



BERRY BROS. & RUDD
3, ST. JAMES'S STREET, LONDON

WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS

Berry Bros. & Rudd follows rigorous inspection guidelines on all wine which is accepted into our warehouse for on-going sale through our business with BBX.

We strongly recommend that customers intending to submit such wines to Berry Bros. & Rudd read these guidelines first and pre-inspect their wines before submission as an administration and delivery charge will be applied to any wines rejected and returned.

These inspection guidelines set the threshold for what Berry Bros. & Rudd define as minimum acceptability of quality and condition.

All cases will automatically be opened and inspected on receipt or will be inspected prior to confirmation of sale and approved against these guidelines.

If you do not consent to your wine cases being opened and inspected in this way Berry Bros. & Rudd reserve the right to refuse receipt.

Overview of inspection guidelines

All wine sold through Berry Bros. & Rudd must meet minimum requirements in the following categories:

- 1) Label condition
- 2) Bottle fill level or ullage
- 3) Cork condition
- 4) Capsule condition
- 5) Colour

1) Label and packaging condition

Torn/missing labels

- Reject if part or all of the vintage, producer, vineyard, alcohol content or back label is not legible or missing
- Reject if nicks in label exceed 1/2 inch

Damp-stained labels

- Accept if label is slightly discoloured (to be expected for wines that are older than 15 years)
- Reject if label is noticeably discoloured or illegible (wine may not be bad but marketability is adversely affected)



Wine-stained labels

- Reject if label is partially or significantly stained

Scuffed labels

- Reject if scuffed and/or illegible

Faded labels

- Reject if noticeably faded and illegible

Writing on labels

- Reject if labels have writing on labels (affects marketability)

Copy labels

- Reject if bottle label is a facsimile/photocopy or otherwise judged not to be original or authentic

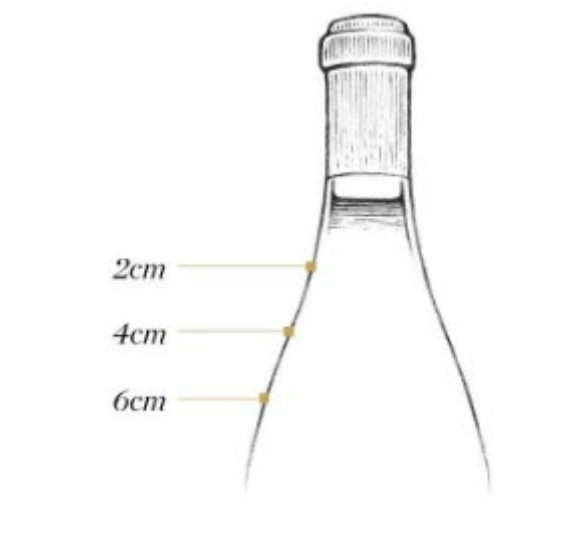
Strip labels

- Reject if bottle has US or non-EU strip labels

Packaging

- Reject if not in original packaging or if original packaging is in poor condition

2) Bottle fill level or ullage



For wines less than 20 years old:

- Bordeaux-style bottle: accept only if fill level is Into Neck, or High Fill for younger wines.
- Burgundy-style bottle: accept only if fill level is 1 cm from bottom of cork or capsule, whichever is the lowest point

For wines more than 20 years old:

- Bordeaux-style bottle: accept only if fill level is Top Shoulder or higher
- Burgundy-style bottle: accept only if fill is 2 cm from cork or less



A note on Champagne bottles

When it comes to Champagne, the measurement is taken from the bottom of the foil, directly to the wine level. We will reject bottles if the liquid is more than 2cm below foil.

3) Cork condition

Protruding or "pushed"

- Accept if the cork is raised less than 1mm, the capsule is not breached and there is no other sign of damage, as it is likely that it was caused by variations in corking machine settings or manual insertion.
- Reject if cork has pushed through the capsule or is raised 1mm or more from the top of the bottle. Occurs when wine has been exposed to extreme temperature (either too hot or perhaps frozen)

Sunken

- Accept if depression is minor (less than 1mm) and likely caused by variations in corking machine settings or manual insertion.
- Reject if depression is 1mm or more, which is likely a sign that the cork may be defective or "easing" and increases the chance that the wine is oxidised.

Signs of seepage

- We will reject if we consider the cause to be heat damage. In some circumstances, for example Port and dessert wine, small amounts of seepage are not unusual.

4) Capsule condition

Metal capsules - corroded (e.g., appears as white "dust")

For wines more than 20 years old:

- Accept if minor (capsule does not have open gaps or holes from the corrosion) since some corrosion is acceptable
- Reject if corrosion on top of the capsule is advanced to the point where there is a hole in the capsule, as there is an increased chance that the cork is faulty

Metal capsules - missing or cut

- Reject unless there is a specific reason for the capsule being cut. Note that Berry Bros. & Rudd may request the ability to cut the capsule to check the authenticity



of the wine by verifying printing on the cork. (We do not cut the capsule without the owner's permission.)

Metal capsules - torn or ripped

- Accept provided tears are minor (2mm) and do not reduce likely marketability of the bottle

Wax capsules - chipped or partially missing

- Accept as this is fairly common and does not indicate anything in particular about the wine condition
- Reject if entire cork is exposed

Wax capsules - non-original

- Reject unless provenance exists (evidence of why there is a new capsule)

5) Colour

White Wine - dry (e.g. Burgundy)

For wines less than 15 years old:

- Accept if clear, lemon to light gold in colour
- Reject if colour is deep gold or amber

For wines more than 15 years old:

- Accept if colour is a shade of gold
- Reject if colour is brownish

Sweet (e.g. Sauternes)

For sweet wines less than 15 years old:

- Accept if colour is a shade of gold

For sweet wines more than 15 years old:

- Accept if colour is a shade of amber, even mahogany as this is natural
- Reject if the shade is closer to black, as it has most likely been exposed to excessive heat

Red wine

For wines less than 15 years old:



- Reject if the colour shows any hint of brown as the wine is likely spoiled. Note that it is the shade of colour that is in question, not the intensity of colour, which will vary by variety and a paler shade of red is common for certain varieties and tends towards raspberry in colour

For wines more than 15 years old:

- Reject if more brown than red. Again, it is the shade that is in question, not the intensity of colour since with aging pigment is absorbed into the sediment and “falls out” of the wine

A note on our Auction inspection process:

We may consign wines to our Auctions which do not fulfil some of the inspection criteria above on the basis that we offer Auction buyers high-definition photography and lot-specific condition reports to allow them to make informed decisions.