Domaine Daniel-Etienne Defaix

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Daniel-Etienne's son, Paul-Etienne, runs the domaine today, but Daniel-Etienne is still very involved with his wines. He can often be found at his restaurant, Le Mâchon Vigneron, pouring wines. His exuberance for his wines and for Chablis in general—his family has been here since the 17th century—is contagious. Additionally, he has just purchased three domaines, doubling his vineyard surface to approximately 60 hectares.

Aside from the Chablis Vieilles Vignes, which is released just a few years post vintage, the style of Chablis is entirely different here and can be polarizing. I remember the first time I tasted one of Daniel-Etienne's 1er Crus, newly released but already over ten years old, and I've not stopped admiring them. The vines are farmed organically, and the wines are fermented in very cool cellars with native yeasts—fermentations can be excruciatingly long. The wines then age in tank on their fine lees for up to a decade before bottling. They are usually one of the last to harvest, but they started early in 2025.

VINTAGE	WINE	CONTRIBUTOR	COLOUR	STARS	SCORE
2025	Chablis Vieilles Vignes, Domaine Daniel-Etienne Defaix	CC	White	★★★☆☆	87-89
2025	Chablis Les Lys 1er Cru, Domaine Daniel-Etienne Defaix	CC	White	★★★★☆	91-93
2025	Chablis Vaillon 1er Cru, Domaine Daniel-Etienne Defaix	CC	White	★★★★☆	91-93
2025	Chablis Côte de Léchet 1er Cru, Domaine Daniel-Etienne Defaix	CC	White	★★★★☆	90-92
2025	Chablis Blanchot Grand Cru, Domaine Daniel-Etienne Defaix	CC	White	★★★★☆	92-95
2025	Chablis Les Grenouilles Grand Cru, Domaine Daniel-Etienne Defaix	CC	White	☆☆☆☆☆	NR
2023	Chablis Vieilles Vignes, Domaine Daniel-Etienne Defaix	CC	White	★★★★☆	90
2016	Chablis Les Lys 1er Cru, Domaine Daniel-Etienne Defaix	CC	White	★★★★☆	92
2016	Chablis Vaillon 1er Cru, Domaine Daniel-Etienne Defaix	CC	White	★★★★☆	93
2014	Chablis Côte de Léchet 1er Cru, Domaine Daniel-Etienne Defaix	CC	White	5	94
2014	Chablis Blanchot Grand Cru, Domaine Daniel-Etienne Defaix	CC	White	★★★★☆	95
2014	Chablis Les Grenouilles Grand Cru, Domaine Daniel-Etienne Defaix	CC	White	★★★★☆	95