

VINTNERS CLUB

a California non-profit public-benefit corporation
(founded in 1971)

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TASTING #1,505: 15-VINTAGE VERTICAL (including 1982!) OF CHÂTEAU COS D'ESTOURNEL, WITH JEAN-GUILLAUME PRATS

4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 10, 2012

VENUE: Metropolitan Club, San Francisco

Almost a year ago, thanks to the generosity of our members (many of who are renowned connoisseurs and collectors of world-class wines), we were able to assemble 15 vintages (1981-2008) of impeccably aged *grands vins* of **Château Cos d'Estournel**. The 15-vintage tasting, scheduled for May 10, 2012, quickly sold-out after preliminary announcement. Demand considerably exceeded availability, and those members who we were not able to include were disappointed. Fortunately, over the past few months, we have been able to obtain additional bottles of 10 of the 15 vintages. The authenticity and provenance of all the bottles have been meticulously verified, and we will now be able to share a significant portion of this historic experience with a few more members and non-members.

The *grand vin* is highly sought-after by collectors and consumers around the world, commands stratospheric prices, and is scarce. Some old, legendary vintages (like the epic **1982**) are virtually impossible to acquire.

Château Cos d'Estournel sits adjacent to Château Lafite-Rothschild from which it is separated by a little stream. "Cos", as many fondly refer to it, is the center-piece château of the [Saint-Estèphe appellation](#) of [Bordeaux](#). It is bordered westward by the Atlantic Ocean and eastward by the Gironde River. Thus, the vineyards of Château Cos d'Estournel benefit from an enviable micro-climate as well as a soil of quaternary gravel from the Massif Central and the Pyrenees giving rise to Saint-Estèphe's prized limestone bed.

This legendary wine was first made in the early 1800s by Louis Gaspard d'Estournel. Soon, it was exported as far as India, the price surpassed that of other prestigious Bordeaux wines, and Louis was hailed as "The Maharajah of Saint-Estèphe". In 1917, Château Cos d'Estournel was purchased by Fernand Ginestet, a prominent Bordeaux wine-merchant, whose grandsons (Jean-Marie, Yves and Bruno Prats) ultimately inherited it.

We are pleased that Jean-Guillaume Prats, son of Bruno, and General Director of the château, will be coming to San Francisco on May 10 solely to preside over our intimate tasting. He returns to France the next morning. Thus, this is a unique opportunity to taste phenomenal wines (many of which are no longer commercially available) in the company of somebody whose bonds with the château span almost a century. Together, we will enjoy **10 select vintages (1982, 1985, 1986, 1989, 1990, 1995, 1996, 2004, 2005 and 2008), scoring between 95 and 100 points!** Generous amounts of each vintage will be served in a separate *Riedel* crystal glass at tables covered with white linen tablecloths and in an atmosphere of understated elegance.

ALL-INCLUSIVE PRICE FOR THE TASTING OF 10 VINTAGES AT 4 P.M.: \$295/member and \$345/non-member for payment submitted by April 12 (*no additional gratuities, taxes, handling fees, ticketing fees or processing charges*). Thereafter, \$310/member and \$360/non-member.

ALL-INCLUSIVE PRICE FOR THE TASTING OF 15 VINTAGES & TO SIT WITH JEAN-GUILLAUME AT 4 P.M.: \$455/member.

DINNER WITH JEAN-GUILLAUME PRATS AT 6:45 P.M.: Since we likely will not be able to meet the demand for seats at the tasting, we have arranged for additional seating for a sumptuous dinner to follow. The 1997 & 1999 vintages of the *grand vin* of Château Cos d'Estournel as well as other outstanding wines from Bordeaux and California will be featured. ***All-inclusive Price: \$225/member and \$275/non-member for payment submitted by April 12. Thereafter, \$235/member and \$285/non-member.***

At this time, you may request a reservation for the 10-vintage vertical tasting OR for the multi-course dinner OR for BOTH (the tasting as well as the dinner). ***First come!***

TO RESERVE:

First, E-mail the Vintners Club, info@vintnersclub.com, to confirm seat availability. Then, Fax your Visa/Mastercard information to the Vintners Club at (415) 381-4460.