



2008 Bordeaux

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Registration: 6:00 PM, Tasting: 6:30 PM

Faculty Club, Univ. of Toronto, 41 Willcocks Street, Toronto

Members' Fee: \$120; Guests'/Non-Members' Fee: \$145

Happy Holidays! What better way to kick off 2023 than with a tasting of Classed Growth Bordeaux? Toronto Vintners Club will be tasting eight wines from the left bank of the Gironde River - **Margaux, Pauillac, Pessac-Leognan and St. Julien**. Derek Kranenborg, Founder & Principal at All the Right Grapes, a premium wine import agency, will be our guest speaker for the evening. This agency is also the Canadian distributor of the 650+ page opus "Inside Bordeaux. The chateaux, their wines and the terroir" by Jane Anson.

To many, Bordeaux is considered the "best" or "most important" wine region in the world - and not without good reason. By classifying their wines for over 300 years, the producers in Bordeaux have established consistency of quality - particularly in their top wines. The region is naturally divided by the Gironde River into a Left Bank area, which includes the Médoc and the sub-regions of St-Estèphe, Pauillac, St-Julien and Margaux, and a Right Bank area, which includes the subregions of Saint-Émilion, Pomerol, Bourg and Blaye. Over the centuries, wine growers in the Bordeaux area observed that certain sites systematically produce wines of exceptional quality with specific characteristics. The reason for this is the influence of "terroir" which is the subtle interaction of soils, subsoils, exposure to sun, altitude and the natural environment. With Mother Nature providing ideal growing conditions, and a new generation of extraordinarily committed Bordelais that understand their legacy, Bordeaux is the world's reference point for wines of richness, longevity, and complexity.

Virtually synonymous with blend, Bordeaux wines have inspired producers from other regions to produce their own "Bordeaux-Style Blend". The grape varieties used in Bordeaux are Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, Malbec and Carmenere. The Left Bank wines are Cabernet Sauvignon dominant, whereas the Right Bank wines are Merlot dominant - with the remaining varieties used in varying proportions to establish each producer's own blend.

Pauillac wines are deeply coloured, powerful, and well-structured. Cabernet Sauvignon is dominant in most of the top wines. This means that they last perhaps the longest of all Bordeaux wines, developing an extremely complex aromatic palate as they age. **Saint-Julien** is one of the most balanced of all the Medoc commune appellations, with character and finesse. It is Cabernet Sauvignon dominant, so expect black-fruit notes, tobacco, liquorice, truffle as it ages. **Pessac-Leognan** wines are close to an equal blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Typically oak aged, their balanced, rich and polished feel make them quite drinkable when young, yet they have enough structure to age beautifully. Often called the most feminine of the Medoc appellations, **Margaux** at its best makes sculpted wines that age beautifully, with finesse and aromatic richness. Usually a little less Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend than in Pauillac or St-Julien, with Merlot rarely making up more than 30 per cent of the blend.

With time in the cellar, the good red wines from Bordeaux mature with fruit, secondary flavors, and tannic structure integrating to become harmonious. The wines you will be tasting at this event are all from the 2008 vintage and include seven 'growth' wines ranging from fifth up to second growth. More than a decade has passed, and these wines are entering into their drinking prime. Tasting these wines will be a treat as the 2008 vintage in Bordeaux was an excellent one. Also, if you were at the tasting in September 2018, you have already tasted these wines! Has the extra time improved the wine or perhaps your palate has changed? This is your opportunity to find out.

The event price includes reception wine, bread, appetizers and, of course, our main wines! Newcomers and those who would like more tutoring are encouraged to sign up for our Newcomers' Table on our registration page. We look forward to seeing you!

REGISTER/ BUY TICKETS online at [2008 Bordeaux Jan 17 2023](#) and then pay by e-transfer, credit card (via PayPal) or by cheque. E-transfer/cheques must be received by Friday, January 13. You will be sent an email confirmation after completing your registration. All ticket sales/reservations are final. If you tried to register but did not receive your confirmation, please contact winetastings@torontovintners.org before trying to register again.



Tasting Notes and Information – 2008 Bordeaux

(Prices are as of date of purchase/replacement value)

Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande, Pauillac 2e \$109/\$350

"The 2008 is a beauty in the style of the 1988. Although not performing as well as I predicted last year, it is unquestionably an outstanding effort as well as one of the better values from Pichon Lalande in many years. Its dense plum/purple hue is accompanied by sweet aromas of red and black currants, charcoal, herbs, underbrush and a hint of truffles. This medium-bodied, rich, concentrated blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc is an elegant, supple Pichon Lalande that can be drunk now or cellared for 15-20 years." Robert M. Parker Jr. 92 points.

Château Clerc-Milon 5e, Pauillac \$59/\$150

"The dense ruby/purple-tinged 2008 Clerc Milon offers attractive aromas of toast, black currants and forest floor. Deep, full-bodied, rich, elegant and moderately tannic, this impressively endowed 2008 is an outstanding success from the Mouton Rothschild staff (who are responsible for making this wine). It will benefit from 2-3 years of bottle age and should drink well for 15 years." Robert M. Parker Jr. 90 points.

Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste, Pauillac 5e \$69/\$150

"You start to feel the dial turning up the power as this travels through the palate. Even at 10 years old, the tannins go in deep around the fruit, with luscious menthol notes on the finish. This is one of the juiciest of the Pauillacs, with layers of plum fruits, tobacco and melted tannins. It's totally firing on all cylinders, although not a blockbuster, reflective of this vintage. But that means you can drink this now, or you can wait; either way you can enjoy what is going on here." Decanter (12/2017)

Château Malescot-St-Exupery, Margaux 3e \$59/\$130

"An amazing success in this vintage, the dark ruby/purple hued 2008 reveals its noble terroir in its complex aromatics of spring flowers and burning embers/charcoal. A medium to full-bodied mouthfeel displaying no hard edges and a seamless integration of acidity, tannin, alcohol and wood result in an approachable, already evolved wine that can be drunk now or cellared for 15+ years." Robert M. Parker Jr. 93 pts

Château Brane-Cantenac 2e, Margaux \$59/\$123

"This stunning, evolved, dark plum/ruby-hued 2008 reveals aromas of forest floor, sweet black and red currants, licorice and roasted herbs. Classic, elegant and medium to full-bodied, it provides a sexy, complex, intellectual as well as hedonistic turn-on. Drink this delicious Margaux over the next 12-15+ years." 92 points Robert Parker's Wine Advocate (5/2011)

Château Langoa-Barton, Saint-Julien 3e \$59/\$75

"This potential sleeper of the vintage has come around nicely now that it is in bottle. Elegant yet substantial, it exhibits a dense purple color as well as a sweet bouquet of black currants, cassis, cedarwood, herbs, toast and loamy soil undertones. Medium to full-bodied with sweet tannin (a component that was not evident from barrel), it should drink nicely for 15 or more years." Robert M. Parker Jr. 90 points.

Château Branaire-Ducru, Saint-Julien 4e \$69/\$130

"A stunning success for the vintage, this enticing St.-Julien reveals notes of lead pencil shavings, sweet raspberries and black currants and a subtle touch of oak. Elegant, restrained yet authoritative and impressively intense, it is a medium to full-bodied, lightly tannic effort will be even better with 1-2 years of bottle age and will keep for 15-20 years. Robert M. Parker Jr. 91points.

Domaine de Chevalier, Pessac-Leognan GCC \$65/\$130

"One of the fabulous sleepers of the vintage and a wine for serious Bordeaux aficionados to consider buying, the 2008 is a blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 9% Petit Verdot that achieved 13.5% natural alcohol. Surprisingly backward for a 2008, it is medium to full bodied with moderate tannins, lots of purity and abundant charcoal, black currant and floral notes. The sweetness of the fruit, depth of flavor and textured, lush mouthfeel in this medium to full-bodied, age worthy 2008 are impressive. Give it 3-4 years of cellaring and drink it over the following two decades. I would not be surprised if it turns out to be as impressive as the 2010. Robert M. Parker Jr. 93 pts