

Cognoscenti

WINE

Bouchard Père et Fils Beaune, Burgundy

With some 130 hectares (320 acres), Bouchard is Côte d'Or's largest domaine. Its treasure-laden cellars in Beaune date from the 15th century, where the impressive subterranean labyrinth—some of the walls are as thick as 7 meters—covers some 4 kilometers and houses an amazing collection of bottles dating back to the mid-19th century. Since *Champenois* Joseph Henriot acquired the venerable house of Bouchard in 1995, its reputation—and the consistency of its offerings—has taken an impressive turn for the better. Recently we joined Export Manager Bruno Pépin for a tasting of the 2001s.

The winemaker here seeks balance rather than ripeness; wines shouldn't reach the viscosity of honey ("that's a defect, that's a wine that's near the end," said Mr. Pépin.) Among the whites, the Meursault Les Clous wasn't particularly plump or fleshy, but it was fruity and clearly defined. **Rating: 86** The Meursault-Genevrières was much finer: elegant, restrained, almost austere, with a lovely floral nose along with hints of smoke, fat and strawberry in the mouth: this has considerable promise. **Rating: 91** The 2001 Corton-Charlemagne (from an east-facing site) showed an extraordinary complexity of mineral tones along with white pepper spice; this wine finishes long and suggests fine aging potential. **Rating: 92** The fat 2001 Chevalier-Montrachet was showing green fruits of kiwi and lime along with stone, beautiful nuances, and a delicious finish. **Rating: 93**



Bernard Hervet, General Manager

In the reds, the Monthélie is an "entry-level" Burgundy that sells for around \$18 in the United States and is perhaps intended to compete with the recent blizzard of New World offerings. It is a light-to-medium red color, with pleasant berry and cherry flavors—supple, fruity, neither objectionable nor exciting. **Rating: 86** The Beaune Clos de la Mousse showed light color, some forest floor funk, and attractive red cherry fruit. **Rating: 86** The Beaune Grèves Vigne de l'Enfant Jésus had a richer nose; not really of a piece yet there are suggestions of something deeper here which bodes well for the future. **Rating: 88** The Nuits-Saint Georges, Clos Saint-Marc was more serious, the nose more complex, very stylish with rich, chocolaty hints on the palate. **Rating: 90**

Written by staff editors of
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