

Fine Wine Merchant

2010 DOMAINE LOUIS BOILLOT Pre-Arrival Offer – June 2013

“2010 is a magnificent vintage...the only problem is there isn't very much of them.”

Louis Boillot.

I cannot think a maker of such exceptionally pure, deep and complex wines are these whose prices are so reasonable. These are beautiful, immensely pleasurable wines.

I am thrilled to present the latest releases from Domaine Louis Boillot, whom Fine Wine Merchant proudly imports and represents in Australia. Since its inception in 2002, and especially in the past few years, Louis Boillot has produced a broad range of wonderful wines from his substantial holdings that have been exceptionally well-received and reviewed by critics and consumers alike. And even allowing for Australia's onerous taxation on wine – adding around 50% on to the cost of the wine – all of Louis Boillot's wines are comparably-priced to high-quality domestic Pinot Noirs. Best of all, even his most expensive, flagship wines, are so fairly priced that one could purchase one dozen bottles of these for a single bottle of some other, top Burgundies.

Burgundy is notorious for the confusing resulting from the multitude of similarly-named producers and domaines, and Boillot is a famous name with numerous incarnations or strands of the complex, intertwined family tree. Domaine Louis Boillot was established in 2002 when his father's Gevrey-Chambertin-based estate (Lucien Boillot et Fils) was split between Louis and his brother (Pierre). Henri Boillot, based in Volnay and who produces stellar whites, is Louis' cousin. Louis set-up his cellar in Chambolle-Musigny, where he lives with his wife, famous and highly-respected maker Ghislaine Barthod. Both Ghislaine's and Louis' wines are made in the same cellars (underneath their house) and whilst each make their own wines individually, both are remarkably similar in style and quality – unsurprisingly husband and wife share the same winemaking philosophies.

Farming a total of just over seven hectares, Louis Boillot is one of only a handful of Cote de Nuits domaines to have significant holdings in both the Cote de Nuits and Cote de Beaune – indeed, he has *premiers crus* in each as well as excellent *villages* holdings too. And when a prestigious plot of Chambolle-Musigny became available a few years ago, in the ‘Beaux Bruns’ vineyard which is classified as both *premier cru* and *village*, he and his wife split the plot, so that Ghislaine bottles the *premier cru* portion under her label, and Louis the *village* section under his own. Such is family.

The 2010 vintage chez Louis Boillot is characterized by producing very small grapes with very small pips. These grapes however had thick skins and thick stems, making them intensely flavoured. Flowering was poor, with some plots losing 70% of their potential, and some parcels (notably in Gevrey-Chambertin) were hard hit by the freezing temperatures and frost in December 2009, resulting in the death of a significant number of vines.

Despite the dramatic – around 40% less than usual – reduction in production in 2010, we have received a small allocation of two additional wines – the *lieu dit* Gevrey-Chambertin ‘Les Evocelles’ and the *lieu dit* Volnay ‘Les Grands Poisots’. Both are exceptional wines, but extremely limited, with Australia’s allocation being 10 and five dozen bottles respectively.

Winemaking

Louis and Ghislaine share the same viticultural team, with great care taken to maximise the potential of the fruit produced. The vines are rigorously pruned for low yields, with further fruit dropped during the season as necessary. The domaine is run following organic principles (since 2002). A strict selection is undertaken at harvest in the vineyards, with less-than-perfect fruit and bunches discarded, ensuring only fruit in optimum condition arrive in the *cuvée*. The fruit is 100% destemmed, and allowed two-to-three days pre-fermentation maceration. The ferment itself is gentle, with no pumpovers – Louis preferring the more gentle *remontage* technique. The wines spend two winters in barrel – Louis believing the extended *elevage* contributes to the elegance of the wines. Interestingly Ghislaine’s wines are similarly aged, and are renowned for their elegance. The wine is racked only once from barrel to vat prior to bottling, and there is no fining or filtration used.

About the tasting notes:

All of these wines were tasted in Louis’ cellar in April 2012 during the midst of bottling, either as barrel-drawn samples or just-bottled wine. A number were subsequently re-tasted in April 2013.

As always, please contact me for further information or to place any orders.



Stewart Plant
Fine Wine Merchant

2010 DOM. LOUIS BOILLOT Beaune ‘Les Epenotes’.

\$38 per bottle offer price (normally \$45).

The vineyard is on the Beaune-Pommard border (the vineyard on both sides is known as Epenots, or Epenotes), and this wine comes from 0.2 hectares of vines located in the *villages* or lower portion, from vines planted in 1946.

Quite powerful aromas of dark berry fruits and some spicy notes. On the palate the wine has quite a firm tannic structure – a more serious wine than in 2009 – but with plenty of fruit to support the tannins. Very good concentration and surprising complexity, and impressive length of finish. 89 points, drink 2014 to 2020.

“(from the *villages* portion of the vineyard with vines that were planted in 1946). This had just recently finished its malo and thus the nose was difficult to read. By contrast, the detailed and precise middle weight flavors exhibited good freshness and verve, particularly on the impressive, intense and very firm yet balanced finish. The tannins are mildly rustic but I suspect that this impression is being reinforced by the considerable amount of gas. 87-90 points, drink 2017+.” Allen Meadows, *Burghound* (January 2012).

2010 DOMAINE LOUIS BOILLOT Chambolle-Musigny ‘Beaux Bruns’.

\$68 per bottle offer price (normally \$80).

This vineyard, like the Beaune ‘Epenotes’, is also one that is partially *premier cru* and partially *villages*. Louis and his wife Ghislaine purchased a plot in this vineyard some years ago that encompasses both, and decided to divide it such that Ghislaine produces a *premier cru* for her domaine, and Louis makes a *villages* wine for his. Such is domestic politics!

This wine comes from 39 year-old vines, and has a wonderful perfume of soft red berries and typical Chambolle minerality. Very fine yet persistent tannins on the palate, with a lovely, gentle refreshing crispness. Very good complexity and length, this is a really pretty style that should age superbly and offer a terrific entry to the village of Chambolle-Musigny. 91 points, drink 2016 to 2026.

“(from the *villages* portion of the vineyard). Here the nose is exuberantly fresh and bright with notes of red currant and ripe cranberry that lead to rich, round and quite suave middle weight flavors that exhibit a restrained minerality on the balanced, delicious and harmonious finish. A classic Chambolle that is worth your consideration. 89-91 points, drink 2016+.” Allen Meadows, *Burghound* (January 2012).

2010 DOMAINE LOUIS BOILLOT Gevrey-Chambertin.

\$59 per bottle offer price (normally \$70).

Produced from six separate parcels, all old-vines (average 50-60 years). Very pretty aromas of red and dark berry fruit and minerals, which are very concentrated on the palate. There is very good length and complexity for a *villages* level wine – really impressive – and evidence of the old-vine material no doubt. Finishes with very fine acidity, an extremely pure expression of the village. 90 points, drink now to 2024.

“(exclusively from old vines of an indeterminate age). This is also exceptionally fresh with cool, airy and layered aromas of both red and dark berry fruit, underbrush and pungent Gevrey-style earth. There is excellent cut and plenty of energy to the precise and stone-inflected flavors that possess an impressive amount of dry extract that confers a textured quality to the highly complex finish. Like the Grands Poisots, this is a first-rate *villages*. 89-92 points, drink 2018+.” Allen Meadows, *Burghound* (January 2011).

2010 DOMAINE LOUIS BOILLOT Gevrey-Chambertin ‘Les Evocelles’.

\$76 per bottle offer price (normally \$90).

Les Evocelles is located around 300m altitude on the Brochon – Gevrey-Chambertin border and is planted on very stony, terraced soils. The vineyard abuts the premier crus Champeaux and Les Goulots.

Striking aromas of quite ripe red berries, cherry and plenty of minerals. The wine has plenty of energy and vibrancy on the palate, with quite concentrated, juicy berry fruits, fine minerality and a lovely crisp, refreshing finish. Very good complexity and length, a really delicious wine. 91 points, drink 2015 to 2025.

“(part of this vineyard is in Gevrey though most of it is in Brochon – this is from the Brochon side). Mild reduction detracts slightly from the otherwise pretty and overtly ripe pinot fruit. The rich, intense and vibrant flavors possess that lovely quality of underlying tension which extends to the dusty and mineral finish. The mid- palate offers both excellent volume and concentration and I like the contrast of the velvety mouth feel with a linear and energetic finale. Another terrific villages that is very much worth considering. 90-92 points, drink 2020+.” Allen Meadows, *Burghound* (January 2012).

2010 DOMAINE LOUIS BOILLOT Volnay ‘Les Grands Poisots’.

\$85 per bottle offer price (normally \$95).

Located on the border between Volnay and Pommard, beneath the premier cru ‘Les Brouillards’, this is a sizeable vineyard renowned for producing wonderful, pure wines of excellent value. Unfortunately yields were tiny here – around 20 hl/ha in 2010 – and so quantities are very limited.

Quite striking aromas of spice and red fruits, which follow through on to the palate. Fine, persistent tannins and very good acidity, this wine has a somewhat boney structure at present although this will no doubt flesh out with time, as there is underlying good fruit weight. Good complexity and length on the finish. 91 points, drink 2016 to 2024.

“Boillot indicated that this was made from yields of only 22 hl/ha. An exceptionally complex nose of earthy red and blue pinot fruit, violets and a hint of stone introduces delicious, intense and beautifully detailed middle weight flavors that possess an attractive mouth feel, all wrapped in a firm finish that is underpinned by dense but fine tannins and excellent balance on the long and palate coating finish. This is quite simply a terrific *villages*. 89-92 points, drink 2020+.” Allen Meadows, *Burghound* (January 2012).

2010 DOMAINE LOUIS BOILLOT Volnay 1er cru ‘Les Angles’.

\$85 per bottle offer price (normally \$100).

This vineyard adjoins the village of Volnay at its north-eastern corner, and Boillot owns an impressive 1.2 hectares.

Very fragrant aromas of pretty red berries and minerals. On the palate the wine is very pure and precise, soft with good ripeness, great length and complexity already. Lovely style. Very impressive. 91 points, drink 2014-2024.

“(35+ year old vines). Reduction renders an evaluation of the nose impossible though there is plenty of energy and detail to the suave, indeed even silky middle weight flavors that are shaped by very fine tannins on the mouth coating, mineral-driven and linear finish. The structural elements are firm but not hard and this will require at least a decade to be at its best. 90-92 points, drink 2020+.” Allen Meadows, *Burghound* (January 2012).

2010 DOMAINE LOUIS BOILLOT Volnay 1er cru 'Les Brouillards'

\$80 per bottle offer price (normally \$95).

Another vineyard located in the northern section of the commune, adjoining Les Angles and adjacent to the Pommard commune.

Somewhat closed aromatically (the wine was bottled three days prior), with coaxing gives hints of dark fruits and spice. The wine is quite tight on the palate, with very fine, silky tannins and delicious fresh acidity. 90 points, drink 2015 to 2025.

"There is also reduction here but it's sufficiently mild to allow a glimpse at what appear to be ripe but cool red berry fruit and warm earth aromas. There is good richness to the pure and elegant medium-bodied flavors that possess both excellent volume and like the Les Angles, a silky mouth feel on the impressively long and complex finish. This is also a wine of contrasts as the silky mid-palate is juxtaposed against a firm and robust finale. 90-93 points, drink 2022+." Allen Meadows, *Burghound* (January 2012).

2010 DOMAINE LOUIS BOILLOT Volnay 1er cru 'Caillerets'

\$123 per bottle offer price (normally \$145).

This comes from a plot of 60+ year-old vines. Stunning aromas of considerable depth, with loads of minerals, florals and red berry fruits. There is plenty of minerality on the palate, with quite pretty, bright and pure red fruits and vibrant acidity. A very complete style with enormous potential. 93 points, drink 2016 to 2030.

"(45+ year old vines). A wonderfully broad and refined nose of violets, plum and black cherry gives way to stony, intense and beautifully well-delineated flavors that possess a seductive mouth feel before culminating in an explosively long finish. This is a powerful and focused wine of finesse and that should improve effortlessly over the next 12 to 15 years. A genuine stunner of a Caillerets. 92-94 points, drink 2022+." Allen Meadows, *Burghound* (January 2012).

2010 DOMAINE LOUIS BOILLOT Pommard 1er cru 'Fremiers'

\$102 per bottle offer price (normally \$120).

Lovely aromas of soft red fruits and florals follow through on to the palate, where the fine acidity and fine, seamless tannins provide compelling drinking. Although the wine doesn't appear to have exceptional complexity at this stage, it's somewhat boney structure and pretty finish suggest that it should flesh out with time and amply reward cellaring. 91 points, drink 2018 to 2026.

"(60+ year old vines). This is notably ripe yet remains extremely fresh with its purple fruit and floral aromas that introduce intensely mineral-inflected medium-weight plus flavors that possess excellent size and weight. The mid-palate offers a seductive texture though the tannins are firm and this excellent effort is built to age. 91-94 points, drink 2025+." Allen Meadows, *Burghound* (January 2012).

2010 DOMAINE LOUIS BOILLOT Pommard 1er cru 'Croix Noires'

\$102 per bottle offer price (normally \$120).

About one-third of a hectare, adjacent the village itself on the southern side of the commune next to Fremiers. This vineyard is entirely planted to the reverd, ancient 'Pinot Fin' clone, and Louis' vines average 80 years of age. Whilst the wines of Pommard are generally typified by a sturdiness or rusticity, this wine is pretty, and elegant, with lifted aromas of florals and berry fruit.

Powerful aromas showing a slight hint of reduction (the wine is scheduled to be bottled tomorrow) yet retains bright red berry fruit. On the palate the wine has great depth and richness,

with plenty of crunchy red and black cherries, minerals and even rose petal. Impressive structure, yet very refined, showing tremendous elegance and finesse. 92 points, drink 2015 to 2028.

“(70+ year old vines). This is the first wine in the range to be noticeably marked by its wood though it’s not enough to really fight with the otherwise fresh and bright earthy and slightly *sauvage* mix of red berry fruit aromas. The supple, round and admirably dense medium-bodied flavors possess a taut muscularity though the underlying tannins are very, very firm. While there appears to be sufficient supporting material to eventually buffer the structure, it’s not a given and thus I prefer to remain cautious. Whatever the outcome, patience will clearly be required. 90-92 points, drink 2025+.” Allen Meadows, *Burghound* (January 2012).

2010 DOMAINE LOUIS BOILLOT Nuits St.-Georges 1er cru ‘Pruliers’.

\$127 per bottle offer price (normally \$150).

Slightly more than half a hectare of vines, more than 80 years average age. Although notionally Louis’ most impressive wine, it has never been my favourite until this vintage, where it’s exceptional class and refinement clearly shines through.

An elegant wine whose aromas display red fruits, florals and plenty of spice and minerality. There is lovely ripe fruit on the palate of excellent weight and intensity, and a pleasing minerality on the lengthy, complex finish. This is a really delicious and powerful style of great elegance. 94 points, drink 2018 to 2030.

“(70+ year old vines). A deeply pitched and brooding nose of spice, plum, cassis and plenty of pungent earth marries into very rich, intense and muscular flavors that possess a velvety mouth that culminates in a precise and driving finish that delivers spectacular length. This possesses that rare quality of having a robust and powerful mid-palate yet the overall impression is a wine of refinement. In a word, brilliant. (93-95)/2027+.” Allen Meadows, *Burghound* (January 2012).

2010 DOMAINE LOUIS BOILLOT Gevrey-Chambertin 1er cru ‘Champonnet’.

\$93 per bottle offer price (normally \$110).

This well-sited *premier cru* vineyard lies high on the slope, to the north of Ruchottes-Chambertin and Mazis-Chambertin, above the village.

Slightly closed aromas that display some black fruits and minerals with coaxing. A lovely little hint of spice too. The tannic structure is quite firm on the palate, with very good acidity and plenty of minerality too. This is not a fruit-driven style in 2010, and is in need of time to reveal its full potential. But what potential there is! 93 points, drink 2010 to 2035.

“(from a .19 ha parcel). A cool, airy and exceptionally pure nose of essence of pinot fruit is very much in keeping with the equally pure and reserved middle weight flavors that possess an obvious mineral streak that extends to the mouth coating, precise and impressively intense, even explosive finish that seems to go on and on. There is good power but the essential character of this wine is refinement. A really lovely effort. 92-94 points, drink 2025+.” Allen Meadows, *Burghound* (January 2012).

2010 DOMAINE LOUIS BOILLOT Gevrey-Chambertin 1er cru ‘Cherbaudes’.

\$127 per bottle offer price (normally \$150).

In my opinion, Louis’ flagship wine (although others may nominate the Nuits 1er ‘Pruliers’), this is a small plot of 98 year-old vines (planted in 1911) superbly sited, directly underneath Chambertin ‘Clos de Beze’ and Mazis-Chambertin, and beside Chapelle-Chambertin.

Powerful aromas of minerals, red fruits and even plum. On the palate there is plenty of fine, refreshing acidity and fine tannic structure perfectly balancing the ripe, somewhat sweet berry fruits. The wine has great length of fruit and most impressive complexity on the very lengthy, utterly delicious finish. So much potential. 94 points, drink 2016 to 2030.

“(from a .17 ha parcel of 80+ year old vines). This also exhibits a plum and cassis liqueur-like nose but here there is a more obvious floral character, in particular violets and rose petals. There is excellent volume to the velvety and mouth coating medium weight flavors that enjoy an expansive mid-palate that brims with dry extract. The old vines really show as the hugely long finish explodes while delivering seriously impressive length. A ‘wow’ wine that is classic Gevrey. (92-95)/2025+.” Allen Meadows, *Burghound* (January 2012).

Order Form:

2010 DOMAINE LOUIS BOILLOT Pre-Arrival offer: June 2013					
Wine	SP	Other critics	Normal	Offer	Qty
Beaune 'Epenots'	89	Burg 87-90; AG 88-89	\$45	\$38	
Chambolle-Musigny 'Beaux Bruns'	91	Burg 89-91; AG 89-91	\$80	\$68	
Gevrey-Chambertin	90	Burg 89-92; AG 88-90; 88-90 ST	\$70	\$59	
Gevrey-Chambertin 'Les Evocelles'	91	Burg 90-92; AG 91-93; 90+ ST	\$90	\$76	
Volnay 'Les Grands Poisots'	91	Burg 89-92; AG 90-92	\$60	\$51	
Volnay 1er cru 'Les Angles'	91	Burg 90-92; AG 90-92; 88-90 ST	\$100	\$85	
Volnay 1er cru 'Les Brouillards'	90	Burg 90-93; AG 90-92; 88-91 ST	\$95	\$80	
Volnay 1er cru 'Caillerets'	93	Burg 92-94; AG 92-94; 93+ ST	\$145	\$123	
Pommard 1er cru 'Fremiers'	91	Burg 91-94; AG 91-93; 92+ ST	\$100	\$85	
Pommard 1er cru 'Croix Noires'	92	Burg 90-92	\$120	\$102	
Nuits St.-Georges 1er cru 'Pruiliers'	94	Burg 93-95; AG 93-95; 91-94 ST	\$150	\$127	
Gevrey-Chambertin 1er cru 'Champonnets'	93	Burg 92-94; AG 92-94; 91-93 ST	\$110	\$93	
Gevrey-Chambertin 1er cru 'Cherbaudes'	94	Burg 92-95; AG 92-94; 94+ ST	\$150	\$127	

The wines in this offer are currently being shipped from the Domaine (in a refrigerated container, as always) and are due to arrive in Australia for dispatch in early August.

Burg is Allen Meadows, as published in *Burghound*; AG is Antonio Galloni, as published in *The Wine Advocate*, and ST is Steven Tanzer, as published in *International Wine Cellar*.

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