

DK

WINE REPORT

2005

'BEST WINE GUIDE IN THE WORLD'
GOURMAND INTERNATIONAL AWARD

"groundbreaking new annual...
absolutely fascinating"
JANCIS ROBINSON

Tom Stevenson
and a unique team of
regional specialists

- INSIDE INFORMATION
- RECENT VINTAGES
- NEW FINDS
- LATEST HARVEST
- HOT TIPS
- WINE SCIENCE
- TOP 10 LISTS
- BEST BARGAINS
- TOP PRODUCERS
- GREATEST WINES
- LATEST NEWS
- WINE INVESTMENT

THE ESSENTIAL INSIDERS' GUIDE TO THE WORLD OF WINE



TOM STEVENSON, author of *The New Solbeby's Wine Encyclopedia*, and his task force of strategically placed experts provide readers with the latest inside information from every wine region. *Wine Report 2005* is ideal for every wine enthusiast who wants to keep up to speed with the constantly changing and ever-expanding world of wine.

GLOBAL REPORTS | ALSACE | 39

Alsace

Tom Stevenson

It's official: Alsace wines are sweet! The hot debate in *Wine Report 2004* was the sweetness of Alsace wines and the difficulty that consumers face when trying to discern whether a wine is dry, particularly a *grand cru*.



TOM STEVENSON

The simple solution was to introduce an obligatory dry wine designation. The very worst thing that could have been done was to emphasize the sweetness factor, yet that is precisely what has been done. All wines with a minimum residual sugar of 12 grams per litre (9 g/l for Riesling) must now be labelled *moeleux*. If a wine has more than 6 g/l of total acidity, the minimum residual sugar rises to 18 g/l. The *Sec* designation is permitted but not obligatory. What difference does it make? Defining minimum residual sugar content for a sweet designation does not mean that all those not qualifying are in fact dry, so the introduction of *moeleux* has reduced, not solved, the problem. From a global perspective, emphasizing which wines are sweet, rather than dry, further erodes the traditional reputation of Alsace wine.

44

WINE REPORT 2005

GLOBAL REPORTS

FASTEST-IMPROVING PRODUCERS

6 Paul Blanck

BEST-VALUE PRODUCERS

9 Paul Blanck