

Domaine Chavy-Chouet Saint-Aubin 1er Cru "Les Murgers des Dents de Chien" 2016

	REGION	Saint-Aubin 1er Cru A.O.C.
2016	GRAPES	100% Chardonnay
	SOIL	Marly limestone covered with white pebbles.
SAINT-AUBIN	VITICULTURE	A sustainably farmed 0.17-hectare plot. Planting density: 10,000 vines per hectare. The vines were planted in 1945 and are oriented due south.
Ier CRU - LES MURGERS DES DENTS DE CHIEN	VINICULTURE	Natural yeast fermentation. Aged 12 months in 20% new oak, 80% 2-3 year old barrels.
	ALCOHOL	13%

In days gone by, when planting vineyards, the stones which came out of the earth were piled up along side the vines and are called "murgers" or "meurgers." They are less common nowadays but can still be found on this imposing hillside in Saint-Aubin. This appellation is less renowned than Puligny and Meursault but the ler Crus are excellent.

The Chavy family is well established in the Côte de Beaune, with Alain, Jean-Louis and Philippe all making wine in and around Puligny-Montrachet. Hubert Chavy was married to a Ropiteau, the oldest winemaking family in Meursault. So needless to say, Chardonnay is in the DNA. Hubert had been selling the bulk of his production to the top négociants for many years, but since his son Romaric took over, they are bottling nearly everything they produce at their Domaine Chavy-Chouet.

Romaric started at wine school at the age of 12, before working as an apprentice for his godfather François Mikulski in Meursault. He followed this with stints working in South Africa, Spain, Greece and the Languedoc before taking over from Hubert at just 22 years of age. Hubert passed away in early 2014, and has left the legacy in good hands. He works the vineyards pretty much organically, with ploughing and minimal use of sprays (preferring the traditional copper and sulfur), but is not certified.

Incredibly experienced for such a young winemaker, Romaric is totally focused on realizing the unbelievable potential of his stellar vineyard portfolio. About 40% of Romaric's vines are in the village of Puligny-Montrachet, where he has prime parcels in spectacular sites such as Les Enseignères, Premier Cru Les Folatières and Premier Cru Champ Gains. The wines are full and rich, but with a wonderful freshness and vitality that makes them a pleasure to drink in their youth. This is a truly exciting domaine and Romaric is sure to be a star of the (not so distant) future.

Murgers des Dents de Chien is a Premier Cru vineyard high on the Cote d'Or escarpment in the Saint-Aubin commune. It is positioned directly above the Montrachet and Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru vineyards on the scrubby Mont-Rachet hillside, providing a good, if cool, site for growing Chardonnay.