

CHAMPAGNE BEAUFORT TASTING AND DINNER AT RACINES JANUARY 10 2017

It is so strange and captivating to taste the vision and hand of a single mind, across 20 vintages and multiple related terroirs. I don't mean this as a criticism or to diminish in any way, but what I felt that I tasted was a mind, a body of unified and coherent work. One senses that also in Ulysse Collin, to the extent that there is a body of work, and also PYCM. I do not mind that one does not sense the terroir primarily— but the places and their characteristics are so much presented through a lens that one cannot help but reflect on the lens itself.

Let me put this another way: when you taste the rosés, you do not get the sense that rosé is an option, an additional SKU to a lineup. You get the sense that it is at the center of what he is doing, and that making rosé is necessary (as with Radikon for instance: using skins is necessary). This is the expression of a mind. I love the white wines, but they seem incomplete compared to the rosés.

MV Ambonnay Rosé Doux	weird, slight VA, hard candy. whatever. va in bottle from sugar and microbes, either during tirage or perhaps post-disgorgement
2002 Coteaux Champenois Rouge	corked. but superb; beautiful, sharp red fruit. Very uncommon. not underripe in any way. 🌟🌟🌟🌟
2010 Polisy Brut Rosé	Absolutely super. in the end, the wine of the night. transparent. super light but dense and complex. long and unfolding in waves or presenting and withdrawing; hiding and revealing, seducing and combating
NV Ambonnay Brut Rosé Grand Cru	Good, weird, va, funk. Better with time. Very good. Great weight. Deep. Not too much va. did not really seem like a brut
1996 Ambonnay Demi-Sec Grand Cru	Super. Rich, weird. No flaws. Nearly sweet. Wonderful, rich, complex nose. Totally fresh-- or, at least, not old or even aging. Seems like 100% white fruit
2008 Ambonnay Brut Grand Cru	Really superb, subtle, long. Quiet nose. Winy. Seems like old school white burg. Not PYCM. Truly the opposite of Ulysse Collin. Very serious. perfect, but perhaps less transparent than the 2010 Brut Rosé. seemed totally brut.
2009 Ambonnay Brut Grand Cru	Caramel, clean oak. Very surprising. Cream soda. How odd. Less successful. Maybe: not successful
1990 Ambonnay Brut Grand Cru.	Really good. At length, saline and slightly nasty (these are virtues), bubbles weak. But wine otherwise good
1996 Ambonnay Brut Grand Cru	Softer, sweeter than 98. Good but not great.
1998 Ambonnay Brut Grand Cru	Super good, strong, precise, pure. Great focused nose, good strong body, good minerality. We reloaded. Truly super. Jake thinks 40% chard. Later: super good nose. Long, weaving, forest trail—holzwege. Great long mouth too. 🌟🌟🌟🌟
1998 Polisy Brut Nature	Super. Subtle. Medium long. But only medium. Not the smallest problem with age. Hmm. Later: not medium. Really good. Long, penetrating, dark. 🍷🍷🍷🍷 (polisy— more pinot?)
2002 Polisy Brut Nature	Super nose. Dark, alluring. Not super long-- no; better put: VERY long. But subtle. Very interesting. This is the killer in this flight 🌟🌟🌟🌟
2010 Polisy Brut Nature Bland de Noirs	very interesting weedy, dried herbs and straw, and beautiful old dry woolen blankets. Subtle, slightly sweet. Excellent petillance. How can it be sweet???? Long, rich, good. not clearly BDN. what is the point? the rosés are much more distinctive (I later regret this note but leave it.)