

Foveaux Restaurant

**WOTY TASTING
2013**



20th December 2013

Welcome



As we wind down to the end of another year and reflect on yet another great year of tastings, eclectic as always. We meandered through the Montrachets, eased into the Echezeaux, and rounded off with the Redigaffi's.

There have been wonderful wines this year from 1888 Seppelt Para Liguers, to a sublime 2000 Redigaffi, a 1929 Clos de Vougeot Burgundy, 1990 Penfolds Bin 90A, 1944 Seppelt Shiraz Sparkling Burgundy Great Western and of course some DRC. With samplings of the best of Penfolds, Rockford, Wendouree, Henshcke, Giaconda, Mt Mary to mention a few. All under the guise of learning about wine and sharing it with each other. The common theme being good banter amongst friends and great food and even greater hospitality.

Inspired by these wines a dinner was proposed as a last hurrah for 2013 with us to bring wines we felt were worthy of Wine of the Year (WOTY). Nine of us are looking forward to a great evening of wine, food and surprises as the backups no doubt come out.



Attendees

Daniel Carew

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Lennart Choo

~

David English

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Tim Kitto

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Michael Ryan

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Carl Schneider

~

Mark Stevens

~

Cameron Wheeler

~

Anya Williams





Menu



Oysters with cabernet sauvignon vinegar pearls and eschallot
1990 Salon Blanc de Blancs
1992 Dom Perignon

Seared cobia, black sesame, mushroom milk, puffed rice with pickled vegetables and elk
1998 William Fevre Les Clos, Chablis Grand Cru
2008 William Fevre Les Clos, Chablis Grand Cru

Smoked duck, broccoli, cuttlefish, duck cheese and umeboshi
2009 Domaine Ramonet, Bienvenue Batard Montrachet Grand Cru
2008 Domaine Etienne Sauzet Montrachet Grand Cru

Baked rainbow trout, celery puree, soya braised veal tail, hazelnut and snow peas
1976 Charles Noëllat Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru
1982 Gaja Barbaresco Sori San Lorenzo

Roasted venison leg, mushroom puree, juniper oil, spaetzle, pickled red cabbage
1982 Château Mouton Rothschild, Pauillac
1975 Penfolds Grange Hermitage

Selection of cheeses with toasted walnut bread, lavosh and fruit
1999 Vega Sicilia "Unico" Ribera del Duero

Palate Cleanser
Krug NV

Roasted apple and clove, rhubarb sorbet, apple crumble and custard
1976 Joh. Jos. Prüm Graacher Himmelreich Auslese Goldkapsel

Almond gelato, chocolate, coffee cloud, pear and ginger
2005 Schloss Lieser Niederberg Helden Trockenbeerenauslese Goldkapsel Riesling



The wines

1990 Salon Blanc de Blancs

Salon is a unique Champagne. All the emphasis in the production of this exceptional wine is on the singular. It was originally the product of one single man, Aimé Salon; from one single region, the Côte de Blancs; from one single cru, le Mesnil-sur-Oger; from one single grape variety, Chardonnay; and from one single vintage, with no blending whatsoever.

Created in 1911 with first vintage 1905, Champagne Salon is the creation of one man, a champagne connoisseur enchanted then seduced by the terroir of Le Mesnil. At the beginning of the 20th century he just created the Blanc de Blancs. Once the tragedy of the war was over, he was encouraged by his numerous friends to profit more fully from his wine and the house of Salon was created, to cater for his new clientele.

This Champagne is produced from a one-hectare parcel owned by Salon: "Salon's garden", and from 19 other smaller parcels in Mesnil-sur-Oger, chosen by Aimé Salon at the beginning of the century. The wines are cellared in the bottle for an average of 10 years, gaining in complexity and finesse.



97 points from the Wine Spectator. The 1990 has the richness of the, 85 Salon with the zip and freshness of the, 88. This wine is all dough and white flowers on the nose--complex but not daunting. It has a lot of stuffing, but it is very compact now. Very long finishing.



96 points Wine Enthusiast Really taut, tight wine, its mature toastiness embedded in a steely, mineral, very dry texture. The acidity is assertive, wonderfully refreshing, so crisp. It may be 18 years old, but it looks likely to age for several years yet.

1998 William Fevre Les Clos, Chablis Grand Cru 2008 William Fevre Les Clos, Chablis Grand Cru

The steep, rocky slopes that extend to the right and left bank of the river Serein are the birthplace to a history which spans over one hundred and fifty million years. This is where the unique Kimmeridgian terroir, alternating marl and marly limestone, imbues Chablis with minerality and great freshness. These are vinous characteristics, envied and often imitated around the world, but never matched.

The grands crus wines are vinified in 70-80% oak, but without using new wood – instead the domaine receives a plentiful supply of one year old barrels from Maison Bouchard, and the average age of wood in the cellars is 5 years old. The barrel and vat components are blended together after four to six months, for bottling before the end of the year.



1998

89 Points Cam Wheeler
Straw coloured. Sesame seed oil, lemon, toast and grapefruit. The palate has some piercing acidity but also shows some malty oak influence and heat. Very good, but I don't know what is going to happen with further aging.

2008

96 Points Robert Parker's Wine Advocate
Smoky, fusil crushed chalk and fresh lemon in the nose of Fevre's 2008 Chablis Les Clos lead to a palate lusciously-brimming with fresh apricot, lemon, and grapefruit, suffused with chalk, white pepper, salt, iodine, green tea, and distilled herbal essences. Exhilarating and rejuvenating, this finishes with a tenacity, vivacity, and tactile presence hard to equal in the vintage.



William Fevre
Vineyards in Chablis

Montrachet



2009 Domaine Ramonet Bienvenue Batard Montrachet Grand Cru

It is the spring of 1978. A small man, 72 years of age and very much a peasant, with an old stained pullover, baggy trousers and the inevitable casquette on his head, arrives at a lawyer's office in Beaune.

He is about to buy 25 ares and 90 centiares - enough to make about four and half barrels - of Le Montrachet, the finest white wine vineyard in the world. The vendors are the Milan and Mathey-Blanchet families: gentle people. Pierre Ramonet is a man of the soil. Apart from the occasional meal at some of his clients - Lameloise, Alan Chapel, Troisgros, Bocuse - he never ventures outside Chassagne-Montrachet. He hates the telephone. He rarely writes a letter. Such paper-work that needs to be done is achieved by Mother Ramonet, née Lucie Prudhon, whom you will never see dressed otherwise than in black, as befits old ladies throughout France, in an old school exercise book which she keeps in a drawer in her kitchen.

There is the question of payment. "Ah, yes," says Ramonet. He fishes in one pocket for a thick wad of notes, in another for a second, in the back of his trousers for a third, and so on. The stacks of money pile up on the attorney's desk. He has never seen such an amount of espèces in his life. "I think you'll find it all there," says Ramonet, uncomfortable in the formal surroundings of the lawyers' office. And he leaves, anxious to return to the familiarity of his cellar and his vines.

"Père" Ramonet was more than a character. He was, to use the old cliché - but it is true in this instance - a legend in his own lifetime. More or less from scratch, by dint of sheer hard work and a genius for wine, he built up one of the finest white wine domains in Burgundy. Today the name of Ramonet is syno-

nymous with top Chardonnay. The allocations for bottles are fought over, for every collector considers it his or her right to own some. They sell at auction for astronomical sums whenever they appear.



Clive Coates, Fine

Delicate, youthful nose. Honeyed, concentrated, but understated on the nose. Lovely fruit. Medium to medium-full body. Ripe and balanced, but really quite soft on the palate. Long and classy.



2008 Domaine Etienne Sauzet Montrachet Grand Cru

The original Etienne Sauzet (1903-75) put together a wine domaine of around 12 hectares and established the Sauzet name as one of the top two or three addresses in the village.

He augmented his holdings by purchasing grapes, some from the same appellations as his own holdings, others to complement the range, such as Champs Gains, Chevalier-Montrachet and Le Montrachet itself.

The vineyards have been farmed organically since 2006 and after two years of experimentation all switched to biodynamic cultivation from 2010. The grapes are sorted to remove grey rot where necessary, then pressed without crushing and fermented in oak until racking into tank before the next harvest, for a further six months élevage on the fine lees. The premiers crus receive between 20 per cent (La Garenne) and 33 per cent (Combettes) new oak with 40 per cent for the grands crus.

The Grands Crus are splendidly concentrated and opulent, yet beautifully proportioned and never overbearing. They are some of the most sought-after wines from Puligny and are models of intensity and balance.



John Gilman 96pts

another absolutely profound wine in the making. The bouquet is deep, youthful and flat out great, as it offers up scents of lemon, pear, pink grapefruit, lovely, great minerality, vanillin oak and a topnote of lemon blossoms. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and utterly aristocratic, with a rock solid core of fruit, flawless focus and stunning length and grip on the racy and soil-driven finish. A great Monty.



Vin Rouges

1982 Gaja Barbaresco Sori San Lorenzo

The Gaja Winery was founded by Giovanni Gaja in 1859 and has been owned and operated by five generations of the Gaja family. Giovanni Gaja was the great-grandfather of Angelo Gaja, the Winery's current owner.

Currently, the Gaja Winery owns 250 acres of vineyards in Piedmont, located in the Barbaresco district (Barbaresco and Treiso) and the Barolo district (Serralunga d'Alba and La Morra).

Since its inception, the Gaja Winery has continuously evolved in ways that have always focused on meticulous care of and attention to the quality of its wines.



John Gilman 91pts

The nose is complex and polished, offering up notes of menthol, weedy black cherry fruit, woodsmoke, earth and a touch of new oak. The oak on the '82 is much less heavily toasted than became the norm with Gaja wines in the vintages after 1985, and to my palate is much less obtrusive for that reason. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, à point, and quite well-balanced, with good focus and length, melting tannins, and good length on the complex finish.



1976 Charles Noëllat Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru



There is no Vougeot Grand Cru appellation as such, but Vougeot does have a single Grand Cru climate, the 50ha walled Clos de Vougeot vineyard. And it still retains an aura deriving from its legendary past. It was created as far back as the 12th century by the Cistercian monks of Côteaux Abbey. The famous wall that makes up the "Clos" had been built by 1336. The fragmentation of its vineyards started in 1889, the result of France's inheritance laws, and there are now 80 different owners. The soil is very diverse and a true mosaic, a mix of clay and limestone in various proportions..

"Although Clos de Vougeot ranks as a national monument, considerable variation in quality exists among its many owners..... The following are known for above-average quality wine: Droubin-Laroze, Charles Noëllat, Engel & Rebouseau" (John Baxevanis)

1982 Château Mouton-Rothschild, Pauillac



Château Mouton Rothschild spans 84 hectares (207 acres) of vines to the north-west of Bordeaux, on the edge of the Médoc peninsula, itself situated, as its name indicates, in medio aquae, amid the waters. The topography consists of a series of hillocks, generally less than 40m high, separated by lower-lying land. Their gentle slopes favour natural drainage and exposure to sunlight. The best vines often grow on these hillocks, which give their name to certain famous châteaux: Mouton doubtless comes not from the animal but from "motte" or "mothon", an old French word meaning a rise or mound, while Lafite comes from "faîte", or ridge, and Cos d'Estournel from "côte", or slope.

Made up of gravel – stones and pebbles which retain the heat of the sun – mingled with sand and some clay, the Médoc soil is poor and unsuitable for growing anything other than vines, which produce the finest wines in the world. The thin and poor, gravelly soil extends down several metres over a clay-limestone base. The vines give elegant, powerful, richly tannic and long-lived wines.

The Château Mouton Rothschild vineyard, mostly situated on a hillock called the "Plateau de Mouton" which rises to 27m above sea-level, is planted on very deep gravelly soil with the varieties typical of the region: Cabernet Sauvignon (80%), Merlot (16%), Cabernet Franc (3%) and Petit Verdot (1%). Although the blend varies according to the character of each vintage. However, Cabernet Sauvignon always predominates. The vineyard is densely planted – 10,000 vines per hectare – and the average age of the vines is around 44 years.

I, Mouton, do not change

Climatic conditions

The winter of 1982 was unusually mild: temperatures in January, February and March were somewhat higher than average and there was less rainfall than usual. The vegetation cycle began rapidly, with budbreak for the three red grape varieties starting very evenly on 30 March. The warm weather continued in April and May, with some welcome rain in June.

Flowering took place between 30 May and 3 June, almost 12 days earlier than the average. Dry weather continued in July, heatwave conditions bringing a violent storm on 30 July. Fortunately August, while remaining fine, was not excessively hot; showers in the first week were extremely beneficial for the vines.

Veraison began in the first days of August. The grapes were in absolutely outstanding condition, maturing in ideal conditions in September and raising hopes of a very fine vintage.

John Kapon 97+ points

This is clearly a great wine. The nose first exuded some barn, hay and animal, but meat, chalk and perfume became equally as important. There was great, lingering spice to its nose. The palate had both garden goodness and citrus fruit, with classic flavors and enormous power. There were even some exotic melon edges to this monstrous wine. It indubitably had the biggest finish and its snow-capped fruit added date and game. The 1982 Mouton might be tight, mean and still square to some, but for me, it was cubic.

Vin Rouges

1975 Penfolds Grange Hermitage

Penfolds Grange is the brainchild of late visionary Max Schubert and has earned itself iconic status in the wine world. Penfolds Grange is engrained into the wine psyche of wine lovers across the world and is officially listed as a Heritage Icon of South Australia.

A multi-regional masterpiece that shows power, concentration and balance to showcase the very best in Australian wine. The year Max Schubert retired from his post of Chief Winemaker, although he remained a consultant to Penfolds and kept an office at Magill until his death in 1994. He was succeeded as Chief Winemaker by Don Ditter, who had worked with Penfolds as a winemaker since 1946. Quince fruit flavours, thick velvety tannin structure and excellent length.

Rewards of Patience

Garnet red. Sweet, leather, spice and meaty aromas with some intense liquorice, almost porty nuances. Rich and concentrated palate with ripe, tobacco/berry fruit and touches of spice and leafiness. Quite extractive and bitter tannins make the wine a very muscular style. Could soften out. A wait and see proposition!



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1999 Vega Sicilia "Unico" Ribera del Duero

The name of this world-famous, historic Spanish bodega has nothing to do with Sicily. It is simply a corruption of Pagos de la Vega Santa Cecilia y Carrascal, the name of a place involving vineyards and a river, as pago can be loosely translated as 'plot' and a vega is an alluvial plain near a river. The origins of this Ribera del Duero wine estate, one of the greatest in the world, can be traced back to 1864, which makes it one of the oldest wineries in Spain, even though the wine as such has been made only since 1915 or 1917.

This is the reference wine of Vega Sicilia, although it shares its special character with the rest of the wines from the winery. It comes from the older vines on the estate and is made with the varieties of tempranillo and more cabernet sauvignon than merlot. Although it is old, the red wine maintains its liveliness thanks to its good acidity level compensated by solid alcohol content. The aroma prevails with hints of roast from the wood, and touches of hazelnut from its oxidative evolution from its years in the cask. It has generous tastes of old but clean wood, with dry tannins that are pleasantly embittered by the oak, together with the sensation of its light sweetness of its alcohol.



96 points Stephen Tanzer's

Explosive aromas of cherry compote, black raspberry, blood orange, Asian spices and smoky minerals. Pure, vibrant and sweet, offering intense cherry and red berry flavors, with tangy mineral spine and an exotic smokiness. Extremely deep but energetic, with a powerful echo of minerals and singed orange on the endless finish. This is remarkably youthful but highly alluring already.

Vin Doux

1976 Joh. Jos. Prüm Graacher Himmelreich Auslese Goldkapsel

The wines, whether a modest Kabinett or an opulent Beerenauslese, are the epitome of filigree elegance: light in body but intense in flavour, exquisitely balanced and precisely tuned, and capable of the most extra-ordinary longevity. With the rise of so many excellent winemakers in the region, one might have supposed that J.J. Prüm, with its profound conservatism, might have been overtaken and left behind. Not a bit of it. The Estate remains where it has been for decades: at the summit.

Graacher Himmelreich directly borders the southern edge of the Wehlener Sonnenuhr vineyard. The wines from this site often challenge those from its more famous neighbor, especially in hot, dry years. Graacher wines attract with their racy acidity, a pronounced minerality (that reminds of crushed rock) and slightly different fruit aromas and flavours (more in the citrus spectrum). Often, the wines become accessible slightly earlier than the Wehlener Sonnenuhr and are deliciously mouth-watering when young. Olate/berry/ liquorice fruit flavours, thick velvety tannin structure and excellent length.

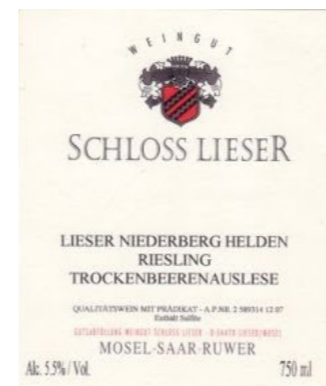
David Rayer 93pts

Fresh fruits, a touch of orange peel, citrus, floral notes and more yellow fruits with airing form the bouquet of this surprisingly elegant wine for such a hot vintage. The wine shines through its delicacy, lightness and zesty notes on the palate. Some smoky notes then come through in the long and smooth finish. This is simply delicious.



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2005 Schloss Lieser Niederberg Helden Trockenbeerenauslese Goldkapsel



The classified ERSTE LAGE (first class site) Lieser Niederberg Helden is directly located next to the village Lieser. The vineyards are some of the steepest on the Middle Mosel with grades up to 70%. The stony, soft slate soil saves the heat of the sun and the Mosel river serves as a reflector that further intensifies the sun rays.

Thomas Haag's winemaking philosophy is quite closely aligned with that of his father. The vineyards are maintained to yield quality not quantity. Great care in selection during harvest, little handling in the cellar, reductive cellar work and no Suessreserve are standard modus operandi. Thomas wants to achieve wines that exhibit the typical Riesling character: ripe acid structure, vibrant and petillant palate, the pure expression of fruit, racy and light without sacrificing impact on the palate.

They are very few people in the world who will get to try this wine, as it wouldn't ferment past 4.4% alc and ended up at around 550g/l, the alcohol was too low to get an AP number so technically couldn't be released - under 150 bottles were made.

Le Trou Normand

Krug NV Champagne

"Our philosophy is to select grapes from individual plots which will each express their distinctive features, their nuances and their uniqueness. There is no hierarchy in our selection, no plot is favoured over another. A plot may sometimes be smaller than a garden. What interests us is the character, the contrast between the grapes from different plots. Krug is the only Champagne House to capture the essence of each unique plot in an individual wine."

Every year, we re-create from scratch the multitude of facets that give Krug Grande Cuvée its unique character. These facets do not compete in the mouth, but instead form a perfect harmony."

Krug uses small 205-litre oak casks tailor-made from trees that are more than two centuries old in the forests of Hautes Futaies in Central France. Krug never use these casks immediately; during the first two or three years, they receive only second and third grape juices, with the goal of "tanning" the casks through the fermentation process, ridding them naturally of their woody aromas, making them well-seasoned and organoleptically inert. The average age of Krug oak casks is 20 years. They are retired after approximately 40 years of use.



Notes and Extras



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97 points Tyson Stelzer

Krug is the epitome of *luxe, grandeur and decadence*, with an other-worldliness and an amplitude as lofty as its mesospheric price. GC is definitive Krug, exotically rich, extravagantly complex and thunderingly expansive. It's every bit as enchanting as its legendary reputation anticipates.



Grapemates

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