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Domaine La Soufrandière/Bret Brothers (Vinzelles)

2012 Mâcon Chardonnay	(86)
2012 Mâcon Chardonnay La Roche	(87)
2012 Mâcon Cruzille	(87-90)
2012 Mâcon Uchizy Cuvée La Martine	(87-89)
2012 Mâcon Village Cuvée Terroirs du Mâconnais	(87-89)
2012 Mâcon Vinzelles Le Clos de Grand-Père	(86-89)
2012 Pouilly Fuissé En Carrementrant	(88-90)
2012 Pouilly Fuissé Le Clos Reyssiè	(88-91)
2012 Pouilly Fuissé La Roche	(90-93)
2012 Pouilly Fuissé Terres de Fuissé	(88)
2012 Pouilly Fuissé Terres de Vergisson	(88-91)
2012 Pouilly Lochè La Colonges	(89-91)
2012 Pouilly Lochè Les Mûres	(88)
2012 Pouilly Vinzelles Cuvée Millerandée	(90-92)
2012 Pouilly Vinzelles Les Longeays	(89-92)
2012 Pouilly Vinzelles Les Quarts	(89-91)
2012 St Véran en Combe	(87-90)
2012 St Véran La Côte Rotie	(87)
2012 Viré Clessé Sous les Plantes	89-91)

Brothers Jean-Guillaume and Jean-Philippe Bret told me that 2012 was an “exceptionally difficult vintage as the weather was mostly wet and cool which provoked a serious attack of powdery mildew. We did a huge amount of leaf thinning to combat it and employed 8 people for fully 10 days to remove the vegetation around the bunches to improve the natural aeration. The flowering was extended and there was fully 15 days of difference in maturities between Vergisson and Vinzelles whereas there is usually more like 7 to 10 days. We picked from the 17th of September to the 2nd of October and brought in mostly very clean fruit that possessed good ripeness levels. Potential alcohols were very good at between 12.5 and 13% and the acidities were good as well. As to the wines there is no question that 2012 is more interesting than 2011. This isn't to say that the '11s are bereft of appeal, it's simply that the '12s are more classic.” In 2012 the malos were extended and several wines that I normally review had not yet finished and thus are not included below. Note that the *négociant* side of this operation is called Bret Brothers and I have divided the reviews below between Domaine La Soufrandière and Bret Brothers. Note further that in all cases, the Bret Brothers' wines are made from manually harvested purchased grapes and not from purchased must or wine.

**Domaine wine. (A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, UK; Verity Wines, www.veritywines.com, NY/NJ, Augustan Wine, www.augustanwine.com, Miramar, FL, The Source Imports, www.thesourceimports.com, San Francisco, CA, Classified Wine & Spirits, LLC, www.classifiedwine.net, Austin, TX, Fine Vines, www.finevines.com, Chicago, IL, Wines Unlimited, www.winesunlimited.com, New Orleans, LA, Little Guy Wine, www.littleguywine.com, Dearborn, MI).

La Soufrandière:

2012 Mâcon-Vinzelles “Le Clos de Grand-Père”: A touch of reduction is not

sufficient to completely mask the largely citrus- infused nose. There is fine detail to the lightly mineral-inflected medium weight flavors that possess a hint of anise on the delicious and easy-to-like finish that evidences good if not special depth and length. (86-89)/2014+

2012 Pouilly-Vinzelles “Les Longeays”: A troubled nose of reduction and residual fermentation aromas renders it difficult to read. By contrast there is good freshness to the vibrant, detailed and utterly delicious flavors that possess fine mid-palate density, all wrapped in a beautifully persistent finish where a touch of bitter lemon character emerges. Lovely. (89-92)/2017+

2012 Pouilly-Vinzelles “Les Quarts”: (from vines between 40 and 65 years of age). This too is noticeably reduced and hard to assess. The restrained, intense and distinctly mineral-driven medium weight flavors possess plenty of palate coating dry extract as well as fine volume that is balanced off by vibrant acidity on the focused and cool finish. This is also really quite lovely if not quite as complex as the Longeays, at least not at this very early juncture. (89-91)/2015+

2012 Pouilly-Vinzelles Cuvée Millerandée: This too is heavily reduced and impossible to read. As is usually the case this is a very concentrated and powerful wine with its big broad-shouldered flavors that brim with dry extract that buffers the firm acid spine on the textured and mineral-driven finish. This overtly austere effort will require several years of cellar time before it will be approachable. (90-92)/2018+

Bret Brothers:

2012 Mâcon-Villages – Cuvée Terroirs du Mâconnais: A very fresh and ripe nose of white orchard fruit and floral scents leads to racy middle weight flavors that possess solid supporting acidity and fine balance on the delicious, complex and lingering finish. This offers very good quality for what is often a disappointing *appellation* broadly speaking. (87-89)/2015+

2012 St. Véran “En Combe”: (from Chasselas). This is actually quite aromatically similar to the Mâcon-Villages except that there is a bit more complexity. I like the punch and freshness of the delicious middle weight flavors that terminate in a balanced and long finish that also enjoys good acid support. (87-90)/2015+

2012 Mâcon-Cruzilles: (from 35 to 70 year old vines). Mild reduction knocks down the nose save for a background hint of citrus character. There is a lovely sense of underlying tension to the delicious middle weight flavors that exude a fine minerality on the markedly dry but not especially austere finale. Solid quality for the *appellation*. (87-90)/2015+

2012 Mâcon-Uchizy – Cuvée La Martine: Reduction presently dominates the nose. There is a distinct citrus character to the racy middle weight flavors that possess a beguiling intensity on the delicious if moderately austere finish. (87-89)/2015+

2012 Mâcon-Chardonnay: An interesting nose combines aromas of citrus, crushed herbs and quinine. There is excellent richness to the large-scaled flavors that exhibit a touch of bitter lemon on the otherwise long finish. I don't know whether the recent bottling has caused the awkwardness this displays but it's difficult today and I'm not sure that it will recover. 86/2015+

2012 Mâcon-Chardonnay “La Roche”: A ripe, fresh and layered nose of pear, white flowers, lemon zest and a hint of apple leads to round, rich and very generous flavors that exude a touch of minerality on the easy-to-like and very forward finish.

This should drink well immediately. 87/2014+

2012 Viré-Clessé “Sous les Plante”: Strong fermentation aromas presently dominate the nose. I like the sense of energy and lovely delineation to the medium weight flavors that possess good volume and mid-palate density before terminating in a markedly dry, balanced and agreeably clean finish. This delivers good quality for the *appellation*. (89-91)/2016+

2012 St. Véran “La Côte Rôtie”: There is enough reduction present to cause the nose to be impossible to evaluate. Like several of the wines in the range there is a distinct contrast between the round, rich and almost soft mid-palate with the punchy, intense and notably dry finish. This too should drink well young. 87/2014+

2012 Pouilly-Loché “Les Mûres”: A pretty and expressive nose of white flowers, peach, anise and cool green apple nuances gives way to very round, lush, delicious and appealingly textured medium weight flavors that don't possess exceptionally complex but do deliver good persistence on the clean and dry finish. 88/2015+

2012 Pouilly-Loché “La Colonge”: A ripe but restrained and cool nose offers up notes of white peach, pear and apricot. The textured and very round flavors manage to retain a good sense of underlying tension as well as fine delineation on the energetic and harmonious finish. This is also really quite good. (89-91)/2016+

2012 Pouilly-Fuissé “En Carementrant”: Reduction flattens the aromas. There is good volume to the round and almost soft flavors that possess a tender mid-palate yet the finish immediately tightens up on the moderately complex but attractively persistent finish. I suspect that this will drink well early on. (88-90)/2015+

2012 Pouilly-Fuissé “Le Clos Reyssié”: Residual fermentation aromas completely mask the underlying fruit. There is very good volume and mid-palate concentration to the rich and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors that possess a hint of salinity on the ever-so-mildly austere finish that offers good depth and persistence. (88-91)/2016+

2012 Pouilly-Fuissé - Terres de Vergisson: An elegant, pure and ultra-fresh nose features notes of Acacia blossom, citrus zest and spiced pear. There is excellent richness and volume to the enveloping middle weight flavors that possess an attractive texture and good length on the clean and dry finish. If this can add depth with a few years of cellar time it could merit the upper end of my projected range. (88-91)/2016+

2012 Pouilly-Fuissé - Terres de Fuissé: Some post-bottling reduction knocks the nose down though there are background nuances of citrus. There is good volume to the overtly generous and luscious middle weight flavors that offer up a hint of minerality on the long and moderately dry finish where a hint of bitter lemon arises. 88/2016+

2012 Pouilly-Fuissé “La Roche”: Secondary fermentation aromas dominate the nose. There is excellent volume, concentration and richness to the broad-shouldered flavors that possess both good detail and ample minerality on the extract- rich, complex and driving finish. In 2012 this is the best in the line-up and is most impressive. (90-93)/2017+