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2019 vintage Burgundy report: the best year since 1865?

Growers believe last year's crop might break all records



Tom Harrow DECEMBER 27 2020

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The long, hot dry summer of 2019 created the perfect conditions in Burgundy for a bumper vintage. Bernard Hervet, former director of Faiveley and Bouchard, two of the biggest *maisons* in the region, went so far as to say that it could "perhaps rival 1865, the greatest vintage of all". So, as my TGV pulled into Beaune station last month, I was excited to see if the hype was justified.

In Chassagne Montrachet, Philippe Colin's 1er Cru whites are powerful with waxed apples, yellow plum and salty farmyard butter, but remain fresh and vital. They have the *matière* (richness and density) and intensity of the great 2014s with more of the generosity of the warmer vintages. One particular white highlight was Edouard Delaunay's Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Les Referts – the nose of ripe orchard fruit and brioche immediately recalled the 1996 that made me fall in love with white Burgundy 20 years ago. It was no shock to learn Delaunay's winemaker Christophe Briotet has been named an IWC winemaker of the year 2020.

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The cellar at Edouard Delaunay