

Cognoscenti

WINE

Vincent Girardin
Meursault, Burgundy

One of the most dynamic winemakers in Burgundy today, Vincent Girardin has recently relocated to a new, state-of-the-art facility in Meursault. This indefatigable entrepreneur has expanded his empire from 2 hectares in 1982 to 25 hectares today; he also buys grapes, but insists on doing the vinification himself, and when he makes wine from bought grapes, the fact is clearly marked as such on the label—something that is not always the case with other winemakers.



Vincent Girardin

Says Girardin, “I’m a new-generation grape buyer”—and a very successful one. He aims to fashion fruit-driven, silky wines with backbone and complexity, and the quality speaks for itself, as visiting Cognoscenti Magazine editors discovered on a recent visit.

The selection of whites we sampled were all from 2001 vintage, and most showed very well considering the difficult climatic conditions of that year. A racy, fruity, easy-drinking Chassagne-Montrachet Les Morgeots showed citrus in the nose and a touch of sour green in the otherwise well-structured palate. **Rating: 87** The Puligny-Montrachet Les Foliatières was deeper, with more nuts, more butter, toast, and medium acidity, richer and longer in the mouth with a hint of lime. **Rating: 90** The Corton Charlemagne was impressive indeed: very supple and elegant, the

fruit ripe, with superb minerality and very good length in the mouth
Rating: 93

The reds we tasted were all 2000s. A rustically styled, clean Pommard Les Grands Epenots showed funk in the nose, earth tones, and bark. **Rating: 88** The Volnay Les Santenots was more delicate in the nose than the Pommard, showing fine light bark and rich texture on

the palate. **Rating: 90** The Corton Les Renardes showed more stone and minerality than the Volnay, with stewed red fruits and tannins nicely coating the mouth—although the body is not particularly fat. **Rating: 89** The Charmes-Chambertin was very good, with a powerfully suggestive bouquet; the tannins were somewhat hard but the overall balance good, and this shows plenty of aging potential. **Rating: 91** The beautifully-balanced Chambertin Clos de Bèze was almost gentle in the attack before giving way to plums, ripe cherries, prunes, stewed black fruit and herbs in the finish: very long on the palate. **Rating: 94**

Written by contributing editors to *Cognoscenti Magazine*.

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