



INTERNATIONAL WINE CELLAR Décembre 2012

## 2011 AND 2010 ALSACE WINES

By Ian D'Agata

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René Muré, the 11th generation of the Muré family working at this prestigious estate, is now being helped out by his daughter Véronique and winemaker Anne Pheulpin. Pheulpin told me that one of the biggest changes in Alsace winemaking she has noticed over the years is the much greater gingerly enough, meaning that the grapes were often squeezed and damaged on the way to the cellar, which triggered the beginning of the oxidation process.

### **92+ RENE MURÉ Gewurztraminer Clos Saint Landelin Vendanges Tardives 2010**

Bright golden-yellow. Brooding nose needs air to release aromas of grapefruit, banana and spicy cinnamon apple. Big, fat and very sweet, with mouthcoating flavors of ripe peach and apricot accented by repeating hints of cinnamon and white pepper. Finishes smooth and long, but could use a little more finesse for an even higher score. -Ian D'Agata

### **95 RENE MURÉ Gewurztraminer Clos Saint Landelin Sélection de Grains Nobles 2009**

Deep golden-yellow with a amber tinge. Explosively deep aromas and flavors of vanilla, creme brulee, custard, fig, raisin and candied mango. Superripe and spherical on the palate, with a very primary character to the dried apricot and fresh mango flavors. This shows a degree of finesse that's rare for gewurztraminer at this extreme level of ripeness. The very smooth finish goes on and on. This was harvested on September 23 in a single pass, with 100 % botrytis-affected berries. An extremely refined gewurztraminer, and one of the best wines by Muré I have tasted in some time. -Ian D'Agata

### **88+ RENE MURÉ Pinot Noir V 2011**

(30% new oak) : Bright red. Red berry and plum aromas are complemented by slightly smoky oak and flint nuances from both the barrels and the terroir, which always gives a more animal, iron-like character («V» stands for Vorbourg). This is longer and much less ready than the entry-level pinot noir, but will prove to be longer-lived and a more flexible companion to more complex dishes. From the iron-rich clay soil typical of Vorbourg. -Ian D'Agata

### **89+ RENE MURÉ Pinot Noir Clos Saint Landelin 2011**

Bright ruby-red. Aromas of small berries (blueberries, redcurrants), plum and nutmeg. Dense and rather lush in the mouth, with fresh flavors of crystallized raspberry and strawberry jam complicated by hints of violet and lead pencil. Finishes with a certain gracefulness, a firm tannic spine and a lingering graphite note. Think of this as Chambolle compared to the Corton or Gevrey Chambertin of the «V». The soil here is much more gravelly than that of the «V» but as the grapes are used to suffering, says winemaker Pheulpin, they adapted well to the extreme conditions of 2011. You could never tell this was aged in 50% new oak. -Ian D'Agata

### **91 RENE MURÉ Sylvaner Cuvée Oscar Clos St Landelin 2011**

(20 g/l residual sugar with 6,65 g/l total acidity) : Deep, bright yellow. A tropical fruit bonanza on the knockout nose, showing aromas of pineapple, candied mango, banana and custard. Then rich and creamy in the mouth but with a delicate spicy touch to the rich, honeyed tropical fruit flavors. Finishes suave and long. This outstanding sylvaner is named Oscar after current owner René Muré's father, who was particularly enamored of this cuvée. Every time I taste a wonderful sylvaner like this one, I'm struck by what a crime it is to rip up old vines. -Ian D'Agata

### **91 RENE MURÉ Gewurztraminer Zinnkoepfle 2011**

Pale straw. Delicate aromas of papaya and white flowers (more orange blossom and buttercup and less rose). Then big and fat in the mouth, with rich, round flavors of ripe tropical fruits and peach. Finishes smoky and long. I like this wine's velvety opulence and balance. -lan D'Agata

### **91 RENE MURÉ Gewurztraminer Clos St Landelin 2011**

Bright golden yellow. Concentrated aromas of tropical fruits and honeky show a strong spicy component. More sweet spices on the palate, along with flavors of tropical fruits and vanilla bean. Finishes sweet and round, but just a little clumsy. For those who love their gewurztraminer in a larger, fatter style. -lan D'Agata

### **88 RENE MURÉ Riesling Côte de Rouffach 2011**

Pale straw-green. Explosive citrus and flint notes on the fresh nose. Bright flavors of ripe citrus fruits and pear are enlivened by enamel-rattling acidity. This lovely riesling should be excellent with food. -lan D'Agata

### **88 RENE MURÉ Pinot Gris Côte de Rouffach 2010**

Bright straw-yellow. A touch of noble rot complements peach and pear on the knockout nose. Then rich and suave in the mouth, with serious acidity lifting the ripe tropical fruit flavors and extending the savory finish. This was harvested roughly three weeks later than the 2011 version and you can readily tell. -lan D'Agata

### **89 RENE MURÉ Sylvaner Steinstuck 2011**

Vivid straw-green color. Pear, delicate herbs and chlorophyll on the bright nose. Flattering, approachable and hard to resist but could use a bit more acidity to lift the apple and peach flavors and leave the impression of moderate sweetness (actually 12g/l, r.s.). I know I may be accused of never meeting a sylvaner I didn't like (which would actually be a gross exaggeration) but this really is a lovely wine and a very good example of the variety. -lan D'Agata

### **90+ RENE MURÉ Riesling Vorbourg 2010**

Pale, bright straw-yellow. A hint of smoky botrytis greets the nose, then white peach, citrus and cinnamon aromas take over. Fresh and bright on the palate, with zippy acidity carrying the citrus flavors though a long, distinctly saline finish. This boasts impressive richness thanks to the clay-rich soils of the Vorbourg grand cru. Tastes less acid than the Clos St Landelin bottling but shows plenty of class. -lan D'Agata

### **92+ RENE MURÉ Riesling Clos St Landelin 2010**

Gold-tinged straw. Spicy vanillin and floral notes jump from the glass, complementing an aroma of white peach. Then very fresh, almost tart, with lime and lemon flavors offering excellent intensity. The slightly austere, mineral-driven finish is marked by citrus notes and a hint of lavender, with a strongly saline note at the back buffering the impression of high acidity. It's clear that this riesling comes from a more gravelly soil than the Vorbourg.

### **91 RENE MURÉ Sylvaner Cuvée Oscar Clos St Landelin 2010**

Bright yellow-gold. Captivating aromas of candied pineapple, crystallized ginger and lemon custard. Then very sweet and rich but with more than enough acidity to lift the fleshy, sweet tropical fruit flavors. The smooth, sweet finish features a lingering note of passion fruit. Check out these very un-sylvaner-like numbers: 80 g/l residual sugar and 10,3 g/l total acidity. This is one of the best sylvaners I have ever tasted, and I taste a lot of them every year. The grapes come from two terraces plots to the right of the big «Clos St Landelin» sign. -lan D'Agata

### **88 RENE MURÉ Riesling Vorbourg Vendanges Tardives 2009**

Bright pale yellow. Borderline-overripe honeyed with peach, apricot nectar and diesel fuel on the complex but rather evolved nose. Then rich and round in the mouth, with superripe flavors of glazed pineapple and guava and a finish of moderate length. You can tell this is from a really hot year. -lan D'Agata

### **92 RENE MURÉ Muscat Clos Saint Landelin Vendanges Tardives 2009**

(muscat ottonel and muscat d'Alsace): Straw-yellow with green highlights. Not at all an explosively aromatic style but offers very good balance to its flavors of grapefruit, tropical fruits, cinnamon and flowers. Very sweet and ripe, boasting a lovely glycerol texture and an extremely long finish featuring a repeating rose petal nuance. A little more concentration and it might have scored even higher! It's a true late-harvest wine too, since the grapes were picked on October 20. -lan D'Agata