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**Inside on Page 3**  
**Markus Molitor**  
**2005 Goldkapsel**

FEBRUARY 6, 2007

**Inside on Page 5**  
**Brunello:**  
**The Best of 2001**

## PIEDMONT


# The Fifty-Year Vintage

## *Mauro Mascarello's Surreal 1996s Turn Ten*

*Over the past* half century, Barolo has known more than its share of great vintages. The earliest trio—1958, 1964 and 1971—have all but faded from view, with only a few transcendent examples to remind us of their grandeur. Those next in line—1978, 1982, 1989 and 1990—are at or near their peaks today, serving as striking reminders of great Barolo's majesty. And in a decade or so, we will know just how well 1999 and 2001 stack up in such august company.

Few human beings are alive today who could possibly take the full measure of such a span of vintages. But one who can is Mauro Mascarello. The grandson of the legendary Giuseppe Mascarello, he learned to make Barolo at his father's knee in the 1950's and assumed complete control of the family cantina in 1967 at age thirty. Of the great *Barolisti*, only Bruno Giacosa can be said to have such a broad perspective.

Which gives particular resonance to Mauro Mascarello's comment to Antonio Galloni that 1996 is the greatest Barolo vintage of the past fifty years. The best 1996s have been famously backward since birth, leading some without Mascarello's knowledge and experience to wonder what's beneath the tannin. Not only can Mascarello compare 1996 to other slow-to-mature vintages (like 1945), he knows first-hand the

 *"Mauro Mascarello believes 1996 to be the greatest vintage of the last 50 years."*  
*Antonio Galloni*

year's superb growing conditions, with the sunny, warm and dry days and cool nights that permitted the unusually small crop to be harvested late, under perfect conditions in October.

### **Two Monumental Barolos**

Of course, his view is colored by the wines he made in 1996, which he considers possibly the greatest of his long career. This is particularly the case for his Barolo Riserva Cà d'Morissio, about which he talks with great emotion. He made fewer than 170 cases of this heroic Barolo, from a two-acre section of his Monprivato vineyard replanted with a rare Nebbiolo clone first planted there by his grandfather in 1921.

No wine in Mascarello's experience has developed more slowly, nor shown more promise. He waited until it was nearly 10 years old to release it, but it was worth the wait. Though still unevolved, this massive wine clearly rivals Bruno Giacosa's majestic Falletto Riserva and Giovanni Conterno's fabulous Monfortino as 1996's greatest Barolo. It is a quintessential 1996: breathtakingly deep, powerfully structured—a wine that demands patience but will profoundly reward those who wait.

### **1996 Monprivato**

But while 1996 Cà d'Morissio is new to the market, Mascarello's other great '96 Barolo, Monprivato, ►

## PIEDMONT & BURGUNDY

# Mauro Mascarello's Towering 1996s

► was released more than five years ago and has long since vanished into private cellars. It has acquired the air of myth for classic Barolo lovers, who regard it as one of Mauro Mascarello's greatest achievements. It has the archetypal Monprivato aromatics of red berries, dried rose, camphor, tar and minerals, with even more power than is normal for this wine. It is a great Barolo by any standard.

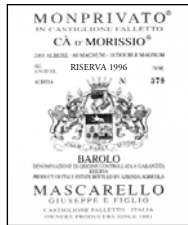
### This Offer

Only 50 cases of the Cà d'Morissio were allocated

to the U.S. and we grabbed what we could of it, in three different sizes. As for 1996 Monprivato, we were uniquely fortunate this fall to be offered a small, perfectly cellared parcel from a serious collector—the first time we had seen more than a case offered in the past three years. Needless to say, we pounced.

Both of these wines are defining examples of great Barolo and belong in any serious cellar. This could be your only chance to acquire both; don't miss out.

**1996 G. Mascarello  
Barolo Cà d'Morissio Rsva.**  
*95+ Antonio Galloni  
96 Daniel Thomases*  
**\$245.00** *bt.* **\$495.00** *mag.*  
**\$995.00** *double magnum*



**1996 G. Mascarello  
Barolo Monprivato**  
*94 Antonio Galloni*  
**\$149.95** *bt.* **\$315.00** *mag.*  
**\$640.00** *double magnum*



Antonio Galloni: "Captivating ... suggests roses, violets and minerals, along with densely packed layers of primary black cherry fruit on a big, structured frame of notable length, with much purity and imposing tannins ... my sense is that this wine is holding back much of its potential and it will be a fascinating effort to follow ... Anticipated maturity: 2013-2031."

Antonio Galloni: "A darker, more brooding side of Monprivato, with suggestions of tobacco, leather, scorched earth, licorice, iron and cocoa on the nose and tightly wound layers of sweet dark fruit with a big, powerful personality. It is a formidably structured, youthful Barolo that will require at least a few more years for the tannins to integrate ... I imagine it will still be a compelling wine at age 30."

# 1990 Joseph Drouhin Meursault-Perrières

*"The Drouhin house style emphasizes purity and elegance above all else."* Burghound

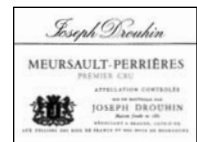
The Côte d'Or reds and whites of Joseph Drouhin are widely prized as some of the purest expressions of *terroir* to be found in all of Burgundy.

Last June, we offered some of Drouhin's best reds from sought-after, and now rare, vintages like 1988, 1990 and 1993—all perfectly cellared since release by a *very* serious European collector. The wines were pristine; in fact, it was unlikely that you could find bottles in better condition even at the domaine.

We have since acquired a small parcel of Drouhin's wonderful 1990 Meursault-Perrières from the same cellar. It

is a fabulous example of this great vintage and vineyard, as rendered by a master of complexity and finesse.

**1990 Drouhin  
Meursault-Perrières**  
**\$89.95**



The color is a medium yellow-gold that shows these bottles' superb cellarage. The nose of butterscotch, coconut and minerals is intoxicating, while the palate fully expresses its crystalline fruit, with excellent acidity and supreme elegance. This is a classic example of Meursault's greatest vineyard.

## GERMANY & MADEIRA

# Mosel Gold

### *Molitor's Staggering 2005 Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Auslese Goldkapsel*

*Two thousand five* was a very great year throughout Germany; but for Middle Mosel grower Markus Molitor, 2005 bordered on magical.



*Zeltinger Sonnenuhr*

on the steep blue slate slopes, keep yields to a miniscule 10-20 hl/ha. The resulting wine is full-bodied Riesling at its best, with a crystalline expression of slate and ripe fruits.

The key for Molitor was a *perfect* Autumn. A light mid-September rain spurred *botrytis* growth which continued unabated throughout October under warm, sunny skies. The resulting wines were some of the richest ever made, yet with excellent acidity. The hallmark of the Molitor 2005s is a stunning transparency, offering an unobscured view of the Mosel's incredible *terroir*.

#### Zeltinger's Time

Markus Molitor is an eighth-generation winemaker with nearly 100 acres of great Mosel vineyards, the finest of which are in Zeltinger Sonnenuhr. Less famous than its big brother, Wehlener Sonnenuhr, which lies just to its east, Zeltinger is considered by many locals to be an even finer spot for Riesling, producing more powerful and longer-lived wines.

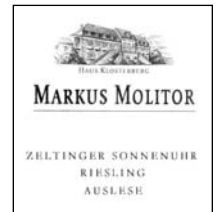
Molitor's best parcels of Zeltinger contain a large percentage of century-old vines, some ungrafted. The age of the vines, combined with very thin soils

In 2005, Molitor produced a number of *cuvées* from Zeltinger. The Auslese\*\* (the stars indicate that the wine was at least 100 degrees Oeschle) is undoubtedly the star of the lineup and a contender for wine of the vintage. Don't miss it.

### **2005 Markus Molitor Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese\*\* Goldkapsel**

**97 Wine Spectator**

**\$49.95 bt. \$29.95 half bt.**



*Wine Spectator*: "Stunning aromas of pear and slate mark this effusive '05 Riesling. Spiced pear, apple and mineral notes are ripe, yet supported by a moderately firm structure. Great harmony, with a silky texture and long, succulent finish. Drink now through 2025. 375 cases made." *Pre-arrival.*

## *Coming up Sevens: Great Madeiras for 2007*

With the resurgence of interest in Madeira, these ethereal nectars have become go-to choices for anniversary and birth year wines. As we begin 2007, we are pleased to offer the following "sevens," each a transcendent Madeira in its own right. For our complete Madeira list, visit [www.rarewineco.com](http://www.rarewineco.com).

#### **1907 D'Oliveira Malvasia .....395.00**

Alex Liddell: "★★★★ Almost opaque ... pungent, with characteristic butter toffee varietal bouquet; glass-coating; so concentrated on the palate that one has to work at it ... a blockbuster wine ...."

#### **1917 Barbeito Sercial .....225.00**

Incredibly rare Madeira from the year the Tsar was overthrown. The light walnut color and pungent aromas introduce a full but dry palate, framed by bracing acidity.

#### **1927 D'Oliveira Bastardo .....295.00**

One of only four Bastardos made prior to World War II, this is the D'Oliveira bottling that originated with Adegas do Torreão. It is the quintessence of a great rarity.

#### **1937 D'Oliveira Sercial ..... 225.00**

*Wine Spectator*: "93 rating ... full of verve ... a fresh, complex bouquet evoking cocoa, caramel ... the lovely butter-scotch flavor marries well with the lively structure ...."

#### **1957 D'Oliveira Old Wine .....175.00**

Few wines have acquired a more devoted following among our customers than this gem. Made from Tinta Negro Mole grown in a sunny Malvasia vineyard, it has the richness of a great Malmsey. Is there a '57 out there that could top it?

#### **1977 D'Oliveira Bual .....89.95**

Our first chance to offer this splendid 1977, which boasts a beautiful nose of orange rind, toffee and spice, and a palate of sheer velvet. Truly seductive.

# Alvaro Palacios' Epic 2004s

## *A Spanish Icon Delivers Three Brilliant New Wines*

*Spanish wine* has enjoyed an incredible run over the past decade, turning out wine after wine that boasts deeper color, more massive fruit and greater intensity than anything seen in the past.

But of the dozens of wines that have caught the world's attention, which ones will be considered classics a quarter century from now ... having separated themselves from the herd by saying something truly unique? And of today's top winemakers, who will still be considered great?

### Iconic Wines

There is little doubt that Alvaro Palacios will be included in the final tally of the greatest winemakers of this epoch in Spain. Early in his career, he probed the potential of Priorat's ancient vineyards, proving they could yield massive wines. His '94's and '95's were celebrated worldwide, yet he wanted more. Having apprenticed at Ch. Pétrus, Alvaro understood



*Alvaro Palacios' aging cellar*

why collectors revere a Coche-Dury Corton-Charlemagne or Jayer Cros Parantoux: they offer a unique experience. They're not valued for their scale, but for their uniqueness, and Alvaro was determined to make such an iconic wine.

His 1993 purchase of the singular L'Ermita vineyard was the first step towards his goal. With its old Garnacha vines, L'Ermita proved to Alvaro that this was *the* noble variety of the region. And since L'Ermita's first vintage, it has been hailed by collectors and critics the world over.

In 2004, Alvaro produced wines of magical concentration and finesse, including a near-perfect **L'Ermita**, a transcendent **Finca Dofi** and an exquisite **Les Terrasses**. We are pleased to offer all three, accompanied by Josh Reynolds' reviews, the first published U.S. tasting notes. Josh, who's taken over several major regions, including Spain, from Steve Tanzer, is one of the most gifted tasters writing about wine today.



### 2004 L'Ermita 96 Josh Reynolds

**\$395.00** *bt.* **\$825.00** *mag.*  
*Inquire about rare large formats*

Raynolds: "... aromas of cherry, red-currant, licorice, minerals, fresh rose, violet and lavender ... the bright red fruit flavors slowly deepening but retaining superb focus and clarity. Offers more nuance each time you come back to the glass ... I found it fascinating to watch this wine unfold. This is a bottle you'd want to share with just one or two others (or maybe just your own bad self), because it doesn't reveal itself in a two-ounce pour."



### 2004 Finca Dofi 94 Josh Reynolds

**\$69.95** *bt.* **\$149.95** *mag.*  
*Inquire about rare large formats*

Raynolds: "Inky violet. Exotic, multi-faceted aromas of dark cherry, blackberry, licorice, violet, black pepper and graphite. Firm and structured, with chewy texture and powerful, concentrated red and dark fruit flavors tinged by minerals and succulent herbs. For a wine of such concentration this is elegant and poised. Shows great precision and energy on the long, spicy finish."



### 2004 Les Terrasses 90 Josh Reynolds

**\$27.95** *bt.* **\$65.00** *mag.*  
**\$150.00** *3-liter*

Raynolds: "Ruby-red. Spicy aromas of cinnamon, gingerbread and wild strawberry. Quite elegant on the palate, with firm, juicy red fruit flavors and a delicate overlay of minerals and peppery spice. Fresh and brisk on the finish, with a repeating note of strawberry and very good length."

# BRUNELLO

## The Best of 2001

### Four Standouts in a Historic Year

The “modern era” of Brunello that began in 1990 has seen its share of great vintages, but 2001 could top them all. Thanks to a picture-perfect growing season—beginning with a yield-reducing spring frost—the finest producers made wines that combine the rich, lush fruit of 1997 with the structure of 1999. In fact, the best wines seem to offer something for everyone: early drinkability as well as superb aging potential.

The release of Antonio Galloni's 2001 Brunello report in the December *Wine Advocate* has spurred demand, pushing up prices for a few wines and draining the few bottles that remained in the market.

Fortunately, we were able to secure a small cache of the vintage's must-buys, including the highly elusive 2001s of two classic Brunello icons: Cerbaiona and Salvioni. Quantities are extremely limited.

**2001 Cerbaiona Brunello**  
**96 Galloni 96 Tanzer**  
**\$129.95 bt. \$275.00 mag.**  
**\$575.00 3-liter**



**2001 Salvioni Brunello\***  
**95 Antonio Galloni**  
**\$119.95 bottle**



Antonio Galloni: “... a profound, deeply expressive nose followed by notes of licorice, tar, black cherries and smoke ... it will still be a magical wine in 15 years and likely beyond ... nothing short of stunning ....”

Steve Tanzer: “Knockout nose ... Large-scaled, compellingly sweet ... As huge as this is, it offers great vibrancy and precision ... this stunning wine is almost too big for the mouth. Finishes with palate-staining persistence and kaleidoscopic flavors ....”

Antonio Galloni: “Powerful and authoritative ... unquestionably one of the vintage’s top wines. It displays a tightly wound core of sweet dark fruit, marrying notable concentration with classic structure on a frame of great expansiveness and length ... This magical, unique Brunello of exquisite pedigree will be at its best in another few years and it should offer rewarding drinking to at least age 20.”



**2001 Lisini Brunello**  
**92 Antonio Galloni**  
**\$45.00 bottle**

Antonio Galloni: “... deeply-colored, sleek and stylish ... expressive notes of flowers, spices, toasted oak, minerals and underbrush along with a lovely core of perfumed sweet cherry fruit ... irresistible sensuality. Intensely flavored yet delicate, this Brunello offers outstanding length, precision and balance.”



**2001 Siro Pacenti Brunello**  
**95 Galloni 97 Wine Spectator**  
**\$85.00 bottle**

Antonio Galloni: “... opens with a finely nuanced, fresh nose ... exceptional elegance, purity and finesse. Silky, fine tannins frame the finish of this unforgettable, profound Brunello.”

*Wine Spectator*: “Pure fruit here with lot of currant and berry. Full-bodied, with loads of fruit and velvety tannins. Long and delicious.”

**2000**  
**Cerbaiona**  
**IGT\***

\*Indicazione Geografica Tipica

Diego Molinari's 2001 Cerbaiona Brunello confirmed what many of us have long known: he is one of the giants of Montalcino winemaking. His genius is reflected not only in his profound Brunellos, but also in his distinguished IGT (*vino da tavola*) called simply “Cerbaiona.” In both wines, there is a consistent taste of black cherries, licorice and tobacco, and a firm backbone. We are pleased to offer a very small amount of the outstanding 2000 IGT at about half its suggested price.

**2000 Cerbaiona IGT very limited .....29.95**

# Transcendent Pommards

## *The Profound Reds of Domaine de Courcel*

Along with Comte Armand's great Clos des Epeneaux, the wines of Domaine de Courcel have long offered the strongest argument that Pommard's best *premier cru* sites, Rugiens and Clos des Epenots, are worthy of *grand cru* status.



Clos des Epenots

While Pommard's other *crus* often produce big but monolithic wines, the wines of Rugiens and Epenots can be magically complex. Their stony soil, with limestone and clay, insures excellent drainage and adds elegance to the wines' natural richness.

Courcel boasts prime parcels of old vines in both. Their one hectare in Rugiens and five hectares in Clos des Epenots average well over 50 years of age. From these vines, Courcel has historically produced some of

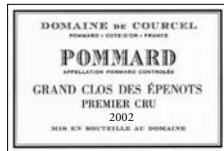
the Côte de Beaune's most long-lived wines.

But until 1996, Courcel's examples stopped just short of being great. That changed when young Yves Confuron (son of Jacky) became the winemaker.

He immediately stopped filtering and slashed yields to an average of 30 hl/ha. Today, he is often the last to harvest in Pommard, does not destem, and keeps new oak to a minimum. The result has been wines of great expression and superb concentration.

The wines that follow are undoubtedly the best ever to come from Domaine de Courcel; they are must-haves for every lover of great red Burgundy.

**2002 Pommard  
Grand Clos des Epenots  
Tanzer 94  
\$79.95**



Tanzer: "Captivating, highly nuanced nose ... Penetrating, minerally and brisk, with terrific balance and verve and a strong impression of soil tones ... Finishes minerally and extremely long."

**1999 Pommard Grand Clos des Epenots .....79.95**

Tanzer: "93 rating. Superripe, highly concentrated ... an uncanny combination of velvety texture and excellent viscosity. This essence of Pommard offers great mouth-coating volume and outstanding persistence on the palate."

**1999 Pommard Rugiens  
Burghound 93  
\$79.95**



*Burghound*: "Gorgeous perfume of red and black pinot fruits ... buckets of black cherry pinot sap. Already quite complex yet remarkably elegant for Rugiens. Sleekly muscular, superbly elegant and displays outstanding length ... Very classy juice."

**1996 Pommard Rugiens\* ..... 89.95**

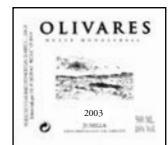
Yves Confuron hit the ground running in 1996, making a tiny amount of *superb* Rugiens. Gorgeous to drink now, it should provide a great deal of pleasure over the next several years.

## *Dessert Wine Bargain: 2003 Olivares Dulce*

Six years ago we introduced America to one of the world's dessert wine treasures: Bodegas Olivares' *Dulce Monastrell*—a wine of impenetrable color, exotic aromatics and heroic sweetness and concentration.

Made from ancient *ungrafted* Mourvèdre vines in Spain's Jumilla province, Dulce is an ideal partner to chocolate and blue-veined cheeses. As such, it has become a fixture in such Spanish culinary temples as El Bulli and Arzak. It is a must for Port and dessert wine lovers.

**2003 Olivares Dulce  
Monastrell  
93 Josh Reynolds  
\$24.95 500 ml**



Josh Reynolds in Tanzer's *International Wine Cellar*: "Brooding aromas ... intense, deep dark berry fruit flavors ... really expand on the finish ... very long. Given the high prices of many world-class late-harvest wines these days, this rates as a steal."

## BURGUNDY & RHONE

# Grossot's Superb 2004 Chablis

## *The Brilliant Premier Crus—Vaucoupin & Fourchaume*

*Domaine Grossot* has long been known for their excellent village Chablis—considered, along with Vincent Dauvissat's, to be one of the appellations' very best. But in Chablis, as elsewhere in Burgundy, the real measure of a grower's stature lies in its *crus*.

Thus, we were delighted this year to have our first chance to taste the new releases of Jean-Pierre Grossot, including his superb *premier crus*, Vaucoupin and Fourchaume. After a period of experimentation with a little too much wood, Jean-Pierre has clearly hit his stride with *brilliant* 2004s and 2005s.

The reason behind the surge in quality is that Jean-Pierre has settled into a minimalist routine of hand-

*"Seriously impressive wines"*

*Allen Meadows  
Burghound*

harvesting, gentle pressing and long rests in *cuve* and used *barrisques* before bottling. The approach lends a beautiful transparency to the wines; Grossot calls his 2004s "beautifully aromatic and very Chablis."

Consequently, starting with the 2004 vintage, *Domaine Grossot* has emerged as an exciting source of pure, ageworthy Chablis. We're delighted to offer from this vintage Grossot's two finest *premier crus*: the stunningly expressive Vaucoupin, made from 40+ year old vines, and the beautiful Fourchaume made from the Vaupoulent section of that vineyard. *Amazing* values for *premier cru* Chablis of such quality.

**2004 Grossot Chablis  
1er Cru "Vaucoupin"**  
**92 Burghound**  
**\$28.95**



*Burghound*: "... quite aromatically expressive with ripe green fruit, hints of marine and citrus that highlight the delicious, linear and punchy flavors culminating in a textured and penetrating finish. This is a wine of contrasts yet one that works beautifully and I very much like the vibrancy here plus it just exudes classic Chablis character ... a flat out terrific effort ...."

**2004 Grossot Chablis  
1er Cru "Fourchaume"**  
**92 Burghound**  
**\$28.95**

*Burghound*: "Here the aromas are more deeply pitched and complex with sea weed, oyster shell and a quinine note that gives way to rich, full and sweet flavors that give the strong impression of saltiness, especially on the long finish. This is built on a firm base of minerality accentuated by the ripe but prominent acid spine. Terrific juice."

## Ogier's "La Rosine"

*A Côte Rôtie Taste-Alike at Astonishing Prices*

*Last August*, we featured *Domaine Ogier*, one of Côte Rôtie's new stars, whose *Cuvée Belle Hélène* now rivals Guigal and Rostaing for collectibility.

In addition to making superb Côte Rôties, Ogier has some Syrah vineyards just outside that appellation, from which it produces *La Rosine*—a wine Robert Parker says "tastes much like a good Côte Rôtie." *La Rosine* is a great buy at its \$25 suggested retail. It's a *steal* at these prices ....



**2002 Ogier Syrah "La Rosine"**  
**\$10.95 reg. \$25.00**

The nose is very northern Rhône in character, revealing notes of raspberry, tar and black pepper. The palate is medium-bodied, with light tannins, a lovely texture and good length. An amazing price for a Northern Rhône Syrah of such quality.

*Also available:*

**2001 Ogier Syrah "La Rosine" reg. \$25.00 ..... 14.95**

# Pégau's Masterpiece

*"Perhaps the greatest Cuvée Réservee ever made. 99 points."*

*Robert Parker (Hedonist's Gazette) on 2003 Pégau Réservee*

With 32 acres of old vines, Domaine du Pégau has emerged as one of the giants of Châteauneuf du Pape. Yet the estate was virtually unknown until Paul Féraud's daughter joined him in 1987 and convinced him to quit selling most of his production to negociants. From that point on, Pégau's reputation soared.



*Paul Féraud on one of his massive concrete vats*

The breakthrough vintage, of course, was in 1989, followed by huge successes in 1990, 1998, 2000 and 2001. But in hindsight, the great wines made in these years may have just been the warm-up act for the monumental 2003s.

## A Unique Vintage

In 2003, the Férauds were confronted with historic conditions, including a summer of unprecedented heat. Some of their neighbors produced unbalanced wines from overripe fruit. But the Férauds took advantage of their very old vines—and their skill in the vineyard and cellar—to make wines of awesome richness, yet with great purity and balance.

The top 2003, the ultra-rare Cuvée de Capo, is of course mindboggling, but that's to be expected in this vintage. The big surprise is the flagship Cuvée Réservee. It has the power of previous vintages, with even greater richness. In fact, last fall in the

Hedonist's Gazette, Robert Parker wrote that 2003 Réservee is so good it could've been bottled as Capo—at a 400% premium in price.

Intense demand for the 2003 Réservee has pushed its price up by half since release, but it remains a bargain, given its quality and what it should sell for in years ahead. If you don't already have a cellar full of it, we urge you to act now.

**2003 "Cuvée Réservee"\***  
**99 Parker (Hedonist's Gazette)**  
**\$89.95 bottle \$199.95 mag.**  
**\$450.00 3-liter**



Parker: "Perhaps the greatest Cuvée Réservee ever made is Pégau's 2003. If they had wanted to, I think they could have declared this entire vintage as a Cuvée da Capo. The 2003 Cuvée Réservee is powerful, rich, voluptuous, and represents a more modern day version of their 1990, but with even more power, glycerin, richness, and concentration. It's an amazing wine and it is thrilling to drink now, although it will be even better in 5-7 years, and probably mind-boggling in a decade or so."

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## INSIDE

*G. Mascarello 1996s* ..... Page 1    *2001 Brunello Stars* ..... Page 5  
*1990 Drouhin Meursault* .Page 2    *Domaine de Courcel* .....Page 6  
*Molitor 2005 Goldkap* ....Page 3    *2003 Olivares Dulce* .....Page 6  
*Madeiras for 2007* .....Page 3    *Grossot 2004 Chablis* ....Page 7  
*Alvaro Palacios 2004s* ...Page 4    *Ogier's La Rosine* .....Page 7

February 6, 2007

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