

DOMAINE LEFLAIVE

98 points



2005 CHEVALIER-MONTRACHET GRAND CRU

"This is a great vintage from Domaine Leflaive, which owns 4.92 acres in Chevalier, including a significant portion of vines dating to the 1950s. This 2005 is marked by the concentration of a smaller-than-average harvest (cool weather during flowering caused poor or uneven fruit set). The season was dry, the grapes harvested on the 20th and 21st of September, fruit days on the biodynamic calendar, following several days of north winds and sunshine that peaked the fruit ripeness. The beneficent conditions and the care with which estate manager Pierre Morey and Anne-Claude Leflaive farm their vines resulted in this brilliant Chevalier. It shows an aristocratic finesse from the moment the bottle is opened. The wine's power and dynamic intensity make it hard to resist, as if it went beyond perfect balance and form to sustain the energy of the fruit in the glass. The taste is little more than a caress that lasts for minutes, bringing idealized images of Burgundy to mind: the sun on a hillside of yellow herbs growing between the vines, the roots working their way through minerals in the soil, a cool limestone cellar where wine rests in oak. The elegance that comes from Chevalier's high point on the hill separates it from Domaine Leflaive's more broad-shouldered Bâtard, the distinction amplified in this vintage. Both are wines to enjoy for decades to come."

96 points



2005 PULIGNY-MONTRACHET PREMIER CRU LES PUELLES

"The domaine owns three parcels (7.56 acres) of Les Pucelles, which borders Bâtard-Montrachet and Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet. More than half of it was planted prior to 1969, the oldest vines dating to 1954. This is both subtler and more explosive than Clavoillon, its pear and honeysuckle perfume recalling the work of the bees among the vines. That classical buzz infuses the architectural power of the wine, a grand mineral structure embedded in the fruit itself. The beautiful scent and luscious texture should be reaching their peak eight to ten years from the vintage."

95 points



2005 PULIGNY-MONTRACHET PREMIER CRU CLAVOILLON

"This wine hums with energy, with the tight, floral perfume of chardonnay grown in Puligny, a focus on lime and orange blossoms, an astonishing integration of oak and mineral tension with the fruit. It feels buoyant, a rich beauty that keeps improving over the course of several days. Along with the freshness of the fruit, there's a sense of cool limestone radiating the warmth of the sun. The domaine owns an 11.84-acre parcel of Clavoillon, with vines dating to 1959."

96 points



2005 BÂTARD-MONTRACHET GRAND CRU

"The domaine owns 4.72 acres in Bâtard, comprised of two parcels in Chassagne and two in Puligny, the vines planted between 1962 and 1989. This wine is richer, broader, more arrogant in its power than the Chevalier. The detail of its flavor continues to develop with days of air. By day three it has a multidimensional savor, the perfume and sensual contours of a pear. The wine's creamy density and vast reserves of freshness turn its sheer mass into something glorious."