

YVES BOYER- MARTENOT

Meursault

These days, prospects might seem grim for finding white Burgundies that combine the expressive fruit, unique flavors of a justifiably famous terroir, and potential to develop further complexity in the bottle which characterize phenomenal wines from the forties or fifties one occasionally and luckily still meets. A lot can go wrong with white Burgundy, beginning above all with too-large yields and continuing through a litany of potential viticultural and vinificatory missteps. Today's results are not often *bad*, but too often they are "just Chardonnay." To employ such a characterization at any other time in the last 200 years of Western wine-drinking fashion would have been to damn white Burgundy with very faint praise!

It ought therefore to be cause for rejoicing when a Burgundian grower stands up and proudly distances himself from the many-to-many, declaring by his yields and his methods that the commercially acceptable is no longer good enough for him or her. Such a grower is Yves Boyer, a man who until recently made good wine, but is now embarked upon making really *exciting* wine.

Since Boyer, in common with very few other growers in the town, owns portions of all three in-effect "Grand Cru" vineyards of Meursault - Genevrières, Perrières and Charmes - we are especially blessed by his emergence as a major talent. (And new vineyards have been added in the past several years.) Low yields, sophisticated handling of the lees, judicious use of new barrels, racking by gravity and bottling without filtration all characterize the Boyer regimen since 1993. If his new quality-consciousness arose from a "midlife crisis," then all I



can say is "would that a great many other Côte d'Or vigneron would experience such a crisis!"

Bourgogne

Meursault [Chaumes]

Meursault "Ormeaux"

Meursault "Tillets"

Meursault "Pré de Manche"

Meursault "Narvaux"

Meursault *1er Cru Charmes*

Meursault *1er Cru Genevrières*

Meursault *1er Cru Perrières*

Puligny-Montrachet "Ruechaux"

Puligny-Montrachet

1er Cru Caillerets

Varieties: *Chardonnay*

Total acreage: *only around 16 acres*

including Bourgogne,

Meursault "Ormeaux" (80

yr.-old vines but a

relatively flat site);

"Narvaux" (35 yr.-old

vines, yielding a stony-

mineral alter-ego to

"Ormeaux"); some all plots in

Meursault's three greatest

sites: Genevrières, Charmes

and Perrières.

Vinification: *Light settling of the*

juice prior to fermentation

in barrels, one quarter to

one half of them new.

Regular stirring of the lees.

Relatively late bottling,

in most instances without

filtration.