

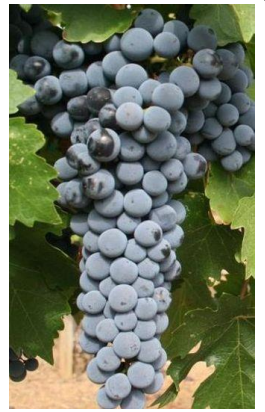
40th Annual Society of Wine Educators Conference

Blind Tasting Seminar *International Bordeaux Blends* *(Based upon Cabernet Sauvignon)*

Presented by:

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History of Cabernet Sauvignon



- **Origins:** Médoc, Bordeaux, France – early 18th Century?
- **Early enthusiasts:** Baron Hector de Brane and Armand d'Armailhacq
- **Earliest written mention:** 1760s book – “Petit Cabernet”
- **Synonyms:** Cavernet Sauvignon, Bidure, Petite Vidure, Bouchet, Petit Bouchet, Sauvignonne, among others
- **Parentage:** Cabernet Franc, Sauvignon Blanc – likely by spontaneous 17th century vineyard crossing (Bowers & Meredith 1997)
- **Half-Siblings:** Merlot, Carmenère (same Baby Daddy – Cabernet Franc)
- **Offspring:** Marselan (FR), Centurian (CA), Ruby Cabernet (CA), etc.

Physical Characteristics of Cabernet Sauvignon

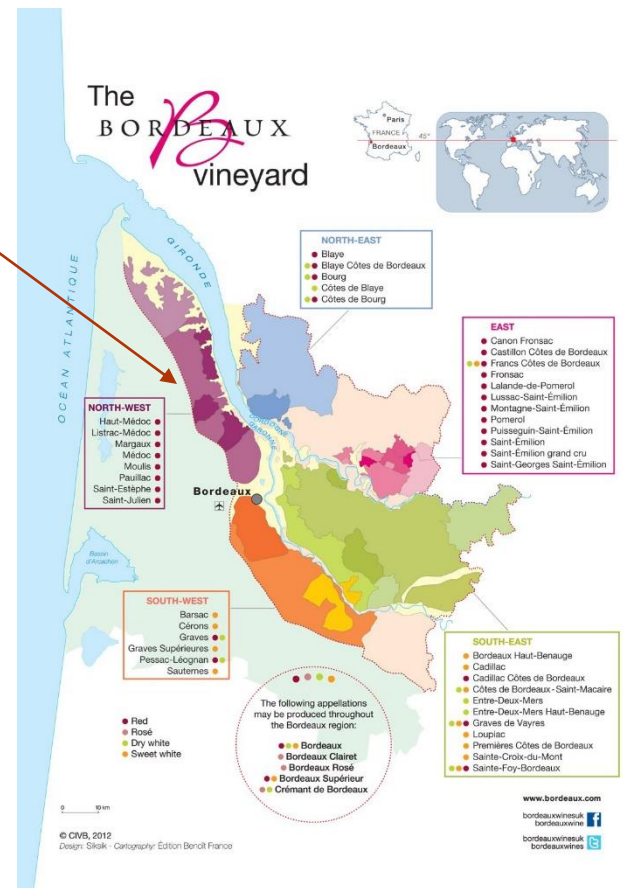
- **Vine characteristics:** High vigor, late budding, late, slow ripening, susceptible to powdery mildew (oidium), and trunk fungal diseases
- **Training methods:** Guyot (cane pruned) Bordeaux, cordon spur pruned-Calif.
- **Popular clones:** FPS 07, 08,* FPS 29, ENTAV-INRA 15, 169, 170, 337, 338, 341
- **Suitable rootstocks:** Low vigor: 101-14, 3309C; Dry farmed: 110R
- **Soil preference:** Warm, well-drained soils, slightly acid
- **Bunch/berry characteristics:** Long, conical clusters, thick skinned, small, dark blue berries, high seed to pulp ratio, high tannins, resistant to rot



Primary Growing Regions - Cabernet Sauvignon

Most Widely Cultivated Variety: 741,000 acres worldwide

- **France:** 128,000 acres
- (71,000 acres in Bordeaux, mostly in the Médoc)
- **Chile:** 100,000 acres
- **California:** 80,000 acres
- **Australia:** 65,000 acres
- **China:** 60,000 acres (est.)
- **Argentina:** 40,000 acres



Blending Partners - Cabernet Sauvignon

- **Merlot:** Most important, esp. in Bordeaux-ripens early, adds alcohol, softness
- **Cabernet Franc:** 3rd in importance in Bordeaux-ripens early, adds fruit/aroma
- **Petit Verdot:** late ripening, adds spice, aroma, color
- **Malbec:** Nearly non-existent in the Médoc, often blended w/ CS in Argentina
- **Carménère:** Very little in the Médoc, often blended w/CS in Chile
- **Shiraz:** CS/Shiraz blends still common in Australia
- **Sangiovese:** CS minor partner in Tuscany, adds color, aroma, structure

Vinous Characteristics of Cabernet Sauvignon

- **Sight:** Opaque, deep color due to high concentration of pigments
- **Nose:** Aromatic, cassis, blackberry, black cherry, cedar, herbal, black olive, bell pepper*; vanilla, mocha, toast, baking spice when matured in new oak
- **Palate/structure:** Medium-plus to full-bodied, black fruits, pyrazine? oak? high tannin, medium to medium-plus acid, medium-plus to high alcohol, medium-plus to long, flavorful finish

Old World vs. New World Blind Tasting

Generally Speaking:

Old World wines: more earth-driven, subtlety of fruit

New World wines: more fruit-driven, subtlety of earth

Why?

Climate – Soil – Terroir – Winemaking

Blind Tasting of International Bordeaux Blends

- Ten Cabernet Sauvignon based wines from around the world
- Vintage range from 2009 to 2013
- Amount of Cabernet Sauvignon in each wine ranges from 57% to 100%
- Take 5 minutes to taste through each wine, try to determine:
 - **Whether NW or OW**
 - **Possible region of origin**
 - **Percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon**
- I will then describe the wine and provide clues and then reveal the wine

Wine 1

Audience thoughts

- NW or OW?
- Possible region of origin?
- Percentage of CS?

Comments

Wine One-Identity

Villa Maria Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot, Gimblett Gravels 2009, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand

- Founded by George Fistonich-1961-5 ha. vineyard-still family owned/operated today
- 75% CS, 25% Merlot, open-topped tanks, punch down 4 X daily
- 100% French oak, 40% new – MLF in barrel
- Fined and filtered – 13.5% ABV – pH 3.8 – TA 5.8 g/l

Approx. \$30 retail

Wine 2

Audience thoughts

- NW or OW?
- Possible region of origin?
- Percentage of CS?

My comments

Wine Two-Identity

Château Cantemerle Grand Cru Classé 2010

Haut-Médoc, Bordeaux, France

- Traces viticultural roots to 1354 - Classified as 5th Growth in 1855
- Extensive renovation under new owner since 1981
- 150+ acres under vine on fine gravel soil in Macau and Ludon
- Planted to 60% CS, 30% Merlot, 6% CF, 4% Petit Verdot
- 16 – 18 mos. maturation in barrique 50-60% new

Approx. \$60 retail

Wine 3

Audience thoughts

- NW or OW?
- Possible region of origin?
- Percentage of CS?

My comments

Wine Three-Identity

Robert Mondavi Cabernet Sauvignon “Oakville” 2012 Napa Valley, California

- 100% To Kalon Vineyard - 75% CS, 12% CF, 6% MB, 4% PV, 3% M
- Cold soak, fermentation, maceration in oak tanks
- MLF and aging for 21 mos. in French barriques – 75% new
- 14.5% ABV – pH: 3.67 – TA: 6.4 g/l

Approx. \$67 retail

Wine 4

Audience thoughts

- NW or OW?
- Possible region of origin?
- Percentage of CS?

My comments

Wine Four-Identity

Torres Mas la Plana Cabernet Sauvignon 2010, Penedès, Spain

- 100% CS – ABV: 14.6% – pH: 3.43 – TA: 6.02 g/l
- Stainless steel tank fermentation, aged in new French oak barriques 18 mos.
- From the 29 ha. vineyard of the same name, famous since the 1970 vintage topped Château Latour and others in a blind tasting at the Paris Wine Olympiad

Approx. \$70 retail

Wine 5

Audience thoughts

- NW or OW?
- Possible region of origin?
- Percentage of CS?

My comments

Wine Five-Identity

Viña Almaviva, Almaviva 2011, Puente Alto, Chile

- Joint venture – Baroness Philippine de Rothschild and Concha Y Toro – 1st vintage – 1996 – 85 ha. vineyard, stony, clay soils
- 67% CS, 25% Carménère, 5% CF, 2% M, 1% PV
- 18 mos. in new French barriques

Approx. \$152 retail

Wine 6

Audience thoughts

- NW or OW?
- Possible region of origin?
- Percentage of CS?

My comments

Wine Six-Identity

Penfolds Bin 407 Cabernet Sauvignon 2013, South Australia

- 100% CS, multi-region blend, premium vineyards in South Australia: McLaren Vale, Padthaway, Coonawarra, Wrattenbully, Barossa Valley
- 1st vintage, 2000, launched in 2003
- Fermented in stainless steel – aged 12 mos. in French oak (26% new) and American oak hogsheads (12% new, 35% 1 year old and 27% seasoned)
- ABV: 14.5%, TA: 6.5 g/l, pH: 3.55

Approx. \$65 retail

Wine 7

Audience thoughts

- NW or OW?
- Possible region of origin?
- Percentage of CS?

My comments

Wine Seven-Identity

Guado al Tasso Bolgheri Superiore 2011, Tuscany, Italy

- Key Antinori estate, 750 vineyard acres, center of “Bolgheri Ampitheatre”, a plain fronted by hills above the Tyrennian Sea
- 57% CS, 25% M, 15% CF, 3% PV – MLF and 18 mos. aging in new French barriques, additional 10 mos. in bottle

Approx. \$122 retail

Wine 8

Audience thoughts

- NW or OW?
- Possible region of origin?
- Percentage of CS?

My comments

Wine Eight-Identity

Ernie Els Signature Red 2011, Stellenbosch, South Africa

- Estate grown fruit, north facing slopes on gravel soils 250 m. above sea level, 15 km from Atlantic cooling influence, long, slow ripening period
- 60% CS, 25% M, 5% PV, 5% MB, 5% CF –
- Wine aged 20 mos. in 300 liter French barriques (70% new)
- ABV: 14.99%, pH: 3.48, TA: 5.9 g/l

Approx. \$93 retail

Wine 9

Audience thoughts

- NW or OW?
- Possible region of origin?
- Percentage of CS?

My comments

Wine Nine-Identity

Minkov Brothers Cabernet Sauvignon, Thracian Valley, Bulgaria

- Thracian Valley considered best growing region in Bulgaria
- 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
- Temp. controlled tank fermentation, MLF in tank
- Aged 12 mos. in partially new American and French barriques
- ABV: 14.46%, pH: 3.61, TA: 5.6 g/l

Approx. \$20 retail

Wine 10

Audience thoughts

- NW or OW?
- Possible region of origin?
- Percentage of CS?

My comments

Wine Ten-Identity

RdV Vineyards “Lost Mountain” 2010, Delaplane, Virginia

- RdV founded by Rutger de Vink in 2004 – 16 sustainably farmed vineyard acres located on a steep hillside on granite-based soil 60 miles west of Washington D.C.
- In the new Middleburg Virginia AVA
- This wine named for a peak in Blue Ridge Mountains –
- 64% CS, 36% Merlot
- 100% new French oak, 23 months, 1 year in bottle.
- **Approx. \$83 retail**

Questions/Comments?

THANK YOU!