

## Burghound.com's 2003 Vintage Selections

### 62 "Top Value" Wines from the 2003 vintage in this Issue

2003	Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois" 1er	Roger Belland	89
2003	Santenay "Les Gravières" 1er	Roger Belland	89

#### Domaine Roger Belland (Santenay)

2003	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois" 1er	red	89
2003	Les Maranges "La Fussièrè" 1er	red	86
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Roger Belland has once again made some seriously good wines, especially considering that the bulk of his red *appellations* are of modest repute. Belland told me that in '03 he decided to vinify at "very low temperatures with no post fermentation heating. We began picking on the 27<sup>th</sup> of August and between the frost, heat and *triage*, we lost 50% of the crop overall but in the lower lying vineyards in Santenay, the losses were even higher. Sugars were good at around 13.5% but the acidities were sufficiently low and thus I elected to acidify from 100 to 150 gram/barrel. I also decided to reduce the amount of new oak and there is almost none for my reds." The '03s were bottled in December and I tasted them in February. As I noted above, this is a terrific set of wines and while it may be difficult to believe, they are every bit as good as Belland's '02s. (T. Edwards, New York, NY; Berkman Wine Cellars, Berry Brothers & Rudd, Lay & Wheeler, Liberty Wines among others, all UK).

**2003 Les Maranges "La Fussièrè":** Deep ruby. A very ripe nose of plum and cassis aromas leads to rich, rustic and pleasingly bright flavors that offer good balance and nice finishing punch. This is robust and not particularly elegant but quite good for what it is. 86/2007+

**2003 Santenay "La Comme":** This is more obviously pinot on the nose with ripe red fruit aromas laced with traces of earth and tobacco and followed by sweet, delicious, generous and forward middle weight flavors that possess fine finishing complexity. This is really a lovely wine with an underlying minerality that gives this nice punch. 88/2007+

**2003 Santenay "Beauregard":** Riper and earthier with pretty spice nuances that introduce moderately somber and reserved flavors underpinned by firm structure and a touch of finishing rusticity. There is good concentration and enough structure to suggest 4 to 5 years of cellar time will be required to see this at its best. In short, this is equally lovely but different. 88/2008+

**2003 Santenay "Les Gravières":** The most aromatically elegant of the 3 wines from Santenay with exuberant and pure red pinot fruit aromas that complement beautifully the delicious, supple and silky flavors that possess only the barest trace of rusticity. This is a seriously pretty wine and it's not often that the term silky is used to describe a Santenay. Highly recommended as this is really a stylish effort. 89/2008+

**2003 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois":** (a huge 3 ha *monopole* of the Domaine, planted 50% to each color and which sits at the south end of the commune on the Santenay border). Aromatically quite different as this combines red and black pinot fruit aromas laced with plum and cassis notes followed by sweet, round, delicious and nicely fresh medium full flavors that offer good finishing pop and moderate structure. This is quite precise for the vintage and delivers well above average quality at this level. 89/2009+

**2003 Pommard "Les Cras":** This too is exceptionally elegant with ripe red raspberry, spicy and pure red pinot fruit aromas merging seamlessly into delicious, edgy and mineral-driven, precise and intense medium full flavors and a long, moderately structured finish. This is not especially concentrated but it's quite stylish and should drink well all its life but benefit from medium term cellaring. 88/2009+

**2003 Volnay "Santenots":** (whole bunch fermentation). This is the odd duck out in this line up and it is completely different with exceptionally ripe aromas of leather and cooked plum that lead to round, rich and noticeably warm flavors that offer good volume and while the sappy finish is attractive, this is too ripe for my tastes. To be sure, this is a perfectly good wine that is particular in style. 87/2008+