

Wicked Cellars Tasting Notes
Saturday, December 7th, 2-5 p.m.
Exploring France's Bordeaux Region
\$10 Tasting Fee

For two millennia, Bordeaux has been THE wine region of note in the minds of red wine lovers. Located near the southwestern coast of France where the Garonne and Dordogne Rivers join and spill into the Atlantic Ocean, its wine has been prized and its land fought over since the Romans first stole it from the locals.

2010 Chateau St. Jean des Graves Blanc \$17.99

Here's a spectacular value for from the Graves wine region southeast of the city of Bordeaux along the Garonne River. 90% Sauvignon Blanc and 10% Semillon, it shows deliciously bright grapefruit undertones on the palate.

2011 Chateau Bellevue-Rougier, Bordeaux \$11.99

Made from a blend of 50% Merlot, 32% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 18% Cabernet Franc, this fruit-forward wine, is made by Jean Lobre and his two sons, whose family has owned Bellevue Rougier for four generations. Ready to drink now, this easy-drinking Bordeaux offers oodles of soft, spicy fruit, lightly seasoned by notes of red berries, Provençal herbs, and cedar.

2011 Chateau Des Landes, Lussac St. Emilion \$14.99

This red is a blend of 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc from one of the four satellite wine regions of St. Emilion. A solid balance of oak and dusty tannins combine with notes of lavender, black cherry, minerals, plum and oak in this rich, full wine with a strong black cherry finish.

2011 Chateau Segonzac, 1er Cotes du Blaye \$18.99

Bordeaux's Cotes de Blaye region is another satellite appellation of the great St. Emilion area. Offering similar concentration and styles to its more famous neighbor, these wines often offer better value and can equal or surpass them in quality.

Production of this wine follows the traditional methods for First-Côtes-de-Blaye. Left to age in the cellar in vats for almost two years and then six months in barrels, it is fruity and spicy, supple and tannic, with a bouquet that combines black fruits and floral notes with mineral and earthy tones. The palate hints of caramel and licorice, typical of the region's soil and shows a structure that is austere yet noble.

2010 Chateau Bel Air la Chapelle, Cote de Castillon \$19.99

With origins dating back to 1648, the Bel Air Castle is one of the oldest properties in the famous vineyards of Sainte-Croix-du-Mont in the Bordeaux sub region of Cote de Castillon.

Château Bel Air Bordeaux Supérieur Rouge is 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon from vines that enjoy a terroir particularly suited for developing consistently good red wines that distinguish themselves through their substance, aromas and flexibility.

This vintage shows a pretty red dress, clear and bright, with flavors of red fruits and cassis on the palate. The wine has a rich tannic structure and a lengthy finish as well.

2010 Chateau Guillou, Montagne St. Emilion \$21.99

Showing a brilliant ruby/purple color, this wine presents a bouquet of fig, blackberry and oak. On the palate flavors of blackberry, vegetable and oak vie with hints of leather. Offering a dry, balanced and medium-long finish, this wine offers great quality for the price. Since it develops nicely with some air, allow it a two-to-three hour decant to present itself properly. You might pair it with a nice thick piece of red meat.