Worksheet Thirty Two

THE MANY QUALITIES AND DISGUISES OF CHARDONNAY

This tasting is of 100 per cent Chardonnay champagnes, Blanc de Blancs, from small, interesting grower producers outside the Côte des Blancs: do not be led astray and include Chardonnay-predominant blends, however superb they might be. A well-known Blanc de Blancs from a larger House should be included as a reference wine. The suggested wines are almost all non-vintage, and from their makers' villages of origin unless otherwise indicated. Asterisked wines are usually readily available through good distribution channels; those without an asterisk are available in some markets. The list is not exhaustive. The lone taster should try a champagne from any of the regions.

CÔTE DES BAR'

- *Cedric Bouchard's (Celles-sur-Ource), full-bodied and concentrated 'La Haute Lemblée' NV
- *Dosnon and Lepage (Avirey-Lingey), 'Récolte Blanche' NV
- *Jacques Lassaigne (Montgueux), 'Le Cotet', La Colline Inspirée or the Montgueux blend
- *Vouette & Sorbée 'Blanc d'Argile' Extra Brut NV
- Fleury Père & Fils (Courteron) 'Cépages' Blancs Extra Brut and Millésime
- G. Fluteau (Gyé-sur-Seine), Cuvée Prestige – worth cellaring
- Jacques Chaput (Arrentières), Brut Blanc de Blancs and 'Le Mythic' Brut Nature
- Moutard Père & Fils (Buxueil), Grande Réserve 'Champ Persin'
- Piollot Père & Fils (Polisot), Millésime – the 2008 was a stand out
- Royer (Landreville), NV Cuvée Blanc de Blancs – this is rich and elegant.

SÉZANNAIS AND PETIT MORIN

- *Pierre Moncuit (Le Mesnil), Cuvée 'Hugues de Coulmet' Grand Cru Brut (Sézanne) – it is interesting to compare this with either of the producer's Le Mesnil cuvées, to assess the role of substance versus style in making champagne
- *Ulysse Collin (Congy), 'Les Roises' Extra Brut ('Les Roises' *lieu-dit*) – excellently different
- André Jarry (Bethon), NV Brut and NV Cuvée Spécial Brut.
- Bression Sébastien (Étoges), 'Cuvée des Anges' ('Les Crayons' vineyard, Courjeonnet, and 'Les Enfers' vineyard at Congy)
- Jacques Copinet (Montgenost) Brut or Brut Sélection – this company specialises in Sézannais Chardonnay and all the wines are good
- Paul Lebrun (Barbonne-Fayel, Saudoy), Extra Brut Barbonne
- René Collet (Fontaine Denis Nuisy), Blanc de Blancs Brut

MONTAGNE DE REIMS

- *Cattier (Chigny-Les-Roses), NV Brut Blanc de Blancs Premier Cru (sourced from Chigny-les-Roses, Ludes, Taissy, Rilly-la-Montagne) – this is very good, can be cellared
- *Chartogne-Taillet (Merfy), 'Chemin de Reims' Extra-Brut or 'Heurtebise'
- *Claude Carré & Fils (Trépail), Brut Blanc de Blancs Premier Cru or Cuvée 'Passion' Millésime

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- *D. Henriet-Bazin (Villers-Marmery), excellent MN Henriet Blanc de Blancs Brut Premier Cru – this is delicious and cellarable.
- *David Léclapart (Trépail) – a range of brilliant, rich Blanc de Blancs that are also cellarable
- *Francis Boulard (Cauroy-les-Hermonville), Blanc de Blancs 'Vieilles Vignes' (Mont St. Thierry) or 'Les Rachais'
- *Godmé Père & Fils (Verzenay), Réserve Blanc de Blancs and (both Villers-Marmery) 'Les Allouettes St Bets' Millésime and Blanc de Blancs
- *J. Lassalle (Chigny-les-Roses), Blanc de Blancs Vintage (various local villages)
- André Beaufort (Ambonnay), Blanc de Blancs Brut
- André Delaunois (Rilly-la-Montagne), 'Cuvée du 21è Siècle' Extra Brut
- Aspasie (Brouillet), Blanc de Blancs
- Broggini (Rilly-la-Montagne), NV Blanc de Blancs Brut
- Claude Beaufort & Fils (Trépail), Blanc de Blancs Brut
- Fabrice Bertemès (Trépail), Blanc de Blancs Premier Cru Vintage Brut
- Henri Chauvet (Rilly-La-Montagne), NV Blanc de Blancs Brut
- Henri Giraud 'Esprit Blanc de Blancs (Aÿ and Montagne de Reims)
- Huré Frères (Ludes) 'L'Inattendue' (Rilly-la-Montagne and Vitryat) – very enjoyable
- J. Dumangin (Chigny-les Roses), Premium Blanc de Blancs Bru – delicious
- Jacques Picard (Berru), NV Blanc de Blancs – lean, structured, à la mode … be surprised and enthused.
- Margaine (Villers-Marmery), NV Special Cuvée Club Blanc de Blancs – very good, but must be allowed to develop in the cellar

MARNE VALLEY

- *Bérèche & Fils (Ludes), 'Les Beaux Regards' Brut Nature (Ludes and Mareuil-le-Port) – an excellent domain
- *Gaston Chiquet (Dizy), Blanc de Blancs d'Aÿ Brut _ characterful, standing appropriately beside the historical reputation of the Pinot Noir and well worth trying
- *Henri Giraud 'Esprit de Giraud' Blanc de Blancs NV
- *Laherte Frères Blanc de Blancs Brut Nature (Côteaux Sud d'Épernay) – repays cellaring
- *Sélèque (Pierry) Chardonnay-dominant blends or Blanc de Blancs from Épernay, Dizy, Vertus, Mardeuil
- Bauchet (Bisseuil), 'St Niçaise' Cuvée Prestige, Blanc de Blancs, Brut Premier Cru
- Déhu Père & Fils (Fossoy), Blanc de Blancs Brut (Marne Valley blend)
- Dérouillat (Monthelon), 'L'Esprit' Brut
- E. Jamart (St Martin d'Ablois), 'Cuvée Volupté' Brut (Mancy, Trois Puits)
- Janisson-Baradon (Épernay), 'Cuvée R. Janisson' Brut
- Lallier (Aÿ), NV Blanc de Blancs – recommended for cellaring
- Michel Loriot (Festigny), 'Les Sources du Flagot' Brut (Festigny, Leuvrigny, Nesle-le-Repons).

VITRYAT

- Bernard Lonclas (Bassuet), Blanc de Blancs Extra Brut
- Jean-Louis Chauré (Bassuet), NV Blanc de Blancs Réserve Brut
- Trépo-Lériguer (Vanault-le-Châtel), 'Songe d'Une Nuit de Vendange' – single vineyard, single year, not vintaged

As skills and equipment improve, be prepared to see more good things from this area.

Champagne 1 – Reference wine		Champagne 2	
Appearance	/3	Appearance	/3
Aromas	/6	Aromas	/6
Palate	/6	Palate	/6
Finish, general impression	/5	Finish, general impression	/5
Total	/20	Total	/20
Your ranking:		Your ranking:	

Would time improve what you have tasted? .....

Key differences between the two? .....

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Comments and Score

Champagne 3		Champagne 4	
Appearance	/3	Appearance	/3
Aromas	/6	Aromas	/6
Palate	/6	Palate	/6
Finish, general impression	/5	Finish, general impression	/5
Total	/20	Total	/20
Your ranking:		Your ranking:	

Would time improve what you have tasted? .....

Key differences between the two? .....

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Comments and Score

Champagne 5		Champagne 6	
Appearance	/3	Appearance	/3
Aromas	/6	Aromas	/6
Palate	/6	Palate	/6
Finish, general impression	/5	Finish, general impression	/5
Total	/20	Total	/20
Your ranking:		Your ranking:	

Would time improve what you have tasted? .....

Key differences between the two? .....

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