

Exploring Burgundy: Pernand-Vergelesses + Ladoix-Serrigny + Chorey-lès-Beaune

Pernand-Vergelesses

Just east of Savigny-lès-Beaune we find the commune of Pernand-Vergelesses, an area producing both Pinot Noir and Chardonnay and possessing eight Premier Cru *climats*. The western portion of the Corton hill, which we discussed last week, is partially in Pernand-Vergelesses and includes these three Grand Cru vineyards: Corton, Corton-Charlemagne, and Charlemagne. These vineyards are also partly in Aloxe-Corton and Ladoix-Serrigny. Corton-Charlemagne and Charlemagne produce only white wine.

Ladoix-Serrigny

More red than white is made in this commune which possesses eleven Premier Cru *climats*. In addition, there are *climats* within the Ladoix-Serrigny commune that hold Aloxe-Corton AOC status. As mentioned above, overlapping Grand Cru vineyards from the Corton hill found in Ladoix-Serrigny include Corton (red and white) and Corton-Charlemagne (white).

Chorey-lès-Beaune

At the foot of the Corton hill and south of Aloxe-Corton and Ladoix we encounter Chorey-lès-Beaune. Vines were planted here more than eight hundred years ago upon limestone-marl alluvium soils. This area focuses primarily on Pinot Noir, but there is a bit of Chardonnay planted as well.

Joseph Drouhin Chorey-lès-Beaune 2017 \$32.99

The hand-harvested and biodynamically raised Pinot Noir grapes for this lovely wine were grown on clay and limestone soils with a 53-year-old average vine age. Look for notes of rich cherry and blackberry fruit with medium tannins. At four years old we're starting to smell and taste more truffle, licorice, and leather. This is a fantastic introduction to value-driven village wine.