

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. 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 prominent 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.

Important Note: Every wine formally presented by a grower or distributor for evaluation is reviewed, period, no exceptions. Thus no Burghound.com reader need question whether I have chosen not to comment on a given wine because it was flawed or substandard. In short, if a wine is presented for review, it appears here.

95 – 100:	Truly incomparable and emotionally thrilling. A wine so rated is as good as Burgundy and Pinot Noir 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. Burgundies 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 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 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. 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 207 Producers Reviewed in Issue 47

Domaine/Maison

Ambroise, Bertrand
d'Angerville, Marquis
l'Arlot
Audoin, Charles
Bachelet, Jean-Claude
Bachelet, Jean-Louis
Bachelet-Monnot
Ballot-Millot
Belland, Roger/Joseph
Bellene de
Bellene, Roche de
Bichot, Albert
Bitouzet-Prieur
Bize, Simon
Blain-Gagnard
Boillot, Henri - Domaine
Boillot, Henri - Maison
Boisset, Jean-Claude
Bonneau du Martray
Bouchard Père et Fils
Bouvier, René
Bouzereau, Michel
Boyer-Martenot
Buisson-Charles
Carillon, Jacques
Champy, Maison
Chandon de Briailles
Chanson Père et Fils
Charlopin-Parizot, Philippe
Chavy, Alain
Chavy, Jean-Louis
Chevalier Père et Fils
Clair, Bruno
Clerget, Christian
Coche-Dury, Jean-François
Colin, Bruno
Colin, Marc
Colin-Deléger
Colin-Morey, Pierre-Yves
Cornu, Edmond
Croix, des
Dancer, Vincent
Darviot-Perrin
Debray
Deux Montille Sœur et Frère
Drouhin, Joseph
Dublère
Dubreuil-Fontaine
Dujac Fils et Père
Ente, Arnaud
Ente, Benoit
Faiveley, Joseph
Fichet, Jean-Philippe
Follin-Arbelet
Fontaine-Gagnard
Gagnard, Jean-Noël
Gambal, Alex
Gaunoux, Jean-Michel
Germain et Fils, Henri
Girard, Jean-Jacques
Girardin, Vincent
Gris, du Château
Gros, Anne
Gros Frère et Soeur
Grux, Franck
Guyon, Antonin
Huber-Verdereau
Jacob
Jadot, Louis
Javillier, Patrick
Jayer-Gilles
Jessiaume
Jobard, Antoine
Jobard, Rémi

Labet, Pierre et François
Lafarge, Michel
Lafon, Comtes
Lafouge, Jean et Gilles
Lambrays, des
Lamy, Hubert et Olivier
Lamy-Pillot
Latour, Louis
Latour-Giraud
Leflaive
Leflaive, Olivier - Domaine
Leflaive, Olivier - Maison
Leroux, Benjamin
Leroy
Magnien, Frédéric
Mallard, Michel
Maltroye, Château de
Matrot, Thierry et Pascale
Méo-Camuzet
Mikulski, François
Monnot, Xavier
Montille, Hubert de
Moreau, Bernard
Moreau, Jean
Morey, Jean-Marc
Morey, Marc
Morey, Pierre
Morey-Blanc
Morey-Coffinet
Mugnier, Jacques-Frédéric
Niellon, Michel
Pavelot, Jean-Marc
Pavelot, Luc et Lise
Pavillon, du
Pernot, Paul
Picard
Pillot, Fernand et Laurent
Pillot, Jean et Jean-Marc
Pillot, Paul
Ponsot
Pousse d'Or
Prieur, Jacques
Prudhon, Henri
Puligny-Montrachet, Château de
Ramonet
Rapet, Roland
Rion, Michelle et Patrice
Rollin Père et Fils, Rémi
Romanée-Conti, de la
Roulot, Guy
Roumier, Georges
Roy, Marc
Saint-Marc
Sauzet, Etienne
Senard, Comte
Taupenot-Merme
Terres de Velle, des
Tollot-Beaut
Violot-Guillemard, Thierry
Voillot, Joseph
Vougeraie, de la

California Pinot Noir

Arista Wines
Auteur Wines
Bailiwick Wines
Byron Estate Wines
Campesino Vineyards
Carmel Road Winery
Cartograph Wines
Clary Ranch
David Bruce Winery
Drake Wines
Drew Family Cellars
El Molino Winery

Fogdog
Forest Glen Winery
Foursight Wines
Freeman Vineyard & Winery
Freestone Vineyards
Hilliard Bruce
Inception Wines
Joseph Jewell
Kessler-Hawk
La Follette Wines
Loos Family Winery
Luminesce
MacRostie Winery & Vineyards
Masút Vineyard and Winery
Morgan Winery
Olson Ogdin Wines
Pali Wine Co.
Parducci Wine Cellars
Paul Mathew Vineyards
Phillips Hill Estates
Rainborne Wines
Red Car Wine Company
St. Rose Winery
Sanctuary Estates
Scheid Vineyards
Sequana Vineyards
Siduri Wines
Talley Vineyards

Oregon Pinot Noir

Anne Amie Vineyards
Aramenta Cellars
Auteur Wines
Big Table Farm
Black Cap Wine of Oregon
Broadley Vineyards
Cornerstone Cellars
Cristom Vineyards
Domaine Serene
Eyrie Vineyards
IOTA Cellars
Lemelson Vineyards
Pali Wine Co.
Panther Creek Cellars
Ponzi Vineyards
Seufert Winery
Siduri Wines
Willamette Valley Vineyards
Winderlea Vineyard

En Plus

Ballorin & F
Chamonard, Joseph
Chauvenet, Jean
Clark, David
Esmonin, Sylvie
Fougeray de Beauclair
Gelin, Pierre
Henriot
Jeanniard, Alain
Legros, François
Lilbert-Fils
Millot, Jean-Marc
Sigaut, Hervé

Progress Report

Coche-Dury Verticals

A Word about the Tasting Notes:

99% of the following Burgundy notes are based on tastings conducted in November 2011 and February 2012; the other 1% were tasted from bottle in the last several months in my home office. Note: finished, bottled wines are assigned scores, as these wines are market-ready. Wines tasted from barrel are scored within a range, which simply reflects the reality that they are not finished, market-ready wines. The wines in the presentation boxes are listed alphabetically while the tasting notes are presented in the order that the winemaker chose to present the wines; this often is an indication as to the esteem in which the winemaker regards each wine.

Our policy on reviewing wines is simple: During domaine or winery visits, if a domaine or winery presents a wine for consideration, and it is to the best of our knowledge representative and has finished both its primary and secondary fermentations, then it is reviewed – no exceptions. So if, for example, you are looking at a range of 2009's from a specific Burgundian producer and you do not see a particular wine in the database, it means that it was not presented for review and does NOT mean that it received an exceptionally poor score. If it is not in the database, it has not been reviewed. If you do not see any wines for a particular producer in a given year in the database, then it means the wines were not reviewed – it does **NOT** mean they were reviewed but found them to be uninspiring.

“Tasted without Commentary”: For U.S. pinot samples submitted for review that have *not* been specifically solicited that obtain a score of 86 or below, while those wines will be tasted and reviewed, we may choose to not provide a narrative/commentary, however the wines will be listed and included in the database so readers know they have been reviewed. The majority, though not all, of the US pinots were tasted in the home office.

Note: Wines receiving a } symbol are particularly outstanding for their respective *appellations* and especially merit your attention; readers should note that *grands crus* stand on their own.

Rainborne Wines (Santa Rosa, CA)

2009	Pinot Noir – Sonoma Coast	red	<u>87</u>
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Rainborne was established in 2007 by winemaker Steve Kirby, who chose to pursue his passion for winemaking after a successful career as a classical ballet dancer. In a departure from typical practice, Kirby uses only dry farmed vineyards. For more information call 415.772.3018 or visit: www.rainbornewines.com

2009 Pinot Noir – Sonoma Coast: (400 cases, 13.2%). A fruity and distinctly high-toned nose features notes of raspberry, cherry and strawberry with background hints of cranberry and crushed herbs. There is a suave mouth feel to the very round middle weight flavors that terminate in a fruit-driven finish that displays a hint of tanginess. 87/2014+