

International Wine Cellar

the consumer's passport to fine wine

Clos Mogador, René Barbier Fill, Gratallops. After showing me components from vat and barrel in his cellars, René Barbier took me around his vineyards, which are not nearly as well tended as those of Clos L'Obac and Alvaro Palacios, telling me that he likes to make his vines suffer. He then invited me to Masía de Clos Mogador, his home, to taste decanted wines that had been opened an hour earlier. (Europvin, Watertown, MA)

1994 Clos Mogador (\$40): Deep blackberry. Big ripe black cherry and pepper nose. Again, very rich, peppery, ripe chocolate fruit; a little like a great Cornas or Côte-Rôtie; very ripe and deep, with good tannins. Very strong. 95. 1993 Clos Mogador (\$35): Deep black raspberry. Fabulous aromas of violet, nyrtille, wildflowers and spicy oak leap from the glass. Loads of ripe black raspberry fruit and fruit tannins, but drinkable even now. Something old, something new in the taste. 94.