

The Great Region of Bordeaux

Bordeaux is a city in the western part of France, close to the Atlantic Ocean, situated on the Garonne River. Bordeaux is also a wine region named after the city that it surrounds.

The wine region is divided into two main sections, the Right Bank and Left Bank. These are separated by an estuary as well as - two rivers the Garonne and the Dordogne Rivers. Both the Right and Left Bank regions are predominately renowned for their red wine blends. White wines are produced sporadically throughout both, however, are more prevalent in the southern areas of Bordeaux, in what is called Entre Deux Mers and the famed Sauternes. This article will touch on the Right Bank wines of Bordeaux and we will review the Left Bank and the white wine areas in a future article.

Bordeaux wines are known as being high end and popular. Having worked at NB Liquor now for a number of years in various stores, I have been approached by many customers who say "I am looking for a nice wine for a special occasion and I hear that Bordeaux is a good wine."

In the Right Bank of Bordeaux the typical red wine blend has Merlot as the main grape with help from the Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc grapes. The wines from the Right Bank for the most part are well rounded with dark fruit flavors of plum and blackcurrants. In an exceptional growing year, some wines from this region will be aged for 10 years or more.

Right Bank Bordeaux has two sub-regions that produce some very remarkable wines. The first region being the St-Emilion, some great examples carried by NB Liquor are La fleur Anne and Chateau Lamartre. These Bordeaux's can be enjoyed by themselves or pair well with beef.

The other sub-region is Pomerol. The wines from this area are a bit higher in price scale and can be aged for some time. NB Liquor will receive a few of these wines late fall.

Stop by your local NB Liquor store and pick up a bottle or two of Right Bank Bordeaux's. Once you've tried them, go on the Selection Wine Club website (www.selectionwineclub.ca) and write a review. It's a great way to share your thoughts about the wines.

My recommendations for Right Bank wines are:

Chateau Lamartre St-Emilion Grand Cru 2007, 750 ml, \$29.29

St-Emilion La Fleur Anne 2005, 750 ml, \$21.99

Emilio Bordeaux 2007, 750 ml, \$11.99

Written by Trevor Ingraham, Product Advisor, NB Liquor, Prospect St. Fredericton.