

FRENCH IMPORT TASTING NOTES

*IMPORTED BY
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D'AGOSTINI VINEYARDS*

1998 Rauzan-Gassies

Rauzan-Gassies 1998,

Margaux, Bordeaux, France

Elegant and delicate, with ripe licorice-infused black cherry and currant fruit, this medium-bodied, sweet, straightforward, foursquare wine will be ready to drink within 2-3 years; it should keep for 10-15 years.

2001 Colombier Monpelou

Pauillac, Bordeaux, France

A surprisingly good effort from an estate known for a succession of mediocrities, this dense ruby-colored 2000 exhibits good purity in addition to sweet black currant fruit and hint of tobacco and spice box. Fine ripeness and medium body are offered in a style that should provide pleasant drinking for 7-10 years.

1996 Gold Medal

2001 Bronze Medal

1998 Chateau de Ste. Helene

Sauternes, Bordeaux, France

This wine smelled of burnt orange, lemon zest and, as one of my experts said, a "sexy mustiness." On the palate, it had the texture of a fine extra virgin olive oil. This was not a sweet dessert wine, for it had an elegant dryness. We found the taste of pears on the finish.

1999 Chateau Montaignut,

Cotes De Bourg, France

This excellent red wine comes from Bandol, and appellation that borders the Mediterranean. Viticulture was established here around 600 BC, making it some of the oldest vineyard land in the world. Today's wines from Bandol must contain at least 50 % Mourvedre according to appellation regulations. This wine has an earthy feel with a hint of leather in the aroma. The flavor has nuances of licorice and spice, which mingle with the flavors of blackberries and currants as the wine ages. Amazing now, this wine will improve with 6-8 years in the cellar.

2001 Château Begadan,

Médoc, France

This wine is a blend of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. Aged for 12 months in high quality barrels (50% new), it shows some toasty barrel characteristics and terrific fruit on the nose and on the palate. Enjoyable now, it will continue to age for two or three more years.

2001 Silver Medal

2002 Chateau La Mongie (Bordeaux Red)

Bordeaux, France.

Bordeaux Superieur, The nose is a rich blend of black fruits and spices with an earthy character. This initial presentation follows through in the taste, which fills the mouth with a soft roundness, balanced with soft round, ripe tannins.

2001 Chateau Grand Tuillac

Castillion, France

This wine has very good colour with some fruit flavors and young aromas. There are also some plum and fruit sensations during consumption.

2001 Gold Medal

1998 *Domaine de la Jaufrette Chateauneuf du Pape*

Chateauneuf du Pape, Southern Rhone, Rhone, France

The 1998 Chateauneuf du Pape is a good, fruity, sexy, cherry/raspberry-driven wine, with evolved dark ruby/plum colors. This wine needs to be drunk during its first 4-5 years of life. Proprietor Chastan has turned out generous, charming, hedonistic Chateauneuf du Papes with low acidity and plenty of character.

2003 *Domaine de la Mavette*

Cotes Du Rhone

Rhone, France

This estate has impressive hillside vineyard sites in addition to very old vines, so the potential for brilliant wines is obvious. To date, the wine has been an old-style, slightly oxidized Gigondas that is heavy and forceful. This nose renders layers of cured ham, liquorice and raspberry. The tannins are firm and the complex structure makes it tight for now, but it should show well down the road.

2001 *Chateau Pichecan*

Margaux, Bordeaux, France

The 2001 Pichecan reveals smoky, earthy elements intertwined with cherries, plums, and cedar. Medium-bodied and elegant, it is best drunk over the next 4-5 years.

2001 *Chateau Haut-Grignon*

Medoc, France

This is a pleasant, medium bodied wine, based on Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and a bit of Petit Verdot. This wine brings out the blackberry, prune, chocolate, with a hint of mocha flavors, with a lightly herbaceous and spicy style and a low keyed bouquet. This smooth wine will be best when drunk now or in the next couple of years.

1997 *Chateau La Patache*

Pomerol, France.

The wine has a beautiful and intensive colour. A scent of wood with elements of bay tree. Moreover there is elements of flower and vanilla aroma. Full body, soft with harmonic sourness. Well balanced. Final impression: A well balanced wine which can be enjoyed even as young.

2002 *Chateau Toumilon*

Graves, France

Slightly herbaceous, it offers abundant quantities of currant and cherry flavors in an up-front, medium-bodied, precocious style.

2003 *Chateau La Mongie (Bordeaux White)*

Bordeaux, France

Elegance best defines the dry white wines of Bordeaux. This wine offers a light and delicate taste with a creamy crisp bouquet, creme brulee, and honeysuckle-flavored offerings.

2000 *Chateau Grand Bert*

Saint-Emilion, France

This St-Emilion is very rich, warm and has an easier charm to some who are beginning to appreciate Bordeaux wines. With a high concentration of the Merlot grape which leads to a round, fruity and often alcoholic wine. This wine has a deep fruitiness and can be drunk reasonably young, yet are also ageworthy.

2002 *Laurent Videau*

Bordeaux, France

Château Laurent Videau is located a few kilometres from Bordeaux, between the Garonne and the Dordogne rivers. The Château benefits from the know-how of the new proprietors and the wine is produced in accordance with the traditional methods of Bordeaux wine-making. This Wine offers new oak characteristics, a sweet attack, and moderate tannin in the finish.

2001 Chateau Loumede

Cotes de Blaye, France

This beautiful wine contains cassis with toasty vanilla overtones and a touch of herbal undercurrents and well-structured tannins.

2001 Gold Medal