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By Matthew Jukes – April, 26th 2018

MY TOP FORTY WINES IN 2017 - ALL STYLES WITHIN EACH SCORE BRACKET I HAVE LISTED THEM IN PERSONAL PREFERENCE ORDER: (my scores are out of /20)

N° 21 - CHÂTEAU GRAND-PUY-LACOSTE (PAUILLAC) 18,5+

2017 Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste 18,5+

This has a thrilling nose which, in spite of the weighty dominance of Cabernet, is perfectly red-fruited and sonorous. This is a sleek thoroughbred with power and grace and it is layered with flashes of both red and black fruit on the palate. The finish has more muscle and more tannin looms as the flavour senesces on the back of the palate and the result is a game of flamboyance and reticence warning the drinker that while the flavour entices you in, there is also the need to exercise restraint because this is not a wine for drinking in the short term in spite of its apparent precocity. Throughout the flavour there is levity and this is what makes this powerful wine such an unequivocal success. François-Xavier Borie agrees with this character. He smiled – ‘don’t forget we are serious’.

(79 Cabernet Sauvignon, 21 Merlot) | 75% new oak | 13.3% alc. | 45 hl/ha