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Benoit Droin noted that 2010 "had a late, uneven and lengthy flowering as it was both cool and wet in June. This caused a lot of shatter which reduced the crop between 30 and 40% depending on the sector in question. I was surprised that the quantities were so reduced as it didn't seem that way during the growing season. The problem was that the skins were thick and the amount of juice per bunch was lower than average. September was warm but not really hot but we decided to begin picking relatively early as I was more interested in a good acid/sugar balance than just high ripeness levels. We started harvesting on the 20th of September and brought in a clean crop that possessed good sugars and acidities as well as excellent concentration. The '10s have real volume and there's more fruit than the '08s had at the same period. The '10s are classic, old school Chablis with the richness of the 2000s and the drive of the '08s plus they should age beautifully." With one or two exceptions, the now in-bottle Droin '09s have turned out particularly well and many of them hit the upper end of my predicted ranges. (The Henry Wine Group, www.henrywinegroup.com, Los Angeles, CA, and European Cellars/Eric Soloman Selections, www.europeancellars.com, Charlotte, NC; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Goedhuis & Co., www.goedhuis.com, Richards Walford, www.r-w.co.uk, and Uncorked Ltd, www.uncorked.co.uk, all UK).

Domaine Jean-Paul et Benoit Droin (Chablis)

2010	Chablis "Tête de Cuvée"	white	(88-91)
2010	Chablis – Blanchots Grand Cru	white	(92-95)
2010	Chablis - Les Clos Grand Cru	white	(93-95)
2010	Chablis "Côte de Léchet" 1er	white	(89-92)
2010	➤ Chablis "Fourchaume" 1er	white	(91-93)
2010	Chablis – Grenouilles Grand Cru	white	(91-94)
2010	Chablis "Montmains" 1er	white	(89-92)
2010	➤ Chablis "Mont de Milieu" 1er	white	(91-93)
2010	➤ Chablis – "Montée de Tonnerre" 1er	white	(92-94)
2010	➤ Chablis "Vaillons" 1er	white	(90-92)
2010	Chablis – Valmur Grand Cru	white	(92-95)
2010	Chablis – Vaudésir Grand Cru	white	(92-94)
2010	Chablis "Vosgros" 1er	white	(89-92)
2010	➤ Petit Chablis	white	88
2009	Chablis "Tête de Cuvée"	white	88
2009	Chablis – Blanchots Grand Cru	white	93
2009	Chablis - Les Clos Grand Cru	white	94
2009	➤ Chablis "Fourchaume" 1er	white	92
2009	Chablis – Grenouilles Grand Cru	white	93
2009	➤ Chablis "Montmains" 1er	white	91
2009	➤ Chablis "Mont de Milieu" 1er	white	92
2009	➤ Chablis – "Montée de Tonnerre" 1er	white	93
2009	Chablis "Vaillons" 1er	white	90
2009	Chablis – Valmur Grand Cru	white	92
2009	Chablis – Vaudésir Grand Cru	white	93
2009	Chablis "Vosgros" 1er	white	89

2010 Petit Chablis: (100% stainless). A pungent nose of mineral reduction and smoke leads to fresh and bright flavors that possess good richness and excellent volume on the dry, energetic and saline-inflected finish. This is lovely for its level and worth considering. 88/2012+

2010 Chablis – Tête de Cuvée: A classic nose of green fruit and oyster shells gives way to rich, intense and agreeably racy middle weight flavors that possess a fine minerality on the mineral, pure and linear finish. Like the Petit Chablis, this is worth a look as it offers very good quality at this level. (88-91)/2014+

2010 Chablis “Vosgros”: A complex if not especially elegant nose features notes of grapefruit, stone and algae where the latter two elements also characterize the rich and solidly powerful medium-bodied flavors that are delicious and offer fine intensity on the refreshing, racy and solidly persistent finish. This too delivers very good quality. (89-92)/2015+

2010 Chablis “Côte de Léchet”: An elegant and layered nose offers multiple aspects to admire including lemon, smoke, iodine and tidal pool nuances that can also be found on the ultra-pure, intense and mineral-driven flavors that possess excellent underlying tension on the linear, long and refined finish. Good juice with fine development potential. (89-92)/2015+

2010 Chablis “Vaillons”: (from 6 different climats that saw 15% of new and one year old wood). A discreet touch of wood frames a notably complex and densely aromatic nose of white flowers, wet stone and sea breeze nuances that introduces rich and generous middle weight flavors that manage to retain a fine sense of focus and balance on the punch, long and lemon-inflected finish. Like the Vosgros, this is not a wine of refinement but the depth is impressive. (90-92)/2015+

2010 Chablis “Montmains”: (from Montmains proper; 40% 2 and 3 year old oak). A mildly toasty nose also offers up notes of mineral reduction and plenty of classic Chablis character that dissolves into surprisingly forward and opulent medium-bodied flavors that possess plenty of volume and richness while the finish tightens up quickly. The classic character of the nose is confirmed by the finale as it too offers plenty of oyster shell and iodine. (89-92)/2015+

2010 Chablis “Fourchaume”: A very pure and attractively fresh green fruit nose that is heavily laced with plenty of typical Chablis nuances that include iodine, tidal pool, algae, citrus and sea shells. There is solid power to the quite serious flavors that brim with dry extract and gorgeous intensity, particularly on the tension-filled and mineral-suffused finish that delivers outstanding length. This is a terrific Fourchaume that is more refined than is typical. (91-93)/2016+

2010 Chablis “Mont de Milieu”: A slightly riper and, as is typical, mildly exotic nose of yellow orchard fruit aromas that are cut with notes of pear, white peach and lychee nuts. There is excellent richness and intensity to the concentrated and solidly voluminous flavors that possess plenty of palate coating dry extract, all wrapped in an utterly delicious and impressively persistent finish. While less obviously Chablis in character, it bears noting that this is far from being devoid of it. This should age well and offer a good 5 to 7 years of upside development potential. (91-93)/2016+

2010 Chablis “Montée de Tonnerre”: (20 to 25% of new, 1, 2 and 3 year old wood). As soon as I stuck my nose in the glass I knew that it was all but impossible not to immediately tag this as not only a classic Chablis but a Chablis of distinction. Notes of algae, sea breeze, iodine and mineral reduction suffuse the elegant and admirably pure white flower aromas that merge seamlessly with intense and equally pure medium weight plus flavors that possess a driving stoniness on the mouth coating, powerful, focused and hugely long finish. This is a seriously impressive wine of *grand cru* dimensions. (92-94)/2016+

2010 Chablis - Blanchots: A very tight and reserved nose speaks of white flower, citrus, stone and tidal pool hints that continue onto the pure, detailed and ultra-elegant flavors that possess an explosive, linear and oyster shell-inflected finish. I very much like the transparency and energy as well as the impeccable sense of balance. Worth a look. (92-95)/2017+

2010 Chablis - Vaudésir: (from 30+ year old vines aged in 50% wood, some of which is new). An overtly ripe nose of exotic fruit trimmed in notes of wood, ocean breeze and saline gives way to exceptionally rich and powerful medium weight plus flavors that possess plenty of concentration and dry extract culminate in a toasty, sappy and long finish. This isn't an especially elegant wine but for fans of power Chablis, this should fill the bill. (92-94)/2017+

2009 Chablis “Montmains”: (from Montmains proper; 40% 2 and 3 year old oak). A fresh, bright and relatively elegant nose features floral, roasted nut and orange peel aromas that give way gracefully to rich, indeed almost opulent medium-bodied flavors that could pass for a Meursault save for the iodine character on the mildly austere finish. I very much like the silky texture and solid mid-palate concentration. Worth considering and this well-balanced effort should age well. 91/2015+

2009 Chablis “Fourchaume”: As I suspected that they might, the exotic notes that this displayed from tank have disappeared and have been replaced by classic green fruit and mineral reduction aromas that lead to very rich and full-bodied flavors brimming with dry extract that buffers well the firm acid spine on the punchy and vibrant finish. This is a fine example of the vineyard and is really quite good. 92/2015+

2009 Chablis “Mont de Milieu”: An openly exotic nose of mango, apricot and stewed peach aromas lead to rich, powerful and sappy medium plus weight flavors that coat the palate with extract on the concentrated, intense and impressively long apricot and citrus-infused finish. This opulent but well-balanced effort is also really quite good. 92/2015+

2009 Chablis "Montée de Tonnerre": (20 to 25% of new, 1, 2 and 3 year old wood). A distinctly ripe but relatively classic nose offers up aromas of white flower, fresh citrus, stone and sea breeze nuances that complement well the rich, powerful and full-bodied flavors that possess ample volume and excellent complexity on the detailed and strikingly long finish. This is really quite refined for such a big wine. 93/2015+

2009 Chablis - Blanchots: A reserved nose grudgingly gives up notes of white flower, citrus and mineral reduction that marries into nicely powerful middle weight flavors that possess excellent complexity and outstanding length. The awkwardness that this displayed last year at this time has completely disappeared and has been replaced by really lovely underlying tension and impeccable balance. 93/2016+

2009 Chablis - Vaudésir: (from 30+ year old vines aged in 50% wood, some of which is new). A very ripe and mildly exotic yellow fruit profile is trimmed in noticeable wood and nuanced by hints of wet stone and oyster shell, both of which can be found on the suave and mouth coating flavors that are delicious, powerful and admirably persistent on the moderately toasty finish. My score offers the benefit of the doubt that the wood treatment will be successfully absorbed in time. 93/2016+

2009 Chablis - Valmur: (from 50+ year old vines aged in 50% wood but only a "small" percentage was new). This is less overtly ripe than the Vaudésir with a pretty nose of green fruit, white peach, pear and iodine nuances that are followed by satin-textured and beautifully detailed middle weight flavors that possess fine minerality on the lemony and well-balanced finish where a trace of *pain grillé* can also be seen. This is indisputably a lovely effort but one that is a bit less complex and distinguished than its *grand cru* siblings in 2009. 92/2016+

2009 Chablis - Grenouilles: (from 55+ year old vines aged in 60% wood). This is also openly exotic with peach, pear, apricot and mango aromas that are cut with iodine and sea breeze hints, both of which can also be found on the rich, generous and impressively concentrated flavors brimming with so much extract that there is an almost chewy texture to the complex and long finish. This won't win any awards for elegance but this "wine of pleasure" certainly is dense. 93/2016+

2009 Chablis - Les Clos: (50% wood, approximately one-third of which was new). A highly expressive ripe nose of white flower, spice, stone and pear leads to impressively rich and broad-scaled flavors that possess ample amounts of extract that coat and stain the palate on the strikingly long finish. Like the Grenouilles, this is not especially refined but it is certainly imposing yet for all of the size and weight, the balance is impeccable. 94/2017+

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2010 Chablis - Valmur: (from 50+ year old vines aged in 50% wood but only a "small" percentage was new). Here the wood is all but invisible with a brilliantly classic Chablis nose of mineral reduction, sea shore nuances and ripe yet cool green fruit. There is surprisingly good detail to the opulent, even lush flavors that possess almost painful intensity on the impressively persistent and, despite the generosity of the mid-palate, a borderline austere finish. I very much like this. (92-95)/2017+

2010 Chablis - Grenouilles: (from 55+ year old vines aged in 60% wood). Noticeable and quite toasty wood fights a bit with the otherwise ripe and perfumed nose of green fruit, apple, lemon and sea breeze aromas. There is fine richness and mid-palate concentration to the very generous, supple and round flavors that possess plenty of mouth coating dry extract and excellent length. There appears to be sufficient density that this should be able to absorb the wood in time. (91-94)/2016+

2010 Chablis - Les Clos: (50% wood, approximately one-third of which was new). Slightly more subtle though still evident wood influence allows the white flower, mineral reduction and iodine suffused nose to shine. The full-bodied and overtly muscular flavors possess excellent richness, size and weight as well as ample amounts of both dry extract and a driving minerality on the explosive and linear finish. This is a seriously impressive Les Clos that despite its size and weight remains beautifully balanced and focused. (93-95)/2017+

2009 Chablis - Tête de Cuvée: A fresh and pretty nose offers up notes of green fruit, pear and white flower though the flavors are more classic with mineral and oyster shell hints on the detailed middle weight flavors that possess a bright, clean and stony finish. Lovely at this level. 88/2013+

2009 Chablis "Vosgros": This is agreeably fresh and bright with a classic nose of citrus, green fruit, stone and sea breeze that merges into rich and full-bodied flavors that possess a textured mouth feel and fine intensity on the lingering finish. As is typically the case, this is firm and powerful if not especially refined. 89/2014+

2009 Chablis "Vaillons": (from 6 different climats that saw 15% of new and one year old wood). An intensely floral nose reflects notes of white pepper, lemon zest and tidal pool, all of which also characterize the rich, round and generous flavors that maintain good balance and a fine sense of harmony on the solidly persistent finish. This overtly saline effort is really quite pretty. 90/2014+