



BEVINARS GLOSSARY TO LARGE-FORMAT WINE BOTTLES

FOR THOSE WHO THINK BIGGER IS BETTER—AND BETTER IS BARELY ENOUGH.

A

A-LIST POUR: SLANG FOR ANYTHING MAGNUM OR LARGER SERVED AT AN EVENT THAT ALSO FEATURES STEP-AND-REPEAT BACKDROPS. OFTEN INSTAGRAMMED BEFORE SIPPED.

AGING CURVE: THE LONG, LUXURIOUS ARC OF FLAVOR DEVELOPMENT IN BIG BOTTLES. CONNOISSEURS INSIST THAT "THE AGING CURVE IN MAGNUMS IS SLOWER, SEXIER, AND INFINITELY MORE FORGIVING."

ARISTOPOUR: THE LAVISH ACT OF SERVING NEBUCHADNEZZAR OR ABOVE TO GUESTS WHO HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY'RE DRINKING. A TERM OF ENDEARMENT (OR ENVY).

B

BIG BOY: GENERIC SLANG FOR ANYTHING OVER 3L. "BRING OUT THE BIG BOY" IS A CUE TO GASP AND READY THE CRADLE.

BOTTLE SHOCK: TEMPORARY DULLNESS IN WINE CAUSED BY TRAVEL. FOR LARGE FORMATS, IT CAN BE A FULL-ON MOOD SWING THAT REQUIRES DAYS OF REST IN THE CELLAR.

BALTHY: SHORT FOR BALTHAZAR. ONLY USED BY INSIDERS. "HE CRACKED A '96 BALTHY OF SALON—NO NOTES."

C

CRADLE CASE: A COLLECTOR WHO OWNS MULTIPLE LARGE-FORMAT BOTTLES AND THE CRADLES TO POUR THEM. ALSO A FLEX. MENTION WITH V CANTER

CORK FLEX: THE UNNECESSARY BUT IRRESISTIBLE DISPLAY OF HOW LARGE THE CORK IS IN A BIG BOTTLE.

CUVÉE DE CRÈME: A NICKNAME FOR PRESTIGE BUBBLY IN LARGE FORMAT, ESPECIALLY KRUG OR ROEDERER CRISTAL.

D

DOUBLE FISTER: A WINE SERVER FORCED TO USE BOTH HANDS—AND MAYBE A THIGH—TO POUR FROM A METHUSELAH.

DECANT DRAMA: THE HIGH-THEATER MOMENT OF POURING A DOUBLE MAG INTO A DECANTER WHILE GUESTS FEIGN DISINTEREST.

DRIPLINE: THE ROGUE ARC A POORLY AIMED BIG BOTTLE MAKES ON YOUR \$6,000 RUG. NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH A VINEYARD'S IRRIGATION LINE.

E

ELEPHANT BOTTLES: SLANG FOR ANYTHING 9L OR ABOVE. "WE WENT THROUGH TWO ELEPHANT BOTTLES OF CHÂTEAUNEUF BEFORE APPETIZERS."

EGO POUR: THE OVERLY GENEROUS POUR FROM A LARGE FORMAT MEANT MORE TO IMPRESS THAN HYDRATE.

F

FIRST-POUR PRIVILEGE: THE HONOR OF RECEIVING THE VERY FIRST SPLASH FROM A PRISTINE MAGNUM. BESTOWED ONLY ON THE HOST'S FAVORITE.

FUGITIVE CORK: WHEN A BIG-BOTTLE CORK LAUNCHES LIKE A MISSILE. MOST OFTEN HAPPENS WITH IMPROPERLY CHILLED JEROBOAMS OF CHAMPAGNE.

G

GARGANTUWINE: AN ABSURDLY LARGE AND LIKELY UNDRINKABLE BOTTLE KEPT PURELY FOR DISPLAY.

GLASS-TO-WINE RATIO: THE INVERSE RELATIONSHIP OF NORMAL STEMWARE TO THE OUTRAGEOUS SCALE OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR POURS.

H

HOUSE MAGNUM: WHAT A SERIOUS WINE DRINKER CONSIDERS AN EVERYDAY BOTTLE. ANYTHING SMALLER IS CONSIDERED A "TASTING PORTION."

HIGH-SHOULDER WOES: THE DIFFICULTY IN DECANTING A BORDEAUX-STYLE 6L WITHOUT TRIGGERING A TANNIN LANDSLIDE.

I

IMPERIAL IMPULSE: THE IRRESISTIBLE URGE TO BUY THE 6L EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE HOSTING A PARTY FOR 6.

INSTAGRAMMABLE OXIDATION: THAT HAZY GOLD HUE THAT ONLY SHOWS UP IN METHUSELAH-AGED MONTRACHET. DELICIOUS. TRAGIC. WORTH POSTING.

J

JERO JOCKEY: A SEASONED SOMMELIER WHO CAN POUR A JEROBOAM ONE-HANDED. MYTHIC. POSSIBLY FRENCH.

JEROBOAST: TO LOUDLY ANNOUNCE YOU BROUGHT A JERO. OFTEN PRECEDES DISAPPOINTMENT WHEN IT'S PROSECCO.

K

KILLER CORK: THE 3-INCH STOPPER FROM A 15L BOTTLE. OFTEN KEPT AS A TROPHY, OCCASIONALLY REPURPOSED AS A DOORSTOP.

L

LUXE LUGGING: THE ACT OF HAULING A NEBUCHADNEZZAR UP A SPIRAL STAIRCASE. USUALLY ENDS IN APPLAUSE, OR INJURY.

LIBRARY JEROBOAM: A UNICORN BOTTLE FROM A LEGENDARY VINTAGE. HUSHED TONES ONLY.

M

MELCHY MADNESS: THE FRENZIED JOY (OR PANIC) OF REALIZING YOU JUST OPENED 24 BOTTLES' WORTH OF DRC IN ONE GO.

MAGNUM MOJO: THE UNDENIABLE AURA OF COOL WHEN SOMEONE CASUALLY BRINGS A MAGNUM TO A CASUAL PICNIC.

N

NEBUCHADNESS: THE SPECIFIC BRAND OF MADNESS THAT COMPELS A PERSON TO PURCHASE A 15L OF 1945 BORDEAUX. FOR "INVESTMENT."

Nose Dive: THE SENSORY OVERWHELM FROM INHALING THE BOUQUET OF A FRESHLY CRACKED METHUSELAH.

O

Ox-Pause: THE DRAMATIC SILENCE BEFORE THE FIRST POUR FROM A VERY OLD LARGE-FORMAT WINE, AS EVERYONE WONDERS: "IS IT STILL ALIVE?"

P

PUNT GRIP: THE TECHNIQUE OF INSERTING ONE'S FIST INTO THE PUNT OF A GIANT BOTTLE WHILE POURING. RISKY. SEXY. SOMMELIER GOLD.

POUR ENVY: THE GREEN-EYED GLARE WHEN SOMEONE ELSE GETS THE LAST GLASS FROM A LEGENDARY MAGNUM.

Q

QUARTER CASE CLUB: SLANG FOR ANYONE WHO BRINGS SALMANAZARS TO DINNER PARTIES ON THE REGULAR. ALSO KNOWN AS "THE RECKLESS FEW."

R

REHOBOTHEMIAN: A RARE SOUL WHO BRINGS A 4.5L REHOBOTHEM TO A ROOFTOP PARTY. OFTEN A TRUST FUND KID. ALWAYS UNFORGETTABLE.

RACK RAGE: THE FURY OF DISCOVERING YOUR NEW 9L WON'T FIT ANYWHERE IN YOUR EUROCAVE.

S

SABRAGE SWAGGER: THE BODY LANGUAGE OF SOMEONE WHO SABERS MAGNUMS FOR BREAKFAST. ALWAYS FOLLOWED BY CHAMPAGNE SHOWERS.

SLEEPER METHUSELAH: A HUMBLE LABEL IN A 6L BOTTLE THAT TURNS OUT TO BE REVELATORY. THE SOMM VERSION OF AN INDIE HIT.

T

Trophy Format: A large bottle bought purely to be displayed, not drunk. Often stored next to a Ducati or signed guitar.

Transvasage Truthers: Those who claim any champagne bigger than a magnum is a fraud because it wasn't bottle-fermented.

U

Ullage Whisperer: A pro who can eyeball a fill line from across the cellar and estimate the wine's condition to the millimeter.

V

Vertical Flex: The act of opening multiple magnums or large formats from different vintages of the same wine. Pure showmanship.

W

Whale Pour: A mythical-sized splash from a Nebuchadnezzar. Equivalent to three standard servings. Seen only at Gatsby-level parties.

X, Y, Z

Xenon Cork: Slang for a giant cork pulled with the aid of an industrial-grade corkscrew.

Yacht Juice: What magnums of rosé become when served off the coast of Ibiza. Accept no substitutes.

Zodiac Magnum: A magnum picked to match a guest's astrological sign.