

# The Washington Post

## For Burgundy's best-value wines, look south

By **Dave McIntyre** October 25



Burgundy is the lodestar of pinot noir and chardonnay. The region's heartland is the Cote d'Or, and burgundy fiends love parsing the terroirs of the Cote d'Or's two subregions: The Cote de Nuits...and The Cote de Beaune.

The Cote d'Or, or golden slope, gets its name from the sunlight that bathes the east-facing slopes during the growing season, but it may just as well refer to the price of the wine...

Burgundy has other districts, of course. Chablis, to the north, nudging Champagne, specializes in chardonnay...In the south, the Macon supplies many a French bistro with a house white, delicious chardonnay...

And just south of the Cote de Beaune is Burgundy's "Third Cote," the Cote Chalonnaise. The villages here — Rully, Givry, Mercurey, Montagny and Bouzeron are the main ones — are peasants compared with the royalty to the north. And yet, they offer terrific wines for the price.

"The Cote Chalonnaise is the best value in Burgundy today," says Decanter magazine columnist Steven Spurrier... Spurrier, who helped put California on the world wine map by organizing the famous Judgment of Paris tasting in 1976, noted that Chalonnaise winegrowers may be benefiting from the warming climate, which is helping grapes ripen more evenly and reliably than in previous vintages.

...Chalonnaise wines are delicious and relatively affordable. They are great candidates for your holiday dinner parties, family occasions or even personal vindication celebrations on a really bad day.

### GREAT VALUE

#### **Domaine de la Folie Rully Clos la Folie Monopole 2017 Burgundy, \*\* (excellent)**

Beautifully expressive, with a perfect balance of fruit, oak and terroir, this chardonnay should stand proud among more famous (and more expensive) white burgundies. The label explains the name "Folie" as coming from an ancient belief that the nearby forest was a hideout for spirits. This wine sure is spirited. ABV: 13.5 percent.

