



BY APPOINTMENT TO
H.M. THE QUEEN
WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS
LONDON



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BERRY BROS & RUDD

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2011 - A Classically- Crafted Vintage

This year, there will be no fanfares or declarations that this is the best vintage of the decade...again. While 2011 might not be at the same level as the superlative 2009 and 2010, this vintage does offer some pleasant surprises and the campaign promises to be an interesting one, with Ch. Lafite-Rothschild releasing very early and Ch. Latour pulling out of the en primeur system.

Indications from the barrel tastings, undertaken by Berrys' experts' annual pilgrimage to Bordeaux, suggest that those who have produced gems will be similar to 1996 in terms of style, but even those who haven't made wines of blockbuster appeal will not be bad – considering the advances made in winemaking technology during recent years.

The good news is that this 2011 vintage is likely to have produced lovely drinking Bordeaux to fill up the cellar, with those that bought 2002, 2004 and 2008 aware of what great value these wines are and of course how delicious they are.

Simon Staples, Fine Wine Sales Director for Berry Bros. & Rudd, says: *"We have seen far greater wines at the top end that we could have possibly hoped for. The gap between "The Super Seconds" and the Firsts is tiny this year with several surpassing the First's quality. I have tasted very good dry whites and exceptional sweeties that are as good as 2001.*

"2011 is not a vintage to be loading up with at the cheaper end with very few exceptions. I think it's going to be a lot cheaper than we expected," adds Simon.

2011 is a difficult vintage to generalise about, and although some wines are low in quality this year, many others have excelled themselves. Read Berrys' full [vintage report](#) online, detailing the complications and opportunities of the vintage.

Alun Griffiths MW Berrys' Wine Buying Director, says: *"Nobody in Bordeaux is pretending that this vintage is on the same level as 2009 or 2010. It does seem superior to 2008, 2006, 2004 and 2002. So now all depends on price. Logically we would expect to see prices pitched between the opening offers of 2008 and 2009, perhaps nearer to the former than the latter.*

"Early indications from the chateaux are that they will release the wines early and at prices which reflect in part this sentiment. If this happens then we would be recommending some of this vintage strongly; if prices fail to drop sufficiently, however, then it may be wiser to sit and wait or to look at older vintages which could offer better value" adds Alun.

Our Fine Wine team has just returned from assessing the vintage, and kept our followers updated on their daily tastings and thoughts. Read the full series of blogs from the team in Bordeaux [online](#). For more photographs and the inside track on Bordeaux 2011 visit Berrys' Facebook page www.facebook.com/BerrysWine. To keep up-to-date with the latest wine news from Berrys as it happens, follow @berrybrostrudd on Twitter.

To make sure your readers don't miss out on any releases, they should sign-up now to Berrys' special email alerts and we will notify you as soon as each 2011 en primeur wine is released. All they have to do is set their account preferences to receive Fine Wine Alerts.

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