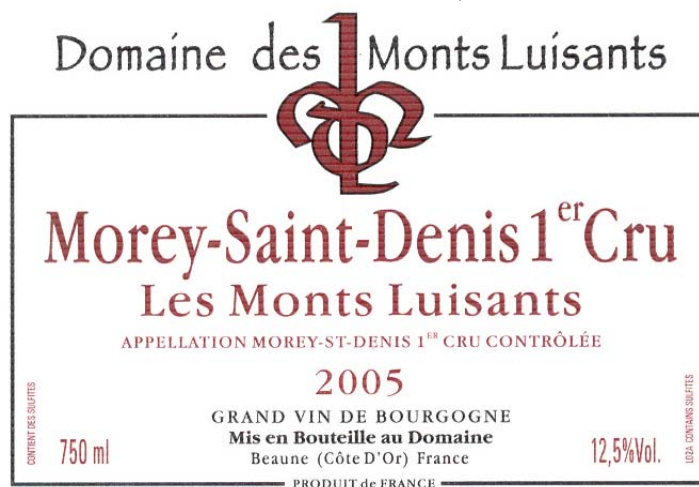


Doug and Will's excellent adventure  
part deux  
Domaine des Monts Luisants, The next DRC?



I know all of you have read the details of the trip that Will and I took to Burgundy in March of this year, but if not, please read the details in 'Doug and Will's Excellent Adventure', also on the web page.

Jean-Mark Dufouleur set about to make the finest wines in Burgundy, by starting with the finest land in Burgundy. In the words of Robert Parker "there are no Burgundy Grand Crus better than Clos de la Roche, Bonnes Mares or Clos St.-Denis". "Clos de la Roche (41 acres) frequently produces some of the greatest wines in all Burgundy". Mr. Dufouleur not only has his tiny holding in this fabled vineyard, but his 1er Cru plots of Les Monts Luisants and Les Genavrieres actually run directly against it. You simply cannot get any physically closer to Grand Cru land than this. We are talking about two feet apart here. He is so meticulous about his fruit that in 2004, he felt it was not up to standard, so he took every grape to the distiller without it even reaching his winery. Any winemaker that is willing to throw a whole vintage away rather than make sub par wine is a perfectionist to be sure. After the 2005 vintage, he pulled his vines out in his plot of Clos de la Roche to replant them. "They were getting old" was his reasoning. The result is no more wine from this plot for about 8 years at least.

When tasting these two 2006 1er Cru wines for the first time, right along the biggest names in Burgundy, the purity and expression of these wines put them head and shoulders above every other wine in the room. Even though the 2006 wines are in general more delicate and 'feminine' than 2005 from just about every producer in Burgundy, these same vigneron almost to a man describe these as more 'traditional' in style. Perhaps this is understandable due to the volumes that have been written describing 2005 as perhaps the greatest vintage in Burgundy in 25-50 years. These silky and supple wines will be ready to drink well in advance of the 2005's, so these will be wines to sink your teeth into while trying to maintain your patience. The wine press in Europe has started to take note of Jean-Marc's wines, so the U.S. publications cannot be far behind.

European writer Patrick Dussert-Gerber recently made his ranking of the top Burgundy producers, and Domaine des Monts Luisants is right at the head of the class as a “First Great Wine, Classified” (some translation issues here) with the likes of Romanee Conti, Clos de Lambrays and Cheillon-Chezeau. Pretty fine company indeed. In his words: (again, bear with the translation)

“At the top, of course. The constitution of the field is the work of Bernard DuFouleur, which in the mid-1960s, bought several parcels, as far as exchanges, to achieve a homogeneous and coherent 3.5 ha vineyard. The owner friendly student carefully this great Morey-Saint-Denis Premier Cru Les Monts shiny 2005 (ground limestone and clay and very stony, vines over 36 years, breeding in oak barrels for 18 months), rich in color, full-bodied, bodied, mouth delicious, with firm tannins but very elegant, complex nose dominated by cherry and leather, mouth expanded, combining the bold characteristic of the appellation of finely spicy notes.”

The primary differences in the two 1er Cru wines as I tasted them were that the Les Genavrieres was slightly bigger and more robust, while the Les Montes Luisants was more exotic and spicy. Rather subtle differences. If you have ever had to try to match a color of paint, it is sort of like that. “I think this red has a dash more blue, no wait I think this one needs a little more carmine and gold oxide”. In the end, it is still a red '66 Ferrari, regardless of the hue.

We were proud and honored to be the first retailer in the US and Canada to offer the staggering 2003 and 2005 vintages of these remarkable wines, and now have the opportunity to present the scrumptious 2006 vintage 1er Cru wines that originally turned us on to this property. While just about all other 2006 Burgundies are priced significantly higher than the 2005's due to the weakening U.S. dollar, we are bucking the trend here. Due to some very fortuitous (lucky?) buying while the Euro was momentarily at a low point we were able to secure these wines at a substantial discount to the 2005 vintage.

Quantities are extremely limited, with only 12 cases of each wine available at this price. Prepayment is required for all orders, and all wines will be sold first come-first served with no quantity limits.

2006 Morey Saint Denis 1er Cru Les Monts Luisants (1.9657 hectare)	\$110
2006 Morey Saint Denis 1er Cru les Genavrieres (.3296 hectare)	\$110