



SPURRIER'S WORLD

Argentina and France dominate our man's picks for this month – together with a stellar tasting of 2009 Beaujolais – the best vintage in 60 years, says a true master



BEST OLD WORLD WHITE
JEAN-JACQUES GIRARD, BELLES FILLES, PERNAND-VERGELESSE, BURGUDY, FRANCE 2008
 From steep, northeast-facing slopes on limestone soils with Corton-Charlemagne as a neighbour: fine, citrus-influenced nose and good, firm fruit with future complexity over five years. A great wine at a modest price. **£15.99; Wai**



BEST NEW WORLD WHITE
EL PORVENIR DE LOS ANDES, LABORUM TORRONTES, SALTA, ARGENTINA 2008
 Forty-year-old vines planted at 1,750m in Argentina's northern Salta province. Fine, fresh, white flower nose, lovely, lifted and fleshy fruit with a little spice and good acidity. Very interesting wine for the next two years. **£13.49; Hpa**



BEST SPARKLER
DOMAINE DE VEILLOUX, CREMANT, CHEVERNY, LOIRE, FRANCE NV
 A blend of one third each of Chardonnay, Menu Pineau (Arbois) and Chenin Blanc. Small bubbles, white flowers nose with a caressing texture and natural freshness thanks to a low 6g/l dosage. A perfect summer sparkler. **£13.70; Dyn**



BEST OLD WORLD RED
DOMAINE COMTE ABBATUCCI, MINISTRE IMPERIAL, CORSICA, FRANCE 2008
 Named after his ancestor who served under Napoleon III, the present Count Abbattucci has blended seven local grapes from 50-year-old vines for this *vin de table* with entrancing fruit and depth. The best Corsican red I've tasted. **£39.70; Dyn**



BEST NEW WORLD RED
FINCA LA ANITA, PETIT VERDOT, MENDOZA, ARGENTINA 2006
 Bottled unfiltered just seven months after the vintage and with four months in Allier medium-toast oak, this is still very young looking, with an elegant, spicy, briary nose. A complete contrast to a fleshy Malbec. One for drinking over the next five years. **£25; Hpa**



BEST SWEET WINE
CLOS LAPEYRE, LA MAGENDIA, JURANCON, FRANCE 2006
 Meaning 'quintessence' in the local dialect, La Magendia is one of the finest expressions of very late-picked, shrivelled – but not botrytised – Petit Manseng grapes. Superb spicy, honey, floral nose with Jurancon's inimitable lift of lemon acidity on the finish. **£23.99; CPy**

FOR THE CELLAR

GEORGES DUBOEUF 2009 BEAUJOLAIS*

Georges Duboeuf, master of more than 50 vintages, has said 2009 was the best of his life. The sunniest August in 60 years gave Gamay grapes on Beaujolais' granite soils an exuberance across all 10 crus I've never experienced. Recently, Duboeuf showed 11 pairs of reds, the first in each being his Flower label, blends from different estates in each appellation – the second, from a single estate. My favourite **FLOWER LABELS** were: Fleurie, scented and mineraly; Julienas, dense black fruits; Chenas, spice and liquorice, for ageing; Moulin-à-Vent, expressive, deep, classic; Beaujolais-Villages, fleshy, grippy. Of the single estates: **DOM. DES BUYATS, REGNIE**, lively length and depth; **DOM. DESMURES, CHIROUBLES**, succulent, floral; **CH DE LA PERRIERE, BROUILLY**, oak complexity, for ageing; **DOM. DESCOMBES, MORGON**, meaty, fleshy, good tannins for ageing; **DOM. DU PARADIS, ST-AMOUR**, smooth, fine, ripe. Contact **BWC** for prices.

FROM THE CELLAR

CVNE IMPERIAL: 10 DECADES

Victor Urrutia Ybarra, the fifth generation in charge of CVNE, founded in 1879 by his ancestors in Rioja Alta, was proud to present 10 vintages of his **CVNE IMPERIAL**, the Rioja Gran Reserva that comes from the family's own vineyards with a minimum average age of over 25 years. While the younger five wines had been bottled in their fourth of fifth year, the older five had spent more than a decade in cask. None had been re-corked – Urrutia finds this alters their intrinsic originality.

2004, very good now and through to 2030; **1995**, vigorous and fresh with warm earthiness, superb; **1987**, robust and still young fruit, like a grandly lifted Châteauneuf, marvellous; **1970**, sweet red fruits but not for keeping; **1968**, figgy and chocolatey, still pure and vigorous; **1953**, fuller and younger, firm concentrated finish; **1947**, layered rich fruit, still there; **1939**, fading, a little lean; **1928**, fine vineyard expression, great wine; **1917**, fruit still there, lovely textured palate. A triumphal tasting.

*For a full vintage report of 2009 Beaujolais, see next month. For a full list of UK stockist codes, turn to p106