

# THE WORLD OF FINE WINE

The appellation of Nuits-Saint-Georges divides neatly into three parts. North of the town the vines continue up to Vosne-Romanée; Nuits' Boudots marches with Vosne's Malconsorts. South of the town lies the heart of Nuits-Saint-Georges, which includes the climats of Pruliers, Poirêts (or Porrets), Cailles, Vaucrains and Les Saint-Georges itself, after which the commune takes its suffix. South of here, the commune comes to its end, but the wines of its neighbour, Prémieux-Prissey, are entitled to be called Nuits-Saint-Georges. This is the third sector. Strangely, much of this area consists of monopoly vineyards. The wines neither have the finesse of those of the northern part of the appellation, nor the concentration of the middle section, but they have no shortage of depth. They also show the advantage of the individuality that comes from their being monopolies and made on a larger scale than some of their counterparts to the north.

Why there should be eight monopoly vineyards out of twelve in this part of Burgundy is not clear. The fact that most are Clos might suggest an ecclesiastical origin, in this case the Cistercians at their nearby monastery of Cîteaux. But it would seem that their influence had evaporated well before the revolution. The vines may have been technically the property of the church, but the leading bourgeois families were firmly in charge.

Forêts then gives way to Aux Perdrix, another monopoly, in mid-slope, with Aux Corvées, part of which is a monopoly, below, and Les Terres Blanches, not a monopoly and a recent (1985) promotion to premier cru, above. Aux Perdrix has been owned by the Devillard family, large landowners in Mercurey in the Côte Chalonnaise, but with a fine domaine here in the Côte d'Or, since 1996. The fruit is destemmed entirely. There is treading down but no pumping over. I find it excellent. I have several vintages in my cellar. Since 2006, an old-vine bottling, from a third of a hectare of vines planted in 1922, has been declared.

## Perdrix

Owners: Devillard family. Winemakers: Amaury Devillard/Robert Vernizeau. Surface Area: 3.45 ha.

2007. Medium colour. Fresh nose. But without the backbone and concentration of the wine below. Medium to medium-full body. Ripe and stylish, quite forward but fragrant and elegant. Nice balance. Good plus. From 2012.

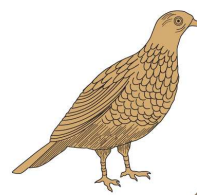
2007, Les Huit Ouvrées. Good colour. Splendidly ripe, concentrated nose, with a touch of new oak. Fullish body. Good tannins. Very good grip. This is youthful and profound. Fine quality. From 2015.

2006. Good colour. Not a lot of personality on the nose at first. Better on the palate. But nevertheless a little lean and astringent. Medium to medium-full body. Lacks a bit of charm. Good at best. From 2014.

2006, Les Huit Ouvrées. Very good colour. Lovely concentrated nose. Pure, succulent. Very good tannins. Very good grip. A fullish wine, especially for 2006, with a lovely ample character and lots of depth. Fine plus. From 2016.

## Nuits-St-Georges Monopoles 2006–2007

by Clive Coates MW



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