

Champagne Barnaut

Bouzy



NV Grande Réserve

“Reveals generous notes of apricots, honey, roasted nuts and smoke, showing outstanding persistence and a long, refined finish. This is a fairly full-bodied style of Champagne that already shows nice tertiary complexity. I would choose to drink this sooner rather than later. Anticipated maturity: 2008-2011.”

90 points-Antonio Galloni, The Wine Advocate (#180)

“This is elegant and layered with distinct yeast, white peach, pear and subtle brioche notes that continue onto the robust, intense and powerful flavors that pack serious flavor authority and almost painful finishing intensity. This is clearly intended for those who love full-flavored Champagne with no holds barred. To be sure, don’t search for elegance in this package but I actually quite like the “take no prisoners” style. For my taste, this is ready now and while it certainly could be aged for up to 5 years, it is a point.”

92 points-Burghound.com (October 2007, Issue 28)

“This NV Brut from Barnaut is not quite as striking as the house's rich, deeply flavorful NV Blanc de Noirs, being a bit leaner and more restrained. However, its subtlety is nevertheless a strength rather than a shortcoming, and this is slightly the more complex of these two wonderful wines. Medium bodied, this shows very nice aromatics, a broad, soft effervescent texture, and a clean, persistent finish.”

90 points-Michael Franz, winereviewonline.com (January 13, 2009)

NV Rosé Authentique

“This is a relatively deeply tinted rosé with a fruity yet elegant nose that leads to rich, intense and detailed flavors supported by a high level of effervescence and a tight, linear and precise finish that also sports a touch of backend austerity. However, unlike the Brut Extra, here there is excellent depth and the persistence is impressive. Lovely and delicious and this is a rosé that is fashioned in an intensely fruity style that could be drunk now or aged for 3 to 5 years to good effect.”

91 points-Burghound.com (October 2007, Issue 28)

“Secondé’s rosé is made by the saignée method, blended with ten percent chardonnay for freshness and finesse. Its deep crimson color immediately alerts you to the fact that it was made by maceration, as does its ripe, almost forcefully intense aromas. It’s bold and full in body, redolent of ripe summer strawberries, and it finishes with a pleasant bite of acidity that supports and elongates the fruit flavors. Like its siblings, this is made in a brash, no-holds-barred style, which will be appealing to some and a turn-off to others, but nevertheless it’s harmoniously balanced and expresses a great deal of personality.”

Peter Liem, ChampagneGuide.net (rated one of three stars; last tasted 7/08)

NV Blanc de Noirs Grand Cru

“Blossoms on the palate with an expansive core of perfumed fruit. This finely-textured, silky wine possesses notable clarity and delineation in an understated yet pleasing style. The long, clean finish gives this wine a touch more freshness than the Grande Réserve. This is highly rewarding wine to enjoy over the next few years. Anticipated maturity: 2008-2012.”

91 points-Antonio Galloni, The Wine Advocate (#180)

“An attractive nose of fresh tiny red berries mixes with highly effervescent flavors that are utterly delicious and have a strong yeast character with a round finish that doesn't seem nearly as dry as the dosage level would suggest. Lovely and easy to like yet complex and not at all simple with a frank and open personality plus fine length. While you could age this further, to my taste it has largely arrived.”

91 points-Burghound.com (October 2007, Issue 28)

“Deep, smoky aromas of dried apple and pear, toasty lees, herbs and rose. Lush and creamy in texture, offering spicy orchard fruit flavors and notes of anise and burnt toast. Impressively complex and deep, with strong finishing minerality and a resonating floral quality. This is made from grand cru Bouzy fruit.”

91 points-Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar (December 2009)

“Blanc de Noirs bottlings of sparkling wine are not terribly unusual in California, but I see very few of them from Champagne. The quality of this extraordinary wine will make me look much more closely to see if I can find others that will measure up to it--though I'm not optimistic about that given how high this bottling sets the bar. Both the aromas and flavors show great depth and breadth, with a generous richness that almost makes the wine seem 'meaty.' However, there's a freshness and lift to every aspect of the wine from the first whiff to the end of the very long finish that keeps it from seeming heavy or graceless. This aspect will enable it to work perfectly in aperitif mode, but it is also a Champagne that could really excel at the table.”

90 points-Michael Franz, winereviewonline.com (January 13, 2009)

“This is quite disjointed when the bottle is first opened, and needs a lot of time in the glass to settle down—I would even consider decanting it. Based on 2005, it's a little creamy on the nose, giving way to a bold, forthright depth of black cherry fruit on the palate. The texture is supple and fine, balancing the powerful fruit flavors, and the finish is long and nuanced, with a vibrant feel. Even though this is made entirely of pinot noir, it shows noticeably more finesse than the other wines in the lineup.”

Peter Liem, ChampagneGuide.net (rated one of three stars; last tasted 7/08)