



2004 WILLAMETTE VALLEY AUXERROIS – *Media Reviews*

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Now, here's a dry white wine from a grape that's rare indeed. Auxerrois (pronounced oak-sair-wah) is hardly a household name, even in its native France. A hybrid variety, this early-ripening white grape is an ancient cross between the red pinot noir grape and an utterly obscure white variety called gouais.

The name Auxerrois refers to the town of Auxerre, in Burgundy, not far from Chablis. I've never seen the wine there, however. In fact, one rarely sees the wine anywhere because probably only about 500 acres of Auxerrois are grown worldwide, mostly in Alsace and Luxembourg.

Oregon grows a tiny amount of Auxerrois, and this brand-new bottling from Adelsheim Vineyard in Newberg is nothing less than exceptional. Fragrant with whiffs of licorice (or anise) along with a note of pear, this is a wonderful dry white wine that will go with all the usual food suspects as well as being a superb aperitif. And it's all the better for being bottled with a screw cap, which ensures pristine freshness and flavor purity.

Not much is made—about 300 cases—so get it while you can. –Matt Kramer