



The bounties of Burgogne

Why wine lovers are flocking to the 'Hautes Côtes' regions of Burgogne

In the hills overlooking the Côte d'Or, the appellations of Burgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune and Burgogne Hautes Côtes de Nuits offer wine lovers a beguiling combination of the characteristics that have made the wines of Burgogne successful the world over, with a verve that comes from vines grown at altitude.

Often called the 'Hautes Côtes', these near neighbours have been adopted as 'discoveries' by a legion of enthusiastic wine lovers who appreciate the quality and value for money they offer. However, both areas have a proud history of winemaking dating back many hundreds of years, culminating in their official demarcation as appellations more than 50 years ago.

BOURGOGNE HAUTES CÔTES DE BEAUNE

Though wines from the Hautes Côtes de Beaune were enjoyed at the coronation of France's King Philippe Auguste back in 1180, the area went through a period of expansion in the 19th century until the arrival of phylloxera, which cut a path of devastation through the Burgogne region. Its renaissance came after the Second World War and the appellation was established in 1961, encompassing 29 villages producing red, white and rosé wines over 830ha of hilly terrain.

The vines of Burgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune, producing Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, grow on the southerly and south-east-facing slopes of valleys cut into plateaus at between 280m and 450m above sea level, on a bedrock 80 million



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Prosper Maufoux

years old, featuring sandstone, clay, marl and limestone.

BOURGOGNE HAUTES CÔTES DE NUITS

Overlooking the slopes of Gevrey-Chambertin, extending as far as the forests of Corton, the Hautes Côtes de Nuits are celebrated for their wild, ragged beauty. Also established in 1961, the appellation extends across 765ha at an elevation between 300m and 400m.

Producing red, white and rosé wines from Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and very small quantities of Pinot Gris and Pinot Blanc, the vines occupy the sides of valleys formed by a combination of eroded limestone and marly subsoil.

At a time of rising temperatures, winemakers appreciate the cooler conditions offered by the geographical situation of these two vineyards, while drinkers enjoy the excellent value to be found in each area when compared with their more famous neighbours in the Côte de Beaune and Côte de Nuits.

According to Florian Migeon at Prosper Maufoux: "Still a well-kept secret in recent years by professionals and wine lovers who love Burgogne wines with their freshness and elegance and a beautiful aromatic expression on the nose, these two appellations are making a remarkable breakthrough.

"The landscape is very different from that of the Côte de Beaune or Côte de Nuits, it is much more hilly and wild. The geology and exposure are very different between the north and the south of these two vineyards, which of course explains the diversity of expression of the wines."

TASTING NOTES:

Prosper Maufoux, Burgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune, 2020 (white)
A delicious barrel-fermented Chardonnay, with 10 months in lightly toasted oak, offering an expressive nose of honeysuckle, creamy citrus, peach and toasted spice. Rich, textured and well balanced, with a line of salinity and long finish.

Domaine R Dubois & Fils, Burgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune Les Montbatois, 2021 (white)
A cooler, somewhat challenging vintage resulted in a very appealing 'old school' Burgogne Chardonnay. Structured and firm, with yellow apple and zesty lemon, wild honey and notes of frangipane, the oak is well integrated, the finish lengthy.

Domaine Labry, Burgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune, 2021 (white)
Elegant and structured, with a nose of white grapefruit and fleshy stone fruit, balanced with crisp citrus acidity, creamy orchard fruits, toasted hazelnuts and a tangy freshness.

Domaine Boris Champy, Burgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune Montagne 382, 2021 (white)
A fresh nose of zesty lemon, citrus blossom and wild honey leads into generous peach and ripe golden apple, rounded with smooth, delicate spice and a stream of clean, invigorating minerality.

Cyprien Arlaud, Burgogne Hautes Côtes de Nuits, 2021 (red)
Classic style. This is a silky and juicy Pinot with aromas of red summer berries, violets and red plums, with a hint of tarragon with purity of fruit, bright acidity, textured with fine tannin structure and a hint of sweet spice.

Domaine Bonnardot, Burgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune, Sur Evelle, 2021 (red)
With a nose bursting with redcurrants, raspberries, pomegranate complemented by wafts of rosemary, there's a real energy from the fresh red fruit, juicy acidity and delicate sweet spice, with the fine tannins adding a real sense of refinement.

Roux Père & Fils, Burgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune, 2021 (red)
A bright nose of red cherry, goji berry, rosehip and sweet spice leads into a generous, well-balanced, juicy-fruited wine with complexity and a smooth, satisfying finish.

Domaine Georges Joillot, Burgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune, 2021 (red)
Deliciously fresh, there's a teasing wild note to the red hedgerow fruit, with herbal hints, nicely integrated sweet spice, crunchy acidity allied with a refined tannin structure.

Domaine Jean Fery, Burgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune, 2020 (red)
Red berries and cherries are complemented by an attractive savoury nose, with a subtle gaminess. There's a vibrancy to the juicy red fruit, with gentle baking spice and a lovely sense of plushness.

Moillard, Burgogne Hautes Côtes de Nuits, Les Vignes Hautes, 2020 (red)
The nose offers ripe, dark fruits, with blackcurrant, plum, black pepper and cinnamon. There's richness, balanced with crunchy cranberry acidity and fine, gently massaged tannins.