

DOMAINE GUY ROULOT





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Records show the registration of Guillaume Roulot as a vigneron in Meursault as far back as 1830 but it wasn't until after the Second World War that Domaine Roulot really took shape. In between times, several generations had worked as millers and distillers, the latter being a practice that Jean-Marc Roulot has revived in recent years to great success and with evident family pride.

Jean-Marc's father, Guy carefully purchased parcels of vines in and around Meursault, adding to the holdings that came by marriage from his wife's family. In 1982, aged just 53 years, Guy died unexpectedly. At the time, Jean-Marc was following his dream as an aspiring actor and was working and studying in Paris. The family decided to hire in régisseurs to run the Domaine but in 1989, Jean-Marc made the decision to return to Meursault and commit himself to the Domaine, alongside his sister Michèle. It can't have been an easy decision but the world of wine can only express its deepest gratitude. For in the intervening thirty years, Jean-Marc has operated at a level of excellence and consistency rivalled only by the likes of his cousins at Coche-Dury or his good friends at Domaine Leflaive.

In 2011, Jean-Marc negotiated a deal along with his neighbour

and close friend Dominique Lafon and some investor partners to acquire the holdings of Domaine Manuel. Through this deal, Domaine Roulot has been able to increase to around 15 hectares in size and has added several outstanding parcels, most notably the 1er cru Clos des Bouchères.

Jean-Marc's wines are most noted for their purity, transparency and tension. With a range that covers four 1er crus and six 'lieu-dit' sites (which could be considered 2ème crus) in Meursault, alongside a new blended Meursault cuvée , this is the perfect address to visit if you want to see the different terroirs of Meursault at their most clear. There are also holdings in Auxey-Duresses and Monthélie as well as a small but growing selection of négoçiant wines.

Zooming in on the Meursault holdings, a tasting with Jean-Marc will normally start with the blended Meursault, a somewhat controversial addition to the range given the history as a single-site purist. The simple truth here, however, is that the wine that results from the small additions of Crotots and Gruyaches to the Clos de la Baronne is more interesting than the three flying solo. Additionally, even Jean-Marc would concede that nine 'lieu-dit' wines in one range would probably be too many. With the recent addition

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of a new lieu-dit to the Domaine, 'Sous la Velle', in 2017, this logic is even sounder.

The first of the single-sites to be shown is normally Les Vireuils, located on the top of the hill and exposed north-east. As a cooler site, the resultant wine generally has notable acidity yet drinks very well in its youth. Next to it on the north side but staying upslope are Les Luchets and Meix Chavaux. The former is exposed due east and the extra sunshine shows in a more exotically aromatic and fruity character but still underpinned by good acidity. Meix Chavaux is less explosive aromatically but generally has more richness and weight, due to the higher proportion

of clay in the soil and warmer microclimate.

Les Narvaux, a rocky vineyard on the south side of the appellation, is not always shown by Jean-Marc, perhaps due to its tiny size (just a quarter-hectare) but it can be very good. Better still though are its neighbour Les Tillets and particularly the famous Tessons Clos Mon Plaisir. The former is being replanted but its chalky white soils give a particularly tense, racy wine. Les Tessons however, shows the trademark minerality and flintiness along with a tremendous depth of fruit. It sits mid-upper slope, still on rocky soil and knocks very firmly on the door of the 1er crus.

Le Porusot is a solid broadshouldered 1er cru that sits mid-slope and yields wines of depth and concentration that age well. Les Charmes has some of the oldest vines in the Domaine. Bordering Puligny-Montrachet and exposed fully east, this can be a very warm site and Jean-Marc takes care here to moderate the excesses without losing the voluptuousness for which the site is known. As the name suggests, it can be a most seductive wine.

Clos des Bouchères has become the new flagship at Roulot.

The Clos sits squarely in the middle of the vineyard which has neighbours in Porusots to the south and east and Gouttes d'Or to the north. This is prime mid-slope easterly exposed Meursault and Jean-Marc will often pick this first to maintain acidity. In the time that he has managed the vineyard, it has improved every year and he now affords it the honour of dislodging Charmes in his hierarchy.

Top of the tree though is Les Perrières, a grand cru by anyone's measure. Sitting above Charmes on the southern border, this wine is the most complete in the range with a length and depth of flavour above its peers. With only a quarter-hectare holding, it is also extremely rare and has become one of the most soughtafter wines in the world.





Domaine ROULOT Meursault 2017 Clos des Bouchères Appellation Meursault 1^{er} Cru Contrôlée Monopole CLOS DES BOUCHÈRES HAS BECOME THE NEW FLAGSHIP AT ROULOT. THE CLOS SITS SQUARELY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE VINEYARD WHICH HAS NEIGHBOURS IN PORUSOTS TO THE SOUTH AND EAST AND GOUTTES D'OR TO THE NORTH.