

VALUE PICKS GIVE INVESTMENT-GRADE WINES A RUN FOR THEIR MONEY AT HONG KONG TASTING

Wine Lister held its second ‘Showdown’ dinner in Hong Kong on 19th October. Some of the city’s most knowledgeable collectors were invited to bring either a *Value Pick* or an *Investment Staple* – two of the ‘Wine Lister Indicator’ categories designed to help guide Wine Lister’s users in any scenario. The resulting array of more than a dozen fabulous wines made for a hard-fought battle.

The *Investment Staples* snagged it, scoring just 7% higher with guests, suggesting *Value Picks* gave almost as much drinking pleasure, despite costing over six times more on average (£225 / HK\$2,315 compared to £35 / HK\$360). The close results perfectly illustrate the importance of understanding the different aspects of a fine wine and identifying those that suit different needs: a *Value Pick* may give equal pleasure with a takeaway dinner on a Wednesday night, but is no substitute for an *Investment Staple* in an asset portfolio.

Not quite 18 months after the inaugural ‘Showdown’ dinner, this occasion was the perfect opportunity to toast the recent addition of Jeannie Cho Lee MW as Wine Lister’s fourth partner critic, representing the Asian market. *“It was wonderful to have the opportunity to celebrate with Jeannie at our second Showdown dinner, and I came away completely convinced that we couldn’t have made a better choice, based on her blind tasting prowess through every flight,”* said Ella Lister, Wine Lister’s Founder & CEO.



Clockwise from left: Alex Cheung, Brian Yim, Ella Lister (Wine Lister’s Founder & CEO), Antonio Koo, Jeannie Cho Lee (Wine Lister partner critic), George Tong, Agnes Hon, Jonathan Leung, Mimi Shun, Seok Hui Lim, David Wang, Averardo Borghini Baldovineti, Arthur de Villepin, Cathy Anderson.

In a private room of the members-only Sports Club – a favourite haunt of local wine collectors – guests were treated to some of the most authentic Cantonese food in Hong Kong. Each dish was carefully paired with a flight of two or three wines, served blind, which guests were invited to rate out of ten. The evening began with vintage Champagne and ended in Barsac, with Barolo, Burgundy, and Bordeaux in between, as well as appearances from Chile and China.

The highest-scoring wine of the evening was a magnum of Krug 1995, a Wine Lister *Investment Staple*. *“Both the 1995 and the 1998 Krug were glorious. The 1995 had a slight edge being from a magnum and*

when you meet a Krug at its perfect peak like this one, it leaves you speechless. It was wonderful evening filled with lovely surprises,” said Jeannie Cho Lee, Wine Lister partner critic.

The biggest surprise of the night was the runner up. Our “mystery wine” of the evening – neither *Investment Staple* nor *Value Pick* – was Ao Yun, from Yunnan Province in China. “When I revealed the identity of this wine there were gasps of amazement around the table – everyone was really impressed,” recounted Lister.

In third place came a *Value Pick*, Elio Grasso’s Barolo Ginestra Casa Maté 2007, beating several more established, investment-grade wines. Barolo also claimed fourth place with an *Investment Staple*, Giacomo Conterno’s Barolo Cascina Francia 2008. “Italy had a good night, with two Value Picks from Campania also showing well and confirming that great value can often be found beyond the most traditional regions,” observed Lister, adding, “and we were reminded once again what great value can be found in the sweet whites of Bordeaux.” In fifth place came Château Coutet 1997, a *Value Pick* from Barsac.

Wines served

	Krug 1995 (en magnum)
	Bollinger R.D. 2002
	Krug 1998
	William Fèvre Chablis 2015
	Giacomo Conterno Barolo Cascina Francia 2008
	Elio Grasso Barolo Ginestra Casa Maté 2007
	Domaine Leroy Clos de Vougeot 2007
	Château Clerc Milon 1986
	Seña 2014
	Ao Yun 2014
	Galardi Terra di Lavoro 2010
	Mastroberardino Radici Taurasi 2008
	Château Coutet 1997

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About Wine Lister

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