

Wine & Spirits

SPECIAL ISSUE

30th Annual
BUYING GUIDE

100
Best Wines

100 Best Buys

TOP
100
Wineries
of 2016

WINTER 2016

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Five of our Top 100:
Fleury, Blandy's, C. von Schubert,
Dominus and Ochota Barrels



Domaine Zind-Humbrecht

TOP 100 WINERIES OF 2016 EUROPE AND SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

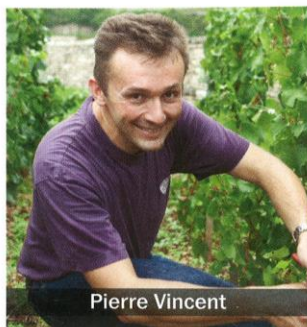
Great wine knows no boundaries. It can come from a plot in Burgundy that's been famed for hundreds of years, or a patch of ground in Australia too rocky to support any plants other than grapevines. But when vines find the right home, and the right people to tend them, the wine they grow makes a lasting impression. We hope for these moments in our blind tastings, and our Top 100 wineries are the ones that consistently delivered them, with at

least three high scores for their new releases over the last 12 months.

We profile the Top 100 contingent from Europe first, followed by producers from the Southern Hemisphere. Joshua Greene, Caitlin Griffith, Stephanie Johnson, Patricio Tapia and Tara Q. Thomas provide the details on what sets these wineries apart.

FRANCE BURGUNDY

Domaine de la Vougeraie



Pierre Vincent

Founded: 1999
Winemaker/viticulturist: Pierre Vincent
Owner/importer: Boisset Collection,
 St. Helena, CA
Acres owned: 109
Annual production: 11,667 cases
Estate grown: 100%
Website: domainedelavougeraie.com

Extending well beyond its prime parcels at the historic Clos de Vougeot, the Boisset's Domaine de la Vougeraie has earned its third Top 100 honor in four years, this time based on exceptional 2013s.

Assembling the Domaine: Jean-Claude Boisset started a négociant business in 1961. Originally based in Gevrey-Chambertin, where he purchased his first vineyard land in 1964, he raised his children in Vougeot, where he was able to buy several prime vineyard parcels in the 1980s. After his children entered the business, they assembled the family properties into the Domaine de la Vougeraie in 1999. Their holdings include 109 acres in grand cru vineyards, such as Charmes-Chambertin, Bonnes Mares, Musigny and Corton, and premiers crus in Savigny-lès-Beaune, Nuits-St-Georges, Beaune and Pommard. Since the beginning, the Boissets have farmed organically. Today the estate is the largest in Burgundy certified by Ecocert; they have been working with biodynamic practices since 2001.

Le Clos Blanc: With two-thirds of its vineyards in the Côte de Nuits, Vougeraie is primarily a red-wine house, yet one of its consistent standouts is Le Clos Blanc de Vougeot. Surrounded on three sides by pinot noir, this 5.63-acre parcel was originally planted by the monks at Clos de Vougeot. The vines, mostly chardonnay with small amounts of pinots gris and blanc, planted from the early 1980s through the mid-1990s, produced two of the top-scoring white Burgundies we tasted this year: the 2012 expressing tension and briny minerality, heightened by scents of rose and citrus pith, the 2013 all kinetic energy and pale earthiness.



A Red Core: For his red wines, winemaker Pierre Vincent takes a traditional approach, from handpicking to spontaneous ferments in large, open vats. Among the highlights of his 2013s: a tart and beautifully aromatic Bourgogne Rouge, and a powerful, multi-layered Nuits-St-Georges Premier Cru Clos de Thorey, from a vineyard on the hill just north of town. Its chalky soils deliver a wine with a floral buzz and deep, umami tannins, a 2013 with the power and finesse of great Burgundy. —C.G.

TOP-SCORING WINES

94 '13 Vougeot 1er Cru Le Clos Blanc de Vougeot \$155 (4/16)

94 '12 Vougeot 1er Cru Le Clos Blanc de Vougeot \$165 (4/16)

93 '13 Nuits-St-Georges 1er Cru Clos de Thorey \$117 (10/16)