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Subject: Bordeaux Tasting At Santiam Wine and Bistro
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To: tasting santiam tasting@santiamwine.com

Here you go, I don't do Bordeaux tastings often, mainly because of the difficulty in finding wines that are excellent without being over priced. I worked hard for you and found a stellar line-up!

Hope you can make it...

The Tasting: Red Bordeaux

Where: Santiam Wine & Bistro

When: Friday, April 11th

Time: 4-8 P.M.

Cost: Full Pour \$30 Half Pour \$17

More about Bordeaux at the end of this email.

The Wines:

2010 Château Thébot Bordeaux, France \$15

Chateau Thebot lies on ground of clay, chalk and gravel which runs alongside the Dordogne River. The 12.5 hectare estate is filled with vines with an average age of 25 years. Chateau Thebot is aged for 1 to 2 years in barrels and is 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. Intense purple in color, jammy, ripe fruit on the nose with added spice, soft tannins, touch of vanilla that flows through onto a cherry fruit finish.

2010 Château Marjosse Bordeaux, France \$23

80% merlot with 15% each cabernet sauvignon and cabernet franc) Deep ruby. Fruit-driven aromas of black currant, smoky plum and dried herbs. Juicy, spicy and firm, but with good fleshiness to the black fruit flavors complicated by floral, herbal and tobacco notes. The persistent finish features good grip and flavor authority and remarkably silky tannins. The best Marjosse ever. **90 Points Stephen Tanzer**

2010 Château ST Georges St Emilion \$40

60% merlot and 20% cabernet Sauvignon & 20% franc; 21 h/h; 3.4 pH, 14.5% alcohol) Inky-purple. Intense aromas of violet, ripe citrus fruit, strawberry and cedar. Then fresh and bright in the mouth, with rich raspberry, dark plum and mineral flavors. The mounting tannins stay smooth on the long finish. One of the best Moulin Saint-Georges I remember at a similar stage of development, if not the best. Very well done. **91 Points Stephen Tanzer**

2009 Château Bernadotte Haut-Medoc Bordeaux, France \$43

Good full red. Redcurrant, mocha and cedary, smoky oak on the ripe nose, with a hint of peppery lift. Lush, ripe and concentrated, offering a dense, thick texture for this wine and a hint of salty herbs. Nicely subtle and perfumed in the mouth. Finishes with suave tannins and sneaky length. A sleeper of the vintage, for drinking over the next 15 years. **90 Points Stephen Tanzer**

2005 Château Dauzac Margaux, Bordeaux, France \$50

There is no doubting its serious concentration, dense ruby/purple color, and attractive aromatics (blackberries, cassis, creosote, spring flowers, and licorice). It offers plenty of body and concentration as well as relatively high tannins. While impressively structured and backward, the finish reveals sweet yet powerful tannins. The finest Dauzac ever made. It should be at its peak

which reveals sweet yet powerful tannins. The finest Margaux ever made, it should be at its peak between 2016-2030. **91 Points Robert Parker**

2010 Château Cantenac Brown Margaux \$120

“The greatest Cantenac Brown I have ever tasted, the 2010 is one for the ages. Dense purple, with an extraordinary nose of sweet forest floor, blackberry jam, pen ink and graphite, this wine soars from the glass, giving it an aromatic dimension and intensity I have never seen from this estate. The tannins are present, as they are in most Cantenac Browns, but the wine’s sweetness, broad, skyscraper-like mouthfeel, dense, purple color and spectacular length (close to a minute) make this a giant classic and a fabulous sleeper of the vintage that still remains under-priced, considering how great its potential may be. This is a wine for those with cold cellars and youthful DNA. It is going to need at least a decade of cellaring and should last for 20-40 years. A classic”

93 Points Robert Parker

Bordeaux Wine

“Bordeaux, in south-western France, is arguably the most famous wine region in the world.

It is rivaled only by the likes of Burgundy, Champagne, Rioja, Chianti and the Napa Valley. The region takes its name (which translates roughly as 'next to the waters') from the port city of Bordeaux, which serves as its logistical and administrative center.

The Bordeaux viticultural region stretches for 80 miles (130km) inland from the Atlantic coast. It is home to more than 10,000 producers, who turn out a vast quantity of wine every vintage. These range from inexpensive everyday wines through to some of the world’s most expensive and prestigious labels. Bottles of dry red wine produced under the region’s generic Bordeaux appellation can be bought for just a few dollars. Those from the top chateaux are regularly traded for several thousand dollars.

A Bordeaux chateau and vineyards

The majority of Bordeaux’s wines are the dry, medium-bodied reds for which the region is known. The finest and most prestigious of these come from the great chateaux of the Haut-Medoc, Pessac-Leognan, Saint-Emilion and Pomerol on the 'right bank' of the Dordogne River. Far from a one-trick region, however, Bordeaux also produces white wines (both dry and sweet) of very high quality. The most notable of these come from the Graves district, at the southern end of which are the botrytis-blessed vineyards of Sauternes.

The success of Bordeaux as a wine-growing region is closely related to its particular climate and geography. Its climate here perfectly provides ideal climatic conditions for viticulture.

The region's long, relatively warm summers are ideal for growing late-ripening grape varieties. That is not to say that cool, wet weather in spring and autumn is not a concern here. A fundamental reason that most Bordeaux reds are made from a blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon is that these two varieties bud, flower and ripen at different times and rates, which spreads the risk posed by poor weather conditions at flowering or harvest. In years when the autumn is wet, the Cabernet Sauvignon harvest suffers from rot and water-logging, but the earlier-ripening Merlot provides a back-up. When the spring is wet, the Merlot flowers poorly, leaving the Cabernet Sauvignon to take up the responsibility of providing a good harvest.

Merlot dominates the red-grape plantings throughout Bordeaux, closely followed by Cabernet Sauvignon and then Cabernet Franc. Petit Verdot, Malbec and the rarely seen Carmenerre are also permitted. When used in combination, these varieties are variously referred to as a Bordeaux Blend, Claret or Meritage (used mainly in the United States). Bordeaux’s white wines are generally blends of Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon and Muscadelle, although Ondenc, Mauzac, Merlot Blanc, Ugni Blanc and Colombard are also sanctioned within this region.”

Cheers!

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