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## Article Archive Neal Martin

### Wine-Journal's Memorable Wines of 2007

Smorgasbord: as I mentioned previously I am contracted to use this wonderful word every month and if ever one article merited its use, then this is it. The last twelve months witnessed a smorgasbord of vinous pearls, an embarrassment of riches that I am one lucky sod to taste. Please note, as much as I have tried to keep up, there are a numerous wines yet to be publicised on Wine-Journal. That is not only due to the sheer quantity of wines that I have tasted, but also the fact composing those narratives and editing photos etc takes precious time, plus the fact that I have been travelling non-stop since virtually mid-September. Given that over the autumn I voyaged to Paris, the Mosel, Bordeaux, Australia, Japan, Denmark, Portugal, USA and then to complete the circle, Paris again, it has been a miracle that two or three articles appeared every week. I guess that is one of the bonuses of being able to type like a demon with a flagrant disregard for grammatical faux pas.

The year commenced in style with a fortnight of Burgundy 2005's: one week in London and the other in Burgundy itself, visiting many growers that I had been longing to meet: **Christophe Roumier**, **Bernard Dugat**, **Charles Rousseau** to name but a few. Without doubt, that week in the Côte d'Or was the most pleasurable cellar tastings that I have undertaken. Just a shame that it took seven months to write all the notes up and when I did, it ended up being twenty-five chapters long and necessitating hour upon hour of research (20,000 words were edited out of the final draft!)

February and March were busy, the latter thanks to the arrival of Daisy, the stork conveniently flying over our house before en primeur in April. This month saw erobertparker.com finally launch and what better way to start than with the new Bordeaux vintage (which remains unsold and underrated!) May was spent in idyllic **Bandol** tasting the new vintages, the end of the month venturing down to **Pol Roger** in champagne, swiftly followed by a trip to **Roussillon** whose notes will finally appear next month!

Immediately after I returned the Martin family decamped to leafy Guildford, where the kids have a garden to run amok and I have a separate room in which to work. July and August were spent settling in to our new environs and then September kicked off travelling on my "World Tour", culminating in a return to snowy Baltimore to meet Bob and the rest of the team.

The wines listed below are not strictly the best wines I have tasted this year, I have not simply listed the highest scoring wines. This would be unfair to say, the wonderful Quincy or Bourgeuil that were wonderful examples of their type and deserve mentions amongst the more illustrious names. Rather I perused tasting sheets elected wines that bought a smile to the face irrespective of price or rarity, wines that were the most memorable. I traditionally choose a wine of the year and there were some strong contenders: **Musigny 2005** from **Domaine Georges Roumier**, **Hermitage La Chapelle 1961** from Jaboulet (even if it did not attain a perfect score) and **Taylor's 1935 Vintage Port** another. But actually, the winner was obvious: **Château Gruaud Larose 1870**.

The culmination of a truly memorable vertical of this Saint Julien estate, this wine defied its 137-years of age. Not only had it retained more freshness than a Saint Emilion 2003, but unlike many other ancient wines it had retained a sense of complexity and a sense of typicity – it was still identifiable as a Saint Julien. Then remarkably the wine not only refused to oxidize; but actually blossomed and became even more multi-faceted in the glass! It was in a different league to the only other 1870 I have tasted, Château Mouton Rothschild, and it immediately pronounced itself as a perfect wine.

The remaining wines on the list all contributed to the treasure trove of riches that passed my palate over the last twelve months, some old and others new, some impossibly rare (**Taylor's 1900** or **Château La Tour Haut Brion 1947**) others unassuming, cheap but just as worthy (**Quincy Haut Victoire 2006** from **Henri Bourgeois**.) Some hail from obvious regions and others, like the brilliant **Gantenbein 1998 Chardonnay** from Switzerland, from countries that all the time are adding to the panoply of astounding wines from all four corners of the world. They also reflect my travels this year: hence some blissful Rieslings from Mosel-masters such as **Manfred Prüm** and **Willi Schaeffer** and a sneak peak at some of the Limestone Coast Wines that caught my attention in October: **Wynn's**,

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**Parker Estate, Cape Jaffa, Koonara, Nolan and Stonehaven.** As I say, all wines appear in random order so don't read anything into how I have listed them!

Will 2008 offer such vinous riches? Well, I will made damn well sure it does and Wine-Journal will strive to note each and every one, hopefully with a little less delay than in 2007!

Wine of the Year: **Château Gruaud Larose 1870**

Musigny Grand Cru 2005 – Domaine Georges Roumier  
 Hermitage La Chapelle 1961 – Paul Jaboulet Ainé  
 Château Trotanoy 1959  
 Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese Goldkapsel 2006 - Weingut Willi Schaefer (Mosel VdP Auction)  
 Romanée-Saint-Vivant Grand Cru 1978 – Domaine Charles Nöellat  
 Château La Tour Haut-Brion 1947  
 Château Talbot 1953  
 Vouvray Le Haut Lieu Moelleux 1934 – Domaine Gaston Huet  
 Vieux-Château-Certan 2005  
 Fabre Montmayou Grand Vin 2004 (Mendoza)  
 Grand Callia 2004 - Callia (San Juan)  
 Zapata Malbec 2004 – Catena Zapata  
 Chambertin Grand Cru 2005 – Domaine Armand Rousseau  
 Romanée-Saint-Vivant Grand Cru 2005 – Domaine Sylvain Cathiard  
 Pol Roger Brut 1914  
 Sassicaia IGT 1988  
 Monte Nero 2005 – Domaine Boucabeille (Roussillon)  
 Barolo 1971 – Giacomo Conterno  
 Savanière Coulée de Serrant Moelleux 1982 – Nicolas Joly  
 Moss Wood Cabernet Sauvignon 1985  
 Ralph Fowler Shiraz/Viognier 2005 (Mount Benson)  
 Parker Estate Terra Rossa First Growth 1996 (Coonawarra)  
 Nolan Wine Company Cabernet Sauvignon 2006 (Wrattonbully)  
 Stonehaven Vineyards Elderslie Road Shiraz 2006 (Wrattonbully)  
 Cape Jaffa Unwooded Chardonnay 2006 (Mount Benson)  
 Koonara Ezra's Gift Shiraz/Viognier 2003  
 Di Giorgio Family "Francesco" Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 (Coonawarra)  
 Highbank Coonawarra 2002 (Bordeaux Blend)  
 Scharzhofberger Riesling Eiswein 2004 - Weingut Egon Müller (Mosel VdP Auction)  
 Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese lange Goldkapsel 2006 - Weingut Joh. Jos. Prüm (Mosel VdP Auction)  
 Brauneberger Juffer Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese lange Goldkapsel 2006 - Weingut Schloss Lieser (Mosel VdP Auction)  
 Château Cheval Blanc 1985  
 Château Batailley 1961  
 Château Canon 1952  
 Château La Tour Haut-Brion 1971  
 Château Climens 1934  
 Château Rauzan-Ségla 2000  
 Château La Tour Haut Brion 1982  
 Château Haut-Bailly 2000  
 Wynn's "The Messenger" Cabernet Sauvignon 2005  
 Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru 1996 – Domaine Coche-Dury  
 Chambertin Grand Cru 1985 – Domaine Armand Rousseau  
 Chambertin Grand Cru 2005 – Domaine Dugat-Py  
 Hermitage La Chapelle 1966 – Paul Jaboulet Ainé  
 L'Extravagance de Doisy-Daëne 2006  
 Tokaji Aszu 6 Puttonyos 2000 – Tibor Gál  
 Château Gruaud Larose 1945  
 Château Pavie 2001  
 Château Lagrange 2001  
 Krug Collection 1985  
 Morey-Saint-Denis Village 1990 – Domaine Ponsot  
 Charmes-Chambertin 2005 – Domaine Denis Bachelet  
 Mount Difficulty Pinot Noir 2004  
 Mount Dottrel Pinot Noir 2006  
 Château Lafite-Rothschild 1934  
 Château Angélys 2006  
 Madiran Vieille Vignes 2003 – Château Bouscassé  
 Bourgeuil Cuvée de Clos Sénéchal 1993 – Paul Breton  
 Château Maucaillou 1978  
 Gantenbein Chardonnay 1998 (Switzerland)  
 Château Beychevelle 1986  
 Colgin Herb Lamb Vineyard 2001  
 Littorai "The Haven Vineyard" 2004  
 Bandol Rouge 1983 – Château de Vannières

Château Latour 2003  
Château Figeac 1943  
Quinta do Noval 1931 Vintage Port  
Quinta do Noval Nacional 1963 Vintage Port  
Quinta do Passadouro Reserva 2004 – Quinta do Passadouro  
Dado 2004 – Niepoort Vinhos S.A.  
Dao Sul CCCC 2003 – Dao Sul – Sociendade Vitivinicola S.A.  
Covela Fantastico 2003 – Quinta da Covela  
Côte-Rôtie Côte Blonde 1990 – Rene Rostaing  
Tokay Pinot Gris Clos Windsbuhl 1990 – Domaine Zind-Humbrecht  
Château Batailley 1947  
Château d'Yquem 2001  
Noemia 2004 – Bodega Noemia Patagonia  
Cincuenta y Cinco Pinot Noir – Bodega Chacra  
Single Vineyard Vina Victorio Coletto Malbec 2004 – Bodegas Trapiche  
Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru 1988 – Domaine JJ Confuron  
Croft Vintage Port 1935  
Croft Vintage Port 1945  
Le Pin 2005  
Taittinger Champagne 1970  
Côte-Rôtie 1983 – Domaine Gentaz-Dervieux  
Taylor's Vintage Port 1900  
Taylor's Vintage Port 1935  
Taylor's Vintage Port 1992  
Joseph Phelps Eisele Cabernet Sauvignon 1986  
Abreu Cabernet Sauvignon 1996  
Château Figeac 1964  
Quincy Haut Victoire 2006 – Henri Bourgeois  
Bandol Rouge Cuvée Speciale 2001 – Domaine Lafran-Veyrolles  
Bandol Rouge 2003 – Domaine Gros Noré  
Verdelho Frasqueira 1981 – Barbeito  
Château Montrose 2003  
Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Cuvée du Pape 1990 - Clos du Mont Olivet  
Luddite "Two For Listening" 2005 (South African CWG Auction)  
Thelema Shiraz Reserve 2005 (South African CWG Auction)  
La Tâche 1911 – Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair  
Vouvray Le Haut Lieu Moelleux 1947 – Domaine Gaston Huet  
Vouvray Le Clos du Bourg Moelleux 1959 – Domaine Gaston Huet  
Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Riesling Auslese Goldkapsel 2006 - Weingut Hermann Dönnhoff  
Château Gruaud Larose 1928  
Château Pichon-Lalande 1966  
Château Léoville Las-Cases 1928  
Château Léoville Las-Cases 1959  
Château Léoville Las-Cases 1986

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