

# WILLIAM FÈVRE CHABLIS 2020

*BEOORDELINGEN WILLIAM FÈVRE CHABLIS PREMIER CRU & GRAND CRU 2020*

## vinous

**NEAL MARTIN**

“... Naturally, with 78 hectares of vines at your disposal, you have a lot more options than a winemaker dealing with a tiny cuvée. The practice of fermenting in a combination of stainless-steel and used wood has lent the range more consistency than before, though a few cuvées, such as the Beuroy, Vaillons, Fourchaume and Vaudésir, seemed to be swayed by the warm summer more than, say, the excellent Mont de Milieu, Montée de Tonnerre or Valmur.”

## Decanter

**ANDY HOWARD MW**

“2020 has proved to be a high-scoring vintage for grand cru Chablis and Andy Howard MW notes the climats of Les Clos and Les Preuses as particularly impressive.”





# CHABLIS PREMIER CRU

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## BEAUROY 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU

**Andy Howard MW:** "There's quite a bit of spice here although the palate is restrained and with good concentration. Less showy, a wine built for the long haul, this is classy and will age very well. From three parcels in Beauroy. No battonage, 25-30% in wood and 16-17 months maturation." **92/100 punten.**

**Neal Martin:** "The 2020 Chablis Beauroy 1er Cru comes from three parcels totaling 1.2 hectares in the Troesmes lieu-dit. This is quite fresh but concentrated on the nose, reflecting its sunny terroir. The palate is well balanced, taut and fresh, with fine acidity, but perhaps just missing a little elegance on the finish. Give it a couple of years in bottle to tame its power." **87/89 punten.**

## LES LYS 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU

**Andy Howard MW:** "Very cool north-facing site, which is a sub-section of Vaillons and home to 50-60-year-old vines producing small, very concentrated berries. Intense and fruit-driven but has lovely freshness to support the density on the palate. Persistent, mineral, with touch of orange spice on the aftertaste. Very impressive already." **93/100 punten.**

**Neal Martin:** "The 2020 Chablis Les Lys 1er Cru comes from a single hectare within Vaillons, bottled separately since 1998; the northeast-facing vines engender higher acidity. The bouquet is cool and refined, offering orchard fruit, orange blossom and a touch of peach that develops in the glass. The palate is well balanced with more concentration than the Vaillons and certainly more depth on the finish. Very fine." **90/92 punten.**

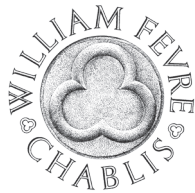
## MONT DE MILIEU 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU

**Andy Howard MW:** "Fèvre's Mont de Milieu shows a slightly different fruit profile, being a tad richer and broader in character. Fresh and fleshy on the palate, this is a little less harmonious now but will age well and get better with some age in bottle." **92/100 punten.**

**Neal Martin:** "The 2020 Chablis Mont de Milieu 1er Cru comes from a 0.5-hectare plot of 60-year-old vines. It is clean and precise on the nose, and quite leesy, with flecks of orange pith and orchard fruit and just a touch of reduction. The spicy palate is concentrated due to the low yields (26hl/ha), and shows better substance than the Fourchaume on the finish. Excellent." **91/93 punten.**







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## MONTÉE DE TONNERRE 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU

**Andy Howard MW:** "Fèvre has three parcels in Montée de Tonnerre (its purest, most mineral premier cru): Chapelot, Pied d'Aloup and Côte de Bréchain, all facing different ways. Very precise, crystalline fruits, salinity, great acidity and a long, long finish. Will age beautifully, but great now." **95/100 punten.**

**Neal Martin:** "The 2020 Chablis Montée de Tonnerre 1er Cru comes from three parcels that include the estate's oldest vines, planted in 1936. It is strict and linear on the nose, the most backward of the Premier Crus, but very minerally and stern. The palate is well balanced, citric and mineral-driven. Classic Chablis with an austere but beautifully focused finish that will repay cellaring. Excellent." **92/94 punten.**

## VAILLONS 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU

**Andy Howard MW:** "A restrained Vaillons with nice balance but not quite the drive of this producer's Montmains at the moment. A precocious, richer example of premier cru but with the stuffing to age well, showing sappy fruit, with a lovely hint of lime on the palate. Relatively early drinking but will keep." **92/100 punten.**

**Neal Martin:** "The 2020 Chablis Vaillons 1er Cru is cloudy and very primal on the nose, making it difficult to read. The palate has good depth and plenty of rondeur. It's quite rich relative to other cuvées and does not quite deliver the same tension on the finish. Possibly one of the early-drinking Premier Crus from William Fèvre." **87/89 punten.**

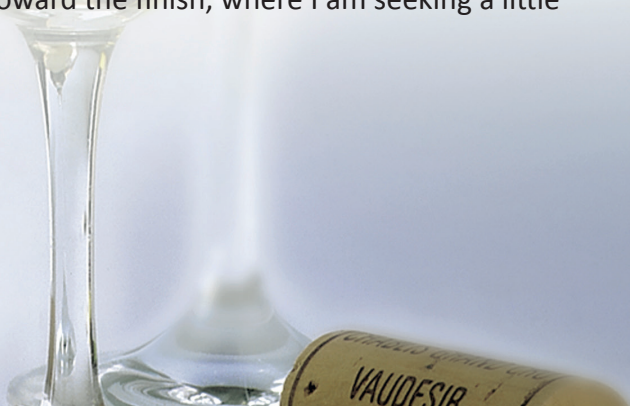
## VAULORENT 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU

**Andy Howard MW:** "With 3.65ha spread over eight plots, Fèvre is the largest owner in Vaulorent. Didier Segulier says marl soil gives the density, while Kimmeridgian supplies the minerality. Great complexity on both the nose and palate, this has the richness and structure of the grand cru. Absolutely no need to rush drinking this. Stunning." **96/100 punten.**

## FOURCHAUME 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU

**Andy Howard MW:** "Quite a lot of weight here. A tad overripe perhaps? Less precision than the other wines so far. Big, powerful example of Fourchaume. Loads of acidity to keep everything fresh, should age well, perhaps not in quite such an elegant way." **92/100 punten.**

**Neal Martin:** "From purchased grapes, the 2020 Chablis Fourchaume 1er Cru is primal on the nose, offering grapefruit and light leesy scents and perhaps missing a bit of pedigree compared to the Montée de Tonnerre. The palate is saline on the entry, very citric and slightly bitter toward the finish, where I am seeking a little more substance." **87/89 punten.**





# CHABLIS GRAND CRU

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## BOUGROS “CÔTES DE BOUGUEROTS” GRAND CRU

**Andy Howard MW:** “Côte Bouguerots is a cooler site down by the Serein River, with precipitous slopes of 45 degrees. An intense grand cru, with concentration from very low yields (25hl/ha), this displays a distinct savoury edge. It’s a very fine, persistent wine, with a very long future ahead.” **96/100 punten.**

**Neal Martin:** “The 2020 Chablis Bougros Côte Bouguerots Grand Cru comes from two south-facing parcels on steep, sunny inclines. Proximity to the river keeps nighttime temperatures lower, maintaining acidity. The intense nose features lemon thyme, crushed pebbles and sea spray scents. The palate sports a minor reduction, but there is fine depth here along with a keen line of acidity. Touches of white peach and nectarine emerge toward the minerally finish. Very fine.” **92/94 punten.**

## LES CLOS GRAND CRU

**Andy Howard MW:** “Fèvre's largest grand cru, with 4ha located higher up in Les Clos, meaning this is cooler climate and with much more chalk than Kimmeridgian. 50% of the vines were planted by William Fèvre's father in the 1940s. Perfect balance between precision, concentration, acidity and ripe fruits, with oak that’s not at all apparent. A fresh, glorious wine.” **97/100 punten.**

**Neal Martin:** “The 2020 Chablis Les Clos Grand Cru comes from 10 parcels scattered mainly over the top of the hill. It has a well-defined, crisp and (for the vintage) quite austere nose due to the location higher up the slope. The fresh palate is nicely detailed with lime and lemon thyme and good salinity. Quite strict on the mineral-driven finish. Good potential, but it will need time.” **91/93 punten.**

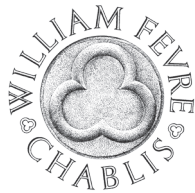
## LES PREUSES GRAND CRU

**Andy Howard MW:** “From 1.5ha on soils that are high in clay content above Bougros, together with 1ha just above Bouguerots. Distinct precision here, not a blockbuster but intense and focused. Lovely crystalline fruit and will age beautifully.” **95/100 punten.**

**Neal Martin:** “The 2020 Chablis Les Preuses Grand Cru comes from 2.5 hectares of vines in two locations, one east-facing and one southwest-facing. It has quite a deep, intense nose featuring lemon zest, crushed stone, linden and touches of citrus peel. The cohesive palate is smooth and harmonious with fine salinity, if maybe not quite building on its initial promise, as the finish pulls up just a little short compared to the Bougros. Still, this should age well in bottle.” **91/93 punten.**







# CHABLIS GRAND CRU

**BEOORDELINGEN WILLIAM FÈVRE CHABLIS PREMIER CRU & GRAND CRU 2020**

## VALMUR GRAND CRU

**Andy Howard MW:** "Didier Séguier of William Fèvre says there is a distinct line of Marne soil here, as in Butteaux and Vaurent. Very precise, showing a touch of orange zest on the palate, all kept in check by vibrant acidity and minerality. A rounded, complete Valmur with a long, saline finish." **96/100 punten.**

**Neal Martin:** "The 2020 Chablis Valmur Grand Cru comes from 1.1 hectares of vines at the top of the hill on a marl spur. The bouquet is a little reduced, making it difficult to read. The vibrant palate is full of energy, taut and strict, with a fine bead of acidity and a penetrating, sour-lemon-tinged finish that lingers in the mouth. Good potential, but one for those who like their Chablis mean." **92/94 punten.**

## VAUDÉSIR GRAND CRU

**Andy Howard MW:** "Lovely intensity, drive, citrus zestiness and energy here. Concentrated and very elegant wine, with a great future ahead. Fine minerality to finish." **93/100 punten.**

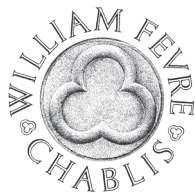
**Neal Martin:** "The 2020 Chablis Vaudésir Grand Cru, cropped at 35hl/ha, feels a bit simple on the nose following on from the impressive Bougros and never really gets going. The palate is well balanced, quite leesy and powerful, and smooth in texture, but it needs to muster more complexity on the finish. Fine, but outclassed by its fellow Grand Crus in this vintage." **90/92 punten.**

## BOUGROS GRAND CRU

**Andy Howard MW:** "From 4ha of vineyards, this is an easy introduction to the Bougros Grand Cru. Acidity is well in check and the wine is generous, with 25% older wood used for maturation. Very nice weight and purity, minerality and an extra layer of richness compared to the premier cru. Higher yields here than Fèvre's other grands crus, except Les Clos." **93/100 punten.**

**Neal Martin:** "The 2020 Chablis Bougros Grand Cru comes from six hectares of vines, southwest- and south-facing, forming the two different cuvées. The bouquet unfolds to offer lovely yellow fruit and oyster leaf aromas, well defined and quite generous. The palate is taut and crisp with fine acidity and moderate depth, but very pretty and composed toward the saline finish. There is plenty of substance already in situ and I foresee this aging with class." **92/94 punten.**





# WILLIAM FÈVRE CHABLIS 2020

## THE 2020 VINTAGE IN CHABLIS - An early but well-balanced vintage!

### 1. Meteorological data

- Temperature:

#### A very mild, wet winter

Higher-than-average temperatures in January

February broke heat records

#### A mild, dry spring

April was 3.5°C higher than the monthly average

Return of cold weather and some frost during the "Ice Saints" (11-14 May)

#### Very hot summer resulting in early ripening

The hot weather began in June

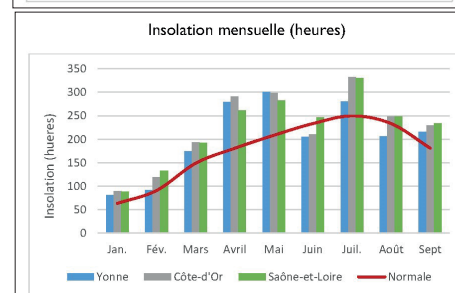
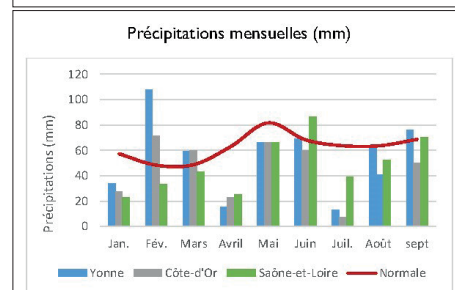
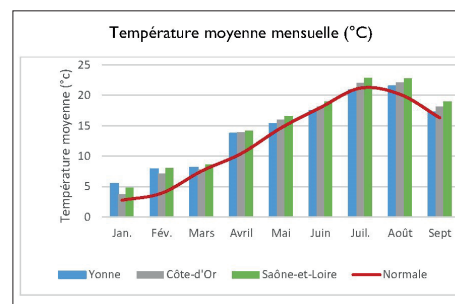
June and July remained within norms, but August started with a heat wave

- Rainfall:

After a very wet winter, monthly rainfall was below seasonal norms, particularly in April and July. Ultimately, the Yonne had a rainfall deficit of 41%

- Sunshine:

There was more sunshine than usual in most months, except June and August. There was a 15% increase in sunshine over the year.



### 2. Progression of the growth cycle in our vineyards

After a mild, wet winter, there was a historically early bud break in mid-March. This was followed by a very cold, dry, windy period at the end of March, bringing frosts during the night, which did not affect the vines. Summer temperatures in the spring and particularly in April accelerated the vines' growth and the first leaves appeared on 12 May in excellent conditions. After the cool "Ice Saints" (11-14 May) period, the vines continued to grow, and temperatures continued to rise. In the cooler, late sectors, flowering ended around 28-30 May.

A fairly wet June was followed a very dry period in July and two heat waves at the end of July and the beginning of August. The young vines suffered from scorching on bunches exposed to the sun. Alternating light rain and high temperatures at the beginning of August resulted in a rapid progression of the ripening process and the harvests began on 25 August.

### 3. Harvests, vinification and ageing

We began harvesting on 25 August, one of the earliest dates in the last 100 years. The grapes were in perfect health, with levels of potential alcohol between 12 and 13% and acidities between 6 and 6.5 g/L

Despite the weather conditions, yields were between 35 and 45 hl/hectare.

Alcoholic fermentation took place in good conditions over two to three weeks. The wines are still being aged, with bottling scheduled for March 2022 after 18 months of ageing on the lees.

### 4. The wines now

The wines are elegant and rich with beautiful floral notes and good length. The ageing process has brought balance to their natural richness.

2020 has superb freshness and tremendous precision in its expression of the terroir, promising a substantial potential for cellaring.