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DuMol

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**2003 Bordeaux
Part 2**

JULY 13, 2004

PIEDMONT

Barolo's Moment

2000 Crowns Piedmont's Revolutionary Decade

Over the past decade, the culture of Barolo has been transformed. Once a bastion of tradition, with only a few masters making profound wines, modernization has swept the region, raising the quality bar higher than ever before.

This change made possible, in 2000, perhaps the finest Piedmont vintage ever—a year in which better winemaking coincided with a perfect growing season.



Great 2000's were made in Cannubi, as well as in other famed Barolo vineyards.

to both of those years—with more structure than the '97's and more consistency than the '90's. The '90's are closest in quality to the 2000's, but 14 years ago the Langhe's young winemakers still had a lot to learn about both winemaking and vineyard management. Vintage 2000 is the complete package—a year when Man and Nature combined to produce truly marvelous wines.

One Hundred Points

In fact, *Wine Spectator* has given Piedmont's 2000 vintage a 100-point rating, the first-ever perfect score for *any* vintage in *any* country. They back up their assessment with quotes from winemakers as ideologically divergent as Bruno Giacosa and Roberto Voerzio, who agree that 2000 was indeed the best ever.

Wine Spectator's ratings for individual wines are almost as impressive, with 38 Barolos and 10 Barbarescos scored 95 points or above. And the market has responded predictably, with heavy demand for the most highly rated wines.

Reference Points

The top 2000's are very much in the ultra-ripe style of 1997 and 1990, but overall the vintage is superior

Yet, while 2000 produced many great Barolos and Barbarescos, and their success in the marketplace is preordained, the vintage will not be without controversy. Many "classicists" will argue that 1996—more obviously structured but packed with fruit—is ultimately a greater year. And some insiders are already predicting that 2001 could be the best vintage of all.

This Offering

A glance through the list of highest-scoring Barolos in the *Wine Spectator* will quickly reveal that the top 2000's are not inexpensive. To improve quality, producers have invested heavily in vineyards and equipment, and have had to raise prices to pay for it. And, of course, the weak Dollar compounds the problem.

Continued Next Page

PIEDMONT

The 2000 Barolo Elite, Part I

Continued from page 1

But you can still count on us to have many of the vintage's brightest stars at compellingly low prices. The following offer is a case in point: four of 2000's most sought-after Barolos—the top wines of Paolo Scavino and Luigi Einaudi—priced well below the market.

Needless to say, Scavino's Bric dël Fiasc and Einaudi's

Costa Grimaldi are must-buys. But don't overlook both producers' Barolos from Cannubi. This is one of the most hallowed vineyards in Piedmont, and each wine could one day outshine its more highly-rated sibling.

This is likely to be your only chance to buy these potential classics at prices this low. Hurry.

2000 Scavino Barolo "Bric dël Fiasc"* 98 Wine Spectator

\$79.95 *bt.* **\$930.00** *cs.*



Wine Spectator: "Very, very ripe fruit, with strawberries and plums galore. Turns to Indian spices and cedar. Full-bodied, with an exquisite palate of ultraripe tannins that turn to velvet. Long, long finish. Cashmere. Great from barrel, great from bottle. This is the best Bric dël Fiasc ever. \$105"

Also available:

2000 Scavino Barolo "Bric dël Fiasc"* 1.5L ..165.00

2000 Scavino Barolo "Bric dël Fiasc"* 3L ...350.00

2000 Luigi Einaudi Barolo "Costa Grimaldi"* 96 Wine Spectator

\$59.95 *bt.* **\$695.00** *cs.*



Wine Spectator: "This is absolutely gorgeous on the nose, with loads of fresh fruit and a perfumed, floral aroma that brings you to tears. Full-bodied, with wonderfully silky tannins and a long, caressing finish. Still very closed. Best wine ever from this producer. 500 cases made. \$86"

Also available:

2000 Einaudi Barolo "Costa Grimaldi"* 1.5L .125.00

2000 Einaudi Barolo "Costa Grimaldi"* 3L ...260.00



2000 Scavino Barolo "Cannubi"* 95 Wine Spectator

\$75.00 *limited*

Wine Spectator: "Fabulously perfumed. Rich and soft, with super-velvety tannins and loads of coffee, berry and plum character. Long, long finish. Scavino has a lovely piece of Cannubi right at the top of the best part. And it makes great wines in hot years. 250 cases made. \$105"



2000 Luigi Einaudi Barolo "nei Cannubi"* 94 Wine Spectator

\$65.00 *limited*

Wine Spectator: "Amazing aromas of ripe fruit, like raspberries in a leather basket. Full bodied, with ultrasoft and silky tannins and a very, very long finish. Still there after a minute in your mouth. Extremely well-crafted. One of the best Barolos ever from here. \$100"

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Do we have your email address? We frequently send out special, time-sensitive offers by e-mail only. Don't miss out on them.

DuMol

A New Cult Star Emerges

The Coming of Age of California Pinot Noir and Chardonnay has been born of the Burgundian wine-making tradition—yet only after a 50-year search for the right *terroirs*.

There were many pioneers: Stony Hill's Fred McCrea, who began the quest in the 1940's; Chalone's Dick Graff and Calera's Josh Jensen, who, in the '60's and '70's, saw limestone as the key to great Pinot Noir; Brice Cutrer Jones, who pioneered Russian River Valley Chardonnay; Williams and Selyem, who conceived the idea of cool-climate Pinot; Steve Kistler, who made California's first great Burgundian-style Chardonnays; and Warren Dutton, whose Dutton Ranch was the source of Kistler's best fruit.

A New Generation

These visionaries set the stage for the emergence today of a sophisticated new generation of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir specialists. And one of the most gifted and charismatic of these is Andy Smith, the winemaker behind the red-hot DuMol.

Andy's stock-in-trade is intensely Burgundian Chardonnays—offering deep leesy, mineral flavor with great texture and wonderful

"As I was tasting ... I was thinking what a great young winemaker Andy Smith is ... Readers who love Burgundian-styled Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs are well-advised to jump on the bandwagon before the mainstreamers find out about DuMol." Robert Parker

balance—and Pinot Noirs of uncommon depth and complexity. Part of the secret is his winemaking regime, which includes extended fermentations to enhance aromatics; élevage with a high percentage of solids, but with limited lees stirring; and no fining or filtration.

But the real keys to the transcendent quality of DuMol's wines are Andy's gift for blending sites, clones and maturity levels to achieve chromatic diversity ... and, of course, the fruit, which is farmed under his control in Green Valley, the coolest part of the Russian River Valley. Included is a generous amount of late-ripening Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from some of the oldest parcels of Dutton Ranch.

This Offer

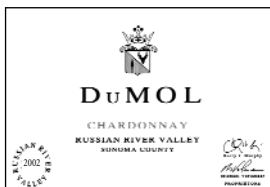
As virtually all the wines are sold by mailing list or to top restaurants, DuMol is almost impossible to find in the marketplace. We were honored to receive a small allocation of the newly released 2002 Russian River Valley wines (the finest of these cuvées yet), plus a bit of Andy's superb 2001 Chloe Chardonnay. All are highly recommended.

2002 Pinot Noir Russian River Valley

91-94 Parker

\$56.00 limited

Parker: "The ripe, concentrated 2002 Pinot Noir exhibits notes of black raspberries, plums, and figs in a medium-bodied, plush, expansively flavored format. With tremendous fruit, body, and depth, it is a sexy wine"



2002 Chardonnay Russian River Valley

\$45.00 limited

Parker: "... a big, rich nose of orange marmalade intermixed with citrus oil, pineapple, and smoke. Medium- to full-bodied and rich, with an enticing texture, admirable purity, and a long finish"

2001 Chardonnay "Chloe"

92 Wine Spectator

\$54.00 limited

Wine Spectator: "Well-focused on a tight beam of rich, spicy fig, apricot, nectarine and honeydew melon, gaining richness and depth and ending with a long, lingering, vibrant aftertaste. Beautifully balanced."

2003 BORDEAUX

A Lafite Milestone

"I have never tasted a Lafite-Rothschild quite like this ... This is one first-growth worth mortgaging the house for!" Robert Parker on the 2003

The four *Médoc* First Growths are, for many, the pinnacle of wine. Their pedigrees are secured by more than two centuries of experience, assuring us that mature bottles, when well-cellared, will deliver unparalleled pleasure.

While all four 2003 First Growths appear to be legends-in-the-making, Lafite-Rothschild has particular

promise. Since the wine went on the market a month ago, its price has climbed steadily and is currently approaching \$400 from most sources. We are pleased to offer this singularly great wine at a *very* attractive price.

Subject to availability. Expected delivery for this and the other 2003 Bordeaux in this offering is 2006.



2003 Ch. Lafite-Rothschild*

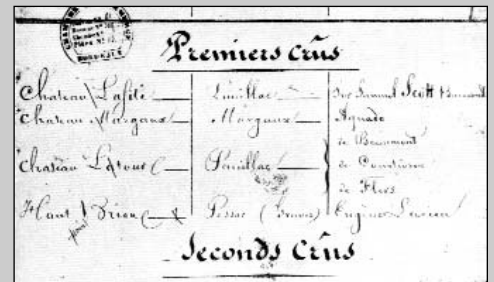
98-100 Parker

\$315.00 bottle \$3,700.00 case

Robert Parker: "Revealing enormous richness, flesh, and succulence, the 2003 Lafite-Rothschild ... possesses ethereal richness as well as perfume. Yields were a low 34 hectoliters per hectare, there is just under 13% natural alcohol, and the pH level is frightfully high at 3.9 with a total acidity of only 2.9. These figures are nearly identical to such ripe, concentrated vintages as 1982 and 1959. Inky/ruby/purple-colored with a spectacular, ripe perfume of black fruits, cedar, Asian soy, and balsamic vinegar, it exhibits massive richness yet is remarkably fresh and lively on the palate for such an unctuous effort (amazing levels of glycerin) ... An amazing textural impression left me scratching my head as I have never tasted a Lafite Rothschild quite like this. This is one first-growth worth mortgaging the house for!"

First Among Firsts

At the time of the 1855 Classification, Lafite had long been Bordeaux's highest-priced wine—a fact that resulted in its ranking ahead of the other First Growths.



The original 1855 Classification, with Lafite at the top of the First Growths.

Other 2003 First Growths to Buy Now

2003 Ch. Mouton Rothschild*

95-98 Parker

\$310.00

Parker: "... similar in style to Mouton's 1982 ... with a gorgeous nose of espresso roast intermixed with classic Mouton crème de cassis liqueur-like notes, its powerful, unctuous flavors cascade over the palate revealing tremendous intensity ... unquestionably one of the greatest efforts of the vintage. If my instincts are correct, it is the ripest, most flamboyant Mouton-Rothschild since the 1982."

2003 Ch. Margaux*

96-100 Parker

\$350.00



Parker: "... prodigious ... includes 45% of the total crop ... an extraordinary perfume of spring flowers, blueberries, black currants, licorice, and vanillin ... opulent texture ... and an ethereal lightness of being despite its prodigious concentration. As the wine sits in the glass, notions of white chocolate and flowers come forth ... Phenomenally pure ... its aftertaste lasts well beyond one minute."

2003 BORDEAUX

Six More 2003 “Must-Buys”

In our last issue, we wrote that there are only about three dozen 2003's worth buying *en primeur*. Now that all of the remaining wines have opened, this number has dwindled ... as some heavyweights, though very good, simply don't justify their price tags.

The cost of such wines (Ducru-Beaucaillou and Pichon-Lalande, to name two) seems particularly high

when compared to the six wines below, each of which should be bought now, as their prices can only go higher.

Calon Segur, Rauzan-Despaigne and Pavie-Macquin offer not only profound quality, but also great value. And as for Montrose, Léoville Las Cases and Cos d'Estournel, you simply may never see their likes again.

2003 Ch. Pavie-Macquin* 94-97 Parker \$79.95



With its small production, this is one of the scarcest of the top 2003's. Parker: "... many Bordeaux cognoscenti consider (this) to be the greatest Pavie-Macquin ever made ... A magnificent effort, it is one of the vintage's superstars ... a fascinating perfume of graphite, blackberries, kirsch, plums, barbecue spices, and cold steel. Full-bodied and powerful, with terrific minerality, amazing delineation for its size and intensity, and low acid, full-throttle flavors that linger for nearly a minute, it may represent a modern day version of some of the great right bank 1947s."

2003 Ch. Calon-Segur* 95-97 Parker \$79.95



Parker: "... an opulence and unctuousity that is characteristic of the most successful 2003 northern Médocs ... fabulously pure black currant, blackberry, licorice, and underbrush characteristics cascade over the palate with no hard edges ... the finish lasts for over a minute."

2003 Ch. Montrose* 96-100 Parker \$179.95

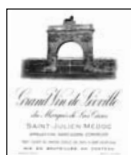


Parker: "... prodigious ... a spectacular, flamboyant perfume ... Magnificently rich, unctuously textured, and full-bodied, with huge presence on the palate, and a finish that exceeds 60 seconds, this is a legendary effort from Montrose."

2003 Ch. Cos d'Estournel* 95-98 Parker \$149.95



Parker: "... one of the greatest offerings this hallowed estate has ever produced ... possesses a thickness and unctuousity typical of the top 2003 northern Médocs as well as remarkable definition and elegance ... the most impressive young Cos I have ever tasted ..."



2003 Ch. Léoville Las Cases* 94-96 Parker \$179.95

Parker: "Extremely small yields of only 21.2 hectoliters per hectare ... only 54% of the harvest made it into the *grand vin* ... it possesses the classic Las Cases purity and balance along with layer upon layer of ripe, pure, black cherry and black currant fruit wrapped around a solid core of minerals and subtle oak ... a brilliant achievement"

*"Reminiscent of a
French version of
Napa's Harlan Estate"*
Robert Parker

2003 Ch. Rauzan-Despaigne* 90-93 Parker \$24.95



Parker: "... reminiscent of a French version of Napa's Harlan Estate. An astonishing effort, it offers smoky espresso notes intermixed with creme de cassis and graphite in a powerful, concentrated, deep, chewy, loaded style ... Bravo!"

SOUTHERN RHONE

2001 Chave Mon Coeur

A New Wrinkle for an Old Favorite

Since 1481, the Chave family has lived in the Northern Rhône village of Mauves. For generations they have grown grapes and made wine—and their holdings today comprise one of the great domaines of nearby Hermitage.



In 1999, the Chave's released a radical new wine, *Mon Coeur*, their first appellation "Côtes du Rhône" wine in their 519 years as *vignerons*. *Mon Coeur* is the work of Jean-Louis Chave, who, in the late 1990's, took over from his father as winemaker.

Mon Coeur is a unique Chave wine not just because of the appellation, but because the grapes come from Southern Rhône growers—chosen for their low yields and the exceptional quality of their fruit.

More Syrah in 2001

The first three vintages—1998, 1999 and 2000—were all sensational, based on a typical Southern Rhône model of about 80% Grenache and 20% Syrah. But for the great 2001 vintage, Jean-Louis took a different approach, upping the Syrah

proportion to 50%, giving the wine more Northern Rhône character than ever before.

To create this wine, Jean-Louis selected five vineyards that represent a variety of Southern Rhône expositions, soils and elevations. Collectively, in the hands of this

superb winemaker, they have produced a wine in which the sum is far greater than the parts.

Once again, distribution of *Mon Coeur* is very limited. Buy it while you can.

2001 Mon Coeur

\$17.95 bottle \$199.00 case

This new vintage of *Mon Coeur* offers not only the richness and generous black fruit character that you've come to expect from this wine; it also has more depth of structure, a complex minerality and Mediterranean nuances of thyme, rosemary and juniper. A joy to drink now, it should age with ease for another five years.

A Beaucastel Miscellany

Rarities from the Past Decade

1990 Ch. de Beaucastel Magnum 299.00

Parker: "96 rating ... an incredible perfume of hickory wood, coffee, smoked meat, Asian spices, black cherries, ... profound ... will last another 15-20 years."

1998 Ch. de Beaucastel 75.00

1998 Ch. de Beaucastel Half Bottle 39.95

Parker: "96 rating ... unquestionably one of the great modern day Beaucastels"

2001 Ch. de Beaucastel 69.95

2001 Ch. de Beaucastel Magnum 145.00

Parker: "96 rating ... a classic Beaucastel bouquet of new saddle leather, cigar smoke, roasted herbs, black truffles, underbrush, and blackberry ... a superb, earthy expression of this Mourvèdre-dominated cuvée."

1995 Hommage à Jacques Perrin 3-Liter 1,450.00

Parker: "96 rating ... huge and formidably endowed ..."

**2001 Ch. de Beaucastel
Roussanne Vieilles Vignes**

97 Parker

\$89.95



Parker: "... surreal ... 100% Roussanne from 85-year old vines ... pure liqueur of rose petals, marmalade, and honeysuckle ... one of the most singular expressions of white wine in the world ... an amazing effort but, sadly, there is little produced."

1995 Ch. de Beaucastel Roussanne V.V. 89.95

Parker: "96 rating ... profound quantities of rose petals, honey, and smoke, as well as luxuriant richness, unctuous textures, and super density ... glorious."

SAUTERNES

The Greatest Ever?

In 2001, Suduiraut Reclaims its Ancient Glory

It's an old story in wine: a venerable estate, with a unique *terroir*, goes through decades of mediocrity, but then a new owner returns it to its former glory.

Historically, the fourth greatest property of Sauternes, Suduiraut has the same *cèpage* and a similar microclimate to Yquem, and its wine has long been thought to be most like Yquem. But from the 1960's on, it produced few wines of note. Only its famous 1982 Cuvée Madame—made from a single day's picking—gave us a glimpse of what Suduiraut could be.



Suduiraut in the 19th century.

But then in 1992, the French insurance company AXA added Suduiraut to its Bordeaux portfolio, joining Lynch-Bages and Pichon-Baron. Christian Seely—who had already turned around Quinta do Noval—took over, restoring the vineyards and re-equipping the cellars ... in preparation for the next great Sauternes vintage.

That moment arrived in 2001. Suduiraut met the test of this phenomenal year, producing a wine of heroic quality and destined to become legendary. Don't miss it. Fall arrival.

2001 Ch. Suduiraut*
98 Parker — 98 Wine Spectator
\$79.95 bottle \$42.95 half bottle



Parker: "A prodigious effort ... offers notes of crème brûlée, caramelized citrus, Grand Marnier, honey-suckle and other exotic fruits as well as a pleasant touch of oak. With terrific acidity, a voluptuous/unctuous palate, and sweet, powerful flavors buttressed by crisp acidity, it is a phenomenal Sauternes."

Wine Spectator: "Gorgeous aromas of honey, passion fruit, mango and candied lemon rind. Full-bodied and ultraconcentrated, yet balanced and refined. It lasts for minutes on the palate ... Stunning."

2003 Ch. d'Yquem

A monument-in-the-making

Of course, 2001 is not the only great Sauternes vintage in the offing. The 2003's also promise fabulous quality. And, as always, Ch. d'Yquem will be a center of attention.

While no official tasting of 2001 Yquem has been permitted, a few privileged souls were allowed to taste the 2003 this spring. The reports have been rapturous: a magical wine, with mindboggling richness and concentration.

The 2003 is being offered *en primeur*, only the second Yquem to be sold as futures. The first was the 2000. But while the *en primeur* sale of the 2000 was a special "millennium" event, the advance sale of the 2003 may represent a permanent policy shift, now that Comte



Alexandre Lur Saluces has stepped down as Yquem's proprietor. (The 2003 was his last vintage.)

This 2003 was the result of an even more ruthless selection than normal; consequently, there will be less wine than is typical of a great Yquem vintage. We urge anyone who wants to own it to buy it now.

We can offer both bottles and half bottles. Quantities in both sizes are very limited, however.

2003 Ch. d'Yquem*
\$249.95 bottle \$124.95 half bottle

SAUTERNES

History in the Vineyards

The Glorious 2001 Sauternes

Last month, Robert Parker and the *Wine Spectator* published their final in-the-bottle ratings for the 2001 Sauternes, each coming to essentially the same conclusion: 2001 is one of the greatest Sauternes vintages of the past century.

They agree on the top three châteaux—Climens, Rieussec and Suduiraut—but they anoint other stars as well. Vintage 2001 is notable not just for its perfect growing and harvest conditions, but also as a barometer for how far winemaking has advanced here.

The overall level of quality is a big part of the story. In 2001, estate after estate produced a wine of thick,

glyceric richness, and high sugars, but with excellent acidity, and wonderful fragrance and complexity.

While 2001 Yquem has not yet been offered for sale, all the other top 2001's are being released now, though prices are on the rise. Ch. Climens, for example, recently increased its ex-cellar price to \$205 a bottle!

This Offer

For now, we are pleased to offer several essential 2001's at very attractive prices, including the monumental Suduiraut (see page 7). We are also working on major offers of Rieussec and Climens—at great prices and in multiple formats—which will follow shortly.



2001 Ch. La Tour Blanche*
97 Parker
\$34.95 half bottle

Parker: "... spectacular ... a big, exotic nose of tropical fruits, honeysuckle, orange marmalade, and crème brûlée ... weighty, full-bodied, concentrated yet incredibly precise and well-delineated ... a tour de force!"

2001 Ch. Clos Haut Peyraguey*
97 Wine Spectator
\$49.95 bottle \$27.95 half bottle

Wine Spectator: "Smells like pure caramel, with just a hint of dried apricot. Full-bodied, ultrasweet and fabulously concentrated. This goes on for minutes. Coats your palate"

2001 Ch. Rabaud-Promis*
95 Wine Spectator
\$20.95 half bottle



Wine Spectator: "Brilliant yellow-gold color. Very strong aromas of tropical fruit and honey. Full-bodied, with apricot, botrytis and spice character that takes off like it has afterburners."



2001 Ch. Caillou*
94 Wine Spectator
\$34.95 bottle

Wine Spectator: "Really beautiful on the nose, with lemon, honey, cream, light caramel and just a hint of mace. Full-bodied and very sweet, yet reserved and refined. Wonderful acidity. It goes on for minutes"

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