

DOMAINE LEFLAIVE

Luligny-Montrachet

depuis 1717

2014
VINTAGE REPORT
&
PRESS



DOMAINE LEFLAIVE

Puligny-Montrachet
Since 1717

The 2014 Vintage

Overall, the winter of 2013-2014 was relatively warm with heavy rainfall until the first days of March. Spring was dry and sunny throughout the season. With this favorable weather, bud burst began around March 25, and we started to wonder if 2014 would be another early year.

The beginning of April was equally dry, and by mid-April four to five leaves were showing, but temperatures then dropped until early May, abruptly causing the vines to slow their precocious growth.

Taking advantage of summer-like conditions at the end of May, the vigorous growth resumed, but the dry weather constrained any excess of vegetation. The first flowers were observed on May 22, and full flowering arrived on June 2-3 during several very hot days.

The month of June remained hot and dry, and the vineyards got back to a good rhythm, surpassing normal vegetative stages. We again talked of an early vintage and made the necessary arrangements.

On June 28, all these favorable conditions came brutally to a halt with a hail storm affecting mainly the top of the hill in the northern part of Puligny and more severely the vineyards of Meursault, Monthélie, Volnay, Pommard and Beaune.

The month of July and early August were unusually damp and cool for the season, and there was a pause in vine development. Summer weather returned for the second part of August, anticyclonic and very favorable to good fruit maturation. We began the harvest on September 10 and proceeded at a measured pace in dry conditions. Average yields overall were 46 hectoliters per hectare, slightly higher than that of the previous vintage.

The alcoholic fermentation proceeded in a very classic, conventional manner until November, immediately followed by the malolactic fermentations. The last batch finished their fermentation in July.

The 2014 wines are vibrant and show a fine minerality, the signature of the best terroirs of Puligny.

Our wines are vinified to be aged. The Bourgogne and Villages may be enjoyed after just a few years, while the Premiers Crus and Grands Crus are best kept several years longer to be discovered at their best. To this end, we have created a specific section on our Domaine Leflaive website to advise you of the optimum drinking age for each of our wines: www.leflaive.fr/en/when-taste



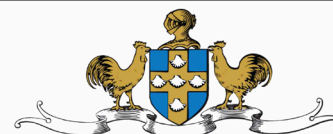
Puligny-Montrachet

DOMAINE LEFLAIVE - PULIGNY-MONTRACHET



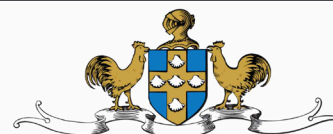
Puligny-Montrachet 1^{er} Cru
CLAVOILLON

DOMAINE LEFLAIVE - PULIGNY-MONTRACHET



Meursault 1^{er} Cru
SOUS LE DOS D'ANE

DOMAINE LEFLAIVE - PULIGNY-MONTRACHET



Bienvenues Dâtard-Montrachet
GRAND CRU

DOMAINE LEFLAIVE - PULIGNY-MONTRACHET

WILSON DANIELS
SINCE 1978



Imported by Wilson Daniels | St. Helena, California | www.wilsondaniels.com

Domaine Leflaive 2014 Vintage

"The 2014 flowering took place between May 22 and June 5 under what winemaker Eric Rémy described as 'good weather but too warm.' The flowering was especially successful on vines planted along a north-south axis but less regular on the east-west vines, he added. Average production for the estate was 46 hectoliters per hectare, about the same as in 2011, while 2013 yielded just under 40. Potential alcohol levels for the grand crus in 2014 were in the 12.8% to 13.1% range, noted Rémy, and no wine was chaptalized more than half a degree. Rémy compares 2014 in quality to 2010 and 2008, noting that the post-malo '14s have acidity levels between 4.25 and 5.25 grams per liter.

"Meanwhile, the 2013s here have turned out very well, even if the skins of the grapes were more fragile owing to what Rémy described as 'tropical conditions' at harvest. 'In 2014, it was much drier and we could take our time picking.' Rémy is convinced that the 2013s will begin to tighten up this fall."

From *The 2014 & 2013 White Burgundies* (September 2015) by Stephen Tanzer

2014 Domaine Leflaive Puligny-Montrachet

Score: 88-91

"Bright, pale yellow. Pure aromas of peach and flowers. In a lighter style but supple, gentle and classically dry, showing attractive floral lift to the stone fruit flavors."

2014 Domaine Leflaive Meursault Sous Le Dos D'Ane

Score: 88-90

"Pale, bright yellow. Soft citrus, plum and apricot aromas complicated by flowers and a touch of musky lees. Less generous than the village Puligny, showing a youthful firm edge today. With a bit less buffering fat than the Puligny, the finishes is less pliant."

2014 Domaine Leflaive Puligny-Montrachet Clavoillon 1er Cru

Score: 90-92

"Pale, bright yellow. Musky peach and clove on the nose. Round and sedate on the palate, with peachy fruit salad flavors nicely framed by ripe acidity. Not a particularly big or fleshy wine but boasts a firm mineral underpinning."

2014 Domaine Leflaive Puligny-Montrachet Les Folatières 1er Cru

Score: 91-93

"Pale, bright yellow with green highlights. Lovely perfume of lime blossom, white peach and noble herbs. Captivating sucrosité on the attack, then juicy and floral in the mid-palate, showing a cooler fruit quality than the Clavoillon. Vibrant, sharply delineated premier cru with a subtle, slowly building finish featuring good mineral grip. A lovely showing."

2014 Domaine Leflaive Puligny-Montrachet Les Combettes 1er Cru

Score: 91-93

"Light yellow. Deeply pitched, slightly reduced aromas of stone fruits and rock. Bigger and richer in the mouth than the Folatières but less floral, with stone fruit and honey notes dominating. Plenty of energy here but this is very reserved today. Finishes quite dry and a bit phenolic, with a mineral firmness and a repeating note of musky reduction."

2014 Domaine Leflaive Puligny-Montrachet Les Pucelles 1er Cru

Score: 92-94

"Bright, light yellow. Reticent reduced nose opens slowly with air to offer scents of soft citrus fruits, lime oil, clove and white flowers. Thicker on entry than the Combettes, showing more baby fat in the early going. But still dry and classic, even tight, in the mid-palate, with a strong menthol character keeping the fruit under wraps. Finishes bone-dry but smooth and long, without any phenolic character. This will need time in bottle to expand."

Domaine Leflaive 2014 Vintage (cont.)

From *The 2014 & 2013 White Burgundies* (September 2015) by Stephen Tanzer

2014 Domaine Leflaive Bienvenues-Batard-Montrachet Grand Cru

Score: 92-95

"Bright, pale yellow. Expressive, highly nuanced nose combines stone fruits, lime blossom, white pepper, honey and crushed stone. Sweet, plush and silky; more glyceric than the Pucelles and showing a rare sucrosité for this grand cru in the early going. Wonderfully fine-grained, harmonious and long on the aftertaste."

2014 Domaine Leflaive Batard-Montrachet Grand Cru

Score: 93-95

"Bright, pale yellow. Deeply pitched, slightly reduced aromas of stone fruits, pineapple and honey. Fatter and sweeter than the Bienvenue, then broader and more powerful on the back half, showing a ripe pineapple character but coming across as bone-dry. Less harmonious than the Bienvenue and a bit more phenolic on the back end. This wine will need a good seven or eight years of cellaring."

2014 Domaine Leflaive Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru

Score: 94-96

"From vines in the lower portion of this grand cru: Almost Riesling-like aromas of peach, quinine, ginger, mint and dusty herbs lifted by pungent minerality. Superb saline minerality and a dusty impression of extract give this wine outstanding finesse and penetration, but it's ultimately quite smooth and impeccably balanced. Still youthfully tight but very long on the aftertaste."

"From Chevalier-Montrachet du Haut: Delicate floral lift to the peach and pear aromas. Less sweet and glyceric than the first sample, with an iodine saline quality giving the middle palate a very taut impression. An assemblage of the two samples: Bright yellow. Subtly complex aromas and flavors of peach, noble herbs, flowers and smoky, flinty minerality, with a lightly metallic character. Tactile and dense but light on its feet and youthfully laid-back. Finishes scented, subtle and very long, with a tactile, dusty impression of extract."

2014 Domaine Leflaive Montrachet Grand Cru

Score: 94-97

"(there's just a single 350-liter barrel of this juice, made from vines planted along a north-south axis): Bright, light yellow. Reduced aromas of apricot, peach, iodine and grilled, smoky oak. Large-scaled, solid and sweet but with strong lemony acidity and iodine crushed-stone character enlivening the stone fruit and orange blossom flavors. At once powerful and airy, finishing with a tannic impression and outstanding extract and length. This wine may well need a decade in barrel to digest its oak. Incidentally, Rémy told me he uses 15% new oak for the village wines, 20% for his premier crus and 25% for the grand crus."

—Stephen Tanzer, September 2015





DOMAINE LEFLAIVE

"My first ever visit to Domaine Leflaive was in 1997, my first ever in the strangest of places called Burgundy. My memories are vague, but it might well have been my first ever visit to the wine region -- back then playing second fiddle to all-conquering Bordeaux. Burgundy was for those that could not afford Bordeaux at a time when Bordeaux was actually affordable. I think I met Anne-Claude briefly on that occasion, just to say hello, but it was somebody else dipping pipette into barrel. Some 18 years later, and this is the first time that I have visited the domaine, and the matriarch has gone. I cannot deny that it is strange, like visiting a house when the owners are out. Of course, they are not. I am met my Brice de la Morandie, one of many shareholders in the estate, the one who has grabbed hold of the tiller after Anne-Claude's untimely passing last year. He cuts a very different figure: sartorially immaculate in tweed jacket, handkerchief neatly folded into breast pocket, cutting the figure of a businessman as well as winemaker (and there is nothing wrong with that). I am here to assess the wines and he is probably here to assess me and doubtless, other importers and scribes that will visit over the next couple of months.

". . . Antoine Lepetit de la Bigne joined us and guided me through recent vintages. He is one of the most ardent proponents of biodynamics, having gone so far to pen his own book on Steiner's philosophy.

"The growth cycle of the 2014 vintage started early in March, which was warm, so budburst took place at the end of month,' he explained, mounting a ladder to dip a pipette into the stainless steel vat. 'And then it went much more slowly since April was cold. We feared it was going to be an early vintage, but spring slowed things down when it was warm and cold. Flowering took place in early June under warm conditions and it was quite dry. We didn't see it, but many vineyards suffered a little drought. It was more noticeable at the end of the cycle and this postponed the growth. We had some hail in some vineyards, just 10% in the northern [vineyards] and the highest part of the hill. August was better than July and we started picking on September 10 under good conditions. The berries were not small like in 2015. The ripening was not too difficult and kept their freshness



#222, December 31, 2015
Burgundy 2014 – Puligny-Montrachet
by Neal Martin

and the tension. We finished the harvest around September 17 or 18. It was an easier vintage than 2013, which was so unpredictable. With regard to the vinification: 12 months in wood and then we transfer into tank for the second year in the third week of August. Some of the malolactics went through early, some of them before Christmas.'

"I asked Antoine about the style of the 2014s vis-à-vis the previous vintage. 'The 2014s I find are easy to read,' he replied, 'and compared to 2013, the acidity is not so edgy. We are around the average in terms of production. We have not decided a bottling date yet, but it will probably be between April and June.'

"As one would expect, it was a strong performance from Leflaive in a vintage abundant with great white Burgundy, one in which the Chardonnay excelled. My pick would be the Puligny-esque Meursault Sous le Dos D'Ane, the Puligny Combettes and if you must insist on a grand cru, perhaps the winsome Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet. . ."

2014 Domaine Leflaive Puligny Montrachet Village

"The 2014 Puligny Montrachet Village has a crisp and slightly herbaceous bouquet, a hint of grass clipping in the background. The palate is well balanced, hints of citrus lemon and white peach with a dab of lemongrass, fanning out gently on the composed, flinty finish. This is a perfectly decent Puligny Villages in the making." Drink: 2017-2027; Rating: 88-90 points

2014 Domaine Leflaive Meursault 1er Cru Sous le Dos d'Ane

"The 2014 Meursault 1er Cru Sous le Dos d'Ane has a stony, slate-scented bouquet, perhaps more Puligny-like than Meursault. The palate is crisp and fresh with a fine line of acidity. This is a pretty Meursault with a detailed, citrus peel finish that is poised and pure. I appreciate the Zen-like personality of this Meursault that dovetails nicely with its Puligny 'cousins.'" Drink: 2017 - 2030; Rating: 90-92 points





DOMAINE LEFLAIVE



#222, December 31, 2015
Burgundy 2014 – Puligny-Montrachet
by Neal Martin

2014 Domaine Leflaive Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Clavoillon

"The 2014 Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Clavoillon had a slightly muted bouquet: flinty at first, straight-laced with just a touch of dewy green apple. The palate is fresh on the entry with a bright opening and then it hunkers down towards a more stony, precise, flinty finish. Understated perhaps, but there is good length here." Drink: 2017 - 2027; Rating: 89-91 points

2014 Domaine Leflaive Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Folatières

"The 2014 Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Folatières has a crisp, floral bouquet that takes time to unwind, with hints of chalk dust littered over the bright green apple and fresh pear scents. The palate is fresh and vibrant on the entry with a keen line of acidity, though it needs to develop a touch more material towards the finish just to fill the wine out a little and create more of a presence." Drink: 2017 - 2030; Rating: 90-92 points

2014 Domaine Leflaive Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Combettes

"The 2014 Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Combettes is much more expressive on the nose, doling out pressed yellow flower scents and apricot blossom -- a very come-hither nose. The palate is very well balanced, lively in the mouth, edgy compared to the Folatières with a primal finish. There is just a touch of shrillness on the aftertaste, but that should dissipate by the time of bottling and leave a very fine Puligny Combettes that should age with style." Drink: 2017 - 2033; Rating: 91-93 points

2014 Domaine Leflaive Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Pucelles

"The 2014 Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Pucelles was showing some reduction on the nose when I tasted it from vat. The palate is also a little reduced, but there is good material here and there is precision towards the minerally finish; though what it needs to develop is just a touch more aftertaste. After three or four minutes, it does seem to find its voice and articulate the terroir, but my overriding impression is of a wine that will require 3-4 years in bottle." Drink: 2018 - 2033; Rating: 91-93 points

2014 Domaine Leflaive Bienvenues Batard-Montrachet Grand Cru

"The 2014 Bienvenues Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru has a come-hither bouquet that is very immediate: passion fruit, apricot blossom, cold stone and even a faint touch of strawberry wine gums. The palate is well balanced with a keen line of acidity, good weight in the mouth with a touch of citrus lemon and lime, but perhaps just needing more complexity and terroir expression to come through on the finish. This is one of the best 2014 Bienvenues that I have come across -- an absolute delight." Drink: 2017 - 2035; Rating: 93-95 points



2014 Domaine Leflaive Batard-Montrachet Grand Cru

"The 2014 Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru has a more powerful bouquet than the Bienvenues Bâtard-Montrachet, very energetic with fresh pear, white peach and citrus fruit. The palate is nicely balanced but does not quite offer the detail and precision of the Bienvenue at the moment. It's a grand cru that will hopefully up its game by the time of bottling, because on this showing, it is surpassed by the 2014 Bienvenues." Drink: 2018 - 2030; Rating: 90-92 points

2014 Domaine Leflaive Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru

"The 2014 Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru has much more mineralité than the Bâtard-Montrachet this year; this is precise and poised, with cold slate and granite aromas that seem very focused, whilst keeping something back for later. The palate is fresh and focused with a keen line of acidity. There is great depth here, razor-sharp and mineral-rich with a long finish. There is just a hint of bitter lemon on the aftertaste that keeps this wine on its toes. This is another razor-sharp, complex Chevalier-Montrachet that will reward cellaring." Drink: 2018 - 2035; Rating: 94-96 points

Burgundy 2014

by Team JR

published January 2016

Domaine Leflaive

Domaine Leflaive 2014 Puligny-Montrachet 16
Lightly floral nose. Masses of acidity. Tight and taut. Very much made for the long term. . . Drink 2018-2023

Domaine Leflaive, Sous le Dos d'Âne Premier Cru 16.5
2014 Meursault
Next to Perrières, and Eric Remy feels each year brings more and more minerality.
Relatively rich nose within a Leflaive context. Tight and indeed some wet stones on the end. Drink 2018-2024

Domaine Leflaive, Clavoillon Premier Cru 16++
2014 Puligny-Montrachet
A little mild on the nose. Very tight indeed. Inexpressive today but I'm sure it will emerge. There is lots of matter there on the palate. Drink 2019-2025

Domaine Leflaive, 2014 Les Folatières Premier Cru 16.5
2014 Puligny-Montrachet
In cuve since the end of August.
Broad, creamy nose. Very precisely chiselled with some well-formed fruit in the middle, though still a little subdued. I wonder if this is just a stage. Drink 2018-2025

Domaine Leflaive, Les Combettes Premier Cru 16.5+
2014 Puligny-Montrachet
Light nuttiness on the nose – and very 'cool' overall. Nothing rich or flashy here. Low key but all in great refinement. This may well flower into something spectacular. Chalky finish – lots there, but hidden! Drink 2018-2026

Domaine Leflaive, Les Pucelles Premier Cru 17
2014 Puligny-Montrachet
Great density on the palate seems to pull the aromas earthwards but there is a great weight here. Lots of substance. Drink 2019-2027



Domaine Leflaive, Grand Cru 17.5+
2014 Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet
Sweet and broad and charming on the nose. Great green-golden charm with real energy and breadth. Drink 2021-2033

Domaine Leflaive, Grand Cru 17.5+
2014 Bâtard-Montrachet
Broad and rich on the nose with some intriguingly mineral note – putty? – and great generosity even if not the most concentrated. Lots of pleasure. Lots of freshness as well as the richness. Long. Drink 2020-2030

Domaine Leflaive, Grand Cru 18+
2014 Chevalier-Montrachet
Great excitement on the nose! Such class. Lots of elements all knitting such refinement. Honey and blooms and the finest of white pebbles somehow, all making up a wonderful light show. Delicacy with undertow. Real lift! Drink 2021-2035

