

**Vinous – By Neal Martin**

**Chorey-lès-Beaune « *Les Beaumonts* » 2020 : 90-92/100**

The 2020 Chorey-lès-Beaune Les Beaumonts is lively on the nose with brambly red fruit laced with blackcurrant pastilles, well defined and focused. The palate is taut and fresh on the entry, fine acidity, cohesive with vivid, vibrant tart red fruit on the finish. Don't ignore this excellent Chorey-lès-Beaune. (2023 – 2033)

**Ladoix « *Le Clos Royer* » 2020 : 87-89/100**

The 2020 Ladoix Le Clos Royer Rouge has a such a pretty rose petal tinged bouquet, elegant and refined, mainly red fruit with just a hint of blueberry. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannins, tightening up towards the saline, slightly pepper finish. Just a bit of firmness here, but it should mellow with 2-3 years in bottle. (2023 – 2030)

**Ladoix « *Les Buis* » 2020 : 87-89/100**

The 2020 Ladoix Les Buis offers red cherry and raspberry on the nose. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy red fruit, fine acidity, taut and fresh with a touch of black pepper on the finish. A well-crafted straightforward Ladoix. (2023 – 2030)

**Côte de Nuits-Villages « *Le Fourneau* » 2020 : 88-90/100**

The 2020 Côte de Nuits-Villages was a little backward and surly at first, opening with mulberry and light iris flower scents. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannins, quite saline with firm grip, powdery textured towards the finish with a light spicy aftertaste. Very fine, but give it a couple of years in bottle. (2024 – 2034)

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**Aloxe-Corton « *Les Crapousuets* » 2020 : 89-91/100**

The 2020 Aloxe-Corton Les Crapousuets is actually what was labeled “Village” and is exactly the same Mallard has just decided to put the vineyard name on the label (although I guess it does not really translate). It offers a mix of black cherry and cassis fruit on the nose, just a touch of potpourri. The palate is medium-bodied with chalky tannins on the entry, edgy and tensile, there is a slight angularity on the finish with a flinty aftertaste. Very fine, quite cerebral too. (2024 – 2038)

**Savigny-lès-Beaune 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « *Les Serpentières* » 2020 : 91-93/100**

The 2020 Savigny-lès-Beaune Les Serpentières 1er Cru has a nicely detailed bouquet, timid at first, opening with aeration with brambly red fruit laced with wilted rose petals. The palate is well balanced with a peppery opening thanks to the 50% whole cluster, fine acidity with a slightly earthy yet still beautifully-defined finish. Excellent. (2024 – 2042)

**Ladoix 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « *Les Joyeuses* » 2020 : 92-94/100**

The 2020 Ladoix Les Joyeuses 1er Cru has an intriguing bouquet with red berry fruit, hickory, slightly savory in style (as Mallard himself remarked : a little Chambolle-like in style). The palate is medium-bodied with a grainy texture on the entry yet the finish is very silky smooth and the 50% whole bunch feels completely assimilated. What a superb Ladoix 1er Cru. (2024 – 2040)

**Ladoix 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « *La Corvée* » 2020 : 91-93/100**

The 2020 Ladoix La Corvée 1er Cru has a slightly richer and more opulent bouquet compared to Les Joyeuses, black cherries intermixed with cassis and violet scents. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit, quite saline, fine backbone here, though I find the Les Joyeuses has a touch more precision overall. Still, this is a very finely crafted Ladoix. (2024 – 2038)

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**Aloxe-Corton 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « Les Valozières » 2020 : 91-93/100**

The 2020 Aloxe-Corton Les Valozières 1er Cru contains 60% whole bunch and was due to be siphoned barrel-to-barrel. It has a complex nose : blackberry, ash, Earl Grey and crushed stone aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with a very peppery opening – here, you can feel the whole bunch presence. Good structure here, fine backbone, very saline towards the finish that feels precise and quite lengthy in the mouth. Who said Aloxe-Corton cannot make great Burgundy ? (2025 – 2040)

**Aloxe-Corton 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « La Toppe au Vert » 2020 : 92-94/100**

The 2020 Aloxe-Corton La Toppe Au Vert 1er Cru has a much more floral and quite opulent bouquet, a bit of an exhibitionist with lovely blue fruit laced with minerals, bursting from the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannins, quite dense and concentrated towards the finish, though I feel it may eventually close down in bottle. Don't be afraid to cellar this. (2026 – 2042)

**Aloxe-Corton 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « Les Maréchaudes » 2020 : 92-94/100**

The 2020 Aloxe-Corton Les Marechaude 1er Cru, which comes from declassified Corton Maréchaudes fruit, has a ripe nose with predominantly red fruit laced with candied orange peel and allspice. The palate is medium-bodied with a silky smooth, tender opening, the more corpulent of Mallard's Aloxe 1er Crus with a very seductive and persistent finish. Superb. (2025 – 2042)

**Corton Grand Cru « Les Maréchaudes » 2020 : 91-93/100**

The 2020 Corton Les Maréchaudes Grand Cru is initially quite backward and broody on the nose, opening with brambly red fruit, wild strawberry and cranberry, a touch of rooibos and bergamot. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, fleshy and ripe with a grainy texture towards the finish. This will require 4-6 years in bottle. (2026 – 2045)

**Vinous – By Neal Martin**

**Corton Grand Cru « *Le Rognet* » 2020 : 94-96/100**

The 2020 Corton Le Rognet Grand Cru has a beguiling floral bouquet, a mixture of red and blue fruit laced with wilted violet and rose petals, perhaps the most mineral-driven of the three Grand Cru from Mallard. The palate is well-defined and structure, quite peppery thanks to the 75% whole bunch with an expensive finish. Watch it vie with the Les Renardes for supremacy. (2025 – 2045)

**Corton Grand Cru « *Les Renardes* » 2020 : 94-96/100**

The 2020 Corton Les Renardes Grand Cru showed just a little reduction on the nose, but opens with aeration to reveal vivacious red fruit, dessicated orange peel and floral scents, more exuberance than the Les Maréchaudes. The palate is medium-bodied with filigree tannins. Lovely symmetry and poise from start to finish with a precise and quite persistent finish. Superb. (2025 – 2045)

**Ladoix « *Le Clos Royer* » 2020 : 88-90/100**

The 2020 Ladoix Le Clos Royer Blanc has a fragrant bouquet with yellow plum, lemon sherbet with a touch of stem ginger. The palate is well-balanced with white peach, sour lemon and a touch of orange rind towards the finish. Great tension here. (2023 – 2029)

**Ladoix 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « *Les Gréchons* » 2020 : 90-92/100**

The 2020 Ladoix Les Gréchons Blanc 1er Cru has a lovely white peach and nectarine scented nose, hints of Nashi pear coming through with aeration. The palate is fresh on the entry with a touch of bitter lemon, quite harmonious with fine depth, hints of peach towards the tender finish. An excellent Ladoix blanc. (2023 – 2033)

**Vinous – By Neal Martin**

**Corton Charlemagne Grand Cru 2020 : 93-95/100**

The 2020 Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru, which was still in barrel (40% new oak), has a disarmingly lovely bouquet with yellow plum, jasmine, nectarine and peachy scents, quite intense and expressive. This follows through on the utterly charming palate : real depth and cohesion with a slightly honeyed, weighty creamy-textured finish. (2024 – 2040)

**Burghound.com – By Allen Meadows**

**Côte de Nuits-Villages « *Le Fourneau* » 2020 : 87-90/2025+**

Riper aromas include those of both red and dark raspberry, warm earth and discreet sauvage nuances. There is again good vibrancy to the sleek and delicious medium-bodied flavors that possess a relatively refined mid-palate mouthfeel that contrasts markedly with the moderately rustic finale.

**Chorey-lès-Beaune « *Les Beaumonts* » 2020 : 87-89/2025+**

Fresh and exuberant aromas of raspberry coulis and newly turned earth and humus wisps give way to nicely dense and caressing middle weight flavors that offer pretty good persistence and only a modicum of rusticity. This should drink well on the younger side or repay short to mid-term cellaring.

**Ladoix « *Le Clos Royer* » 2020 : 87-89/2025+**

A cooler and airier yet still ripe features aromas of red cherry, raspberry and subtle soil tones. The delicious and vibrant flavors possess solid density while displaying good depth and persistence on the slightly raspy but not really rustic finish.

**Savigny-Lès-Beaune 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « *Les Serpentières* » 2020 : 88-91/2026+**

Ripe and pretty aromas are more floral with notes of violet and lavender adding a touch of elegance to the spicy red berry fruit coulis scents. The notably more refined if slightly less concentrated flavors possess a lilting mouthfeel that continues over to the balanced and ever-so-mildly austere finale. This is a wine of finesse that will need to add depth to merit the upper end of my projected range.

**Aloxe-Corton « *Les Crapousuets* » 2020 : 87-90/2028+**

A fresh blend is comprised by notes of both red and dark cherry along with plenty of earth and sauvage characters. The mouthfeel is like that of the Fourneaux in that the mid-palate is unusually fine in the context of the terroir though the finish is decidedly firm, rustic and very Aloxe in character.

**Burghound.com – By Allen Meadows**

**Ladoix 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « Les Joyeuses » 2020 : 89-91/2027+**

An airy, cool and elegant array is composed mostly by the lightly spiced essence of red currant. I very much like both the texture and the underlying tension of the refined middle weight flavors that possess good detail on the lingering and balanced finish that is also youthfully austere. This too will need to add some depth with time.

**Ladoix 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « La Corvée » 2020 : 89-92/2030+**

A riper and more deeply pitched nose offers up liqueur-like aromas of various dark berries, soil tones and a mentholated top note. There is excellent intensity to the delicious medium-bodied flavors that are less refined but more powerful and muscular on the solidly structured built-to-age finish. At least some patience recommended.

**Aloxe-Corton 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « Les Valozières » 2020 : 90-92/2032+**

A discreet though perceptible dollop of wood can be found on the overtly floral aromas of red currant and wild cherry. The supple and nicely punchy medium weight flavors that culminate in a firmly rustic, austere and sneaky long finish. This possesses excellent development potential but like all good examples of Valozières, this will require time to display its intrinsic quality.

**Aloxe-Corton 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « La Toppe au Vert » 2020 : 90-92/2032+**

There is enough wood and menthol characters to mention on the attractively fresh and ripe aromas of red and black pinot fruit coulis that is laced with pretty violet wisps. There is again very good energy to the solid concentrated flavors that display fine length on the firm, serious and moderately austere but not really rustic finale. This too is going to require extended patience.

**Burghound.com – By Allen Meadows**

**Aloxe-Corton 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « Les Maréchaudes » 2020 : 90-93/2032+**

(only 1 barrel made). This is aromatically similar to the Toppe au Vert where the wood influence is slightly more subtle. The caressing, indeed even seductive, middle weight flavors do not lack for punch or power and particularly so on the mouth coating, firm and impressively persistent finish that is again quite firmly structured. This balanced effort should reward extended keeping and is a wine that's going to need at least 5 to 7 years first.

**Corton Grand Cru « Les Maréchaudes » 2020 : 91-94/2032+**

Moderate wood influence again frames fresh, ripe and layered aromas of mostly wild black currant and warm earth with just a suggestion of the sauvage. There is a bit more size, weight and richness to the bigger-bodied yet reasonably refined flavors that conclude in a firm, youthfully austere and lingering finish.

**Corton Grand Cru « Le Rognet » 2020 : 92-94/2035+**

Once again there is enough wood present to comment on framing the ripe and layered aromas of black raspberry coulis, poached plum and warm earth wisps. Here too there is excellent energy to the precise, muscular and stony large-scaled flavors that brim with dry extract on the firmly structured and compact finale. This built-to-age effort is decidedly muscular but not massive and a wine that should also amply repay extended cellaring.

**Burghound.com – By Allen Meadows**

**Corton Grand Cru « *Les Renardes* » 2020 : 92-94/2035+**

(from a .75 ha parcel). A slightly more deeply pitched and earthier nose reflects plenty of floral influence along with wood and menthol hints. There is a beguiling texture to the tension-filled, detailed and more mineral-driven broad-shouldered flavors that also conclude in a firm, serious, austere and moderately rustic finale. This is very Corton in character and a wine that's going to need extended keeping before it will be ready for prime time.

**Ladoix Blanc Village 2020 : 88-90/2024+**

A very fresh and vaguely exotic nose combines notes of pear, apple, lemon-lime and a hint of passion fruit. There is both fine density and vivacity to the caressing medium weight flavors that terminate in a refreshing, clean, dry and bitter citrus zest-inflected finish.

**Ladoix « *Le Clos Royer* » 2020 : 89-91/2026+**

This is aromatically similar to the Ladoix villages if perhaps just a bit more elegant. The equally caressing and even more seductive medium-bodied flavors possess fine length on the slightly drier, youthfully austere and lingering finale. This is a very good effort for its level plus it will age if desired.

**Ladoix 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « *Les Gréchons* » 2020 : 90-92/2027+**

This is vaguely Chablis-like on the nose of iodine, mineral reduction and shellfish aromas that are trimmed in just enough wood to notice. I very much like the texture of the mineral-driven middle weight flavors that also exude evident minerality on the markedly dry but not really austere finale. The supporting acid spine is firm enough that this should amply repay mid-term cellaring.

**Burghound.com – By Allen Meadows**

**Corton Charlemagne Grand Cru 2020 : 92-94/2030+**

(from Le Charlemagne). Here the wood treatment is more obvious and includes a touch of menthol on the aromas of green apple, acacia and a similar whiff of mineral reduction. There is very good size, weight and intensity to the detailed larger-scaled flavors that also culminate in a markedly austere and more austere finale that is noticeably firmer. This beauty possesses very fine potential though note well that at least some patience will be necessary. Lovely juice.

**Decanter – By Charles Curtis MW**

**Ladoix « *Clos Royer* » 2020 : 94/100**

Bright blackberry fruit, with hints of smoke and earth. On the palate it is firm and tannic, yet never loses its appealing perfume. This village-level lieu-dit is located at the base of the hill crowned with the Clos des Cortons Faiveley in Ladoix, just before the Route Nationale. Mallard has 0.48ha here, which he started picking on the 20th of August. The fruit is partially destemmed (30% whole-bunch) and punched down during fermentation before ageing in cask (25% new).

Drinking Window 2025 – 2040

**Savigny-lès-Beaune 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « *Les Serpentières* » 2020 : 93/100**

Silky and refined, with less tension and more supple tannins than we find elsewhere. This wine is warm and approachable, perfect for drinking on the fruit. Exposed to the south, Mallard owns 1.10ha here, where the Combe d'Orange spills out towards Beaune. The site has clay soils with limestone pebbles and sand. The fruit is fermented as 40-50% whole clusters.

Drinking Window 2023 – 2040

**Aloxe-Corton 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « *Les Valozières* » 2020 : 94/100**

Plenty of bright, silky red fruit upfront on the nose, with firm tannins, rich density and a sense of beaux amers (a 'beautifully bitter' character) on the finish. Very elegant and should age well. Premier cru Valozières is right under Corton Bressandes; the closer one goes to the Route Nationale, the thicker the clay becomes. Mallard's 0.39ha parcel produces small berries with surprising concentration. 50-60% of the fruit is vinified as whole bunches, yet there is nothing rustic about this wine.

Drinking Window 2022 – 2040

**Decanter – By Charles Curtis MW**

**Aloxe-Corton 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « La Toppe au Vert » 2020 : 94/100**

This is fermented with 60% whole bunches to give a very perfumed wine with notes of mint and flowers to the ripe blackberry fruit. The wine has an impressive sense of freshness and firm tannins, yet there is nothing astringent here. Worth seeking out. Toppe au Vert is one of those premier crus located in Ladoix that take the name Aloxe; it lies between Corton Renardes and the Clos Royer.

Drinking Window 2025 – 2040

**Aloxe-Corton 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « Les Maréchaudes » 2020 : 95/100**

Despite the somewhat sandy soils (Maréchaudes comes from the word for 'marshy'), this is surprisingly structured and dense, with spicy, ripe mulberry fruit. This wine is among my favourites from this section of Corton, and Mallard has 0.3ha in the grand cru section of Maréchaudes (and some premier cru). The top of the slope here has yielded three barrels (of which two are new this year) and the wine is vinified as 70% whole clusters.

Drinking Window 2025 – 2040

**Corton Grand Cru « Les Renardes » 2020 : 96/100**

The wine is a bit closed, but shows serious potential as it opens. Marked by the wood at this stage, there are ripe black plum and cherry fruit aromas, with shadings of earth, mineral and menthol. The wine is tannic and tightly wound, but with a bit of time in the bottle this will no doubt shine. Mallard has three parcels of old vines here that total 0.65ha. He ferments three-quarters of the fruit as whole clusters before ageing in 70% new casks.

Drinking Window 2025 – 2040

**Decanter – By Charles Curtis MW**

**Corton Grand Cru « *Le Rognet* » 2020 : 96/100**

Lush blackberry fruit shines through, with limpid floral notes and a firm mineral underpinning. The texture is silky and dense, the tannins substantial but finely-grained; a delightful wine. Mallard is the largest owner here, with several parcels totaling 1.27ha exposed mainly to the southeast in the centre of the slope. Extraction is meticulous and the grapes are vinified without sulphur until bottling. Nearly three-quarters of the fruit is vinified as whole clusters before ageing in cask (70% new).

Drinking Window 2025 – 2060

**Ladoix « *Le Clos Royer* » Blanc 2020 : 92/100**

Displays lively citrusy fruit and stands up well to the oak treatment, giving a wine of impressive definition and length - worth seeking out. The domaine has one-third of a hectare planted to Chardonnay in the Clos Royer. The lieu-dit is at the base of the hill of Corton, just below Corton grand cru La Toppe au Vert. The grapes are lightly crushed and pressed before fermentation and ageing in cask (40% new).

Drinking Window 2025 – 2030

**Robert Parker – By William Kelley**

A visit to Ladoix's 11.5-hectare Domaine Michel Mallard has been high on my "to do" list for several years, but I was unprepared for just how good these wines are when I finally realized this long-held aspiration. Vibrant, concentrated and seamless, these are terrific Burgundies that testify to impressive commitment to quality and attention to detail, and that suggests that Ladoix and Aloxe-Corton hold a lot more unrealized potential than many wine lovers realize. In short, everything here comes warmly recommended. As regards winemaking, a percentage of whole bunches are retained for reds, with classical macerations, and whites see crushing before long pressing. Maturation is in barrels from Saint Martin and François Frères. Bottling is under high-quality natural corks. Mallard keeps his wines back a year longer than most producers, so 2018s are arriving on the market now.

***Côte de Nuits-Villages « Le Fourneau » 2020 : 89-91/100***

From lieu-dit Le Fourneau in Corgoloin comes Mallard's 2020 Côte de Nuits-Villages, a medium to full-bodied, rich but lively wine evocative of cherries, raspberries, rose petals and loamy soil. With an ample core of fruit and fine, powdery tannins, it exemplifies how much potential this appellation has in the right hands.

***Savigny-lès-Beaune 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « Les Serpentières » 2020 : 90-92/100***

Offering up aromas of sweet berry fruit mingled with warm spices, orange rind and peony, the 2020 Savigny-lès-Beaune 1er Cru Les Serpentières is medium to full-bodied, layered and seamless, with a pretty core of fruit, lively acids and powdery tannins. It's an elegant, charming rendition of this prime Savigny site.

**Robert Parker – By William Kelley**

**Aloxe-Corton 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « La Toppe au Vert » 2020 : 91-93/2032+**

The 2020 Aloxe-Corton 1er Cru La Toppe Au Vert is lovely, bursting with aromas of rose petals, sweet red berries, orange rind and exotic spices. Medium to full-bodied, lively and charming, with a succulent core of fruit, powdery tannins and a long, perfumed finish, it's the most giving and immediate of the domaine's Aloxe-Corton premier cru bottlings.

**Aloxe-Corton 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « Les Maréchaudes » 2020 : 93-95/100**

From a tiny parcel that falls outside the part of this climat delimited as grand cru comes the 2020 Aloxe-Corton 1er Cru Les Maréchaudes, a cuvée that's clearly the insider's choice chez Mallard. Wafting from the glass with notes of cherries and raspberries mingled with woodsmoke and spices, it's medium to full-bodied, ample and layered, with terrific concentration and a seamless, multidimensional profile. This comes warmly recommended.

**Aloxe-Corton 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « Les Valozières » 2020 : 90-92+/100**

The 2020 Aloxe-Corton 1er Cru Les Valozières is firmer and more introverted than the Savigny Serpentières, unwinding in the glass with notions of dark berries, black tea, loamy soil and wintergreen. Medium to full-bodied, rich and structured, with ripe, powdery tannins and lively acids, it will merit some bottle age.

**Corton Grand Cru « Les Maréchaudes » 2020 : 93-95/100**

Richer and more structured than its premier cru counterpart, the 2020 Corton Les Maréchaudes Grand Cru reveals aromas of red berries, cherries, pomegranate and spices, framed by a discreet application of new oak. Full-bodied, ample and layered, it's concentrated and tightly wound, with a deep core of fruit and plenty of ripe structuring tannin.

**Robert Parker – By William Kelley**

**Corton Grand Cru « *Le Rognet* » 2020 : 94-96/100**

The king of the cellar is likely to be the 2020 Corton Le Rognet Grand Cru, a striking wine in the making that wafts from the glass with notions of red berries, rose petals, exotic spices and licorice. Full-bodied, layered and perfumed, its velvety attack segues into an ample core of concentrated, vibrant fruit, concluding with a long, aromatic finish.

**Corton Grand Cru « *Les Renardes* » 2020 : 94-96/100**

The 2020 Corton Les Renardes Grand Cru is superb, bursting with aromas of cherries, red berries, sweet spices, bergamot and peonies. Full-bodied, velvety and seamless, it's layered and vibrant, with a deep core of fruit that almost entirely conceals its structuring chassis of ripe, powdery tannin, concluding with a long, saline finish.

**Ladoix « *Le Clos Royer* » Blanc 2020 : 89-91/100**

Notes of citrus zest, freshly baked bread and white flowers introduce the 2020 Ladoix Le Clos Royer Blanc, a medium to full-bodied, taut and chalky wine with tangy acids and fine concentration. This is a fine effort that's well worth seeking out.

**Ladoix 1<sup>er</sup> Cru « *Les Gréchons* » 2020 : 91-93/100**

Serious and structured, the 2020 Ladoix 1er Cru Les Gréchons Blanc wafts from the glass with notions of citrus zest, toasted nuts, smoke and wet stones. Medium to full-bodied, chalky and layered, it's incisive and tightly wound, concluding with a saline finish.

**Corton Charlemagne Grand Cru 2020 : 92-94+/100**

The 2020 Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru mingles notions of pear, waxy citrus rind and white currants with hints of hazelnuts and pastry cream. Full-bodied, layered and seamless, with an ample core of fruit that's underpinned by racy acids and chalky extract, it concludes with a long, penetrating finish.