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**2000 Mordorée
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**The Glories of
Champagne II**

OCTOBER 8, 2002

RIOJA

The Turnaround

Alvaro Palacios' Extraordinary New "Propriedad"

During the 1990's, Alvaro Palacios became the most acclaimed Spanish winemaker of his generation, leading winemaking revolutions on opposite sides of Spain, in Priorat and Bierzo.

But with the turn of a new century, he has launched a third, equally exciting project in Spanish wine's heartland, Rioja. There, he has taken over his family's old Palacios Remondo estate and, in one year, has produced a set of wines whose quality has left Rioja insiders stunned. Included among them is the 2000 Propriedad, which promises to catapult Palacios Remondo overnight into the top ranks of Rioja producers.



How it Happened

Alvaro Palacios has made a career of unpredictable conquests. As a teenager, he had been groomed by his father José to some day run the family Rioja estate. But Alvaro defied his father's wishes. He rejected Rioja's traditional winemaking orthodoxy and in 1988 moved to Priorat to seek his own vision.

Alvaro's departure left a rift between the two that was not healed until his father fell gravely ill in 2000. At that time, in an emotional reunion, José asked his son to take over Palacios Remondo upon his death.

Continued next page

"Best Wine Importer"

The Rare Wine Co. Honored in the American Wine Awards

The American Wine Awards recognize outstanding achievements in wine. The awards are voted by a panel of journalists and previous honorees, and the winners are announced in the October issue of *Food & Wine*.

This year, The Rare Wine Co. has been named **Best Wine Importer**. This is an exciting honor, not just for us but for the many loyal customers who have long shared our passion for great and interesting wines—and have supported our



efforts to go out and find them. The credit must also be shared with the thirty European producers whom we represent as U.S. importer and whose wines have so enriched our portfolio. Finally, our thanks go to our friends and colleagues in other countries who share our standards of quality and help us come up with the perfectly cellared rarities that fill our newsletters. To all, we extend our deepest thanks. □

The Turnaround

“Through grit and talent, Alvaro Palacios has become the most exciting winemaker in Spain.” Wine Spectator 9/30/02

Continued from Page One

Alvaro agreed. But his assent was about more than loyalty to his father. He would have a free hand, unconstrained by the past. And, perhaps even more important, he would have some spectacular vineyards with which to work.

Back in the 1960’s, his father had planted some 250 acres of vines on chalky, south-facing hillsides which were now producing amazing fruit. Alvaro knew that with these mature vineyards—mostly Tempranillo and Garnacha—he had the raw materials to immediately make Palacios Remondo one of Rioja’s elite estates.



At left, Alvaro Palacios’ father & mother at their first winery in the 1950’s.

The Onset of Change

By the time of the 2000 vintage, Alvaro, working with his younger brother Rafael, was firmly in charge, and innovation happened at a breathtaking pace. Perhaps the most dramatic change was shutting down the bodega’s “negociant” business, which in recent years had constituted 75% of its production. Alvaro chose to focus on making *great* wines from the family’s own vineyards.

The brothers also immediately made drastic changes in vineyard management. Organic viticulture was implemented, and yields were slashed. And in the cellar, they began to phase out the existing cooperage, replacing them with high-quality French barrels.

Propriedad

Finally, the number of different cuvées produced was reduced by more than half, to just four: the pinnacle being Propriedad, a limited-production prestige cuvée. Propriedad is a selection from the estate’s oldest and best-situated vines—about half of them Garnacha, from vines approaching 40 years of age.

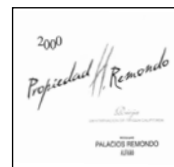
Alvaro’s decision to emphasize old-vine Garnacha in Propriedad is significant. More than anyone alive in Spain today, he is the master of this variety, having learned his craft on the steep slopes of L’Ermita.

Furthermore, eastern Rioja is a paradise for Garnacha—its arid, windswept “Mediterranean” climate very different from that of Rioja Alto.

It was Alvaro’s aim to immediately make a *great* Propriedad—to “make a statement” that Palacios Remondo would be playing in the big leagues of Spanish wine. The message has been delivered with power and passion—and at a bargain price. Don’t miss it.

2000 Palacios Remondo “Propriedad”

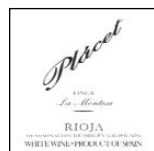
\$24.95 bottle \$275.00 case



This deeply colored, broodingly powerful, intensely cedary red would stand alone in a room full of Riojas. Not only does it blow away other wines in its price range, it would embarrass some of today’s \$60 Rioja prestige cuvées. The Garnacha blazes through, giving Propriedad a startling depth of flavor—and a distinctive garrigue-like bouquet that we associate with the best of the Southern Rhône. A breathtaking beginning for a brilliant young winemaker in a new setting.

A Stellar White

The other really compelling wine in the new portfolio is the barrique-aged white wine, Pláçet. The idea for this cuvée was hatched by Alvaro’s brother Rafael, and then refined by Alvaro. Made from Viura planted on chalky soil, it is a deliciously crisp, mineral-infused white with lively, focused fruit. It is an amazing value.



**2001 “Pláçet”
\$15.95 bottle \$185.00 case**

CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE

A Tour de Force

Christophe Delormé's 2000 Mordorée Reine des Bois

In the outstanding 2000 vintage, there is a short list of "prestige" Châteauneuf cuvées destined to become legendary. At the top of this list is Christophe Delormé's Mordorée Reine des Bois.

A relatively new arrival on the Châteauneuf scene, Delormé began making wine on his own in 1989, with 7.5 acres in three important sites—La Crau, Les Cabrières and Bois la Ville.

For the first few vintages, Delormé only made a regular red Châteauneuf. But then, in 1994, he decided to put aside the fruit from the oldest vines (60-80 years old) into a special reserve cuvée called *Reine des Bois*, to be made only in great years. You would be hard-pressed to find a more consistently rich Châteauneuf du Pape in the 1998, 1999 and 2000 vintages.

This Offer

Since Robert Parker reviewed the 2000 *Reine des Bois* last December, it has become one of the most sought-after wines of the vintage. Already very difficult to find, we're seeing it as high as \$200 a bottle.

But our small parcel, purchased soon after the review, has just arrived. We are pleased to offer it at a far-below-market price, along with a small amount of the very rare 1998.

**2000 Mordorée
Châteauneuf du Pape
"Reine des Bois"
95-98 Parker
\$119.95**



Parker: "... possesses a level of richness found in only a handful of the world's greatest wines. The dense purple color is followed by multiple flavor dimensions as well as massive concentration and thickness. It is reminiscent of a dry vintage Port, without the weight. The knock-out nose of framboise, blackberry liqueur, cassis, licorice, and lead pencil shavings is followed by layers of flavor, remarkable purity, and a finish that lasts nearly a minute. This is a sumptuous, profound wine."

1998 Mordorée Châteauneuf "Reine des Bois"225.00
1998 Mordorée Châteauneuf "Reine des Bois" Mag..450.00

Parker: "99 rating ... enormously endowed, concentrated, and fabulous in the mouth. With high tannin as well as extraordinary blackberry and cassis fruit mixed with minerals and subtle new oak, it cuts a huge swath across the palate ... Give it another 3-4 years of cellar-aging and drink it over the following three decades."

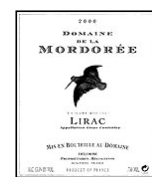
Delormé's Terrific Lirac "Reine des Bois"

In addition to his marvelous Châteauneuf du Papes, Christophe Delormé produces splendid wines in other southern Rhône appellations.

The best of these is his Lirac Rouge "Reine des Bois," which—like the Châteauneuf featured above—is a limited-production special cuvée.

As Robert Parker has written, it gives you a "taste of what Mordorée does so well in Châteauneuf du Pape" at a bargain price.

**2000 Mordorée Lirac
"Reine des Bois"
90 Parker
\$17.95**



Parker: "This wine is a fine bargain. This deep purple-colored effort is crammed with cassis and cherry fruit nicely complemented by pepper, mineral, and licorice. The fat, jammy 2000 is a Lirac fruit/glycerin bomb. It should be drunk over the next 3-6 years."

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.

CHAMPAGNE

Champagne's Glories II

In our last issue, we featured classic Roederer Cristal, Bollinger R.D., Salon and other great marques. Here's Part II. It not only includes great vintages of Krug and Dom Pérignon, there are a num-

ber of superbly cellared older rarities. The cornerstone for this offer, as for the last, are the reviews of Richard Juhlin, whom we believe sets the global standard for Champagne criticism today.

— Save an additional 10% with the purchase of 12 or more bottles from this offering —

Krug (Reims)

"All Krug's wines are small masterworks."

Richard Juhlin

- 1988 Krug**169.95
 Richard Juhlin: "98 rating." *Wine Spectator*: "99 rating." Tanzer: "96+ rating ... a great vintage for Krug..."
- 1988 Krug Clos du Mesnil**295.00
- 1988 Krug Clos du Mesnil Magnum**595.00
 Richard Juhlin: "99 rating ... pure springlike essence."

1985 Krug
96 Juhlin – 98+ Tanzer
\$169.95



Richard Juhlin: "... wonderfully roguish nose of smoke, cream, honey, nuts, peaches and vanilla ..."
 Steve Tanzer: "Montrachet-like ... legend-in-the-making."

- 1982 Krug**199.95
 Richard Juhlin: "98 rating ... legendary ... the most full-bodied wine to come from the property since 1976."
- 1981 Krug**149.95
 Richard Juhlin: "95 rating ... A 1985 Le Montrachet from Drouhin felt clumsy compared to this ... rich, elusive and exciting with tones of apple cake and custard, coffee, honey and white chocolate."
- 1975 Krug Collection Magnum ***825.00
 Richard Juhlin: "95 rating ... truly classic ... great length."

Laurent-Perrier (Reims)

1990 Laurent-Perrier
"Cuvée Grand Siecle"*
95 Juhlin
\$79.95

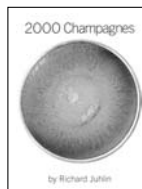


Richard Juhlin: "Wonderfully rich and pure, classically constructed with fantastic elegance. It contains a little extra touch of everything"

Still Available ...

2000 Champagnes
by Richard Juhlin
\$39.95 reg. \$60.00

hardcover with dustjacket 344 pp.



Dom Pérignon (Epernay)

- 1990 Dom Pérignon**125.00
- 1990 Dom Pérignon Magnum**275.00
 Richard Juhlin: "95 rating ... typical *Dom Pérignon* finesse ... A great debut for Richard Geoffroy!"
- 1988 Dom Pérignon Magnum**235.00
 Richard Juhlin: "94 rating ... will probably become the greatest 'Dom' since 1973 ... as clear as the purest diamond ... The taste is also brilliant..."
- 1982 Dom Pérignon**195.00
 Robert Parker: "96 rating."
- 1975 Dom Pérignon disgorged 1999**250.00
 Richard Juhlin: "94 rating. A pure *Dom Pérignon* with everything in its rightful place...."
- 1970 Dom Pérignon disgorged 1999**295.00
 Richard Juhlin: "A strong nose with toasty elements."

Henriot (Reims)

An excellent prestige cuvée first made in 1985.

- 1988 Henriot Cuvée Enchanteleurs**59.95
 Richard Juhlin: "93 rating ... beautiful scent of white flowers, acacia, candy and vanilla ... fine crispness, breeding and elegance."

Rarities

- 1971 Charles Heidsieck**110.00
 Superbly cellared bottles from the great 1971 vintage. Offers the quintessential Heidsieck richness in spades.
- 1975 Heidsieck Diamant Bleu Magnum**375.00
 Richard Juhlin: "93 rating ... youthful, rebellious ... The aftertaste has a strong Verzenay character."
- 1969 Dom Ruinart***195.00
 Magnificent examples of this great Champagne, from an outstanding British cellar. Richard Juhlin: "classical and tasting of lime. Full, fat, long."
- 1973 Pol Roger**115.00
 A beautifully cellared rarity. Richard Juhlin: "Lusty ... rich chocolate-like mature style."

CHAMPAGNE

Jacques Selosse

“Champagne’s cult grower no. 1 ... the most original winemaker in all of Champagne.” Richard Juhlin



Having learned many of his methods from the best small growers of Burgundy, 45-year-old Anselme Selosse is Champagne’s master of Chardonnay. His vines average 38-years of age, and he prunes them ruthlessly to minimize yields. One of the few producers in Champagne to vinify in oak, he ages his wines in barrique for a year, stirring the lees weekly.

The result is Champagne of mindblowing complexity and individuality—qualities that have earned Selosse Champagne a passionate cult following and great scarcity in the marketplace.

10% discount on any 12-bottle purchase (may be combined with other Champagnes in this offer).

NV Jacques Selosse “Tradition”*47.50

We used to think that Bollinger was the non-vintage Champagne for long-term cellaring. Now it’s Selosse. Richard Juhlin recommends aging this cuvée “to develop those Selosse aromas that are so hard to describe. **Undoubtedly a great champagne which with time will both taste and smell of Brazil nuts.**”

Jacques Selosse “Extra Brut”*52.95

Richard Juhlin: “My own house Champagne. Disgorged after five years in the cellar and without any dosage, this wine demands one more year in the bottle ... Loads of peaches, mango and nutty barrel tones.”

1988 Jacques Selosse Vintage*99.95

A legend and virtually impossible to find. Richard Juhlin: “**95** rating ... Pure and rich in minerals, this wine lies in wait for a few years before its toasty aromas and oily fruit come to astound us.” **2-bottle limit.**

Two Great Climens

Most Sauternes lovers would rank Ch. Climens second only to Yquem, and with good reason: no other property can produce Sauternes with Climens’ haunting finesse. Climens boasts the finest *terroir* in the commune of Barsac and a unique cèpage of 98% Semillon (from vines averaging 40+ years old). Once in the cellar, 100% barrel-fermentation—and a further



Ch. Climens in the 19th century.

two years in cask—marries perfectly the fresh flavors of lemon and pineapple with the opulence of honey, vanilla and *crème brûlée*.

We are pleased to offer, from exceptional European cellarage, two of the greatest Climens of the past half century: the legendary 1971, plus the superb 1990. Don’t miss either of these magnificent Sauternes.

1990 Ch. Climens*
95 Parker
\$89.95



Parker: “Looks to be a worthy rival of the dazzling 1988. The superb aromatics (pineapple, acacia, vanilla, and honey) are followed by a rich, full-bodied, atypically powerful Climens that possesses adequate acidity, high alcohol, and even higher levels of extract and fruit.”

1971 Ch. Climens
\$195.00



Michael Broadbent’s *Great Vintage Wine Book*: “★★★★★ Climens at its best. Now a glorious buttery gold; lovely classic Botrytis bouquet gaining extra dimensions with bottle-age. Caramel cream. Sweet, not at all hefty, rich yet elegant, soft, smooth, excellent life-enhancing acidity.”

Parker: “**94** rating. My favorite mature vintage of Climens.”

MADEIRA

1922 D'Oliveira Bual

D'Oliveira's 1922 Bual is legendary: a wine of nearly indescribable richness and power.

In his benchmark book *Madeira*, Alex Liddell gives only three 20th-century wines 5 stars. They are all D'Oliveira wines, and the '22 Bual is one of them.

We have just secured a small stock of this great Madeira directly from D'Oliveira which we can offer at the compellingly low price of \$175 a bottle. This has got to be one of the singularly great values in old and rare wine. Don't miss it.



1922 D'Oliveira Bual

★★★★★ Alex Liddell

\$175.00

Alex Liddell: "Dense, ruddy mahogany ... a rich symphony of aromas like *crème brûlée* and roasted nuts; very concentrated and sweet ... powerful and persistent finish. A reference wine."

Wine Spectator: "Incredibly rich ... The sweet, concentrated chocolate and molasses flavors have a smooth, silky texture and the cut of high acidity to balance the sweet richness"

Steve Tanzer: "Makes a huge impact on the palate ... urgent intensity and mouthfilling thickness."

VINTAGE PORT

The Rare, Great 1970 Noval Nacional

Quinta do Noval's "Nacional" is the most sought-after Vintage Port of all. But with production of barely 200-250 cases, collectors may go their whole lives without ever seeing a bottle of a great vintage. It is just that rare.

Called Port's "Holy Grail," Nacional is made from a plot of 5,000 vines that are immediately behind the quinta house. These vines are the only ones in the Douro that are entirely ungrafted.

Nobody knows for sure why the ungrafted Nacional vines have been immune to the Phylloxera that still lives in the Douro's soil. Nor can anyone explain why Nacional's wine is so much more profound and concentrated than other Vintage Ports. It just is, and that is part of its mystery.



Quinta do Noval in the 1870's.

Over the past two or three years, older top vintages of Nacional have gone from scarce to virtually unobtainable. This has particularly been the case with the legendary 1970, which we were last able to offer in these pages in February 1998—more than four years ago!

It may be another few years before you see this wine again ... and probably never again at this price.

1970 Quinta do Noval Nacional*

98 Suckling — 96 Parker

\$525.00

Robert Parker: "... unbelievably graceful, youthful and complex." James Suckling: "... a massive wine."

CALIFORNIA

Patz and Hall

Some of our favorite California producers are those who own no vineyards, but who put their talent into finding growers they can rely on for great fruit. One of the best of these is Patz and Hall—which we have never before had the privilege of featuring in our newsletter.

A Napa Cabernet Legend

1996 Shafer Hillside Select

98+ Parker

\$195.00



Parker: "... one of the vintage's superstars. Its opaque purple color is accompanied by super aromatics, immense body, great fruit extraction, superb purity and overall symmetry, as well as a 40+ second finish. Revealing exceptional intensity (but no heaviness) as well as perfectly integrated acidity, tannin, and alcohol, this fabulous Cabernet will drink wonderfully for three decades." *Extremely limited.*

Patz and Hall are Burgundian purists—they strictly use indigenous yeast fermentations and long, slow malolactic fermentation in barrique. Only Chardonnay and Pinot Noir are made.

In 2000, the team produced nine different wines, including seven that are single-vineyard. From this group, we chose one to offer: the Hyde Vineyard Chardonnay. It is simply extraordinary for its quality *and* its price. Don't miss it.

2000 Patz and Hall Hyde Vyd. Chardonnay

92 Parker

\$45.00



Parker: "... displays vibrant acid levels, plenty of lemon custard, orange and citrus characteristics and medium to full bodied, concentrated, nicely textured flavors. Purity, texture, harmony and well-integrated oak characterize this impressively endowed Chardonnay."

“The Real Deal!”

— Parker on '99 Bacio Divino

Since its first vintage in 1993, Bacio Divino has been acclaimed as one of Napa Valley's most unique wines. A subtle marriage of Cabernet Sauvignon, Sangiovese and Petit Sirah, it is one of the few California collectibles not made strictly from conventional Bordeaux or Burgundy varietals. With auction prices that have exceeded \$150 a bottle, Bacio is now well-established among the most sought-after California wines.

The newly released 1999 Bacio was produced from grapes picked at low yields. Once again, his unique grape mix displays a remarkable alchemy. It is a stylish wine of remarkably deep color and serious complexity.



Claus Janzen makes 1,000 cases of Bacio Divino, with about 100 cases made available to a handful of retailers of Claus' choosing. We're proud to say that we're at the top of Claus' list. This year, we even got a few of his rare magnums!

1999 Bacio Divino
\$79.95 bt. \$185.00 mag.

Parker: "92 rating. Another outstanding effort from Bacio Divino, this ... may be Napa's finest interpretation of a proprietary red wine from Italy's Tuscan coastline ... sweet notes of black fruit, charcoal, licorice, new saddle leather and dried herbs ... rich, multilayered ... a lush, hedonistic mouthfeel, complex aromatics, and a fabulous finish ... the real deal!"

Best of the Best

Important New White Burgundy Releases

For sheer hedonistic pleasure, few wines can top the best white Burgundies. They're sensual to drink young, but with time in the cellar they can become nothing less than magical.

The fine 2000 and 2001 vintages have given us a number of wines destined to become classics in the years ahead. Here's an offering of the best of these ... at fantastic prices.

Henri Boillot 2001's

"The man is on a roll." Tanzer

**2001 Henri Boillot
Corton Charlemagne*
92-96 Tanzer
\$95.00 (Sugg. \$150)**



Tanzer: "Very pure, steely, spicy aromas of lemon, lime, apple and mint. Precise and pure, with penetrating limey acidity giving it superb cut. Offers a compelling interplay of sheer sweetness of fruit and mineral acids ... A wine of great purity and length. \$150."

2001 Henri Boillot Batard Montrachet*150.00

Tanzer: "93-96 rating. Superripe aromas of exotic yellow fruits and blond tobacco, with a suggestion of roasted fruit. Massive and hugely concentrated yet amazingly fresh ... A rock-solid, superripe wine with great persistence. Should be a monument of the vintage."

Domaine Leflaive 2000's

2000 Domaine Leflaive Puligny "Pucelles"*99.95

Tanzer: "93 rating ... aromas of peach, pear and spices, with a distinct suggestion of more exotic fruits. Steely, brisk and pure, with lovely intensity and cut ... This really dances on the palate. Finishes vibrant, firm-edged and long. A superb premier cru."

Domaine Leflaive (Cont.)

2000 Domaine Leflaive Batard Montrachet*195.00

Tanzer: "94 rating ... Big, rich and mouthfilling, with harmonious ripe acidity framing the peach and pear fruit flavors. Very dense and very long ..."

2000 Domaine Leflaive Chevalier Montrachet*250.00

Tanzer: "95+ rating ... Dense, thick and powerfully structured; a real mineral bath in the mouth. Vibrant and stony wine, finishing with terrific length and grip."

Girardin & Bouchard 2000's

2000 V. Girardin Batard Montrachet*110.00

Tanzer: "95 rating ... leesy aromas of pear liqueur, hazelnut and menthol ... Thick, dense, sweet and chewy ... A wonderfully suave, harmonious wine with superb length on the palate."

2000 V. Girardin Meursault "Poruzots-Dessus V.V." .45.00

Wine Spectator: "95 rating ... from vines that average 50 years in age, it is packed with ripe fruit ... Despite its power, it caresses the palate ..."

2000 Bouchard Pere et Fils Corton Charlemagne* 79.95

Wine Spectator: "94 rating ... very creamy, refined ... with wonderful harmony ..." Tanzer: "92-94 rating ...mineral and powerful; a densely packed wine ... Finishes with excellent persistence and grip."

2000 Bouchard Pere et Fils Meursault-Perrières49.95

Wine Spectator: "95 rating ... simply gorgeous ... with a great mineral grip and lots of ripe fruit. Long finish with smoky, toasted notes that linger forever."

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