

# JEAN GARAUDET

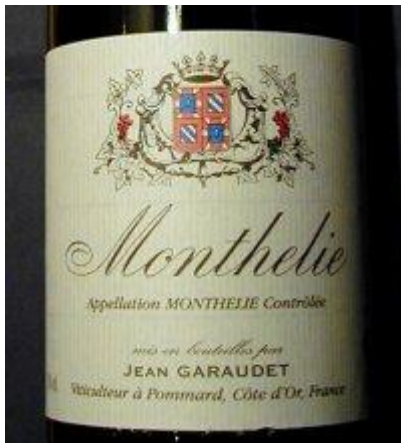
Pommard

I first visited the affable and skilled Jean Garaudet quite some years ago. I liked him and his wines. Not long after, he was blessed with some effusive praise from the pen of Robert Parker, and his star rose rapidly in the commercial firmament. A return visit more than a decade later found both Garaudet's modesty and his quality of Pinot unspoiled. Now that we're doing business, I wonder that it took so long!

Garaudet makes rich, satisfying wine from his home terroir of Pommard, including century-old vines in the Charmots (which unfortunately will have given their last barrel-and-a-half of juice in the 2002 vintage). But Pommard is not for us the main Garaudet event. Ever since my earliest days in Burgundy visiting domaines with Dominique Lafon (during the time he worked for Becky Wasserman) and buying what André Porcheret vinified at Domaine Monthelie-Douhairet, I have had a crush on the under-appreciated of Monthelie.

The best red Monthelies exhibit spice and earthiness along with the red fruit, flowers and fungus familiar from Volnay. And Garaudet's are among the three best (along with the those of the two aforementioned vintners who have since achieved cult-like veneration). Sixty percent of what Garaudet bottles as village Monthelie is from the vineyard "Pièce Fite", immediately up slope from a site called "le Clou des Chênes" which is none other than the continuation of Volnay's great Clos des Chênes. The high-toned fruit esters and ginger spice in Garaudet's Monthelie will remind you of its famous Volnay neighbor.

To accompany our Monthelie rouge, Garaudet has permitted me to purchase a few cases of his remarkable Monthelie blanc and his intriguingly flavored, profoundly personality-filled, and ageworthy



Beaune 1<sup>er</sup> Cru Clos des Mouches. This site is of course best-known through negotiant Joseph Drouhin. In a good year, Drouhin has 7,500 cases of Clos des Mouches. Garaudet has seventy-five. So don't ask for much!

\*\*\*

"The wines of Jean Garaudet are the best-kept secret in Pommard. Unfortunately, that can hardly last much longer. Few Burgundy enthusiasts are likely to get the chance to taste the wines from Garaudet's tiny, impeccably run 12-acre estate. His elegant wines, imbued with lavish amounts of ripe fruit and harmonious, mouthfilling, satisfying flavors, offer formidable evidence of the positive effects of low yields and old vines. Garaudet, a tiny man, almost seems to be making excuses for his excellent Beaune - Clos des Mouches when he says it is made from "only 15-year old vines. [Now, of course, over thirty. - ed.] No excuses are necessary."

**Robert Parker, *Burgundy* [1990]**

**Hautes Côtes de Beaune  
Monthelie  
Pommard  
Pommard Noizons  
Pommard Charmots  
Beaune BéliSSand  
Beaune Clos des Mouches**

Variety: *Pinot Noir*

Acreege, production: *12 acres, ca. 1,000 cases*

Vinification: *Long, traditional Pigeage, generally 50% new wood, unfiltered, gravity bottling.*