

Wine Spectator Insider

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INSIDER SPECIAL REPORT: 2006 RED BURGUNDY

THE 2006 vintage for red Burgundy is shaping up to be outstanding in the Côte de Nuits, the northern part of the Côte d'Or. After tasting more than 375 reds from the area, I have rated more than 200 wines outstanding or better (90 points or more on *Wine Spectator's* 100-point scale).

These top wines show ripe fruit flavors matched to firm structures, and they're more charming and accessible than the 2005 vintage. The tannins are showing up on the finish in these wines now, but in a year or three, depending on the appellation, they will be better integrated with the fruit.

It's difficult to single out one appellation that performed well, however, I like the wines from Gevrey-Chambertin, Nuits-St.-Georges, Vosne-Romanée and Clos de Vougeot. You'll find the top-scoring Burgundies in this report in the Hot Wines section, on page 4. The downside is that most of these wines have triple-digit price tags.

—Bruce Sanderson

France Burgundy

CHANSON PÈRE & FILS

Nuits-St.-Georges Les Boudots 2006

93 points | \$135 | 50 cases made | Red

Opulent and dense, featuring black cherry, cassis and plum flavors, with spice and mineral playing supporting roles. The fruit really coats everything, with good structure and balance. Best from 2010 through 2022.—*B.S.*

ALEX GAMBAL

Clos Vougeot 2006

93 points | \$135 | 125 cases made | Red

A round fruity style, but there's no shortage of grip. Starts out with black cherry and black currant flavors setting the pace, before fine-grained tannins, spice and mineral flavors enter the mix. Fine length. Best from 2011 through 2022.—*B.S.*

ALAIN HUDELLOT-NOËLLAT

Clos de Vougeot 2006

93 points | \$150 | 45 cases imported | Red

Concentrated and fruity, this exudes black cherry and blackberry notes combined with dense tannins. Like a block right now, but fresh and long. Best from 2012 through 2024.—*B.S.*

DOMAINE DES LAMBRAYS

Clos des Lambrays 2006

93 points | \$165 | 250 cases imported | Red

Alluring and supple, yet the proverbial iron fist in a velvet glove. The silky texture soon gives way to a firmly tannic structure, but the berry, spice and mineral flavors are constant from start to finish. Best from 2012 through 2025.—*B.S.*

DENIS MORTET

Clos de Vougeot 2006

93 points | \$450 | 8 cases imported | Red

A pretty version for the appellation, with raspberry, cassis and floral aromas and flavors. Picks up licorice and spice note on the finish, adding depth and interest as the tannins provide structure. Very harmonious. Best from 2011 through 2022.—*B.S.*

BOUCHARD PÈRE & FILS

Nuits-St.-Georges Les Cailles 2006

92 points | \$115 | NA cases made | Red

A supple, polished red, exhibiting loads of sweet black cherry, bilberry and spice flavors. This is marked as much by its lively acidity as the fine-grained tannins, coming together on the lingering aftertaste. Best from 2010 through 2020.—*B.S.*

GROS FRÈRE & SOEUR

Clos Vougeot Musigny 2006

92 points | \$131 | 40 cases imported | Red

On the vegetal side, needing air to coax out the raspberry, black currant and cherry flavors. The tannins are fine, but a little green, finishing on an astringent note. Have faith, because the fruit is beautiful.—*B.S.*

MICHEL GROS

Morey-St.-Denis En La Rue de Vergy 2006

92 points | \$71 | 22 cases imported | Red

A graphite aroma gives way to dark fruit flavors in this mineral-laden red, which is brooding and backed by solid tannins. A sweet blackberry note returns on the long finish. Best from 2012 through 2025.—*B.S.*

LOUIS JADOT

Clos Vougeot 2006

92 points | \$120 | 500 cases imported | Red

A black currant- and cassis-laced version, ripe and smooth, with a solid structure underneath. Needs to resolve the tannins, so give this a few years of age. Just a little dry on the finish. Best from 2012 through 2022.—*B.S.*

DOMAINE DE MONTILLE

Nuits-St.-Georges Aux Thorey 2006

92 points | \$92 | 30 cases imported | Red

Sweet aromas of sawdust and vanilla merge with cherry and spice flavors as this red dovetails on the long finish. Silky and intense, with balance and a bright structure. Best from 2010 through 2019.—*B.S.*

DOMAINE ODOUL-COQUARD

Clos de Vougeot 2006

92 points | \$160 | 10 cases imported | Red

Intensely fruity, featuring blackberry, cassis and violet notes and a rearguard of stiff tannins to keep this focused and long. Raw and powerful now, but should develop well with some bottle age. Best from 2012 through 2024.—*B.S.*

JACQUES PRIEUR

Clos Vougeot 2006

92 points | \$200 | 50 cases imported | Red

Flashy oak is matched by dense black cherry and blackberry flavors in this powerful red. The tannins are slightly rustic, but the fruit is focused and pure. Needs some time. Best from 2012 through 2022.—*B.S.*

TAUPENOT-MERME

Nuits-St.-Georges Les Pruliers 2006

92 points | \$80 | 25 cases imported | Red

A gorgeous red, bursting with juicy blackberry, cassis and mineral flavors. Fresh and linear, with ripe, well-integrated tannins and a long aftertaste. Harmonious. Combines both Nuits and Vosne character. Best from 2010 through 2022.—*B.S.*

CHANSON PÈRE & FILS

Clos de Vougeot 2006

91 points | \$265 | 50 cases made | Red

The cherry and spice notes ride a coarse wave of tannins in this rustic red, which is concentrated, with good length, but requires time to resolve the tannins. Best after 2012.—*B.S.*

ALAIN JEANNIARD

Morey-St.-Denis 2006

91 points | \$60 | 24 cases imported | Red

A round, smooth red, laced with black cherry, black currant and stone flavors. The structure is refined, and this is balanced and enticing overall, with a pure cherry aftertaste. Best from 2010 through 2018.—*B.S.*

ALAIN JEANNIARD

Morey-St.-Denis Vieilles Vignes 2006

91 points | \$64 | 28 cases imported | Red

High-toned, fragrant style, drenched in raspberry, red currant, floral and mineral notes. Light-weight and delicate yet intense and long. Pure and resonant on the finish. Drink now through 2018.—*B.S.*

LÉCHENEAUT

Nuits-St.-Georges Les Damodes 2006

91 points | \$110 | 27 cases imported | Red

Dark and full of sweet blackberry, cassis and vanilla flavors, this polished red is round and harmonious. The tannins are there, but well-integrated, with a chocolate accent graces the aftertaste. Drink now through 2018.—*B.S.*

LÉCHENEAUT

Nuits-St.-Georges Les Pruliers 2006

91 points | \$133 | 22 cases imported | Red

Ripe and round, exuding black cherry, cassis and chocolate aromas and flavors. This is dense with tannins, and will need a year or two to come together. Good length. Best from 2010 through 2018.—*B.S.*

MISCHIEF & MAYHEM

Chambolle-Musigny 2006

91 points | \$65 | 300 cases made | Red

Offers fine purity and expression, showing cherry, licorice and savory mineral notes. There's a tightness to this, yet the tannins provide plenty of support. Has nice chewy length, but needs time to relax. Best from 2011 through 2020.—*B.S.*

MISCHIEF & MAYHEM

Clos de la Roche 2006

91 points | \$150 | 100 cases made | Red

A big, fruit-filled red, showing black cherry, plum and mineral notes. A bit one-dimensional, despite its freshness and a firm base of tannins. Best from 2012 through 2022.—*B.S.*

MISCHIEF & MAYHEM

Echézeaux 2006

91 points | \$150 | 100 cases made | Red

Aromas of coffee and chocolate fringe the core of cherry in this sinewy red. The sweet fruit is matched by dusty tannins, and the finish is fresh and laced with mineral. A good expression of the appellation. Best from 2011 through 2022.—*B.S.*

PIERRE NAIGEON

Bonnes Mares Cuvée Prestige 2006

91 points | \$155 | 15 cases imported | Red

Exotic spices and ripe plum and blackberry notes fill this rich red. Very tannic now, with hints of coffee and spice on the moderate finish. Best from 2011 through 2022.—*B.S.*

DOMAINE ODOUL-COQUARD

Morey-St.-Denis Les Crais-Gillon 2006

91 points | \$56 | 10 cases imported | Red

Gorgeous aromas of cherry, black currant and violet mark this elegant and detailed red. Delivers purity and finesse, fine balance and a long, succulent finish. Best from 2010 through 2020.—*B.S.*

DOMAINE PERROT-MINOT

Morey-St.-Denis La Riotte Vieilles Vignes 2006

91 points | \$180 | 20 cases imported | Red

Pure and silky in texture, this suave red is full of blackberry, black currant and mineral notes, all displayed gracefully on the vibrant structure. Fine length. Best from 2010 through 2020.—*B.S.*

DOMAINE DE LA VOUGERAIE

Clos de Vougeot 2006

91 points | \$168 | 451 cases made | Red

Like blackberry confit, this is ripe and polished. There are ample tannins for support, along with freshness. This has fine length and should come forward soon. Best from 2011 through 2020.—*B.S.*

BOUCHARD PÈRE & FILS

Echézeaux 2006

90 points | \$400 | NA cases made | Red

Flavors of briar, red cherry and earth signal this wild red, which feels light in weight, yet has intensity and tannins. A tad dry on the finish, but decanting or a year in bottle will help. Best from 2010 through 2017.—*B.S.*

GROS FRÈRE & SOEUR

Echézeaux 2006

90 points | \$126 | 15 cases imported | Red

Offers plenty of sweet black cherry and chocolate notes, but also solid tannins. Balanced and long, turning more supple with air. Needs time, or decant to enjoy now. Best from 2011 through 2018.—*B.S.*

GROS FRÈRE & SOEUR

Grands Echézeaux 2006

90 points | \$222 | 15 cases imported | Red

Lush and tinged with chocolate, this red offers black cherry and spice flavors, with a hint of mint. Firm, yet with fruit to balance the tannins, lingering on the finish. Needs time to absorb the tannins. Best from 2010 through 2017.—*B.S.*

MICHEL GROS

Nuits-St.-Georges 2006

90 points | \$71 | 39 cases imported | Red

Aromas of graphite, blackberry, mineral and oak spice introduce this complex, rich red. The blackberry note continues on the palate, and there's fruit to cover the dense tannins. Fine length. Best from 2010 through 2017.—*B.S.*

MICHEL GROS

Nuits-St.-Georges Les Chaliots 2006

90 points | \$71 | 17 cases imported | Red

Graphite, licorice, sweet cherry and *sous-bois* aromas and flavors match firm tannins in this austere red. Concentrated and long, but needs time to come around. Best from 2011 through 2019.—*B.S.*

ALAIN HUDELLOT-NOËLLAT

Nuits-St.-Georges Les Murgers 2006

90 points | \$83 | 20 cases imported | Red

Round and fleshy, with blackberry and plum flavors tinged by chocolate. Fresh and lively, with fine tannins lending support and an excellent lingering finish. Best from 2010 through 2020.—*B.S.*

DOMAINE ODOUL-COQUARD

Morey-St.-Denis Clos La Riotte 2006

90 points | \$105 | 10 cases imported | Red

Elegant and harmonious, with cherry, berry, mineral and spice aromas and flavors. The tannins are dense yet fine and mingle with the berry aftertaste. Best from 2010 through 2019.—*B.S.*

TAUPENOT-MERME

Morey-St.-Denis La Riotte 2006

90 points | \$80 | 25 cases imported | Red

A whiff of smoke gives way to dense blackberry, plum and mineral flavors, all matched to a burly structure. The finish is long. Like a block now, this needs air and time. Best from 2012 through 2021.—*B.S.*

DOMAINE DE LA VOUGERAIE

Vougeot Les Cras 2006

90 points | \$100 | 406 cases made | Red

The oak is well-integrated, lending this red vanilla and spice accents. The main theme is an unabashed black cherry note that fills the richness and lingers on the finish. Drink now through 2017.—*B.S.*

HOT WINES

These are the most exciting discoveries from our editors' most recent tastings, published exclusively in *Wine Spectator Insider*. They are high-scoring, low-production wines from around the world that may be difficult to find, but are worth seeking out.

LUCIEN LE MOINE

Clos de Vougeot 2006

94 points | \$670/1.5L | NA cases made | Red

There's a wild, feral quality about the cassis, cherry, iron and black pepper notes in this powerful red, which is dark and brooding. The tannins are a bit disjointed at this stage, but there's plenty of fruit. Fine length. Tasted from magnum. Best from 2012 through 2025. *From France.—B.S.*

BOUCHARD PÈRE & FILS

Clos Vougeot 2006

93 points | \$200 | NA cases made | Red

Dark and brooding, yet with pure black currant, black cherry, smoky oak and mineral aromas and flavors. Fresh and balanced, with a lingering aftertaste of spice and mineral. Best from 2011 through 2023. *From France.—B.S.*

DAVID DUBAND

Clos Vougeot 2006

93 points | \$128 | 15 cases made | Red

Shows a mix of bilberry and red currant aromas and flavors, picking up licorice and spice as well as a lashing of dense tannins. It's all there, but needs time to come together. Fine length. Best from 2012 through 2025. *From France.—B.S.*

MICHEL GROS

Clos Vougeot 2006

93 points | \$181 | 13 cases imported | Red

Starts out with a graphite aroma, shifting to black currant and violet flavors as this builds on the palate. Fresh and firmly structured, with a spice-filled finish. Best from 2011 through 2023. *From France.—B.S.*

WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

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Wine Spectator's tasting staff includes 14 people in four offices. They work together to review more than 15,000 wines each year, more than any other publication. Together, our seven senior tasters count more than 140 years of tasting experience.

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Wine Spectator's 100-Point Scale

| | |
|--------|-----------------|
| 95-100 | Classic |
| 90-94 | Outstanding |
| 85-89 | Very good |
| 80-84 | Good |
| 75-79 | Mediocre |
| 50-74 | Not recommended |