

## ***Notes From The Cellar (NFTC); Winepairings e-letter December 18,2008***

### **Happy Hollidays Burgundy 2005 closeout!**

Happy Holidays! As 2009 approaches I would like to wish all our readers my best wishes for the upcoming year and a very Joyous Holiday season. One of my favorite days of the year is coming up: the Winter Solstice happens this Sunday -I will celebrate with friends and a good bottle of wine or two- the arrival of the day from which moving forward the days get longer. The dawning of a new year brings hope and a sense of renewal. It also s reminds me that spring will soon be upon us -a time of renewal and growth in nature. The vines will be budding with the promise of a new vintage. In sum it brings about a sense of optimism. Something we can all use during these crazy times. I hope your new year will be filled with good events and cheer.

It has been such a busy time and I have had the pleasure of providing many of you with nice wine selections for your cellars and holiday events. I was going to wait until the new year to offer another e-mail special, but this came about yesterday -one of my personal favorites at a fantastic price. So why not close the year with one of our finest deals of the year.

I have been writing repeatedly about the 2005 vintage in Burgundy and I have put my money where my mouth is. I have personally purchased more wine from the Burgundy 2005 vintage over this past year than from any other region in the world. Here is what I wrote in September:

” Approaching 3 years after the harvest, it is now universally acknowledged that 2005 will be one of the finest vintages of our generation in the most famous wine growing areas in France; Bordeaux and Burgundy. While Bordeaux production is measured in thousands of cases, Burgundy is tiny -with the average producer rarely making more than several hundred cased from a typical holding. Growing international demand and the fame of the vintage has cause prices of 2005 to soar. What makes the 2005 so special is that it was a great success on all levels from village wines to the famous Grand Crus.” Just when I though that all the good deals on 2005 Burgundy were gone we got one last kick at the can.

As you probably noticed the recession has resulted in some tremendous deals for the wine consumers. Distributors and importers were forced to clean inventories. Over the past few months I have seen prices that were inconceivable only a short time ago. Here is a wine that was very limited and we sold in the \$58 range only to disappear. We just got offered a crazy closeout -quantities are limited

### **Today's Wine Deal \$\$\$**

#### **BOUCHARD AINE ST FILS Beaune Le Meix Bataille Monthelie \$34-**

Do not confuse this wine with the much larger negociant offerings from Bouchard Pere. This comes from “the other Bouchard” A&F -a small house offering high quality wine often made in very small quantities and sold mostly to high end restaurants and accounts in France.

The Monthelie is part of their high end Signature series wines mostly from vineyards they own or contract for very long terms.

I have had several bottles of this over the past year and the wine continues to impress -it has that excellent fruit sappiness that's so typical of this vintage. Not overripe but full of impressive palate flavors. Everything is here -Dark Cherry fruit, some of the famous earthiness, smoke and mineral components that make the finest Burgundies so special all in a very attractive package . A wine which is already delicious and silky, yet will continue to develop and offer even

incredible softness and delicate structure especially if you can afford to give it another 3-4 years of cellar time. I have seen this wine selling at twice the price we are offering it today -unbelievable quality here for the \$ -for one of the finest vintages ever. It will be available for pick up next week. Make sure you get some.

**Thanks again for all your support and referrals, tell your friends,  
Cheers!**

Paul David, Chief Fermented Grape Taster.

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