

Domaine Roger/Joseph Belland (Santenay)

2021	Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois" 1er	red	90
2021	Les Maranges "La Fussièrè" 1er	red	89
2021	Pommard "Les Cras"	red	88
2021	➔ Santenay "Beauregard" 1er	red	91
2021	Santenay "Les Charmes"	red	88
2021	Les Maranges "Clos Rousseau" 1er	red	88
2021	Santenay "La Comme" 1er	red	90
2021	➔ Santenay "Les Gravières" 1er	red	91
2021	➔ Volnay "Santenots" 1er	red	91

Roger Belland commented that 2021 gave us a "decidedly strange growing season and particularly so here in Santenay. We suffered from the frost like everyone but we also had quite a bit more rain than the surrounding communes, which complicated dealing with the relatively intense disease pressure. We often pick late and I chose to pick very late in 2021, which means we didn't start until the 27th of September. Despite having started later than most domaines, we didn't really suffer from late season botrytis as the fruit was relatively clean with very good potential alcohols that varied between 12 and 13%. Yields though were another story as we were off fully two-thirds overall and even worse in white. We did a moderately light vinification using only modest amounts of whole clusters during a cuvaision of about three weeks. As to the style of the wines, the reds remind me somewhat of the 2011s and the whites like better 2013s or 2017s." The 2021 reds were bottled in September 2022.

2021 Maranges "Clos Rousseau": A high-toned hint of herbal tea lurks in the background of the exuberantly fresh aromas of various red berries that are liberally laced with earthy nuances. There is fine underlying tension to the nicely detailed middleweight flavors that conclude in a youthfully austere, moderately rustic and bitter pit fruit-inflected finale. 88/2027+

2021 Les Maranges "La Fussièrè": A very pinot nose is slightly more elegant and ever-so-slightly riper as well with its mix of red currant, cherry and more discreet earth wisps. The refined, pure and punchy medium weight flavors possess fine mid-palate volume as well as a bracing salinity on the focused, youthfully austere and lingering finale that also flashes a touch of bitter pit fruit character. As is usually the case, this is a wine that combines finesse with punch. 89/2027+

2021 Santenay "Les Charmes": (from Charmes Dessus). Here too there is a note of herbal tea to the pure and high toned aromas of essence of spicy red cherry. The round, delicious and fleshy medium bodied flavors possess good volume and a seductive mid palate thanks to the fine grained tannins supporting the youthfully austere finish where once again a touch of bitter pit fruit character slowly emerges. 88/2027+

2021 Santenay "La Comme": A more deeply pitched and slightly more complex combination of plum, dark cherry, earth and a hint of anise leads to equally sleek and well detailed middleweight flavors that exude evident minerality on the more complex and nicely balanced finale. This attractive effort is worth considering and should repay mid-term keeping. 90/2028+

2021 Santenay "Beauregard": Hints of crushed fennel and wood can be found on the nose of plum, various dark berries and subtle *sauvage* notes. Once again the medium bodied flavors possess a lovely texture as there is an attractive succulence to the lightly stony, complex and solidly persistent finish that offers even better depth. Note that this is sufficiently structured that it too is going to need at least a few years of keeping. 91/2029+

2021 Santenay "Les Gravières": A background note of wood toast frames pretty aromas of forest floor, red and dark cherry and a high toned hint of green tea. There is both very good volume and underlying tension to the succulent yet chiseled medium weight flavors that also exude evident minerality on the tension filled, persistent and well balanced finale. Note that this too is sufficiently structured to need at least a few years of forbearance. 91/2029+

2021 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois": (a 3-ha monopole of the Domaine, planted 50% each to pinot and chardonnay; the pinot vines are approximately 60+ years of age). A ripe and attractively layered nose blends together notes of plum, red and dark raspberry, and newly turned earth. There is slightly better volume to the rich and generously proportioned flavors that are not quite as energetic while offering very good if not truly special length on the rustic finish where a touch of asperity makes itself felt. This too is built to repay at least mid-term keeping. 90/2029+

2021 Pommard "Les Cras": A slightly cooler nose reflects notes of essence of red cherry, spice, and a touch of violet. The sleek and supple medium weight flavors are utterly delicious while exuding a subtle minerality on the youthfully austere finish that leans out somewhat as it sits on the palate. While this has the stuffing for extending keeping, I would be inclined to drink this over the mid-term as the balance may not hold up over the long-term. 88/2027+

2021 Volnay "Santenots": (vinified with 80% whole clusters). The high percentage of whole clusters is evident as the nose is the most floral-inflected of all of these wines while offering pretty aromas of red and dark berries, exotic tea and a suggestion of sandalwood. Once again there is a really lovely texture to the slightly bigger, richer and more tension filled flavors that flash focused power on the balanced and persistent finale. This could use better depth but the underlying material appears to be present for it to develop if held over the medium term. 91/2029+