

Domaine Billaud-Simon Chablis 1er Cru Fourchaume 2010

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90-92 Points

Here the nose is quite dense with overtly ripe yet cool green fruit, lime and dried floral elements leading to seductively textured, mineral-infused and delicious flavors that possess a silky mouth feel on the well-defined and lingering finish. As good as this is though, it's not quite in the same league as the Montée de Tonnerre or Mont de Milieu.

Producer note: Bernard Billaud called the 2010 vintage "a complete classic. If the wine school textbooks had a description of what a classic Chablis is supposed to smell and taste like, then 2010 produced it. The wines are exceptionally mineral-driven and the fruit is less evident than it was in 2008 or 2009. We waited to pick until the 27th of September and the small boost in maturities that the fruit enjoyed played an important role in preventing the wines from being excessively austere, which they easily could have been. If I had to compare 2010 to another vintage, I would say that it is closest to the 2004s in terms of their precision and classicism." Last year Billaud told me that while his 2009s were very good, they weren't at the same level as his 2008s. Now that the '09s are in bottle, I am not so sure. While it is certainly true that the '09s are stylistically different from the '08s, they are seriously impressive wines all the same.