



Domaines Joseph and Philippe Roty, Burgundy 2010 Vintage, En Primeur

Corney & Barrow has been fortunate to have worked with Domaine Joseph Roty for a great many years and then for well over a decade with Domaine Philippe Roty. Philippe has overseen both estates for a long time now and had taken over the reins quite some time before the sudden death of his father Joseph four years ago.

Philippe now has the support of his younger brother Pierre-Jean, in the vineyards and cellar, and his sister Patricia and *Maman* on administration duties. One senses that in Madame Roty today, we have the bedrock of this very traditional house, overseeing the logistics, allocations and the considerable, intricate bureaucracy which beleaguers the average Burgundian producer.

Tasting at the Domaine, though a highlight of every trip, is also always a challenge, not least because of the number of wines we taste, ranging from generic, through Marsannay to Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru. Some of the wines bear similar names, some from Domaine Joseph and some from Philippe's independent business, Domaine Philippe Roty. Keeping one's wits together, taking notes and asking the odd question all conducted in French, can be a challenge. What keeps tasters on track is the sheer quality of the wines, their sense of place and indeed the differences between wines which essentially come from very similar areas. It is a little like stepping back in time. This is a Domaine where all of the wines are handled with a firmly-grounded sense of tradition. With that common keystone taken as read, the family is then free to evaluate any elements of modernity which may add value. Recent changes to that end include a vibrating sorting table, and a new pneumatic press. In all other aspects the Domaines Roty are bastions of tradition with subtle tweakings at the edges in recent years only improving the tried and-tested disciplines exercised in the vineyard and cellar.

Philippe, like his father and grandfather before him, relies on neither rule book nor consultant to determine what needs to be done in the vineyard and when. He has unerring confidence in the vines themselves, which he knows intimately. They dictate when and how to prune, whether or not to remove leaves, when picking should begin and, indeed, what should be done or not done in the cellar. This may be an inexact science, but it works.

In this long line-up of wines it is impressive to discover vintage after vintage that the wines are all very clearly defined, offering an authentic, unadorned translations of place.

Late 2010 Release

There are now very few producers resolved not to offer their wines until their job is complete, as they see it, and the wine has been safely bottled. However, at the two Domaines Roty, they are adamant that it is only right that they sell finished wines. Domaine de la Romanée-Conti do likewise.

This was once standard practice until, one by one, producers were persuaded, most vociferously by the UK market, to offer the wines one year earlier – closer to the Bordeaux system.

The majority of producers were reluctant initially but the market dictated what has become the norm. Corney & Barrow held out longer than most and only changed with the 2005 vintage but, in the final analysis, there was little point in trying to swim against the tide.

The Roty family are built of stern stuff and refuse categorically to sell their wines before they are bottled – and we support their desire to see the job through to the end, hence why we are offering their 2010 wines with the main 2011 release.

2010 vintage

The winter of 2009/2010 was cold and spring was late leading in turn to late bud-burst but then some warmer weather gave the vines a boost and they started to catch up, being almost ready to flower at the normal time.

In June, cooler weather and rain sealed the fate on potential quantities. The few vineyard parcels which had already flowered before the rain had normal production but these were in the minority. Flowering was long, protracted and there was a lot of *millerandage* (where heterogeneous flowering results in some normal berries, some tiny and seedless). The natural limitations in production would in fact help achieve full ripeness later in the season. After the cold and damp conditions, growers were then treated to a hot and dry end to the month, with a heat-spike which added to the quantity problems by causing sunburn on the some grapes. July then brought in rather fine, sunny weather but August only had a few decent days with the month mainly dull and damp. Happily it was cool enough to discourage rot. Although there was little improvement as the very start of September the sun eventually arrived which, although not excessively hot, served to ripen the grapes. The nights became cooler and that all important wind changed to the north, aiding concentration.

The patience of growers paid off with the fact of the vintage being so small allowing optimal phenolic ripeness and wines, both red and white, exhibit clarity, purity and mouth-watering freshness.

Domaine Joseph Roty

Bourgogne Grand Ordinaire

Corney & Barrow Score 16 - 16+

This appellation, *Bourgogne Grand Ordinaire* allows for Gamay in the blend. This is not “*ordinaire*” by any manner of means, a 100% Pinot Noir, from vines over 30 years old, planted by the late Joseph Roty himself. This is a parcel just below the Gevrey-Chambertin boundary. An attractive, deep, limpid ruby, this reveals a rather dark, captivating nose, rather grown up at this level. Red and black fruit, sultry spice and earthy minerals make up the ensemble on both the nose and palate. Ripe and rich with appetising aromatics, this is characterful and edgy, supported by well-integrated tannins – a definite insider’s contender.

Recommended drinking from 2014 - 2018+

£110/case of 12 bottles, in bond UK

Bourgogne Rouge Cuvée de Pressonnier

Corney & Barrow Score 16.5 - 17+

Prior to 1964 this parcel would in fact have been designated Gevrey-Chambertin but its status changed, at the stroke of a pen, with boundary changes. Thus an insider’s wine was born. The innate quality of this wine cannot be disguised simply by changing its designation....*a rose by any other name would smell as sweet* etc. This announces itself from the outset as a more serious wine, darker in colour and richer in texture. Red and black fruit dominate the nose - really aromatic- with heady notes of violet and rose. The palate incorporates similar aromatics, set within an earthy, mineral structure – very grown-up – with impressive intensity and length – great value.

Recommended drinking from 2015 - 2018+

£140/case of 12 bottles, in bond UK

Marsannay Rouge

Corney & Barrow Score 17 - 17+

The Rotys are big in Marsannay, sadly a rather overlooked appellation which suffers a little from being bypassed in the escape from Dijon's urban sprawl. This was once the role of Chenôve which has now all but disappeared. It is worth a detour, if only for the view, to see some really impressive slopes looking down over the city and the valley. This presents crystalline red fruit and violets on the nose - perfumed and concentrated. The palate is fresh, very pure and long, with delicate hints of mocha cream and sultry spice – well worth trying.

Recommended drinking from 2014 - 2019+

£185/case of 12 bottles, in bond UK

Gevrey-Chambertin

Corney & Barrow Score 16.5+ - 17+

This is the fourth vintage here since Philippe Roty managed to acquire the vineyard. Deep ruby, this has a rather restrained, feminine nose for a Gevrey-Chambertin, delicately perfumed, floral and berried, layered with mocha cream and *crème de mûre*. The palate is sweet and ripe with an attractive concentration of red and black berries, supported by firm but well-integrated tannins and stony minerals.

Recommended drinking from 2015 - 2020+

£315/case of 12 bottles, in bond UK

Gevrey-Chambertin Cuvée des Champs Chenys

Corney & Barrow Score 17 - 17.5+

Deep ruby, limpid and inviting, this reveals sweet red and black fruit on the nose, caramel wafer notes to the fore – very appealing, rounded and ripe. The palate is bright and upbeat on attack before revealing darker fruit, earthy minerals and sultry spice, supported by grippy but ripe tannins. This is a serious drop which warrants time – impressive on the finish.

Recommended drinking from 2015 - 2020+

£350/case of 12 bottles, in bond UK

Gevrey-Chambertin Cuvée de la Brunelle

Corney & Barrow Score 17.5 - 18.5

La Brunelle is essentially the Roty's back garden, a very special walled vineyard in the centre of the town of Gevrey-Chambertin. The Rotys own the majority of the vines, though it is not a *monopole*. Red and black fruit come through on the nose, perfumed and bright, offering both primary berries and warming spiced compote. The palate reflects the aromatics presented on the nose, adding a certain smoky, savoury edge and an earthy backdrop. The only drawback here is its scarcity – an exemplary Gevrey-Chambertin with great personality throughout, finishing long.

Recommended drinking from 2016 - 2021+

£375/case of 12 bottles, in bond UK

Gevrey-Chambertin Clos Prieur Bas

Corney & Barrow Score 17.5 - 18+

A very pretty ruby in colour, this presents red and black fruit, both primary and candied, allied to traces of fennel and a heady dash of pepper. The palate offers a lovely balance of fruit and cream, not a blockbuster but a harmonious, complete wine with a long, breezy, elegant finish - really stylish and beautifully textured – bravo Philippe!

Recommended drinking from 2016 - 2024+

£385/case of 12 bottles, in bond UK

Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru Les Fontenys

Corney & Barrow Score 18.5+

A very lovely ruby, this presents a luscious, full, ripe nose, warm fruitcake, red and black berries and spice, underscored by minerals. The palate is similarly complex – a *millefeuille* of aromas evading simple categorisation, Something of a chameleon, this is nuanced, elegant and very long with delicate smoky and savoury notes on a graceful finish.

Recommended drinking from 2018 - 2028+

£715/case of 12 bottles, in bond UK

Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru Cuvée de Très Vieilles Vignes

Corney & Barrow Score 18.5 - 18.5++

Planted post-Phylloxera, this is the oldest of the Roty holdings. A beautiful, bright ruby, velvet – textured, this presents very concentrated primary fruit on the nose, sweet with intense old vine fruit – delectable. A savoury seam runs in tandem, slightly smoky and darkly-spiced on both the nose and palate. Rich and layered this is a really fine Charmes, mocha-rich and layered with Kirsch undertones achieving an almost impossible high-toned balanced, driven by minerals – extraordinary. This will give enormous pleasure, given a little time.

Recommended drinking from 2019 - 2029+

£POA/case of 12 bottles, in bond UK

Mazis-Chambertin Grand Cru

Corney & Barrow Score 19

Glorious ruby, this is a really lovely colour but that is as nothing to the captivating nose which is so complex-everything is there- violets and rose, smoky notes and briny minerals – supremely appetising - “*très gourmand*” The palate takes up the challenge with a wealth of sweet, dark fruit, wonderful, supple and paradoxically both delicate and powerful, hauntingly spiced – a gorgeous wine which, sadly, is available in tiny quantities.

Recommended drinking from 2020 - 2030+

£POA/case of 12 bottles, in bond UK

Domaine Philippe Roty

Côte de Nuits-Villages

Corney & Barrow Score 16.5 - 17

This vineyard lies just outside Philippe Roty's home in Brochon, just beyond the Gevrey boundary, between Fixin 1er Cru La Perrière and Gevrey Les Evocelles – very well-sited. The vines, 48 years old, get more than their share of Philippe's attention as he can assess their progress on a daily basis, just by looking out from his kitchen window. A pretty, limpid ruby, this is very well-mannered in its appeal, nothing brash or excessive. The nose suggests red fruit, some earthy undergrowth and dark spice, all translated on a silk-textured palate. Playful in its overtures, this has a wonderful crystalline purity to the fruit, floral and nuanced. Harmonious and bright, this has a very attractive, innate elegance – lovely wine, sensitively handled.

Recommended drinking from 2014 - 2016+

£215/case of 12 bottles, in bond UK

Marsannay Rouge Champs St Etienne

Corney & Barrow Score 17.5

Shimmering, with the nuances of stained glass, this was slightly reductive when we tasted – proof that Philippe does not believe in over-handling. There is intriguing complexity on the nose and palate, primary berries, cassis, cherry and red fruit all vying for dominance, aromatic and lively with good mineral definition through to an sophisticated high-toned finish.

Recommended drinking from 2015 - 2018+

£195/case of 12 bottles, in bond UK

Marsannay Rouge Quartiers

Corney & Barrow Score 17 - 17+

Marsannay, too often overlooked, as we have said, can offer extremely good value and is unique in the fact that the appellation covers red, white and rosé wines. Its relative anonymity is surprising as wine has been produced here since the 7th Century. In fairness not all of Marsannay is top notch, there being too many vines planted on uninteresting alluvial lower slopes but this, from near Couchey, planted on rocky calcareous soil rivals many better known names. Plum-ruby, this has a lovely colour, and an equally impressive nose – a melange of kirsch-soaked cherry, vanilla cream, mocha and spongecake – in short - bizarrely reminiscent of Black Forest Gâteau – very attractive. The palate is similarly evocative, sweet and ripe, layered and generous yet fresh, now with hints of vibrant red fruit. All supported by rounded tannins and focused mineral precision – a really fine, serious Marsannay.

Recommended drinking from 2015 - 2019+

£195/case of 12 bottles, in bond UK

Gevrey-Chambertin Champs Chenys Cuvée de Vieilles Vignes

Corney & Barrow Score 17.5+ - 18.5

This is a highly-prized parcel of old vines, bordering Charmes-Chambertin, of between 45 and 50 years of age on average although some date back to 1904. This makes an immediate impact, jet-ruby in colour, shimmering like stained glass. The nose presents a very dark fruit profile, black cherries, both fresh and warmed compote and super-ripe blueberries – intense and concentrated and underpinned by minerals. The palate reflects and embellishes the nose, adding a savoury, spiced dimension, set within a hearty, firm structure. This really is a standard-bearer for Marsannay, showing just what can be achieved – hugely enhanced by the impact of powerful, sweet, old vine fruit.

Recommended drinking from 2016 - 2020+

£360/case of 12 bottles, in bond UK

TASTING GUIDE

Our tasting notes provide full details but, at your request, we have also introduced a clear and simple marking system.

We hope these guidelines assist you in your selection.

14-16 A very good to excellent wine.

16-18 An excellent to outstanding wine.

18-20 An outstanding to legendary wine.

• Wines are judged within their peer group.

• A definitive score of a young wine is almost always impossible. We usually offer a 'spread'

(e.g. 14 - 16) which relates to the potential to achieve a higher mark. A '+' adds further to that potential.

• A score is a summary only. The devil is in the detail, so please focus on the tasting notes.

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