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## The Muscle of the Mâconnais

Praise has been unanimous for 2009 Burgs and, sadly, prices have skyrocketed. Price-conscious consumers are understandably a little shy of the 2009 Burgundy vintage. Luckily the Mâconnais, Burgundy's most southerly section, comes to the rescue. For the last decade or two, the Mâconnais has become the focus of dynamic young producers who couldn't afford more desirable vineyard sites in Burgundy. Some of the most renowned Burgundy producers, like Comtes Lafon of Meursault and Anne-Claude Leflaive of Domaine Leflaive, bought land in the Mâconnais. They recognized that the region was full of distinctive *terroir*. Unlike Chardonnay made almost anywhere else, in which ripe fruit flavors dominate, the best Mâcon whites exude minerality and a vibrant texture.

While there might not be any officially designated *grand* or *premier cru* vineyards in the Mâconnais, there are certainly a few that merit the designation. Here are two wines that would easily qualify as *premier cru* and *grand cru* had they come from the Côte d'Or. The Larochette Manciat (*LA Times* 'Wine of Week') is easily one of the best buys in Chardonnay in the entire store. As for the Auvigue, this beauty is a stunner now but experience has shown that it has the ability to age gracefully for 10+ years. The Hors Classe bottling is one of the most stunning wines from the Mâcon.



### 2009 Larochette Manciat Mâcon "Les Morizottes" \$11.95

Robert Parker gives this sensational little white Burgundy 90 points, saying it "exhibits plenty of steely freshness as well as ripe nectarine and honeyed melon notes presented in a fruity, medium bodied style. A beautiful white combining power with elegance." This family-owned domaine has been producing some of the finest 'Grand Vin de Terroir' wines for five generations. Marie-Pierre and Oliver Larochette completed work on their new cellar in 1999. The *Los Angeles Times* hailed this wine 'Wine of the Week,' calling it "lithe and elegant... The price is right too, from this undervalued region."

### 2009 Auvigue Pouilly-Fuissé Cuvée Hors Classe \$39.95

This top cuvée from the brothers Jean-Pierre and Michel Auvigue drinks like *grand cru* Burgundy from the Côte d'Or, but at a fraction of the price. We recently popped one of these at a dinner party and haven't stopped recommending it since. Jean-Pierre and Michel are third generation proprietors at this property right in the heart of the Mâconnais. Robert Parker notes that "Their wines...are among the top half-dozen wines produced in the region... they are favorites at [many] important restaurants in France." The rich nose of tropical fruit, floral and lemon hints with toasted notes leads to surprisingly vibrant structure in the mouth, excellent balance and very good length. We appreciate the fresh-coated roundness and richness that brings complexity to this great wine of gastronomy. An ideal companion to Fettuccini Alfredo, roasted chicken with French fries, or foie gras.

With reviews (and prices!) like this, quantities won't last. To order click on the wine or call us at 800-678-9463.

Cheers,

**Woodland Hills Wine Co.**



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