



# Alternative Chardonnay and Pinot Noir

by Charles M. Bear Dalton



We drink a lot of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. By “we”, I mean all of us wine drinkers in Texas. Using Spec’s sales data, wine

labeled Chardonnay is the number one selling wine category and Pinot Noir is the number three selling red wine category (number five overall). Even so, a lot of the best Chardonnay and Pinot Noir Spec’s sells is not included in those numbers as it is not labeled Chardonnay or Pinot Noir. Rather, these wines are from Burgundy – which is both the spiritual and oenological home of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir – and are named after their places of origin rather than the name of their grape variety. Except for tiny amounts of Aligoté, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Blanc, and Pinot Gris (all white) and Gamay (red), all the wines of Burgundy are either Chardonnay or Pinot Noir.

Even though Burgundy is the home of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, I feel the need to remind wine drinkers in Texas that they should look to Burgundy as well as the rest of the world for fine Chardonnay and Pinot. It feels wrong calling Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from Burgundy alternatives as these red and white Burgundies are actually the originals the new world wines are modeled after. Nevertheless, it is reality of the wine market today where we tend to look for the name of the grape and don’t worry quite as much about the place. If it weren’t for Chardonnay from BURGUNDY, the top variety in California today would likely be Chenin Blanc. And if it weren’t for Pinot Noir from BURGUNDY, we wouldn’t have all those interesting small producers of Pinot Noir in Oregon, California, and New Zealand.

Burgundy can be trickier for the casual wine consumer because you have to remember lots of place names and one producer in Burgundy may make as many as 60 or even more Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs from various sites in Burgundy. Some of these wines may be made in the tens of thousands of cases and some may be as limited as 25 to 50 cases. Each has its own place name.

The simple solution is to come into Spec’s and let our wine specialists help you chose a few Chardonnay and/or Pinot Noir selections from Burgundy. Give them a price range and let them know what kinds of foods you intend to serve the wine with and they will hook you up.

What you will get will have the familiar flavors of Chardonnay and Pinot but will also have more of an earthier, more mineral, terroir component, a little brighter acidity, and usually a bit less alcohol than most varietally labeled Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Often times, Burgundian Chardonnay and Pinot Noir are a better match at the diner table due at least in part to that higher acidity and lower alcohol content.

As most of the Chardonnay and Pinot Noir labeled as such that is sold in Texas is under \$30.00, the list of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from Burgundy that we offer below is limited to a selection of Spec’s red and white Burgundies that sell for \$30.00 or less (cash) at Spec’s.

Give ‘m a try; you’ll be glad you did.

Chardonnay from Burgundy	PACKxSIZE	BOTTLE	CASE
Ambroise Bourgogne Blanc 2009	12x750ML	\$18.99	\$213.60
Ambroise Lettre d’Eloise Bourgogne Blanc 2008	12x750ML	\$15.79	\$177.73
Ambroise St Romain Blanc 2009	12x750ML	\$29.69	\$334.08
Bernard Moreau Borgogne Blanc 2008	12x750ML	\$24.38	\$274.50
Besson Givry Le Haut Colombier Blanc 2005	12x750ML	\$19.85	\$223.55
Boudin Chablis 2007	12x750ML	\$23.59	\$264.98
Cary Potet Montegny Les Burnuns 1er Cru 2007	12x750ML	\$24.34	\$274.06
Cheveau Macon Fuisse Les Grandes Bruyeres 2008	12x750ML	\$19.39	\$217.84
Cheveau St Veran Terroir Davaye 2010	12x750ML	\$25.99	\$292.80
Compte Lafon Macon Villages 2009	12x750ML	\$19.15	\$215.65
Cordier Bourgogne Blanc Vieilles Vignes 2009	12x750ML	\$18.59	\$208.77
Cordier Macon Blanc Vieilles Vignes 2009	12x750ML	\$16.59	\$186.37
Cordier Macon Vieilles Vignes 2008	12x750ML	\$17.69	\$198.52
Cordier Pouilly Fuisse 2010	12x750ML	\$28.79	\$323.54
Cordier Pouilly Fuisse Domaine 2009	12x750ML	\$26.99	\$305.24
Cordier St Veran En Faux 2009	12x750ML	\$26.89	\$302.76
Cordier Vire Clesse Vieilles Vignes 2010	12x750ML	\$23.99	\$271.43
D’Ardhuy Hautes Cotes De Beaune Blanc Les Perrieres 2008	12x750ML	\$17.69	\$199.10
Dom Seguinot Bordet Chablis Vieilles Vignes 2008	12x750ML	\$27.39	\$307.44
Dom Thibert Macon Prisse Cuvee En Chailloux 2007	12x750ML	\$19.83	\$223.26
Dom Trel Saint Veran 2006	12x750ML	\$20.40	\$229.70
Dom Trel Vire Clesse 2006	12x750ML	\$22.31	\$251.22
Domaine Faiveley Macon Prisse 2009	12x750ML	\$16.99	\$190.32
Domaine Seguinot Bordet Chablis Vieilles Vignes 2009	12x750ML	\$21.84	\$248.88
Domaine Thibert Macon Prisse En Chailloux 2009	12x750ML	\$17.29	\$193.98
Dominique Lafon Macon Uchizy Les Maranches 2009	12x750ML	\$29.99	\$339.77
Duboeuf Pouilly Fuisse 2009 Hautes Cotes De Nuits Blanc Ambroise 2009	12x750ML	\$26.59	\$300.05
Jacqueson Rully Cloux 2007	12x375ML	\$18.99	\$213.89
Jacqueson Rully Pucelles 2007	12x375ML	\$18.99	\$213.89
Jadot Savigny Les Beaune Clos De Guettes 1er Cru 2008	12x750ML	\$26.39	\$289.58
Labet Bourgogne Chardonnay Vieilles Vignes 08/09	12x750ML	\$11.99	\$136.68
Labet Chablis 2009 / 2010	12x750ML	\$15.69	\$177.68
Labet Macon Villages Dame Alix 2009	12x750ML	\$10.59	\$119.96
Labet Pouilly Fuisse 2007	12x750ML	\$19.29	\$218.21
Latour Rully Blanc 2008	12x750ML	\$18.39	\$206.86
Latour Saint Aubin 2008	12x750ML	\$26.99	\$304.07
Latour Savigny les Beaune Blanc 2008	12x750ML	\$25.29	\$284.60

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Chardonnay from Burgundy	PACKxSIZE	BOTTLE	CASE	Pinot Noir From Burgundy	PACKxSIZE	BOTTLE	CASE
Leonce Bocquet Bourgogne Chardonnay 2009	12x750ML	\$13.49	\$150.94	Ambroise Bourgogne Rouge 2009	12x750ML	\$19.29	\$216.53
Leonce Bocquet Chablis 2010	12x750ML	\$14.29	\$160.60	Ambroise Cotes De Nuits Villages 2008	12x750ML	\$23.69	\$266.01
Leonce Bocquet Macon Villages Unoaked Chardonnay 2009	12x750ML	\$12.39	\$139.52	Ambroise Cotes De Nuits Villages 2009	12x750ML	\$28.79	\$323.54
Leonce Bocquet Rully Blanc 2009	12x750ML	\$21.19	\$238.49	Besson Givry Le Haut Colombier 2008	12x750ML	\$21.84	\$245.95
Louis Latour Bourgogne Blanc 2003	12x750ML	\$13.19	\$148.42	D'Ardhuy Bourgogne Rouge 2008	12x750ML	\$14.79	\$166.31
Louis Latour Chardonnay Chanfleure 2002	12x750ML	\$12.69	\$142.79	D'Ardhuy Ladoix Rouge Les Chagnots Monopole 2008	12x750ML	\$19.94	\$226.92
Louis Latour Cote De Beaune Blanc 2009	12x750ML	\$27.39	\$307.44	Domaine Faiveley Bourgogne Rouge Grand Ordinaire 2009	12x750ML	\$11.99	\$135.42
Louis Latour Macon Lugny Les Genievres 2009	12x750ML	\$11.99	\$134.03	Domaine Faiveley Cote De Beaune Villages 2009	12x750ML	\$23.69	\$266.45
Louis Latour Macon Villages Chameroy 2010	12x750ML	\$11.89	\$130.54	Domaine Faiveley Ladoix Serrigny 2009	12x750ML	\$25.39	\$285.48
Louis Latour Montagny 1er Cru La Grande Roche 2009	12x750ML	\$19.59	\$219.60	Faiveley Givry Champ Lalot 2006	12x750ML	\$25.49	\$286.80
Louis Latour Pouilly Fuisse 2009	12x750ML	\$20.79	\$228.57	Faiveley Hautes Cotes De Nuits Dames Huguettes 2006	12x750ML	\$26.38	\$297.05
Louis Latour Pouilly Vinzelles 2009	12x750ML	\$16.99	\$191.78	Faiveley Mercurey Framboisiere 2006	12x375ML	\$21.57	\$242.88
Louis Latour Pouilly Vinzelles En Paradis 2008	12x750ML	\$13.99	\$158.26	Girardin Bourgogne Cuvee St Vincent Pinot Noir 2009	12x750ML	\$19.29	\$217.11
Louis Latour Rully Blanc 2009	12x750ML	\$21.69	\$243.76	Girardin Savigny Les Beaune Vieilles Vignes 2009	12x750ML	\$26.89	\$302.61
Louis Michel Chablis 2009	12x750ML	\$22.39	\$249.21	Jadot Cote De Beaune Villages 2009	12x750ML	\$26.39	\$296.31
Manciat Macon Charnay Les Chenes 2009	12x750ML	\$14.89	\$167.19	Jadot Cote De Nuits Le Vaucrain 2008	12x750ML	\$20.89	\$229.77
Manciat Poncet Macon Charnay Les Chenes 2010	12x750ML	\$13.29	\$149.47	Jadot Cotes De Beaune Villages 2008	12x750ML	\$20.89	\$229.64
Manciat Poncet Saint Veran Vieilles Vignes 2010	12x750ML	\$15.79	\$176.85	Jadot Pernand Vergelesses Clos De La Croix De Pierre 2008	12x750ML	\$26.39	\$289.71
Marc Morey Rully Blanc 2010	12x750ML	\$26.59	\$299.68	Jadot Pinot Noir 2008	12x750ML	\$16.74	\$186.06
Mommessin Pouilly Fuisse 2 Terroirs 2005	12x750ML	\$26.22	\$295.29	Jadot Santenay Clos De Malte 2008	12x750ML	\$23.59	\$259.61
Monnot Bourgogne Blanc 2008	12x750ML	\$18.99	\$213.74	Jadot Savigny Les Beaune La Dominode Rouge 2007	12x750ML	\$28.99	\$321.60
Monnot X Bourgogne Blanc 2009	12x750ML	\$22.29	\$250.49	Jadot Savigny Les Beaune Le Guette Blanc Gagey 2007	12x750ML	\$29.99	\$336.00
Morey Rully Blanc Rabource 1er Cru 2007	12x750ML	\$29.90	\$336.72	Jadot Savigny Les Beaune Les Vergelesses 1er Cru 2008	12x750ML	\$26.39	\$289.58
Pierre Labet Beaune Blanc Dessus Marconnets 2008 / 2009	12x750ML	\$27.99	\$314.76	Labet Bourgogne Pinot Noir 08/09	12x750ML	\$11.99	\$136.68
Pierre Labet Bourgogne Chardonnay Vieilles Vignes 2008/2009	12x750ML	\$19.94	\$223.94	Leonce Bocquet Bourgogne Pinot Noir 2009	12x750ML	\$13.49	\$150.94
Remoissenet Bourgogne Blanc 2008	12x750ML	\$17.99	\$202.32	Leonce Bocquet Macon Rouge 2009	12x750ML	\$12.39	\$139.52
Remoissenet Bourgogne Blanc 2009	12x750ML	\$17.99	\$202.91	Leonce Bocquet Mercurey Rouge 2008	12x750ML	\$23.74	\$267.18
Remoissenet Macon Villages Chardonnay 2009	12x750ML	\$13.39	\$150.65	Leonce Bocquet Rully Rouge 2009	12x750ML	\$21.19	\$238.49
Remoissenet Pernand Vergellesses 2008	12x750ML	\$29.99	\$336.72	Leonce Bocquet Savigny Les Beaune Rouge 2009	12x750ML	\$28.99	\$326.18
Remoissenet St Romain 2008	12x750ML	\$29.99	\$336.72	Louis Latour Pinot Noir Bourgogne Rouge 2009	12x750ML	\$14.49	\$158.51
Seguinot Bordet Chablis 2009	12x750ML	\$17.99	\$203.20	Louis Latour Pinot Noir Chanfleure 2005	12x750ML	\$14.99	\$169.80
Seguinot Bordet Fourchaume 1er Cru Chablis 2009	12x750ML	\$28.49	\$320.91	Michel Gros Bourgogne Hautes Cote Nuits Rouge 2005	12x750ML	\$27.83	\$313.44
Simonnet Febvre Chablis 1er Cru Vaillons 2008	12x750ML	\$25.99	\$292.07	Michel Gros Bourgogne Hautes Cotes De Nuits Rouge 2003	12x750ML	\$28.82	\$311.26
Simonnet Febvre Chablis Vaillons 2005	12x750ML	\$19.94	\$223.94	Moreau Chassagne Montrachet Rouge Vieilles Vignes 2009	12x750ML	\$29.44	\$333.06
Verget Chablis Terroir De Fleys 2006	12x750ML	\$26.89	\$295.70	Pierre Labet Beaune Coucheries 1er Cru 2008 / 2009	12x750ML	\$29.99	\$337.31
Verget Macon Villages 2007	12x750ML	\$14.99	\$168.80	Pierre Labet Beaune Rouge Dessus Marconnet 2008 / 2009	12x750ML	\$27.99	\$314.76
Verget Pouilly Fuisse 2006	12x750ML	\$27.58	\$306.56	Pierre Labet Bourgogne Pinot Noir Vieilles Vignes 2008 / 2009	12x750ML	\$19.94	\$223.94
Verget Saint Veran 2006	12x750ML	\$16.69	\$187.10	Remoissenet Bourgogne Rouge 2009	12x750ML	\$17.99	\$202.91
Verget Saint Veran Terroirs De Davaye 2005	12x750ML	\$25.99	\$288.31	Remoissenet Bourgogne Rouge Reserve 2009	12x750ML	\$22.59	\$254.30
Villamont Bourgogne Chardonnay Millenaire 2009	12x750ML	\$18.89	\$212.28	Saint Martin Marsannay Finottes 2006	12x750ML	\$25.64	\$289.14
Villamont Bourgogne Chardonnay Prestige 2008	12x750ML	\$14.39	\$161.04	St Martin Marsannay Echezots 2007	12x750ML	\$29.34	\$330.42
William Fevre Chablis Champs Royaux 2009	12x750ML	\$19.94	\$225.31	St Martin Marsannay Les Longerois 2009	12x750ML	\$29.99	\$337.74
William Fevre Chablis Domaine 2009	12x375ML	\$13.69	\$153.57	Villamont Bourgogne Pinot Noir Prestige 2009	12x750ML	\$14.39	\$161.04
William Fevre Chablis Domaine 2009	12x750ML	\$24.39	\$274.35				

For more from Bear Dalton, check out [BearOnWine.com](http://BearOnWine.com)

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## Coming Attractions

### The Wine School at l'Alliance Française presents WINE 101: A Four-Week Course on Wine Basics

Please join Spec's corporate fine wine buyer Bear Dalton for this four-week Wine Basics course. "Wine 101" is designed both for those just developing their interest in wine and those who feel the need for a good review to help organize their tasting and thinking about wine. This class also would be a good place to start for a service professional looking to move more into the wine side of the restaurant business or anyone looking to move into the wholesale or retail wine trade. As wine from all over the world is now so readily available, the 40 wines we will taste over the four-week class will come from all over the world.

**Week 1 (1/23/12):** Why Taste? Starting at the beginning: The basics of tasting, Tasting wine versus drinking wine. Sensory Evaluation. Types of tasting, Blind tasting, Playing "The Options Game". Ten wines will be tasted. Additional topics will include proper glassware, wine tools, and the restaurant wine ritual.

**Week 2 (1/30/12):** White wine making and white wine varieties and styles. We will taste ten white wines including Chardonnay with and without oak, off-dry whites, and sweet dessert wine. Topics will include how grape growing and winemaking affect wine style and flavors and how the types of wine represented by those tasted pair with food. We also will talk about wine storage and wine preservation and the concept of terroir.

**Week 3 (2/6/12):** Red (and Rosé) wine making and red wine varieties. We will taste ten red wines representing a range of styles and varieties including new world versus old world comparisons. Topics will include how grape growing and winemaking affect wine style and flavors and how the types of wine represented by those tasted pair with food. We also will talk about age-ability and age-worthiness as well as wine keeping and wine collecting.

**Week 4 (2/13/12):** Sparkling Wines (ranging from the Charmat bulk process wines – such as Prosecco – to real French Champagne) and Fortified wines focusing mostly on Port. We will discuss grape varieties, styles, techniques and their impact on flavor. We will discuss decanting and decanters and pairing these unusual partners with food.

The four-week Wine 101 will cost \$220.00 total per person cash (\$231.58 regular) for all four sessions. The course will meet at 7pm on Monday January 23, January 30, February 6, and February 13 of 2012. To reserve your spot for this unique four-week class, please call 832-660-0250 or email [amandahardy@specsonline.com](mailto:amandahardy@specsonline.com). All sessions of this class will be held at l'Alliance Française, the French cultural center in Houston. Located at 427 Lovett Blvd., l'Alliance is on the southeast corner of Lovett and Whitney (one block south of Westheimer and two blocks east of Montrose).

### 2009 Cru Classé Bordeaux Tasting at the InterContinental Hotel

On January 19th, 2012, Spec's will host over thirty Bordeaux chateau owners, directors, and/or winemakers presenting forty top-appellation Bordeaux wines all from the excellent 2009 vintage in a standup-and-walk-around tasting format. This is the first time Houston has ever hosted such a delegation from Bordeaux. The event will be held at the INTER-CONTINENTAL HOTEL. (Please note the change in venue). The list of well-known and highly regarded wineries has come together. By appellation, they include ...

Pomerol: Chx. Gazin and Clinet  
St. Emilion: Chx. Angelus, Canon La Gaffeliere, Clos L'Oratoire, and Daugay  
Castillon: Ch. d'Aiguilhe  
St. Estephe: Chx. Lafon Rochet and les Ormes de Pez  
Pauillac: Chx. Pichon Baron, Pibran, Lynch Bages (with Echo de Lynch Bages and Lynch Bages Blanc as well), Grand Puy Lacoste, Haut Batailley, d'Armailhac, Clerc Milon, and Haut Bages Liberal  
St. Julien: Chx. Branaire Ducru, Ch. Leoville Poyferre, Talbot, Lagrange, and Gloria  
Margaux: Chx. Brane Cantenac (along with Baron de Brane), Cantenac Brown, and Ferriere  
Haut Medoc: Chx. Cantemerle, Chasse Spleen, Camensac, and Poujeaux  
Pessac Leognan (Graves): Ch. Carbonnieux (both red & white), Domaine de Chevalier (both red & white), Smith Haut Lafitte (both red and white) and Clos Marsalette  
Sauternes: Ch. Suduiraut

The tasting will open at 4:30pm and run until 8:30pm, giving tasters ample time to taste the wines and visit with our guests from Bordeaux. The tasting will include a spread of artisanal cheeses and breads chosen to help absorb the wines and refresh the palate. We will be tasting from Riedel Degustazione glasses.

The 2009 Cru Classé Bordeaux Tasting will cost \$65.00 total per person cash (\$68.42 regular). The event will start at 4:30pm and run through 8:30pm on Thursday January 19th. To reserve your spot for this unique Bordeaux Event, please call 832-660-0250 or email [amandahardy@specsonline.com](mailto:amandahardy@specsonline.com). The InterContinental is located at 2222 West Loop South (on the south-bound feeder between San Felipe and Westheimer).

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### Rodeo Uncorked! Round Up and Best Bites

Save the evening of Sunday, February 19th for Houston's best annual wine and food event: The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's Rodeo Uncorked Round Up and Best Bites Competition at Reliant Center. Sample over 200 award-winning wines from the Show's 9th annual International Wine Competition (that's the "Round Up" part along with food (that's the "Best Bites" part) from over 60 of Houston's best restaurants, caterers, and specialty shops. The fun starts at 6:30pm and runs through 9pm. Advance individual tickets are \$125. Reserved tables for 10 start at \$1800. A limited number of premium tables for 10 are available for \$2,000. Table buyers and their guests get in 30 minutes early at 6:00pm. This event has sold out every year. Proceeds go to support the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's mission of Education, Agriculture, Entertainment, and Western Heritage.

## Rodeo Uncorked! Champion Wine Auction and Dinner

This evening includes a reception with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction of champion wines and related items, a sumptuous seated dinner with winning wines served from the competition, and the excitement of live auction bidding for award-winning and champion wines.

Auction packages are available for \$6,000, \$9,000 and \$12,000 for tables of 10; the total table price may be used in the live auction. Limited tickets are available for \$300 per person or a table for \$3,000 (these dinner-only package purchasers may not apply any of the table or ticket price toward the live auction).

Details: Saturday, March 3, 2012 Reception: 6 p.m.; Dinner: 7 p.m.;  
Auction: 8 p.m. 2nd floor Reliant Center in the 600 series rooms. ✱

