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**Rarest
Balsamicos**

NOVEMBER 19, 2002

A Glimpse of History

Painfully Rare Pre-Phylloxera Prizes from a Madeira Cellar

Pre-phylloxera Madeiras have nearly vanished from the world marketplace. A quarter-century ago, a visit to England and the Island of Madeira could turn up two or three dozen different pre-phylloxera wines, a few of them in case quantities.

But times have changed. The British merchants who still had ancient Madeiras in their cellars in the '70's saw them disappear in the 1980's when the world began to see these great wines for the treasures they are.

London auctions, once a great source, are bereft of Madeiras these days, as their traditional sources have all but dried up.

Even merchants on the island of Madeira have little in the way of very old wines to offer. It's been nearly a decade since you could buy a Cossart or Blandy wine vintaged before the twentieth century. In fact, the only pre-phylloxera wines still obtainable on the island are survivors from a glorious past: a few prizes on the lists of Barbeito, D'Oliveira and Henriques & Henriques that have miraculously endured from the days when these firms had many such offerings.

Our Continuing Hunt

Yet, despite the odds, we have continued to seek out small caches of old Madeiras dating from the nineteenth century. We have had our share of good

fortune, and the sources have almost invariably been private owners on the island of Madeira. These are families who have been either growers or shippers in the past and who have inherited old wines.

There have been a number of such acquisitions over the years. But none has been as remarkable as a purchase we made this year from the family that owns Barbeito. The richness of this purchase stems not from its size (there are fewer than 200 bottles in total), but the age, quality and rarity of the wines. Ten wines are represented, including highly coveted Terrantezes and a rare Moscatel. Even the two *youngest* wines are incredibly rare, coming from 1856, a year of tiny production. The two *oldest* wines were vintaged during the presidencies of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

But this is an important *group* of wines as well. In 1974, Mario Barbeito de Vasconcelos, the firm's founder and a master judge of old Madeiras, hand-

picked these bottles as his legacy for his granddaughter Isabel who was emigrating to Brazil. The wines were kept in the family cellar in Funchal, awaiting either her return or a time when she would ask that they be sent to South America.

Sadly, that time never came; Isabel passed away several years ago.

Continued next page



MADEIRA

"I know no wine of its class that can beat Madeira when at its best ... In fact, I think Madeira and Burgundy carry combined intensity and complexity of vinous delights further than any other wines. There is possibly something of the unlawful about their rapture..."

George Saintsbury, Notes on a Cellarbook (1920)

This Offering

This year, the family chose to share this priceless collection with us. In preparation for its shipment, most bottles were recorked and rewaxed. In the case of the 1856 Bual and Moscatel, the wines were rebottled from magnum. All wines were shipped to Sonoma via temperature-controlled container.

The total quantity available of each wine is small, ranging from two to 12 bottles. There is also little hope of replacement when they are sold.

1795 Barbeito Terrantez1395.00

Barbeito's most famous wine. Steve Tanzer: "96 rating ... Quite concentrated and vinous; a wine of superb richness ... Almost painfully intense on the finish. Really quite amazingly balanced. Seems virtually immortal."

Alex Liddell: "★★★★★(★) rating ... delicate bouquet with hints of fudge ... intense, vinous ... Beautifully balanced and delicious."

1802 Bual575.00

A two-hundred year old jewel whose origins were long ago lost amidst the pages of history. After many decades in bottle, this wine was initially tight on opening (typical of very old Madeiras). But after 24 hours of breathing, it exploded with aromatic fireworks, featuring caramel-toffee, figs and nuts, and orange peel. The palate became expansive and velvety, its great sweetness holding court. Though easily Malvasia-like in sweetness, the bracing acidity maintains its Bual credentials. Classic in every sense.

1827 Quinta do Serrado Bual495.00

Alex Liddell: "★★★★★+. Intensely dark mahogany, green highlights; a bouquet of great depth and richness, with molasses and vanilla; opulent, mouth-coating, so concentrated it is like a quintessence of Madeira, yet quite sweet and with refreshing acidity; amazing length, a kaleidoscope of flavours remaining in the throat. Revelatory of what Madeira can achieve."

1830 Quinta do Serrado Malmsey495.00

Alex Liddell: "★★★★★ rich, toffeeish; very concentrated and complex, mouthfilling ... explosive finish, very long" Michael Broadbent: "★★★★★ ... hefty, concentrated bouquet, lime blossom, slightly chocolaty; very sweet, full, rich, luscious and long."

1832 Acciaiolio Terrantez495.00

Medium-dark mahogany with a yellow-green rim. The nose offers an ethereal perfume of coffee roasting. The palate is viscous, rich and concentrated, softer in texture than usual for a pre-phylloxera Terrantez.

1834 Barbeito Terrantez550.00

Michael Broadbent: "★★★★★ rating ... A magnificent wine ... beautiful, harmonious, low-keyed bouquet; very sweet, marvelous mid-palate, very powerful, its high acidity leaving the mouth clean and dry."

1836 Acciaiolio Malvasia595.00

Michael Broadbent: "★★★★★ rating ... rich, smooth, harmonious bouquet of considerable depth; very sweet, fairly full-bodied, smooth rich texture, fabulous flavor and excellent finish."

1837 Barbeito Bual375.00

Michael Broadbent: "★★★★★ Glorious, high-toned, refined bouquet ... exquisite flavor and great length. Excellent acidity and a finish like crystallised violets." (One of the oldest families of Madeira, the Acciaiolio's emigrated from Florence in the 1500's. The firm was a presence in the Madeira wine trade until the 1950's, when they went out of business. Mario Barbeito purchased the firm's remaining stocks. Wines already in bottle were sold with Acciaiolio labels, those still in demijohn were stencilled "Barbeito" when finally bottled.)

1856 Barbeito Bual350.00

Where has this rarity been hiding? In the early 1850's, Oidium knocked Madeira on its heels and in 1856, production was at an historic low. The rarity of any 1856 Madeira is cause enough to experience this wine, but its marvelous quality also makes it compelling. The nose is explosive, exuding aromas of toasted nuts, fresh roasted coffee beans and orange peel, the palate is sweet and anxious, but with a glorious citrus tanginess. The finish goes on and on.

1856 Barbeito Moscatel375.00

Old Moscatels are among the rarest and most coveted of Madeiras. This 1856 combines the best attributes of Moscatel and Malvasia and is unique in our experience. The color is absolute Moscatel: a blackish-brown with a gold rim. The nose has the characteristic fig aromas, and the smokiness found in very old wines of this grape, but that's only the beginning. The perfume is intense and powerful: with the orange peel and nuts found in great old Malvasia. On the palate, the wine has a firm backbone of acidity balancing its great sweetness. After many years in demijohn, this wine benefits from at least 8 to 10 hours of breathing.

TUSCANY

Small is Beautiful

The Montepeloso 2000's: Fabulous Quality, Tiny Quantities

The town of Suvereto has emerged as the leading contender to Bolgheri as the elite wine address on the Tuscan coast. Through the work of two small estates—Montepeloso and Tua Rita—Suvereto has shown that it can produce red wines with even greater richness than the longer-established Bolgheri.

The 2000 vintage appears to be a watershed year for Montepeloso, that marvelous estate on the same consecrated Suvereto hillside as Tua Rita. Beginning in 1998, owner Fabio Chiarelto reduced his production by two-thirds—by drastically pruning and retraining his vines—to dramatically change the character of the vineyard. His goal was to produce wines not only with Montepeloso's trademark richness, but with even greater depth of flavor.

The wisdom of Fabio's sacrifice is now becoming clear with the release of his stunning 2000's. Not only are his luxury cuvées Nardo and Gabbro predictably great, but his \$30 flagship wine, Eneo, is simply amazing. It is not only one of the bargains of the vintage, its style, richness and polish surpass many \$50+ Super Tuscans.

But such quality came at a cost. He cropped Eneo at just 24 hectoliters/hectare and Nardo and Gabbro at 10 hl/h. Few wines on the planet are made from such tiny yields, and it shows in the wines' concentration.

These brilliant 2000's have just arrived, and not surprisingly there's little to go around.



2000 Eneo

92 Wine Spectator

\$29.95 bottle \$345.00 case

With its powerful bouquet, lavish richness and sensational texture, 2000 Eneo is a fabulous Super Tuscan and an amazing value. *Wine Spectator*: "Fascinating aromas of decadent fruit, undergrowth and meat follow through to a full body, with thick and velvety tannins and a long, ripe fruit finish ... Sangiovese, Colorino and Cabernet Sauvignon. 750 cases made."

2000 Nardo

\$89.95 limited

On the heels of a 94 rating from Parker for the 1999, the 2000 has just received *Tre Bicchieri* from *Gambero Rosso*. Their succinct comment: "a great wine." Just 230 cases were made. *Extremely limited.*

2000 Gabbro

\$89.95 limited

The ultra-elite 2000 Gabbro (just 180 cases made!) delivers the same richness that moved Parker to give the '99 a 94-point rating, writing: "Full-bodied, powerful, and profoundly concentrated, this dramatic wine could easily be inserted in a blind tasting with barrel samples of the 2000 Mèdocs." In our view, the 2000 is a step up from that outstanding wine. *Extremely limited.*

Antique Decanters

We still have limited availability of antique English and Irish decanters from last month's offering. Call, fax or email for an offering (with photographs) of available items.



A New Legislative Threat to Wine

After a close call with California's AB1922, a new bill has been introduced in the U.S. Congress which would dramatically reduce the availability of hard-to-find imported wines nationally. HR5385's harsh new wine import requirements would swamp importers with red tape and could force some small independents out of business. Collectors and consumers will find the availability of scarce wines drastically reduced, with sharp upward pressure on prices. As we write this, the bill is on the fast track to Senate passage (after sailing through the House). Please call your Senators now to urge their opposition. Specifics—along with how to contact your Senators—can be found at our website www.rarewineco.com.

David Ramey's Best

"Spectacularly complex and gloriously mouthfilling" Jasper Morris

There is no question that California has the potential to produce Chardonnays with the power and complexity of the best grand cru white Burgundies. Yet, only a handful of California winemakers hit the mark consistently, among them Helen Turley, Steve Kistler and David Ramey.

Ramey is more of a "cult" figure than the others, thanks in part to his having spent much of his career making other peoples' wines. But starting with the 1997 vintage he began to make Chardonnays under his own label, including two stunning single vineyard wines, Hyde and Hudson. When asked recently if there is a benchmark for his wines, he responded "the great classical models—Lafon Montrachet in a great year, for example."

On a Tear

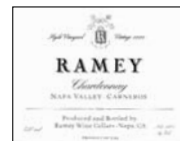
In Ramey's first time out, his 1997 Hyde Chardonnay received an amazing 97 points from the *Wine Spectator*. In the next two vintages, his 1998 Hudson and 1999 Hyde Chardonnays received 93 points from Parker and Tanzer respectively.

In just three vintages, Hyde & Hudson have earned a reputation for combining the richness of California with the complexity and balance of Burgundy's best. They also have the Burgundian trait of repaying cellar-ing and benefitting from breathing. The wines both spend 22 months in barrique, of which 16 months are on the lees. Bottling is without filtration.

Since he doesn't show his wines to journalists until they're on the market, there are no reviews yet of his just-released 2000 single-vineyard cuvées. However, we've had the privilege of tasting them and can report that they are up to the exciting level of quality of the first three vintages.

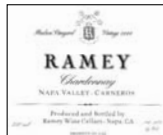
We have also been privileged to receive a small allocation of these sought-after wines. Don't miss them.

**2000 Ramey Chardonnay
"Hyde Vineyard"
\$54.95**



The nose is effusive: ripe pears, nectarines, lemon, coconut, with a Lafon/Coche-Dury leesiness. On the palate, the wine shows great ripeness, but with superb balancing acidity. An opened bottle in the refrigerator for two days really blossomed, developing a powerful Burgundian finish. As delicious as it is now, it can only get better.

**2000 Ramey Chardonnay
"Hudson Vineyard"
\$54.95**



As in previous vintages, the Hudson is initially more restrained, more mineral and chalk, with wonderful texture. There's a brooding kind of power here—a marriage of vibrant acidity, strong extract and intense fruit—that opens with breathing and suggests a long life ahead.

Broadbent's New "Bible"

A Special Offering of Signed Copies

It's hard to believe that it's been 11 years since the publication of Michael Broadbent's *New Great Vintage Wine Book*—one of the most loved and well-used wine books ever. The accumulation of decades of tasting notes on thousands of old and rare wines, it has always been a "go-to" book for serious wine lovers. Where else can you go to find notes on 19th century Madeiras, pre-Phylloxera Bordeaux and Rhônes, mature Champagnes and Ports—all in one book?

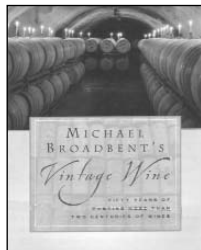
Thankfully, Michael has updated this work with his all-new *Vintage Wine*, which brings us up to date on his last 11 years of tasting.

Michael is coming to Northern California this month and has agreed to sign 30 copies for our customers. These are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Michael Broadbent's
Vintage Wine**

Published Nov. '02 — Hardcover

\$45.00



SOUTHERN RHONE

The Great Years

A Spectacular Offering of Pégau '90, '98 & '00

“Paul Féraud and his daughter Laurence make a wine that comes closest in style and character to that of the great Henri Bonneau. Féraud has been friends with Bonneau since they were elementary schoolmates decades ago. To no one’s surprise, the wine ... possesses the immense concentration and potential longevity that does indeed recall Henri Bonneau’s extraordinary Cuvée Célestins.” **Robert Parker**

diversity of cuvées. Both domaines rotate four different Châteauneuf du Pape cuvées, depending on the vintage.

Pégau originally only made one cuvée: the reliably powerful “Réservee.” But then in 1989, Féraud’s introduced Cuvée Laurence, reportedly the same wine as Cuvée Réservee, but kept in wood longer. In 1997 Cuvée Justine was introduced, followed by the monumental Cuvée de Capo, first made in 1998.

With its 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 prior to the late 1980’s. The turning point came when Paul Féraud’s daughter joined him in 1986 and convinced him to quit selling most of his production to negociants—and to estate-bottle it instead. It was only then that the world had the opportunity to appreciate the power and richness of Pégau’s wine.

This Offer

We are pleased to offer, for the first time, the legend-in-the-making 2000 Cuvée Réservee and the superb 1998 Cuvée Réservee in the unusual size of 500ml. These great wines are complemented by the ultra-rare 1998 and 2000 Cuvée de Capo.

Robert Parker compares the wines of Pégau to those of Henri Bonneau. There is also a resemblance in the

We have also acquired four different formats of the classic 1990 Cuvée Réservee—the vintage that established Pégau’s reputation in the first place. This offering is capped by *very* rare 9-liter and 12-liter bottles of the '90 Réservee.

2000 “Cuvée Réservee”*
93-96 Parker
\$42.95



1998 “Cuvée Réservee”
94 Parker
\$29.95 500ml



Parker: “The 2000 Châteauneuf du Pape Cuvée Réservee ... exhibits an opaque ruby/purple color as well as a fabulous nose of black fruits intermixed with roasted meats, licorice, pepper, and a touch of garrigue. It is super-charged with extract, has high levels of glycerin, extremely full body, sweet tannin, and a long finish of nearly 40 seconds. Anticipated maturity: 2004-2025.”

Remarkable value in a unique size. Parker: “... an old style, full-bodied effort revealing notes of roasted meats, beef blood, *herbes de Provence*, kirsch liqueur, sandalwood, and spice. Rich, full-bodied, moderately tannic, super-pure and dense, this gorgeous offering is the finest Cuvée Réservee produced since 1990.”

1998 Cuvée de Capo285.00

Parker: “100 rating ... profound ... Enormously thick and rich, but, amazingly, not heavy, this blockbuster, full-bodied Châteauneuf du Pape is still youthful, but should age gracefully for three decades.”

1990 “Cuvée Réservee” 750 ml97.50

1990 “Cuvée Réservee” 1.5L210.00

1990 “Cuvée Réservee” 9L1450.00

1990 “Cuvée Réservee” 12L1895.00

2000 Cuvée de Capo*195.00

Parker: “96-98 rating ... exhibits an extreme thickness and intensity of flavor, high tannin, blockbuster richness, and all the characteristics of the Cuvée Réservee exaggerated to the maximum ... a prodigious effort that should age into an historic Châteauneuf du Pape.”

Parker: “96 rating ... one of the appellation’s superstars ... The huge nose of truffles, tar, super-ripe black fruits, licorice, tobacco, and spices is profound. In the mouth, there is sweet, expansive fruit, a super-concentrated, powerful, tannic taste, lavish amounts of glycerin and body, as well as a finish that lasts well over a minute. With plenty of tannin, this wine is destined to have 20-25 years of evolution.”

Nonna, Paradiso & Amelia

Incredibly Rare Balsamicos from Acetaia del Cristo

With their ebony hues, their towering bouquets, and their intensely rich, sweet palates, Modena's great Balsamicos rival the world's greatest wines for complexity and pleasure.

We have the privilege of working with Modena's most elite small producers—families who have been aging Balsamico for generations. They *all* make majestic vinegars, but the family with perhaps the most extraordinary stocks of very old Balsamicos are the Barbieri's of Acetaia del Cristo.

We have offered many glorious Acetaia del Cristo vinegars in recent years: the distinctive cherry and juniper, the great 25-year-old Extravecchio and the mindblowing 40-year-old Extravecchio Special Selection. But the most amazing are yet to come.

Priceless Nectars

Each year, Erika Barbieri and her father Eugenio single out two barrels containing their oldest, richest, most ambrosial vinegars. One of these, *Selezione della Nonna*, is always from a battery that was passed down from Erika's grandmother.

The other, *Paradiso*, is chosen from a different battery



Eugenio Barbieri with the legendary Otello Bonfatti drawing a sample from a Balsamico cask.

each year. As with Nonna, only about 30 bottles are drawn per year—to be divided among all of Cristo's customers.

Year after year, these two vinegars are regarded as Modena's finest, achieving stratospheric scores in the Balsamico *Consortio* tastings. In 2000, Paradiso won the *Palio* for greatest Balsamico of all.

Amelia

We, of course, buy as many bottles of these two as we can (though it's never more than a handful). However, a year ago we asked Erika if she could make a third special vinegar to commemorate the birth of our daughter. Of the 1100 vinegars judged by the *Consortio* in 2001, *Selezione Amelia* achieved the highest score (higher even than Nonna and Paradiso in that year). Of the 25 bottles produced, we will keep 5 for Amelia, sharing the rest with our customers.

We are honored to offer tiny quantities of these rarities, along with the full range of vinegars for which Acetaia del Cristo has become famous. For the Nonna, Paradiso and Amelia, there is a strict one-bottle limit.

As with all of our Balsamico offers, there is a **10% discount on a purchase of 6 or more bottles.**

Traditional (12 years old)54.95

Shows the full spectrum of Balsamico flavors, from cedar to chocolate, with a fantastic balance of sweetness and tanginess; really delicious. It's no wonder other producers measure their 12-year-olds against Barbieri's.

Juniper (12 years old)69.00

Unique for its intense evergreen aromas and mouthwatering richness. A sensational accent to steaks and other grilled meats. Aged primarily in juniper—the rarest of all *acetaia* woods.

Cherry (12 years old)69.00

Aged primarily in cherry casks, a few drops on vanilla ice cream is heaven. Redolent of black cherries—one of the sweetest, smoothest and most unique of all Balsamicos.

Extravecchio (25 years old)89.00

A blockbuster—thick, rich, with amazing depth of color. Rich semisweet chocolate and toffee with a citrus tang. Phenomenal volume; *awesome* length.

Note: All Acetaia del Cristo Balsamicos are bottled and sealed in the classic 100ml Modena Consortio bottle.

Special Selection (40 years old)135.00

One of the *great* Balsamicos—nearly black in color, with a luxuriously rich texture. Intense flavors of coffee, hazelnuts, toffee and figs. Simply profound.

Paradiso225.00

A truly ancient Balsamico, selected for its incredible balance of penetrating acidity and luscious sweetness. Profoundly flavored, it achieves a level of complexity that must be experienced to be believed. Voted the greatest Balsamico of 2000.

Selezione della Nonna225.00

Even older than Paradiso, Nonna boasts an even smoother, thicker palate, its unctuousness prevailing over other taste sensations. All of the smells that can exist in Balsamico explode from the glass of this mindboggling nectar.

Selezione Amelia225.00

As old and sweet as Nonna, *Selezione Amelia* may be even more of a head-turner. (Certainly the *Consortio* tasters thought so, giving it a dizzying score.) Black, primordially viscous, explosive on the nose and palate. Fabulous.

Hat Tricks

Top Aussies, Germans & Ports from the latest Wine Advocate

1999 D'Arenberg Shiraz
"The Dead Arm"*
96 Parker
\$54.95

Parker: "... awesomely rich, notes of black pepper, licorice, and blackberry as well as cherry liqueur cascade over the palate with enormous concentration and intensity, high tannin, and structured, muscular style ... a timeless museum piece"

1999 Torbreck
"The Factor"*
97 Parker
\$99.95

Parker: "... yields from these old Shiraz vineyards average 1.35 tons of fruit per acre ... This full bodied, marvelously concentrated, stunningly pure Shiraz is the qualitative equivalent of this estate's flagship offering, the Run Rig."

1999 D'Arenberg Cabernet
"Coppermine Road"*
95 Parker
\$49.95

Parker: "brilliant ... it boasts ... an extraordinary bouquet of crème de cassis, lead pencil, new saddle leather, and spice box aromas. There is great depth, fabulous purity, full body, and superbly integrated tannin as well as acidity ... 2005-2020. A Classic!"

2000 Vintage Ports

2000 Taylor*
98+ Parker
\$89.95 bt. \$49.95 half bt.

Parker: "... tastes like a young vintage of Château Latour on steroids. Aromas of graphite, blackberry liqueur, crème de cassis and smoke jump from the glass. Spectacularly concentrated and enormously endowed ... this is the leading candidate for the port of the vintage."

2000 Cockburn*
95+ Parker
\$59.95 bt.

Parker: "... one of the most compelling wines of the vintage, this inky black/purple-colored 2000 exhibits notes of scorched earth, melted asphalt, blackberry liqueur, and a pungent, penetrating intensity that reverberates in the mouth as well as the head ... thrilling."

2000 Fonseca*
95+ Parker
\$79.95 bt. \$39.95 half bt.

Parker: "Dense ruby/purple-colored, with an exotic, exuberant perfume of black fruits, flowers, incense, and licorice, this unctuously-textured, full-bodied port is one of the most concentrated of the vintage. Sweet, expansive, and succulent"

Dönnhoff's Great 2001's

"One of the finest vintages in the past hundred years for Deutschland's Rieslings" Rovani

2001 Norheimer Dellchen
Riesling Auslese*
95 Rovani
\$49.95

Rovani: "A muscular, velvety textured wine, it regales the palate with persistent waves of fruit whose flavors linger in its exceptional finish."

2001 Niederhauser Riesling
Hermannshöhle Spätlese*
98 Rovani
\$79.95

Rovani: "... the greatest Spätlese I've ever tasted. ... otherworldly richness, depth and concentration ... flavors are seemingly unending ... prodigious, benchmark-setting ..."

2001 Oberhäuser Brücke
Riesling Spätlese*
94 Rovani
\$39.95

Rovani: "... complex, highly expressive wine, its rich satin-textured core reveals perfumed white fruits ... rich yet crystalline ..."

NORTHERN RHONE

1999 Château d'Ampuis

In a monumental vintage, Guigal's Latest Cuvée Reaches a New Level

In 1999, Côte Rôtie enjoyed its finest harvest in a generation. So, it's no surprise that Guigal's newest luxury Côte Rôtie, Château d'Ampuis, is stunning.

Château d'Ampuis was created in 1995, to someday challenge Guigal's great single-vineyard Côte Rôties. It is blended from six extraordinary sites—Pommière, Pavillon, La Garde, Le Clos, La Grande Plantée and Le Moulin—all nestled in the same section of the Côtes Blonde and Brune where La Turquie and La Mouline are situated.



In this 1947 map, the Pommière, Pavillon, La Garde, Le Clos, La Grande Plantée and Le Moulin vineyards of Guigal's "Château d'Ampuis" share the same priceless terroir as La Turquie and La Mouline.

This Offer

The elite 1999 Côte Rôties—Rostaing, Jamet, Guigal—figure to become legendary, equalling or

Wines may be sold and delivered only to persons who are at least 21 years old. All wines are sold in California and title passes to the buyer in California. We make no representation to the legal rights of anyone to ship or import wines into any state outside of California. We are not responsible for typographical errors. All items and prices subject to availability. An * indicates pre-arrival. Issued 16 times yearly. Copyright 2002 The Rare Wine Co.

“Mother nature gives them a vintage like this once every twenty or so years. In the twenty-five years I have been visiting Côte Rôtie, this is the most exciting young vintage I have tasted.”
Robert Parker on 1999 Côte Rôties

su¹ passing the mythic 1978's in stature. Only 2,500 cases of the '99 Château d'Ampuis were made, and if history is any guide, it will become very expensive and difficult to find within a matter of a few months. We are pleased to offer this much-anticipated

wine at a very attractive opening price.

**1999 Guigal Côte Rôtie
Château d'Ampuis***
95-97 Parker
\$79.95



Parker: "The 1999 Côte Rôtie Château d'Ampuis has put on additional weight, and is the most awesome effort Guigal has produced under this brand name. All of the component parts were tasted, several of which bordered on perfection, particularly La Pommière, Pavillon Rouge, and Le Moulin. The sumptuous 1999 boasts a spectacularly sweet perfume of jammy blackberry and cassis fruit intertwined with smoke, tapenade, and new saddle leather notes. It is unctuously-textured, explosively rich, and amazingly well-delineated for a wine of such size and richness. This is an exquisite Côte Rôtie that should drink well young yet age nicely for two decades."

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FOOD & WINE BEST WINE
2002 AMERICAN WINE AWARDS IMPORTER

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