

Wine Spectator

8 French Reds with Finesse

New reviews of quality Beaujolais from the Morgon AOC, including some outstanding values

South of Burgundy lies France's Beaujolais region, a source of elegant reds that are frequently some of the top values in wine.

The area may be best known for November's annual "Beaujolais Nouveau" event, and for the more basic and widely available Beaujolais AOC and Beaujolais-Villages AOC wines that are released at that time. But the true stars in the region are the *crus*, small appellations in the north of the Beaujolais that adhere to stricter regulations and, as a result, generally produce higher-quality wine.

One of most highly regarded *crus* is Morgon, and the best bottlings are like baby Burgundies for their marriage of richness and finesse and their underlying earthy minerality. The *crus'* esteem is such that producers in Morgon can often demand a higher pricetag than those in some of the lesser-known *crus*, but there are still plenty of great values in the mix.

90 HENRY FESSY Morgon 2010

Rich and smoky, with layers of black cherry puree, grilled plum, gumdrop and black currant. This is well-integrated and fresh, with a hint of coffee liqueur on the finish. Drink now through 2017. – *By Alison Napjus*

