



GUIDE PARKER: BEST OF 2012

Switzerland's high-alpine Valais boasts astonishingly steep vineyards, most of which hug the infant Rhône as it winds toward Lake Geneva. Its roster of indigenous grapes is prodigious, and when joined by practically every white or red cépage made famous in Alsace, Bordeaux, Burgundy, or the Rhône; compounded by a multiplicity of styles; and frequently overlain with dubious winemaking fashion, results in a diversity that I sometimes find maddening. That said, there are few bottlings that I would want to see young Robert Taramarcaz of the **Domaine des Muses** relinquish, whether his **Chardonnay, Fendant (a.k.a. Chasselas), Marsanne, Païen (a.k.a. Heida), or Petite Arvine**; his **Cornalin, Gamay, Humagne, Merlot, Pinot, or Syrah**. Wine after wine, with few exceptions, this vintner displays an intuitive yet investigative sense for the potential of his grapes and sites, allowing them to speak with eloquence in a conversational (as opposed to overwrought or overly-stylized) tone. You'll be happy you sought out the small quantities of these that have recently started to reach our shores.



**Robert Taramarcaz,
& the Merlot “Cyrano” of Domaine des Muses.**