

May Session Report

Session Theme: Bordeaux – Different sub-regions

Date: 24.05.2022

Location: Xara Lodge

Menu:

- Slightly smoked seabass with horseradish espuma, ponzu sauce and basil sponge
- Parmesan Gnudi with beetroot, sage and hazelnut crumble
- Angus beef short rib salsify, red onion, miso, shitakii
- Baked camembert en croute, Orange Chutney and Brioche

Food Scoring: 7.7/ 10

		Wine	Region	Vintage	Varietal	Voting Out of 20	Retail Price	Importer	Consumption
Aprtf	White	Château Marjosse Anthologie Cuvee Palombe	AOC Bordeaux Blanc	2020	Bordeaux Blend	14.08	€27	Philippe Martinet	8
A	Red	La Fleur de Bouard	Lalande de Pomerol	2016	Bordeaux Blend	15.44	€38	Michael Tabone	8
B	Red	Château La Serre	St Emilion	2015	Bordeaux Blend	15.11	€55	Philippe Martinet	8
C	Red	Château Mazeyres	Pomerol	2016	Bordeaux Blend	15.56	€37	Michael Tabone	8
D	Red	Château de Pez	St Estephe	2015	Bordeaux Blend	15.03	€46	Charles Grech	6
Average						15.04		Average per member	1.06

Wine: Château Marjosse Anthologie Cuvee Palombe	Region: AOC Bordeaux Blanc
Vintage: 2018	Varietal: 1/3 Sémillon, 1/3 Sauvignon gris, 1/3 Sauvignon blanc
Alcohol Content: 13%	Price: €27

Tasting Notes

This cuvée brings us to the top of white wines in Bordeaux. Very careful viticulture. Slow pressing where only the heart is preserved. Fermentation and aging in oak casks, barrels of 300 and 600 liters, for 12 months. Everyone knows that Marjosse is the property of Pierre Lurton, who manages Cheval Blanc and Yquem. Since 2018, he and his team have been doing a great job there.” (by wine critic Jean Marc Quarin)

Description

For the past 30 years, Pierre Lurton has been taking a meticulous care of the vines in his hidden garden of Ch. Marjosse, one of the most iconic châteaux of the area that he purchased bits by bits. This estate, whose remarkable chartreuse was built in 1782, is located 14 km south of Saint Emilion. The 20 hectares vineyard is made of clay and limestone soils, old vines, and a great diversity of grape varieties: merlot, malbec, cabernet franc and cabernet sauvignon in red; sauvignon blanc, sauvignon gris, sémillon and muscadelle in white. While acting as general manager of Cheval Blanc and d’Yquem, Pierre Lurton carried out a tremendous work to turn Marjosse into one of the most sought-after wines of the Entre-Deux-Mers region. Since the 2018 vintage, he has opened a new chapter for the Château. Together with his technical director, Jean-Marc Domme, they started producing a few confidential cuvées on the most interesting plots of the estate in order to express its wonderful terroir with even more finesse. The « Anthologie » range was born! This cuvée is the result of a blend of old gnarled ceps from Sémillon, Sauvignon Blanc and Gris planted on clay-limestone soil.



IL-QUATRA

Wine: La Fleur de Bouard	Region: Lalande de Pomerol
Vintage: 2016	Varietal: 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon
Alcohol Content: 14%	Price: €38

Tasting Notes

Medium garnet-purple in color, the 2015 La Fleur de Bouard has a perfumed nose of violets and roses with a core of baked cherries, warm black raspberries, plums and spice box. The medium to full-bodied palate is soft and packed with fruit, finishing with an herbal lift. [90+ Points, Lisa Perrotti-Brown – February 2018, robertparker.com]

Description

Château La Fleur de Bouard comes from the profound belief of its owner, Hubert de Bouard de Laforest, in the rich potential of Lalande-de-Pomerol terroirs. Supported by his daughter, Coralie, he applies his technical and oenological know-how in a new, environmentally friendly approach to wine growing. With precision and sustainable purpose, the de Bouard family makes wines with outstanding elegance that compare with the greatest Bordeaux appellations. Château La Fleur de Bouard represents the brilliant harvest that resulted from the seed planted by the de Bouard family in this vineyard in 1998. Benefitting from the inventive know-how of Hubert and Coralie de Bouard, supported by their technical director Philippe Nunes, Château La Fleur de Bouard has flourished and become the flagship of the Lalande-de-Pomerol appellation. Blended with 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, the fruit from each individual plot is vinified separately using gravity alone in small truncated cone-shaped tanks. The wine is then aged in oak for 18 to 24 months in barrels, of which 75% are new.



Wine: Château La Serre	Region: St Emillion
Vintage: 2015	Varietal: 80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc.
Alcohol Content: 14.5%	Price: €55

Tasting Notes

Dark red cherries, smoke, tobacco, licorice and sweet herbs flesh out in the 2014 La Serre. Lifted, gracious and translucent, the 2014 is impeccable in its overall balance. Hints of new leather and spice add nuance on the supple, open-knit finish. This is a relatively delicate style of St.-Emilion, yet all the elements fall into place nicely. [89-92 Points, Antonio Galloni – April 2015, vinous.com]

Description

This 7 hectare vineyard is situated along the edge of Saint-Émilion's famous limestone terrace, just a few dozen meters from the center of this medieval town. The vineyard is planted on a south-facing limestone plateau (hence its name, "the greenhouse") covered with a thin layer of clay and averages 35 years of age. M. Luc d'Arfeuille, the estate's passionate owner, favors a traditional approach in both the vineyard and the winery and his methods ensure that this exceptional terroir is perfectly expressed in his wines. The soil is tilled manually to avoid the use of herbicides, and vineyard work is kept to the minimum to allow the vineyard's natural character to shine through. Traditional interventions such as pruning and disbudding suffice to control yields. The estate has recently introduced some modern elements, such as pre-fermentary cold maceration and, more recently, optical sorting, to allow only the purest expression of this privileged terroir. M. d'Arfeuille and his team seek balance in all aspects of winemaking, pursuing the legendary elegance of the wines that have been produced on this historic land for centuries. The wines of Château La Serre are deep and generous with a streak of minerality.



IL-QATRA


Wine: Château Mazeyres	Region: Pomerol
Vintage: 2016	Varietal: 90% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot
Alcohol Content: 14%	Price: €37

Tasting Notes

The medium garnet-purple colored 2016 Mazeyres gives red plums, kirsch and black raspberries with earthy undertones and touches of stewed tea and tobacco. The palate is medium-bodied with a chewy frame and earthy finish. **Wine Advocate-Parker : 87/100**

Description

Château Mazeyres is in one of the smallest Gironde appellations, Pomerol, widely recognised for the aromatic intensity of its wines and the typical features of its terroirs sat within an exceptional geological framework. It therefore has hugely prestigious neighbours. The Château Mazeyres vineyards are on a beautiful outcrop of sandy gravel with a clay and gravel subsoil. One part covers the Catusseau plateau, which is sand over a molasses subsoil extremely rich in ‘crasse de fer’ (iron oxide). Given this unique foundation, Alain Moueix immediately decided to showcase the vineyards by stimulating their expressive potential. He initially opted for sustainable viticulture and established fastidious plot-by-plot management to reveal the diversity and complementarity of the different terroirs. Building on his experience at Château Fonroque (100% biodynamic since 2002), he implemented some key improvements, notably by fostering interactions between the plant, the soil, the subsoil and the environment. This strategy of revealing natural organic movement made a major contribution to the authenticity and extremely expressive finesse of Mazeyres wines. The wonderful 2015 was the first Château Mazeyres vintage to hold organic agriculture certification. The no less wonderful 2018 was the first biodynamically certified vintage.



Wine: Château de Pez	Region: St Estephe
Vintage: 2009, 2010, 2015	Varietal: 48% Merlot, 46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot
Alcohol Content: 13%	Price: €46

Tasting Notes

2009 - Chocolate covered blackberries, cassis, earth, and truffle make up the aromas. This sweet, rich, round wine ends with a mouthful of chocolate covered cassis. This is the finest wine I've ever tasted from de Pez. **91 Points**

2015 - With tobacco and crisp, red fruits, this medium-bodied wine delivers a fresh, bright, spicy finish in a forward style. **88 points**

Description

Chateau de Pez is perhaps the oldest Bordeaux wine-making estate in the Saint Estephe appellation. The only other Saint Estephe property with as much history is the neighboring vineyard of Chateau Calon Segur. The de Pez estate was created in 1452 by Jean de Briscos. Chateau de Pez was later owned by the Pontac family. The Pontac family are known for creating the vineyard and estate that later became what we know of as Chateau Haut Brion in Pessac Leognan. Chateau de Pez became the property of the state during the French Revolution and was eventually sold at auction. Like every vineyard in the Medoc, Chateau de Pez passed through a countless array of owners until it was purchased in 1995 by Jean-Claude Rouzaud. Rouzaud is best known for the Roederer Champagne house, the maker of the famous, high-end Champagne Cristal. However, the Rouzaud family had several other important investments in Bordeaux including Pichon Comtesse de Lalande in Pauillac, Chateau Bernadotte, and Chateau Haut-Beausejour, both of which are also located in Saint Estephe. Since the estate was first purchased, Frederic Rouzaud has been in charge of making significant investments in improving the Left Bank vineyards and the wine-making facilities at Chateau de Pez.

