

me to Bordeaux in 1959. On my first visit to Langoa-Barton, he took me to his private cellar, opened a bottle of Léoville-Barton 1916, decanted it and carried it to the dining room, refusing my help. This was the reason I developed such a respect for wine.

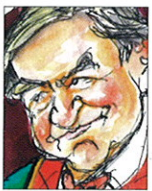
Jean-Christophe Novelli

French chef based in the UK

Willi Opitz, SilverLake Pinot Cuvée, Burgenland

2005 My fiancée Michelle and I will take off to Austria to chill out and recharge our batteries for a few days over Christmas, and while we're there we'll enjoy this delicious, honey-fuelled spätlese trocken from one of Austria's greats, commissioned especially for the McLaren Formula One team.

Hugh Johnson OBE



Wine writer, author and Decanter columnist

Blandys, Verdelho, Madeira 1934

Christmas is the only time of year I drink Madeira; and this is one of the old vintages I bought before their improbably distant birth-

years drew public attention to them. Even now their prices, given their age, are by no means absurd. Malmsey is the sticky-grade Madeira one associates with Christmas, but Bual or Verdelho half a century in bottle is no less celebratory. Nor does the vintage have too much significance: only very good years had the honour of bottling. This 1934 is a wonderful, buttery, salty, dry wine. Nose like very fine old tawny Port plus intense sweetness and resinous volatility. Palate a bit fierce and bitter with an extraordinary antique lustre. Final note of marmalade. Glorious at any time; perfection at Christmas. There will be a crackling log fire and a scrum of grandchildren and children, so something fairly assertive is needed.

Laurenz Maria Moser

Co-owner of Laurenz V winery in Austria

Château Mouton Rothschild, Pauillac, Bordeaux

1988 We have only four bottles left of this special wine, which my wife and I bought to mark our wedding in the same year. We had three cases and I confess we drank most of it as a young couple to beef up our Big Macs. This time, however, we shall share it with family, over a good piece of Austrian beef.

Peter Sisseck

Winemaker and owner of Pingus in Ribera del Duero

Château Langoa-Barton, St Julien, Bordeaux 1995

In Denmark, where I'm from, we start with oysters and Champagne, followed by duck – always served with a Bordeaux not less than 15 years old. Rice pudding with a Rivesaltes will round things off.

Julio Iglesias



Spanish singer

Bodegas y Viñedos Montecastro, Montecastro y Llanahermosa, Ribera del Duero 2005

The perfect Christmas dinner wine, which I will enjoy this year in Miami. It's a strong, fruity red with spice from the oak ageing. It makes me proud to be Spanish.



'There will be a crackling log fire and a scrum of grandchildren and children, so something fairly assertive is needed'

Hugh Johnson OBE

Hubert de Boüard

Owner of Château Angéhus, St-Emilion, Bordeaux

Château Tertre-Roteboeuf, St Emilion, Bordeaux

1989 I will prepare the Christmas meal myself for our family, using some black truffles. I will make veal on a spit in our fireplace, slowly cooked for six hours. This wine resembles the people who made it: refined, elegant, full of exoticism – almost baroque.

Miguel Torres



Owner of Spanish winery Torres

Joseph Drouhin, Clos des Mouches, Beaune 1er cru, Burgundy 2007

It was while walking among vines at Clos des Mouches in 1990 that Robert Drouhin and I voiced our dream of

creating an association of family-owned wineries that would ensure the transfer of values to future generations. It was the start of the 'Primum Familiae Vini' that today, with 11 members after 19 years, continues successfully in its role of promoting wine culture and family values.

Eduardo Chadwick

President of Viña Errázuriz in Chile

Robert Mondavi, Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve, Napa Valley, California 1990

This magnum was a special gift given to me by Robert Mondavi in 1997, to celebrate our joint venture, Señá. This wine brings me great memories of him, his passion for wine, his wonderful family and the times we worked together. It's the perfect choice with which to celebrate Christmas at home with my family and four daughters.

Chris de Burgh



British singer-songwriter

Château Latour, Pauillac, Bordeaux 1961

This grand wine needs a strong companion, probably beef and a tasty vegetarian dish. I'll enjoy it with my family, who will be aware of the nectar they're drinking.

Jean-Charles Boisset

President of Boisset Family Estates

Gallo of Sonoma, Estate Chardonnay, Sonoma, California 1991

I've had this wine for a long time, and it is even more meaningful for me to serve today as I'm married to the winemaker who made it with her grandfather! Sadly I only have three bottles but I will serve them with poached foie gras on brioche.

Larry Stone MS

President, Evening Land Vineyards, Oregon

Jaboulet, La Chapelle, Hermitage, Rhône 1989

My uncle was a partisan in World War II with La Chapelle Rouge, a radical sector in the French underground. He helped liberate Tournon-sur-Rhône. As a result he often received gifts of wine and when I got to know him he allowed me to take any wine from his cellar to taste. The first time I had a Jaboulet Châteauneuf du Pape 1967, I was stunned. It was a giant step in my path to understanding great wines. Later I got to know many winemakers in the Rhône and Burgundy, among them the genial, generous