

Wine Spectator

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Burgundy Grands Crus: Four Expressions of Corton

A tasting of Pinot Noirs finds a wealth of diversity on a single hill

By Owen Dugan



Photo by: Rick Wenner

From left: Nathalie Tollot of Tollot-Beaut, Erwan Faiveley, Louis-Fabrice Latour and Bouchard Père & Fils technical director Philippe Prost

“Our focus this morning is on the red wines made on the Corton hill in Burgundy,” said senior editor Bruce Sanderson, introducing a lineup of four *grands crus*. “The wines are influenced by the different characteristics of each vineyard, but if you take a little time to get to know the various *terroirs* and producers, you will be rewarded.”

Each of the panelists represented a family-run domaine, some of which have been passed down for centuries. The range of vintages showcased how Corton wines age; at 10 years, these Pinot Noirs are just getting started.

(...)

Sanderson said, “and now we’re going to step back another 10 years.”

That meant 1999—“one of best vintages of the last 25 to 30 years,” said Louis-Fabrice Latour, as the [Louis Latour](#) Corton Château Corton Grancey was poured. “Perhaps one of the best vintages ever in Burgundy. We were able to make a vintage that is full-bodied, nicely structured, the color is still there, and great focus.”

As the 11th-generation steward of the house (which still has some 1865s in the cellar), Latour has the long view on how Burgundy character changes with age: “We say that the vintage is more important than the *terroir*; as time goes by, the *terroir* seems more important.”