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WINE MERCHANTS



2022 DROIN CHABLIS OFFER

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WINE ORDER FORM	QUANTITY	PRICE* (In mixed 6+)
2022 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Petit Chablis		\$50.00
2022 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis Village		\$55.00
2022 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis 1er Cru Vosgros		\$75.00
2022 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis 1er Cru Vaillons		\$75.00
2022 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis 1er Cru Montmains		\$85.00
2022 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis 1er Cru Vaulorent		\$95.00
2022 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis Grand Cru Vaudésir		\$140.00
2022 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis Grand Cru 'Homage à Louis'		\$165.00

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"People often cite Domaines Raveneau and Vincent Dauvissat as the two greatest exponents of Chablis, however, I would like to add a third – Domaine Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin. Benoît Droin has really taken his domaine to new heights over the last decade. I cannot exaggerate how often Droin's wines end up the best of the flight during the annual "Burgfest" blind tastings. Again and again, they shine against stiff competition. The bottom line is that his wines do the business, triumphing at various blind tastings with such regularity that attendees almost laugh at the predictable outcome. It is time to accept that Droin is now one of the leading producers in Chablis. I am a huge fan of these wines, whose strength is Benoît Droin's assiduous use of used oak and stainless steel. In the 2022 vintage, where the summer heat erased a lot of nerve and tension, the wines somehow manage to retain those crucial elements, with an extremely consistent array of wines."

-Vinous, Neal Martin

"The Droins have been producing wines in Chablis for over 400 years (their history as vigneron goes back at least to 1620). Benoît represents the 14th generation of Droins and is one of the most dynamic winemakers in the region. His father Jean-Paul put the domaine on the map. The domaine owns 13 hectares of vineyards and produces 14 different wines, including Petit Chablis, Chablis, 7 Premiers Crus and 5 Grands Crus. Benoît runs a more sophisticated operation from a large modern winery almost in the shadow of the grands crus. He has revised his pruning system and significantly reduced yields. In the cellar the principal change has been away from new oak. Each wine now gets the treatment which Benoît thinks is suited to its terroir: Thus Petit Chablis, Chablis, premiers crus Vaucoupin and Côte de Lechet, and grand cru Blanchots are all fermented and matured in tank. Vaillons, Mont de Milieu and Montée de Tonnerre receive 25 per cent of barrel fermentation and maturation, 35 per cent for Vosgros and Vaudésir, 40 per cent for Montmains and Valmur, peaking at 50 per cent for Fourchaume, Grenouilles and Les Clos. However the age of the oak and the choice of tonnelier may vary according to the cuvée. The maximum new oak is ten per cent in the grands crus. Droin says "I use less new oak now than I did 10 years ago; my feeling is that you don't make your best wines in new oak barrels." Although these are rich, full-bodied, buttery wines, they still manage to retain a steeliness, raciness and purity of fruit which are the hallmarks of classic Chablis."

- Inside Burgundy, Jasper Morris MW



2022 VINTAGE SUMMARY

“The defining element of the 2022 growing season though was undoubtedly the intense heat and drought, which overall was the hottest and driest of the 21st C. However, unlike the almost as hot and very dry vintages of 2018, 2019 and 2020, there were large storms that hit in the second half of June between that dropped on the order of 80 to 145 mm of rain, these enabled the vines to resist hydric stress much more successfully than those other vintages. I would add that some growers believe that the relatively wet 2021 vintage also helped the vines survive the drought-like conditions of the 2022 growing season. What is worth pointing out as it's somewhat counter intuitive, is that despite 2022 being the hottest and driest vintage since 2000, the heat was certainly high but not stifling or blazing. As readers know, I spend 6 months a year in Burgundy and my impression is that the summer was quite warm but not so difficult to tolerate as for example, 2003, 2009, 2015, 2018 and 2020. And this is true even though the number of days in 2022 where temperatures exceeded 30° C were greater than in 2020 yet there were fewer exceeding 40° C. In the same vein, while 2022 was again super-dry, there was enough rain at critical moments to avoid the heat stress that marks any number of recent vintages.

2022 produced, surprisingly enough given the exceptionally hot and dry growing season, fresh, bright and utterly delicious, if not classically styled, whites. Moreover, unlike the pitifully tiny yields obtained in 2021, 2022 is sufficiently abundant that the wines should be at least findable, which is certainly not the case in the prior vintage. Importantly, because fruit ripeness and moderate sugar and acid levels coupled with an almost complete absence of disease pressure, wine quality, is very consistent. To be sure, and clear, the wines are indeed ripe and rich yet they manage to retain unexpectedly good freshness and vibrancy as they have less of that extremely sunny character of the prior vintages. The better wines are well balanced with none of the noticeably warm finishes that dominate some 2018s, 2019s and 2020s. While there are some exotic whites, happily such is not the norm. They also are just a pleasure to drink without falling over into being unduly top heavy, ponderous or hedonistic.

To my way of thinking, perhaps the best attribute of the finest 2022 whites is just how refreshing they are. In sum, the best 2022s incorporate a bit of everything without too much of anything. As to vintage style for the 2022 whites, for the average wine I would invoke 2015, 2018 or 2020 but, and this is key in my view, without the excess alcohol levels, which renders them better-balanced. The best 2022 whites could reasonably be compared with the better 2017s with perhaps a bit more mid-palate flesh. Most of the best 2022 whites should be ready within 8 to 12 years and the average example will likely be drinking well by ages 4 to 8. However, because they're generally so well-balanced, they should actually drink reasonably well young too if that's your preference.

- Burghound, Allen Meadows



"2022 was pretty simple to manage other than a brief early season frost scare that cost us some yield in Vaillons. The season was hot and dry but the water reserves accumulated in 2021 helped the vines avoid significant water stress. I chose to begin the harvest on the 31st of August and brought in the best yields that we've seen since 2018. The fruit was spotless with good potential alcohols of between 12 and 13% with reasonable acidities. The fermentations were easy and in particular, the malos finished rapidly. As to the wines, I would describe them as having the freshness and fruit of the 2017s combined with the acidities of the 2020s. The 2022 vintage is fresher than 2020 though. It was slightly cooler, plus the yields are slightly higher. The difference is that in 2020, we had a heat spike at the end of July, which I vividly recall since I was fishing with friends. It burnt one side of the bunches, and then we lost around 20% of the potential crop. However, in 2022, the temperature was always around 32° Celsius, and the nights were not too hot. We picked at around 27 to 28hL/ha for the Premier Crus but 35hL/ha for the Grand Crus, yet just 12hL/ha for the Petit Chablis.

They're not exactly classically styled but they're harmonious, well-balanced and I think they're going to be accessible young yet surprise people with how well they age."

- Benoît Droin



2022 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Petit Chablis - \$50.00

(From Portlandian soil). Ripe and nicely fresh aromas combine notes of both white and yellow peach with those of iodine and a hint quinine. The delicious and juicy middleweight flavors exude a subtle minerality on the clean, medium dry and crunchy finish. This refreshing effort should drink well shortly after release. Drink 2024+

88-90/100 Burghound, Allen Meadows

"Bottled two months before my visit, the 2022 Petit Chablis has a well-defined nose with touches of yellow fruit and Mirabelle. The palate is well-balanced with more substance than its peers, defined with a bit of pepperiness on the finish. Recommended. Drink 2023-2027"

88/100 Vinous, Neal Martin



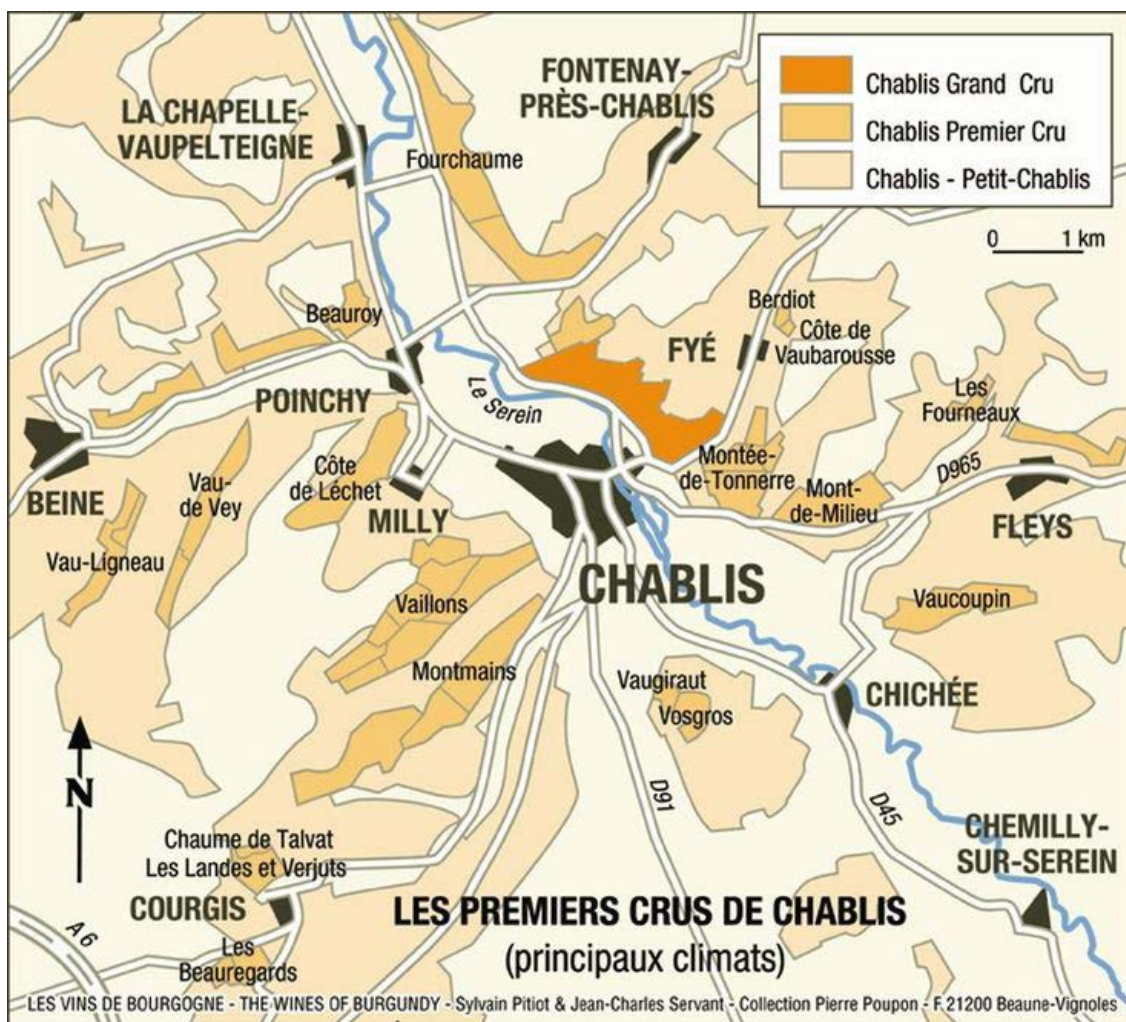
2022 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis Village - \$55.00

"Smoky aromas of shellfish and Granny Smith apples gives way to more voluminous flavors that enjoy better acid support on the balanced and sneaky long finish. This isn't exactly classic in style but it's close and is a wine that offers fine quality for its level. Drink 2026+"

89-91/100 Burghound, Allen Meadows

"The 2022 Chablis Village has a crisp, focused bouquet with hints of pressed white flowers and wet stone. The elegant palate has flecks of white peach and apricot, balanced and lovely with a charming, precise finish. This is very capable and should age well in bottle. Drink 2025-2032"

89-91/100 Vinous, Neal Martin



2022 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis 1er Cru Vosgros - \$75.00

"The 2022 Chablis Vosgros 1er Cru, which is already in bottle, has a harmonious bouquet with fleeting lime, wet stone and a touch of citrus peel. Nicely detailed. The palate is sapid on the entry, with plenty of oyster shell/marine notes and a classically styled, almost "mean" finish. Very fine. Drink 2026-2036"

92/100 Vinous, Neal Martin

"A ripe yet nicely fresh nose displays notes of citrus rind, sea breeze and cool green fruit. The exceptionally rich and opulent medium weight flavors are blessed with plenty of sappy dry extract that serves to buffer the moderately firm acid spine shaping the clean, dry and acceptably complex finale. This forward effort should both drink well young while also repaying 3 to 6 years of keeping. Drink 2026+"

89-92/100 Burghound, Allen Meadows

2022 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis 1er Cru Vaillons - \$75.00

"The 2022 Chablis Vaillons 1er Cru has a complex bouquet with touches of white peach and a muscat-like scent, very focused and seductive. The palate conveys energy and vigor with citrus fruit and hints of orange zest towards the persistent finish. Superb. Drink 2025-2037"

92-94/100 Vinous, Neal Martin

"(From 5 different lieux-dits that saw 15% of new and one-year old wood). A slightly cooler if still ripe nose reflects notes of white pepper, plenty of citrus influence and discreet shellfish nuances. Here too the palate impression of the middleweight flavors is one of richness and generosity yet the supporting acidity is both a little firmer and a bit brighter as well. This delicious effort could use better depth but more should reasonably develop with a few years of aging. Drink 2027+"

90-92/100 Burghound, Allen Meadow



2022 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis 1er Cru Montmains - \$85.00

"The 2022 Chablis Montmains 1er Cru offers scents of grapefruit and orange rind on the nose, less flamboyant than the Vaillons, yet showing impressive delineation already. The palate is well-balanced, with a tangy opening and hints of marmalade infusing the citrus fruit with an almost steely finish. This will need time in bottle. Drink 2026-2040"

91-93/100 Vinous, Neal Martin

"(From Montmains proper; 40% 2 and 3-year-old oak). Prominent notes of mineral reduction and just picked white flowers suffuse the aromas of tidal pool, algae and zest. The rich but vibrant medium weight flavors possess even more obvious minerality that seems to become more obvious on the cool, firm and delineated finish that is clean, dry, citrusy and sneaky long. Lovely. Drink 2028+"

90-93/100 Burghound, Allen Meadows



2022 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis 1er Cru Vaulorent - \$95.00

“(From a .33 ha parcel). A distinctly smoky nose features notes of apple and pear confit along with various floral and seashore hints. The medium-bodied flavors are rich, even plush, with a highly seductive texture that carries over to the surprisingly powerful, well-balanced and strikingly long finale. This is lovely and harmonious. Drink 2029+”

91-94/100 Burghound, Allen Meadows

“The 2022 Chablis Vaulorent 1er Cru has a sensual bouquet with yellow plum, jasmine and saffron scents that billow from the glass. The palate is very well-balanced with a fine bead of acidity, very focused and sharp, and citrus-fresh towards the finish. Almost clinical (in a good way), though that is one of Droin's tropes. Drink 2025-2038”

91-93/100 Vinous, Neal Martin

2022 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis Grand Cru Vaudésir - \$140

“The 2022 Chablis Vaudésir Grand Cru is very fragrant on the nose with white peach, white chocolate and hints of wet stone scents, like a Vaillons-plus. The palate is well-defined, taut and fresh, with crisp acidity and good depth, but it starts to clam up towards the finish. Patience will be required, but there is no doubting the caliber of this Grand Cru. Drink 2027-2040”

92-94/100 Vinous, Neal Martin

“(From a 1.02 ha parcel with about 2/3s of it on the north facing side). A ripe but agreeably cool nose combines an array of spice elements with those of oyster shell, pear and pretty floral wisps. The super-sleek and wonderfully refined medium weight flavors aren't particularly dense but they do offer a beguiling sense of energy that also suffuses the very dry, focused and highly persistent finale. Like the Montée de Tonnerre, this too could use better depth though more should almost certainly develop if given a chance. Drink 2030+”

91-94/100 Burghound, Allen Meadows



2022 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis Grand Cru 'Homage à Louis' - \$165

"Sharp-eyed readers will notice the absence of the Les Clos, or at least a wine so designated. You might well wonder why. The explanation is that INAO, which regulates all things vinous in France, has lodged a complaint against the domaine's use of the lieu-dit Les Clos for one of its three parcels. They have done this because of a dispute over whether one specific parcel is actually within the boundaries of Les Clos. The sale documents when the parcel was acquired by Louis Droin in 1920 indicate the name "Au Clos, lieu-dit Les Clos". INAO however is arguing that the parcel is actually part of Valmur even though every vintage between 1920 and 2019 have included this parcel and was declared as Les Clos! While the issue is being resolved, Benoît Droin has chosen to continue including this parcel and bottle what is in essence his Les Clos under the cuvée name Homage à Louis. I underscore that the cuvée is correctly being declared as a grand cru, because in Chablis it is possible to combine parcels from different grand crus while maintaining grand cru status, though the right to use a specific lieu dit is lost. This has more prominent smoky mineral reduction wisps are present on the more elegant aromas of acacia blossom, iodine and shellfish. There is outstanding size, weight and richness to the large-scaled flavors that coat the palate with sappy dry extract while a pronounced stoniness becomes apparent on the compact, built-to-age and beautifully long finish. This too is very good and should have no trouble repaying a decade or so of cellaring. Drink 2032+"

92-95/100 Burghound, Allen Meadows