



**RARE WINE DINNERS**  
*Et provenientia suprema*  
Est. 2009



***Commanderie de Bordeaux Dinner***  
***Bentley Restaurant***  
***12th June 2025***



## 1989 Champagne Agrapart & Fils, L'Avizoise, Grand Cru, Blanc de Blancs



The house of Agrapart & Fils was founded in Avize by Arthur Agrapart at the end of the 19th century. His grandson, Pierre, expanded production in the 1950s-1960s. Since 1984, the estate has been run by Pascal Agrapart and his brother, Fabrice. The house produces three vintage Champagnes: Minéral, L'Avizoise and Vénus and total production is less than 6,000 cases per year. The house has received the highest possible rating of three-stars in La Revue du vin de France's Le guide des meilleurs vins de France. A 3-star rating was awarded to only nine Champagne estates in total, including Selsosse, Egly-Ouriet and Krug.

*1989 (Champagne) - A difficult early season with frosts damaging a number of vineyards, reducing the potential crop. Warm weather in May was counter-balanced with a cold snap in June, which negatively impacted flowering. However, hot and sunny conditions interspersed with showers throughout the summer and produced healthy and mature grapes, which were harvested in early September. The window of reaching ripeness was vast for the different varieties and locations due to the impact of the early season frost. The 11,619 kg/ha crop picked was a record level at the time, surpassed only by 1983 and 1982. The wines had instant charm and were rich, luscious and soft.*

Notes : \_\_\_\_\_

## 1972 Avery Brothers Corton-Charlemagne (Avery family cellar)

The Averys can trace its history back to 1793 but it was in the 1920s with Ronald Avery at the helm that Averys sailed to success. While other UK wine merchants bought wines from agents, Ronald made a point of travelling to wine estates personally to taste the wines with the winemakers. He was an excellent taster and by tasting in situ, he quickly discovered the best wines, producers and vintages. The relationships he built would become the cornerstone of Averys' success and last until this day. John Avery followed in his father's footsteps and became legendary, not only was he the first UK merchant to import New Zealand wines into the UK (in 1978), but in 1965 he travelled around Australia in a Rolls-Royce and met some of Australia's leading wine figures. He came home with an order for 10 cases of 1960 Penfolds Grange. This was the first time Grange had been imported to the UK and, of course, it would go on to become Australia's most famous wine.



Notes : \_\_\_\_\_

*Blue Fin Tuna + Golden Kiwi + Lemon Myrtle*

## 1985 Château d'Yquem "Y", Lur-Saluces

Y (pronounced "ee-grek" in French) is a rare wine, made from the same outstanding terroir and the same vines as Château d'Yquem. Up until 1996, Y was made at the end of the harvest, using the last bunches left on the vines affected to varying degrees by Botrytis cinerea. It has always been produced in small quantities and on an irregular basis since 1959. The style changed from 1996 by displaying increased qualities of freshness and crispness. (1979 vintage bottle pictured)

Notes : \_\_\_\_\_



## 1979 Château La Tuilerie, Graves

Château la Tuilerie du Puy covers more than 80 hectares of vineyards in the largest wine region of Bordeaux, Entre-Deux-Mers. A family property since 1616, it was in 1979 that Jean-Pierre Regaud continued his father's work but immediately began an ambitious project: equipping the Château with a modern winery, fully equipped with stainless steel vats and the latest innovations, including temperature control.

*1979 - Harvest started on 1st October. A high-yielding vintage, with some good quality wines that were harmonious and well-balanced. Some nice whites were made.*

Notes : \_\_\_\_\_

*Moreton Bay Bug + Yuzu Kosho + Lardo*

## 1946 Château Cheval Blanc

Archives show that vines have been grown at Cheval Blanc at least as far back as the 15th century. Formerly known as vin de Figeac, the wine was first sold under the name Cheval Blanc in 1852. The same cellar master was in charge at Cheval Blanc from 1943 to 1988 – Gaston Vaissière poured his talent, energy, and enthusiasm into making the most of a terroir he considered "magical". Cheval Blanc obtained the highest possible distinction in the first classification of Saint-Émilion wines in 1954: Premier Grand Cru Classé "A". This exalted rank was confirmed in every classification during each subsequent decade and Cheval Blanc became a member of the exclusive "Club of 9" comprising the first growths of Bordeaux.

*The 1946 Bordeaux wine vintage was always going to be in the shadow of the legend that was the 1945. This year also as the unique distinction of being the only Bordeaux vintage where the vineyards were attacked by locusts. Nevertheless, 1946 holds up as a good vintage, especially for the top producers.*

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## 1975 Château Haut Brion

Haut-Brion is the only First Growth not from Haut-Médoc, being situated just opposite La Mission Haut-Brion in Pessac, so falling under the Graves A.C. Documents dating back to 1521 show Haut-Brion was producing wine when the estate was known as Aubrion, making Haut-Brion the oldest continuously working winery & luxury brand in Bordeaux. On April 10, 1663 Samuel Pepys (The Parker of his day) wrote probably the world's first professional wine review after tasting the wine at London's Royal Oak Tavern, "*There I drank a sort of French wine called Ho-Bryan that hath a good and most particular taste I never met with.*" In 1666, the owner of Château Haut-Brion opened a tavern in England for the express purpose of selling & promoting their wines. They were the first Bordeaux chateau producing truly ageworthy wine by introducing longer periods of aging in barrel, as well as being the first to continuously add wine to top off the barrels, reducing the amount of oxygen exposure.

Notes : \_\_\_\_\_

*Hispi Cabbage, Smoked Bone Marrow Bordelaise, Chestnut Mushroom*



## 1975 Château Cheval Blanc

1975 came after a series of difficult vintages, including the heavy rains during the 1974 harvest. Having been put off by these challenges, many estates picked too early in 1975, which led to austere wines that did not develop well in bottle. However, Cheval Blanc's early-maturing microclimate, & the decision to wait for the Cabernet Franc grapes to ripen fully, resulted one of the most beautiful wines produced in Bordeaux that year. The bouquet features complex aromas of Virginia tobacco, candied fruit, dried banana, & candied orange that blend elegantly with roasted coffee notes. It is very tannic, but not at all dry. Intensely spicy and concentrated, it is rich, powerful, and aromatic, with hints of cinnamon and gingerbread, as well as chocolate and truffle. A long, rich aftertaste (with overtones of coriander that one finds in certain great vintages of Cheval Blanc) completes this highly exceptional wine. 1975 Cheval-Blanc is a great success, combining finesse & sumptuousness. (Cheval Blanc - Winemakers notes)

Notes : \_\_\_\_\_

*Roasted Quail + Plum + Target Beetroot + Pepper Berry*

## 1971 Château Margaux

The Margaux property has been occupied since at least the 1100's, and known for its wines under names such as Margou, Margous & Margose since the 15th Century. In 1977 Andre Mentzelopoulos controversially bought the winery for \$16 million and the notion of a Greek in charge of one of France's greatest wineries was difficult for many to accept. The worries were groundless as Mentzelopoulos set about restoring its grandeur and to making the best wines possible. When Mentzelopoulos died in 1980 his daughter Corrine took over as the head of Margaux, then in 1983 Paul Pontallier was hired as winery director. In 2003, after some corporate restructuring, Corrine took over full control. The 260ha property has 80ha of red vineyards plus 11ha of Sauvignon Blanc for their dry white Pavillon Blanc. The spectacular Château was completed in 1812.

1971 - The buds burst early due to the mild spring weather, but the crop was reduced by a cold, damp June. A hot July followed, but August saw unsettled conditions, with storms and some hail in the middle of the month. This was corrected during a sunny September. Picking began early. Overall the weather resulted in concentrated, ripe fruit with good acidity. The wines have opulence and richness which has produced some superb mature wines when well cellared.

Notes : \_\_\_\_\_

## 1964 Château L'Évangile

Château L'Évangile (archaically Fazilleau) is unclassified, but the estate is still considered among the great growths of the region. Placed on the eastern outskirts of Pomerol, the vineyard lies in a cluster with Vieux Château Certan, Château Pétrus, Château La Conseillante, near the border of Saint-Émilion and its nearest estate Château Cheval Blanc.

Notes : \_\_\_\_\_

*Grilled Pork Neck + Chickpea Miso + Celtuce + Pencil Leek*



# 1964 Château Troplong Mondot

At 43 hectares, with 25 sub-terroirs, Troplong Mondot is one of the largest vineyards in Saint Emilion, established in 1700 with a chateau built in 1745. In 1850 Raymond-Théodore Troplong shaped the identity & configuration of the estate along with his nephew Edouard and added their surname in, thus creating Troplong Mondot. Now run by Aymeric de Gironde, the vineyard is planted to 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon & 2% Cab Franc.

*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 : \_\_\_\_\_

## 1945 Château La Fleur-Pétrus (en Magnum)

*Black Opal Rump Cap + Smoked Eggplant + Mustard Oil*

Across the road from Pétrus and adjacent to Lafleur sits one of the best placed châteaux in Pomerol. La Fleur-Pétrus is so named because of its proximity to two great neighbours. Acquired by the Moueix family in 1950, it had a rocky start with a severe frost decimating the vineyards but several decades of expansion, replanting and investment have paid dividends with a run of superb vintages. La Fleur-Pétrus absorbed a parcel of vines from Château Le Gay in the early 1990s, bringing its total area to just shy of 19ha, the majority is Merlot with a little Cabernet Franc & Petit Verdot planted on its iron-rich, clay and gravel soils.

*1945 Bordeaux wine deserves its well earned fame. Of course, the fact that it's the victory vintage, following the end of WW2 only adds to its legendary status. The deep, winter freeze helped reduce yields naturally which added immense concentration. Growing conditions were close to perfect from start to finish. The wines began life with massive levels of tannin and took decades to develop. Due to the high tannin levels, many of the wines still show well today. " (Wine Cellar Insider)*

Notes : \_\_\_\_\_

## 1947 Ch. Cos D'Estournel

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.

*1947 (Bordeaux) - Harvest began in mid Sept 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.*

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## Selection of Hard and Semi Hard Cheese

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### 1959 Château Giscours

Records of Giscours vineyards go back to 1552, where it changed hands many times until its' great era began with the property purchase by the banker Count de Pescatore in 1845, who then hired Pierre Skawinski to manage his estate. Skawinski proved to be one of the great agriculturalists of Médoc in the 19th century, in 1860 he was the inventor of a plough which bears his name, and a pioneer in the fight against mildew, he soon made Giscours one of the most reputable third growths, Skawinski managed the estate for 50 years. The family sold Giscours in 1913, and many difficult years followed until 1954 when the estate was purchased by Nicolas Tari, formerly a large-scale winemaker in Algeria, who restored and enlarged the property, making it one again one of the most productive estates in the Médoc.

*1959 - Médoc - The first of the modern day years to be designated 'vintage of the century' by the négociants and journalists. The wines are among the most massive and richest ever made in Bordeaux, often compared to 45, 47, 49 and more recently 82 and 89. The 1959's have evolved at a glacial pace and display the effects of a classic hot, dry year. Their colours have remained impressively opaque and dark, notable in comparison to more brown & orange displayed in many aged 1961's. The vintage was considered to be drinkable on release by consumers in the early 60's, while 1961, due to its concentrated, tannic style, was laid down in cellars as collectors knew those wines required patience. That's why 1961 is easier to find, while 1959 Bordeaux remains elusive.*

Notes : \_\_\_\_\_



### 1947 Château Piat, Haut-Barsac

With the wines now under the name of Château Piat-Simon, the Dufour family has been cultivating vines & making wine at Château Simon since 1814. The vineyards today extend over 33 hectares across the Barsac. Sauternes wines benefit from a unique microclimate, characterized by a temperature differential between the warm waters of the Garonne and the very cold flows of the Ciron. In autumn, morning fogs catalyze the development of Botrytis Cinerea, noble rot, the Holy Grail of Sauternes wines.

*1947 (Sauternes) —This was one of the hottest summers of the century with only just enough rain during an autumn heatwave. A sumptuous vintage, truly a great year.*

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### Sauterne Custard + Glazed Quince + Sea Salt

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Miroir d'eau (Water Mirror), Place de la Bourse, Bordeaux (Fabien1309—Wikimedia Commons)