

TASTED

JOURNAL

by ANDREAS LARSSON & MARKUS DEL MONEGO MW

Best Sommelier of the World 1998
Best Sommelier of the World 2007



BORDEAUX CHAMPAGNE SWEET WINES

THE BLIND TASTING CONDITIONS



ALL WINES WILL BE BLIND TASTED BY CATEGORY (WINE STYLE, COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, REGION, APPELLATION, VARIETY(BLEND, VINTAGE)) IN THE HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL TASTING ROOMS OF CAVECO IN ESSEN, GERMANY. FOR PROFESSIONAL BLIND TASTINGS THE ENVIRONMENT IS AS NEUTRAL AS POSSIBLE, WITH VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS WHICH MUST BE STRICTLY CONTROLLED IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE PERFECT TASTING CONDITIONS: THE LOCATION, TEMPERATURE, HUMIDITY OF THE AIR, AIR PRESSURE, NOISE, SMELLS, COLOURS, AND LAST BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST, THE LIGHT.

THESE CRITERIA ARE IN PLACE AT CAVECO'S TASTING FACILITIES, LOCATED IN THE ISOLATED BASEMENT OF THE BUILDING. THE ROOM TEMPERATURE OSCILLATES AROUND 20°C (+/-2°C), THE HUMIDITY OF THE AIR IS PERMANENTLY CONTROLLED AND IF NECESSARY ADJUSTED. ALL PARAMETERS ARE REGISTERED AT REGULAR INTERVALS. NOISE IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY NUISANCE THAT COULD INTERRUPT THE TASTERS. THANKS TO THE LOCATION DISTURBING SOUNDS FROM OUTSIDE ARE MOSTLY EXCLUDED. IT IS PARAMOUNT THAT THE TASTING ROOM REMAINS A NEUTRAL PLACE IN TERMS OF SMELL, TO ENSURE THIS THE ROOM IS AIRIED FREQUENTLY. AS FOR THE LIGHT, EACH INDIVIDUAL TASTING CABIN IS EQUIPPED WITH A DAYLIGHT LIGHT BUILD, ASSURING PERFECT AND CONSTANT LIGHT CONDITIONS. THE TASTING ROOMS ARE ALARM SECURED HENCE ONLY EMPLOYEES AND OTHER AUTHORISED PERSONAL HAVE ACCESS TO THE LOCATION. THE WINES ARE STORED IN TEMPERATURE CONTROLLED WINE CABINETS SET AT THE APPROPRIATE TEMPERATURE FOR THE CATEGORY OF WINE. THE INDIVIDUAL TASTING CABINS ARE STRICTLY ISOLATED FROM ONE ANOTHER, SO THAT THE TASTERS CANNOT SEE THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS TASTING NOTES OR COMMENTS. THE TASTERS CANNOT SEE THE PREPARATIONS OF THE TASTINGS, NOR THE BOTTLES.

THE WINES ARE SERVED TO THE TASTERS DIRECTLY BY STAFF AND EACH WINE IS IDENTIFIED BY A CORRESPONDING NUMBER. THIS NUMBER IS MATCHED TO THE SAMPLE NUMBER OF THE WINE. IF EVER ONE OR BOTH TASTERS EXPRESS A DOUBT ON THE OVERALL QUALITY OF A WINE (CORKED, OXIDISED,...) THE SECOND SAMPLE OF THE WINE WILL BE RE-TASTED BY BOTH SOMMELIERS. SHALL THE SECOND BOTTLE REPRESENT THE SAME DEFAULT, THE PRODUCER WILL BE INFORMED AND THE COMMENTS WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED. ALL THE OTHER COMMENTS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN TASTED JOURNAL. EACH WINE WILL BE COMMENTED BY BOTH SOMMELIERS AND WILL RECEIVE A SCORE BY BOTH OF THEM (ON A 100 POINT SCALE), AS WELL AS AN AVERAGE SCORE. HOWEVER, THE TASTING NOTES WILL NEVER BE SHORTENED NOR OTHERWISE ALTERED. EACH DEVIATION RATE OF MORE THAN 5 POINTS BETWEEN THE TWO TASTERS WILL LEAD TO A DISCUSSION AND, IF REQUIRED, TO A SECOND TASTING TO CONFIRM OR REFUTE THEIR FIRST IMPRESSIONS.

90,5 | CHATEAU LA CROIZILLE 2010

Saint Emilion - Grand Cru

AL - Sweet and spicy nose with some woody notes, mocha, red and dark berries. The palate is well rounded with a supple texture, good freshness, raspberry and blackberry flavours, fresh and long finish, well balanced with good drinkability. **91**

MDM - Dark purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Firm structure on the nose, discreet berry fruit, spicy notes and slightly pyrotechnical flavour. On the palate well structured with good weight and length. **90**

89,5 | CHATEAU TOUR BALADOZ 2010

Saint Emilion - Grand Cru

AL - Lightly roasted and smoky nose with elegant red and dark berries. Rather rounded and soft texture, juicy and fresh with good length, balance and drinkability. **90**

MDM - Dark purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Distinct smoky notes in the nose, backed by juicy plums and cherries. Mild spices in the background. On the palate well structured and balanced, medium weight but good length. **89**

87,5 | CHATEAU TAYET 2011

Bordeaux Superieur

AL - Purple young colour. Fresh nose of plum, wild berries and spices. Nice palate, rounded with juicy dark berries, good freshness and a rather long finish. **88**

MDM - Dark purple red with violet hue. Sweet fruit, elderberries and mulberries, hints of vanilla in the background. On the palate well structured with sweet fruit, hints of vanilla and mild spices, medium weight and length. **87**

87 | CHATEAU HAUT BRETON LARIGAUDIERE 2011

Margaux - Cru Bourgeois

AL - Bright ruby/purple colour. Red and dark berries, woody notes and some herbal spiciness. Medium weight, rather young tannin, a bit restrained fruit and high acidity, medium to long finish. **86**

MDM - Dark purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Intense smoky nose, roasted flavours, ripe berries. On the palate medium weight and rather good length, discreet fruit in the background. **88**

86,5 | CHATEAU HAUT BRETON LARIGAUDIERE 2010

Margaux - Cru Bourgeois

AL - Medium deep ruby red colour. Sweet and roasted nose of new oak, red and dark berries, leather and spice. Medium weight, high acidity, red berries a firm backbone and medium to long finish. **86**

MDM - Dark purple red with violet hue and black centre. Clean nose with good fruit, discreet spices and roasted flavours. On the palate medium weight and length, rather on the light side. **87**