

# Wine Spectator

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*Top-rated wines from the world's benchmark regions*



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Annual Tasting Reports on  
Washington and the Rhône Valley

**PLUS** Exclusive: Beaucastel Unveils  
Groundbreaking New Winery







97

Pierre-Yves Colin-Morey and Caroline Morey are stars of the Côte de Beaune. Their range includes *grands crus*, *premiers crus* and village wines.

# BURGUNDY

*Innovation joins with centuries of history to keep the region's reds and whites on the cutting edge*

BY BRUCE SANDERSON

**T**he Burgundy region, in central France, can trace a history stretching back two millennia. For several centuries during the Middle Ages, Burgundy's grape varieties were defined, but more importantly, its vineyards planted and identified based on the unique characteristics and differences from one plot to the next.

Burgundy's essence is centered on the notion of *terroir*, the geologic, environmental and human factors that result in a specific vineyard's expression. In Burgundy, the development of viticulture and winemaking by the Cistercian monks for centuries eventually resulted in a classification of its sites, ingrained in the region's appellation system created nearly 100 years ago.

At the top of the quality pyramid, the very best vineyards are *grands crus*, where the vineyard name is the appellation (e.g., Chambertin, Montrachet, Musigny). The next tier in the hierarchy are the *premiers crus*, where the vineyard site is attached to the name of the village, for example Chambolle-Musigny Les Charmes. Wines named after a specific village comprise the next level. The most common denominator is regional appellations like Bourgogne, or Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits.

Burgundy's layers of limestone and clay created by ancient marine sediments make it ideal for

the Pinot Noir and Chardonnay grapes that can express the minute differences from one site to the next.

And yet, despite Burgundy's long history, more changes have occurred in the past 40 years than in the previous centuries. Changing climate, a younger, more open generation of growers and merchants, increasing vineyard prices, technology, global demand and the shifting nature of how we buy Burgundy have all had an impact. At the same time, the quality of the wines has improved, and today the reds and whites of Burgundy are better than ever.

Much of the improvement in quality may be attributed to warmer growing seasons in which the grapes are becoming fully ripe. Hand in hand with these climatic changes has been a greater focus on farming, including conversion to organic and biodynamic methods, but specifically the understanding of more extreme weather conditions such as heat, drought and frost, conditions that growers have experienced since the torrid 2003 vintage.

A trend over the past two decades in winemaking has been the inclusion of stems in the vinification of red Burgundy. When green, the stems contribute bitter, astringent components, however when fully ripe and lignified, the stems lower the alcohol level slightly, adding freshness and complex floral and spicy aromas.

As the wines have improved, so has the global thirst for these silky reds and minerally whites. Multiple ownership of vineyards results in tiny quantities, anywhere from half a barrel (the Burgundy *pièce* is 228 liters) to three or four barrels, or 12 to 100 cases of wine for the world.

These economics of supply and demand have driven the prices of Burgundy and the cost of vineyards to exorbitant levels, particularly the top wines from certain producers. Domaines such as Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, Armand

## EDITOR'S TIP

Burgundy's harvests are often small due to challenging weather. The 2024 yield is minuscule, so now is the time to stock up on wines from 2022 and 2023, vintages which were above average in volume.



Rousseau, Leroy, Comtes Lafon, Domaine Leflaive and Ramonet are highly sought after and sell for thousands of dollars at auction.

Though prices for red and white Burgundy have risen at all levels of the hierarchy, the regional and village appellations have bene-

fited from the warmer vintages and areas in the north like Chablis and southern subregion of Mâconnais now field consistently ripe and authentic high quality Burgundies in a more affordable range.

Recent vintages to look for are 2022, 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2017.

## BEST OF BURGUNDY

*WineSpectator.com members can access complete reviews for all wines tasted using the online Wine Ratings search.*

### REDS

| SCORE | WINE  | PRICE   | SCORE | WINE   | PRICE   |
|-------|---|---------|-------|--|---------|
| 98    | LOUIS LATOUR Romanée St.-Vivant Les Quatre Journaux 2022              | \$1,250 | 95    | PIERRE DAMOY Chambertin 2019                                     | \$2,000 |
| 97    | PIERRE DAMOY Chambertin-Clos de Bèze 2019                             | \$2,000 | 95    | ESPRIT LEFLAIVE Corton Les Grandes Lolières 2020                 | \$1,156 |
| 97    | DOMAINE FAIVELEY Chambertin-Clos de Bèze 2022                         | \$895   | 95    | DOMAINE FAIVELEY Clos de Vougeot 2022                            | \$495   |
| 97    | DOMAINE FAIVELEY Corton Clos des Cortons Faiveley 2022                | \$485   | 95    | DOMAINE FAIVELEY Latricières-Chambertin 2022                     | \$562   |
| 97    | DOMAINE FAIVELEY Echézeaux En Orveaux 2022                            | \$495   | 95    | DOMAINE FAIVELEY Mazis-Chambertin 2022                           | \$618   |
| 97    | JEAN GRIVOT Vosne-Romanée Les Beaux Monts 2021                        | \$445   | 95    | JEAN GRIVOT Clos de Vougeot 2021                                 | \$600   |
| 97    | LOUIS LATOUR Corton Château Corton Grancey 2022                       | \$240   | 95    | ROBERT GROFFIER Chambolle-Musigny Les Hauts-Doix 2021            | \$550   |
| 97    | LOUIS LATOUR Echézeaux 2022   | \$550   | 95    | LOUIS LATOUR Clos Vougeot 2022                                   | \$500   |
| 97    | LUCIEN LE MOINE Bonnes Mares 2021                                     | \$950   | 95    | LOUIS LATOUR Corton Clos de la Vigne au Saint 2022               | \$210   |
| 96    | ALBERT BICHOT Corton Clos des Maréchaudes<br>Domaine du Pavillon 2022 | \$373   | 95    | LUCIEN LE MOINE Gevrey-Chambertin Les Champeaux 2021             | \$263   |
| 96    | PIERRE DAMOY Chapelle-Chambertin 2019                                 | \$1,500 | 95    | LUCIEN LE MOINE Grands Echézeaux 2021                            | \$386   |
| 96    | PIERRE GELIN Chambertin-Clos de Bèze 2021                             | \$500   | 95    | LUCIEN LE MOINE Pommard Les Epenots 2021                         | \$196   |
| 96    | ROBERT GROFFIER Bonnes Mares 2021                                     | \$1,800 | 95    | MARCHAND-TAWSE Clos St.-Denis 2020                               | \$249   |
| 96    | ROBERT GROFFIER Chambertin-Clos de Bèze 2021                          | \$1,615 | 95    | MARCHAND-TAWSE Mazis-Chambertin Famille Tawse 2020               | \$299   |
| 96    | ROBERT GROFFIER Chambolle-Musigny Les Amoureuses 2021                 | \$1,800 | 95    | XAVIER MONNOT Beaune Les Cent-Vignes 2022                        | \$110   |
| 96    | LOUIS LATOUR Chambertin Cuvée Héritiers Latour 2022                   | \$800   | 95    | DOMAINE DE LA POUSSE D'OR Corton Le Clos du Roi 2020             | \$200   |
| 96    | LOUIS LATOUR Corton Clos du Roi 2022                                  | \$210   | 95    | DOMAINE DE LA POUSSE D'OR Volnay Clos de la Bousse<br>d'Or 2019  | \$170   |
| 96    | LOUIS LATOUR Corton-Perrières 2022                                    | \$225   | 95    | JACQUES PRIEUR Chambertin 2021                                   | \$1,345 |
| 96    | LUCIEN LE MOINE Clos de la Roche 2021                                 | \$600   | 95    | MAISON ROCHE DE BELLENE Chapelle-Chambertin 2021                 | \$525   |
| 96    | LUCIEN LE MOINE Clos de Vougeot 2021                                  | \$625   | 95    | TAUPENOT-MERME Charmes-Chambertin 2020                           | \$457   |
| 96    | LUCIEN LE MOINE Gevrey-Chambertin Les Cazetiers 2021                  | \$386   | 95    | AURÉLIEN VERDET Vosne-Romanée Les Beaux Monts 2020               | \$350   |
| 96    | ARMAND ROUSSEAU Gevrey-Chambertin Clos St.-Jacques 2020               | \$1,140 | 95    | DOMAINE DE LA VOUGERAIE Charmes-Chambertin<br>Les Mazoyères 2021 | \$475   |
| 95    | ALBERT BICHOT Clos de Vougeot Domaine du Clos Frantin 2022            | \$673   | 95    | DOMAINE DE LA VOUGERAIE Clos de Vougeot 2021                     | \$450   |
| 95    | ALBERT BICHOT Echézeaux Domaine du Clos Frantin 2022                  | \$722   |       |  |         |

### WHITES

| SCORE | WINE  | PRICE   | SCORE | WINE   | PRICE   |
|-------|---|---------|-------|--|---------|
| 98    | JEAN-CLAUDE RAMONET Montrachet 2020   | \$3,500 | 95    | PIERRE-YVES COLIN-MOREY Chassagne-Montrachet<br>Les Chenevottes 2020 | \$215   |
| 97    | PIERRE-YVES COLIN-MOREY Bâtard-Montrachet 2020                              | \$1,373 | 95    | PHILIPPE COLIN Chevalier-Montrachet 2021                             | \$800   |
| 97    | JEAN-CLAUDE RAMONET Bâtard-Montrachet 2020                                  | \$1,300 | 95    | DOMAINE FAIVELEY Corton-Charlemagne 2022                             | \$550   |
| 97    | JEAN-CLAUDE RAMONET Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet 2020                       | \$1,200 | 95    | WILLIAM FÈVRE Chablis Les Clos Domaine 2021                          | \$250   |
| 96    | PIERRE-YVES COLIN-MOREY Chassagne-Montrachet<br>Cailleret 2020              | \$292   | 95    | LOUIS LATOUR Montrachet 2022   | \$1,290 |
| 96    | PIERRE-YVES COLIN-MOREY Corton-Charlemagne 2020                             | \$450   | 95    | LOUIS LATOUR Puligny-Montrachet Les Referts 2022                     | \$240   |
| 96    | PHILIPPE COLIN Chevalier-Montrachet 2022                                    | \$975   | 95    | VINCENT LATOUR Meursault Perrières 2022                              | \$220   |
| 96    | DOMAINE LEFLAIVE Bâtard-Montrachet 2021                                     | \$1,863 | 95    | DOMAINE LEFLAIVE Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet 2021                   | \$1,680 |
| 96    | DOMAINE LEFLAIVE Chevalier-Montrachet 2021                                  | \$2,197 | 95    | DOMAINE LEFLAIVE Puligny-Montrachet Les Combettes 2021               | \$633   |
| 96    | DOMAINE LEFLAIVE Puligny-Montrachet Clavoillon 2022                         | \$520   | 95    | DOMAINE LEFLAIVE Puligny-Montrachet Les Folatières 2022              | \$688   |
| 96    | LUCIEN LE MOINE Chassagne-Montrachet Cailleret 2021                         | \$287   | 95    | DOMAINE LEFLAIVE Puligny-Montrachet Les Pucelles 2021                | \$853   |
| 96    | DOMAINE DE LA POUSSE D'OR Puligny-Montrachet<br>Le Cailleret 2019           | \$200   | 95    | LUCIEN LE MOINE Chassagne-Montrachet Les Grandes<br>Ruchottes 2021   | \$253   |
| 95    | BOUCHARD PÈRE & FILS Montrachet Domaine 2021                                | \$1,500 | 95    | LUCIEN LE MOINE Meursault Charmes 2021                               | \$349   |
| 95    | DOMAINE CLOS DE LA CHAPELLE Corton-Charlemagne<br>Cuvée Exceptionnelle 2021 | \$345   | 95    | LUCIEN LE MOINE Meursault Genevrières 2021                           | \$407   |
| 95    | PIERRE-YVES COLIN-MOREY Chassagne-Montrachet<br>Les Ancegnières 2020        | \$149   | 95    | PIERRE MEURGEY Corton-Charlemagne 2022                               | \$541   |