

Wine Investment Challenge 2001 - results

16 Mar 2003 by JR

Fine wine merchant Robert Rolls has entered into the spirit of Wine Relief in a particularly clever and intriguing way, by instituting the Wine Investment Challenge. He presents a list of fine wines from which a notional £5000 portfolio can be assembled in the *Financial Times* (and presumably to anyone who emails him). Those who want to take part send him their list of wines they think will appreciate the most over the next two years, together with a cheque to £15 made out to 'Comic Relief (Wine Relief)'.

His first Investment Challenge was instituted for Comic Relief 2001 so he is now able to announce the results of the **Wine Investment Challenge 2001**. A total of 80 people tried their hand (raising £1200 for Wine Relief - good but I'm sure we can do better this year). The average gain of those 80 wine portfolios was 6.25 per cent of which

- 20 per cent averaged +14 per cent
- 70 per cent averaged + 5.5 per cent
- 10 per cent averaged - 2 per cent

The FTSE 100 over the same period (January 2001 to January 2003) lost 35.5 per cent so wine looks a pretty good investment - though I wonder whether it will prove to be such a good one over the next two years.

The winner of the 2001 Challenge is Antony Hichens from Dorset (whose portfolio rose by 23 per cent) who wins £1000 worth of wine from Robert Rolls.

In second place is Michael Rapp of London (21 per cent) who wins £500 worth of wine and in third place Bruce Ingraham of Middlesbrough (18 per cent) wins £250 worth of wine.

Here are the fascinating results of the 2001 Challenge - Italy, Burgundy, and less expensive Bordeaux fared best.

Results of the FT Wine Investment Challenge 2001			
Cost per case in £	2001	2003	% Increase
1999 Calon Ségur	160	210	24
1999 Lynch Bages	245	275	11
1998 Haut Brion	1300	1350	4
1998 Quinault L'Enclos	440	410	-7
1998 Talbot	165	205	20
1996 Cantemerle	160	174	8
1995 Montrose	360	380	5
1990 Gruaud Larose	560	600	7
1990 Pape Clement	600	650	8
1989 Palmer	1080	995	-8
1989 Léoville Barton	540	555	3
1986 Pichon Lalande	960	840	-12
1982 Beychevelle	740	695	-6
1983 D'Yquem	1960	2125	8
1999 Chassagne Montrachet, Niellon	190	225	16
1999 Bâtard Montrachet, Paul Pernot	600	720	17
1998 Chambolle Musigny, Hubert Lignier	185	185	0
1999 Clos Vougeot, Robert Arnoux	440	560	21
1995 Côte Rôtie Brune et Blonde, Guigal	220	240	8
1998 Hermitage La Sizeranne	360	325	-9
1998 Hermitage La Chapelle	480	434	-9
1990 Beaucastel	720	765	6
1990 Dom Perignon	640	682	6
1997 Barbaresco Gaja	660	828	20
1997 Sassicaia	1050	1130	7
1995 Amarone Classico Allegrini	240	370	35
1994 Dominus	1160	1275	9
1985 Graham	395	395	0
Overall % increase:			7

So now's the time to enter the 2003 Challenge (which this time includes some Australian wine). Just contact Robert Rolls (tel 020 7606 1166, mail@rollswine.com) and ask for an application form, or cut it out of the *FT* on 22 March. Surely this year we can manage to raise more for Comic Relief than it's costing Rolls to run this intriguing competition.