

BURGHOUND.COM®
THE ULTIMATE BURGUNDY REFERENCE

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Statement of Principles

It is important that readers understand how I collect and evaluate the information that is reported in the pages of **Burghound.com** (the tasting notes and information are the sole responsibility of the author).

- I am personally responsible for all of my business expenses without exception. This includes airfare, hotels and effectively all of my meals. The purpose is as clear as it is simple: No conflicts of interest. *I do not accept nor do I seek any subsidy, in any form, from anybody.*
- Sample bottles are accepted for evaluation and commentary, much as book reviewers accept advance copies of new releases. I insist, however, that these sample bottles represent the final wines to be sold under that particular label.
- Finished, bottled wines are assigned scores as these wines are market-ready. Wines tasted from barrel, however, are scored within a range. This reflects the reality that a wine tasted from barrel is not a finished product.
- Wines are evaluated within the context of their *appellations*. Simply put, that means I expect a *grand cru* Burgundy to reflect its exalted status.

While the concept of *terroir* remains a controversial issue in the opinion of many people, it is not controversial to the Burgundian mindset—or to me, either. I attempt to convey, where appropriate, how certain wines are particularly good, or particularly bad, at expressing their underlying *terroir*. This is admittedly a difficult thing, rightly open to discussion among the Burgundians themselves, never mind an outside observer such as myself. Nevertheless, it is fundamental to great Burgundy. Mere "hedonism" is just that: empty pleasure seeking. Burgundy can deliver so much more—if it is asked.

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A Brief Word About Scores:

Numerical scores are endlessly debated among wine lovers. Inevitably, critics tend to emphasize certain characteristics at the expense of others. What follows is an explication of scores at **Burghound.com** and the underlying taste values they reflect.

Simply put, Burgundies that emphasize purity, elegance, overall balance and a clear expression of the underlying *terroir* are rated more highly than Burgundies that don't deliver these qualities. Other important characteristics include typicity, richness, balanced extraction, length and harmony. For example, a Volnay should taste like a Volnay and a *grand cru* should deliver a *grand cru* drinking experience.

The score is a summation of the taster's thoughts about a wine. It does not actually express those thoughts. Clearly, a mere number cannot fully represent the nuanced, detailed impression conveyed by a tasting note.

Please note: Wines are scored based on their expected quality at peak drinkability. Many *grands crus* that will, I believe, "be" a 92 may not necessarily taste like a 92-point wine when young, thanks to the tannins or general inaccessibility.

Wines rated 90 points or above are worth a special effort to find and cellar. Wines rated 85 or above are recommended, **especially among regional and villages level wines**. There will be relatively few 90+ point wines, simply because there are relatively few outstanding and superlative wines. Finished, bottled wines are assigned specific scores as these wines are market-ready. Wines tasted from barrel are scored within a range. This reflects the reality that a wine tasted from barrel is not a finished, market-ready product.

95 – 100:	Truly incomparable and emotionally thrilling. A wine so rated is as good as a wine gets. By definition, it is reference standard for its <i>appellation</i> .
90 – 94:	Outstanding. Worth a special effort to purchase and cellar and will provide memorable drinking experiences.
85 – 89:	Good to High quality. Wines that offer solid quality in every respect and generally very good typicity. "Good Value" wines will often fall into this category. Worth your attention.
80 – 84:	Average to Good quality. The wine is "correct", displays no noticeable flaws and will provide pleasing, if straightforward, drinking.
76 – 79:	Barely Acceptable quality. The wine is not worth your attention nor is it a good value.
75 and Below:	Don't Bother. A wine with noticeable, irremediable flaws.

Estimated Maturities:

Estimating a window of when any given Burgundy will be at its peak is an extremely difficult thing to do with precision. The time frames that you see after the score is my best estimate as to when any given wine will likely be at its best. This is of course simply an educated guess about how the wine will evolve and assumes that the wine will have been responsibly shipped and stored, which as long-time collectors know is not always the case. Just as importantly, the time suggested windows are based on how I personally prefer my Burgundies. This effectively means that for reds, there is still obvious freshness and vibrancy remaining to both the fruit and the flavors and while the tannic structure will be largely resolved, it by no means suggests that a completely smooth palate will exist devoid of any firmness. Especially tannic and or concentrated wines will necessarily have wider windows for obvious reasons. For whites, the windows are designed to indicate that point at which youthful fruit has passed into secondary nuances with more fully developed complexity as well as when the textures have rounded out and the sometimes pointed acidity has mellowed. Important note: what the estimated maturities do NOT suggest is how long a wine will remain structurally sound and still capable of providing some enjoyment as many Burgundies are capable of remarkably long periods of graceful decline; however, beyond a certain point they will have passed their peaks and should be drunk, no matter how intellectually interesting they may be. As with anything this subjective, there is no substitute for your own experience and I offer these estimated maturities as a general guideline, not gospel and as the saying goes, your mileage may vary.

The 235 Producers Reviewed in This Issue

Chablis:

Domaine or Maison:

A'Dair
Azo, Hervé
Barat, Michel
Bessin, Jean-Claude
Billaud-Simon
Boileau, Etienne
Brocard, Maison Jean-Marc
Chablisiènne, La
Chenevrières, Domaine des
Damp, Daniel
Damp, Sébastien
Damp, Vincent
Dauvissat, Jean et Sébastien
Dauvissat, Vincent
Defaix et Fils, Bernard
Droin, Jean-Paul et Benoit
Drouhin, Joseph
Fèvre, William
Garnier et Fils
Goisot, Ghislaine et Jean-Hugues
Grossot, Jean-Pierre
Long-Depaquit
Malandes, des
Michel, Louis
Millet
Moreau Père et Fils, Christian
Moreau-Naudet
Mosnier, Sylvain
Picq, Gilbert
Pinson Frères
Piuze, Patrick
Pommier, Denis
Raveneau, François
Savary, Olivier
Séguinot-Bordet
Servin
Temps Perdus, les
Tribut, Laurent
Vrignaud

Mâconnais:

Domaine or Maison:

Aladame, Stéphane
Barraud, Daniel
Chalet Pouilly, du

Cordier, Roger/Christophe
Fuissé, Château de
Guffens-Heynen
Lafon, Héritiers des Comtes
Lassarat, Roger
Merlin, Olivier
Rijckaert, Jean
Robert-Denogent
Rontets, Château de
Saumaize-Michelin
Soufrandière, La/Bret Brothers
Thibert Père et Fils
Verget, Maison

Côte Chalonnaise:

Domaine or Maison:

Cellier Aux Moines, Domaine du
Chamirey, Château de
Dureuil-Janthial, Vincent
Ferté, de la
Jaeger-Defaix, Vincent
Joblot
Juillot, Michel
Raquillet, François
Salomon, Clos
Villaine, A. & P. de

En Plus:

Domaine or Maison:

D'Ardhuy
Belland, Domaine Roger/Joseph
Corton André, Pierre André au Château de
Dubreuil-Fontaine
Moulin-à-Vent, Château du
Muzard, Lucien
Perdrix, des
Prudhon, Henri
Rapet, Roland
Rollin, Rémi
Roy, Marc
Senard, Comte
Taupenot-Merme
Tollot-Beaut
Voillot, Joseph
En Tirage

California Pinot Noir:

Abiouness Wines
Ancien Wines
Anthill Farms
Aubert Wines
Bjornstad Cellars
Bonaccorsi Wine Company
Brewer-Clifton
Byron Winery
Calera Wine Company
Cambria Winery
Campesino Cellars
Carmel Road Winery
Carr Vineyards and Winery
Cartograph
Clos Pegase
Cobb Vineyards
Copain Wines
Costa de Oro Winery
DeLoach Vineyards
Derby Wine Estates
Derbyshire Winery
Domaine Carneros Winery
Donatiello Wines, C.
Dutton-Goldfield Winery
Easton Wines
Elkhorn Peak Cellars
Expression Wines
Farrell Vineyards and Winery, Gary
Fat Cat Cellars
Ferrer Caves and Vineyards, Gloria
Fogdog
Forest Glen Winery
Frank Family Vineyards
Freeman Vineyard & Winery
Freestone Vineyards
Fulcrum Wines
Gainey Vineyard
George Wine Company
Goldeneye Winery
Gypsy Canyon Winery
Hahn Winery
Harrington Wines
Inman Family Wines
J Vineyards and Winery
Jalama Winery and Vineyards
Kistler Vineyards
Knez Winery
Kutch Wines
La Crema Winery
La Follette Wines
Landmark Vineyards
Lattanzio Wines
Laurier Vineyards

Ledson Winery and Vineyards
Lynmar Estate
Lynne Wines, J.
MacPhail Family Wines
MacRostie Winery & Vineyards
Marcassin
Masked Rider Winery
Masút Vineyard and Winery
Morgan Winery
Mount Eden Vineyards
Mountain Winery, The
Ojai Vineyard, The
Ortman Family Vineyards
Pali Wine Co.
Paraiso Vineyards
Parker Winery, Fess
Pey-Lucia Vineyards
Pey-Marin Vineyards
Pfundler Vineyards
Phillips Hill Estates
Picket Fence Vineyards
Radio-Côteau Vineyards
Rainborne Wines
Red Car Wine Company
Rhys Vineyards
Rivers-Marie Wines
Rochioli Vineyards and Winery
Rossi-Wallace
Roth Estate
Rusack Vineyards
Sandler Wine Company
Sequana Vineyards
Siduri Wines
Sonoma Coast Vineyards
Stemmler Winery, Robert
Storey Winery, J. R.
Talley Vineyards
Tanner, Lane
Thomas George Estates
Three Saints Vineyard
Three Sticks Winery
Tolosa Winery
Trione Vineyards and Winery
Valerie's Vineyard
Vergari Wine Co.
Villa Mt. Eden
WesMar Winery
Williams-Selyem
Zepaltas Wines
Ziata Wines

Oregon Pinot Noir:

1789 Wines

Aberrant Cellars
Amalie Robert Estate
Amity Vineyards
Anne Amie Vineyards
Archery Summit
Benton-Lane Winery
Biggio-Hamina
Black Cap Wine of Oregon
Blooming Hill Vineyard & Winery, A
Boedecker Cellars
Cancilla Cellars
Carriere, J. K.
Coeur de Terre Vineyard
Cooper Mountain Vineyards
Cornerstone Cellars
De Ponte Cellars
Domaine Serene
Evergreen Vineyards
Genius Loci Wines
Haden Fig
Hatcher Wines, William
Hawk's View Cellars
Illahe Vineyards and Winery
Johan Vineyards
Kings Ridge
La Luz
Libra
Love and Squalor
Luminous Hills
Maysara Winery
North Valley (Soter Vineyards)
Pappas Wine Co.
Plowbuster
Ponzi Vineyards
Raptor Ridge Winery
Ridgecrest Vineyards
Rock Point Wines
Roco Winery
Route Stock Cellars
St. Innocent Winery
Scott Cellars, J.
Siduri Wines
Soléna Estates
Soter Vineyards
Spindrift Cellars
Torii Mor Winery
Trisaetum Winery
Tye Wine Cellars
Underwood Cellars
Utopia Vineyards
Van Duzer Vineyards
Whistling Dog Cellars
WillaKenzie Estate
Willamette Valley Vineyards

Blooming Hill Vineyard and Winery, A (Cornelius, OR)

2008 Pinot Noir

red

89

2008 is the first commercial release for owners Holly and Jim Witte with 500 cases in 2008, 1000 in 2009 and no plans to expand beyond 1500. For more information visit: www.abloominghillvineyard.com or call (503) 992.1196.

2008 Pinot Noir: (Chehalem Mountains, SRP \$20, 13%). A very pretty nose combines notes of red cherry, raspberry and a hint of cranberry that marry into nicely rich and round middle weight flavors that possess good mid-palate concentration with fine volume on the balanced if mildly somber finish that avoids any hint of austerity. This well-made effort is not especially refined but it offers fine depth. 89/2013+