Wine & Spirits MAGAZINE

In 2017, Laurent Delaunay, an oenologist and entrepreneur, was working in the Languedoc when he had the opportunity to buy back the family name and resuscitate the négociant firm his great-grandfather had founded in 1893. He now works with cellarmaster Christophe Briotet at the Château de Charmont, in l'Etang-Vergy.



94 CHARMES-CHAMBERTIN GRAND CRU 2019
From two parcels: At Charmes, the 80-year-old-vines grow in thin topsoil of silt and gravel; at Mazoyères, the vines are 15 to 50 years old, and the soil is limestone and clay. The wine responds to its aging in barrels (two-thirds new) as you might hope a great wine would, both in the intoxicating scent and in the texture of the tannins. Vibrant fruit races through it with the immediacy of fresh raspberries; over the course of several days, it tuns toward animal and mineral notes. It's more about amplitude than lengh of flavor for now, plump and stony, needing age to extend more detail into the finish.

94 POMMARD PREMIER CRU LES CHAPONNIERES 2019
Laurent Delaunay began leasing several vineyards in 2020, including this parcel in Pommard Les Chaponnières, where he was already getting some fruit in 2019. One taste of this wine will confirm it was a good decision. If the carnal appeal doesn't get you when you first approach the glass, the wine brings on silken tannins, layered along a horizon line of black cherry skins and brighter glints of strawberry. The Simone's Tina Vaughn described it as mesmerizing « a wine that could break your heart».

93 BEAUNE PREMIER CRU LES GREVES 2019
This is a powerful, voluptuous Beaune, its perfume a synesthetic pleasure of wild-strawberry fields and sun on limestone. Brisk tannins wrap the juicy texture of the wine, allowing a taste of forest mushrooms, black trumpets and porcini, prunes and bone marrow before tightening in the finish. The lasting impression is delicate and lacy, with a structural elasticity that bodes well for aging.

92 VOLNAY VIEILLES VIGNES LE VILLAGE 2019

91 POMMARD PREMIER CRU LES FREMIERS 2019

91 CHAMBOLLE-MUSIGNY LE VILLAGE 2019

91 CLOS DE VOUGEOT GRAND CRU 2019

90 NUITS-SAINT-GEORGES PREMIER CRU LES CROTS 2019