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BALANCING ACT



Who would have thought it? Much-maligned Bordeaux is once again showing the world what balance really means. The region has long showcased elegance and harmony in its wines. And it is doing it again - now that the fashion for over-extracted caricature wines dripping in oak has abated, it is especially impressive with its subtle, well-balanced nectars crafted from the velvet and silk that Bordeaux once used to conquer the world. Bordeaux also offers prudent balance in

terms of price, with dozens of astonishingly affordable wines from two magnificent and magnificently different vintages currently on the market: the exquisite, newly bottled 2017s and the trendy 2019s that are currently available en primeur. Furthermore, Bordeaux has balanced its environmental policy with how it handles visitors, who are welcomed with open arms on most estates, and in some places in very original ways. This balance is the focus of this issue.

Ihr Rolf Bichsel

Imprint

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12

MARQUIS DE TERME
VERTICAL TASTING



17

PICHON LALANDE
VERTICAL TASTING



21

NATURE
AND
WINE

34

EATING UP
ADVENTURES





43 WELCOME HOME

40

WITH A STEADY HAND



51

A REAL ROGUES' GALLERY



59

ROMANCE IN GREEN

66

2017/19 GUIDE:
650 TOP WINES PUT
TO THE TEST

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PRICE GAP

TOP BORDEAUX TO SUIT ALL

by Rolf Bichsel

In more ways than one, 2019 is an en primeur year unlike any other. However, two months late, Barbara Schroeder and Rolf Bichsel (pictured) have finally been able to taste wines that will make history.



One man's joy is another man's sorrow – or vice-versa. For once, this banal sentence seems to be particularly apt here in Bordeaux. The situation on the global wine front is anything but easy, and this is also (and perhaps particularly) true for the fine wines of the Gironde. America is lashing out with import duties while Asia, the other powerful potential market for Bordeaux, has bigger things to worry about at the moment, and the remainder of the market – which is in practice just Europe – is becoming crowded. 'I have not sold any bottles for weeks', one producer be-moaned shortly before the Covid-19 crisis began.

By contrast, online trade is doing astonishingly well, and even more importantly, the most recent Bordeaux

en primeur campaign (launched a little late this year) has been well received and viewed as better than expected overall, despite circumstances differing from one estate to another. This is not just thanks to the undeniable quality and 'trendy' style of the 2019 wines (see page 55). Estates have also done the right thing and taken the current situation into account, with price reductions of up to 30%.

Now, I do not want to go down the 'expensive Bordeaux' road. Bordeaux has not been expensive for many years, it is just that a handful of brands are, taking them out of wine consumers' reach and planting them in the world of premium luxury. Their high price guarantees their value, not the quality of their (doubtless noteworthy) contents.



Let us put these to one side and view them respectfully as historic monuments. For actual drinking, there are now more than enough wines available that are similar in terms of quality and style, but available at extremely reasonable prices. Wine enthusiasts need to understand there are no longer just 10 or 20 top labels, but rather 100 or 200, that they can confidently buy.

Percentage calculations do not tell the whole story. An estate that lowers its prices by 30% from €450 to €300 is still raking it in. However, those that sell their wines for €8 cannot afford to become a third cheaper without endangering their own existence. Praise is due to those who have generally kept their prices at a reasonable level, and not to those who have increased and reduced their prices by set percentages. It is up to each person to decide what a reasonable level means for themselves. To me, a top wine for under €20 is an absolute bargain. If a wine costs between €20 and €30 then it is a great price, and between €30 and €50 it remains a top buy, particularly in

an 'officially' top year like 2019. When I first began gaining an interest in Bordeaux, a Premier Cru came in at the equivalent of around €100 in today's money. Now, after 30 years and a wine revolution that has resulted in much more precise, naturally produced wines that are truer to their terroir, this is the price you have to fork out for a bottle of **Pontet-Canet** (20 points): in other words, for a unique wine that convincingly demonstrates how 80 hectares can be cultivated organically and biodynamically to produce a wine that is once again one of the most beautiful, captivating, harmonious wines of the year and the region, a wine whose creators invested a great deal in ensuring that their estate was run in an environmentally friendly way. In my view, Pontet-Canet is worth its price tag. 2019 offers a unique opportunity to discover this wine.

Another of the vintage's absolute top wines just scrapes under the €100 mark: **Château Canon** (19.5 points), in my view currently one of the most stylish and thus most beautiful Saint-Émilions of all. Only the top Pomerol costs



more: **Château Trotanoy** (19.5 points) comes in at €175. We have two substitutes to recommend from this appellation: the stunning organic Beauregard (19 points, €45) and the exquisite **Clos du Clocher** (19 points, €38). For those who find Canon too expensive, **Trotte-Vieille** (19 points, €56) leads the chasing pack in Saint-Émilion. The tempting organic Margaux wine **Durfort Vivens** (19 points, €45) and the full-bodied **Giscours** (19 points, €40) are two of our top Margaux choices. **Léoville-Barton** (19 points, €61) leads the charge in Saint-Julien and **Grand Puy Lacoste** (19 points €50) is our top Pauillac offering the greatest value for money. In Pessac-Léognan, **Malartic-Lagravière** (19 points, €31) literally blew our socks off, and in Sauternes the complex and full **Guiraud** (19 points, €36) left all other sweet wine producers in its wake.

Paragons of value for money

Guiraud and Malartic are in fact already excellent value for money, especially if you remember the microscopic

size of the harvests at the organically cultivated estate in Sauternes. But there's more. In Sauternes, Olivier Bernard and his sons (Domaine de Chevalier) are making a dry white Bordeaux that gets better every year: **Lunes d'Argent** from Clos des Lunes (16.5 points) is now available en primeur for just €9! Jean-Jacques Dubourdieu, who since the death of his father Denis has been responsible for both Doisy-Daëne in Barsac and Clos Floridène in Graves (whose top reds and whites fall below the €15 mark), is also offering a red Graves available for just €10 in the shape of **Château Haura** (16 points).

Looking for Pomerol at a bargain price? **Château de Sales**, the most extensive estate in the appellation, is currently enjoying something of a renaissance. The very successful 2019 (16.5 points) costs under €20. **Château Ferrière** (18.5 points, €27) almost always features in our list of wines offering the best value for money, but this year it is also joined by Claire Villars-Lurton's second organic wine: the magnificent **Haut-Bages Libéral** from



Pauillac (18 points) comes in at €27. Another bargain comes from **Prieuré-Lichine** (18 points, €29) in Margaux. And one of the wines that has been astonishing us in Sauternes for several years is **Château Myrat** (17.5 points, €21). Take a look at page 67 for more recommendations. But remember: all of the prices in this issue are guide prices for consumers including French value added tax, given to the best of the editorial staff's knowledge with no guarantees. Prices may vary by merchant, exchange rate or demand, so should be viewed as for information purposes only.

An en primeur year unlike any other

Although it was not unexpected, the announcement of lockdowns due to the coronavirus crisis caught us by surprise for our very first tasting for this special issue in mid-March. We had to wait nearly two months to find out what would happen next and whether there would even be an en primeur campaign. This also had its benefits. As I previously mentioned, we were aware of the prices when writ-

ing our tasting notes. In addition, we ultimately tasted all of the barrel samples much later than usual, with the extra time in barrels benefiting the wines. So that we could taste all of the wines under ideal conditions despite the current circumstances, we worked with the various umbrella organisations to develop a precise tasting plan under which samples were collected from estates, transported to our tasting room in southern Bordeaux, and tasted within 24 hours. None of the samples we tasted were more than 36 hours old. This was particularly important, as barrel samples are not stable and postal shipping was not appropriate in the current particular climate. We would like to thank all those involved for their efficiency and support! However, in discussion with all the relevant authorities, we also decided to apply the same rules to all estates with absolutely no exceptions, and agreed that not a single wine would be tasted at an estate's premises. Only a handful of estates (including Lafite, Margaux, Yquem, Pétrus, Las Cases, Palmer) ultimately declined to participate.

GLEAMING IN GREEN



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MARQUIS DE TERME

TEN YEARS OF HARD WORK

As a tasting of six vintages proves, in barely a decade, Ludovic David – who has been the general manager of Marquis de Terme in Margaux since 2009 – has transformed this sleeping estate into a true gem.

Ludovic David is a man of a thousand ideas, but unlike most dreamers, he actually brings his ideas to life. In just ten years, he has transformed a very outdated, traditional Margaux into a true gem that is now one of the top classified estates in the Médoc, and not just in terms of wine quality. 'Every time I visited the estate, I would become melancholy. Everything was so grey and sad, even the wines, despite always being impeccably made from a technical point of view. They were just lacking charm and radiance, they seemed terribly serious and conveyed anything but a zest for life', explains an old Médoc connoisseur. Things are rather different today, however. Marquis de Terme has become a true hub of wine tourism. Visitors are welcomed and made to feel at home. They can sprawl undisturbed in comfortable armchairs on the lawn in front of the chateau, and rent bicycles or electric scooters for a tour of the vines. The shop sells not only wine, but also rum selected personally by Ludovic, and the estate's own spacious restaurant will soon be entertaining guests. Em-

ployees no longer creep dejectedly through the winery, but walk about exuding cheerful pride, and the wine is now exactly what you would expect of a Margaux, with its irresistible charm, wonderful harmony, exquisite radiance and huge freshness.

'The first thing I did when I began as general manager of Marquis de Terme ten years ago was find all the old vintages I possibly could and taste my way through a quarter of a century of the estate's history. And one thing really became clear: terroir was no empty buzzword here, despite all of the technical shortcomings that were due primarily to a lack of investment. The common thread across every vintage was the wine's particular fruitiness and freshness, salinity, and easy-drinking style,' Ludovic David explains. 'This was even the case in apparently polar opposite years like (rainy) 1999 or (scorching) 2003.' He therefore made an effort to ensure that this character was not only preserved, but also developed further. The success of his endeavours can be seen in the vertical tasting on the next page.





MARQUIS DE TERME 1986 – 2019

TRUE MARGAUX CLASS

1982

Although this wine may seem a little old-fashioned by today's standards, it has remained sprightly despite its over 30 years and still has some more in the tank. The tannins are slightly tart and brittle, but add to the freshness of the wine as a whole. An excellent illustration of the quality of the soils.

2011

The first vintage to clearly show the results of efforts to undertake more precise work, particularly among the vines, but also in the winery (new fermentation tanks, better selection, much gentler extraction using punching down). Lively and slender with still rather rough tannins and a lingering finish. More stylish than the resolutely full-bodied 2009 and 2010, the first vintages under Ludovic's leadership.

2014

This clearly illustrates the progress made in both precision and style – a foundation on which the team can continue to build. People, technology and nature all work in perfect harmony. Astonishingly classic, perfectly dense, with tannins that have gained polish without losing their freshness, creating a harmonious, very enjoyable whole.

2015

A top vintage for Margaux and the first exceptional vintage for Marquis de Terme. A complex nose that is delightfully full and with particularly smooth tannins, very sophisticated and thus with excellent ageing potential.

2017

Perhaps the vintage that best shows the progress that the estate has made over the last ten years. 2017 was one of those great years where producers could not simply follow recipes but needed to remain responsive, particularly in terms of the harvest. Ludovic did everything in his power to harvest every plot at perfect ripeness, almost down to the hour. The result is a particularly sensual, harmonious, elegant, precise wine that will be delightful in three or four years, but will also age exceptionally well.

2019

The climax of Marquis de Terme's development thus far. Ludovic wanted to show that he did not simply make weighty, powerful wines, instead striving to remain true to the elegant Margaux style. The wine's fullness and spirit are handled perfectly and balanced out skilfully by freshness and juiciness, meaning that the tempting fruitiness comes across not as superficial but instead particularly complex.



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Feel like a Bordeaux winemaker for a whole day and night! Stephen Carrier, the hospitable head of Château Fieuzal, has a very special experience to offer two lucky VINUM readers: you are invited to spend a whole day experiencing the harvest at this Pessac-Léognan Cru Classé vineyard. This includes lunch, a tour of the Cru Classé property with a tasting, and an overnight stay!

If you have read our article about Château Fieuzal then you will know the answer to the following question:

How long has Stephen Carrier been running Château Fieuzal?

12 years 15 years 22 years

Entry deadline: 30 September 2020

How to enter: go to vinum.eu/fieuzal and fill out the entry form by 30 September. The lucky winners will be informed by email.

The winners can look forward to a day at Château Fieuzal during the 2020 wine harvest, including overnight accommodation, lunch, and a tour of the Cru Classé property with a tasting, for two people.

The exact date of the wine harvest has not yet been set. We will let the winners know a date range, and the visit can then be discussed directly with the estate director..

Only people aged 18 or over may enter this VINUM competition. Intervinum AG employees and their relatives may not enter. The winners will be drawn and notified personally. No correspondence will be entered into regarding the competition. The competition decision is final. Prizes cannot be exchanged for cash. For further information, please refer to the privacy policy on our website.

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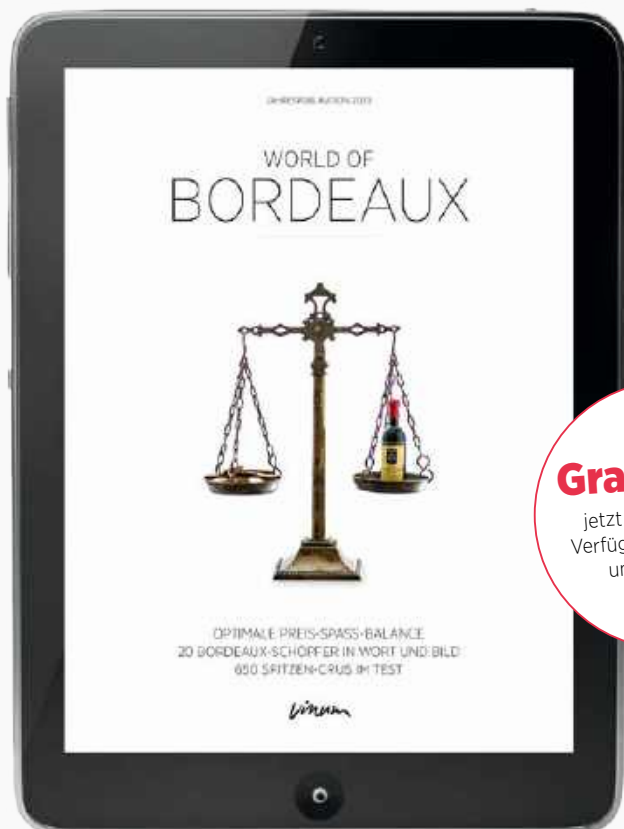
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PICHON COMTESSE

BACK TO THE FUTURE

In the 1980s, Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande was one of the most famous and popular wines in Bordeaux. Things later became a little quieter at the estate, but since 2014 it has been right back at the top.

In the 1980s, Pichon Comtesse was one of the 'super seconds' and was on a par with the Premier Crus in terms of quality. This period produced a series of legendary vintages including 82, 83, 85, 86 and 89. Even 84 and 87 were outstanding. After this, Comtesse began noticeably lagging behind and increasingly struggled to find its style. This changed with the arrival of the new owners (Roederer), who began a carefully executed period of renovations with the construction of a new winery (2012 to 2017) and also appointed the talented Nicolas Glumineau as the new general manager. Since 2014, Pichon Comtesse has returned to being an absolute world-class Bordeaux, and not just from a technical perspective: the estate has also re-found its style, with a daring and successful combination of power and elegance, high-tech and inspiration. Nicolas Glumineau: 'One of the wines that is currently serving as a model for me is the 1982. Despite its exceptional longevity (incidentally, I was just eight when it was born), it is still captivatingly harmonious. Of course, I wanted to

find out how it was made. At the time, Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande had a reputation as being a rather feminine wine with a very high proportion of Merlot, in the style of a Saint-Julien. Unfortunately, there is no documentation about the blend used, but I am convinced that Cabernet clearly dominates. The concept of a "feminine wine" from an estate run by a woman with "Comtesse" in the name was first and foremost a powerful marketing idea.' Perhaps. However, a change in direction towards a stronger Pauillac character seemed to have stripped away some of Pichon Comtesse's soul.

Together with his finely tuned team (the winemaker and amateur bassist knows that a good band needs a leader who leaves his airs and graces at home), Nicolas Glumineau sought a third way. He used model wines of the past as a style guide, but worked with great precision to target more density and depth. 'Our goal was to produce a great Pauillac in velvet gloves.' The extent of his success can be seen in the vertical tasting on the next double page.



Nicolas Glumineau, general manager
and wine creator with flair



PICHON COMTESSE 1982 – 2017



1982

The (scant) ripeness of the grapes used in this wine – now almost 40 years old – may not be quite up to modern standards, but they offer particular freshness, creating a wine exhibiting sunny spice and pleasant fullness.

1996

A top year in Pauillac and also successful at Pichon Comtesse, but not quite reaching the heights of the astonishing 1982. Nevertheless, the tannins are polished, and the overall wine is harmonious, with powerful Cabernet spice. Best enjoyed in the next five or six years.

2009

With its compact tannins, this impeccably made wine – which already tastes delicious – is a perfect illustration of both the vintage's ideal climate conditions and the era's trend towards more dense wines.

2010

As full as the 2009 but denser and thus offering less charm, so needs to mature further. The Pauillac character sought after during this period once again comes fully to the fore.

2014

'Has the density of a Pauillac, the freshness of a Margaux, the sensuality of a Saint-Julien, the tannins of a Saint-Estèphe and is reminiscent of the great 1980s Pichon Comtesse, interpreted with contemporary precision and great flair', was how we described the en primeur sample. Five years later, this is a stunning wine.

2016

Even better than the exceptional 2014, particularly stylish with high-quality, seamlessly dense tannins, transparently fruity, hugely sophisticated and lingering. One of the hits of the year. Glumineau commented that 'In this year, I realised that Pichon Comtesse had finally adopted me.'

2017

Climatically not an easy year, but an outstandingly successful Pichon Comtesse in exquisite, bewitchingly elegant, refined style. Each plot is harvested when perfectly ripe.

Every vintage a masterpiece.



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GUIRAUD

COLLECT, PRESERVE, SHARE

with Luc Planty

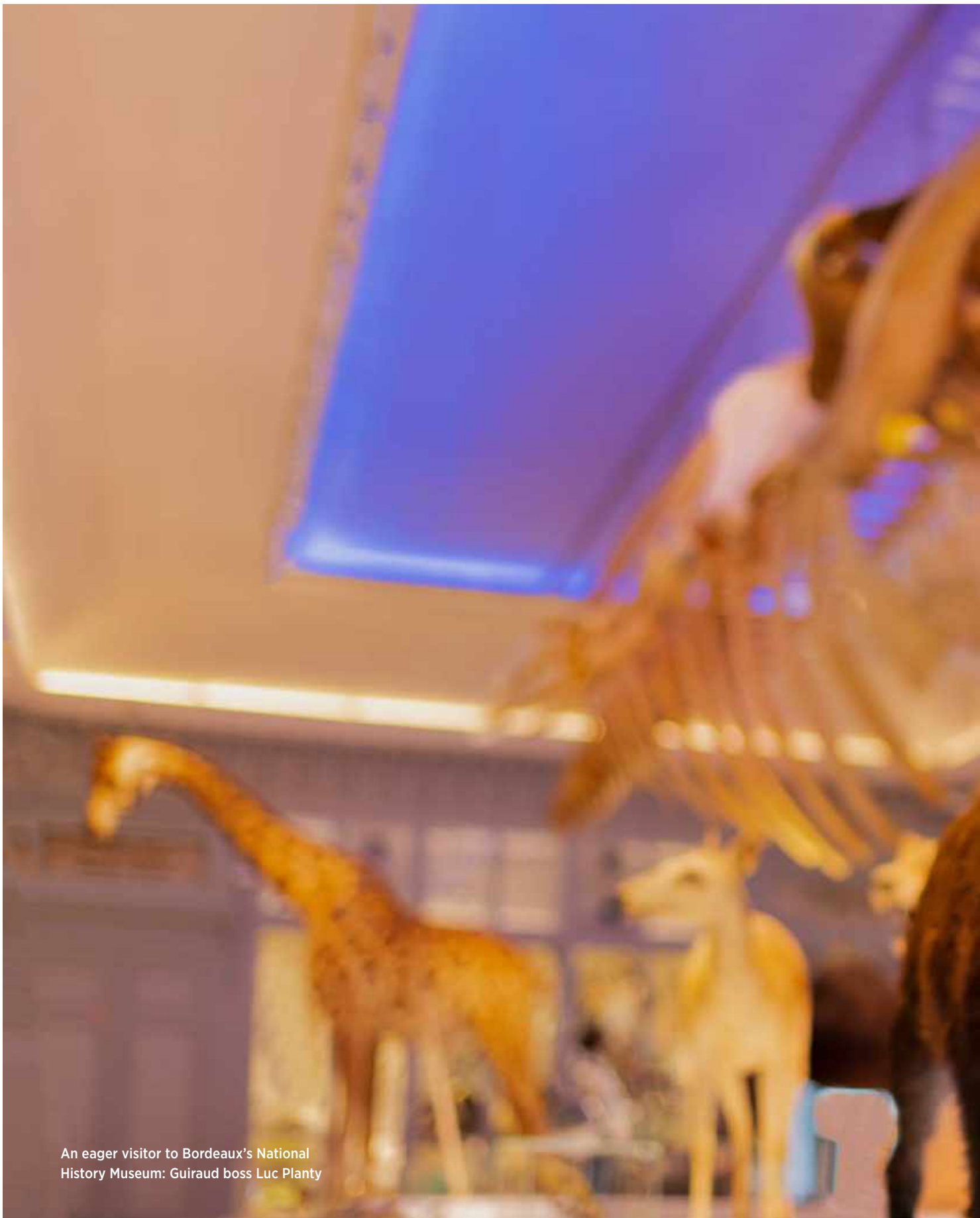
Luc Planty, the young manager of the fantastic classified and certified organic estate Château Guiraud in Sauternes, is a regular visitor to Bordeaux's Natural History Museum. This temple of natural history offers him motivation and a confirmation of his holistic viewpoint.

The Natural History Museum in Bordeaux (pictured on next double page) is one of the most popular museums in the Gironde. Its goal is to promote an understanding of nature. A museum collects, preserves, and make items accessible to all – and that is exactly what we also do at Château Guiraud. We show interested visitors that we are part of nature, and need to live with it rather than in opposition to it. We welcome around 12,000 visitors to Guiraud every year. Guiraud has become a tourist attraction in its own right, not least thanks to our restaurant.

Collecting and preserving are also tasks that we have taken on – in our case, around 170 clones of our Sauvignon and Semillon grape varieties, which we have set aside for a special plot. They come from old vines that were planted in Sauternes (Guiraud, Yquem, Rieussec) and Pessac-Léognan (Olivier, Couhins etc.) before the era of excessive clone selection. We are therefore combating the depletion of these varieties' genetic heritage, inevitably resulting in a standardisation of wine styles. We have

discovered clones that produce very interesting wines. However, we are also preserving clones that are of less interest to us at the moment, but could help to combat the effects of global warming in two or three decades' time. The vine conservatory is only part of Château Guiraud's overall concept. We are gradually approaching our ideal of a balanced, well-functioning ecosystem. Strips of grass grow between the rows, ten kilometres of hedgerows provide hundreds of birds, insects and rodents with food and refuge, and our vine cultivation has been certified organic since 2011. We began the conversion process back in 1996. I am convinced that organic cultivation is particularly relevant here in Sauternes because it promotes the development of consistent, high-quality noble rot.

I joined Guiraud in 2013 as a viticulturalist. Now I am running the estate. My philosophy of working in harmony with nature comes from my father Xavier Planty, the previous head of the estate. I cannot imagine growing vines any other way.



An eager visitor to Bordeaux's National History Museum: Guiraud boss Luc Planty





Stephen Carrier, estate manager and cake baker



DE FIEUZAL

GOOD EATING

with Stephen Carrier

Living is sharing, as Stephen says. The manager of Château de Fieuzal in Pessac-Léognan can often be found in the estate's kitchen, where he insists on personally cooking and baking for guests.

How bleak and flat life would be if you could not share it with others! Ever since I was small, the kitchen has always been the place where everything happens, where you laugh and communicate. My mother was a fantastic cook. I cannot hold a candle to her. But that doesn't stop me from trying, every day if I can. Fieuzal is a very family-oriented place, an estate where you feel comfortable. We are no stuffy manor. Guests are welcomed with open arms, and we make time for you. And those are not just empty words. VINUM readers get particularly special treatment – just give us a call! During the harvest, join us for lunch to share a meal without any theatrics.

I am the son of a winemaking family from Champagne. I discovered Bordeaux very late, but I totally fell for the region and never want to leave. Since arriving at Fieuzal

twelve years ago, I have been working hard to make it an estate that the owners can be proud of. Fieuzal has exceptional soils and great potential to be a likeable place. In the 1980s, Fieuzal was one of the most popular estates in the region, so we are always measured against that era's benchmark. However, when I arrived, the estate was totally outdated. The former owners were more interested in quantity than quality. We quickly changed that. Thanks to generous investment by the new owners, we now possess technology that many can still only dream about. But we did not want to go back to the 'good old Fieuzal' – we wanted to move forward to a new one. Reading the VINUM team's enthusiastic comments about the latest vintage, we clearly haven't done too bad a job!

MARQUIS D'ALESME

YIN AND YANG IN MARGAUX

with Marjolaine de Coninck

Winemaker Marjolaine de Coninck runs Marquis d'Alesme Becker with talent and great flair. The new, tastefully and stylishly designed winery at the heart of Margaux is a must-see.



With just 15 hectares of vines spread across three exceptional Margaux sites, 'Marquis', as we call it, is one of the smallest classified estates in the Médoc. And that is not the only thing that makes it special. When constructing the new winery, as well as painstakingly renovating old buildings, we were also able to create something entirely new at the heart of Margaux. Nathalie Perrodo, the owner, has a dual French and Chinese background that was of course a major influence. We were able to create a little world with a perfect interplay between architecture, landscape design and wine cultivation, reflecting our sense of harmony. We wanted to fundamentally address the needs of visitors, allowing them to forget time and the outside world for a brief while and devote themselves to wine and the location itself.

Wine awakens all of the senses, and we wanted to incorporate that. The plants in our gardens symbolise touch, so some have sharp, hairy, smooth or velvety leaves, and the roses, lime blossom and apple blossom give off a beautiful

fragrance depending on the season. The winery facilities are aesthetically designed, yet still extremely functional. We work with only the best, healthiest, ripest grapes and do all we can to ensure that every last bit of potential is tapped, whether through lots of careful manual work or gravity-driven maceration in small tanks, with the grapes separated by variety.

Visitors are welcomed to the 'hameau' (hamlet). Everything here is zen, and Chinese symbolism is everywhere: the colours black and red, the dragon that watches over us, and the little Marquis in front of the four elements of water, air, earth and fire, which also play a key role for the wine. We also uncovered the old village square in front of the village hall, creating an island of green instead of rows of ugly hangars and houses. This is now benefiting the entire community. Even people who have lived in Margaux for a long time are discovering the area anew from the winery's terrace!



A flair for zen: winemaker Marjolaine de Coninck



Manager José Sanfins, owner Tristan Le Lou: the future has only just begun



BIG PLANS FOR **CANTENAC BROWN**

with Tristan Le Lous

This top winery in Margaux has a new owner – and he is full of ideas that will benefit not only the quality of the wines, but also the welcome offered by the estate.

I grew up in Dijon, the son of a family from Brittany. My wife comes from Bordeaux. Bretons are born entrepreneurs, so encouraging my family to invest in a Bordeaux winery was a logical step. As a trained agricultural engineer, this takes me back to my professional roots. My eyes fell on Cantenac Brown because this Grand Cru Classé in Margaux produces high-quality wines (not least thanks to the long-standing director José Sanfins), but also because it has great potential for further development. Cantenac Brown is currently viewed as an insiders' wine – professionals love the estate, but it is not widely known among the general public. This should soon change! We are full of ideas, in terms of both the quality of the wine itself (which we plan to improve even further) and also the estate's image and the welcome it offers. Cantenac Brown, with its unique building visible from afar and its huge park, is perfect for welcoming guests! We are of course already open to visitors, but we plan to improve what we offer without adding any frills, snobbery or false gentility. That is neither my style nor José's. We want to show who we are and what we do, simply, honestly and unpretentiously.

First of all, we plan to build a new winery with an ultra-modern, highly functional fermentation cellar and new barrel store. This will allow us to tap the full potential of our exceptional (and exceptionally maintained) location and work with modern precision. Our primary goal is to be able to macerate each plot separately and handle the must with the greatest of care, for example by using gravity. José's years of experience and his deep rooting in the Bordeaux region are further advantages. We want to teach visitors who we are and what we do, but they should also be able to take advantage of this unique location, go for a casual stroll through the park, sit out on the grass with a glass of wine, and discover the world in a new light beneath the shade of a linden tree!



CHÂTEAU DE PRESSAC

AN ESTATE MAKING HISTORY

witht Jean-François Quenin

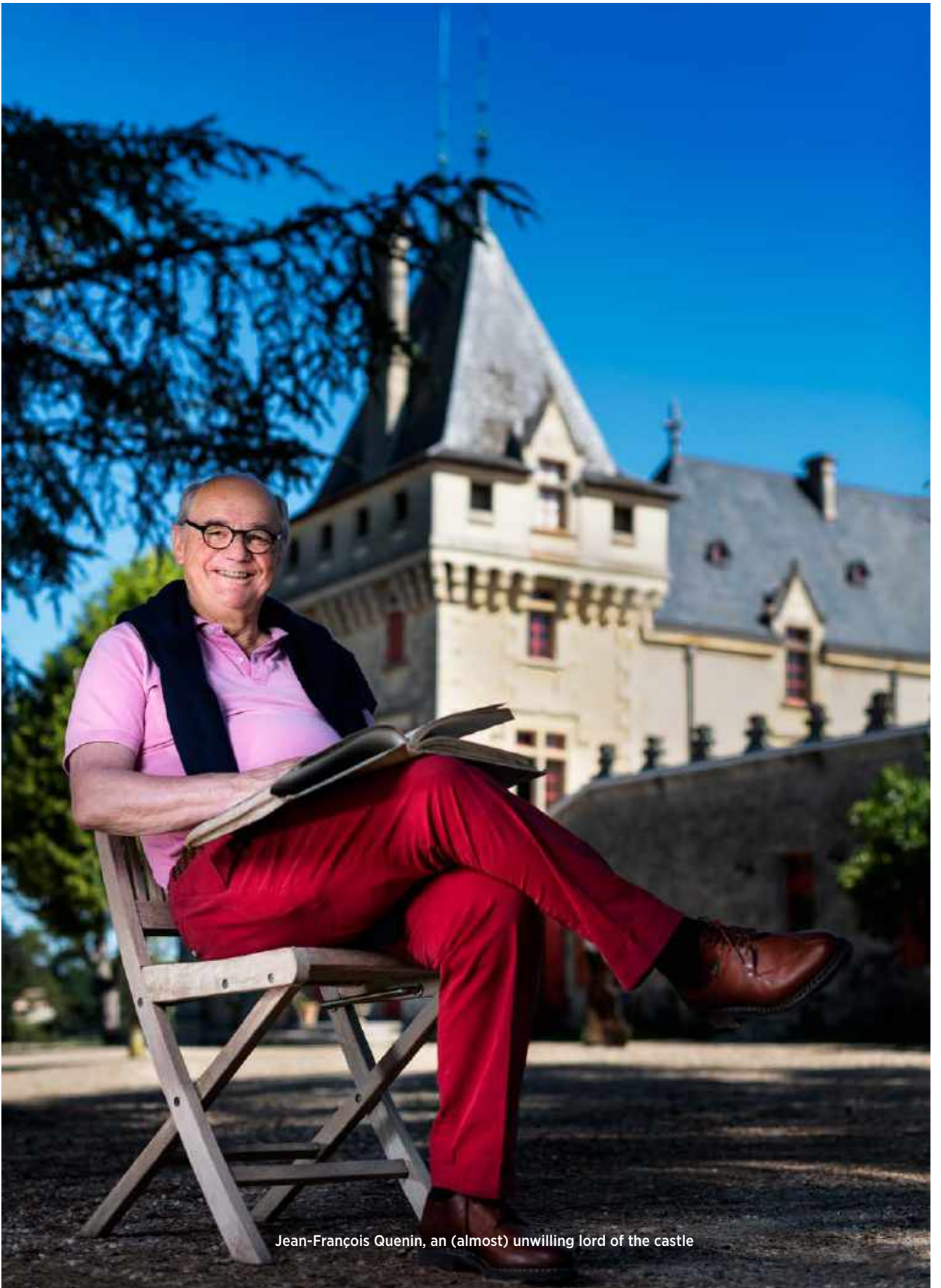
If there is one place in Bordeaux that visitors must see, it is the historic Château de Pressac. For the past 23 years, Jean-François Quenin has been working hard to renovate this estate steeped in history.

The book I am holding contains all of Château de Pressac's sales documents. Its history runs back all the way to the 15th century, without interruption. For example, we can see that there have always been vines here. The current chateau was built in the 1860s and 1870s, but the architect stuck strictly to the plans of the old chateau, which was a total ruin. In many respects, Pressac is a place steeped in history. The English army's surrender that brought the Hundred Years' War to an end was signed here in 1453, after the Battle of Castillon. The Vassal de Montviel, from Cahors, introduced Malbec from his native land to this region under the name 'Noir de Pressac', which remained the most widely-grown grape variety in the area until the phylloxera crisis.

For historical reasons, I have replanted some Malbec. Unfortunately, only old vines make good wine, so this is an initiative that will benefit my children rather than me. Our current grape variety is Merlot, which produces par-

ticularly complex, refined wines in our limestone-heavy, very meagre soils.

Anyone who sees me sitting in front of my chateau might think me a country squire, but when I came here 23 years ago I began by taking care of the vineyards, which were in a terrible state, even though I was originally looking to buy a country house rather than an ancient wine chateau. The chateau was the last thing we tackled - we fixed the roof because the rain was coming in and the electrical wiring because we were afraid that a fire might break out. We began by renovating a single room, and then whatever else we needed. Wine has always been the priority here, even if we now welcome 10,000 visitors a year. Many come not for the wine, but for the impressive location. People sometimes ask me why they never see me sitting on a horse with a feather in my cap. My answer is always the same: I'm not a lord of the castle, I'm an everyman!

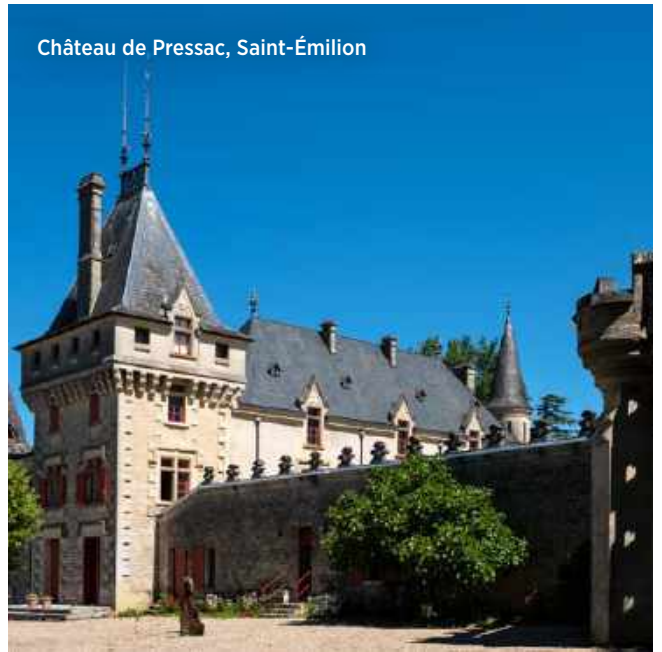


Jean-François Quenin, an (almost) unwilling lord of the castle





Château de Pressac, Saint-Émilion





A fan of traditional cuisine with a twist: Angélus director Stéphanie de Bouard-Rivoal

ANGÉLUS

EATING UP ADVENTURES

With Stéphanie de Boüard-Rivoal

Stéphanie de Boüard-Rivoal has adventure in her blood. The director of this Premier Cru Classé A now also runs two culinary temples in the region: Le Logis de la Cadène in Saint-Émilion and Le Gabriel in Bordeaux.



I'll begin with a truism: wine and food belong together. Even a wine as high-quality, sought-after, and thus rare as Angélus belongs on the table, and this is especially true for our other wines. It seemed obvious that the experiences enjoyed by visitors to our estate should extend to gastronomy. Rather than opening a restaurant at Angélus, I was fortunate enough to be able to acquire one of the oldest establishments in Saint-Émilion, the 'Logis de la Cadène'. 'Logis' is a truly family place at the heart of the town, whilst Angélus is somewhat on the outskirts: this allowed me to bring the spirit of Angélus right to the heart of things. In Alexandre Baumard, supported by head pastry chef Damien Amilien, I also found an experienced top chef who shared my philosophy completely. Angélus is a family estate, and 'Logis' is also tied to a family's history. I wanted to preserve and continue this history, for example in the kitchen with traditional, local dishes given a modern spin.

The next step was also a logical one: daring to move out of the rural, medieval town and into the big city of

Bordeaux. The restaurant 'Gabriel' is in a centrally located historic building on Place de la Bourse. It represents the international side of Angélus, and thus Bordeaux. 'Logis de la Cadène' with its shady terrace is small and cosy, but our talented chefs can feel that they are rather restricted there, hampering their creative energy. At 'Gabriel' they can now express their creativity to the full! With a bar and terrace, bistro and restaurant, 'Gabriel' has plenty to offer. The restaurant is designed to be a real showcase for Bordeaux wines – and not just for Angélus! The same goes for 'Logis de la Cadène': our wines of course appear on the wine list, but they are not alone – the nearly 1000 examples featured come from 20 top regions in France and across the world, with wines from Georgia, South Africa, Australia and the USA.

As the director of Angélus, I represent the eighth generation of the family. Since taking on this role, I have had one adventure after another: becoming a Premier Grand Cru Classé A in 2012, major renovation work at the estate, acquiring two restaurants. I am definitely never bored!



A cosy terrace: Logis de la Cadène, Saint-Émilion



Fillet of beef with gnocchi





Magnificent views: restaurant Le Gabriel, Bordeaux

'Le Gabriel illustrates the cosmopolitan, international side of Château Angéhus, and Bordeaux as a whole.'

Stéphanie de Bouïard-Rivoal



Talented head chef: Alexandre Baumard



BEAUREGARD

COUNTRY LIVING

With Vincent Priou

Vincent Priou has been running this organic Pomerol estate for many years, and is part of its success. The immaculate reception that this idyllic country estate provides is particularly important to him.



Beauregard means 'beautiful view'. That says it all! Of course, it is the quality of the wine that matters, but would our wines honestly have enjoyed the same success if they had come from anonymous wine factories? Drinking a glass of Beauregard also means enjoying an injection of culture and *joie de vivre*.

Beauregard is a wonderful place, definitely one of the most beautiful in Pomerol. However, Beauregard is not a temple of luxury. Beauregard is a small, well-proportioned 18th-century *chartreuse* with a terrace, lily pond and magnificent park, surrounded by vines. Although it is first and foremost a winery, a place like this needs to be brought to life. Welcoming guests was therefore an obvious step for us, especially as only very few estates in the appellation are open to the public with a professional face. We wanted our renovation work to preserve the intimate yet familiar atmosphere characteristic of Beauregard. For example, we decided not to restore the facades. They have centuries under their belt, and that should be visible. For the interior design, we did not go for a collection of antique furniture

that no-one would dare to use – instead, we stayed true to the 18th-century style, but with modern design.

Of course, we are not geared towards mass tourism. We have no interest in working with cruise operators. What interests us is sharing what we call the 'Beauregard experience'. Our guests should be able to see up close how things work at our winery, understand the philosophy of certified organic cultivation to which we committed ten years ago, and experience the elegant, well-balanced, complex style of our wines. As well as tours, tastings and shopping opportunities in our well-stocked shop, we also have five comfortable guest rooms available. This allows guests to truly experience living at a top wine estate. We even have an arrangement with a restaurant (*La Table de Catusseau*) a stone's throw away to provide meals that can be enjoyed at the estate upon request. Anyone who stays here will see Beauregard from an entirely new perspective. They will say: there are 100,000 bottles of fine wine in the world, but only one estate like Beauregard, and I was there!



Vincent Priou with cellar master Guillaume Frédoux



Roxane Gomez, reception





Caroline Frey, wine composer

LA LAGUNE

LIKE A CHOPIN NOCTURNE

with Caroline Frey

Caroline Frey runs wine estates in Switzerland, Burgundy and the Rhone Valley with a steady hand and agile touch. Her debut was the Cru Classé La Lagune in Haut-Médoc.



The piano is a very special instrument. It requires great concentration, coordination and regular practice. Unfortunately, I don't have much spare time at the moment, but for 15 years I have spent several hours a day at my instrument. As Bernstein so aptly put it, 'he who knows only music understands nothing about it'. The same goes for wine. When people ask me if it is difficult to make wine in the Rhone Valley, Burgundy, Switzerland and also here in the Haut-Médoc, I answer that a pianist also has to be able to perform Chopin, Beethoven or Bach.

In wine, as in music, technique is simply a means of achieving freedom. If you focus entirely on technique, you will never manage to perform a masterpiece such as Chopin's nocturnes both correctly and with heart and soul. In winemaking, technique is the foundation that supports me. It gives me the security I need.

In music, particularly classical repertoire, I sense the same vibrations as in a great terroir. There are pieces that

you are constantly rediscovering, and terroirs that you constantly want to reinterpret. People who want to get to the bottom of things and ask 'why are you the way you are?' will never gain a full answer but will always be closely connected to the score, the starting point for everything.

People and teachers play a key role in my life – above all the oenologist Denis Dubourdieu, with whom I studied and pressed my very first wine. In 2002 and 2003, I lived with him and looked after his estates Reynon and Clos Floridène. I learned huge amounts: about the technical side of winemaking, of course, but even more so about Denis's philosophy. He encouraged me to take on La Lagune when I was just 26. We have achieved a lot since then. Thanks in no small part to organic cultivation, La Lagune has developed a distinct personality made up of reticence and natural charm. When I breathe in a glass of wine, I do not expect it to reveal everything in an instant. I want to discover it gradually. Like a Chopin nocturne.



«La Lagune has a strong personality, made of restraint and natural charm.»

Caroline Frey



BRANE-CANTENAC

WELCOME HOME!

with Henri Lurton

Technical director Christophe Capdeville, Marie H el ene Dussech (PR) and owner Henri Lurton are the driving forces behind this Cru Class e in Margaux, which has been open to visitors since 2016.



I grew up at Brane-Cantenac. My parents bought the historic Cru Class e just after they got married and my 94-year-old father still lives in the chateau, which is surrounded by a ten-hectare park. Brane is therefore one of the few M edoc chateaus that is inhabited all year round.

To me, Brane-Cantenac is a place brimming with memories. I cannot walk past the countless old rose bushes adorning our rows of vines without thinking of my mother, who planted them. Her fragrant bouquets were legendary! We lived a truly rural life here. I cycled to visit our neighbours the Bartons, Sichels or Lichines. We almost never had any visitors.

Today, things are completely different. In 2016, we decided to create a reception area and shop. It stands between the old fermentation cellar (which has since been renovated) and the vines. Visitors can sit comfortably on a sofa or armchair and look at each other with a glass of wine in hand. I was personally responsible for the furnishings,

and focused on comfort, style and longevity. When I take something on, it has to be for the long-term. The old oak beams above visitors' heads highlight the long history of the building, which dates back to the late 18th century. It is the oldest part of Brane still standing. We wanted visitors to feel at home here and to be able to take some of the magic of this unique place home with them. Of course, they can also buy a few bottles of wine, something that was once virtually impossible in the M edoc. This was both frustrating and most likely one of the reasons why our estates were maligned as being unapproachable and standoffish.

The beating heart of Brane is the wonderful 30-hectare gravel hilltop immediately opposite. It has particularly deep gravel soils over a clay base and is planted with Cabernet Sauvignon. The vines here never want for water and also benefit from natural drainage. We do not get any frost, and the Cabernet ripens evenly and early. More than two thirds of our top wine is harvested from this vineyard.

'Brane is one of the Médoc's last true family estates with inhabitants all year round. My 94-year-old father still lives in the chateau where I grew up.'

Henri Lurton





LAFON ROCHET

A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR HEALTHY GRAPES

with Basile Tesson

Basile likes to personally take visitors on a tour of this romantic family estate in Saint-Estèphe. In the vineyards surrounding the Cru Classé, he explains his holistic philosophy.



Wine tourism in Bordeaux is not a recent invention. We have always welcomed visitors to Lafon Rochet – of course, not always as professionally as today, but with no less warmth. When I was young, I spent entire weekends washing glasses while my father looked after the guests. By 16 I was showing visitors around the estate myself. When I came on board here in 2007, we had a small shop, and my father, his assistant or our cellar master were still welcoming visitors. The only thing that has really changed about all this is the rhythm and the increasing numbers of people interested in visiting. For the past four years we have been open daily from May to November, and five days a week for the rest of the year. When we renovated and extended our reception areas, I wanted to make sure that they offered views of the vineyards. Lafon Rochet truly sits among its vines! The winery is of course also open to visitors, but we start by taking them on a tour of the vines, where it all begins. We also always keep the vineyard in sight during the tasting.

During the first few years, my work frequently took me away travelling. Two years ago that all changed. I told my-

self: the winemaking happens here, the vines grow here, so this is where I belong! I now only rarely leave the estate, and I have become a part of its ecosystem. My father lives at Lafon Rochet and my wife owns a wine estate nearby (Château Larrivau in Cissac, Haut-Médoc). Why should I need to roam?

I opt for a different sort of travel – inside my own head. I have put a lot of thought into the future of winegrowing. Over the next 20 years, my goal is to be able to do away with any sort of curative or preventative vine treatment, rather than just replacing one method with another. I want to approach the vineyard as a whole. It should be an easy task: if the vines are able to put up a fight by themselves, they will not need any further remedies. A natural forest is able to regenerate itself. We must improve natural interactions between flora and fauna. A healthy environment strengthens the vines. We are planting the rows of vines with plants tailored to the relevant soil type, and also adding hedgerows – 13 kilometres of them over the next two years. Among other things, these serve as relay points for bats, the best insect repellents of all.



'We have always welcomed visitors here at Lafon Rochet. When I was young, I spent entire weekends washing glasses. I still take guests on tours of the vines myself.'

Basile Tesseron



Bénédicte, Charlotte and Yaëlle, Château Lascombes's dazzling reception team



LASCOMBES

HEARTFELT AND CHARMING

with Dominique Befve

At Château Lascombes, Margaux's most famous Cru Classé, for the past three years three charming women have been taking the time to welcome visitors in a stylish 'chartreuse' at the estate's entrance.

Bordeaux has long been derided as being unapproachable and inaccessible. However, many things have changed. Almost all of the top estates now welcome guests, including Lascombes. Visitors need to feel at home here and leave the estate with a tear in their eye! To this end, three years ago we completely renovated the rather dilapidated 'chartreuse' at the entrance to the estate. It now houses our shop, where the items on sale include our two wines, Lascombes and Chevalier de Lascombes. Visitors are welcomed and given advice here. Demand is high: the three members of staff responsible for receiving visitors all have their hands full! We offer a variety of options, from an estate tour and tasting to a picnic in the chateau park or a proper dinner in the chateau itself. We tried to keep everyone's needs in mind when fitting out the chartreuse. As well as tasting tables, there are also some comfortable

sofas where you can relax after a tasting, and even some highchairs. Children should not be left to get bored while the adults sip from glasses - they can have a go at painting the chateau, or our symbol of a lion. The chartreuse has been kept in typical Médoc style. It once belonged to Château Ségonne, an estate that was acquired by Lascombes around 50 years ago.

I took over Lascombes in 2001. At the time, wine tourism was not really a consideration. We had to start by looking after the neglected vineyards and outdated facilities. We revamped the winery from the ground up, keeping our staff's well-being as a top priority. Everything had to be functional with state-of-the-art technology. We are currently expanding the fermentation cellar and bottle store - the vineyards have now grown to around 130 hectares and we need more space.

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GRAND-PUY DUCASSE & CO

A LIVELY GANG

with Anne Le Naour

'Teamwork is everything', says the talented oenologist who has been responsible for winemaking at all of the CA Grands Crus estates for the past year, leading her well-oiled team with style and charm.



We live in a world of stars, but making wine is a team effort. Success requires a dedicated, well-oiled team. This is why I like the image on the next page so much: it shows us as a Peaky-Blinders-esque gang of rogues, complete with a wink! This is very apt, because some of us have known and appreciated each other for a very long time, and grown together in the figurative sense within the CA Grands Crus group. The estates we look after may not be the most glittering in Bordeaux, but we believe in their potential and work hard to boost both the quality of their wines and their image. The men and women shown on the next page represent our estates much better than I could or would want to on my own, even though I am now responsible for the overall management. With Grand-Puy Ducasse, Meyney, Blaignan and Clos Saint-Vincent, we manage around 200 hectares of vines in Bordeaux.

As a 'lively gang of rogues', we have also done away with Bordeaux's established, sometimes rather gridlocked hierarchy. Take Meyney: with its long history (Meyney dates back to a monastery founded in 1662) and its 50

hectares of top-quality soils overlooking the Gironde between Montrose and Calon-Ségur, the estate more than earned its classification in 1855. For decades, the estate has produced particularly characterful, long-lasting wines, even in climatically difficult years. Grand-Puy Ducasse in Pauillac (also classified in 1855) is a special estate, and not just because it is one of the smallest in the appellation: it also has a particularly complex network of plots. Every Pauillac terroir type is represented! GPD is perhaps the estate that best represents the appellation's typology. However, its scattered, widely ranging plots do not exactly make winemaking easy. I am therefore delighted that in three years' time, we will have a new winery that allows us to vinify every single plot separately. Château Blaignan is an extensive 100-hectare estate on clay and limestone soils, primarily planted with Merlot. We produce a particularly appealing wine here. And Clos Saint-Vincent, the fourth Bordeaux estate under the CA group (the wine division of the bank Crédit Agricole), is a small but perfectly formed Saint-Émilion Grand Cru.

Benjamin Cassoulet, head of Grand-Puy Ducasse, Pauillac;
Xavier Daury, viticulturalist at Grand-Puy Ducasse, Pauillac;
Fabien Faget, head of Château Meyney, Saint-Estèphe;
Olivier Collas, head of Château Blaignan, Médoc





Anne Le Naour, oenologist and director of all CA Grands Crus estates;
Françoise Castagnet, head of Clos Saint-Vincent in Saint-Émilion;
Thomas Hernandez, cellar master at Château Meyney



DE SALES

SLEEPING BEAUTY HAS AWAKENED

with Marine Treppoz

The oldest family estate in Pomerol has awakened from its deep sleep and is once again creating particularly charming wines. The driving forces behind this progress are Marine Treppoz and Vincent Montigaud.

With 47.6 hectares of vines as a single piece of land, Château de Sales is the largest estate in Pomerol – and has been owned by a single large family for 500 years! There are currently 14 of us, and with our children De Sales will soon have 45 owners. Until 2017, the estate was run by my uncle Bruno de Lambert. When it came to the question of who would succeed him, we all agreed on one thing: we absolutely would not be selling up! We all spent our summer holidays here, and De Sales is part of our history.

We therefore joined forces to found a company, and appointed an experienced wine expert as general director in the shape of Vincent Montigaud. As president of the nine-person administrative board, I serve as the link between Vincent and the rest of my family. It helped that we had been preparing for the handover since 2012. We gathered large amounts of information, held lots of discussions and used this to develop a common philosophy.

We did not want to just quickly polish up the estate and then sell it on to the highest bidder – instead, we wanted to make long-term investments that would ensure we could pass the estate on to our children. However, we do not have the resources that large groups do, so we have to tackle things gradually. Vincent's experience has been very helpful in this regard: he knows that it is not just the quality of the wines that matters, but also our image. For a long time, De Sales's lack of communications made it a sleeping beauty. We have gently awakened it from its sleep. We have already made considerable progress in terms of winemaking techniques and have plenty of plans for the rest. Château de Sales, surrounded by a cosy park, stands in an idyllic spot amongst its vineyards, offering unique biodiversity and historic buildings. It has huge potential. We will of course proceed cautiously – history demands it.



Mutual strength: director Vincent Montigaud, president Marine Treppoz

CHÂTEAU OLIVIER

TRAVELLING THROUGH TIME

by Barbara Schroeder

Château Olivier in Pessac-Léognan, owned by the long-established Bethmann family, is one of the oldest estates in the region. A visit to this picturesque site is an unforgettable experience.



There are some places that nobody ever forgets. Château Olivier is one of them. Every time I turn onto the road leading to the estate, bouncing at walking pace along the gravel path and diving deeper into the monumental oak forest, I feel like I have entered a tunnel that is transporting me back through time into the distant Middle Ages. There are numerous legends surrounding the chateau (itself a listed building), whose history dates back to the 11th century. 500 years later, a nobleman called Artus d'Olivey updated the former hunting lodge into its current form of a stronghold with fortified towers, arrow slits, moat and retractable bridge – even if every generation of owners since has changed or improved something, and the chateau has been renovated multiple times as a result of fire. For travellers who are only in Bordeaux for a short time but still want to visit an estate, Olivier is perfect – just 30 minutes from the city centre in the wine region now known as Pessac-Léog-

nan, where 'new great Bordeaux' was invented in the 16th and 17th centuries. As well as enjoying an exciting class covering wine history and the art of winemaking, visitors to the estate can also partake in nature studies: despite their proximity to the city, the 60 contiguous hectares of excellent vineyards with limestone and gravel soils stand amid a unique nature reserve, a green island made up of 220 hectares of meadows and forests with a very special microclimate, unspoilt ecosystem, and an almost overwhelming abundance of different plants, trees, birds and game.

The spacious winery building dates from the 18th century. It calls a brief halt to our travels through time, as here we use state-of-the-art equipment to condense the essence of this unique place into bottle form: a stunningly mineral white wine bursting with character and sophistication, and a harmonious, particularly refined red wine with no shortage of structure.



Château Olivier may be a medieval stronghold, but when it comes to winemaking the estate is cutting edge.



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SMITH HAUT LAFITTE

ROMANCE IN GREEN

with Florence Cathiard

Florence and Daniel Cathiard have carried out plenty of pioneering work over the past 30 years. They have long worked in harmony with nature, and have transformed Smith into a true El Dorado for wine travellers.



Harvest in the estate's own herb garden: owner Florence Cathiard with viticulturalist Nicolas Poumeyreau.





'At Smith Haut Lafitte, we live in harmony with nature. We want to share this philosophy with our visitors.'

Florence Cathiard

Smith Haut Lafitte stands amid 25 hectares of cultivated land (which we call land art) and 60 hectares of forest. In this unique environment, we have created a 'path for the senses' for our visitors. It winds its way through the estate and is designed to stimulate all five senses. Accompanied by the chirping of birds, babbling of the brook and rustling of the leaves on the trees, every hundred metres walkers can for example examine artworks created by local and European artists in harmony with nature. The path ends in our 'tisagerie', where we store the dried plants that we use to nurture our vines: vetches, wormwood, stinging nettles, yarrow, comfrey, ferns, horsetail and much more. We go through around 10 to 15 kilos of plants a year, the majority of which come from our woodland and our two herb gardens. The walk takes about two hours to complete, depending on visitors' fitness levels. Visitors can collect the key that opens the relevant doors and gates from our shop. Our goal is to share our passion for unspoilt nature and our philosophy of biodynamics and herb treatments for vines with visitors from all over the world.

Daniel and I have now completed 30 harvests at Smith. We began organic cultivation very early on – initially, not always with the greatest of success. We wanted to make the switch overnight, but vines do not work like that, something we had to learn the hard way. However, Smith has now been certified for a year. The next step is to put the experience we have gained to use at Le Thil and Cantelys, our other two estates.

Viticulturalist Nicolas Poumeyreau shares our philosophy completely and introduced us to biodynamic cultivation. Nicolas spends all day in the vineyards in order to understand what the vines want him to know, which significantly shapes how he responds to them. The plant preparations he uses send messages to the vines that enable them to put up a better fight. For example, he applies silicon and vetches when there is heavy rainfall, signalling to the vines that they need to straighten up. In a cool April, horsetail and nettles promote growth. I am convinced that our methods have a positive impact on the finished wines, which boast clear contours and great transparency.



TRONQUOY-LALANDE

GRAND CRU (NON) CLASSÉ

with Yves Delsol and H el ene Brochet

Saint-Est ephe has numerous exceptional estates that were overlooked in the 1855 classification. These include Tronquoy-Lalande, belonging to Montrose's owners Martin and Olivier Bouygues, which is well worth a visit.



Estate director Yves Delsol and director of communications H el ene Brochet



'An extended visit is the perfect way to truly discover the quality of a great wine estate!'

Hélène Brochet

Saint-Estèphe is the Haut-Médoc commune that is the farthest away from Bordeaux. When the mighty 1855 classification was created, it took half a day to get there! As a result, this area only has very few Crus Classés, but boasts a handful of unclassified estates that are nevertheless worthy of this accolade. Tronquoy-Lalande is one of these. Martin and Olivier Bouygues acquired Tronquoy in 2006, alongside Château Montrose. Like Montrose, it is managed by Hervé Berland. Estate director Yves Delsol has been responsible for winemaking activities for the past 30 years and therefore has huge experience with Tronquoy, providing the necessary continuity during the transfer.

An extended visit is the perfect way to truly discover the quality of a wine, so Tronquoy now also welcomes interested wine enthusiasts from all over the world. The very educational tour (lasting around 45 minutes) introduces you to our vineyard practices, which are as environmentally friendly as possible. It follows the grapes' path from vine to winery and also takes in our considerable collection of old bottles. This naturally also includes a tasting, and anyone who wishes to do so can buy a couple of bottles, including of older vintages that are already mature.

Tronquoy-Lalande is particularly worth a visit in every respect. The high-quality vineyards form a compact belt around the elegant chateau, constructed by Victor Louis in the 18th century. And Victor Louis is no unknown: he also created the city of Bordeaux's monumental historic theatre. The fermentation cellar with its 22 tanks tailored to each plot (16 of which are divided into two to enable the must to run from the upper to the lower compartment using gravity) and the barrel store were completely redesigned and updated to the latest technical standards in 2010. We therefore work with the same precision and care as a true Grand Cru Classé, regardless of what history has to say.

Tronquoy Lalande has the polish, sophistication and elegance of the traditional great Saint-Estèphes, but also a particularly velvety, full-bodied texture thanks to the very high proportion of Merlot, which offers very good results in our gravel and clay soils that also benefit from being close to the Gironde. Tronquoy also produces a dry white wine, another estate speciality.





BARTON X 3

LÉOVILLE, LANGOA, MAUVESIN

with Lilian Barton Sartorius

The Barton family is one of the oldest wine families that is still active in Bordeaux. Their three wines offer the very elements that give Bordeaux its charm: sensuality, elegance and great harmony.

In Bordeaux, there are great vintages and vintages that are forgotten. However, the former are not necessarily better than the latter. 2014 is one of these forgotten years, but I particularly like its wines because they offer captivating charm. Bulk is not everything when it comes to wine – the 2014s have elegance and finesse, across all three of the wines I want to talk about here.

What they have in common is that they all reflect our philosophy. We never jumped on the bandwagon of weighty, heavily extracted wines: this does not square with either our family tradition or with Bordeaux itself. To me, Bordeaux means listening to your terroir and expressing it with precision and flair. In both Saint-Julien and Moulis, we produce wines that offer plenty of individual character and above all proverbial elegance. Experience has shown that grapes harvested too late lose their character, because they become sweeter which increases the potential alcohol level. We therefore do all we can to set the harvest dates as precisely as possible. I would rather bottle a light, slender, easy-drinking wine than a fleshy but horribly indigestible and ostentatious example. You cannot extract what you do not have. 2014 is also very dear to me for personal family reasons: my father Anthony was withdrawing slowly but surely from professional life, and

my two children Mélanie and Damien came on board in his place. There has never been any pressure from me: Anthony should remain active for as long as he continues to enjoy the work.

Anthony lives at Langoa, the first estate our family acquired (in 1821), with its chateau and winery. We then acquired Léoville's vineyards five years later. I particularly like Langoa, perhaps precisely because it has always been somewhat in the shadow of the mightier Léoville. Langoa is harmonious and well-rounded. It can be opened very young, yet still has astonishing potential to age. From 1985 to 2013 we lived in a wing at Langoa, and then we moved to Mauvesin in Moulis. Mauvesin was my idea. Mélanie gained her first experience as an oenologist here.

We divide our work up well: Mélanie is still looking after repairs and restorations at Mauvesin, although we have already made significant progress. She will then be getting more involved in the technical wine side of things at our two Saint-Julien estates. Damien has become an ambassador for Langoa, which we want to bring out of Léoville's shadow, and I keep a watchful eye on all three estates. The Barton family has long got involved locally on our wine estates with plenty of hard work. We aren't afraid to get our hands dirty!



One family, three wines: Léoville Barton, Langoa Barton and Mauvesin Barton

BORDEAUX EN PRIMEUR 2019

TOP QUALITY AND TOP VALUE

Text and tasting:
Barbara Schroeder
(pictured) and
Rolf Bichsel



'Vintages remain in people's memories based not least on their emotional substance, on the personal or general context in which they come into existence', as the luminaries of the University of Bordeaux's wine institute wrote in their annual report. We can but agree. 2019 will forever be the 'vintage before the crisis'. However, 2019 is also a special vintage in other respects. It is an excellent illustration of how vineyard work is becoming increasingly difficult as a result of advancing global warming. The old rules no longer apply, and there are no ready-made solutions. Anyone seeking to make a fine wine needs to work with nature, rather than against it.

The 2019 year in Bordeaux began with an extremely mild winter followed by a very damp spring, curbing the vigour of the early sprouting vines. The weather also remained unstable during the blossoming season in the first half of June, causing coulure in the grapes in some places. Weather conditions improved in the second half of June, but summer storms still resulted in vine development varying from site to site. August was dry and warm, interspersed with cooler days, and the beginning of September was tropically hot and dry. Rainfall returned at just the right time, from 20 September onwards. In general, these conditions benefited all three wine types.

The white wines could be harvested very early and quickly. They are full but with supporting acidity, and interesting floral and fresh fruit aromas without any overripe notes. The same goes for the sweet wines, which could also be brought in exceptionally quickly and early. They may not have the concentration of top botrytis years with multiple passes during the harvest, but they are particularly fruity, juicy and elegant. People who accuse this type of wine of being occasionally clumsy and indigestibly sweet will love the 2019 vintage. The red wines have considerable but not excessive alcohol levels, and are immensely fruity and astonishingly fresh thanks to good acidity and lots of amazingly smooth tannins, coming primarily from the grape skins. The particular combination of impetuous fruitiness and juiciness, full body, well-proportioned alcohol, polished tannins and a lack of overripe notes means that in our view, 2019 is one of the great Bordeaux vintages, and we can also recommend making an 'en primeur' purchase of fine Bordeaux given the falling prices. As many prices had already been announced before the print deadline, we have picked out some particular bargains as either a hit price (below €30) or a top buy (generally €30 to €40). Please note that all prices are given with no guarantees!

RED WINES

CHATEAUS FROM A TO V

A

Château Andron Blanquet
Saint-Estèphe
16 points | 2025 to 2035

PREISBIT
13 EURO

Tempting spice, well-proportioned oak; spirited, fresh, vibrant, tart and lingering. A hit price and a fun wine.

Château Angélu
Saint-Émilion
18.5 points | 2029 to 2050

Bewitchingly clean, promising aromas, full in the attack, leisurely development, particularly spirited, deep and dense with silky tannins offering mineral polish and a generous, lingering finish; precisely defined, refined, perfectly balanced, exceptionally made.

Château Angludet
Margaux
16.5 points | 2027 to 2035

Stunning fruity nose of raspberry jam aromas, full in the attack, creamy development, with soft, cosy fullness and very ripe, powdery yet well-rounded tannins, but still fresh; an idiosyncratic wine that needs to mature somewhat.

B

Château Balestard La Tonnelle
Saint-Émilion
15.5 points | 2027 to 2032

Vague nose, robust in the attack, firm in style with fresh tannins and a lingering finish.

Château Barde-Haut
Saint-Émilion
16 points | 2026 to 2032

Tempting nose of spice, berries and herbs, then full-bodied with juicy tannins and a lingering dark chocolate finish.

Château Batailley
Pauillac
18.5 points | 2030 to 2050

TOP-BUY
36 EURO

A reticent yet very promising nose of fresh cherries with a lovely touch of lilac, full in the attack, immensely dense development, high-quality tannins offering exquisite polish, and a lingering finish; combines fullness with sophistication and refinement.

Château Beau-Séjour Bécot
Saint-Émilion

17.5 points | 2025 to 2035

After a few years taking a detour into the global wine style, we are now back to the 'good old' Beau-Séjour Bécot, or even better: its old elegance and freshness in a more refined, even more precise wine.

Château Beau Site
Saint-Estèphe
15 points | 2029 to 2040

Very angular, robust, even rather rustic in style with high acidity, needs to mature.

Château Beaugard
Pomerol

TOP-BUY
45 EURO

19 points | 2029 to 2040

Absolutely stunning, subtle, promising nose of flowers, herbs and mineral touches, full in the attack with an immensely dense structure, hugely sophisticated, weighty and immensely lingering; one of the best of the vintage.

Château Beauséjour Duffau Lagarosse
Saint-Émilion
18 points | 2029 to 2040

Nose of fresh blackberries and plums, weighty development with top-quality, dense, angular tannins and good length; stylish, exceptionally made.

Château Bel Air
Pomerol

15.5 points | 2024 to 2029

Clean with well-balanced oak and forest berry notes, fresh in the attack, well-structured with well-integrated alcohol, harmonious, well made.

Château Bel Orme Tronquoy de Lalande
Haut-Médoc
16 points | 2025 to 2032

Well-balanced structure with a juicy and crisp finish, harmonious; easy drinking, joyful and thoroughly recommended.

Château Belair Monange
Saint-Émilion
18 points | 2027 to 2040

Subtly fruity and floral, offering elegance, minerality, particular sophistication and a lingering, peppery, refreshing finish.

Château Belgrave
Haut-Médoc

PREISBIT
20 EURO

17 points | 2027 to 2035

Pleasing aromatic potential with well-balanced oak, powerful in the attack, dense and powdery tannins, and a lingering finish that is still shaped by ageing yet remains particularly juicy; authentic and exceptionally made.

Château Bellefont Belcier
Saint-Émilion
15.5 points | 2025 to 2030

Clean on the nose with floral, fruity and spice aromas, medium structure, lively tannins, not overly rich in extract and shaped by oak.

Château Bellegrave
Pomerol

15.5 points | 2022 to 2028

Fruity and shaped by oak, full in the attack, rich structure, full-bodied with ripe, polished, fresh tannins, ending with very lingering black berry notes; fun.

Château Bellevue
Saint-Émilion
16.5 points | 2023 to 2030

Fruity and juicy, joyful, but with the body it needs; will be enjoyable drunk young but could still mature. One of the best wines ever made by this estate.

Château Berliquet
Saint-Émilion
16 points | 2026 to 2035

Particularly tart, in slender and dense style, perhaps a little more reserved than other wines at this stage. Can only increase its score.

Château Beychevelle
Saint-Julien
16 points | 2027 to 2040

Shaped by ageing, herbaceous, fruity and spicy, then corpulent in the attack, well-made and fruity with lively tannins and a tart, fruity finish; a very good representation of its style.

Château Bonalgue
Pomerol
16 points | 2025 to 2035

Combines freshness, juiciness and balance into a very coherent whole with polished tannins, one of the best wines we have ever tasted from here.

Château Bourgneuf
Pomerol**16.5 points | 2027 to 2035**

Fresh blackberry aromas on the nose, full in the attack, a dense and juicy structure, top-quality tannins and a lingering finish: a hit.

Château Bouscaut
Pessac-Léognan**16.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Stunningly fruity, velvety and very well balanced in style, delicious, juicy, appealing in the best sense, impeccably made.

Château Boyd Cantenac
Margaux**17 points | 2030 to 2045**

Reticent, compact, dense and tart in style, well structured, full-bodied; an authentic, characterful wine.

Château Branaire Ducru
Saint-Julien**TOP-BUY**
33 EURO**18 points | 2030 to 2050**

Superb floral nose, full and immensely juicy in the attack, dense yet also elegant development with refined, floral, hugely fresh tannins and good length; a wonderful wine, up there with the best vintages.

Château Brane-Cantenac
Margaux**18.5 points | 2029 to 2050**

Fruity and spicy aromas, full in the attack with rich, even weighty development, first-class tannins that provide structure amid the pleasantly fruity and juicy fullness, and an endlessly lingering finish; a generously lively wine, a true reflection of the vintage.

C**Château Cadet Bon**
Saint-Émilion**16 points | 2025 to 2029**

Subtle nose with floral and fruity touches, slender in the attack, elegant in style, well balanced with velvety tannins, good length, and the freshness and sophistication it needs; enjoyable.

Château Calon Ségur
Saint-Estèphe**17.5 points | 2030 to 2050**

A sample very shaped by ageing (lots of oak); hugely meaty and full but with top-quality tannins offering unique polish, if not the phenomenal elegance of the best Calon vintages.

Château Camensac
Haut-Médoc**PREISHIT**
20 EURO**17 points | 2027 to 2035**

Subtle nose, becoming more shaped by ageing, then intense in the attack with a dense, rich structure and tart yet well-integrated tannins with the freshness they need, and a lingering black berry finish; a full-bodied wine in cultivated style.

Château Canon
Saint-Émilion**19.5 points | 2027 to 2040**

Remaining subtle on the nose, but on the palate the wine opens up with the full sophistication of an exceptional terroir: stunningly silky and fresh with top-quality tannins, deliciously and elegantly juicy and refined with sheer minerality and transparency.

Château Canon la Gaffelière
Saint-Émilion**17.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Particularly fruity and floral with violet and blackcurrant notes, full in the attack, a fresh and elegant structure, fine-grained tannins; a pure delight.

Château Cantelauze
Pomerol**15.5 points | 2022 to 2029**

Perceptible freshness right from the attack, medium structure, lively tannins, good length, ending with lovely berry notes.

Château Cantelys
Pessac-Léognan**15 points | 2023 to 2028**

Rather intrusive oak notes, angular in style with good length, very dry in the finish.

Château Cantemerle
Haut-Médoc**PREISHIT**
20 EURO**16.5 points | 2027 to 2035**

A spicy and fruity nose, well-balanced structure, fruity with robust tannins and a tart finish; authentic, classic.

Château Cantenac Brown
Margaux**17.5 points | 2029 to 2040**

Exceptional aromatic quality, juicy in the attack, particularly spirited and lingering, taut and fresh with top-quality tannins; once again an outstanding success.

Château Cap de Mourlin
Saint-Émilion**15.5 points | 2028 to 2034**

Perceptible oak spice, angular and full-bodied with perceptibly grainy tannins, still needs to mature.

Château Capbern Gasqueton
Saint-Estèphe**15.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Powerful nose of black berry notes, full in the attack, meaty with well-integrated, grainy tannins and a heady finish.

Château Carbonnieux
Pessac-Léognan**PREISHIT**
26 EURO**18 points | 2027 to 2045**

Subtle nose shaped by ageing, particularly sophisticated right from the attack, with dense development, top-quality tannins, taut, juicy and lingering; utterly enjoyable, elegant and particularly fruity.

Château Caroline
Moulis en Médoc**15 points | 2025 to 2030**

Compact and juicy in style, massively extracted, good length.

Château Certan de May de Certan
Pomerol**18 points | 2029 to 2040**

Once again offering an astonishing berry and herb nose, as seems to be characteristic of the vintage; immensely crisp and juicy on the palate, definitely full-bodied, yet also hugely fresh, with an endlessly lingering fruity and mineral finish. A hit.

Château Chasse Spleen
Moulis**PREISHIT**
23 EURO**17 points | 2027 to 2040**

Interesting fruity and floral nose, straightforward in the attack, with fresh, slender yet meaty development, polished tannins and perfect length; an immensely stylish, exceptionally made wine designed for easy drinking, living up to its name in this vintage!

Château Chauvin
Saint-Émilion**16.5 points | 2027 to 2032**

Fruity and spicy with fine-grained tannins, fresh and spirited, cultivated in style.

Château Chêne Liège
Pomerol**15 points | 2023 to 2029**

Herbaceous and spicy nose, robust and fresh in style with a tart, fruity finish.

Château Clerc Milon
Pauillac**17 points | 2029 to 2040**

Reticent yet complex and promising, meaty in the attack, weighty structure, with top-quality, particularly fresh and crisp tannins, and a generous finish; an impressive wine that still needs to mature.

Château Corbin**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2025 to 2035**

Reticent spice, full in the attack, dense and meaty structure with top-quality ripe tannins, fullness and spicy length; weighty and heady.

Château Cos d'Estournel**Saint-Estèphe****18 points | 2030 to 2050**

An exquisitely elegant and fresh sample, hugely dense with elegant, refined tannins and perceptible but well-balanced headiness.

Château Cos Labory**Saint-Estèphe****17.5 points | 2029 to 2029**

As always, in virtually exemplary classic style, stylish with wonderfully ripe tannins, meaty, juicy and fresh.

Château Côte de Baleau**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2027 to 2032**

Appealing nose, fruity with blackberry notes, creamy in the attack, well-balanced structure with lively acidity and a lingering finish; harmonious, recommended.

Château Couhins**Pessac-Léognan****17 points | 2027 to 2040**

Delicately spicy and fruity on the nose, of particular interest, then straightforward in the attack with a firm, even robust structure and tannins that are angular but not awkward, instead juicy and grainy; spirited, pleasant, needs to mature.

Château Couhins Lurton**Pessac-Léognan****16.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Wonderful fresh berry nose, particularly juicy, full, even weighty, but also very fruity in style, lively, lingering, fun.

Château Crabitey**Graves****16.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Lovely cassis notes with some mineral touches, full in the attack with meaty, juicy development, perfectly integrated tannins and a generous finish; exceptionally made.

Château Croix des Rouzes**Pomerol****15.5 points | 2022 to 2029**

Weighty in the attack with lively tannins, intense, lots of new oak.

Château Croizet Bages**Pauillac****16 points | 2027 to 2037**

Smooth with a barely angular structure and a pleasantly fresh, fruity and spicy finish.

D**Château Marquis d'Alesme****Margaux****17 points | 2028 to 2038**

Temptingly fruity, straightforward in the attack, well made with polished, fresh tannins and perfect length; stylish, exquisitely fruity and elegant.

Château d'Armailhac**Pauillac****17 points | 2027 to 2035**

Temptingly spicy and fruity, full in the attack, meaty structure with perfectly integrated tannins as dense as they are fresh, and a juicy berry finish; exceptionally made.

Château d'Ecurac**Médoc****15 points | 2025 to 2035**

Subtly spicy and fruity, compact, robust, offering tannins with perceptible grain, and a tart finish.

Château d'Issan**Margaux****18 points | 2030 to 2050**

As always very closed at this stage, but decidedly dense and spirited with high-quality tannins that offer particular minerality and freshness, fantastically lingering; characterful and true to its style, one of those Margaux wines that should not be opened too early.

Château Dalem**Fronsac****15.5 points | 2027 to 2035**

Spicy nose, lots of new oak, firm and powerful structure, robust, with tart tannins; true to its style.

Château Dassault**Saint-Émilion****15 points | 2026 to 2032**

Smoky nose with lots of new oak, a corpulent and firm structure, tart, with perceptible oak notes again in the finish; in keeping with the brand's style.

Château de Fieuzal**Pessac-Léognan****17.5 points | 2027 to 2035**

Lovely berry, herb and pastry spice aromas: we love the elegance and freshness of this wine, which rather than flaunting bulk instead opts to combine density with charm, offering crisp, silky tannins without a trace of harshness, remaining light and thus utterly enjoyable.

Château de la Dauphine**Fronsac****15 points | 2027 to 2035**

Clean with well-balanced oak, firm in style, very lingering with a healthy tartness; possessing character and potential.

Château de Lamarque**Haut-Médoc****15.5 points | 2025 to 2034**

Fruity aroma, pleasingly full and dense with polished tannins and good length; will mature into a stylish, well-rounded, elegant table companion.

Château de Pez**Saint-Estèphe****17 points | 2027 to 2035**

Stunningly fruity, juicy and dense with wonderfully crisp tannins, hugely spirited and fresh despite the perceptible headiness, exceptionally made; on a par with the best vintages from this (overly) discreet estate.

Château de Pressac**Saint-Émilion****18 points | 2027 to 2040**

Stunningly juicy, fruity, meaty, full-bodied, with well-balanced headiness and top-quality, ripe, fine-grained tannins; joyful, weighty without being clumsy, in keeping with the style of both the estate and the vintage.

Château de Sales**Pomerol****16.5 points | 2027 to 2037**

Tempting red berry nose, with particularly juicy, spirited, exquisite freshness and well-proportioned, polished tannins; an original interpretation of the vintage.

Château de Valois**Pomerol****15 points | 2023 to 2029**

Spicy nose with oak notes, powerful in the attack, robust with angular tannins, and a very succint fresh finish; less dominated by oak than the Eclat special cuvee.

**PREISHIT
26 EURO****PREISHIT
23 EURO****TOP-BUY
41 EURO****PREISHIT
25 EURO****PREISHIT
19 EURO**

Château de Valois, L'Eclat de Valois**Pomerol****15 points | 2023 to 2030**

Spicy and shaped by ageing, perceptible extract with angular, grainy tannins, and a rather harsh and dry finish dominated by oak.

Château Desmirail**Margaux****17 points | 2027 to 2037**

Tempting nose of fresh herbs and red berries, fresh in the attack with smooth and fresh tannins, ideal length; perfect balance between juiciness and body.

Château Destieux**Saint-Émilion****14.5 points | 2025 to 2029**

Dominated by development, herbaceous in style with a medium finish.

Château Deyrem Valentin**Margaux****16 points | 2027 to 2035**

Immensely straightforward, very dense, with high-quality tannins and good balance between extract and headiness; in keeping with the vintage, needs to mature somewhat.

Château du Domaine de l'Église**Pomerol****16.5 points | 2029 to 2040**

Tart and fresh in the attack, firm body, well structured, lingering; stylish, spirited and characterful, could mature.

Château du Tertre**Margaux****17.5 points | 2027 to 2037**

Stunningly fruity, very precise nose, with particularly clear, perfectly defined contours, amazingly harmonious with excellent, refined tannins and transparent fruitiness in the lingering finish; exceptionally made.

Château Ducru Beaucaillou**Saint-Julien****18 points | 2030 to 2050**

Fruity and floral nose of lilac and red berry aromas, rounded out by subtle oak spice, then full in the attack with meaty development and superb, dense, refined and fresh tannins, hugely sophisticated with lingering juiciness; combines vivacity with fullness and refinement.

Château Durfort Vivens**Margaux****19 points | 2027 to 2040**

Immensely tempting nose of floral and fresh red and black berry notes, bewitchingly refined and decidedly delicate right from the

attack, superbly mineral and fresh, charming and sensual once again in this vintage in astonishing typical Margaux style: stunningly good and particularly individual.

F**Château Faurie de Souchard****Saint-Émilion****16.5 points | 2027 to 2032**

Explosive nose of fruity and toasted notes, dense in the attack, straightforward on the palate, full-bodied with powdery tannins, then juicy and crisp in the finish with a subtle bitter touch; thoroughly successful.

Château Fayat**Pomerol****15.5 points | 2025 to 2032**

Shaped by ageing, in velvety and appealing style, with a lingering fruity finish.

Château Ferrand**Pomerol****15 points | 2023 to 2029**

Fresh and rather angular in style, herbaceous with lively tannins and medium length.

Château Ferrière**Margaux****18.5 points | 2029 to 2040**

Stunningly fruity, tempting red berry nose, crystal clear in the attack, leisurely development with seamlessly dense yet fresh tannins, particularly mineral, hugely taut and thus lingering; once again an impressive wine, available for a bargain price!

Château Feytit Clinet**Pomerol****15 points | 2024 to 2035**

Lots of chocolate oak, high extract, perceptible headiness: not much terroir.

Château Fleur Cardinale**Saint-Émilion****15.5 points | 2025 to 2034**

Perceptible but well-proportioned oak, high extract, a heady finish.

Château Fombrage**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2026 to 2032**

Corpulent with crisp tannins, perfectly proportioned oak, pleasant, well made.

Château Fonbadet**Pauillac****16 points | 2030 to 2040**

Perceptible extract, meaty and full-bodied, with a still bare, dense texture and lingering finish; characterful and in typical style.

Château Fonréaud**Listrac****16 points | 2025 to 2033**

Lots of new oak in the sample, full, dense, pleasantly lingering, with tannins that offer velvety polish, and a harmonious whole despite the fullness, as always impeccably made.

Château Fonroque**Saint-Émilion****18 points | 2027 to 2040**

Bewitching nose of herbs and liquorice aromas, lively right from the attack, full-bodied, rich, deep, almost boisterously meaty and dense, and very lingering with high-quality tannins; superb in the style of the vintage.

Château Fontenil**Fronsac****16.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Interesting aromatic potential, dense in the attack, well made with well-integrated tannins and a juicy, crisp finish; fun.

Château Franc Mayne**Saint-Émilion****16.5 points | 2023 to 2030**

Superb once again this year, particularly easy drinking, with well-integrated, polished tannins and perfect length; appealing in the best sense.

G**Château Gazin****Pomerol****17.5 points | 2030 to 2040**

Particularly meaty in the attack, full development with firm, seamlessly dense, yet also particularly juicy tannins, headiness that is perceptible yet does not dominate, and good length; of biblical proportions, best sampled on a long winter evening in 10 or 15 years' time.

Château Giscours**Margaux****19 points | 2030 to 2050**

Offering extract, meatiness, juiciness and structure in abundance, with exquisite, hugely fresh tannins and an endlessly lingering finish; a monumental yet uniquely well-balanced Giscours of exceptional class.

Château Gloria hit price
Saint-Julien

PREISHIT
28 EURO

17 points | 2027 to 2040

Reticently shaped by ageing, elegant in the attack, leisurely development into perceptibly polished tannins and a fruity finish; a wonderful, perfectly proportioned, immensely stylish wine.

Château Grand Barrail Lamarzelle
Figeac

Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2025 to 2034

Spicy nose, firm and tart structure, lively tannins with perceptible grain, and a spicy finish; reliable and characterful.

Château Grand Beauséjour
Pomerol

15 points | 2022 to 2028

Subtle nose still shaped by ageing, fluid style with straightforward, fresh tannins; medium length and structure.

Château Grand Corbin
Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2025 to 2035

Well made, even elegant for the vintage, spirited and fresh with good length.

Château Grand Corbin Despagne
Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2027 to 2035

Lovely development notes, compact and dense in style with ripe tannins and good length; a safe bet.

Château Grand Mayne
Saint-Émilion

16.5 points | 2029 to 2040

Cultivated nose, full in the attack, high extract, powdery tannins, a lingering finish.

Château Grand Pontet
Saint-Émilion

15.5 points | 2026 to 2032

Tempting spice, fruity, also shaped by ageing, fresh in the attack with angular tannins, and a tannin-dominated finish; intense, pleasantly tart.

Château Grand Puy Ducasse
Pauillac

PREISHIT
26 EURO

17 points | 2030 to 2040

Tempting nose with floral and fruity aromas, compact in the attack, full-bodied development, impressively powdery tannins offering polish and freshness, and a weighty, sophisticated, exceptionally lingering finish; thoroughly successful.

Château Grand Puy Lacoste
Pauillac

TOP-BUY
50 EURO

19 points | 2030 to 2050

Stunning, subtle, floral nose, full in the attack, dense and lively structure, particularly deep, extremely sophisticated and endlessly lingering; a superb wine, an absolute must, and one of the best of the vintage.

H

Château Haura
Graves

PREISHIT
10 EURO

16 points | 2024 to 2030

Reticent nose, powerful in the attack, full structure with firm yet fine-grained tannins and perfect length; polished and characterful, thoroughly enjoyable.

Château Haut-Bages Libéral
Pauillac

PREISHIT
27 EURO

18 points | 2030 to 2045

Interesting, delicately spicy, bewitchingly fruity nose, then full and impressively juicy in the attack, dense structure, high-quality tannins, good length and particular minerality, juicy; stunningly good, a true bargain!

Château Haut-Bages Monpélou
Pauillac

16 points | 2027 to 2040

Full in the attack, dense development, full-bodied yet still juicy and sophisticated and impressively lingering; recommended.

Château Haut-Bailly
Pessac-Léognan

19 points | 2030 to 2050

Promising, fruity and spicy, striking in the attack with very slow development, stunning quality tannins, phenomenal depth, and a very lingering finish; a wonderful, classic, utterly stylish, top-quality wine.

Château Haut-Batailley
Pauillac

16.5 points | 2030 to 2040

Particularly juicy, fruity, utterly well rounded, with rich tannins and a pleasantly typical Pauillac style. Worth 17 points in the bottle.

Château Haut-Brion
Pessac-Léognan

19 points | 2030 to 2050

Tempting spice on the nose, spirited, fresh, taut, elegant, with full-bodied, dense, perfectly ripe tannins, yet also polished and fresh, and a decidedly lingering finish; a particularly impressive wine!

Château Haut-Ferrand
Pomerol

15 points | 2023 to 2029

Shaped by acidity in the attack, lively tannins, a tart finish.

Château Haut-Sarpe
Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2025 to 2030

Spicy and fruity, fresh in the attack, firm in style, rich, with fresh tannins and good length; pleasant.

Château Hosanna
Pomerol

17 points | 2027 to 2040

Very tempting and fruity with a lovely touch of oak, full in the attack, dense structure with fresh, high-quality tannins and impressive length; the perfect combination of precision and flattering fullness, classical and pop rolled into one.

J, K

Château Jean Faure
Saint-Émilion

17 points | 2025 to 2035

Idiosyncratic, interesting nose of blackberry, cassis, violet and liquorice notes, full-bodied in style with tightly knit tannins, exceptionally made, very characterful. Thoroughly recommended.

Château Kirwan
Margaux

17 points | 2027 to 2037

Temptingly spicy nose, full in the attack, juicy development with tart, well-integrated tannins and a fruity and fresh finish; appealing and exceptionally made.

L

Château La Clémence
Pomerol

15 points | 2022 to 2029

Appealing nose, fruity in the attack, well made with well-balanced, juicy tannins, good length and the freshness it needs.

Château La Commanderie
Saint-Émilion

15.5 points | 2026 to 2032

Spicy nose, straightforward on the palate, fruity with fresh tannins, well-balanced oak, and a tart and fruity finish; reliable and impeccably made.



Château La Commanderie
Pomerol

16 points | 2024 to 2029

Tempting nose with black cherry notes, fleshy in the attack with polished, fresh tannins and a juicy and crisp finish; well-balanced, harmonious, fun.

Château La Couspaude
Saint-Émilion

15 points | 2026 to 2030

Angular and very copulent in style with a finish of spicy, toasted notes.

Château La Création
Pomerol

16 points | 2024 to 2030

Pleasant black berry nose, fruity and fresh in the attack, densely woven with well-integrated, fresh tannins and perfect length; harmonious, stylish, recommended.

Château La Croix
Pomerol

17 points | 2026 to 2032

Fruity and shaped by ageing, particularly full and velvety in style, lingering, fruity; stylish, perfectly balanced, superb.

Château La Croix de Gay
Pomerol

16 points | 2026 to 2032

Compact structure, polished tannins with virtually no harshness, a lingering finish; reliable and successful in the style of the vintage.

Château La Croix du Casse
Pomerol

15.5 points | 2025 to 2032

Compact and fresh in style with perceptible acidity as well as body and density; pleasantly well balanced and easy drinking.

Château La Croix Saint-Georges
Pomerol

17.5 points | 2027 to 2040

Tempting nose with top-quality development, full in the attack, dense structure, superbly polished tannins, spirited and fresh with a lingering finish; one of the best wines from this estate.

Château La Dominique
Saint-Émilion

18 points | 2027 to 2035

Particularly floral nose, bewitchingly elegant and hugely charming with immensely fine-

grained tannins, exceptionally made; the best La Dominique we have ever tasted en primeur.

Château La Fleur de Gay
Pomerol

16.5 points | 2024 to 2030

Very cultivated in style with its perceptible but not overly dominant oak notes, its polish and its fullness; in keeping with its style.

Château La Fleur Pétrus
Pomerol

17 points | 2025 to 2040

The complex, promising spice draws you in, then particularly spirited on the palate, rich, even weighty, heady, but supported by top-quality tannins. Only the high alcohol levels of the vintage temper our delight somewhat.

Château La Gaffelière
Saint-Émilion

18 points | 2025 to 2035

Reticent spice, full in the attack, dense structure with fresh tannins and perfect length; exceptionally made, perfectly balanced, particularly stylish.

Château La Garde**Pessac-Léognan****15.5 points | 2027 to 2035**

Fruity and spicy with a compact and dense structure, well-rounded yet fresh tannins, and good balance; reliable and appealing.

Château La Grave**Pomerol****15.5 points | 2027 to 2033**

Promising spice, full and velvety in the attack with crisp, tightly knit tannins; characterful, needs to mature somewhat.

Château La Gurgue**Margaux****16 points | 2025 to 2035**

Fruity and juicy, but also astonishingly fleshy and well-structured for the brand, fun. Nevertheless, could still be left to age.

Château La Louvière**Pessac-Léognan****16.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Compact and robust in style, but also juicy and fleshy with good length and grainy tannins; exceptionally made.

Château La Mission Haut-Brion**Pessac-Léognan****17 points | 2030 to 2040**

Shaped by ageing on the nose, compact in the attack with a classic structure, fine-grained tannins, good length, and the freshness and spirit it needs; particularly refined.

Château La Mondotte**Saint-Émilion****17 points | 2025 to 2030**

Immensely full-bodied and fruity, well rounded and dense, perfectly made.

Château La Patache**Pomerol****15.5 points | 2024 to 2029**

Fruity, easy drinking and joyful, with a delicious blackberry finish; appealing, impeccably made.

Château La Pointe**Pomerol****16 points | 2024 to 2034**

Full-bodied, dense, velvety, compact with decent length; appealing, well made.

Château La Renaissance**Pomerol****15 points | 2023 to 2029**

Fruity with well-balanced oak, classic structure with the freshness it needs.

Château Laroze**Saint-Émilion****17 points | 2027 to 2040**

Superb spice, herb and blueberry nose, fruity in the attack, leisurely development with top-quality, powdery tannins and a lingering, generous fruity and spicy finish; an impressive, characterful wine combining fullness, spirit, power and refinement, needs to mature.

Château La Serre**Saint-Émilion****17 points | 2025 to 2032**

A still very reticent nose shaped by ageing, very full, somewhat at the expense of elegance during this stage, but bewitchingly fruity and juicy, almost trendy for the estate given the vintage.

Château La Tour Carnet**Haut-Médoc****16.5 points | 2027 to 2035**

Tempting spice, impressive in the attack, fleshy structure with perceptibly grainy tannins and a lingering finish of black berry notes; well balanced, appealing and exceptionally made.

Château La Tour de Mons**Margaux****15.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Extremely reserved, compact and tart in style, but not lacking depth or length.

Château La Tour Figeac**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2025 to 2030**

A full-bodied, very ripe, extracted, exceptionally solid wine.

Château Labégorce**Margaux****16.5 points | 2027 to 2035**

Wonderfully juicy and fresh, heady yet also particularly spirited, with a long, fruity, generous finish pleasantly framed by oak; enjoyable and recommended.

Château Lafleur du Roy**Pomerol****15 points | 2024 to 2030**

Robust in the attack with angular tannins and a rather abrupt, dry finish.

Château Lafleur Gazin**Pomerol****16 points | 2025 to 2035**

Herb and red berry notes, full-bodied, dense with compact, fresh tannins and good length; better than ever.

Château Lafon Rochet**Saint-Estèphe****17.5 points | 2030 to 2040**

Stunning combination of power and charm, fullness and density, with top-quality tannins; a true temptress, vivaciously trendy, heady and yet fresh.

Château Lagrange**Saint-Julien****18 points | 2029 to 2040**

Fruity red and black cherries, compact in the attack, juicy development, with high-quality, perfectly integrated, not even slightly clumsy tannins and an immensely transparently fruity and lingering finish; stunningly good.

Château Lagrange à Pomerol**Pomerol****16 points | 2025 to 2040**

Full-bodied with top-quality velvety tannins, powdery and dense, and perceptible headiness.

Château La Lagune**Haut-Médoc****18 points | 2027 to 2040**

Stunning berry, flower and herb aromas, full in the attack with juicy and fruity development, tightly knit and elegantly polished tannins, and a lingering and fresh red berry finish; not only exceptionally made, but also particularly inspired.

Château Langoa Barton**Saint-Julien****17 points | 2027 to 2040**

A delicately spicy nose, straightforward in the attack, with a slender yet dense structure, polished tannins and perfect length; enjoyable and well balanced, yet still with depth.

Château Lanïote**Saint-Émilion****15.5 points | 2025 to 2030**

Appealing nose, spicy, shaped by ageing, in robust and fresh style with perceptible extract and a tart and spicy finish.

Château Larcis Ducasse**Saint-Émilion****16.5 points | 2026 to 2032**

Clean, fruity and spicy on the nose, fresh in the attack, deep and spirited with fresh yet smooth tannins and impressive length.

Château Laroque
Saint-Émilion

17 points | 2026 to 2032

Good aromatic potential, mineral with black berry notes, straightforward in the attack, elegant with fresh and lively tannins and a lingering finish; hugely fresh and pleasingly elegant.

PREISHIT
20 EURO

Château Lascombes
Margaux

17.5 points | 2027 to 2040

Tempting floral and herb nose with elegant oak spice, full in the attack with perceptible extract, top-quality fresh tannins, and a tart and fruity finish; once again exceptionally made, in the typical style of the brand and the vintage.

Château Latour à Pomerol
Pomerol

17 points | 2027 to 2040

Superb fresh blackberry notes, full in the attack with a dense, velvety structure, seamlessly firm and powdery tannins, and a lingering finish; thoroughly recommended.

Château Latour Martillac
Pessac-Léognan

16.5 points | 2025 to 2035

More aromatically reserved than most other Pessac-Léognans, but as rounded as a pebble on the palate with polished tannins and good length; very classic and well balanced, can only improve its score.

Château Le Bon Pasteur
Pomerol

16.5 points | 2024 to 2032

Interesting spice, full in the attack, fruity and spicy structure with polished, fresh tannins and good length; stylish, well balanced, fun, the best Bon Pasteur in many a year.

Château Le Boscq
Saint-Estèphe

16 points | 2025 to 2035

Tempting oak spice, full in the attack, rich in extract, spicy, with lively yet fine-grained tannins and a fresh finish; harmonious.

Château Le Caillou
Pomerol

15.5 points | 2022 to 2029

Clean on the nose with floral and fruity touches, tart in style with good length; sincere, in keeping with the brand's style.

Château Le Chatelet
Saint-Émilion

15 points | 2025 to 2032

Compact in the attack, high extract, rich, but with a healthy tartness.

Château Le Chemin
Pomerol

16.5 points | 2023 to 2029

Good aromatic potential, spicy, fruity and floral, then creamy in the attack, elegant in style, well balanced, with fresh, well-integrated tannins and a perfectly lingering fruity and spicy finish; stylish, enjoyable.

Château Le Crock
Saint-Estèphe

15 points | 2025 to 2033

Compact and fleshy in style, well-integrated tannins, characterful and sophisticated.

Château Le Gay
Pomerol

15 points | 2024 to 2028

Very ripe right from the nose, weighty with crisp tannins that feel drowned in alcohol; exceptionally made, but in the style of a sweet wine.

Château Le Moulin
Pomerol

15 points | 2022 to 2029

Complex nose with oak aromas and black berry notes; impressive in the attack with a solid structure, texture structure and spicy finish; in modern, opulent style.

Château Le Moulin Basileus
Pomerol

15 points | 2023 to 2030

Explosive nose, fruity with black berry notes, bulky in the attack, fruity and corpulent structure, rich in extract.

Château Le Pape
Pessac-Léognan

16 points | 2025 to 2033

Temptingly fruity with raspberry aromas, staying fruity in the attack with slender yet dense development, tart yet also crisp tannins, and good length; harmonious and well made.

Château Le Prieuré
Saint-Émilion

17 points | 2025 to 2032

Not only impeccably made but also particularly elegant and refined, with smooth tannins and huge freshness despite the well-balanced headiness, and a lingering fruity finish; superb if it is like this in bottle.

Château Le Thil Comte Clary
Pessac-Léognan

15 points | 2022 to 2029

Compact and rounded style, good length.

Château Lécuyer
Pomerol

15 points | 2022 to 2029

Slender in the attack with fresh tannins and a fruity finish; elegant with a medium structure.

Château Léoville Barton
Saint-Julien

TOP-BUY
61 EURO

19 points | 2030 to 2050

This Léoville Barton will not be easily forgotten! As classic and stylish as the greatest vintages, with a firm structure, fleshy, juicy and fresh with high-quality tannins; both elegant and delicious, a timeless classic.

Château Léoville Poyferré
Saint-Julien

TOP-BUY
58 EURO

18 points | 2030 to 2050

Reticent nose, lively in the attack, hugely fleshy and dense with particularly fine-grained, fresh tannins, taut and lingering into the heady but not stinging finish; precisely made, in keeping with the style of the estate and the vintage.

Château Les Grandes Murailles
Saint-Émilion

15 points | 2025 to 2032

Spicy and shaped by oak, with perceptible extract right from the attack, in tart and robust style with perceptible alcohol but the freshness it needs.

Château Lespault Martillac
Pessac-Léognan

15 points | 2025 to 2032

Compact and robust style, well balanced, well structured, reliable.

Château Lilian Ladouys
Saint-Estèphe

PREISHIT
21 EURO

16 points | 2025 to 2035

Temptingly fruity, full in the attack, opulent structure with top-quality, fine-grained tannins and a fleshy, generous, heady finish.

Château Lynch Bages
Pauillac

17 points | 2027 to 2040

Reticently shaped by ageing, full in the attack, dense structure, high-quality tannins, and a lingering fruity and floral finish; has gained significant precision.

Château Lynch Moussas
Pauillac

PREISHIT
27 EURO

17 points | 2030 to 2040

Anniversary year celebrating one hundred years of this trading house: an interesting, complex, fruity, floral and spicy nose, with lots of new oak in the sample; weighty in the attack, powerful structure, very juicy and extracted, and impressive and substantial wine.

M

Château Maillet
Pomerol

15.5 points | 2027 to 2034

Compact in the attack, tart and robust structure, good length, needs to mature somewhat.

Château Malartic Lagravière
Pessac-Léognan

TOP-BUY
31 EURO

19 points | 2029 to 2050

After taking our first sip, this wine astonished us so much that we (honestly) had to go back and try it again a second time. Everything is in balance here: extract, minerality, salinity, fruitiness, the unique quality of the tannins, and superb depth, density and sophistication. Stunningly good.

Château Malescot
Saint-Exupéry
Margaux

TOP-BUY
42 EURO

18 points | 2030 to 2050

Reticent nose initially rather shaped by ageing before becoming fruity, then weighty in the attack with a full, meaty, juicy structure and top-quality tannins; stylish in keeping with the estate and the character of the vintage, combining sophistication with spirit.

Château Marquis de Terme
Margaux

TOP-BUY
33 EURO

18 points | 2029 to 2040

Reticently shaped by ageing then subtly fruity, has the high levels of extract common to many wines in this vintage, but also the stunning freshness and the refined, silky tannins, ending with a lingering finish of fresh strawberry notes with a touch of mint; precisely, exceptionally made, a real delight.

Château Mauvesin Barton
Moulis

16 points | 2025 to 2035

Interesting berry and herb aromas, slender in the attack, smooth development, juicy in the attack with ripe tannins, stylish and elegant.

Château Mazeyres
Pomerol

PREISHIT
23 EURO

17.5 points | 2025 to 2035

Promising herbaceous and floral nose with a lovely touch of caramel oak, in particularly juicy and absolutely Burgundian style, complex, refined, fresh, with refined contours and elegant, top-quality tannins, perfectly balanced, stylish, lingering; an absolute must.

Château Meyney
Saint-Estèphe

PREISHIT
21 EURO

17 points | 2029 to 2040

An original, subtle nose of pastry spice aromas, full in the attack, full-bodied structure, powdery tannins and a perfectly lingering fruity finish; stylish, sophisticated and characterful.

Château Monbrison
Margaux

PREISHIT
25 EURO

18 points | 2027 to 2040

Subtle red and black berry and floral nose, juicy in the attack with slender yet also juicy and immensely fresh and fruity development, hugely refined tannins and superb length; perfectly balanced, stylish, incredibly well made and a steal at the price.

Château Monregard la Croix
Pomerol

15.5 points | 2023 to 2030

Very cultivated development notes with fresh berries and herbs, robust structure, juicy, compact, with ripe, fresh tannins; enjoyable, stylish.

Château Montrose
Saint-Estèphe

18 points | 2035 to 2040

Superb fresh berry nose, sophisticated and radiant right from the attack with top-quality tannins and a generously lingering finish; a stylish, hugely sophisticated wine.

Château Montviel
Pomerol

16 points | 2025 to 2035

An interesting spicy and fruity nose with well-integrated oak, full in the attack, dense structure, bulky yet juicy with polished tannins and a weighty, lingering, heady, yet not stinging finish.

Château Moulin du Cadet
Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2025 to 2030

Pleasing aromatic potential with fruity black berry aromas; compact in the attack, in straightforward style on the palate, elegant with fine-grained tannins and good length, harmonious with a fruity and spicy finish; stylish.

Château Moulin
Haut-Laroque

PREISHIT
16 EURO

17.5 points | 2029 to 2040

Complex nose, spicy and fruity with forest berry notes, full in the attack, straightforward in style on the palate with well-integrated, full-bodied, fresh tannins and impressive length; a harmonious, perfectly balanced wine, carefully made and matured.

Château Moulinet
Pomerol

15.5 points | 2023 to 2029

Compact in the attack, well made with crisp, ripe, fresh tannins; classic.

Château Moulin Riche
Saint-Julien

16 points | 2025 to 2035

Juicy, fruity and spirited in style with well-integrated tannins and good length.

Château Mouton Rothschild
Pauillac

19 points | 2030 to 2050

A stunningly delicately spicy nose, crystal clear in the attack, immensely dense and juicy development, wonderfully crisp and seamlessly dense tannins, hugely taut and lingering; once again, absolutely everything about this wine is just right, and despite its sophistication and its position (and price) it has not forgotten what even the finest of wines need: drinkability, the fun factor.

O, P

Château Olivier
Pessac-Léognan

PREISHIT
22 EURO

17.5 points | 2027 to 2040

Reticent and shaped by ageing, full in the attack, spirited development, hugely sophisticated and dense, particularly mineral with a lingering finish; an excellent wine, worth 18 points in bottle.

Château Pape Clément
Pessac-Léognan

18.5 points | 2029 to 2045

Truly majestic (or rather papal?) in style, utterly sophisticated with wonderfully fresh, absolutely top-quality tannins and an endlessly lingering finish; stunningly good.

Château Pauillac
Pauillac

15.5 points | 2030 to 2040

Explosive nose, weighty in the attack, robust and corpulent in style with dense, perceptible oak spice and a tart finish.

Château Pavie Macquin
Saint-Émilion**18 points | 2032 to 2045**

Rather shaped by ageing, with lovely liquorice spice, immensely compact and dense with crisp, angular, top-quality tannins and particular minerality; a wonderful, idiosyncratic wine that should be set aside for a long time.

Château Pédesclaux
Pauillac**17 points | 2027 to 2037**

Spicy nose, fruity in the attack, straightforward on the palate, fresh with lively tannins and perfect length; attentively made.

PREISHIT
28 EURO

Château Petit Beauséjour
Pomerol**15.5 points | 2023 to 2029**

Elegant and slender in style with polished and fresh tannins and medium length; made with flair.

Château Petit Faurie de Soutard
Saint-Émilion**15 points | 2024 to 2029**

Lively style, angular, with medium length.

Château Petit Val, Muse du Val
Saint-Émilion**15 points | 2025 to 2032**

Fresh in the attack, well-balanced structure, juicy tannins, good length.

Château Petit Village
Pomerol**16.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Particularly spirited with idiosyncratic minerality and a rather dry yet lingering finish.

Château Pibran
Pauillac**16.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Superb floral and fruity nose, elegant in the attack, dense and well-balanced structure, high-quality polished tannins, a lingering fruity finish; stylish, perfectly proportioned, well made.

Château Pichon Baron
Pauillac**19 points | 2032 to 2050**

In a class of its own once again this year; majestic, erratic, with tannins as if chiselled from stone, fleshy, full and heady, refined, needs to mature.

Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande**Pauillac****19 points | 2030 to 2050**

A reticent yet immensely subtle floral and fruity nose of redcurrant aromas, full in the attack, fleshy structure, high-quality tannins and a lingering juicy finish, stunning interplay between freshness and ripeness: one of the best vintages from this estate.

Château Pierhem
Pomerol**15.5 points | 2023 to 2030**

Smoky with perceptible oak spice and forest berry aromas, intense in the attack with a well-balanced structure, a healthy tartness, and fresh tannins shaping the truly lingering finish; a classic.

Château Plince
Pomerol**15 points | 2025 to 2030**

Subtle nose that needs some swirling, full in the attack, firm and robust with still rather fuzzy tannins; in full-bodied, if slightly bitter style.

Château Pontet Canet
Pauillac**20 points | 2030 to 2050**

We've said it time and again: different rules apply when it comes to this wine, as it has a truly special story to tell, thanks to its producers who are more consistent and courageous than any other. Scores lose their meaning. Nevertheless, our hearts always beat faster when we taste it, because we tell ourselves: even Pontet Canet cannot be exceptional every year – which would not spoil the story. But no! Once again we were sipping a phenomenal, exceptional wine with stunning expression of terroir, hugely typical of the vintage yet also outstandingly made. An incredibly complex nose, full in the attack with the perfect combination of structure, depth, meatiness, body, polish and sophistication, stunning quality of tannins and bewitching Burgundian fruit: it left us speechless.

TOP-BUY
95 EURO

Château Porte Chic
Pomerol**15.5 points | 2023 to 2029**

Fresh in the attack, classic structure, well balanced with well-integrated tannins.

Château Poujeaux
Moulis**16.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Reticent fruit, full in the attack, dense structure with velvety yet juicy tannins and good

length; appealing, stylish, perfectly balanced, precisely made, enjoyable.

Château Prieuré Lichine
Margaux**18 points | 2027 to 2040**

We have a soft spot for Margaux that has retained its charm even in turbulently full vintages. Prieuré is one of these: superb fruit, exquisitely silkily polished tannins, fresh and elegant with ideal length, superb.

PREISHIT
29 EURO

Q, R

Château Quintus
Saint-Émilion**16 points | 2025 to 2035**

Fruity and floral nose of black cherry aromas, straightforward in the attack, well made, crisp with juicy tannins; good length, well balanced, ending with lovely berry notes.

Château Rahoul
Graves**15 points | 2025 to 2033**

High levels of raucous extract, and thus rather clumsy at this early stage.

Château Rauzan Gassies
Margaux**16 points | 2027 to 2035**

Particularly fleshy and full-bodied, even heady despite the ripe yet fresh tannins, somewhat at the expense of elegance at this stage; the score is a cautious one and can only increase as the wine develops.

Château Rauzan Ségla
Margaux**18 points | 2027 to 2050**

Reticently shaped by ageing, fruity and delicately spicy, dense in the attack with leisurely development, tannins made of velvet and silk, and a lingering cherry and chocolate finish; once again particularly stylish, hugely delicate, exquisite.

Château Reysson
Haut-Médoc**15 points | 2025 to 2030**

Slender in style with tart, fresh tannins and a finish dominated by oak.

Château Ripeau
Saint-Émilion**15 points | 2026 to 2030**

Well-balanced oak, intense in the attack, solid structure, shaped by tannins.

Château Rochebelle**Saint-Émilion****15 points | 2026 to 2032**

Perceptible oak spice, robust, rich in extract, with noticeably grainy tannins and a spicy finish.

Château Rouget**Pomerol****15 points | 2025 to 2035**

Lots of new oak, very cultivated presentation, but the actual wine has to be fished out from behind the development notes.

S

Château Sacré Coeur**Pomerol****15 points | 2024 to 2029**

Perceptible oak spice, bulky in the attack, ripe structure, full bodied, with a heady finish.

Château Saint-Georges Côte Pavie**Saint-Émilion****15.5 points | 2027 to 2032**

Dark chocolate aromas, straightforward, dense, with crisp tannins and a fresh finish.

Château Saint-Pierre**Saint-Julien****18 points | 2028 to 2040**

Superb floral nose, hugely dense with top-quality tannins and a fruity finish, stunningly elegant and refined.

**TOP-BUY
40 EURO****Château Saint-Pierre****Pomerol****15 points | 2023 to 2029**

Hazy nose, fruity, with a slender expression on the palate, airy with fresh tannins.

Château Sansonnet**Saint-Émilion****18 points | 2025 to 2035**

Superb blackberry and cherry nose, full in the attack, fleshy structure with fine-grained yet juicy tannins and a lingering finish; unique precision, a successful modern interpretation of a great terroir.

**PREISHIT
26 EURO****Château Siran****Margaux****15.5 points | 2024 to 2032**

As rounded as a pebble, yet also juicy and fresh with no sharp edges, appealing.

Château Smith Haut Lafitte**Pessac-Léognan****18 points | 2025 to 2035**

Superb cocoa and pastry spice nose with fresh berry aromas, full in the attack with leisurely,

velvety development and top-quality tannins, ripe and rounded yet also fresh with a lingering finish picking up the notes from the nose; lively, but not even slightly clumsy.

Château Sociando Mallet**Haut-Médoc****16.5 points | 2033 to 2045**

Reticent nose, direct and clear in the attack, fruity development with very compact, tart tannins that nevertheless display great polish, and perceptible headiness coming through in the finish; pleasant, characterful, still needs to mature somewhat.

Château Soutard**Saint-Émilion****16.5 points | 2025 to 2033**

Lovely development notes, full in the attack with a dense, juicy structure, crisp tannins and good length, juicy and appealing.

T

Château Taillefer**Pomerol****16 points | 2023 to 2029**

Lovely aromatic potential, fruity and spicy, then corpulent in the attack, tightly woven with juicy and spicy tannins, the freshness and spirit the wine needs, and a good level of tartness; harmonious.

Château Talbot**Saint-Julien****17.5 points | 2029 to 2040**

Tempting floral and fruity nose, full in the attack with dense, fruity, juicy development and well-rounded tannins with freshness and exquisite polish; a real delight.

**TOP-BUY
39 EURO****Château Tour Maillet****Pomerol****14.5 points | 2024 to 2028**

A full wine with vanilla notes and perceptible headiness.

Château Trois Croix**Fronsac****15.5 points | 2025 to 2033**

Tempting spice with herb notes, shaped by acidity in the attack, classic structure with fresh tannins and good length.

Château Tronquoy-Lalande**Saint-Estèphe****17 points | 2028 to 2035**

Lovely aromatic potential with fruity blackberry notes, intense in the attack with perceptibly grainy tannins, good length, the freshness and spirit the wine needs, and a fruity finish; pleasantly sophisticated.

Château Trotanoy**Pomerol****19.5 points | 2030 to 2050**

Superb red cherry nose accompanied a subtle touch of black olive, full in the attack with uniquely velvety development, high-quality tannins, firm, seamlessly dense, yet fresh and endlessly lingering; a magnificent, unique wine that can mature indefinitely, one of the hits of the year.

Château Trotte Vieille**Saint-Émilion****19 points | 2028 to 2050**

Hugely sophisticated right from the attack, immensely dense with sheer minerality and hugely classy tannins; possesses character and greatness.

V

Château Vieux Maillet**Pomerol****16 points | 2025 to 2035**

A decidedly fruity, even trendy nose, compact structure and well-integrated tannins.

Château Villemaurine**Saint-Émilion****16.5 points | 2027 to 2033**

Clean on the nose, fruity with well-balanced oak, full in the attack, straightforward on the palate, smooth with well-integrated, fresh tannins and a lingering finish; one of the best wines ever from this estate.

Château Vray Croix de Gay**Pomerol****16 points | 2025 to 2035**

Full in the attack with a dense structure and well-integrated tannins, and just a slightly tart finish that will dissipate as it matures.

CLOS/COVENT/DOMAINE

Clos 126**Pomerol****15 points | 2024 to 2030**

Rather superficial oak nose, intense and ripe structure, with a spicy finish of intrusive oak and perceptible alcohol.

Clos de l'Oratoire**Saint-Émilion****16.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Cultivated style on the nose and palate, compact with very angular tannins that ensure character and body.

Clos de la Vieille Eglise**Pomerol****15.5 points | 2022 to 2029**

Perceptible oak spice, weighty in the attack, firm, powerful, with tart yet well-integrated tannins and a spicy finish with the freshness and spirit that the wine needs; recommended.

Clos des Jacobins**Saint-Émilion****15 points | 2027 to 2032**

Tightly woven, spicy, with angular yet well-integrated tannins and lots of new oak.

Clos du Clocher**Pomerol****19 points | 2029 to 2045**

A stunning nose of fresh berry aromas with mineral touches, full in the attack, leisurely development, exquisitely fresh and juicy tannins, and good length; offering not just weight and power, but also particular elegance.

**TOP-BUY
38 EURO****Clos Floridène****Graves****17 points | 2027 to 2035**

A very reticent yet also tempting and complex nose, elegant in the attack with dense, even mineral development, and top-quality tannins with body, density and huge length; a superb, fine wine.

**PREISHIT
13 EURO****Clos Fourtet****Saint-Émilion****17.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Reticent nose, polished and fresh, dense and full, with all elements in perfect balance. Pleasing depth!

Clos Marsalette**Pessac-Léognan****16 points | 2022 to 2028**

So stunningly fruity, appealing, harmonious and enjoyable that it is best enjoyed now. The fruitiness of a Fleurie – which is meant as a compliment.

Clos René**Pomerol****17 points | 2024 to 2032**

Tempting mint, floral and fresh berry nose, elegant and smooth in the attack with slender yet dense development, tannins offering polish and Burgundian freshness, and a delicious lingering fresh berry finish; an absolute hit, stylish, modern and classic all in one.

Clos Saint-Martin**Saint-Émilion****15.5 points | 2024 to 2029**

Perceptible oak, spicy in the attack, smooth structure, fresh with lively tannins and a lingering finish.

Clos Vieux Taillefer**Pomerol****15 points | 2023 to 2029**

Fresh in the attack with slightly rough tannins, good length, spicy; a reliable, idiosyncratic wine.

Couvent des Jacobins**Saint-Émilion****15 points | 2026 to 2032**

Spicy in the attack, ripe style with powdery tannins and a smouldering headiness in the finish.

Domaine de Chevalier**Pessac-Léognan****18.5 points | 2029 to 2040**

Tempting nose; once again successfully combining freshness, extract, fruitiness and minerality. Top-quality tannins, hugely taut and lingering, the best DC in a long time.

Domaine de la Solitude**Pessac-Léognan****15.5 points | 2025 to 2033**

Fruity in the attack, pleasingly full and dense with polished tannins and good length, reliable and cleanly made.



DRY WHITE WINES

Aile d'Argent (de Mouton-Rothschild) **Bordeaux sec**

18 points | 2022 to 2030

Superb exotic fruit nose, full in the attack, bulky structure with depth and density, a delicate bitter touch and good length; one of the best whites in the region.

Château Bouscaut **Pessac-Léognan**

16 points | 2023 to 2028

Compact, fresh, dense, with good length.

Château Cantelys **Pessac-Léognan**

15 points | 2021 to 2023

Rounded on the palate, well balanced, best enjoyed young.

Château Carbonnieux **Pessac-Léognan**

18 points | 2023 to 2040

A subtle yet promising nose, has everything that makes up a fine white wine: minerality, tautness, spirit, density and length, could mature for a long time.

PREISBIT
26 EURO

Château Couhins **Pessac-Léognan**

18 points | 2025 to 2035

Lots of mineral and citrus fruit notes, decidedly spirited and impressively lingering, the best white wine ever made here. Needs to mature!

Château Couhins Lurton **Pessac-Léognan**

18.5 points | 2029 to 2035

A stunningly lovely ripe grapefruit nose, very spirited on the palate, hugely mineral and dense, endlessly lingering; a great wine.

Château Crabitey **Graves**

16.5 points | 2022 to 2030

Shaped by ageing, complex, then powerful in the attack with leisurely development, a fleshy texture, a supporting structure, and a perfectly lingering lime finish; exceptionally made.

Château de Fieuzal **Pessac-Léognan**

16.5 points | 2021 to 2026

Lovely acacia blossom notes, refreshing style on the palate, taut and pleasingly dense but still very shaped by ageing, which slightly dulls the overall impression; can only improve its score.

Château Haut-Brion Blanc **Pessac-Léognan**

18 points | 2025 to 2040

Superb fresh berry and grapefruit nose, full in the attack, hugely dense and impressively spirited, full-bodied, with a lingering, hugely taut finish displaying exemplary elegance and sophistication.

Château La Garde **Pessac-Léognan**

15.5 points | 2024 to 2030

Smoky, shaped by ageing, compact with good density and length; still needs to mature somewhat.

Château La Louvière **Pessac-Léognan**

16.5 points | 2022 to 2032

Tempting citrus fruit nose, particularly juicy, sophisticated and fresh, very spirited, taut and thus lingering; enjoyable, could mature.

Château La Mission Haut-Brion **Pessac-Léognan**

19 points | 2025 to 2050

Spice and citrus fruit nose, fresh in the attack, full-bodied, dense, elegant, impressively lingering, decidedly refined and sophisticated, perfectly balanced.

Château Latour Martillac **Pessac-Léognan**

17 points | 2027 to 2035

Astonishingly weighty, dense and sophisticated, mineral and lingering; thoroughly successful.

PREISBIT
24 EURO

Château Lespault Martillac **Pessac-Léognan**

15 points | 2021 to 2023

Compact and rounded in style, with a medium-length stewed rhubarb finish.

Château Malartic Lagravière **Pessac-Léognan**

17 points | 2022 to 2032

Remarkably sophisticated, full, heady and spirited, exceptionally made.

Château Olivier **Pessac-Léognan**

18 points | 2029 to 2045

The appellation's great (limestone) white wine terroirs have done particularly well this year: superb, exemplary spirit, dense, mineral and lingering, exceptionally made.

PREISBIT
13 EURO

Château Pape Clément **Pessac-Léognan**

16 points | 2022 to 2025

Citrus notes, good fullness with a pleasing bitter touch; spirited and appealing.

Château Rahoul **Graves**

16 points | 2022 to 2028

Dense, well structured, with a lovely bitter note in the hugely lingering finish; could still mature further.

Château Smith Haut Lafitte **Pessac-Léognan**

17.5 points | 2022 to 2029

Juicy and very fruity in the attack, particularly spirited and fresh with a lingering grapefruit and pineapple finish; exceptionally made.

Clos des Lunes - Lunes d'Argent

Bordeaux

16.5 points | 2022 to 2030

Interesting gooseberry and fresh mint nose, offering fullness, depth and lots of character as well as particular sophistication and a delicate bitter touch; will mature as it develops, but can also be enjoyed young.

PREISBIT
9 EURO

Clos Floridène **Graves**

18 points | 2022/24 to 2030/40

Superb gooseberry, citrus fruit and fresh pear nose, full in the attack with an immensely juicy, dense body, wonderful structure, stunningly mineral, hugely taut and lingering; first class, one of the best vintages of the year.

PREISBIT
14 EURO

Clos Marsalette **Pessac-Léognan**

15.5 points | 2020 to 2023

Juicy and enjoyable with a candied grapefruit finish; uncomplicated, best enjoyed young.

Domaine de Chevalier **Pessac-Léognan**

17.5 points | 2022 to 2028

Fruity notes of fresh mirabelle plums with dried apricots, full structure, good length, very ripe, so will be enjoyable even young.



Domaine de la Solitude

Pessac-Léognan

15.5 points | 2023 to 2027

Lovely stewed apple nose, compact, even a touch rustic, as is its style, but not lacking in character.

Le Blanc de Chasse Spleen

Bordeaux

15.5 points | 2020 to 2022

Refreshingly fruity, enjoyable, impeccably made; enjoy soon to take advantage of its fruitiness.

Les Hauts de Smith

Pessac-Léognan

15 points | 2020 to 2022

Typically Sauvignon, refreshing, with good length.

Le Cygne de Fonréaud (Bordeaux)

Bordeaux sec

17 points | 2021 to 2025

Tempting peach nose, perfectly full, particularly juicy, yet also offering tautness, body and structure; enjoyable young but could still mature, one of the best vintages of this white wine.

SAUTERNES 2019

Château Broustet

Sauternes

15 points | 2022 to 2028

Fruity, compact rather than lingering, with a lovely citrus finish; will be enjoyable young.

Château Coutet

Sauternes

17 points | 2025 to 2035

Fresh pear and citrus fruit notes, full in the attack, dense structure, good length.

Château d'Arche

Sauternes

16 points | 2023 to 2029

Juicy, enjoyably fruity, appealing, with freshness and spirit; pleasant.

Château de Malle

Sauternes

17 points | 2023 to 2033

Initially a touch of botrytis, fresh mushroom, then fruitier citrus aromas; juicy structure, good length, full and spirited.

Château de Myrat

Sauternes

17.5 points | 2023 to 2035

Compact in the attack with a dense, juicy structure, full-bodied, with freshness, spirit and depth and particular fruitiness, a lovely bitter touch and good length; a modern classic, could mature.

**PREISHIT
21 EURO**

Château de Rayne Vigneau

Sauternes

17.5 points | 2023 to 2033

Boisterous apricot and peach notes, bulky but fresh with good length; transparent, exceptionally made.

Château Doisy Daëne

Sauternes

17 points | 2023 to 2029

Stunningly fruity in style, juicy, bulky, lingering; a wonderful wine in keeping with the estate's style, with the sophistication and freshness of the vintage, best enjoyed young.

Château Doisy Védrières

Sauternes

18 points | 2025 to 2035

Fruity grapefruit nose, mineral in the attack, hugely spirited and fresh, juicy and lingering, but with structure, depth and a delicate bitter touch; we like this a lot.

**PREISHIT
26 EURO**

Château Filhot

Sauternes

16.5 points | 2022 to 2029

Combining freshness with lovely fullness, joyful, harmonious, juicy, well made.

Château Guiraud

Sauternes

19 points | 2023 to 2040

A top-class nose – rarely have we sniffed such pure, elegant botrytis, followed in astonishing form by a whole range of fruit

and flowers. Then superbly full in the attack with huge density but also enormous depth, and a hugely lingering finish; combining extract with depth and sophistication, aromatic complexity and elegance, stunningly good and one of the best Guirauds ever.

Château La Tour Blanche**Sauternes****17.5 points | 2024 to 2032**

Full-bodied, juicy, dense, sophisticated with good length; refreshing in the style of the vintage.

Château Lamothe Despujols**Sauternes****15 points | 2024 to 2029**

Compact and honest in style with a delicate bitter touch, reliable and well made.

Château Romer**Sauternes****16.5 points | 2023 to 2029**

Delicate and elegant style, charming and fresh; enjoy now or leave to mature for a short while.

Château Romer du Hayot**Sauternes****17 points | 2023 to 2029**

Particularly fresh and spirited, juicy, mineral, slender, lingering, with a delicate bitter touch that almost makes you forget the sweetness;

best enjoyed young, although it could mature.

Château Sigalas Rabaud**Sauternes****17 points | 2027 to 2035**

Offering full, oily sweetness, intense, dense, but also somewhat clumsy compared with other wines from the vintage; needs to mature.

Château Suau**Sauternes****15 points | 2022 to 2025**

Oily in the attack, very bulky, rounded, with a lovely saline note and medium length.

Château Suduiraut**Sauternes****17.5 points | 2027 to 2035**

Oily and full in style, creamy, opulent, even rather clumsy, but also very dense and lingering, and as always exceptionally made.

Clos Haut-Peyraguey**Sauternes****17 points | 2025 to 2035**

Fruity and floral nose, full in the attack, good balance between freshness, headiness and sweetness, with structure and depth despite the opulence.

SELECTION OF SECOND WINES

Carillon d'Angélus**Saint-Émilion****16.5 points | 2024 to 2032**

Astonishingly similar to Angélus in terms of style in a more accessible, already very smooth version, just slightly heady.

Croix Beaucaillou (Ducru Beaucaillou)**Saint-Julien****16 points | 2024 to 2034**

Juicy with ripe tannins and a lingering fruity finish; sophisticated and full, could still mature somewhat.

Croix Canon (Canon)**Saint-Émilion****16.5 points | 2022 to 2028**

A lovely fresh raspberry nose, juicy and joyful, with elegance, body and a typical style.

Haut-Bailly II**Pessac-Léognan****16 points | 2024 to 2030**

Very compact and elegant in style with top-quality tannins and good length; very stylish.

Les Hauts de Smith**Pessac-Léognan****15.5 points | 2023 to 2028**

Full in the attack, velvety structure, smooth tannins, a heady finish, impeccably made.

Passtourelle de Clerc Milon**Pauillac****15 points | 2022 to 2028**

Crisp and fruity, compact, refreshing thanks to its tart yet juicy tannins, perceptibly heady in the finish, but with good overall balance.

Petit Mouton (de Mouton-Rothschild)**Pauillac****17 points | 2023 to 2030**

Temptingly spicy and fruity, particularly polished, pleasantly full with well-rounded tannins and good length; stylish, sensual, exceptionally made.

Réserve de la Comtesse**(Pichon Lalande)****Pauillac****16 points | 2023 to 2030**

Very well balanced, stylish, perfectly made, elegant and fresh.

Ségla (Rauzan Ségla)**Margaux****16 points | 2023 to 2027**

Fruity and charming, very well balanced and confident in its style, polished and fresh.



BORDEAUX 2017

A VINTAGE WITH CHARM



Bordeaux has three different kinds of vintages: good ones, bad ones and forgotten ones. The 2017 vintage, delivered in the spring of 2020, is one of the last kind. There are various reasons for this: for example, the not exactly rosy sales situation, or the fact that 2017 is flanked by four 'officially' top vintages. 2017 was complex in terms of weather: spring frosts decimated the crop, but very unevenly, and the summer was dry, July tropical, August moderately warm, and September rainy. For statisticians and other number wizards, it was obvious: years ending with a 'seven' are almost never a success.

However, this is only a problem for people whose gaze is limited to the speculative side of wine – and those who prefer to open their bottles of wine will benefit. We have a few of these 'forgotten' vintages in the cellar and have suddenly rediscovered them 10 or 15 years later, such as 1999, 2004 or 2014. The same people who looked askance at us when we named 2001 as a top vintage after our en primeur tasting are now suddenly insisting that '2001 is better than 2000'. This cerebral discussion is not for us: for as long as wine is a product of the soil and not of technology, every vintage is worthy, because every vintage represents a particular season and thus

a particular style. Some people prefer rich wines and will opt for the 2018s, whilst others prefer elegance and harmony – making the 2017s perfect. On the best estates that entirely or almost entirely escaped frost, 2017 was an exceptionally good and thus top vintage. Never in the last 30 years have we tasted such enjoyable, harmonious, fruity and elegant Bordeaux en primeur, and this positive assessment was confirmed in the bottle. The harmony, elegance, freshness, and perfectly polished tannins of most of the 2017 reds means that they will be enjoyable relatively early, without affecting their potential to mature. Terroir and thus style differences are clearly expressed. This means that it is also a perfect vintage for getting to know the top Bordeaux estates a little better. We therefore recommend buying a few (more) bottles of 2017 wines here and there, not least because the vintage has remained very good value for money, with the exception of a handful of (overly) expensive premium examples. However, you should be very selective with your purchases and stick to better known brands and top terroirs that were not hit by frost – you can use the next section as your guide. Dry white wines and sweet examples were also very successful this year.

RED WINES

CHATEAUS FROM A TO Y

A

Château Andron Blanquet
Saint-Estèphe
16 points | 2023 to 2028

Lovely development notes; smooth structure, fresh and spirited with polished tannins, well balanced, appealing, well made.

Château Angéhus
Saint-Émilion
18.5 points | 2029 to 2045

Intense nose, fruity and shaped by ageing, full in the attack, densely woven on the palate, elegant with juicy tannins and an exceptionally lingering finish; harmonious, very sophisticated, carefully made and matured.

Château Ausone
Saint-Émilion
18.5 points | 2026 to 2033

Superb spice and berry nose, slender in the attack, hugely sophisticated, fresh, taut and elegant, impressively dense with polished tannins; an exceptional wine made with great precision.

B

Château Balestard la Tonnelle
Saint-Émilion
16 points | 2025 to 2035

Particularly spicy aromas with liquorice notes, compact and tart, juicy and spirited, in keeping with the style of the wine; needs to mature.

Château Barde Haut
Saint-Émilion
15 points | 2024 to 2029

Well-rounded on the palate, juicy with grainy tannins, medium length, perceptible headiness; best enjoyed young.

Château Batailley
Pauillac
18 points | 2025 to 2040

Tempting development notes, a superb, fresh, juicy texture, hugely spirited, yet also elegant and polished; a wonderful, stylish, excellent wine with potential to age.

Château Beau Séjour Bécot
Saint-Émilion
17.5 points | 2028 to 2040

Hugely spirited and impressively dense with fresh tannins and perfect length; harmonious, enjoyable, will mature well.

Château Beauregard
Pomerol
18 points | 2023 to 2032

A superb, complex nose, then combining sensuality, depth, fullness, smoothness and juiciness into a beautiful whole of Burgundian fruitiness and freshness, enjoyable young but could still mature.

Château Beauséjour Duffau Lagarosse
Saint-Émilion
17.5 points | 2028 to 2035

Complex nose with spice, berry and black tea notes, full in the attack, hugely dense, spirited and lingering; characterful, best laid down for a long time.

Château Bel Air
Pomerol
15 points | 2024 to 2029

Well made and robust with juicy tannins, medium density.

Château Belair Monange
Saint-Émilion
18 points | 2025 to 2035

Has great aromatic potential and is decidedly crisp and spirited, with high-quality tannins and a lingering finish with a fresh minty touch; superb.

Château Belgrave
Haut-Médoc
17 points | 2023 to 2030

Juicy and fresh, full-bodied and hugely spirited with superb, polished tannins and a fruity finish; pleasant and very stylish. One of the best wines so far from this estate!

Château Bellefont Belcier
Saint-Émilion
14.5 points | 2026 to 2030

Rich in extract, fruity, a heady wine in modern style.

Château Bellevue
Saint-Émilion
16 points | 2024 to 2032

Fruity, a powerful structure, full bodied with tart tannins and a fresh finish, appealing.

Château Berliquet
Saint-Émilion
16 points | 2024 to 2030

Crisp with powdery tannins, lingering with the freshness it needs and a spicy, fruity finish; an enjoyable, well-balanced wine.

Château Beychevelle
Saint-Julien
15.5 points | 2025 to 2035

Weighty and full with rather tart, even fuzzy tannins and good length.

Château Bonalque
Pomerol
16 points | 2023 to 2027

Full bodied, rich in extract, juicy, with no harshness; appealing and well made, with fun guaranteed.

Château Bourgneuf
Pomerol
16 points | 2025 to 2030

Appealing nose, spicy, with a firm structure, fresh, with angular tannins and a peppery finish; enjoyable, a safe bet.

Château Bouscaut
Pessac-Léognan
16 points | 2021 to 2030

Smooth, fruity, harmonious, with good length, already enjoyable young.

Château Boyd Cantenac
Margaux
16.5 points | 2028 to 2040

Pastry spice and red berry aromas, in rather reticently juicy and spirited style, hugely fresh with a full-bodied finish of herb and red berry notes; perhaps offering rather outdated charm, but in keeping with its own style.

Château Branaire Ducru
Saint-Julien
17.5 points | 2022 to 2030

Compact, elegant, hugely fresh with refined, very fine-grained tannins and perfect length, impeccably made.



Château Brane Cantenac
Margaux

18.5 points | 2025 to 2035

A touch more robust than en primeur at this stage, more closed than most other Margaux, but with a little swirling it reveals a superb, dense texture, wonderful tannins, and the huge elegance and freshness that impressed us in primeur: absolutely must be left to age.

Château Brondelle
Graves

16.5 points | 2023 to 2030

Temporarily spicy, a velvety texture with polished, perfectly integrated tannins and good length, well made.

C

Château Cadet Bon
Saint-Émilion

15 points | 2024 to 2029

Robust in style, fruity with juicy tannins, a reliable wine that could mature.

Château Calon Ségur
Saint-Estèphe

19 points | 2025 to 2040

Full in the attack, seamlessly dense structure, velvety smooth tannins, hugely lingering; an exquisite, very sophisticated wine.

Château Canon
Saint-Émilion

17.5 points | 2027 to 2034

Dense, fruity and spicy in style, full bodied, spirited and authentic; a lively wine, still very closed, could mature.

Château Canon la Gaffelière
Saint-Émilion

17.5 points | 2024 to 2033

Fruity in the attack, elegant in style, silky with crisp tannins, perfect length with the freshness it needs and lovely berry notes; utterly successful.

Château Cantemerle
Haut-Médoc

16 points | 2022 to 2028

Subtle nose, fruity, with well-balanced oak, straightforward in the attack, classic structure, slender with fine-grained tannins and a lingering finish, well balanced, reliable.

Château Cantenac Brown
Margaux

17 points | 2024 to 2034

Particularly tempting nose, full in the attack, dense structure, seamlessly dense tannins, spirited, exceptionally made.

Château Cap de Mourlin
Saint-Émilion

15 points | 2024 to 2030

Tart and tightly knit in style, perceptible acidity, crisply ripe.

Château Carbonnieux
Pessac-Léognan

16.5 points | 2024 to 2030

Still reticent, fruity with herb touches, compact and intense structure, spirited with a tart, crisp, pleasantly lingering finish; still needs to mature somewhat. As expected, age has given the wine greater polish.

Château Caroline
Moulis

15 points | 2022 to 2024

Reticent with herbaceous notes, slender and lean, refreshing, with tart tannins.

Château Certan de May de Certan
Pomerol

16.5 points | 2023 to 2030

In slender, compact, pleasantly herbaceous style, yet not rustic, with a lovely sour cherry finish; a must for fans of classic Pomerol.

Château Chasse Spleen
Moulis

16.5 points | 2023 to 2029

A tempting floral and fruity nose with peony and raspberry aromas, smooth in the attack, fresh development, and full-bodied tannins that still dominate the otherwise fruity finish; could still mature.

Château Cheval Blanc**Saint-Émilion****19 points | 2026 to 2040**

Refined nose with spicy notes, wonderfully velvety tannins, refined, delicate, transparent; a perfect illustration of what elegance means.

Château Clerc Milon**Pauillac****17.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Remaining juicy and delicious despite the present compact structure, the well-rounded supporting structure of tannins, and the huge density and length; polished and very sophisticated.

Château Clos Fourtet**Saint-Émilion****17 points | 2025 to 2033**

Weighty in the attack, high in extract, intense with tart tannins and a lingering finish; spirited, could mature.

Château Cos d'Estournel**Saint-Estèphe****17.5 points | 2028 to 2040**

More intense and robust than en primeur, flirting with the upper limits of extract yet also juicy and fruity with a pronounced black-berry finish; needs to mature to regain its harmony and elegance.

Château Cos Labory**Saint-Estèphe****17.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Still rather smoky and shaped by ageing on the nose, but particularly well balanced on the palate, elegantly smooth, full-bodied, and perfectly lingering; sufficiently classic and thoroughly successful.

Château Couhins**Pessac-Léognan****16 points | 2024 to 2030**

Still reticent, juicy and crisp in style, compact and tart with robust, even rather harsh tannins: needs to mature.

Château Couhins-Lurton**Pessac-Léognan****15.5 points | 2023 to 2030**

Full bodied and rich in extract, more compact than lingering, lots of oak; needs to mature somewhat.

Château Crabitey**Graves****16 points | 2022 to 2028**

Reticently spicy and fruity, in juicy and refreshing style, crisp, well structured, with a fruity finish.

Château Croizet Bages**Pauillac****15.5 points | 2025 to 2030**

Rather herbaceous and slightly rustic in style.

D**Château d'Armailhac****Pauillac****16.5 points | 2022 to 2030**

Crisp and decidedly fruity, appealing in the best sense, already enjoyable young but will also age well.

Château d'Issan**Margaux****18 points | 2025 to 2040**

Bewitching nose of liquorice and berry aromas, powerful, even angular for the vintage, with particular substance and huge depth; a wine to lay down and not open too early. The score is for its huge potential and its utterly classic style.

Château Dauzac**Margaux****16.5 points | 2025 to 2030**

Oak dominates on the nose, then rather taut and dry on the palate with perceptibly high extract, needs to mature: development has somewhat dampened its good beginnings and it does not currently live up to our impressions from the en primeur sample, absolutely needs to mature for a while.

Château de Ferrand**Saint-Émilion****15.5 points | 2024 to 2030**

Appealing nose, fruity, smooth, with polished tannins; has increased its score.

Château de Lamarque**Haut-Médoc****15.5 points | 2020 to 2028**

Temptingly fruity with reticent oak spice, smooth, slender, well balanced with fine-grained tannins and a fruity finish; enjoyable, stylish, elegant.

Château de Pressac**Saint-Émilion****18 points | 2027 to 2040**

Impressively complex on the nose, full in the attack, a full and velvety structure, wonderfully fine-grained tannins, stunningly lingering with a weighty finish; one of the hits of the year despite the perceptible headiness. Leave to mature.

Château de Sales**Pomerol****15.5 points | 2022 to 2025**

In slender, light, fruity and herbaceous style, should not be laid down for too long.

Château Desmirail**Margaux****17 points | 2021 to 2030**

Elegant and well balanced, very silky, true to its style and that of the vintage; drinkers can take advantage of its freshness and charm very soon.

Château Destieux**Saint-Émilion****14.5 points | 2024 to 2029**

Ripe structure, tart tannins, medium length.

Château Deyrem Valentin**Margaux****16 points | 2023 to 2032**

Reticently smoky and fruity, full in the attack, well made, smooth. Polished tannins and a lingering chocolate finish.

Château du Domaine de l'Eglise**Pomerol****16.5 points | 2024 to 2032**

Tart, robust and well structured in style, offering spirit and depth, could mature.

Château du Tertre**Margaux****17 points | 2024 to 2032**

Superb fruity and floral nose with lilac notes, juicy and crisp right from the attack, slender yet sophisticated with perfect length; utterly true to its style.

Château Ducru Beaucaillou**Saint-Julien****18.5 points | 2025 to 2040**

Complex and reticent nose, full in the attack, dense structure, huge depth, top-quality mouth-filling tannins, and a lingering, harmonious, fruity and mineral finish; superb.

Château Duhart Milon Rothschild**Pauillac****16 points | 2024 to 2032**

Tempting oak spice, clear in the attack, slender structure, fresh tannins; stylish.

Château Durfort Vivens**Margaux****19 points | 2026 to 2040**

Reticent but utterly complex, superbly dense, spirited and fresh with top-quality tannins, huge depth and particular length; first class.

F

Château Faugères **Saint-Émilion**

16 points | 2024 to 2034

Juicy, spirited and crisp despite the perceptible oak, with development improving its balance; trendy and characterful.

Château Ferrière **Margaux**

18 points | 2022 to 2034

As always, absolutely elegant and well balanced, refined, lingering, hugely floral and fresh; a superb wine that could mature but will also be enjoyable young.

Château Feytit Clinet **Pomerol**

14.5 points | 2022 to 2028

Lots of oak, a crisp and dry finish; development has done it a disservice.

Château Figeac **Saint-Émilion**

18.5 points | 2025 to 2035

Impressive precision and brilliance, stunning freshness and elegance; excellent for the vintage, characterful and deep, one of the must-buys of the year.

Château Fombrauge **Saint-Émilion**

16 points | 2023 to 2032

Compact style, pleasantly dense with ripe, slightly tart tannins; exceptionally made with perfectly proportioned oak.



Château Fonbadet **Pauillac**

16 points | 2025 to 2035

Still shaped by ageing on the nose, intense and fleshy on the palate, dense and very sophisticated, 100% Pauillac.

Château Fonplégade **Saint-Émilion**

15 points | 2022 to 2028

Decidedly spirited with barely ripe tannins, perceptible acidity and a slight bitter touch. Absolutely needs to mature, which could increase its score.

Château Fonréaud **Listrac**

16 points | 2022 to 2027

Still rather shaped by ageing with lovely cocoa and cherry aromas, pleasantly full with velvety tannins and good length; will be wonderful in two or three years.

Château Fonroque **Saint-Émilion**

18 points | 2027 to 2040

Very reticent, hugely spirited and very dense with stunning minerality and a seemingly endless finish; one of the best wines of the year.

Château Franc Mayne **Saint-Émilion**

16 points | 2022 to 2030

Elegant, smooth, stunningly fruity with juicy, crisp tannins and good length; pleasant.

G

Château Gazin **Pomerol**

16.5 points | 2023 to 2030

Reticently spicy, full in the attack, dense development, tart tannins, and a berry and herb finish; age has given it greater harmony.

Château Giscours **Margaux**

18.5 points | 2024 to 2035

A reticent, delicate, promising, fruity, floral and mineral nose, full in the attack, dense structure, superb texture, hugely lingering, combining full body and depth with finesse; an absolute classic, even better than en primeur.

Château Gloria **Saint-Julien**

17 points | 2023 to 2032

Subtle nose, fruity in the attack, dense development with polished, fresh tannins and a perfectly lingering finish; exceptionally made.

Château Grand Pontet **Saint-Émilion**

14.5 points | 2024 to 2029

Full-bodied in style, robust with barely ripe tannins.

Château Grand Puy Ducasse **Pauillac**

16 points | 2025 to 2035

Juicy, crisp and robust in style, sophisticated with just a slightly harsh, angular finish.

Château Grand Puy Lacoste **Pauillac**

18.5 points | 2025 to 2040

Complex, still youthful nose, full in the attack with a weighty, juicy structure, hugely dense, spirited, juicy and lingering, a stunning wine made with great precision. Even better than en primeur.

Château Grandmaison **Pessac-Léognan**

15.5 points | 2023 to 2028

Shaped by ageing on the nose, compact in the attack, very full structure, velvety tannins, just rather tart in the finish; well made.

Château Guadet **Saint-Émilion**

16 points | 2024 to 2034

Intense, even weighty, with high extract for the vintage, robust, characterful, needs to mature.

Château Guillot Clauzel **Pomerol**

15.5 points | 2022 to 2028

Lively on the palate with fine-grained tannins, ending with lovely berry notes; a well-balanced, refreshing wine.

H

Château Haut-Bages Libéral **Pauillac**

17 points | 2025 to 2035

Huge aromatic complexity, robust, juicy, crisp, very spirited, hugely fresh with a peppery finish; offering power and typical style.

Château Haut-Bailly **Pessac-Léognan**

19 points | 2027 to 2040

Nobly reticent on the nose, very dense and full on the palate, yet also utterly elegant with top-quality tannins and a hugely lingering finish; one of the most beautiful and stylish wines of the vintage.

Château Haut-Batailley**Pauillac****15.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Broader and rather more angular than en primeur, absolutely must be left to age.

Château Haut-Brion**Pessac-Léognan****18.5 points | 2027 to 2040**

A superb, almost majestic wine built for long ageing, fleshy, full-bodied, lingering, with superbly polished tannins, astonishingly classic and at least on a par with the so-called great vintages!

Château Haut-Maille**Pomerol****14.5 points | 2024 to 2029**

Herb notes, fruity, medium structure.

Château Haut-Sarpe**Saint-Émilion****15.5 points | 2024 to 2029**

Compact in the attack, tart in style, spicy with powdery tannins, refreshing.

Château Hosanna**Pomerol****16.5 points | 2026 to 2030**

Spicy nose, oak aromas, compact in the attack, rich structure, full-bodied with grainy tannins and a lingering black berry finish; a weighty wine for laying down.

K, L

Château Kirwan**Margaux****17 points | 2024 to 2034**

Very fruity and elegant, well balanced and smooth thanks to well-rounded and fresh tannins, as well as depth; so harmonious that it can be uncorked young, although some time in bottle will do it no harm.

Château L'Enclos**Pomerol****16 points | 2025 to 2030**

Full bodied and smooth in the attack with dense, well-integrated tannins and a crisp, medium-length berry finish; a perfect, well-balanced table wine.

Château La Lagune**Haut-Médoc****17.5 points | 2024 to 2035**

Reticent with complex floral and spice aromas, full bodied, dense and fresh on the palate, high-quality tannins, hugely sophisticated and lingering with a juicy blackberry finish; thoroughly successful.

Château La Cabanne**Pomerol****15 points | 2025 to 2030**

Juicy in the attack, fresh development, tart tannins, in classic style.

Château La Clotte**Saint-Émilion****16.5 points | 2024 to 2030**

Rich structure, juicy, fresh in the attack with red berry notes; thoroughly successful.

Château La Commanderie**Saint-Émilion****15.5 points | 2024 to 2029**

In cultivated, straightforward style on the palate, fruity with smooth tannins, well balanced, fun.

Château La Conseillante**Pomerol****18 points | 2022 to 2032**

Has once again gained delicacy, immensely subtle and elegant, floral and sensual, impeccably made.

Château La Couspaude**Saint-Émilion****15 points | 2026 to 2033**

Herbaceous style, tart, easy drinking, an idiosyncratic wine that needs to mature somewhat.

Château La Croix**Pomerol****16 points | 2023 to 2030**

In smooth, spicy, fruity, classic style with fresh, slightly tart tannins.

Château La Croix de Gay**Pomerol****15.5 points | 2021 to 2025**

Compact, well balanced in its way, with smooth, slightly fuzzy tannins.

Château La Croix du Casse**Pomerol****15.5 points | 2025 to 2030**

Tart, full bodied, classic and stylish. Reliable as always.

Château La Croix Saint-Georges**Pomerol****16.5 points | 2023 to 2032**

Perceptible oak spice, full in the attack, dense structure, velvety tannins, yet also hugely fruity and fresh; significantly more harmonious than en primeur.

**Château La Dominique****Saint-Émilion****17.5 points | 2022 to 2030**

A particularly tempting nose, fruity with subtle, elegant development notes and perfectly proportioned oak, well made, dense, with polished and fresh tannins and a good, fruity finish; exceptionally made.

Château La Fleur de Gay**Pomerol****15 points | 2022 to 2025**

Velvety structure, lots of oak: trendy.

Château La Fleur-Pétrus**Pomerol****17 points | 2025 to 2032**

Still reticent, full in the attack, dense structure, compact texture, fine-grained tannins, a lingering fresh finish; as expected, has gained further polish.

Château La Gaffelière**Saint-Émilion****17.5 points | 2028 to 2040**

Firm and powerful structure, particularly elegant tannins, with the necessary freshness and spirit, and a lingering black berry finish; an exceptionally well-balanced wine, first class.

Château La Garde**Pessac-Léognan****15.5 points | 2024 to 2030**

Reticent spice, compact and tart in style, perceptible freshness, could mature somewhat.



Château La Grave

Pomerol

15 points | 2025 to 2030

Robust in style with fresh tannins and good length, intense with a tart and fruity finish.

Château La Gurgue

Margaux

15 points | 2021 to 2028

Compact and crisp, spirited and fresh.

Château La Marzelle

Saint-Émilion

17.5 points | 2022 to 2033

Fruity and spicy, complex and tempting, full in the attack with a velvety, full, dense yet immensely smooth structure and a lingering, stunningly fruity finish; excellent.

Château La Mission Haut-Brion

Pessac-Léognan

17.5 points | 2029 to 2040

The most closed, development-driven wine of the whole tasting, emphatically bulky, robust, even tart, with perceptible acidity and huge depth and fullness; needs to mature.

Château La Mondotte

Saint-Émilion

17.5 points | 2028 to 2033

Explosive black berry aromas, full in the attack, velvety on the palate, powerful, with fresh tannins and a decidedly lingering finish with the freshness and spirit it needs; hugely precisely made.

Château La Patache

Pomerol

15 points | 2024 to 2029

Fruity, robust in style, tart; a reliable wine, could mature.

Château La Renaissance

Pomerol

15 points | 2024 to 2029

Fruity, densely woven, tart, with a bitter almond finish; reliable.

Château La Serre

Saint-Émilion

17 points | 2024 to 2030

Reticently shaped by ageing, elegant in the attack with fruity development, polished and fresh tannins, and lots of finesse; thoroughly recommended.

Château La Tour Carnet

Haut-Médoc

16 points | 2022 to 2030

Juicy, compact, just slightly dry in the finish; has gained further balance, very reliable, also given its reasonable price for a Cru Classé, a positive development.

Château La Tour Figeac

Saint-Émilion

17 points | 2023 to 2032

Still very youthful, full in the attack with velvety, full, dense development, full-bodied with a juicy finish; excellent for the vintage.

Château La Violette

Pomerol

16 points | 2021 to 2025

Aromatic and smooth, delicious and appealing, in keeping with its style and the vintage.

Château Lafite Rothschild

Pauillac

17.5 points | 2022 to 2030

Elegantly subtle, slender, perceptibly refined and remarkably fresh with polished tannins: very stylish, but not quite on a par with the other en primeur samples.

Château Lafleur du Roy

Pomerol

15.5 points | 2025 to 2030

In robust and full-bodied style, spicy with still rather fuzzy tannins, good length and the necessary freshness; worthy of laying down.

Château Lafleur Gazin

Pomerol

15.5 points | 2025 to 2029

Tart, full-bodied, rich, with a fresh and fruity finish; harmonious and made with precision.

Château Lafon Rochet

Saint-Estèphe

17 points | 2024 to 2032

Elegant, particularly fresh and delicate, slender and tonic; a true treat, enjoyable and impeccable.

Château Lagrange**Saint-Julien****17.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

A particularly substantial, well made, robust, dense wine with good ageing potential, exceptionally made; do not open too early.

Château Lalande-Borie**Saint-Julien****15.5 points | 2022 to 2028**

Juicy, smooth, easy drinking, appealing.

Château Langoa Barton**Saint-Julien****17 points | 2022 to 2030**

In fruity, compact, dense and very well-rounded style, but also fresh thanks to the crisp tannins; enjoyable.

Château Laniote**Saint-Émilion****15 points | 2024 to 2029**

Rounded yet also juicy with grainy tannins, medium length, perceptible headiness; best enjoyed young.

Château Larcis Ducasse**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2025 to 2032**

Corpulent in the attack, dense structure, fresh, with perceptibly grainy tannins, a truly lingering finish, and perceptible alcohol that is nevertheless kept in check by the acidity.

Château Laroque**Saint-Émilion****17 points | 2025 to 2035**

Astonishingly spirited and dense, precisely made, particularly mineral, hugely lingering; bursting with character, needs to mature.

Château Lascombes**Margaux****16.5 points | 2023 to 2035**

A trendy, enjoyable, thoroughly fruity, juicy wine that is nevertheless rather shaped by ageing at this stage and needs to mature for at least three or four years.

Château Latour**Pauillac****18.5 points | 2025 to 2040**

An immensely mineral, complex, very deep wine of remarkable density and tension, with bite and spirit; a truly textbook Latour.

Château Latour à Pomerol**Pomerol****16.5 points | 2025 to 2030**

Tempting spice on the nose, classic structure, elegant with smooth tannins.

Château Latour Martillac**Pessac-Léognan****16.5 points | 2022 to 2030**

Lovely oak spice, very juicy and fresh with polished tannins and good length; age has brought greater harmony, appealing with enjoyment guaranteed.

Château Le Bon Pasteur**Pomerol****15 points | 2022 to 2028**

Rich in extract with tart, robust tannins.

Château Le Bosq**Saint-Estèphe****15 points | 2024 to 2030**

Still very shaped by oak, compact and tart structure, robust, with oak again dominating its development; closed, needs to mature.

Château Le Chemin**Pomerol****16 points | 2025 to 2030**

Smooth structure, polished and fresh tannins, an elegant wine that knows how to please.

Château Le Gay**Pomerol****16 points | 2025 to 2030**

Very rich in extract and therefore rather superficial, with harsh tannins, although certainly exceptionally made; needs to mature.

Château Le Prieuré**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2024 to 2034**

Rich in extract for the vintage, tart and slightly dry, but also offering depth and character; leave to age for a while.

Château Lécuyer**Pomerol****14.5 points | 2023 to 2029**

Tart, robust, but reliable.

Château Léoville Barton**Saint-Julien****18 points | 2027 to 2035**

Utterly sensual, elegant, smooth, with polished tannins, juicy; particularly stylish, a must.

Château Léoville Las Cases**Saint-Julien****18.5 points | 2025 to 2040**

The style of the brand and terroir overshadows the style of the vintage, enormously dense and well made with clear contours and huge depth, keen acidity and thus exceptional spirit and length.

Château Léoville Poyferré**Saint-Julien****18 points | 2025 to 2035**

Still shaped by ageing on the nose, lots of oak again on the palate, but with polished tannins and perceptible extract; true to its style and the typical features of the vintage.

Château Les Grandes Murailles**Saint-Émilion****15 points | 2024 to 2029**

Shaped by ageing on the nose, rich in extract on the palate with powdery tannins and perceptible headiness.

Château Lilian Ladouys**Saint-Estèphe****15.5 points | 2024 to 2030**

Fruity and spicy, compact and tart in style with just rather fuzzy, slightly dry tannins; still needs to mature somewhat.

Château Lynch Bages**Pauillac****17 points | 2027 to 2035**

Currently very closed, dominated by extract and angular tannins, thus coming across as very compact and robust, without being rustic; needs to mature.

Château Lynch Moussas**Pauillac****16.5 points | 2025 to 2033**

Still rather shaped by ageing, with a compact, even robust, weighty structure and a fruity and spicy finish; could still mature somewhat.

M

Château Malartic Lagravière**Pessac-Léognan****17.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

We were disappointed by the en primeur sample, but the bottled wine is of the usual standard: full in the attack, dense structure, hugely lingering with high-quality tannins and a superb currant and cassis finish, needs to mature.

Château Malescot Saint-Exupéry**Margaux****17 points | 2025 to 2035**

Tempting pastry spice nose, full in the attack, dense structure, velvety tannins, perfect length, impeccably made.

Château Margaux**Margaux****19 points | 2022 to 2036**

Stylish, elegant, full of charm, no extracted monster, but with huge harmony and freshness! A textbook Margaux.

Château Marquis d'Alesme**Margaux****17 points | 2022 to 2034**

Tempting floral nose, particularly juicy and full-bodied on the palate, rounded and fresh with good length. Already enjoyable now but could still mature: has gained utterly astonishing harmony, even better than en primeur!

Château Marquis de Terme**Margaux****17 points | 2021 to 2030**

Stylish, harmonious, made and matured with huge precision, velvety tannins, a lingering fruity finish; excellent wine that is enjoyable now but could still mature, even better than en primeur.

Château Mazeyres**Pomerol****16.5 points | 2023 to 2030**

A subtle, fruity nose of fresh raspberry aromas, filigree structure, silky fresh tannins, good length; precise, pleasant.

Château Meyney**Saint-Estèphe****16.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Compact, fresh and very well balanced in style with polished tannins and perfect length; elegant and easy drinking but with good ageing potential.

Château Monbrison**Margaux****18 points | 2024 to 2030**

Superb blackberry, lilac and pastry spice nose, elegant and fruity in the attack with harmonious development and high-quality tannins, hugely fresh and lingering, wonderfully stylish.

Château Mondot**Saint-Émilion****15 points | 2023 to 2032**

Concentrated with a fleshy structure, rich, shaped by alcohol.

Château Monregard la Croix**Pomerol****15 points | 2024 to 2029**

Pleasantly tart, fruity, reliable.

Château Montrose**Saint-Estèphe****18 points | 2028 to 2040**

Still reticent, very compact and spirited in style, stylish, dense and lingering with crisp tannins and perfectly integrated oak; excellent, needs to mature.

Château Moulin du Cadet**Saint-Émilion****15 points | 2025 to 2030**

Dense structure, rich with perceptible headiness, but in cultivated style.

Château Moulin Haut-Laroque**Fronsac****17 points | 2022 to 2032**

Complex, interesting berry and spice nose, reticently spicy with a touch of walnut, then full in the attack with a dense structure, high-quality tannins and juicy finish; exceptionally made, can be enjoyed very young, even if it can also easily mature.

Château Moulin Saint-Georges**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2025 to 2032**

Compact in the attack, well made, tart with perfectly ripe tannins, characterful.

Château Mouton Rothschild**Pauillac****18 points | 2027 to 2040**

More imposing, sophisticated and closed than en primeur, denser and fuller bodied, but without giving up any of its particular freshness, fruitiness, tension and length. A great wine for laying down.

O, P

Château Olivier**Pessac-Léognan****17.5 points | 2024 to 2035**

Tempting, fruity and spicy, with particular freshness, elegance, density and length, exquisite tannins and a lingering blackberry finish; lives up to its en primeur promise well!

Château Palmer**Margaux****19 points | 2024 to 2035**

Particularly complex aromas, immensely precise with exquisitely polished tannins and stunning freshness, refined, elegant, very lingering; stunningly good.

Château Pape Clément**Pessac-Léognan****18.5 points | 2025 to 2040**

Still immensely stylish in bottle with huge precision, a superb, fine-grained texture and perfect balance between density and freshness; a wonderful wine, one of the hits of the vintage.

Château Pavie**Saint-Émilion****18 points | 2030 to 2045**

Dense and velvety with fine-grained tannins and an incredibly lingering finish, harmonious, even better than en primeur: just how we like it!

Château Pavie Decesse**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2027 to 2040**

Very rich in extract and meaty with well-integrated oak, fresh, pleasant.

Château Pavie Macquin**Saint-Émilion****17 points | 2030 to 2045**

High extract, fleshy structure, imposing, matching the en primeur sample.

Château Pédesclaux**Pauillac****16.5 points | 2023 to 2032**

Particularly precise, enjoyable, well balanced and refreshing in style, even more appealing and easy drinking than en primeur, harmonious and thoroughly recommended.

Château Petit Faurie de Soutard**Saint-Émilion****15.5 points | 2024 to 2029**

Well made, straightforward, fresh.

Château Petit Village**Pomerol****17.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Full but still rather closed in style, robust with angular yet perfectly polished tannins; tasted in a defiant phase, needs to mature. Impeccably made.

Château Pétrus**Pomerol****18 points | 2024 to 2035**

Astonishingly mature and full with top-quality supporting tannins and an astonishing cherry jam finish; particularly stylish.

Château Phélan Ségur**Saint-Estèphe****17.5 points | 2024 to 2034**

A subtle, smoky nose, full in the attack with leisurely, dense development, juicy tannins and huge length; spirited and sophisticated.

Château Pibran**Pauillac****16.5 points | 2024 to 2034**

Reticently fruity and spicy, then fruity in the attack with a juicy structure, perfectly integrated tannins, and a good finish supported by the spicy development notes.

Château Pichon Baron**Pauillac****18.5 points | 2027 to 2040**

A perfect illustration of the vintage and the style; majestic, very spirited, fresh and lingering despite the still dominant development, even better than en primeur.

Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande**Pauillac****18.5 points | 2025 to 2040**

A shining example of sensuality, refinement, power and fullness with top-quality tannins and huge length; (still) an exceptionally successful, utterly tempting classic.

Château Plince**Pomerol****15 points | 2024 to 2029**

Well made, fruity, with fresh tannins.

Château Pontet Canet**Pauillac****20 points | 2024 to 2040**

The definition of a great wine talks of harmony, staying true to style and thus terroir, impeccable implementation of specifications, respect for vintage typicity and thus the grapes, and inspiration. Once again Pontet Canet achieves all of these, and is more Burgundian than ever in this vintage with huge aromatic expression, particular silky freshness, immensely high-quality tannins and enormous harmony. Descriptors like 'better than' or 'worse than' have quite simply become obsolete.

Château Porte Chic**Pomerol****15 points | 2025 to 2030**

Well made, fruity, with tart tannins, in the style of the brand.

Château Potensac**Médoc****16 points | 2022 to 2030**

Juicy, crisp, fun, a truly easy-drinking wine that can also still mature.

Château Pouget**Margaux****16 points | 2021 to 2028**

Lovely pastry spice nose, compact structure, good length, a straightforward, unspectacular wine that guarantees enjoyment.

Château Poujeaux**Moulis****16 points | 2023 to 2030**

Stunningly fruity, full in the attack, fleshy structure, compact, even robust, well structured, with a finish still rather shaped by ageing; needs to mature somewhat.

Château Prieuré Lichine**Margaux****17.5 points | 2022 to 2035**

Stunning precision and sublime Margaux elegance with polished, refined tannins, delicious young or slightly aged but could also be cellared for a while.

Q, R

Château Quinault**Saint-Émilion****16.5 points | 2025 to 2030**

Hugely fresh with fine-grained tannins and a perfectly lingering finish; well balanced, harmonious, has increased its score with age.

Château Quintus**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2025 to 2035**

Spirited, sophisticated, juicy and fresh, weighty but not overly heady.

Château Rahoul**Graves****15.5 points | 2023 to 2028**

Compact and tart in style with perceptible tannins, spirited, needs to mature somewhat.

Château Rauzan Gassies**Margaux****17 points | 2025 to 2035**

Fruity, well balanced, smooth, elegant, stylish, good length; appealing in the style of the estate, the appellation and the year.

Château Rauzan Ségla**Margaux****18.5 points | 2024 to 2040**

Combines magnificent precision with charm, elegance with fullness, plus perfectly mature tannins, stunning polish, sophistication, and a juicy blackberry finish. Superb, a must.

Château Ripeau**Saint-Émilion****14.5 points | 2024 to 2029**

Concentrated with a bulky structure, full-bodied with polished tannins and perceptible headiness; dominated by alcohol.

Château Rochebelle**Saint-Émilion****14.5 points | 2024 to 2029**

Corpulent structure, rich, heavily shaped by alcohol.

Château Rouget**Pomerol****15 points | 2025 to 2030**

High extract, grainy tannins, perceptible oak spice, with a finish shaped by alcohol.

Château Rouillac**Pessac-Léognan****15.5 points | 2022 to 2028**

Temptingly fruity with raspberry notes, again particularly fruity on the palate, slender, offering tart tannins without any harshness, and good length.

S

Château Saint-Georges Côte Pavie**Saint-Émilion****15.5 points | 2024 to 2029**

Straightforward on the palate, smooth, well balanced, stylish.

Château Saint-Pierre**Pomerol****15 points | 2023 to 2029**

Juicy, refreshing, ending with lovely berry notes; enjoy young.





Château Saint-Pierre

Saint-Julien

18 points | 2024 to 2035

Superb structure, top-quality tannins, hugely juicy, fresh, spirited and lingering; exceptionally made.

Château Sansonnet

Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2024 to 2034

Combines stunning fruitiness with polish and fullness; only the wine's distinctly heady and also rather tart finish currently knocks the wine slightly off perfect balance.

Château Smith Haut Lafitte

Pessac-Léognan

17.5 points | 2021 to 2028

A tempting, promising nose slightly shaped by ageing, full in the attack, as soft as a velvet cushion, dense and immensely appealing; a must for fans of the estate, hugely enjoyable even drunk young.

Château Sociando Mallet

Haut-Médoc

16.5 points | 2024 to 2034

Perceptible oak notes, dense in the attack, a full and powerful structure, robust tannins and good length; very stylish and reliable. Leave to mature.

Château Soutard

Saint-Émilion

16.5 points | 2022 to 2032

Fruity, juicy, dense, with polished tannins and well-integrated oak, smooth and well made; reliable and recommended.

T

Château Talbot

Saint-Julien

17 points | 2023 to 2035

Juicy and crisp with compact tannins and a lingering, fruity and fresh finish; impeccable style.

Château Tronquoy-Lalande

Saint-Estèphe

17 points | 2024 to 2034

A promising, complex, spicy and floral nose, then fruity cassis notes, full in the attack, dense and even fleshy structure, hugely lingering; first class! A best buy in this vintage.

Château Troplong Mondot

Saint-Émilion

17.5 points | 2024 to 2045

Complex and spicy nose, elegant in the attack, velvety on the palate with fine-grained tannins; a perfectly balanced, particularly refined wine.

Château Trotanoy

Pomerol

17.5 points | 2025 to 2035

Subtle spice, dense structure, crisp and firm tannins, needs to mature. Very characterful and hugely sophisticated.

Château Trotte Vieille

Saint-Émilion

17 points | 2024 to 2034

Fruity, well made, full bodied with ripe, fresh tannins and ideal length; a perfectly balanced wine and a safe bet.

V, Y

Château Valandraud

Saint-Émilion

17 points | 2029 to 2045

Concentrated in the attack and impressively imposing on the palate with crisp tannins and a lingering finish; a weighty wine made with great precision.

Château Vieux Maillet

Pomerol

16 points | 2025 to 2030

Lovely aromatic potential, offering depth, sophistication and a refreshing, lingering finish; worth laying down for a few years.

Château Villars**Fronsac****16 points | 2021 to 2028**

Fruity with present developmental notes, smooth in the attack, fruity, polished with good length and well-proportioned development notes that are also perceptible in the finish; fun, aerate and enjoy young or slightly aged.

Château Villemaurine**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2025 to 2032**

Still shaped by oak in its youthful style, full in the attack with a dense, crisp structure and tartness that only comes through in the finish; reliable and well made.

Château Vray Croix de Gay**Pomerol****16.5 points | 2022 to 2030**

Reticent nose, in slender, elegant, subtle style, perfectly balanced with well-polished tannins, pleasantly classic.

Château Yon Figeac**Saint-Émilion****15 points | 2025 to 2030**

Compact in the attack, a dense and tart structure, powdery tannins, a fresh finish.

CLOS/DOMAINE**Clos de l'Oratoire****Saint-Émilion****15.5 points | 2025 to 2029**

Robust style, straightforward, with crisp tannins and good length, the freshness it needs, and a tart, fruity finish; characterful.

Clos de la Vieille Eglise**Pomerol****15 points | 2025 to 2030**

Shaped by ageing, juicy in style, dense with tart but well-integrated tannins, characterful.

Clos de Sarpe**Saint-Émilion****14.5 points | 2025 to 2030**

Very rich in extract, beefy, with a dry finish, shaped by alcohol.

Clos du Beau-Père**Pomerol****14.5 points | 2025 to 2030**

Fleshy, rich in extract, with present oak and alcohol (although at least not aggressively so), and a very spirited finish.

Clos du Clocher**Pomerol****18 points | 2025 to 2035**

This Clos may not have the phenomenal density of other vintages, but is particularly elegant and refined even at this young age. Subtle floral and fresh herb aromas.

Clos du Marquis**Saint-Julien****17.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Has the spirit and polish of a classic Saint-Julien, very well balanced with almost Burgundian freshness thanks to the silky smoothness of the perfectly ripe tannins; very successful.

Clos l'Eglise**Pomerol****15.5 points | 2022 to 2025**

Remaining robust and compact, but also offering lovely fruit for the first time.

Clos René**Pomerol****16 points | 2022 to 2028**

Tempting berry, herb and spice nose, well balanced with smooth tannins and a perfectly lingering fruity finish.

Domaine de Chevalier**Pessac-Léognan****17 points | 2025 to 2035**

Fruity cherry notes, then shaped by ageing, a harmonious structure, perfectly dense and lingering with fine-grained tannins; has gained pleasing harmony.

SECOND/THIRD WINES**Carillon d'Angélus****Saint-Émilion****16.5 points | 2024 to 2032**

Astonishingly similar in style to Angélus in a more rounded, accessible version that is extremely smooth and at most slightly more heady; hugely fruity and fresh with polished tannins.

Croix Beaucaillou (Ducru Beaucaillou)**Saint-Julien****16 points | 2024 to 2034**

Reticent nose, dense in the attack with juicy, even fleshy development, ripe tannins and a lingering fruity finish; spirited and full, needs to mature somewhat.

Croix Canon (Canon)**Saint-Émilion****16.5 points | 2022 to 2028**

A lovely fresh raspberry nose, juicy and joyful on the palate, already enjoyable now, with elegance, body and a typical style.

Haut-Bailly II**Pessac-Léognan****16 points | 2024 to 2030**

Very compact and elegant in style with top-quality tannins for a second wine, and good length; very stylish and recommended.

Les Hauts de Smith**Pessac-Léognan****15.5 points | 2023 to 2028**

Full in the attack, velvety structure, smooth tannins and a heady but not stinging finish, impeccably made.

Passtourelle de Clerc Milon**Pauillac****15 points | 2022 to 2028**

Crisp and fruity, compact, refreshing thanks to the tart yet well-integrated juicy tannins, perceptibly heady but with good overall balance.

Petit Mouton (de Mouton-Rothschild)**Pauillac****17 points | 2023 to 2030**

Temptingly spicy and fruity on the nose, then particularly polished, fruity, pleasingly full with rounded tannins and good length; a stylish, truly sensual, exceptionally made wine that will be very enjoyable young but could still mature somewhat.

Réserve de la Comtesse**(Pichon-Lalande)****Pauillac****16 points | 2023 to 2030**

Very well balanced, stylish, perfectly made, elegant and fresh.

Ségla (Rauzan Ségla)**Margaux****16 points | 2023 to 2027**

Fruity and charming, very well balanced and confident in its style, polished and fresh; a perfect table wine.

DRY WHITE WINES

Château Bouscaut
Pessac-Léognan

16 points | 2022 to 2028

Still closed, but with tension and particular spirit, needs to mature somewhat.

Château Brondelle
Graves

17 points | 2022 to 2030

Interesting exotic fruit nose, full in the attack, hugely spirited, fresh and lingering with a juicy, delicately bitter finish; could mature.

Château Carbonnieux
Pessac-Léognan

18.5 points | 2024 to 2035

A complex, promising nose, hugely dense and spirited, mineral and lingering with a juicy grapefruit finish; even better than en primeur!

Château Couhins
Pessac-Léognan

17 points | 2023 to 2032

Very reticent, hugely sophisticated and decidedly mineral, slender yet also hugely lingering; stylish and impeccably made.

Château Couhins Lurton
Pessac-Léognan

19 points | 2028 to 2040

Reticently floral, almost bursting with minerality, spirit, and stunning density, as well as energy, tension and length; excellent, best laid down for a long time.

Château Haut-Brion Blanc
Pessac-Léognan

18 points | 2023 to 2032

Combining finesse, spirit and length with juicy fruitiness. Very precisely made, needs to mature somewhat. One of the best white Haut-Brions in recent years (or decades).

Château La Garde
Pessac-Léognan

16 points | 2021 to 2026

Lovely white peach nose, pleasantly full and dense, fresh and spirited.

Château La Mission Haut-Brion
Pessac-Léognan

18 points | 2022 to 2032

Already astonishingly well rounded compared to the en primeur sample, full-bodied, smooth and dense.

Château Latour Martillac
Pessac-Léognan

17 points | 2023 to 2032

Full-bodied, robust, dense, with perfectly balanced oak and a juicy grapefruit finish; thoroughly enjoyable.

Château Malartic Lagravière
Pessac-Léognan

18 points | 2027 to 2040

The white wine has also jumped up a notch compared with en primeur: hugely mineral, dense and spirited with a delicate bitter note in the lingering finish; first class!

Château Olivier
Pessac-Léognan

17.5 points | 2024 to 2035

Defiant, very closed and acidity-driven at this stage, leaving it more compact than lingering, revealing its particular spirit and distinct class once swirled: do not open too early.

Château Pape Clément
Pessac-Léognan

15.5 points | 2020 to 2024

Rather intrusively floral at this stage, soft and rounded on the palate with a medium-length lemony finish. Enjoy young.

Château Rahoul
Graves

16.5 points | 2023 to 2030

Pleasing grapefruit nose, compact and juicy style, hugely dense and lingering with an interesting bitter note; characterful, could mature.

Château Smith Haut Lafitte
Pessac-Léognan

17.5 points | 2022 to 2035

Boisterous and weighty in style, spirited, juicy, full and dense, will be very enjoyable at every stage of its life.

Clarté (Haut-Brion)
Pessac-Léognan

16 points | 2021 to 2025

Spirited and sophisticated with good length, could mature somewhat.

Domaine de Chevalier Blanc
Pessac-Léognan

18 points | 2024 to 2035

Once again, age has given this wine greater polish: hugely fresh, elegant and refined, captivating thanks not to power but to balance, sophistication and elegance.

Pavillon Blanc (Margaux)
Bordeaux sec

17 points | 2021 to 2030

In compact, immensely intense, currently even rather herbaceous and very Sauvignon-driven style, despite its perceptible spirit; tasted in a rather defiant phase, hence the slightly lower score.



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SAUTERNES

Carmes de Rieussec

Sauternes

15 points | 2020 to 2022

Appealing, fruity, but also fresh.

Château Broustet

Sauternes

15.5 points | 2022 to 2030

Rich with full and dense sweetness, compact, cleanly made.

Château Coutet

Sauternes

16 points | 2025 to 2035

Subtle nose, corpulent in the attack, well made, powerful, dominated by sweetness in the finish.

Château d'Arche

Sauternes

15.5 points | 2023 to 2030

Harmonious, full-bodied, dense, with well-integrated sweetness and a dried fruit finish.

Château d'Yquem

Sauternes

19 points | 2030 to 2040

Incredibly pure botrytis, wonderfully oily and full, superbly spirited; a monumental wine that combines body with class. Needs to age

Château de Malle

Sauternes

16.5 points | 2023 to 2030

Tempting with a well-balanced structure, elegant, fresh, lingering; appealing.

Château de Myrat

Sauternes

17.5 points | 2021 to 2033

Well balanced, in invitingly fruity and joyful style, just the right amount of sweetness paired with freshness, good length. Already unrestrainedly fun. Has improved further with aging.

Château Doisy Daëne

Sauternes

17.5 points | 2023 to 2032

In intense and oily style, yet also elegant and mineral; a superb wine that could mature further.

Château Doisy Védrières

Sauternes

18 points | 2023 to 2035

Harmonious, elegant, exactly in keeping with the estate's style, refined fullness and depth, fresh, taut and delicate; to be laid down for a long time.

Château Filhot

Sauternes

16 points | 2023 to 2030

The wine is shaped by sweetness, but freshness is also present, ensuring elegance and harmony.

Château Guiraud

Sauternes

18 points | 2023 to 2035

Hugely spirited and dense, juicy and lingering, with beautiful acidity, no hint of clumsy sweetness, and a dried apricot finish: exceptionally made.

Château La Tour Blanche

Sauternes

17 points | 2023 to 2030

Huge oily density, full sweetness, yet also freshness and length; classic, exceptionally made.

Château Lamothe Guignard

Sauternes

15.5 points | 2023 to 2030

Full-bodied, juicy, dense, with rather clumsy sweetness, in the style of the vintage.

Château Rayne Vigneau

Sauternes

16 points | 2022 to 2030

Perceptible botrytis notes, dense and full sweetness, good length.

Château Rieussec

Sauternes

17.5 points | 2021 to 2040

Full bodied, fruity and fleshy, yet also hugely fresh; superb.

Château Sigalas Rabaud

Sauternes

18.5 points | 2023 to 2033

A superb, complex nose, immensely spirited and fresh, offering density, elegance, minerality and length; utterly sophisticated.

Château Suau

Sauternes

15.5 points | 2021 to 2029

In inviting, exuberantly fruity style, candy-like, appealing.

Château Suduiraut

Sauternes

17 points | 2022 to 2030

Oily in style and rich in extract, viscous, somewhat clumsy, yet well and cleanly made.

Clos Haut-Peyraguey

Sauternes

17.5 points | 2023 to 2030

The concentration of the vintage with oily, luscious sweetness as well as density and minerality, and a long, full finish: perfectly made.



Full concentration: Rolf Bichsel ...



... and Barbara Schroeder tasting Sauternes.



OVERVIEW OF ESTATE VISITS



The table below tells you (almost) everything you need to know if you want to visit one of the estates featured in this issue. Opening hours may vary slightly, so you should confirm them in advance by email or online.

Good	www	Mail	Visit	Tasting	Eat	Rooms	Shop	Opening hours
Angéhus	www.angelus.com	angelus@angelus.com	•	•				Mon-Fri 8.30 – 12.00/14.30 – 17.30
Beauregard	www.chateau-beauregard.com	visite@chateau-beauregard.com	•	•	•	•		Mon-Sat, by appointment
Brane-Cantenac	www.brane-cantenac.com	contact@brane-cantenac.com	•	•			•	Mon-Fri 9.00 – 12.30 / 14.00 – 17.00, by appointment
Cantenac Brown	www.cantenacbrown.com	contact@cantenac-brown.com	•	•			•	June to August: Mon-Fri 10.00 – 12.30 / 14.00 – 18.00, Sat 10.00 – 12.30 / 14.00 – 18.00, by appointment
Fieuzal	www.fieuzal.com	infochato@fieuzal.com	•	•				Mon-Fri 10.00 – 16.00, by appointment
Guiraud	www.chateauguiraud.com	accueil@chateauguiraud.com	•	•	•		•	Daily 10.00 – 18.00
La Lagune	www.chateau-lalagune.com	contact@chateau-lalagune.com	•	•	•	•	•	Mon, Tue, Wed 8.00 – 12.00 / 13.30 – 17.30, Thu 8.00 – 12.00 / 13.30 – 16.30, Fri 8.00 – 12.00
Lafon Rochet	www.lafon-rochet.com	visites@lafon-rochet.com	•	•	•		•	April to Oct: daily 10.00 – 18.00, Nov to March: Mon-Fri 9.00 – 17.00
Langoa Barton	www.leoville-barton.com	chateau@barton-family-wines.com	•	•				By appointment
Lascombes	www.chateau-lascombes.com	chateaulascombe@chateaulascombes.fr	•	•				Mon-Sat 9.00 – 12.30 / 13.30 – 18.00, closed 1 May and New Year
Marquis d'Alesme	www.marquisdalesme.wine	contact@marquis.wine	•	•	•		•	May to Oct: Mon-Fri 10.00 – 19.00, by appointment
Marquis de Terme	www.chateau-marquis-de-terme.com	tourisme@chateau-marquis-de-terme.com	•	•	•		•	April to Oct: daily 9.30 – 19.00, Nov to March: Mon-Fri 9.30 – 17.00
Mauvesin Barton	www.mauvesin-barton.com	chateau@mauvesin-barton.com	•	•			•	Mon-Thu 9.30 – 12.30 / 13.30 – 17.00, Fri 9.30 – 12.00, closed 15/8 to 6/9
Montrose	www.chateau-montrose.com	visites@chateau-montrose.com	•	•				4 tours a day by appointment: Mon-Fri 9.30, 11.00, 14.00, 15.30, closed New Year
Olivier	www.chateau-olivier.com	mail@chateau-olivier.com	•	•			•	Mon-Fri 9.00 – 12.30 / 14.00 – 17.30
Pichon Lalande	www.pichon-comtesse.com	contact@pichon-comtesse.com	•	•				Mon-Fri 9.00 – 12.00 / 14.00 – 17.00, by appointment, except public holidays, closed 15/8 to 31/8
Pressac	www.chateaupressac.com	visite@chateaupressac.com	•	•	•		•	Daily 9.00 – 12.00 / 14.00 – 17.00, by appointment, closed on public holidays
Smith Haut Lafitte	www.smith-haut-lafitte.com	visites@smith-haut-lafitte.com	•	•	•	•	•	Daily 10.00 – 18.00, closed on public holidays
Restaurant Gabriel	www.bordeaux-gabriel.fr	reservation@bordeaux-gabriel.fr			•			Bar: daily 8.00 – 00.00, lunch: 12.00 – 14.30, dinner: 19.00 – 22.00
Logis de la Cadène	www.logisdela cadene.fr	contact@logisdela cadene.fr			•	•		Wed-Sun, 12.00 – 13.45 / 19.30 – 21.30
Tronquoy Lalande	www.tronquoy-lalande.com	visites@tronquoy-lalande.com	•	•			•	Mon-Fri 9.00 – 12.30 / 14.00 – 17.30



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Seit nunmehr über 20 Jahren kaufen wir zu aktuellen Höchstpreisen hochwertige Weine aus Bordeaux, Burgund, Rhone und Champagne, sowie selektiv aus Italien, Spanien und der Neuen Welt. Wir sind konstant auf der Suche nach den grossen Namen der Weinwelt, kaufen aber auch die Weine der bekannten, kleineren Chateaus. Besonders interessant sind Weine in Originalkisten und grössere Sammlungen, Lagerverkäufe, aber auch hochwertige Einzelpositionen.

Gegenüber Auktionsverkäufen bieten wir Ihnen den Vorteil von Festpreisen, ohne Abzug von Gebühren, Versicherung oder Degustationsflaschen, sowie eine unmittelbare Abwicklung und Bezahlung ohne Wartezeit.

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Karin Hartmann & Christian Hartmann lic.oec. HSG



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