



CAMBRIDGE WINE MERCHANTS

International Wine Challenge Merchant of the Year 2012-13

Bordeaux 2019 Vintage Report

A very different set up for this year's 'virtual' tastings



In brief

"Every year I say the vintage is great but this year I really mean it" is a quote attributed to Margaux AOP President Edouard Miaillhe's 'neighbour'. Hype seems inevitable as we approach each new Bordeaux vintage release now. As ever, a wide number of vintage comparisons have been drawn covering 2018, 2016, 2015, 2010, 2009, 2003, and 1996. For us, 2019 stands in the shadow of the exceptional 2016, like it in some respects but not on a par. The vintage conditions allowed for good levels of maturity but we sense that a hesitation to extract has left the wines a little too forward and elegant to be regarded as classic.

Weather

One of the words that stuck out most when listening to producers talk about their wines this campaign was 'surprising'. After some mixed weather, including one day in February at 28 centigrade reported by Ch. Haut Bailly, budbreak came early. This was followed by an intensely wet April (104mm average across all regions, compared to a ten year average of 76mm that month), and several frost alerts throughout March, April, and May. We can imagine the dread and sense of the inevitable that must have taken hold of many growers.

Suddenly the most glorious summer on record set in with temperatures exceeding 40 centigrade for several days in July. There was drought too making the growers thankful for the wet spring and consequently the healthy reserves of water held in the subsoils, particularly in clay based areas, to ward off any heat stress. Cool nights in August and a mild September gave vigneronns near perfect stress-free harvest conditions with no threat of rot. A little rain in September refreshed the vines. The 2019 growing season left the frosts of 2017 and the mildew of 2018 as mere distant nightmares. Total production across Bordeaux for the 2019 vintage was 486.3 million litres, just under the 508 million litre 10 year average, and the 498.6 million litres produced in 2018. 85% of the production was red.

Winemaking

One advantage of the virtual tasting set up this year has been the access to technical information and the time to talk to chateaux owners and winemakers themselves without the pressure of a crowded room and a hundred more wines to taste that day. Where possible we have included the alcohol percentage (ABV), total acidity (TA), and pH, as well as the residual sugar (RS) for the Sauternes. Furthermore we have been able to include details on yield, new oak percentages, and a few other winemaking details such as fermentation temperature, or sulphur dioxide usage. One of the key motifs has been a move away from remontage (pumping the juice over the skins in tank to extract colour and tannin as well as keeping the skins moist) in preference of pigéage (a more gentle process for the same purposes which involves punching down the cap of skins manually) to avoid over-extraction and the bitterness that can often result from overworking the must. There also appears to be a decided step away from excessive levels of new oak with most producers expressing a desire to have fruit dominant wines. One producer memorably compared too much oak in a

wine to too much salt in a soup! Several producers are aging a portion of the wine in inert concrete or wood vats rather than using 100% barriques as well. These are interesting changes.

Style

Tasting these wines two months later than normal has been a remarkable experience. Some producers, such as Ch. Grand Puy Lacoste, admitted that the wines had undergone a second racking (as would usually happen at this time anyway) so the samples are much more complete and closer to the finished product. This has made it feel easier to estimate drinking windows on many wines. We have not tasted as broadly as we would normally so it is more difficult to sum up a general style for the vintage. Although there are some big, rich, powerful wines out there, by and large the alcohol levels are more reserved and better integrated than in 2018. The level of extraction has clearly been thought about a lot, giving many quite elegant wines that will have very long drinking windows, enjoyable now but with all the structure and stuffing required to reward long ageing in good cellars.

Pricing

This has been a big talking point during the campaign this year. So far prices have fallen by 10% on average, more where the chateaux can afford it, less where they can't. Prices in the report are all for a case of twelve bottles excluding duty and VAT. Current duty rates are £26.78 per case. An easy calculation for the bottle price including all taxes is to add this to the offer price and divide by ten. For example, *La Tour de By* at £114 per dozen IBD is £14.08 per bottle including all taxes ($£114+26.78=£140.78/10 = £14.08$). Duty and VAT rates are subject to change, and so will be charged at the prevailing rate at the time of delivery in c. two years time.

Wines to buy

Margaux blew us away. It always amazes us that the slight separation of Margaux from the other Haut Medoc grand cru communes can make as much difference as it does. Vineyards with some clay and/or limestone have generally profited, allowing for better acidity and structure in the wines. Saint Emilion wines grown on limestone are excellent and the few Pomerol we have tried on clay are generous and quite delicious. The top wines are very good and better priced than any in the last 5 vintages.

How en primeur works

Bordeaux 2019 en primeur wines will be offered for sale in June/July 2020, with delivery in 2022 once the wines have been bottled and shipped. The prices offered are the first prices offered by the chateaux producers and normally represent the best price at which to buy the wine.

Choose from the wines listed in the report below and place your orders by email to alice.archer@cambridgewine.com or hal@cambridgewine.com.

Bordeaux 2019 en primeur wines are offered in cases of 12x75cl, unless specifically offered in 6x75cl. You may order in different size cases and some supplementary costs may be charged (6x75cl, 12x37.5cl, 6x1.5lt etc). Please ask for details of supplementary costs.

You will receive an invoice for the wines ordered, payable as per our terms and conditions.

No Excise duty or VAT is charged at the time of order. Those taxes only become payable when the wines arrive in the UK and if they come into free circulation (i.e. are delivered to you or stored 'duty paid'). Current duty rates are £26.78 per case of 12x75cl. The current VAT rate is 20%. Duty and VAT will be charged at the prevailing rate at the time of delivery. Wines may be stored in tax free warehouses' on arrival in the UK, by prior arrangement. Please ask for details of ordering wines for delivery to a bonded warehouse, as handling and rental charges apply.

Scoring system

The 100 point system has come in for criticism following scores that seem ever to be on the rise. As a point of difference we will follow the British academic degree classification to rank wines. All wines ranked as Upper Second Class (High 2:1), First Class or Starred First Class are particularly noteworthy and stood out as having great potential. They roughly equate to scores in the following bands:

Mid 2:1= 85-88, High 2:1 = 89-91, First Class = 92-95, Starred First = 96+

The new Cru Bourgeois Classification 2020, reintroducing Superieurs and Exceptionnel.

The long awaited new classification comes into effect from the 2018 vintage. Of the 249 chateaux included in the classification, 14 have been awarded Exceptionnel status and 57 awarded Superieur status, which

they can use for the vintages 2018-2022. Every five years there will be a reassessment. We salute those achieving the highest status and think they are all excellent properties worthy of their position. None of the nine chateaux that achieved Exceptionnel status in the annulled 2003 classification saw fit to rejoin the family and they still stand outside the 1855 grand cru and 2020 Cru Bourgeois classifications.

Favourite wines under £200 per dozen IBD

Haut-Medoc/Medoc/Moulis/Listrac: La Tour de By, Fonreaud, Tour St Bonnet, Caronne Ste Gemme

Margaux: Deyrem Valentin de

St. Estephe: Le Crock, Lilian Ladouys, Le Boscq, Beau-Site

St. Julien: du Glana

Castillon/Francis/Fronsac/Pomerol/St. Emilion & Satellites: Cap de Faugeres, Villars, Teyssier

Graves Rouge: Rahoul

Pessac-Leognan Rouge: Picque-Caillou, Baret

THE LEFT BANK

Médoc

The appellation Médoc comprises sixteen communes and 5700 hectares to the north of St Estephe. The best known communes for quality are Begadan, Ordonnac and St Cristoly. The terroir is different from the Haut-Médoc further south, comprising richer, moisture retaining soils more suited to the Merlot grape.

Property	Classification	Price Dozen IBD
<u>Starred First</u>		
Ch. La Tour de By		£114.00
<i>Dense ruby/purple colour. Quite densely packed aromas too: blueberry, cedar, blackcurrant, redcurrant, coffee, and a little dried fruit. Intense, juicy, plump black fruit on the palate. Plenty of tannic grip, a little dusty and a little chewy. Long, well built, full, but with a traditional back bone. Dense but not overripe. Emphatic.</i>		
<u>First</u>		
Ch. Tour Saint Bonnet	Cru Bourgeois	£93.50
<i>Deep concentrated ruby colour. Pretty nose of kirsch, blackcurrant, and juicy red plum. There's a light spiciness too. Fruity ripe attack with medium body and very good freshness. Mellow chocolatey tannin with just the right amount of grip on the cheeks and gums. Very enjoyable well balanced wine for drinking in 3-8 years.</i>		
<u>High 2:1</u>		
Ch. Noaillac	Cru Bourgeois Supérieur	£58
<i>55% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon 5% Petit Verdot Dark ruby. Ripe cassis nose with some vanilla and spice. Ripe and plump palate, plenty of blackcurrant and plum flavour, with well balanced acid and tannin. Drink from 2023-2030</i>		
<u>Mid 2:1</u>		
Ch. Cailloux de By		£
<i>50% Merlot, 50% Cabernet Sauvignon. Muted aromatics. Black fruits. Quite plump on the palate. Dusty, medium bodied. Fruit fades a little quickly, but all the constituent parts are there.</i>		
Ch. Les Grands Chenes		£122.76
<i>70% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon. This estate has been in the Bernard Magrez portfolio since 1998. Dense, syrupy black fruits and licorice on the nose. Quite dusty on the palate with bitter tannins and a graphite edge. More restrained than expected. Could possibly do with more fruit, but it's not an unattractive wine. A touch short on the finish. Yields were 45hl/ha. The wine was aged in one third new oak, one third in second fill barrels, 5% in amphora as a trial this year, and the rest in tank. 14.2% ABV.</i>		

Not Tasted but usually reliable

Ch. Potensac

£188



Haut-Médoc

The Haut Médoc appellation includes fifteen communes stretched out over 60km of the Medoc peninsular, so it is unsurprising that there is as much difference between the styles of Haut Medoc AC wines from Macau in the south and Vertheuil in the North, as there is between Margaux and St Estephe. We feel it is helpful to name the communes that the chateaux are located in. To the South lie Macau, Ludon, Le Pian-Médoc, Parempuyre, Blanquefort and Le Taillan. In the middle Médoc lie Arcins, Avensan, Lamarque, Cussac, while St-Laurent-Médoc,

Saint-Sauveur, Cissac, Vertheuil and Saint-Seurin-de-Cadourne lie to the North. There are only five Crus Classés found in Haut Medoc AOC communes: Belgrave, Camensac and Tour Carnet are in the Middle Medoc, while La Lagune and Cantemerle are in the South.

Property	Commune	Classification	Price Dozen IBD
First			
Ch. Caronne Ste Gemme	St-Laurent-Médoc		£103
<i>Cedar with a touch of toast and vanilla on the nose, black cherry, fruit gums, mocha, prunes. Medium+ body, nice level of extraction of fruit and tannins. Well built, elegant mouthfeel; creamy with ripe tannins emerging from a cool fruity mid-palate to dominate the finish. Quite robust on the tannin right now (teeth and gums), but enough fruit and acidity for the wine to develop and integrate. A little warming on the finish but certainly feels like it will come together. Drink in 5-10 years.</i>			
Ch. Sociando Mallet	St-Seurin-de-Cadourne		£256
<i>Pure cassis-like aromas. Pencil shavings, and some creaminess too. Ripe and plump on the palate. Very enjoyable flavours. Chewy ripe black fruit. High concentration. Extracted flavour, but soft and integrated tannins. Precise and well balanced. Smoky on the finish. Good length. Will develop.</i>			
High 2:1			
Ch. Belgrave	St-Laurent-Médoc	5th Growth	£210
<i>62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot. Soft blackcurrant aromas, but a little earthy too. Smoky, savoury palate. Ripe chewy fruit. Blackcurrants and plums. Quite simple. Lacks acidity to see long ageing. Pleasant.</i>			
Ch. Bibian	Listrac	Cru Bourgeois Supérieur	£
<i>60% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Petit Verdot. Black fruits and cocoa on the nose. A touch of cedar. Quite chewy on the palate. Rich extracted tannin structure. Good fruit backing. Warming finish. Quite savoury to end. Cellar for 4-8years.</i>			
Ch. Cantemerle	Macau	5th Growth	£213.60
<i>68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot. Inviting aromas of creamy ripe black fruits, cassis, redcurrants, cranberries. Soft and juicy. Intense ripe blackcurrant on the palate. Elegant and refined with fresh lively acidity and cocoa dusted tannins. Surprisingly long. Enjoyable. Very well balanced and integrated now, but could have more complexity.</i>			
Ch. de Camensac	St-Laurent-Médoc	5th Growth	£208.80
<i>55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot. This estate is located on the border of St Julien, just past Ch.</i>			

Lagrange. 50% of the plot is comprised of the same tertiary era gravel soils as St Julien. This type of gravel is found in Pessac as well. The team here is increasing the proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon year on year, considering the most expressive grape on these soils, as well as being worried about over maturation of Merlot in the increasingly hot summers. They are seeking to make wine that expresses the chewy side of St Julien, with the florality of Pessac. Lots of secondary characteristics on the nose; a whiff of oak, cedar, spiciness, creaminess. Lacking primary fruit. Red plums, cherries, some kirsch and blackcurrant on the palate. Quite chewy. There's a bitterness too: coffee notes with drying dusty tannin. Can develop. 13.7% ABV.

Ch. Cissac Cissac Cru Bourgeois £97
 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 8% Petit Verdot. Deep dark ruby colour. Interesting aromas - marzipan, kirsch, mace, and potpourri. Pleasant red fruit on the palate with added baking spices. Medium+ body. Soft and fruity with fresh acidity. Neat and tidy with moderate tannins and a warming finish.

Ch. Labat St-Laurent-Médoc Cru Bourgeois Supérieur £94
 Deep concentrated ruby colour. Toasty oak, grilled meat, pencil shaving, kirsch, blackcurrant, currants. Surprising, bright, juicy palate. Creamy secondary characteristics. Robust forward fruit, victoria plum, dark cherry, currants. Well held with ripe tannins. Balanced and enjoyable. Fruit falls away towards the end but reasonable length.

Ch. Reysson Vertheuil Cru Bourgeois Supérieur £96
 94% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot. Very juicy ripe plum aromas. Simple, but fresh. Easy going and fruity. Well integrated tannin and alcohol. Notable acidity. Drink in the next five years.

Mid 2:1

Ch. La Tour Carnet St-Laurent-Médoc 4th Growth £250.68
 50% Merlot, 50% Cabernet Sauvignon. The soils here are clay and limestone like St Emilion so they have lots of Merlot planted. Pre ferment maceration at a cool 8 centigrade. Same winemaking as Les Grands Chenes, using less new oak than usual. The wine lacks some fruitiness on the nose. Smoke, black treacle and molasses, with a little blackcurrant. Certainly a lot of extraction. A little prettiness, but also a little tough and dried out. Some acidity which is good, but the fruit is lost. 14+%.

Ch. Maurac St-Seurin-de-Cadourne Cru Bourgeois £
 On the edge of St-Estephe. Pleasing red fruit aromas. Bright and juicy. Tannic grip on the teeth. Quite sticky. Savoury finish, ground coffee. Well integrated alcohol. Some good freshness at the end.

Ch. du Retout Cussac Cru Bourgeois Supérieur £
 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot. Dense colour. Creme de cassis, creamy, slightly smoky nose. Graphite tannins dominate the palate crowding out the fruit. Lacking acidity too so the whole wine feels disjointed at time of tasting. Tannins are ripe so if they integrate there may be some more interest in the future especially as there is some brightness from the acidity.

Not Tasted but on good form

Ch. Beaumont Cussac Cru Bourgeois Supérieur £102
 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot. 13.5% ABV

Ch. Belle-Vue Macau Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel £134

Ch. Cambon La Pelouse Macau Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel £129.20

Ch. Citran Avensan £152

Ch. Charmail Saint Seurin de Cadourne Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel £152
 48% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot. 91-92 James Suckling

Ch. La Lagune Ludon 3rd Growth £301

Ch. Lanessan	Cussac	£115	
<i>54 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 36 % Merlot, 10 % Petit Verdot 14%</i>			
Ch. Larrivaux	Cissac-Medoc	£108	
<i>59 % Merlot, 21 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Petit Verdot , 5% Cabernet Franc 14% "The tannins are firm and silky here with blackberry and wet-earth character. It's medium-to full-bodied with a creamy-textured finish. " 92-93 James Suckling</i>			
Ch. Peyrabon	St-Sauveur-Medoc	Cru Bourgeois Supérieur	£92.50
Ch. Senejac		£125	
<i>51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, 8% Petit Verdot. Hail, frost, coulure, and drought all hit the estate vintage leaving low yields of 20hl/ha.</i>			

Listrac-Médoc

Property	Classification	Price Dozen IBD
First		
Ch. Fonréaud	Cru Bourgeois Supérieur	£119.30
<i>Deep ruby. Lots of new oak and blackcurrant on nose. Fragrant, rounded, spicy. Juicy, slightly jammy fruit on the palate. Full bodied. There's a chewy mid palate with oak, cream, blueberry, menthol. Quite dusty savoury tannin. Long and lingering. This chateau knows how to extract the best from each vintage and is very impressive.</i>		

Not Tasted but on good form

Ch. Fourcas Dupré	£120
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Moulis

Property	Classification	Price Dozen IBD
High 2:1		
Ch. Chasse Spleen		£240.00
<i>52 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 40 % Merlot, 6 % Petit Verdot, 2 % Cabernet Franc. Dense and plummy with some exotic notes on the nose: creme de cassis, cedar, graphite. Fruity attack, with damson and blackcurrant, ripe tannin, and dark roasted coffee. Elegant, avoiding over-extraction. The oak is evident. It's smooth and long, with some fine acidity, but finishes just a little hollow.</i>		

Not Tasted but on good form

Ch. Maucaillou	£178.80
<i>52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot. Yield : 45 hl/ha. 40% new barrels.</i>	
Ch. Mauvesin Barton	£137
Ch. Poujeaux	£210.72

St-Estèphe

Property	Classification	Price Dozen IBD
Starred First		
Ch. Meyney		£225.60
<i>57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 16% Petit Verdot. Exotic aromas with primary and secondary characteristics intermingled. Coconut, cranberry, red plum, strawberry, kirsch, and currants. Big and luscious palate with lots of cassis, plums, chocolate. Supple, juicy, well structured. Creamy oak but well integrated with ripe fruit. Very good. Precise, well balanced, poised. Rich and long finish. Quite luxurious. Excellent integration of tannins, acidity, and alcohol. Certainly a keeper.</i>		

First

Ch. de Come Cru Bourgeois Supérieur £158
50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 50% Merlot. 7 hectare organic vineyard (the only one in St Estephe) some clay-limestone which really shows in the wine. A pretty ruby colour. Very elegant floral aromas. Supple, juicy, slightly jammy, creamy. Medium body, elegant palate, with high acidity in comparison to many St Estephe. Bright red fruits, currants, and berries. The fine tannins play second fiddle to the acidity in the structure of the wine. Very different. Pure and inviting in a lighter style. Drink 4-9 years

Ch. Le Boscq Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel £180
46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc. Inviting nose of black cherry and kirsch. Dark milk chocolate. Evident oak. Creamy secondary characters on the palate. Quite forward. Rich and chewy dark fruits. Soft and luscious, even on the tannin, but still has a future to develop. Enjoyable freshness on the finish.

Ch. Serilhan Cru Bourgeois Supérieur £160
Jammy fruit on the nose intermingled with coconutty oak. Some kirsch. Rich and creamy palate. Supple and luscious. Well judged extraction. Pretty red fruits on the palate. Fresh finish. Oak doesn't overwhelm. Very enjoyable flavours. Ripe and open now. Well melded, full tannins. Concentrated fruit lingers to the end.

High 2:1

Ch. Beau Site £155.00
71 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 24 % Merlot, 3 % Petit Verdot, 2 % Cabernet Franc. On the gravel hills of St Estephe, this estate is owned by the Casteja family who own Ch Batailley and Ch Lynch Moussas in Pauillac. Heady aromatics, berry fruit, liquorice, blackcurrant. A touch floral and plummy. Quite dense with plenty of flavour, quite firm tannins, with the possibility of good ageing.

Ch. La Haye £
Deep concentrated ruby colour. Inviting nose of black cherries, dark chocolate, coffee, and cedar. Medium+ body, ripe sweet palate, more black cherry, ripe tannins and juicy acidity. Very well balanced, sweet fruit. Tannins dry at finish giving a touch of bitterness to the wine, but it should integrate. Drink 4-9 years.

Ch. Le Crock Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel £199
Full and fruity, redcurrant, strawberry jam, wild plums on the nose. Some exotic secondary notes too with cedar, kirsch, vanilla and cream, violets, chocolate. Robust hearty tannin, but clearly still fruit driven. Very flavourful. Full bodied with opulent very ripe black cherry and bitter chocolate flavours. There's a subtle spiciness alongside some dense stewed plum characteristics. Quite warming, but still balanced. Fruit fades a little quickly perhaps, but the brooding, ripe tannins continue.

Ch. Lilian Ladouys Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel £180
59 % Merlot, 37% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3 % Petit Verdot, 1 % Cabernet Franc. One of the fourteen newly classified Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel. The estate now stands at 80ha after recent acquisitions, with a production of c. 350,000 bottles. Vibrant colour; ripe floral fruit aromas, sweet cassis; overall quite elegant. Very fruity with some added minerality; good length, elegant and fine tannins with just enough grip, well structured. 13.73% ABV, 3.5g/l TA, pH = 3.84.

Ch. Phelan Segur £337.50
56 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 42 % Merlot, 2 % Cabernet Franc. Veronique Dausse considers this a good vintage for St Estephe, comparing it to 2003. The clay soils protected the vines from water stress during the drought-like summer. There is a lot of Merlot planted across the 70ha of vineyards at Phelan Segur. It was a very easy harvest here over 12 days with the Merlot coming in on 24th September, the same date as 2018. High potential alcohol levels and easy extraction led the winemaking team to use cooler maceration temperatures (around 25 centigrade), and pump over less than usual in a bid to maintain freshness. Deep ruby, black fruits, cherry, cedar. Full bodied, with lots of fruit and ripe but heavy tannins, plenty of extraction but lacking in acidity to balance it. Sumptuous palate from ripeness, but fruit a tad short as the palate becomes overwhelmed with powerful tannin. 55% new wood. The estate has been trialling lower SO2 dosages on certain vats (c.2-4g/hl). 2019 was ideal for this as the fruit was clean and rot free, and the team is pleased with the results. 14.5% ABV, 3.1g/l TA, pH = 3.8

Mid 2:1

Ch. Cos Labory 5th Growth £250
60 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 34 % Merlot, 6 % Petit Verdot. Bernard Audoy tells us this is a classic vintage blend, almost exactly proportionate to what is planted. With good yields of 55hl/ha, 75% of the production went into the first wine. Deep ruby, slightly funky nose, disjointed, lots of powerful fruit, firm tannins, but sample is a bit tired. 50% new oak. 13.5% ABV, pH = 3.7.

Not Tasted but on good form

Ch. Ormes de Pez £212
"Plenty of spice and plums on the nose. Full body, round tannins and flavorful finish. Raspberries and hazelnuts at the end." 92-93 James Suckling

Marquis de Calon 2nd wine of Calon-Segur £216.72
52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot. Yield : 45 hl/ha. 40% new barrels.

Ch. Capbern £179.40

Ch. Lafon Rochet 4th Growth £338

Ch Montrose 2nd Growth £596 (6x75cl)

La Dame de Montrose 2nd Wine of Ch Montrose £300

Pauillac

Property Classification Price Dozen IBD

Starred First

Ch. Grand-Puy-Lacoste 5th Growth £540
83 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 17 % Merlot. A classic Grand Puy Lacoste blend. Compared the vintage to 1996. Dense purple-tinted colour. Cedar, ripe blackcurrant, and black cherry. Intensely fruity. Rich, high alcohol, but well integrated. Dark, brooding, intense. Kirsch, cherry palate. Modern, very glossy, ripe but not overripe, big tannins but fresh, long finish. The extra two months before tasting leaves us with a much more integrated sample, especially as the wine has had a second racking in that time. 38 year old vines on very deep coarse gravel. 41hl/ha yield. 100% de-stemmed. 14.3% ABV, pH = 3.7

First

Ch. Batailley 5th Growth £320
74 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 25 % Merlot, 1 % Petit Verdot. 50 year old vines. Usually c. 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, but impressed with the richness of the Merlot this year. Limited Petit Verdot as the vines suffered particularly from heat and water stress. Deep ruby colour. Sweet, juicy aromas. Fruit pastilles, violets. Very fruity, some oak, rich, creamy, ripe tannins, and a slight smokiness on the finish. The balance is good already. Probably a relatively early drinking Batailley.

Ch. Pedesclaux 5th Growth £299
72 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 20 % Merlot, 2 % Petit Verdot, 6 % Cabernet Franc. Increasing amount of Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend since 2017. Aromatics more open and developed than usual at the March / April tastings. Floral and pretty black fruit nose with some pencil shavings, and some cocoa. Very pure flavours, nothing unripe. All very pretty, well balanced, almost ready to drink. Integrated tannin. Very seductive and fruity on finish. Not powerful but very fine and persistent. 52hl/ha - as classic yield as there was no disease pressure. The estate began full conversion to organic status this year, and will be fully certified for the 2022 vintage. pH = 3.8, 3.5g/l TA, 13.64%

High 2:1

Ch. Haut Bages Monpelou £196

70 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 26 % Merlot, 2 % Cabernet Franc, 2 % Cabernet Sauvignon. Dense, deep ruby colour. Quite a pretty nose, but earthy. Lilac, violet, blackcurrant, cedar, pencil shavings, hints of cocoa. All very correct. Ripe palate with good, bright, fresh fruit up front. Plump. Ripe, fine grained, powdery tannins - very Pauillac. Toasty oak evident on the finish.

Ch. Lynch-Moussas 5th Growth £280.68

73 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 27 % Merlot. Deep ruby colour. Smoky oak and blackcurrant pastille nose. Expressive style. Plenty of ripe fruit, tannin, and acidity. Soft and creamy on the palate. Oak evident. Medium bodied and long, but just a little hollow. The alcohol is well integrated. Touch of bitter cocoa on the finish. Quite rich. 14.5%, pH = 3.7

Mid 2:1

Ch. Duhart-Milon 4th Growth £599

70 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 30 % Merlot. Pretty sweet red fruit, quite elegant but a little simple. Soft and juicy with fine tannin. Will come round early. 13.7% ABV, pH = 3.9.

Not Tasted but on good form

Ch. Bellegrave £186

Ch. Croizet-Bages 5th Growth £275

Ch. Fonbadet £272

Ch. Grand Puy Ducasse 5th Growth £790

Ch. Haut Bages Liberal 5th Growth £285.48

Ch. Haut Batailley 5th Growth £440

Ch. Lynch-Bages 5th Growth £790

Echo de Lynch-Bages £285

Ch. Pibran £252

Ch. Pichon Baron 2nd Growth £589 (6x75cl)
97-100 Wine Advocate

Ch. Pichon Baron 2nd Growth £650 (6x75cl)
98-100 Neal Martin, Vinous

Lacoste Borie 2nd wine of Grand Puy Lacoste £210

Reserve de la Comtesse 2nd wine of Pichon Comtesse £331

Saint-Julien

Property

Classification

Price Dozen IBD

Starred First

Ch. Saint-Pierre 4th Growth £420

79 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 21 % Merlot. Quite densely packed fruit on the nose; ripe blackcurrant along with bitter chocolate and cedar. Lovely weight, richness, power and balance. Some blue fruit on the palate. Layered tannin. VERY polished. Supple. Very enjoyable. A well integrated touch of creamy oak (49% new). Red fruit freshness and acidity on finish. Long and really fine, excellent structure with more layers as the wine evolves. This wine has a long time to go. 41hl/ha.

Ch. Talbot **4th Growth** **£420**
 69 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 26 % Merlot, 5 % Petit Verdot. This is the highest percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon in the Grand Vin since 2013. JM Laporte considers 2019 an ideal vintage for Talbot comparing it more to 2016 than 2018. Clay subsoils saved Talbot's vines from excessive stress in the dry summer, and on the contrary allowed them to accumulate tannins, anthocyanins, and sugar at a very early stage. The reds, as often in recent years, benefited from a superb late season. The few rain showers between the Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon harvests allowed the Cabernets to regain some volume and reduce their sugar levels. There was no urgency in the harvest, therefore, and each plot could be picked at perfect ripeness. The result is full and very aromatic Merlot, charming and spicy Petit Verdot, and, above all, high-class Cabernet Sauvignon: highly coloured, extremely well-structured tannins, and with great complexity. This is a ripe and intense wine with good power. Long and well structured. Good creaminess on the mid palate. Slightly granular tannin. Elegant lift on the finish. 45 year old vines. 46hl/ha. 60% new oak, 15 months in barrel. pH = 3.78pH, 3.43g/l TA, 14.1% ABV

First

Ch. Gloria **£301**
 55 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 34 % Merlot, 6 % Cabernet Franc, 5 % Petit Verdot. Very good ripeness, good yield and good concentration. Deep ruby, aromatic nose of black cherry, berries, plums, cedar, and a touch of marzipan. Glossy, ripe, with quite a powerful palate. Well rounded. Full bodied with firm, structured tannins on the cheeks and teeth. Decent length, still some freshness. Not over extracted. Good potential. 20,000 cases a year. 40hl/ha. 45% new oak. 14.1% ABV.

High 2:1

Connetable de Talbot **2nd Wine of Ch Talbot** **£204**
 37 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 63 % Merlot. More Merlot in the blend than usual. Ripe aromas of black cherry, black plum, oak, and chocolate. Rounded and approachable. Simple but very enjoyable with good structure for early to mid-term drinking. 46hl/ha. 30 year old vines. 15% new oak, 15 month in barrel. 13.8% ABV.

Ch. du Glana **£181.20**
 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot. From one single block near Ducru Beaucaillou but not classified in 1855. Deep ruby. Violets, black fruits, graphite, and cedar on the nose. Fragrant and spicy on the palate. Full bodied fruity attack, quite low acidity and ripe tannins make for a plump easy to appreciate wine. Moderate strength supple tannins. Balanced and integrated. The fruit lingers well. A pep of acidity would help it along. Perhaps quite early drinking. Drink 3-9 years.

Mid 2:1

Ch. de la Bridane **£167**
 From a small vineyard sandwiched between Ch. Leoville Poyferré and Ch. Leoville Las Cases. Leafy, menthol, blackcurrant, and even a note of coffee beans on the nose. Ripe red and black fruits, blackcurrants and bitter chocolate on the palate. Quite fresh and not too extracted. Smoky, well built tannins, good balance, but just seems to lack fruit stuffing. Hot on the finish.

Not Tasted but on good form

Ch. Leoville Barton **2nd Growth** **£648**

Ch. Leoville Poyferré **2nd Growth** **£616**

Ch. Leoville Las Cases **2nd Growth** **£850**

Petit Lion **2nd Wine of Leoville Las Cases** **£435**

Clos du Marquis **£400**

Ch. Ducru-Beaucaillou **2nd Growth** **£708 (6x75cl)**

"A very powerful Ducru with intense tannins and backbone, showing blue fruit, black tea and tobacco. Full-bodied with impressive structure and so much tannin. It goes on for minutes. Very traditional. Owner Bruno Borie said it is a wine to last forever and I have to agree. 80% cabernet sauvignon and 20% merlot." 99-100 James Suckling

Croix	Beaucaillou	2nd Wine of Ducru-Beaucaillou	£338
Ch.	Gruaud-Larose	2nd Growth	£640
Ch.	Lagrange	3rd Growth	£369
Fiefs de Lagrange		2nd Wine of Ch Lagrange	£196
Ch.	Langoa Barton	4th Growth	£353

Margaux

We may only have tasted six wines from Margaux this year, but those five really did blow us away. It was a generous vintage here with average yields of 49.2hl/ha, just below the figure of 49.4hl/ha recorded in 2016 which was the highest for a decade. The president of the Margaux appellation described it as a miracle year: no rain, no frost. Indeed, the appellation had a mere 466mm of rain between 1st January and 13th October, 33% down on the 30 year average of 700mm. There does appear to have been one key bout of rain, though; a brief storm just before harvest on September 20th "when saving rains brought freshness and life to the thirsty vines" according to Ch. Siran. This rain swelled the grapes reducing the sugar percentage in the grapes, and consequently the final alcohol levels in the wines, leaving beautiful, elegant, refined, and above all balanced wines that will be a joy for many years to come.

Property	Classification	Price Dozen IBD
<u>Starred First</u>		
Ch. Giscours	3rd Growth	£422.40
<i>65 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 35 % Merlot. Picked Merlot earlier than usual for structure, freshness, and not plumpness. Deep dark ruby colour, nearly opaque. Hedonistic nose, black cherry, vanilla, cream, cedar, pencil shavings, roasted meat. Very ripe but with lovely balance, lots of ripe tannin but some pleasing acidity too. Chewy, heady, mellow, dark fruit. Some graphite texture emerges but the fruit continues until the finish. Fine tannins continue. Precise and long. Oak well integrated. Should age well. 3.75pH, 3.09 TA, 13.9% ABV.</i>		
Ch. d'Issan	3rd Growth	£435
<i>70 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 30 % Merlot. Blended in mid-January. Vibrant red colour. Floral, red fruit forward aromas. Smells quite complete. Cocoa, black cherry, cedar nose. Very fine palate lots of ripe Cabernet Sauvignon, classic blackcurrant, a little leafy, intense and fresh. Structured, elegant. Open, dusty, ripe red plum fruit. Tannins are ripe and long. Comparatively bright and juicy in the mouth. Very pure and elegant. Lingers very prettily. 50% new oak. pH = 3.72, TA 3.42g/l, 13.37% ABV</i>		
Ch. Prieure Lichine	4th Growth	£300
<i>62 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 35 % Merlot, 3 % Petit Verdot. 70ha, 150 different parcels. Etienne Charriet winemaker. Just pigeage used for extraction. Deep dark opaque ruby colour. Very pretty aromas. Mixed hedgerow fruit. Like a very high class jam / jelly / compote. Cedar, creamy oak, and secondary sweetness. Lots of ripe fruit on the palate. Red cherries. Full bodied with ripe tannins, a touch of graphite, and some freshness. Smooth, supple, and mellow. Lingers some time with well integrated secondary characters. 45hl/ha yield, 40% new wood, 60% second fill. 13.49% ABV, pH = 3.66, TA = 3.15.</i>		
Ch. Siran		£233
<i>47 % Merlot, 45 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 7 % Petit Verdot, 1 % Cabernet Franc. Blackcurrant yoghurt aromas. Some hints of potpourri. 25ha planted at 10,000 vines per ha (max. for appellation), 37 plots, certified HVE. Gentle and precise extraction. Juicy, quaffable, very approachable. Cocoa dusted tannins. Juicy, not chewy fruit. Still freshness. Alcohol well held. Subtle spiciness. Touch of kirsch. Creamy cassis and easy tannin at the finish. Delicate and dusty. 55hl/ha. Never more the 1/3 new oak. 14.1% ABV.</i>		

First

Ch. Du Tertre 5th Growth £318
54 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 27 % Merlot, 13 % Cabernet Franc, 6 % Petit Verdot. At Château du Tertre, the mixture between clayey gravel on the upper parts of the hill and sandy gravel on the lower ground ensures a constant water supply that limits excessive water stress. Ruby red colour. Pretty, deep red flowers, ripe black cherry, and cedar nose. 13% Cab Franc gives spicy peppery freshness whilst 6% PV gives softness, florality, plumpness. Fills up the mid palate. Layered blue, red, and black fruit. Very elegant. Precise, straightforward. Gentle. Balanced and delicate. Perhaps a touch too softly structured. Dusty cocoa on finish. 40% new oak. 3.4g/l TA, pH = 3.8, 13.4% ABV

Ch. Deyrem Valentin Cru Bourgeois Supérieur £177.50
Very creamy on the nose. Rich red and black fruits, mulberry, cassis. Toasty oak. Quite charming on the palate. Bright and ample fruit, clean acidity, elegant tannin. Good balance. Very good length with lovely texture throughout. Oak is a little overbearing on the finish but should integrate.

Not Tasted but on good form

Ch. Brane Cantenac 2nd Growth £495
"The 2019 Brane-Cantenac was cropped at 50hl/ha between 18 September and 9 October. Matured entirely in new oak, it is in possession of an almost pixelated bouquet with beguiling blackberry, bilberry and crushed limestone aromas. I find this less austere than some vintages of Brane-Cantenac at this prenatal stage. The palate is silky smooth on the entry with filigree tannins, very harmonious, not a deep or powerful Margaux, yet very delineated. There is that signature touch of greenness that I often find on Brane-Cantenac on the finish, though I have learned through experience that this is assimilated with bottle age, so have a cool cellar handy. Excellent." 94-96 Neal Martin

Baron de Brane 2nd Wine of Brane Cantenac £211.20

Blason d'Issan 2nd Wine of Ch. d'Issan £197
"This is a really beautiful, seductive wine with chocolate, walnuts, currants and some tobacco. Full-bodied, with a supple tannin texture and a flavorful finish. Succulent. Blend of 60% merlot and 40% cabernet sauvignon." 93-94 James Suckling

Ch. d'Arsac Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel £153
12 months in barrel, 50% new. 13.5% ABV.

Ch. Dauzac 5th Growth £299.16
James Suckling 94-95

Ch. Durfort-Vivens 2nd Growth £464
JAMES SUCKLING – 95/96 "A super natural red with blackberries and blackcurrants, as well as black chocolate and hints of cedar. Partially made in amphora. It's long, very flavorful, rich and pure. New classic. From biodynamically grown grapes."

Ch. Labégorce £242
Neal Martin 93-95 "The 2019 Labégorce, picked from 19 September to 12 October and matured in 40% new oak, has one of the more flamboyant Margaux bouquets with expressive black cherries, bilberry, light cedar notes and crushed violet. It develops impressive cohesion with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied and what you first notice is the finesse of the tannins. This has a satin-like texture and very well judged acidity. The new oak does poke out a little on the finish - if that can be assimilated during its barrel maturation, this could turn into a very serious Margaux."

Ch. La Gurgue £180.84
50 % Cabernet Sauvignon , 45 % Merlot, 5 % Petit Verdot. 13.5% ABV

Ch. Marquis d'Alesme Becker 3rd Growth £331

THE RIGHT BANK

The Right Bank is twice the area of the Medoc and Graves/Sauternes regions combined with twice as many appellations, more geological variation and much more wine made.

Bordeaux Supérieur

Property	Price Dozen IBD
Mid 2:1	
Ch. Pey La Tour Reserve du Chateau	£69.50
<i>90% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc. Very ripe dense plum, blackberry, bitter chocolate aromas. Quite toasty. Powerfully structured for the level. Pronounced, drying tannins. Warming alcohol. Fruit gets a little lost. Austere on the finish.</i>	

Cadillac - Cotes de Bordeaux

Property	Price Dozen IBD
Not Tasted but on good form	
Ch. Reynon	£92
<i>67.5% Merlot, 17.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Petit Verdot. Aged in oak barrels for 12 months, 1/3 new.</i>	

Francs - Cotes de Bordeaux

Not Tasted but on good form	
Ch. Puygueraud	£108

Castillon - Cotes de Bordeaux

Property	Price Dozen IBD
First	
Ch. Cap de Faugeres	£91
<i>85 % Merlot, 15 % Cabernet Franc. Only a road divides this property from St Émilion. Under the same ownership as Ch. Faugeres and Ch. Peby Faugeres. This is a starting point for the more complex Faugeres wines. The vineyards are surrounded by hillsides, perfect for water draining and sun exposure. South facing with limestone and clay subsoil. No barriques were used at all this vintage; 80% Stainless steel, 20% oak vats. Deep ruby, concentrated. Inviting nose with raspberry, blueberry. Expressive palate, lots of flavour. Fresh, spicy, red plum, red cherry, touch herbaceous. Ripe and generous, medium+ body, well balanced and long. Powdery tannins, peppery finish. Chewy. Drink now - 5years. 14.5% ABV, pH = 3.6, 4.8g/l TA.</i>	
Not Tasted but on good form	
Ch. d'Alcée	£127.20
Ch. d'Aiguilhe	£150.60

Canon-Fronsac

Property	Price Dozen IBD
High 2:1	
Ch. Vrai Canon Bouché	£
<i>Dense, chewy dried fruit aromas. Secondary baking spices and cedar. Enjoyable flavours. Mocha, dried blueberries, bilberries. Plump, plummy. Long chocolatey finish. Well balanced too, with good weight and freshness. Modern.</i>	

Fronsac

Property

Price Dozen IBD

High 2:1

Ch. Villars

£121

Deep dense ruby purple. Juicy, kirsch, slightly confected purple fruit. Easy going, well balanced, with a long fruity finish. Supple, soft edges, with slightly powdery tannin. Broad and fleshy. Perhaps a little one dimensional but overall well built. Juicy and enjoyable.

Not Tasted but on good form

Ch. Dalem

£175

Ch. Fontenil

£197

15% ABV 100% Merlot "The 2019 Fontenil has a plush, luxuriant bouquet with kirsch, raspberry coulis and orange blossom aromas that seems to envelop the olfactory senses. The palate is quite punchy on the entry with a slight metallic note that wears off after a while. There is a touch of bitterness that just detracts on the finish. Otherwise, this is a fine Fronsac." 91-93 Neal Martin, Vinous

Lalande-de-Pomerol

Property

Price Dozen IBD

High 2:1

Ch. La Chenade

£149.52

Slightly reduced on the nose. Well structured on the palate. Chewy tannins, plenty of ripe blueberry fruit, fresh and integrated. Long on the finish with notes of thick venetian hot chocolate.

Mid 2:1

Ch. Haut Chaigneau

£131

A little muted on the nose. Dark cherries. Kirsch. Dark and savoury on the palate. Dense, mocha characters. Ripe black fruit. Slight baked. Rounded tannin. A little tarry on the finish. Black treacle. Lacking freshness.



Pomerol

Property

Price Dozen IBD

Starred First

Ch. du Domaine de L'Eglise

£316.80

97 % Merlot, 3 % Cabernet Franc. Gravel and clay soils, 150 yards from Petrus. New oak, cocoa, and black cherry on the nose. A little bloody too. Soft, creamy, rich, oaky, rounded fruit. Rather thick, plush, and polished all round. Juicy, warm, dark fruit: dark plum, blueberry. Very interesting. Full bodied ripe tannins but lots of them. Savoury fresh coffee and dark cocoa on the finish.

First

Ch. La Croix du Casse

£212

95 % Merlot, 5 % Cabernet Franc. Very fruity nose, a touch tart, plum, redcurrant, cranberry. Slight florality. Cream, toast. Well balanced, well integrated tannin. Super ripe with plenty of sweet framboise fruit. Soft and plush. Darker plums on the palate too. Mocha on the finish. Enjoyable, but most likely for more youthful drinking. 14.5% ABV.

Ch. Mazeyres

£238

80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc. Ch Mazeyres is a large estate by Pomerol standards, stretching to nearly 30 hectares. It is farmed biodynamically. Yield = 36hl/ha. Red fruits and wild flowers on the nose. Red plum, raspberry. Earthy and herbal. Rather powdery tannin. Juicy palate with excellent freshness. Dark cocoa on the finish. Well poised.

High 2:1

Clos René

£240

Deep ruby, ripe fruit with nice acidity and medium+ body. Fresh and intense, ripe tannins, good length. Rather oxidised aroma. Some freshness, some structure, some fruit. A little flabby on the finish. Not bad on the palate given how oxidative the nose is. Quite plush, rounded, supple, balanced. Blue finish.

Not Tasted but on good form

Ch. Clinet

£648

«...the fruit is generous and there's plenty of zest and drive. Drink 2027 - 2040.» Jancis Robinson

Ch. de Sales

£204

Ch. Saint-Pierre

£375

"The 2019 Saint-Pierre (Pomerol), is striking in 2019. Deep and beautifully layered in the glass, the 2019 possesses superb balance and intensity. The edges could use a bit of polishing, but hopefully élevage will take care of that. As always, Saint-Pierre is a decidedly potent Pomerol. The 2019 is especially fine." Antoni Galloni

Il de Saint-Pierre

2nd Wine of Saint-Pierre

£190



Tasting left bank wines with the producers via video link

Saint-Émilion

The high limestone content of the Saint-Émilion terroir has provided many of these with some much needed freshness. Most were a delight to taste and show great potential for ageing though will be easy to drink at a young age.

Property	Classification	Price Dozen IBD
<u>Starred First</u>		
Ch. Canon La Gaffeliere	1er Grand Cru Classé B	£613
<i>49% Merlot , 39 % Cabernet Franc, 12 % Cabernet Sauvignon. Lots of Cabernet Franc shows throughout the wine. Deep dense ruby. Spicy, bright fruit, inviting aromas. Slight hint of dried fruits. Lovely juicy fruit on the palate. Elegant and cool acidity, full body, and excellent length. The alcohol is evident but tannins and fruit well integrated. Harmonious texture. 51hl/ha, 60% new oak barrels.</i>		
Ch. Corbin	Grand Cru Classé	£256.75
<i>90 % Merlot, 10 % Cabernet Franc. 13ha. Clay and clay-sand over an iron-rich clay subsoil. 30 year old vines. 48hl/ha yield. Picked relatively early for freshness. Fermented at 26 centigrade rather than the usual 28 this year. Ageing 15-16 months in 40% new oak. 62,000 bottles. They describe it as the most harmonious vintage ever made at Corbin. Dark, blue and black fruit, spicy, peppery, toasty. Supple, pretty, posh chocolate truffles with a hint of dark raspberry on the palate. Freshness is there and the fruity palate carries on for a long time. Mellow integrated tannins. Will come round early and integrate well. Delicious and accessible. pH = 3.68, 14.55% ABV.</i>		
Ch. La Gaffeliere	1er Grand Cru Classé B	£500
<i>60 % Merlot, 40 % Cabernet Franc. Expressive nose of ripe black fruits. Elegant ripe plum fruit. Sweet baking spices, red flowers. Very juicy on the palate. Lovely tension in the wine. Well integrated fine tannins. Finer than most. Supple, long. 60% new oak, very well held. pH = 3.5, 14.2% ABV.</i>		

Ch. Trotte Vieille **1er Grand Cru Classé B** **£598.44**
49 % Cabernet Franc, 48 % Merlot, 3 % Cabernet Sauvignon. Limestone and clay. Ruby red, expressive red fruit aromatics, a touch herbal. Toasty oak. Dusty, spicy. Enjoyable, supple, complex. Layered fruit and spices. Black cherries with juicy acidity. Plenty of fruit, but certainly hot on the finish. Rich, well balanced, with a long way to go. 35 hl/ha. pH = 3.6, 3.5g/l TA, 15% ABV.

First

Clos de L'Oratoire **Grand Cru Classé** **£272**
81% Merlot, 19 % Cabernet Franc. Dark dense ruby colour. Black fruits on the nose, with bitter chocolate, cedar, and some salinity. Some pretty floral aromas as well. Ample intense palate, lots of fruit but not overripe at all. Limestone feel. Chewy tannin on the gums. Quite deep and dark. Powerful but subtle. Maintains pure fruit and freshness. Slightly savoury, smoky, mocha-like finish. Organic certification from 2020 vintage. 51hl/ha. 50% new oak. 10-20% of the wine never in barrel - in concrete or stainless steel instead. 3.3g/l TA, pH = 3.5, 14.2% ABV.

Ch. Laroque **Grand Cru Classé** **£210.00**
97 % Merlot, 3 % Cabernet Franc. 61ha of vines all around the Chateau, mostly on limestone terroir. Secondary dominant on the nose. Spicy, flinty aromas. Rich, supple, creamy. Ripe plums, blueberries, dark cherries, and blackberries. Sweet medium bodied fruit, ripe tannins on the cheeks, elegant and cool, not heavy at all. Although alcoholic there is nice acidity. Mouthwatering freshness on the finish. Oak sticks out a little with some oak tannins felt too. pH = 3.44, 14.5% ABV.

La Mondotte **1er Grand Cru Classé B** **£670 (6x75cl)**
79% Merlot, 21% Cabernet Franc. Chalky soils. Deep concentrated ruby colour. Inviting creamy ripe black fruits, cassis and fresh baked bread. Fleshy, broad, rich. Full body, intense sweet fruit, noticeable high acidity, luxury supple tannins, and a long and fruity finish. Warmth does linger though. Vines average age of 75 years +. 51hl/ha, 70% new oak. pH = 3.48, 3.6g/l TA.

Ch. Péby Faugeres **Grand Cru Classé** **£559 (6x75cl)**
100 % Merlot. 7.5ha east and south facing on limestone and clay. This estate was created 20 years ago by the former owner of Ch. Faugeres as a selection of the best terroir of the Faugeres estate. The estate was granted Grand Cru Classé status in 2012, and will be certified organic for 2020. The berries go straight into barrels for fermentation, not vats. This is hard work, but OK for a small production. The intention is to give softer and silkier tannins. 100% new french barriques for ageing. Dense purple colour. Plummy, fruity, creamy, oaky nose. Luxurious. Blackberry, sweet spice, nutmeg. Ripe and full bodied palate. Lots of black fruits, creamy oak flavours, ripe tannins, some minerality. Polished and refined, but incredibly hefty. Mouthwatering finish, but so full on.

High 2:1

Ch. Faugeres **Grand Cru Classé** **£294**
70 % Merlot, 21 % Cabernet Franc, 9 % Cabernet Sauvignon. Usually 85% Merlot, but saw more structure and minerality from Cabernet wines this vintage. Creamy vanilla fudge and black cherry nose. Raspberry coulis, red and black cherry, violets. Black fruits with quite a lot of graphity, earthy tannins on the palate. Odd savoury, earthy flavours linger. Very good acidity. Touch funky overall though.

Ch. Larmande **Grand Cru Classé** **£242**
Deep concentrated ruby colour. Blueberry and mulberry nose, toast and cedar. Milk chocolate, fruit and nut aromas. Sweet red fruit palate, raspberry, damson, mulberry. Nice acid lift, svelte tannins, and good length. Some curranty dried fruit characters linger. Fragrant, spicy. Well integrated acidity and alcohol.

Ch. Teyssier **Grand Cru** **£144**
Dark ruby, limpid. Simple ripe red fruits on the nose. Quite pure; a touch leafy, herbal. Juicy bouncy palate with lots of raspberry, kirsch, vanilla. Moderately good fruit intensity, precise, polished, refined. Fresh acidity, soft tannins. Will come round quite early, but could also 10+ years. All well integrated and delicious.

Ch. Tour Saint Christophe Grand Cru £235
Deep ruby. Dense and chewy, pate de fruits aromas. Rich concentrated palate starts sumptuous with juicy acid backbone, ripe tannins and plenty of length. Austere and tart at finish is odd. Cranberries and kirsch flavours linger.

Mid 2:1

Ch. Fombrauge Grand Cru Classé £236.50
90 % Merlot, 10 % Cabernet Franc. 37 year old vines. Clay and limestone soils with 'Fronsac molasses'. St Christophe des Bardes limestone. A warm south facing parcel that gives more concentration. Deep ruby. Yoghurty blackberry fruit aromas. Fruity but a touch tarry on the palate. Dried out tannins and fruit a little lost in overwhelming warmth on the finish. 47hl/ha. 3.6-7TA, pH3.58. Very drying on the finish.

Ch. Pierre 1er Grand Cru £144
80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc. Juicy blue fruit aromatics. Dense, structured, dusty and chalky tannins. Quite restrained fruit. Not as expressive as previous vintages. Quite dormant at the moment.

Not Tasted but on good form

Ch. Badette Grand Cru £205
75% Merlot 15% Cab Franc 7% Cab Sauv 3% Petit Verdot. "Darkly impactful in both colour and flavour profile, with a cassis and bilberry fruit feel that would be Left Bank except for the sweet caramel touch that comes in behind. Smoky, a little overblown but this makes you stop and think, and it's a wine that I am looking forward to following as it ages, as it is quite an atypical style for St Emilion, but with real charm." Jane Anson, Decanter

Ch. Barde-Haut Grand Cru Classé £264
"The 2019 Barde-Haut has a ..., vivacious and intense (bouquet) with black cherries, blueberry, vanilla pod and raspberry that likewise burst from the glass. Lovely purity here. The palate is very well balanced with supple tannins, a fine line of acidity, full of tension and poise with a detailed, cedar and graphite tinged finish. This is a superb Barde-Haute that will give 20+ years of drinking pleasure." 93-95 Neal Martin

Ch. Cote de Baleau Grand Cru Classé £167.50
"The 2019 Côte de Baleau is more opulent on the nose than some of its peers: exuberant, plush redcurrant and Morello cherries, though with aeration it adds more blackberry and subtle marine aromas, a bit of moorland peat even. The palate is medium-bodied with fine but sturdy tannins. This feels cohesive, almost clinical, especially towards the impressively precise and mineral-driven finish. I cannot recall a Côte de Baleau with this degree of terroir expression. Bon vin!" 93-95 Neal Martin

Ch. de Fonbel Grand Cru £168

Ch. de Pressac Grand Cru Classé £250

Ch. Fonplegade Grand Cru Classé £325

Clos La Gaffeliere Grand Cru £182.50
93-94 James Suckling "A medium-bodied red, offering deep, pretty fruit with walnut, wet-earth, mushroom and chocolate character. It's full-bodied with juicy fruit at the end. Beautiful depth to this."

Ch. Godeau Grand Cru £174

Ch. Laroze Grand Cru Classé £211.20

Ch. Pavie Macquin 1er Grand Cru Classé B £580

Ch. Quinault l'Enclos Grand Cru £300
For over 11 years, it has benefited from the expertise of Château Cheval Blanc, of which it is the little brother. The work at the vineyard, vinification and maturing meets the same requirements as his elder 1er Grand Cru Classé A. Wine philosophy and wine-growing convictions are the same, for a great wine that will be open and expressive in its young age, and complex and tasteful after some years in bottle.

Ch. Saintayme Grand Cru £128

"The 2019 Saintayme offers up a veritable explosion of sweet red cherry, kirsch and floral notes. Deep and lush, with tremendous freshness, Saintayme is terrific in 2019. In fact, this is one of the better recent vintages I can remember tasting. The purity of fruit and overall energy are both remarkable, while the harder edges and slightly savory qualities that can be present are barely perceptible. The 2019 is 100% Merlot picked between October 1 and 4. Denis Durantou's 2019s are absolutely brilliant across the board." 92-94

Ch. Troplong Mondot 1er Grand Cru Classé B £375 (6x75cl)

"Clear salinity, this grips with a dual character of seduction alongside precision. Estate signature in that it has coiled power with its berry fruits and cocoa notes, with a chalky depth to the tannins reflecting the clay and limestone soils." 96, Jane Anson, Decanter

PESSAC-LEOGNAN / GRAVES / SAUTERNES/ BORDEAUX BLANC

Bordeaux Blanc

By and large whites were harvested early this year with many estates, including Ch. Smith Haut Lafitte and Ch. Pique Caillou, starting in the last week of August wary of heat stress affecting the grapes. The average ABV for 2019 white wines is 0.1% lower than 2018 vintage at 13.7%, but the average pH is fractionally higher at 3.2 compared to 3.1.

Property

Price Dozen IBD

High 2:1

Ch. Talbot, Caillou Blanc

£271

76 % Sauvignon Blanc, 24 % Sémillon. From 5ha. 2000 cases made in 2019. Harvested quite late and fully vinified in barrel, 30% new oak with lots of battonage. Looking for fatness. A wine for food. This is now a finished wine, filtered and stabilised. Lots of oak on the nose with quite intense tropical aromas. Slightly herbal too. This wine is certainly fat. There is a thick texture, with lots of sweet oak and tropical fruit, but with just enough acidity and texture underlying the fruity power. Rather OTT, but some elegance there too. 13.8% ABV.

Mid 2:1

Ch. Doisy-Daene

£146.40

100% Sauvignon Blanc. Fermented in barrel with 8 months on lees. Less typical aromatically than usual. A touch closed at the moment. Lime cordial palate as before. Almost sweetly juicy. A little spicy, a little gingery. Brown lime on finish. Slightly dull. 12.5% ABV.

Clos des Lunes 'Lune d'Argent'

£88.00

70 % Sémillon, 30 % Sauvignon. From vines across all five villages in the Sauternes area. Semillon on clay and limestone in Sauternes gives a very different expression to that grown on the gravels on Pessac. From the same winemaking team as Dom. de Chevalier. This wine is a touch muted on the nose. Typical waxy, herbal, zesty, vegetal Semillon comes through. There's linear precise acidity, but it is rather watery on the palate. All a bit underwhelming. 13% ABV. Drink 2020-2025.

Graves Blanc

Property

Price Dozen IBD

Mid 2:1

Clos Floridene

£151.50

45 % Sauvignon Blanc, 55 % Sémillon. Clos Floridène vineyard, in Pujols sur Ciron, located in the Graves region, has been slowly developed since 1982 by Denis and Florence Dubourdieu, thanks to the successive purchases of plots located in the best terroirs. The name of the estate is derived from the two founders' first names. Grown on limestone not just gravel. More Semillon than usual as some Sauvignon Blanc was lost to

spring frost (usually 50/50). Waxy citrus nose. Bready, broad, waxy, yeasty. High acid, citrusy palate. Certainly fresh with pithy lemon and clementine flavours, medium body and reasonable length. pH = 3.15

Ch. Rahoul

£110.40

61% Semillon, 39% Sauvignon Blanc. Grassy Sauvignon aromas at first on the nose leads to waxy yellow apple and lemon sherbet. Very primary. Quite lightweight. Pithy finish.

Pessac-Leognan Blanc

Property

Classification

Price Dozen IBD

Starred First

Domaine de Chevalier

Grand Cru Classé

£720

70 % Sauvignon Blanc, 30 % Sémillon. Crystalline pale gold. Pure, slightly marzipan like aromas, almond, apricot, white flowers, grapefruit. Full bodied, rounded, juicy, spicy, and slightly tropical on the palate (papaya, mango). Mineral saltiness. Long, fresh, and elegant. Excellent. Ages for 18 months, 12 months in oak (including fermentation), then natural sedimentation over second winter in small vat. 14% ABV

First

Ch. La Garde

Grand Cru Classé

£180

89% Sauvignon blanc, 11% Sémillon. Ripe, attractive stone fruit aromas at first. Subtle citrus additions. Concentrated palate. Textural, but not intrusive oak. Lovely length. Juicy finish. Slightly spicy, mineral. Almost Pouilly-Fumé like. Very good.

High 2:1

Ch. Carbonnieux

Grand Cru Classé

£270

65% Sauvignon Blanc, 35% Sémillon. Zesty Sauvignon Blanc with subtle Semillon back notes. Grapefruit dominant palate. Touch of pithiness, peach skins. Oak not intrusive. Quite long with high acid on finish. pH = 3.1, 4.4g/l TA, 13% ABV.

Ch. Pape Clément

Grand Cru Classé

£1100

46 % Sauvignon Blanc, 14 % Sauvignon Gris, 40 % Sémillon. High Semillon content for ageing potential. 15% of the wine was fermented in concrete eggs. Very rich and aromatic. Passionfruit, lemon sherbet nose. Typical coconutty, toasty oak. Sweet, baked citrus and apricot fruit. More sherbet with passionfruit on palate. Acidity is present and oak is under control. Bottling in December 2020. 36hl/ha. 14.5%, pH = 3.3 TA 3.9g/l.

Ch. Picque Caillou

£160

90 % Sauvignon Blanc, 10 % Sémillon. Fermentation in barrels, 7 months on lees, 30% new oak. Likeness to 2016 for balance. Forward, tart fruit aromas, citrus, white currant, gooseberry. Sauvignon Blanc grassiness comes through on the palate. Juicy. A touch of bruised lemon juice though. Fine oak characters. Long fresh finish. 13.5% ABV.

Le Petit Haut Lafitte

(Second Wine)

£

60% Sauvignon Blanc, 40% Semillon. Certified organic from 2019. Only c. 5000 bottles made per year. Elegant aromas. Ripe nose of citrus and apple with some obvious oak. Quite herbal on the palate. Easy to drink with nice acid and lots of ripe flavours, lemon, grapefruit, marmalade. Very pretty. Elegant finish.

Mid 2:1

Ch. Baret

£119

Primary fruit focused, little oak evident. Lemon jelly, white flowers, slightly unripe pineapple. High acidic bite. Citrus flavours linger. A touch of bitter grapefruit.

Not Tasted but usually reliable

L'Esprit de Chevalier

2nd wine of Domaine de Chevalier

£212

65% Sauvignon Blanc, 35% Sémillon. 13.5% ABV. 92-93 James Suckling

Ch. Brown **£179.76**

"The lemon-curd and lime character with hot-stone undertones are pretty here. It's medium-to full-bodied with an attractive undertone. Nice texture." 93-94 James Suckling

Ch. de Fieuzal **Grand Cru Classé** **£420**

"The wine is extremely rich, with remarkable length marked by the freshness that is so specific to our terroir, which allows for wonderful acidity even in 'hot' vintages. The PH of 3.3 is a little higher than usual, with alcohol levels a little over 13°. A one-of-a-kind Fieuzal white, a unique blend of Semillon and Sauvignon Blanc."

Graves Rouge

Property Price Dozen IBD

First

Ch. Rahoul **£102**

62% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot. Ripe fruits, damson, dark chocolate, kirsch, baking spices. Soft on the palate. Very concentrated fruit. Supple tannins. Integrated, rich. Drink 5-8 years.

Pessac-Leognan Rouge

Property Classification Price Dozen IBD

Starred First

Domaine de Chevalier **Grand Cru Classé** **£495**

65 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 30 % Merlot, 5 % Petit Verdot. Red plum, a touch of compote, strawberry jam, creamy oak on the nose. Pure flavours of cassis with ripe but firm, well-structured tannin. Very well balanced and integrated on the palate. Fresh, clean, full bodied, long. Will come round early, but age for quite some time as well. Well balanced, precise, focused. Harmonious and classic. 40% new oak. 13% ABV.

Ch. Picque Caillou **£160**

65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25 % Merlot, 10 % Petit Verdot. Quite dense blackcurrant aromas. Ripe Cabernet but retaining some leafiness and herbal flavours too. Very juicy and forward, with mild tannin, focussed, clean acidity, and a touch of coffee on the finish. Acidity really brightens the whole wine up. Will drink well young. Perhaps age 5-10 years. 40% new oak with the remainder 2nd and 3rd fill. pH = 3.6, 13.5% ABV.

First

Ch. Baret **£119**

Leafy, blackcurrant aromas. A hint of coffee. Hugely juicy on the palate. Ripe red and black fruits intermingled. Creamy texture. Just the right amount of grip to the tannin. Fresh and enjoyable. Drink 2022-2028.

Ch. Pape Clément **Grand Cru Classé** **£720**

50 % Merlot, 50 % Cabernet Sauvignon. Deep dark ruby colour. Plump, mixed berry, forest fruit compote on nose. Vanilla, blackberry, cassis, a little cumin. Very ripe fruit, nice balance with ripe tannin and acidity. Fine grained, dusty tannin. More subtle and better integration of oak than previous vintages. 45hl/ha yield. 10-15% ages in large oak vats (new practice for 2019), rest split between 2/3rds new oak, and 1/3rd one yr old. pH = 3.7, 3.2g/l TA.

Ch. Smith Haut Lafitte **Grand Cru Classé** **£406 (6x75cl)**

59 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 36 % Merlot, 4 % Cabernet Franc, 1 % Petit Verdot. Gravel with flint soils. The cellar here is built along a hillside with a green roof. They recycle CO2 during fermentation and are working towards being carbon neutral. Certified organic from 2019. Lovely pure cassis nose with some cedar. Red plum, even a touch of leafy menthol. Elegant palate. Silky oak and pure chewy fruit. Ripe and rich tannins but stays fresh in the mouth. Robust, concentrated, enjoyable. 14.5% ABV.

Le Petit Haut Lafitte **(Second Wine)** **£**

60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot. Young vine selection, 15-20 years old. Deep colour, forward wild strawberry, red cherries, soft structured tannins. Blackberry, kirsch, nice and fresh palate, plenty of fruit and length. For enjoying young. Still some grip on the cheeks. Quite fresh and moreish. 2022-2028.

Mid 2:1

Ch. Haut Bailly **Grand Cru Classé** **£840**

56 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 36 % Merlot, 4 % Cabernet Franc, 4 % Petit Verdot. Luxurious nose, creamy cedar and cassis. Bright red fruit aromatics. Slightly floral. Quite low in acidity but full bodied and long. Integrated tannin, deep but balanced. Graphite and chalky finish. Finishes quite short. A little dull after aromatic promise.

Haut Bailly II **(Second Wine)** **£276**

60% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. Cassis, creamy heady nose. Full bodied, rich and full tannins, graphite. Dense fruit, but a touch tarry and tough on the tannin. Bitterness. Lacks some fruit. Good acidity. Touch warm on finish. Certainly robust.

Ch. Haut Bergey **£153**

49% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc, 7% Petit verdot. Demeter certified for biodynamic viticulture. Deep ruby. Bright jammy nose, tiny bit stewed. Cherry jam palate, lacking a bit of depth and excitement. Quite dried out on the palate too. Dark and spicy. Tannins on the teeth. Smoky. Plenty of acidity. Hot on the finish. 13.9% ABV.

Not Tasted but on good form

L'Esprit de Chevalier **2nd wine of Domaine de Chevalier** **£179.76**

50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot. 13.5% ABV.

Ch. de Fieuzal **Grand Cru Classé** **£270**

"Wet earth with dark berries and crushed stones. Some mushrooms and bark. It's medium-to full-bodied with open, chewy tannins. Some iodine undertones." 92-93 James Suckling

Ch. La Garde **Grand Cru Classé** **£150**

52% Merlot, 48% Cabernet Sauvignon. "Attractive deep purple-red in colour. Fresh blackberries jostle with hints of spice and liquorice on the complex bouquet. Smooth on the attack, generous and rich on the palate, the wine is underpinned by delicate, silky and velvety tannins. Offering attractive balanced fruit and mouthfeel, the wine culminates in a lengthy, complex finish, with a lingering sense of freshness tinged with liquorice." Frédéric Bonnaffous, Vignobles Dourthe Director

Ch. Lespault Martillac **£179.76**

70% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon. 13.5% ABV. "This is impressive with blackberry, mushroom, walnut and blackcurrant aromas and flavors. It's full-bodied, layered and flavourful." 93-94 James Suckling

Sauternes / Barsac

The dry, warm September slightly delayed the onset of noble rot this year, but fog towards the end of the month created optimum conditions. The *botrytis cinerea* fungus seems to have developed very rapidly with most estates reporting a start of picking towards the end of the first week of October. There was a clear dry period from 3rd-14th October during which time most estates picked continuously, rather than the usual stop/start process of making several passages through the vineyards. Although the technical details of all the wines read as expected for classic Sauternes, we found a decided lack of concentration across the six wines that we tasted so have not graded any of them highly. Having only tasted six wines, though, we cannot really make any generalisations about quality across the appellation.

Property	Classification	Price Dozen IBD
High 2:1		

Ch. Doisy Daene **2nd Growth** **£292.80**
 100 % Sémillon. Mostly on Limestone. Botrytis set in early in Barsac this year. Managed to pick 80% of production before heavy rains hit in the second half of October. Creamy waxy aromas. A little whiff of smoke. Creamy palate, apricots, lightly candied mango. Apricot jam. Lots of acid and residual sugar. Textural, long, and fresh. Sherbettey finish. 15hl/ha, 150g/l RS, TA 5g/l, pH = 3.6. 13.5% ABV.

Mid 2:1

Ch. Coutet **1st Growth** **£330**
 75 % Sémillon, 23 % Sauvignon Blanc, 2 % Muscadelle. Declared a 1er Cru Classé at the 1855 Sauternes and Barsac Classification, Château Coutet has been producing wine since 1643. Boasting both the largest vineyard in Barsac (38.5ha) as well as the largest cellar (110 meters), Château Coutet has been owned by the Baly family since 1977 and managed by Aline Baly since 2009. Ripe, vibrant, forward. Soft pears. Pear juice. Gingery spice. Ginger syrup. Rounded, syrupy, spicy. Freshness on finish. A little abrupt though. Cloying. Hot. Chewy. Quite hard to work out longevity. 100% new oak for fermentation, 60% new oak ageing. pH 3.7, TA 3.5g/l, 145 RS, 13.5% ABV.

Ch. Guiraud **1st Growth** **£375**
 35 % Sauvignon Blanc, 65 % Sémillon. 110ha of vines. Certified organic since 2011. Only 16,000 bottles produced this vintage, compared to normally 60,000. A touch muddy, vegetal on the nose. More forward on the palate. Clean. Balance between acid and sugar good. A little hot though. And a little too dried on the palate. Needs more lushness to balance with ABV. Peach syrup on the finish. 5.5hl/ha. All 100% new oak. 125g/l RS.

Ch. Lafaurie Peyraguey **1st Growth** **£430.32**
 93 % Sémillon, 7 % Sauvignon Blanc. Low production, 7hl/ha, only botrytised grapes. There are three different subsoils across the property: gravel and sand near the property gives finesse, gravels and clay near Yquem gives richness, limestone gives minerality. Light citrus marmalade on the nose. More dried citrus style. Not candied. Quite syrupy on palate. Lots of rich sweet lemon curd flavours. Smoky and spicy. Warmth takes away balance. Bitter grapefruit pith on the finish leaves it a little unattractive. 1/3 new oak for 18 months. 15,000 bottles produced. 3.6g/l TA, 130g/l RS.

Ch. Rayne Vigneau **1st Growth** **£390.12**
 76 % Sémillon, 24 % Sauvignon Blanc (and a splash of Muscadelle). Lychee like aromas. Pear cordial, burnt citrus. Some acidity and plenty of sweetness but lacking stuffing somehow. Really hot. Burns the tongue and back of throat. 38 year old vines. 16hl/ha. Vinified in new barrels, and aged for 18 months. 4.23 TA, 3.9pH, 14.02% ABV. 149g/l RS.

Ch. Suau **£**
 100 % Sémillon. 6ha on clay. Converting to biodynamic viticulture. Located northeast of the Barsac appellation, not far from where the rivers Ciron and Garonne meet, the château takes its name from Elie de Suau, councillor and officer of the Bordeaux Parliament who owned it in the 17th century. Château Suau is now owned by the Biarnès family. In 2015, the running of the vineyard was entrusted to Olivier Bernard and in his team from Domaine de Chevalier (Grand Cru Classé de Graves). Harvested at 21% potential alcohol. Pale gold. Light nose of apricot and citrus. Subtly candied. A light whiff of botrytis, saffron. Warm, waxy, rounded, but hot and watery on finish. Lacking concentration. Smoky finish. Feels more like an aperitif style than a dessert wine. 12-13000 bottles per year, only 50cl. 100% vinified in oak, 50% new. pH = 3.75, TA 4.34g/l, 13.09% ABV, 139g/l RS.

Not Tasted but on good form

Ch. Filhot **2nd Growth** **£190**

Ch. Liot **£150.25**

Order Deadline: 21st July 2020

To place an order contact:

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How en primeur works

Bordeaux 2019 en primeur wines will be offered for purchase in June 2020, with delivery in 2022 once the wines have been bottled and shipped. Bordeaux 2019 en primeur wines will be offered 'in bond', excluding duty and VAT. Current duty rates are £26.78 per case of twelve bottles. The current VAT rate is 20%. Duty and VAT will be charged at the prevailing rate at the time of delivery.