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The Apotheosis: Pauillac 2010

The Titans Of Pauillac



However, there is *one* Pauillac cru that really bowled me over. In my mind, Xavier Borie may just have overseen the greatest **Château Grand Puy-Lacoste** ever made (and he's overseen quite a few good ones.) I am not going to pronounce it has a perfect wine, but as I desperately looked for a fault and I could not find one.

"We had to eliminate some of the bunches during season due to millerandage and did some effeuillage at the same time," Xavier tells me, *"but September and October were just perfect. The maturity was very good, there is more acidity in the wine and there is a particular maturity of the tannin in the middle of the mouth. It is a wine for cellaring."*

It is an incredible Pauillac: a blend of 83% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17% Merlot, offering 13.6% alcohol with a total acidity of around 3.5gms/L. Over five minutes it developed a profoundly complex bouquet with hints of oyster shell and Japanese nori, the palate exquisitely balanced, a wine revelling in a vintage that took Cabernet Sauvignon to its highest level. Grand Puy-Lacoste might not be the honey-pot for investors, but those that adore Left Bank Cabernet will fall in love with this wine...as long as they have the patience to cellar it for 15-20 years.

Wine-Journal Recommendations

Money no object: Château Mouton-Rothschild

For the cellar: Château Latour, **Chateau Grand Puy-Lacoste, Chateau Duhart-Milon**

Potential value for money: Château Lynch-Moussas, Chateau Lacoste-Borie

Watching the pennies: Chateau Haut Bages Montpelou, Chateau Tour Sieu Jean

Tasting Notes

2010 Chateau Grand Puy Lacoste 97-99

A blend of 83% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17% Merlot, the Grand Puy Lacoste '10 has 13.6% alcohol with a total acidity of around 3.5gms/L. It has a very complex bouquet that I leave over 5 minutes to open, developing ripe blackberry, cassis, oyster shell and a faint tang of Japanese nori (seaweed.) Very good complexity. The palate is beautifully balanced, this GPL revelling in this vintage that countenances the Cabernet Sauvignon so much. Very refined, powerful, beautifully focused with an unerring sense of symmetry. This is a magnificent Pauillac...bravo Xavier. Drink 2020- Tasted March 2011.