

2006 Domaine Jean-Philippe Fichet Bourgogne Aligote

Rating: 88
Drink: 2008-2010

Jean-Philippe Fichet of Meursault (on whose superb 2006 collection I shall soon publish detailed notes) achieves excellence even in un-exalted appellations, as witness his 2006 Bourgogne Aligote. Loaded with aromas and flavors of toasted nuts and grain, and exhibiting an almost carnal depth, as well as palpable citrus zest pungency and chalky minerality, this is not one of those wines from Burgundy's under-rated, "lowly" white variety about which one says "you'll never guess it's not Chardonnay." On the contrary, it delivers Aligote in all of its intense if slightly rustic virtues. Enjoy it over the next 18-24 months, and attend to its compatibility with bitter vegetables and the fascinating counterpoint it can offer to rich seafood sauces.

Importer: The Rare Wine Co., Sonoma, CA; tel. (800) 999-4342...

- David Schildknecht (August, 2008)

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2006 Domaine Jean-Philippe Fichet Bourgogne Blanc

Rating: 89
Drink: -

Fichet's 2006 Bourgogne is as different from his Aligote as ... well, as Chardonnay is from Aligote. (In addition, the vinification here employs some more obvious wood.) Peach, nut oils, and bitter-sweet floral notes in the nose lead to a palate exhibiting the Fichet-trademark alliance of leesy richness (but without an ounce of fat) to precision of fruit and mineral, and ripe, bright acidity. The Aligote literally leaves you with more to chew on; but this wine with more to ponder.

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