

2005 Chateau Lascombes



The 2005 vintage in Bordeaux is rightfully being hailed as a classic and, arguably by some, as one of the best ever produced. The problem for many of us is that prices for Bordeaux (and Burgundy) are still out of reach. If one can find a silver lining in an otherwise miserable economic climate it's that prices have actually come down since the release of 2005 Bordeaux last year. In fact, quality to price ratio's now makes some of the better Bordeaux wines a real value!

One of those includes the 2005 Chateau Lascombes, a second growth, Left Bank, Margaux. A masterful blend of cabernet sauvignon (52%), merlot (45%) and petite verdot (3%), this is a wine that tempts immediate consumption, but patience will be richly rewarded over the next decade or so. Lascombes is a fairly large property by Bordeaux standards ~ 200 acres, and produces upwards of 25,000 cases annually.

Since the 17th century, Lascombes has had a storied history in terms of quality, but 2000 was a turning point for the Chateau as new owners brought in new blood, including world-renowned consulting enologist, Michel Roland to work with Dominique Befve, who once managed operations at Lafite. Among the many changes were ripping out a large number of cabernet vines and replanting to merlot.

I had an opportunity to sample the 2005 last fall, shortly after it's release, and it was a powerful, rich wine with a finish that did not want to quit. Although I didn't refuse the opportunity to taste this incredibly beautiful wine at the time, it almost seemed shameful

to open it so early. It was an enormous, massive wine, (especially compared to the 2004), even though it had been decanted 3 hours before.

The 2005 Lascombes is back in the market (it had all but disappeared for a few months) and lower priced than it was months back. Current pricing is in the \$75 range for a wine that promises many years of enjoyment - after some bottle age.