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In This Issue – 288 Producers and 989 Wines Reviewed

2008 and 2007 Chablis, Mâconnais and Côte Chalonnaise. 4- 100

Brothers Jean-Guillaume and Jean-Philippe Bret told me that 2008 is a "vintage that has turned out much better than we had any right to hope for. (...) The character of the '08s is a bit like the '07s but the wines are more concentrated so even though they have as much acidity, indeed in some cases even more, the wines seem to be better balanced. They should also age well as they have everything they need." Once again, the quality produced here is nothing short of remarkable. Note that the *négociant* side of this operation is called Bret Brothers and I have divided the reviews below between Domaine La Soufrandière and Bret Brothers. Note further that in all cases, the Bret Brothers' wines are made from manually harvested purchased grapes and not from purchased must or wine. (A Becky Wasserman Selection/Le Serbet, www.leserbet.com, Beaune, France; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, UK).

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La Soufrandière:

2008 Mâcon-Vinzelles – Cuvée Le Clos de Grand Père: "(...) I like the subtle minerality and this delivers plenty of personality on the crisp and dry finish (...)"

(89-91)/2012+

2008 Pouilly-Vinzelles: "(...) green fruit leading to beautifully detailed, stone and ultra pure medium-bodied flavors" that are supported and shaped by notably firm acidity that is tangy but not aggressive (...)" (87-90)/2012+

2008 Pouilly-Vinzelles "Les Longeays": "(...) there is an obvious stoniness to the restrained nose of mostly citrus and floral notes (...)" (90-92)/2013+

2008 Pouilly-Vinzelles "Les Quarts": (from vines between 40 and 65 years of age)..

" (...) In a word, terrific (...)" (90-93)/2013+

2008 Pouilly-Vinzelles "Les Quarts" Cuvée Millerandée: "(...) extremely rich and impressively concentrated full-bodied flavors that possess superb depth and length on the explosive and palate staining finish. A knock-out (...)" (91-93)/2014+

2007 Pouilly-Vinzelles – Cuvée X-Taste: "(...) While an imprecise comparison, I would suggest that this is roughly the equivalent of a Beerenauslese in terms of sweetness and weight). (...)" (90-93)/2013+

Bret Brothers:

2008 Mâcon-Uchizy "La Martine": "(...) Given the typical price point, this should offer fine value (...)" (87-89)/2012+

2008 Mâcon-Cruzille: (from 35 to 70 year old vines). "(...) I very much like the precision and admirably dry finish (...)" (87-89)/2012+

2008 St. Véran "En Combe": (from Chasselas). "A fresh, high-toned, airy and distinctly cool nose features a discreet stony character (...)" (87-90)/2013+

2008 St. Véran "La Côte Rôtie": "Here the aromas are ever so slightly riper with floral, citrus and white peach nuances (...)" (87-90)/2012+

2008 Viré-Clessé "La Verchère": "(...) hint of exoticism present with mango and yellow fruit (...) and impressively long (...)" (88-90)/2013+

2008 Viré-Clessé "Sous les Plantes": (50 to 70 year old vines). "An exceptionally fresh, bright and airy nose of ripe green fruit and honeysuckle aromas (...) Excellent quality here". (89-92)/2013+

2008 Pouilly-Loché "La Colonge": "(...) bright and racy while finishing with plenty of punch and persistence. (...)" (88-90)/2013+

2008 Pouilly-Loché "Les Mures": "(...) This is easy to like yet entirely serious. (88-91)/2013+

2008 Pouilly-Fuissé "Clos Reyssié": "(...) round and full-bodied flavors that exude a certain opulence on the mouth coating and powerful finish" (89-91)/2013+

2008 Pouilly-Fuissé Terres Fuissé: (...). Lovely stuff. (90-92)/2013+

2008 Pouilly-Fuissé Terroirs de Vergisson: "(...) outstanding depth and minerality on the long and distinctly tangy finish. This should make for a really lovely wine in 2 to 3 years". (90-92)/2013+

2008 Pouilly-Fuissé "La Roche": (...) Together with the Cuvée Millerandée, this is again the finest wine in the range with its superbly elegant and pure nose that actually has a Chablis-like salinity (...) (91-93)/2014+

2008 Pouilly-Fuissé "Carentrant": "(...) This is an understated effort that should age well". (89-92)/2013+