

# The Burgundy Briefing

news, views and tastings

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## News

### **The Demise of Desirée:**

The end of Comte Lafon's Desirée is nigh. After another year of diminutive yields, Dominique Lafon has decided to grub up the vines in this 1er cru Meursault site. More about this, together with a vertical of this wine later in this issue.

### **The Quintessence of Matrot?**

Thierry Matrot has produced a new cuvée – "Quintessence" - in 2005. As the small vintage produced less than one barrel of La Garenne, it was topped up with Chalumeaux – about 40% of the latter. More in the tasting notes.

### **New Proposal for the regional AOC structure**

A new proposal has been submitted to the INAO which would lead to a new category – Appellation of Origin. This would lower the threshold for entry level burgundies and assist those producers using more modern methods. The date for when this new category might be introduced has yet to be announced.

### **Three Burgundian vigneronns selected for "Raisins du Bonheur" competition:**

A new contest, "Raisins du Bonheur", has been launched to showcase France's young wine-growers and their passion for their terroir and wine. Clothilde Davenne (Domaine du Temps Perdu, Chablis), François Lequin (Domaine Lequin-Colin, Santenay) and the Bret Brothers (Maison Bret Brothers, Vinzelles) join 18 other vigneronns from various regions. The competition is for independent wine-growers aged under 45 who have been in the business for less than 15 years. The presentation will take place on September 29th at the Radisson SAS Hotel, Paris-Boulogne.

### **BIVB Vintage update:**

The 2006 vintage began well with the flowering taking place under 'optimum conditions,' report the BIVB. The first flowers are said to have appeared on June 7 on the Côte de Beaune, and as a result of continued good weather led to a rapid and even flowering. The projected harvests are set to take place in mid-September or just after (between 90 and 100 days from 'full-flower').

### **Positive Burgundy export results:**

In challenging times for French wine, Burgundy is one of the few regions to offer positive year-end results with a 2% increase in volume and a 6.5% increase by value. Encouragingly, much of this result is due to the strong export figures recorded in the last quarter of 2005 – an improvement of 21% by volume and 14% by value for the same period in 2004.

**Burgundy exports continue to grow:**

Although growth rate of Burgundy's exports have slowed since the opening 4 months of 2006, it remains a good performer with growth from January a decent 8% up on last year.

**Rosé Seminar:**

A seminar was conducted in Nuits-Saint-Georges on August 30th to promote Burgundy's rosé wines in the region. Burgundy's consumption of rosé is similar to other regions in France, but little actually originates from the region. Sales of rosé in Burgundy increased by 57% last year, but Bourgogne rosé is still something of a rarity on restaurant wine lists.

P.S

**Stray bottle:** I recently came across a bottle of Domaine Chevrot's Santenay, 2004 which was somehow overlooked in the hundreds of bottles sent to me to taste in London last December. I was pleasantly surprised. It has a very attractive raspberry aroma and sweet red fruit on the palate. The acidity is fresh, the tannins soft and the palate vibrant. I felt I really should mention this somewhere, in case the domaine thought they had been left out on the grounds of poor quality. This is certainly not that. It is a very pleasing wine to drink now.