

Domaine Roger/Joseph Belland (Santenay)

2008	Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois" 1er	red	89
2008	Les Maranges "La Fussièrè" 1er	red	87
2008	Pommard "Les Cras"	red	88
2008	Santenay "Les Charmes"	red	85
2008	Santenay "La Comme" 1er	red	86
2008	Santenay "Les Gravières" 1er	red	87
2008	Santenay "Beauregard" 1er	red	87
2008	Volnay "Santenots" 1er	red	89
2008	Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois" 1er	white	90
2008	Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru	white	94
2008	➔ Meursault "Santenots" 1er	white	91
2008	➔ Puligny-Montrachet "Champs Gain" 1er	white	91
2008	Santenay "Comme Dessus"	white	88
2008	➔ Santenay "Beauregard" 1er	white	89

This domaine has always been a quality source of fine whites and usually for value level prices but this is particularly true in 2008. By contrast, I found the quality of the '08 reds to be uneven, which is a bit surprising because Belland has been on a roll as of late with his reds. (T. Edwards Wines, www.tedwardwines.com, NY, NY; and Berkmann Wine Cellars, www.berkmann.co.uk, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, Liberty Wines, www.libertywine.co.uk among others, all UK - Note that the exact same wines are sold under the Joseph Belland label, which is represented by Cellar Door Selections, www.cellardoorselections.com, Columbia, MD).

Reds:

2008 Les Maranges "La Fussièrè": A ripe and rustic red pinot fruit and strongly earthy nose leads to nicely rich, pure and attractively well-detailed middle weight flavors that culminate in a racy, dusty and balanced finish. This isn't particularly refined but offers solid quality just the same. 87/2013+

2008 Santenay "Les Charmes": This is also rustic with a distinct *sauvage* note to the mostly red berry fruit aromas that complement the earth-driven medium-bodied flavors that don't have the same phenolic maturity to the tannins and this finishes on the slightly dry side. 85/2012+

2008 Santenay "La Comme": While the nose seems ripe as do the supple, round and agreeable middle weight flavors that possess good volume but the persistent finish is also a bit dry. I would drink this young for its fruit. 86/2013+

2008 Santenay "Beauregard": This is notably riper with a solidly complex nose of red and blue fruit, violets and subtle warm earth aromas that marry into rich, round and suave flavors that possess good mid-palate fat and while the finish does display a hint of tang, this will likely round out with a few years in bottle. 87/2013+

2008 Santenay "Les Gravières": A moderately high-toned nose speaks of raspberry, cranberry, earth and wet stone nuances that carry over to the rich, full and generous flavors that retain an attractive sense of detail on the vibrant if slightly tangy finish. 87/2014+

2008 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois": (a huge 3 ha *monopole* of the Domaine, planted 50% to each color and which sits at the south end of the commune on the Santenay border; the pinot vines are approximately 60 years of age). A ripe, pretty and densely fruited nose of red berry liqueur and extract of cherry aromas leads to concentrated, dusty, serious and vibrant flavors that possess both much better phenolic maturity and length as well as firmer tannins. 89/2015+

2008 Pommard "Les Cras": As it usually does, the expressive nose evidences high-toned, cool and very elegant red pinot fruit that is nuanced by discreet mineral notes that are also reflected by the rich, round and delicious flavors that retain an appealing precision on the firm and only mildly rustic finish. A very solid *villages*. 88/2014+

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2008 Volnay "Santenots": An interesting nose of red berry liqueur and warm earth aromas gives way to very rich, round, forward and suave medium-bodied flavors that possess reasonably good phenolic maturity on the firm, serious, long and

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Whites:

2008 Santenay "Comme Dessus": A ripe and ever-so-mildly exotic nose leads to generous, concentrated and racy middle weight flavors that display a hint of finishing minerality on the relatively dry and clean backend. Very good quality. 88/2012+

2008 Santenay "Beauregard": A more elegant aromatic profile of citrus, honeysuckle and stone merges into extremely rich and intense medium-bodied flavors that are forward yet beautifully balanced. This could be drunk young with pleasure or aged for a few years if desired. 89/2012+

2008 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois": A very mild touch of reduction isn't enough to hide the citrus blossom, lemon peel and pear suffused nose that complements the rich and full-bodied flavors that display ample minerality on the complex, sappy and lingering finish. This is a lovely and understated effort that should benefit from 3 to 4 years in the cellar. 90/2013+

2008 Puligny-Montrachet "Champs Gain": A more elegant nose speaks of white flowers, green fruit, white peach and a hint of mineral reduction that introduces rich, full and clearly ripe middle weight flavors that possess both good volume and plenty of mid-palate fat that buffers the impressively intense mineral-driven finish. I like this balanced effort. 91/2013+

2008 Meursault "Santenots": (from a .25 ha parcel of 50+ year old vines). A pretty and appealingly nuanced nose of white peach, lemon and green apple marries into rich, generous and very forward middle weight flavors that display good detail on the linear, focused, intense and palate coating finish. This is notably better than it usually is as it typically doesn't reach the same quality level as the Champs Gain. 91/2013+

2008 Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet: (from a .62 ha parcel of 25 to 40 year old vines). A very ripe but not *surmature* nose mixes both exotic and yellow orchard fruit, which complements perfectly the rich, powerful and very concentrated broad-scaled flavors that completely stain the palate with extract on the hugely long yet precise and perfectly balanced finish. This is the finest Belland Criots that I have ever tasted and it should reward 7 to 10 years of cellar time. 94/2015+