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STEPHEN TANZER



MARCH 2016

2013 Reds

“Grands Crus”

Bouchard Père et Fils Chambertin-Clos de Bèze Grand Cru • 95 Medium red. Exotic candied raspberry, game, rose petal and crushed stone on the come-hither nose. Delivers outstanding clarity of flavor without any hard edges, with the red berry and mineral flavors lifted by a floral topnote. Wonderfully refined and alive in the middle palate. Finishes with noble tannins and outstanding building vibrant length. A prime example of an impeccably balanced 2013 that’s not a fleshpot.

Bouchard Père et Fils Bonnes-Mares Grand Cru • 92 (one of the two barrels was new): Good dark red. Perfumed peppery lift and sexy floral tones add interest to the aromas of red raspberry and red cherry. Seamless, savory wine with a slightly medicinal cast to its sappy flavors of red berries and spicy underbrush. Quite youthful, even medicinal, on the back end but the tannins are sweet. Compared to this wine, the 2012 version has higher acidity and more tannins, noted winemaker Weber.

Bouchard Père et Fils Le Corton Grand Cru • 92 Moderately saturated bright red. Lovely perfumed scents of raspberry and cherry accented by flowers and minerals. Juicy, pure and precise but tightly wound and backward, with redcurrant fruit lifted by treble notes of flowers and blood orange. More about perfume than flesh, this very elegant Corton finishes with firm, ripe tannins and lovely floral length and lift. By the way, the finished wine shows virtually none of the gamey, Syrah-like notes I found in a barrel sample in November of 2014.

Bouchard Père et Fils Echézeaux Grand Cru • 91 Good bright red. Perfumed aromas of red fruits, spices and rose petal complicated by menthol and earth nuances. In an elegant if rather wound-up style, with discreet red fruit flavors nicely supported by savory minerality. Very good material and inner-mouth tension here. Rising raspberry and spice flavors blow past the tannins on the persistent perfumed back end.

Bouchard Père et Fils Clos Vougeot Grand Cru • 91 Bright, dark red. Black cherry, licorice and wild herbs on the rather ripe nose, along with a whiff of reduction. Offers a captivating light floral touch to its flavors of dark berries, black pepper and resinous herbs. This suave, intense, slightly saline wine finishes with hints of crushed herbs and cinnamon, fine-grained tannins and noteworthy aromatic persistence.

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“Premiers Crus”

Bouchard Père et Fils Nuits-Saint-Georges Les Cailles 1er Cru • 92 Bright, dark red. Sexy high-toned aromas of candied red fruits, spices and flowers. Plush and sweet in the mouth, conveying a pliant texture and excellent intensity to its red fruit and floral flavors. Well-judged oak contributes complexity without dominating the wine. Spreads out horizontally on the finish, with pungent minerality extending the fruit.

Bouchard Père et Fils Volnay Caillerets Ancienne Cuvée Carnot 1er Cru • 91 Medium-deep red. Inviting scents of flowers, woodsmoke, leather and exotic spices. Pliant but firm, offering lovely inner-mouth floral lift to the flavors of cherry, minerals and leather. This seamless, silky wine shows a very nice balance of fruit and acidity. Finishes energetic and persistent, with considerable nuance.

Bouchard Père et Fils Vosne-Romanée Les Suchots 1er Cru (M) • 90? Dark red. Inviting aromas of raspberry, mocha, chocolate, menthol and herbs. Fat, silky and sweet, with raspberry and menthol flavors dominating. More intense than the Beaux-Monts but, like that wine, conveys a hint of green acidity toward the back, with the finish showing a light tart edge. Denser than the Beaux Monts and very fresh on the finish, but will this wine blossom with time in bottle?

Bouchard Père et Fils Beaune Grèves Vigne de L'Enfant Jesus 1er Cru • 90 Medium red. Aromas of cherry and strawberry complicated by smoke, meat and earth. Sweeter and finer-grained than the Clos de la Mousse, with its red fruit and soil elements in harmony from the outset. Slightly lower acidity and riper tannins give this wine early accessibility. Finishes with plenty of dusty tannins but has the generosity of texture to support them.

Bouchard Père et Fils Pommard Rugiens 1er Cru (M) • 90 Bright medium red. Mocha, redcurrant and menthol on the rather subdued nose. Shows considerably more energy in the mouth, offering tactile, moderately concentrated flavors of raspberry and cherry lifted by flowers and herbs. Nicely savory wine with a firm dusting of tannins. Perhaps a bit slight for this cuvée from Bouchard but should offer relatively early appeal.

Bouchard Père et Fils Beaune Clos de la Mousse 1er Cru • 89 Medium bright red. Ripe red fruits and earth on the expressive nose, with hints of leather and tobacco emerging with air. Offers flavors similar to the aromas, but with an herbal peppery quality giving a hint of dryness to the middle palate. This energetic wine relies more on its acidity than on its slightly dusty tannins for structure. Finishes with an attractive light touch.

Bouchard Père et Fils Pommard 1er Cru • 88 Bright medium red. Red fruits, spices and musky underbrush on the nose, lifted by a whiff of rose petal lift; smells riper than the basic village Pommard. A step up in sweetness and focus as well, but still a touch herbal and dry-edged. Juicy, lingering fruit is nicely supported by fresh acidity but the tannins are a bit rasping. Juicy, savory and cleanly made but on the lean side.