

### Domaine Chandon de Briailles (Savigny-lès-Beaune)

2012	Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru	red	(92-94)
2012	Corton-Maréchaudes Grand Cru	red	92
2012	Corton-Clos du Roi Grand Cru	red	94
2012	Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses" 1er	red	90
2012	» Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses" 1er	red	92
2012	Savigny-lès-Beaune	red	88
2012	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fournaux" 1er	red	89
2012	Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières" 1er	red	90

François de Nicolay described 2012 as an "excellent vintage that unfortunately did not produce very much volume. For our vines the worst culprit was the poor flowering as we really weren't affected by the hail in 2012 though we got more than our fair share in 2013. We were also hit by a ferocious attack of mildew followed by an attack of oidium though we managed both of those reasonably well, even though we were constantly on the go in order to do so. To give you an idea, we normally treat around 10 times a growing season but in 2012 we passed through our vines fully 20 times! We began picking the whites on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September and then harvested the reds from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>. There wasn't much sorting required as the fruit was both ripe and clean with good phenolic maturities so I used from 50 to 70% whole clusters for the vinifications. As to the wines they remind me of slightly more concentrated versions of our 2010s. The individual *terroirs* are clearly delineated and I think that they should age extremely well as they have everything that they need to do so." Save for the Corton-Bressandes all of the 2012s were bottled between October 2013 and January 2014. (David Bowler Wine, [www.bowlerwine.com](http://www.bowlerwine.com), NY, NY; Beaune Imports, [www.beauneimports.com](http://www.beauneimports.com), Berkeley, CA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, [www.bbr.com](http://www.bbr.com), and Haynes, Hanson & Clark, [www.hhandc.co.uk](http://www.hhandc.co.uk), all UK).

**2012 Savigny-lès-Beaune:** A notably ripe nose of fresh and earthy dark berry fruit and cassis aromas leads to impressively rich and round middle weight flavors that possess fine volume and punch. The lingering finish is mildly austere but not particularly rustic and overall this is a pretty Savigny *villages* that is built to reward mid-term cellaring. 88/2018+

**2012 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Aux Fournaux":** (from 60+ year old vines). There is a trace of reduction though not enough to completely hide the dark berry fruit aromas that exhibit a touch of the *sauvage*. Here too there is fine volume, concentration and richness to the moderately rustic and mouth coating finish that offers very good length if only moderate depth. 89/2019+

**2012 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Les Lavières":** As is typically the case this is much more elegant with is airy, cool and pure nose of red currant, floral and discreet spice nuances that also display enough earth character to warrant mentioning. There is a lovely minerality and detail to the medium-bodied flavors that possess a touch of austerity on the balanced finish. This is an understated and restrained effort that should reward up to a decade of cellar time. 90/2020+

**2012 Pernand-Vergelesses "Les Vergelesses":** (from vines planted in 1956). A brooding and pungently earthy nose features notes of cassis, black raspberry and exotic tea. There is a velvety mouth feel to the concentrated medium weight flavors that coat the mouth with dry extract before terminating in a very firm and moderately austere finish that possesses fine balance and length if limited refinement. 90/2022+

**2012 Pernand-Vergelesses "Ile de Vergelesses":** (a mix of vine ages though the oldest date from 1938). A background application of wood allows the elegant, pure and cool aromas of plum, violets and earth to shine. There is an evident minerality that adds lift to the vibrant and beautifully well-delineated medium weight flavors that are shaped by admirably fine-grained tannins on the solidly complex and persistent finish. I very much like the delivery of this impeccably well-balanced effort that should amply repay 10 to 12 years of cellar time. 92/2022+

**2012 Corton-Maréchaudes:** (from 30+ year old vines). A somber and inexpressive nose only grudgingly gives up wisps of plum, earth and game aromas. There is excellent size, weight and punch to the big-bodied flavors that possess a really lovely mouth feel thanks to the abundant dry extract that imparts a sappy texture to the tight, intense and impressively long finish. In much the same fashion as the Ile de Vergelesses I very much like the delivery as it's balanced and intense. 92/2024+

**2012 Corton-Bressandes:** (from three separate plantings that have an average vine age of ~35 years). This is more aromatically elegant than the Maréchaudes with an airy nose of various red berries along with moderate amounts of spice, floral and earth nuances. There is more tension if not more size and weight to the delicious mineral-tinged flavors that possess a lovely vibrancy, all wrapped in a tight and persistent but not especially austere finish. Indeed this is relatively approachable in the context of the *appellation* yet it should also age very well if desired. (92-94)/2024+

**2012 Corton-Clos du Roi:** (this has the highest average vine age of these *grands crus* at 40+ years of age). An intensely earthy and *sauvage* nose displays plenty of floral character along with ripe dark ripe fruit scents. There is outstanding concentration and power to the broad-shouldered flavors that possess a taut muscularity and wonderful vibrancy on the mineral-tinged and hugely long finish. This is markedly structured and I while this is absolutely splendid, I would recommend it only for those who intend to cellar it for the long-term as it won't play especially well in the sandbox when young. 94/2027+