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FEBRUARY 27, 2007

## WHITE BURGUNDY

# A Legacy Restored

*Bouchard is again making Corton-Charlemagnes of Legend*

*Corton-Charlemagne* is among Burgundy's most famous *grand crus*—and potentially the source of some of its most monumentally rich, most ageworthy white wines. But not all Corton-Charlemagnes are created equal.



*The prized Le Corton section of Corton-Charlemagne*

The reason is simple: it's a large appellation, its core dominating the magical upper slope of Le Corton, but spilling over into Pernand-Vergelesses and Ladoix-Serrigny. And because it is divided among dozens of owners, with varying commitments to excellence, there have always been only a few truly great producers.

### One of the Greats is Back

From the late 19th century through the 1960s, Bouchard Père & Fils was among the very best. For nearly a century, it made towering wines from one of the appellation's most revered parcels: 3.25 hectares on Le Corton, southeast facing, the soil a mix of clay and white marl on a hard limestone base.

Bouchard became legendary for the Corton-Charlemagnes it made from this site: rich and powerful in their youth, with prodigious aging potential. In fact, just this year *Burghound's* Allen Meadows tasted the 1952 and 1955, giving them 95 and 96 points, respectively.

But quality fell in the 1970s, and remained low until Bernard Hvert became winemaker in 1988. A classicist with a deep respect for *terroir*, Hvert has fully

restored the excellence of Bouchard's Corton-Charlemagne. In fact, the wines he's making today may well rival the legends of the '40s and '50s.

### The Monumental 2004

There is no better wine with which to measure Hvert's accomplishments than the stunning 2004 Corton-Charlemagne. A wine of mythic richness, it should not be missed by anyone who prizes white burgundy of both power and purity.

### 2004 Bouchard Corton Charlemagne

**95+ Tanzer 93-95 Burghound**

**\$95.00 bt. \$49.95 half bt. \***

**\$225 mag. \* \$475 jero (3L) \$1050 meth (6L)**



Tanzer: "A quintessence of Corton-Charlemagne dirt on the nose: stone fruits, lemon, iodine, ginger, minerals and mint, all complicated by a musky, leesy note that reminded me of a Coche-Dury wine. Then compellingly dense and penetrating in the mouth, with captivating, soil-driven flavors of raw pineapple, white peach, white flowers and crushed rock...."

*Burghound*: "Huge and unbelievably intense flavors blessed with phenomenal power and length. This has that 'wow' factor as the flavors are both palate staining and almost painfully intense and the finale is like a block of stone."

# 1995 Le Vieux Donjon

*“Awesome Showing.” James Molesworth, Wine Spectator*

The Michel family who owns Le Vieux Donjon is a rarity among Châteauneuf-du-Pape producers these days: they put virtually all of the juice from their oldest and best vines into their *cuvée classique*. There is no luxury *cuvée*. Apart from a barrel or two of special mourvèdre-rich Châteauneuf the Michels make for family and friends, all the best material goes into the flagship wine.



Madame Michel

Consequently, Vieux Donjon consistently rivals the best of the appellation. Its truffle, arboreal bouquet is always exciting, and on the palate its rich, velvety mouthfeel distinguishes it from most other Châteauneufs. There are few red wines that we would rather have on our table.

## A Past Great

With rumors swirling of a great 2005 Vieux Donjon in the offing this year, how many of us have great *old* Vieux Donjons in our cellars? And how many of us had the intuition to grab a case or two of the 1995 when it was released nearly a decade ago?

From the beginning, we've been big fans of the '95 Châteauneufs, and Vieux Donjon was, along with Clos des Papes, one of our early favorites. But over time, the Vieux Donjon has continued to take on

weight, length and “importance.” Now, nearing age 12, it has realized its early potential, delivering shocking opulence and richness, with the classic balance that is its birthright.

Last year, James Molesworth (who has emerged as one of the best tasters to write for the *Wine Spectator*) did a retrospective of the 1995

Châteauneufs, singling out Vieux Donjon as one of the vintage's elite wines. In the weeks following his review, we searched for this now-rare wine, finally finding a pristine parcel in England. Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity to experience a legendary Châteauneuf at its glorious peak.

**1995 Vieux Donjon\***  
**97 Wine Spectator**

**\$79.95 bottle**



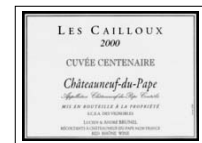
James Molesworth: “Gorgeous nose of crushed berries and juniper draws you in, while a lush palate of still-youthful plum, red currant and blackberry fruit envelops you. Then an undertow of roasted game bird, soppressata, tar and well-aged balsamic with a touch of sweetness carry the finish. Awesome showing ... Drink now through 2020.”

## A Great Cuvée Centenaire at a Spectacular Price

Domaine Les Cailloux's Cuvée Centenaire is one of the “holy grail” wines of Châteauneuf. Made only in top years from vines planted in 1889, it is a profound wine of great concentration. With its tiny production and awesome quality, we were fortunate to find the monumental 2003 at an incredible price. Grab it.

**2003 Les Cailloux Cuvée Centenaire\***

**96 Parker**  
**\$139.95**



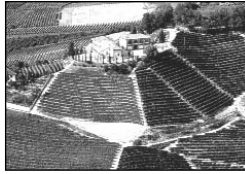
Parker: “... a riper, more concentrated version of the 2000 Centenaire. There are about 500 cases of this Grenache-dominated wine produced from a vineyard planted in 1889 with some Syrah and Mourvèdre (about 20%) added to the blend ... a strikingly pure nose of kirsch liqueur ... hitting the palate with full-throttle opulence, superb concentration, fabulous purity, and striking multiple levels of raspberries and black cherry jam ... and a finish that goes on for close to a minute. I still think the two greatest Centenaires made to date have been the 1990 and 1998, but this one is close in quality.”

# PIEDMONT

## Rockin' in Red

### *Bruno Giacosa's Heroic 2000 "Rocche del Falletto" Riserva*

For nearly sixty years, Bruno Giacosa's Barolos and Barbarescos—particularly his single-cru red labels—have offered consistently epic quality, while always extracting the essence of each vineyard's *terroir*.



Falletto

Yet, because his vineyard sources have come and gone, we tend to link certain periods of Giacosa's career to particular sites. For example, we associate his Golden Age (1971-1990) with the great wines he made from Santo Stefano in Barbaresco and Collina Rionda, Falletto and Bussia in Barolo. But since 1996, a new set of crus has stolen the limelight: Barbaresco's Rabajà and Asili and, of course, Barolo's Rocche del Falletto, select parcels of southfacing old vines within Giacosa's Falletto vineyard in Serralunga.

In fact, today Rocche stands as the most important Giacosa cru of all, having taken the place of the great Collina Rionda, which he lost in a rental dispute in 1994. Since he began to work with Rocche in 1996\*, Giacosa has made a fabulous Barolo each year, producing three superb white labels—1997, 1998 and 1999—and two monumental red labels, 1996 Falletto

\*Rocche del Falletto should not be confused with Rocche di Castiglione Falletto—an entirely different cru from which Giacosa made at least seven Barolos between 1971 and 1987, including one red label riserva in 1971.

Riserva and 2000 Rocche del Falletto Riserva.

The 2000 Rocche del Falletto Riserva promises to be one of the greatest Barolos ever from Giacosa. Released at the beginning of 2006, it has steadily risen in price over the past year.

Yet, we can still offer it well below the original list of \$300. We can also offer rare magnums and 3-liters at similarly compelling prices. *Very limited.*

### **2000 Barolo Riserva "Le Rocche del Falletto"**

**99 Parker**

**100 Wine Spectator**

**\$245.00 bt. \$495.00 mag.**

**\$995.00 jeroboom (3-liter)**



Parker: "... extraordinarily complex ... notes of white truffles, dried red and black fruits, tobacco, smoke, underbrush and wonderful sweet earthiness. Extraordinarily full bodied, with massive concentration, huge precision and purity and an opulent, long finish."

*Wine Spectator*: "Fabulous purity ... amazing concentration and a palate that goes on and on and on. Ultra-ripe tannins. This is the Romanée-Conti of Barolo."

### *Giacosa's Dolcetto "Falletto"*



The brilliance of Piedmont's great old school producers doesn't stop with Barolo and Barbaresco; the top Barberas and Dolcettos can also be amazing. This is particularly true when the fruit comes from their best sites. We are pleased to offer Bruno Giacosa's 2005 Dolcetto from the great Falletto vineyard. Like everything else Giacosa makes, it is a brilliant marriage of great winemaking and a magical *terroir*.

**2005 Bruno Giacosa Dolcetto "Falletto" ..... 24.95**

Giacosa makes three different Dolcettos, but Antonio Galloni sets the "Falletto" apart: "The powerful Falletto is the richest and most extracted of the Dolcettos." It is also the purest and most expressive. We are pleased to offer the just-released 2005.

### *The 2000 Asili Riserva in Magnum*



In 2000, for the first time since 1996, Giacosa had a vintage that warranted two red labels. In addition to the majestic Barolo Rocche del Falletto, he gave his highest honor to the decadently rich Barbaresco Asili. We are pleased to offer a few rare magnums at a seriously low price.

**2000 Giacosa Barbaresco Asili Riserva Magnum 425.00**

Parker: "98 rating ... a spectacular wine ... a gorgeously penetratingly fragrant nose ... expansive texture and an extraordinary finish ..."

*Wine Spectator*: "98 rating ... decadent ... One of the greatest wines ever from Bruno Giacosa."

## SPAIN & ALSACE

# Alonso del Yerro

## *A New Star from Ribera del Duero*

The late 1990s were a watershed for Ribera del Duero, a time of massive investment in vineyards and cellars, bringing new life to this once slumbering region.

Behind this revival was a new style of Tempranillo—inky, rich and structured—with roots in the early vintages of Pingus and Pesquera Janus. These wines not only won the reverence of critics and collectors, they spawned scores of new bodegas eager for a seat at the table.

But while Ribera's renaissance has fulfilled much of its promise, few legitimate new superstars have emerged. As many aspiring growers have learned the hard way, there are no shortcuts to making great wine. Standards must be exacting—and true greatness requires the right *terroir*.

The latter is particularly important in a region of such diverse microclimates and elevations. With summer temperatures reaching new heights,

**2004 Alonso del Yerro**  
**94 Parker**  
**\$29.95**

Parker: "... a seamless, opulent, voluptuous red boasting a flamboyant perfume of espresso roast, sweet black cherries, creme de cassis, licorice, and new oak. A stunning texture, superb ripeness, low acidity, silky tannin, and a long, heady finish ...."



Alonso del Yerro's bodega & vineyards.

Ribera's higher, cooler sites are increasingly the key to preserving balance and structure, while riding the wave to greater richness.

### **Alonso del Yerro**

Growers Javier Alonso and Maria del Yerro are a case in point, having planted their vines above 800 meters—not far from Pingus and Aalto near the towns of Roa and La Horra. They also brought in superstar enologist Stephane Derenoncourt to make their wines, which have shown great promise in their first two vintages.

Two cuvées are blended from four low-yield vineyards. The basic wine, **Alonso del Yerro**, is aged one year *sur-lie* in new French barriques while **Maria**—a selection of the best barrels—is aged a further six months in barrel.

These are impressive new wines from an emerging star. Don't miss them.



**2004 Alonso del Yerro "Maria"**  
**96 Parker**  
**\$59.95**

Parker: "... one of the finest Ribera del Dueros I have tasted over the last year ... scents of espresso, crème de cassis, scorched earth, and pain grillé. It reveals the lushness and silky texture of a great Pomerol married to a Spanish personality."

## *Ambrosial Zind-Humbrecht SGNs*

Zind-Humbrecht consistently produces some of Alsace's greatest wines, their ultimate prizes being the ambrosial *Selections des Grains Nobles*. A meticulous hand selection of *botrytised* grapes from *grand cru* sites, they are among the world's most amazing

dessert wines, delivering not only monumental sweetness, but a kaleidoscope of flavors and aromas.

We are pleased to offer two of Z-H's most coveted 2000 SGNs, each made in minute quantities. The prices are fantastic, so hurry.

**2000 Tokay-Pinot Gris "Heimbourg" SGN 750ml.. 125.00**

Pierre Rovani: "98 rating. Caramel, brown sugar, peaches, and apricots ... wide, lush, intense ... bastes the palate with jammy peaches, apricots, plums, and spices ... a magnificently long, flavorful finish."

**2000 Tokay-Pinot Gris "Rotenberg" SGN 375ml.... 69.95**

Pierre Rovani: "97 rating ... explodes from the glass with stupendous aromatics of botrytis-laced peaches, spices, and apricots. Sweet yellow fruits are found in this powerful, plush, oily-textured offering."

# Another Gift from Montalcino

## *Agostina Pieri's Brilliant 2001 Brunello*

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.

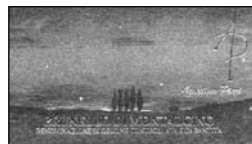
In our last issue, we offered four 2001 Brunellos highly rated by Antonio Galloni in the December *Wine Advocate*. It's now our privilege to offer a fifth: the beautiful 2001 Brunello of Agostina Pieri.

### **Cult Star in Italy**

This tiny Castelnuovo dell'Abate estate's Brunellos have achieved a cult following in Italy for their individuality and sense of *terroir*. As Galloni noted in December, Pieri “works with low yields and as a result these wines are packed with well-defined flavors in a style that shows excellent concentration and pre-

cision without coming across as heavy.”

Production is very small, so we are delighted to be able to offer Pieri's beautiful 2001 at a sensational price.



**2001 Agostina Pieri  
Brunello di Montalcino\***  
**92 Antonio Galloni**  
**\$47.95 bt. \$550.00 cs.**

*Galloni:* “... simply gorgeous, offering refined layers of super-ripe dark fruit intermingled with notes of tobacco, scorched earth, toasted oak, spices and flowers that open onto the palate with notable length, mid-palate sweetness and purity of expression. Succulent and juicy, this dark, powerful Brunello will require a few years to integrate its oak tannins but its potential is amply evident even at this early stage.”

## *Out of Hiding: Deutz's 1974 "Vinothèque"*

*Deutz* is on fire. Since its purchase by Roederer a few years ago, this 170-year-old *grande marque* has been making some of Champagne's most exciting wines. Swedish Champagne critic Richard Juhlin has been a huge champion of Deutz's recent vintages, particularly the extraordinary Cuvée William. Robert Parker (who gave the 1996 Cuvée William Rosé 98 points) is also on board.



*Bottles slumbering in  
Deutz's Vinothèque.*

But there's another side to Deutz's meteoric rise: the release of rare older vintages, many of them undisgorged, that have been slumbering in their deep chalk-carved cellars. We personally paid a visit to Deutz's cellars two years ago, salivating over the older wines we saw binned in the lowest part of their cellars, *more than 10 stories* below ground, at a constant 52° Fahrenheit and 95% humidity. We have tasted a number of them, and their extraordinary youthfulness reflects the perfect storage.

Deutz has quietly begun to release a few of these gems, mostly focusing on vintages from 1982 to 1990.

However, last year we were lucky to be offered a small amount of the oldest vintage that Deutz had for potential sale: the 1974. We grabbed every bottle we could, and are glad we did. We have drunk several of them, and none has been less than superb.

In contrast to the stratospherically priced Moët Cenotheques and Krug Collections, we were able to purchase these magical bottles for a song. As brilliant examples of thirty-year-old Champagne they are a gift. Don't miss them.

**1974 Deutz Vinothèque**  
**94 Richard Juhlin**  
**\$125.00 bottle**

*Juhlin:* “Big delicious nut chocolate with a lot of wood roasted coffee and toffeed sweet fruit. Metallic, clean steel acid and delicate mousse matched by an oily maturity and fantastic handsome elegance. Reminds me of Piper's Florens-Louis.”

# Basic Instinct

## Sean Thackrey's Brilliant New Orion & Pleiades

*In a world* with too many cookie-cutter winemakers, it's easy to spot those who are guided by their own instincts. Henri Bonneau is one, and Sean Thackrey is another. For both, making wine is a ride: you see where it takes you. If you fail, at least you tried; and if you succeed, you can make something profound.



Sean Thackrey

Like his Southern Rhône alter ego, Thackrey could be California's most original winemaker, using a library of ancient texts and a willingness to take risks to create wines that are not only great, but singular.

That his wines are so striking bears testimony to his innate feel for the art of winemaking. (He says of his first attempt: "I was amazed I felt so completely at home.") Sean also has an extraordinary gift for improvisation: an ability to *intuit* the quality and character of the fruit and then proceed from there. Whether or not to destem, method of extraction, cooperage—all are decided as each wine suggests, never by rote.

Sean makes a range of remarkable wines, but his most intriguing could be Pleiades—a wine issued in "editions" as it is blended from multiple varieties and vin-

tages. The latest, Pleiades XV, contains Syrah, Barbera, Carignane, Mourvèdre, Petite Sirah and Viognier "to name but a few." It offers amazing complexity for such a modestly priced wine.

### The Iconic Orion

The iconic Thackrey wine is, of course, Orion, which comes from St. Helena's 102-year-old Rossi vineyard. While Sean is convinced that most of Rossi is planted to an old Syrah clone imported from the northern Rhône in the 1870s, he labels it Native California Red Wine because the fruit has adapted to the *terroir* to create its own personality.

Orion's grandeur and individuality has drawn comparison to such greats as Guigal La Mouline and Chave Hermitage. Steve Tanzer calls it "one of the world's easiest wines to pick out in a blind tasting".

But as with many of the world's greatest wines, Sean doesn't make much of either Orion or Pleiades. And with 40% of his production exported, the amount left for the U.S is miniscule. We are pleased to offer these latest releases of Sean's Orion and Pleiades. Needless to say, quantities are *extremely* limited.

### 2004 Orion

**\$85.00** *bt.* **\$185.00** *mag.*



One of the greatest Orions ever, its intense purplish-red color suggests an incredible future. Violet, resin, blackcurrant, plum, blackberry, earth, camphor and printer's ink all emerge from the intensely penetrating nose. On the palate, there are very concentrated black fruits, nuanced with smoke, pepper and dried wild herbs. With well integrated tannins and great length, this is a powerful, explosive wine for the cellar.

### Pleiades XV "Old Vines"

**\$24.95**



A highly aromatic, wild nose of strawberry, camphor and wet earth. The palate is impressively concentrated with flavors of strawberry coulis, leather, resin and spice, and a long, softly tannic finish. As with previous Pleiades, the texture is like liquid velvet. A serious and age-worthy red at a bargain price.

## Thackrey's "Sirius" Survivors

Tragically, the 2005 Mare Island warehouse fire robbed Sean of countless bottles from his 2001-2003 vintages. Our 2001 and 2002 Sirius was delivered right before the fire, and the 2003 mag were stored elsewhere. The following are offered on a strict one-bottle, one-mag basis.

- 2001 Sirius (Old Vine Petite Sirah) .....110.00**  
Delivered to us just before the fire: a 96 Parker rating and now nearly impossible to find.
- 2002 Sirius (Old Vine Petite Sirah) Magnum .....125.00**
- 2003 Sirius (Old Vine Petite Sirah) Magnum .....125.00**

## RHONE & BURGUNDY

# Classic Côte Rôtie

*Jamet Lovers Won't Want to Miss the 2004*

The quintessential classicists, Jean-Luc and Jean-Paul Jamet are revered by those who love Côte Rôtie of incredible nuance and ethereal balance. If you're looking for blockbuster Côte Rôties brimming with new oak and extract, you should look elsewhere. But if perfume and texture's your thing, Jamet Côte Rôties are among the planet's greatest wine experiences.



Jean-Paul Jamet

After a highly unusual, freakishly ripe 2003, we are pleased to report that with their beautiful 2004 the Jamet brothers have returned to the style that made us love them in the first place. Simply put, their 2004 is the essence of Côte Rôtie, a wine of seductive texture and astonishing perfume, reminding us of their 1998 and 2001. It is a wine that will give us a great deal of pleasure for the next decade.

We are pleased to offer this classic Côte Rôtie at a compellingly low price.

**2004 Jamet Côte Rôtie\***  
**93 Josh Reynolds**

(Steve Tanzer's International Wine Cellar)

**\$54.95 bt. \$115.00 mag.**



*Josh Reynolds:* "Wonderfully perfumed and expressive aromas of bright raspberry and wild strawberry, complicated by smoky minerality and Asian spices. Focused, pure and brisk, with an array of red and dark berry flavors, hints of pepper and spices and clean, bracing acidity. Finishes distinctly elegant and very long, with a late note of violet pastille ...."

### *Dauvissat's 2004 "La Forest"*

His *grand cru* Les Preuses and Les Clos are deservedly famous, but Vincent Dauvissat long ago won our hearts for his *premier cru* "La Forest," a Chablis that towers above most *grand crus*. In a vintage like 2004, it is transcendent. We offered 2004 La Forest last year and sold out, but have recently secured a few more cases. It is not to be missed.

**2004 R & V Dauvissat Chablis La Forest ..... 47.50**

*Burghound:* "Complex and seductively perfumed ... seriously impressive." John Gilman: "Outstanding ... long, complex ...." Steve Tanzer: "Wonderful energy and depth"

## Comte Lafon's Coveted Volnay Santenots

As Pierre Rovani has written, Dominique Lafon is "one of the rare winemakers in Burgundy, indeed in the world, who is equally talented at producing first rate red and white wines." The red jewel in Lafon's crown is the Volnay

Santenots-du-Milieu—from a low-yielding parcel of 40+ year old vines. The tiny production mostly goes to top restaurants in France, and little finds its way onto the market. Thus, it's an honor to offer four classic rare vintages.

**2002 Volnay Santenots-du-Milieu**  
**93-95 Rovani**

**\$125.00 bt. \$295.00 mag.**



**1995 Volnay Santenots-du-Milieu**  
**92 Rovani**

**\$98.00 bottle**

Pierre Rovani: "... explodes from the glass with awesome scents of flowers and dark cherries ... displays sappy, expansive waves of dense black cherries. Exquisitely ripe, yet fresh, it reveals a prolonged finish ... Wow!"

**1996 Comtes Lafon Volnay Santenots-du-Milieu ... 125.00**

Tanzer: "92 rating ... Expansive but graceful, with lovely chocolatey richness ... very long and ripe ...." *1 bt. limit*

Pierre Rovani: "Readers who own this wine will be happy to know that it has reached its plateau of maturity and will drink well for at least another 5-6 years."

**1990 Comtes Lafon Volnay Santenots-du-Milieu ... 195.00**

Parker: "94 rating ... spectacular ... stunning aromatics ... muscular, youthful, and vigorous ... exuberant, stunningly proportioned and concentrated ...." *Extremely limited.*

# Deals from Down Under

## *Shockingly Low Prices for Two Australian Blue Chips*

Robert Parker once wrote that if an Australian wine greater than Grange were ever made, it would likely be the work of Clarendon Hills' Roman Bratasiuk. This brilliant Ukrainian—he emigrated in 1950—works with a stunning nineteen vineyards, seven of which are Shiraz, each vinified and bottled separately.



One of Clarendon Hills' 19 dry-farmed bush-trained vineyards.

roasted character in its Shiraz.

Brookman is nearly Piggott's opposite. Planted to 80-year-old vines, its northwest exposition—and its gravel, ironstone and clay soils—allow the Shiraz to ripen more slowly and evenly, producing wines of Hermitage-like elegance and complexity.

Of course, Bratasiuk's most famous Shiraz is the iconic "Astralis," but he makes two others that scale nearly the same heights: Piggott Range and Brookman.

### The Terroirs Speak

Bratasiuk bottles his Shirazes separately, because the *terroirs* justify it. Piggott Range is a natural rocky shale/slate amphitheatre, with virtually no topsoil, so that the 35-40 year old vines are threaded through rock. Piggott's intense warmth produces a distinctive

### This Offer

The Piggott and Brookman Shirazes are made in small quantities (about 600 cases each) and sell at correspondingly high prices: the 2003s list at \$175 and \$115, respectively.

All of which makes our offer of these legends from the 1997 vintage truly amazing. The stock has been in the same cool European cellar since release, and the prices are mindboggling. Hurry!

### 1997 Piggott Range Shiraz

**96 Parker**  
**\$79.95**



With the current 2003 release at \$175, this is a monumental bargain. Parker: "... massive ... a classic in the sense of its fabulous display of cassis and blackberry fruit. Extremely full-bodied, with surreal levels of extract and richness, this powerful, mouth-staining Shiraz should be at its peak between 2000-2015. This wine is a crowd-pleasing, exotic offering that takes the level of richness and hedonism to sensational heights."

### 1997 Brookman Shiraz

**95 Parker**  
**\$59.95**



This, too, is priced at a fraction of the (\$115) cost of the current vintage. Parker: "... a peppery, dried herb, tar, asphalt, and blackberry liqueur-scented nose. As the wine sits in the glass, intense aromas of allspice also emerge. Huge, massive, chewy, and full-bodied, it is packed with fruit, glycerin, and character ... This wine is worth trying if only because of its compelling purity, opulence, and explosive richness."

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