

Decanter, juni 2010

★★★★ HIGHLY RECOMMENDED



FRANCOIS LURTON, PIEDRA NEGRA, MENDOZA 2007 (16.5)

£25

'Ripe, spicy and concentrated, but still fresh, not jammy or overly oaky. Some elegance if a little dominated by tannins, but the dense fruit balances out the oak. Long, fresh and spicy with appealing charm. From 2011.' (IL) **Rbs, Tan**

Hot pinks to banish winter blues

Alain Thienot, Brut Rosé NV ★★★★★ (16.5)

A dosage of just 6g/l makes this a dry style that goes well with food. Pale with restrained, yeasty aromas, it is serious, elegant and balanced. Drink now-2014. £37-£42; **BFC, CkO, Cmb, Cor, EaB, Eag, Edn, Evi, Grr, GWP, PdT, TWL, Upt, Wea**

★★★ RECOMMENDED

François Lurton, Reserva, Mendoza 2008	£11.95	'Attractive, plummy, smoky fruit. Ripe, round and opulent. A nice streak of tannin and subtle use of oak. From 2010.' (RG)		Rbs, Tan	16.33
Kaiken, Reserva, Mendoza 2008	£12	'Spice characters underpinned by ripe, bramble fruit. Slightly chewy tannins but well integrated. From 2010.' (AS)		PLB	15.67
François Lurton, Tierra de Luna Alta Coleccion, Mendoza 2009	£9.10	'Bright red and black fruit, spices and liquorice. Forward and juicy on the mid-palate, dry tannins and decent length. From 2010.' (GD)		Rbs, Tan	15
Kaiken, Ultra, Mendoza 2007	£15	'Closed but spicy nose. Rich, spicy, liquorice fruit on the palate - good concentration and balance. From 2010.' (AH)		PLB	15

Robert Parker's Issue 188 (The Wine Advocate)

ONCE UPON A TIME

(1899, 1929, 1949, 1959, 2009) by Robert M. Parker, Jr.

DAUZAC	2009	MARGAUX	RED	(88-90)
The 2009 Dauzac reveals more new oak than most of its peers. The color is a dark ruby/purple, and the wine is broad and rich with sweet tannins, a		corpulent personality, and plenty of spicy oak intermixed with black currant and black cherry fruit. It should drink well for 20-25 years. (Tasted once)		

THE FINEST 2007 RED BORDEAUX

(If priced right, some very good wines can de found)

LA LOUVIERE	2007	PESSAC LEOGNAN	(\$35.00-42.00)	RED	87
A big, earthy, berry fruit, spice box, and unsmoked tobacco-scented nose is followed by a lovely, fruit-forward, medium-bodied, soft wine		that is meant to be consumed over the next 5-6 years.			

SPAIN 2010: Let the Good Times Roll by Dr. Jay Miller

LURTON	2007	CAMPO ALEGRE	TORO	(\$35.00)	RED	90
LURTON	2005	CAMPO ELISEO	TORO	(\$85.00)	RED	91
LURTON	2008	EL ALBAR CUESTA GRANDE	CASTILLA Y LEON	(\$16.00)	RED	87
LURTON	2009	EL ALBAR LURTON ROSADO	CASTILLA Y LEON	(\$13.00)	ROSÉ	87
LURTON	2009	HERMANOS LURTON SAUVIGNON BLANC	RUEDA	(\$16.00)	WHITE	85
LURTON	2009	HERMANOS LURTON VERDEJO-SAUVIGNON	RUEDA	(\$14.00)	WHITE	87

Lurton's 2009 **Hermanos Lurton** is a blend of 85% Verdejo and 15% Sauvignon Blanc fermented and aged *sur lie* for 3 months. Medium straw-colored, it gives up aromas of baking spices, spring flowers, and pit fruits. Crisp and focused on the palate, it has good volume and concentration leading to a clean, refreshing finish. Drink it over the next 12-18 months. The 2009 **Hermanos Lurton Sauvignon Blanc** was tank fermented *sur lie* with *bâtonnage* for 3 months. Light straw colored, it displays a pleasing perfume of mineral, citrus, and

gooseberry. With decent depth and concentration, this straightforward Sauvignon will provide pleasant drinking over the next 12-18 months. The 2009 **El Albar Lurton Rosado** was made from 100% Tempranillo. Medium pink in color, it offers up an enticing perfume of cherry blossom, rhubarb, and cherry. In the mouth it is dry with plenty of savory fruit, good spice, and a lingering finish. Enjoy it over the next 12-18 months.

The red wines begin with the 2008 **El Albar Cuesta Grande**, a

100% Tempranillo cuvée aged for 12 months in 33% new oak. It reveals aromas of cedar, tobacco, mineral, violets, and blackberry. Soft and easy-going on the palate, it has good volume, savory flavors, and good balance. It will drink well over the next 6 years. The 2007 **Campo Alegre** is 100% Tinta de Toro aged for 18 months in French oak. It proffers a classy bouquet of cedar, Asian spices, violets, espresso, and blackberry. Full-bodied and mouth-filling on the palate, it contains enough ripe tannin to evolve for another 2-3 years and

should provide prime drinking through 2019. The 2005 **Campo Eliseo** is 100% Tinta de Toro aged for 18 months in French oak. Purple/black in color, it sports a brooding bouquet of roasted black fruits, tar, licorice, espresso, and Asian spices. Dense, thick, and full-bodied, it has the structure to evolve for another 6-8 years and will offer a drinking window extending from 2016 to 2030. What it lacks in subtlety, it makes up for in power. Importer: Adam Sager, Winesellers Ltd., Skokie, IL; tel. (847) 679-0121

Bruce Sanderson's Recommended Red Burgundies

NICOLAS POTEL Chambertin-Clos de Bèze 2007 **94** \$270

This brooding red evokes something wild and animal, with black cherry, blackberry, smoke and leather in an appealing package.

DOMAINE PARENT Bourgogne 2006 **87** \$20

This has fruit and character, starting off with cherry, spice and earth.

James Molesworth's Recommended Wines from Chile

VIÑEDO CHADWICK Maipo Valley 2007 **93** \$260

Shows the classic dark, loamy coffee and black currant profile of Maipo, with cedar-tinged but polished tannins and a long, brooding finish that features hints of sage and tobacco. Very solid. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Carmenère.

New Releases

Chile, Cabernet Sauvignon & Blends

CHILE

Cabernet Sauvignon & Blends

93 Viñedo Chadwick Maipo Valley 2007 **\$260**

Shows the classic dark loam, coffee and black currant profile of Maipo, with cedar-tinged but polished tannins and a long, brooding finish that displays hints of sage and tobacco. Very solid, with well-embedded acidity. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Carmenère. Drink now through 2015. 50 cases imported.—J.M.

90 Viña Errázuriz Don Maximiano Founder's Reserve Aconcagua Valley 2007 **\$92** Rich and ripe, with nicely polished focus to the mocha, tobacco, mulled currant and fig notes, all backed by coffee and dark licorice notes on the lengthy finish. There's nice underlying grip. Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2011. 100 cases imported.—J.M.

France, Burgundy Côte de Nuits/ Clos de Vougeot

92 Nicolas Potel Clos de Vougeot 2007 **\$160**

Rich, with a silky side that charms before the firm structure takes over. Pretty raspberry, cherry, floral and mineral notes are persistent and linger nicely on the finish. Best from 2013 through 2024. 60 cases imported.—B.S.

France, Burgundy Côte de Nuits/ Vosne-Romanée & Grands Cru

89 Nicolas Potel Vosne-Romanée Les Petits Monts 2007 **\$93** An earthy, tannic style, slightly animal, showing more structure than cherry and mineral flavors. Though abundant and beefy, the tannins seem ripe, and there's good balance overall. Best from 2014 through 2024. 100 cases imported.—B.S.

Portugal, Vintage 2007

93 Quinta do Noval Vintage Port 2007 **\$100**

Very complex, with intense aromas of squeezed tangerine, blackberry and blueberry. Full-bodied, medium sweet and chewy. Extracted yet balanced, with an intense fruity and grapey character. Tight and reserved on the finish. Best after 2015. 1,800 cases made.—J.S.

90 Quinta do Noval Vintage Port Silval 2007 **\$45** This is a wonderfully focused and intense young Vintage Port, with notes of flowers, crushed berries and cherry. Full-bodied and very sweet, with ripe berry and jam flavors. Long and powerful. Best after 2016. 1,000 cases made.—J.S.

Chile, Carmenère & Blends

90 Viña Errázuriz Carmenère Aconcagua Valley Kai 2007 **\$120**

Though juicy and ripe, this is nicely defined, with mouthwatering acidity holding the plum sauce, boysenberry fruit and melted licorice flavors together, while a tobacco note checks in on the finish for added length and dimension. Drink now. 50 cases imported.—J.M.

87 Viña Errázuriz Carmenère Aconcagua Valley 2008 **\$21**

Nice medium-weight plum and red currant fruit is stitched with tobacco and mineral hints. Stays focused on the medium-weight finish. Drink now. 2,000 cases imported.—J.M.

Chile, Syrah

90 Viña Errázuriz Syrah Aconcagua Valley La Cumbre 2007 **\$120**

A plush, polished style, featuring mocha and fig notes up front, backed by cocoa powder, currant preserve and dark tobacco on the broad, fleshy finish. For the hedonist camp. Drink now. 50 cases imported.—J.M.

France, Burgundy Côte de Nuits/ Other Red

92 Nicolas Potel Echézeaux 2007 **\$160** An attractive smoky component is reminiscent of the sweet aromas of burning vine cuttings. There are firm tannins, yet overall this red is elegant and fresh, with fine length. Best from 2012 through 2023. 100 cases imported.—B.S.

89 Nicolas Potel Côte de Nuits-Villages 2007 **\$36** Floral, strawberry and spice aromas and flavors signal this pure, firm red, which is vivid and balanced, with a lingering finish. Just a bit short for outstanding. Drink now through 2015. 200 cases imported.—B.S.

Spain

89 J. & F. Lurton Verdejo Rueda Cuesta de Oro 2008 **\$35** This round white offers layers of pear, melon, tangerine, cream and floral notes, silky on the palate yet with enough acidity for balance. Generous. Drink now. 1,600 cases made.—T.M.