

Pauillac 1982, Château Latour

The 1982 Latour at a recent tasting was a profound and eloquent wine. Although its earthy power did not please all tasters, this vintage is a classic of the house style. On the nose the wine shows a rich, dark plum fruit with notes of pepper, anise and earth. On the palate the wine is warm and dense, almost fat, with a fierce, still-youthful tannic energy and a tightly wound, grippy texture. My favorite of all the first growths at this tasting. Monumental, and still years from showing its full potential. A long life ahead. With friends in Atlanta, March 2012

Pauillac 1982, Château Mouton-Rothschild

Although the '82 Mouton seemed a bit closed down on the nose at a recent tasting, it still showed an exotic plum and fig fruit with a floral, spicy edge and a hint of earth and brown sugar at the end. On the palate it suffered, perhaps, by being after the Latour, yet seduced by its dense, silky finesse. Truly a great wine, still at the beginning of its life. With friends in Atlanta, March 2012

Pauillac 1982, Château Lafite-Rothschild

Wonderful. The 1982 Lafite at a recent tasting was starting to open up, showing a fresh red currant fruit on the nose with subtle hints of spice, Cuban cigar leaf, earth, mineral and violet on the nose. On the palate the wine was tannic and firm yet supple and elegant, with a fine, lingering finish. This is coming into its own, and will last for decades to come. With friends in Atlanta, March 2012

Pauillac 1982, Château Pichon-Lalande

1982 Pichon-Lalande showed a ripe blackcurrant fruit with elements of ginger, pepper, and violet on the nose. On the palate there is a rich, dark, velvety texture yet plenty of structure, grippy tannins and very good length. This is still very youthful and is scarcely showing any secondary character – drinking very well now, but this wine will last for decades to come. Wonderful. With friends in Atlanta, March 2012

Graves 1982, Château Haut-Brion

1982 Haut-Brion seldom gets the attention I believe it deserves. This bottle was just as lovely as other recent examples, with a rich plum and fig fruit with hints of smoke, spice and fresh flowers. On the palate the wine is strong, with firm tannins, lots of body and a very elegant structure. Tremendous wine, just beginning to open up now. This will last for years to come. With friends in Atlanta, March 2012

Margaux 1982, Château Margaux

A great popular favorite at a recent tasting, the '82 Margaux was lush and ripe, with a subtle cassis fruit on the nose colored by cinnamon, cedar and truffle. On the palate the wine was soft and very fine, yet still tannic and structured. The wine is very subtle and elegant yet not at all lacking in power or longevity. Wonderful and still very youthful. With friends in Atlanta, March 2012

St.-Emilion Premier Grand Cru Classé 1982, Château Cheval Blanc

The 1982 Cheval Blanc was a bit the odd man out in a flight of the Left Bank first growths, yet managed to hold its own with its seductive, almost erotic richness on the nose, with notes of fig and prune, smoke, and sweet brown sugar. On the palate the wine was forceful and full bodied,

with a fat, velvety texture, ripe tannins, and a lovely dense feel that lasts forever. The most open of the flight, yet still on the way up. With friends in Atlanta, March 2012

St.-Julien 1982, Château Léoville-Las-Cases

The '82 LLC at a recent tasting showed a bright redcurrant fruit on the nose with a bit of smoke, leather and pepper. On the palate the wine is silky and fresh with a great finesse. The body is fairly light, yet the wine has grip and presence all the same. Exquisitely balanced, this should last for years to come. With friends in Atlanta, March 2012

St.-Estèphe, Château Cos d'Estournel

The '02 Cos shows a beautiful, seductive nose of dark plum, brown sugar and chocolate perfumed with a floral edge. On the palate the wine is very silky and very rich, soft and lush yet still holding together well. Ravishing. With friends in Atlanta, March 2012

Pomerol 1982, Château Le Gay

The '82 Le Gay was a pleasant surprise. Showing well, it featured a bright, high toned red currant fruit with a hint of cedar, smoke and spice on the nose. On the palate the wine has a nice density but no heaviness and very good length. This is perhaps the best bottle of Le Gay that I have ever had, and it still has years of life left. With friends in Atlanta, March 2012

Pomerol 1982, Château L'Evangile

The '82 l'Evangile was beautiful wine with a very fine dark plum and fig fruit character, a slight note of fresh herbs and a bit of smoke on the nose. On the palate the wine is silky and elegant, with a taut structure underneath all of the sexy fruit. Wonderful now, will age well. With friends in Atlanta, March 2012

St.-Emilion Premier Grand Cru Classé, Château Figeac

A delicious wine, the '82 Figeac showed a sweet cherry fruit at first and with time a figgy richness. The nose still has a bit of the bell pepper / Chinese tea note on the nose and a pronounced mineral element. On the palate the wine is rich, dense and long, with a supple, mouth-filling texture and very good length. Starting to open up now, this has at least another 20 years in a good cellar. With friends in Atlanta, March 2012

St.-Julien 1982, Château Ducru Beaucaillou

The '82 Ducru was a dark, rich hedonistic delight, with a fruit that shares figs soy salt and plum on the nose along with a texture that is fairly alcoholic and fat with a richness, however, that never gets out of balance. This is big, but right there on the edge. Impressive. With friends in Atlanta, March 2012

St.-Julien 1982, Château Beychevelle

An '82 Beychevelle at a recent tasting showed blackcurrant fruit with an earthy note and a fairly persistent hint of bell pepper on the nose. On the palate the texture was firm and grippy, and the length was good. Very typical, very pleasant. One of the favorite wines of the group of tasters in its flight. Showing well now, this will still last for years. With friends in Atlanta, March 2012

Pauillac 1982, Château Lynch-Bages

An inky dark '82 Lynch-Bages at a recent tasting showed a bit of green pepper and some iodine initially before revealing a spicy lovely blackcurrant fruit and a rich creamy texture on the palate. The finish shows a bit of Parmesan, yet that didn't detract from its overall impression. Although it is drinking well now, the wine is still youthful, and will last for decades yet in a proper cellar. Delicious. With friends in Atlanta, March 2012

St.-Julien 1982, Château Gruaud-Larose

The '82 Gruaud-Larose shows a bright cherry fruit up front with a cedary edge and a hint of tobacco or cigar leaf. On the palate the wine is still tannic and fairly dense. Lacking perhaps a bit of the generosity of the other '82s, this is still classic claret, drinking beautifully that will hold for years. With friends in Atlanta, March 2012

Graves 1982, Château La Mission Haut-Brion

A puzzling, somewhat disturbing result, the '82 La Miss did not show nearly as well as the bottle that I had last week, with a relatively simple red currant fruit on the nose colored by earthy tobacco notes. On the palate the wine seemed light and fresh with moderate length at best. With friends in Atlanta, March 2012

Pomerol 1982, Château Lafleur

This bottle of '82 Lafleur, I'm afraid, was a bit of a disappointment, with bright, slightly cooked red currant and cranberry fruit along with a licorice and cassis liqueur-like fruit character. On the palate it seemed soft and lush but lacking perhaps a bit of the concentration, density and structure for which one might hope. With friends in Atlanta, March 2012