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Domaine Roger/Joseph Belland (Santenay)

2013	Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois" 1er	white	90
2013	Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru	white	92
2013	Meursault "Santenots" 1er	white	89
2013	Puligny-Montrachet "Champs Gain" 1er	white	89
2013	Santenay "Beauregard" 1er	white	89
2013	Santenay "Comme Dessus"	white	88

Roger Belland told me that 2013 wasn't as "difficult to manage as 2012 because we had no hail in Santenay and Chassagne though obviously we were hit in Volnay and Pommard. We began picking on the 26th of September with the whites and then proceeded to the reds. We used slightly less wood for both the reds and the whites with 10 to 40% for the former and 0 to 35% for the latter. I think that this was a good decision because the whites exhibit plenty of minerality and freshness and had there been too much wood those aspects might have been partially hidden." Belland noted that the bottling was done in September 2014. (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).

2013 Santenay "Comme Dessus": Initially this opens with a touch of reduction but aggressive swirling is sufficient to cause it to dissipate to reveal notes of petrol, straw and a variety of citrus elements. There is an appealing sense of energy to the generous and fleshy middle weight flavors that deliver reasonably good depth and length. Note that this should drink well almost immediately but reward a few years of cellaring. 88/2017+

2013 Santenay "Beauregard": A deft touch of wood surrounds the ripe and attractively fresh aromas of earth, straw and both white and yellow orchard fruit scents. There is slightly better detail to the seductively textured flavors that exude a fine bead of minerality before terminating a citrusy, clean, dry and lightly saline-inflected finale. This should also drink well young if desired. 89/2017+

2013 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois": An exceptionally pretty and well-layered nose features aromas of pear, white peach, citrus and plenty of floral elements. There is an equally lovely mouth feel to the textured and generously proportioned flavors that possess solid mid-palate concentration, all wrapped in a lingering finish that presently exhibits a hint of bitter lemon. 90/2018+

2013 Puligny-Montrachet "Champs Gain": A notably ripe but not really exotic nose offers up aromas of white peach, pear, acacia and Asian tea. There is an opulent mouth feel to the voluminous medium-bodied flavors where a very subtle mineral streak helps to add a sense of energy to the persistent if slightly less complex finale. 89/2017+

2013 Meursault "Santenots": (from a .25 ha parcel of 50+ year old vines). There is enough reduction present to warrant decanting this for 20 minutes or so in advance. Here too there is fine richness and sap to the beguilingly textured and seductive flavors that possess a creamy but not sweet finish that delivers good if not truly special depth and length. This will drink well almost immediately and I would be inclined to drink it young as it risks becoming heavy with time. 89/2016+

2013 Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet: (from a .62 ha parcel of 25 to 40+ year old vines). A typical example of Criots often displays a subtle exoticism but this is not the case in 2013 as the already expressive nose evidences ripe, fresh and beautifully complex aromas of white peach, pear, apple and again Asian style tea nuances. Once again there is an opulent mouth feel to the extract rich medium weight plus flavors that coat the palate before culminating in a balanced and impressively long finish. Note that if this can add more depth than I presently foresee this could surprise to the upside as it has the potential. 92/2020+