



Château Batailley

Klasse und classic Pauillac
Legendäres Dinner auf dem Château

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Sehr geehrte Kunden, liebe Weinfreude,

ist in den USA denn schon Sommerloch?
Oder warum bringt er das erst jetzt?

Im April des letzten Jahres folgte ich der Einladung der Familie Casteja, auf Château Batailley nicht nur zu dinieren, sondern auch eine Vielzahl an Jahrgängen von 2015 bis 1881!! Zu verkosten.

Nun, nach mehr als einem Jahr, schreibt auch Neal Martin (Parker) über dieses event (siehe unten). Also mit mir haben Sie ja immer den Finger am Puls der Wein-Zeit.



Schon damals schrieb ich Ihnen: „...in Erinnerung an die Weine schreibe ich den Rest „down on my knees“. 1961, 1949, 1945, 1929, 1900 und 1881er Château Batailley. Der Raum schien voller Trüffeln, Steinpilzen und immer noch viel Frucht zu sein. Es wurde mir wieder einmal ganz deutlich und bewusst, warum Bordeaux diese Ausnahmeregion ist und diese Weine nach wie vor die Messlatte für alle anderen Cabernet/Merlot-Weinbauregionen der Welt sind.

Château Batailley ist nie der Superstar der Appellation. So wie das Château selbst eher bescheiden und klassisch daherkommt, sind auch die Weine. Absolute Pauillac-Klassiker. Kein üppiges Barrique, kein allzu süßer Charme. Echter Bordeaux für echte Cabernet-Liebhaber. Man findet Ecken und Kanten und Charisma. Von wieviel „Hochparkerpauillacs“ kann man dies behaupten? Und Batailley braucht Zeit. Dies hat die Probe eindrucksvoll bestätigt. Man muss keine 100 Jahre warten. Aber 4-5 sollten es schon sein. Besser 10-15.“

Neal Martin hat drei Jahrgänge mit 95 Punkten bewertet:

1949, 1959 und 2010. Mit den älteren kann ich leider nicht mehr dienen. Aber Philippe Casteja hat mir aus der Châteaureserve noch ein paar Kisten 2010er angeboten.



2010 Château Batailley

Neal Martin (95): „...Tasted at the Batailley vertical tasting the château, the 2010 Batailley may well have been the best wine in a tasting that encompassed three centuries of winemaking at the estate. The nose offers outstanding delineation and mineralité. It positively fizzes in the glass with all that coiled-up energy, ladling out vivid blackberry and cedar aromas. The palate is medium-bodied,

but it is the detail and precision that achieves a level that makes the 2010 a benchmark for the Pauillac estate. It sashays towards a tensile, tar and graphite-tinged finish that lingers in the mouth. This is destined for long-term aging insofar that its quality will not be widely appreciated for many years. Tasted April 2016.“



**Die rotmarkierte Weine sind am Lager.
2010 muss erst noch importiert werden.**

Jahr	Château	Klassifikation	Einh	stock	Listenpreis EUR/FI. brutto	Vorzugspreis EUR/FI. brutto
	2ème Vin du Batailley					
2014	Lions de Batailley	2ème Vin du Chateau	0,75	240+	27,90 €	23,72 €
	5ème Cru Classé					
2008	Château Batailley	5ème Cru Classé, Pauillac	0,75	51	45,00 €	38,95 €
2009	Château Batailley	5ème Cru Classé, Pauillac	0,75	17	59,00 €	49,95 €
2009	Château Batailley	5ème Cru Classé, Pauillac	3	2	398,00 €	339,00 €
2010	Château Batailley	5ème Cru Classé, Pauillac	0,375	7	39,00 €	29,90 €
2010	Château Batailley	5ème Cru Classé, Pauillac	0,75	360	79,00 €	59,00 €
2010	Château Batailley	5ème Cru Classé, Pauillac	1,5	17	149,00 €	119,00 €
2012	Château Batailley	5ème Cru Classé, Pauillac	0,75	42	36,90 €	31,95 €
2013	Château Batailley	5ème Cru Classé, Pauillac	0,75	187	33,90 €	29,90 €
2013	Château Batailley	5ème Cru Classé, Pauillac	1,5	5	85,00 €	74,95 €
2013	Château Batailley	5ème Cru Classé, Pauillac	5	6	333,00 €	279,90 €
2013	Château Batailley	5ème Cru Classé, Pauillac	6	4	398,00 €	335,00 €
2013	Château Batailley	5ème Cru Classé, Pauillac	9	1	695,00 €	569,00 €

Die Preise verstehen sich pro Flasche und **inkl. Mehrwertsteuer**. Das Angebot ist freibleibend. Zwischenverkauf vorbehalten. Es gelten die üblichen Zahlungs- und Lieferbedingungen laut Homepage.

- NEAL MARTIN
- 30th Jun 2017 | [The Wine Ad](#)

When I commenced my professional wine career in the 1990s, Château Batailley was perceived as a rather fusty and old-fashioned Grand Cru Classé that appeared, to all intents and purposes, content not to move with the times. It was an estate that wore tweed and brogues, the cheeky lunchtime tippie drunk in private gentleman clubs rather than by hip New York sommeliers. Batailley, to put it bluntly, was not very cool. While many fellow classified growths were exchanging hands and undergoing top-to-toe refurbishment, in aesthetic terms at least, Batailley appeared unchanged since the turn of the century. For some, including myself, that was always part of its charm. Its wines were always some of the—I don't want to use the word *cheapest* here—least *expensive* in blue-blooded Pauillac. Consequently, it never gained kudos and its reputation lagged a few steps behind its competitors.



That began to change after the millennium. After the passing of proprietor Emile Castèja in 2001, his son Philippe Castèja was intent upon increasing both the quality and reputation of Batailley. Recognizing that he could not do it alone, he assiduously hired the late Denis Dubourdieu as consultant. Henceforth, the wines gained more consistency. There was more precision and purity, a sense of hitherto undiscovered sophistication. Unfortunately, public perception takes longer to change, lags behind progress. Even after some 15 years, I do not think recent vintages are afforded the respect they deserve and, as a result, prices have remained modest vis-à-vis other classified growths. That will change, while the recent and, I must say, long overdue introduction of a second label will meliorate the wine further.



As well as looking forward, I have been fortunate to look backwards over previous vintages of Batailley throughout my career. Family-owned status is a precious commodity these days and spared ransacking by outgoing proprietors, the estate has an enviable library of vintages. In April last year, Philippe kindly invited me to a tasting at the property, and it presented a rare opportunity to taste venerable bottles back to 1881. Normally, whenever a tasting of this caliber takes place, the number of invitees is limited to around a dozen since only a single bottle will be served. You keep your fingers crossed that it shows well. So imagine my surprise when arriving at Batailley I found two or three coaches parked outside the front gates and a large marquee erected in the back garden. There must have been a throng of well over 150 invitees; each and every one served these ancient vintages. In 20 years visiting Bordeaux, I cannot remember witnessing so many multiple bottles of venerable vintages served. At some point between the 1929 and 1904, I leaned over to Philippe's son Frédéric and inquired exactly how many of each vintage was being martyred. "Fifteen," he nonchalantly replies, almost as if it were an everyday occurrence.

Fifteen? That begged the question: How many bottles of 1881 Batailley do you have? To my surprise, he replied there were still over 100 bottles sleeping silently away in their cellars. That evening they opened 15 bottles of the following wines: 1881, 1900, 1904, 1929, 1945, 1949, 1961, 1982, 2003, 2005 and 2010.

Kudos to the Castèja family for showing such altruism. They shared their treasure trove not with a select few but with as many as possible: family, friends, importers and distributors from around the world.



It is my intention to write a more complete article on Batailley in the future. So for now, I will simply publish the tasting notes from these extraordinary bottles that spanned 129 years. They speak for themselves. One observation that I would like to stress is that many needed time in the glass and, of course having the entire evening to gently coax them from the glass, I was able to see these open. Case in point, the 1900 Batailley sulked like a mopey child for the first 20 to 30 minutes before blossoming and turning into such a gorgeous wine befitting this legendary vintage, ditto the 1904. I have supplemented these notes with ex-château reviews that either are not in the current database or represent updates, such as 1928 and 1947 that I tasted at the recent Académie du Vin dinner. Essentially, the wines pre-dating the 1970s can be wondrous things, and I have rarely been disappointed whenever they have appeared. Two words that sum them up is classic Claret. The 1970s, 1980s and perhaps the 1990s were more up and down, serving to blemish the reputation vis-à-vis their peers. Recent vintages, as my reviews attest, have re-established Batailley as a quintessential Pauillac that has been fine-tuned and modernized without altering the intrinsic character of the wine. For certain, it will take a few more years to shake off that fusty image and, to put it in banal terms, become “cool” in the eyes of cognoscenti. But hey, when did “being cool” taste of anything?

Neal Martin

<https://www.robertparker.com/wines>

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