

CÔTE DE BEAUNE

- Region makes up southern part of Burgundy's Côte d'Or or "slope of gold"
- Soil is mixture of clay and limestone, or marl
- Pinot Noir and Chardonnay are grown; the "home turf" for Old World Chardonnay
- Patchwork of multiple vineyards and classifications: Bourgogne Rouge or Bourgogne Blanc / Hautes-Côtes de Beaune / Villages / Premier Cru (1er Cru) / Grand Cru
- Most prestigious communes from north to south: Pernand-Vergelesses, Aloxe-Corton, Ladoix-Serrigny, Beaune, Pommard, Volnay, Meursault, Puligny-Montrachet, Chassagne-Montrachet
- In addition to specific site, vintage and especially producer are very important

1) Jean-Michel Gaunoux Meursault Villages '08 – Meursault, France

- Meursault is Chardonnay country; no Grand Crus but many highly regarded 1ers
- Complex and mixed soil, varies by vineyard: rocky limestone, clay, pebbles
- Style in Meursault is rich, full, textured, nutty
- "Villages" means it can come from anywhere in the commune
- Gaunoux is a traditional-style producer practicing *lutte raisonnée* ("reasoned struggle"); often release their wines late or after some aging in cellar

2) Alex Gambal Chassagne-Montrachet Villages '08 – Chassagne-Montrachet, France

- Chassagne-Montrachet is one of the top villages for Chardonnay in the world: Grand Crus Montrachet, Batard-Montrachet, Criots-Batard-Montrachet
- Complex and mixed soil, varies by vineyard: rocky limestone, clay, pebbles
- Style in Chassagne is broad, expansive, deep
- Alex Gambal is an American and a négociant, which means he buys fruit from other growers and makes the wines/bottles them himself
- He's also buying some land in Burgundy and is the first non-Frenchman to purchase in Batard-Montrachet



3) Paul Chapelle 1er Cru Champgain '09 – Puligny-Montrachet, France

- Along with Chassagne, Puligny-Montrachet is one of the top villages for Chardonnay in the world: Grand Crus Montrachet, Batard-Montrachet, Bienvenue-Batard-Montrachet, Chevalier-Montrachet
- Complex and mixed soil, varies by vineyard: rocky limestone, clay, pebbles
- Style in Puligny is taut, precise, focused
- Paul Chapelle is a relatively new estate, established in 1976 when Paul inherited a few vines; prior to this, he was a consulting enologist for many classic Burgundian estates
- Today, estate is run by Paul's daughter, Christine Beck Chapelle who continues to make the wines in a very traditional, classic style

4) Jean-Michel Gaunoux Beaune Villages Rouge '99 – Beaune, France

- The town of Beaune is the heart of Burgundy's wine business; the village makes and is equally well-known for both Pinot Noir and Chardonnay
- Reds' style is more sturdy, sometimes with a touch of rusticity
- 1999 was a fantastic vintage; the reds have elegance, power and longevity
- Important to consider provenance of older wines; as Gaunoux releases late, provenance often excellent

5) Marcillet Hautes-Côtes de Beaune '10 – Burgundy, France

- Hautes-Côtes de Beaune is a broader appellation set back on a plateau "behind" (west of) the specific outlined villages
- Hautes-Côtes de Beaune can be a source of outstanding value for very good quality
- Husband-and-wife team; they farm organically and navigate traditional and modern winemaking technology

6) Prieur-Brunet Volnay 1er Cru Santenots '09 – Volnay, France

- Volnay is mostly Pinot Noir territory, though some Chardonnay is grown
- No Grand Crus but many highly regarded 1er Crus for Pinot Noir
- Reds are super elegant, finessed, fine-boned but firm
- Santenots is on the border of Volnay and Meursault; it can grown either Pinot Noir (in which case it goes by Volnay) or Chardonnay (in which case it goes by Meursault)
- Another husband-and-wife team, based in Santenay (south of Chassagne-Montrachet) farming *lutte raisonnée*

