

1961

EXCITING WINE NEWS FROM BURGUNDY!

THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1961.

'61 BURGUNDY GETS A SPARKLING PRICE

May Be Best of the Century,
Experts Say—and Pay

By ROBERT ALDEN

Special to The New York Times.

BEAUNE, France, Nov. 20—The 1961 Burgundy vintage will be the most expensive ever.

In the opinion of the experts here, the 1961 vintage is possibly the best of this century. Only 1929 is put in its class.

The average price paid at yesterday's auction for the benefit of the Hospices de Beaune for a cask containing the equivalent of 228 bottles of wine was \$814.

The 1959 vintage, widely heralded as a great one that is so expensive that it has been all but priced out of the market even before its red wines are ready for drinking, sold for an average of \$479 a cask. That means that the 1961 vintage will be more than half again as expensive as the 1959.

3 Reasons for High Prices

There are three reasons for the high prices of the 1961 vintage.

Frost early in June, when the vine plants were in flower, substantially reduced the size of the crop.

A sunny, dry August in the Burgundy wine-growing region has apparently made the press of the surviving grapes extraordinarily good. The experts have spent the last three days here sampling the still-green 1961 vintage and their enthusiasm was reflected in bidding.

The market for fine French vintage wines, particularly the United States market, has been expanding rapidly. Projecting six or seven years into the future, when the 1961 red Burgundies will be really coming into their own, the market for these wines may be such that their price at retail, when they are obtainable at all, may be astonishingly high.

Some Tie It to Demand

There are pessimists here who say that it is this last factor and the matter of the somewhat smaller yield this year that are responsible for the extraordinary prices paid for the wine here.

However, the official verdict of the experts chosen to judge the 1961 wines over the weekend was that, taken as a whole, the Burgundy wines of 1961 "have the character of a great year and are apt to have a long life."

The wine experts here who make their living buying and bottling wine in wholesale lots apparently agreed with the jury and were willing to back up their judgment in the bidding.

The first lot of wines put up for sale, a Beaune, Dames Hospitalières, brought a price equivalent to \$1,183 a cask, compared with the previous record for a red Burgundy—\$714—paid for another Beaune, Dames Hospitalières in 1955.

The bidding reached a peak for the red wines with the sale of four casks of Auxey-Dur-esses, Dolliot, at \$1,380 a cask, or about \$6 a bottle.

The price may be quadrupled by the time the wine appears in retail stores six or seven years from now, the increase covering costs of bottling, shipping, taxes and profit for importers and retailers.

THE GREAT 1959 BURGUNDIES

Now Arriving!

Last week we joyously pocketed our airplane ticket that would take us to the November 19th Hospices De Beaune auction in Burgundy. It was therefore a bit discouraging for us to cancel out at the last minute because report after report reached us from France that the prices would be record-breaking, and to buy and sell wine at such astronomical levels was dangerous, less than wise, and not suited to *Sherry's* general policy.

This historic auction took place only last week and was epoch-making in France. Simultaneously, an important wine event was taking place at *Sherry's*. The great 1959 Burgundies, which we still believe are the best and most enjoyable of our lifetime, are now arriving to bring their glory to you.

Even the lesser wines are excellent and the best are fantastically great. An unparalleled year, rich in fruit, well-balanced and ready to drink early. Let them bring their holiday joy to you.

Practically no 1959 estate bottled Burgundies worth acquiring remain in the cellars of the growers. Where they are available, they would undoubtedly command a higher price today than the record-breaking prices just achieved by the new vintage—1961.

We are happy to report that the prices are not yet out of hand; but, in view of present demands, authentic 1959s will either be unobtainable or double the prices listed below in two or three years. Any wine listed here is from an impeccable source, happily offered to you at the low acquisition cost of two years ago and not based on the dramatically-high prices that now prevail in France.

1959 RED BURGUNDIES

No.		Bottle	Case
*223	MOULIN-A-VENT, BURDELINEs <i>Estate bottled, Mousset</i> The magnificence of the 1959 in the Beaujolais district particularly expressed itself among the Estate bottlings of the better villages such as Moulin-A-Vent and Fleurie. This wine is full, slow to develop for a Beaujolais, fruity, with a perfume rarely achieved in a red wine.	2.19	24.50
*206	FLEURIE, LES MORIERS <i>Estate bottled, Mousset</i> Another extraordinary example of great Beaujolais. Estate bottled by an outstanding producer from vineyards of one of the better villages.	2.19	24.50
*246	CHATEAU DE MONTHELIE <i>Estate bottled, Suremain</i> Just south of Volnay and up a dirt road is the tiny village of Monthelie. Less known than Volnay they sometimes achieve the stature of the good Volnays but cost considerably less. Here is the best single vineyard of the township and the wine was superb in 1959.	2.79	30.75
*172	CHAMBOLLE MUSIGNY <i>Estate bottled, Domaine Roumier</i> Alain Roumier, not yet thirty, was elected Mayor of his village, Chambolle Musigny, about a year ago. Like his father before him, he is the cellar-master of the Comte de Vogue, but has a few small vineyards of his own. Handled with great skill and unremitting care, these wines are of exceptional class. The 1959—light, delicate, bouqueté—is outstanding.	2.79	30.75

151	CHASSAGNE MONTRACHET, CAILLERETS <i>Estate bottled, Delagrange</i> Red wine from the Chassagne Montrachet district is a rarity and hard to come by. This one is well-balanced, soft, rich in fruit, and represents really fine Burgundy at low cost.	2.99	32.95
398	BEAUNE GREVES <i>Estate bottled, Duvault-Bloch</i> The better vineyards of Beaune are characterized by softness and lightness, noted for finesse and aroma, and are relatively quick to mature. Here is perhaps the best single vineyard of this famed wine producing town and is a true glory in 1959.	3.29	36.25
827	VOLNAY CHAMPANS <i>Estate bottled, Marquis d'Angerville</i> We recently visited the good Marquis, a young civilized, handsome man who takes his wine most seriously. We believe that in the 1959 vintage his 'Champans' vineyard yielded his best-balanced, and perhaps his best, Volnay.	3.29	36.75
*190	CHAPELLE CHAMBERTIN <i>Estate bottled, Clair-Dau</i> Only a narrow road separates Chapelle Chambertin from the directly adjoining Clos de Beze, and when well made, Chapelle Chambertin is a true aristocrat, with enormous power and breed. The producer and estate bottler, in this case, M. Clair-Dau, is one of the most highly considered producers of Burgundy and almost invariably wins one of the Gold Medals at the great agricultural exposition in Paris.	3.49	38.50
*484	ECHEZEAUX <i>Estate bottled, R. Engel</i> An interesting combination of body and strength that will improve considerably with age. Great class at low cost.	3.99	43.95
*269	POMMARD, LES EPENOTS <i>Estate bottled, Domaine Parent</i> Pommard is the best known of all Burgundies, possibly because its name is easy to remember. The best vineyard is 'Les Epenots' which produces wines of great finesse, softness and superb bouquet. Hard to come by, here is a great 1959.	3.99	43.95
201	POMMARD RUGIENS <i>Estate bottled, Felix Clerget</i> The only rival to the 'Les Epenots' vineyard in Pommard is 'Rugiens'. It required much persuasion on our part to convince this reluctant grower to part with the most precious barrel in his cellars.	3.99	43.95
*270	VOSNE ROMANEE, CLOS DES REAS <i>Estate bottled, L. Gros</i> The distinguishing characteristics of the great wines of Vosne are lingering bouquet and rich, full character. In the masterful hands of Louis Gros, Mayor of the town, the Clos des Reas vineyard has achieved the delicacy and balance in this year that provides classic distinction.	3.99	43.95
226	GEVRY-CHAMBERTIN, ST. JACQUES <i>Estate bottled, Clair-Dau</i> A sleeper! A truly great estate-bottled wine of the Chambertin area from a grower who has won gold medal after gold medal in competitions—note astonishingly low cost.	3.99	43.95
*271	CLOS DE TART <i>Estate bottled, J. Mommessin</i> In the 7th Century a nunnery was founded in the town of Morey, not far from Gevrey Chambertin, and the Nuns started a vineyard called Clos de Tart. Today it is the distinguished property of J. Mommessin. Big, sturdy, long lived, here is one of the crowning jewels of the Cote d'Or.	4.19	46.25
*805	CLOS DE VOUGEOT <i>Estate bottled, L'Heretier-Guyot</i> The wines of Clos de Vougeot vary greatly from one producer's cellar to another, those coming from along the Route Nationale being far less good than those produced in the upper part of the hillside adjoining Musigny, Grands Echezeaux, etc. This particular wine comes from one of the best portions of the Clos. A splendid 1959.	4.59	49.75



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THE GREAT 1959 RED BORDEAUX

ADVANCE REPORTS FROM BORDEAUX indicate clearly and indisputably that the 1961 Clarets have yielded less than 40% of a normal crop, approximating the quality of the great 1945s and will ultimately command a price, after bottling, that will make the 1959s appear like cut-rate bargains. We shudder to give you the 1961 prices but we do know that many lesser Chateaux cost more in the 1961 market today than the peerless Chateau Haut Brion of 1959 commanded on the same date two years ago.

The prices listed below for the 1959 chateau-bottled Clarets may seem high if you compare them with what you were paying for the 1955s two years ago, but we must repeat in full sincerity that these very wines cost approximately the same in Bordeaux today on a wholesale trade level that we are quoting you below. We do admit that they are not inexpensive but we must assert that the wines are truly great, are priced here well below the market and will command considerably higher quotations a year from now. Our advice is simple—if you want 1959 Clarets, buy them now or resign yourself to never having the personal pleasure of their fantastic greatness in your wine cellar.

1959 CHATEAU BOTTLED CLARETS AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

No.	Case
721 *CHATEAU DU ROC (Cotes de Bourg)	16.00
115 *CHATEAU TIMBERLAY (St. André-de-Cubzac)	21.50
701 *CHATEAU LA TOUR CARNET (Medoc) Classified 4th Growth—on same level as Beycheville—beautiful balance—remarkable opportunity.	22.65
722 *CHATEAU LA GRACE DIEU (St. Emilion)	24.75
702 *CHATEAU RIEPAU (St. Emilion)	25.00
703 *CHATEAU L'ANGELUS (St. Emilion)	29.00
704 *CHATEAU PRIEURE LICHINE (Margaux)	29.50
A1 CHATEAU BATAILLEY (Haut Medoc)	34.50

1959 CHATEAU BOTTLED CLARETS AVAILABLE FOR DELIVERY AFTER THE COLD WEATHER OF WINTER IN APRIL 1962

A3 *CHATEAU KIRWAN (Haut Medoc)	29.75
A5 CHATEAU CAPBERN (St. Estephe) Exceeds its class—worth much more.	29.50
A7 CHATEAU PAVIE (St. Emilion)	31.00
A9 CHATEAU GRAND-PUY-DUCASSE Maintains high standard—worth more.	31.00
A11 *CHATEAU CANON (St. Emilion)	32.00
705 *CHATEAU BRANAIRE DUCRU (St. Julien)	32.00
706 *CHATEAU NENIN (Pomerol)	32.50
707 *CHATEAU MEYNEY (St. Estephe)	32.50
A13 CHATEAU GISOURS (Margaux) New ownership—vast improvement—excellent	34.50

No.	Case
708 *CHATEAU PICHON LONGUEVILLE BARON (Pauillac) Typical good Pauillac, well rounded, deep ruby color.	37.50
709 *CHATEAU VIEUX CERTAN (Pomerol) Only vineyard of Pomerol that ranks with Chateau Petrus.	37.50
710 *CHATEAU LYNCH BAGES (Pauillac) Fantastic, adjacent to and similar to Mouton Rothschild	39.50
A15 CHATEAU MALESCOT (Margaux) Finesse and delicacy—only next to Chateau Margaux and Lascombes in quality.	39.50
A17 CHATEAU DUCRU BEAUCAILLOU (St. Julien) Painstaking and impeccable wine making—don't let long name dissuade you.	39.50
712 *CHATEAU TALBOT (St. Julien) Constantly outstanding St. Julien.	40.00
713 *CHATEAU LASCOMBES (Margaux) Noble vineyard owned by group of outstanding Americans headed by Alexis Lichine. In 1959, thanks to dedication, a wine was made that approximates in subtlety, fruit and finesse, the classic Chateau Margaux.	41.00
711 *CHATEAU LEOVILLE LASCASES (St. Julien) In two successive wine tastings in Bordeaux, we found this vineyard second to none in 1959. We inquired why—the answer was that a Professor of Viniculture at the University of Bordeaux instituted new techniques that succeeded fantastically. Deep in color, powerful bouquet, it will, upon maturity, be pure velvet.	41.50
A19 CHATEAU LEOVILLE POYFERRE Not the equal of Lascases but nevertheless excellent.	41.50
A21 CHATEAU MONTROSE (St. Estephe) Superb, slow maturing, hard to come by.	42.50
715 *CHATEAU GRUAUD LAROSE (St. Julien) Year in and year out, one of our favorites.	42.50
714 *CHATEAU PALMER (Margaux) A classic Margaux in the grand tradition.	45.00
716 *CHATEAU COS D'ESTOURNEL (St. Estephe) Asserts its breeding in powerful fashion.	45.00
717 *CHATEAU BEYCHEVELLE (St. Julien) Relatively light—great finesse.	45.00
718 *CHATEAU CALON SEGUR (St. Estephe) Distinguished by great depth. Slow maturation and longevity.	45.00
A23 CHATEAU PETRUS (Pomerol) Production fantastically small—Acquiring 25 cases is akin to finding a Matisse.	75.00
A25 *CHATEAU LATOUR (Pauillac) Wine has been consistently great since 1955.	85.00
A27 *CHATEAU MARGAUX In 1959 this vineyard succeeded in producing its characteristic wine of delicate elegance.	85.00
A29 *CHATEAU CHEVAL BLANC (St. Emilion) Excellent, but not fabulous heights as obtained by the great first growths of the Medoc and Graves.	85.00
A31 CHATEAU AUSONE (St. Emilion) Production pitifully small. A collector's item.	87.50
A33 *CHATEAU MOUTON ROTHSCHILD (Pauillac) We quote the cellar master about his 1959: "This is not wine—but a liquid glory—the best of my lifetime."	87.50
A35 *CHATEAU LAFITE ROTHSCHILD (Pauillac) Exceeds even the great 1953 Lafite—hard to come by.	87.50
A37 *CHATEAU HAUT BRION (Graves) This wine now commands almost \$100 on the open trade market of Bordeaux and it is practically impossible to obtain. Reached great heights and undoubtedly will make a serious bid to be considered the greatest single red wine of our generation.	87.50

*Available in half bottles at \$2.00 per case additional.

SHERRY WINE & SPIRITS CO. INC. Telephone
679 MADISON AVENUE • NEW YORK, N. Y. **TEMPLETON 8-7500**

Now Arriving!

THE GREAT 1959 BURGUNDIES

Greatest Year since '29!

1959 BURGUNDIES

No.		Bottle	Case
*414	BONNES MARES <i>Estate bottled, Hudelot</i> Many Burgundians believe that one of their best and least known, of the great wines of the Cote d'Or is produced at the Bonnes Mares vineyard. We could acquire but 35 cases of this fabulous Burgundy which can hold its own against almost any wine of the Cote d'Or.	4.79	52.75
804	CHARMES CHAMBERTIN <i>Estate bottled, General Rebourseau</i> Deep, rich, with all of the balance and fullness associated with the great vineyards of Gevry Chambertin. The good General is a perfectionist and has indeed made a great wine here.	4.99	55.00
227	CORTON <i>Estate bottled, Baron Thenard</i> Here is the favorite wine of Voltaire, who said, "I give a very good Boujolais to my guests from Geneva, but in secret, I drink your Corton". From a great vineyard with the distinguishing characteristics of delicacy combined with strength.	4.99	55.00
200	GRANDS ECHEZEUX <i>Estate bottled, Louis Gros</i> The important owners of this great vineyard are Domaine de la Romanee Conti; Rene Engel and Louis Gros, who is Mayor of the town. A classic wine, similar in nature to the great wines of Vosne Romanee.	4.99	55.00
309	VOLNAY, CUVÉE BLONDEAU <i>Hospices de Beaune</i> An exceptional Volnay, soft, fruity, with the unmistakable 1959 bouquet. Acquired at the annual Hospice de Beaune auction. To assure its proper development, the wine has been cared for, and bottled, in the cellars of the young Marquis d'Angerville Burgundy's leading authority on the wines of Volnay.	5.49	59.95
213	CHAMBERTIN, CLOS DE BEZE <i>Estate bottled, Pierre Damoy</i> The largest and best producer of Clos de Beze is Pierre Damoy. This vineyard is the equal of "Le Chambertin" and has the same characteristics. A big, majestic unity.	5.99	66.00
*822	RICHEBOURG <i>Estate bottled, Louis Gros</i> Shares equal honors as an outstanding vineyard of Vosne Romanee along with Romanee Conti, La Romanee and La Tache. There are only 20 acres which can produce only a pitifully small amount of wine in face of the world demand. This 1959 is a great treasure that should surely be acquired now, while available.	5.99	66.00
801	BEAUNE, GUIGONE DE SALINS Acquired at the Hospices de Beaune auction. It was a Beaune that sold for \$1,183.00 the cash for twenty-five cases of 1961 raw wine. This price did not include care cost, bottling costs, buying commission, inland transportation, across the ocean freight, duty or profit for anyone! This 1961 will be over \$100.00 the case when bottled and we do not believe it is better than the 1959 we offer here.	5.99	66.00

*699 **PULIGNY MONTRACHET** **2.49** **27.50**

Estate bottled, Domaine Bavard
The greatest dry white wines of France are produced in this township. Though this wine does not owe its heritage to one of the great vineyards, nevertheless it participates in the magnificence of its geography, and of a great vintage year. Amazingly fine wine for a price as low as this.

*693 **CHABLIS BUTTEAUX** **2.99** **32.95**

Estate bottled, Robert Monin
A superb Premier Cru Chablis, reminiscent of the 1947s. Relatively full bodied, exceptional depth of flavor for a Chablis, and completely harmonious. Recommended unreservedly.

620 **MEURSAULT CHARMES** **3.99** **43.95**

Estate bottled, J. Monnot
We feel sentimental about the 80 year old Mr. Monnot whom we recently visited and his tiny wine cellar which perfectly houses the total production of all his white Burgundies—never more than 250 cases a year! However, though the quantity be small, the wine that he puts in the bottle is unsurpassed and possibly unequalled among the white wines of France. Here is a treasure indeed, a great 1959, with extraordinary depth of flavor and bouquet.

658 **PULIGNY MONTRACHET, LES PUELLIES** **3.99** **43.95**

Estate bottled, Monnot
Has all of the distinction of Mr. Monnot's 1959 Meursault listed above, but with somewhat more power and depth of flavor. An incredible wine—not many cases remain—each designed to gladden the heart of the lover of great white Burgundy.

*655 **CHASSAGNE MONTRACHET, MORGEOT** **3.99** **43.95**

Estate bottled, Claude Ramonet
The white wines of M. Ramonet, particularly in this vintage, are among the most perfectly balanced and flowery wines we have ever tasted. This one has much power and class.

*202 **POMMARD "CLOS BLANC"** **3.99** **43.95**

Estate bottled, Domaine Felix Clerget
In the Cote de Beaune, some extraordinary white wines can be found in villages that are generally more famous for their reds. Among these are Musigny Blanc, Clos de Vougeot Blanc and Pommard Clos-Blanc. These wines share one thing in common—extraordinary power, rich, full taste qualities, and pronounced bouquet.

665 **CORTON CHARLEMAGNE** **4.19** **46.25**

Estate bottled, Dubreuil-Fontaine
Here is a wine that is in the same class as Montrachet itself. Produced on the steep hillsides of Corton, this 1959, remarkable in its dramatic taste qualities, promises many years of greatness.

357 **CLOS BLANC DE VOUGEOT** **4.49** **49.75**

Estate bottled, L'Heritier-Guyot
For several centuries a small portion of the Clos de Vougeot vineyard has been dedicated to the production of a remarkable white wine. A rarity, this superb white Burgundy is distinguished for its grace, elegance and fine bouquet.

683 **LE MONTRACHET** **7.10** **78.00**

Estate bottled, Baron Thenard
The tiny bit of soil called "Le Montrachet", which has the look of a cemetery because of its stone wall, produces what many believe to be the greatest dry white wine on earth. Some of the choicest land is owned by Baron Thenard and we are here dealing with the "ne plus ultra". This 1959, estate bottled, is a work of art among wines, is expensive, but well worth it to those seeking out new heights in wine treasure.

White Burgundies

No.		Bottle	Case
344	POUILLY VINZELLES 1959 <i>Estate bottled, Caves des Grand Cru</i> We recently visited this cooperative, adjacent to Pouilly Fuisse and report that their green-gold wines, produced by the local farmers are excellent, particularly in 1959, and represents outstanding value for those who want a wine of class at modest cost.	1.89	21.50
393	BEAUJOLAIS BLANC 1959 <i>Estate bottled, Marcel Robert</i> We quote from a letter received from the vineyard:—"Unequalled fruitiness, a perfectly composed wine, full—without being dry, very fine. Rivals the very best Pouilly Fuissees".	1.99	22.65



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