

## Vinous - Beaujolais Reviews

### **Joseph Drouhin Moulin-à-Vent 2013 - 90 Points**

Vivid ruby. Deep-pitched dark berry and cherry pit scents are sharpened by peppery spice and mineral nuances. Round and seamless on the palate, offering juicy black raspberry and bitter cherry flavors and a hint of candied licorice. Lingers with very good tenacity on the gently tannic, harmonious finish, which leaves a sweet berry note behind. [Drinking Window](#) - 2017-2021 -- Josh Reynolds

### **2014 Beaujolais-Villages – 88 Points**

Brilliant red. Fresh and energetic on the nose, displaying zesty red berry and floral scents and a hint of white pepper. Light-bodied and racy, offering bitter red currant and cherry flavors and a touch of orange pith. The red fruit quality drives the finish, which hangs on with good tangy persistence. [Drinking Window](#) - 2016-2018 -- Josh Reynolds

### **2014 Brouilly Domaine des Hospices de Belleville – 91 Points**

Vivid ruby. Ripe red berries, candied flowers and a hint of peppery spices on the perfumed nose. Round and fleshy, offering juicy raspberry and bitter cherry flavors with a spicy suggestion of white pepper. Closes gently tannic, broad and with repeating red fruit character, leaving behind a refreshingly bitter touch of orange pith. - 2018-2022 -- Josh Reynolds

### **2014 Fleurie Domaine des Hospices de Belleville – 92 Points**

Brilliant ruby-red. Very suave, highly aromatic red fruit and floral pastille scents are complemented by a suggestion of Asian spices and musky herbs. Sweet and seamless in texture, offering alluringly sweet raspberry, cherry and lavender flavors that deftly combine power and finesse. Shows the power and delicacy of a serious Burgundy from Chambolle-Musigny and finishes sappy, focused and impressively long, with silky tannins lending shape and gentle grip. - 2018-2022 -- Josh Reynolds

### **2014 Morgon Domaine des Hospices de Belleville – 92 Points**

Bright ruby. An explosively perfumed bouquet evokes ripe red berries, potpourri and smoky Indian spices, and a mineral element adds vivacity. Smooth, sweet and spicy, offering sappy raspberry and cherry flavors that show an energetic, seamless character. Finishes juicy and very long, delivering resonating minerality and lingering red fruit notes. - 2018-2023 -- Josh Reynolds

### **2014 Beaujolais: Another Dream Vintage**

Readers who enjoy Beaujolais need to stock up on the best 2014s for both immediate enjoyment as well as for cellaring. And there are many more of these top choices than usual in 2014. Stylistically the wines bear comparison to classically proportioned vintages such as 2010 and 2011, with abundant fresh fruit as well as depth and structure, all working smoothly together. Simply put, even if one takes into consideration the recent run of strong vintages—2009, 2010, 2011, 2013 and, almost certainly, 2015—2014 might turn out to have produced the most consistently outstanding group of Beaujolais since the legendary 2005s, which is saying something. That's especially true for readers who prize the classic style of Beaujolais that emphasizes energetic fruit and mineral character, qualities the '14s possess in spades.

### **What Makes the 2014s Special?**

A quick start to the growing season and a successful early flowering set the stage for a healthy crop. A cool summer ensured the preservation of lively acidity in the grapes. The weather warmed up considerably, but not excessively so, in early September and the fruit responded with vigor, ripening quickly but not overnight, as can happen in truly hot years. There were no climatic events during the harvest other than a bit of scattered hail to stress out the growers, who were able to pick healthy fruit slowly and methodically.

At its best—and I'm hard-pressed to think of a vintage with such a high percentage of outstanding wines in recent years—the 2014s exhibit lively berry and floral character punctuated by zesty minerality. The wines are concentrated yet not heavy, and show good structure without coming off as outsized. Many producers I visited in June described the wines as a hybrid of the 2010s and 2011s, combining the structure of the earlier vintage and the fruit intensity of the latter. As such, the 2014s, as a group, are hugely appealing right now but I have no doubt that they will reward another three to five years of aging. Many of the brawniest 2014s have the material to see them through a decade or more of life but by that point they'll have little resemblance to most peoples' notion of Beaujolais, so I'd advise drinking almost all of the '14s before they hit their tenth birthday.