

# Burgundy 2013

Gerard Basset OBE MW MS tasted 556 wines from this new vintage in a 10-day tour throughout the Côte d'Or and Chablis. Here he recommends his top 96 wines across the communes, discovering that some great wines were made, despite the weather.

*'While of all 2013 Burgundy will be sensational, there will still be plenty of delicious wines to enjoy'*

THE ADVERSE WEATHER conditions at various moments during the growing season have meant that 2013 was, for Burgundy producers, a very complicated vintage. Quality-minded growers had to be extremely vigilant and rigorous in their vineyards and ruthless at the sorting tables to be able to vinify grapes capable of producing wines of excellent quality. With all that was thrown at them by the weather in 2013, the growers needed great composure as well as great grapes.

The cold and fairly rainy conditions of the winter carried on well into the spring and so budburst was late. As Laurent Martelet of Domaine Martelet de Cherisey, at Hameau de Blagny between Puligny-Montrachet and Meursault, puts it: 'It seemed that winter did not want to go'. May and June, each providing increasingly heavy rainfall and cool days too, did not help.

## Challenging weather

Unsurprisingly, flowering was also late – later than in 2012 and much than in 2011. Flowering was also partly disrupted by the rain and cooler than average temperatures, which heralded the onset of some coulure (berries failing to develop) and millerandage (berries of uneven size and maturity in the same bunch), both events announcing a small harvest.

Hot weather conditions arrived in July, but with some rain too and that meant that growers had to be extremely attentive against the spread of fungal diseases. On 23 July, a violent hail storm that destroyed vineyards hit the north of the Côte de Beaune ; some areas in Volnay, Pommard, Beaune, Savigny-lès-Beaune and Pernand-Vergelesses being most severely damaged. Frédéric Lafarge of Domaine Michel Lafarge in Volnay told me: 'Because of that storm, we only harvested a third of what we normally do'.

A very sad situation for many growers in that part of the Côte de Beaune, putting some in a very precarious financial position. I was reminded by Raphaël Coche of Domaine Coche-Dury in Meursault, 'Certain vineyards in the same areas has already experienced forcefull hail storms the vintage before –in fact twice in 2012'...

## A guide to Burgundy 2013

I spent the last days of November 2014 travelling throughout Chablis and the Côte d'Or. During that time I tasted and rated 556 wines, of each my top 96 are here. For scores and tasting notes of all wines, see [Decanter.com/burgundy2013](http://Decanter.com/burgundy2013)

## White wines

### Chablis

I tasted 224 Chablis and Petit Chablis, and while the wines are less classic in 2013, they will be more exuberant than usual and quite charming. It's a vintage that should offer immediate pleasure, but perhaps not one made for long ageing, though there will be exceptions.

Vintage preview  
**Burgundy 2013**

<b>Chablis 1er Cru Côte de Léchet</b>	<b>Domaine Sébastien Damppt</b>	<b>94/100</b>
Drink date : 2016-2024		
Tasting note : Wonderful cep mushroom character with ripe fruit too, racy and lively with a long mineral finish		
<b>Chablis 1er Cru Côte de Léchet</b>	<b>Domaine Daniel Damppt &amp; Fils</b>	<b>93/100</b>
Drink date : 2016-2024		
Tasting note : Perfumed with a mixture of stony fruit and white fruit, light and lively with a mineral finish		
<b>Chablis 1er Cru Les Beugnons</b>	<b>Domaine Sébastien Damppt</b>	<b>93/100</b>
Drink date : 2016-2024		
Tasting note : Floral and white pear, very fresh and juicy with a long mineral finish		
<b>Chablis 1er Cru Les Lys</b>	<b>Domaine Daniel Damppt &amp; Fils</b>	<b>93/100</b>
Drink date : 2016-2024		
Tasting note : Pungent nose of Asian spices and floral, brisk and racy on the palate with a mineral finish		
<b>Chablis 1er Cru Vaillons</b>	<b>Domaine Daniel Damppt &amp; Fils</b>	<b>92/100</b>
Drink date : 2016-2024		
Tasting note : Elegant and perfumed with herbal tea and yellow plum, firm but ripe with a long tangerine finish		
<b>Chablis 1er Cru Vaillons</b>	<b>Domaine Sébastien Damppt</b>	<b>92/100</b>
Drink date : 2016-2024		
Tasting note : Floral and stony fruit with a fresh texture, long citrus finish		
<b>Chablis 1er Cru Vaillons</b>	<b>Domaine Vincent Damppt</b>	<b>92/100</b>
Drink date : 2016-2024		
Tasting note : Lovely fresh nose with white pear and peach, juicy on the palate with a yellow plum finish		
<b>Chablis 1er Cru Côte de Léchet</b>	<b>Domaine Vincent Damppt</b>	<b>91/100</b>
Drink date : 2016-2024		
Tasting note : Floral and peachy oin the nose, lively and juicy with a mineral finish		
<b>Chablis 1er Cru Fourchaume</b>	<b>Domaine Daniel Damppt &amp; Fils</b>	<b>91/100</b>
Drink date : 2016-2022		
Tasting note : Ginger cake on the nose, ripe and juicy with candied fruit finish		
<b>Chablis</b>	<b>Domaine Daniel Damppt &amp; Fils</b>	<b>90/100</b>
Drink date : 2015-2020		
Tasting note : Lifted nose of ripe stony fruit with apricot, fresh and juicy with a tangerine finish		
<b>Chablis</b>	<b>Domaine Vincent Damppt</b>	<b>90/100</b>
Drink date : 2016-2020		
Tasting note : Very fruity, apricot and white pear, steely and fresh, with a stony finish		
<b>Chablis</b>	<b>Domaine Sébastien Damppt</b>	<b>89/100</b>
Drink date : 2016-2020		
Tasting note : Iodine nose with a white pear background, very with a peachy finish		