

Domaine Philippe Charlopin Gevrey-Chambertin “VV”



Producer note: Philippe Charlopin has moved his entire operation from his previous base in Gevrey to industrial size space in Fixin that is impressively large and intelligently organized. It should permit for ample future expansion, which will be needed if Charlopin continues to acquire vineyards at the same pace he has exhibited in the prior 20 years, which is borderline frenetic, at least by the usual escargot-like standards extant in Burgundy today. Charlopin is also fiercely proud of the fact that every one of his vineyards is owned and not leased. Philippe's son Yann is slowly taking over more and more of the winemaking responsibilities and on this visit, he was clearly intimately familiar with each wine and each of the vineyards, which strongly suggests that it will not be too long before he takes over completely. Because not all of the wines had yet been transferred to the new facility, Charlopin preferred to present his now bottled '06s rather than try and pull samples from several different locations. In case you are not familiar with the Charlopin wines, they are frankly more about Charlopin than the underlying *terroir* but I hasten to point out that they are exceptionally well made, serious, concentrated (Charlopin is a fanatic about old vines) and I know many people who adore them. Note that Charlopin deliberately bottles with high levels of gas (CO₂) and thus I would strongly recommend decanting for 20 to 30 minutes first. He also believes in a long *élevage* and this group of '06s was not bottled until July, 2008. (A Peter Vezan Selection, Paris, France - Fax 011 33 1 42 55 42 93; Fruit of the Wine Imports, NY; no current importer for the UK).

Tasting note: There is a mildly toasty quality to the crushed and very fresh red and blue berry fruit aromas that are nuanced by hints of Gevrey earth, violets, underbrush and a beef jerky component that complements the rich, earthy and intense *savage* flavors that are, somewhat curious, actually finer with a lovely mineral streak. Excellent villages.