



Commanderie de Bordeaux Dinner



Bentley Restaurant

Wed 26th Oct 2022



Champagne on Arrival—Welcome!

1982 Perrier-Jouët Belle Époque

Perrier-Jouët Champagne house was founded in 1918. Named after the 'golden age' in France of the late 19th century, Belle Époque is bottled in the striking hand-painted bottle that is instantly recognisable the world over. A 50% Chardonnay, 45% Pinot Noir & 5% Pinot Meunier blend, the strength of this prestige cuvée is in its finesse & elegance rather than power or fruit. Artist and master glassmaker Emile Gallé was one of the Art Nouveau movement's pioneers. He designed the iconic Japanese anemone flowers wreathed in gold that was placed on the bottle of the first Perrier-Jouët Belle Époque vintage in 1964, turning it into a work of art which unfurls and continues to this day.

1982 (Champagne) - An exceptionally fine, rich vintage. Ideal weather conditions led to a good vintage, a relief after a disappointing run. A cold and frosty winter gave way to a coolish spring, but temperatures picked up later in the season. The flowering conditions in June were ideal, and summer was sunny and dry. The grapes were ripe by relatively early on in September, and showers mid-month helped them achieve near-perfection. The crop was one of the largest on record. A Five Star Vintage (Decanter)

Notes : _____

Nori Tart + Broccoli + Koji

Grilled Akoya + Koji Butter + Fingerlime



1984 Ch. Laville Haut Brion Blanc, Graves

Laville Haut Brion is arguably the greatest dry white wine in Bordeaux. No more than 1,000 cases per year are produced from a tiny and exclusive 3.7 hectare vineyard with an average vine age of over 50 years. It is a blend of 70% Sémillon & 30% Sauvignon Blanc - the grapes are barrel-fermented and matured in 100% new oak barriques for 15-18 months before bottling. Aromatically complex on the nose and almost lusciously rich on the palate, with strong mineral overtones and a long finish, the wine demands extended cellaring and should rarely be approached before its 10th birthday. Laville Haut Brion was originally acquired in 1611 by Marie de Laville, widow of Sir de Queyrac, a wealthy Bordeaux magistrate & the estate has kept Mme Laville's name throughout the centuries (until 2010). In the 1953 Classification of Graves, Laville Haut-Brion was rated a Premier Cru as the only one of the classed chateaux to be exclusive producers of white wine. In March 2010 the wine was renamed to Château La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc.

1984 (Bordeaux) - Numerous châteaux declassified their entire crop in St. Emilion and Pomerol. The light, often unripe wines should have been drunk up by the time they were in their early teens, even the wines from the Left Bank. However, there is a hint of light in the dark closet as there were some good 1984 white Bordeaux wines from Pessac Leognan (Graves) produced. (B.B.R)

Notes : _____

Pearl Meat + Charred Grape + Macadamia



RWD Surprise Wine — Name & Notes : _____

1909 Château Pontet-Canet, Pauillac



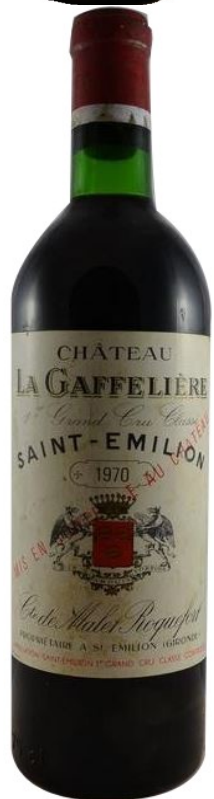
Château Pontet-Canet found the inspiration for its name from its lineage, a former owner who was also the royal governor of the Medoc, Jean-François de Pontet. Several years after Pontet's death, his descendants purchased a famous section from the Canet area. Once the combination of his name & the land were put together, this was the birth of the name Château Pontet-Canet. Once the vineyard was fully established, they became & remained one of the largest Bordeaux wine-producing estates in the entire appellation and were granted Fifth Growth status in the 1855 classification. This led to one of the most important Bordeaux negociants of the day, Herman Cruse purchasing the estate in 1865 and his family subsequently owned Pontet-Canet for 110 years, until another negociant, Guy Tesseron, acquired it in 1975.

1909 (Bordeaux) - The vintage was threatened hugely by rough late-summer storms, and the resulting wines were lighter in style in body and weight. Harvest began September 17th. Many wines were promising at first, but not all have stood the test of time.

Notes : _____

Kangaroo Striploin + Mushroom + Pepperberry

1970 Château La Gaffelière, St. Emilion



Château La Gaffelière has the distinction of being one of the oldest, family owned vineyards in the St. Émilion appellation of Bordeaux. While parts of the estate date back to the 11th century, the beginnings of La Gaffelière start with the arrival of the Comte de Malet-Roquefort in the 17th century. By 1800, La Gaffelière had earned a reputation for producing high quality St. Émilion wine. Near the end of the 1800's, the original extensive estate was divided into what became Château Canon-la-Gaffelière, and Château Gaffelière-Naudes. After the 1963 vintage, the name was simplified to La Gaffelière. After three centuries, it still belongs to the Malet-Roquefort family. Planted to 66% Merlot, 17% each of Cab Franc & Cab Sauvignon.

1970 (Bordeaux) - July saw drought conditions. August was changeable, with rainy, cool periods punctuated by hot intervals. A stormy & cold start to September was followed by a run of hot, sunny days that lasted into the start of the harvest in October. It was a year where everything seems to go pretty much right and quality was consistent in all the regions. A great year for rich and complex claret. A Five Star Vintage (Decanter)

Notes : _____

Dry Aged Duck Breast + Young Parsnip + Black Garlic

1972 Château Lafite-Rothschild, Pauillac



The name Lafite comes from the Gascon language term “la hite”, which means “hillock”. Jacques de Ségur is credited with the planting of the Lafite vineyard in the 1670's. With marketing being directed towards the nobility of France and Europe, demand for Lafite exploded – it was even referred to as ‘The King's Wine’. Baron James de Rothschild bought the Château in 1868 and with the exception of a five-year occupation by German troops during WWII (which drained the cellars), the Château has remained in the Rothschild family ever since. The Château's enviable cellar is reputed to still have a few bottles of the great vintages of 1795, 1798 & 1818 remaining, just waiting for the right occasion.

1972 - Overall, the cool and mostly wet 1972 vintage was a let-down for most of the established wine world. For drinking now, stick to only the very top labels.

Notes : _____

1947 Château La Croix de Gay, Pomerol

Château La Croix de Gay has a long history in the Pomerol appellation as wine was produced from the vineyard in 1772, but the owners of the vineyard, the Raynaud-Lebreton family have an even longer history in Bordeaux dating way back to 1477. The vineyard faces the Route de Saint-Jacques-de-Compostelle, one of several paths followed by pilgrims as they made their way through the region. The focus was the cross, the Croix de Gay, which stood at the roadside to guide the pilgrims on their way. Château La Croix de Gay was one of the first Pomerol properties to bottle at least some of their production at the estate, taking place in the mid to late 1800s. From that point forward, through small purchases from other vineyards, La Croix de Gay slowly grew in size, but has more recently shrunk again as parcels have been sold off, seemingly the culmination of years of dispute between family members. Today the 4-hectare vineyard of Chateau La Croix de Gay is planted to 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc.



1947 (Bordeaux) - Harvest began (in St Emilion) on Sept 15th after a long hot summer and high temperatures continued in the mid-30s during harvest. Generous wines & high alcohol levels resulted, with some wines even lacking stability. Several bottles from this vintage have achieved legendary status. 1947 produced some of the richest, most concentrated wines ever made in Bordeaux. A legendary 5 Star vintage.

Notes : _____

Spring Ridge Venison + Black Walnut + Beetroot

1955 Domaine de l'Eglise, Pomerol

Domaine de l'Eglise is one of a number of Pomerol producers using l'Eglise (church) as part of their name in reference to their proximity to the Église Saint-Jean, the magnificent church which towers above the rooftops of those few buildings that make up the village below. Here you are already right on the Pomerol plateau upon which all the greatest vineyards are to be found. Domaine de l'Eglise is considered the oldest winery in Pomerol with records dating the estate as far back as 1589 although at its inception the property was probably used as a hospital or a hospice. In modern times and like many estates, the vineyards of Domaine de l'Eglise were devastated in the extremely harsh 1956 frost and needed to be completely replanted. In 1972 the Landard family (who had owned the vineyard since 1793), sold Domaine de l'Eglise to the well-known Casteja family and Borie Manou.

1955 - Bordeaux - Widely regarded as a fabulous vintage. Strong wines were produced from the Medoc, Pomerol, St. Emilion and Pessac Leognan appellations. The growing season enjoyed warm, dry and sunny conditions. In fact, the summer was close to perfect. It was hot for most of June, July and August. Some rain fell in September, but the rain came at right moment and helped the dry vintage to reach maximum levels of ripeness. An above average sized crop.

Notes : _____



1934 Château Latour, Pauillac



The legendary First Growth estate of Château Latour lies at the very south-eastern tip of the commune of Pauillac in the Médoc region to the north-west of Bordeaux, at its border with Saint-Julien, and only a few hundred metres from the banks of the Gironde estuary. The estate produces just three red wines, the Grand Vin is the focus, plus since 1966 there has been a second wine 'Les Forts de Latour', and a third wine released every year since 1990 simply named "Pauillac". The estate has 78ha of vineyard, of which 47 hectares near the château are termed l'Enclos. The Grand Vin of Château Latour is typically 75% Cabernet Sauvignon & 20% Merlot, with the balance being Petit Verdot & Cabernet Franc, with a typical annual production of 18,000 cases. The rich and complex history of the estate dates from 1331, when Pons, the Seigneur of Castillon, allowed one of the most prosperous families in the Medoc to create a fortress in the area of Saint-Lambert. That design included the original (now gone) landmark tower that Chateau Latour is famous for today. As for the wine.... It's full bodied, powerful, tannic, pure, and sophisticated in its style. Filled with cassis, earth, truffle, spice & tobacco flavours, Latour require decades to fully develop, the results are usually very special.

1934 (Bordeaux) - Harvest began September 21st for the first really good vintage of the decade. Drought during the summer followed by just the right amount of rain in September. Abundant quantity and high quality also, with several estates making wine which still taste great today.

Notes : _____

Jacks Creek Wagyu Rump Cap + Mustard Mole + Bush Tomato

1964 Ch. La Mission Haut-Brion, Pauillac



Now officially classed as a Grand Cru under the Graves classification of 1953, Château La Mission Haut-Brion is close neighbours with its foremost competitor – Château Haut-Brion. The properties are often coupled in the same bracket but with their distinctive terroirs, the wines are in fact quite different. Many wine experts argue that La Mission Haut-Brion should be re-classified as a First Growth. The Château is situated in Bordeaux' southern suburb, Talence. After a period of success & prosperity from 1664 until the 1780's, the arrival of the French Revolution saw the monks dispossessed and the estate subsequently auctioned off. It was not until 1919, when the property was acquired by Frederic Woltner that the wines began to regain their proper place alongside the First Growths. Woltner's practical implementation of innovative winemaking technologies helped propel the estate into the modern era. Familial disputes in later generations led to the sale of the property in 1983 to Domaine Clarence Dillon, which has also owned Château Haut-Brion since 1935. The two estates are currently represented by Prince Robert of Luxembourg and are managed by Jean-Philippe Delmas. There are 20ha of vines planted with 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc, vines are on average 21 years old and wine spends 20 months in new oak. It's difficult to resist La Mission Haut-Brion's feminine silky structure, extraordinary balance and sophisticated/refined "look", and it's ability to age is considered amongst the best in Bordeaux.

1964 - Bordeaux - A very good Four Star vintage. Heavy, but localised rain in the middle of the harvest, mainly in Pauillac & St-Estephe, caught out some Châteaux. The best 64's were made to the south of the Médoc, and in Graves. (Broadbent)

Notes : _____

1964 Château Cos d'Estournel, St Estephe - en Magnum

Château Cos d'Estournel is named after its 19th century owner, Louis-Gaspard d'Estournel, and it was he who built the unusual eastern styled building that is now a landmark for many tourists in the Médoc. It's a leading 2ème Cru Classé estate in St-Estephe, located in the south of the appellation on the border with Pauillac and its vineyards are superbly sited on a south-facing gravel ridge with a high clay content, just north of Lafite. Typically a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc, the relatively high Merlot content is of note, these are full-bodied, dark, brooding tannic wines when young which develop a complexity and intensity that can rival many top growths from Pauillac.



Notes : _____

Selection of Hard Cheese

White Strawberry + Yoghurt Sorbet + Lemon Verbena + Buttermilk

1949 Château Lafon, Sauternes

Château Lafon is located in the middle of the famous Yquem vineyards and blessed with vines that are over 50 years old. The story goes that the Lafon family had always had these plots and decided to build the château on top of them in 1867. With the great depression in the 1920's, the estate ran in to financial difficulties & the family were forced to sell the property at auction – at which point the Dufour family stepped in. While most of its neighbours are owned by multinationals & foreign investors, Lafon is its 4th generation of the Dufour family's ownership and has kept its independence. Lafon has 12 hectares of vineyards (98% Semillon & 2% Sauvignon Blanc), not just next to the château itself but also spread across Fargues, Bommès, Preignac and Sauternes. The winemaking is traditional & uses indigenous yeast for the fermentation, with 12 months élevage in French oak barrels, many reused from d'Yquem.

The 1949 Bordeaux vintage is among the most sought-after of the 20th century - one of the driest and sunniest vintages on record. Indeed many of Sauternes' other hot, dry years (e.g 1990, 1921, 1906 and 1899) have also proven to be great years for the appellation.

Notes : _____

