



A Tale of Two Châteaux

A dinner at Blantyre spotlights Haut-Brion and La Mission Haut-Brion.

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Château La Mission Haut-Brion

You may think I have it easy, but let me tell you, being a wine writer is one tough business. Last October, for instance, I had to attend an Haut-Brion/La Mission

Haut-Brion dinner at Blantyre, a Relais & Château resort in the Berkshire hills of western Massachusetts. The dinner was hosted by Jean-Philippe Delmas, the Commercial Director for both Bordeaux châteaux, and featured, in addition to seven wines from the two estates, a deluxe seven-course meal prepared by Blantyre Chef Christopher Brooks. Oh, the hardship one endures in the name of wine! But pro that I am, I mustered my courage and leapt once again into the breach.

I'm joking of course. I would not have missed this event for anything. Ann Fitzpatrick Brown, Blantyre's gracious owner, is one of the world's most generous hosts and does nothing by halves. Blantyre itself is a magical place, especially during the colorful New England autumn.

Christopher Brooks, a recent recipient of Relais & Château's Grand Chef Trophy, can really make food sing. Châteaux Haut-Brion and La Mission Haut-Brion produce extraordinary

wines. And Jean-Philippe Delmas, the third generation of his family to oversee day-to-day operations at Haut-Brion, is one of Bordeaux's brightest stars. What more could one ask?

But before I go on about the dinner and the wines, here's some background on the evening's honorees. Châteaux Haut-Brion and La Mission Haut-Brion are located in Pessac-Léognan, a sub-appellation of Bordeaux's Graves region, and sit directly across the road from each other, just below the city of Bordeaux itself. Indeed, as you drive south from the city, past gas stations, convenience stores and apartment complexes, the two properties suddenly appear: La Mission on the left and Haut-Brion on the right. Of the two, Haut-Brion enjoys a loftier reputation,



Château Haut-Brion's Jean-Philippe Delmas with Christelle Cotar, Wine Director at Blantyre