

bruce sanderson decanted

On the Move: Domaine Champy

Recent acquisitions provide depth and diversity to the Champy range

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The monopole Volnay Clos de la Chapelle is one of the new premier cru parcels Champy and its investors acquired from Domaine Louis Boillot.

Since my last visit with Pierre Meurgey, director of Maison Champy, and enologist Dimitri Bazas, in June 2007, the firm has expanded its domaine holdings. First, it acquired [Domaine Laleure-Piot](#) in 2010, then last year secured three *premier cru* parcels in Volnay and Pommard from Louis Boillot that will be called [Domaine Clos de la Chapelle](#).

These new acquisitions give Champy complete control over 69 acres of vineyards from Volnay to Corton. Several parcels are already farmed organically and bio-dynamically and the new parcels will be converted over time.

With more than half the wines now under **Domaine Champy** or **Domaine Clos de la Chapelle** labels, Meurgey and Bazas showed me all the 2010s from these two properties. Below are my highlights. As usual, the wines were in various phases, some having been bottled already, others blended and in tank for bottling soon, while some were still in barrel. All the wines were tasted [non-blind](#).

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From [Domaine Clos de la Chapelle](#), the **Volnay Carelle Sous la Chapelle** reveals black currant, floral and fruity flavors, all lively and long, yet very approachable already (88-91, non-blind). The **Clos de la Chapelle** boasts candied cherry and exotic, almost jammy aromas matched to a round, rich, expansive, profile. It's seductive, very long and fresh (89-92, non-blind). Terrific fruit—raspberry, bilberry and cherry—highlights the **Pommard Les Chanlins**, whose texture is dense and concentrated, but also civilized, and well integrated (88-91, non-blind). All three had just been bottled two weeks earlier, without fining or filtration.

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Overall, the yields in 2010 were 30 percent less than in an average year. Champy tends to excel in difficult vintages, though not across all appellations. Its 2010s are fine examples of the vintage if Meurgey and Bazas continue to capture the pure fruit flavors and elegance in the wines yet to be bottled.