



Published : April, 14th 2011 by Neal Martin – The Wine Journal

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 Lacoste-Borie 90-92

A blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc the Lacoste-Borie displays light briary and blackberry fruit on the nose, just a hint of cold black tea and truffle. Fine definition. The palate is quite supple on the entry, that Merlot adding a pleasant fleshiness to counter the precise Cabernet, a little short on the finish but very fresh and perhaps "clinical". Very lively and "classic". Drink 2016- Tasted March 2011.