

NEWS SUMMARY

APRIL 2011

TAYLOR'S CROFT AND FONSECA DECLARE 2009 A CLASSIC VINTAGE

The Fladgate Partnership, owners of the illustrious Ports of Taylor's, Croft and Fonseca have declared today, St George's Day (23 April), that they are to release classic Vintage Ports from all three houses from the 2009 vintage making this the fourth declaration in a decade (2000, 2003, 2007, 2009). "In over three centuries of making great Ports, we have seldom seen four outstanding vintages come along in a decade," comments Adrian Bridge, CEO of The Fladgate Partnership. "Like the great landmark vintages of the early twentieth century, the 2009s are built for longevity."

As usual, Taylor's 2009 is based on a blend of Ports from Quinta de Vargellas and Quinta de Terra Feita. Quinta do Junco has made a small contribution since 2000 and does so again in 2009. Fonseca 2009 is drawn from Quinta do Panascal and Quinta do Cruzeiro with a small proportion of wine from Quinta do Santo António, recently converted to organic viticulture. The Croft 2009 is drawn entirely from Quinta da Roêda. A small quantity of Taylor's Quinta de Vargellas Vinha Velha 2009 will also be released. "We haven't seen colour intensity and tannic grip like this in over twenty years," adds Head Winemaker, David Guimaraens. "The quality of fruit is also impressive and the wines have excellent acidity."

The 2009 viticultural year was marked by low vine fertility and a dry ripening season resulting in low yields, dense and concentrated musts, high colour, tannin and sugar levels. There will be smaller quantities available than the preceding declared vintages and tighter allocations. The Fladgate Partnership has used its traditional date of St George's Day to announce the release of a classic vintage. It is the only year ending in a 9 to have been declared by Taylor, Fonseca and Croft since the 19th Century.

Taylor's, Croft and Fonseca 2009 will be available to taste at the London International Wine Fair (stand O72) with Quinta de Vargellas Vinha Velha 2009. The Ports will be shipped to the UK towards the end of the year.

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www.2009vintageport.com



APRIL 2011

Mentzendorff launches new agency: Casa Marin

Mentzendorff is delighted to announce their recently signed agency agreement with Casa Marin.

Based in the Lo Abarca Valley in the San Antonio region of Chile, Casa Marin is a family owned, boutique winery. The cool climate and maritime influence (vineyards are the closest to the Pacific Ocean in South America) distinguishes this extreme region from others, promoting a longer ripening period and imparting an individual and unique character to the wines.

Established in 1999 by Maria Luz Marin, the estate comprises 40 hectares and is cared for by hand. It is the realisation of the dream of Maria Luz who was named 'Best Chilean Winemaker' in 2008 and is still the only female winemaker in Chile to have established her own winery. Andrew Hawes (Managing Director of Mentzendorff) comments, "it is a great pleasure for us to be returning the wines of Casa Marin to the UK market where we feel convinced there is a demand for their high quality. We are also very much looking forward to working with Maria Luz and her family."

The range of wines all speak of their cool climate origin displaying purity and minerality. They will be available to taste on the Mentzendorff stand (O72) at the London Wine Fair and at the Decanter Fine Wine Encounter in May.



CASA MARIN
Pasión Pura

The launch of Schieferkopf par Michel Chapoutier Exciting new wines from Alsace

Mentzendorff & Co were delighted to host the launch of Michel Chapoutier's new venture in London on Tuesday 5th April 2011.

Michel Chapoutier loves wine that has character and expresses the complexity of the terroir. Schieferkopf is the story of a friendship. Michel and four of his friends, all wine amateurs, decided to buy together. Pushed by Michel's dream, they finally decided to choose Alsace as the location. The five shareholders named themselves "Club des cinq" from the title of a children's novel. The objective apart from having fun is to produce high quality wines especially Riesling.

They selected a 5ha domaine in Bernardvillé due to its unique schist soils giving poise and austerity to the wines with high minerality. This is particularly suitable for Riesling, the dominant variety of Schieferkopf. In addition, the vineyard is one of the highest of Alsace at about 380m. The altitude combined with a southerly exposure enables slow and gentle ripening of the grapes. The combination of these natural elements gives the opportunity to produce a rich dry wine, with high acidity and minerality.

Though not yet certified, the vineyard is managed under organic and biodynamic precepts to get the best of this unique terroir. The grapes are hand picked in small bins and then pressed gently and slowly. The wine is made and matured on lees for several months in the traditional "foudre".



Schieferkopf.
PAR MICHEL CHAPOUTIER

MENTZENDORFF

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1858

Selections Parcelles Rieslings are as follows:

Pinot Gris 2009

Sylvaner 2009

Riesling 2009

Alsace Grand Cru Wiebelsberg 2009

Alsace Grand Cru Kastelberg 2009

Alsace Lieu-Dit Buehl 2009 (Selection Parcelle)

Alsace Lieu-Dit Fels 2009 (Selection Parcelle)

We tasted the wines for the first time earlier this month and stocks will be available from Mentzendorff in early May 2011.

A couple of notes on the Selections Parcelles Rieslings are as follows:

Lieu-Dit Buehl is from a plot of 1.2ha that makes up the domaine. South facing slopes on blue schist. Fermented using natural yeasts and matured over 15 months in large casks. A masculine style of Riesling with an intense fruit core and ample acidity.

Lieu-Dit Fels is from a plot of 0.8ha at a higher altitude than Buehl. The treatment is exactly the same as for Buehl but in this wine there is a finer, more intense minerality.