

Wine Spectator Insider

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A Members-Only, Weekly Publication

INSIDER SPECIAL REPORT: 2007 BURGUNDY The 2007 vintage in Burgundy was challenging for growers. Heat and sunshine in April gave the growing season a head start, but June, July and August were cold and rainy. Finally, in the fourth week of August, a north wind changed the weather pattern, bringing four weeks of sun, warmth and dry conditions, saving the vintage.

Consequently, the reds are slimmer, more elegant wines than the two previous vintages, 2006 and 2005. They have perfumed, fresh aromas and, at their best, flesh and length. The vintage was particularly successful in Gevrey-Chambertin, a village that enjoys a wealth of *grands crus* and top-notch *premiers crus* vineyards. Many of these reds offer the best of the vintage's character. Three Pinot Noirs earn classic ratings in this report; you'll find them among the Hot Wines, on page 4.

—Bruce Sanderson

France Burgundy

BOUCHARD PÈRE & FILS

Chapelle-Chambertin 2007

94 points | \$214 | 20 cases imported | Red

This evokes wild berry, black currant and animal aromas and flavors matched to a dense backdrop of tannins. Balanced and expressive in a more rustic, beefy manner, with a long finish. Best from 2013 through 2028.—B.S.

BERNARD DUGAT-PY

Gevrey-Chambertin Premier Cru Vieilles Vignes 2007

94 points | \$200 | 20 cases imported | Red

Nice density provides a backdrop for the black cherry, black currant and violet aromas and flavors in this silky red, which has a sappy quality midpalate without being heavy or extracted. There's fine grip on the licorice- and sandalwood-infused aftertaste. Best from 2012 through 2020.—B.S.

LOUIS JADOT

Chambertin-Clos de Bèze 2007

94 points | \$255 | 15 cases imported | Red

A dense, concentrated style, packed with black cherry, black currant and licorice flavors. So dense, it's almost chewy, with a sweet essence and a long, spice-tinged finish. Massive for the vintage, this will need time to strut its stuff. Best from 2014 through 2030.—B.S.

LOUIS JADOT

Mazis-Chambertin 2007

94 points | \$190 | 20 cases imported | Red

This suave, silky red is very polished and cohesive with its cherry, blackberry and red currant aromas and flavors. The tannins emerge at the end, yet are ripe and refined. Fresh and juicy on the long finish. Best from 2013 through 2028.—B.S.

LUCIEN LE MOINE

Gevrey-Chambertin Les Cazetiers 2007

94 points | \$110 | 33 cases imported | Red

A core of pure black cherry and black currant is wrapped in smoky bacon, toast, chocolate and mineral flavors. It's all displayed on a silky frame, lithe and well-toned. Terrific length and harmony. Best from 2012 through 2022.—B.S.

LUCIEN LE MOINE

Mazis-Chambertin 2007

94 points | \$250 | 28 cases imported | Red

Marked by bacon fat and smoke notes, this muscular red also exhibits a core of sweet black cherry and blackberry flavors that are concentrated and intense. It's all backed by a firm, vibrant structure, and this resonates on the long, mineral-tinged aftertaste. Very dynamic. Best from 2014 through 2030.—B.S.

NICOLAS POTEL

Chambertin 2007

94 points | \$270 | 20 cases imported | Red

Dense and square in profile, with black cherry and plum flavors. Meaty with a touch of animal. Balanced, yet less harmonious than many 2007s, needing a few years to come together. There's nice chewy grip on the finish. Best from 2015 through 2032.—*B.S.*

NICOLAS POTEL

Chambertin-Clos de Bèze 2007

94 points | \$270 | 20 cases imported | Red

Dark and brooding, this red evokes something wild and animal, combining black cherry, blackberry, smoke and leather in an appealing package. The tannins are dense and prominent, but there's sweet fruit behind them. Best from 2014 through 2030.—*B.S.*

G. ROUMIER

Charmes-Chambertin Aux Mazoyères 2007

94 points | \$170 | 3 cases imported | Red

A solid, muscular red, saturated with black cherry, blackberry and mineral flavors. This is square and compact now, with plenty of fruit and a well-integrated structure. Its resonant finish bodes well for the future. Best from 2014 through 2028.—*B.S.*

ARMAND ROUSSEAU

Charmes-Chambertin 2007

94 points | \$180 | 37 cases imported | Red

Offers plenty of wild berry aromas and flavors, with accents of earth, licorice and spice. Long and expansive, this displays a sappy core and terrific presence on the palate from start to finish. Best from 2012 through 2025.—*B.S.*

ARMAND ROUSSEAU

Mazy-Chambertin 2007

94 points | \$180 | 27 cases imported | Red

Shy in aroma, yet expressive on the palate, revealing cherry, licorice, chocolate and mineral notes. This possesses energy and a vibrant structure, with a natural sweetness offsetting its fine-grained tannins. Subtle and sophisticated, with a lingering aftertaste. Best from 2013 through 2028.—*B.S.*

ARMAND ROUSSEAU

Ruchottes-Chambertin Clos des Ruchottes 2007

94 points | \$235 | 20 cases imported | Red

Elegant and beautifully poised between pure raspberry, cherry, wild berry, floral and mineral aromas and flavors and a vibrant structure. This graceful, linear red is very harmonious. Needs a few years to gain complexity. Best from 2012 through 2025.—*B.S.*

TAUPENOT-MERME

Charmes-Chambertin 2007

94 points | \$155 | 10 cases imported | Red

A rich version, opulent even, for the vintage, boasting cherry, preserved beet, plum, vanilla and clove notes. Solid, with fine concentration and sappiness midpalate, ending in a long aftertaste of spice and mineral. Best from 2012 through 2024.—*B.S.*

BERNARD DUGAT-PY

Charmes-Chambertin 2007

93 points | \$350 | 20 cases imported | Red

Wild berry, boysenberry, smoke and violet flavors highlight this effusive, jammy style. There are firm tannins to keep it all honest, and the berry notes just keep coursing through the finish. Best from 2012 through 2023.—*B.S.*

DOMAINE HUMBERT FRÈRES

Gevrey-Chambertin Poissenot 2007

93 points | \$122 | 45 cases imported | Red

A smoky cast overlays the black cherry and black currant aromas and flavors in this suave, powerful red, which is fresh, smooth and modern, without being flashy, revealing depth and length on the finish. Refined tannins make this approachable now. Drink now through 2019.—*B.S.*

PIERRE GELIN

Chambertin-Clos de Bèze 2007

93 points | \$105 | 25 cases imported | Red

Bright cherry, herbs, smoke and oak spice flavors converge in this suave red, which is moderately concentrated and firm in structure, ending in a slightly dry yet powerful finish. Needs a few years. Best from 2013 through 2028.—*B.S.*

LOUIS JADOT

Griotte-Chambertin 2007

93 points | \$190 | 20 cases imported | Red

A lean, muscular red, with sweet cherry, raspberry and floral notes playing off its firm structure. Dense with both fruit and tannins, and the long aftertaste plays out on a mineral theme. Best from 2013 through 2028.—*B.S.*

LOUIS LATOUR

Chambertin Cuvée Héritiers Latour 2007

93 points | \$250 | 280 cases made | Red

An intense red, powerful and elegant at once, exhibiting black cherry, chocolate, licorice and mineral flavors. This just keeps building on the palate and won't be denied, culminating in a long, chewy, licorice-tinged finish. Best from 2014 through 2030.—*B.S.*

LOUIS LATOUR

Mazis-Chambertin 2007

93 points | \$400 | 25 cases made | Red

Finesse and inner strength mark this intense red, which is packed with cherry, raspberry, floral and mineral flavors, with accents of tobacco and spice. There's a long, palate-saturating finish. Best from 2014 through 2027.—*B.S.*

NICOLAS POTEL

Latricières-Chambertin 2007

93 points | \$150 | 25 cases imported | Red

Tight and closed, with almost no aroma and scant flavor. Cherry, licorice and mineral notes are locked up, with as much acidity as tannins in the structure. There's fine length and sweetness, but this requires patience. Best from 2014 through 2030.—*B.S.*

G. ROUMIER

Ruchottes-Chambertin 2007

93 points | \$180 | 8 cases imported | Red

Rich, dense and infused with cherry, this red gathers firmness from start to finish. There are some tannins from the oak, which also lend a spicy component. Mineral elements complete the picture as this lingers on the finish. Best from 2013 through 2027.—*B.S.*

ARMAND ROUSSEAU

Gevrey-Chambertin Clos St.-Jacques 2007

93 points | \$285 | 50 cases imported | Red

Smooth, with concentration that makes this almost chewy, framing the cherry, licorice and sandalwood notes. There's a latent mineral tone. Though well-proportioned and harmonious, this needs a year or so to really sing. Best from 2012 through 2020.—*B.S.*

SÉRAFIN PÈRE & FILS

Gevrey-Chambertin Les Cazetiers 2007

93 points | \$170 | 10 cases imported | Red

Wild cherry is the main flavor, accented by sandalwood, tobacco and mineral as this firm red moves across the palate. Concentrated and long, while retaining a sense of elegance and refinement. Best from 2012 through 2020.—*B.S.*

TAUPENOT-MERME

Mazoyères-Chambertin 2007

93 points | \$170 | 10 cases imported | Red

Dense with cherry, plum, sandalwood and mineral flavors, this red balances its sweetness with fine-grained tannins. Firm and tight now, but the lingering finish shows its potential. Best from 2014 through 2028.—*B.S.*

DOMAINE HUMBERT FRÈRES

Charmes-Chambertin 2007

92 points | \$170 | 50 cases imported | Red

A blast of fresh black cherry, pure and juicy from start to finish. This red marked by its harmony, yet also shows a silky texture and fine grip on the finish. Almost ready now. Should develop soon. Best from 2012 through 2022.—*B.S.*

LOUIS LATOUR

Charmes-Chambertin 2007

92 points | \$300 | 66 cases made | Red

This is all about the silky texture and the bright structure, with finely meshed tannins. The fruit seems submerged today, just a little shy, but it's sweet and lingers on the finish, so be patient. Best from 2013 through 2023.—*B.S.*

LOUIS LATOUR

Gevrey-Chambertin Lavaut St.-Jacques 2007

92 points | \$145 | 90 cases made | Red

This starts out with a pure cherry flavor and a silky texture, firming up and revealing raspberry and mineral elements that make it both complex and appealing. The finish is long and juicy. Best from 2011 through 2019.—*B.S.*

NICOLAS POTEL

Charmes-Chambertin 2007

92 points | \$150 | 50 cases imported | Red

Tasting like macerated blackberry and black currant, this red is concentrated and intense in flavor, yet also elegant in stature. The tannins are firm enough for support, but not overreaching. There's a fresh finish of blackberry. Best from 2013 through 2024.—*B.S.*

ARMAND ROUSSEAU

Gevrey-Chambertin Les Cazetiers 2007

92 points | \$140 | 10 cases imported | Red

Cherry and raspberry flavors are augmented by tobacco and mineral in this sinewy red. The tannins meld into the overall texture, yet are present, providing backbone. Spice notes highlight both the aromas and the long finish. Best from 2012 through 2020.—*B.S.*

PIERRE GELIN

Gevrey-Chambertin Clos Prieur 2007

91 points | \$63 | 30 cases imported | Red

Smooth as silk, with spicy berry, red currant, earth and graphite aromas and flavors. The sweetness and tannins are in balance, and this lingers with a sweet berry and spice aftertaste. Drink now through 2019.—*B.S.*

LOUIS JADOT

Gevrey-Chambertin Estournelles St.-Jacques 2007

91 points | \$90 | 30 cases imported | Red

Macerated cherry and a hint of licorice are complemented by well-integrated oak spice in this supple red. The light tannins offer support, yet this is charming and sappy overall. Drink now through 2020.—*B.S.*

LOUIS LATOUR

Latricières-Chambertin 2007

91 points | \$295 | 25 cases made | Red

Shows herbal and waxy flavors more than pure fruit, with prominent tannins that end up dry and slightly astringent on the finish. There's a hardness to this. Best from 2013 through 2023.—*B.S.*

SÉRAFIN PÈRE & FILS

Charmes-Chambertin 2007

91 points | \$200 | 10 cases imported | Red

Gorgeous aromas of fresh berry and cherry, with a touch of vanilla, introduce this supple red, which has a core of sweet fruit, nicely balanced against its light, well-integrated tannins. Just a little dry now, but give this time. Best from 2012 through 2020.—*B.S.*

ARMAND ROUSSEAU

Gevrey-Chambertin 2007

90 points | \$110 | 46 cases imported | Red

This shows depth to its kirsch, red currant and licorice aromas and flavors. There's sweetness midpalate, and this stays pure and focused through the finish. There's just enough tannins to add support. Best from 2011 through 2016.—*B.S.*

HOT WINES

These are the most exciting discoveries from our editors' most recent tastings, published exclusively in *Wine Spectator Insider*. They are high-scoring, low-production wines from around the world that may be difficult to find, but are worth seeking out.

BERNARD DUGAT-PY

Mazis-Chambertin 2007

96 points | \$395 | 20 cases imported | Red

This is supple, complex and exotic, featuring wild berry, blueberry, bilberry and black currant aromas and flavors. As this plays out on the palate, the firm structure appears, along with a mineral streak and oak spice. There's a long aftertaste of sweet fruit and spice. Best from 2013 through 2028. *From France.—B.S.*

ARMAND ROUSSEAU

Chambertin 2007

95 points | \$360 | 45 cases imported | Red

Like macerated cherry and plum flavors, this muscular red also shows leather, tobacco and a wild, feral character. Smooth and concentrated, with a long finish of sweet fruit and mineral. A more chewy version. Best from 2014 through 2030. *From France.—B.S.*

ARMAND ROUSSEAU

Chambertin-Clos de Bèze 2007

95 points | \$360 | 27 cases imported | Red

Loads of sweet cherry, bilberry, plum, mineral and spice notes are matched to a firm, well-integrated structure. Dense and velvety, vibrant and long, with a pure fruit and mineral aftertaste. This doesn't want to quit on the finish. Best from 2014 through 2030. *From France.—B.S.*

JOSEPH DROUHIN

Charmes-Chambertin 2007

94 points | \$157 | 82 cases imported | Red

An elegant, soft-spoken style, sporting floral, spice, strawberry and raspberry aromas and flavors. Pure and vibrant, just needs a little time to integrate its fruit and oak. This has a lovely sweet fruit aftertaste. Best from 2012 through 2022. *From France.—B.S.*

WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

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Wine Spectator's tasting staff includes 14 people in three offices. They work together to review more than 18,000 wines each year, more than any other publication. Together, our seven senior tasters count more than 140 years of tasting experience.

We always taste wine blind in our offices in Napa, New York and Tuscany. This is your guarantee that our reviews are fair and objective, and that a wine's reputation or price does not influence its score. Each editor specializes in the wines of specific regions; their initials identify the taster of each wine reviewed. We score wines using the 100-point scale, explained below.

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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat: New York, Spain

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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1981. Tasting beat: Bordeaux, Italy, Port

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Wine Spectator's 100-Point Scale

95-100	Classic
90-94	Outstanding
85-89	Very good
80-84	Good
75-79	Mediocre
50-74	Not recommended