

# DOMAINE JEAN FOURNIER

Marsannay

When Tony Hanson wrote the second edition of his classic "Burgundy", he remarked about the Dijon suburb of Marsannay that after more than thirteen hundred years making wines they still "lack an identifiable original character" or the concentration requisite for distinction. And while "Jean Fournier," Hanson continued, "has been running this estate single-handed since the age of seventeen. The reds are perfectly correct but don't fly very high in my experience."

What a difference a generation makes! When I began a few years ago to systematically taste my way through the domaines of Marsannay, I thought "not much has changed since the last things Tony wrote" ... *until*, that is, I arrived at none other than Domaine Jean Fournier, and tasted the wines being made by his son, Laurent.

Whether it's the rosé (the mainstay of Marsannay) that Laurent chooses to blend with Chardonnay and Pinot Blanc; new acreage in Marsannay and Fixin; or vinification experimentation that goes all the way to an extended-maceration, low sulfur cuvée "originale" and a vin de paille, this is now a happening address. Not surprisingly, given a regimen of low yields and gentle vinification, each of the sites farmed here now has very much that "identifiable, original character" for which Hanson had sought in vain.



"Clos du Roy" for instance – the site from which I have purchased in the 2002 and 2003 vintages – exhibits a saline, almost marine mineral depth combined with bass clef fruit resonance. The 2002 shows a touch of youthful austerity and restraint but implicit profundity. The 2003 is already – for all of its striking minerality – enveloping and forwardly rich. "Les Echezeaux" – which we shall introduce from the 2004 vintage – exhibits high-toned cherry almond fruit and smoked meatiness, reminiscent of a Beaune 1er Cru Cent Vignes. Fournier's Fixin from the "Petites Crais" – which will debut for us in either the 2003 or 2004 vintage – exhibits rich cherry fruit, beefy meatiness with hints of black pepper, and a wet stone, schist-like minerality.

Domaine Jean Fournier is not going to remain obscure for much longer, and with its rise in notoriety will come a new standard for the wines of Marsannay. You'll be very happy you climbed onto this train while there are still tickets to be had.

Burgundy

**Marsannay Blanc**

**Marsannay Rosé**

Marsannay "Trois Terres - V.V."

Marsannay "Cuvée Saint Urban"

Marsannay "Les Longeroies"

Marsannay "Les Longeroies –  
Version Originale"

Marsannay "Les Echezeaux"

Marsannay "Clos du Roy"

Fixin 1er Cru "Les Petites Crais"

**Gevrey-Chambertin**

Acreage: 35 acres

Varieties: *Pinot Noir, plus a little  
Chardonnay and Pinot Bl.*

Vinification: *Varied regimens  
(See text at left.)*

