



France: Burgundy 2014 – Pommard & Volnay

by Neal Martin

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Domaine de la Pousse d'Or 2014

On a November morning that has no right to be that balmy, I pulled up outside the gates of Domaine de la Pousse d'Or in Volnay: week four, appointment one. As usual, I pressed the buzzer that activated both the PA and the man-eating canine that goes by the name of Gypsy. It's not that I don't want to get acquainted with Gypsy, it's just that when he starts mauling me to death, I will at least know his name. Proprietor Patrick Landanger soon followed, bought the canine to heel, and we entered his vat-room to taste the domaine's 2014s.

He told me that they cropped at just 20 hectoliters per hectare. This is partly due to hail that struck Burgundy on June 28, resulting in around half of the crop lost, up to 60% in others. August was fresh and being in the Côte de Beaune, they had no infestation of *suzukii* fruit flies, but September saw a marked improvement in the weather. The harvest commenced comparatively late on September 23 and then over the next seven days. They had to be careful on the sorting table as the fruit

came into the vat-room. Everything here is destemmed, although Patrick told me that they left on some of the larger stems, never more than 5% however. The vinification passed normally and he intends to bottle at the end of January, on the beginning of February. He told me that he finds the 2014s to be aromatic and more powerful than the 2013s, the tannins fleshy.

Personally, I find much to like here. There is preponderance of black rather than red fruit on these wines that are perhaps a little modern in style, occasionally reminiscent of Domaine Perrot-Minot up in Morey-Saint-Denis, that convey an almost "vitamin-like" purity. The wines from Chambolle-Musigny did not quite match the quality that can be found in Volnay, partly because I think the hail naturally allowed Mother Nature to concentrate on the surviving berries. The Volnay Clos des 60 Ouvrées would be my personal pick. The Grand Crus are deeply impressive, including a quite mesmerizing Clos de la Roche and a sumptuous Bonnes-Mare. If these wines are good enough for Gypsy, then they are good enough for me.



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