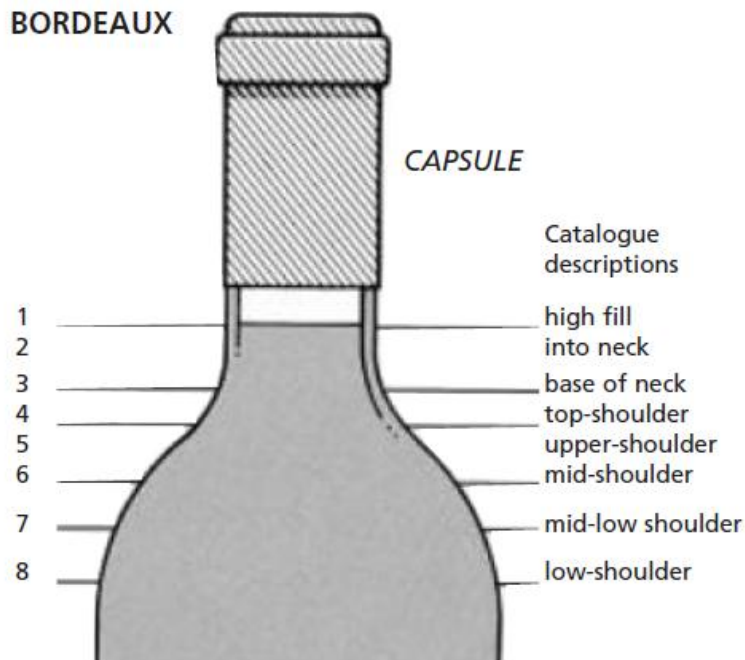


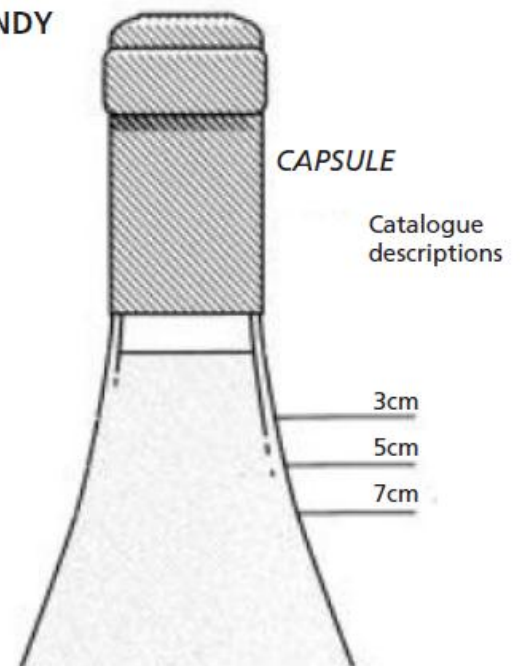
LEVEL/ULLAGE DESCRIPTIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

(see notes below)

BORDEAUX



BURGUNDY



- 1 into neck: Level of young wines. Exceptionally good in wines over 10 years old.
- 2 bottom neck: Perfectly good for any age of wine. Outstandingly good for a wine of 20 years in bottle, or longer.
- 3 very top-shoulder
- 4 top-shoulder: Normal for any claret 15 years old or older.
- 5 upper-shoulder: Slight natural reduction through the easing of the cork and evaporation through cork and capsule. Usually no problem. Acceptable for any wine over 20 years old. Exceptional for pre-1950 wines.

- 6 mid-shoulder: Probably some weakening of the cork and some risk. Not abnormal for wines 30/40 years of age. Estimates usually take this into account.
- 7 mid-low-shoulder: Some risk. Low estimates.
- 8 low-shoulder: Risky and usually only accepted for sale if wine or label exceptionally rare or interesting. Always offered with low estimate.

Because of the slope of shoulder it is impractical to describe levels as mid-shoulder, etc. Wherever appropriate the level between cork and wine will be measured and catalogued in centimetres.

The condition and drinkability of burgundy is less affected by ullage than its equivalent from Bordeaux. For example, a 5 to 7 cm. ullage in a 30-year-old burgundy can be considered normal, indeed good for age, 3.5 to 4 cm. excellent for age, even 7cm. rarely a risk.

BOTTLE SIZES

- magnum = two regular bottles
- double-magnum = four regular bottles
- jeroboam = four regular bottles (Burgundy, Champagne)
- jeroboam = six regular bottles (or 5 litres) (Bordeaux)
- impériale = eight regular bottles (Bordeaux)
- methuselah = eight regular bottles (Burgundy)
- salmanazar = twelve regular bottles (Bordeaux)
- balthazar = sixteen regular bottles (Bordeaux)
- nebuchadnezzar = twenty regular bottles (Bordeaux)