St-□milion's new classification - winners and losers

6 Sep 2012 by Yohan Castaing and Jancis Robinson

The small village of St-Émilion, usually very quiet, is today agitated by the excitement of the announcement of the new classification of its wines. Everyone has been forecasting various downgrades and promotions to the first floor of the sacro-saints with Grand Cru Classé status.

This morning at dawn the results were announced to each Château by letter. One of the Châteaux that has been promoted is the prototype garage wine, Jean-Luc Thunevin's Valandraud. Created in 1989, following the acquisition of a small parcel of 0.6 hectares located between Pavie Macquin and La Clotte, Valandraud has gradually conquered the steps of fame and today the estate comprises almost 10 hectares.

The intelligence and business acumen of Jean-Luc Thunevin are beyond doubt, He pioneered the style of wine that was vinified in the garage (as was initially the case with Valandraud) and which famous critic Robert Parker absolutely loved: wines with low yields, concentration, velvety tannins and high prices. Uncontrollable, happy, and sarcastic, Jean-Luc Thunevin is thrilled by this new classification. 'I'm very proud of this upgrade. I, who I never passed an examination at school.'

This morning he acknowledged the need for an evolution of the famous classification. Said Thunevin, 'I did not like the stiffness of the ranking and I hope there will be Château promoted to class A (Pavie, Angélus perhaps) because it would be good for St-Émilion'.

And accordingly, as the day went on, more news emerged – not least that Chx Pavie and Angélus have indeed been promoted to join Chx Ausone and Cheval Blanc at the top of the St-Émilion tree as Premiers Grands Crus Classés A, thus doubling the number of estates in thi top rank. Pavie's PR man had issued a press release by 10.30 this morning London time expressing owner Gérard Perse's thrillment at the promotion. Silence from Hubert de Bouard (pictured) of Angélus so far but this afternoon I was contacted by Ch La Fleur Morange whose 2005 performed so well in this Dec 2007 tasting to say that they have been appointed a Grand Cru Classé.

France's only consumer wine magazine *La Revue du Vin de France* has been trying to monitor the ups and, much more difficult, the downs of the new classification. Meanwhile, this is the official list from the INAO, in alphabetical order. Where is Magdelaine?

Premiers Grands Crus Classés
Château Angélus (A),
Château Ausone (A),
Château Beausejour (Héritiers Duffau-Lagarrosse),
Château Beau-Sejour Bécot,
Château Belair-Monange,
Château Canon,
Château Canon La Gaffelière,
Château Cheval Blanc (A),
Château Figeac,
Clos Fourtet,
Château La Gaffelière,
Château Larcis Ducasse,
La Mondotte,
Château Pavie (A),
Château Pavie Macquin,
Château Troplong Mondot,
Château Trottevieille,
Château Valandraud.

Grands Crus Classés:

Château L'Arrosée,

Château Balestard La Tonnelle,

Château Barde-Haut,

Château Bellefont-Belcier,

Château Bellevue,

Château Berliquet,

Château Cadet-Bon,

Château Cap de Mourlin,

Château Le Chatelet,

Château Chauvin,

Château Clos de Sarpe,

Château La Clotte,

Château La Commanderie,

Château Corbin,

Château Côte de Baleau,

Château La Couspaude,

Château Dassault,

Château Destieux,

Château La Dominique,

Château Faugeres,

Château Faurie de Souchard,

Château de Ferrand

Château Fleur Cardinale,

Château La Fleur Morange,

Château Fombrauge,

Château Fonplegade,

Château Fonroque,

Château Franc Mayne,

Château Grand Corbin,

Château Grand Corbin-Despagne,

Château Grand Mayne,

Château Les Grandes Murailles,

Château Grand-Pontet,

Château Guadet,

Château Haut-Sarpe,

Clos des Jacobins,

Couvent des Jacobins,

Château Jean Faure,

Château Laniote,

Château Larmande,

Château Laroque,

Château Laroze,

Clos La Madeleine,

Château La Marzelle,

Château Monbousquet,

Château Moulin Du Cadet,

Clos de l'Oratoire,

Château Pavie Decesse,

Château Peby Faugères,

Château Petit Faurie de Soutard,

Château de Pressac,

Château Le Prieuré,

Château Quinault l'Enclos,

Château Ripeau,

Château Rochebelle,

Château Saint-Georges-Cote-Pavie,

Clos Saint-Martin,

Château Sansonnet,

Château La Serre,

Château Soutard,

Château Tertre Daugay,

Château La Tour Figeac,

Château Villemaurine,

Château Yon-Figeac.