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CRIOTS-BÂTARD-MONTRACHET

GRAND CRU

APPELLATION D'ORIGINE CONTRÔLÉE

DOMAINE
FONTAINE-GAGNARD

Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard

Owner: Fontaine family

Country: France

Region: Burgundy

Founded: 1985

Annual Production: 6,000cs

Description: Tracing its roots to the esteemed Gagnard-Delagrangue vineyard holdings, Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard was founded in 1985 and has quickly become one of the top producers in Chassagne-Montrachet. With holdings in three Grand Cru and twelve Premier Cru vineyards at her disposal, proprietor Celine Fontaine crafts intense and complex yet classically-balanced wines that have become critical and commercial darlings.

Wine Notes – 2019 Fontaine-Gagnard Criots-Batard-Montrachet Grand Cru

Despite being relatively youthful by Burgundian standards, Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard has become one of Chassagne-Montrachet's most indispensable and important producers. Boasting over 12 hectares of vineyard holdings in three Grand Crus and twelve Premier Crus, including such mythic parcels as Le Montrachet, Batard-Montrachet, Les Caillerets and La Romanee, the domaine is renowned for producing wines that are always among the finest and most authentic expressions of their respective terroirs. The Criots-Batard-Montrachet Grand Cru comes the smallest grand cru appellation for white wines. Criots was carved out of the surrounding Batard-Montrachet vineyard as the small pebbly soil and steep slope are distinct from Batard in terms of the soils, aspect and heat retention properties. The resulting tiny berries from old vines (some planted in 1930) create a rich, ripe wine balanced by legendary delicacy and elegance and a notably long finish.



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- 93 points

vinous

- 92 points (NM)

Technical Specifications

Varietal Composition:	100% Chardonnay
Vineyard Region:	Burgundy / Criots-Batard-Montrachet
Vine Age / Aspect:	67 year old vines on average, south/south-west facing, 240 m altitude
Production Volume:	40 cases
Soil Types:	Callovian and Bathonian oolite limestone, stonier and steeper than Bâtard with more sunshine.
Wine-Making / Vinification:	Hand-harvested grapes, sustainable agriculture 10-15 day primary fermentation using native yeast in stainless steel Malolactic fermentation in custom oak barrels Aged 11 months in custom 1/3 rd new oak barrels, 1/3 rd 2-year old barrels, 1/3 rd 3-year old barrels. Lightly filtered and fined (bentonite and casein)
Alcohol / Volume:	13.5%

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Like the La Romanée, this too flirts with hints of exotic on the white and yellow fruit, passion fruit and jasmine tea aromas. The caressing and seductively textured bigger-bodied flavors possess good power on the lemony, very dry and impressively lengthy finish. I would add that this too is rather tightly wound, and I would advise holding it for at least 5 years first.

93 points

vinous

The 2019 Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru was picked on the first day of the harvest. It has a well defined, quite stony, austere bouquet that will benefit from 3-4 years in bottle. The palate is powerful on the entry with orange rind and apricot notes, quite spicy with good weight on the finish that leaves the mouth tingling on the aftertaste for 45+ seconds .Very fine.

92 points (Neal Martin)