

## Tasting Notes of Roger C. Bohmrich MW

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The 2009 Bordeaux described here were tasted in New York at the annual Union des Grands Crus event in early 2012.

### POMEROL

#### **Ch Clinet \*\*\*\* (\*)**

*Dense dark garnet red with purple rim. Beautiful, scented, very pure dark red fruits. This has great class, restrained intensity and evident reserve. Highly impressive fruit quality and mouth-coating, velvety richness on attack. Medium plus weight, so very reserved. Very fine, precise backbone of ripe acidity and very fine-grained tannins. This is a very beautiful Pomerol.*

#### **Ch Gazin \*\*\*\* (+)**

*Dark red purple, nearly dense. Ripe, high-toned and warm with a masked medley of red fruits and subtle oak. Ripe, sweet tone from entry through finish. Satiny, sensual richness. Very fine, well-integrated ripe acidity and very soft tannin. The flavors are muted and overall the wine is backward despite its engaging textural appeal. Very fine.*

#### **Ch La Pointe \*\*\* (\*)**

*Moderately dense very dark red with fine purple rim. Rather open and fresh aroma of subtle red fruits and berries. Lovely expression. Ripe, harmonious palate. Medium-bodied. Surprises with a long, expressive finish marrying red fruit and clean oak. Fresh finale. Attractive and well-made.*

#### **Ch Petit-Village \*\*\* (\*)**

*Very dark red of moderate density. Delicately nuanced ripe, sweet red fruit, focused and held back. Fine, elegant styling, medium-bodied plus. Markedly ripe, sweet undertone yet closed overall. Easy to overlook but has good promise.*

#### **Ch La Conseillante \*\*\*\* (\*)**

*Moderately dense very dark red with purple rim. Highly distinctive nose of crushed sweet dark berries (black raspberry, boysenberry) but seems rather cool. Great class and purity. Fresh, precise. Not full or fleshy, yet striking concentration and reserved aromatic expression in the mouth. Very finely calibrated structure. This has class, elegance and individuality.*

**SAINT-ÉMILION**

**Ch Beau-Séjour Bécot \*\*\*\* (\*)**

*Dark red with purple, moderately dense plus. Restrained at first to the nose. With aeration, very pure, enticing sweet red fruits. Excellent focus and underlying strength. Ripe fruit and texture prominent on attack. Medium- to full-bodied. Closes up rather quickly. Well-defined by fairly elevated ripe acidity and ripe tannic frame. This has excellent presence and potential.*

**Ch Canon \*\*\*\* (\*)**

*Moderately dense dark red with purple rim. Very clean aroma possessing superb class and breed, with subtle red fruits and perfectly judged oak. Ultra pure and remarkably composed from attack to finish. Silky, caressing. Tremendous finesse. Velvety tannins and equally fine acidity at the end. A wine of the highest caliber.*

**Ch Canon La Gaffelière \*\*\*\* (+)**

*Nearly dense dark red with purple. Concentrated aroma of restrained red fruits with hidden intensity and nascent complexity. Ripe, enveloping and layered taste. This has plenty of substance. Already quite long and sensual overall. Faintly bitter youthful tannin at end with masked acidity. Solid, commands attention.*

**Ch Dassault \*\*\* (+)**

*Dense minus dark red with purple. Solid now, has good depth along with hidden dark red fruits and a fresh overtone. Ripe though mute taste. Has texture and good material. Rather one-dimensional in the company of some of the top wines of the appellation.*

**Ch Figeac \*\*\*\* (\*)**

*Dark red with purple, moderately dense plus High-toned, very fine, focused aroma of small red fruits with carefully married oak and a slight pepper accent. Pure, polished, reserved. Notable poise and equilibrium. Not at all forward. Clean, fresh ending. This is an understated wine of great potential and breed.*

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### **Ch La Couspaude \*\*\* (?)**

*Moderately dense dark garnet red. Warm, ultraripe red fruits verging on a stewed overtone. Open, very ripe again, fleshy. Lacks purity. How will this develop?*

### **Ch La Dominique \*\*\* (\*)**

*Nearly dense dark red with small purple rim. Ripe, muted dark red and black fruit accents. Clean, good depth. Has maturity and good substance on the palate. Just a bit chunky and awkward at this stage. Needs some time to come together and show itself fully.*

### **Ch Pavie Macquin \*\*\*\* (+)**

*Nearly dense dark red with brick highlights. Inviting, overt, mature dark red fruits and high-quality new oak accented by toast and vanilla notes. Amply ripe, but not excessively. Full-bodied and generous, fleshy center. Very good acid frame. Dark fruits and smoky oak in aftertaste. Boasts ample fruit and oak treatment. Exceptionally well-handled in this style.*

### **Ch Troplong Mondot \*\*\*\* (+)**

*Dense dark red with thin purple rim. Broad, generous, warm nose with layers of ripe dark red fruits and faint dried spice. Ripe in style and presence. Rich, full-bodied and fleshy but not extroverted. Fine defining backbone of acidity and fine-grained tannin bring it together beautifully. A highly seductive modern style.*

## **PESSAC-LÉOGNAN**

### **Domaine de Chevalier \*\*\*\* (+)**

*Dark red of moderate density with small purple rim. Soft, pure, reserved nose with a creamy overlay and noteworthy fruit intensity beneath. Ripe in its fruit and sensual texture with striking harmony. Lovely ripe, elegant acidity and very fine tannins. Shows impeccable balance. A very fine, understated wine.*

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### **Ch Haut-Bailly \*\*\*\* (\*)**

*Moderately dense dark red with purple. Notable expressiveness, fine and nuanced with skillfully married oak. Fresh, precise, well-defined palate, medium weight plus. Has tremendous subtlety, length and finesse. Fine spinal column of acidity and very fine tannin. A jewel.*

### **Ch Pape Clément \*\*\*\* (\*)**

*Nearly dense black purple. Fragrant, complex and rather penetrating nose, warm and ripe with subdued mature dark fruit and oak. Ripe, but not excessive. Layered and expressive with a real volume of flavor. Surprises with a firm acid frame. Aromatic fruit and oak mélange at the end. Controlled opulence.*

## HAUT-MÉDOC

### **Ch La Lagune \*\*\* (+)**

*Dark red, moderately dense, with a purple rim. Very attractive, healthy fruit melded with oak, medium concentration. Ripe but particularly fresh and well-balanced, gaining in warmth on the finish. Well-done, medium-weight example.*

## MARGAUX

### **Ch Brane-Cantenac \*\*\* (+ ?)**

*Nearly dense dark red with purple. Very clean, subtly fragrant aroma showing delicately nuanced dark red fruits without notable concentration. Fresh, fine, very restrained palate with engaging finesse and poise. Needs a bit more substance and center to be rated more highly compared to its peers in the appellation.*

### **Ch Cantenac Brown \*\*\* (\*)**

*Dense dark red-garnet. In the aroma, ripe, inflected dark red fruits and spice accents, inviting and rather expressive. Clean, pure, fresh and well-calibrated palate, medium-bodied plus. Silky, subdued finale with appealing delicacy. An archetypal Margaux, better and more complete than the other Cantenac.*

### **Ch du Tertre \*\*\*(\*)**

*Moderately dense dark red with purple rim. Fine, nuanced, very clean nose exhibiting dark red fruits and lifted wild berries. Ripe but fresh palate, very well-balanced and harmonious with an attractive complement of oak. This has lovely expressiveness. Elegant finale with surprising persistence. Very successful for this property.*

### **Ch Giscours \*\*\* (+)**

*Dark red of moderate density. Fresh, revealing aroma of small red fruits and a leafy note. The palate has precision and finesse while being just medium weight. More Côte de Beaune (village level) in its style and textural impression. Fine, delicate, lasting finale.*

### **Ch Lascombes \*\*\*(\*)**

*Nearly dense very dark red with purple. Warm, complex dark red fruits and berries with overlay of smoky new oak to the nose. The taste reveals mature fruit and is fleshy, medium-bodied plus. Rather warm toward finish with very ripe dark fruits and new oak. Flashy ripeness is balanced by hidden ripe acid frame and very fine tannins.*

### **Ch Marquis de Terme \*\*\* (+)**

*Dense blackish red with purple. Muted nose at first, with ample, ripe dark fruits beneath. In the mouth, the wine shows ripe fruit, flesh and is rather generous with closed flavor. The balance and substance portend good potential. More ample, perhaps less dimension, than many of its peers.*

### **Ch Prieuré-Lichine \*\*\*\* (+)**

*Very dark red, nearly dense, with a purple rim. Quite reserved nose. Clearly has substance and masked ripe fruit along with very subtle inflections. Ripe taste, sweet underpinning, medium-bodied plus. Exhibits attractive length along with notable poise and finesse. Very fine acidity and very polished tannins at very end. Classy, a standout.*

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### **Ch Rauzan-Gassies \*\*\*\* (\*)**

*Moderately dense plus very dark red with purple. Very lovely, strikingly complex fruit scent with beautiful purity and expression. Very fine and composed on the palate with fabulous expression for this early stage. Multidimensional aromatics. Fresh, very fine framework ties it together very elegantly. Gassies has reclaimed its place with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Growths with this vintage.*

### **Ch Rauzan-Ségla \*\*\*\* (\*)**

*Very dark red, moderately dense, with purple rim. Ultraclean and ultrapure aroma from the first. So very subtle with great class and admirable harmonization of ideally ripe fruit and quality oak. The palate is very fine and precise, striking for its finesse and length. Particularly restrained now with a finely calibrated frame of acidity and silky tannins. A superb wine at the top of its game.*



***The commemorative label of Rauzan-Ségla 2009 for their 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary***

### **SAINT-JULIEN**

### **Ch Beychevelle \*\*\* (+)**

*Moderately dense red with purple. Fresh, reserved nose, faintly peppery with hidden fruit and a suggestion of oak. Fine and well-knit taste but held back on attack. Just medium weight. Surprising intensity on finish with an elegant, firm cut.*

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### **Ch Branaire-Ducru \*\*\*\*(+)**

*Almost dense black red with purple. In the aroma, concentrated dark fruits mixing with faint creamy note and very slight herbal accent. Ripe, fresh, positive palate with substance and follow-through. Good balance and a clean, restrained finish. A classic youthful St-Julien of high caliber.*

### **Ch Gloria \*\*\* (\*)**

*Very dark red with purple, moderately dense. The aroma displays notable concentration and intensity together with a classic mélange of fruit and smoky oak. In the mouth, ripe, sweet fruit on entry. Medium weight plus. Closes up quickly. Well-balanced with a firm backbone. An excellent, rather reserved Gloria.*

### **Ch Gruaud Larose \*\*\*\* (+)**

*Moderately dense plus very dark red with purple. Aromatically, ripe red fruit with suggestion of tobacco and a new oak overlay. Mature fruit from entry to the palate. Very well-balanced, very clean. This is engaging and fresh with delicate nuances in the aftertaste, but is not at all viscous. Classic and relatively accessible.*

### **Ch Lagrange \*\*\*\* (+)**

*Moderately dense dark red-purple. Lifted red and black fruits to the nose, very clean, fresh. Lovely poise and freshness while rather reserved on attack. Well-judged marriage of dark fruits and oak. Quite persistent and very clean throughout. An excellent Lagrange.*

### **Ch Langoa-Barton \*\*\* (?)**

*Black red with purple, nearly dense. Ripe, full nose of warm dark red fruit with black fruit highlights. In its taste, submerged ripe fruit qualities with good material, but the oak is quite dominant and conceals the rest. This may take some time to come together. The ending is somewhat pinched. How will this develop?*

### **Ch Léoville Barton \*\*\*\* (\*)**

*Dense black red-purple. Gorgeous, reserved nose of ultra clean mature dark red and black fruits, concentrated and deep. The palate possesses ripe proportions and is medium-bodied plus. Very well-balanced and also very fresh with hints of a complex finish to come. Classic.*

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### **Ch Léoville Poyferré \*\*\* (\*)**

*Dense dark red with purple. Aromatically, ripe, restrained dark red fruits and berries, clean and fresh. Ripe fruit undertone in the taste, very clean, fresh and well-defined. Has concentration and a budding finish. A grip of tannin and acidity leaves a dry aftertaste. Seems a bit forced, but may gain refinement with age.*

### **Ch Saint-Pierre \*\*\* (+)**

*Nearly dense black red with purple. Modest expression at first, then medium concentration of black fruit and a peppery note. Rather solid presence on the palate with evident extract though largely closed. Fresh, dry ending just short of severe. Is this over-extracted?*

### **Ch Talbot \*\*\* (+)**

*Dark red of moderate density. Leafy-peppery-spicy impression in the aromatics with small red fruits with medium concentration. Warm, mouth-filling and distinctive in its spicy, fruity aromatics. Firms up at end. This combines elements of ripe and less ripe fruit.*

## PAUILLAC

### **Ch Clerc Milon \*\*\*\* (+)**

*Nearly dense very dark red with a purple rim. Fresh, reserved nose initially, then reveals very pure red fruits, finely nuanced, with excellent restrained intensity. Fresh and focused impression at first in its taste, with exemplary harmony. Full and fleshy center, very well-backed by firm acidity and ripe tannin. A wine of notable structure and impressive equilibrium. Excellent and promising.*

### **Ch d'Armailhac \*\*\*\* (+)**

*Black red with purple, moderately dense. In the aroma, complex, high-toned black fruits, fresh with evident strength. Ripe palate, sweet undertone with purity and balance. Rather closed finish. The wine's maturity is matched by a well-calibrated frame, then sweet, expressive fruit notes surface after several seconds. Another fine result.*

### **Ch Grand-Puy-Lacoste \*\*\*\* (\*)**

*Moderately dense plus blackish red with purple. Fresh, highly concentrated nose, very pure with sweet, intense youthful fruit notes together with faint spice accents. Fresh on entry, layered, ripe and notably aromatic. Remarkably harmonious for this stage and already shows great length. This is a high-class, outstanding vintage from this fine property.*

### **Ch Lynch-Bages \*\*\*\* (+ ?)**

*Dark red, nearly dense, with purple. Very fresh nose, largely closed with a creamy overtone. In the mouth, tightly wound from the start with a great deal of tension. Hidden away and non-expressive. A very firm backbone wraps it up rather abruptly. Difficult to judge given its backward state.*

### **Ch Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande \*\*\*\* (\*)**

*Moderately dense black red with small purple rim. To the nose, very finely nuanced fruit notes as well as excellent intensity and focus. The oak is judged perfectly and is of high caliber. Alluring from attack, boasting an extraordinary layering of flavor. Beautifully calibrated, very, very fine and exceptionally long. Exquisite in its elegance and precision, but not at all lacking in structure. Well-framed by youthful grip. A truly magnificent Lalande.*

## **SAINT-ESTÈPHE**

### **Ch Ormes de Pez \*\*\*\* (+)**

*Dense black red with a small purple rim. Ripe, profound, solid nose possessing gorgeous restrained fruit and a suggestion of complexity. Concentrated, broad-shouldered palate presence. Firm, balanced structure and great underlying purity. This is classic and positions Ormes de Pez at a very high level indeed.*

### **Ch Lafon-Rochet \*\*\* (+ ?)**

*Nearly dense black red with purple. Penetrating aroma with peppery intensity, on the sharp side. The palate reveals notable concentration and is closed. Seems markedly austere now, a bit forced, or very backward at the least. This is the severe face of St-Estèphe and rather surprising given the vintage. Must be re-tasted at a later date.*