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SEPTEMBER 30, 2003

## NORTHERN RHONE

# The Soul of Côte Rôtie

*René Rostaing*

*We were honored this summer to be appointed the principal U.S. agent for René Rostaing, one of the great producers of the Northern Rhône. In tribute to this remarkable winemaker, we are pleased to offer a retrospective of legendary Rostaing vintages, along with our first-ever offering of René's sought-after Domaine Puech Chaud.*

For us, and many others, the wines of René Rostaing are 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 intelligently over the past 15 years. Today, he uses just enough new wood (about 20%) to produce perfectly aged wines, without overwhelming the subtle Syrah perfume. He seeks optimum maturity in the vineyard—railing against some of his neighbors' overextracted, overripe wines. He is famous for preferring 1998 to 1999, and 1991 to 1990—in each case going for balance over size. It's no surprise that his wines are consistently



*Rostaing's newly planted vines in La Turque.*

marvels of elegance, refinement and sublime bouquet.

### From Côte Rôtie to the Languedoc

Rostaing makes three highly distinctive Côte Rôties: the consistently beautiful Cuvée Classique; the Cuvée La Landonne, from the same vineyard as Guigal's famous wine, with an average vine age of about 50 years; and the Côte Blonde, which many consider to be Rostaing's finest wine. Only 500 cases each of the Côte Blonde and the La Landonne are made each year.

But while René has come to be identified with Côte Rôtie—and to some extent with Condrieu where he has less than an acre of vines—in the late 1990s, he purchased a property in the Côteaux du Languedoc near Nîmes:

Domaine Puech Chaud. Since René's first vintage here in 1999, Puech Chaud has been acclaimed for offering remarkable richness, depth and complexity.

### This Offer

Our representation of René begins with the 2000 vintage, but the test of his wines is the grace with which they age. So, in *hommage à René Rostaing*, we have assembled a unique offering of his greatest Côte Rôties since 1990. Many of these wines are quite rare. We are also pleased to offer a limited amount of René's 2001 Puech Chaud. □

# NORTHERN RHONE

## Rostaing's Great Decade: 1990-2000

Save 10% with any purchase of 12 or more bottles from this offer

### 2000

Côte Rôtie's best growers made beautiful, forward 2000's—wines that are true expressions of their *terroirs*. The finest cuvées—like Rostaing's Côte Blonde—should improve for a decade or more.

#### 2000 Côte Rôtie Cuvée Côte Blonde\* .....79.95

Parker: "92 rating ... the most sexy, voluptuous of the 2000 cuvées ... dense, rich, opulent, aromatic, velvety-textured, seamless ... this 2000 will be hard to resist young; it is capable of lasting 10-12 years."

#### 2000 Côte Rôtie Cuvée Classique .....54.95

Parker: "89 rating ... displays a deep ruby color with purple nuances as well as sweet cherry and black currant/raspberry fruit ... Pure velvet ... undeniably engaging."

### 1999

With their spectacular ripeness and incredible texture, the 1999's represent an undeniably great—but still controversial—vintage. Due to their great size and power, some consider the 1999's more like Hermitage than Côte-Rôtie.

#### 1999 Côte Rôtie Cuvée Côte Blonde\* 100 Parker \$295.00



Parker: "... 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."

#### 1999 Côte Rôtie Cuvée La Landonne\* .....245.00

Parker: "98 rating ... profound ... this full-bodied, muscular, powerful effort displays surprisingly sweet tannin for a wine from this terroir, along with awesome concentration, and a finish that lasts for 40+ seconds."

#### 1999 Côte Rôtie Cuvée Classique .....59.95

Parker: "92 rating ... brilliant ... Its sexy concoction of jammy black fruits intermixed with violets, acacia flowers, cherry liqueur, and crème de cassis jumps from the glass. The wine is exotic and nearly port-like ... fabulous concentration as well as purity."

### 1998

#### 1998 Côte Rôtie Cuvée Côte Blonde 98 Parker \$189.95



Parker: "exquisite ... soaring aromas of peach and blackberry jam. The wine is velvety-textured and full, with layers of glycerin, extract, and concentrated fruit, superb richness, impressive purity, and a finish that lasts 40+ seconds."



#### 1998 Côte Rôtie Cuvée Classique 90-92 Parker \$49.95

Parker: "... gorgeous levels of creamy black fruits, subtle smoke and toast, a voluptuous texture ... Concentrated, sensual, and velvety-textured, this lovely Côte Rôtie will drink well upon release and over the following decade."

#### 1998 Côte Rôtie La Landonne ..... 95.00

Parker: "93 rating ... spectacular ... Superb aromatics jump from the glass ... On the palate, it is deep and dense ... thrilling to taste ..."

### 1995

Faced with early September rains, some growers panicked and harvested too early. Others, like Rostaing, waited and were blessed with their finest Côte Rôties since 1991—offering a concentrated core and textbook aromatics.

#### 1995 Côte Rôtie Cuvée Côte Blonde\* .....125.00

Parker: "95 rating ... an awesome, mind-boggling nose ... Sumptuous and rich on the palate ... a wine of exceptional intensity ... a tour de force for Côte Rôtie."

#### 1995 Côte Rôtie Cuvée Classique\* .....49.95

Parker: "88-89 rating ... a black-raspberry and violet-scented nose, a fabulous saturated ruby/purple color, excellent ripeness, and density ..."

### 1994

A hot summer combined with September rains resulted in inconsistent quality. Growers with low yields and careful selection made excellent wines. Rostaing's are among the wines of the vintage. His *Classique* is exceptional.

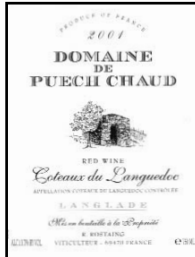
#### 1994 Côte Rôtie Cuvée Classique\* Magnum .....85.00

*Continued Bottom of Next Page*

# Puech Chaud

*"What happens when you take one of Côte-Rôtie's stars and bring him to the Languedoc? You get a stunning 100% Syrah Côteaux du Languedoc that is styled like a Côte-Rôtie, yet with the distinctive richness and depth of this southerly region." Pierre Rovani*

Over the past 32 years, the wines of René Rostaing have come to be regarded as the heart and soul of Côte Rôtie—combining power and richness with delicacy and perfume. But the real measure of René's gifts may have come not on the Côtes Brune and Blonde, but in the Languedoc.



real clue that this isn't a Northern Rhône Syrah. The fact that the wine comes from Languedoc and not Côte Rôtie makes it the most remarkable example yet of Rostaing's ethic: elegant, yet concentrated; expressive, but subtle; hedonistic, yet cerebral.

In the late 1990's, René discovered a small property near Nîmes in the Côteaux du Languedoc: Domaine de Puech Chaud. Though the estate was unknown, with little history, it had extensive Syrah plantings, a relatively cool micro-climate and intriguing limestone soil. And though the alkalinity of the soil contrasted with the acidity of the Rhone's *terroir*, René believed the site capable of producing compelling wines.

Pierre Rovani was the first major critic to herald René's work at Puech Chaud, reviewing the 1999 as "powerful, huge, concentrated, yet maintains Rostaing's trademark elegance and detail." More recently, Andrew Jefford in *The New France*, wrote that "the Rostaing touch is evident in the perfumed fruits and elegant, silky tannins, a stark contrast to Languedoc's more bruising reds." And Robert Parker has written "readers should not miss Domaine Puech Chaud."

And so he purchased the property—turning in his first vintage in 1999. From the beginning, Puech Chaud has been acclaimed one of the finest—and certainly the most Côte Rôtie-like—wines ever made in this part of France.

The newly released 2001 comes from the finest Languedoc vintage since 1998; it is clearly the best Puech Chaud yet made. Unfortunately, the amount coming to the U.S. is minute.

## Côte Rôtie Calling

Puech Chaud's subtle garrique character is the only

**2001 Domaine de Puech Chaud**  
**\$32.95**

## Rostaing Rarities from 1990 and 1991

### 1991

Perfect weather produced breathtaking Côte-Rôties—expressive of their soils, their *cépage*, and, most importantly, the signature aromatics and restraint that separate Côte-Rôtie from other Northern Rhône appellations. A great vintage, whose top wines are aging effortlessly.

**1991 Côte Rôtie Cuvée Côte Blonde\* .....139.95**

Tanzer: "94 rating ... 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."

**1991 Côte Rôtie La Landonne\* .....129.95**

Parker: "94 rating ... an exquisite perfume of licorice, violets, blackberries, and toast, staggering concentration ... gorgeous, exceptionally opulent..."

**1991 Côte Rôtie Cuvée Classique\* .....79.95**

Like its stablemates, the '91 Classique captures the vintage's magic: wonderful richness and texture on the palate and a seductively complex bouquet. Compelling.

### 1990

Because of the year's exceptional ripeness, 1990 was a legendary vintage in the Northern Rhône. And like 1999, it is also controversial, as the top Côte-Rôties have the power of the best Hermitages.

**1990 Côte Rôtie Cuvée Côte Blonde\* .....125.00**

Parker: "93 rating ... exhibits that penetrating, smoky, roasted Côte Rôtie aroma, sweet black-raspberry-scented, supple, medium to full-bodied flavors, and a chewy, fleshy, seductive finish ...."

## CHAMPAGNE

# Clos des Goisses

### *A Remarkable Offer of a Legendary Champagne in Magnum*

When we first learned about the young Champagne critic Richard Juhlin, the thing that quickly won us over was his passion for Philipponnat's Clos des Goisses.

For nearly twenty years, we had been huge fans of this rare cuvée. Vintages dating back to 1962 had convinced us that it was one of the greatest Champagnes of all. Meanwhile, Richard had been building an even more impressive dossier of tasting notes: seventeen vintages between 1952 and 1990, with an astonishing average rating of 95.8 points. Only Salon and Krug have received comparable ratings from Juhlin for the same period.

#### **Clos des Goisses & Salon**

Juhlin is not alone in placing Clos des Goisses alongside Salon. In his classic 1986 book on Champagne, Tom Stevenson drew an intriguing comparison between the two Champagnes, based on the view of the late British wine writer Colin Fenton. Stevenson wrote:

*"The late Colin Fenton, MW, who was perhaps the world's greatest admirer of Champagne Salon, stated that anyone who could not understand or like Salon would not appreciate Clos des Goisses, and vice versa. Although they are very different wines—one a Marne Valley Pinot Noir-dominated blend, the other a Côtes des Blancs Chardonnay—both have a singular intensity which sets them apart from all other Champagnes. Like Salon, Clos des Goisses changes so radically between ten and fifteen years that it comes to assume a completely different, and vastly more complex, identity."*

#### **The Clos**

At the time that Philipponnat purchased Clos des Goisses in 1935, it was a young house, only having been founded in 1910. The Clos was one of Champagne's most famous vineyards and one of the few that could produce a great *mono-cru* Champagne. The key is not only its southern exposure on the



*The famous view of Clos des Goisses against the Marne River resembling a "popping" Champagne bottle.*

Marne River, and its chalky soil, but the fact that it consists of a steep slope and a plateau. In hot, sunny years, the plateau assures balance; in cool, cloudy years, the steep southern slope guarantees ripeness. This not only demystifies Clos des Goisses' incredible consistency; it also explains why the wine can be so good in years like 1978 or 1983.

#### **Slow to Develop**

The blend is identical to the Clos' *cèpage*: 70% Pinot Noir and 30% Chardonnay. Like other great wines, it can be difficult to appreciate when young, and needs a minimum of fifteen to twenty years to hit its stride.

It is also one of those unique Champagnes that argues for decanting. The 1989 and 1990, for example, are just now beginning to display their magic, but each will become even more profound with another decade or so in a good cellar.

#### **This Offer**

Even recent vintages of Clos des Goisses can be extremely difficult to find; as for older ones, they are both rare and costly. We are always on the hunt, however. On occasion we find a few bottles with which to satisfy our own passion, but occasionally we come across a few perfectly cellared *cases* of great vintages.

Seldom, however, do we find *magnums* of a legend-in-the-making like the 1990 at a great price. But that's exactly what happened a few weeks ago. This is a unique opportunity to acquire a great and very rare Champagne at a compellingly low price.

#### **1990 Clos des Goisses\***

**96 Richard Juhlin**

**\$195.00 Magnum**



Richard Juhlin: "It is hardly surprising that Clos des Goisses produced a shining '90. It has an unprecedented finesse."

# Barolo's Rising Star

*"Based on the 1996 through 2000 vintages, it's hard to avoid the conclusion that Guido Fantino's Barolo Sorì Ginestra is one of the Piedmont's great wines, with its exhilarating combination of power and perfume." Steve Tanzer*

When Claudio Conterno first joined with Guido Fantino to create Conterno-Fantino, he was constantly asked if he was Aldo or Giovanni Conterno's son. But the obscurity that the pair knew in the 1980's is gradually disappearing—replaced by a growing reputation as one of the Langhe's elite producers.



Ginestra

Their success was preordained. They were among the most talented of the new crop of young winemakers emerging in Barolo. And Guido had been the cellar master at Prunotto—at that time one of the Langhe's most respected producers—learning at the knee of Beppe Colla, a legendary winemaker and the guiding force behind Prunotto for more than 30 years.

But Claudio and Guido also started with some remarkable real estate: a prime piece of Sorì Ginestra, the central part of the famed Ginestra cru in Monforte d'Alba. This limestone-rich site has denser soil than the other parts of Ginestra, producing a

wine of extraordinary structure and potential longevity. Though Guido and Claudio have added to their Barolo holdings, the Sorì Ginestra remains their star Barolo. It is also, as Steve Tanzer's quote indicates, one of the great new wines of the Langhe.

## This Offer

The duo's rise to stardom began with the 1996 vintage, when the first potentially profound Barolo Sorì Ginestra was made. And in each passing vintage, this cuvée has provided further evidence of not only how exceptional the *terroir* is, but how skilled the winemakers are.

We were delighted recently to acquire small parcels of Conterno-Fantino's two finest wines to date—the 1996 and 1999 Sorì Ginestra—at well below market prices. It is nearly impossible today to find Barolos of this stature at prices like these. Don't miss either wine.

**1999 Conterno-Fantino  
Barolo 'Sorì Ginestra'\*  
94+ Tanzer  
\$59.95**



**1996 Conterno-Fantino  
Barolo 'Sorì Ginestra'\*  
92+ Tanzer  
\$59.95**



Tanzer: "Deep red. Pungently spicy aromas of red fruits and minerals. Sweet, lush, deep and harmonious; already revealing compelling inner-mouth perfume. Very sweet and very long, with a palate-cleansing, sappy aftertaste. Tannins are thoroughly buffered by fruit. A great showing."

Tanzer: "... nose combines cherry, licorice, camphor and baking chocolate. Then surprisingly full and lush in the mouth, but with obvious underlying spine and power. The major mouthcoating tannins are quite noble and reach the entire palate. This extremely impressive wine will take a decade to reach its peak and should be very long-lived."

**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 2003 The Rare Wine Co.

## RIBERA DEL DUERO

# A Great Vega Sicilia ... at a Fantastic Price

Spain's ultimate blue chip, Vega Sicilia Unico is never released before its tenth birthday—and the best are held back even longer. Thus, the magnificent 1989 has just been released. This vintage is surely the finest Unico since the 1982, and promises to take its place with the legendary vintages of the 1960's. Don't miss it at this well-below-market price.

**1989 Vega Sicilia Unico\***  
**94 Parker 95 +Tanzer**  
**\$199.95**



Parker: "... from 80-100 year old vines ... incredibly fresh, and capable of 2-3 more decades of evolution. The sensational 1989 Unico Reserva ... possesses tremendous density, an opulent, textured, full-bodied palate, great purity, and moderate tannin in the 60+ second finish. **\$260**"

Tanzer: "Huge, dense and solid, with great sappy red-currant and wild strawberry sweetness buffered by powerful acids. With its huge concentration and extraordinarily chewy extract, this has fruit of steel. The wine's explosive, extremely long finish and great thrust go beyond 99.99% of the world's wines. **\$337**"

## BURGUNDY

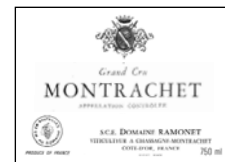
# Monumental Whites

**1996 Bouchard Pere et Fils  
Chevalier-Montrachet\***  
**96 Wine Spectator**  
**\$135.00 bt.**

*Wine Spectator*: "Enormously concentrated and intense, showing very ripe fruit ... a smooth texture in the midpalate, with tropical, toasted wood, mineral and dried herb flavors. Huge finish hints at a lovely, sweet future."

**"A great Ramonet Montrachet" Burghound**

**2001 Ramonet  
Le Montrachet\***  
**96 Burghound**  
**\$395 bt. \$795 mag.**



*Burghound*: "Marvelously intense, muscular flavors of simply incredible complexity and palate staining force. Quite elegant and remarkably well balanced for such a massive wine and this delivers wave after wave of sappy extract on the seemingly never-ending finish. It never ceases to amaze me how Montrachet can be so big yet so light on the palate. A great Ramonet Montrachet."

## "Cults & Fantasies"

### *NY-Presbyterian Hospital's Incredible October Charity Wine Auction*

With one "Holy Grail" lot after another, New York-Presbyterian Hospital's October 14th auction will be a dream come true for many of our customers. Highlights of the sale—which benefits the Center for Women's Health and the Jean Sindh African-American Breast Cancer Project—include the following:

*Dine in the kitchen at El Bulli, drinking Pingus and L'Ermita, with Peter Sisseck and Alvaro Palacios.*

*Private cooking lessons, dinner, accommodations and wine tasting at the Michelin 3-star Jardin des Sens.*

*Dinner at Alain Ducasse's restaurants in Paris, Monaco and New York.*

*A Clos-Ste.-Hune Vertical 1975-90—direct from Trimbach.*

*Rare large formats of Screaming Eagle, Dalla Valle Maya, Chave, Lafite, Hommage and Harlan.*

*Impossible-to-get mailing list spots for California cult wines and Bordeaux's La Mondotte.*

*Insider visits, dinners and rare bottles at Comte de Vogüé, DRC, Guigal, Mouton, Margaux, etc.*

The list of once-in-a-lifetime bottles, meals and visits goes on and on. A wine tasting and silent auction at 6 pm will be followed by dinner and the glittering live auction at 7. The place: JPMorganChase, 270 Park Avenue, New York. Space is very limited; to reserve tickets or purchase a catalogue for absentee bidding call 212-342-0792.

# AUSTRALIA

## Rutherglen Nectar

*Australia's Ambrosial Muscats and Tokays*

Since it was first settled in 1839, Australia's Rutherglen district has become world-renowned for its uniquely rich dessert wines. Jancis Robinson calls Rutherglen's Tokays and Muscats "two of Australia's great gifts to the world." James Halliday terms them "dangerously enjoyable." And Robert Parker calls them unrivaled for "sheer complexity, decadence of flavor and hedonistic pleasure."



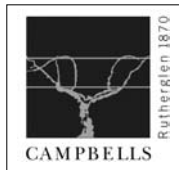
*The Buller winery in the old days.*

Few places on earth have Rutherglen's dessert wine tradition. And three of the best producers here are the old family-owned firms of Buller, Campbells and Chambers. We are pleased to offer their greatest and rarest cuvées.

### Campbells

John Campbell arrived in Rutherglen around 1860 to mine gold. When the mine began to run out, he bought the adjacent land and became, first, a farmer and then later a grapegrower. Today, Campbell is synonymous with rich old Rutherglen Muscat.

**Campbells Muscat  
Merchant Prince\***  
**99 Parker**  
**\$59.95 half bottle**



Parker: "Virtually perfect ... an extraordinary perfume of toffee, caramels, prunes and raisins ... one of Australia's treasures. \$75.00"

**Campbells Muscat half bottle \* .....17.95**  
Parker: "95 rating ... gorgeous aromas of molasses, prunes, maple syrup and toffee."

### R.L. Buller

In 1921, Dick Buller was given an abandoned vineyard as a reward for his service in World War I. The vineyard was Calliope, and it is famous for its unimaginably rich Muscats and Tokays. But the Calliope wines are just two of the fabulous dessert wines that the Bullers make from their Rutherglen vineyards.

**R.L. Buller Premium Fine Muscat\***  
**94 Parker**  
**\$17.95 half bottle**

Parker: "... offers terrific aromas of brown sugar, molasses, and maple syrup, great persistence on the palate, and a tremendous finish. For the price, its a steal!"

**R.L. Buller Calliope Rare Muscat half bottle \* .....54.95**

Parker: "100 rating ... layers of flavor and constantly changing aromatics of brown sugar, fig, molasses, and Lord knows what else. It is an extraordinary beverage."

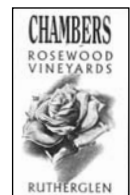
**R.L. Buller Calliope Rare Tokay half bottle\* .....49.95**

Parker: "99 rating ... spectacular ... notes of maple syrup, fruit macerated in cognac, and hints of toffee, caramel, etc. These Australian treasures are fabulous to drink at the end of a meal. Moreover, once opened, they will hold for several weeks, sometimes longer."

### Chambers 'Rosewood'

William H. Chambers arrived in Rutherglen in 1850, purchasing his first vineyard in 1870. Further vineyards were added at the turn of the 20th century. Today, the Chambers family not only has many 100-year-old vines, they also have priceless stocks of very old wines still in barrel—used in their "Rare" and "Grand" cuvées.

**Chambers Rosewood  
Grand Muscat\***  
**99 Parker**  
**\$75.00 half bottle**



Parker: "The Grand Muscat reveals more orange marmalade notes. It is an incredibly unctuous, sweet, thick wine, but, like its siblings, it is neither heavy nor cloying because of good underlying acidity."

**Chambers Rosewood Rare Muscadelle (Tokay)  
half bottle .....165.00**

Parker: "100 rating ... thick, unctuous ... revealing notes of balsamic vinegar intermixed with a smorgasbord of heavenly delights including caramel, melted toffee, maple syrup, and Asian spices. It must be tasted to be believed."

**Chambers Rosewood Rare Muscat half bottle .....165.00**

Parker: "100 rating ... rich, profound, concentrated, and unctuous, with explosive aromatic fireworks."

PRIORAT

# A Fabulous Les Terrasses

*A Magical Year in 2001 for Alvaro Palacios*

*As you will be hearing in the months ahead, Spain enjoyed its finest vintage in years in 2001. You have to go back to 1994-95—though some are saying 1970 or even 1964—to find such a breathtaking level of quality. The weather was nearly perfect everywhere—sunny and dry, with just enough rain to prevent drought stress. The result was a crop of gorgeous fruit with fully ripened skins and some of the most complete wines made in Spain’s modern era.*

**A**lvaro Palacios’ reputation as the greatest Spanish winemaker of his generation was established in the mid-1990’s by the first few vintages of his \$200+ L’Ermita. But increasingly he is becoming revered—by wine lovers and winemakers alike—as the man who makes the \$25 Les Terrasses.

To some extent, this reflects the fact that few people will ever have a chance to taste L’Ermita. But to a much greater degree, this is due to the growing realization that Les Terrasses, more than any other wine, captures the magic of Priorat’s viticultural diversity. It is, in fact, a wine that only Alvaro Palacios could have made.

### A Marriage of Terroirs

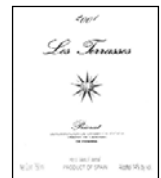
The challenge of this remarkable wine comes from the fact that it is made from scores of different vineyards—many 60 to 90 years old—spread throughout the mountainous 50-square-mile Priorat appellation. From the beginning, Alvaro demanded that each site produce perfect fruit at low yields. By the 2000 vintage, the wine had achieved a stunning level of quality, yet Alvaro still wasn’t content, believing that further leaps in quality could only be achieved by reducing the number of

growers and vineyards, as well as yields, even further—in short, by making less wine.

So, effective with the 2001 vintage, he cut back his production by 30%. With 2001’s phenomenal weather, the payback was immediate and great: easily the finest Les Terrasses to date, bursting with the creamy richness and old-vine complexity that are this cuvée’s hallmark. And with its impressive structure and underlying richness, it has the clear potential for a decade’s aging.

The 2001 Les Terrasses is not only a marvelous wine; it is also an incredible bargain. Don’t miss it.

**2001 Les Terrasses**  
**90 Tanzer**  
**\$24.95** *bt.* **\$49.95** *magnum*



Steve Tanzer: “Black fruits, licorice and tarry oak on the warm nose. Dense, sweet and full, with wild, superripe fruit flavors. Has a distinctly warm aspect but this harmonious blend also boasts plenty of character. Perhaps the best vintage yet for this wine.”

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