

Willamette Tasters April 2008 Tasting

Hosted by Michael Webb

April 17, 2008

Pre-Wines:

2000 Vincent Girardin Meursault 1er Cru Le Poruzot-Dessus

2000 Vincent Girardin Corton Charlemagne Grand Cru

Tasting Wines:

2. 2005 Marilyn Merlot, Merlot, Napa Valley, CA

1. 2004 Marilyn Merlot, Merlot, Napa Valley, CA

8. 2003 Marilyn Merlot, Merlot, Napa Valley, CA

6. 1996 Marilyn Merlot, Merlot, Napa Valley, CA

4. 1999 Sporoletti, "Villa Fidelia", Umbria, IT

7. 2001 Petrolo, "Galatrona", Tuscany, IT

5. 2001 Magrez Fombrage, St. Emilion, Bordeaux, FR

3. 2003 Troplong-Mondot, St. Emilion, Bordeaux, FR

Post-Wine:

1991 Niepoort, Colheita, Portugal

Food

Cambozola (GR)

Chaubier (FR) - Cow/goat

Manchego (SP) - Sheep

Smoked Steelhead

Duck Foie Groi

Finocchiona Salmi (Columbus)

Toscana Salami (Fra' Mani)

Brown sugar orange custar with candied orange rind.

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Wine Summary

	% Merlot	RP	WS	
Pre-Wines:				
2000 Vincent Girardin Meursault 1er Cru Le Poruzot-Dessus		?	95	
2000 Vincent Girardin Corton Charlemagne Grand Cru		?	96	
Tasting Wines:				
2005 Marilyn Merlot, Merlot, Napa Valley, CA	100	?	82	
2004 Marilyn Merlot, Merlot, Napa Valley, CA	100	?	81	
2003 Marilyn Merlot, Merlot, Napa Valley, CA	100	?	?	
1996 Marilyn Merlot, Merlot, Napa Valley, CA	100	?	?	
1999 Sporoletti, "Villa Fidelia", Umbria, IT	70	96	84	20% CS, 10%CF
2001 Petrolo, "Galatrona", Tuscany, IT	100	92	96	
2001 Magrez Fombrauge, St. Emilion, Bordeaux, FR	80	94	89	20% CF
2003 Troplong-Mondot, St. Emilion, Bordeaux, FR	80	92	91	10% CS, 10% CF
Post-Wine:				
1991 Niepoort, Colheita, Portugal		?	?	

Sportoletti

Umbria Villa Fidelia Red 1999

Score: 84

Release Price: \$55

Country: Italy

Region: Umbria

Good, ripe fruit in this plummy wine, but shows a slightly dry, woody edge. Medium-bodied, with round tannins and a slightly austere finish. Better with time. Best after 2002. 1,400 cases made. –JS

Sportoletti Villa Fidelia

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Umbria, Italy

Review by Robert Parker

Rating: 96

Drink 2001 - 2015

Cost: \$79-\$124

Sportoletti's compelling, unfiltered 1999 Villa Fidelia (a 1,400 case cuvee made from 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 10% Cabernet Franc) is undoubtedly the super-star of this area. Its dense ruby/purple color is accompanied by gorgeous aromas of blackberries, cassis, espresso, chocolate, and a touch of smoke. There is fabulous concentration, full body, great precision as well as purity, and a long, 45-second finish. Displaying an overall sense of elegance and gracefulness despite its depth and richness, this prodigious effort can be drunk now and over the next 14 years.

Fattoria Petrolo
Toscana Galatrona 2001

Score: 96

Release Price: \$90

Country: Italy

Region: Tuscany

A perfectly formed bodybuilder. Gorgeous aromas of crushed flowers and ripe red fruits, have hints of minerals. Very perfumed. Full-bodied, with ultrafine tannins and a long, delicious finish. Very refined indeed. Builds and builds on the palate. Dense. Merlot. Best after 2007. 850 cases made. -JS

2001 Petrolo Galatrona IGT

A Merlot Dry Red Table wine from Tuscany, Italy

Review by Daniel Thomases

Rating: 92

Drink 2005 - 2015

Cost: \$100

The 2001 Galatrona confirms its status as one of Tuscany's better Merlot bottlings with its dark rubycolor, ripe, warm plum and black cherry fruit, and spicy, dense flavors, broad and long, with a swelling volume on the finish. Drink: 2005-2015.1999

**Magrez Fombrauge
St.-Emilion 2001**

Score: 89

Release Price: \$105

Country: France

Region: Bordeaux

A solid wine. Plenty of rich plum and berry character, with hints of chocolate and coffee. Loads of wood. Full-bodied, with silky and round tannins, but a bit too much new wood for me. Very New World. Best after 2007. 375 cases made. –JS

2001 Magrez Fombrauge

A Bordeaux Blend Dry Red Table wine from St Emilion, Bordeaux, France

Review by Robert Parker

Rating: 94

Drink 2006 - 2016

Cost: \$112-\$222

This is a sensational effort. A limited production cuvee fashioned from five plus acres of the Fombrauge vineyard, the debut vintage was 2000. The fruit is picked extremely ripe and given an unusually long maceration, resulting in a modern-styled blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc made from low yields of 24 hectoliters per hectare. A black/blue color is accompanied by an extraordinary nose of melted chocolate, espresso roast, creme de cassis, smoke, and charcoal. It boasts a fabulous texture, hints of lead pencil shavings, a full-bodied, dense, heady mid-palate, low acidity, and a voluptuously textured, rich finish that lasts for nearly a minute. Considerable tannin lurks beneath the surface, but it is well-concealed by the wine's wealth of fruit, extract, and glycerin. Anticipated maturity: 2006-2016. Bravo!

**Château Troplong-Mondot
St.-Emilion 2003**

Score: 91

Release Price: \$50

Country: France

Region: Bordeaux

Beautiful plum, berry and raspberry aromas follow through to a full-bodied palate, with refined tannins and a long, caressing finish. Very nicely done. Best after 2009. 3,915 cases made. -JS

2003 Troplong-Mondot

A Bordeaux Blend Dry Red Table wine from St Emilion, Bordeaux, France

Review by Robert Parker

Rating: 92

Drink 2012 - 2025

Cost: \$60-\$90

This superb estate, run with impeccable attention to detail by Christine Valette, has produced a formidable, backward wine that will require considerable cellaring. When St.-Emilion's new classification is announced in several months, it will be a crime if Troplong is not promoted to Premier Grand Cru Classe status. Even by Bordeaux standards this is a weighty vin du garde, with huge density, a backward, masculine style, an inky dark ruby/purple hue, and subtle notions of white chocolate, espresso roast, plums, blackberries, and currants. Full-bodied, powerful, and "closed for business" at present, it exhibits beautiful purity, stunning depth, and a long, persistent finish. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2025+.

Vincent Girardin
Corton-Charlemagne 2000

Score: 96

Release Price: \$98

Country: France

Region: Burgundy

Top 100 Wine Year: 2002 Rank: 42

Clearly made in Burgundy, this is a savage wine, a highly distinctive Chardonnay. Immensely powerful, penetrating the palate with a concentrated lemon, honey, wet earth, ripe fruit combination. Full-bodied, it lasts for over a minute on the finish. Best from 2004 through 2020. 1,300 cases made. -PM

Vincent Girardin
Meursault Le Poruzot-Dessus Vieilles Vignes 2000

Score: 95

Release Price: \$61

Country: France

Region: Burgundy

Lovely wine, packed with ripe fruit in a balanced, silky package that soars with lively acidity. This full-bodied white Burgundy shows serious power, yet seems to caress the palate with its honey, lemon, pear, tropical flavors. What class. Drink now through 2015. 530cases made. -PM