

# GOOD TO KNOW

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## Viña Errázuriz: Competing among Giants

Robert Joseph, founder and publishing editor of Wine Magazine of the United Kingdom was among the tasting panel of the Chile Meets Bordeaux tasting organized by Viña Errázuriz that took place in Germany last March. He covered the event in the Chile supplement of the magazine published on May 2003.

*Robert Joseph matches the producer to the wine as he blind-tastes the five first growth Bordeaux and three top Chilean super-cuvées.*

If Chilean wines are now being taken increasingly serious, much of the credit has to go to a number of wineries that, in the 1990's decided to produce super-cuvées intended from the outset to stand comparison with the best in the world. Some of the first releases of these wines from producers such as Errázuriz, Montes, Casa Lapostolle, Concha y Toro and Santa Rita lived up to their aspirations and prices better than others. But taken collectively, they all helped to demonstrate Chile's potential and ambitions in a way that might be envied by, say, South Africa or Languedoc-Roussillon-let alone the wine

countries of Easter Europe which desperately need more flagships on their own. Assembled in the German city's smartest hotel, the Bayerischer Hof, are a set of wine experts from Germany, Switzerland and Austria, and bottles of the 1999 and 2000 vintage of all five first growths, along with the same two vintages of each of the three Chilean Bordeaux style reds. The grand old man of this latter group is Don Maximiano Founder's Reserve, which was launched way back in 1989 –almost the dark ages in New World terms. Next is Señá, the joint venture with Mondavi, whose first vintage was produced in 1996, and finally there is the two-year old Chadwick, named after the

family that owns Errázuriz.

At the end of the tasting, the 40 or so participants are asked to name their favourite wines. The vote is far from unanimous, but there is a clear preference for the 1999 Margaux, followed by the 1999 Latour, with the 2000 Don Max and 1999 Señá taking joint third place ahead of the 2000 Señá and 2000 Margaux, which both beat the 1999 Don Max, the 2000 Haut Brion and the 2000 Lafite. Thankfully, the South American wines not only taste good, but they also have an identifiable style of their own; they aren't trying to be claret, but nor do they resemble anything from other parts of the New World. The quality of

*"So what does this tasting prove... well, the collective vote gives the Chilean three of the six most highly placed wines: a very respectable result".*

Chile's top wines is already clearly undeniable and I look forward to repeating this experiment in five or ten year's time.

*If you would like a copy of the Chile supplement of Wine magazine please contact Eduardo Wexman at [wexman@errazuriz.cl](mailto:wexman@errazuriz.cl)*



## Viña Errázuriz meets Bordeaux

Swiss wine and Bordeaux expert René Gabriel was among the reputed panelists at the “Chile Meets Bordeaux” tasting organized by Viña Errázuriz that took place in Germany last March. He is one of the most famous tasters in Europe, co-owner of the Swiss newsletter WeinWisser and wrote Bordeaux Total, one of the most comprehensive books on this French wine region. Responsible for buying wines for Caves Mövenpick in Switzerland, he periodically tastes hundred of wines from all over the world.

**B**ordeaux is considered as the leading wine region of the world and the top wineries broke a record with the outstanding 2000 vintage:

It is really difficult to buy a bottle of one of the top estates under the value of US\$ 400.

This makes Chilean's wine producer Eduardo Chadwick initiative much braver. He presents his two top wines from Viña Errázuriz (Don

Maximiano & Viñedo Chadwick) and the Icon-wine Seña, which he produces together with Robert Mondavi, in a blind tasting against the five bordelaise Premier Cru Chateau Mouton Rothschild, Chateau Lafite Rothschild, Ch. Latour, Ch. Margaux and Ch. Haut-Brion. The 1999 and 2000 vintage were served.

*And how did Eduardo Chadwick's (Viña Errázuriz President) top wines performed in this blind tasting?*

Very well! From the point of view of the quality, these wines can be compared with the best ones of the world, which means also with those prestigious ones from Bordeaux.

*René Gabriel.*

