





Mr. Delmas gave an enlightening introduction to the estates and the reason for its remarkable consistency: 45% cabernet sauvignon, 45% merlot 10% cabernet franc, the equal proportion of cabernet sauvignon and merlot gives the chateau the option of choosing the best performed varietal for the grand vins depending on the vintage characteristics. We were also informed that Chateau Allary Haut Brion (produced by the Allary family from 2007 to 2011 from land that was leased for several decades to Haut Brion) has been purchased by Domaine Clarence Dillon last month adding an extra 450 cases to the production of the chateau.

Everyone was floored by the sheer opulence of the 2009 Haut Brion Blanc which on the night over-shadowed the lovely La Mission Haut Brion Blanc with citrus and mineral notes. For the guests, the comparison between the 2008 Haut Brion / La Mission Haut Brion made by Jean-Philippe and the 1998 Haut Brion / La Mission Haut Brion made by Jean-Philippe's father, the legendary Jean-Bernard Delmas was most educational.



For the fortunate few who attend the dinner afterwards, it was a once in a life time experience to taste the 1989 Haut Brion direct from the chateau's cellars: a perfect wine with perfect provenance. We were later told by Mr. Delmas that only around 500 bottles (in various formats) of the 1989 remains at the chateau and we are truly grateful that the chateau made these available to us. The quality of the 1990 La Mission Haut Brion was also close to perfection and provided a clear contrast between the terroir of the two properties.



Once again, we are truly grateful to Domaine Clarence Dillon and Mr. Jean-Philippe Delmas for this wonderful occasion to sample a remarkable range of wines from one of Bordeaux's top estates. Thank you very much!