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Butler's Burgundy Adventure

Butler Deepens Wine Knowledge on Burgundy Tour

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Jimmy Butler, star forward for the Miami Heat, took his passion for wine to new heights this offseason with a tour through Burgundy, France. Known for his love of Pinot Noir, Butler has been seen traveling with cases of wine, whether at the 2016 Rio Olympics or

the 2020 NBA bubble. Despite not making the U.S. Olympic team this year, Butler used his free time to explore some of Burgundy's most esteemed wineries, gaining deeper insights into the wine world.

One of his stops was Domaine Dujac in Morey-St.-Denis, where co-owner and winemaker Jeremy Seysses praised Butler's enthusiasm and genuine interest in wine. Seysses noted that Butler's energy and curiosity made his visit particularly memorable. Throughout his trip, Butler documented his experiences on YouTube, showcasing stops at some of the top wineries in the region. His itinerary included visits to Château de la Tour in Clos de Vougeot, Domaine de l'Arlot in Premeaux-Prissey, and Domaine Ponsot in Morey-St.-Denis, among others. At Armand Heitz near Chassagne-Montrachet, Butler even demonstrated his multitasking skills, grilling with one hand while holding a glass of wine with the other.

In addition to savoring Burgundy's finest wines, Butler kept up his basketball training by joining local club JDA Dijon Basket for morning sessions before heading out to the vineyards in the afternoons. His competitive nature showed through during his wine tastings as well. At Domaine Dujac, Butler impressed by accurately identifying a 2002 vintage in a blind-tasting session, further demonstrating his deepening knowledge of wine. Seysses mentioned that Butler's determination to learn and his keen questions were evidence of his growing expertise, making him a standout visitor.

Butler's love for wine reflects a broader trend among NBA players, with several stars embracing wine culture. Players like LeBron James and Stephen Curry have become known for their wine collections, and some, such as Yao Ming, Channing Frye, and Carmelo Anthony, have even launched their own wine labels. Butler credits former teammate Dwyane Wade, who runs Napa's Wade Cellars, for introducing him to wine. His current teammate, Kevin Love, is also involved in the wine world, working with Frye on a wine venture.

Jimmy Butler's Burgundy trip showcased not only his love for Pinot Noir but also his growing sophistication in the world of wine, all while balancing his basketball training and competitive spirit.