

DOMAINE DE LA POUSSE D'OR

Year Founded: 1954 (as modern winery; history stretches back to the 13th century)

Region: Volnay | Côte de Beaune | Burgundy

Winemaker(s): Benoit Landanger

Known For: Domaine de la Pousse d'Or for decades has been the collector's choice for expressive wines from Burgundy's most hallowed terroirs, and is unquestionably one of the Burgundian elite.

**-Certified Biodynamic,
Organic-**

Not every estate can claim the king of France as a previous vineyard owner; fewer still can count six grand crus and three monopole vineyards under one roof. Every winter for years we've visited the Landanger family's stately château in Volnay to sample their new vintage. The moment you step into the estate's underground caves you are transported to another century. The worn, warped brick floor clearly has weathered generations of winemakers treading from barrel to barrel; vaulted ceilings overhead feel more cathedral than wine cellar. Originally called La Bousse d'Or (Bousse, in old French, means earth; thus, "golden earth"), the domaine in the late 1800s was part of a much larger estate that included two well-known vineyards: Romanée-Conti and Clos de Tart. The name 'La Bousse d'Or' hasn't completely disappeared; it is carried by a walled vineyard in Volnay and is one of the estate's monopoles—a vineyard with a single owner—that from the mid-fifteenth century onward, belonged to the king of France. (After the revolution, granted, things changed a bit.) Entrepreneur Patrick Landanger purchased Pousse d'Or in 1997, at a point when the estate seemed to have most of its glory days behind it. Patrick poured endless energy (and a good amount of investment) into the estate, acquiring new vineyards as well as reinventing how the estate made its wines, from reorganizing the cellar to work completely via gravity to even inventing his own "ouilleurs," or airlocks for barrels that allow a winemaker to also top up a barrel easily.



Sadly Patrick Landanger passed away in 2023 after a long illness. His son, Benoît Landanger, now runs the estate—and is as much a talented, passionate visionary as was his father. Pousse d'Or remains in very good hands. Indeed, this dynamic estate has never been content to rest on its historic laurels. The family has gone to great lengths to ensure that the winery lacks for nothing when it comes to crafting quality Burgundy. And having farmed organically from the start, the estate since 2014 has worked the fields biodynamically, another feather in its quality cap. When vines begin to sprout early buds in the spring, the French say, "Ça pousse." Pousse d'Or Burgundy captures this sort of urgent energy, this desire to spring forth and dazzle. Benoît Landanger crafts his wines as naturally as possible; juice and wine are moved via gravity, and are bottled unfiltered and unfiltered in sync with the lunar calendar. Aromas are bold, tending toward black fruits and spice; the palate is textured, silky, always very long. These bottles are gorgeous right out of the gate and only get better, often for decades.



2022 Volnay 1er Cru 'En Caillerets'

100% Pinot Noir. East-facing, 'En Caillerets' is ideally positioned; stony, rich in marl and limestone, the site's high percentage of clay is also believed to contribute to the wine's supple mouthfeel. Hand-harvested. Destemmed. Cold maceration for one week; fermented on indigenous yeasts in tank. Aged in French oak barrel (30% new) for 18 months. Minimal sulfur addition. Moved via gravity; unfinned and unfiltered. Aromas of black cherries, light pepper, black raspberries. Fine-grained, juicy; red fruit, wildflowers, minerals.



Volnay 1er Cru 'Clos de la Bousse d'Or' Monopole

100% Pinot Noir. This walled monopole vineyard is located next to the Volnay town hall. A quarter of vines was planted in 1958; the rest in the late 1960s and 1970s. Hand-harvested. Destemmed and fermented on indigenous yeasts in temperature controlled tanks. Aged in French barrique (30% new) for 15 months. Unfinned and unfiltered. Aromas of black cherries, dark chocolate, warm leather, minerals. Fine-grained, precise and juicy; tangy red fruit blends with notes of wildflowers and minerals.

94 Points – '22 Wine Spectator – *“Driven by succulent acidity, this red is a laser of cherry, rose, incense, earth and stone aromas and flavors. Balanced in its taut, linear way, this keeps giving on the achingly long aftertaste.”*



Chambolle Musigny

100% Pinot Noir. A classic, aromatic Chambolle, and an elegant, beautiful village wine that far outperforms its station, sourced from a handful of perfect plots (not to mention some declassified premier cru fruit). Hand-harvested. Destemmed. Cold maceration for one week; fermented on indigenous yeasts in tank. Aged in French oak barrel (20% new) for 18 months. Minimal sulfur addition. Moved via gravity; bottled unfinned and unfiltered. Aromas of black and red cherry, violets, blue fruits, minerals, baking spices. Suave; fine-grained tannins.



2023 Chevalier Montrachet

100% Chardonnay. In the village of Puligny-Montrachet, the grand cru vineyard of Chevalier-Montrachet sits above Le Montrachet, between 780 and 900 feet in altitude, facing east/southeast. Soils are stony, with limestone and marl. Hand-harvested. Fermented on indigenous yeasts in French oak barrels (50% new). Aged in barrel (50% new) for one year. Aromas of apple, orange peel, fresh and cooked pineapple, fresh almonds, light baking spices. Full-bodied; refined.



2023 Puligny Montrachet 1er Cru Le Cailleret

100% Chardonnay. ‘Cailleret’ offers a depth of flavor and minerality that reminds of its neighbor, Montrachet. Pousse’s plot is bordered by stone walls, and faces east/southeast. Hand-harvested. Pressed full cluster and fermented on indigenous yeasts in French barrel (50% new). Aged also in French barrel (50% new) for one year. Aromas of crushed stones, jellied quince, citrus oil, light baking spices. Mineral and precise, with a silky texture; flavors of white peaches, citrus salad, sea salt.



2023 Santenay 1er Cru Clos Tavannes

100% Pinot Noir. ‘Clos Tavannes’ is a walled vineyard, located on the border with Chassagne-Montrachet. Older vines, planted in 1920, were originally sourced from Romanée-Conti. Hand-harvested. Destemmed and fermented on indigenous yeasts in temperature controlled tanks. Aged in French barrique (20% new) for 15 months. Unfined and unfiltered. Aromas of black raspberry, licorice, underbrush, light peppery herbs. Ripe and round; medium tannins.

90 Points – ’22 Wine Spectator – *“This red features black cherry, blackberry, boysenberry and violet flavors. Rich and reveals dense tannins yet hangs together nicely and lingers on the finish.”*



2023 Volnay 1er Cru Clos de 60 Ouvrees

An inner lieu-dit of ‘Caillerets,’ located on the border with Meursault, with soils rich in marl and limestone. Nearly half the vines was planted in the 1950s; the rest in the 1980s. Hand-harvested. Destemmed and fermented on indigenous yeasts in temperature controlled tanks. Aged in French barrique (30% new) for 15 months. Unfined and unfiltered. Aromas of black cherries, licorice, baking spices, minerals. Plush and deep, with medium tannins; silky.

Fun Fact: An ‘ouvrée’ is a unit of measurement from the Middle Ages, signifying the amount of land a field worker could successfully toil in a day.

94 Points – ’22 Wine Spectator – *“This is lush, offset by crunchy acidity and powdery tannins that frame the flavors of strawberry, cherry, floral, sandalwood and sweet spices. Firm and compact on the finish, this red is nonetheless balanced and poised to reveal its charms in due time.”*