

## IWFS Bordeaux Tasting September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

At Len & Cathy, 146 King Street, Oakville

# BORDEAUX

**Discover them “Blind “from the young (5 years) to the mature (27 years) and learn your BBs (Bordeaux Basics)**

From Christian, your Cellar Master,

Wines tasted, in order of appearance: L for left bank, R for right bank

**#1 :**

**2010 R : Château La Bienfaisance, Saint-Emilion Grand Cru**



Clay & limestone terroir. Merlot 85%, Cabernet Franc 15%

30% new oak barrels (12 to 16 months)

Style - Full-bodied & Firm

An energetic red, with a licorice snap note pulling the plum and blackberry confiture notes along, while a graphite underpinning and singed alder define the finish. Rock-solid. Best from 2015 through 2025. Score - 91. (James Molesworth, winespectator.com, web only, 2013)

Flowers and black raspberries on the nose, coffee bean, fennel and black plums / Soft, forward and round, the wine ends with sweet cherries and strawberry /Smoke, earth, gravel, jammy berries and anise, soft textures, medium bodied

(from Wine cellar insider reviews)

Sleek and sexy, with blackberries, redcurrants, and a touch of graphite showing on the nose. Deeply colored, this is beautifully structured, showing very fine tannins and lingering black fruits.

A color reminiscent of fresh pomegranate seeds leads to a nose of blended spices, woody notes, and a hint of mint. Very young on the palate, this wine has a good tannic structure supported by a nice acidity. A wonderful effort from Stéphane Derenoncourt, truly one of Bordeaux's best winemakers & highly reputed Saint-Emilion consultant grower.- PM

Today, you can see Derenoncourt's work everywhere from Francis Coppola's California estate to the incomparable Château Smith Haut Lafitte, including Château Massaya in Lebanon and

winemakers & highly reputed Saint-Emilion consultant grower. - 1 M

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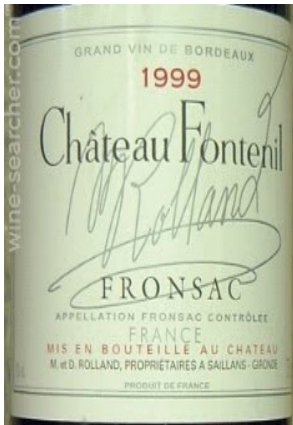
(From invino.com)

Christian: Now available at Vintages, will keep 10 more years

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## #2

2009 R : Château Fontenil, AC Fronsac



Made by the famous « Flying wine maker » Michel Rolland and his wife in his own vineyard!



Michel and Dany Rolland produce one of the top wines of Fronsac at their home estate of Fontenil. Note that it is both of them that we mention here and not just Michel, Fontenil being about their love of winemaking and the estate they came to own and live and make wine together at in the mid 1980s. Yes Michel jets around consulting the rich and famous but at Fontenil it is a family affair and truly a labor of love. In 2010 I tasted all the wines of the family with Dany and she really lit up when we tasted and talked about Fontenil. It is the slopes of the village of Saillans as well as the talents and hearts of the Rollands that the wine comes from. Yes, and from 2009 also, a vintage of Fontenil Michel calls "grandiose with power and harmony." Enough said.

**92 points, Rhett Beiletti, B-21 Wine Specialist (Dec 2012)**

The basic Fontenil (95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon) has a deep bluish purple color and relatively hefty alcohol at 14.5%, but it is not noticeable in this full-bodied, layered, opulent wine, with lots of black raspberry fruit intermixed with some blueberries and crushed rock. Both of these wines have a good 10-15 years of potential in a fine cellar.

**92 points, Robert Parker's Wine Advocate (2012)**

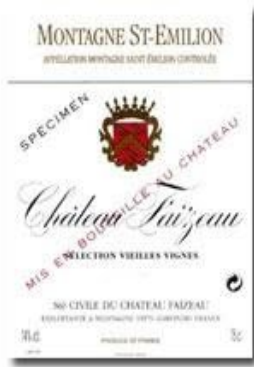
Only 4 bottles were left in Ontario yesterday (Oakville Cornwall store) yesterday

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## #3

2005 R : Château Faizeau Vieilles Vignes, AC Montagne Saint Émilion





100% Merlot

Has pretty berry, coffee and vanilla character. Medium-bodied, with fine tannins, lots of sweet black fruit and a long finish. Best after 2012. -JS Wine Spectator

Good bright ruby. Vibrant, pure aromas of black cherry, black raspberry, licorice and dark chocolate. Silky and suave in the mouth but with lovely vinosity to leaven the wine's deep sweetness. I love the sugar/acid snap here. Very fresh hints of licorice and exotic ginger. Nicely mouthcoating and lush on the back end, finishing with spreading, ripe tannins and a chocolatey flavor. An excellent performance. Half of these vines date back to 1911. This one weighs in at 14.75% alcohol and would make a perfect ringer in a tasting of California cabernets 88-91 Points | [Stephen Tanzer's IWC - May/June 2006](#)

Terrific value for the money. Long, elegant aromas of ripe black cherries, plums and bacon. Full-bodied and supple with a lasting finish. Terrific balance and complexity. A fantastic vintage. **Natalie's Score:** 91/100

\*From Christian's cellar

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#### #4

2005 L : Château Belgrave, AC 5<sup>ème</sup> Cru Classé Haut Medoc (5th growth)



A few meters from St Julien's Ch. Beychevelle and Ch. Lagrange

Vineyard: 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. Consulted by Michel Rolland.

#### Reviews:

Slightly better on the nose with its smoky, blackberry, earth and tobacco character, than on the palate, due to the rustic tannins, in the crisp, fresh, finish. 87 points - Tasted Jun 27, 2015

Black raspberry, cherry, earth, tobacco and fresh herbs in nose, medium bodied, soft in texture, the wine finishes with a bright, dark cherry and red fruit sensation. 88 points - Tasted Jan 2, 2012

Extremely deep crimson. Very rich and opulent. Sweet and seductive. Silky textured and very easy for early drinking with a bit too much alcohol perhaps but it certainly expresses the vintage! As an Haut Médoc it's pretty good. 2012-18 16.5 *Jancis Robinson MW OBE* –

Black-red. smoky. tobacco leaf nose. impressive freshly crushed blackcurrant fruit. crunchy and concentrated.

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Black-red, smoky, tobacco leaf nose, impressive freshly crushed blackcurrant fruit, crunchy and concentrated, supple tannins and good length. Drink 2009-20. \*\*\*/16.5 *www.decanter.com*

Possibly the finest wine ever made by this southern Médoc estate owned by the Dourthe firm, the dense ruby/purple-tinged 2005 Belgrave offers sweet black cherry and cassis fruit, floral, and toasty oak characteristics as well as supple tannins. This sleeper of the vintage should drink well young (by the standards of 2005). Anticipated maturity: 2010-2023+ 89/100 *Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate, www.eRobertParker.com*

This is a wine which can hold its head up among the Cru Classés, and yet is below the price of a lot of second wines. One to buy in bulk. Strongly recommended. - *post price-release comment*

Big and rich, with blackberry and toasted oak character. Full, round and juicy. Very good. 89 - 91/100 *James Suckling, The Wine Spectator*

91 points Wine Spectator

“There's black licorice, coffee bean and ripe fruit on the nose. Full-bodied, with velvety tannins and a wonderful concentration of ripe fruit and currant. Shows tar and vanilla on the finish. Best after 2013. ” (3/2008)

Robert Parker's Wine Advocate

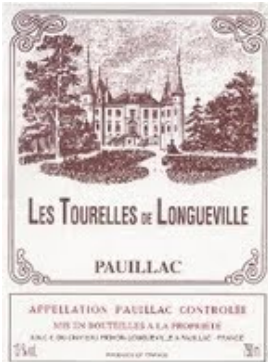
“An impressive effort from this Haut-Medoc property, the 2005 Belgrave possesses a deep ruby/purple color as well as notes of damp earth, cedar, herbs, black cherries, and currants, good acidity, moderately high tannin, an admirable, layered texture, and fine purity and overall balance. ” (4/2008)

\*From Christian's cellar

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## #5

**2000 L : Château Les Tourelles de Longueville\***, AC Pauillac



\*2<sup>nd</sup> wine from Château Pichon Longueville, Baron de Longueville, 2eme

Cru Classé en 1855)

2000 Vintage:

"Lots of tobacco and berry character in this red, with a medium-bodied palate, with medium firm tannins and a curranty aftertaste. Shows good structure. Best after 2005." - JS, Wine Spectator (Web Only - 2003)

2009 Les Tourelles de Longueville (from a very recent vintage) : Blending 61% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Cabernet Franc produced a wine packed with fresh crème de cassis, earth, cedar and plum. Round, polished and with the ability to age for a bit, although it's best enjoyed on the young side for its early charms. This is a strong second wine. 90 points - Tasted May 7, 2012

\*From Christian's cellar

## #6

**2000 L : Château Les Fiefs de Lagrange\***, AC Saint Julien



\*2<sup>nd</sup> wine from Château Lagrange, Saint Julien 3eme Grand Cru



\*2<sup>nd</sup> wine from Château Lagrange, Saint Julien 3eme Grand Cru

Classé en 1855

Owner : Suntory, Japan (1983)

Terroir: gravel, sand and clay/ Vines: 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot and 9% Petit Verdot, / 20% new oak (vs 60% for Ch. Lagrange)

Recent tasting:

At 12 years of age, the 2000 still showed youthful notes, but the complexity in its nose was startling. Balanced and developing nicely, it had lovely concentration. ( Wine review on line. Michael Apstein, Mar 26, 2013)

Old tasting note:

Rich berry and cherry fruit on the nose. Rather lean palate, although quite rich in soft tannins and very drying. More berry fruit flavours. Not as much flesh or fat as I might have expected. Firm acidity. (Wine Doctor Nov. 2003)

89 points Wine Spectator: "Beautiful aromas of licorice, spice and berries, with hints of minerals. Full-bodied, yet refined and silky. Long, caressing finish. Second wine of Château Lagrange. Best after 2007. 33,330 cases made." (Web only, 2003)

\*From Christian's cellar

## #7

**1994 L : Château Pichon Longueville, Comtesse de Lalande, Pauillac 2eme Cru Classé en 1855**



One of the top Pauillac (2<sup>nd</sup> growth, 1855)

("Pichon Comtesse" not "Pichon Baron"). Next door to Ch. Latour!

Now Owned by Louis Roederer Champagne (2007) /78Ha/ Production 15,000 cases /year

Terroir: deep gravel (CS) with clay and limestone soil

45% Cabernet Sauvignon (future to 61%), 35% Merlot (high =softer) (going to 32%), 12% Cabernet Franc (to 4%), 8% Petit Verdot (to 3%)

Pichon Lalande is the most voluptuous Bordeaux wine produced in the Medoc (Merlot+)

**Winemaker's Notes:** A firm, powerful, and rich wine, extremely fruity in its youth, with exceptional balance, that has a long life ahead of it.

**Critical Acclaim:**

- **RP91** The Wine Advocate - "One of the stars of the vintage, this opaque purple-colored wine possesses a gorgeously perfumed, exotic, smoky, blackcurrant, Asian spice, and sweet vanillin-scented bouquet. It is followed by thick, rich, moderately tannic flavors that exhibit medium to full body, good structure, outstanding purity, and a classically layered, long, pure finish. This terrific Pichon-Lalande should evolve effortlessly for 18-20 years."

Recent review : Medium bodied, firm and showing some greenness in the fruit, as one would expect, the wine is more interesting on the nose than the palate with its tobacco, cigar box, cassis, blackberry and earthy aromatics. There is a slight gruffness to the tannins in the spicy cassis and cranberry finish. 89 points - *Tasted Jul 19, 2013*

NB Christian: The 1995 vintage averages 95 points

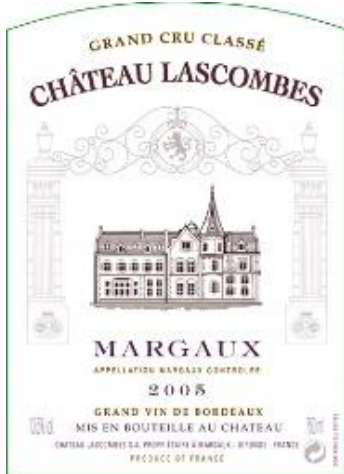
\*From Richard Birkett's cellar

## #8

**1988 L : Château Lascombes, Margaux 2eme Cru Classé (2<sup>nd</sup> Growth) en 1855**

#8

1988 L : Château Lascombes, Margaux 2eme Cru Classé (2<sup>nd</sup> Growth) en 1855



New owners since 2001(MACSF Medical Pension Group) \$300 m

84 ha (210 acres) /Production: 20,000 cases /year / Consultant: Michel Rolland

Bordeaux Traders: 50% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon and another 5% Petit Verdot. Usually, these outstanding fine wines are mature enough to drink in just under 10 years, and can keep well for up to 30 years

1988: Deep ruby/purple, with a moderately intense bouquet of cedar, plums, and currants, the 1988 Lascombes is a spicy, robustly-styled Margaux. Medium to full-bodied and well-balanced, it is not as excessively tannic as many 1988 Medocs tend to be. Anticipated maturity: 1994-2002.

85 RP : D'un rubis pourpre profond, avec un bouquet modérément intense de cèdre, de prune et de groseille, le 1988 se montre épicé, robuste et moyennement corsé en bouche. Bien équilibré, il est heureusement dépourvu des tannins en excès qui desservent la plupart de ses jumeaux du Médoc.

Source : Robert Parker (1/93)

1989 Château Lascombes (CF's Note: closest review to 1988 found)

Earth, steel, spice, tobacco, and olives are easy to find in the perfume. The wine finishes with a light, strawberry note. Medium bodied, this wine reached full maturity years ago. Lascombes is another outstanding property currently making much better wine today than they did in '89. 84 points - Tasted Jun 20, 2009

\*From Christian's cellar

BEST in WINE, FOOD and FRIENDS! To be continued.....

...There are more than 8,000 châteaux in Bordeaux!!!!

Christian, your Cellar Master.