

### Domaine Roger/Joseph Belland (Santenay)

2020	Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois" 1er	white	90
2020	Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru	white	93
2020	➡ Meursault "Santenots" 1er	white	91
2020	➡ Puligny-Montrachet "Les Champs Gain" 1er	white	91
2020	Santenay "Beauregard" 1er	white	88
2020	Santenay "Comme Dessus"	white	87

Roger Belland was away at the time of my visit though his assistant Martin ably filled in. He told me that 2020 produced "surprisingly fresh wines in the context of what was a very hot and dry vintage. We picked from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August and the fruit was ripe and clean. Yields were actually quite good as they came in around 40 hl/ha in both colors with average potential alcohols of about 13.5% with one wine at 13.8%. For the vinifications, we used between 0 and 100% whole clusters and vinified softly over a period of 4 weeks as it was clear that the fruit had a high level of extractability due to the thickness of the skins. Overall, we're very happy with the quality." The 2020 whites were bottled in August 2021. (DFWA – Direct Fine Wine Access, [www.directfinewineaccess.com](http://www.directfinewineaccess.com), Ansonia Wines, [www.ansoniaswines.com](http://www.ansoniaswines.com), Total Wine, [www.totalwine.com](http://www.totalwine.com), and Old World Wine, Houston TX; Vinohrad Wine, Majestic Wine, [www.majestic.co.uk](http://www.majestic.co.uk) and Jürgen Kaiser, all UK - Note that the exact same wines are sold under the Joseph Belland label).

**2020 Santenay "Comme Dessus":** Ripe aromas are composed by notes of straw, petrol, apple and pear. The rich, supple and generous middle weight flavors conclude in a vaguely sweet if persistent finale. This should drink well shortly after release. 87/2023+

**2020 Santenay "Beauregard":** A discreet application of wood sets off similar if more floral-suffused aromas. The succulent, round and delicious medium-bodied flavors are borderline opulent yet manage to retain good focus on the refreshing finale. This could use better depth, but it certainly is pretty. 88/2024+

**2020 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois":** A ripe nose offers up aromas of citrus confit, apple compote and a whiff of lychee. There is more volume to the very rich, even opulent, medium weight flavors that possess a lovely texture on the appealingly dry bitter lemon-inflected finish. If this can add depth with time in bottle my score might be unduly conservative. 90/2026+

**2020 Puligny-Montrachet "Les Champs Gain":** (from a parcel near Dents de Chien in St. Aubin). An overtly floral-suffused nose freely offers up its aromas of mostly white orchard fruit with background touches of citrus zest and just sliced fennel. The slightly finer if less generous and opulent flavors offer slightly better depth and persistence on the balanced, clean and nicely dry finale. 91/2027+

**2020 Meursault "Santenots":** (from a .25 ha parcel of 50+ year old vines in Les Plures). This is also quite floral with its vaguely exotic aromas of passion fruit, white peach and citrus zest. There is once again excellent volume to the delicious medium-bodied flavors that exude a refreshing salinity on the lingering finish. This will also need to add depth, but the underlying material appears to be present for that to occur. 91/2026+

**2020 Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet:** (from a .62 ha parcel of 25 to 40+ year old vines). Here too there is a vague whiff of the exotic with aromas of white and yellow peach, passion fruit, lychee and soft floral hints. There is outstanding richness to the sappy and palate coating flavors that brim with dry extract on the impressively long finale that is almost tannic. This too will need to develop depth with time in bottle, but the track record of this wine is such that I have a high degree of confidence that will occur. 93/2028+