

THE 90+ SOCIETY



BY COLLIN WILLIAMS

BORDEAUX: A BEACON OF INTRIGUE

Over the last couple of years, I have developed a better appreciation for the wines from Bordeaux. Sure, it helps that I went to France two years ago for VinExpo (large wine expo held in Bordeaux) and received a firsthand account of the region, its people, Chateaux and sites. However, despite gaining this form of intimate knowledge, it seems that my quest for a broader expertise of Bordeaux reminds me of the old saying “the more you know shows you just how much you DON’T know”.

I recently consulted with our very own Bear Dalton (one of the foremost authorities on Bordeaux wine) about how I can envelope myself more with this wonderful area of the world. In a nutshell, he explained to me that the best form of understanding is simply to experience Bordeaux in all its glory. Enjoy the wines, read about the famous Chateaux, but above all else simply seeing these places for yourself is like earning a master’s degree in a specialized field that few have been able to reach.

I think that what has always intimidated me about this particular area within the wine industry is that the wines have such prowess and history that they can seem unapproachable to the wine drinker who has heard the rumors about the dry, hugely tannic wines from Bordeaux and would much rather prefer an easy going Shiraz from Australia. And yet, like a beacon, Bordeaux continues to draw me closer – almost daring me to become engrossed in the subject. So, to this challenge, I say “Game On!”

Following are a couple of wines that I thought would help you get started down the “Rabbit’s Hole” that is Bordeaux.

**Also, for those of you who (like me) are interested in learning more about Bordeaux I encourage you to read a book that I recently picked up: Bordeaux: The Wines, The Vineyards, The Winemakers by Oz Clarke 2006.*



Please email me at collinwilliams@specsonline.com with feedback.

Croix Mouton 2008 (Bordeaux Superior) (89 – 90)pts – Wine Advocate

\$14.99

One of the estates owned by Jean-Philippe Janoueix, this consistently well-made Bordeaux Superieur was fashioned from low yields of 27 hectoliters per hectare. Its opaque ruby/purple hue is accompanied by sweet aromas of graphite, charcoal, blackberries, and blue fruits. A blend of 87% Merlot and 13% Cabernet Franc, it exhibits a beautiful texture, medium to full body, and a long finish. Another sleeper of the vintage, it should be consumed during its first 3-4 years of life.



Chateau Caronne St Gemme 2005 (Haut Medoc) *Smart Buy* \$19.94 91pts – Wine Spectator/ (88-90) – Wine Advocate

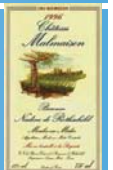
Offers raisin and dried fruit, with very ripe fruit aromas and coffee and oak undertones. Full-bodied, with velvety tannins and a long finish. This is pumped up, but I like the flamboyant character. Best after 2011. 20,000 cases made. –JS



Chateau Malmaison 2005 (Medoc) 91pts – Wine Spectator

\$24.99

Very dark purple in color, showing aromas of mineral, dark chocolate and licorice. Full-bodied, with silky tannins and a fresh, clean finish. Layered and pretty. Very, very balanced. Close to the excellent 2000. Best after 2012. 8,330 cases made. –JS



Chateau Grand Corbin – Despagne 2006 (St. Emilion) 90pts – Wine Advocate

\$31.92

Another sleeper of the vintage from an estate that has been doing everything right since 1998, this deep purple-hued 2006 exhibits sweet blue and blackberry fruit intermixed with notions of licorice, camphor, and flowers. The wine possesses outstanding concentration, medium to full body, moderately firm, but sweet, noble tannins, and a long finish. The ripeness of the fruit suggests a certain degree of accessibility, but this St.-Emilion will age easily for 12-15 years.



La Confession 2004 (St. Emilion) 91pts – Wine Advocate

\$38.99

Performing much better than it did from barrel, the 2004 La Confession has added significant weight and opulence over the last year. Young proprietor Jean-Philippe Janoueix has produced a fabulous effort for the vintage. Its dense plum/purple color is accompanied by a big, sweet perfume of creosote, blackberries, blueberries, truffles, licorice, and espresso roast. Opulent, rich, and full-bodied, this stunning St.-Emilion will drink well for 12-15 years.

