



Your Source of Wine for Every Occasion

Notes From The Cellar "NFTC" Newsletter October 23, 2009

 Forward to a Friend

A beautiful Champagne Discovery: 1996 Duval - Leroy

If you are a Champagne fan, or always wondered what the fuss is all about, you would like to pay special attention to today's offer. I am in NYC this weekend attending several wine events as well as the Grand Tasting hosted there every other year by Wine Spectator magazine. I was going to skip NFTC for a week but this is one of those deals that just happened as I was about to leave town and I was afraid that by the time I return it will evaporate.

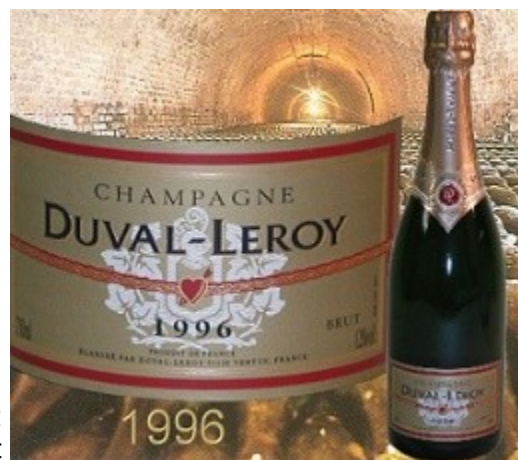
\$\$\$ Today's Wine Deal \$\$\$

DUVAL- LEROY Vintage Champagne Brut 1996 Perfectly aged parcel at original release price!

\$52.50/bottle, or \$50-/bottle- with our cash discount

This is a classically made Champagne from a well respected small house well known for the elegance and quality of their product. Unlike some other housed D-L release it's vintage Champagne after longer aging than most and at very reasonable prices, which even under normal circumstances makes them one of the better buys in their class.

From a **Wine Spectator review Nov 2008**:
"Clean lines define this racy Champagne. Still very youthful, exhibiting lemon and toasted wheat flavors, with a hint of malt. Firms up on the finish, so give this time to unwind and strut its stuff. There's lovely texture and length. Best from 2010 through 2025."



The story: Last weekend before dinner at a friends house, I was presented with

some of this lovely bubbly. I was surprised at how well it tasted: rich, balanced nuance and refreshing. It was so smooth that it could have passed for a 20 year old top of the line wine -those referred to as a "Tete de Cuvee. Yet instead of a 20 year old \$200 bottle, this turned out to be a vintage Champagne from the classic year 1996. Champagne from this great vintage has long disappeared into the cellars of collectors who are now perusing the next great vintage the 2002. While some of the 96's are going to age for a long time this bottle was already in the zone -that magical place where you still get the freshness and vibrancy of fruit from a great year, as well as the secondary nuances and flavors and that oh, so smooth and creamy mouth feel, that makes a good Champagne one of the finest drinks ever created by man. Back to the party, I casually asked my friend how long he has aged this bottle -and was surprised at the answer. Apparently the local wine Distributor he works for has recently picked up the line from a competitor, and as part of the transaction they ended up with a small stash of the 1996 vintage that was kind of forgotten. Even better the price was based on the old tariff; before recent price increases and a weakening dollar. Right there and then I committed to purchasing all the available cases in stock.

I picked up the wine personally & offered it to clients who were getting wine orders from me over the next few days. All available bottles were quickly snapped up. In the interim I had my friend at the local distributor search for more....

Great news: Very late yesterday afternoon I got the word that there are still a few cases at the Importer's warehouse located on the East Coast. I did not have time to write up an offering, so here I am on the airplane typing away this offer on my lap top. Many retailers are nervous about the economy and are waiting until the last moment to place additional orders for the holidays, but as we approach November there will be a flurry of activity. This is the season when everyone is looking for Champagne. I have ordered more, but to keep the cost down I asked the distributor to consolidate this with their other arrivals -so I expect that this will get to us in about 3 weeks or so -just in time for the holiday season.

Why you really need to get some: Friends, this is one of the best and rarest opportunities I have seen in the market place to get a perfectly aged Champagne that's 13 years old and from the finest vintage in the last 19 years. While it should be drinking at the top of it's game for many years according to the above review, I personally believe that it will actually be at it's finest over the next several years. And to top it all off, instead of paying a premium -you get it at original release price which is way below current market value for this quality. As we go through these turbulent times most of us could use a little affordable luxury. I am waiting for our other Champagne orders that we placed several months ago for the various 2002 's from the small growers to arrive shortly. If you got in on those deals, once the wine is here you may want to give those bottles a year or two of additional aging -you will be handsomely rewarded. In the mean time you will have something very tasty to drink: the 96 Duval-Leroy; now that's what I call a compromise! Get a few bottles, and if you can afford it - pick up a case or two. I will not be surprised if by the time Valentines Day rolls along you will find that most of your stash has been quaffed. It will also make for a great gift for almost any occasion. Of course this is timely, The available remaining cases are for sale from the Importer on a first come basis, so we want to move swiftly to avoid disappointment Please e-mail me your requests -I will be checking frequently while away and updating my orders. (I'll be back in my office late Tuesday) and hope we can get our hands on as much of this before it gets discovered. Good hunting.

Thanks for all your support and referrals.
Tell your friends, share the wine, & spread the good vibe. Cheers!

Paul David, Chief Fermented Grape Taster.

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