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Ian D'Agata again stood in for Stephen Tanzer this year and immediately stated that "rarely has a young Bordeaux vintage been so much fun to taste as 2009. "

On his overview on Saint Emilion he regaled Chateaux on the Right Bank that "clung to the notion that hyper concentrated, inky, jammy and acidified wines are pleasurable. Clearly, these wines impress some critics, and I suppose that until this situation changes, we will continue to see a host of similar over-extracted, overripe, acidified bombs that are both charmless and useless at the dinner table." As you can see from the reviews below we are clearly not a part of that gang.

I would say that I believe that Bordeaux wines – and I sincerely hope ours - can still be firmly in the modern camp and yet remain faithful to the intrinsic concept of *terroir* and elegance that is the Bordeaux I love, passionately.

By the way, the top four TANZER wines in SAINT EMILION : CHATEAUX CHEVAL BLANC, AUSONE, PAVIE and .....LE DOME.

Le

Dome

Points 93-96

**2009 Saint Emilion** (an 80/20 blend of cabernet franc and merlot) Deep, inky ruby-purple. Complex, very deep aromas of fresh blackcurrant, vanilla, licorice and sweet spices. Dense, sweet and tactile, with rich, vibrant black fruit flavors nicely complicated by sweet spices and a touch of sexy new oak. Finishes very long, smooth and full-bodied, with chewy mouthcoating but ripe tannins and a persistent note of floral black cherry. This is the richest and fullest of the '09 offerings from Jonathan Maltus, and much better than the 2008 version. While the merlot was picked on October 12, and the cabernet

franc on October 14, neither one, amazingly, smells or tastes of overripeness. But this serious wine will need at least four or five years of cellaring upon its release. A great example of an intelligent garage wine made with people's palates-not just headlines-in mind.

Le

Carre

Points 91-94

**2009 Saint Emilion** (80% merlot and 20% cabernet franc) Deep ruby. Aromas of ripe black cherry, mocha and licorice. Soft, supple and sweet on entry, with flavors of dark plum, cassis and sassafras nicely lifted by a flinty mineral note. Finishes quite long, with a hint of lead pencil. This is deeper and sweeter than the Les Asteries, also in the Jonathan Maltus portfolio, and much more satisfying than the comparatively strict '08 Le Carre. This wine is made from a parcel of vines that used to be a part of Laforge, located on thick clay over "normal" limestone (not the super-hard calcaire a asteries that gives Les Asteries its name).

Les

Asteries

Points 90-93

**2009 Saint Emilion** (and 80/20 blend of merlot and cabernet franc) Bright ruby-red. Delicate, perfumed, calcaire nose shows a chalky mineral quality to the pretty aromas of strawberry, blueberry and exotic spices. Enters taut and focused, with slightly austere red berry, almond and vanilla flavors projecting captivating purity and energy. Not an especially fleshy wine but ultimately silky-smooth and wonderfully light on its feet, finishing with very fine-grained tannins and lingering perfume. These vines are planted on a thin layer of clay over very hard limestone. The merlot here was picked on October 8 and the cabernet franc on October 10, yet there is no hint of overripeness. For fans of minerally Right Bank wines, the nose alone is reason enough to buy this wine by the case.

Chateau

Teyssier

Points 87-89

**2009 Saint Emilion** (85% merlot and 15% cabernet franc) Dark ruby. Sexy aromas of roasted plum, spicy raspberry jam, mocha and black pepper. Enters lush and broad, offering mouthcoating

flavors of roasted plum and musky coffee, with substantial, somewhat dusty tannins detracting a little from the wine's early appeal. This wine's harmonious acidity and tannic backbone should enable it to age well, but it should also provide relatively early pleasure. Probably the best Teyssier to date, this vintage includes grapes from Vignonet and Saint-Sulpice on gravelly soils containing a bit of iron-rich clay (crasse de fer) that makes for a sexier, more complex wine.