



WINE REPORT

2006



WINNER FOR TWO
YEARS RUNNING

Groundbreaking new annual...
absolutely fascinating"
JANCIS ROBINSON, MW

**Tom
Stevenson**
and a unique team of
regional specialists

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NEW UP-AND-COMING PRODUCERS

- 1 Peter Colemont (Belgium)
- 2 Huub Römer, Agter d'Hege (Berg aan de Maas, Netherlands)
- 3 Math Gielkens, Wijngaard Annendaal (Maria Hoop, Netherlands)
- 4 Domein Sint-Odulphus (Belgium)
- 5 Wijngaard El Placer (Lelystad, Netherlands)
- 6 Wijngaard Hof van Twente (Bentelo, Netherlands)
- 7 Domaine de Chenoy (Belgium)
- 8 Monteberg (Belgium)
- 9 Beesterwijngaard (Middenbeemster, Netherlands)
- 10 Schorpion (Belgium)

BEST-VALUE PRODUCERS

- 1 Boschberg (Scherpenheuvel, Belgium)
- 2 Hoeve Nekum (Maastricht, Netherlands)
- 3 Wijngoed Fromberg (Ubachsberg, Netherlands)
- 4 Wijnhoeve Elzenbosch (Assent, Belgium)
- 5 Wijngaard El Placer (Lelystad, Netherlands)
- 6 Wijnkelder Kluisberg (Bekkenvoort, Belgium)
- 7 Domaine Meerdael (Belgium)
- 8 Wijngaard De Linie (Made, Netherlands)
- 9 Wijngaard Karthuizerhof (Kortesseem, Belgium)
- 10 Château Neercanne (Maastricht, Netherlands)

GREATEST-QUALITY WINES

- 1 **Chardonnay 2002** Peter Colemont, Belgium (€16)
- 2 **Kerner 2003** Boschberg, Belgium (€7)
- 3 **Pinot Gris 2003** De Apostelhoeve, Netherlands (€10)

- 4 **Dornfelder 2001** Wijngaard Annendaal, Netherlands (€12)
- 5 **Optima 2002** Wijnhoeve Elzenbosch, Belgium (€7)
- 6 **Chardonnay Goud 2003** Wijnkasteel Genoels-Elderen, Belgium (€21)
- 7 **Riesling 2003** De Apostelhoeve, Netherlands (€9)
- 8 **Würzer 2003** Wijngaard Karthuizerhof, Belgium (€6.50)
- 9 **Chardonnay Méthode Traditionnelle Sparkling Wine NV** Domaine Meerdael, Belgium (€12)
- 10 **Cuvée Wit 2003** Wijngaard De Linie, Made, Netherlands (€5.99)

BEST BARGAINS

- 1 **Kerner 2003** Boschberg, Belgium (€7)
- 2 **Optima 2002** Wijnhoeve Elzenbosch, Belgium (€7)
- 3 **Würzer 2003** Wijngaard Karthuizerhof, Belgium (€6.50)

MOST EXCITING OR UNUSUAL FINDS

- 1 **Chardonnay Elevé en Fûts de Chêne 2003** Domaine d'Heerstaayen, Netherlands (€20) *No deacidification, no chaptalization, 12.8 per cent natural alcohol: a Meursault from the Netherlands!*
- 2 **Pinot Gris 2003** De Apostelhoeve, Netherlands (€10) *An astonishing, rich, fat, vibrant Pinot Gris, due to the qualities of the variety, the beautiful weather, and the expertise of the grower.*
- 3 **Sunray 2003** Domein Sint-Odulphus, Belgium (€6) *On the banks of the Schelde river in the small Flemish town of Dendermonde, Dr Van Nimmen produces a tiny amount of wine from Riesling and Scheurebe*

grapes. The wine is well made with aromatic notes of lychees and pears.

- 4 **Auxerrois 2003** Hoeve Nekum, Netherlands (€10) *Fruity (apple, pear), rich, and powerful, with an excellent balance between sweetness and acidity.*
- 5 **Chardonnay 2002** Peter Colemont, Belgium (€16) *Arguably the best wine produced in Belgium, made by a dedicated professional wine grower in Limburg. It has become the darling of Belgian sommeliers: they love blind tasting this wine to clients, who doubt that its buttery texture and pure, clean fruit could come from Belgium.*

- 6 **Regent Rose 2003** Wijngaard Wageningse Berg, Netherlands (€11.50) *Everything that a good rosé needs: open raspberry fruit, fresh and juicy.*

- 7 **Vaders Trots Red 2003** Wijngaard El Placer, Netherlands (€6 per 50-cl bottle) *A well-made blend of Regent and Rondo with a lot of black fruit and spice.*

- 8 **Dornfelder 2001** Wijngaard Annendaal, Netherlands (€12) *Fruit and new wood – surprisingly well balanced.*

Granat 1993 Schwegler, Württemberg (Germany, €39) *Enticing aromas of blackberry and hazelnuts, rich fruits of the forest on the palate, elegant structure, showing well now, but with plenty of reserve.* Michael Schmidt

Big, spiced-oak bouquet of some maturity, but not showing its age at all on the palate. When tasting this blind, I had no idea what it was or where it was from – and I certainly would not have guessed its age. Not worth the money, but worth trying for anyone with deep enough pockets. TS

Cynthiana 2002 HolyField Vineyards, Kansas (Other US States, US\$15) *The intensity of Norton/Cynthiana is in full force, inky, chewy, red and black fruits cooked into a viscous compote of flavour.* Doug Frost MW

I get the cooked compote, Doug, and I like the fresh acidity on the finish, but it would have been better without the juxtaposition of oxidative notes on the nose and estery aromas on mid-palate. An interesting wine nevertheless. TS

Chardonnay 2002 Peter Colemont, Belgium (Belgium, Netherlands & Denmark, €16) *Arguably the best wine produced in Belgium, this has become the darling of Belgian sommeliers: they love blind tasting this wine to clients who doubt that its buttery texture and pure, clean fruit could come from Belgium.* Fiona Morrison MW

the UK in 2003 than Greece, so it must have been harvested far too early. Pity they didn't blend it with 15–20 per cent of Bacchus when it was fully ripe and exotic, with no cat's pee. Retained for cat lovers! TS

Oloroso Bailén Osborne (Sherry, €9) *This is a classic oloroso that is mature but not old, a perfect apéritif on a cold winter's day, when one is looking for an elegant, warming wine but not a vast one.* Julian Jeffs QC

Not as mellow as I remembered Bailén to be, so after the tasting I opened a bottle I have had a few years, from stock I have enjoyed. By comparison the current stock does not have the same body, leans closer to amantillado, and has a slightly herbaceous aftertaste. TS

Yellow Jail 2003 Red Newt, New York (Atlantic Northeast, US\$14.50) *This dry blend of Gewurztraminer, Riesling, and Pinot Gris is a noseful. All three components lend distinct varietal character that complement each other.* Sandra Silfven

And acid-adjusted to hell and back! Would have been much better if the Gewurztraminer had been much riper, and the acidity totally natural. TS

Turriculae 2003 Mas Gallo Romain des Tourelles, Beaucaire, France (Grape Varieties, €8.50) *Dry white wine (12.5–13 per cent) from Villard Blanc, recalling traditional wines still made*