

HERVÉ ARLAUD

Morey-Saint-Denis

Although Arlaud's main cellars were long in Nuits-Saint-Georges, his family home, the best of his vineyards, and his heart belong to Morey-Saint-Denis

A friendly bear-of-a-man, he's more at home in the vineyards – rigorously pruning or gently propagating new plants from the best old vines – than in the cellar. My early visits always seemed to take place over lunch hour or at night! In those days, Arlaud was selling much of his production to negotiants, which might lead one to expect less than inspiring vinification. Actually, the quality of the Clos Saint-Denis has been formidable since at least the 1990 vintage.

A step toward increasingly inspiring quality from this domaine, was taken when Arlaud employed his old fashioned know-how to bottle by hand, tapping the barrel with a spigot. This gentle, unrushed (read: backbreaking, boredom-inducing, and potentially bottom line-busting!), unfiltered bottling is the perfect finishing touch for wines of potential purity, subtlety and striking personality such as reside in his barrels. And Hervé was more than happy to oblige the crazy Americans who requested this approach.

The cuvées selected by Vintner Select (even Grand Crus) seldom will have been exposed to more than 33% new wood. Gentle bottling rather than new barrels seems to us to be the key to top quality here.

Each year, Arlaud's wines gain in stature. But he remains by choice more a grower than a cellar-man, With the ascendance of son Cyprien into the latter role, there has been an



acceleration in the pace of improvement. "I'm looking for proportionality and balance above all," says Cyprien, "and I think we have succeeded on those terms almost completely with 2001" – and 2002!

"Arlaud's Bourgogne Roncevie [is] a juicy, minerally wine with aromatic complexity far beyond its humble appellation – from very old vines located not far from Griottes-Chambertin."

Stephen Tanzer's *Int'l. Wine Cellar*
[3/99]

Burgundy

Bourgogne "Roncevie"

Chambolle-Musigny

Morey-Saint-Denis

1er Cru Les Cheseaux

1er Cru Les Millandes

1er Cru Les Ruchots

Gevrey Chambertin

1er Cru Les Combottes

Clos Saint-Denis

Variety: *Pinot Noir*

Total acreage: *A mere ten acres, including old vines in Clos Saint-Denis; significant chunks of Grand Crus Clos de la Roche, Bonnes Mares and Charmes Chambertin (the latter two crus not part of Vintner Select's program); excellent old-vines parcels of village Chambolle (including "Bussiere," a site bordering the better-known "Bussiere" in Morey); and .59 hectare, or around one quarter of the entire site, of Morey-Saint-Denis 1er Cru Les Ruchots, abutting the Grand Cru Clos de Tart. The vines are all selection massale.*

Average production: *has risen recently with the addition of unfiltered Bourgogne from the "Roncevie", a vineyard located literally a stone's throw from Charmes- and Gritotte-Chambertin. Frankly, we know of no finer pinot for the price – anywhere – than this one.*

Highlights: *The Arlaud style favors finesse over power, but the raw material is plenty rich! Arlaud bottles our barrels unfiltered, by hand.*