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THE ULTIMATE BURGUNDY REFERENCE

2007 and 2006 Côte de Beaune Reds plus a few more from the Côte de Nuits

- ✓ 95 - 100: **Truly incomparable and emotionally thrilling.**
A wine so rated is as good as Burgundy gets.
By definition, it is reference standard for its *appellation*.
- ✓ 90 - 94: **Outstanding.** Worth a special effort to purchase and cellar
and will provide memorable drinking experiences.
- ✓ 85 - 89: **Good to High quality.**
Burgundies that offer solid quality in every respect and generally very good typicity.
"Good Value" wines will often fall into this category. Worth your attention.
- ✓ 80 - 84: **Average to Good quality.**
The wine is "correct", displays no noticeable flaws and will provide
pleasing, if straightforward, drinking.
- ✓ 75 - 79: **Barely Acceptable quality.**
The wine is not worth your attention nor is it good value.
- ✓ 75 and Below: **Don't Bother.**
A wine with noticeable, irremediable flaws.

Pierre André au Château de Corton André (Aloxe-Corton)

2007 Aloxe-Corton red 87
 2007 Aloxe-Corton "Les Paulands" 1er red 89
 2007 Aloxe-Corton "Petites Lolières" 1er red 88
 2007 Beaune "Perrières" 1er red 89
 2007 Chambolle-Musigny red 88
 2007 Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru red 91
 2007 Corton "Bressandes" Grand Cru red 90
 2007 Corton "Les Chaumes" Grand Cru red 90
 2007 Gevrey-Chambertin red 86
 2007 Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Cazetiers" 1er red 90
 2007 Ladoix red (85-88)
 2007 Nuits St. Georges red 87
 2007 Nuits St. Georges "Damodes" 1er red 88
 2007 Pommard red 88
 2007 Pommard "Clos de la Commaraine" 1er red 89
 2007 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Clos des Guettottes" red 87
 2007 Vosne-Romanée red (87-89)
 2007 Vosne-Romanée "Suchots" 1er red 90

This combination domaine/négociant owns more than 50 ha outright in both Côtes as well as works with a variety of growers such that the range is over 80 different appellations. As I have noted before for many years the quality frankly wasn't what it should, or certainly could, have been but the owners have decided to get serious about improving quality and to this end have hired Benoit Goujon as Managing Director and Ludivine Griveau as the Maître de Chai and winemaker. For the last two years, quality has notably improved and 2007 offers the best reds that I have seen here though as the scores suggest, while there are several successes, there is more work to be done on the rest of the range. Goujon is a realist however and recognizes that while a white wine program can be turned around relatively quickly, the other side of the ledger is much more time consuming. On this visit, Goujon noted that they have again reduced the proportion of new wood and upgraded a variety of different vinification equipment. He further noted that in 2007 "sorting was extremely important as you just couldn't make anything of real quality without a serious triage. While the colors extracted much more easily, and much faster, than usual,

you had to be careful not to push the overall extraction too much because while we had good ripeness levels, the seeds weren't brown the way an ideal vintage might be. For me, the '07s are on the fragile side and while extremely pretty and quite classic in style, we didn't believe that a long élevage was appropriate so we bottled most of the range on the early side." (Richard Banks & Co., E-mail: mail@richardbanks.co.uk is the UK agent).

2007 Ladoix: A discreet touch of wood sets off very fresh red pinot fruit aromas that complement the round, supple and nicely detailed light to barely middle weight flavors that are pretty but more fruit-driven than soil-driven even though there is good persistence. (85-88)/2011+

2007 Savigny-lès-Beaune "Clos des Guettottes": Here too there is a subtle touch of wood lurking in the background that allows the very fresh and earthy red berry fruit aromas to have center stage. There is a bit more depth and concentration present as well as solid precision and a backend trace of minerality on the moderately long finish. Pretty. 87/2011+

2007 Aloxe-Corton: Almost invisible oak frames a high-toned nose of raspberry and cranberry that dissolves into supple and forward light weight flavors that are also beautifully detailed and precise, all wrapped in a delicious, sappy and mouth coating finish of moderate persistence. 87/2011+

2007 Aloxe-Corton "Petites Lolières": A ripe, pretty and high-toned red pinot fruit nose that is cool and airy is in perfect keeping with the rich, full and round flavors that are quite forward, culminating in a delicious and sappy finish that offers good energy and no rusticity if not necessarily great depth either. 88/2012+

2007 Aloxe-Corton "Les Paulands": A slightly riper and more deeply pitched nose of wild red and blue fruit with background hints of earth and violets gives way to supple, round and pure medium-bodied flavors that possess lovely detail and energy before finishing with a touch of austerity on the dusty and mouth coating finale. There is just more here. 89/2012+

2007 Beaune "Perrières": This is very Beaune in style with an overtly fruity yet nicely complex nose that features freshly crushed red raspberry and cherry aromas that possess layers of earth, underbrush and the barest hint of spiciness that can also be found on the solidly ripe middle weight flavors that deliver good energy and punch on the minerally and persistent finish. This is not overly dense but the balance is lovely as is the backend precision. 89/2012+

2007 Pommard: Background toast adds nuance to the lightly earthy red pinot fruit aromas that are both pretty and airy while leading to nicely rich, round and detailed barely middle weight flavors that are delicious, intense and balanced. A lovely villages that should reward a few years of cellaring. 88/2011+

2007 Pommard "Clos de la Commaraine": An expressive and exceptionally fresh nose of earth, wood toast, underbrush, smoke and exuberant red berry aromas precede rich, full and vibrant middle weight flavors that possess more volume and mid-palate density than the villages and while there is reasonably good power, there is also a certain elegance. 89/2012+

2007 Gevrey-Chambertin: A fresh if atypical nose of cranberry and cherry with a background note of wild blueberry leads to detailed and softly mineral-infused light weight flavors that are delicious though there isn't much Gevrey character in evidence. Pretty but not distinguished. 86/2011+

2007 Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Cazetiers": This is more obviously Gevrey in character with an expressive and nuanced nose of red berry fruit, sauvage and underbrush aromas that possess good complexity that carries over onto the supple, round and minerally flavors that offer up fine detail on the delicious and long finish. This is not a powerful Cazetiers but it's balanced and attractive if on the forward side. 90/2012+

2007 Nuits St. Georges: A touch of the sauvage with earth, underbrush and a hint of smoked jerkey adds depth to the cherry-infused nose that slides into rich, round and vibrant flavors that are quite forward and supple on the delicious if light finish that delivers adequate but not special length. 87/2011+

2007 Nuits St. Georges "Damodes": A lightly spiced nose with noticeable but not dominate toast aromas sets off pretty and fresh red pinot fruit aromas that merge into round, pure and almost delicate barely middle weight flavors that are supple and attractively textured before culminating in a delicious and intense finish where a touch of the sauvage is also present. This is balanced and quite fine if definitely on the light side relative to a classic version of Damodes. 88/2012+

2007 Chambolle-Musigny: A very cool and fresh nose of airy and elegant red pinot fruit with hints of minerality that complement wonderfully well the detailed, layered and pure light to middle weight flavors that finishes with a tangy and delicious finale. Like many of the wines in the range to this point, this is not particularly deep but it's certainly attractive in its fashion. 88/2011+

2007 Vosne-Romanée: A very subtly spiced nose of red and blue pinot fruit with clove and anise hints that slide over to the rich, round and generous middle weight flavors that retain a lovely sense of balance and fine length. This is not especially concentrated or powerful but it is very Vosne and utterly delicious. (87-89)/2012+

2007 Vosne-Romanée "Suchots": A lightly spiced and very high-toned nose of mostly red cranberry and earth hints is followed by silky, round and naturally sweet middle weight flavors that are supported by more sophisticated tannins as well as better concentration on the longer finish. Lovely balance and a bit more overall depth. 90/2013+

2007 Corton "Bressandes": A background application of wood juxtaposes against an unusually high-toned blend of cool cranberry and red pinot fruit that gives way to fruit and mineral-driven middle weight flavors that possess excellent energy if again, limited concentration and depth. Still, there is more overall depth than any wine save for the Clos de Vougeot. 90/2013+

2007 Corton "Les Chaumes": An interesting nose of blueberry, cranberry and warm earth notes introduces rich, full and relatively voluminous flavors that offer reasonable if not special concentration on the finely mineral suffused finish that delivers sneaky length. 90/2013+

2007 Clos de Vougeot: A notably more deeply pitched nose of red and blue pinot fruit, underbrush, earth and a hint of smoked meat is in keeping with the character of the rich, full and more obviously concentrated middle weight flavors that are relatively powerful with good overall depth if perhaps less structure than one typically finds in a classic example. 91/2014+



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