



**GRAND
VIN
WINE MERCHANTS**

BORDEAUX EN PRIMEUR 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Grand Vin Wine Merchants
1003 4th Avenue East · Olympia, WA 98506

phone: +01.360.350.4896
web: grandvinwinemERCHANTS.com
email: contactus@grandvinwinemERCHANTS.com



Grand Vin Wine Merchants: Our Commitment to You

Grand Vin Wine Merchants is a small team of dedicated wine professionals whose collective experience spans more than 25 years. Our expertise is the foundation upon which GVWM has built its international relationships for sourcing and shipping the world's finest wines. While our name suggests that we specialize in wines from the Bordeaux region of France, we are equally passionate about sourcing "Grand Vin" from top producers all over the world.

We are dedicated to absolute client satisfaction—and we deliver this through competency, endeavor and loyalty. Our passion and commitment regarding our wines' provenance is unequalled (many of our wines are "Ex-Château" and "Ex-Cellar"), and through competitive pricing we excel in guiding your selections, no matter how obscure, from our worldwide suppliers to your table. In addition, all wines are shipped in climate-controlled containers directly to our storage facility, thereby ensuring that they remain in perfect condition throughout transit and while in storage.

Our friendly and knowledgeable staff strive to make purchasing wine enjoyable and educational. We invite you to experience our unique, client-centered approach to wine and we look forward to building our relationship with you today.



Santé!

The Grand Vin Wine Merchants Team



2011 Bordeaux: An Introduction

Most of us remember a number of good vintages that had the misfortune of following some truly great vintages. Overlooked, often underrated, the wines from years such as 2001, 1983, and 2006 were destined to be prized by only the most discerning and frugal palates.

But what happens when a good vintage follows a great vintage and maybe an even greater vintage just before that? One thing is usually certain. There will be a lot of unsold wine in the pipeline due to consumers who may be experiencing a kind of "futures-fatigue."

Fortunately, prices have dropped significantly from the levels we've seen for the 2009 and 2010 vintages – even as much as 50% on many wines. And good (but not great) vintages in Bordeaux should offer plenty of superb clarets designed for near term enjoyment. Reflecting back on our en primeur tastings in April of this year, we certainly found this to be the case. Having tasted so many wines (as often as possible the same wine 3-4 times), we worked hard at gaining a clear and level-headed perspective on the vintage.

Aside from the fact that the dry whites and Sauternes performed exceptionally well, the reds were not quite as lucky. With these, there is often much variation in less-than-perfect years, and the 2011's are no exception. Many are fresh and lively, others brooding and serious, while some are just plain over-extracted and lacking in purity. We devoted a lot of our attention to those reds that did not try to do more than what Mother Nature gave them in 2011. The best wines are elegant, expressive and balanced, and we feel our primeur offerings are the result of this careful selection.

Of course, we recognize that the real value of the 2011's depends heavily on price, and for this reason, we are absolutely committed to offering the most competitive pricing available.

Following are tasting notes from our Master of Wine Sarah Abbott's visit to the Union des Grand Crus this past March. We invite you to review them as an introduction to our wide selection of 2011 Bordeaux Futures available now on our website.



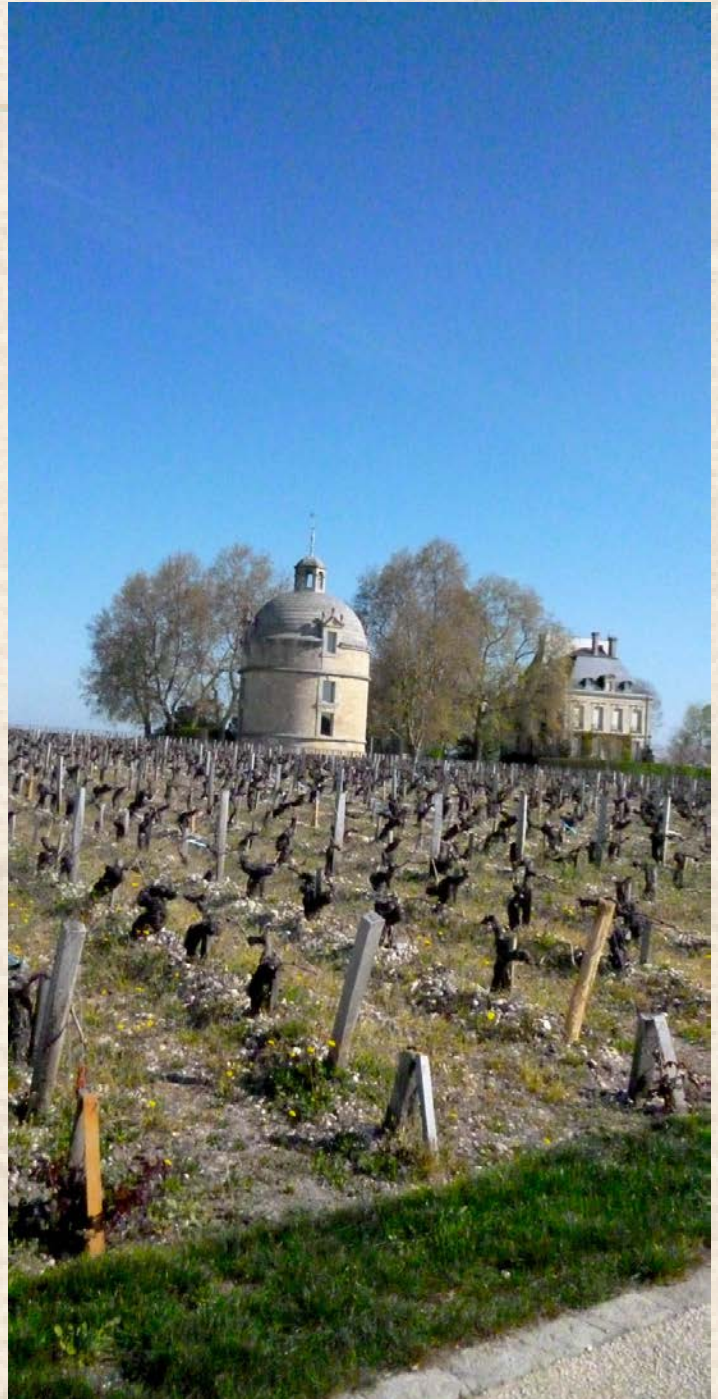
Vintage Conditions in Detail

It may be a love for the underdog, but this is a vintage in which I have a great deal of interest. 2011 follows the great duo of 2009 and 2010. After the relative ease of the two preceding years, vines were in for a rather traumatic ride. Many producers described 2011 to us as 'topsy turvy'. A hot, parched spring was more like summer. Summer herself was cool and wet – more like spring, in fact. There was hail. There was sudden and intense sunburn. Then there was an Indian Summer, and all was forgiven.

The devil and delight of every Bordeaux vintage is in the detail. Bordeaux's celebrated nuance rests on a marginal climate in which vines live on a healthy knife edge.

The wines in this report are those that stood out, for us, for capturing the delights of this vintage – supple tannins, nuanced fruit, minerality – and avoided its devilish dangers. We commend them to you.

Sarah Abbott MW





2011 Tasting Notes

Saint-Estèphe

Cos D'Estournel Second Growth. Saturated colour. Very restrained aromatics. Brooding. Confidently extracted. Firm but fine grained, but still elegant. Very nuanced. Cherry stone. Interesting, complex. Exotic but nervy. Lovely.

Capbern Gasqueton Cru Bourgeois. Light, lifted, fresh. Aromatic and rather graceful. Actually, very long and inky fruit on the finish. Gosh, this is lovely, in fact. A star—really refined. Great success.

Lafon Rochet Fourth Growth. Broader aromatics, but still a nice lift. Hale and hearty. Solid mid palate. Tannins grippy, but fruit is sweet and juicy enough to balance them.

Les Ormes de Pez Cru Bourgeois Intense, expressive and almost floral aromatics. Full and emphatic on mid palate. Pretty full and sturdy. But plenty of fruit to balance the tannins. Finishes really quite succulent and juicy. Very attractive black fruit on the finish. Nicely balanced sweet new oak.

Montrose Second Growth. Bright, lifted, nuanced fruit. Assertive tannins and quite a driving attack. Dense and structured. Good length and intensity. Very tightly packed. Will actually be a long-term prospect. Very good for the vintage.



2011 Tasting Notes

Pauillac

Batailley Fifth Growth. Open, expressive black fruit. Pure and poised. Fine tannin coated in bright fruit. Succulent, long and refreshing. Good understated structure.

Clerc Milon Fifth Growth. Attractive and harmonised aromatics. Dark chocolate and red cherry. Plump tannic bite. Broad, sweeping pace. Good depth and finish.

D'Armailhac Fifth Growth. Round, spicy, but still fresh. Actually rather elegant fruit, and nicely defined tannin. Good concentration and mid palate intensity. Nice tannic texture—just enough, and nicely juicy. Long, supple, lively finish. Really rather good.

Duhart-Milon Fourth Growth. Sturdier and more earthbound aromatics. Deeper and darker. Pepper, not spice. Red plum. Interesting tension between red and darker fruits. Freshness on the mid palate and finish. Nicely long.

Grand Puy Lacoste Fifth Growth. A lovely, leaping nose. Vibrant and exciting. Has a lovely rhythm. Grip of tannin after a scented fruit attack. But then sweeps away to a fine, tannic mesh. Long, pure, and scented. Black, pristine fruit. Refined, lithe, just resistant. Cherry stone and savoury finish. No push over, but delightful.

Haut Bages Libéral Fifth Growth. Fragrant and appealing. Very pristine black fruit. Finely grained and pacy tannin. Long, mineral, finely grippy. Elegant and pristine withal.

Haut Batailley Fifth Growth. This also has that bright, pristine, clear voiced fruit of good 2011s. Supple but finely grainy. Not massive, but lovely balance. Supple, refreshing style. Long and understated.

Lacoste Borie Fresh, enticing and already quite together. Joyful, intense. Graceful. Moderate weight but intense scent. Clean and pure. Truly lovely quality to the fruit. Savoury, mineral, pacy and refreshing.



2011 Tasting Notes

Pauillac

Lafite Rothschild First Growth. Creamy and spreading aromatics. Very firm mesh of fine tannins. Lively, red, upbeat fruit on the palate. Tannins resolve on the finish. Fruit settles back over, like a fine blanket. Lovely scented length of fruit on the finish here. Not a blockbuster, but lovely balance and excellent intensity.

Latour First Growth. Tight and impenetrable on the nose—gated by oak. Striking fruit intensity and tightly grainy tannin on the attack. Lovely balance, no warmth or hotness. No edges either. Masses of genuine fruit intensity on the mid palate. Contained richness. But it's the length that really tells. Incredibly long, and beautifully, but uncompromisingly textured.

Mouton Rothschild First Growth. Strikingly aromatic, lifted and fresh. More nuance than the 2010 at the same stage. Svelte, velvety, intense persistence. Modulated and graceful. Serious but also charming, long and aromatically intense. Up there with the very best in this vintage.

Pichon Baron Second Growth. Restrained, precise and introverted aromatics. A lovely mouth staining fruit. Pacy and toned. Quite balletic. Lovely tannic grace. Not the controlled power of Latour, nor the extract, but wonderfully persistent. A juicy middle core. Succulent tannins though to the finish. Scented.

Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande (Pichon Lalande) Second Growth. Dark, sleek but lifted. Focused. Very fine tannins. Pristine fruit. Long, elegant and stony.

Pontet Canet Fifth Growth. Arresting and nuanced aromatics. Mocha, plum and sweet spice. But not hot or jammy. Almost floral. Good journey across the palate. Dense but articulated tannin. Toned and quite pacy. Firm but flowing tannin. Lovely surge back of pristine fruit on the finish. Nice tension between red and black fruit character. Finish really carried by fruit soaked tannin. Very interesting tannins—clever extraction, because it's not at all dry, but it is very firm. 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot.



2011 Tasting Notes

Saint-Julien

Branair Ducru Fourth Growth. Precise but sweet aromas of cherry stone. Good density of cool dark fruit and fine, but firm tannins. Refined but steering, gently authoritative tannin. Supple, lithe, long. Really like this. Lovely persistence.

Croix de Beaucaillou Second wine of Ducru Beaucaillou. Enticing aromatic style. Tannins firm, fine but succulent. Fruit whirls back round onto the finish. Glossy, plump, and very impressive for the vintage.

Ducru Beaucaillou Second Growth. Heady and rich. Plump and pillowy, but with grown up grip and resistance on finish. Less fresh and perky than some. A lower, seductive register. Very glamorous, and with good concentration for the vintage.

Gloria Smoothly solid. A juicy, freshly sweet fruit core. Warm but balanced. Will deliver delicious mid term drinking.

Lalande Borie Very attractive and appealing nose. Already very harmonised. Suave. Confident and accomplished winemaking here. Direct and succulent palate with rather seductive tannin.

Langoa Barton Third Growth. Charming, expressive, cherry scented nose. Fresh and supple. Sweet fruit dances through. Fine tannins. No pinch. Just very, very seamless and comfortable. At ease. Lovely, genuine balance.

Léoville Barton Second Growth. Alluring nose. Red cherry and fresh red fruit. Seamless onto the palate. No blockbuster but good balance. Nicely nuanced. Pristine, measured and contained. Finely dry. Scented, sneaky length. Sinuous.

Léoville Las Cases Second Growth. And this has great richness on the nose. Clear, stony cherry. Almost bloody. Coiled and concentrated, but almost ascetic. Very long, but very introverted. Just when you think finish is done, that fruit comes back in.



2011 Tasting Notes

Saint-Julien

Léoville Poyferré Second Growth. Intense and powerful nose, carried through onto the mid palate. Really quite a statement. Bursts onto the palate, then pulls itself up and drives through. Very determined and precise to the finish. Lovely balance. Acidity and alcohol unobtrusive. Good lift throughout. Really quite serious. Gravitas and energy here.

Moulin Riche More precision and focus on the nose. Quite straight, but with generous, gracious fruit. Good, expressive length. Black cherry and cherry stone fruit on the finish.

Saint-Pierre Fourth Growth Deeply fruity on the nose. Direct, focused, very pure. Nice balance. Harmony. Delicious and characterful.

Sarget De Gruaud Larose Second wine of Château Gruaud Larose. Aromatic, with very alluring fruit. Graceful, scented, unadorned. Good length. Very nicely balanced and assured.

Talbot Fourth Growth. More austerity here. Savoury fruit. But it's not light. Just less sweet. Quite supple tannin. Pure fruit. And actually rather good length.





2011 Tasting Notes

Margaux

Durfort-Vivens Second Growth. Sweet, forward, supple. Lovely purity of fruit. Good flesh, but toned. Balance and attractive sweetness. Nice Margaux—well done.

Du Tertre Fifth Growth. A firmer character. Disciplined. But has the fruit to balance structure. Good rich core. Black cherries on long finish.

Giscours Third Growth. A good, fruity strike. Good core of black fruit from which tannins pick up from. Mineral balance and length. A notable success for the appellation.

Labégorce Expressive and softly spicy. Proper gumption. Just enough grip, but succulent fruit on finish. Good juicy length.

Margaux First Growth. Delicate but nuanced on the nose. Opens sleek and quite loose knit, but gathers itself together for a tapered tannic drive. Good balance and a lovely, fragrant fruit. It's lovely, lithe, supple and fragrant. But perhaps a bit less intense than usual. Margaux is usually light years ahead of anything else in the appellation. This year, the distance seems a little less.

Palmer Third Growth. Vibrant aromatics, but with a darker register. Initial grip, then an open weave, lacy, aromatically driven character. Long, savoury, high toned. Almost a bit ethereal. Lovely balance. Stony. Courteously insistent. Great balance here.

Prieuré-Lichine Fourth Growth. Good depth and freshness. Supple and finely resistant. Pure fruit re-emerges on the finish. Rather good.

Rauzan Ségla Second Growth. Interesting to taste this after Palmer and Margaux. This is really exotic and come hither on the nose. Much more floral and less mineral than Palmer. More expressive and open than Margaux. Assertive but fine tannic grip from the outset. Lovely fruit. Long, tight, finish. Elegant, but no push over.



2011 Tasting Notes

Pessac Léognan

La Chapelle de la Mission Haut-Brion Second wine of Château La Mission Haut-Brion. Rich and meaty notes to the aromatics here. A more savoury style. Less duvet in the middle. Fresh but not punishing acidity. Pristine, understated, savoury fruit. Lovely length.

Clarence de Haut-Brion Second wine of Château Haut Brion. Restrained but dark, pure fruit on the nose. Good grip and extract here. But still that sense of elegance. Long, cherry stoned finish. Nice structure and balance. Freshness with gentle warmth. Lovely persistence.

Haut Bailly Cru Classé de Graves. Lifted and intense. Gosh, actually quite assertive. Spine of intense, savoury fruit from attack though mid palate. Long, intense finish. Actually, bloody good.

La Mission-Haut-Brion Cru Classé de Graves. This has a totally entrancing nose. Caramel exoticism. Dark, nuanced but tight. So close and knitted. Intense but not weighty. Builds to that dark, supple line. All refinement. Then opens out, and the tannins sweep in. Lovely dark, pure inky fruit through the finish.

Médoc

Goulée Produced by the Cos d'Estournel team. Good colour. Beautifully fresh but ripe fruit. Supple, lively. Just enough grip. Terrific length for this quality level. Irresistibly upbeat yet refined wine.



2011 Tasting Notes

Moulis

Mauvesin-Barton Anthony Barton and daughter Lilian Barton-Sartorius have just bought Chateau Mauvesin. This is the first purchase family has made since the 1820s, when their ancestor Hugh Barton bought Langoa and Léoville Barton. Sweet but fresh aromas. Soft and amenable, but with purity and freshness. Floral, supple, juicy. Lively and harmonised. Delicious.

Haut-Médoc

Cantemerle Fifth Growth. Primary, pure, direct. Very engaging and fragrant. Pretty, pretty fruit. Vibrancy and lift. Unforced but grown up texture. Lovely fragrance on finish. Good density for this vintage.

Sociando-Mallet Charming and vibrant aromatics of smashed wild strawberries and black fruit. Good concentration. Nice little grip on the attack, but not hard or dusty. Succulent, bright fruit on the finish. Very nicely done.

Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux

Carignan Good colour. Perky purple. Medium intense saturation. Supple. Nicely fresh very pristine fruit. Lively finish. Appealing. Lovely.

Carignan Prima Lovely bright fruit. Good density. Supple core.

Côtes de Blaye

Gigault Cuvée Viva Very pure, attractive red plum fruit. Nice texture and weight. Graceful.



2011 Tasting Notes

Pomerol

L'Eglise Clinet Wonderfully lifted aromatics. Good focus and density here. Voluptuous texture and layered tannin. Very delicate balance, but a very intense finish. This is very aromatically intense. But gently so. Not herbaceous. Not spiky. No hard edges. Floral aromatics.

L'Evangile Strikingly rich, heady, ripe fruit on the nose. Dark spice. Exotic spice. Hint florality. But also quite assertive. Spherical and dense on the palate. Finely grainy tannin. It has a substantial, confident sort of feel. Absolutely brilliant stuff. Like a quintessence of all that's good about Pomerol in 2011.

La Petite Eglise Nuanced and rather rich fruit. Dark chocolate and violet creams. Seductive and beguiling. Supple, but with pillowy density of tannins. Very nuanced fruit. Nothing protruding. Already this is very harmonised.

Le Pin Beautifully lifted and fresh. Toned and lithe tannins. Understated intensity—almost Burgundian aromatic nuance. Long and extremely scented. Poised. Cerebral. Lovely.

Petit Village Extremely enticing, blandishing and nuanced. Seductive aromatics. There's a different note here: liquorice, coffee, chocolate. Emphatic on the palate, but with pliant outer walls. Long, but not weighty. Sneaky length.

Petrus Pillowy and misty aromatics. Dark, satiny. Intense but very primary. Very slinky and gentle onto the attack, but then a real velvet-gloved grip on the mid palate. A deep, inky core of saturated, bloody fruit. Super-fragrant and long.

Vieux Château Certan Wonderful, chiselled aromatics. Floral, precise, lacy. Aromatically driven. Super fine texture. Intense but not heavy. Seamless. A total star. 30% Cabernet Franc in this vintage, and it shows in the lifted, floral fragrance and plush density. Unmissable.



2011 Tasting Notes

Saint-Émilion

Beau Séjour Bécot Premier Grand Cru Classé B. Saturated inky purple. Open aromatics of dark fruit and caramel. Fresh, lively, alluring. Energetic but courteous acidity. Nicely resistant. Medium weight, supple, nuanced. Long and complex. Very appealing.

Château Quintus Grand Cru. Château Tertre Daugay was recently renamed Château Quintus by Domaine Clarence Dillon, owner of Château Haut-Brion and La Mission-Haut-Brion. Restrained and deep, but with dark floral notes. Really supple, elegant and refined. Long and unfurling. Seamless. Really lovely balance here. Scented and long. Actually, some assertive grip on the finish. But just when you think it's got you, back comes the fruit. Proper rhythm and pace. Lovely.

Cheval Blanc Premier Grand Cru Classé A. Really arresting aromatics. High toned, floral. Parma violets. Dark fruit. Just a hint of exotic spice. Precise and nuanced. Lovely elegant structure to this: just enough acidity, and gentle warmth but not obtrusive alcohol. Dances balletic onto the palate. Builds to assertive mid palate. And then tapers refined and long onto the very long finish. 52% Cabernet Franc. 48% Merlot.

Figéac Premier Grand Cru Classé B. Dark, intense fruit. Very linear, mineral and focused. Refined, long and intense. Characterful and taut. Brilliant.

Le Dragon de Quintus Second wine of the newly renamed Chateau Quintus. Nicely done. Super sleek textures. Fresh but not aggressively aromatic. Ripe, but politely so. Really rather good fruit intensity. Not hugely concentrated. But very long.

Petit Cheval Second wine of Cheval Blanc. Lifted and fragrant. Supple, graceful and fresh. Good tension and zip. Delightfully floral. Heavenly Cabernet Franc aromatics and plush textures.

Teyssier Grand Cru. Direct and fragrant. Just enough grip, but not too dry. Fresh and gently savoury. Supple, pleasurable stuff.

Troplong Mondot Grand Cru Classé. Sweet and heady, but just enough freshness. Actually, this is very good, in that fleshier style. Nice core of fruit. And just enough resistance. Tannins grippy but not coarse. Full but fresh. Good, inky finish.



2011 Tasting Notes

Dry White Wines Saint-Estèphe

Cos D'Estournel Blanc Intense and exuberant. Riper than some, but still with lively mandarin acidity. Really quite powerful. Body and freshness. Bold and delicious.

Margaux

Pavillon Blanc Fine clarity and drive on this. Passion fruit. Pink grapefruit. Hint of almonds. Something sweeter. Good density and genuine extract. Long, articulated. Icy clarity. Long, mineral, generous.

Graves

Picque Caillou Blanc Chalky, floral, mouthwatering. Delicious.

Pessac-Léognan

Bouscaut Blanc Cru Classé de Graves. Tightness bodes well, and lovely minerality beneath. Fresh, but with a sort of ripe acidity. Long, but not heavy. Nice persistence.

Chateau de France Blanc Smoky aromatics. Good mineral intensity. Not hugely rich, but nicely balanced and nuanced. Good, elegant finish.

Domaine de Chevalier Blanc Cru Classé de Graves. Arresting and nuanced aromatics. Very tight, but pristine. Toned. Understated richness. Fresh but not punishing acidity. Much less mid palate weight than in 2010. But somehow more persistence.



2011 Tasting Notes

Dry White Wines Pessac-Léognan

Haut-Brion Blanc Cru Classé de Graves Impressive intensity, length and extract in this wine. Stately freshness. Has extract but not heaviness. Assertive aromatics on nose and mid palate, but then a creamy minerality on the finish.

Larrivet Haut Brion Blanc Now this is lovely. Tight but nuanced. Really inflected fruit. Pink grapefruit and passion fruit. Elegantly aromatic. Gosh, no alcoholic warmth at all, despite 14.5% alcohol. Long and very concentrated.

Latour Martillac Blanc Cru Classé de Graves. This has more aromatic expression than many. Certainly more varietal expression. Direct and juicy. Mouthwatering acidity and opal fruit finish.

La Louvière Blanc Quite emphatic, but again, that fresh courteously lively style. Nice bit of concentration on mid palate. Lovely.

Malartic-Lagravière Blanc Cru Classé de Graves. Ooh. Intriguing aromatics. Mineral and fresh but with more richness and concentration than many. Quite ripe, but still very long.

La Mission-Haut-Brion Blanc Cru Classé de Graves. Wide and broad with passion fruit aromatics. Alcohol a little higher here—texturally more broad and creamy. Spreading on the finish.

Olivier Blanc Cru Classé de Graves. Very neat, pure, gently creamy aromatics. Lightly floral. Toned and stony. Fresh but with enough pure fruit to balance. Nicely dry. Neat texture. Good length.

Smith Haut Lafite Blanc Cru Classé de Graves. Muted on nose. Tight and emphatic on palate. Dense and concentrated. Lovely crystalline fruit behind. Greengage. Gooseberry. Lovely.



2011 Tasting Notes

Sweet Wines

Sauternes

d'Arche Second Growth. This has a great nose. Full of complex aromas of apricot, pineapple and fresh ginger. Succulent and invigorating in equal measure. Focused, with dried apricots lingering on the long finish. Should be great value, too.

Filhot Second Growth. Reminiscent of a vin de paille. Loads of botrytis and dried honey character. Plenty of extract and dried fruits. Candied pineapple and dried apple. Firm and grippy. Really serious. A little beefier and less feminine than most.

Guiraud First Growth. Heavenly fruit blossom scent. Mango, apricot and Poire William. Complex and richly powerful. This is impressive. Long, honeyed and engaging. Such precision and detail. Amazingly complex for such a youthful wine. Very long, indeed.

Clos Haut-Peyraguey First Growth. Allspice, nutmeg and dried apricots. Lovely botrytis notes. Excellent focus and definition. Pure strawberry and creme Anglaise. Utterly harmonious and effortless. Creamy textured and sensual. This glides across the palate.

Lamothe Guignard Delicate and enticing, with fragrant botrytis notes. Fleshy and ripe fresh apricot and peach plus raspberry and blueberry patisserie. Elegant and feminine. Graceful and curvaceous.

Malle Second Growth Purest ripe clementines on nose and palate. Terrifically juicy and vibrant. Full of joie de vivre. The racy citrus acidity is superb. Silky and sensual. It lingers with delicacy and subtlety. Gorgeous.

Rabaud-Promis First Growth. Amazingly pure, ripe and intensely fresh Russet apples. Powerful flavours of concentrated ripe Russet apples, cinnamon and demerara. An utterly fabulous combination of flavours. Profound and attention grabbing. Bravo!

Raymond-Lafon Manuka honey. Rich caramel and botrytis laden peaches in syrup. Broad and imposing.



2011 Tasting Notes

Sweet Wines

Sauternes

Sigalas Rabaud First Growth. Fresh Coxes apple and beeswax. Impressive core of fresh ripe, newly picked Coxes apples. Really concentrated and focussed. This packs a punch and delivers on the follow through as well. Gently tailing off with a long finish. Superb!

Suduiraut First Growth. Gorgeously aromatic honeyed lemon and marzipan. Delicately feminine and elegant. So refined and graceful. The long focussed finish lasts for an eternity. Lemon meringue. Light and airy yet with an intensity that belies its subtlety.

La Tour Blanche First Growth. Delicate floral aromas and apricot frangipani. Confidently constructed and effortlessly balanced. Purest apricots in syrup. Defined and precise with power in reserve. Class and finesse.

d'Yquem Superior First Growth. The 2011 Yquem has a profoundly powerful nose of apricots in syrup. As honeyed as royal jelly and incredibly delicate. It caresses the palate with complex flavours of orange marmalade, dried apricots and honey. Everything is lifted by refreshing citrus acidity. Seamlessly harmonious, this is a truly great Yquem in the making. The finish is already exceedingly complex and very very long. Could this challenge 2001?



2011 Tasting Notes

Sweet Wines

Barsac

Coutet First Growth. Plenty of botrytis notes on the nose. Succulent and sweet ripe grapefruit. Close knit and powerful. Peaches in syrup. Rich and concentrated. Very confident.

Doisy Daëne Second Growth. Intensely honey scented, with flavours of clementines and candied fruits. Great balance between delicacy and power. Such purity and succulence. Bursting with flavour. This is so effortless. Everything is in place and utterly harmonious. Fabulous.

Doisy-Védrières Second Growth. More restrained than the Daëne. Pink grapefruit aromas. Superbly concentrated flavours of pink grapefruit, passion fruit and much more. Zesty enervating acidity. Really impressive. A fantastic fruit salad of a wine.

Liot Highly floral aromatics. Richly honeyed botrytis. Very concentrated, ripe and extractful. Zesty and racy. This is fabulous. Really punches above its weight. Massively characterful and so long.

Nairac Second Growth. Raspberry Pavlova. Fun and lively. Delicate rosewater, building on the finish. Surprisingly long and focussed.

