

Domaine Courbis

As featured in Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate

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DOMAINE COURBIS	2001	CORNAS CHAMPÉLROSE	(\$45.00-55.00)	RED	(90-92)
DOMAINE COURBIS	2000	CORNAS CHAMPÉLROSE	(\$45.00-52.00)	RED	90
DOMAINE COURBIS	2001	CORNAS LES EYGATS	(\$45.00-55.00)	RED	(91-93)
DOMAINE COURBIS	2000	CORNAS LES EYGATS	(\$45.00-52.00)	RED	86
DOMAINE COURBIS	2001	CORNAS LA SABAROTTE	(\$50.00-60.00)	RED	(91-94)
DOMAINE COURBIS	2000	CORNAS LA SABAROTTE	(\$50.00-60.00)	RED	91
DOMAINE COURBIS	2001	ST. JOSEPH	(\$24.00-27.00)	RED	(87-88)
DOMAINE COURBIS	2000	ST. JOSEPH	(\$24.00-26.00)	RED	87
DOMAINE COURBIS	2001	ST. JOSEPH	(\$24.00-26.00)	WHITE	86
DOMAINE COURBIS	2001	ST. JOSEPH LES ROYES	(\$32.00-35.00)	RED	(88-90)
DOMAINE COURBIS	2000	ST. JOSEPH LES ROYES	(\$32.00-35.00)	RED	88
DOMAINE COURBIS	2001	ST. JOSEPH LES ROYES	(\$32.00-35.00)	WHITE	88

Courbis, a young, progressive, northern Rhône producer, fashions intensely flavored, modern-styled reds that are meant to be drunk young, yet are capable of aging well for a decade. Three single vineyard Cornas cuvées are offered, Les Eygats, Champélose, and La Sabarotte (listed in ascending order of richness and power). The **2001 Cornas Les Eygats's** black ruby color is followed by superb notes of blackberries, scorched earth, and espresso. This modern-styled, full-bodied, impressive offering retains all of its full-throttle Cornas typicity. Drink it over the next 10-15 years. While made in a similar style, the **2001 Cornas Champélose** exhibits more new oak, and is elegant and less powerfully fruity than Les Eygats. Additional minerality suggests greater longevity. Deep ruby/purple-colored, dense, and chewy, it will drink well for 10-12 years. The most backward, intense, and ferocious, as well as the most impressive of this trio is the **2001 Cornas La Sabarotte**. A dense, saturated black/purple color is accompanied by aromas of tapenade, smoked olives, blackberries, ink, and minerals. Thick, assertive, masculine, chewy, full-bodied, and concentrated, patience will be required for this beast. Anticipated maturity: 2007-2017.

The softer 2000 offerings reveal more wood notes, largely because they do not possess the concentration and extract of their younger siblings. For example, the deep ruby-colored **2000 Cornas Les Eygats** displays a modern, toasty, oaky nose intermixed with black fruits, spice, vanilla, and minerals. Made in a moderately fruity, straightforward style, it will provide enjoyment over the next 5-6 years. The **2000 Cornas Champélose** also reveals toasty new oak in the

nose, but that component is better integrated in the mouth. It also possesses dense black currant and cassis flavors with hints of minerals, pepper, and licorice in the background. This is a modern-styled Cornas to drink during its first decade of life. The **2000 Cornas La Sabarotte's** black/purple color is accompanied by roasted coffee and sweet licorice aromas. A deep, full-bodied palate displays loads of fruit, supple tannin, and a concentrated, 35-40 second finish. Surprisingly approachable, it should drink well for a decade.

Domaine Courbis usually fashions a tasty St.-Joseph. Both the 2001 cuvées exhibit the influence of smoky barriques along with abundant quantities of sweet fruit and charming, open-knit personalities. There is little difference between the **2001 and 2000 St.-Joseph** as well as between the 2001 and 2000 St.-Joseph Les Royes. However, the **2001 St.-Joseph Les Royes** possesses deeper, sweeter black cherry, strawberry, and currant fruit, with more glycerin and depth than the sexy, fruity **2000 St.-Joseph Les Royes**. Both wines offer immediate appeal, and are best consumed during their first 5-6 years of life.

Courbis also produces impressive whites from St.-Joseph. His **2001 St.-Joseph** exhibits an attractive, medium-bodied, richly fruity style revealing no evidence of wood. It is meant to be drunk over the next 1-2 years. More serious, revealing notes of honeysuckle and peach is the excellent, medium-bodied **2001 St.-Joseph Les Royes**. Good acidity gives it uplift as well as a fragrant personality. Enjoy it over the next 1-2 years. Importer: Russell Herman, Berkeley Heights, NJ; tel. (908) 771-9082.