

Domaine Roger/Joseph Belland (Santenay)

2010	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois" 1er	red	92
2010	Les Maranges "La Fussière" 1er	red	87
2010	➔ Pommard "Les Cras"	red	89
2010	Santenay "Les Charmes"	red	88
2010	➔ Santenay "La Comme" 1er	red	90
2010	➔ Santenay "Les Gravières" 1er	red	91
2010	Santenay "Beauregard" 1er	red	89
2010	➔ Volnay "Santenots" 1er	red	91

Roger Belland told me that 2010 was "not all that stressful if your fruit was clean. This represents the third year in a row where we had almost no sorting work to do and I'm convinced that it is due to having adopted planting cover crop that soaks up excess moisture along with doing careful leaf thinning at the appropriate times to promote better aeration. We waited to begin picking until the 27th of September and brought in potential alcohols in red between 12 and 12.5%, which for what we're trying to do is perfectly fine, especially since picking later allowed us to have excellent phenolic maturity levels. We did a normal vinification and used on average around 35% whole clusters and fully 100% for the Santenots. The wines possess really good concentration along with plenty of freshness and energy which should enable them to age well."

2010 Les Maranges "La Fussière": A distinctly earthy and ripe red and dark berry fruit nose gives way to equally earthy, round, rich and attractively generous medium-bodied flavors possess fine volume and solid mid-palate concentration. This is clearly very ripe and doesn't quite have the energy of the best in this range. There is also the barest hint of backend bitterness that will probably round out given how ripe the underlying tannins clearly are. 87/2015+

2010 Santenay "Les Charmes": A very fresh nose of earth and red berry fruit liqueur aromas introduces delicious, round and solidly well-concentrated middle weight flavors that also enjoy excellent phenolic maturity as well as very good depth and length. The mouth feel is very round and suave and this is essentially a wine of pleasure that is intended to be enjoyed young. 88/2014+

2010 Santenay "La Comme": This is also quite ripe with an attractively scented nose of violets, plum and cassis. There is a pleasing touch of minerality that adds lift to the seductively textured and mouth coating medium weight flavors that possess excellent volume on the delicious, balanced and lingering finish. This is really a lovely effort for what it is. 90/2015+

2010 Santenay "Beauregard": Here the nose is slightly riper still with black cherry, plum, cassis and a floral hint that precedes the very round, generous and equally ripe flavors. The supporting tannins are well-integrated on the generous and mouth coating finish that is also seductive but at the same time isn't quite as vibrant as that of the La Comme. 89/2015+

2010 Santenay "Les Gravières": (Belland indicated that this was made with no whole clusters). A wonderfully fresh and admirably pure nose of dark cherries, raspberries, warm earth and soft plum aromas is followed by rich, supple and suave yet well-detailed flavors that also enjoy excellent phenolic maturity, all wrapped in a racy, intense, focused and beautifully balanced finish. This is a terrific Santenay 1er that should age well yet also drink well young if desired. 91/2015+

2010 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). An earthy, somber and quite serious nose features an abundance of floral nuances that add depth to the otherwise dark berry fruit aromas. There is good freshness to the ripe, rich and suave medium-bodied flavors that possess an attractively textured mouth feel and truly striking complexity that propels this to another level relative to all of the other wines in the range. There is excellent mid-palate concentration and impeccable balance that should enable this to age for many years yet be approachable in 6 to 8. Worth strong consideration. 92/2016+

2010 Pommard "Les Cras": In contrast to the other wines in the range, this displays quite a bit of wood that pushes the otherwise ripe, complex and layered plum, violet and earth aromas to the background. The opulent and velvety middle weight flavors possess plenty of mid-palate concentration and the overall mouth feel is quite seductive yet because there is good acid support, there is also good definition to the finale. This isn't especially complex and I find the wood mildly annoying but there is enough concentration that this may ultimately integrate it. 89/2015+

2010 Volnay "Santenots": (fashioned with 100% whole clusters). A notably floral-infused nose of lavender and violets also reflects scents of spiced plum and cassis. There is excellent richness and volume to the velvety and suave flavors that are shaped by moderately firm tannins and outstanding length. This is not quite as complex as the Clos Pitois but the supporting structure is somewhat finer. Lovely juice. 91/2017+