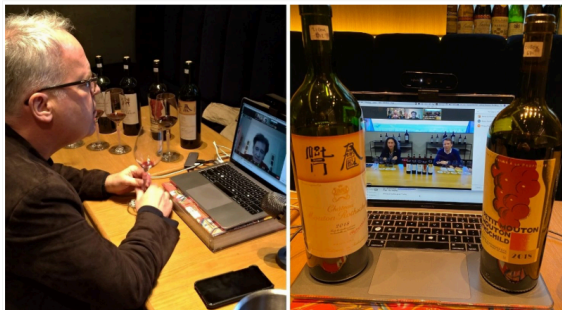


WEEKLY TASTING REPORT (JAN 18-24, 2021): 2018 PROVES SPECIAL IN BORDEAUX AND NAPA (412 WINES RATED)

Tuesday, January 26, 2021



James tastes over Zoom with Philippe Sereys de Rothschild, owner of Chateau Mouton Rothschild, and his team.

The 2018 vintage for Bordeaux is turning out to be really exceptional, especially for the top names. Not only are there hundreds of fantastic quality wines, but they were made in an unusually chaotic year when winemakers had all sorts of problems thrown at them from flooding and vineyard diseases to drought and hot weather. Yet they managed to make special wines through incredibly hard work and a little luck.

This shows in our tastings last week of about 330 wines from Bordeaux with a number of perfect wines as well as many rated 99 and 98 points. The reds show intense fruitiness but it is not overpowering like other hot vintages such as 2009. They show the typical character of the appellations and in many instances their unique terroirs.

CHÂTEAU LARCIS DUCASSE ST.-EMILION 2018



Country France
Region Bordeaux
Vintage 2018

Score
97

Polished aromas of lavender, plum, dried blueberry, clove, sandalwood and dark chocolate. Hints of praline. It's full-bodied with firm, tightly knit tannins. Supple, seamless layers with great length and precision. Still reserved and tight. A toned and textured red with great structure. Try from 2026.

MURMURE DE LARCIS DUCASSE ST.-EMILION 2018



Country France
Region Bordeaux
Vintage 2018

Score
95

Blackberries and blueberries with some raspberry, herbal and moss notes on the nose. It's full-bodied with elegant tannins. Juicy and fleshy texture on the palate. Savory. Such balance. Flavorful finish. Blend of 99% merlot and 1% cabernet franc. Try after 2025.