

# Tasting notes Sauska wines

By Christopher Burr MW.

## Sauska Tokaji Birsalmas Dry Furmint 2011

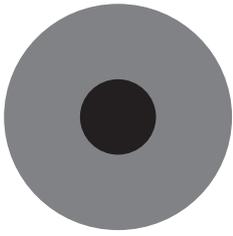
Lovely pure bright fruit character, tart orange peel citrus and quince, then the complexity of a mineral background giving a true sense of place. More complexity from quite a lot of smokey new oak, and starting to become honeyed from gentle ageing. Lovely backbone of acidity, good intensity of flavours, a good expression of the furmint grape and this unique vineyard.

## Sauska Tokaji Birsalmas Dry Furmint 2012

Very pure fruit and again a wonderful acidity balanced with a crystal clear mineral character. Gentle use of new oak allowing the fruit character of lime, tart quince and ripe apricot to shine, and underpinning all this a real sense of the vineyard character. I like this wine very much indeed. It has a purity of character, but also an intriguing complexity. I find it very “gastronomic”, crying out for a wonderful fish dish, and I also think this wine has potential to age well given its balance and acidity. It reminds me of the very best dry Vouvray which age for 50 years and more in a good vintage.

## Sauska Tokaji Medve Dry Furmint 2012

This wine has masses of appeal and character, has a lovely intensity and richness balanced by crisp but more gentle acidity than it's Birsalmas neighbour. There is some lovely fruit character of peach and ripe lemons, and a chalky flinty character almost reminiscent of a very ripe vintage Chablis Grand Cru like Le Clos. The richness from the alcohol and intensity of flavour is balanced by lovely acidity. This is extremely well crafted wine, made with wonderful care to explore the wine's sense of place and personality. A vineyard worth following as each vintage reveals itself.



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## Sauska Tokaji Cuvée 105, 2011

This wine is a different expression of what great dry white wines can be produced in Tokaji, as it shows the complexity and potential for the art of the blend. A blend of Furmint, Harslevalu and Yellow Muscat, mainly from the Birsalmas and Medve vineyards, so one can see the brightness of the Birsalmas and the richness of Medve working together, and the additional complexity of different grape varieties.

This is a big wine, lots of ripe fruit and the bite of orange or even tangerine peel, sweet oak giving layers of flavour and a fair dollop of alcohol. Reminds me in very many ways of a good white Chateauneuf du Pape.

## Sauska Tokaji Cuvée 105, 2012

I like this very much, it has a lighter touch than the previous vintage and shows more refinement.

Vibrant fresh fruit, peach skins, apricots, and jasmine, Very elegant balance of fruit, acidity and alcohol, but still persistent and very complex. This really shows the art of blending, with a delicacy of touch in the winemaking, a more gentle use of new oak allowing the elements of each grape varietal and each vineyard to work together with wonderful harmony.

I think this wine has very great potential and as before I am reminded of white Chateauneuf, but dare I say this has the care and attention of a white Rayas!

## Sauska Villanyi Cuvée 5, 2009

A blockbuster "Bordeaux Blend" of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, with very big dark ripe berry fruit, lots of sweet new oak, and lots of alcohol. As the primary dark fruit character matures the secondary flavours of leather, wood and coffee and mocha chocolate emerge. Very impressive wine which should be fascinating to watch develop with more age. Will it become unbalanced, or will the intensity and alcohol allow it to develop the lovely oxidative sweetness one finds in mature Bordeaux from big ripe intense vintages?

## Sauska Villanyi Cuvée 5, 2011

Very impressive intense wine, wonderful black cherry, cassis and dark ripe plums, underpinned with fruit acidity and round tannins. Again the hint of chocolate and very clean lingering intense flavours. This wine has the intensity, ripeness, alcohol, and class of a top "New World" Bordeaux blend from say Napa, or Barossa, but still has a European fruit profile, (less blueberries and eucalyptus minty sweet fruit).

I think this is a real "benchmark" for the region, incredibly impressive. The care and quality of this wine growing and wine making is very apparent.

*Christopher Burr MW. London. October 2015.*