

2014 BURGUNDY

THE WORLD OF FINE WINE



ISSUE 51 2016 / ROBIN LEE ON MARCO SIMONIT'S PRUNING REVOLUTION
2014 BURGUNDY / 2011 BAROLO / SOUTH AFRICAN WHITES / CHÂTEAU GILLET

Chablis Grand Cru Moutonne

BEST SCORE OF ALL CHABLIS GRANDS CRUS 2014

98

DOMAINE LONG-DEPAQUIT (ALBERT BICHOT)

Chablis Grand Cru Moutonne 98

Tasted by Michael Edwards

The sort of outstanding wine that has everything: delicate haunting aromas, citrus, pear, hawthorn: wondrous vinosity and multi-layered, ever so subtle flavors that change in the glass. Majestic length and race. Be patient-until at least 2020. Great value, too.

Chablis Premier Cru Les Vaucopins 92

Tasted by Michael Edwards

Roundness, finesse: *aerien* from this fine Chichée cru close to Les Blanchots.



DOMAINE DU CLOS FRANTIN (ALBERT BICHOT)

Michel Bettane : well made wines, harmonious bodies, good texture, integrated oak (...) Best for me there were a complete Clos-de-Vougeot, an excellent Echezeaux and very refined Grands-Echezeaux.

Chambertin Grand Cru 94

Tasted by Neil Beckett

The most impressive of several very good wines tasted as barrel samples in Beaune in November 2015 with the highly competent cellar-master Alain Serveau. Medium-deep ruby. An aristocratic reserve on the nose, darkly fruited, a little kirsch after some time in the glass, far from forbidding but properly serious. A gentler entry than expected, almost cashmere in its softness, firmer underneath, but nothing angular or hard, and an imposing finish. Real grand cru intensity and scale. Only three *pièces*, sadly!

Clos-de-Vougeot Grand Cru 90

Tasted by Neil Beckett

The fruit comes from vines running from the top to the bottom of this famously heterogeneous site, which may explain in part why this seems such a complete expression of it. Still properly tannic underneath, but there is enough silky slip and slither on top to suggest that everything is in place. Potency and potential, so should be well worth the wait.

Vosne-Romanée 89+

Tasted by Neil Beckett

This is a blend of fruit from only two very well-placed *lieux-dits*-Les Damaudes, above premier cru Malconsorts, and Hautes Maizières, below premier cru Suchots-which may explain its exceptional quality for a village wine, even if the grandest village of all. Enticingly exotic, roseate, and spicy to smell, the very image of Vosne. An elegance and raciness to match the richness, which is impressive for the level.



DOMAINE DU PAVILLON (ALBERT BICHOT)

Meursault Premier Cru Les Charmes 91

Tasted by Neil Beckett

There is an excellent village Meursault here this year, a blend of five different parcels, but this Charmes is a clear step up, as it should be. There are three parcels of vines, 90% of them in Charmes-Dessus, close to Perrières, so as cellar-master Alain Serveau says, this shares some of the tension of that higher vineyard. Lightly nutty and smoky, but neither too oaky nor too reductive on the nose. An acrobatic palate, flowing and silken, which keeps it rolling smoothly, but with a light phenolic rub that makes it seem as though it's twisting and turning at the same time: enchanting, thoroughly pleasing wine.

Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru 92

Tasted by Neil Beckett

A lovely nose, not in the least overblown, with no excessive ripeness (a real risk in this site in this vintage) and no excessive woodiness either (only 25% new oak): almond blossom and lemon confit. Richly silky and supple, generous in scale, top to bottom, but enough acidity, intensity, and purity for it to retain elegance and spiral upward on the long finish. Another hugely seductive wine that one really wants to drink.

