

Cynthia Hurley French Wines Recommendations

Cynthia Hurley French Wines in Burgundy

Sunday Jan 31, 2016

Eric de Suremain

Monthelie Clou des Chenes 1er cru

Pure, Expressive Cotes de Beaune Pinot Noir in a Very Fine Vintage



wine-searcher.com

Eric's Monthelie Premier Cru Clou des Chenes Label

This is one of the best values and purest premier cru red burgundys that I have found. And 2011 is certainly one of the better vintages in recent years, is getting increasingly difficult to find. If you love red burgundy (I am talking to everyone right?) think about adding this to your cellar.

The quality is on par with highly regarded (and sold out) 2010. Here are some more comments on the very fine 2011 red Burgundies:

These 2011s are extraordinary wines, in an extraordinary vintage. **Allen Meadows Burghound** writes, "As the scores and comments confirm 2011s are absolutely terrific and I agree with him that they are a match for 2010s in terms of overall quality."

Allen Meadows: "Moreover, there is more than enough underlying terroir expression to satisfy even the most demanding burg geeks."

"This makes for seductively suave textures that avoid any sense of heaviness as there is good freshness and sufficient acid verve to maintain the finishing balance. This seductive character is further enhanced by the fact that not only are the supporting tannins ripe but they are exceptionally fine-grained; indeed this is one characteristic that both 2011 and 2010 share." **Allen Meadows Burghound**

Clive Coates on 2011 Reds: "there are many which have a delightful purity of Pinot fruit - and pure Pinot is one of the world's most seductive vinous aromas. They should not take too long to come round. But while delicious then, I do believe they will last, at least in the medium to long term. Yes, at least in red, 2011 is a success."

But importantly 2011 red Burgundy while high on quality are very reduced in quantity so prices have risen substantially. I have decided to ship the 2011s today at the lower 2010 prices.

Many of you already know that Eric de Suremain has got a talent for Pinot Noir. One of Eric de Suremain's higher-end offerings, is his **Monthelie Clos des Chenes 1er cru**. **Neil Martin gives this wine a rating of 89-91 points** and the following rave review, "The Clos des Chenes has a lovely expressive, floral bouquet with vibrant red fruits and well integrated oak. The palate is medium-bodied with a ripe meaty core. It is tannic and grippy, a broad-shouldered Monthelie that should age well." - Neil Martin

The Monthelie Clou des Chenes vineyard borders on neighboring Volnay premier cru vineyards - If it was over the border it would cost about +75% more - just one of the reasons this is such a high value bottling. Of course it still must have care and skill from the wine maker to deliver on this promise but that is where Eric comes in.

The flavors seem embedded in every molecule and they skip across my taste buds scattering black cherry, raspberry, minty, leathery, chocolatey fairy dust along the way. A refill, please.

Eric de Suremain took his vineyards biodynamic in 1996. He was way ahead of his time, still is. Eric de Suremain does not embrace every little technological miracle that comes along. He still believes in getting up close and personal with his grapes by practicing *pigeage* -- good old-fashioned foot-stomping to get the most flavor from his pinot noir.

His yields are very low. His vines are old. He is restrained when it comes to new wood. Eric's wines remain in barrel for as long as two years. His wines are long-lived and will drink well up to ten years or more.

His philosophy about winemaking sounds simple, but is really profound: "there are no *petites annees*, it is just the balance which counts." This means that he is a flexible winemaker who adjusts for the variables in every vintage. He doesn't try to match the juice to his winemaking, he matches his winemaking to the juice and it is that skillful balancing act that makes a wine seem like a seamless wave of pure, expressive, ripe, Pinot flavor. Dive in.

-Margot Hurley, Cynthia Hurley French Wines

To order just hit reply and let me know how many cases. This shipment arrives next week.



The de Suremain Chateau in Burgundy which is pictured on the label

The Details

Eric de Suremain Monthelie Clos des Chenes 1er cru 2011 12-bottle case \$551.88 (\$45.99)

This is a remarkable value for premier cru red Burgundy of this quality. This wine would cost \$85+ in neighboring Volnay. This is a true Burgundy value

The pricing and sale of any wine is made only by the licensed retailer, who will arrange for delivery on behalf of the customer at \$6 per case and must collect 7% NJ sales tax on all sales. There is a \$15 per case supplement for delivery addresses of the Mississippi River

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