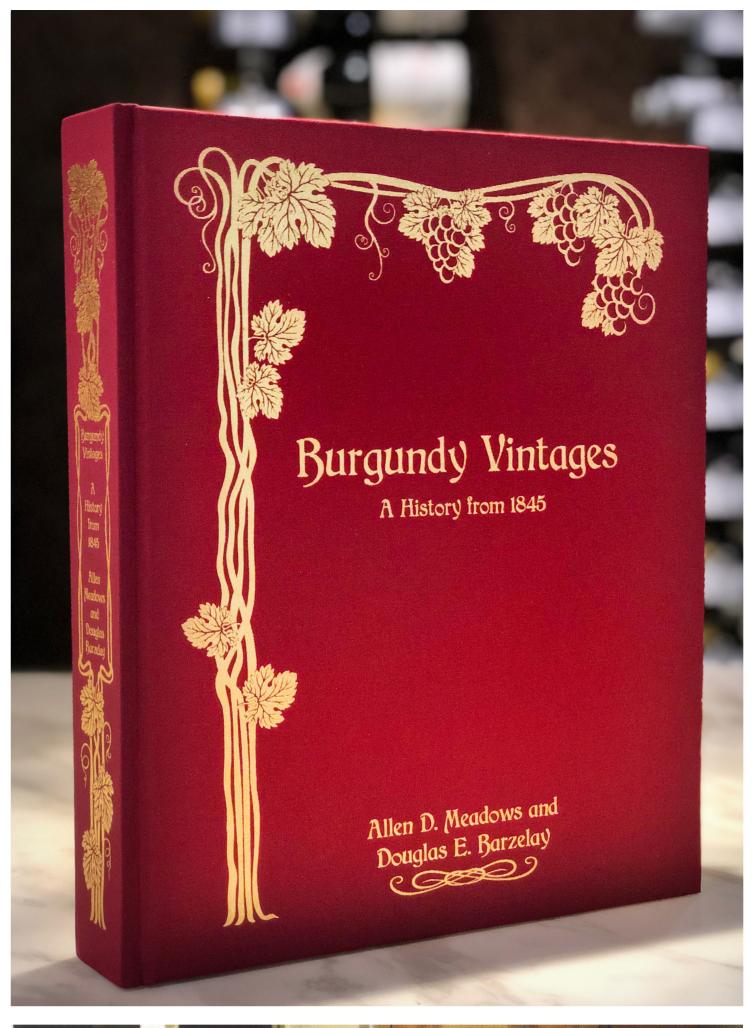


BURGUNDY VINTAGES: A HISTORY FROM 1845

BY ALLEN D. MEADOWS AND DOUGLAS E. BARZELAY

HKD 750 EACH

Allen Meadows you know well through his Burghound publications, and our





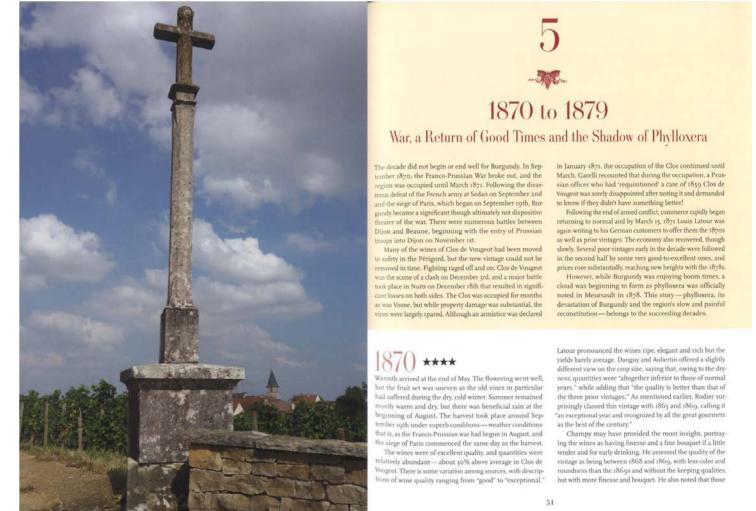
events here in China at each year's The Fine Wine Experience Burghound Symposium. He has built up 40 years' experience as a Burgundy specialist taster, combining that with a heavy investment in time and shoe leather talking in vignerons' cellars, walking the vines, understanding terroir. Although there have been some "deep dives" into back vintages of certain key wines in Burghound reports and Pearl of the Côte, for many years now Allen has been saving up the motherload of his research and understanding of the time dimension of Burgundy – for this book.

The result is a landmark book in its ambition and its execution. A book like this could not be written by a more qualified pair of writers for such a task. Of the co-author, Douglas E. Barzelay, it would be fair to say that no one alive today has more experience in or understanding of old Burgundy wines than him.

Doug combines the acute mind of a successful lawyer, with a real passion for the "sweetness of age" in Burgundy. Meeting with Doug at gatherings to share bottles, the joke, when he might offer you a taste of an "'06" would be to reply "yes Doug, but which century?" I owe many of my opportunities to taste, and to learn about older Burgundy to him. He enjoys the hunt, and he enjoys sharing bottles. But, as you will see in the book, he parses this pleasure away from his objective assessment of the wine in the glass. Drink a 1929 with Doug and he would have the experience to know if it was 'refreshed', fully original, adulterated, would share with you something of the context of the domaine or negocient at the time it was made, and how this bottle of 1929 compares with many many others. Both Allen and Doug are incisive tasters, and I am pleased to see that where they have tasted together, both tasting notes appear in the book.

What is particularly gratifying however is just how layered and rich this book **IS**

Rating th	e Vir	ntage	28	BERGENETTE & COMMONSE PLACE and, even in the worse vis- sages, gener vises may enserge as a sende cPLock, the right macrochannes or the right productor — junc an dense will be failures even in the best stangaps. Dense few years in senses the wine trade declares	In evaluating a visuage, we optically look at what was achieved by a mage of the been producers of the ens. One reacture prack as Boundaries in 1999) or Mine-Cannass in 1999() counts for something, but it is important to see if that measure was replicated by others. Also, we look at how
Our virtuge-terratives include a star rating Each virtuge from 1845 through 1970 is rated as a whole		Logert .	among the best unstages of the century	another "visuage of the oranizy" Usually the best that can be said for such doints in that once in every soo years they	the letter wines compare with the same wines in other visuges of the decate or in the case of highly success-
that is, no distinction is made between reds and written) esing		Dealers	naty way the and even some prest	turn out to be correct. Neuerheisen, hyperbole nells wine.	ful virtuges, how they compare with the same wines in
Hack stars. These victoges are relied from own to five stars and have the same-meeting as detailed at right.			whet were task need a screenful ortage with	For the communer, who spixally has no chance to usee ahead of an an primar offering, the non-normalite impli-	the usp viewages of the last 20-or more years. Evaluating the considerancy of the viewage angulares a
For a few vintages, we have included half stars to indicate	111	Good to very good	what that display prod tapicity norm	ceison is that if you don't buy, you tak minning the best of	despet hot as a broader range of producers. Some class
fair the mental guality of the reds or solving fails between lowers;			ney earl and one god whiti harhanbest	the best. Remarkably this strange seems to work even on	can be gleaned doors whether the wires of the up produc-
tor exemption, +++++ indicates a virtuge that produced more excellent wines than in typical for a 3-star virtuge but that was	11	Fair to average	hade but the overall results were	experiescord collectors whose cellars are stuffed with the law sets "mon-have" viscages.	ers are variable from whe to whe as well as aroung these producers, but in general, consistency or inconsistency)
seral net as second as a typical 4-day virtage.			share prof when may have been	This early praise (or lack of it) has a lawing impact on	will show most church in the wines of average domaines
Starting with the 1971 virtuge, we include a star rating sep-		Acceptable	made but most are of marginal goality.	the eventual repotation of the timages singled out (or	and especially in the wines of superious who other buy
anatoriy for reals and whites as rights.		har	must array wate flowed from the target ang	ignored), as it oben proves hard to rewrite the initial story, even when the evidence demands it. For example, reds	finite a spectrum of different producers. In some vin- tages, such as 1999, one had to be relatively incompress
	_			from the rupp visuage carry substantial market press-	to make a poor red (not that done wrent) some who doly.
1845 TO 1970		1971 TO	2015	umu relative to the less becalled approx, even though the	In a vistage such as 1991, as great as the top wines can
	ny faiture	Name and		unevenuess of the former has become increasingly devi- nce, while more than a lew of the ugle-duckling 1991 reds	be, the average end works to be disappointing. That consistency— or the lack of it—ineviably plays into our overall.
N		101 1111	THE DECKS	have raised into swara, anatoxiced encept by a relativity	visuale table?
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10 111 10 101 10 1011 10 10 11 10 1011 10 10		- 10		of the upper have variand into minimized that any weather-	seems less tornisiteely obvious, is aging potential. For a
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00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00			2000 201 201 201 201 201 201 201 201 201	over the 1999s, bought up the 190cs (hand largely on the swifting represented of this year's Booleway) and for many	is of less interest. For the compositions: however, the entire points in that with time the best and and white Burgurdies
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On one level, the book can be delved into as a reference, to understand a snapshop in time – what was a particularly vintage like, what do these wines taste like today? In this respect the book is remarkably comprehensive. There's vicarious pleasure in reading through the notes from the 19th century, but as we move toward recent vintages the book transforms into a very practical vintage reference with tasting notes on key wines included. Woven in to this chronology of bottles tasted however is the history. You could just as easily pick this book up and read it as a 170 year history of a place. How as a wine producing region Burgundy has adapted to social and economic change, dealt with major crises such as phylloxera, and premox are given as much weight in the book as the vintages and wines themselves. The 586 pages leave us with a rich tapestry to read, and an invaluable resource to dip into when we want to understand a more specific point in time – be that, say, the style of 1964 as a vintage, or how farming practices changed in the 1950s – or pan out to gain a sense simply of how Burgundy got to where it is today.

Allen D. Meadows and Douglas E. Barzelay Burgundy Vintages: A History from 1845 is destined to become one of the most well-thumbed books in The Fine Wine Experience library, and we are delighted to have it in our hands.

2007 ***

QUICK TAKE naturation. Although picking began

vith an aging curve similar

WAS THE HOTTEST EVER, BREAKIN wand the 12th for pinot. By the end o

waited to pick were rewarded with better

rally strong, in the high-11% to mid-13% range. Aciditie erally very good, though a substantial pro-

olor, a signal that the vegetative cycle had run its

ly from the bitter seeds. In white, the trick to m

VINTAGE ASSESSMENT

At their best, the 2007 reds are classically styled. mably refined. They are also acreeably refreshing, as ac ons. The '07 reds have matured in a linear my, though not the best, were ready by 2018. While 20 ess successful 2007s often lack mid-nalate si rving and short. In particular, the finishes can be

ty and more consistent than the reds. They too are fr veren't too high, and the fruit wasn't p st of the whites, apart from a handful of the finest, wer nature by 2018, and we have begun to notice the signs of decline in some. In addition despite the general stent quality, some whites are screechy and thin ve sive yields, too much acidity, over-chaptalization a

ous though still variable yields and partially bec

ose of the Côte de Beaune, partly because of more



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