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2023

CHABLIS

— INDENT OFFER —

We are excited to present our **2023 indent offer** on the wines of Chablis. We have a full range of wines from the legendary **Jean-Paul & Benoit Droin**, and our second vintage of **Domaine de l'Enclos**. Two stunning producers with different styles and philosophies.

With the never-ending price rises from the Côte de Beaune, Chablis has been our biggest seller for the past few years. We can't keep them in stock! Despite the demand for these wines continuing to increase, our producers have once again seen minimal cost increases. Considering you now need to pay almost \$200 just for village Puligny-Montrachet, this means these are still the best value white burgundies on the market.

We have been lucky with both the 2022 and 2023 vintage having excellent yields, meaning there is good quantities of these wines on their way. This won't last though, as Chablis was once again hammered in 2024. We have been told that our allocations of the 2024 vintage will be extremely small, with 50% of the vineyards partially or totally destroyed by frost and hailstorms. So, we highly recommend that you stock up if you love these wines.

The Droin and l'Enclos Chablis are due to land separately in early 2025. Payment is not due until arrival.



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2023 CHABLIS INDENT OFFER

TO ORDER, COMPLETE THE FORM ON THIS PAGE & RETURN TO WINE@CAROS.CO.NZ,
OR CALL CARO'S ON (09) 377 9974 OR 0800 422 767

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/

The Droin and l'Enclos Chablis are due to land separately in early 2025. Payment is not due until arrival.

WINE ORDER FORM	QUANTITY	PRICE* (In mixed 6+)
2023 Domaine de l'Enclos Chablis		\$54.99
2023 Domaine de l'Enclos Chablis 'Gabrielle'		\$64.99
2023 Domaine de l'Enclos Chablis 1er Cru Beauroy		\$74.99
2023 Domaine de l'Enclos Chablis 1er Cru Vau de Vey		\$74.99
2023 Domaine de l'Enclos Chablis 1er Cru Montmains		\$90.00
2023 Domaine de l'Enclos Chablis 1er Cru Fourchaume		\$100.00
2023 Domaine de l'Enclos Chablis 1er Cru Fourchaume 'Dédé'		\$110.00
2023 Domaine de l'Enclos Chablis Grand Cru Vaudésir		\$150.00
2023 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Petit Chablis		\$49.99
2023 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis Village		\$54.99
2023 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis 1er Cru Vosgros		\$74.99
2023 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis 1er Cru Vaillons		\$74.99
2023 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis 1er Cru Montmains		\$84.99
2023 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis 1er Cru Vaulorent		\$95.00
2023 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis Grand Cru Vaudésir		\$140.00
2023 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis Grand Cru Le Clos 'Homage à Louis'		\$165.00



2023 CHABLIS VINTAGE SUMMARY

"If your number one criterion is faithfulness to the underlying terroir and the clarity of that expression, then 2023 is actually a bit better than 2022, and this is true of both colors. To be fair, I would be remiss not to acknowledge that sometimes the collective fidelity of a given vintage to its terroir becomes more apparent with age. That could well happen with the 2022s, but for the moment, I would give 2023 the edge, and especially so in Chablis. 2022 Chablis is often very good chardonnay but without quite as much of the unique typicity that makes Chablis so special. If those qualities are what you're after, and they certainly are what drive my Chablis purchases, you'll likely be happier with the better 2023s. Indeed, it is somewhat paradoxical to say that on the one hand, 2022 is a better vintage from a quality standpoint, but 2023 is more interesting from a terroir standpoint. Sometimes, it's hard to get everything you want! In terms of ageability,

2023 is sufficiently tender that most wines, particularly the whites, should be approachable, and enjoyable, young. With that said, the better 2023 are nicely balanced because even though acid levels are no better than average, the alcohols are reasonable too, such that the overall effect is one of good to very good balance. This alone should enable them to age gracefully over the short to mid-term but not necessarily need it to be attractive. I hasten to point out that the best 2023 whites will absolutely age, and should age well, particularly among the top Chablis 1ers and Grand Crus."

- Burghound, Allen Meadows

"Despite complicated weather conditions right up to the eve of the harvest, the 2023 vintage is looking very promising, both in terms of quantity and quality. Two harvests in a row without major climatic incidents - now that's something! However, the weather conditions gave the winegrowers a hard time: an excessively mild winter, capricious and wet weather in April, an ambush of powdery mildew, and a prolonged drought. Despite this, summer temperatures in September enabled the grapes to reach optimum ripeness. Harvesting began around September 10. And to everyone's surprise, the harvest volume was good. The wines are expressive, with lovely fruity notes. 2023 combines quality and quantity. Wine lovers will be able to enjoy this vintage in no time, but it will age gracefully."

- Bourgogne Wines

DOMAINE DE L'ENCLOS



Our long search for a top-quality new producer has led us to Domaine de L'Enclos, rapidly becoming one of the most exciting in the appellation. And with tiny production and every vintage sold out overseas, we were extremely lucky to secure an allocation for New Zealand last year. It's extremely rare to find a 'new' domaine with such extensive ownership across the top vineyards. They are so small that none of the critics seem to have even discovered them yet.

Romain and Damien Bouchard founded the estate only in 2016, yet they are the fourth generation to toil the classic chalky, Kimmeridgian soils of Chablis. For almost a hundred years the family has provided other winemakers with peerless Chardonnay fruit, pulled from impressive holdings across grand cru and premier cru vineyards, planted carefully by family hands. They sold their father's négociant business in 2015, but retained for themselves, the 29 hectares of domaine vineyards that their mother's family had owned.

Today these vines are in their prime, ranging from 30 to over 60 years old. With a philosophy of "living soils, healthy and ripe grapes, simple and natural practices, few interventions, monitoring and patience", the perfectionist brothers have set a new, higher standard for the character-driven wines of Chablis. Their holdings include some four acres of Grand cru vineyards, and around 20 acres of Premier cru land; with the rest in Chablis and Petit Chablis. The brothers began organic conversion immediately, and all of the wines are organically certified since 2018.



In addition, they built a new cellar space underneath the large family home in Chablis called 'L'Enclos', which was originally used by the monks of Pontigny. Not only have they transformed the old house into a beautiful Domaine, they have also built a vinification cellar five metres underground allowing the wine to be moved gently by gravity. It is spotlessly clean and modern, and is comprised primarily of small, stainless-steel tanks. The small tanks ensure they can vinify the various parcels they have in their vineyards separately.

Unusually in Chablis, they never chaptalise, and instead work with very low yields in order to ensure full ripeness in the grapes. Debudding, canopy management and all grapes (at all levels) are harvested by hand. These are sorted both in the fields and again in the cellar. Fermentation happens with indigenous yeasts, in either temperature-controlled tank or French oak. No new barrels are used here, they prefer 5 years of age. Wines in general spend some 18 months on fine lees; and are neither fined nor cold stabilized. Only a small amount of sulfur is added at bottling. Wines are lightly filtered.

La Revue du Vin de France calls the wines of Domaine de L'Enclos "a sure value in the appellation," but we'd take it much further: these organically raised, thrillingly expressive Chablis wines in short order have shown what a clear vision and native talent can achieve here, particularly amid a changing climate. These are Chablis wines with body and soul, energetic yet refined – serious value for stellar quality.

domaine de l'enclos

ROMAIN ET DAMIEN BOUCHARD

VIGNERONS À CHABLIS

2023 Domaine de l'Enclos Chablis - \$54.99

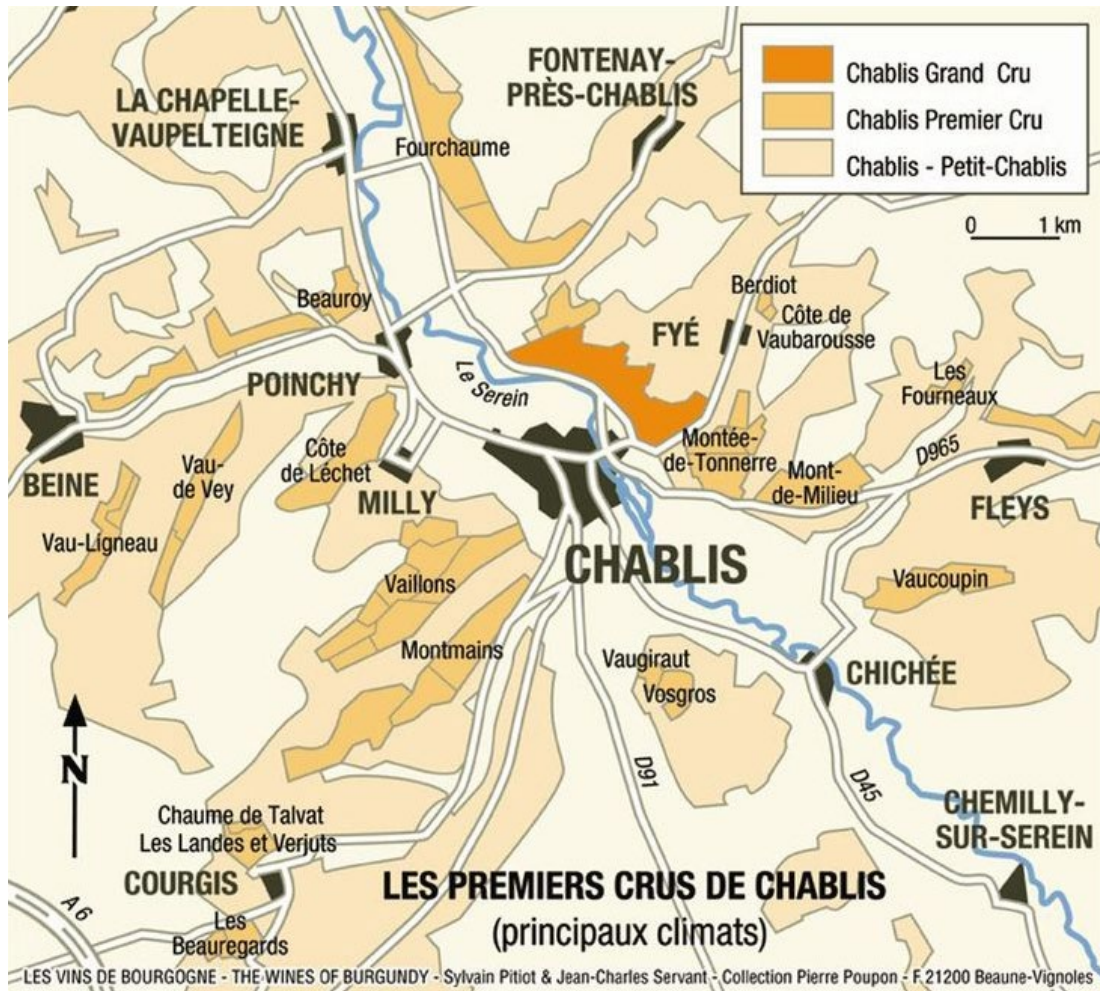
A wonderful Chablis from one of the region's up-and-coming organic labels. Domaine de l'Enclos is a new estate but is run by the fourth generation of a local family grower, who are gaining a new kind of renown in the region by expertly vinifying fruit from their own lovingly-managed family vineyards. Sourced from a blend of vineyards, with vines planted 1982 onwards on classic chalk soils, this is aged entirely in stainless steel. Refreshing and harmonious, this is a lovely Chablis to enjoy now and over the next few years.

2023 Domaine de l'Enclos Chablis 'Gabrielle' - \$64.99

A special old vine Chablis from this boutique producer, a step up from the regular cuvee. This label is a tribute to their grandmother Gabrielle, who helped to plant these vines in the between 1970 and 1980 on the Kimmeridgian clay limestone plateau of La Chapelle. Hand harvested and given 13 months on fine lees in stainless steel, the Gabrielle is a very small production complex Chablis to savour.

2023 Domaine de l'Enclos Chablis 1er Cru Beauroy - \$74.99

A beautiful Chardonnay from a Premier Cru vineyard in Chablis. The family's plot in Beauroy was planted in 1980, on a very steep part of the slope where the vineyard's famous kimmeridgian seashell soils lie very close to the water source of the Lake of Beine. This is a wine that balances rich, smoky ripe fruits with fresh minerality. Emphasied by the fact the Beauroy from l'Enclos is their only Premier Cru to be aged entirely in stainless steel. Great value!



2023 Domaine de l'Enclos Chablis 1er Cru Vau de Vey - \$74.99

An elegant and precise Premier Cru Chardonnay from this rising star in the Chablis region. The family's single piece plot in the Vau de Vey vineyard was planted in 1979, but was taken over by them in 2006 and managed organically since 2010. Typical of this rare southeast-facing slope, the cooler light of the morning sun allows the vines on sand-covered seashell soils to produce an even fresher, more elegant and fragrant expression than other vineyards in the region. Aged in a combination of stainless and older oak, this is a delicious Chablis and a real gem in the range.

2023 Domaine de l'Enclos Chablis 1er Cru Montmains- \$90.00

A compelling Chardonnay from one of the region's most famous Premier Cru vineyards. These family vines were planted in 1971 by their grandfather Andre, in a stretch of the Montmains climat that lies close to the Forests vineyard. Here, the deep classic soils and southeasterly aspect typically produce a sturdy wine of ripe fruits and smoky, iodine mineral notes. Powerful and classy after aging in older oak and stainless steel, Montmains is a great Chablis to decant or hold a few years. Collect!

2023 Domaine de l'Enclos Chablis 1er Cru Fourchaume - \$100.00

An impressive Chardonnay from this famed Premier Cru vineyard in the Chablis region. Domaine De l'Enclos source their exceptional Fourchaume from three neighbouring plots in the historical heart of the vineyard, planted in 1986 and 1992. Often compared to Grand Crus, the thin and chalky soils of this vineyard give the wine a powerful citrus and mineral expression that warrants some time in the cellar. Aged entirely in older oak this is outstanding Chablis.

2023 Domaine de l'Enclos Chablis 1er Cru Fourchaume 'Dédé' - \$110.00

A very rare Premier Cru Chablis with a special family connection. In 1964 their grandfather Andre (nickname Dédé) planted this tiny plot of just 0.28ha, on the gentle west facing slope of the famous Fourchaume vineyard. Here, the classic soils of Kimmeridgen and clay limestone bring out of these treasured vines, the full complexity and mineral poise for which the site and region is renowned. Aged entirely in old wood, only 1365 bottles were made of this unique and rare Premier Cru, the l'Enclos 'Dédé' is a superb Chablis to cellar and collect.

2023 Domaine de l'Enclos Chablis Grand Cru Vaudésir - \$150.00

Romain and Damien own 0.56ha of this famed Grand Cru, situated on a much steeper slope than Fourchaume. The vineyard sits in a natural amphitheatre in the warmest valley of Chablis. It has two opposite exposures with a month difference in picking time; cool on one side and sun-drenched on the other. The sheltered south-facing slope provides optimal ripening conditions, and it is here that their 35 year old vines are planted on classic Kimmeridgian marly limestone. Vaudésir is aged 13 months on fine lees in old oak barrels.



JEAN-PAUL & BENOÎT DROIN



Benoît Droin told me that 2023 “was not quite as simple as 2022 was to manage but certainly much easier than say 2021. Also like 2022 there was an early season frost scare but without any damage of consequence. There was a heat spell just before the harvest so I chose to begin picking a few days earlier than most, which is to say on the 7th of September. The fruit was spotless and copious though variable as we averaged 70 hl/ha, which for us is huge, indeed comparable to 2018 and 2022. Despite the generous yields, potential alcohols were also very good as they ranged from 12.5 to 13.4%, which is a bit higher than the 12 to 13% that we realized in 2022. As to the style of the 2023s, I would describe them as either a slightly richer and more mature version of 2022 or, going back a bit, perhaps a bit like a slightly softer version of the 2000s. They should be accessible young but I see no reason why they shouldn’t age well over the mid-term too.” Droin has accurately described the style of his 2023s as they should indeed drink on the early side but have no difficulty aging over the mid- to perhaps even the longer-term. Droin bottles all of his wines under Diam corks with a mix of Diam 5 and Diam 10 depending on the level of the wine. I remind readers that there is no Blanchot in 2023 as the vines were pulled out and replanted. Lastly, I recounted last year that INAO lodged a complaint against Droin’s use of Les Clos on his label as they maintained that his holding included a parcel of Valmur. While the issue was being resolved, Droin chose to continue including this parcel and bottle what is in essence his Les Clos under the cuvée name Hommage à Louis. Fast forward and Droin said that the complaint was ‘amicably’ resolved and in his favor so the vineyard designation of Les Clos will again be used. However, in one change, Droin said that he liked rendering thanks to his ancestor so the new label for 2023 will bear both names, as in ‘Les Clos Hommage à Louis’.

-Burghound, Allen Meadows

“As I’ve written before, Benoît Droin’s immensely dependable wines are among the most consistent in the region, and to my palate, the combination of Diam closures and élevages employing recently used and, indeed, occasionally new wood (though only up to 10%) means that these wines need a few years in bottle to show their best. But everything invariably comes together to impressive effect, and the wines age very gracefully indeed. Farming is conventional at this 26-hectare domaine, but the soils are cultivated mechanically, and synthetic treatments are kept to a minimum. Harvest is early and is partially mechanized, followed by fermentation and élevage in stainless steel and wood, with the proportions varying according to the cuvée.”

-Parker’s Wine Advocate, William Kelley



2023 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Petit Chablis - \$49.99

This wine is made from two parcels (1.85 hectares) located on the plateau above Le Clos Grand Cru, produced entirely in stainless steel, following tradition. The result is a punchy introduction to the range, offering a rich and expressive nose filled with ripe citrus aromas and hints of stone fruit. The palate follows with bright, fruit-forward flavors and a delightful gourmand character, rounded off by a pleasing salinity at the finish. A true crowd-pleaser; this wine will be hard to resist. Best enjoyed between 2024 and 2029.

“(from Portlandian soil). There is a touch of phenolic character (olive oil nuances) to the cool and airy aromas of green apple and lemon-lime. The impressively rich and seductively textured middle weight flavors possess just enough verve to avoid heaviness on the clean, dry and chalky finish. 2025+”

86-88/100 Burghound, Allen Meadows

2023 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis Village - \$54.99

The Droin estate spans 9.33 hectares, divided across 14 different parcels. As is customary, both fermentation and aging occurred in stainless steel tanks. The wine's nose features classic notes of iodine and oyster shell, complemented by ripe citrus fruit aromas.

On the palate, there is a generous amount of pulp and juice, showcasing ripe lemon fruit with a subtle hint of dairy. The wine also boasts a strong mineral character, highlighted by a long, dry finish that leaves the mouth watering. Best enjoyed from 2025 to 2031.

“Firm, and pungent, smoky reduction dominates the nose at present though there is good freshness and energy to the delicious, rich and sappy medium weight flavors that possess better backend balance. This should drink well young and with 2 to 4 years of keeping. 2026+”

87-89/100 Burghound, Allen Meadows

2023 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis 1er Cru Vosgros - \$74.99

"The 2022 Chablis Vosgros 1er Cru, which is already in bottle, has a harmonious bouquet with fleeting lime, wet stone and a touch of citrus peel. Nicely detailed. The palate is sapid on the entry, with plenty of oyster shell/marine notes and a classically styled, almost "mean" finish. Very fine. Drink 2026-2036"

92/100 Vinous, Neal Martin (2022 Vintage)

"A ripe yet nicely fresh nose displays notes of citrus rind, sea breeze and cool green fruit even though there is a touch of smoky reduction lurking in the background. The exceptionally rich and opulent medium weight flavors are blessed with plenty of sappy dry extract that serves to buffer the moderately firm acid spine shaping the clean, dry and acceptably complex finale. This forward effort should both drink well young while also repaying 3 to 6 years of keeping. 2027+"

92/100 Burghound, Allen Meadows (2022 Vintage)



2023 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis 1er Cru Vaillons - \$74.99

Arguably one of the flagship wines of the estate, this wine benefits from substantial holdings totaling 4.82 hectares across the sub-sectors of Epinottes, Roncières, Séchet, Chatains, and Beugnons. (See 15% of new and one-year old wood). It is typically approachable, featuring a delightful smoky reduction on the nose with juicy white fruit beneath. This is a highly appealing and generous wine that perfectly balances peachy fruit with tangy iodine notes. Best enjoyed from 2026 to 2033.

"(from 5 different lieux-dits that saw 15% of new and one-year old wood). A discreet application of wood sets off notes of white pepper, acacia blossom, spice and just enough Chablis typicity to be interesting. On the palate there is both good volume and refinement to the generously proportioned middle weight flavors that possess a sappy texture while displaying solid length on the youthfully austere finale that displays acceptable vibrancy. 2027+"

89-91/100 Burghound, Allen Meadows

"The 2023 Chablis Vaillons 1er Cru has a pretty nose, more floral with dandelion scents infusing the lemon and orange pith aromas—quintessential Vaillons really. The palate is slightly lower in acidity than the 2022—fine depth and with a slightly powdery texture on the finish. Drink over the next 4-5 years. Drink 2024-2030"

89/100 Vinous, Neal Martin

2023 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis 1er Cru Montmains - \$84.99

“(from Montmains proper; 40% 2 and 3-year-old oak). Here too there is a discreet application of wood in evidence, which is all that is evident as the nose is quite firmly reduced. More interesting are the delicious and relatively refined medium weight flavors that possess slightly better energy and particularly so on the stony, refreshing and sneaky long finale. This should be lovely after only 4 to 6 years of cellaring. 2028+”

89-92/100 Burghound, Allen Meadows

“(From Montmains proper; 40% 2 and 3-year-old oak). The 2023 Chablis Montmains 1er Cru has a fresh, malic nose, perhaps a little more old school compared to the Vaillons. The palate is fresh and slightly creamy on the entry, with touches of lemon verbena and orange pith. A dash of white pepper just perks up the understated finish. Fine, though not as long term as others. Drink 2024-2030”

90/100 Vinous, Neal Martin



2023 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis 1er Cru Vaurent - \$95.00

“(From a .33 ha parcel). The 2023 Chablis Vaurent 1er Cru has a vibrant, mineral bouquet with a sea spray/oyster shell scent that becomes more intense with aeration. Very precise. The palate is smooth on the entry, very detailed with a fine bead of acidity, subtle praline and chai notes towards the elegant and seductive finish. Not long term perhaps, but beautifully crafted. Drink 2025-2034”

93/100 Vinous, Neal Martin

“(from a .33 ha parcel). As with the Montmains, a discreet application of wood sets off ripe orchard fruit, especially pear; suffused with oyster shell, lemon zest and cool floral wisps. There is fine density to the intense and succulent medium weight flavors that deliver very good persistence on the citrusy, balanced and sappy finale. As it often is chez Droin, this is really quite stylish if more forward than it usually is. 2028+”

90-92/100 Burghound, Allen Meadows

2023 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis Grand Cru Vaudésir - \$140.00

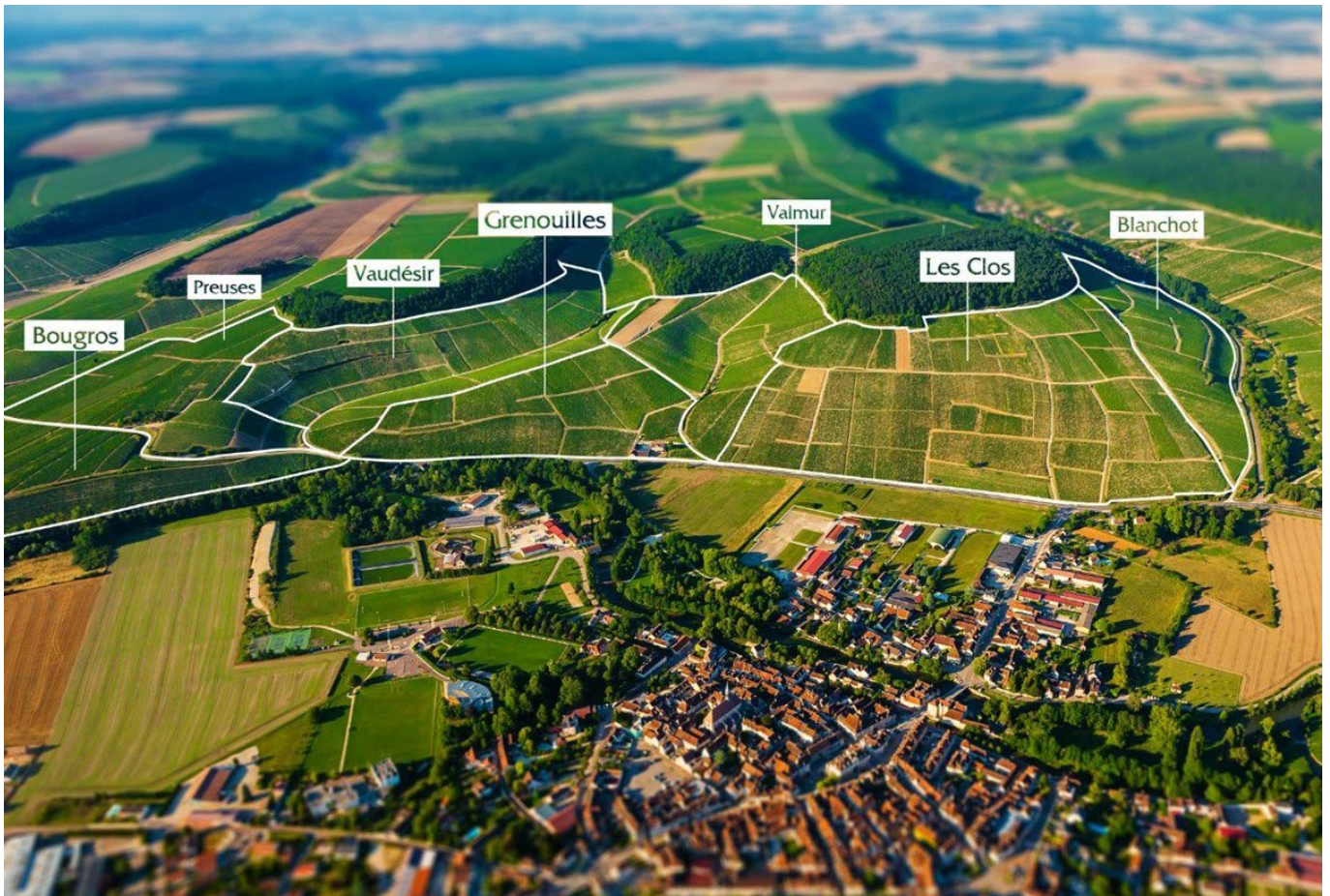
Droin's 1.05 hectares in Vaudésir are divided between two parcels on either side of a steeply sloping valley. The larger parcel faces north, contributing freshness, while the other faces south, adding weight and power. The nose is open and expressive, with peach, orange, and sweet spice notes all vying for attention. On the palate, the abundance of fruit makes this wine surprisingly approachable at this stage. It has a creamy, viscous texture that is well-balanced by a fine, iodine minerality. Best enjoyed from 2026 to 2040.

"(from a 1.02 ha parcel with about 2/3s of it on the north facing side). This is also quite firmly reduced and revealing nothing today. By contrast, the super-sleek and refined, even delicate, middle weight flavors possess even better punch along with a fine bead of minerality that adds a sense of lift to the balanced and sneaky long finish. Once again, this would benefit from developing more depth but it's extremely stylish. 2031 +"

91-93/100 Burghound, Allen Meadows

"The 2023 Chablis Vaudésir Grand Cru has a more backward nose that at the moment is surpassed by a couple of Droin's excellent Premier Crus like the Montée de Tonnerre. Light apple blossom and lemon rind. The palate is well balanced with fine depth, and a crisp line of acidity. It gently builds toward a more spicy finish. Very fine, but not the best Grand Cru from the Domaine this year. Drink 2026-2036"

91/100 Vinous, Neal Martin



2023 Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin Chablis Grand Cru Le Clos 'Homage à Louis' - \$165.00

Made from three parcels, one of which was acquired by Louis Droin in 1920 - "Au Clos, lieu-dit Les Clos". Despite every vintage of Le Clos between 1920 and 2019 including this parcel, the authorities strangely argued this was actually part of Valmur. Leading to Benoît labelling it Grand Cru 'Homage à Louis' for 3 vintages. After several years of legal battles, Benoît has finally received approval from the INAO to label this wine as Les Clos once more, although he has chosen to keep the "Hommage à Louis" designation as well. This wine exudes true sophistication from the very first aroma. Currently, the palate is slightly reserved and restrained, offering substantial grip and weight. However, with some air, it begins to open up, revealing a lot of tension and a long, iodine-tinged finish. This wine shows immense potential. Best enjoyed from 2027 to 2042.

"The 2023 Chablis Les Clos Grand Cru Hommage à Louis has the best bouquet amongst the Grand Crus from Droin. Very vibrant and intense, with crushed limestone and flint. The palate is well balanced with melon, grapefruit, orange rind and quince on the entry, building nicely towards a slightly oily-textured finish. I can see this aging very well in bottle - more complexity on the finish compared to say, the Valmur or Grenouilles. Drink 2026-2040"

94/100 Vinous, Neal Martin

"(from a 1.4 ha holding in Les Clos) Moderately toasty wood sets off cool floral and spicy aromas of freshly grated citrus, white peach, honeysuckle and tidal pool wisps. There is again fine intensity to the dense and stony broad-shouldered flavors that flash fine length on the ever-so-mildly warm finale where a touch of youthful austerity slowly emerges. This refreshing effort is so rich that it should drink reasonably well young but the better choice would be to allow it to age for at least a few years. 2031+"

91-94/100 Burghound, Allen Meadows

