

POL ROGER *Depuis 1849, excellence et indépendance*

Decanting Syrah *The world's best wine magazine* January 2014 £4.40

Decanter

TOP 50 WINES OF THE YEAR

The pick of our tastings in 2013, all in one issue

Vintage Champagne
Our experts rate the top wines and top years from 79 cuvées

Central Otago Pinot Noir
Is this still the New World's best Burgundy alternative?

Also this month

- Decanting Rhône & Barossa
- Panel tasting: Sauternes 2009 & 2010
- Bordeaux before 1855
- Expert's Choice: Rheingau Riesling
- Interview: the man at Margaux





Highly Recommended

17–18.25pts (90–94pts)



Pol Roger 2004 18 (93)

ME 18 NG 18.5 RS 17.5

£55–£59.50 Berry Bros & Rudd, Bordeaux Index, Christopher Piper, Farr Vintners, Justerini & Brooks, Lea & Sandeman, Whitebridge Wines

Round, ripe peach and lemon with some rich autolytic aromas and suggestions of other exciting ingredients including fresh ginger. It has the fullness, balance, poise, focus and length that I would wish to find in a top-drawer Champagne.

Drink 2016–2024 Alc 12.5% ➤

My top three Michael Edwards

■ **A Margaine, Blanc de Blancs 1er Cru 2008** An intense yet mineral, Chardonnay-based Champagne from the Montagne de Reims, giving a richer style than those from the Côte des Blancs. A great pair for lobster. **16.75/20 (89/100)** Drink 2014–2022

■ **Pierre Gimmonet et Fils, Cuvée Fleuron Blanc de Blancs 1er Cru 2006** The top cuvée from one of most consistent growers on the Côte des Blancs. Superb freshness and restraint, allied to richness from old vines. **17 (90)** Drink 2014–2019

■ **Pol Roger 2004** An arresting, varied delight. A hard call after the great 2002, but a lovely racy wine full of energy and subtle vinosity. **18 (93)** Drink 2016–2024

My top three Nancy Gilchrist MW

■ **Deutz 2006** Showed to perfection how to extract the best of the 2006 vintage. In a year known primarily for the quality of the Pinot Noir, Deutz has created a wine where the Chardonnay really sings out. It wouldn't surprise me if this were still going strong when other 2006s are beginning to flag. **18.5/20 (95/100)** Drink 2014–2020

■ **Pol Roger 2004** Pretty much everything I hope to find in a Champagne and, for me, the best in a rather unusual line-up. Another example of Pol Roger's excellent form. Winston Churchill would be proud. **18.5 (95)** Drink 2016–2024

■ **Sainsbury's Taste the Difference 1er Cru 2005** Lighter and fresher than most 2005s in the tasting. It may be atypical for the year, but in a line-up where most of the 2005s seemed to be tiring that seems a positive virtue. This, plus the competitive price and ready availability, has put it in my top three. **18 (93)** Drink 2015–2022

