

THE HOSPICES DE BEAUNE 2020



DOMAINES

ALBERT  BICHOT

— MAISON FONDÉE EN 1831 —



Joseph Drouhin

L'ÉLÉGANCE NATURELLE
DES GRANDS BOURGOGNES



NOBLE ROT
FINE WINE LTD

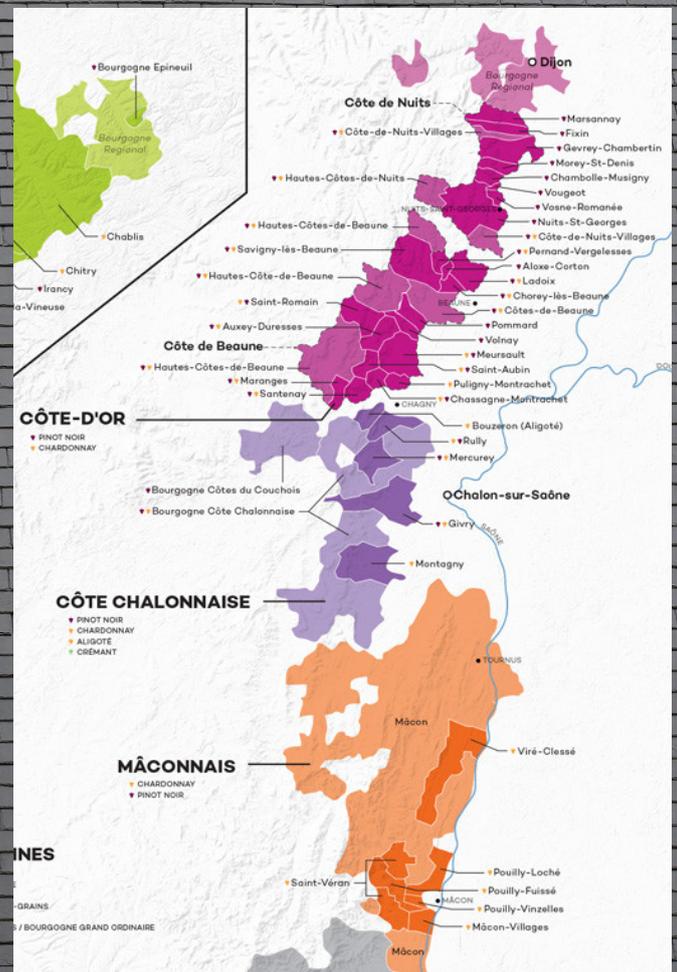
*A truly unique offer from the world-
famous auction, in partnership with
Joseph Drouhin, Albert Bichot
& Noble Rot*

The Hospices de Beaune

The Hospices de Beaune cuvées are utterly unique gems and offer Burgundy lovers a rare opportunity to own 1er Cru & Grand Cru wines at a fraction of the price of those from major producers in the region.

In 1443, near the end of the Hundred Years War, the chancellor of Beaune, under Philippe the Good, founded a hospital for unfortunates and started a religious order to tend to the sick. Since this hospital sat at the crossroads of a wine producing region, it wasn't long before the sisters healed a few local vintners who, in gratitude for their return to health, handed over hunks of their vineyards.

Soon the Hospice had sizeable holdings and sales of the wine production on these deeded lands helped subsidise hospital operations. By 1859 the sales were formalized into an annual auction which Christie's took over in 2005, raising the profile of the auction worldwide.



The 2020 Burgundy Vintage

The 2020 vintage in Burgundy will go down as one affected by both a global pandemic and high temperatures, with one of the earliest harvests on record. Bud break occurred three weeks earlier than average after an exceptionally mild autumn and winter at the tail end of 2019.

By 21 April the 2020 cycle was already 24 days ahead of where it had been in 2019, again only the sixth time in 80 years that one vintage had been so far ahead of its predecessor. Flowering in April was 'extremely successful' and then a hot summer led to grapes reaching full phenolic ripeness.

Pleasingly, it seems that 2020 will be a lauded vintage, with whites of beautiful aromatic complexity and very good acidity sitting alongside reds with deep concentration and excellent freshness. Ludi-vine Griveau, director and winemaker at the Hospices de Beaune, has submitted her report on the Hospices wines which makes for exciting reading:

"The vinification process went perfectly for both white and red wines, and the balances that have emerged in our wines are extraordinary, and, let's admit it, quite unexpected. The sunny side of the vintage is there, but the wines reveal an impressive aromatic freshness. Acidities are very present and the densities are already felt. The whites have substance, without too high an alcohol content. The tannins of the reds are supple but powerful. The ingredients of a great vintage, which, for many reasons, is unforgettable, are all present."

The Noble Rot, Drouhin & Bichot Offer

We are delighted to have partnered with Maurice Drouhin and Albert Bichot for the second year in a row, offering our clients unparalleled local insight into the 2020 Hospices de Beaune auction. At their suggestion, these are the wines we will be bidding for this year.

	Estimated 6x75cl price in bond
 Beaune 1er Cru, cuvée Maurice Drouhin <i>Sumtous flesh and very aromatic - a very special Beaune 1er Cru overseen by Monsieur Drouhin personally</i>	£325-£415
 Pommard, cuvée Raymond Cyrot <i>Rich and complex fruit, with crushed black fruits and a hint of spice, but with cashmere soft tannins</i>	£600-£800
 Meursault, cuvée Loppin <i>A superb value Meursault in a brilliant vintage. White blossom, light butteriness and a sublime, long finish. Classic Meursault.</i>	£750-£950
 Pouilly-Fuissé, Cuvée Françoise Poisard <i>Laser-focussed concentration, with a gorgeous, voluptuous body and enduring freshness and vitality on the finish. First class.</i>	£500-£620

We have identified the four cuvées above as those offering the very best examples of Burgundy's unique terroir and value for money. The final price is dependent on where the hammer falls at the auction but we, as ever, will strive for the very lowest price possible. To add to that, Monsieur Drouhin anticipates that we will see a 10% drop to last years' prices. **This year we are not asking for deposits in advance of the auction, but would ask you to contact us if you wish to express interest in any of the cuvées,** as we may be able to secure wines on a case by case basis, rather than by the whole barrel.

Once the wines have matured in barrel under Ms Drouhin & Bichot's watchful eyes and have been bottled, they will be shipped to the UK in their original wooden cases in Q2 of 2022. The wines can then be stored with us, or released from bond to you, at which point duty and VAT will be payable.