



MASTER BLEND CLASSIFICATION PRESS RELEASE

LONDON MELBOURNE MONTREAL

27 November 2013

Bordeaux and Australia come out on top at the second Master Blend Classification event

Thirty leading wine critics from across the globe gathered at three separate events in Montreal, London and Melbourne for the second *Master Blend Classification* to "classify" 30 of the world's leading Cabernet Sauvignon based blends.

After tasting through 900 glasses, the judges ranked three Bordeaux and one Australian wine as their top wines with an average score of 92/100.

The leading wines were:

92/100 Chateau Leoville-Las Cases 2009 (Bordeaux – Second Growth \$675 AUD)

92/100 Wolf Blass Black Label 2009 (South Australia \$139 AUD)

92/100 Chateau Latour 2009 (Bordeaux – First Growth \$2,400 AUD)

92/100 Chateau Ducru-Beaucaillou 2009 (Bordeaux – Second Growth \$575 AUD)

The *Master Blend Classification*, inspired by the Bordeaux Wine Official Classification of 1855, involved wine critics scoring out of 100, wines from France, United States, Chile, South Africa, Italy and Australia.

The tastings included all five Bordeaux First Growth producers, which are internationally recognised as the benchmark of Cabernet. All the wines were from the 2009 vintage, which in many of the regions, including Bordeaux, is considered one of the best vintages in recent years.

Each tasting was conducted blind with participants only being told the wines were from the 2009 vintage and that they were predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon based.

Master Blend Classification Event Director, George Samios, said the event was a unique wine tasting in the world given the format and quality of Judges. Judges included Master of Wines, Master Sommeliers and wine critics from across the world.

-more-

“Having the same wines tasted blind by such an illustrious group of wine critics in three cities makes this a truly unique wine event”

“The discussion amongst the judges was fascinating. Common themes were vintage conditions, the appearance and tolerance of Brettanomyces in wines, use of oak and effect of wine closure – although the views between judges often differed”

“Clearly within this line up of wines, including some of the world’s most famous and expensive wines, quality was not an issue - more it was a discussion about preference of style.

"The 2013 *Master Blend Classification*, the second such event, was not intended as a competition but more of a celebration of this great wine style. It was also an opportunity to recognise that so many leading wineries are producing exceptional wines that speak to their appellation and wine making approach," Samios continues.

The tastings were held in Montreal, London and Melbourne with judges representing Europe, UK, Australia, Asia, and Canada. Each tasting contained 30 wines with the same wines being used in all three tastings.

The top ranked wines at each tasting were as follows:

Montreal – Monday 28 October 2013

- 92/100 Chateau Ducru-Beaucaillou (Bordeaux, France)
- 91/100 Joseph Phelps Insignia (Napa Valley, United States)
- 91/100 Ornellaia (Tuscany, Italy)
- 91/100 Chateau Margaux (Bordeaux, France)
- 91/100 Chateau Lafite Rothschild (Bordeaux, France)

London – Wednesday 20th November 2013

- 94/100 Chateau Ducru-Beaucaillou (Bordeaux, France)
- 93/100 Wolf Blass Black Label (South Australia, Australia)
- 93/100 Chateau Latour (Bordeaux, France)
- 93/100 Ridge Monte Bello (Napa Valley, United States)
- 93/100 Chateau Mouton Rothschild (Bordeaux, France)

Melbourne – Monday 25th November

- 94/100 Wolf Blass Black Label 2009 (South Australia, Australia)
- 93/100 Chateau Beychevelle 2009 (Bordeaux, France)
- 93/100 Chateau Lynch-Bages 2009 (Bordeaux, France)
- 92/100 Chateau Montrose (Bordeaux, France)
- 92/100 Chateau Latour (Bordeaux, France)

The Master Blend Classification will return in 2014 with global tastings planned. Attendees will again “classify” cabernet-based blends, this time from the exciting 2010 vintage, and again the respective scores from each tasting will be compared.

-Ends-

For further information on the tasting protocol, wine selection criteria, wine purchase and a breakdown of all results, please refer to the media toolkit (attached separately) or contact:

George Samios, Master Blend Classification Event Director:

(M) +61 417 359 919

(E) info@masterblendclassification.com

You can also follow the Master Blend Classification on Twitter [@MBC Tasting](#) or download images and additional info from www.masterblendclassification.com