

Tasting Notes March 2017

Pessac-Léognan 2005, Château La Mission Haut-Brion

Simply spectacular. The nose shows a dark blackberry fruit with notes of licorice and vanilla, and on the palate the wine is dense and concentrated, with plenty of structure but also a supple approachability that gives the wine a classic, well-balanced finish. This is a wine for the ages. ***** At a Zachys auction, March 2017

La Grande Rue 2014, Domaine Lamarche

Dark plummy fruit on the nose with a savory, almost gamey edge and an agreeable earthy character. This is deep and concentrated with plenty of substance but no hint of over-extraction. For me this wine shows continued improvement and should form a part of well-rounded Burgundy collection. **** At a Zachys auction, March 2017

Cabernet Blend IX Estate 2006, Colgin

Lots of sweet oak and ripe cassis fruit here. This is the archetype of a concentrated, super-ripe California wine in the modern mold. For those who appreciate this style, this will be a wonderful example, while others will find it just a bit too much of pretty much everything. *** At a Zachys auction, March 2017

Chassagne Ruchottes 2004, Ramonet

Surprisingly plump given the fairly lean vintage, this shows a clean, ripe apple and citrus peel fruit that is still marked by the elevage in cask. On the palate the wine is rich, dense and long and yet there is enough freshness to carry it to a pleasantly lingering finish. This went some way towards changing my mind about the 2004 white Burgundy vintage. *** At a Zachys auction, March 2017

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée da Capo 1998, Domaine du Pegau

Intense. This shows a pitch-black fig/prune/blackberry fruit with strongly savory earthy notes of game and leather. There is an almost-unbearable density and a long, powerful finish. Not for the faint of heart. ***** At a Zachys auction, March 2017