

# CHEVALIER

MARCH 2024

SINGLE-VINEYARD WINES





RGB  
446 ppi

sense of place a step further, evoking the conditions particular to a more specific area within a broader appellation, sometimes consisting of just a few rows of vines.

Consider the Geisberg parcel outside Ribeauvillé in Alsace. Unlike its *grand cru* neighbors on either side—Kirchberg and Osterberg—Geisberg faces directly south, benefits from abundant sun exposure, and is the only site home to 100% Riesling. One of just a handful of domaines to make wine from Geisberg, Kuentz-Bas is blessed with two hectares of seventy-year-old vines that produce a zesty, mouthwatering, impeccably balanced *grand cru* with notes of peach, Meyer lemon, and chalk.

Like Geisberg, Fleurie's steep and stony Les Moriers vineyard sits at a fascinating point, in this case where Fleurie meets Moulin-à-Vent. While Moulin-à-Vent is known for structure and savory, smoky aromatics, Fleurie is more often characterized by elegant, perfumed reds. Thanks to its unique situation, Cédric Chignard's Les Moriers shows elements of each.

While comprehensive knowledge of each vineyard site isn't a prerequisite for enjoying these wines, familiarity with their terroirs will enrich the experience with each bottle. This added layer of nuance can often make pulling the cork feel more intimate and ultimately more delicious. —TOM WOLF



## SINGLE-VINEYARD WINES

In many regions throughout France and Italy, rather than vinify and bottle one wine per vineyard, producers farm different vineyards scattered around a given town or hillside and blend their fruit for reasons of balance, tradition, or both. One of the great reds we import from Côte Rôtie, for instance, contains grapes from nearly twenty different historic plots with such names as *Les Moutonnes* and *Côte Blonde* (“The Sheep” and “Blonde Slope”) because blending has long been the prevailing practice in the northern Rhône Valley.

But in certain regions, specific vineyards—that is, *lieux-dits*—have been thoroughly studied and deemed exceptionally well suited to producing their own wines. Burgundy is Exhibit A, but examples abound in the Loire, Alsace, Beaujolais, Piedmont, and even Alto Adige. If wines from great appellations tend to express qualities specific to those places, single-vineyard cuvées take the concept of

2021 CHABLIS 1ER CRU "VAILLONS" ♦ HENRI COSTAL \$50

CHABLIS FROM VAILLONS, the *premier cru* vineyard on the left bank of the Serein River that stretches southwest from the village of Chablis, are often characterized as more aromatic and lighter-bodied than their steelier counterparts from sites across the river. Costal's Vaillons is gently tart, nutty, and bracing, like a bite from a green apple. It exemplifies this vineyard's refreshing, approachable style.



---

2020 ALTO ADIGE SAUVIGNON "VOGLAR"

♦ PETER DIPOLI \$39

PETER CONSIDERS HIMSELF a traditionalist and devotee to cool-climate Sauvignon, so much so that he performed extensive terroir studies in the late '80s to find exactly where he should plant his grapes. He chose a high-altitude location, long called Voglar, which comes from the Trentino dialectical expression *fogolar*, which means "hearth." On top of being stunningly beautiful, the limestone-rich and high-elevation slopes near Bolzano are perfectly suited to the variety, allowing Peter's grapes to mature at a glacial pace. This, in turn, guar-



antees that they ripen evenly while preserving the liveliness that makes Sauvignon Blanc so mouthwatering. Peter then ages the wine in large acacia *botti*, which lends the perfect finishing touch, imbuing this *bianco* with exhilarating complexity, texture, and balance. At once luscious and vibrant, Voglar is not only one of Italy's great Sauvignon Blancs, but also one of the country's most inspired white wines. If you want to treat yourself, grab a few more bottles to see how spectacularly this mountain Sauvignon can age.



## 2016 RIESLING *GRAND CRU* “GEISBERG” ♦ KUENTZ-BAS \$54

MAISON KUENTZ-BAS WAS ESTABLISHED by the Kuentz family in 1795, and a marriage that joined the Kuentz and Bas families one hundred years later forged the domaine we know today. Situated in the town of Husseren-les-Châteaux, not far from Colmar, it has vineyards spanning an area of ten hectares on the slopes around the village. The *grand cru* Geisberg is an exception, made from an extremely special terroir thirty minutes to the north.

Many consider Geisberg one of the best vineyard sites for Riesling in Alsace. Its steep slopes, terraced in stone, rise majestically above the gorgeous village of Ribeauvillé. It is one of the smallest *grands crus* in the region, with only a handful of growers working its vines. We were therefore thrilled when we learned that our own Kuentz-Bas managed to acquire two hectares, or nearly a quarter of this hal-  
lowed ground. The results have been nothing short of breathtaking. Geisberg Riesling, when worked by a master vigneron, is a thoroughbred of a wine—racy and pure, of great breed and precision—a grandiose sculpture of time and place.



---

## 2021 FLEURIE “LES MORIERS” ♦ DOMAINE CHIGNARD \$29

STEEP AND STONY WITH A GRANITE CORE, Les Moriers is an exceptional vineyard in the *cru* of Fleurie. A portion of its vines sit adjacent to Moulin-à-



Vent, which is known for its structural depth and Rhône-like aromatics. By contrast, Fleurie is considered more delicate, pretty, and floral, as its name suggests. In Chignard’s Les Moriers, elements of both *crus* come together as one, resulting in a harmonious balance of heft and gravitas laced with violet and a fresh-cut, blossoming bouquet.



## 2020 CHINON “LE CLOS GUILLOT”

◆ BERNARD BAUDRY \$43

IF YOU EVER VISIT BERNARD BAUDRY and his son Matthieu in Chinon, several useful tools around their cellar and winery will help you better understand their six or so distinct terroirs. One is a cross-section map showing the elevation and soil changes of their plots as you move away from the Vienne River. Another is a series of terrariums, side by side, that contain soil samples from each of these terroirs. Looking first at the map, notice that Le Clos Guillot is the domaine’s highest plot, located right outside the town of Chinon. Turning to the glass containers, you’ll be struck by the yellow of Le Clos Guillot’s limestone. No wonder this cuvée is markedly distinct from the others. Even though all of the Baudrys’ wines hail from Chinon, the soil, elevation, and exposition combine to make Le Clos Guillot their cuvée with the most finesse. Enjoy this bottle over a few nights to follow how the complex flavors of dark berries and graphite open up and become more delicate.



## 2017 BAROLO “BUSSIA CASCINA DARDI”

◆ ALESSANDRO E GIAN NATALE FANTINO \$69

LOCATION IS CRUCIAL IN THE LANGHE, as vineyard site is the first and foremost determinant of a grower’s ability to produce fine Barolo. Brothers Alessandro and Gian Natale Fantino are blessed in this respect. Proud proprietors of several hectares in a south-facing section of Monforte d’Alba’s fabled Bussia *cru* known as Dardi (named for the family’s old farmhouse), they have the terroir essential to crafting a grandiose Nebbiolo for the ages.

And yet location is only part of the equation. Traditional treatment in the cellar—fermentation with native yeast and long aging in Slavonian oak casks, or *botti grandi*—ensures the beautiful fruit from Dardi is not altered or masked. Minimal filtration and added sulfur at bottling preserves a velvetiness that makes the Fantinos’ wines texturally seductive from release and through the years.

As a result, their Baroli come loaded with rich, generous Nebbiolo fruit, flaunting a plushness that beckons. The wine is ripe, deep, and almost extravagant in its breadth of aroma and flavor, while a dense, tightly knit core of firm acidity and fine-grained tannins produce a rigid spine. Power, finesse, classic Barolo aromatics: it’s all there. Piedmont lovers will not want to miss this bottling.





2021 Chablis <i>1er Cru</i> <i>"Vaillons"</i> <i>Henri Costal</i> <b>BURGUNDY</b>	Chardonnay	30-year-old vines Kimmeridgian limestone	Serve <i>cold</i> 48–52°F Decant optional	Spring flowers, lemon zest, brine Fleshy, mineral, saline	Drink now through 2030
2020 Alto Adige Sauvignon <i>"Voglar"</i> <i>Peter Dipoli</i> <b>FRIULI</b>	Sauvignon Blanc	Vines planted in 1990 Chalky, dolomite, limestone	Serve <i>cold</i> 48–52°F Decant optional	Ripe citrus, yellow fruit, gunflint Luscious, vibrant, textured	Drink now through 2030
2016 Riesling <i>Grand Cru</i> <i>"Geisberg"</i> <i>Kuentz-Bas</i> <b>ALSACE</b>	Riesling	70-year-old vines Limestone, marl, sandstone	Serve <i>cold</i> 48–52°F Decant optional	Calla lilies, acacia, white peach Complex, generous, zesty	Drink now through 2030
2021 Fleurie <i>"Les Moriers"</i> <i>Domaine Chignard</i> <b>BEAUJOLAIS</b>	Gamay	60-year-old vines Granite	Serve <i>cool</i> 56–60°F Decant optional	Violets, river rock, smoke Delicate, floral, stony	Drink now through 2030
2020 Chinon <i>"Le Clos Guillot"</i> <i>Bernard Baudry</i> <b>LOIRE</b>	Cabernet Franc	15-year-old vines Sand, limestone	Serve <i>slightly cool</i> 58–62°F Decant recommended	Dark berries, graphite, black tea Earthy, elegant, mineral	Drink now through 2035
2017 Barolo <i>"Bussia Cascina Dardi"</i> <i>Alessandro e Gian Natale Fantino</i> <b>PIEDMONT</b>	Nebbiolo	21-year-old vines Sandy clay	Serve <i>slightly cool</i> 58–62°F Decant recommended	Cherry, roses, iron, spice box Supple, structured, complex	Drink now through 2035

front cover: Peter Dipoli. © GAIL SKOFF

inner panel, left: © DOMAINE CHIGNARD

inner panel, right: In the cellar at Henri Costal.

© JOANIE BONFIGLIO

far left top: Winemaker Romain Collet. © JOANIE BONFIGLIO

far left bottom: Peter Dipoli's cellar. © GAIL SKOFF

middle top: Vigneron Jean-Baptiste Adam and his daughter,

Laure. © KUENTZ-BAS

middle bottom: Cédric Chignard. © ANTHONY LYNCH

back cover: Bernard Baudry and his son Matthieu. © GAIL SKOFF

To reorder any of our Wine Club selections, please give us a call at 510.524.1524  
to speak with a salesperson, or send us an email at [wineclub@kermitylynch.com](mailto:wineclub@kermitylynch.com).



**W**hen we talk about “Clos,” we are often referring to an old vineyard enclosure. Not many stone walls are left around Le Clos Guillot, but in the southern part, we can clearly see the stones that delimit the plot.

This *clos* must have belonged to an old “Guillot” family, of which we no longer have any trace. A house in the middle of the *clos* has very old cellars and places for presses. Vines likely have been cultivated there since the Middle Ages.

As for the terroir, Le Clos Guillot is located on the first slopes to the east of the commune of Chinon on a fairly narrow geological strip. Made up of yellow tuffeau, the subsoil is heavily fossilized, showing that the sea was shallow.

Clay is very present on Le Clos Guillot, which distinguishes it from the sandy-clayey soils of lower altitude that are of white tuffeau. These clays are permeable and yellow to rust in color; they contain enough iron to limit chlorosis. The vines do not suffer from drought on this terroir. The slight south–southeast-facing slope allows rainwater to drain without difficulty and ensures plenty of sunshine.

The landscaped environment is also important. Wild bramble trees, as well as numerous wild cherry trees, grow around and in the vineyards.

Accordingly, this terroir produces unique wines. They are never very “broad” in the mouth, but they have a length that other wines lack. The texture is chiseled, and the slightly firm tannins lengthen in the mouth and make you salivate, thanks to the yellow limestone. This clay-limestone terroir does not produce wines that demonstrate their concentration but instead yields rather fine, balanced wines that age for ten to twenty years, depending on the quality of the vintages. — MATTHIEU BAUDRY

