

Stephen Tanzer's

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# International Wine Cellar

the consumer's passport to fine wine

## 2002 Red Burgundies

### Bouchard Père et Fils.

Managing director Bernard HERVET describes the 2002 domain reds as very good wines, generally superior to those of 2001. But he admitted that it was harder to find topnotch wine to buy in 2002 than in 2001, as "too many wines in 2002 were from fruit that was picked too early, or was overextracted." Winemaker Philippe PROST added that grape sugars were generally higher on the Côte de Nuits, but that the flowering was better on the Côte de Beaune, and he finds that the latter wines have even more concentration. The young 2002s were racked between the end of June and early August.

Savigny-les-Beaune les Lavières : Medium red. Aromas of black cherry, minerals and smoke. Sweet, smoky and pliant, with expressive flavors of black cherry, smoke and underbrush given shape by ripe acidity. Finishes with fine, elegant tannins and good length and sweetness. 87-89. (issue 113)

Beaune du Château : Good deep red. Aromas of raspberry, maraschino cherry, licorice, herbs and spices ; showed a blacker fruit character with extended aeration. Sweet, supple and fairly intense, with juicy, vibrant flavors of spicy red and black fruits framed by well-integrated acidity. A fresh, nicely balanced midweight, finishing with suave tannins and no rough edges. 89. (issue 119)

Beaune Clos de la Mousse : Good deep red. Smoky redcurrant, cassis, cherry and mocha on the fruit-driven nose (this fruit is always expressive early, says Hervet) : Ripe, suave and silky, conveying an impression of lowish acidity. Intense red fruit flavors complicated by a hint of game. Finishes quite bright, with a light medicinal note contributing complexity. 88-91. (issue 113)

Beaune Teurons : Good deep red. Aromas of black raspberry and smoke complicated by hints of pepper, tar, chocolate and leather. Suave, silky and rich for a Beaune wine, with the smoothness of the year in spades. Finishes ripe and juicy, with firm, fine tannins and very good length. 87-90. (issue 113)

Beaune Marconnets : Good deep red. Wilder aromas of briary dark cherry, licorice and menthol. Juicy and aromatic in the mouth ; less silky than the Teurons but offers very good lift and energy. A bit youthfully aggressive on the back end but not hard. 87-90. (issue 113)

Beaune Grèves Vigne de l'Enfant Jésus : Medium red. Raspberry, smoke, coffee and earth on the nose. Velvety and sweet with harmonious acidity giving shape to the wine's flavors. Finishes lush, sweet and long, with a fine dusting of tannins. 90. (issue 119)

Volnay Caillerets Ancienne Cuvée Carnot : Medium red. Quite subdued nose. Silky and moderately sweet in the

mouth, with reticent flavors of strawberry, spices and earth ; showed a redcurrant perfume as it opened in the glass. Finishes uncompromisingly dry and backward, but the tannins are sweet. 90. (issue 119)

Volnay Clos des Chênes : Deep ruby-red. Superripe aromas of cherry, currant and plum, with a vibrant note of cracked pepper. Dense and juicy but rather folded in on itself ; cool, nicely delineated blackberry and mint flavors. Finishes youthfully backward, with firm but fine tannins. Has plenty of substance to reward five or six years of aging. 89-92. (issue 113)

Pommard (estate cuvée). Good dark red. Riper, more aromatic nose of black cherry and licorice. Suaver and finer in texture, with purer fruit flavors. More obvious structure here, but a bit youthfully tight today. Finishes firmly tannic, with lingering ripe fruit. 87-89. (issue 113)

Pommard Pezerolles : Saturated red-ruby color. Expressive, musky aromas of currant, menthol, tar and game. Rich, concentrated and full, with powerful berry flavors and the creamy sweetness that comes from small berries. Juicy, harmonious acids frame the fruit and give the finish excellent brightness and thrust. Showing very well. 89-92. (issue 113)

Pommard Rugiens : . Full red. Complex, tangy nose offers strawberry, blood orange, iron, earth and underbrush. Silky, dry-edged and uncompromising, but with a creaminess in the middle. Sappy and nuanced, with tangy red cherry and tobacco flavors. Finishes with slightly dusty, building tannins and a lingering note of underbrush. Very suave and long Pommard with strong soil character. 91 (+?) (issue 119)

Le Corton : Medium red. Game and smoke aromas, with a whiff of currant leaf and a strong impression of soil tones. Big, chewy and lush, but with rather reticent flavors of licorice, minerals, menthol and earth. This is all potential today, finishing very subtle, long and strong, with terrific clarity, freshness and grip. 91. (issue 119)