



Consulat général de France à New York

Speech of Mr. Philippe Lalliot,
Consulate General of France in New York

The Rive droite du Bordelais presents its top wines for 2011

Consulate General of France in New York

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Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to the French Consulate for this wine-tasting gathering. Those of you who know me are well aware I would never deny myself the pleasure of organizing such an event: when it comes to wine I am a backslider, and I'm proud of it.

The ties are already very strong between the Consulate and the *Commanderie de Bordeaux*, along with the head of its New York chapter, my friend George Sape; they are also as strong with the *Commanderie du Bontemps, de Médoc, des Graves, du Sauternes et de Barsac*, under the exceptional guidance of Emmanuel Cruse; as well as with the *Côtes du Rhône*, mainly in the person of Jean-Luc Colombo; and also with the *Chevaliers du Tastevin*, whose most recent Gala dinner here in New York was a brilliant success.

We were only short of the *Rive droite du Bordelais*. Under these circumstances, you may very well understand why I am particularly glad to host the *Cercle Rive droite* here today. I would like especially to thank Jacques-Alexandre Azoulay, who had the excellent idea of organizing a tasting-event for New York professionals of the best 2011 wines, here at the Consulate.

Dear Friends,

We are all privileged today, for we are offered the top 2011 wines of the 35 most prestigious Right Bank vineyards. And we are fortunate to have an additional, extraordinary Bordeaux wine-selection of former years, especially the fine year of 2009.

Let us not be too hedonist, for beyond the pleasure, there is also business. And discovering what is done best in the Bordeaux region is a very pleasant way of doing

business. Indeed, I did not forget my mission here is not only to promote an affection for France, but also to encourage and help selling its products.

I wish to congratulate all the wine-makers who are with us today, for their talent and for their energy. You, too, are ambassadors of France, and of the finest it has to offer. There are in fact very few products as directly associated with France as wine is. Learning about French wine, exposing oneself to it, means also to discover a particular history, geography and heritage, - those of my country. Wine is an integral part of our culture and our economy.

Hence, I advise our fellow Americans to drink in moderation, but to buy, with no moderation. I wish you all a wonderful tasting experience, and an excellent afternoon.