

THE COMPLICATED STATE OF BEAUJOLAIS — AND WHY YOU SHOULDN'T MISS THE FANTASTIC 2015S

Historic vintages don't come very often in France's Beaujolais, but winemakers are comparing the current 2015 vintage to the legendary 1947, a hot and dry year producing powerfully rich and long-lived wines. Based on the 150 I tasted last week in the region, they might be right.

The 2015s I reviewed were rich in alcohol and fruit with an underlying freshness. Many were amazing wines showing wonderful depth of fruit and ripe tannins. Tasting them alongside the 2014s and 2016s, the 2015s showed superior depth and density. The balance of fruit, structure and acidity was irresistible.

Score 93 – Henry Fessy Moulin-à-Vent 2015

Complex aromas of crushed raspberries, strawberries and flowers. Sandalwood, too. Full body, tangy acidity and firm, polished, fine-grained tannins. Lovely length. Drink now.

Score 93 – Henry Fessy Moulin-à-Vent “Domaine de la Pierre” 2015

Dark berries, roses, wild raspberries and hints of smoke on the nose. Full-bodied, tight and firm with beautiful length and power. Really linear and racy. Drink now.

Score 92 – Henry Fessy Brouilly 2015

Aromas of blackberries, Chinese mushrooms and violets. Medium body, firm and silky tannins and a blue-slate undertone. Layered fruit. Drink now.

Score 92 – Henry Fessy Chiroubles 2015

Aromas of wet bark, dark berries and hints of orange peel. Full body, beautiful depth of fruit and a flavorful finish. Intense, rich and chewy. Drink or hold.

Score 92 – Henry Fessy Morgon 2015

Wow. Fabulous aromas of crushed blackberries as well as wet earth. Medium to full body, soft and round tannins and a savory finish. Fantastic. Most are Côte du Py grapes. Yes! Drink now.

Score 92 – Henry Fessy Fleury “Château des Labourons” 2015

Very spicy and stony aromas here with the ripe dark fruits. Hints of dried flowers. Medium body, linear tannins and a savory finish. Delicious and serious. Drink or hold.

Score 92 – Henry Fessy Brouilly “Les Brûlées” 2015

Very ripe strawberry and rust aromas. Full body, round and soft tannins, plenty of fruit and a white-pepper finish. Easy drinking and full of character. Drink now.

Score 91 – Henry Fessy Chénas 2015

Much more strawberry aromas with some stone undertones. Full-bodied, tangy and fruity. Lovely finish. Soft texture. Drink now.

Score 91 – Henry Fessy Côte de Brouilly 2015

Lots of blackberry and citrus undertones on the nose follow through to a medium body, vibrant acidity and a creamy, lemon finish. Edgy. Drink now.

Score 91 – Henry Fessy Juliéna 2015

Very classic gamay aromas of strawberries, cherries and hints of flowers. Full body, pretty firmness and juicy fruit. Flavorful finish. Drink now.

Score 90 – Henry Fessy Beaujolais Villages 2015

Juicy and soft with lovely berry character and hints of bark. Stones, too. Medium-bodied, fresh and clean. Drink now.

Score 90 – Henry Fessy Saint-Amour 2015

Gorgeous aromas of orange blossom and strawberries follow through to a medium body, light tannins and a juicy, mushroom aftertaste. Drink now.

Score 89 – Henry Fessy Régnié “Château des Reyssiers” 2015

A silky and pretty Beaujolais with a lean, linear backbone and a medium body that leads to a fruity, citrusy finish. Drink now.