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Beaune, France — Affordable Burgundy? It's no oxymoron.

It's true that most of the best wines from France's — and perhaps the world's — most eclectic wine region come with triple-digit-and-more price tags and can be hard to find. But take comfort in knowing that you can drink good Burgundy without bidding at auctions, spending your way to VIP status at the fine-wine shops or maxing out the credit card on that \$1,650 bottle of 2002 Domaine de la Romanee-Conti Grand Cru.

For \$30 or less, there is a wealth of Burgundy wines on the market that provide as much pleasure as comparably priced bottles from elsewhere, and also have the personality Burgundy lovers see — stony, mineral notes in the crisp, naturally acidic whites, and perfumed aromas, fresh cherry/berry flavors, velvety textures and mouthwatering acidity in the reds...

2002 Michel Briday Rully (\$25) — Steely nose leads to surprisingly rich poached pear and Golden Delicious apple flavors; closes with tangy lemon and quince.