

PATRICK JAVILLIER

Meursault

Today's white Burgundy results are not often *bad*, but too often they are "just Chardonnay." Such a characterization could never be leveled at the wines of Patrick Javillier. This guy is truly a Burgundian hero. Out of sheer idealism, he disrupted a stable family negotiant business in order to begin estate-bottling. He has critically studied the methods of his neighbors, learning from the best of them, and proceeds tirelessly with a combination of risk mentality, total integrity and experimental rigor that are as exemplary as they are refreshing. Furthermore, he is a model of restraint when it comes to matters of price!

Each of Patrick's many small parcels is bottled separately – but then, that is hardly surprising for Burgundy. Each of them however – even those amounting to but a few barrels – is vinified according to three and (volume permitting) four different regimens: for fruit; for fat and mouthfeel; for structure; for minerality and precision. The finished wine represents a blending of these micro-vinifications in whatever proportions Javillier's palate deems ideal. How do the vinifications differ? Javillier won't divulge his secrets, but obviously the way the lees are handled, and the racking regimen have major influence.

The result of Javillier's tireless, self-critical experimentation has been to establish (in only a few years and without until four years ago owning any premier cru acreage) a reputation as one of Meursault's finest growers. His wines juxtapose creamy richness and bracing minerality, weight and subtlety in ways only white Burgundy can. Two unusual (and always exceptional) wines at this address are "Cuvée Oligocene", from a geologically young and unique parcel that gives results far above its legal "Bourgogne" stature, and Meursault Tête de Murgers, which marries Casse Tête and Les Murgers terroirs.



Burgundy

Bourgogne "Cuvée des Forgets"
"Cuvée Oligocene"
Savigny-les-B. "Monthenoy"
Meursault "Tillets"
Meursault "Narvaux"
Meursault "Tête de Murgers"
Meursault 1^{er} Cru Charmes
Puligny-Montrachet
"Les Levrons"
Corton Charlemagne

Varieties: *Chardonnay, Pinot*

Total acreage: *21 acres*

Production: *5,000 cases*

Note: *There are numerous other terroirs represented in both white and red. I have only listed above those we select - plus the Charmes, a new acquisition that amounts to but two barrels!*