

Domaine Roger/Joseph Belland (Santenay)

2020	➡ Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois" 1er	red	91
2020	Les Maranges "La Fussièrè" 1er	red	88
2020	Pommard "Les Cras"	red	88
2020	Santenay "Beauregard" 1er	red	89
2020	Santenay "Les Charmes"	red	87
2020	Santenay "Clos Rousseau" 1er	red	87
2020	Santenay "La Comme" 1er	red	89
2020	Santenay "Les Gravières" 1er	red	90
2020	Volnay "Santenots" 1er	red	90

Roger Belland was away at the time of my visit though his assistant Martin ably filled in. He told me that 2020 produced "surprisingly fresh wines in the context of what was a very hot and dry vintage. We picked from the 23rd of August and the fruit was ripe and clean. Yields were actually quite good as they came in around 40 hl/ha in both colors with average potential alcohols of about 13.5% with one wine at 13.8%. For the vinifications, we used between 0 and 100% whole clusters and vinified softly over a period of 4 weeks as it was clear that the fruit had a high level of extractability due to the thickness of the skins. Overall, we're very happy with the quality." The 2020 reds were bottled in August 2021. (T. Edwards Wines, www.tedwardwines.com, NY, USA; Berkmann Wine Cellars, www.berkmann.co.uk, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, Liberty Wines, www.libertywine.co.uk 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, MD, USA).

2020 Santenay "Clos Rousseau": A moderately fresh and extremely ripe nose speaks primarily of poached plum and earth scents. The rich, round and velvet-textured medium weight flavors possess a seductive texture before concluding in a bitter cherry and mocha-suffused finish that offers acceptable depth and persistence. While this mildly warm effort isn't heavy, I wouldn't age it for more than a few years. 87/2024+

2020 Les Maranges "La Fussièrè": A fresher and not quite as ripe nose reflects notes of red and dark raspberry liqueur, earth and plenty of floral wisps. The supple, round and caressing middle weight flavors possess good richness as well as better balance on the slightly tangy and warm finale. 88/2025+

2020 Santenay "Les Charmes": (from Charmes Dessus). A moderately fresh nose of red currant, violet and earth leads to succulent, round and plump flavors that also possess a caressing texture that contrasts somewhat with the mildly rustic, warm and tangy finish that displays sneaky good length. 87/2024+

2020 Santenay "La Comme": A ripe, pretty and fresher nose freely offers up its array of violet, rose petal, black raspberry and cassis hints. The richer and more voluminous flavors are also more refined while exhibiting a lovely mid-palate texture that carries over to the dusty, chalky and youthfully austere finale. 89/2026+

2020 Santenay "Beauregard": A bright, fresh and more elegant nose features notes of both red and blue pinot fruit, spice and more subtle floral characters. The delicious, caressing and relatively soft medium weight flavors also possess an appealing mid-palate texture before delivering good length if only moderate depth on the refreshing, dusty and lingering finish. 89/2026+

2020 Santenay "Les Gravières": An intensely and elegant floral-suffused nose is comprised mostly by black cherry liqueur, soft spice and earth whiffs. There is slightly better vibrancy to the equally attractively textured medium-bodied flavors that possess a seductive mid-palate that also contrasts somewhat with the dusty, refreshing and youthfully austere finale that is noticeably firmer. 90/2028+

2020 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). Here too the nose is fresh and bright with notes of the pretty essence of red and dark berries, pepper and earth, all of which is trimmed in enough menthol character to mention. There is very good volume and vibrancy to the attractively textured medium weight flavors that possess fine mid-palate density as the old vines are in evidence on the dusty and impressively long finale that is firm enough to reward up to a decade of cellaring. 91/2028+

2020 Pommard "Les Cras": An expressive nose combines notes of ripe plum, various dark berries and distinct earth nuances. The rich and relatively full-bodied flavors possess a dusty, even chalky mouthfeel while the youthfully austere and rustic finish exhibits noticeable warmth. This will need to develop better depth, which it should be able to do if allowed at least a few years of keeping. 88/2027+

2020 Volnay "Santenots": (vinified with 80% whole clusters). This is the spiciest wine in the range with its aromas of red cherry liqueur, poached plum, anise and exotic tea scented nose. The rich, seductively textured and velvety medium weight flavors possess plenty of sappy dry extract that helps to buffer the firm tannins supporting the bitter cherry-inflected, lingering and ever-so-mildly warm finale. Like several of the foregoing wines, this will need to develop more depth over time. 90/2030+