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# 2005 Bordeaux

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April 2006  
**Special Report**

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*Bordeaux 2005 Vintage Report :*

*“The Big Easy”*

*or*

*“What if They Had a Tasting and  
Everyone Came!”*

*Tasting in Bordeaux April 2nd-  
April 12th, 2006*



**OUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME:  
CH PICHON BARON**

April 21st 2006: As Ralph Sands, Chip Hammack, Steve Bearden, and I boarded the AF flight 83 to Paris on April 2nd, we had already heard that 2005 Bordeaux was a special vintage. We had already read the Bill Blatch vintage report several times, and for one of the first times in the last 21 years of our trips to taste the young wine of Bordeaux, we had been denied access to a couple of châteaux because, “They had so many requests by retailers and wholesalers and journalists, that there was no room in the inn!” Everybody loves a winner, and 2005 had been hyped to be in the league of 1982. Where were all these “serious Bordeaux lovers” last year or in 2002 or in 2003, not to mention 2000, 1998, 1995, 1994, 1993 or 1992? K&L was there each of those years, and we will be there (God willing) next year--no matter the outcome of the 2006 vintage (which as of April 10th was way behind schedule).

After two very easy and quick flights, we should have figured that this year would be different than years past. What we found out after nine days of tasting through some 400 wines from 2005 vintage was that this was one of the easiest vintages to taste--no mouth-searing tannins or green fruit or acid finishes here. Though the tannins were very high (one of highest on record), and the acids were high, the fruit was so ripe and round in most wines that the young harsh qualities of a new vintage were completely masked by the enormous fruit content. Also



**1945 MOUTON AND 1945 CLYDE  
AT MAHLER BESSE CELLARS**

## 2005 BORDEAUX VINTAGE REPORT

the high alcohols were not apparent in the best wines as the fruit even hid the 14 degree alcohols. Easy flights and easy tastings--the end of the Big Easy. As you will see below, the beginning of the Big Easy concerned the growing conditions for 2005.

Before talking briefly about the 2005 growing season, I want to express the fact that we tasted some wines only one time and most wines no more than two times. We can only offer a snapshot of a wine as they are constantly changing at this early point in their lives. Also April is far too early to taste Bordeaux from the previous vintage, and we keep trying to tell all the principals involved to postpone tasting until early May, but I doubt many people were/are listening to us. Another point on the tasting of these wines: It is best to taste these young wines at the property as we do with the first growths and some other wines. Second best is tasting at negociants' offices--especially the large Joanne tasting held each year for past 10 years. The worst place to taste the wines is at the various UGC tastings held in the different regions of Bordeaux--too many people (especially this year), and it turns into a social event where most of the talk is not about the wines being tasted. Also the samples may be old, and most of the people pouring are not very well informed. Thanks again to Bill Blatch of Vintex for his important report. But I digress; here is how we read the 2005 vintage.

### Overview

"If it could, Bordeaux would settle for a 2005-type vintage every year. It was a truly extraordinary year, easy to manage, without complications and the almost permanently fine weather ended up by providing a wine of most unusual concentration. And the owners are all wearing the kind of smile that suggests they have something very special in the cellar." (Bill Blatch 2005 Report)

Also those smiles are partly due to the \$\$\$ each one sees with this futures campaign--Clyde Beffa Jr, K&L



THE K&L GANG AT CH. MARGAUX

2005 was a VERY dry (not hot) year from November 2004 until late October 2005 with only about half of the normal rainfall. "The vine's cycle started late at budding, then caught up at the flowering and, just as we were expecting a short hang-time like in 2000, a long, dry, regularly warm summer with no excessive heat spun out the bunches into small clusters of reduced, hard-skinned grapes that could ripen and concentrate gently and at their leisure with the result that the hang-time ended up normal or even a bit long after all." (Bill Blatch 2005 Report)

What we see and get from 2005 Bordeaux is tremendous concentration with high tannin and acid--rich and round wines that are vigorous, fresh-flavored, lively and vibrant. You might say quite delicious in some cases. Then again with the big boys of 2005, with all that acid, tannin, fruit and alcohol, you get wines that will age well for many years--some, unfortunately for those of us war babies or early baby boomers, not ready to drink until past our prime tasting and drinking years. We should concentrate our buying on the more forward 2003s.

### Winter 2004-2005: Spring 2005

The winter was quite dry and cold, especially in January, February and March, and the vines remained quite dormant so that the pruning could be completed under perfect conditions, and there was really never any danger of frost hurting the new shoots in March or April. (Easy) Even though late March was quite warm, the vines refused to budge as they were really shut down by the cold and dry winter. This lateness in the start to the vine's cycle was to become one of the main features that would make 2005 Bordeaux different in style from the very early-starting vintages like '89 or '90.

April was the only wet month of the 2005 growing season, and it was also quite warm so the vines started growing vigorously. May continued warm and totally dry, and by May 23rd, when we saw the very first signs of the flowering, some of the lateness had been caught up.

HOSPITALITY DIRECTORS GUNVOR BIZARD AND TINA (HER DAUGHTER) OF CH. MARGAUX





**FIRST DINNER AT CH. PICHON BARON WITH THE MEDOCAINE GANG**

**THE BOYS WITH JAMES SICHEL AT CH D'ANGLUDET**



### *Summertime 2005*

The combination of April's rainfall and this sudden heat got the flowering started everywhere, and it was then over in record time during the first constantly warm days of June. At first it looked like a perfect flowering. Then, over the ensuing two weeks, it became clear that there had been some coulure and millerandage especially on the merlot. It also became apparent that 2005 would not be a large crop. June was very dry and quite warm, and the vines grew rapidly--even without the moisture. Because of the extreme dryness, spraying was kept to a minimum (another easy part of this vintage). (Easy)

July continued hot and totally dry but less extreme. There were a few storms in July and August, which helped the very dry conditions and gave a bit more nourishment to the vines. The Right Bank got very little rain, and that would turn out to really decrease the yields there. The late July storms jolted the veraison to take place and by August 15th all the grapes had changed color and were now concentrated little berries--much smaller than average. The extreme drought and the continuous sunshine never really shut down the vines during yet another month almost without rain. August registered only 14 mm of rainfall (the average is 59). Still, the vines flourished--not like in 2003 when many vineyards dried up. As in 1982, the not-too-hot August helped the vines, and the cool nights helped preserve freshness and acidity.

### *The September and October Harvest*

By now, the white grapes of Pessac-Léognan were ready and Haut-Brion could kick off the harvest with a small pick of perfectly ripe, golden-colored sauvignons on August 24th, with others following over

the next few days, and the main body of the dry whites under ideal conditions from September 5th. There was to be no more rain at all until the very last two days of the cabernet pick. In Bordeaux, such regularly fine conditions throughout the harvest are exceptional, and they provided the perfect finishing touch to an already extremely promising vintage. The sun shone all day every day, and the harvest assumed the most leisurely pace anyone has ever known. The window of ripeness seemed to be open forever. (Again Easy) 2005 was turning into such a dream vintage that nobody wanted the slightest thing to go wrong. In the end, with such a flexible picking program, everyone had the luxury of analysing the grapes' ripeness to the nth degree. (Easy) Like August, September was warm without being too hot. The first few days of October were cold and generally dry as the late-harvest merlot properties finished their picking and most of the Left Bank cabernet ones continued or finished theirs. The reds were harvested under ideal conditions. On the stickies side, the bulk of the crop had been picked in early October. Then the second half of October warmed up, and the dry air caused morning fogs to form after the quite cool nights, and, in the afternoons, produced hot sunshine to 25°C, totally ideal Sauternes conditions for finishing the 3rd, 4th and sometimes 5th trié. Most finished by October 28th but some continued well into November. (Easy)

"So ended a text-book harvest period for all of Bordeaux. The sun shone almost permanently and the showers came exactly when and where required to add the final touch, and all this after a dry hot season during which what little rain there was fell just before all the vital sequences of the vine's cycle. What more could we have asked for? Although some had cursed the drought, it had been the most perfect year we could expect. And if any growers have made a sub-par wine,

## 2005 BORDEAUX VINTAGE REPORT

they only have themselves to blame. And if any have made a vegetal wine, they should be lined up and shot at dawn.” (Bill Blatch 2005 Report)

### *Yields and Quality and Prices*

The 2005 crop is not huge. The crop-size diminished naturally under the effect of coulure and the reduction of grape size through drought. In the crus classés, the Right Bank generally produced 30 - 42 hectoliters/ hectare as opposed to 38 - 50 last year and the Left Bank 40 - 50 as opposed to 45 - 55 last year. Meanwhile, down in Sauternes, for the first time in many years, there was a good yield simply because there was very little bad rot to drop to the ground. Most crus classés are at 15 - 25 hectoliters/hectare.

It is interesting to note the comparisons being made between 1982 and 2005. As far as yield is concerned, the 1982 vintage came in at around 80 hectoliters/hectare (stated), almost double the size (and therefore less concentration) than 2005. Another fact is that vineyard and winery procedures and practices are much better now than they were 23 years ago. With second and third wines (which few properties had in 1982), there is more selection being made for the Grand Vin.



**CLYDE AND VERONIQUE SANDERS AT CH HAUT BAILLY**

There is no doubt that 2005 is a great Bordeaux vintage and among the best in the last 40 years. Is it the best? Hard to say, but we did find exceptionally good wines throughout all the regions and types of Bordeaux (ala 2000, except whites and stickies are better in 2005). What we also found was that many of the second wines of the great properties were fantastic, probably due to the health of all of the grapes of the vintage.

The Big Easy may end with the prospective prices of the vintage. The smiles of the owners were too big for us to think otherwise. The top 30 or 40 will be expensive (very expensive I would think). There were just too many people in Bordeaux telling negociants and owners alike that they would pay almost anything for a good allocation. On the other hand, there may be some great finds and values from the lesser wines.

Since the quantities are not big, I am sure that we and all other retailers will not get enough of the stars to satisfy our customers' demands. Getting on our waiting lists is imperative this year, and the folks that bought 2004s from us are probably feeling a bit more secure right now. The Big Easy ends with the pricing and selling of the vintage. We can blame all those people who came to the 2005 Bordeaux tastings.

*--Clyde, with help from Ralph, Chip and Steve*

*We tasted wines 1) at the properties from April 3rd to April 7th 2) at the UGC tastings on April 4th, 5th, 6th. 3) at negociant offices and 4) at the big Joanne tasting on April 10th. We tasted many more wines than those listed below, and we will offer some of these wines below on a futures basis. As to the ratings system:*

*\*\* to \*\*\* Outstanding to Classic wines. Best of the vintage (that we tasted)*

*\* to \*1/2 Very good to Excellent wines*

*½\* Good wines-could be Values*

*Most of these notes are Clyde's. Each person has their own notes, and you can call them for their notes or look online. S for Steve Bearden, R for Ralph Sands and C for Chip Hammack in the notes to follow.*

### Clyde's Top Ten Wines of the Vintage

Latour, Pauillac \*\*\*  
Palmer, Margaux \*\*\*  
Margaux, Margaux \*\*\*  
Haut Brion, Pessac-Leognan \*\*\*  
Lafite Rothschild, Pauillac \*\*\*  
Léoville Las Cases, St-Julien \*\*\*  
Malescot St-Exupery, Margaux \*\*1/2+  
Cos d'Estournel, St-Estèphe \*\*1/2+  
Vieux Chateau Certan, Pomerol \*\*1/2+  
Léoville Barton, St-Julien \*\*1/2+

**RALPH, NEGOCIANT PIERRE LAWTON AND ALFRED TESSERON AT CH PONTET CANET**





**SYLVIE CAZES AND CLYDE AFTER A LIGHT BREAKFAST AT THE CAZES' NEW CAFE LAVINAL IN BAGES**



**AT CH MOUTON: CHIP, RALPH, CLYDE, STEVE AND GAIA GAJA**

**Bordeaux Blanc, Graves and Pessac-Léognan Blanc**

*The fruit expressions of this vintage are exceptional. The sauvignons have the qualities of ripe riesling, petroly yet flinty, the combination of absolute ripeness and of lively acidity. The sémillons, crushed from small thick-skinned grapes, have high alcohol and pronounced grapefruit character, more obviously fruity than the sauvignons.*

*All in all, a very successful white vintage, provided the aromas stay. As such, a cross between the powerful '03s and the tensile, flinty '04s.*

*-Bill Blatch Vintage Report*

*We found the wines to be quite rich on the palate while having good crisp acidity as the 2002s and 2004s had. Many wines had a sweet/tart palate impression. -Clyde Beffa Jr*

**Pavillon Blanc de Margaux, Bordeaux \*\***

14.5 degrees alcohol, and you can't taste it. Pear aromas and creamy texture. Richer than the 2004. Tons of spice. **C:** Flowers and honey present themselves with authority on the nose. The palate has great flavors of grapefruit and minerals. Rich and complex, this is one of the best dry whites of Bordeaux.

**Cantelys Blanc, Pessac-Leognan \***

Bright wine with a sweet/tart palate impression. Nice grapefruit tones and a creamy texture. **C:** Vanilla and grapefruit combine on the intensely flavored palate of this wine. Very clean and crisp.

**Carbonnieux Blanc, Pessac-Léognan \*+**

Some oak and good palate entry. Nicely balanced. Fine minerality and richness on the palate.

**de Fieuzal Blanc, Pessac-Léognan**

Quite rich and a touch too sweet. Heavy bodied.

**Domaine de Chevalier Blanc, Pessac-Léognan \*1/2**

Very elegant wine with some flowers and citrus on the nose. Very fine length. Toasty oak and earthy nuances.

**Haut Bergey Blanc, Pessac-Léognan \*1/2**

65% sauvignon blanc and 35% sémillon. Pears and some tropical aromas with toasty oak undertones. More tropical and richer than 2004.

**Haut Brion Blanc, Pessac-Léognan \*\*\***

52% sauvignon blanc and 48% sémillon. Wow! Classic white graves nose with minerals and some toasty notes. White flowers and touch of honey. Fills the mouth and stays there. Intense but in perfect harmony. The finish lasts a minute. Delicious.

**Laville Haut Brion, Pessac-Léognan \*\*1/2**

78% sémillon, 22% sauvignon blanc and 1% muscadelle. Toasty oak and pear aromas-extremely rich and powerful with nutty undertones. some grapefruit flavors and on finish. Very round and lush.

**La Louviere Blanc, Pessac \*+**

Toasty, bacony aromas, quite elegant on the palate. Very fine breed.

**Latour Martillac Blanc, Pessac \***

Good richness and focused fruit. Grapefruit flavors. Gravelly, precise.

**Malartic Lagraviere Blanc, Pessac-Léognan \*1/2**

Toasty with clean lemony fruit and touch of oak. Fine concentration and some tropical notes. Great body and length. Sweet/tart palate.

**Marjosse Blanc, Entre deux Mers ½\***

Citric nose and flavor. Easy drinker. Good value.

**Pape Clement Blanc, Pessac \*+**

Elegant pear and spice aromas. Finely balanced upfront. A bit hot at the end, but long on the palate. **C:** Honey, grapefruit and a nice tropical fruit components give this flavors that are a pleasure to drink.\*\*

**Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc, Pessac-Léognan \*1/2**

Pear-like aromas with hints of grapefruit. Quite oaky and fat on the entry. Good acid at the back. Long, lingering finish.



**1955 RALPH WITH 1955 HAUT BRION AT MAHLER BESSE CELLARS**

### **S de Suduiraut, Bordeaux \*+**

A wonderful spicy pear aroma that followed to the palate. Very rich wine with sweet tart flavors and lingering finish. Quite deep. 70% sauvignon blanc and 30% sémillon.

### **Graves Rouge, Pessac-Léognan Reds**

*This region suffered the most from the very dry conditions of the vintage. There were super stars to be sure: Haut Brion, La Mission, Haut Bailly, Smith Haut Lafitte, but not as many great wines as other regions. Some wines were just too tannic for their fruit content.*

### **Branon, Pessac-Léognan ?**

Lots of oak on nose and palate. A bit too harsh and dry. Sample?

### **Cantelys Rouge, Pessac-Léognan \*+**

Very silky on the palate. Power underneath. Could be a fine value. **C:** Cloves and sandalwood combine with ripe cassis fruit. The mid palate and finish are long and complete.

### **Carbonnieux Rouge, Pessac-Léognan\***

Lighter. Sweet and fruity. Drinker. Good mid palate. Lots of minerals.

### **Domaine de Chevalier Rouge, Pessac-Léognan \***

Toasty oak aromas. Sweet red fruits. Excellent wine. **R:** The silky blood red fruit is deep, pure and outrageously attractive. A wine in perfect harmony; balanced and sweet, long elegant finish. A wine to get on board with right now. \*\*

### **Haut-Bailly, Pessac-Léognan \*\***

58% cabernet sauvignon, 36% merlot and 6% cabernet franc. Super sweet blackberry aromas. Tons of ripe fruit on the palate. Silky. Fruit covers ample tannins. Great balance and lingering finish. One of the best from an area that suffered from the lack of moisture. Buy this.

### **Haut Bergey, Pessac-Léognan \***

Nice nose of red fruits and minerals. Good upfront on palate. Elegant on the palate. Slightly dry, tannic finish. **R:** Good, forward red fruit driven wine with smokey-earthly hints, well balanced mid-weight and mid-term wine.

### **Visit to Haut Brion:**

*10:30 am April 7th: In all of our years of going to Haut Brion (since 1985), we have never tasted such a fine range of wines. Every one was good and easy to taste, unlike most trips here. Some people think that Haut Brion may be the best of vintage?*

### **2005 Bahans Haut Brion, Pessac-Léognan \*1/2**

45% merlot, 25% cabernet sauvignon and 30% cabernet franc. More mineral aromas and flavors but deeper core of fruit. Red fruits dominate. Very elegant and long finish. Delicious second wine. **C:** Black currant, earth, licorice and minerals define this wine with a nice complexity.

### **2005 Chapelle de la Mission Haut Brion, Pessac-Léognan \***

60% cabernet sauvignon, 30% merlot and 10% cabernet franc. Nice black fruit aromas and black cherry on the palate. Fine mid weight and nice finish.

### **Haut-Brion, Pessac-Léognan \*\*\***

56% merlot, 39% cabernet sauvignon and 5% cabernet franc. Very mineral aromas with black raspberry nuances. Regal palate entry. Sweet and lush. Very thick and broad on the palate. Mouth coating with layers of fruit. Great breed and tannins covered by the enormous fruit.

### **2005 La Tour Haut Brion, Pessac-Léognan \*?**

Most of my crew loved this, while I had hard time tasting it. 41% cabernet franc, 32% merlot and 27% cabernet sauvignon. Tight and closed but great weight on the palate. **C:** Earth, spice, minerals and cassis infuse this rich wine with a nice layer of complexity.

### **La Mission Haut-Brion, Pessac-Léognan \*\*+**

69% merlot, 30% cabernet sauvignon and 1% cabernet franc. Chocolate aromas that follow to the palate. Sexy, exotic wine. Black-berry and coffee on the palate. Very focused and elegant style. Pure and more delicate than Haut Brion.

### **La Louviere, Pessac-Léognan \***

**R:** Lovely ripe red fruit, silky round texture and sweet tannins. Their best red wine since 1990.

### **Latour Martillac, Pessac-Léognan**

Good entry-a bit dry on back end.

### **Larrivet Haut-Brion, Pessac-Leognan \***

Great mixture of oak and ripe red fruit upfront on the palate. Sweet-middle and long finish.

### **Malartic Lagraviere, Pessac-Léognan \***

Sweet, fresh, liberal dashes of oak. Good mid-palate sweetness. Good weight and power on the palate. Creamy, smooth texture. Should be a value. Tasted three times. **S:** Rich and fruity with sweet oak. Fairly elegant w/ ripe tannin.

### **Pape-Clément, Pessac-Léognan \*1/2+**

Toasty, bacony aromas and flavor. Pushed but in balance. Some will love it. It has the power and richness, but could be very expensive.

## 2005 BORDEAUX TASTING NOTES

### Smith-Haut-Lafitte, Pessac-Léognan \*\*

Toned down oak-very good balance and structure. Quite intense on the palate and packed with fruit. Sexy, racy wine. Tasted four times. This will be a very fine in a few years. **C:** Spicy black currant jumps out of the nose. The palate of the wine is loaded with minerals, dark fruits and earth. Nice long finish.

### Médoc, Haut-Médoc

*Many fine values from the vast regions of the Haut-Médoc and Médoc Appellations. The wines should be affordable and offer plenty of future palate gratification.*

### Arnauld, Haut-Médoc

Light, elegant and soft on palate. Watch for it.

### Bernadotte, Haut-Médoc \*

48% cabernet sauvignon, 48% merlot and 4% cabernet franc. Black fruit. Mid weight. Shows a lot of spice on the nose. Elegant wine.

### Beaumont, Haut-Médoc ½\*

Toasty oak aromas and red fruit flavors. Elegant. Easy drinker. Value?

### Camensac, Haut-Médoc

Sweet for the property. Should be a value.

### Cantemerle, Haut-Médoc

Rough and tannic. We tasted this wine four times, and it was closed up and unyielding. Judgment reserved. **C:** Cherries and earth assert themselves gently on the palate of this medium-weight wine.

### Caronne-Ste Gemme, Haut Medoc \*\*

This property continues to improve as their wines from 2000 on have been outstanding values. This is probably their best effort to date and is surely a sleeper or value for the vintage. Tons of sweet berry aromas that flow to the palate. Plenty of structure for the cellar and a very rich mid-palate impression. A delicious wine that you should buy to enjoy in five to fifteen years.

### Chasse Spleen, Moulis \*

Good sweetness on the palate. Deep and broad with a long finish.

### Clarke Rothschild, Listac \*

This property continues to improve. Slightly new wave wine with fine



**CH ROCHEBELLE, A SUPERB VALUE FROM ST-EMILION**

richness and sweet core of fruit. Touch oaky.

### Clement Pichon, Haut-Médoc

Good blackberry fruit. A little dry.

### Citran, Haut-Médoc

Very extracted and tannic.

### Clos Manou, Haut Médoc \*+

Only 250 cases produced here. New wave, polished wine with tons of fruit-crushed berries and toasty oak. Sweet middle fruit.

### Goulee, Médoc \*

80% cabernet sauvignon. Lots of cassis flavors here. Big wine with tannins evident. Good palate entry. **S:** Oaky, creamy, thick and black with lots of cherry/vanilla. Flashy, rich and very good for the style.

### La Lagune, Haut-Médoc \*1/2

55% cabernet sauvignon, 35% merlot, 10% petit verdot. Very sweet fruit-long on palate. Little oaky. Lingering. Jammy. Lovely on palate. It has fine length as well. This will be lovely to drink early on and should be a value. **R:** Very pure, elegant, sleek ripe fruit style it possesses as well as fine length! This will be a love to drink and should be a value.

### Latour Carnet, Haut-Médoc \*

Toasty, oaky flavors. Nice nose. Good, fresh style. Vibrant. Fine texture and creamy palate impression.

### Malescasse, Médoc \*

**R:** A surprise, lovely deep bright purple fruit. Fine balance, very clean.

### Malmaison, Moulis \*1/2

80% merlot and 20% cabernet sauvignon. Excellent richness on the palate. Fine breed and very good length on the palate. Will be a sleeper of the vintage. Buy it.

### Potensac, Médoc \*

41% merlot, 40% cabernet sauvignon and 19% cabernet franc. Reserved nose. Big and rich with tannins evident. A little rustic but sweet overall. Tasted three times. **C:** Deep and rich with licorice spice and dark fruits.

### Clyde's Best Values Per Region-Sleepers

Langoa Barton, St-Julien \*\*

Dauzac, Margaux \*\*

Rochebelle, St-Emilion \*\*

Meyney, St-Estèphe \*1/2+

Malmaison, Moulis \*1/2

Caronne-Ste Gemme, Haut Medoc \*+Nenin, Pomerol \*+

Haut Bages Liberal, Pauillac \*+

Cantelys, Pessac-Léognan \*+

d'Aiguilhe, Cotes de Castillon \*+

## 2005 BORDEAUX TASTING NOTES

### Poujeaux, Moulis \*

Sweet fruit, lively. Not big, but great balance. Lingers on the palate.  
**R:** Tied for best wine of appellation with La Lagune. Poujeaux is full of deep concentrated fruit, serious and very, very good. \*1/2\*

### Senejac, Haut-Médoc ½\*

Nice flavor. Has sweetness on palate. Buy on arrival.

### Sociando Mallet, Haut-Médoc \*1/2

Substantial with tons of oak and fruit. Very fine quality. This is serious.

## St-Estèphe

*Many outstanding wines from this region as the heavier clay soils were able to hold the much needed moisture from this very dry year. Don't miss the stunning value Meyney here.*

### Calon Segur, St-Estèphe \*\*

Meaty aromas, toasty, elegant. Broad on palate and very good elegance. Superb wine in mid-weight range. Enjoy young. **S:** Very flowery nose. Rich and full-bodied with a meaty quality. Impressive!

### Pagodes de Cos, St-Estèphe \*+

50% cabernet sauvignon and 50% merlot. Deep color. Wonderful toasty oak aromas. Sweet, forward fruit on palate. One of the best Pagodes if not the best.

### Cos d'Estournel, St-Estèphe \*\*1/2+

78% cabernet sauvignon, 19% merlot and 3% cabernet franc. More cabernet than usual-even more than 2003 or 2004. They went for elegance and finesse here this year and boy did it work. Concentrated nose of berries and currants and toasty oak. Fabulous palate entry, layers and layers of fruit. Polished wine of great breed. Is it better than 2003? It surely will outlive that vintage. Delicious. **S:** Tastes like warm ripe fruit. Smooth and plush with fine integrated tannin. Excellent!

### Lafon Rochet, St-Estèphe \*?

Tough on palate. A little too tannic. Then tasted again, and the wine was sweet and lovely. This is the problem with young Bordeaux-they change daily. **R:** Surely another candidate for value of the vintage in the masculine style. Lot's of tight, dark purple fruit to grab hold of, zesty and firm. Classic style. \*1/2\*

### les Ormes de Pez, St-Estèphe \*1/2

58% cabernet sauvignon, 36% merlot and 6% cabernet franc. Black cherry on the nose. Expressive, vibrant, super mid-palate with a sweet lovely texture. 53 hectoliters per hectare and 13.3% alcohol, but the wine does not show the alcohol. More vibrant on palate. Good core of sweet fruit. Good value wine.

### Meyney, St-Estèphe \*1/2+

52% cabernet sauvignon, 28% merlot, 29% petit verdot. Sweet and lush-delicious. Elegant style. We love this wine. Ready sooner than most. Mouth-coating wine. Elegance personified. New school Meyney-buy it. Tasted three times with consistent notes. **R:** Best I've ever tasted and showed superb at every tasting. Deep raspberry fruit on nose and palate, silky middle.

### Montrose, St-Estèphe \*\*

65% cabernet sauvignon, 31% merlot, 3.5% cabernet franc and 1% petit verdot. Huge wine! Closed on the nose. Huge on the palate. Very concentrated with peppery spice-almost syrah-like. Masculine style wine, mouth-coating. Not very subtle. Age this for a long time.

### Phelan Segur, St-Estèphe \*+

50% cabernet sauvignon and 50% merlot. Fabulous nose of boysenberries and toasty oak and chocolate. Sweet, lush, and very spicy. Quite concentrated. They are doing good things at this property these days. Tasted four times. **S:** Sweet, with crushed berries and earth. Mild tannin for the vintage.

### Picard, St-Estèphe ½\*

90% cabernet sauvignon and 10% merlot. Sweet ripe fruit flavors and full, round palate impression. This could be a fine value.

## Pauillac

*This is Clyde's pick for the best region of the vintage, but he has always been a Pauillac person.*

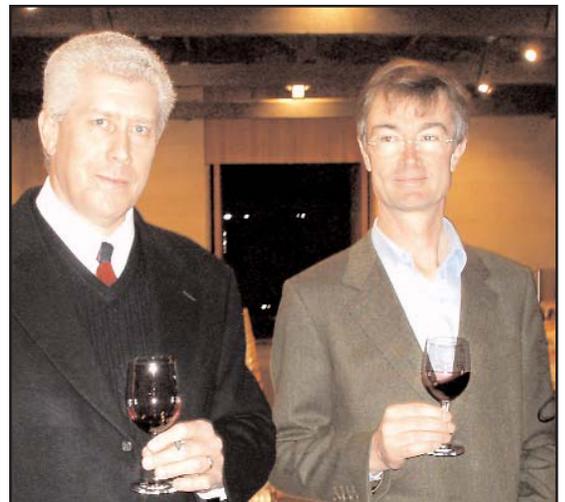
### Clerc-Milon, Pauillac \*+

48% cabernet sauvignon, 40% merlot, 10% cabernet franc and 2% petit verdot. Lighter nose, with a lot of red fruit and crushed berries. Sweet mid palate. A little short. Pretty good wine.

### d'Armailhac, Pauillac \*

60% cabernet sauvignon, 29% merlot, 10% cabernet franc and 1% petit verdot. Lots of red fruit. A little closed. Good entry on the palate, with a orange zest. Nice mouthfeel. Holding back a little. Nice wine. **C:** Spicy anise and cherries are present in the front of this wine leading into an earthy finish.

**RALPH WITH ALEXANDRE THIENPONT AT VIEUX CHATEAU CERTAN**



## 2005 BORDEAUX TASTING NOTES



**A GREAT TRIO: CARRUADES DE LAFITE, CH DUHART MILON AND CH LAFITE ROTHSCHILD**

### Grand Puy Ducasse, Pauillac \*

62% cabernet sauvignon and 38% merlot. Closed on nose. Big wine. Tannic but could be good. After being opened an hour, the fruit really comes through here. Sweet core of fruit emerges. Lingers on the palate.

### Grand Puy Lacoste, Pauillac \*1/2?

Lots of mineral on nose, but holding back. Reserved right now. Should be great, hard to taste.

### Haut Batailley, Pauillac

Soft and elegant-little orange zest. Lighter style.

### Haut Bages Liberal, Pauillac \*+

Perfumey nose and some nice ripe fruit on the palate. Good middle and fine length. **S:** Fairly rich with a creamy chocolate middle.

## Lafite

*We went to Lafite on Tuesday April 4th*

### Carruades de Lafite, Pauillac \*1/2

49% cabernet sauvignon, 45% merlot and 6% other. Elegant nose with sweet fruit palate entry. Black cherry flavors. Good grip on the palate. Could be a winner.

### Duhart Milon, Pauillac \*1/2

71% cabernet sauvignon and 29% merlot. More closed on the nose-bigger wine than Carruades. Focused and no weediness here this year. Ralph and Steve loved it. Could be a value. **R:** A very pretty expression of deep, plump blackfruits, great middle fruit on the palate and so well balanced. This will be a great drink! 11/2\* and might be better than this!

### Lafite-Rothschild, Pauillac \*\*\*

88% cabernet sauvignon, 11% merlot and 1% petit verdot. Concentrated nose of cassis, tobacco, and mineral aromas explode from the glass. Creamy texture. Layers of sweet, ripe fruit. Seductive upfront and broad on the mid-palate. Regal wine.

## Latour

*5:10 pm April 4th: The K&L contingent walked into the Latour tasting room. Little did we know that we would have saved the best for last on this day. We tasted 3 wines with Frederic Engerer, Latour's director. He explained that they went for the gentle approach this year with their wines and not the extracted knock-you-over-the-head style. We walked away at 6:10 knowing we had tasted maybe the best wine of the vintage.*

### Pauillac, Pauillac \*1/2

This wine was so good we would have been happy if it were Les Forts. Black cherry aromas and black fruit flavors-tremendous sweetness on palate entry, and the fruit masks the ripe tannins. Sexy and delicious wine.

### Les Forts de Latour, Pauillac \*\*+

This second wine is better than many of the first wines of its neighbors in the Médoc. Super intense aromas of crushed currants and berries-silky texture on the palate. Great structure and still on the open, forward elegant style.

### Latour, Pauillac \*\*\*

87% cabernet sauvignon, 13% merlot. 13.35 degrees alcohol and almost all cabernet-and you can not taste any hotness in the wine. Toasted oak aromas mixed with spices and red berry. Complex, layers of fruit and silky, velvety mouthfeel. So rich and structured yet on the elegant side. Here is your iron fist in a velvet glove. Vibrant, fresh wine with everything in perfect balance. Can't get better than this. **S:** Super fleshy, round, fat and complex. Amazingly rich and ripe with super silky, soft tannin.

### Lynch-Bages, Pauillac \*\*

72% cabernet sauvignon, 15% merlot and 13% cabernet franc, 40 hectoliters per hectare. 13.3% alcohol. Shows high acidity and high tannins, but the fruit is so strong, the tannins don't show. Strong mineral notes and blackberry aromas on the nose. An explosive palate that is sweet and fruity. Holding back on the mid palate. Powerful, bright, long-lingering finish, with some dryness at the end. This wine needs a little time.

### Mouton-Rothschild, Pauillac \*\*

60% of the crop made it into this wine. 100% new oak. 85% cabernet sauvignon, 14% merlot and 1% cabernet franc. Very perfumey nose. Red fruit, cranberry (cranberry flavors too). This is a rather delicate wine. Mid weight. Nice texture. Lighter colored, with a creamy, silky, velvety mouthfeel. Not huge. Good wine.

### Pedesclaux, Pauillac

Solid wine. Not fancy. Pure and well done wine. Easy drinker. And a value.

### Pichon-Lalande, Pauillac \*\*

Very expressive nose. Sweet cedar oak aromas. Very broad. Round and soft on the palate. Elegant and smooth. Not a huge wine, but very nice. **C:** Really elegant and fresh with lots of ripe black cherry aromas and flavors. **R:** Very rich sweet fruit with beautiful softness and lots of richness in the middle. Delicious finish. It will be hard to stay away. **S:** Super sweet and smooth with an elegant cherry/berry middle. Velvety and long. Should be great.

## 2005 BORDEAUX TASTING NOTES

### Pichon Baron, Pauillac \*\*

64% cabernet sauvignon, 3% cabernet franc, 33% merlot. 13.6 alcohol and low pH of 3.7-means high acid. You do not taste the alcohol because of massive fruit, acid and tannin content. Very spicy aromas of red fruits and cassis-some cranberry notes. Deep color and very sweet entry to palate. Some dry tannins at back but they are integrated. Tobacco notes. Rich, lingering finish.

### Pibran, Pauillac \*

65% cabernet sauvignon and 35% merlot. Cabernet did better here, and they used a lot in the final blend. Very expressive nose of black raspberry with cranberry undertones some orange zest on palate. A touch rustic, but should be a value.

### Pontet-Canet, Pauillac \*\*+

Wonderful wine. 70% cabernet sauvignon, 5% cabernet franc, 1% petit verdot and the rest merlot. 35 hectoliters per hectare. Deep blackish color. Irresistible nose with blackberry and black cherry aromas and some raspberry. Very concentrated wine. Tons of fruit, which mask all the tannins. Great concentration, precise and focused. This is going to be an absolute killer. **R:** Zesty and pure, deep, blackberry-blueberry tones, thick grapey texture, serious flesh and structure. Big strong profile and balanced, has it all going on. Wow!

### Réserve de la Comtesse, Pauillac \*

40% merlot, 27% cabernet sauvignon, 12% cabernet franc and 11% petit verdot. Lighter style wine. Upfront red fruit. A little short. Tasted once. **C:** Smoky black cherries give this supple textured second wine from Pichon Lalande nice flavor authority. **S:** Ripe and sweet with a round middle. Easy finish.

## St-Julien

*Many great wines from this region and Steve favored it as his best of Bordeaux in 2005.*

### Beychevelle, St-Julien ½\*

Very spicy aroma-peppery, beefy aromas. Tastes good but not exciting.

### Branaire Ducru, St-Julien \*1/2+

Lovely sweet cranberry aromas that follow to the palate. Great upfront palate impression. Good richness. Solid wine with tons of

fruit. Could be a value. **C:** Red cherries and cassis components give complexity to this nice little wine. The is concentrated and complete.

### Clos du Marquis, St-Julien \*\*

50% cabernet sauvignon, 37% merlot, 11% cabernet franc and 2% petit verdot. This is an outstanding Clos du Marquis. Sweet red berry aromas with currant undertones. Some black cherry and cranberry flavors. Toasty oak. Powerful but perfectly balanced with fruit masking the tannins. Long finish. **R:** Off the charts and by far the best I've ever tasted! A beautiful thickness of red fruits and sweet tannins.

### Ducru-Beaucaillou, St-Julien \*\*+

67% cabernet sauvignon and 33% merlot. Very spicy, with Asian spices and currant on the nose. Very expressive. Very pure and vibrant. Boysenberry aromas and flavors. This is a big wine, but with good balance. Not a massive wine. We like this one very much. **R:** Fine and floral aromas of perfectly ripe grapes on the nose continue all the way thru this incredibly elegant wine. Sweet, grapey, lush finish. Great wine! \*\*1/2

### Gloria, St-Julien \*1/2

Deep blackberry fruit aromas that follow to the palate. A serious wine. Very good on palate-lingering finish.

### Gruaud-Larose, St-Julien \*+

Toasty oak aromas and flavors. Some tobacco. Good mouthfeel and texture. A bit tannic at the back.

### La Croix de Beaucaillou, St-Julien \*1/2

60% cabernet sauvignon and 40% merlot. More black fruit here. And more structure. Sweet entry on the palate. Firm backbone. This is serious second wine. **C:** This is really a tasty little wine. Elegant with a nice dose of blackberries present on the palate. Spicy and long on the finish this wine makes the grade.

### Lalande Borie, St-Julien \*

45% merlot, 45% cabernet sauvignon and 10% cabernet franc. From the western region of St-Julien. Elegant red raspberry aromas. Nice mouthfeel. Very elegant. Quite forward and sweet with good texture.

### Lagrange, St-Julien

Lots of oak-dry finish. Hard to taste. **S:** Earthy and round with some



**PIERRE LAWTON AND ANTHONY BARTON AT CH LEOVILLE BARTON**

**ONE OF THE WINNERS OF THE ALIAS/JOANNE GOLF CUP: JEAN HUBERT DELON (LEOVILLE LAS CASES) ADMIRES HIS PRIZE AS SPONSORS/NEGOCIANTS PIERRE ANTOINE CASTEJA AND PIERRE LAWTON LOOK ON**



chalk on finish at Joanne. At UGC it was sweeter. At Wine Merchant it had smoke, herbs and cigar with an unsettled finish. \*1/2

**Langoa Barton, St-Julien \*\***

Absolutely stunning wine. Deep color. Sweet red licorice and cranberry nose. Very, very elegant. A lot of merlot. More feminine style. Tasted four times with consistent notes.

**Léoville-Barton, St-Julien \*\*1/2+**

One of the best wines of the vintage. Monster wine. Went on and on forever. Black color. Tannic. Big, powerful red fruit. Broad and deep in the glass. Put away for a very long time. Super concentrated wine. High on everything-fruit and tannin and acid. Wet stones. Unbelievable concentration. Fabulous. Tasted four times.

**Léoville-Las-Cases, St-Julien \*\*\***

One of the stars of the vintage. 87.5% cabernet sauvignon, 7% merlot, 5.5% cabernet franc. Cassis, toasty earth and minerals on the nose. Super sweet wine-not pushed. Pure fruit with tannins covered by layers of fruit. Gentle approach worked great here. Lingering finish.

**Léoville-Poyferre, St-Julien \*\***

Very spicy, peppery aromas. Nice mouth-feel. Long and balanced-Superb! **R:** A fine wine and true to their style as the elegant Léoville. Nice, silky, front-loaded red fruit. Round, sweet and tasty in the middle. No harshness of any kind. Lovely. Will drink well relatively young.

**St Pierre, St-Julien \***

Very elegant wine with very ripe. Port-like flavors. Excellent wine that pushes the envelope. Not my style-too toasty. **C:** Elegant high toned red fruits combine with a creamy cassis finish. Nice little wine.

**Talbot, St-Julien \*\***

Lots of spice and tons of fruit. Elegant, but fine mouthful of wine. Very nice. **R:** Round crushed raspberries and silky cherry fruit is thick and lush. It carry's on throughout the lovely finish. Will be a deal.

**Margaux**

*Could this be the best region for 2005s? Ralph and Chip thought so. So many great wines including the otherworldly Palmer and the massive Margaux, but also many value wines from here.*

**Brane Cantenac, Margaux \*+**

Elegant style and fruity upfront with violet undertones. Mid weight on palate. In balance and could be ready early. **R:** One of the greatest values in all of Bordeaux wine today. The hallmark quality of Brane is elegance, and it is perfectly expressed here in 2005. \*\*

**Cantenac Brown, Margaux ½\***

Quite nice with cinnamon nuances. A little rustic at the end. Depends on price.

**Dauzac, Margaux \*\***

Very fine wine here and could be a superb value. Smoky, toasty oak aromas with black cherry tones and Asian spices. Slightly new wave style. Tons of fruit on the palate. Soft and seductive.

**d'Issan, Margaux \*1/2**

Lovely, elegant, soft, forward. Easy drink. Little short in back. At Barriere it was very fine and richer on palate. **C:** On the nose, black currant and wood spice lead right into the palate, which is creamy and round.

**du Tertre, Margaux \*+**

Very elegant and feminine style wine. Forward and fruity. Lovely entry. Good toasty oak. Refined and balanced. Tannins masked by fruit.

**Dufort Vivens, Margaux**

Anise and orange zest. Sample is hard to taste. Judgment reserved. Tropical.

## 2005 BORDEAUX TASTING NOTES



**K&L VISITS THE CHATEAUX IN STYLE:  
A FERRARI 612**



**CLYDE AND HELENE GARCIN LEVEQUE AT CH  
BARDE HAUT**



**AT CH CANON-LA-GAFFELIERE, RALPH WITH NEGOCIANT DOMINIQUE  
RENARD AND STEPHAN VON NEIPPERG**

### **d'Angludet, Margaux \*1/2**

47% merlot, 48% cabernet sauvignon and 5% petit verdot. Black licorice aromas and blackberry flavors. Very pure and focused fruit. Long finish. Excellent value? **S:** At UGC it was dark and tannic with toast and coffee. At the château it showed more fruit in the middle and flowers and coffee on the nose. Spicy, concentrated and powerful. Outstanding potential.

### **La Gurgue, Margaux ½\***

Very spicy wine with up front fruit. Good balance. Racy-value!

### **Ferriere, Margaux \*+**

Sweet, ripe blackberry fruit. Good weight. Some minerality on palate. Not overdone. Nice texture.

### **Giscours, Margaux \*\***

Vibrant, deep purple. Tastes great at Joanne. Big wine and finely balanced. Tasted three times. This could be a super winner. Has balance and great structure. **R:** Upfront dark fruit of blackberry jam and spice lead to a good sweet middle, a serious skeleton of structure, and a long finish. This is very regal, serious wine.

### **Kirwan, Margaux \*+**

Reserved nose, mineral. Starting to express itself. Should be very good.

### **Lascombes, Margaux \*1/2**

52% cabernet sauvignon, 45% merlot, 3% petit verdot. 22,000 cases produced. New wave, but in good balance. Touch extracted but flavor is fine. Very exotic Asian spices on the nose. This will sell well. Not Clyde's style. **C:** Really nice. Lush with ripe round fruit flavors, it combines length and polish. Delicious. **S:** Flashy and tannic at UGC. Super sweet with kirsh at the château. Balanced and subtle at Joanne.

### **Malescot St Exupery, Margaux \*\*1/2+**

60% cabernet sauvignon, 30% merlot and 10% petit verdot. 50% of the crop compared to 2004. One of the great wines of the vintage. Very deep and concentrated. A little clove and cinnamon on the nose and on the palate. Mouth-coating. An older school wine with great balance. Broad, fantastic wine. Will last a long time. Fabulous buy.

### **Pavillon Rouge, Margaux \*\***

48% cabernet sauvignon, 48% merlot and 4% petit verdot. Another great second wine. Vibrant purple color and licorice aromas. Blackberry and black raspberry fruits on the palate. Sweet throughout. 14% alcohol, and you can't tell it. **S:** Bright, silky middle. Velvety, fat, smooth finish. Great 2nd wine.

### **Margaux, Margaux \*\*\***

One of the best of the vintage. 85% cabernet sauvignon. This wine is very masculine in style for the Margaux appellation. Super concentrated with violets, currants, and raspberries. The most dense Margaux since 1982. Velvet on the finish. Not as sexy as Latour. **R:** Huge and harmonious, and at the same time elegant. Best I've ever tasted. Director Paul Pontailier calls it "air light" \*\*\*

### **Monbrison, Margaux**

Big. Tons of fruit and tannin and oak. Very powerful-mouth coating.

### Palmer

*I can't remember tasting a better Palmer on any of my previous 21 trips to taste the young wines of the vintage. The estate's production of 10,000 cases of first wine-is quite low with only 32 hectoliters per hectare produced.*

#### Alter Ego de Palmer, Margaux \*1/2+

The second wine is 43% cabernet sauvignon and 57% merlot-more merlot than usual.-It has bittersweet chocolate aromas that follow to the palate. Blackberries covered with chocolate-silky texture. Elegant sweet entry with spices and ripe fruit flavors -long finish. Outstanding. **R:** Supple raspberry jam fruit and glossy oak. I could almost drink this silky wine right now. Fantastic! \*\*

#### Palmer, Margaux \*\*\*

Otherworldly wine. 53% cabernet sauvignon, 40% merlot and 7% petit verdot. A bit more cab than is in the vineyard. Black purple color. Deep concentrated nose of toasted oak, black cherry and chocolate. Very sweet, forward ripe fruit entry with hints of framboise underneath. Fabulous structure and silky, velvety mouthfeel-you want to drink it right now. Tannins are round and covered by the massive fruit content. The finish lingers on the palate.

#### Prieure Lichine, Margaux

Tasted twice with conflicting notes. Reserve judgment.

#### Rausan Segla, Margaux \*1/2

Very perfumey nose and delicious entry. Long and lingering finish. Super wine. **C:** What a rich smorgasbord of flavors. Anise, clove and thick blackberries combine on the palate in a lush but elegant wine.

#### Siran, Margaux \*+

Nice floral aromas and a silky texture on the palate. Elegant style. Spicy wine with long finish. Could be a sleeper and a good value.

### St-Emilion

*As usual, this region is the most controversial for 2005s. Many wines were over-extracted and harsh, but there were lots of delicious, balanced and vibrant wines. Many value wines can be found here.*

#### Angélus, St-Emilion \*\*1/2

63% merlot and 37% cabernet franc. 14.5% alcohol, but you can't taste it in this wine. Blackish color. Pure, sweet aromas of blackberries. Chocolate-covered blackberries on the nose. Very creamy on the palate. Not overdone. Not over-extracted. Tannins are sweet and round. Outstanding. This shows the ripeness of 1990 and the structure of 2000. 30% less than average crop means this wine will be highly allocated. Superb wine.

#### Barde-Haut, St-Emilion \*

Quite a bit of oak evident. Sexy black fruit flavors. **C:** This wine is rich with plums and spicy oak. Lots of lushness gives it appeal.

#### Beausejour Becot, St-Emilion

Very powerful and a bit dry and extracted.

#### Brun, St-Emilion ½\*

Spicy, black cherry aromas and flavors. Good richness. Slightly rustic, but will be good value. **C:** Crushed raspberries form the aromatics and flavor. The palate is intense with earth and minerals on the finish.

#### Canon, St-Emilion\*

They are on the road back to making fine wines. Soft and pure and a bit old school style. Very well-made.

#### Canon-La-Gaffelière, St-Emilion \*1/2+

55% merlot, 35% cabernet franc and 10% cabernet sauvignon. Slightly closed nose. Some extraction. Big red fruit. Mouth-coating wine with a little oakiness in the finish. Will age very well.

#### Chauvin, St-Emilion

Blackberry fruit and cherry on nose and follows to palate. Toasty. Good richness.

#### Clos de l'Oratoire, St-Emilion \*

90% merlot, 10% cabernet sauvignon. A lot more earth. Very much more spice. Red fruit. Round and sweet. Great texture in the mouth. A little dry and tannic on the finish.

#### Clos Fourtet, St-Emilion \*1/2

76% merlot, 12% cabernet franc, 12% cabernet sauvignon. Black color. Spicy, racy with a tannic edge. **C:** Sweet plums make an impression on you right away. The middle of this wine is soft, spicy and lush. Nice effort. \*+

#### Dassault, St-Emilion 1/2\*

Black fruit and licorice flavors. Good length. A touch extracted.

#### Destieux, St-Emilion

Bright cherry aromas and flavors. A bit over-extracted.

#### Faugeres, St-Emilion \*

Extremely ripe aromas. Very extracted. Big wine. Very much a crowd pleaser. Tasted three times with consistent notes. Sweet upfront and very tannic and dry on the back end. Extracted.

#### Figeac, St-Emilion \*\*

Tasted at LD Vins and the wine showed very well. Deep concentrated nose of blackberries and some oak. Big wine and you can feel that there is a lot going on here. Just a bit closed. Could be a great wine.

#### Fombrauge, St-Emilion \*

Well balanced, fruity, spicy. Feels good on palate. Nice wine.

#### Fleur Cardinale, St-Emilion

Jammy, ripe and creamy. Blackberry jam. Good structure and finish.

#### Grand Mayne, St-Emilion \*?

Black fruits and toasty oak aromas. Fairly extracted but good feel on the palate. Touch hot on finish.

## 2005 BORDEAUX TASTING NOTES

### L'Arrosee, St-Emilion \*\*

60% merlot, 20% cabernet sauvignon and 20% cabernet franc. 3000 cases made. This wine is much better than past vintages. The chateau has been entirely re-done. The wine is very lovely and elegant. Will not knock your socks off. More subtle, feminine style. Sweet berry fruit. Well balanced with a long sweet finish.

### La Couspaude, St-Emilion ½\*

Reserved on the nose and some tobacco and coffee flavors. Quite oaky and some big tannins at back end.

### La Dominique, St-Emilion

Pretty good and one of their better efforts. Still a bit short. Earthy red fruit flavors. Rustic style.

### La Gaffeliere, St-Emilion

Easy to drink, forward wine. On the light side.

### La Mondotte, St-Emilion \*\*

80% merlot and 20% cabernet franc. Toasty aromas. Boysenberry in the nose and followed to the palate. Very lush, intense. Thick and deep. Huge wine, but easy to taste. Extracted but well balanced.

### Larcis Ducasse, St-Emilion \*\*+

Still making exceptional wines. Boysenberry and blueberry aromas. Tons of fruit-very powerful and in good balance. Sweet core of fruit.

### Larmande, St-Emilion ½\*

Good core of fruit. Hard edge, opens after airing. Could be a value.

### Mondorian, St-Emilion

Nice upfront fruit entry, but quite extracted and tannic at back end.

### Le Fer, St-Emilion \*1/2

100% merlot and 100% new oak. Small property next to Grand Mayne. Only 500 cases produced. Great concentration and very well-balanced wine. Sweet and lush.

### Ausone, St-Emilion

### Cheval Blanc, St-Emilion

### Monbousquet, St-Emilion

### Pavie, St-Emilion

### Pavie Decesse, St-Emilion

Did not taste these wines. Conflicting reports.

### Pavie Macquin, St-Emilion\*\*

Spicy blackberry nose. Very round and sweet with fruit masking the tannins. Big wine with fine breed. Pushed but in control. **S:** Very bright with lots of red fruit. Big and tannic on the back end.

### Peby Faugeres, St-Emilion

Whisky like aromas and flavors. Too much for all of us. Tasted twice.

### Quinault l'Enclos, St-Emilion

Sweet palate entry. A little rough at end and thin in middle. A little

too extracted

### Rochebelle, St-Emilion \*\*

Black color. Blueberry jam on the nose. Thick and rich. Exceptional palate with great sweetness and fantastic mid palate. This property is contiguous with La Mondotte. In fact, what is today La Mondotte once belonged to Rochebelle. Very very good wine.

### Troplong Mondot, St-Emilion \*\*

Very toasty aromas and some red fruits on the palate entry. Quite lush and broad on the palate. Clyde loves this wine. Structure and class.

## Pomerol and Lalande de Pomerol

*The heavy clay soils here helped in 2005 and there are some great wines. We did not taste as many wines in this region as we would have liked to.*

### Beau Soleil, Pomerol

Decent wine. Good balance.

### Beauregard, Pomerol \*

Anise and spice on the nose. Some peppery nuances on palate. Very nice wine. **R:** Very floral, honest and pure purple fruit. Mid weight, has a lot going for it. Beautifully balanced, and I like it a lot. Poor mans VCC? **S:** Medium bodied with herbs and spice. Not a heavy hitter but good.

### Clinet, Pomerol \*+

Showed well. Red licorice on the nose. Good richness on the palate and a long finish. A wine to watch. Tasted three times. **C:** Spicy, rich dark plum flavors finish with a flourish of chocolate in this nicely concentrated wine.

### Clos l'Eglise, Pomerol \*1/2+

Chocolate-covered berries on the nose and on the palate. Extremely concentrated. A little tough to taste at this stage, but this will be a great wine. Will last a long time.

### Gazin, Pomerol \*

A bit extracted. Deep color. Rough on the finish. **S:** Charred vanilla nose. Complex with flowers, red fruit and elegant tannin. I like this.

### l'Evangile, Pomerol \*\*

Big, tannic and reserved, but underneath there is fantastic fruit lurking. Slightly extracted, but the wine can handle it. Well balanced. This will last a long time.

### La Clemence, Pomerol

Tough and tannic. Very concentrated, but too much for me.

### La Conseillante, Pomerol \*

More elegant style. Quite light and soft. Could be expensive. **C:** Black fruits lay out nicely on a light palate that comes up a bit short in the finish.

## 2005 BORDEAUX TASTING NOTES

### La Gay, Pomerol

Sweet wine upfront-tannic on the back end. Huge wine.

### La Pointe, Pomerol \*

Elegant style. Soft and earthy. Easy to drink. Tasted three times. **S:** Lifted aromas. Bright and juicy for a Pomerol. Light tannin. Easy to taste.

### Nenin, Pomerol \*+

74% merlot and 26% cabernet franc. Reserved nose, but explosive sweet entry on the palate. Very ripe tannins and elegant style of wine. Jean Hubert Delon (My golf partner) thinks it is his best to date.

### Petit Village, Pomerol \*1/2

Their best in long time. 75% merlot, 20% cabernet sauvignon and 5% cabernet franc, very high cabernet sauvignon content. Spicy, clove-like aromas with allspice. A touch of chocolate. Tons of fruit. Black fruit and black licorice flavors. Long, sweet and balanced. Very bright and lively. A touch tough at back. Tasted three times.

### Rouget, Pomerol \*

Sweet and forward ripe fruit flavors. Lighter style-good balance. Easy drinker. Bright and fresh. **R:** Spice box and clove hints abound in this naturally extracted wine of red fruits. Tasty and refreshing. One of Pomerol's best deals. \*1/2

### Vieux Chateau Certan, Pomerol \*\*1/2+

80% merlot and 20% cabernet franc. 40 hectoliters per hectare. 3800 cases made. Sweet aromas of red licorice. The nose jumps from the glass. Black fruit on the mid palate. Very sweet, broad, rich, mouth-filling. Pure. **R:** Epitome of elegance. Beautiful, perfectly extracted in the grapey fruit. You can actually see thru this wine. Incredible purity in the mouth.

### La Fleur de Bouard, Lalande de Pomerol \*1/2

90% merlot, 8% cabernet franc and 2% cabernet sauvignon. Bitter-sweet chocolate and tobacco on the nose. Oak in the middle. Deep with blueberry finish. **C:** Sweet plums, cola, spicy black fruits give this new-world wine an exotic character and flavor.

### Le Plus de Fleur de Bouard, Lalande de Pomerol \*

100% merlot. 100% new oak. 14.6% alcohol. Very sweet nose, lots of oak. Good concentration. Slightly bitter.

## Cotes and Fronsac

*You can always find good values here, Many wines are best to buy when they arrive.*

### Vrai Canon Bouche, Canon Fronsac

Smoky, bacon, toasty, cranberry fruit.

### Les Trois Croix, Fronsac

Oak flavor. Check on arrival.

### de Birot, 1er Cotes de Bordeaux

Fresh, elegant. Ripe berries. Buy on arrival. Value.

### Reynon 1er Cotes de Bordeaux

Toasty flavors, not much nose. Rustic style.

### d'Aiguilhe, Cotes de Castillon \*+

80% merlot and 20% cabernet franc. Bright and effusive wine with a lovely palate entry. Blackberry juice flavors. Plenty of structure.

### Cap de Faugetes, Cotes de Castillon 1/2\*

Sweet and lush. Ripe and forward. **S:** Fruity, rich round and sweet. Rich and uncomplicated.

### Gigault "Cuvee Viva," Cotes de Blaye \*+

90% merlot, 5% cabernet sauvignon and 5% cabernet franc. Toasty oak aromas. Ripe blackberries. Deep color-blackish. Fairly extracted, but in good balance. Sweet core of fruit.

### Les Grands Marechaux, Cotes de Blaye

Black fruits. Powerful and tannic.

## Sauternes

*At first, one would imagine '05 Sauternes to resemble the other dry years such as the ultra-powerful '21 or the ultra-sweet '03. Yet there seems to be very little resemblance to either. They are less powerful than the '21s are reputed to be and less outrageously sweet than the '03s. In fact, the '05s, in spite of the very dry conditions, have more to do with the rich yet fine and elegant '01s than either of the other two.* -Bill Blatch Vintage Report

*A step behind the 2001s at this stage. Very hard to taste this young as some of the final blends have not been done yet.* -Clyde Beffa Jr

### Bastor LaMontagne, Sauternes \*

Lush wine with fine balance and texture. Could be a value.

### Coutet, Sauternes \*\*

Coconut and honey aromas. Lovely texture and mouthfeel. Lush.

### Doisy Daene, Sauternes \*

Lighter style. More lemony. Good balance. Easy to drink.

### Doisy Védrières, Sauternes \*1/2

Lush mouthfeel and great balance. Pineapple and peaches. Not overdone. Very good.

### d'Yquem, Sauternes

Did not taste this wine.

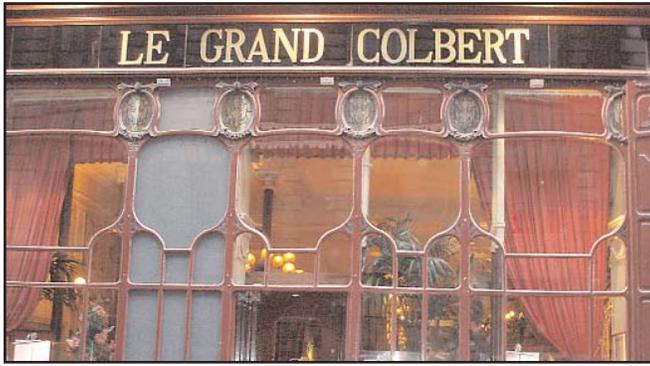
### Guiraud, Sauternes \*1/2

Nice entry. Good richness. In balance. Very nice.

### La Tour Blanche, Sauternes \*\*+

Great entry-fabulous richness. Balanced and complete. Honey and pineapple with coconut and spices thrown in.

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**OUR FAVORITE PARIS BISTRO (JACK AND DIANE ALSO LIKED IT IN 'SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE')**

**Lafaurie Peyraguey, Sauternes ??**

This wine was showing poorly when tasted. Thicker style-very heavy and a bit ponderous. Too heavy for me. Sample?

**Nairac, Sauternes \*1/2**

Lemony style. Bright with great acid. Clyde really likes this.

**Raymond Lafon, Sauternes \*1/2**

Lots of honey and some coconut with fine acidity. Very rich and well-

balanced. Good.

**Rayne Vigneau, Sauternes ½\***

Cinnamon aromas that follow to the palate. Mid weight on the palate. Nice.

**Rabaud Promis, Sauternes \*1/2**

Lemony and grapefruit with melons and spice on the palate. Very clean and balanced.

**Rieussec, Sauternes ??**

Only tasted once, and it was closed up and holding back. Plenty of weight on the palate. Must retry.

**Sigalas Rabaud, Sauternes \***

Very spicy nose and quite thick palate impression. Could be quite good.

**Suduiraut, Sauternes \*\*+**

Otherworldly and already delicious. 90% semillon and 10% sauvignon blanc. Coconut and honey and pineapple aromas-unctuous on the palate-tons of balancing acid to go with the fruit. Creamy rich mid palate. A complete wine that is wonderful already.



**3005 El Camino •  
Redwood City, CA 94061**

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