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Cause and Effect: challenging **Burgundy wine prices**

Even though Burgundy wine is the latest trend among sommeliers and wine nerds, it's as classical as ever. The region in central France is one of the most complex where every little plot makes the difference – and where some of the world's most expensive wines are born.

Say Burgundy to a wine novice and the comment will be: Sour, light wine that costs too much. Say Burgundy to an experienced wine lover and the comment will just be: Aaah.

Both are right. The region between Dijon in the north and Lyon in the south produce a lot of overrated wines mostly offering acidic cherry notes. But it also produces fantastic wines, from feather light to full-bodied reds, to some of the richest whites in the world. It is wines from diverse vineyards regarding both soil and microclimate and it is wines from winemakers with personality. It just takes some time to find them.

Most people have heard about Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, often abbreviated DRC. The top red wine "Romanée-Conti" is sold for around 4 500 euro when it is released every year – much more at auctions afterwards. The reason? Well, the wine comes from a monopole, which is rare in Burgundy. Most vineyards are divided up and consist of a group of vintners but some, like DRC's vineyard Romanée-Conti, is owned totally by them. The production is small, around 450 cases from 1.8 hectares and the bottles are then sold to restaurants, wine lovers and collectors (no, they are not always wine lovers) all over the world. Don't forget that DRC also produces fantastic wines – for those who can afford them. Aubert de Villaine, the joint-owner who manages operations, has given the domaine a position as the most prestigious in the world.

So is the wine worth its price? Probably not. Is the wine experience worth its price? Probably, and I always try to get hold of a few bottles of DRC:s La Tâche, which is a bigger monopole and one or two of the domaine's other wines.

This also summarizes the secret of Burgundy wine prices. Small vineyards and small vineyard plots with individual "terroir", make small quantities of wine. If the wine becomes popular, the price gets higher. There are a lot of fantastic wines in Burgundy that are affordable also for



the average consumer, BUT you can't expect bargains.

Big wine houses like Louis Jadot, Bouchard Père & Fils and many other, make superb wines from the whole region. And among the smaller domains there are plenty to discover. But let's save them for another issue of this magazine...

Cheers!

Wine that makes you sing

The Eurovision Song Contest this year is held in Copenhagen and after the last year's success for the Nordic countries – Finland winning in 2006, Norway in 2009, Sweden in 2012 and Denmark last year – it was just a matter of time before the first schlager wine was presented. Schlager Prosecco is a youthful, sparkling wine with fruity tones of green apples, pears and citrus. It is produced at the winery Vinicola Serenda in Treviso and sold via TOMP in the ordering assortment at the Swedish monopoly for SEK 86.



New rules for Organic Wines

A new EU-directive sets more stringent requirements for organic wine. From vintage 2013 and onwards, it should not only be grown organically, but also be organically produced to be sold as "Organic wine".

Springbank ♥ Gaja

A very exciting marriage between the traditional whisky brand Springbank and the exclusive Italian prestige wine Gaja Barolo from Piemonte has now been presented. Springbank Gaja Barolo has only spent four years in American bourbon casks and was then transferred to barrels of Barolo producer Gaja for an additional five years ageing. The result is a real candy bomb with lots of delicate sweet flavours. A bottle costs approximately 100 euro and will be released on the market this winter.



Restored champagne limo

In the mid-eighties luxury champagne house Krug created a very special vehicle to deliver its prestigious champagnes to VIP customers, converting a Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow II into a panel van. The iconic car is now being meticulously restored by a vintage car shop to give it a second youth. The rear is fitted with two refrigerators to chill sixteen bottles, plus two varnished wood cases holding eight tulip champagne glasses, two ice buckets, a table and folding chairs, and a tent that folds out from the rear door, perfect for picnics in the vineyards.



Now you can get a whisky nose!

20 years ago, Le Nez du Vin, a fragrance collection designed to teach tasters to find different aromas in wine, was presented to the market. Now the same company, Edition Jean Lenoir, presents Le Nez du Whisky.

The package includes 54 different fragrances and will develop your sense of smell and give you the words to talk whisky. The flavours are scientifically developed; studies have been done on a variety of whiskies down to the molecular level. Le Nez du Whisky is sold by Prowine Nordic AB.



The Krug Rolls-Royce before restoration. Photo: Anders Mellén.