

# 2019 Lucien Le Moine • Vougeot 1<sup>er</sup> Cru

« Les petits Vougeots »

Rating

(90 - 92)

Release Price

\$260

Drink Date

2023 - 2033

Reviewed by

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Source

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There are three barrels of 2019 Clos de Vougeot from the top, middle and bottom of the vineyard. The nose is more reticent than the Echezeaux at first, although it slowly unfolds with hints of powdered chalk informing the fresh red brambly fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with a crisp, poised entry. At the moment it needs to develop a little more fruit and flesh in the middle that is a tad hard at the moment, although it should develop more fatness after bottling. The finish is precise, but conservative, perhaps a little more abrupt than the Echezeaux. Drink 2023-2033. I have intermittently encountered the wines of Lucien Le Moine over the years and even spent an evening dining with the man behind it, Mounir, on one admittedly inebriated dinner a few years ago. But it was time to visit the winery tucked away down a side-street in Beaune, and taste through an enormous selection of wines with the man himself. Since his first vintage in 1999, he has focused on buying fruit that expresses individual lieux-dits, so that his cellar consists of dozens of micro-Cuvees that take a whole morning to taste through. He is an extremely principled winemaker with strong, some might say controversial beliefs. Even before entering the barrel cellar, he opined that too many white Burgundies are picked too late and that both the alcoholic and malolactic fermentations are completed too rapidly. Mornir likes two summers to complete the elevage and feels that too many vigneronns bottle too early. He also used minimal sulphur for his wines, informing me that though his wines often start out deeper in color, they tend to become paler as they mature in bottle. I asked him about his opinion on the two vintages that we tasted together, the 2019. People were talking about a light vintage, but now that is forgotten because they are so powerful. The 2019s achieved maturity naturally, but in 2019 we had to chaptalize most of the wines a little. I think it is an old style of Burgundy, how the wines were made before 1995. In 2019 we talk about tannins, we talk about more dry extract. You feel the presence of the wine but they are not dry. The 2019s finish with firm tannins, so in terms of longevity I think they will close down in a couple of years and then need another eight years. They will be enjoyable over the next 15 years. Shayed over to the 2019s to see how a dozen were shaping up in bottle. These were bottled around September 2021 with a little sulphur in June. The bottles were double decanted at 90 minutes before tasting.