

Seigneurs d'Aiguilhe 2001 Côtes de Castillon

3 Nov 2003 by JR

This, the second wine of Stefan von Neipperg's Ch d'Aiguilhe in the far east of Bordeaux, was a steal in 2000 and now the 2001 at exactly the same price (£8.49 exclusively in the UK at Waitrose) looks really excellent too.

It's made mainly from Merlot, the Neipperg grape, with about 15 per cent Cabernet Franc (the *grand vin* has 20 per cent), the vines being nearly 30 years old on our old friend *argilo-calcaire* (clay- limestone) soils. According to the wine notes, written by a Master of Wine, the wine was vinified traditionally with a three- week maceration and the *pomace* subjected to micro- oxygenation, presumably to soften those tannins. Then 12 months in presumably mainly second- or third- fill oak barrels.

Tasted alongside Ch d'Aiguilhe 2001 itself at just under £20, this second wine looked a real bargain - just what one wants from modern red bordeaux: a sensible price, bags of local character, a certain immediate attraction without exaggeration. Congratulations.

Now I'm looking forward to seeing what sort of wine Neipperg will produce from his new estate in Bulgaria (see [my story](#) in **wine news** earlier this year).

Other merchants to whom the wine has been sold are:

UK - Patrice Calvet UK Ltd, Palindrome Wines
Canada - Liquor Control Board of Toronto
Denmark - Gobi Vins Aps and AA Vinimport
Holland - B J de Logie
Germany - Ulrich Buchwald
US - Wine Services International

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