallis Mâcon-Fuissé 2023 (89, \$28).

From Pouilly-Fuissé and surroundings, the Pascal & Mireille Renaud Pouilly-Fuissé Vieilles Vignes 2023 (91, \$40), Louis Jadot Pouilly-Fuissé 2023 (90, \$37), Vins Auvigue Mâcon-Solutré-Pouilly 2023 (90, \$35) and Château Vitallis Pouilly-Fuissé Les Vignes du Château 2023 (90, \$36) all deliver terrific value.

Burgundy's regional appellations are also a fine fount of wallet-friendly whites. With warmer growing seasons, the wines of the Hautes Côtes, cooler areas on the plateau above the Côte d'Or, are achieving balance and character. I was impressed with Edouard Delaunay's Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits White Charmont 2022 (90, \$40), whose flavors of peach, apple, pear and citrus are shaded by a light touch of oak. A Bourgogne worth the search is the creamy, harmonious François Carillon Chardonnay Bourgogne Côte d'Or 2022 (90, \$52).

Also a bargain when it comes to Burgundy, and for something different, Veuve Ambal's Brut Crémant de Bourgogne Grande Cuvée NV (89, \$20) is fresh and balanced, exhibiting grilled citrus and orchard fruit set against smoke, bitter almond and flinty mineral notes. It's a blend of Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, Gamay and Aligoté.

To recap, 2022 was generally hot and dry, with ample rain in the spring and crucial rains in June (8 inches in the Côte d'Or and 6 inches in Chablis). The flowering period went well, resulting in a normal crop. A little rain in August refreshed the vines after some drought stress that blocked the ripening process and preserved acidity. Harvest began in August and was finished by the first week of September. Overall, the grapes were healthy. The 2023 growing season was more demanding. It was a vintage in which it was crucial to manage the vineyards properly, particularly the yields. According to Domaine Faiveley co-proprietor Erwan Faiveley, it wasn't a question of too many grapes, but large berries with abundant juice. "Those that recognized it early and dropped fruit were successful," he explains.

Spring was dry and there was a heat wave in August. In addition, a week of high temperatures during harvest necessitated picking early in the morning and stopping before it got too hot.



Consumers looking for well-priced white Burgundies can often find luck in regions such as the Côte Chalonnaise, a group of hillsides south of the Côte de Beaune. (Lisa Aurigemma)

In Chablis, rain in August about three weeks before the harvest allowed water to energize the vines, with enough time prior to picking to concentrate the grapes, notes négociant Piuze. In the end, yields were ample, yet it wasn't necessary to green harvest, according to some producers.

Domaine Laroche winemaker Romain Chevrolat partially blocked some of the malolactic conversion to retain freshness.

"Fermentation took place in the best possible conditions, leaving the wines to continue maturing on their lees for several months," he says. "The potential of the 2023 vintage is approaching that of 2020. In addition to this fine quality, Chablis is returning to its satisfactory historical averages in terms of yields."

Higher prices are the biggest roadblock for lovers of white Burgundy. After two average- to above-average size crops, prices continue to rise, at least for the top, in-demand whites. Fans with more modest means may have to adjust expectations, however there are still excellent, affordable examples available. It just requires diligence to find them.

Senior editor Bruce Sanderson is Wine Spectator's lead taster on the wines of Burgundy.

Bruce Sanderson's Recommended White Burgundies

Nearly 300 wines were tasted for this report. A [free alphabetical list](#) is available. WineSpectator.com members can access complete reviews for all wines tasted over the past year—including [all 2022 and 2023 White Burgundies](#)—using the online [Wine Ratings search](#).

89

Albert Bichot

Brut Crémant de Bourgogne Réserve NV (2024)

This fragrant, bright, unadorned style is delicious, offering plenty of vibrant refreshment. Lifted notes of meadow blossoms, nectarine and citrus are creamy on the mouthcoating palate. Cut chive and thyme accents hover, along with smoke and fine mineral details. Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Gamay and Aligoté. Drink now. 4,929 cases made, 2,500 cases imported.

Published on October 21, 2024



Wine Type and Color
White Sparkling



Kristen Bieler
Senior Editor