

THE WINEMAKER'S CLUB

Bordeaux Reds - February 16, 2008

Cabernet Sauvignon Profile

“The king of red wines.” Dark purple-ruby in color. Full body, great intensity, concentrated flavors, strong acidity, strong tannins. Worthy of long-term aging.

Aroma (from the grape varietal): Black currant, blackberry, black cherry, bell pepper, asparagus, green olive, ginger, green peppercorn, pimento

Bouquet (from the winemaking and aging): Vanilla, coconut, sweet woodsmoke, toast, tar, cedar, cigar box, musk, mushroom, earth, leather

Noteworthy Regions: Medoc district of France's Bordeaux region, Sonoma County's Alexander Valley, much of the Napa Valley, and the Paso Robles area of the Central Coast, California.

Merlot Profile

In comparison to Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot tends to be less distinctive and slightly more herbaceous overall in both aroma and taste. Merlot has slightly lower natural acidity than Cabernet and generally less astringency, therefore usually a more lush mouth-feel.

Aroma (from the grape varietal): Currant, black cherry, plum, violet, rose, caramel, clove, bay leaf, green peppercorn, bell pepper, green olive

Bouquet (from the winemaking and aging): vanilla, coconut, sweet wood, oak, smoke, toast, tar, truffle, mushroom, earth, coffee, leather, cedar, cigar box

Malbec Profile

Characteristics that fall somewhere between Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Spicy, dark fruit, complex, intense, and worthy of aging. Medium to full-bodied red wine.

Very deep color, inky black/purple, strong tannin, and a particular plum-like flavor component

Aroma (from the grape varietal): ripe plum and violets, blackberry, blueberry

Bouquet (from the winemaking and aging): vanilla, white chocolate, coffee, lead pencil shavings

Noteworthy Regions: Grown in the Loire Valley and Cahors, France. Long known as one of the six grapes used in the blending of red Bordeaux, but in diminished use. In Bordeaux blends, Malbec is used in small amounts to add color and tannin. In Cahors, where it is also known as “cot,” the grape makes wines there that are full bodied and able to mature – these wines are dark and sometimes gamey, but delicious – they like to call it the “black” wine of Cahors.” Malbec currently flourishes in the Mendoza region of Argentina. Regarded as the national grape of Argentina. Argentinian Malbec produces spicy wines with tastes of blackberries and chocolate, with a velvety texture.