

The Burgundy Briefing

news, views and tastings

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Best Burgundy

Wines of the issue

A selection of wine from the tastings in this issue

Jean and Gautier Thevenet, Macon-Village, Domaine de Roally, 2003

Bright, fresh and blossomy aromas. Crisp apple on the strike to slightly creamy and plump middle palate. Not at all fat and very nicely balanced. A very charming wine and unexpected for the vintage. Score 13-13.5

Brett Brothers, Viré-Clessé, Sous Les Plantes, 2002

A really attractive bouquet. Certainly it shows evolving characters of new hay and parmesan with a touch of honey. Sweet strike into a very honeyed, almost caramelly palate with notes of cinnamon. There is sufficient lime-like acidity to keep it from cloying and it is fresh and clean on the finish. Drink now and enjoy. Score 14

Domaine Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon, Macon-Milly-Lamartine, Clos du Four, 2004

Very attractive and vibrant aroma redolent of apricots and passion fruit with some creamy characters. Lovely textural, silky palate, rich, ample with decent depth and intensity. Some toasty notes and very well balanced. Score 14

Domaine des Maronniers, Chablis, 2002

Very taut and saline, reserved and intense with a touch of oyster shell. Nervy, linear palate with a long fine mineral finish. Just delicious straight, unpretentious village wine. Now and will hold short term. Score 15

Domaine Bruno Clair, Marsannay Les Longeroies, 2003

Attractively bright with ripe raspberries. Very sweet fruit attack, almost too sweet and raisiny. However a lovely fruit-driven palate follows. Medium-full, soft and ample. Not very typical, but very appealing and delicious village wine for the vintage. Soon and over 5-8 years. Score 15

Chateau de Chorey, Chorey-lès-Beaune, 2003

A very unctuous aroma, chocolate and prunes. Sweet fat attack, but carries the warm vintage with a nicely compact and layered middle palate. Bullish, forthright with firm tannins and a punchy long finish. Excellent village wine which over delivers. From 2007/8 and for 5 years plus. Score 15

Chablis, 1er Cru, Côte De Léchet, 2002

White flowers, touch of honey, very cool and restrained. Glossier than the 2004 and more elegant than the 2003. Slight smoke again, very dignified and balanced combining clarity of terroir with the concentration of the vintage. From 2006. Score 17.5

Domaine Chandon de Briailles, Corton-Bressandes, 2003

A very heady and plummy aroma, but on the palate there is an attractive tightness to this wine and excellent pace. Fortright attack, powerful and intense with very firm tannins and an assertive long finish. I like this for its energy. Wait perhaps 4 years and may well develop over a decade. Score 18

Domaine Joseph Drouhin, Grand Echezeaux, 2003

This combines richness and power with elegance. It has excellent extract and the fruit is expertly contained. The tannins are pronounced but sophisticated; the texture smooth and rich. It is an impressive harmonious and complex wine. It stood out at this tasting. From 2010 and for 10+ Score 19.5