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Why you should invest in Burgundy

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Best of the bunch: the rolling hills and vineyards of Vezelay in Burgundy CREDIT: GETTY

By **Amanda Barnes**
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Investing in wines from Burgundy is a high priority for any serious wine collector, but what makes them a good investment?

"Burgundy wines are in their very nature rare: produced in small quantities by very small domains, they are very difficult to find from the offset, and therefore highly sought-after," explains Angélique de Lencquesaing, deputy managing director of iDealWine, a wine retailer which regularly deals in Burgundy wines.

"This is in stark contrast to the grands crus classés of the Médoc [in Bordeaux], which are produced in much larger vineyards."

While the robust cabernet sauvignon and merlot blends of Bordeaux might enjoy more fame with the general consumer, the more subtle pinot noir and chardonnay wines of Burgundy definitely hold a soft spot for most wine geeks and have become highly desirable to wine collectors, too.

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Angélique de Lencquesaing, deputy managing director, iDealwine

"Wine enthusiasts in Asia have, in recent years, turned to the grands crus of the Côte de Nuits," says Angélique, "and the best producers in this region are among the most sought-after in Asia: Domaine de la Romanée Conti, Armand Rousseau, Georges Roumier and Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier, to give a few examples of the most prestigious names."

With the aforementioned wines usually costing upwards of £1,000 a bottle (and in some cases more than £6,000), do you get a good return on investing in Burgundy? "It's impossible to give an estimate of an average return on investment, because this depends on the way in which the wine was bought and from which domain it comes from," explains Angélique.

The ideal scenario would be buying directly from the producer, but this is almost impossible when it comes to the top Burgundy wines, which have strict pre-determined allocations for their limited production.

"The best solution is to buy wines from these properties on the secondary market, when they're put back on sale by those people with allocations," says Angélique, explaining that the way to get your best ROI is over time.

"You will, of course, pay more than if you'd bought directly from the domain, but, if you buy the wines young, it will give you the time to benefit from the increased value of the wines a few years later."

Cellar vie: it is almost impossible to buy the best Burgundies direct from the vineyard CREDIT: GETTY

Burgundy best bets | Angélique's recommended producers and regions to invest in

Côte de Nuits
Domaine de la Romanée Conti, Armand Rousseau, Georges Roumier, Jacques-Frédéric Mugnier, Liger-Belair, de Vogüé, Dujac, Cécile Tremblay

Côte de Beaune
Domaine Leflaive, Domaine des Comtes Lafon, Bouchard Père & Fils, Drouhin, Raveneau, Coche-Dury, Marquis d'Angerville, Jacques Prieur, Sauzet, Ramonet, Arnaud Ente

Mâconnais & Côte Chalonnaise
Guffens-Heynen, Domaine de la Ferté, Joblot, Dureuil-Janthial