

## Domaine Belleville

The Belleville family domaine was sold to Swiss owners who subsequently sold on in May 2017 to the American couple who have also purchased the Château de la Commaraine in Pommard. The previous winemaker, Charles Nebout, originally from St-Pourçain has been retained and the domaine is undergoing organic certification (2018-2021).

The 2019 wines were tasted in late 2020, and the 2020 vintage a year later. The 2019s were matured for 10 to 14 months, using 20-25% new wood for the whites and 25 to 30% for the reds which are destemmed. The 2020s were racked to tank in October 2021, with a further three to five months aging expected before bottling. For both vintages I tasted with Jean-Luc Vitoux, director and co—owner of the estate. He feels that the red 1ers crus responded much better than the village wines to the sunny summer of 2020.

## White

**2020, Rully La Perche, Domaine Belleville** \*\*\* **87-88**

This has spent 12 months in wood to be followed by 6 months in tank. Quite a full yellow colour. Then a plump and peachy bouquet, full for a Rully. The oak shows quite forcefully at the moment but there is enough fruit to cope. Some minerals at the finish. Tasted: November 2021

**2020, Mercurey Villeranges, Domaine Belleville** \*\*\*\* **88-90**

Clear lemon yellow. Pure and clean and full of fruit showing less oak here. Nicely juicy with a fresh finish, more white fruit than yellow, finesse and length. This is really very good. Tasted: November 2021

**2020, Rully Rabourcé 1er Cru, Domaine Belleville** \*\*\* **88-90**

The vineyard is exposed fully to the south. The colour is a fine mid lemon yellow. The nose has avoided too much ripeness while the palate delivers ripe cooked apples, and the higher degree of alcohol is fortunately well balanced by the natural acidity. Tasted: November 2021

**2020, Rully La Pucelle 1er Cru, Domaine Belleville** \*\*\*\* **90-92**

An east facing vineyard which has picked up the sun less than Rabourcé. Pale clear lemon yellow. Greater finesse to the nose. There is more elegance and more tension at the finish, with apples as if picked a little earlier in their ripening, some citrus, a long elegant finish. Very good indeed. Tasted: November 2021

# Red

**2020, Rully Chaponnière, Domaine Belleville** \*\*\* **86-88**

Very deep purple. The nose has an exotic wealth of ripe fruit. On the palate the deep raspberries are supported by some fresh fruit, including a suggestion of pomegranate with welcome acidity. Good length. Tasted: November 2021

**2020, Mercurey Les Perrières, Domaine Belleville** \*\*\* **86-87**

Rich dense dark purple. The nose too is very ripe with some peachy notes along with the dark red fruit. A huge mouthful of rich dark fruit, plum pudding, with quite firm tannins behind. Good in its style if atypical. Tasted: November 2021

**2020, Rully Chapitre 1er Cru, Domaine Belleville** \*\*\*\* **89-91**

Another pure deep purple. The bouquet shows the wealth of ripe fruit, but the palate is a little more classic, red fruit rather than black, and good acidity. Length and some precision. Looks good Tasted: November 2021

**2020, Mercurey 1er Cru Clos l'Evêque, Domaine Belleville** \*\*\* **88-90**

Rich deep purple. As with the Rully, the 1er Cru has coped with conditions much better than the village Mercurey. The Clos L'Evêque retains some element of finesse alongside the weight of fruit. Compared to the Rully Chapitre, I find more rustic tannins, a certain peachiness to the fruit more obvious in the mouth than on the nose. Ripe raspberries to finish. Tasted: November 2021