



The St. Emilion Blind Tasting



Date	:	Thursday, Oct 20, 2017
Time	:	7:00pm to 9:00pm
Venue	:	12/F Hong Kong Wine Vault (Wong Chuk Hang)
No. of Attendees	:	10
Wines Tasted	:	Chateau Teyssier St. Emilion Grand Cru 2011 (Reception) Chateau Angelus St. Emilion Grand Cru 1994 Chateau Canon la Gaffeliere St. Emilion Grand Cru 2007 Angelots de Gracia St. Emilion Grand Cru 2007 Chateau Laforge St. Emilion Grand Cru 2010 Chateau Gracia St. Emilion Grand Cru 2004 Verite, La Muse, Sonoma County 2009

Our thoughts:



This session, we have decided to focus solely on Merlot based wines. From legends to garage and cult Merlot producers. We have kicked off the show with Chateau Teyssier 2011 at our reception. Not often to showcase a fruit forward claret instead of a bubbly, at a reception. Each wine tasted blind has been decanted for two hours prior to the tasting. The Chateau Angelus 1994 was indeed the giveaway bottle, being

the only matured claret in a group of young vintages. Everyone have enjoyed the unexpected drinkability and fitness of such underated vintage. Interestingly enough, the Chateau Canon la Gaffeliere 2007 is already showing unexpected signs of maturity. Plenty of softness makes this claret very approachable now. Angelots de Gracia 2007 has displayed robust characteristics of soil, minerality and ripe fruits. Quite a masculine style compared to Chateau Canon la Gaffeliere. Shocker of the evening was a suprising one, everyone thought Chateau Laforge 2010 was the spectacular mystery bottle. In fact, few guests thought it was from the new worlds. The Chateau Gracia 2004 performed extremely well with slight signs of maturity yet remains fit and masculine. Closed off with the 2009 Verite La Muse as the spectacular mystery wine and result was surprising indeed. All guests knew it was obviously not a claret but no one could imagine it was a Californian merlot. Few guests thought it could have been a merlot based Super Tuscan because of its savouriness and elegance.

Chateau Teyssier St. Emilion Grand Cru 2011 (Reception)

"This medium ruby-colored blend from proprietor Jonathan Maltus is composed of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc. It possesses lots of red and black fruits, silky tannins, and a round, seductive mouthfeel. Enjoy it now and over the next 5-7 years." 90 pts, WA

Chateau Angelus St. Emilion Grand Cru 1994

"In the new classification of St.-Emilion, justice was certainly served with the elevation of Angelus to premier grand cru classe status. No Bordeaux estate has been making as concentrated and consistently high quality wines as has Angelus since 1988. Even in the rain-plagued vintage of 1992, Angelus produced a wine of uncommon power, ripeness, and intensity. This estate is in many ways symbolic of what heights Bordeaux can achieve when a property is managed by someone as passionate and driven as Hubert de Bouard. As I have been writing for the last decade, these are wines to buy at first release; they can only go up in price given their quality. Another inky, purple/black-colored wine, the 1994 offers up heavenly scents of smoked meats, barbeque spices, hickory wood, and plenty of cassis and kirsch liqueur. The fruit's phenomenal purity and denseness, as well as its overall balance is admirable in view of the massive, muscular personality of this huge, full-bodied wine oozing with extract. It is a tour de force in winemaking. Anticipated maturity: 2000-2020."
93 pts, WA

Chateau Canon la Gaffeliere St. Emilion Grand Cru 2007

"This well-known estate consistently performs at a high level, and proprietor Stephan von Neipperg's 2007 is a beauty. Cropped at 26 hectoliters per hectare, this blend of 55% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Franc, and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon possesses a dark ruby/purple color, a surprisingly full-bodied style with sweet notes of fruitcake, graphite, black cherry, black currant, and incense. Round, full-bodied, and opulent with well-integrated oak, it is a fleshy, full, exuberant wine that is ideal for drinking now and over the next decade. It achieved 13.5% natural alcohol." 90 pts, WA



Wine pairing canapes sourced from our most trusted suppliers who also supplies to Hong Kong's finest establishments.

Angelots de Gracia St. Emilion Grand Cru 2007

"A sleeper of the vintage from sculptor Michel Gracia, this 2007 was cropped at 21 hectoliters per hectare, but there is hardly any of it. A blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, it reveals abundant notes of crushed rocks, acacia flowers, blueberries, and black raspberries in a medium to full-bodied, intensely concentrated style with no hard edges. Drink it over the next decade or more."
90 pts, WA

Chateau Laforge St. Emilion Grand Cru 2010

“Showing slightly better from bottle than barrel (and it performed admirably there), the 2010 Laforge emerges from three major soil types in St.-Emilion – gravel, sand and hard limestone. It is largely a Merlot-based wine, with only about 8% Cabernet Franc added in. A big, forceful, classic, full-bodied St.-Emilion with sensational depth, the 2010 displays plenty of black fruit, hints of incense, graphite, and forest floor, and perhaps even a suggestion of black truffle. It is deep, full-bodied, opulently textured, yet the tannic structure comes through in the finish. This is another sensational effort from proprietor Jonathan Malthus. Anticipated maturity: 2016-2032.” 94pts, WA

Chateau Gracia St. Emilion Grand Cru 2004

“Sculptor/stone mason Michel Gracia has turned in another astonishing performance. His friendship with Alain Vauthier (Ausone’s proprietor) has no doubt resulted in some serious discussions on wine quality. Cropped at a remarkably low 20 hectoliters per hectare and made from a blend of 80% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc as well as a dollop of Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2004 boasts an Ausone-like perfume of black fruits, crushed rocks, and spring flowers. In the mouth, it’s full-bodied, powerful, rich, pure, and beautifully layered. Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered, there are only 358 cases of this tour de force in garage winemaking. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2030.” 93 pts, WA

Verite, La Muse, Sonoma County 2009

“The 2009 La Muse (86% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc and 5% Malbec; 14.5% alcohol) is a blockbuster offering complex, intense notes of Asian plum sauce, figs, black currants, white chocolate and cedar. The wine reveals an extra level of texture and richness along with full body, an unctuous texture, and a super ripeness and richness that does not go over the top. The tannins are noticeable, but well-integrated as are the new oak and acidity. This big, backstrapping, Merlot-based wine is meant for long-term cellaring. Give it 4-5 more years in the bottle and enjoy it over the following 30 years.” 96pts, WA

