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## CHÂTEAU DE MARSANNAY

**NB** | *The sensitive and skillful young technical director, Sylvain Pabion, has produced another very impressive range in only his third vintage here. A masterclass in Marsannay, including the complete, sapid, tour d'horizon village wine; racy, saline, taut Echezots; mouthwatering, succulent, transparent Longeroies; and elegant, mineral, structured Boivin, all sampled au château in November 2018 but not again in London in January, as the Clos de Jeu was. All well worth seeking out, as are the grander wines from beyond the village.*

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### Marsannay Clos de Jeu

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**NB** | A well-judged, well-managed 40% whole-bunch and 30% new oak, bottled a little earlier than usual to capture the fruit. Medium-deep ruby. A noble nose, complex, darkly fruited, richly spicy, expressive but unforced. Elegant on entry, supple, almost velvety, but density, intensity, and *matière*, too, and a spiraling finish. *Hors classe* village wine, and clear premier cru potential, surely. | 90

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### Gevrey-Chambertin Premier Cru Bel-Air

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**NB** | No whole-bunch for this upslope site above Clos de Bèze and near Ruchottes-Chambertin, which seems sensible given how well the wine has turned out. Intense mid-ruby. Appetizing, inviting nose, red fruit, light spice, subtle and transparent. Definition, direction, and freshness on the palate, but flowing, graceful, and seamless thanks to the very fine, well-wrought tannins. | 91

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### Gevrey-Chambertin Premier Cru Champeaux

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**NB** | About 15% whole-bunch here, which also seems exactly right given the persuasive result. A shade deeper than the Bel-Air, and a more animal (*pace* Sylvain), more mineral nose, with greater lift. Deeper on the palate, richer and more structured but still supple, a very gentle squeeze from the tannin. Still to fan out but the promise that it will. | 91

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## Chambertin Grand Cru

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**NB** | A very special wine: only one barrel, from 70-year-old vines toward the top of the cru, but so worthwhile. Intense mid-ruby, dullish natural luster (barrel sample). Enigmatic, because so harmonious and intricately woven that it is difficult to separate the strands, beyond the fragrant rose. Magnificent scale, but effortless, balanced by gentle animating acidity and densely but finely layered tannin. | 96

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### Ruchottes-Chambertin Grand Cru

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**NB** | Luminous mid-ruby. A very fine nose: mineral, restrained, subtle, fleeting whiffs of licorice and kirsch. Supremely silky texture, cocoa-powder fine tannins when they settle, and the acidity to ensure a rousing flourish on the long, lingering finish. | 95

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### Vosne-Romanée Premier Cru En Orveaux

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**NB** | Mid-ruby, natural luster. A lovely, gently exotic, ripe raspberry scent. Elegant, silky, and supple, multi-faceted, multi-layered, with gently animating acidity and a graceful, flourishing finish. | 92

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### Echézeaux Grand Cru

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**NB** | Mid-ruby. Darker red fruit, more reserved but still with the gentle exoticism of the village and the vintage. Densely silky, but with elegance and grace as well as proper grand cru scale | 93

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### Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru

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**NB** | Intense mid-ruby. A distinguished nose, very lightly peppery and spicy (roughly 10% whole-bunch, and 100% new oak though you would never know it). Seamless, silky, and supple, with animating energy and finely layered tannins. Finesse is not normally a quality one finds so easily in Clos de Vougeot, but it is clearly evident here, suggesting that it was indeed a very good vintage for this normally more forthright vineyard. | 94

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