

The Wine Advocate
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BURGUNDY 2015 « The Merciful Vintage »
Neal Martin

There is nothing that gives me more pleasure than seeing a winemaker, a domaine, ratchet up the quality a few notches—and that is undoubtedly the case here with Domaine Heresztyn-Mazzini. A decade ago their wines were adequate, but not really fulfilling their full potential. However, Florence Heresztyn and her husband Simon Mazzini are realizing their vision to produce the best wines possible from their holdings. Of course, much of that work has been done where it matters, among the vines whereby half are now tended biodynamically. It's not that they have adopted Rudolf Steiner's tenets that I personally regard as the headline, rather that it is indicative of a winemaker that really, really cares. You just cannot be biodynamic without dedicating yourself 100% and that attention to detail must be applied throughout the entire winemaking process. The domaine intends to apply for certification from 2016.

In the winery, they are improving techniques bit by bit. For example, they increased the whole bunch fruit for most of their cuvées to a maximum of 65% (up to 75% in 2016). Florence confessed that her dream is to make a 100% whole bunch cuvée and she's just waiting for the right growing season and the willingness to take that risk. On the other hand, it is better to not dive in straight away and chuck in all those stems: learn year by year and "feel your way" is far better. "We harvested between 7 and 12 September and we did less pigeage and more remontage, because we did not want to extract too much," Florence told me. "Also, we use special toasting of barrels according to each cru with respect to the Chassin cooperage."

Their 2015s continue the success story from the last two or three years, in some ways in tandem with the ascendance of their close neighbor, Pierre Duroché. Their village crus around Gevrey-Chambertin are very strong this year, in particular their superb Vieilles Vignes Les Songes. Their premier cru Les Champonnets will make a perfectly fine substitute if your allocation of Rousseau has been cut, since there are stylistic similarities and whilst I don't think their Morey-Saint-Denis quite hit the spot, their Clos Saint-Denis Grand Cru is absolutely top class. For sure, their name does not quite trip off the tongue like Rousseau or Dugat, but the contents can be described in a two syllable word...yummy.

Wines found: 12

Vintage	Wines	RP ▼
2015	Domaine Heresztyn-Mazzini Clos Saint Denis Grand Cru	(94 - 96)
2015	Domaine Heresztyn-Mazzini Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru les Champonnets	(93 - 95)
2015	Domaine Heresztyn-Mazzini Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Songes" Vieilles Vignes	(92 - 94)
2015	Domaine Heresztyn-Mazzini Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru les Goulots	(92 - 94)
2015	Domaine Heresztyn-Mazzini Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Jouises" Vieilles Vignes	(91 - 93)
2015	Domaine Heresztyn-Mazzini Gevrey Chambertin Vieilles Vignes	(90 - 92)
2015	Domaine Heresztyn-Mazzini Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru la Perriere	(90 - 92)
2015	Domaine Heresztyn-Mazzini Chambolle Musigny Village	(89 - 91)
2015	Domaine Heresztyn-Mazzini Morey Saint Denis 1Er Cru les Millandes	(89 - 91)
2015	Domaine Heresztyn-Mazzini Gevrey Chambertin Clos Village	(88 - 90)
2015	Domaine Heresztyn-Mazzini Bourgogne Rouge	(86 - 88)
2015	Domaine Heresztyn-Mazzini Bourgogne Blanc	(85 - 87)