

FRANCE - Beaujolais

**Château des Labourons, Fleurie (Burgundy, France) 2011
90 pts**

Fleurie, one of the ten named villages or crus of Beaujolais, is allowed to put its name on the label, with or without reference to Beaujolais. The Château des Labourons has opted to omit Beaujolais from the label because, as Bernard Retornaz, the President of Louis Latour Inc in charge of North American Market, said, “This is real wine, not some grapey swill that’s become associated with Beaujolais.” He is so correct. This Fleurie, fermented in old vats in the traditional way, has depth and an earthy appeal that balances its fruitiness. The barely perceptible tannins in this mid-weight wine even allow you to chill it slightly for drinking with grilled skirt steak this summer. This is not your father’s Beaujolais.



**Château des Reyssiers, Régnié (Beaujolais, France) 2011
88 pts**

Régnié was the last subregions of Beaujolais to be award cru status, which explains why it’s not as well known as Fleurie or Brouilly. But its lack of recognition should not deter consumers especially because this one is so charming. The Château des Reyssiers was recently purchased by Henry Fessy, the excellent Beaujolais producer who in turn is owned by Louis Latour, one of Burgundy’s great names. This Régnié has lovely concentration and vigor. With more elegance than customary for a wine from Régnié, it combines an intriguing earthy component that complements the fruitiness imparted by the Gamay grape. It’s a great choice for grilling this summer.