

11 BARGAIN BURGUNDIES

By: Bruce Sanderson, Wine Spectator

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“Tasting Highlights’ wine reviews are fresh out of the tasting room, offering a sneak peek of our editors’ most recent scores and notes to WineSpectator.com members.

Finding good, reliable Burgundy that won’t break the bank is increasingly challenging these days. You can forget about the famous names like Chambolle-Musigny, Vosne-Romanée and Puligny-Montrachet, which, along with any of the grands crus, carry a hefty price tag.



That leaves the fringes of Burgundy: north, south and on the edge. Chablis still has good value and, fortunately, there are passionate and committed vintners there; Patrick Piuze comes to mind. From the south, we have a Louis Latour Bourgogne from the Beaujolais area, made from the Gamay grape, and a Maison Roche de Bellene Côteaux Bourguignons that blends Gamay from Beaujolais (80 percent) and Pinot Noir from the Côte d’Or (20 percent).

St.-Aubin straddles a side valley behind Puligny-Montrachet, and in the right hands, the wines offer a similar, if less complex experience. The vineyards of Savigny-lès-Beaune also flank a valley that bisects Burgundy’s main slope, and Pouilly-Fuissé abuts neighboring Beaujolais in the southern portion of the Macônnais.

This can be a happy hunting ground for quality producers who make red and white Burgundy with character.

LOUIS LATOUR Bourgogne Gamay 2015

Score: 90 | \$18

There is a charming purity to the cherry and currant fruit in this light- to medium-bodied red, with a tangy backbone highlighting the spice, floral and chalky mineral elements on the lightly tannic finish. Drink now through 2020. 1,200 cases made.—Gillian Sciaretta.”

