

Domaine BUISSON- CHARLES

Meursault



Michel Buisson



Patrick Essa



Vintner Select

6215 Hi-Tek Court
Mason, OH 45040
800-597-1491
fax 513-229-3633
www.vintnerselect.com

France

BURGUNDY
Côte de Beaune

OVERVIEW

When you open a bottle of Buisson-Charles, you enter a time warp. With each sip, the years strip away and you shed your expectations of white Burgundy and understand that you are tasting the sort of purity and longevity not common since the 1950s. Technology ostensibly offers us 'progress,' and it has certainly done much to help make wine better and more consistent, but there are some who have embraced the obviously beneficial elements of wine technology (temperature-controlled tanks), but continue to eschew those with a track record not so clearly salubrious (pneumatic presses). Michel Buisson and his son-in-law Patrick Essa are of this mindset. Their results are wines of intense richness buoyed by striking minerality and refreshing cut. In their youth, they are tense wines that open up dramatically with a day's aeration—foretelling the magical bloom to come after fifteen years in the cellar. Such wines are titans that stride through the ages, absorbing the weight of time with ease. The Buissons have recently expanded their acreage in Gouttes d'Or and Les Bouchères (which they label with the archaic spelling found below—a nod perhaps to their classically-styled wines), and acquired parcels in Volnay and Pommard to add to their holdings in Meursault (some of their *villages* parcels are over 100 years old—unheard of for Chardonnay).

Varieties: Aligoté, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir

Total Acreage: about 14 acres

Average Production: 2,600 cases

VINEYARD/CELLAR PRACTICES

- *Lutte raisonnée* vineyard management
- Utilize a old-school vertical press for slow pressing; slow, cool fermentations
- Lees contact without *batonnage*; wines aged mostly in neutral oak

WINES

Bourgogne Aligoté

A sensational, archetypal Aligoté that has deliciously spicy flavors and a rich texture.

Meursault “Vieilles Vignes”

An extraordinary value: grand, crystalline wine from Buisson's finest old-vine plots.

Meursault “Les Tessons”

Ripe, peach-toned wine from a plot that bestows a broader feel and deeper concentration that subsumes a touch of new oak.

Meursault 1^{er} Cru Les Cras

The initially reticent floral aromas expand dramatically as this wine delivers on its youthful suggestive whispers of harmony after a few years cellaring.

Meursault 1^{er} Cru Les Bouches-Chères

A fabulously elegant and lithe wine that takes a bit more time to show its hand, because it usually possesses great power that needs the cellar to temper its explosive fruit and reveal its subtle complexities.

Meursault 1^{er} Cru Les Charmes

A densely fruited wine from a plot adjacent to Perrières, and so bears much of the Perrières chalk-driven mineral stamp. Finely expressive, vividly delineated, floating nervy minerality through a mouth-watering framework of flavor including oatmeal and stone fruits.

Meursault 1^{er} Cru La Goutte-d'Or

Usually the most grandly proportioned of the top crus, there are often strawberry aromas mingled with shamelessly voluptuous stone fruits. Ergo, it seems to bear less of Buisson's stylistic stamp, but—no surprise—given time, magnificent subtleties emerge on the back end.

ACCOLADES

“I have noted this before but the quality coming out of this domaine in recent years is nothing short of spectacular. 2007 saw them fashion some excellent wines, but they have outdone themselves in 2008 as everything is outstanding, from the top to the bottom. If you aren't familiar with the wines you should be.”

Allen Meadows, *Burghound*, #39