

I love Pierre Chermette's wines. More than many other producers who get more attention than he does in certain circles.

Chermette is unquestionably one of the region's super stars but what sets him up as one of the small handful of true greats, for me, is his ability to capture, and bottle, purity of fruit and terroir. While season obviously plays a key role in his wines, as do the extraordinary sites he works with, each year he seems to be able to craft wines with gorgeous texture and soaring aromatics. Loaded with detail and personality his offerings are always some of the most attractive and personable wines from any given vintage.

2019 is likely, I think, to turn out to be the best vintage of the decade. Now, I know that some people will disagree, but the good thing about that is that there has been so many good vintages in the region lately that we can actually discuss several options in a decade, all vying for contention. Beaujolais has been very fortunate in that regard.

What 19 delivers is a combination of all the good years recently. There is depth and density of fruit. There is ripeness and generosity. The wines have lovely structure and will age. There is also plenty of verve and energy to counter the boldness many show. The best examples are a complete package and that makes for some brilliant drinking now and will do for years to come.

Chermette has captured the best parts of the year and bottled them. In the glass each has real appeal and a generosity of spirit. His 19s encapsulate the vintage's inviting, perfumed aromatics as well as the lively fruit profiles and sweet, well formed, giving tannins. As a bracket they are sumptuous, supple and wonderfully buoyant. A tremendous release from Pierre. So much enjoyment to be found in these wines now and over the years to come.

Hard to pass these up in terms of quality and value. Certainly they would sit in that magic category of great wines that are affordable. Here, like a few other old European regions, real gems can still be found and inexpensive enough to consume without any guilt.

Cheers
Roscoe