Last November I spent a week in Bordeaux France. Bordeaux is at the heart of one of the best known the French wine producing areas.

Just north of Bordeaux are two of the most famous vineyards, The Chateau Mouton Rothschild and The Chateau Lafite Rothschild. They are neighboring wine estates owned by separate branches of the Rothschild family.

Expect to pay about $1000 for a bottle of wine from either of these estates. Their production is limited, and the quality is extremely high. So, over the years their reputation has grown and the wine, when available, is highly sort after. They primarily produce red wine from Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and use other types of grapes as well.

A description of the difference of their wines coming from a wine commentator was that Chateau Lafite Rothschild was described as elegant and austere, while Chateau Mouton Rothschild is considered opulent and fruity.

The estates themselves are not very large. Chateau Lafite Rothschild is 112 hectares or about 277 acres. Chateau Mouton Rothschild is 90 hectares or about 222 acres.

The English will refer to red wine as “Claret”. This comes from an old French word “Clairet” which means, clear, light-colored red wine.

In the northern part of the city of Bordeaux is the “Musee Du Vin” – the Museum of wine. You can either take the tram there or go by boat down the river Garonne. There are river departures on a regular basis from the city by a get on get off ferry called “Le Batbus” which will drop you at the Museum of Wine.

There are also many tours to other wineries and Chateaux in the region. Included is a collage of some of these places. The details of which I picked up at the Museum of Wine.