



**CORNEY &
BARROW**
INDEPENDENT WINE MERCHANTS-1780

GOURT DE MAUTENS

CORNEY & BARROW UK EXCLUSIVITY

We are delighted to announce a new UK exclusivity: **Gourt de Mautens**, from the Rasteau area of the Southern Rhone.

We were introduced to this estate by a customer recommendation – always a good way to canvass information – facilitating a rapid visit, when Guy Seddon and I visited the Rhône at the end of last year.

The estate is owned by Jérôme Bressy, a passionate, young viticulturist and winemaker whose aim is to make elegant, well-balanced, unique wines, in tune with their *terroir* and microclimate, farmed using biodynamic disciplines.

Jérôme's approach is intuitive, based on sense rather than lab-results and the results are found in the purity of the finished wines – so far removed from the rusticity of Rasteau of old.

History

Several generations of the Bressy family had cultivated vines here, selling their grapes to the local co-operative. In 1989, Yves Bressy, Jérôme's father made a prescient, life-changing step in converting his vineyard holdings to organic farming - a massive leap of faith given that he would continue selling to the co-op - but an investment which delivered a healthy vineyard to their son Jérôme, when the time came. Jérôme is the first member of this family of viticulturists who elected to study winemaking – with the unreserved support of his parents.

The Gourt de Mautens estate was founded in 1996 and Jérôme was just 23 years old when he produced his first vintage, his “winery” an old aircraft hangar on the estate. By 1998 a purpose-built *chai* was *in situ* and the scene had been set to produce wines of great purity and precision.

The name dates back to 1635 and, in dialect, can be translated as “an area where water flows from chalky, clay, marly soil, when it rains.”

Estate and wines

The estate covers 13 hectares of vines and 1.5 hectares of fruit and olive trees. The vineyard has been organically certified since 1989 (Ecocert) and biodynamically farmed since 2008 (Demeter certified). The estate is all within Rasteau territory, the vines being between 30 and 100 years old, pruned in the traditional *gobelet* method. Production is low at between 10 to 15 hl/ha and the soils are chalky clay marls.

The varieties are wide ranging, co-existing in the same plots – believed by Jérôme to create a natural harmony, synergy being created during flowering.

In red: Grenache Noir, Carignan, Mourvèdre, Shiraz, Counoise, Cinsault, Vaccarèse and Terret Noir.

In white: Grenache Blanc and Gris, Bourboulenc, Clairette Blanche, Picardan, Roussanne, Marsanne, Viognier, Picpoul Blanc and Gris.

Three wines are produced: a red, white and rosé, all in small quantities. Indeed, they have no rosé to offer us this time around.



ALISON BUCHANAN
March 2018

OUR DEBUT RELEASE

We asked, for this first offer, for a range of vintages. Jérôme has kindly supplied a one word précis of each vintage style.

DOMAINE GOURT DE MAUTENS ROUGE 2014 “ÉLEGANCE”

White and pink pepper-spice, red fruit, violet and rose prevail here. This is fresh and aromatic on both the nose and palate. Soft, gentle and supple with attractive berried fruit supported by lifted, well-integrated tannins – ripe and beautifully balanced, this is fine, characterful and poised, with a flavoursome, perfumed finish.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE
Recommended drinking from 2019–2028+
£210.00/ case of 6, in bond UK

18

DOMAINE GOURT DE MAUTENS ROUGE 2013 “COMPLEXITÉ”

Very attractive nose, this is sweet and darkly fruited, initially brooding and with some savoury notes behind abundant fruit, with heady pepper spice. Opening up, it is really prettily perfumed, sweet and aromatic – great Burgundy alternative. Predominantly red fruits on the palate allied to violet and rose notes this is a vibrant, rather lovely wine.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE
Recommended drinking from 2018–2026+
£200.00/ case of 6, in bond UK

17+

DOMAINE GOURT DE MAUTENS ROUGE 2012 “LONGÉVITÉ”

An attractive, brilliant ruby, this has a bright, vibrant, perfumed nose, rich in fresh rose and violet and red berries. The palate appears to be rather more grown up, less flighty, more savoury, with darker fruit, considerably extracted, supported by fine tannins – sweetly spiced on a lovely finish.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE**17.5****Recommended drinking from 2018–2024+****£225.00/ case of 6, in bond UK**

DOMAINE GOURT DE MAUTENS ROUGE 2011 “PROFONDEUR”

This is an intriguing insight into how these wines age. There is certainly some secondary aroma character, cured meat and leather, allied to dried flowers and autumnal fruit compote. The tannins are beautifully integrated, savoury and ripe, assuring optimal balance within an innately powerful wine.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE**17+****Recommended drinking from 2018–2024****£245.00/ case of 6, in bond UK**

DOMAINE GOURT DE MAUTENS ROUGE 2008 “CHARMEUR”

This is super from the outset, presenting a rather debauched nose, combining pepper and savoury notes, blueberries, black cherry and spice. The palate echoes these aromatics. Balance at this estate is exemplary. Nothing is jagged or edgy in these wines, despite being true to vintage. They are all about finesse and elegance – lovely wine.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE**17.5 TO 18****Recommended drinking from 2018–2021****£250/ case of 6, in bond UK**

DOMAINE GOURT DE MAUTENS BLANC 2014 “PRÉCISION”

This is delightfully fragrant, gradually revealing a complex array of quince, citrus, physalis and melon on the nose. The palate is luscious and ripe, reminiscent of Peach Melba – a perfect balance of tropical fruit and vanilla cream.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE**16.5+ TO 17****Recommended drinking from 2018–2020****£205.00/ case of 6, 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.

Wines are scored out of 20. Customers seem to like it and it has the benefit of simplicity.

We will often use a range of scores (e.g. 16.5 to 17) to indicate the potential to achieve a higher mark. When a '+' is shown it adds further to that potential. Wines from lesser vintages will, inevitably, show a lower overall score.

Wines are judged, in a very broad sense, against their peers. Why? Well, you cannot easily compare a Ford with an Aston Martin, other than they are both cars and have wheels. It is not that different with wine.

A score is a summary only. The devil is in the detail, so please focus on the tasting notes and, as always, speak to our sales team.

TO ORDER

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