

Bordeaux 2009....a partial eclipse of 2005

7th April 2010...After six days visiting 55 châteaux and tasting more than 300 wines, Berrys' buying team have returned a verdict on Bordeaux 2009 and they say it's "brilliant".

Berrys' Sales Director, Simon Staples, says 2009 is not better than 2005 across the board but this vintage will be the finest some châteaux have ever made.

"Certain châteaux have crafted some truly exceptional wines that match, top, and in few cases eclipse, their amazing 2005s," says Simon, adding: "Is it better than 2005 across the board? No. The dry whites are a little too generous, plump if you will; delicious to drink this summer and next but I'd be concerned about the freshness beyond that."

He says: "The Sauternes are generally a little light, with a few exceptions, and quite a lot of the Merlot-dominant wines of the right bank, who left their grapes on the vines a tad too long, are off balance with very harsh, high alcoholic levels. Also, the lesser red wines of 2009 are not as soft and yummy as their counterparts from 2005."

On the subject of pricing, Simon says: "My instinct says that this is not going to be a swift, painless and cheap few months that lie ahead of us all. I say this as a wine lover and as a Merchant. Virtually every château will await Parker's declaration at the end of this month, don't get me started on this debacle, and the very best will await the unveiling of their new babies at VinExpo held in Hong Kong at the end of May. Some will get it spot on, others will completely miss their price and timing of release slot, and others will release at the right price and double it overnight. What I do know is that whatever happens, those who buy will end up with some totally sublime wines in their cellar and at all price points."

Berrys' Bordeaux buying team has compiled three lists of wines following their endeavours last week. Full notes will be up on www.bbr.com over the next few days.

1. BBR's Best 2009's

Our collective BBR Best Wines from a qualitative point of viewThe Best of the Best)

Our Top 3

- Ch. Latour, Pauillac 20/20
- Ch. Mouton-Rothschild, Pauillac 19.5/20
- Ch. Palmer, Margaux 19/20

Score: 18.5/20

Score: 17.5/20

- Ch. Figeac, St. Emilion
- Ch. Haut-Bailly, Pessac Leognan
- Ch. Lafite Rothschild, Pauillac
- Ch. Leoville-Lascases, St.Julien
- Ch. La Mission Haut-Brion
- Ch. Margaux, Margaux
- Ch. Petrus, Pomerol
- Ch. Pontet-Canet, Pauillac
- Ch. Haut Brion, Pessac-Leognan
- Carruades De Lafite, Pauillac
- Domaine De Chevalier Blanc, Graves
- Les Forts De Latour, Pauillac
- Ch. Giscours, Margaux
- Ch. Grand-Puy-Lacoste, Pauillac
- Ch. Guiraud, Sauternes
- Ch. Montrose, St. Estephe
- Ch. Pavie Macquin, St. Emilion
- Ch. D'yquem, Sauternes

Score: 18/20

Score: 17/20

- Ch. Ausone, St. Emilion
- Ch. Cheval Blanc, St. Emilion
- Ch. La Conseillante Pomerol
- Domaine De Chevalier Rouge
- Cos D'estournel, St. Estephe
- Ch. Leoville-Poyferre, St. Julien
- Ch. Lynch Bages, Pauillac
- Le Pin, Pomerol
- Ch. Pichon-Longueville-Baron, Pauillac
- Ch. Rieussec, Sauternes
- Ch. Suduiraut, Sauternes
- Vieux Chateau Certan, Pomerol
- Alter Ego De Palmer, Margaux
- Ch. Brane-Cantenac, Margaux
- Ch. Branaire Ducru, St. Julien
- Ch. Les Carmes Haut Brion, Pessac
- Chapelle D'ausone, St. Emilion
- Ch. Doisy-Vedrines, Sauternes
- Ch. Ducru-Beaucaillou, St. Julien
- Ch. La Fleur-Pétrus
- Ch. D'issan, Margaux
- Ch. Larcis Ducasse, St Emilion
- Ch. Leoville-Barton, St. Julien
- Les Pagodes De Cos
- Ch. La Tour Blanche, Sauternes

2. BBR's 12 Best Value 2009's

Our Best Value Wines to buy from 2009 (Fingers crossed on prices!)

Les Pagodes de Cos	17
Ch. D'angludet, Margaux	16.5
Ch. Gruaud-Larose, St.Julien	16.5
Ch. Clerc Milon, Pauillac	16.5
Ch. Haut-Bages Liberal, Pauillac	16.5
Ch. Ormes De Pez, St. Estephe	16.5

Ch. Lafon-Rochet	16.5
Ch. Du Tertre, Margaux	16.5
Ch. Batailley, Pauillac	16
Ch. D'armailhac, Pauillac	16
Ch. Moulin Riche	16
Ch. Le Boscq	16

3 .My “Must haves” if sanity prevails.

What Simon Staples would like to add to his cellar ISP (‘If Sanity Prevails’!!) on a reasonable budget

Ch. Haut-Bailly, Pessac Leognan	18.5
Ch. Figeac, St. Emilion	18.5
Ch. Pontet-Canet, Pauillac	18.5
Domaine de Chevalier Rouge	18
Ch. Leoville-Poyferre, St. Julien	18
Ch. Lynch Bages, Pauillac	18
Ch. Giscours, Margaux	17.5
Ch. Grand-Puy-Lacoste, Pauillac	17.5
Les Forts de Latour, Pauillac	17.5
Ch. Montrose, St. Estephe	17.5
Ch. Brane-Cantenac, Margaux	17
Ch. D'issan, Margaux	17
Ch. Branaire Ducru, St. Julien	17
Alter Ego de Palmer, Margaux	17
Les Pagodes de Cos	17

A further nine salesman from Berry Bros. & Rudd in the UK will travel to Bordeaux on Sunday (11th April). For the latest news and views from the frontline follow @BBRinBordeaux on Twitter. The following week another nine staff from Berrys in Hong Kong and Japan will also taste the wines – follow @BerrysInAsia.

For the inside track on Bordeaux 2009 become a fan of Berrys on Facebook www.facebook.com/berryswine, follow Simon Staples on [Twitter](#) (@BigSiTheWineGuy) and visit Berrys’ Wine Blog www.bbr.com/blog for news, information, images and videos from Berrys’ team of experts and Bordeaux producers.

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