DESSERT:

- Consistent element of sweetness…
- Yet a wide variety of components to consider: fruit, nuts, caramel, chocolate, cream
- Pair desserts with wines that are *at least* as sweet as the dish (or more so) to avoid the wine tasting sour
- Consider texture, weight and richness of the dessert
- Also consider the occasion
- Quality sweet wines can be made in a number of ways, resulting in various degrees/types of sweetness and additional nuances: late harvest, noble rot, drying the grapes, fortification, stopping fermentation…

1) Château Laribotte Sauternes '06 – Bordeaux, France

- Sauternes is an appellation in Bordeaux known for its sweet whites from the Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon and Muscadelle grapes
- Unique character and complexity comes from *botrytis cinerea* or "noble rot" due to Sauternes' location and proximity to bodies of water
- Noble rot shrivels the grapes, concentrating their sugars and imbuing them with notes of honey, saffron, dried fruits

2) Domaine Bordenave Harmonie Jurançon '10 – Jurançon, France

- Jurançon is an appellation in Southwest France known for its sweet (and dry) whites mostly from the local Gros Manseng and Petit Manseng grapes
- Notes ranging from pears, white peach, white flowers to more tropical elements
- Domaine Bordenave is one of the region's oldest properties, in existence and run by the family since 1676; their "Harmonie" cuvée is from Gros Manseng harvested by hand (required in Jurançon) in November

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3) Niepoort Colheita '01 – Porto, Portugal

- True Port can only be made in Porto, Portugal; a wide variety of grapes and styles exist, from more light and fruity to extremely powerful and rich
- Colheita = vintage-dated tawny Port that has spent at least seven years in cask
- Tawny means it was aged in cask, developing oxidative (nutty, savory, umami, spicy) characteristics
- Dirk Niepoort is the fifth generation to run his family's prestigious estate in the Douro, known for innovating, experimenting and gaining renewed attention for the regio

4) Winner's Tank Shiraz '10 – Langhorne Creek, Australia

- Shiraz = Syrah
- Langhorne Creek is a warm region in South Australia
- Warm weather means riper grapes, which means richer wines with bolder fruit notes and often an element of sweetness
- This is named after a water tank in the corner of the vineyard; each year the local winning football team gets to paint the tank with its team colors

5) Fonseca Quinta do Panascal '08 – Porto, Portugal

- This is a Single Quinta Vintage Port, which means it is from one single quinta (estate) and one single vintage
- Vintages are only declared in Port in exceptional years; SQVPs often are produced from great estates in very good but not confidently exceptional years
- Vintage Port is extremely rich, powerful and ageworthy, developing complexity in bottle for many years
- Fonseca is a large, well-respected Port house, and the Quinta do Panascal is an estate that supplied them with grapes; they now own the quinta

6) Lustau Almacenista 1/50 Vides Palo Cortado – Jerez, Spain

- Lustau is one of the best Sherry bodegas (houses) in Spain
- Almacenistas are smaller, often family-owned bodegas that typically sell their wines to bigger houses, who typically blend the wine all together
- Lustau's Almacenista label takes these wines but does *not* blend them, thereby highlighting the unique quality of each
- Vides is the almacenista; the 1/50 signifies that this came from one single "butt" (Sherry barrel) out of a 50-butt solera
- Palo Cortado is a rare, very sought-after style of Sherry that has elements of both freshness and delicacy with richness and some oxidation

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