

User: Jeff W x

| Vintage | Name | Variety | Locale | Date | Posted | Score | Helpful | Comments | More... |
|---------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|----------------------|-------|---------|--|---------|
| 1999 | Paul Jaboulet Aîné | Cornas | Domaine de Saint Pierre | 12/17/2019 | JEFF W WROTE: NR | | | What an interesting wine. Bought in auction so of unknown provenance, but even so the first taste is very unexpected. Light and bright and fresh with lively acidity that belies its 20 years, but the faded colour shows its maturity. The taste is all Cornas but the structure is all Burgundy. After a while soft tannins emerge to balance the acidity, providing serious length. Delicious. A lovely surprise. exc | |
| 1996 | Domaine des Lambrays | Morey St. Denis | Pinot Noir | 11/11/2019 | JEFF W WROTE: NR | | | Consistent with my note of 8 years ago. The nose is quite mute, but the hit of mature Burgundian pleasure comes at the back end. Not tannins, just a rush of sweet and savory earthy decaying forest floor, fading slowly and calling for one more sip. A lovely old village wine at an unexpected peak. exc | |
| 2003 | Marie et Pierre Bénétière | Côte-Rôtie | Cordeloux | 10/15/2019 | JEFF W WROTE: NR | | | My impressions are consistent with my previous note, in spite of the passage of 11 years. On first opening, it's Côte-Rôtie on steroids. It takes, and in my view requires, lots of air. On day 2 it has softened and mellowed, and become a better balanced and delicious wine. Not a classic for me, but nevertheless excellent. I think this has plenty of years in it. dg | |
| 2005 | Domaine Rollin Père et Fils | Pernand-Vergelesses | 1er Cru Ile des Vergelesses | 9/16/2019 | JEFF W WROTE: NR | | | Hard, tight and unyielding. It expresses power, but without any feeling that the constituent parts are coming into harmony. Note to self, try another bottle in about 5 years. | |
| 1995 | Bodegas y Viñedos del Contino | Rioja | Contino Reserva | 9/5/2019 | JEFF W WROTE: NR | | | Dull and tired at the start. At this stage what dominated was sweetness against a thin and dull background. But the next day the remaining half bottle was delicious. Sweet and very mature fruit, but still with some acidity to hold it up, and soft tannins giving good length. Almost too late, but not quite. vg | |
| 2013 | Domaine Vincent Paris | Cornas | Granit 60 | 9/3/2019 | JEFF W WROTE: NR | | | It is impeccably made. Quality fruit and ripe tannins. Impossible to fault. And yet. And yet. It does not deliver what you hope for with a premium level Cornas. It does not excite. Perfect but at this stage uninspiring. Of course, this is a young wine and it is early to pass judgement. I have 5 bottles left and will leave them undisturbed for some time. | |
| 1999 | Simon Bize | Savigny-lès-Beaune | 1er Cru Aux Vergelesses | 7/22/2019 | JEFF W WROTE: NR | | | Prematurely dead, when it should be in its prime. | |
| 1982 | Fontanafredda | Barolo | Nebbiolo | 7/20/2019 | JEFF W WROTE: NR | | | I expected nothing from this bottle, and had a very good surprise. One of a mixed case bought as a speculation, and because I wanted to explore about mature Barolo, about which I know next to nothing. The others were all duff, but this one is delicious. Open for business from pulling the cork, and quite masculine, in an elegant way. As others have noted, air brings weight and power and depth, with refined chewy tannins and impressive length. I now look at mature Barolo with increased respect. dg | |
| 2016 | Mandragora | Vinos de Pueblo | Sierra de Salamanca Tragaldabas | 6/28/2019 | JEFF W WROTE: NR | | | Light ruby, and light bodied, this has the feel and look of a cooler climate wine. A refreshing drink. Plenty of fruit, slightly plummy even. At the back end the good length comes from grown up tannins, perfectly ripe. Very open for immediate gratification. vg | |
| 2015 | Denizot Pere Fils | Givry | Pinot Noir | 6/25/2019 | JEFF W WROTE: NR | | | Crunchy fruit, refreshing lip-smacking delicious. A very classy summer quaffer. Too good to leave on the shelf in the hope of more mature pleasures. vg | |
| 2005 | Domaine Michel Lafarge | Côte de Beaune Villages | Pinot Noir | 6/15/2019 | JEFF W WROTE: NR | | | Tight. Masculine. Deep. Serious tannic length. It does not welcome being woken up from its long sleep. | |
| 2006 | Domaine Marquis d'Angerville | Volnay 1er Cru | Les Fremiets | 4/23/2019 | JEFF W WROTE: flawed | | | Corked | |
| 2001 | Nicolas Potel | Chambertin Grand Cru | Pinot Noir | 3/19/2019 | JEFF W WROTE: NR | | | On first opening I immediately recognised the description by Paul S. It is very tight, buttoned up, unyielding, and unwelcoming, but underneath there is the sense of a serious wine. I left it overnight under Coravin, but next day I opened it early and gave it a fairly brutal Fourrier Shake. Now it shows power and depth, and a long tannic finish. It displays its heavyweight credentials. But not yet balance. I don't know where this is going, but I don't intend to open another bottle for some time. | |
| 1996 | Gosset | Champagne Brut | Grand Millésime | 3/15/2019 | JEFF W WROTE: NR | | | Like a grand old lady; mature, elegant, refined and demanding respect. The level of energy has perhaps reduced, but it remains a delicious champagne in a rich and seductive style with pleasing length. Fully mature and delicious. My last bottle, but if I had more I would be tempted to enjoy them sooner rather than later. dg | |
| 1998 | Marc Sorrel | Hermitage | Syrah | 1/26/2019 | JEFF W WROTE: NR | | | It's mature, still with plenty of dark fruit, and properly leathery and meaty. It benefits from some air to bring out the tannins, enhancing the finish. As has been noted, the acidity is prominent, and I suspect will become more so as the fruit fades. A food wine. I think I will not wait too long before drinking my remaining bottles. g | |
| 1975 | Marchese Villadoria | Barolo Riserva Speciale | Nebbiolo | 1/26/2019 | JEFF W WROTE: NR | | | Poured it down the sink | |
| 2006 | Simon Bize | Savigny-lès-Beaune | 1er Cru Aux Guettes | 1/1/2019 | JEFF W WROTE: NR | | | | |

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| Pinot Noir | As Lipsman said, dry and somewhat unpleasant. I am not so sensitive to TCA, but I think it's corked. And if it's not, I still don't want to drink it. |
| 2010 Comte Armand Bourgogne Blanc Chardonnay | 11/14/2018 - JEFF W WROTE: NR My expectations were low, and have been exceeded. This is a perfectly correct Bourgogne Blanc, refreshing and flavourful, well balanced and with some length on the finish. g |
| 2014 Les Terrasses du Calvaire Hermitage White Rhone Blend | 8/20/2018 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Found in Lidl France for €19. Mystery producer and lieu-dit. But it's a proper white Hermitage, full bodied and very rich and full with a note of quince and a lengthy after-taste. At this price I am a buyer. vg |
| 2010 Bodega Maranones Vinos de Madrid Picarana Albillo | 8/17/2018 - JEFF W WROTE: NR A gift from King-Bing. Not one of your wimpy whites. This one has attitude. It reminds me of an older Northern Rhone, with the slightly oxidised note that tells you it's a grown-up wine and not for those that think that whites must taste like Chardonnay or Sauvignon. Rich and full, with the taste of proper marmalade. (I like marmalade.) vg |
| 1983 E. Guigal Côte-Rôtie Brune et Blonde Syrah | 1/28/2018 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Another bottle from my auction case, and it is a superb example of mature Côte-Rôtie. Full bodied with impressive depth and finish, and not in the slightest bit tired. Given the mixed reports elsewhere it looks like I found an exceptional case. dg |
| 2007 Domaine de Montille Beaune 1er Cru Grèves Pinot Noir | 1/20/2018 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Solid structure with lovely strawberry acidic fruit and a good finish. Masculine and muscular, it has depth and commands attention. A real grown-up Beaune, drinking well. vg+ |
| 1999 Clos des Papes Châteauneuf-du-Pape Red Rhone Blend | 1/12/2018 - JEFF W WROTE: NR My second bottle from the auction case. Disintegrating cork. This is a better bottle than the first, meaning I am happy to drink it, but it is still a lightweight with faded fruit. "Delicate" and "feminine" are not words I have ever used about Clos des Papes. I am picky about alcohol, but Clos des Papes is typically a 14-15% wine that does not show any overt alcohol. This is 14% and it shows. It's actually a very enjoyable bottle, just that you don't open a Clos des Papes expecting to meet a charming old lady. From what most others report, it looks as if I have a suspect case. |
| 1999 Clos des Papes Châteauneuf-du-Pape Red Rhone Blend | 12/15/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR From a 6 pack bought at auction. I have never had a bad Clos des Papes, but this is the first bottle and it's a sad excuse. Thin and weak and showing overt alcohol because of the hole where the fruit should be. If this was a geriatric Bourgogne Rouge I might give it some respect for being almost alive but it's not, it's a wine that should be in its prime but is lacking everything that makes a Clos des Papes enjoyable. This is like when your dog vomits over your favourite pudding. This is like when Elvis Presley left Sun Records. This is like when your football team falls to pieces. (I know of what I speak.) |
| 2011 Kusuda Syrah Martinborough | 11/18/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR I can buy the legend of Kusuda's Japanese supporters coming to the harvest and individually examining each berry for any flaw. Pristine purity, and it's like drinking silk. The fruit is lovely, as are the soft, ripe tannins. All is harmonious. It exhibits a Zen-like calm and promotes a sense of mellow meditation. dg |
| 1983 E. Guigal Côte-Rôtie Brune et Blonde Syrah | 11/8/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR From my limited experience of Guigal Côte-Rôties from this period, I say Hoover them up when you see them. The case was only held together by sticky tape, but the bottles have good levels and perfect labels. It does not disappoint. Initially somewhat tart and acidic, give it some air and it rocks. It's all still there, the weight and the depth and the balance and the texture, and when the after-taste fades you find your hand reaching for the glass. Don't know where this is going, but my bottles are not going to live long enough to find out. dg |
| 2009 Domaine Didier Fornerol Côte de Nuits Villages Pinot Noir | 10/9/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR It pours as a strawberry light, feminine Burgundy. Initially tangy, fading over time. On the palate there is a surprise. It is deeper and stronger (not in terms of alcohol- 12.5%) and it has a surprisingly long and satisfying tannic finish. Give it air to come into harmony. vg |
| 1998 Paul Jaboulet Aîné Cornas Domaine de Saint Pierre Syrah | 9/24/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR I have often thought the Jaboulet Cornas Saint Pierre to be an under-rated and unfashionable Cornas that frequently delivers above its assumed humble status. This bottle, bought for a modest price in auction, seems to come from a very damp cellar to judge by the state of the label. It's excellent. A delicious and perfectly mature Northern Rhone syrah that is surely at its peak. dg |
| 1999 Paul Jaboulet Aîné Hermitage Blanc Chevalier de Sterimberg White Rhone Blend | 7/30/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR First bottle from a case of six bought at auction. To judge from the labels this has come from a very damp cellar, but it's in excellent condition. Unctuous, with a lovely mouth-feel and good length. Not a hint of oxidation. Delicious, with a classic note of bitter-sweet orange to tell you that this is a grown-up white. At age 20 this is in the zone, but no hurry. I think this is as good a Sterimberg as I have had. dg |
| 2004 Domaine des Rémyzières Hermitage Cuvée Émilie Syrah | 7/22/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR First of 6 bought at auction, but wherever this came from it was well stored. Rich, dark, savoury and meaty. This is a big wine, still fresh and youthful. I see the Émilie is sometimes accused of too much oak, but this bottle seems well integrated. Initially very tight, it demands and repays decanting. Very good now, but no hurry. dg |
| 1990 Marc Sorrel Hermitage Le Gréal Syrah | 5/12/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR "A lovely old fashioned Hermitage", as my much lamented old friend Bristol411 wrote. Still young after all these years. The fruit is still fresh, and the structure is great - delicious lip-smacking tannins. Rich and savoury. This is great now, but I can't think anything bad is going to happen to it over the next few years. exc |
| 2002 Louis Jadot Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru Lavaux St. Jacques Pinot Noir | 5/8/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR This bottle presents as fully mature. Colour, smell, but most of all taste. It's also delicious, the mature fruit lifted by the ripe and fully resolved tannins. It's a food wine with excellent length (when allowed some air.) I am guessing it could be downhill from here, but in any case, why would I want to wait? dg |

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| 2014 Sadie Family Cinsault Pofadder Swartland | 4/30/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Fragrant, pure fruit initially light and feminine, becoming more substantial with air, showing cherryade and sadly some intrusive alcohol (which is odd, as the label says only 13%.) The ambition is clear, and I will leave the rest of my bottles for a few years. |
| 2001 Domaine Jean Chauvenet Nuits St. Georges 1er Cru Les Perrières Pinot Noir | 4/29/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR From memory, this very savoury without being at all lean, certainly more of a food wine. Very enjoyable and perfectly mature. vg |
| 2004 Domaine Arlaud Chambolle-Musigny 1er Cru Les Sentiers Pinot Noir | 4/23/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR It gives every indication, in colour and taste, of premature ageing. This presents like a wine 15 or 20 years older. It's still enjoyable for its impersonation of a mature Burgundy, but it's not right. |
| 2007 Domaine la Barroche Châteauneuf-du-Pape Signature Red Rhone Blend | 4/3/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR This is a heavyweight, but one with style and grace, more Ali than Tyson. It's delicious, in a take-no-prisoners Chateauneuf way, and surprisingly refreshing with good acidic backbone. Even more surprising, when I checked the label it showed 15%, but that is certainly well concealed. vg |
| 2013 Jean-Marc Vincent Santenay 1er Cru Passetemps Pinot Noir | 3/22/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Everything a young Burgundy should be at this level. Charming, refreshing, seductive, precise, delicious. vg |
| 2009 Maison Sylvain Loichet Clos Vougeot Clos Vougeot Grand Cru Pinot Noir | 3/5/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Charming, elegant, refined, harmonious. And then, when you add air, (a decant is recommended), it reveals unexpected body, and sweet tannic power. A classy Clos Vougeot acquired at a bargain price. dg |
| 2006 Domaine Jean Grivot Vosne-Romanée Pinot Noir | 3/4/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Tannin dominates. I really enjoy tannins, sweet and ripe, something to get your teeth into. But these tannins are not like that - they are harsh and unripe, leaving a unpleasant note on the aftertaste. |
| 2012 Sadie Family Columella Swartland Shiraz Blend, Syrah | 3/1/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR The structure, a lovely balance between acidity and pure fruit, the elegance and finesse, the soft ripe tannins - everything speaks of top end Burgundy, except for the taste, which comes from the other side of Lyon. And maybe there is a hint of the 14% alcohol that you would not find in either Burgundy or the Northern Rhone. It's a delicious and beautifully crafted wine. exc |
| 2002 Domaine Jean-Louis Chave Hermitage Syrah | 2/24/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR You can bank on Chave. Even in this dire vintage he produces a lovely wine. Legend has it that his great skill is the ability to blend from the variety of different Hermitage plots he owns, and maybe that was the secret in 2002. Not a Chave of muscle and power, but a wine of elegance and charm and balance. Those who like Hermitage will love it, and those who like fine Burgundy will also enjoy it. dg |
| 2005 Domaine des Rémizières Hermitage Cuvée Émilie Syrah | 2/19/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Mysteriously dark. Just some rouge round the rim. Initially it's all intense dark fruit and taut acidity, with a touch of alcohol heat. Later the tannins, which are chewy and substantial, emerge and bind the somewhat disparate elements into an enjoyable whole. Now it hits the sweet spot. It certainly needs a decant, and probably a few more years. vg |
| 2005 Clos des Papes Châteauneuf-du-Pape Red Rhone Blend | 2/15/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR It flirts with being over-ripe, over-rich, over-alcoholic, over the top. But when did a little flirting do any harm? It never lets things go too far; it is always restrained, elegant and balanced. (Did Clos des Papes ever make an unbalanced wine? Maybe the jury is out on 2003 but the right verdict will surely emerge eventually.) This is a wine to open on a cold and damp February evening. Taste the Provençal sun. exc |
| 2005 La Rioja Alta Rioja Gran Reserva 904 Tempranillo Blend, Tempranillo | 2/12/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Savoury, smoky, leathery, earthy. Rich and dark. The finish is all oaky, sweet tannins. A seductive and classic Rioja. dg |
| 2011 Pietradolce Etna Vigna Barbagalli Etna DOC Nerello Mascalese | 2/8/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Light and delicate strawberry flavours, beautifully precise. Acidity to the fore, and in the finish it is strongly tannic. vg |
| 2008 Ca' Marcanda (Gaja) Magari Toscana IGT Red Bordeaux Blend | 2/5/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Full on and full bodied. Dense and deep. I recognise the quality, but it is a style not to my taste, having a little too much of everything - tannins, fruit, intensity and alcohol (though it wears it well.) |
| 2004 R. López de Heredia Rioja Reserva Viña Tondonia Tempranillo Blend, Tempranillo | 2/4/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Immediately welcoming. Reassuringly old-fashioned. Savoury and earthy. It's hard not to go back for more. vg |
| 2010 Domaine Dublère Savigny-lès-Beaune Les Planchots du Nord Pinot Noir | 1/22/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Light and refreshing. Crunchy fruit, and the sour cherry note makes it a grown-up wine. Impeccably made. Easy to enjoy and easy on the wallet. vg |
| 2014 Mark Haisma St. Romain Les Jarrons Chardonnay | 1/18/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Peachy in every sense of the word. Light, pure and welcoming. No great depth or complexity perhaps, just straightforward pleasure. Lovely. vg+ |
| 1999 Delas Frères Hermitage Les Bessards Syrah | 1/17/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR A lovely and quite classic mature Hermitage. Silky smooth texture, deliciously savoury, soft refined tannins. Full bodied, rich and concentrated. Drinking beautifully now. exc |
| 2013 Domaine Castagnier Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru Les Cazetiers Pinot Noir | 1/10/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR It's too young, of course, but I could not resist trying a bottle. Purity and focus. Crisp acidity gives a vibrant backbone to the fruit. Soft tannins suggest there is more to come. Plenty to look forward to and much to enjoy now. vg+ |
| 1994 Domaine de Montille Pommard 1er Cru Les Pèzerolles | 1/6/2017 - JEFF W WROTE: NR |

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| Pinot Noir | Tight, pinched, devoid of charm. Before I abandon all hope and pour it away, I engage in some amateur Chaptalisation. That at least makes it drinkable, if still unlovely. |
| 2007 Domaine Jean Tardy et Fils Clos Vougeot Grand Maupertuis Clos Vougeot Grand Cru Pinot Noir | 11/22/2016 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Prematurely aged, in that it gave every impression of being 30 years old instead of 9, and without having grown old gracefully. Discarded. |
| 2008 Domaine Comte Georges de Vogüé Chambolle-Musigny Pinot Noir | 11/12/2016 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Consistent with my first bottle. Initially ethereal and so pretty, it dances on the palate. Given half an hour it acquires weight and body and length, without ever losing its bright and refreshing acidity. Refined elegance. Impressive winemaking at any level, let alone for a village wine. dg |
| 2000 Nicolas Potel Clos Vougeot Clos Vougeot Grand Cru Pinot Noir | 9/7/2016 - JEFF W WROTE: flawed Corked |
| 2007 Domaine de Courcel Bourgogne Pinot Noir | 7/2/2016 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Bourgogne? That's what it says on the label. Muscular, beefy, chewy and intensely tannic. Subtle it's not. Will it always remain an enjoyable bruiser, punching above its weight. or soften into something really interesting? |
| 2013 René Bouvier Marsannay Clos du Roy Pinot Noir | 6/30/2016 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Deep, dark red fruits. Tight and serious. This surprises me with its intensity, when I was expecting a light and bright wine for summer lunchtime quaffing. Even for someone like me who loves young Burgundy this needs, and deserves, much more time. vg |
| 2007 Domaine Jean Tardy et Fils Clos Vougeot Grand Maupertuis Clos Vougeot Grand Cru Pinot Noir | 3/15/2016 - JEFF W WROTE: NR A Clos Vougeot of delicacy rather than power. Light bodied, pure and pristine and very pretty. If it's not entirely what I would expect from a Clos Vougeot it's still lovely. It's charming now and it has plenty of backbone, and while it seems early to approach a grand cru I will have no hesitation in opening another bottle. dg |
| 2001 Maison Roche de Bellene Chambolle-Musigny Collection Bellemum Vieilles Vignes Pinot Noir | 3/13/2016 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Hmmm, this bottle has a distinctly brownish tint. On the palate it is thin and the fruit has faded. To borrow a word used by antique dealers to describe a piece that has been artificially aged, it is "distressed". As someone who likes antique Burgundy I am still enjoying it, but given the premature aging I can only mark this as a flawed bottle. |
| 2003 Bosquet des Papes Châteauneuf-du-Pape Chante Le Merle Vieilles Vignes Red Rhone Blend | 3/7/2016 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Just like the last bottle, and it goes down the sink, just like the last bottle. Fortunately this really is my last bottle. |
| 2010 Domaine Fourrier Morey St. Denis Clos Solon Vieille Vigne Pinot Noir | 2/25/2016 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Deliciously crunchy red fruit. Light and pretty with a long and delicate (and tangy) aftertaste. My last bottle. If it's this good, you have to be greedy to wait in the hope of something better. dg |
| 2005 Patrick Jasmin Côte-Rôtie Syrah | 1/17/2016 - JEFF W WROTE: NR The high level of acidity makes it hard and quite austere, partly relieved by some ripe tannins. Overall the impression is of a wine that is tight and unyielding. As has been noted by others, it really needs a lot of air, and the next day a more mellow and approachable wine emerges. It's still not a great Côte-Rôtie, but at least it's one that can be enjoyed. g |
| 1996 Jacquesson & Fils Champagne Grand Cru Extra Brut Avize Chardonnay | 12/31/2015 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Very mature. Oxidative and strongly acidic, all of which makes for a rather austere and very dry champagne. Not to say it can't be enjoyed in a very upright manner, but that's not really New Year's Eve, is it? Not sure I would be keeping this any longer. |
| 2013 Mark Haisma Morey St. Denis 1er Cru Les Chaffots Pinot Noir | 12/1/2015 - JEFF W WROTE: NR First impressions: pure, precise, taut and acidic. The bite is slightly shocking. After an hour or so it builds more body, though this will always be a lightweight, and some soft tannins emerge to bring it into better balance. Now it shows a delicate and pleasurable elegance. Did I mention purity? It's really too soon, obviously. |
| 2002 Domaine Jean Grivot Nuits St. Georges 1er Cru Les Pruliers Pinot Noir | 11/13/2015 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Tightly buttoned up and austere, but ever so correct. If you can look past the very unwelcoming aspect it now presents the underlying quality is apparent. After an hour it becomes a little less severe, and succulent tannins start to dominate. Time to put this one away for the next few years. |
| 1999 Simon Bize Savigny-lès-Beaune 1er Cru Aux Vergelesses Pinot Noir | 10/15/2015 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Unlike my previous bottles, this one is open and welcoming from the moment the cork is pulled. Very earthy, very Savigny, on the lean side of Burgundy, with a long finish driven by succulent and satisfying tannins. vg+ |
| 2003 Braidà (Giacomo Bologna) Barbera d'Asti Bricco della Bigotta | 10/14/2015 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Full throttle fruit and chewy tannin. It has enough fruit to power up a full case of Bourgogne Rouge with plenty left over for a serious Chateaneuf. It's so full and fat it feels like a meal in itself. 15.5%. But the fruit can carry the alcohol. What would you eat with this? Roast Rhinoceros maybe. |
| 2000 M. Chapoutier St. Joseph Blanc Les Granits Marsanne | 10/11/2015 - JEFF W WROTE: NR For those of us who like our white wines with attitude, this is one. No light and pretty shrinking violet, this is a heavyweight with power and length. Lovely silky texture of bitter-sweet orange. Perhaps it's more back street bare knuckle bruiser than sophisticated, but how pleasing to have such a good Northern Rhone white (and it could not come from anywhere else in the world) from a "lesser" appellation. Another decade in this, at least. vg+ |
| 2008 Clos des Papes Châteauneuf-du-Pape Red Rhone Blend | 8/20/2015 - JEFF W WROTE: NR When I feel the need to remind myself of how good Chateaneuf can be, I reach for a Clos des Papes. In younger days I thought of this as "Burgundian". Rubbish! Much as I love Burgundy, it can tend to pout and sulk one day and be ever so charming and seductive the next. Clos des Papes doesn't sulk. I suppose what I meant was that it has class - that it knows how to talk proper and it's always beautifully balanced and that its weight and power does not stop it being elegant. The label says 15.2% alcohol but there is not a hint of alcohol heat or taste, which in my experience is rare once you get over 15%. Like the man said, float like a butterfly and sting like a bee. Deliciously serious and very long. It demands attention and commands respect. exc |
| | 6/27/2015 - JEFF W WROTE: NR |

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| 1998 Domaine Camus-Bruchon & Fils Savigny-lès-Beaune Aux Grands Liards Vieilles Vignes Pinot Noir | I hate to pour a bottle down the sink. I always think there must be some redeeming feature. This is a hair-shirt of a bottle. Severe and austere and whatever fruit is there is fading fast, so much so that the alcohol now intrudes. It's really hard for the alcohol in a Burgundy to overpower the fruit. Down the sink it goes. |
| 2002 Nicolas Potel Echezeaux Echezeaux Grand Cru Pinot Noir | 6/14/2015 - JEFF W WROTE: NR When first opened, everything about this bottle screams "DRINK ME...don't hang about, do it now." Firstly because it's lovely, and when Burgundy is lovely you should not hang about. You never know how long it will remain lovely. Delicious succulent sweetness, supported by fruit that is mature but not without power. And then, after an hour, the fine grained tannins kick in and the wine pretends it's still young and good for another decade. But the colour is still more brown than red, and it's still a wine that seems more ancient than its years. dg |
| 2001 Domaine Fourrier Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru Cherbaudes Vieille Vigne Pinot Noir | 6/5/2015 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Some things in life you know with certainty you will love; a film by the Coen brothers, a book by Neal Stephenson, a proper suet pudding with custard. I have never opened a bottle of Fourrier I didn't like.....until now. It's like an old friend struck down in her prime. Decayed and faded, leaving an alcohol tang to the finish. I keep going back to it because I can't believe it, but it's not getting any better. |
| 2006 Domaine Anne Gros Chambolle-Musigny La Combe d'Orveau Pinot Noir | 6/2/2015 - JEFF W WROTE: NR This is one you want to have in your cellar to open for people who think they don't like Burgundy. Immediately seductive. Delightfully pretty and refreshing; charm delivered with authority. If they don't like this then just give up and open a Chateauneuf. dg |
| 2007 Chapel Down Brut Vintage Reserve Kent White Blend | 5/31/2015 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Soft and easy with no hard edges, and a gentle biscuity flavour. You could serve this to your grandmother who thinks she doesn't like champagne because it's so acidic, and she would love it. Not demanding, or complex or deep, just pleasant. So what's not to like? Well, I do think a sparkling wine should sparkle in the glass for longer than 5 minutes, at which point the bubbles in my glass are just a memory. Perhaps a badly stored bottle? This one was given to me so I don't know its history. |
| 1995 Louis Jadot Clos Vougeot Clos Vougeot Grand Cru Pinot Noir | 4/4/2015 - JEFF W WROTE: flawed Corked |
| 2005 Domaine de Rochepertuis Cornas Syrah | 3/26/2015 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Real quality here. Smooth, bright syrah, but still deliciously meaty, and with a long, leathery finish. When it's this good I can't see any reason to wait. Wish I had more. dg |
| 2007 Domaine G. Roumier / Christophe Roumier Bourgogne Pinot Noir | 3/21/2015 - JEFF W WROTE: NR High-toned? Yes, but the acidity dominates and leaves the wine demanding either food, or a better time to open it. Remembering the lovely 2005 I recently enjoyed, I wonder if it will see better days. g |
| 2001 Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Crau Red Rhone Blend | 3/13/2015 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Two bottles brown and prematurely ancient, with dead fruit. Have I got a bad case? |
| 2009 Paul Jaboulet Aîné Crozes-Hermitage Domaine de Thalabert Syrah | 3/2/2015 - JEFF W WROTE: NR I can understand why people think recent Thalabert is "modern" or "international" in style, but this does speak of Rhone syrah - though if you served it blind and said it was syrah from Chateauneuf you might have convinced me. The fruit is good - very intense and primary. It has lots of structure, both acidity and tannin. However, the alcohol (stated at 14%) is currently too overt for my taste, as is the oak. Hopefully they have intentionally built this for the longer term, which would be a positive sign. If not they have got it wrong, because it needs time to see if the somewhat disjointed elements can come together, and for the ripe, sweet fruit to turn savoury. |
| 1999 E. Guigal Côte-Rôtie Château d'Ampuis Syrah | 2/26/2015 - JEFF W WROTE: NR This is a fine Cote-Rotie, properly mature, but with a long life to come. It certainly benefits from a good decant, which has been well expressed here. Earthy and meaty, medium to full bodied, pure dark fruit. Very smooth, a good acidic backbone, and delicious soft tannins providing impressive length and a tactile and chewy mouthfeel. dg |
| 2002 Louis Jadot Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru Lavaux St. Jacques Pinot Noir | 2/24/2015 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Light bodied, delicate, pure and precise, initially laced with acidic excitement, and then balanced with soft tannins. Give it time in the decanter. Lovely. dg |
| 2010 Domaine Fourrier Morey St. Denis Clos Solon Vieille Vigne Pinot Noir | 2/13/2015 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Refined, delicate and feminine. Light, bright colours, savoury-sweet, and a long soft finish. It's lovely now, and no doubt will be a different sort of lovely in 10 years, but why wait? vg+ |
| 2006 Domaine Dujac Morey St. Denis Pinot Noir | 2/2/2015 - JEFF W WROTE: NR It starts off nervous, taut and tight. Vibrant with tension. Bright, acidic fruit, hinting at hidden and delicious promise. Which is to say this is not a good time to open a bottle, unless you want to force it with a 3 hour decant, when it starts to calm down. Better to be patient and let it evolve naturally, I think. |
| 2005 Paul Jaboulet Aîné Crozes-Hermitage Domaine de Thalabert Syrah | 1/28/2015 - JEFF W WROTE: NR The initial impression is of quite a raw young wine. Full bodied and dominated by grainy tannins. Lots of ripe fruit and acidity. After a couple of hours it calms down and becomes more mellow, without losing the sense of unresolved structure. I wonder if there is some low level TCA here? And if it wasn't a Thalabert that's where it would end for me - not that I can easily connect this with the legendary Thalaberts of old. But it is a Thalabert, which is a good enough excuse for me to be patient with the rest of the case, to see if it resolves itself into something more coherent and intertesting. |
| 2000 Paul Jaboulet Aîné Cornas Domaine de Saint Pierre Syrah | 1/25/2015 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Classy mature Cornas in a good place. Dusty, earthy and slightly grainy. The fruit is still alive, savoury and mineral. Resolved tannins provide a long and tasty finish. It's good, but it's hard to see it getting any better. dg- |
| 1992 Pierre Bourée Fils Charmes-Chambertin Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru Pinot Noir | 12/20/2014 - JEFF W WROTE: NR If it was a little thin and short two years ago, it's even more attenuated now: the fruit has faded more and the alcohol is starting to show. It's seen better days but still offers pleasure to lovers of mature Burgundy. |

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| 2007 Domaine Alain Burguet Gevrey-Chambertin Mes Favorites Vieilles Vignes Pinot Noir | 12/8/2014 - JEFF W WROTE: NR It's a tightly wound spring. There is a thrilling tension and a sense of suppressed power waiting to be released. And it just oozes an underlying quality. It already offers rewards if you can taste your way past the aggressive and severe adolescent attitude, but otherwise give it time. Maybe a decade. dg |
| 2007 Domaine Michel Lafarge Volnay 1er Cru Pinot Noir | 11/29/2014 - JEFF W WROTE: NR This is austere and quite tight. The acidity is prominent to the point of being rather tart. Underneath all of this there is a sense of rustic quality, and after an hour and a half (I have been waiting), tannins emerge to soften the rough edges. Returning a day later to the remainder (transferred to a full half bottle) it is more approachable, though hardly welcoming. I will leave the rest of my bottles for a few years, in the hope that its time will come. |
| 2001 Marc Sorrel Hermitage Syrah | 11/24/2014 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Light bodied, and therefore without the intensity of a top Hermitage. But it starts beautifully formed, with bright, pristine fruit and uplifting acidity. After an hour the tannins kick in - fine and ripe, but they start to dominate, so the last glass is totally different from the first, and I prefer the first. g+ |
| 1999 Domaine / Maison Vincent Girardin Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru Les Suchots Pinot Noir | 11/15/2014 - JEFF W WROTE: NR It demands attention from the moments the cork is pulled, and then it gets better. It shows the vigour and assertiveness and poise of early maturity, signaled by the depth of colour. Silky tannins emerge to add body and length. Refreshing, balanced and satisfying. Delicious. dg+ |
| 2012 Mark Haisma Volnay Pinot Noir | 11/14/2014 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Even for someone who loves young Burgundy as much as me, this is quite young. Tight and broody. But it's all there. Quality fruit, restrained power, strongly tannic. It feels like Volnay meets Hermitage. (That's meant as a compliment.) One to watch.....patiently. |
| 2012 Domaine Vincent Paris St. Joseph Les Cotes Syrah | 11/5/2014 - JEFF W WROTE: NR This is a very good Northern Rhone Syrah. It's more "Paris" than "St. Joseph", by which I mean that it's the quality and consistency of the producer that matters here, not the appellation on the label. vg |
| 2005 Domaine G. Roumier / Christophe Roumier Bourgogne Pinot Noir | 11/2/2014 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Possibly the best Bourgogne Rouge I have tasted - assuming that "punches above its weight" is the criteria. On checking I see it's also by far the most expensive Bourgogne Rouge I have ever bought. In fact, it's a ridiculously expensive Bourgogne Rouge. But it's worth it. It's the deep colour that first impresses; it says that this is a quite masculine BR, with body and texture. Plenty of tannins too, fine grained but youthfully forceful. Quality fruit. It's not so much that it needs more time, as it gives such pleasure now, but it would be a shame not to wait for it to reach its peak. dg |
| 1998 Domaine Jean Chauvenet Nuits St. Georges Pinot Noir | 11/2/2014 - JEFF W WROTE: flawed Corked |
| 2002 Simon Bize Savigny-lès-Beaune Aux Grands Liards Pinot Noir | 10/29/2014 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Unlike my previous bottle, this is perfectly approachable. On the lean side, very savoury, and more rustic than refined. Acidic, but the balance is good. vg |
| 1990 Domaine Jean-Marc / Thomas Bouley Volnay 1er Cru Clos des Chênes Pinot Noir | 10/23/2014 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Remarkably youthful and vibrant. The colour is deep and the body is full, set off by a prominent backbone of tangy acidity and fine tannins, building in the glass and adding power to the package. The fruit is still seemingly untouched by the years, and is it has faded to any extent it does not affect the harmony of a fine, if slightly rustic, survivor. dg |
| 2002 Domaine Maume Gevrey-Chambertin Pinot Noir | 10/22/2014 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Perfectly correct. Everything is as it should be in a well brought-up village approaching maturity. The quality and purity of the fruit make it quite charming, and the acidic backbone and savoury notes say that this is a grown up wine. It's surely entering its prime. dg |
| 2011 Domaine Dublère Beaune 1er Cru Les Blanches Fleurs Pinot Noir | 10/20/2014 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Light and feminine. Crunchy, razor-sharp strawberry. Significant length, sustained by the acidity, until it calls for another sip. The thought occurs that more time might be a good idea, even for someone like me that loves young Burgundy. vg |
| 2001 Domaine Camus-Bruchon & Fils Savigny-lès-Beaune Aux Grands Liards Vieilles Vignes Pinot Noir | 10/18/2014 - JEFF W WROTE: NR This is much less austere and lean than my previous bottles, though no one will accuse it of being generous or hedonistic. Savoury and succulent, and proud to be rustic. It's in a good place right now. vg+ |
| 2007 Rudolf Fürst Centgrafenberg Spätburgunder "R" Franken | 10/16/2014 - JEFF W WROTE: NR Heavy and dull. You sense a quality wine, but something is getting between you and the fruit. It's hard work to drink. And then, after an hour or so, the wine breaks through. Reduction? It blows off so that explanation certainly makes sense, but I don't get any characteristic reduction smells. But what is left is a very good and quite classic pinot, but with the strong and spicy minerality that I associate with spätburgunder. Evidence of quality fruit and quality wine making, but in future I will open it well in advance. vg |

Tasting notes: 922 notes on 767 wines