



The Wine Life

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Frescobaldi Versus – the World

I recently attended an extraordinary wine tasting event in Boston with some of my New Hampshire colleagues that was hosted by the Marchesi de' Frescobaldi and Folio Wines. The Marchesi himself – Leonardo Frescobaldi – is a very elegant, elderly man who is the head of the famous 30 generation Italian family and eponymous wine estate. His mission was to present Frescobaldi's top wine, Mormoreto, a single vineyard estate wine, with other world-class wines with comparable blends to show similarities and differences to some of the greatest wines of the world.

Since Mormoreto is primarily Cabernet Sauvignon-based with some other Bordeaux varieties mixed in, he selected other wines with similar blends from different famed areas. This group included two Bordeaux wines, one other iconic Italian wine of a similar blend and two "New World" wines from Napa Valley as the basis for comparison. In his own words, the Marchesi was not looking for Mormoreto to be the "best wine" of the tasting, but to merely (and quite generously) afford us a rare opportunity to taste wines of this stature side by side. All wines were from the 2006 vintage. The wines were tasted in the following order:

- Château Haut-Brion – 1st Growth Bordeaux.
NH release price \$669.99
- Château Cos d'Estournel – 2nd Growth Bordeaux.
NH release price \$152.99
- Sassicaia – Arguably Italy's most famous wine.
NH release price \$184.99
- **Mormoreto – Frescobaldi's top wine.**
NH release price \$59.99

- Dominus – One of the most sought-after American wines.
NH release price \$129.99
- Opus One – Iconic wine from Napa that is world renowned.
NH release price \$174.99

Needless to say, we were all amazed by the quality of all six of these wines. There really is no "best" wine in a tasting such as this but there are wines that show better than others. For instance, the most closed wine was certainly Haut-Brion – which was to be expected, as this wine will continue to evolve for decades and will no doubt have the greatest longevity of the six. But on this day, it was like a rose in the morning, still beautiful while closed, but its most expressive beauty still lies ahead. For me, the two wines that emerged as giving the most complexity and openness were Dominus and Mormoreto with Sassicaia, Cos d'Estournel and even Opus One fairly close behind. It was very clear to all that Mormoreto can indeed stand up with some of the world's greatest wines – and for a fraction of the cost.

Our gracious host spoke reverently about his wine in a laconic but precisely worded accented English and we all learned a great deal that day through the eyes of one of the most influential wine producers on the planet and through our own enlightened palates. It was indeed, a great honor.

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