

More Than 1,600 Wines Rated

Wine Spectator

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Highly Recommended

The issue's most impressive wines. Includes top-scorers and wines that represent optimal purchases based on their combination of score, price and availability.

FRANCE

Burgundy

Côte de Beaune / Chassagne-Montrachet

92 Alex Gambal Chassagne-Montrachet Clos St-Jean 2002 \$75 Here's an open, appealing white, bursting with personality and ripe apple, peach, floral and toast aromas and flavors. Lovely pastrylike finish. Though easy to cozy up to, there's a firm structure suggesting a fine evolution. Drink now through 2010. 85 cases made.—B.S.

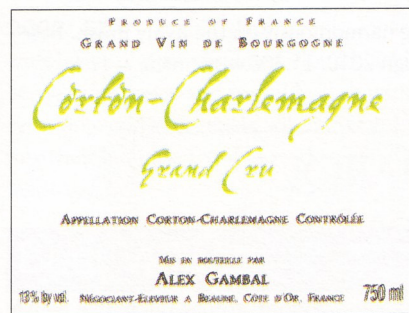
92 Alex Gambal Chassagne-Montrachet La Maltroie 2002 \$75 Elegant, firmly structured and almost racy, with floral, mineral, peach and spice flavors coursing through the long, lingering finish. A touch of heat today, but this should develop nicely. Best from 2005 through 2012. 100 cases made.—B.S.

90 Alex Gambal Chassagne-Montrachet 2002 \$50 Enticing, with aromas of whole grain toast, segueing into vanilla pastry and fig notes on an opulent, full-bodied frame. There's a solid structure, and this persists in its fig and spice accents on the aftertaste. Best from 2005 through 2010.—B.S.

ALEX GAMBAL Corton-Charlemagne 2002

Concentrated and smoky, with floral and mineral. Fine, racy structure. Has flesh and intensity of flavor for balance.

95



95 Alex Gambal Corton-Charlemagne 2002 \$125 Terrific. Dense, concentrated and smoky, with floral and mineral aromas and flavors permeating the finely wrought, racy structure. It has the flesh and intensity of flavor for balance, but will require a few years to really come out of its shell. Best from 2007 through 2020. 50 cases made.—B.S.

FRANCE

Burgundy / Bourgogne & Other White

87 Alex Gambal Bourgogne White Cuvée Prestige 2002 \$30 Tasty, fresh, harmonious and evoking lemon, floral and peach notes accented by spicy oak. Good length. Fine clarity and expression at this level. Drink now. 175 cases made.—B.S.

86 Alex Gambal Bourgogne White 2002 \$24 Rich and round, this white shows plenty of apple, earth and mineral elements supported by a firm structure. A tad rustic, yet there's a frank appeal and sense of place. Drink now through 2006. 525 cases made.—B.S.

85 Alex Gambal Bourgogne Aligoté 2002 \$20 A little shy in aroma, this white offers crisp, flinty apple and herb notes in a balanced, easygoing manner. The mouthwatering finish makes it an ideal aperitif. Drink now. 100 cases made.—B.S.