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Tasting Highlights: 2006 Red Burgundy Values

A dozen Pinot Noirs that are excellent starting points for 2006 Burgundy

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With a lot of *premier cru* red Burgundies breaking the \$100 barrier, it's rare to find a few this good for \$40 or less. Yet, the Beaune single-vineyard bottlings from Jadot and the Jean-Claude Boisset Santenay capture the delicious fruit flavors and moderate tannic structures of the 2006 vintage at affordable prices.

In addition, several of the village-level reds listed below show what can be done with good fruit from less famous communes. The Camille Giroud Santenay, for example, defies the notion that Santenay produces more chunky, rustic Pinot Noir.

If you want to experience authentic red Burgundy without breaking the bank, here's a good starting point.

FRÉDÉRIC ESMONIN Gevrey-Chambertin Clos Prieur 2006 *Score: 90 / \$33*

A touch gamy on the nose, shifting to black cherry, blackberry and earth notes. It's rich and dense, with well-integrated tannins and a lingering finish. Drink now through 2016. 50 cases imported. —*B.S.*

FRÉDÉRIC ESMONIN Gevrey-Chambertin Les Jouises Vieilles Vignes 2006 *Score: 90 / \$37*

A high-toned, cherry and raspberry infused style, with light tannins and good intensity. On the more delicate side for Gevrey. Best from 2010 through 2017. 35 cases imported. —*B.S.*

CAMILLE GIROUD Santenay 2006 *Score: 90 / \$36*

A pretty red, showing raspberry, cherry and mineral aromas and flavors, plenty of energy and an elegant frame. It's harmonious and lingers on the finish. Drink now through 2017. 70 cases imported. —*B.S.*

LOUIS JADOT Beaune Chouacheux 2006 *Score: 90 / \$40*

A juicy cherry flavor lends immediate appeal, while a frank earthiness and mineral element add depth. It's firmly structured and stays persistent through the long finish. Best from 2010 through 2020. 150 cases imported. —*B.S.*

JEAN-CLAUDE BOISSET Santenay Clos Rousseau 2006 *Score: 89 / \$30*

Menthol and cherry aromas pick up spice and mineral notes on the palate in this sinewy red. It needs time to integrate, but shows character and intensity. Best from 2011 through 2018. 250 cases made. —*B.S.*