



ALEXANDER'S STEAKHOUSE

The wine philosophy at Alexander's Steakhouse is to provide exciting and interesting wines while holding true to the idea of a classic American Steakhouse. We search out artisan wineries that we feel offer the very best quality for our guests. Many of our wines might be new to our guests, but through interaction with our staff we hope to offer a truly great food and wine dining experience. Chef Jeffrey Stout's menu provides an opportunity to step outside the classic range of steakhouse fare and explore some truly magnificent possibilities in pairing wine with cuisine.

What to drink with Alexander's Steaks?

We do extensive tastings at Alexander's to try and find the best match for all our different steak presentations. The recurring theme is that the food demands a wine with a good acid and tannin base. Our best dining experiences come from pairing our cuisine with a wine that is balanced in oak and alcohol. Many new world wines seem to create a heavy feeling on the palate and coat the mouth with too much wood tannin and extraction. The most successful pairings have been with the wines of Burgundy, Bordeaux and the Rhone Valley in France; Piedmont and Tuscan in Italy and Rioja in Spain. California Cabernet can also be a great choice when it has had time to age, allowing the fruit to mellow and the oak to become more integrated, rather than being the dominant feature of the wine. Ask our service and sommelier staff to recommend some exciting wines to highlight your dining experience.

Corkage Service Fee

For guests that would like to bring in a special cellar treasure we offer a corkage service for \$35.00 per each 750ml bottle with a 2 bottle limit. We ask that you not bring in bottles that are on our wine list.

ERIC ENTRIKIN
SOMMELIER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
FAVORITES OF THE SOMMELIER	1
SPARKLING, ROSE AND WHITE WINES BY THE GLASS	2
RED WINES BY THE GLASS	3
SPARKLING AND WHITE WINE HALF BOTTLE SELECTIONS	4
RED WINE HALF BOTTLE SELECTIONS	5
LARGE FORMAT BOTTLES	6
CHAMPAGNE AND SPARKLING WINE	7
ALSACE, GERMANY AND AUSTRIA	8
SAUVIGNON BLANC AND OTHER AROMATIC WHITE AND ROSÉ WINES	9
DOMESTIC CHARDONNAY	10
WHITE BURGUNDY-FRANCE	11
DOMESTIC PINOT NOIR	12, 13
RED BURGUNDY-FRANCE	14, 15
DOMESTIC SYRAH, GRENACHE AND RHÔNE BLENDS	16
THE RHONE VALLEY, REGIONAL FRENCH AND EUROPEAN RED WINES	17
SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE REDS	18
CALIFORNIA ZINFANDEL AND PETITE SIRAH	19
SPANISH REDS	19
ITALIAN REDS	20, 21
DOMESTIC MERLOT AND CABERNET FRANC	22
DOMESTIC CABERNET SAUVIGNON	23-27
DOMESTIC BORDEAUX BLENDS AND MERITAGE	28
RIGHT BANK BORDEAUX AND THE SOUTHWEST OF FRANCE	29-30
LEFT BANK BORDEAUX AND GRAVES - FRANCE	31-32
SAUTERNES, JURANÇON AND OTHER DESSERT WINES	34
LAST CIGARETTE	35
BIN ENDS	36

WHITE / SPARKLING / ROSÉ WINES BY THE GLASS

Cava	NV	Cristalino, Brut, Penedes, Spain -A softer sparkling wine with lower acid and fine delicacy. Jaume Serra honed his winemaking skills in Champagne.	8
Cremant de Bourgogne	NV	Simonnet-Febvre, Brut Rosé, Burgundy, France -Sparkling wines made in the Champagne method are produced all over France, but they are not called Champagne, they are called Cremant. Burgundy has some of the best and this Brut Rosé is a terrific example with its strawberry, blood orange, and apple notes and a crisp refreshing finish.	16
Champagne	NV	Heidsieck & Co.-Monopole, Brut, <i>Blue Top</i> , Epernay, France -This Grandes Marques house has had an up and down history, but lately quality has soared. In the 2009 Wine Report, Champagne authority Tom Stevenson lists it as one of the fastest improving producers. The wine has a fine bead with notes of carmel apple, ginger and brioche.	22
Riesling	2007	Dr. Fischer, Ockfener Bockstein, QbA, Mosel-Saar-Ruwer, Germany -The 2007 vintage in Germany produced wines with bright, effusive fruit flavors that explode from the glass. This wine has ripe pear, apple, quince and lime fruit with tons of floral notes and a dense slate minerality that is typical of this village on the Saar River. Try with Popcorn Crab or Scallops.	10
Tavel Rosé	2007	Domaine Amido, Rhone Valley, France -The king of dry rosé. Crisp and fresh with notes of cranberry, cherry, blood orange, ruby grapefruit and red hibiscus flowers. Try with our Hamachi Shots.	12
Sauvignon Blanc	2007	Oyster Bay, Marlborough, New Zealand -A bright, juicy Sauvignon that displays passionfruit, grapefruit, kiwi, lime and fresh cut grass aromas. Terrific mouth watering palate with a crisp finish. Great with Caesar salad, Seabass and our Tuna Tataki.	10
Torrantes	2006	Viento Sur, Mendoza, Argentina -The new white grape that is taking the wine world by storm. This rich wine has lychee and melon fruit with floral notes of carnation.	8
Côtes du Rhone-Blanc	2007	André Andrieux, <i>Cuvee Marie</i> , Rhone Valley, France -Made mostly from Grenache Blanc and Viognier this wine displays bright, effusive aromas of white peach, melon, orange, honeysuckle and carnation with a crisp finish. Extremely versatile with some of our small plates.	12
Pinot Gris	2007	Elk Cove, Willamette Valley, Oregon -This variety is being touted as the best white out of Oregon. Aromas and flavors of white peach, tangerine, ripe melon and green apples with a subtle but long finish. I recommend this variety more than any other with our small plates because of its versatility.	12
Chardonnay	2007	Wellington, Sonoma Valley, Sonoma County, California -Green apple, nectarine, and a touch of pineapple accented by clove spice, cinnamon and a touch of vanilla all balanced by good acidity.	14
Chardonnay	2005	Talbot, Cuvée Carlotta, Sleepy Hollow Vineyard, Monterey County, California-Very rich, full-bodied, baked apple, pear, caramel, nut and clove. Moderate acidity and a thick texture on the palate.	20

RED WINES BY THE GLASS

Pinot Noir	2006	Nicolas Potel, <i>Cuvee Gerard Potel</i> , Bourgogne, Burgundy, France -Nicolas was the former winemaker for the Domaine Pousse D'Or in Volnay, when the Domaine sold in the early eighties he moved on to his own negociant business. He currently produces more than 40 different wines spanning the range from Grand Cru vineyards to this Bourgogne, made from older vines adjacent to the AC vineyards of Pommard and Volnay. A bright effusive expression of Pinot Noir that is perfect for Prime Rib, Filet or our outstanding <i>sous vide</i> Chicken.	18
Pinot Noir	2006	Thomas Fogarty, Santa Cruz Mountains, California -Fogarty makes a wide variety of nice wines, but their Estate Pinot is always one of my favorites. The wine displays notes of cranberry, cherry and strawberry jam with notes of smoke and spice. The cool growing area allows the wine to maintain acidity in the midst of its ripe flavor profile.	15
Syrah Blend	2005	E. Guigal, Cotes du Rhone, Rhone Valley, France -Guigal is one of the best run wineries in the world, they produce fantastic wine at all price ranges, including this luscious raspberry, white pepper and dried Provencal herb scented wine. Amazing with shortribs or prime rib.	12
Malbec	2007	Maipe, Mendoza, Argentina -Juicy with rich blackberry and plum fruit, accents of spice and violets. This is a terrific Malbec that emphasizes the great fruit of the region.	8
Merlot	2001	Azalea Springs, Napa Valley, California -This merlot comes from a single vineyard on the north-east facing side of Diamond Mountain. Bright cherry notes are accented by a bit of red floral notes and mineral spice.	12
Merlot Blend	2002	Chateau Faizeau, <i>Vieilles Vignes</i> , Montagne Saint-Emilion, Bordeaux, France -A perfect example of classic Bordeaux. Dense cassis and red cherries, hints of violets, tobacco leaf, dried sage and a intense gravelly mineral finish. Well balanced levels of tannin and acidity provide the refreshing, cleansing backdrop for your next bite of one of our dry-aged steaks.	14
Merlot /Cabernet Blend	2005	Kathryn Kennedy, Lateral, California -One of our favorite local wineries produces this lush, rich red made from 50% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Cabernet Franc and 6% Petite Verdot. It is loaded with black cherry and plum fruit and has notes of allspice, clove, bay leaf, violets and black licorice. Go Marty!!!	18
Cabernet Sauvignon	2006	Cannonball, California -A terrific wine that comes from vineyards all over the State. Juicy black fruits with a nice touch of oak and a smooth finish.	10
Cabernet Sauvignon	2001	Elliott, Napa Valley, California -Mike and Sue Elliott produce this luscious Cabernet from a single vineyard in the Rutherford district. It has very deep color, a full-body, rich cassis fruit and accents of sage and bay leaf.	16
Cabernet Sauvignon	2005	Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, <i>Artemis</i> , Napa Valley, California -The base of Artemis is the Arcadia Vineyard that the Winiarski family purchased in 1996. The addition of Fay and a touch of the SLV round out the good structure of the Arcadia Vineyard. The wine has classic Napa Cabernet appeal, cassis and cherry fruit with layers of cocoa and mocha aromas and great sage, bay leaf and black olive notes for complexity.	26

WHITE & SPARKLING WINE HALF BOTTLES

Champagne	NV	Paul Bara, Grande Brut Rosé, Grand Cru, Bouzy, France	78
Riesling	2004	Dr. Loosen, Ürziger Würzgarten, Auslese, Goldkapsel, Mosel-Saar-Ruwer, Germany <i>-slightly sweet, but with that good 2004 acidity.</i>	58
Riesling	2000	SA Prüm, Wehlener Sonnenuhr, Auslese, Goldkapsel #7 Mosel-Saar-Ruwer, Germany <i>-medium-sweet with elements of black tea from age.</i>	38
Grüner Veltliner	2005	Hirsch, Heiligenstein, Kammern/Kamptal, Austria	32
Sauvignon Blanc	2007	Domaine Patrick Coulbois, Pouilly-Fume, <i>Les Coques</i> , Loire Valley, France	29
Grenache Blanc-Roussanne-Clairette-Bourboulenc	2007	Domaine Roger Perrin, Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc, Rhone Valley, France <i>-Rich, floral, textured white that lingers on the palate.</i>	45
Chardonnay	2006	Patz & Hall, <i>Hyde Ranch</i> , Carneros, California	68
Chardonnay	2006	Domaine Jean-Marc Morey, Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru, Caillerets, Burgundy, France <i>-Pear, nectarine, clove and mineral notes with crisp acidity and a long finish.</i>	84

At Alexander's Steakhouse many of our small plates are best suited for a white wine before progressing on to a red with your entrée.

Consider having Champagne with Caviar,

Riesling with scallops or foie gras.

Sauvignon Blanc with Caesar salad.

RED WINE HALF BOTTLES

Pinot Noir	2006	Ancien, Carneros, California	46
Pinot Noir	2005	Sarah's Vineyard, <i>Estate</i> , Santa Clara Valley, California	34
Pinot Noir	2006	Pierre Colin, Chassagne-Montrachet, <i>Le Chene</i> , Burgundy, France	40
Pinot Noir	2005	Domaine Lucien Boillot, Gevrey-Chambertin, Burgundy, France	62
Zinfandel	2005	D-Cubed, Napa, California	34
Zinfandel	2006	Robert Biale, Napa, California	54
Grenache Blend	2006	Domaine Grand Montmirail, Gigondas, Rhone Valley, France <i>-Spicy red with notes of raspberries, kirsch, pepper and licorice.</i>	29
Merlot	2004	Swanson Estate, Merlot, Napa Valley, California	38
Merlot	2006	Duckhorn, Napa Valley, California	60
Cabernet Sauvignon	2004	Seven Hills, Columbia Valley, Washington State	34
Cabernet Sauvignon	2005	Faust, Napa Valley, California-Quintessa's 2nd label!	60
Cabernet Sauvignon	2005	Lail, Blueprint, Napa Valley, California	65
Cabernet Sauvignon	2004	Paradigm, Oakville-Napa Valley, California	72
Cabernet Sauvignon	2005	Karl Lawrence, Napa Valley, California	78
Meritage	2005	Opus One, Napa Valley, California	188
Meritage	2006	Ramey, Claret, Napa Valley, California	46
Tannat	2005	Domaine Berthoumieux, <i>Charles de Batz</i> , Madiran, France	29
Bordeaux	2005	Château de Pez, St.-Estephe, France <i>-The hype about the 2005 Bordeaux vintage seems justified in this terrific wine. It is loaded with cassis, black plum and coffee aromas.</i>	64
Amarone Classico della Valpolicella	2003	Accordini Stefano, <i>Acinatico</i> , Veneto	84
Barolo	2003	Rocche Dell' Annunziata, Rocche Costamagna, Barolo, Piedmont, Italy	58
Cinsault-Carignan-Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah	2003	Musar, Cuvee Rouge, Bekka Valley, Lebanon	22

1.5 LITER MAGNUM BOTTLES

Pinot Noir	2001	Etude, Carneros, California	208
Cabernet Sauvignon	2004	Paradigm, Oakville, Napa Valley, California	278
Cabernet Sauvignon	1997	Quilceda Creek, Columbia Valley, Washington State	675
Cabernet Sauvignon	1999	Shafer, <i>Hillside Select</i> , Napa Valley, California	1495
Cabernet Sauvignon	1994	Silver Oak, Napa Valley, California	845
Cabernet Sauvignon	1999	Silver Oak, Napa Valley, California	625
Meritage	2004	Clos du Bois, <i>Marlstone</i> , Alexander Valley, California	152
Meritage	2005	Dominus, Napa Valley, California	695
Meritage	1994	Justin, <i>Isosceles</i> , Paso Robles, California	675
Meritage	2001	Viader, Napa Valley, California	595
Bordeaux	2001	Château Haut-Brion, Pessac-Leognan, France <i>-The overlooked 2001 vintage in Bordeaux produced some terrific wines that are starting to taste great now. This magnum sells for less on our wine list than the 2005 vintage would for a mere 750ml.</i>	1195
Bordeaux	2000	Château Rauzan-Gassies, Margaux, France	375
Bordeaux	1999	Château Couspaude, St. Emilion, France	272

CHAMPAGNE, FRANCE AND SPARKLING WINE

SPARKLING WINE

NV	Bernard Rondeau, <i>Cerdon de Bugey</i> , Bugey, France	48
NV	Roederer Estate, Brut, Anderson Valley, California	52
2000	Roederer Estate, <i>L'Ermitage</i> , Anderson Valley, California	94

VINTAGE, NON-VINTAGE AND ROSE CHAMPAGNE

2002	A.R. Lenoble, Brut Rosé, Damery	122
2000	Paul Bara, Brut, <i>Special Club</i> , Bouzy	195
NV	Billecart-Salmon, <i>Brut Rose</i> , Mareuil-Sur-Ay, France	225
NV	Billecart-Salmon, <i>Brut Reserve</i> , Mareuil-Sur-Ay	122
NV	Deutz, Brut, Ay	108
NV	J. Lassalle, Preference, Brut, Chigney-Les-Roses -Small top quality grower.	104
MV	Krug, <i>Grande Cuvée</i> , Brut, Reims	445
1995	Krug, <i>Vintage Brut</i> , Reims	595
2000	Pierre Moncuit, Brut-Blanc des Blancs, Grand Cru, Le Mesnil-sur-Oger	128
2002	Ruelle-Pertois, Blanc de Blanc-Brut, Grand Cru, à Moussy -Small top quality grower.	94
NV	Veuve-Clicquot, <i>Yellow Label</i> , Brut, Reims	128

TETE DE CUVÉE CHAMPAGNE

2000	Nicolas Feuillatte, <i>Cuvée Palmes d'Or</i> , Brut Rose, Chouilly	495
1993	Dom Perignon, Oenoteque, Reims	695
1996	Dom Perignon, Rosé, Reims	895
2000	Louis Roederer, <i>Cristal</i> , Reims	595
1995	De Venoge, Brut, Louis XV, Epernay	315
1998	Veuve-Clicquot, <i>La Grande Dame</i> , Reims	375

What is **Cerdon de Bugey**?
In a small mountaneous region between Burgundy and Savoie there lies a small group of villages that produce this off-dry, pink sparkling wine that is the epitome of refreshment. Think of it as a Kabinett Riesling only sparkling but with aromas and flavors of strawberries, pink grapefruit and damson plums.

Champagne is a region of growers and houses. The houses are the names you know Moët, Veuve-Clicquot, Roederer, etc. The growers sell their fruit to the houses, and sometimes produce their own wines. The best value in Champagne will always be from the growers, economics are just on their side, less hands. An alliance of growers in Champagne in an effort to compete with the top wines of the houses has introduced a selection known as '**Special Club**', These are super-premium cuvees from their best parcels of land with the lowest yields and are required to have a minimum amount age and a vintage date. The **Paul Bara** is one of the finest we know.

Krug Champagne is widely regarded as the best Grande Marque House. They have long practiced an age old technique for producing the best in Champagne by aging in oak barrels and drastically restricting vineyard yields; traditionally Champagne has some of the highest allowable yields in France. If you are trying Krug for the first time, all I can say is get ready to be a Champagne snob. The Multi-Vintage ranks up there with the likes of Dom and Cristal. The 1995 is so rich, full-flavored and long that it stands on the top of my list with some of the greatest Champagnes I have ever tasted, including the legendary 1973 Dom Perignon Rosé.

ALSACE, GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

ALSACE, FRANCE

2004	Domaine Weinbach , Riesling, <i>Cuvée St. Catherine</i>	132
2004	Domaine Weinbach , Pinot Gris, Altenbourg <i>Cuvée Laurence</i>	178
2005	Domaine Ostertag, Riesling, Grand Cru, Muenchberg	118
2005	Kuentz-Bas, Pinot Gris, <i>Collection Rare</i> <i>-Rich, luscious with a touch of residual sugar.</i>	78
2005	Kuentz-Bas, Gewurztraminer, <i>Tradition</i> <i>-Traditional dry Alsace.</i>	52
2005	Valentin-Zusslin , Riesling, <i>Bollenberg</i>	68

Domaine Weinbach has been in the capable hands of Madame Faller and her two daughters for close to two decades. Many Alsatian wines have a distinct affinity for a wide range of foods because they have a combination of rich weight and body, a luscious stonefruit element and a salty element imparted from the pink sandstone and mineral laden soils of Alsace. Achieving this balancing act is difficult as Alsace has one of the highest allowable vineyard yields in France. **Weinbach** produces wines that exemplify the best of Alsace. These wines go equally well with rich seafood, veal, poultry and game.

AUSTRIA

2004	Brundlmayer, Riesling, Steinmassel, Kamptal	68
2004	Schloss Gobelsburg, Gruner Veltliner, Renner, Kamptal <i>-Austria's native grape that seems like a cross between riesling and Sauvignon Blanc.</i>	65

Valentin-Zusslin produces a classic dry style of Alsace riesling utilizing bio-dynamic growing practises. A fantastic aroma of pear, green apple, apricot, white flowers and crushed rock. The wine is bright and fresh on the palate with terrific acidity. This is what most hope for when they order riesling from Alsace.

GERMANY

1996	Bollig-Lehnert, Riesling, Spatlese, Piesporter Goldtröpfchen, Mosel-Saar-Ruwer <i>-Classic petrol, apricot and white flowers, even for a Spatlese this is not very sweet.</i>	68
2007	Fritz Haag, Riesling, Brauneberger-Juffer, Kabinett, Mosel-Saar-Ruwer	72
2003	Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler , Riesling, Spätlese, Bernkasteler alte Badstube am Doctorberg, Mosel-Saar-Ruwer	62
2006	Joseph Leitz, Riesling, QbA, Rudesheimer Drachenstein, Rheingau	38
2007	Schloss Schonborn, Riesling, Kabinett, Erbacher Marcöbrunner, Rheingau	54

Standing on top of the Doctor vineyard above Bernkastel-Kues, looking down at the Mosel River, you can understand why the **Dr. Pauly Bergweiler Bernkasteler alte Badstube am Doctorberg** is one of the richest wines in the Mosel. You can see how the bend in the river allows for a long span of water to remain in reflective contact with the vineyard in the direction of the mid-morning sun which produces such splendid grapes. Spatlese in name, the wine has the weight and texture of an Auslese without much botrytis influence. This wine has exotic mineral, highly aromatic pear with a hint of clove and apricot plus a great balance between acid and sweetness.

SAUVIGNON BLANC

2007	Cloudy Bay, Marlborough, New Zealand	58
2006	De Sante, Napa Valley, California	50
2006	Domaine Daulny, <i>Clos de Chaudenay</i> , Sancerre, Loire Valley, France -The classic model of Sauvignon Blanc that is copied around the world. We still prefer the original.	46
2007	Duckhorn, Napa Valley, California	54
2007	Honig, Napa Valley, California	36
2007	Kathryn Kennedy, California	44
2006	Murrietta's Well, Meritage, Livermore Valley, California 65% Sauvignon Blanc/35% Semillon	54

I was given an older vintage of this wine, the 2002, and thought it was a Cru Classe Bordeaux Blanc from Graves. Winemaking in Livermore dates from before the turn of the last century, at one time the region was more well known than Napa. The **Murrietta's Well Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon Blend** bursts from the glass with grapefruit, pineapple, sweet melon and passionfruit. There is oak in this style of wine, but more as an element of weight in the body than an overt flavor. The wine just sits on the palate, but finishes with a crisp finish. This is the wine I choose over and over with Seabass, Halibut, Salmon and Caesar Salad.

AROMATIC WHITE AND ROSÉ WINES

2007	Chehalem, Pinot Gris, Willamette Valley, Oregon	44
2007	Elk Cove, Pinot Gris, Willamette Valley, Oregon	38
2006	Handley Cellars, Gewurztraminer, Anderson Valley, Mendocino, California	34
2006	Londer Vineyards, Gewurztraminer, Anderson Valley, Mendocino, California	54
2006	Champalou, Vouvray Sec, Loire Valley, France -Dry Chenin Blanc, notes of red apple and mineral notes.	38
2005	Henri Mina, Blanc, Irouleguy, France -A blend of Petit Courbu, Gros and Petit Manseng, similar to Sauvignon Blanc but with more notes of honey and lemon.	44
2002	Clos Lapeyre, Jurançon Sec, Vitage Vieilh, Jurancon, France	36
2006	Walnut City Wineworks, Viognier, Columbia Valley, Washington -Floral jasmine and honeysuckle with white peach, orange peel and sweet pear. A great alternative to Chardonnay.	48

Londer produces probably the top example of Gewurztraminer in the state from vineyards in the Anderson Valley. The wine has the typical varietal notes of lychee and rose petal with elements of melon, pear and grapefruit all while finishing dry. It makes an excellent companion to a wide variety of foods with diverse flavors.

CALIFORNIA AND IMPORTED CHARDONNAY

NAPA AND SONOMA COUNTIES

2004	Aubert, <i>Lauren Vineyard</i> , Sonoma Coast	195
2006	Dehlinger, <i>Unfiltered</i> , Russian River Valley	84
2006	Jordan, Russian River Valley	76
2006	Keller Estate, <i>Oro De Plata</i> , Sonoma Coast -No oak on this Chardonnay.	48
1997	Kistler, <i>McCrea Vineyard</i> , Sonoma Coast	195
2007	Kistler, <i>Les Noisetiers</i> , Sonoma Coast	138
2005	Pahlmeyer, Napa Valley	154
2006	Patz & Hall, <i>Durell Vineyard</i> , Sonoma County -This vineyard has been known for the past 20 years to be one of the tops in Sonoma County. Rich and very long.	98
2005	Peay Vineyards, Sonoma Coast, California	108
2006	Peter Michael , <i>Belle Côte</i> , Sonoma County	174
2005	Peter Michael , <i>Ma Belle Fille</i> , Sonoma County	192
2007	Sonoma-Cutrer, Russian River Ranches, Sonoma County	54

Of the best Chardonnay producers in California **Peter Michael** is usually considered in the top 10. The wines are all the result of mountain vineyards that allow for the grapes to stay on the vine longer without getting over-ripe. Add to this lower yields and French influenced winemaking techniques and the results are quite impressive. The **Belle Côte** vineyard is the oldest site planted in 1990 and produces a rich, viscous style of Chardonnay. The **Ma Belle Fille** vineyard is the newest site at the highest elevation planted in 1999 and gives a more vibrant style of wine that is still rich and long in the finish.

SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS AND MONTEREY COUNTY

2006	Thomas Fogarty, <i>Estate</i> , Santa Cruz Mountains	64
2006	Soquel Vineyards, Santa Cruz Mountains	54
2006	Varner , <i>Home Block</i> , Santa Cruz Mountains	88

CENTRAL COAST

2005	Martellotto, Gaia Vineyard, Sta. Rita Hills -Great Burgundian styled California Chardonnay.	68
2005	Mer Soleil -Caymus's Chardonnay, big and rich,	96
2006	Talley Estate, Arroyo Grande Valley	58
2006	Testarossa, <i>Castello</i>	72

Jim and Bob Varner planted their original Chardonnay vineyard in the early 1980's. Jim told me while he was visiting France, some of the older vigneronns had said to him that the pre-phylloxera vines always produced the best wine, so they planted ungrafted vines. Of the three Chardonnay vineyards they produce, the **Home Block** is closest to a rich wine from the Cote de Beaune in Burgundy. Apple, pear and nectarine fruit with clove, allspice and a slight mineral note. The wine has an extremely long finish due to very good acidity for a California Chardonnay.

IMPORTED CHARDONNAY

2006	Meerlust, Estate, Stellenbosch, South Africa -A delightful crisp style with just a touch of oak.	44
------	---	----

WHITE BURGUNDY-FRANCE

CHABLIS

2006	Joseph Drouhin, Vaudésir, Chablis Grand Cru -A fantastic Chardonnay that still is crisp despite its incredibly rich texture.	168
2006	Domaine Louis Pinson, Chablis 1er Cru, <i>Vaillons</i>	72

COTE DE BEAUNE

2002	J.C. Bachelet, Chassagne-Montrachet, <i>Les Encègnères</i>	88
2000	Domaine J.F. Coche-Dury, Puligny-Montrachet, <i>Les Enceignères</i>	695
2000	Joseph Drouhin, Montrachet, Grand Cru, 'Marquis de la Guiche'	1095
2005	Joseph Drouhin, Beaune 1er Cru, 'Clos des Mouches'	195
2005	Joseph Drouhin, Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru, <i>Folatières</i>	180
2006	Joseph Drouhin, Meursault	114
2006	Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard, Batard-Montrachet,, Grand Cru	475
2006	Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard, Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru, 'Boudriottes'	178
2006	Chateau Labouré-Roi, Meursault 1er Cru, <i>Clos des Bouches Chères</i>	162
2000	Domaine Leflaive , Bâtard-Montrachet, Grand Cru	895
2000	Domaine Leflaive , Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru, <i>Les Combettes</i>	425
2000	Domaine Leflaive , Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru, <i>Clavoillon</i>	295
2004	Domaine Prince Florent de Merode, Ladoix 1er Cru, 'Hautes Mourottes'	84
2005	Domaine Jean-Marc Morey , Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru, <i>Les Chenevottes</i>	128
2006	Domaine Paul Pernot, Puligny-Montrachet	112
2004	Domaine Roulot, Meursault, <i>Les Tillets</i>	195

MACONNAIS

2005	Robert Denogent, Macon-Fuisse, "Les Taches"	56
------	---	----

The negociant firm of **Joseph Drouhin** was founded in 1880 and is still family run today. After World War 1, Maurice Drouhin began building a Domaine with the purchase of the now famous, Beaune-Clos du Mouches. The building of the Domaine continued when Robert Drouhin took over in 1957, currently the Drouhins are some of the largest premium land owners in Burgundy, especially in the Chablis area. On my most recent trip to Burgundy I had the chance to tour the Drouhin cellars with Veronique, she informed me that most all their Grand and Premier Cru vineyards are Domaine owned. All the wines have a purity of character respective of their appellations.

There is a short list of the greatest white Burgundy producers; Leflaive, Comte Lafon, Sauzet, Niellon, Leroy and DRC top the list. Along with these there are the Domaines like Roulot and Boillot who continually stun the critics with their pure expression of soil and place. **Fontaine-Gagnard** is one of these domaines. Quality here has soared in the past few years. Richard Fontaine has produced stunning 2006 wines. The Batard-Montrachet, from .30 of a hectare, is truly a transcendent wine that brings forth liquid mineral, toasted brioche, nectarine, pear, apple and meyer lemon notes that linger on your palate long after the wine is swallowed. The Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru 'La Boudriotte' comes from a tiny parcel near the south end of the village. It has a ripe pear, apple and nectarine fruit with notes of clove, cinnamon and minerals. The style of the wines are to be in touch with there terroir, but with a luscious character that some whites in Burgundy lack.

CALIFORNIA PINOT NOIR

NAPA, SONOMA AND MENDOCINO COUNTIES

2006	Emeritus Vineyards, Russian River Valley	72
2006	Etude, Carneros	92
2005	Dehlinger, Estate, Russian River Valley	122
2005	Fort Ross, Reserve, Sonoma Coast	110
2005	Goldeneye, Anderson Valley, Mendocino County	122
2006	Handley Vineyards, Anderson Valley, Mendocino County	68
2006	Moshin, <i>Molinari Vineyard</i> , Sonoma County	58
2006	Patz & Hall, Sonoma Coast	94
2006	Radio-Coteau, La Neblina, Sonoma Coast	118
2006	Robert Stemmler, Estate, Carneros	78
2006	Walter Hansel, <i>The North-Slope Vineyard</i> , Russian River Valley	82
2006	Williams-Seylem, Sonoma Coast	140
2006	Williams-Seylem, Russian River Valley	152
2006	Williams-Seylem, <i>Westside Road Neighbors</i> , Russian River Valley	218

SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS AND MONTEREY COUNTY

2005	Miura, <i>Silacci</i> , Santa Lucia Highlands	138
2006	Miura, <i>Pisoni</i> , Santa Lucia Highlands	144
2006	Morgan, Twelve Clones, Santa Lucia Highlands	68
2006	Sonnet, Muns Vineyard, Santa Cruz Mountains	88
2005	Varner, Hidden Block, Santa Cruz Mountains	92

It's back !!! One of our favorite Pinot Noirs from the Santa Lucia Highlands. The **Miura Pisoni** is always an amazing wine. Emmanuel Kemeji fashions his wine to have a touch higher acidity than many other Pisoni Pinot bottlings. The vineyard which Gary Pisoni planted with cuttings from Burgundy's famous La Tache vineyard is some of the most sought after Pinot Noir in the State. This is a full-bodied Pinot Noir that has complex layer of ripe fruit coupled with elements of asian spices and spicy oak.

CALIFORNIA AND OREGON PINOT NOIR

CENTRAL COAST

2005	Bonaccorsi, <i>Cargasacchi Vineyard</i> , Sta. Rita Hills	138
2006	Ken Brown, Santa Barbara County	76
2006	Hitching Post, Bien Nacido Vineyard, Santa Maria Valley	96
2005	Martellotto, Gaia Vineyard, Sta. Rita Hills	88
2006	Sea Smoke, <i>Botella</i> , Sta. Rita Hills	102
2006	Sea Smoke, <i>Southing</i> , Sta. Rita Hills	128
2006	Sea Smoke, <i>Ten</i> , Sta. Rita Hills	218
2005	Sonnet, Kruse Vineyard, York Mountain, Paso Robles	80

The Santa Rita Hills AVA is an area that spends much of the summer shrouded in fog. The result is an extremely late harvest. One winemaker told me that some vineyards do not get ripe until December. The result of this long but cold time on the vine are wines that are deep in color, unusual for Pinot Noir, with high acid and high alcohol, another unusual combination. The **Bonaccorsi Cargasacchi** Pinot, from one of the top vineyards in the AVA, shows how intriguing this area can be for the grape. Rich and long on the palate with an intense core of fruit and notes of sea shell and chalk mineral components. Don't miss this equivalent of Grand Cru Burgundy done California style.

OREGON

2005	Andrew Rich, Willamette Valley	72
2006	Domaine Drouhin , Willamette Valley	104
2005	Domaine Serene, Evenstad Reserve, Willamette Valley	128
2006	Hamacher, Willamette Valley	102
2005	McKinlay, Estate-Special Selection, Willamette Valley	82
2006	St. Innocent, <i>Temperance Hill</i> , Willamette Valley	88
2005	Willakenzie Estate, Aliette Vineyard, Willamette Valley	106

Veronique Drouhin performs an amazing feat; she functions as winemaker for both the **Domaine Drouhin** in Oregon and her family's vast Burgundy holdings in France. Many winemakers do this by simply flying to the southern hemisphere to make wine in the off-season. Veronique has to balance two northern hemisphere regions that have similar harvest dates. Her Oregon offering is always a classic rendition of the region with its bright cherry, cola-berry, touch of rhubarb and floral spice. An extremely well balanced wine that goes terrific with a wide array of cuisine.

RED BURGUNDY-FRANCE

COTE DE NUITS

2000	Domaine Philippe Charlopin, Clos Vougeot, Grand Cru	178
1998	Domaine Robert Chevillon, Nuits-St.-Georges 1er Cru, 'Les Roncières'	158
2005	Domaine Robert Chevillon, Nuits-St.-Georges AC	142
2006	Joseph Drouhin, Echezeaux, Grand Cru	395
2006	Joseph Drouhin, Chambolle-Musigny, 1er Cru	178
2005	Frédéric Esmonin, Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru, 'Lavaux Saint-Jacques'	116
1995	Domaine Geantet-Pansiot, Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru, 'Les Poissenots'	188
2006	Domaine Herestyn, Gevrey-Chambertin, Clos Villages-V.V.	112
2004	Domaine Henri Gouges, Nuits-St.-Georges 1er Cru, 'Les Pruhiers'	98
2005	Jadot, Nuits-St.-Georges AC	88
1978	Domaine Alain Michelot, Nuits-St.-Georges 1er Cru, 'Les Richemones'	395
1999	Domaine Michel Noellat, Clos Vougeot, Grand Cru	195
2000	Patrick Lessec, Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru, 'Cherbaudes'	96
1998	Domaine Phillipe Roty , Marsannay, 'Champs-Etienne' AC	58
2005	Domaine Joseph Roty , Marsannay, 'Ouzelois' AC	112
2005	Domaine Joseph Roty , Gevrey-Chambertin, 'Champ-Chenys'	192
2005	Domaine Joseph Roty , Charmes-Chambertin, <i>Tres Vieilles Vignes</i> , Grand Cru	795
1982	Domaine de La Romanee-Conti, La Tache, Grand Cru	2395
2001	Domaine de La Romanee-Conti, La Tache, Grand Cru	1895
1998	Domaine de La Romanee-Conti, Richebourg, Grand Cru	1295
2000	Domaine de La Romanee-Conti, Richebourg, Grand Cru	1195
1998	Domaine de La Romanee-Conti, Romanee St.Vivant, Grand Cru	1265
2004	Domaine de La Romanee-Conti, Romanee St.Vivant, Grand Cru	1495
2005	Domaine de La Romanee-Conti, Romanee St.Vivant, Grand Cru	1995
1992	Domaine de La Romanee-Conti, Grands-Echézeaux, Grand Cru	995
1996	Domaine de La Romanee-Conti, Echézeaux, Grand Cru	1395
2002	Domaine de La Romanee-Conti, Echézeaux, Grand Cru	1095

I know this doesn't have a lot to do with the wine, but I've always wanted to tell this story. While visiting **Philippe Roty** in Gevrey-Chambertin, the importer was held up at his latest appointment. I waited in a room with a bunch of others who had traveled to Burgundy, among them was Patricia Green, a respected winemaker from Oregon. While we all kind of stood around because no one spoke any French, I decided to mumble the few words I knew to relieve the awkwardness. Philippe said we could go look at the Brunelles vineyard in his backyard. Patricia headed out the door and proceeded to ask me to translate her questions for Philippe. As I fumbled on like an infant, she finally reached down to the ground, picked up a handful of dirt and tasted it. "You have to taste the soil; that's where it all comes from" she said. Philippe's reply almost had us rolling on the ground for five minutes. "C'est vrai, mais je mets merde la le semaine denier" he said. It was something I didn't need to translate; everyone got it, especially Patricia who was holding a handful of manure.

RED BURGUNDY-FRANCE

COTE DE BEAUNE

2002	Blaine-Gagnard, Chassagne-Montrachet 1er Cru, <i>'Morgeots'</i>	106
1996	Domaine Michel Lafarge , Volnay AC, <i>Vendages Sélectionées</i>	168
2005	Domaine Pillot, Pommard AC, <i>'Les Tavannes'</i>	96
2004	Thierry et Pascale Matrot, Blagny AC, <i>'La Pièce sous le Bois'</i>	88
2003	Domaine Prince Florent de Merode, Corton-Bressandes, Grand Cru	154
2003	Domaine Prince Florent de Merode, Pommard AC, <i>'Clos de la Platier'</i>	94
2002	Domaine Nicolas Rossignol, Pernand-Vergelesses 1er Cru, <i>'Les Fichots'</i>	108
2005	Domaine Roulot, Auxey-Duresses AC	118

Frederick Lafarge is now the driving force behind the Domaine **Michel Lafarge**. Frederick is a true vigneron that does not jump on the most recent development in vineyard management without waiting to see if the practice actually works. This explains his true 'terroir' driven wines. Vibrant and fragrant wines that are not marked by too much oak and show off the soil in an exceptional way. His Volnay Vendages Selectionees comes from his oldest vines and the 1996 vintage was a about a pure as it got for terroir driven wines. This wine is now just beginning to open up and promises to be one of the greatest vintages that Burgundy has ever seen. A great vintage from a terrific producer with terrific pedigree.

CÔTE CHALONNAISE

2005	Château de Chamirey, Mercurey	84
------	-------------------------------	----

DOMESTIC SYRAH, GRENACHE AND RHÔNE BLENDS

NAPA, SONOMA AND MENDOCINO COUNTIES

2000	Araujo, Syrah, Eisele Vineyard, Napa Valley	325	
2005	Dry Stack Cellars, Syrah, <i>Marie's Block</i> , Bennett Valley, Sonoma County	84	<p>Heidi Peterson Barrett, the previous winemaker for Screaming Eagle, is the owner and winemaker at La Sirena. Her 2003 Napa Syrah was one of the most impressive wines at the most recent 'In Vino Unitas' tasting. The wine displays deep blackberry and black plum fruit with notes of black pepper, roasted herbs, baking spices and a long luxurious palate feel. There is a lot in common here with some of Australia's best and just a nod to the Northern Rhone in France.</p>
2005	Lewis Cellars, Syrah, <i>Ethan's</i> , Sonoma County	104	
2005	Neyers, Syrah, <i>Hudson Vineyard</i> , Napa Valley	116	
2006	Radio-Coteau, Syrah, Las Colinas, Sonoma Coast	118	
2005	Relic, Syrah, Sonoma Valley	78	
2004	La Sirena, Syrah, Napa Valley	128	
2004	Stroth-Hall Cellars, Syrah, <i>Sapphire Hill Vineyards</i> , Russian River Valley	68	

SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS AND MONTEREY COUNTY

2005	Pelerin, Syrah, <i>Mesa Del Sol Vineyard</i> , Arroyo Secco	92
------	---	----

CENTRAL COAST

2002	Ojai Vineyards, Syrah, <i>Bien Nacido Vineyard</i> , Santa Maria Valley	82	<p>Mourvedre is the grape that is made famous by the wines of Bandol in Provence. It tends to be a deep, dark, brooding wine that requires years of aging or a lot of aeration. I've never really had any domestic mourvedre that resembled anything like the versions from Bandol, but San Sakana comes pretty close. The wine is redolent with the blackberry, tar and roasted herbs that are typical of wines from Bandol, but the tannins are a touch lighter allowing the wine to be drunk now.</p>
2005	San Sakana, Mourvedre, Alta Mesa Vineyard, Santa Ynez Valley	96	
2005	Saxum, Broken Stones, Rhone Blend, Paso Robles	142	

THE RHÔNE VALLEY-FRANCE AND OTHER REGIONAL EUROPEAN REDS

NORTHERN RHONE VALLEY-FRANCE

2005	Domaine Clusel-Roch, Côte-Rôtie	142
2006	Domaine Combier, Crozes-Hermitage	74
1999	Ferraton Pere et Fils, Ermitage, <i>Le Meal</i>	172
1989	Jamet, Côte-Rôtie	425
2001	Jean-Louis Chave, Hermitage	375
2004	Guigal, Côte-Rôtie, <i>La Turque</i> , Côte Brune	795
2004	Guigal, Côte-Rôtie, Chateau D'Ampuis	375
1997	Guigal, Côte-Rôtie, <i>Brune et Blonde</i>	168
1994	Guigal, Hermitage	132
2005	Guigal, Crozes-Hermitage	68
1995	Rene Rostaing, Côte-Rôtie	295

Guigal is one of the most respected large producers in France. Their wines tend to be good all the way through the line, but it's at the top end where the wines are amazing. The **Chateau D'Ampuis** is produced from 3 parcels in the Cote Brune, 3 parcels in the Cote Blonde and spends 38 months in new French oak. The vineyard sources are some of the oldest plantings and yields are frequently as low as 2 tons per acre. This is a truly serious syrah; dense blackberry, prune and vanilla highlight the wine with accents of pepper and dried herbs. The wine has a massive palate approach that coats the mouth. Ribeye anyone?

SOUTHERN RHONE VALLEY

2005	Domaine D' Aeria, Cairanne, Cuvee Tradition	36
2006	Clos des Papes, Châteauneuf-du-Pape	325
2005	Domaine de Montvac, Vacqueyras	46
2006	Domaine de La Mordorée, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, <i>'La Reine des Bois'</i>	315
2006	Domaine Piaugier, Sablet, <i>Les Briguières</i>	42
2004	Domaine Roger Perrin, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, <i>Vieille Vignes</i>	128
2006	Domaine Roger Perrin, Châteauneuf-du-Pape	88
2006	Domaine Pierre Usseglio, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, <i>Tradition</i>	128
2006	Domaine Pierre Usseglio, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Cuvée Mon Aïeul	268
2006	Vieux-Donjon, Châteauneuf-du-Pape	156

Domaine Pierre Usseglio was founded by the son of an Italian immigrant. The Domaine is now run by his two sons who have created 2 super cuvees; Mon Aïeul and Reserve des Deux Freres. The Deux Freres sees some small barrel aging, but the **Mon Aïeul** is completely tank aged allowing the intense character of the 90% old vine Grenache to come out. Yields from these old vines are frequently half of what you see in normal Chateauneuf-du-Pape vineyards. Dense kirsch and framboise liqueur aromas dominate with a dose of white pepper and garrigue adding spice and herbal complexity. This wine is made in a style similar to the great wines produced at nearby Chateau Rayas. A considerable value if you look at other 96 point Parker wines.

REGIONAL FRENCH RED WINES

2006	Domaine Gouron, Chinon, Loire Valley, France	36
2006	Saint Martin La Garrigue, <i>Bronzinelle</i> , Coteaux du Languedoc	38

REGIONAL EUROPEAN RED WINES

2004	Quinta Do Vallodo, Duero Valley, Portugal	52
------	---	----

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE REDS

AUSTRALIA

2006	Brian Glaetzer, <i>Amon Ra</i> , Shiraz, Barossa Valley, Australia	215
2006	Brian Glaetzer, <i>Anaperenna</i> , Shiraz-Cabernet Sauvignon, Barossa Valley, Australia	168
2004	Jim Barry, Shiraz, <i>The McRae Wood</i> , Clare Valley	98
2005	Jim Barry, Shiraz, <i>The Lodge Hill</i> , Clare Valley	42
2002	Henschke, Cabernet Sauvignon, <i>Cyril Henschke</i> , Eden Valley	215
2004	Henschke, Shiraz, <i>Mount Edelston</i> , Eden Valley	196
1996	Penfolds, Shiraz, <i>Grange</i> , South Australia	795
1998	Penfolds, Shiraz, <i>Grange</i> , South Australia	895
2003	Redbank, Shiraz, <i>The Anvil</i> , Heathcote, Victoria	88
2006	Thorn-Clarke, Shiraz, <i>Shotfire</i> , Barossa Valley	52

NEW ZEALAND

2004	Ata Rangi, Pinot Noir, Martinborough	108
2004	Martinborough Vineyards, Pinot Noir, Martinborough Terrace	104

CHILE

2003	Los Vascos, <i>Le Dix</i> , Colchagua Valley	112
2003	Errazuriz, <i>Don Maximiano</i> , Colchagua Valley	106

ARGENTINA

2005	Caro, Cabernet Sauvignon-Malbec, Mendoza	106
2006	Tikal, Malbec, <i>Amorio</i> , Mendoza	78
2006	Benmarco, Malbec, Mendoza	48

SOUTH AFRICA

2005	Gaurdian Peak, Cabernet Sauvignon, <i>Lapa</i> , Stellenbosch	94
2005	Stark-Conde, Syrah, <i>Twin Peaks Vineyards</i> , Jonkershoek Valley	84
2005	Warwick, Pinotage, <i>Old Bush Vines</i> , Stellenbosch	45

It's interesting to think of Australia's Eden Valley as a new world wine growing region when vines were first planted here in 1847. The **Henschke Mount Edelston** vineyard was planted in 1912. The resulting small crop of old vine, concentrated Shiraz fruit produces a wine that has amazing depth of character and complexity. If you are used to the simple, fruity albeit delicious Shiraz that typically comes from Barossa Valley, you owe it to yourself to experience just how sublime these wines can be.

Los Vascos, Le Dix represents Château Lafite-Rothschild's finest effort to date from their property in Chile. On their 10 year anniversary, the winemaking team at Los Vascos decided to make a wine in the Grand Vin tradition of Lafite, a rigorous selection in the vineyard and 18 months in new oak barrels coopered at Chateau Lafite. The result is a densely packed Cabernet with tons of cassis, tar and roasted herb that is deep and saturated on the palate!

CALIFORNIA ZINFANDEL AND PETITE SIRAH

2006	Brown Family, Zinfandel, Napa Valley	80
2006	Dashe Cellars, Zinfandel, Dry Creek Valley, Sonoma County	52
2005	David Bruce Winery, Petite Sirah, Central Coast	52
2004	Green & Red, Zinfandel, Tip Top Vineyard, Chiles Valley	72
2005	Mayo Family Winery, Petite Sirah, <i>Sodini Vineyard</i> , Russian River Valley	78
2005	Old Ghost Zinfandel, Lodi	78
2006	Neyers, Zinfandel, <i>Tofanelli Vineyard</i> , Napa Valley	88
2006	Ridge, Zinfandel, <i>Geyserville</i> , Sonoma County	82
2005	Rosenblum, Zinfandel, Lyon's Vineyard, Sonoma Valley	98
2006	Seghesio, Zinfandel, <i>Old Vine</i> , Sonoma County	84
2006	Turley, Zinfandel, <i>Ueberroth Vineyard</i> , Paso Robles	138

Pam and Jay Heminway have been making Zinfandel on a steep remote hillside above Lake Hennessey in the eastern hills of Napa Valley for over 25 years; they practically were the Chiles Valley AVA. The road to the winery is about as steep as it gets and makes you feel as if you're on some one lane donkey trail in the Andes. The wines have always had a great balance between berry fruit, pepper spice, tannin and acid. Jay says the first question everyone asks them is why they named the winery **Green & Red**? His response, "Well, when we bought the property and were planting the Mill vineyard we looked around and saw a lot of red volcanic clay soil and there was a little bit of green serpentine running through portions of it, so we thought, Yeah Green & Red, that sounds good."

SPANISH REDS

2000	Abadia Retuerta, <i>Cuvee Palomar</i> , Sardon del Duero	108
2003	Ardevol Anjoli, Priorat	74
2004	Condado De Haza, Ribera del Duero	58
2005	Emilio Moro, Malleolus, Ribera del Duero	215
2004	Emilio Moro, <i>Tinto</i> , Ribera del Duero	76
1999	Lopez de Heredia, Viña Tondonia , Reserva, Rioja	108
2000	Muga, Prado Enea, Rioja	138
2003	Torremuga, Rioja	188
2004	Muga, Rioja Reserva	72
2004	Marques de Murrieta, Reserva, Rioja	62
2004	Pagos de los Capellanes, Crianza, Ribera del Duero	82
1995	La Rioja Alta S.A., <i>Gran Reserva 904</i> , Rioja	132

There is a growing sameness about many wines of the world, so what is it about a wine truly speaking of where it came from that makes it so special. The **Bodega Lopez de Heredia** has hardly changed a thing since it was founded in 1877. This wine is for fans of the understated. Rather than knocking you over the head with oak and alcohol it creates its lasting impression through character and intrigue from the soil and place that is Rioja. A subtle cherry and cigar box aroma expands with a luscious seductive character that adds notes of strawberry, dill, balsam wood, brown sugar and mushroom. A journey back in time from the top producer of authentic Rioja.

ITALIAN REDS

PIEDMONT

2001	Produttori del Barbaresco, Barbaresco, Paje	118
1988	Aldo Conterno, Barolo, <i>Bussia Soprana</i>	595
1978	Gaja, Barbaresco	795
1998	Gaja, Barbaresco	425
1999	Gaja, Costa Russi	795
2001	Gaja, Sori San Lorenzo	775
1998	Gaja, Langhe Sperss	495
2003	Gaja, Barolo, Da Gromis	245
2004	Giacomo Grimaldi, Barolo, <i>Le Coste</i>	172
2004	Luciano Sandrone, Barolo, <i>Cannubi Boschis</i>	395
2005	Luciano Sandrone, Barbera d' Alba	78
2004	Moccagatta, Barbaresco, Bric Balin	152
1999	Paolo Scavino, <i>Bric del Fiasco</i> , Barolo	245
2004	Paolo Scavino, Barolo	142
2004	E. Pira e Figli, Barolo, <i>Via Nuovo</i>	158
2004	Rocche Dell' Annunziata, Rocche Costamagna, Barolo	104
2003	La Spinetta, Barbaresco, Staderi	255
2004	La Spinetta, Pin	108
2005	Mauro Veglio, <i>'Angelo'</i> , Nebbiolo delle Langhe	46
1982	Vietti, Barolo Riserva, <i>Villero</i>	695

Giorgio Rivetti, the man behind **La Spinetta**, produces Barbaresco that would knock most Barolo producers to the ground, such as the **Staderi** bottling. Barbaresco is often referred to as the Queen of Piedmontese wines, whereas Barolo is considered the King. The **Pin**, a blend of Nebbiolo blended with Barbera, is Giorgio's super-Piedmontese wine. The structure and floral notes of Nebbiolo is highlighted by the fruitiness of the Barbera, while softening the tannin. This wine is absolutely delicious and performs so well with steak you'll wonder why you always flip to the Cabernet page.

OTHER NORTHERN ITALIAN REGIONS

2004	Masi, <i>Amarone Classico, Veneto</i>	138
2006	Elena Walch, Lagrein, Trentino-Alto-Adige	42

One of my first introductions to Italian wine was **Amarone**, a wine made from partially dried grapes. It has aromas, flavors and an alcohol level that is similar to port, but without any sweetness. It is like an other-worldly Zinfandel with cherry jam, roasted nuts, dried herbs, black olives and an extremely weighty palate approach. **Masi** is one of the top producers in the Veneto.

ITALIAN REDS

TUSCANY

1997	Banfi, Brunello di Montalcino	295
2001	Collosorbo, Brunello di Montalcino	138
1978	Il Colle, Brunello di Montalcino	225
1985	Il Colle, Brunello di Montalcino	215
2004	Dievole, Chianti Classico	64
2005	Gaja, Ca Macaranda, Promis	116
2005	Felsina Berardenga, Rancia, Chianti Classico Riserva	98
2001	Il Poggione, Brunello di Montalcino Riserva	215
2005	Il Poggione, Rosso di Montalcino	64
2004	Dei, Vino Nobile di Montepulciano	68
1997	Castello dei Rampolla, <i>Sammarco</i>	255
2004	Solaia, Cabernet Sauvignon Blend	395

Felsina Berardenga can trace its roots back to 1152 in the Chianti Classico region of Tuscany. The **Rancia** vineyard is located on a south-west facing hillside and produces one of their best wines. Made from 100% Sangiovese this low yielding version of Chianti Classico is bright, rich and concentrated; exhibiting all the sour cherry, dried red flowers and aromatic spice for which great Chianti is known.

OTHER SOUTHERN ITALIAN REGIONS

2003	Tormaresca, Bocca Di Lupo, Aglianico, Umbria	76
2005	Valle Dell' Acate, <i>Il Moro</i> , Nero d' Avola, Sicily	68

DOMESTIC MERLOT AND CABERNET FRANC

CALIFORNIA

2001	Azalea Springs, Merlot, Napa Valley	48
2006	Duckhorn, Merlot, Napa Valley	112
2005	Chappellet, Merlot, Napa Valley	78
2001	Etude, Napa Valley	112
2002	Etude, Napa Valley	108
2004	Keenan, Napa Valley	82
2006	Lang & Reed, Cabernet Franc, North Coast	54
2005	Lewis Cellars, Merlot, Napa Valley	162
2004	Madrigal, Napa Valley	72
2005	Pahlmeyer, Merlot, Napa Valley	188
1995	Paradigm, Merlot, Oakville	175
2005	Paradigm, Merlot, Oakville	98
2005	Blackbird Vineyards, Proprietary Red Wine (96% Merlot) Oak Knoll District, Napa Valley	178
2005	Twomey, Merlot, Napa Valley -The Merlot of Silver Oak Winery in Napa.	144

WASHINGTON

2005	L'Ecole No. #41, Merlot, Columbia Valley	74
1994	Leonetti, Merlot, Columbia Valley	275
1997	Leonetti, Merlot, Columbia Valley	185
2005	Leonetti, Merlot, Columbia Valley	185

A lesson in Merlot!

Merlot is the most widely planted grape in Bordeaux. It is the earliest ripening and provides the mid-palate fruit and weight in many of the great wines of the region. After the movie 'Sideways', Merlot got a bad rap, you could almost hear the collective groaning of many of the best Merlot producers in the state. It was true that Merlot had become an overused fad with far too many wineries producing wines that really only tasted like chocolate covered cherries, fine for candy but not so for quality wine. So what do you do when the public is telling you it's over. You go back and produce the most amazing wine that is almost entirely Merlot, but tell people it's a proprietary red wine and let what's in the bottle do the talking.

Enter **Blackbird Vineyards Proprietary Red Wine**, this wine has more character and finesse than many of the Cabernet Sauvignon produced in Napa. It has a dense core of smokey, tarry plum and cherry fruit with a huge oak complement that is more than handled by the fruit and acidity of the wine. In essence a balanced monster of a wine, two words I generally don't use together.

In many parts of the grape growing world, planting on natural (Vinifera) rootstocks would be financial disaster, but that is the way most vineyards in Washington are planted. The lack of much rainfall and about twenty to thirty feet of well drained soil across much of the Columbia Valley prevents phylloxera from ever gaining a foothold. Marty Clubb, winemaker-owner of L'Ecole #No. 41 believes that natural rootstocks give fruit that has more character and complexity. His Merlot is redolent with red cherry and plum fruit, mocha, toffee and floral spice. On the palate, the wine displays surprising length for it's supple texture.

CALIFORNIA CABERNET SAUVIGNON

NAPA VALLEY

1984	Beringer, <i>Private Reserve</i>	245
1985	Beringer, <i>Private Reserve</i>	275
1986	Beringer, <i>Private Reserve</i>	265
1968	Beaulieu Vineyard, <i>Georges de Latour Private Reserve</i>	795
1985	Beaulieu Vineyard, <i>Georges de Latour Private Reserve</i>	295
1996	Beaulieu Vineyard, <i>Georges de Latour Private Reserve</i>	225
2005	Caymus Vineyards, <i>Special Select</i>	315
1985	Caymus Vineyards	315
1989	Caymus Vineyards	255
1992	Caymus Vineyards	265
1993	Caymus Vineyards	255
1998	Caymus Vineyards	225
2006	Caymus Vineyards	158
2005	Chappellet, Prichard Hill	288
1984	Clos du Val	225
1985	Clos du Val	235
1996	Corison	228
1997	Corison	215
2001	Corison	180
2002	Corison	166
2005	Robert Craig, Affinity	98
1989	Dalla Valle	295
2005	Darioush	188
1996	David Arthur	325
2005	David Arthur	208
1984	Diamond Creek , <i>Lake Vineyard</i> , Diamond Mountain	895
1984	Diamond Creek , <i>Volcanic Hill</i> , Diamond Mountain	415
1985	Diamond Creek , <i>Volcanic Hill</i> , Diamond Mountain	425
1986	Diamond Creek , <i>Volcanic Hill</i> , Diamond Mountain	415
1987	Diamond Creek , <i>Volcanic Hill</i> , Diamond Mountain	425
1991	Diamond Creek , <i>Volcanic Hill</i> , Diamond Mountain	375
1992	Diamond Creek , <i>Volcanic Hill</i> , Diamond Mountain	375
1994	Diamond Creek , <i>Volcanic Hill</i> , Diamond Mountain	425
1995	Diamond Creek , <i>Volcanic Hill</i> , Diamond Mountain	375
1996	Diamond Creek , <i>Volcanic Hill</i> , Diamond Mountain	365
1993	Diamond Creek , <i>Gravelly Meadow</i> , Diamond Mountain	345
1995	Diamond Creek , <i>Gravelly Meadow</i> , Diamond Mountain	395
1998	Diamond Creek , <i>Gravelly Meadow</i> , Diamond Mountain	285
1999	Diamond Creek , <i>Gravelly Meadow</i> , Diamond Mountain	305
1992	Diamond Creek , <i>Red Rock Terrace</i> , Diamond Mountain	375
1999	Diamond Creek , <i>Red Rock Terrace</i> , Diamond Mountain	335

Cathy **Corison** produces balanced Cabernet Sauvignon from some of the best vineyards in Napa. The wines age beautifully and have the requisite acidity to go the long haul.

The acid also provides the rare refreshment that Napa Cabernet so often lacks.

When asked about the elegance of her wines she responded with the tongue -in-cheek comment that she doesn't make Vegas Showgirls.

We were lucky enough to get some library selections of top vintages directly from the winery.

Diamond Creek was founded by Al Brounstein in 1968 as the first producer of Estate Cabernet in the Napa Valley. The style here has always been big, chewy and structured. The wines have a purity of fruit that defines Diamond Mountain. Lake and Gravelly are the two cooler sites, while Volcanic and Red Rock are the 2 warmer sites. I've opened up several of these wines since we have brought them in and they represent some of the best values in aged Cabernet that I currently have on the list.

CALIFORNIA CABERNET SAUVIGNON

NAPA VALLEY

1996	Dunn, Howell Mountain	335
1997	Dunn, Howell Mountain	345
1998	Dunn, Howell Mountain	245
1992	Dunn	295
1993	Dunn	255
1999	Dunn	195
1994	Etude	345
2001	Etude	245
2002	Etude	225
2004	Etude	172
1994	Far Niente, Oakville	365
2005	Far Niente, Oakville	245
1995	Groth, Oakville	225
1997	Groth, Oakville	225
2005	Groth, Oakville	138
2002	Grace Family Vineyard	795
2002	Harlan Estate	1695
1973	Heitz, <i>Martha's Vineyard</i>	695
1974	Heitz, <i>Martha's Vineyard</i>	1995
1977	Heitz, <i>Martha's Vineyard</i>	525
1983	Heitz, <i>Martha's Vineyard</i>	495
1985	Heitz, <i>Martha's Vineyard</i>	895
1997	Heitz, <i>Martha's Vineyard</i>	595
2005	Honig	78
2001	La Jota, Estate, Howell Mountain	124
2006	Lewis Cellars	178
1998	Lokoya, Mount Veeder	295
2005	Mount Veeder Winery	78
2003	Robert Mondavi, <i>Reserve</i>	275
2005	Nickel & Nickel, <i>Rock Cairn</i> , Oakville	194
2005	Nickel & Nickel, <i>Vogt Vineyard</i> , Howell Mountain	194
1994	Paradigm, Oakville	325
2004	Paradigm, Oakville	138
2005	Plumpjack, Oakville	168
2001	Phelan Vineyard	112

Tony Sotor was the original winemaker at Spottswoode in Napa Valley. After gaining a name for himself by producing one of Napa's most sought after Cabernets he opened up **Etude**. Today Jon Priest is making the wine at Etude, after having spent many years under Tony's wing. The 2004 Cabernet is a fantastic wine, luscious blackcurrant fruit with accents of sage, graphite, and rich oak. Imagine what they can do with a stellar vintage like 1994.

Like the cars he used to race, **Randy Lewis** produces Cabernet that is bold, strong and in your face. The words delicate and feminine are not adjectives used to describe the Lewis Wines. When a guest asks me for a big Cab, this is one of the first wines that comes to mind. So if you're looking for a massive wine to go with your 2 lb. bone-in ribeye look no further.

I was once invited to an exclusive tasting in Oakville where some of the infamous cult wines were served. One winery stood out to me as the best of the tasting, even though it was tasted alongside the likes of Screaming Eagle and Harlan. It was the 1997 **Paradigm** Cabernet. An amazing example of balance that Napa Cabernet has been getting away from for years, in favor of extraction. It doesn't hurt that their winemaker is Heidi Peterson Barrett, the previous winemaker for Screaming Eagle.

CALIFORNIA CABERNET SAUVIGNON

NAPA VALLEY

2001	Screaming Eagle	3495
2002	Screaming Eagle	3295
1985	Silver Oak	395
1992	Silver Oak	365
1993	Silver Oak	345
1995	Silver Oak	355
1996	Silver Oak	345
1998	Silver Oak	295
1996	Shafer, Hillside Select , Stag's Leap District	795
1997	Shafer, Hillside Select , Stag's Leap District	1095
1998	Shafer, Hillside Select , Stag's Leap District	695
2002	Shafer, Hillside Select , Stag's Leap District	895
1974	Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, <i>Cask #23</i> , Stag's Leap District	1195
1979	Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, <i>Cask #23</i> , Stag's Leap District	595
1984	Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, <i>Cask #23</i> , Stag's Leap District	525
1990	Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, <i>Cask #23</i> , Stag's Leap District	495
1991	Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, <i>Cask #23</i> , Stag's Leap District	495
1992	Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, <i>Cask #23</i> , Stag's Leap District	495
1994	Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, <i>Cask #23</i> , Stag's Leap District	525
1997	Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, <i>Cask #23</i> , Stag's Leap District	495
1984	Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, <i>SLV</i> , Stag's Leap District	355
1985	Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, <i>SLV</i> , Stag's Leap District	385
1986	Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, <i>SLV</i> , Stag's Leap District	375
1991	Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, <i>Fay</i> , Stag's Leap District	275
1997	Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, <i>Fay</i> , Stag's Leap District	295
1998	Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, <i>Fay</i> , Stag's Leap District	225
1985	Spotteswoode	315
1988	Spotteswoode	195
1991	Spotteswoode	275

Doug **Shafer** created the **Hillside Select** from a vineyard at the base of an amphitheater of volcanic rock in the Stags Leap District. The soil often goes no deeper than 18 inches causing the vines to struggle for nutrients and water. The grapes from the vineyard are small and concentrated in flavor, producing an extremely rich, full bodied wine. Probably no other Stags Leap District Cabernet has achieved the Cult status of The Hillside Select, but they did it on quality and not on rarity.

CALIFORNIA CABERNET SAUVIGNON

SONOMA COUNTY-ALEXANDER VALLEY

2004	Jordan	118
1985	Silver Oak	295
1989	Silver Oak	275
1990	Silver Oak	295
1992	Silver Oak	295
1993	Silver Oak	275
1994	Silver Oak	325
1995	Silver Oak	315
1997	Silver Oak	315
1999	Silver Oak	235
2002	Silver Oak	225
2004	Silver Oak	154
1997	Simi, <i>Reserve</i>	235
2005	Stuhlmuller	82

SONOMA COUNTY

2005	Audelessa, Sonoma Mountain	80
2004	Arrowood	94
2004	Laurel Glen, Estate, Sonoma Mountain	122
2004	Laurel Glen, Counterpoint, Sonoma Mountain	74
1994	Chateau St. Jean, <i>Cinq Cepages</i>	275
1996	Chateau St. Jean, <i>Cinq Cepages</i>	325
1997	Chateau St. Jean, <i>Cinq Cepages</i>	325
2002	Chateau St. Jean, <i>Cinq Cepages</i>	178
2005	Chateau St. Jean, <i>Cinq Cepages</i>	128

CALIFORNIA AND WASHINGTON CABERNET

SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

2002	Kathryn Kennedy, <i>Estate</i>	275
2005	Kathryn Kennedy, <i>Small Lot</i>	108
1994	Ridge, <i>Montebello</i>	495
2003	Soquel Vineyards	58
1999	Three Dog Vineyards	162

Kathryn Kennedy was founded in 1973. The 8 acre vineyard, just off Pierce road in Saratoga, was planted by Kathryn herself and is now managed by her youngest son and winemaker, Marty Mathis. It is truly an unusual property because there are almost no Cabernet vineyards in California that are planted to their own rootstocks. A richly fruited Cabernet from the second it hits your mouth all the way through to the finish. The scarce production and extremely high quality make this wine truly sought after by collectors, with most of the wine being sold through the winery's mailing list.

CALIFORNIA-OTHER REGIONS

2005	75 Wine Company, <i>Beckstoffer Amber Knolls Vineyard</i> , Lake County	48
2006	Justin, Paso Robles	68
2005	The Girls in the Vineyard, Red Hills-Lake County	45
2004	Rosati Family Winery, Mendocino County	68

WASHINGTON

1992	Leonetti Cellars, <i>Columbia Valley</i>	275
1995	Leonetti Cellars, <i>Columbia Valley</i>	275
1996	Leonetti Cellars, <i>American Appellation</i>	245
1997	Leonetti Cellars, <i>Columbia Valley</i>	255
2005	Leonetti Cellars, <i>Columbia Valley</i>	205

Gary Figgins of **Leonetti Cellars** started the cult cabernet phenomenon in Washington State. His wines always win high praise from critics and tend to be incredibly difficult to get. If you call the winery there is only an answering machine with Gary sounding like an old Italian man saying 'Sorry, I have no wine to sell and there is no waiting list'.

I've left him several messages reminding him I used to sell his wine and have been to the winery, usually he calls me back in a week or two. What makes his wines so interesting is how he handles oak treatment. The wines see extended barrel treatment through several different kinds of oak. The time I visited, he had oak from several forests in France, Oregon, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Canada and Slovenia. The effect on the wine is a complex layered aroma and flavor profile that tends to come out of the wine as it airs. Most people comment that they have never seen a wine change more over the course of an hour in the glass. The wines tend to be rich in fruit with incredible length but are supple and silky textured.

DOMESTIC BORDEAUX BLENDS AND MERITAGE

CALIFORNIA-NAPA VALLEY

2002	Blair Estate	108
2001	Bond, <i>Melbury</i>	795
2003	Bond, <i>Melbury</i>	595
2000	Bond, <i>Vecina</i>	525
2001	Bond, <i>Vecina</i>	795
2003	Bond, <i>Vecina</i>	595
2001	Bond, <i>St. Eden</i>	795
2005	David Arthur, <i>Meritaggio</i>	158
1994	Dominus Estate	595
2005	Dominus Estate	345
2004	Duckhorn, <i>Red Table Wine</i> , Howell Mountain	164
1996	Flora Springs, <i>Trilogy</i>	245
1995	Joseph Phelps, <i>Insignia</i>	495
1996	Joseph Phelps, <i>Insignia</i>	375
2005	Joseph Phelps, <i>Insignia</i>	425
2005	Opus One, Napa Valley, California	365
1997	Peter Michael, <i>Les Pavots</i> , Knights Valley	595
1998	Peter Michael, <i>Les Pavots</i> , Knights Valley	335
2005	Peter Michael, <i>Les Pavots</i> , Knights Valley	375
2005	Peter Michael, <i>L'Esprit des Pavots</i> , Knights Valley	235
1997	Spring Mountain Vineyard, <i>Reserve</i>	265
1994	Viader	325
1995	Viader	295
1998	Viader	275
1999	Viader	275
2001	Viader	265
2002	Vinoce	108

The staff knows my opinion of many big California reds, over-oaked and way too alcoholic. However the 2005 **Dominus** is the finest Cabernet based wine from Napa I have had in the last 10 years. This is a superbly concentrated wine that is balanced, elegant and extremely long on the palate. The wine is loaded with pervasive cassis, blackberry, sage, bay leaf, chocolate and tobacco leaf. The wine is a monumental achievement for Napa and has the character to stand up against many of the first growths of Bordeaux in the 2005 vintage.

CALIFORNIA-OTHER REGIONS

1994	Justin, <i>Isosceles</i> , Paso Robles	335
1997	Justin, <i>Isosceles</i> , Paso Robles	355
2005	Ridge, <i>Estate</i> , Santa Cruz Mountains	96

WASHINGTON

2004	Leonetti Cellars, <i>Reserve</i> , Walla Walla Valley	285
------	---	-----

RIGHT BANK BORDEAUX - FRANCE

ST. EMILION

2000	Château L' Angelus	595
1986	Château L' Arrosee	295
1985	Château L' Arrosee	365
1998	Château Beausejour	225
1999	Château Cheval Blanc	525
2001	Château Clos De L' Oratoire	116
2001	Château Faugetes	92
2001	Château Ferrand-Lartigue	98
1985	Château Figeac	395
1999	Château Grandes Murailles	114
2000	Château Laroque	78
2000	Château L' Hermitage	188
2000	Château Lynsolence	152
2002	Château Magdelaine	138
2005	Château Monbousquet	225
2001	Château Pavie-Macquin	158

The vintage in Bordeaux in 1999 did not 'WOW' too many of the critics. It was overshadowed by the fine 1998 vintage from the Right Bank and Graves, and of course, the phenomenal 2000 vintage. What makes this all the more perplexing is that in comparative tastings currently being held between various 1999's and 2000's, the 1999's are showing much better. Why is this the case? Well most likely the 2000's are what the French consider a 'Vin de Garde', or meant for aging while the 1999's can be enjoyed now. This delicious Bordeaux vintage is now drinking very well with a little decanting. They are frequently half the price of their 2000 versions.

Chateau Lynsolence is a bit of an anomaly, a new winery in one of the oldest wine regions in the world. The property rests near Monbousquet and Valandraud and is planted to the same sand/gravel soil. The cepage is 100% Merlot and sees a good percentage of new oak. The result is a rich full bodied wine that trounces most Merlot. There are elements of cherry and red plums with a dense earthy note and a sheath of toasty oak. The tannin levels will surprise you as you may feel you're drinking a Cabernet based wine. The 2000 vintage is one of the best of the last 20 years.

ST. EMILION SATELLITES

2005	Château Puynormand, <i>Vieille Vignes</i> Montagne-St.-Emilion	64
------	---	----

RIGHT BANK BORDEAUX - FRANCE

POMEROL

2001	Château Beau-Soleil	88
1998	Château Clinet	265
1999	Château Clinet	198
1995	Château L'Église-Clinet	595

Château Clinet is considered by many wine lovers to be one of the top Chateaux in the small commune of Pomerol. Based on a higher percentage of Merlot than neighboring St. Emilion, it's wines run the gamut from dense and structured to open-knit and lusciously fruited. Clinet's Style falls somewhere in the middle with enough ripe black plum, black cherry, black olive, dried herbs and cedar laden oak to round out the medium to high tannin. The 1998 is the more concentrated of our two vintages and requires about 30 minutes to open up in a decanter. The 1999 is a fabulous wine that offers all the Pomerol thrills in a wine that drinks well now.

SOUTH WEST FRANCE

2005	Domaine Berthoumieu, <i>Charles de Batz</i> , Madiran	54
2005	Domaine Laffont, <i>Cuvée Érigone</i> , Madiran	48
2003	Chateau Coustarelle, Grand Cuvée Prestige, Cahors	36

Madiran is deep in the Gascogne countryside. The grape is Tannat, widely known as the most tannic grape variety available. These wines are monsters; they have the weight and texture that would make most wines from Bordeaux truly envious. **Domaine Berthoumieu** has named its top cuvée after Gascony's most famous resident, **Charles de Batz**, whose given name was D'Artagnan. The wine is powerful with deep black fruit character and a smoky, rich palate feel. If you're looking for a big wine without a big price, this wine fits the bill nicely.

LEFT BANK BORDEAUX - FRANCE

ST. ESTEPHE

1966	Château Cos D' Estournel	525
1994	Château Cos D' Estournel	325
1986	Château Meyney	195
1986	Château Montrose	450
2005	Château Petit-Bocq	78

PAUILLAC

1986	Château Clerc-Milon	295
1996	Château Duhart-Milon Rothschild	225
1982	Château Haut-Batailley	365
1989	Les Forts de Latour	325
1993	Château Lafite-Rothschild	1195
1996	Château Lafite-Rothschild	1595
1998	Château Lafite-Rothschild	1095
1999	Château Lafite-Rothschild	895
2003	Château Lafite-Rothschild	995
1981	Château Latour	695
1983	Château Latour	1195
1986	Château Latour	1095
1989	Château Latour	1025
1996	Château Latour	1495
1985	Château Lynch-Bages	595
1989	Château Lynch-Bages	545
1999	Château Lynch-Bages	265
1981	Château Mouton Rothschild	695
1986	Château Mouton Rothschild	1695
1987	Château Mouton Rothschild	595
1989	Château Mouton Rothschild	895
1990	Château Mouton Rothschild	795
1995	Château Mouton Rothschild	895
1996	Château Mouton Rothschild	995
2001	Château Mouton Rothschild	495
1990	Château Pichon-Longueville-Baron	525
1989	Château Pichon-Longueville-Comtesse de Lalande	525
1995	Château Pichon-Longueville-Comtesse de Lalande	495

Bordeaux in the '90's started off with a bang, fell to a whimper and then fought its' way back. 1990 was one of the best balanced vintages for such a large crop and produced many classic wines. 1991 and 1992 were pretty much panned by the press, but today many of the wines provide nice drinking. 1993 was a high acid vintage and the wines have aged at a snail's pace (at a recent blind tasting I thought the wines were 3-5 years old); 1994 oddly enough produced wines similar to 1984 with a Cabernet Sauvignon dominate character. 1995 was again an extremely good year across the board, producing balanced yet long lived wines. While 1996 created great massive Cabernet based wines; the 1997 wines were light and expensive on release but the communes of St. Julien and Margaux produced many terrific wines that are now incredible deals. 1998 was great on the right bank and good on the left bank with Pomerol producing even better wine than in 2000. 1999 made medium-bodied classic claret that are some of the best values on the market. Then came 2000 which Robert Parker has said may be the best vintage ever, but will need to age.

LEFT BANK BORDEAUX - FRANCE

ST. JULIEN

1970	Château Beychevelle	475
1986	Château Beychevelle	395
1995	Château Ducru-Beaucaillou	595
2004	Château Ducru-Beaucaillou	225
1982	Château Gloria	215
1995	Château Gruaud-Larose	178
1990	Château Leoville-Barton	465
1996	Château Leoville-Barton	325
1999	Château Leoville-Barton	195
1988	Château Leoville-Las-Cases	375
1989	Château Leoville-Las-Cases	425
1996	Château Leoville-Las-Cases	595
2000	Château Leoville-Las-Cases	895
1982	Château Talbot	425

In blind tastings of first and second growth Bordeaux Chateaux, **Leoville-Barton** continually comes in at or near the top. Established in 1826 from a parcel of the larger Leoville estate, currently there are three; Las Cases, Barton and Poyferre. In the late 1980's and early 1990's Anthony Barton propelled this Chateau to what many consider first growth status. Always with great structure and weight the wine offers up intense levels of dense cassis fruit with underlying grilled bread, tobacco, violet and cedar notes. One of the most collectable and sought after wines in the yearly futures offering because of Anthony Barton's desire to offer a great wine at a reasonable price.

MARGAUX

2003	Château D' Issan	122
1994	Château Malescot St.-Exupéry	138
1979	Château Margaux	795
1981	Château Margaux	695
1983	Château Margaux	1395
1989	Château Margaux	995
1990	Château Margaux	2295
1994	Château Margaux	695
1995	Château Margaux	995
1996	Château Margaux	1295
1998	Château Margaux	595
1999	Château Margaux	595
2000	Château Margaux	1495
2001	Château Palmer	325
NV	Historical Red Blend, Château Palmer-see side bar	395

Before the turn of the last century, it was common practice for most Bordeaux Chateaux to blend a little Langeudoc or Rhone Syrah into their wines to give them more color and richer fruit. With the enactment of the AOC laws this type of cross regional blending was outlawed and vigneronns were forced to use only the approved grapes for their respective regions. Chateau Palmer in Margaux wanted to re-create this type of wine and chose one of the top vintages, 2005, as the base for the first wine. Thomas Duroux, the current CEO, told me that he felt the wines of late 1800's were some of the most impressive older Bordeaux he had ever tasted. The addition of Rhone Syrah softens the wine just enough to make it drinkable while young, but the structure is there for a long life. Less than 200 cases were made of this truly amazing wine.

LEFT BANK BORDEAUX AND GRAVES - FRANCE

PESSAC-LEOGNAN

2000	Château De Fieuzal	158
1985	Château Haut-Bailly	225
2001	Château Haut-Bailly	128
1983	Château Haut-Brion	795
1988	Château Haut-Brion	695
1994	Château Haut-Brion	525
1996	Château Haut-Brion	895
2001	Château Malartic Lagraviere	112
1982	Château La Mission Haut-Brion	1795
1989	Château La Mission Haut-Brion	2195
1995	Château La Mission Haut-Brion	595
1999	Château La Mission Haut-Brion	295

HAUT-MEDOC

1982	Château Chasse-Spleen, Moulis	325
2000	Château Fourcas-Dupre, Listrac	75

Bordeaux in the 1980's produced a string of successive vintages unprecedented in Bordeaux history. The 1950's came close, but as winemaking technology improved, even a mediocre vintage was far better than what you would have seen 20 or 30 years earlier. Today many top Bordeaux Chateaux see no reason to let a difficult vintage give them a bad finished wine. 1980 probably marked the last time light, thin wines were made across the board. 1981 gave classic Bordeaux, and 1982 is considered one of the top 10 vintages of the century. 1983 was extremely good, great in Margaux but overshadowed by the '82 vintage. 1984 was a structured Cabernet dominated vintage, 1985 was excellent throughout many communes, and 1986 gave structured long lived wines. 1987 a bit lighter but still tasty, 1988 great in the top Chateaux, and 1989 another landmark ageable vintage.

SAUTERNES, JURANÇON AND MONBAZILLAC		BOTTLE	GLASS
1997	Château De Fargues, Sauternes, Bordeaux, France 750ml	380	38
1983	Château Gilette, <i>Crème de Tête</i> , Sauternes, Bordeaux, France 375ml	265	--
2005	Château Doisy-Vedrines, Sauternes, Bordeaux, France 750ml	150	15
1999	Château d'Yquem, Sauternes, Bordeaux, France 750ml	--	75
2002	Clos Lapeyre, Jurançon , <i>La Magendia</i> , France 375ml	60	12
2004	Clos Lapeyre, Jurançon , Moelleux, France 750ml	80	8
2003	Château Le Thibault, Monbazillac, France 750ml	100	10

OTHER DESSERT WINES		BOTTLE	GLASS
2002	Weingut Grans-Fassian, Riesling, Eiswein, Leiwener Klostergarten, Germany 375ml	170	34
2000	Weingut Reinhard und Beate Knebel, Riesling, Beerenauslese, Winninger Röttgen, Mosel-Saar-Ruwer, Germany 375ml	190	38
2004	Inniskillin, Vidal, Ice Wine, Niagara Peninsula, Canada, 375ml	140	28
1999	Patjos, Tokaji-Aszú, <i>5 Puttonyos</i> , Hungary, 500ml	165	22
2000	Dobogó, Tokaji-Aszú, <i>6 Puttonyos</i> , Hungary, 500ml	260	35
2006	Domaine Bouletin, Muscat Beaumes-des-Venise, Rhone Valley, France, 375ml	50	10
2000	Piazzano, Vin Santo, Tuscany, Italy, 375ml	75	15
2003	Les Clos de Paulilles, Banyuls Rimage, Banyuls, France	88	12

'LAST CIGARETTE'

--A PLACE FOR OUR LAST BOTTLE OF A SPECIAL CELLAR WINE, OLDER WINE, ALLOCATED WINE, HARD TO FIND WINE, RARE WINE AND POSSIBLY ONE OF OUR FAVORITE WINES. WE DON'T KNOW IF WE'LL EVER BE ABLE TO GET OUR HANDS ON ANOTHER BOTTLE, BUT WE KEEP LOOKING.

Pinot Noir	2006	Patricia Green, Anden, Willamette Valley, Oregon	84
Pinot Noir	2005	Marimar Estate, <i>Dona Margarita</i> , Russian River Valley, California	102
Pinot Noir	2001	Calera, Mills Vineyard, Mt. Harlan, California	128
Pinot Noir	2005	Bonaccorsi, <i>Sanford & Benedict Vineyard</i> , Sta. Rita Hills, California	138
Tempranillo	2002	Ramirez di Ganuza, Rioja, Spain	146
Bordeaux	2000	Clos des Prince, St.-Emilion, France	94

'BIN ENDS'

--THE PRACTICE OF AUCTION HOUSES IN THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AND ABROAD TO SELL AT A DISCOUNT THE LAST FEW ITEMS REMAINING IN INVENTORY, THEREBY FREEING UP A 'BIN' FOR NEW INCOMING ITEMS. MANY OF THESE WINES ARE DOWN TO THE LAST BOTTLE OR TWO, SO THE WINE MAY BE SOLD PRIOR TO OUR ABILITY TO RE-PRINT THIS PAGE.

Pinot Noir	2003	Calera, Selleck, Mt. Harlan, San Benito, California	128
Pinot Noir	2004	Stephen Ross, <i>Stone Corral Vineyard</i> , Edna Valley, California	80