

July 2016

Samuel Billaud
Chablis Grand Cru "Les Preuses", 2014
Burgundy, France

94 Points

(Billaud has purchased this fruit from 50-year-old vines since 2012; like the Vaudésir and Clos, this was vinified in used barrels and aged on its lees in stainless steel): Bright, pale yellow. Laid-back aromas of grapefruit, white flowers and crushed rock, complemented by spicy oak. Big, broad, horizontal wine with terrific floral lift and minerality giving it outstanding inner-mouth tension and definition. This taut, highly concentrated wine (the crop level was 35 hectoliters per hectare, the same as Les Clos in 2014) finishes tactile very dry and extremely long, with vibrant notes of wet stone and flowers. The oak element barely registers on the aftertaste. Billaud finds this wine more delicate than the Clos, which he marginally prefers for its "straight line" and greater complexity. (AG)