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Inside on Page 3
Pax's Great
2004s

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Inside on Page 5
A Rostaing Trifecta:
2003, 1999 & 1991

Magical Burgundies

A Monumental Offering of Drouhin's Rarest Domaine Wines

Today, Burgundy's domaine growers make most of the region's great wines. Forty years ago it was the opposite, as even the best Burgundies typically came from negociants.

In fact, it wasn't until the 1980's that domaine-bottled Burgundies were commonly available, and not until the 1990's that they became the gold standard for connoisseurs. Yet, the foundation for this shift was laid far earlier by visionaries like the French writer Raymond Baudoin, the American importers Frank Schoonmaker and Alexis Lichine, and Burgundy's famed negociant Maurice Drouhin.

Drouhin's Leadership

In 1919, Maurice Drouhin decided that his family's 160-year-old business should focus on top wines. To guarantee availability, he began to buy up



Drouhin's treasures

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

parcels in the Côte d'Or's most prestigious vineyards, particularly the *grand crus*. His pioneering work was continued by subsequent generations of Drouhins, creating, along with Louis Jadot, the model for the hybrid negociant-domaine that has become such an important source of great Burgundy.

Today, Joseph Drouhin boasts some of the most glorious vineyard holdings in all of Burgundy, as the box below reflects. But the story doesn't end there: the Drouhins are also perfectionists. They abhor clones, replanting their vineyards using cuttings from their own vines. They use low-yielding rootstocks, extremely dense planting—12,500 vines per hectare—and severe pruning to restrict yield. And they use indigenous yeasts rather than cultured ones.

Their winemaking is by instinct, with a profound respect for *terroir*. As Robert Drouhin ►

The Great Drouhin Domaine Holdings

Griotte-Chambertin — 1.3 acres, the thin topsoil mixed with stones and fossilized sea shells produces Drouhin's most consistently majestic wine.

Vosne-Romanée Les Petits-Monts — One acre of 70-year-old vines just above Richebourg, and too steep to work by tractor. Virtual *Grand Cru* quality.

Beaune Clos des Mouches — Thirty acres responsible for reds *and* whites of outstanding quality.

Musigny — An astonishing 1.7 acres producing a Musigny that Matt Kramer has called of "a similar standard" to those of Leroy and Roumier.

Bonnes-Mares — .5 acre in the revered *terres blanches*.

Chambolle-Musigny Les Amoureuses — 1.3 acres next to Musigny, widely considered *Grand Cru* quality.

Chambolle-Musigny Les Hauts-Doix — .2 acre near Musigny with a personality like that of its neighbor.

BURGUNDY

Pristine Drouhin Rarities at Incredible Prices

► told author Clive Coates: “Technically perfect wines which do not reflect the typicality of their *terroir* have no appeal for me.”

As a result, Drouhin’s best wines are among the purest expressions of *terroir* in all of Burgundy, with intensely perfumed aromatics, fabulous textures, and beautiful underlying structure.

This Offer

Recently, we had the unique opportunity to purchase

The Heroic Griotte and Vosne ‘Petits Monts’

“If I had to choose just one Drouhin wine ... the magnificent Griotte Chambertin.” Matt Kramer

1988 Griotte-Chambertin
\$115.00



Parker: “ ... explosive black cherry fruit ... a lush texture.”
Clive Coates: “18.5 points out of 20. Classy, distinguished ... Lovely harmony ... Very finely balanced.”

1993 Griotte-Chambertin145.00
Burgundy Report: “Lovely weight to the concentration ... very fine and smooth tannins ... I think this just gets the nod over the 1995 ...”

“One of the best kept secrets of notoriously tight-lipped Burgundy insiders.” *Burghound*

1993 Vosne-Romanée
1er Cru “Petits Monts”
93 Burghound
\$89.95



Burghound: “ ... powerful aromatic profile ... a genuine cornucopia of scents, combining ripe earth, leather, tea, hoisin, black fruits ... intensely focused and pure ... astonishing length. This should continue to improve and hold thereafter for many years to come. Brilliant.”

Amoureuses, The Seductress

1988 Chambolle-Musigny
1er Cru “Les Amoureuses”
\$89.95



Classic Amoureuses: perfumed, lush, elegant, seamless and long, with exquisite texture. Singing today, it will drink with grace for a decade.

1990 Chambolle-Musigny
1er Cru “Les Amoureuses”
\$119.95

Wine Spectator: “93 rating. Extremely seductive ... smoke and berry aromas and flavors dancing across the palate and a beautiful, silky finish.”
Clive Coates: “Elegant, balanced and distinctive.”

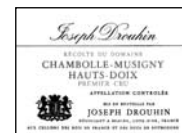
1990 Bonnes Mares
93 Wine Spectator
\$129.95



Fantastically opulent, with sweet rich flavors and outstanding length. *Wine Spectator:* “Lovely complexity ... the intensity on the long finish is almost perfect.”

1996 Musigny195.00
Burghound: “93 rating ... stunningly elegant”
1999 Musigny 210.00
Burghound: “94 rating. Fabulously intense ... magnificent”

1990 Chambolle-Musigny
1er Cru “Les Hauts Doix”
\$69.95



Drouhin owns a tiny .2 hectare parcel near Musigny, to which they add fruit from other growers. And so this lovely 1990 does its Musigny-like best to seduce. The nose is sexy: cinnamon, vanilla and blackcurrant. The palate starts delicately and builds in weight and richness. As with other top Drouhin wines, the texture is fabulous: light but mouthfilling, approaching the ethereal.

Pax's Great 2004's

Magnificent Syrahs from a California Superstar

In recent decades, Syrah has enjoyed an explosion of interest in California. But until Pax Mahle, few Californians had attempted to capture the magic of the Northern Rhône, crafting great Syrah from relatively cool sites.



25-year-old Syrah vines in Obsidian's rocky soil

Pax has come to symbolize the arrival of a new collecting genre: Cult Syrahs. With minute production—he makes twelve different Syrah cuvées ranging in size from 300-600 cases—his 2004s are not only nearly unobtainable on the retail market, they have already become auction fodder.

Special Places

Pax revels in finding extraordinary *terroirs* that express themselves in the fruit. Having cut his teeth on Mendocino's Alder Springs Vineyard, he has added

such unique sites as Knight's Valley's rock-covered Obsidian and Griffin's Lair in the Petaluma Wind Gap.

Pax has also shown himself a masterful blender, creating three multi-*cru* cuvées where the whole is greater than the sum of the parts: Keltie, Christine and Moriah.

This Offer

Pax's 2004s are not only his best wines yet, they are his most expressive and "transparent," revealing incredible site-specific nuances. He has also increased his use of whole clusters and scaled back the amount of new wood, allowing the fruit to speak even more clearly.

Wines of great richness and personality, these are among the finest Syrahs yet made in the Western Hemisphere. Don't miss them.

2004 Syrah "Cuvée Keltie"
95-97 Parker
\$84.95

Parker: "... classic licorice, asphalt, new saddle leather, blackberry liqueur, white chocolate, and pepper characteristics. This dense, full-bodied, superb Syrah possesses considerable structure and tannin."

2004 Syrah "Griffin's Lair"
94-97 Parker
\$74.95

Parker: "Lovely aromas of blackberries, cassis, new saddle leather, roasted meats, and smoky barbecue are followed by a full-bodied wine with fabulous intensity, definition, and length"

2004 "Cuvée Moriah"
92-94 Parker
\$59.95

Parker: "... aromas of garrigue, tapenade, kirsch liqueur, and blackberries. A full-throttle, California-styled southern Rhône-like cuvée ... big, meaty, juicy"

2004 Syrah "Walker Vine Hill"
93-95 Parker
\$65.00

Parker: "A stunning effort, the black/purple-tinged 2004 Syrah Walker Vine Hill boasts tremendous intensity along with notes of creosote, blackberry liqueur, cassis, and flowers offered in a structured, dense, chewy style."



2004 Syrah "Cuvée Christine" 65.00

Steve Tanzer: "91 rating. Aromas of black raspberry, violet and sweet new oak, all nicely lifted by a peppery component. Pure dark berry fruit offers a juicy character and very good intensity ... a lingering note of violet."

2004 Syrah "Kobler Family" 65.00

Pax's *hommage* to Côte Rôtie, vinified with 10% Viognier. Tanzer's description sums it up: "red berries, white pepper, brown spices and wild herbs, lifted by a note of rose petal ... intensely flavored and light on its feet, with almost pinot-like floral lift to its berry, spice and pepper flavors."

Sonoma Hillsides: Pax's "Gift"

A 50-50 Syrah-Grenache blend that receives much the same cellar treatment as the more expensive cuvées. Incredible value, but *very* limited.



2004 Sonoma Hillsides 29.95

BURGUNDY & MADEIRA

Coche-Dury Treasures

For *white Burgundy* lovers, Coche-Dury is the ultimate prize. But as most of its production disappears into France's 3-star restaurant cellars, the wines can be impossible to find, except at very high prices.

We've recently made several exciting Coche acquisitions at below-market prices. Included are the rare 1996 Bourgogne Blanc and Coche's two Holy Grail 2001s: Meursault Perrières and Corton-Charlemagne.

**2001 Coche-Dury
Meursault-Perrières**
98-100 Pierre Rovani
\$695.00



**2001 Coche-Dury
Corton-Charlemagne**
98-100 Pierre Rovani
\$1,250.00



Rovani: "... towering aromatics ... A wine of unbelievable purity and breadth, it conquers the palate with bacon-laced minerals, spiced stones, smoky pears, and buttered toast ... this awe-inspiring wine is complete ... *'un vin de grande classe'* (a wine of great class) it has perfect balance, harmony, and unheard of depth."

Rovani: "... amazing. Magnificently supple, yet focused, boisterous, yet refined, thick, yet balanced, it possesses a finish that easily lasts for over a minute ... all the ear-marks of perfection. This velvety-textured wine is ... is layered, opulent, and sexy, while remaining nuanced and seamless. Wow!"

Rare 1996 Bourgogne Blanc

1996 Coche-Dury Bourgogne Blanc 79.95
Coche's beautiful Bourgogne Blanc is prized by insiders, and so it quickly vanishes into collectors' cellars, seldom reappearing. We've just acquired a few pristine bottles from one such collection. Very limited.

Sensational Buys from 2002

2002 Coche-Dury Meursault139.95
Our price for Coche's brilliant 2002 Meursault is the lowest we've seen in the U.S. Grab it while you can.
2002 Coche-Dury Bourgogne Aligoté45.00
A tangy, zesty white of deep character ... Coche's best buy.

The Impossible Vintage

Barbeito's 1956 Sercial Madeira

If you turn 50 this year, and you've been searching for birthyear wines, you've undoubtedly found the pickings slim. For this, you can thank the freeze that swept across France in January, 1956, wiping out vineyards from Bordeaux to Provence. Vast replanting was needed, and little wine was made that year.



Cama do Lobos

Conditions weren't much better in Italy or Spain, and wine production in the U.S. and Australia was still in its infancy. So, where to turn for a 1956?

Madeira

Madeiras from 1956 are rarely seen either, but in 1988 Barbeito purchased three casks of 1956 Sercial from a farmer in the Jardim do Mar section of Cama do Lobos,

one of Madeira's best sites for this variety.

Barbeito kept the wine in cask for a number of additional years—the extra time in wood producing an explosion of crème brûlée and toffee scents, complementing the varietal nuances of stones, smoke and flowers. These years also added considerable richness to the wine, though it is still profoundly *Sercial*, with a rapier-like dry finish.

A marvelous cornerstone for a 50th-birthday dinner, we recommend (because of the wine's dryness) serving it either before the meal, or afterwards with the cheese course. Better yet, pair it—as Sercials traditionally were—with the soup course. It's a marriage made in heaven.

1956 Barbeito Sercial159.95

NORTHERN RHONE

A Côte Rôtie Trifecta

Coveted 2003s, 1999s and 1991s from René Rostaing

The wines of René Rostaing could be the purest expression of Côte Rôtie's magic. Some would attribute his wines' character to his awesome vineyards—a number of which once belonged to Marius Gentaz-Dervieux and Albert Dervieux-Thaize. But others in Côte Rôtie have great vineyards and don't make wines like René's. The secret, we believe, is his obsessive perfectionism and his distrust of fashion.

Essentially a traditionalist, his methods have evolved slowly and painstakingly over the past 25 years. He uses only enough new wood (about 20%) to produce perfectly aged wines, without overwhelming the subtle Syrah perfume. He seeks optimum maturity in the vineyard, so it's no surprise that his wines are consistently marvels of elegance, refinement and sublime bouquet.



Rostaing's plot of La Landonne.

This Offer

René Rostaing's 2003s rival anything made that year; they are powerful, deeply flavored and aromatically intense, yet exquisitely balanced. But because of the year's drought and heat, production was only 40% of normal. Thus, we have *painfully* little of his 2003s to offer.

To compensate for the scant availability of the great 2003s, we asked René if he could dig up some treasures from his library. Astonishingly, he let us have a small amount of this legendary 1991 Côte Blonde, among the finest wines he has ever made.

To round out the offer, we have secured a small additional quantity of René's epic 1999 Côte Blonde, which, like its siblings, is one of the greatest Côte Rôties to ever pass our lips. All quantities are extremely limited.

The Monumental 2003s

2003 Côte Blonde
97 Parker
\$189.95

Parker: "This profound Côte Rôtie boasts an exquisite nose of bacon fat, sweet black cherry jam, raspberries, melted licorice, chocolate, and hints of herbes de Provence, licorice, and smoke. Voluptuous and full-bodied"

2003 La Landonne
97 Parker
\$139.95

Parker: "... scorched earth, camphor, blackberry, and roasted meat ... it will age on its extraordinary extract and richness. This blockbuster should drink well young, yet age for 12-15 years."

2003 Côte Rôtie
93 Parker
\$59.95

Parker: "... possesses great concentration in addition to notes of melted licorice, white chocolate, bacon fat, blackberries, and cassis. This unctuously-textured, fleshy, low acid wine begs for consumption over the next 7-8 years."

The Legendary 1999 & 1991 Côte Blondes

1999 Côte Blonde
100 Parker
\$295.00



"... extraordinary intensity, brilliant harmony, and a staggering bouquet ... The wine is unctuously-textured yet remarkably well-defined, with elegance married to intense concentration ... one of the most profound and seductive Côte Rôties I have ever tasted."

1991 Côte Blonde
direct from Rostaing's cellar
94 Tanzer
\$195.00



Tanzer: "Wonderfully sweet ... rich, very concentrated and thoroughly palate staining. Quintessential Côte Rôtie sap ... Finishes very long and firm ... Sexy and harmonious from start to finish."

The Revolution, Phase 3

Jacquesson's Cuvée 730

Thirty months ago, Jacquesson created a stir by announcing that its 150-year-old non-vintage Perfection label would be retired and replaced with a new sequentially numbered, vintage-based cuvée released each year. Such a move was unprecedented in Champagne.

The inaugural release, Cuvée 728, was applauded by critics and consumers. And so was its successor, Cuvée 729. We now have Cuvée 730 in our hands, and it promises even greater things.

The Cornerstone

The key to Cuvée 730's potential is that it is predominantly from the 2002 vintage—which, as in Burgundy, produced fruit with an extraordinary balance of sugar and acidity. And so, Cuvée 730 offers a sneak preview of the excitement that the 2002 vintage cuvées will deliver when they are released later: formidable weight and complexity overlaid with brilliantly focused fruit.

Cuvée 730's components are 60% from the 2002 vintage and 40% reserve wines—all *premier* and *grand crus*. The varietal make-up is quite different from its two predecessors, with a higher percentage of Chardonnay (50%) and correspondingly less Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. Half the cuvée was fermented in



Jacquesson's famous 1920s poster

cask, while bottling was without filtration.

The extraordinary quality of Cuvée 730 is a reflection of Jacquesson's quest to make wines of unusual weight, density, complexity and aging potential—achievable through meticulous winemaking and aging, as well as the house's widely publicized viticultural innovations. We have no doubt that this wine will age with the grace of Jacquesson's vintage-dated wines.

Our prized allocation of Cuvée 730 bottles (disgorged May 2005) has just arrived. Don't miss it.

Jacquesson "Cuvée 730"

\$38.50 bt. \$450.00 cs.



This wine demonstrates why Jacquesson's new "cuvée" program is exciting, as each release is so expressive of its vintage base. This new wine, founded on the 2002 vintage, is richer and more forward than its predecessors—already unleashing an explosion of scents, ranging from chalk, cream and ginger, to Mandarin orange, Pippin apple and candied lemons. The palate seems softer as well; yet, the structure is there to go the distance. A strongly individual and expressive Champagne that should not be missed.

A Towering Cuvée Boisrenard

The owners of Domaine de Beurenard, the Coulon family, have been growers in Châteauneuf du Pape since 1695, but only since 1990 have they made a special cuvée from their best vineyard, Bois Renard. Produced only in exceptional vintages from vines between 75 and 90 years old, their "Cuvée Boisrenard" is consistently a wine of riveting old-vine power and intensity.

The 2001 Cuvée Boisrenard is among the most acclaimed wines of this magnificent vintage. We are pleased to offer it in bottles and magnums at *very* attractive prices.

2001 Cuvée Boisrenard 97 Parker

\$79.95 bt. \$165.00 mag.



Parker: "There have been a number of spectacular vintages of Domaine de Beurenard's luxury cuvée ... but the 2001 may be the finest they have ever produced ... The explosive bouquet is followed by an expansive, full-bodied, powerful wine with great purity, tremendous multilayered flavor intensity ... It possesses structure, grip and a finish that lasts well over a minute ... it is a brilliant success!"

SAUTERNES & CHABLIS

2001 Sauternes' Final Surprise

Ch. Arche's Extraordinary "Cuvée Madame"

In Sauternes, a year like 2001 may come around every century or so. Virtually everyone made their finest wines in decades in 2001, scaling heights of richness rarely seen.

Ch. d'Arche is a good example. Understanding the vintage's epic quality, this ancient estate set aside the most botrytised grapes from its oldest vines—minimum age of 60 years—to create a legend-in-the-making "Cuvée Madame." The château further honored the cuvée by appending the name of its 19th-century owner. The name they chose for this magnificent wine: "Arche-Lafaurie Cuvée Madame."

Mindboggling Richness

Aged in 100% new *barriques*, this Cuvée Madame is a Sauternes of mindboggling richness, containing an astonishing 144 grams of residual sugar, but with the structure for long aging. Just 160 cases were made.

We're unaware of any published reviews for this limit-



ed cuvée, but the *Wine Spectator's* 95 rating for the regular 2001 Ch. d'Arche will give you some idea of just how remarkable this wine is.

We were able to buy a small amount of this historic wine directly from the château, in both bottles and half bottles. The prices are stunning.

2001 Arche-Lafaurie "Cuvée Madame"

\$29.95 half bottle **\$54.95** bottle

Medium gold in color, with a volcanic nose of pineapple, apricots and vanilla. On the palate there is massive richness and viscosity, and the more than 14% residual sugar makes this a Sauternes of remarkable sweetness, yet there is excellent acidity to provide focus and structure for aging. The finish is long and lavishly rich. A monumental bargain for a Sauternes of such quality.

Stunning Values in 2002 Chablis

The great 2002 vintage was a coming of age for many in Chablis. For the first time ever, little-known producers were showered with the kind of attention normally reserved only for giants like Raveneau and Vincent Dauvissat.

2002 La Chablisienne Chablis Grand Cru Preuses 92 Burghound

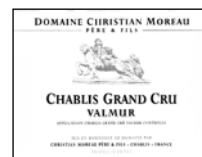
\$45.00 bt. **\$24.95** half bt.



Burghound: "... from a parcel of vines at the very top of the slope... very ripe with peach, pear and a hint of apricot on the nose yet the aromas remain fresh and airy ... grand cru volume with seriously impressive intensity. This a big and punchy effort with a long, textured, relatively structured finish."

2002 Christian Moreau Chablis Grand Cru Valmur 93 Tanzer

\$49.95



Steve Tanzer: "Brooding aromas of wet stone and grapefruit. Juicy, brisk and penetrating, with mouth-coating, citrusy fruit enlivened by strong acidity and complicated by a spicy element. A big wine with terrific breadth and a rather powerful structure. Finishes broad and very long."

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Taurasi's Soul

Molettieri Restores an Ancient Wine to its Former Glory

When Robert Parker wrote in 2000 that Salvatore Molettieri's 1997 "Cinque Querce" was the finest Taurasi he had tasted since the 1968 Mastroberardino Riserva, we took notice. The '68 was our (and everyone else's) Taurasi benchmark, and one of the few reminders of this ancient wine's glory.



The view from the Molettieri estate.

But once Mastroberardino settled into comfortable commercialism in the 1980's and '90's, Taurasi was in dire need of one or more producers willing to go for broke. It found what it needed in Feudi di San Gregorio and Salvatore Molettieri.

"Salvatore Molettieri must now be considered one of the greats of Italy."

Daniel Thomases

his family has grown grapes for more than two centuries.

Molettieri made the jump to making his own wine in 1995, adopting a no-holds-barred regime. The vines are farmed biodynamically and a green harvest sharply limits yields from the old-vine Aglianico. After a long maceration on the skins—and fermentation half in oak and half in stainless steel—the regular Taurasi spends three years in 35 hectoliter casks and barrique. The nearly black Riserva spends four years in wood.

Different Drummers

Both have contributed immeasurably to Taurasi's recent renaissance, but the two producers march to the beat of very different drummers. Feudi is a cutting-edge experimentalist that has taken on numerous important projects, of which Taurasi is but one. (See our 2/23/05 newsletter.) Molettieri knows no world beyond his seven-hectare farm "Cinque Querce" in Taurasi, where

Painfully Rare

With just a few hundred cases of each wine made, the tiny quantities are quickly swallowed up by their rabid international cult following. To top the ante, Daniel Thomases gave Molettieri's latest releases off-the-charts reviews in this year's *Veronelli Guide*. And given that these wines are nearly unobtainable in the U.S., this could be your only chance to experience some of Italy's most distinctive red wines. Hurry.



2000 Taurasi

"Cinque Querce"

96 Daniel Thomases

\$47.50 *bt.* **\$105.00** *mag.*

1999 Taurasi

"Cinque Querce" Riserva

97 Daniel Thomases

\$65.00 *bt.* **\$139.00** *mag.*

2000 Taurasi

"Cinque Querce" Riserva

97 Daniel Thomases

\$65.00 *bottle*

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INSIDE

Fabulous Drouhin Burgundies. Page 1 *Jacquesson Cuvée 730 Page 6*
Pax's 2004s Page 3 *2001 Cuvée Boisrenard Page 6*
Coche-Dury Prizes Page 4 *2001 Sauternes Rarity Page 7*
Barbeito 1956 Madeira Page 4 *2002 Chablis Standouts Page 7*
Rostaing Trifecta Page 5

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