Friday, September 6th from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Treasures from France's Bordeaux Region

With Drew Murphy from A&B Imports

$10 Tasting Fee

Bordeaux...just the name conjures up all sorts of extraordinary wine expectations. Another fabulous French regional tasting brought to us by Drew Murphy, A&B Imports! Drew has found some gems! Join us for this spectacular trip through the Bordeaux Region!!!

The 1,000 square-kilometers (62 square-miles) surrounding Bordeaux is one mighty big vineyard, divided into 60 appellations with 8,500 wine growing producers called chateaux. It's mind-blowing stuff, but a tasting with Wicked Cellars will help you make sense of it all.

Bordeaux wines can be divided into four sub-regions, including many familiar wines we already know and love. North of the city of Bordeaux, the Médoc wine region is celebrated for its well-balanced Margaux, Pauillac and Saint Julien reds. From the southern Graves region we have sticky white dessert Sauternes and wines from the Premières Cotes de Bordeaux, including earthy Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec reds.

The best Bordeaux AOC wines are reds from the Gironde department, including Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot grape varieties. The fourth region, east of Bordeaux, includes St-Émilion and Pomerol, famous for its aged Petrus wines.

This varied vineyard wonderland is bordered by the Gironde Estuary and the Atlantic Ocean. It's a neatly ordered countryside of rolling hills, forests and valleys, threaded with lines of vineyards and overlooked by turreted chateaux and medieval villages with cobblestone streets.

***2010 EXEM Bordeaux Rouge  $13.99***

Young hot-shot Bordeaux winemaker, Eric Gonfrier, makes several amazing, terroir-driven Bordeaux wines under his own name and maintains them purely in the classic Bordeaux style: restrained fruit, big minerals, and somewhat austere flavor profiles. But Eric also understands what Americans like, too, creating this flat-out gorgeous blend of Merlot and Cabernet especially for his export market - and it's made quite the splash. Like any Bordeaux winemaker who wants to make an accessible wine, Eric starts with loads of soft, pretty Merlot. It finishes with 30% Cab, for muscle and texture and packs in the cocoa, bay leaf, blueberries, dried cranberries, cherries, crushed stones, and vanilla for a round, generous profile that's pure pleasure to drink!

***2009 Barreyre Bordeaux Superieur $21.99***

Château Barreyre is evidence of just how fine many of Bordeaux’s smaller, lesser known estates called petits châteaux can be. A twenty-two acre property with a view of the Gironde and the nearby port of Macau, Château Barreyre actually lies within the Médoc. It is in fact quite close to Margaux. Given its proximity to the river, Château Barreyre is only entitled to the appellation Bordeaux Supérieur – a boon to savvy consumers looking for bona fide Bordeaux at an affordable price.

The 2009 vintage in Bordeaux has been heralded as one of the finest on record, and the 2009 Château Barreyre provides convincing evidence to support the pundits. For our money the 2009 Château Barreyre Bordeaux Supérieur eclipses previous efforts, which speaks volumes since Château Barreyre is one of the finest of the Bordeaux estates and it has garnered numerous awards and medals over the years for exceptional quality.

The wine displays a deep Margaux-like robe. But even more alluring is the wine’s bold and intoxicating aroma of cassis and ripe red berries, deftly laced with enticing floral tones. Moreover, with each sip comes a complex mix of nuanced flavors reminiscent of black cherry, cedar, and vanilla. Balanced and superbly structured, this wine’s plush ripe tannins provide ample potential for the wine to mature further for at least several more years.

***Château le Peyrat 2010 Red (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux)  $16.99***

Ripe and fruity, this is a warm, rounded wine. Yes, it has tannins that are firm, but it’s the rich black fruit quality that shines. There’s good density as well, so this wine will surely age well. Give it 5–6 years.

***2010 Château La Grande Maye Bordeaux Rouge $26.99***

***2006 Château Fonplégade Red Bordeaux Blend St. Émilion Grand Cru  $ 53.99***

Château Fonplégade, classified as a St. Emilion Grand Cru Classé, has about 45 acres of vineyards planted primarily (91%) with Merlot and a little (7%) Cabernet Franc.  Cabernet Sauvignon rounds out the blend.  The vines at Fonplégade vary in age from 15 to 30 years.  The older ones' roots go deep through St. Emilion's prized soil, shallow clay overlying limestone.