



CAMBRIDGE WINE MERCHANTS

International Wine Challenge Merchant of the Year 2012-13

Bordeaux 2020 Vintage Report

For the second year in a row Bordeaux had to come to us. Many thanks to all the chateaux and negociants who made this report possible.



In brief

While there is no substitute for visiting a wine region to fully understand the many factors that can result in great wine, the initiatives made by producers and negociants, with samples, online meetings, reports and a positive attitude, leave me both very grateful and genuinely well-informed about a vintage and wines that I think will be widely regarded as of very high quality.

Conditions were challenging but ultimately rewarding, with a small but high quality harvest of both white and red grapes. I also sense a shift in winemaking philosophy spreading fast in Bordeaux, resulting in more refined, balanced and energetic wines at such a young age than I can remember having tasted before.

Weather

A wet and warm winter, a cool and wet spring, a hot and dry summer. Sound familiar? It mirrors quite closely the conditions in 2019 and on that basis looks to have satisfied many of the conditions for a good harvest. We are seeing, though, a new

pattern emerging in Bordeaux, where warmer overall temperatures are resulting in earlier bud break, earlier harvest dates and more extreme events. We've seen the risk of those early bud breaks and late frosts resulting in big losses in 2017 and 2021, two years in five. And in 2020 we've seen heat spikes and intensely dry periods leading to blocked maturation and yield loss. Those extremes left total production at 440 million litres, a good 10% below the 10 year average, which itself included two very low yielding vintages of 2013 and 2017.

In 2020 extreme weather resulted in:

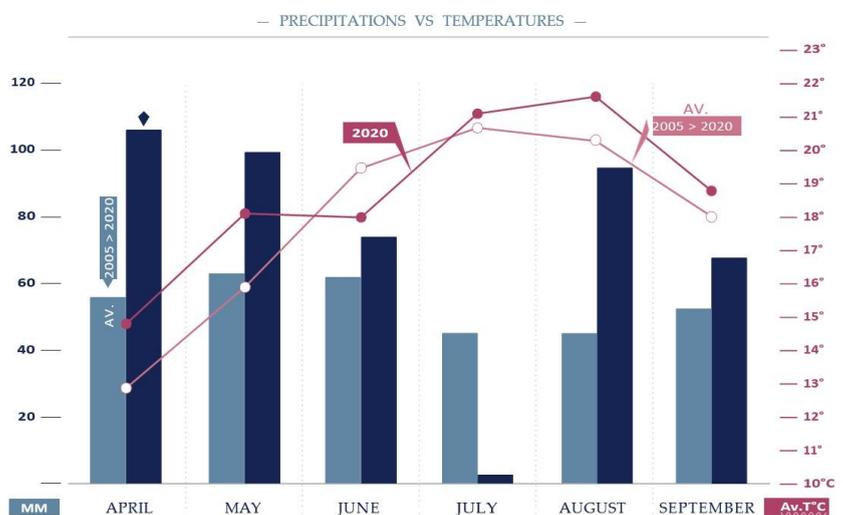
a. An extremely early bud break, similar to 2019, b. very early but mainly healthy flowering, c. a wet cool June resulting in mildew pressure, d. a very dry July, with virtually no rainfall and e. a heatwave in September resulting in significant yield loss and a harvest that was completed by the month end. It is a testament to the capacity of vigneron to cope with a multitude of different challenges in a single growing season that such high quality fruit was harvested.

Remarkably, different varieties were harvested within days of each other.

The entire 167 ha of La Tour Carnet

were harvested over a ten day period. See the chart kindly provided by Chateau Pichon Comtesse which shows the precipitation and temperatures for the Pauillac appellation in 2020 v. the average 2005-2020.

THE CLIMATE



Winemaking

One advantage of the virtual tasting set up this year, as in 2020, 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), acidity (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 fermenting a portion of the wine in amphorae, and ageing in inert concrete or wood vats rather than using 100% barriques as well. These are interesting changes.

Style

I am very impressed that in a hot vintage, with a heat wave during the final weeks of ripening, producers have delivered wines that are slightly lower in alcohol and higher in acidity than has become expected. They are also, as to be expected, high in polyphenols/tannins but by and large these are already well integrated in the wines. The explanation given by many, particularly in the Medoc, involves the rain and cooler nights in August. Gavin Quinney's excellent meteorological data shows nighttime temperatures falling below 15°C for most of the second half of August in most regions, and into September. That cooler period has helped define the entire style of the vintage, unblocking vine maturation, retaining acidity and retarding the development of sugar in the grapes. It is a vintage that overall favoured Merlot over the later ripening Cabernet Sauvignon/Cabernet Franc, and so we see and taste more Merlot in blends than normal, particularly in the Pessac and Medoc regions. Vines planted on limestone have been particularly successful, retaining water and moderating temperature, yet those on clay and gravel soils also coped well with the conditions. The best wines, and there are many first class efforts, are beautifully floral and aromatic, richly fruited with effortless extraction, backed up with energetic acidity and balanced ripe tannins. That is just as true for wines from Pomerol and Saint Emilion as it is for those from the Medoc. Some wines have some chunky tannins that stand out, though I believe they will resolve. As in 2019 the level of extraction has clearly been thought about, with less remontage and maceration time. I feel the winemakers of Margaux could have extracted a little more, but that may have been forced on them because of the quality of grapes rather than being an aesthetic decision. I have not tasted as broadly as I would normally so it is more difficult to sum up a general style for the whole vintage, though I found excellent wines in all the major appellations. As with wines from 2010, 2016 and 2019, 2020 vintage wines can be enjoyed young or old.

Pricing

With yields significantly lower than in other high quality vintages in the previous decade, it will come as little surprise that prices are a little higher on release. So far prices have risen by 4% on average, more where yields were particularly affected, like Saint-Julien. 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

As good wines were made in all major appellations, you can buy your favourite wines with a high degree of confidence. Pessac-Leognan is unfairly overlooked and produced a high percentage of First Class wines from the selection tasted. Many second wines were extremely good, for earlier drinking. 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.

How en primeur works

Bordeaux 2020 en primeur wines will be offered for sale in May/June 2021, with delivery in 2023 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 hal@cambridgewine.com

Bordeaux 2020 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 Cru Bourgeois Classification 2020, re-introducing 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: Senejac, Fonreaud, Cissac, Caronne Ste Gemme, Labat, La Tour de By

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

St. Julien: du Glana

Castillon/Francis/Fronsac/Pomerol/St. Emilion & Satellites: Cap de Faugeres, Pierre 1er

Pessac-Leognan Rouge: Picque-Caillou,

Dry White: Picque-Caillou, Clos des Lunes d'Argent

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	Drink	Price Dozen ex Duty
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First

Ch. La Tour de By		2026-2032	£117
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Decent yields of 50 hl/ha help keep this regular performer on an even keel pricewise. 60% Cab Sauv 35% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot. 25% new oak. V dark, opaque black purple. Savoury, woody, nose, then fine rich fruit with plenty of concentration, backed up with some ripe but big tannins and fine acidity.

High 2:1

Ch. Noaillac	Cru Bourgeois Supérieur	2024-2030	£59
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55% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Petit Verdot Dark ruby. Ripe cassis nose with some vanilla and spice. Fine and poised palate, all rather silky and fresh yet with plenty of blackcurrant and plum flavour, and ripe tannin. Medium bodied.

Ch. Les Grands Chenes			£132
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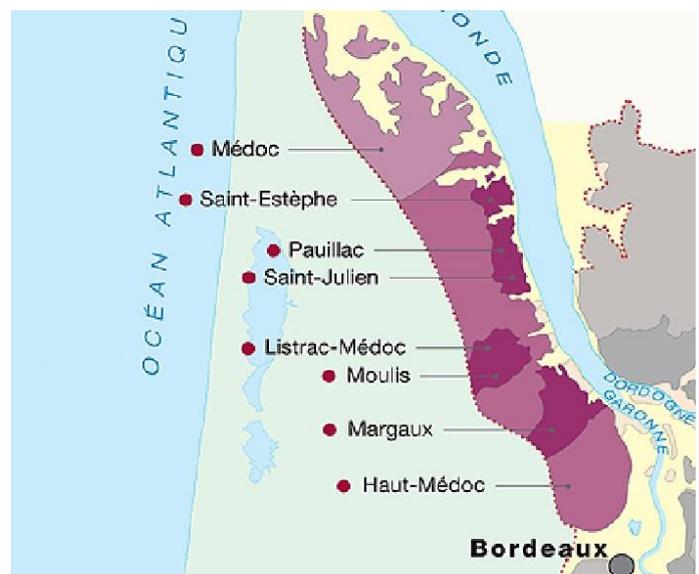
70% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon. This estate has been in the Bernard Magrez portfolio since 1998. I've noticed a definite and welcome move away from oak and extraction techniques in recent years, leaving the wine more refined. Still a little pinched on the tannin but broad and fresh flavours and good length. 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.

Not Tasted but on good form

Ch. La Tour Saint Bonnet	Cru Bourgeois		£93
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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 ex Duty
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Starred First

Ch. La Lagune	Ludon	3rd Growth	£310 EST
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Biodynamic conversion. Helps when climate is difficult to manage so health of the soil is very important. 2020 all major events of the season were successful; food flowering, hydric stress after veraison, good ripeness. Bright aromatics typical of vintage. 65% CS, old vines on gravel, 30% Merlot v successful in 2020, best vintage for 10 years, 5% PV from old vines thick skins small berries adding density. 3.55 pH 13.5% 10% less yield than 2019. 50% new oak, some concrete egg fermenters. Serious Cabernet nose with cedar and gravitas, class and structure, lithe tannins though everything perfectly ripe.

First

Ch. Caronne Ste Gemme St-Laurent-Médoc £104
61% CS 34% M 5% PV deep ruby, gravelly Cabernet nose, plenty of ripe fruit and oak, ripe fruit, quite elegant medium body, decent level of tannin and acidity. Balanced and structured. Drink in 5-10 years.

Ch. Cantemerle Macau 5th Growth £228
Cantemerle = Blackbird singing. 95ha. Rain in spring so mildew threat. Dry summer, a little rain in 15th Aug and in Sept. Healthy grapes and easy harvest. 13.5% 58%CS 29%M 7%CF 6%PV Lovely exotic nose with violets, black fruits, spices, Strong character of Cab Sauv and Cab Franc, very fresh. Merlot is charming and opulent. Interesting blend. Nice acidity. Lower yield 40hl/ha. Soft extraction, lower alcohol than 2019, compare with 2010 bit more complex than 2019. 40% new oak. Well balanced, creamy integrated tannins, lovely length, First class.

Ch. de Camensac St-Laurent-Médoc 5th Growth £215 EST
53% CS 47% M atypical nose, roses and mulberry? Charming palate, sweet red fruits, creamy, fresh with ripe tannins but plenty of redcurrant fruit to the finish. This estate is located on the border of St Julien, just past Ch. 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. They are seeking to make wine that expresses the chewy side of St Julien, with the florality of Pessac.

Ch. Cissac Cissac Cru Bourgeois Superieur £98
57.5% cabernet sauvignon, 38% merlot, 4.5% petit verdot and just 21 hl/ha as a result of mildew attacks in the spring, deep gravels affecting younger vines. Deep ruby, nice straightforward nose, cabernet on gravels, oak, very well defined medium body, charming fruit, texture, good length and clean acidity. Very good.

Ch. Malescasse Lamarque Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel £150 EST
53% Merlot, 38% Cabernet-Sauvignon, 9% Petit Verdot. 35 hl/ha. 30 % new oak. This improving estate near Margaux has made a classic wine in 2020, with plenty of extracted ripe blackberry fruits, a wallop of ripe tannin and decent levels of acidity. Built for longer term drinking, say 2025-2035

Ch. Sociando Mallet St-Seurin-de-Cadourne £256
"Terroir" of gravel and clay over a clay-limestone sub-soil. 53% Merlot, 46% Cabernet Sauvignon and 1% Cabernet Franc. Deep pink ruby. Ripe aromas of blackberry, very fruity, quite fresh crunchy flavours, with velvety chocolatey tannins, slightly oaky flavour 80% new barrels. 42 hl/ha

High 2:1

Ch. Belgrave St-Laurent-Médoc 5th Growth £260 EST
53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot. 32% new oak. Savoury, curranty nose, Firm, dry and savoury on the palate too, with blackcurrant fruit and chewy but yielding tannins chewy. Fresh, elegant finish.

Ch. La Tour Carnet St-Laurent-Médoc 4th Growth £260 EST
60% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. Early vintage, even earlier than 2019. Ripening of all varieties happened at same time so quick harvest in 10 days for all 167 ha! Vinification on fruit rather than extraction. 13.3% 30hl/ha. Not over-extracted.

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 £102
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.

Ch. Senejac Le Pian Medoc £130 EST
 13.9% 34 hl/ha. 54CS 34M 6PV & 6CF 2020 is about roundness, opulence. Not a big wine as not big extraction, mid palate built on fatness, soft tannins, fresh finish. Plenty of flavour and texture.

Ch. Beaumont Cussac Cru Bourgeois Supérieur £108
 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot. 13.5% ABV Sensitive extraction leaving a medium bodied, attractive fruity wine which will drink well from the off. Ripe brambly fruit and clean, balancing acidity.

Not Tasted but on good form

Ch. Belle-Vue	Macau	Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel	£139
Ch. Cambon La Pelouse	Macau	Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel	£139
Ch. Citran	Avensan		£153
Ch. Charmail	Saint Seurin de Cadourne	Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel	£153
Ch. Lanessan	Cussac		£127
Ch. Larrivaux	Cissac-Medoc		£109
Ch. Peyrabon	St-Sauveur-Medoc	Cru Bourgeois Supérieur	£98

Listrac-Médoc

Property	Classification	Price Dozen ex Duty
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High 2:1

Ch. Fonréaud Cru Bourgeois Supérieur £124
 55% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot. 30% new oak. Dark ruby, aromatic with dark blackcurrant and currant, treacle, coffee. Firm tannins grip the palate but there's fruit there too and a chocolate edge, long and rich, oaky. Needs some time to integrate.

Not Tasted but on good form

Ch. Fourcas Dupré £122

Moulis

Property	Classification	Price Dozen ex Duty
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High 2:1

Ch. Chasse Spleen £253
 49 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 42 % Merlot, 6.5 % Petit Verdot, 2.5 % Cabernet Franc. 49 CS 42M 6.5 PV deep ruby, fruity nose, easy soft light elegant wine that's easy to enjoy from release.

Ch. Poujeaux £228
 Deep ruby, aromas of cocoa, blackcurrant, wood, violets. Serious tannic frame is dominant yet there is a rich core of flavour and the texture is thick and quite attractive. Medium+ body, ripe tannins at finish.

Not Tasted but on good form

Ch. Maucaillou £180 EST
 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot. Yield : 45 hl/ha. 40% new barrels.

St-Estèphe

Densely-coloured, classic, spicy and rich wines.

Property	Classification	Drink	Price Dozen ex Duty
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Starred First

Ch. Meyney

2027-2038

£235 EST

52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 13% Petit Verdot. All picked in second half of September. Dark ruby, Exotic aromas with primary and secondary characteristics already present. Big yet silky 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.

First

Ch. Haut-Marbuzet

£347

55% Merlot 35% Cabernet Sauvignon 5% CF 5%PV 30 hl/ha Dark ruby, creamy cassis nose, full bodied, more Merlot expresses in the blend with coffee, black fruits, a little dried fruit. 100% new oak. Oaky but charming fruit

Ch. Lafon Rochet

4th Growth

2027-2037

£330

61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot 3% Cabernet Franc. 40 hl/ha 3.68 pH. Deep gravels and gravel on clay. Dark opaque ruby black. Extracted and structured with plenty of dark fruits, tobacco and dark chocolate aromas, depth of flavour and body, long and elegant finish. A keeper

Ch. Lilian Ladouys

Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel

£180

59 % Merlot, 37% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3 % Petit Verdot, 1 % Cabernet Franc. 40% new oak testing amphora 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. Creamy fresh black cherry nose, no obvious smoky oak or dried fruit. Plenty of ripe tannin and medium full bodied lots of charm. Extracted but forward.

Ch. Phelan Segur

£350 EST

54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc. Veronique Dausse considers this a good vintage for St Estephe. 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. Average yield for St Estephe 41hl ha . 44hl ha at Phelan, clay helped. Deep dark ruby, chocolate and cassis nose, good concentration, fresh and energetic, long, fine and precise. Tannins were well integrated and well balanced.

High 2:1

Ch. Beau Site

£160

70 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 25 % 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. Glamorous nose with kirsch, cedar, vanilla and cream. Ripe and fruity palate with ripe tannins and a touch of bitterness from oak. Easy, medium bodied, a little crunch and enough energy. Pretty

Ch. Cos Labory

5th Growth

£260 EST

46 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 42 % Merlot, 10 % Petit Verdot. 60% new oak just 30 hl/ha V dark ruby saturated. Quite thick with black cherry, cedar flavours, ripe but forceful tannins. Full bodied not too much evolution

Ch. Le Boscq

Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel

2025-2032

£180 EST

Very deep purple. Lovely blackberry aromas with some earth and sweet oak aromas, Plenty of fruit forward flavours with ripe tannins and juicy acidity holding the fruit. Medium+ body, silky tannins and reasonable length. Should drink well young but happy to keep.

Not Tasted but on good form

Ch. de Come	Cru Bourgeois Supérieur	£160 EST
Ch. Serilhan	Cru Bourgeois Supérieur	£160 EST
Ch. La Haye		£146
Ch. Le Crock	Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel	£210 EST
Ch. Ormes de Pez		£220 EST
Marquis de Calon	2nd wine of Calon-Segur	£225 EST
<i>52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot. Yield : 45 hl/ha. 40% new barrels.</i>		
Ch. Capbern		£185 EST
Ch Montrose	2nd Growth	£600 (6x75cl) Est
La Dame de Montrose	2nd Wine of Ch Montrose	£300 EST

Pauillac

As with St-Julien, 2020 is not a slam dunk in Pauillac, but there are some brilliantly concentrated, super impressive wines.

Property	Classification	Price Dozen ex Duty
<u>Starred First</u>		
Ch. Grand-Puy-Lacoste	5th Growth	£550 EST
<i>74 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 26 % Merlot. As with most properties more Merlot in the blend of the grand vin than is planted, as a result of the quality of Merlot and the reduced yields of Cabernets. 38 year old vines on very deep coarse gravel. 41hl/ha yield. 100% de-stemmed. 14.3% ABV, pH = 3.7, 75% new oak V dark opaque black ruby. Ripe interesting nose with kirsch, new oak, crushed earth. Lovely full bodied character with ripe tannins, nice acid. Juicy</i>		
Ch. Pichon-Comtesse	2nd Growth	£700 EST (6X75CL)
<i>77% CS 17% M 6% CF V Cabernet/Pauillac nose, graphite, cedar, peony, juicy energetic palate lots of finesse, medium full body very precise palate, long and fine but never hard or angular</i>		
Ch. Pichon Baron	2nd Growth	£620 EST (6x75cl)
<i>76% Cabernet-Sauvignon 24% Merlot Dark, opaque ruby. Cabernet dominated nose. Big and brooding, powerful wine yet with drive and energy through the palate-coating tannins with lovely velvet fruit and classy acidity. Very long, excellent</i>		
<u>First</u>		
Ch. Batailley	5th Growth	£336
<i>70 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 26 % Merlot, 4 % Petit Verdot. 50 year old vines. 60% new oak Usually c. 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, but impressed with the richness of the Merlot this year. All gravel gives the wine its freshness and finesse. Beautiful, precise, elegant Batailley yet with tannic structure. Slightly backward, very Pauillac.</i>		
Ch. Pibran		£270 EST
<i>55% M 45% CS 50% new oak situated near Pontet Canet. 13.9% 3.55pH 'Nice to get back to normal acidity and alcohol levels' though 13.9% seems high enough and above average. V deep ruby, glossy. Black fruits,</i>		

cedar, pencil shavings (remember them?). Finely crafted, thoughtful extraction, this is very approachable and well balanced wine with real precision of ripe tannin, acidity and ripe fruit.

Ch. Pichon Baron Les Griffons

50% Merlot 42% Cabernet-Sauvignon 8% Petit Verdot 50% new oak 3.7pH 14.1% Ripe and concentrated nose and body really big and juicy fruit with ripe tannins. Impressive and powerful.

High 2:1

Ch. Haut Bages Monpelou

£198

71 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 25 % Merlot, 2 % Cabernet Franc, 2 % Cabernet Sauvignon. 2 days cold soak 4-5 weeks fermentation. Classic aromas cassis and cedar. Medium bodied, Cabernet flavours with some slightly green pepper notes. Nice acidity keeps length and vivacity.

Ch. Lynch-Moussas

5th Growth

£302

72 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 28 % Merlot. 14.5%, pH = 3.7 Dark ruby, not so aromatic, plenty of oak, plenty of gras, filling the mouth, ripe tannins and satisfying mouthfeel enjoy quite young. 40 hl ha

Ch. Pedesclaux

5th Growth

£299

56 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 34 % Merlot, 4 % Petit Verdot, 5 % Cabernet Franc.. The estate is in conversion to organic status and will be fully certified for the 2022 vintage. 13.0% 3.88pH 37 hl/ha yield (above the average for the appellation). 60% new oak and some amphora V dark ruby, attractive dark fruits, cocoa, cedar nose. Lots of weight and extraction of ripe fruit and tannin. Quite low acid , charming and friendly, easy to enjoy young.

Mid 2:1

Ch. Duhart-Milon

4th Growth

72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28 % Merlot. V Pauillac aromas Quite powerful but a bit short with a hot finish., 13.7% ABV, pH = 3.9.72% .

Not Tasted but on good form

Ch. Bellegrave

£195 EST

Ch. Croizet-Bages

5th Growth

£280

Wine Advocate James Suckling Decanter Jeb Dunnuck Jean-Marc Quarin
84-86 93-94 92 89-91 15

Ch. Fonbadet

£280 EST

Ch. Grand Puy Ducasse

5th Growth

£285 EST

Ch. Haut Bages Liberal

5th Growth

£300 EST

Ch. Haut Batailley

5th Growth

£450 EST

Ch. Lynch-Bages

5th Growth

£850 EST

Echo de Lynch-Bages

£300 EST

Lacoste Borie

2nd wine of Grand Puy Lacoste

£220 EST

Reserve de la Comtesse

2nd wine of Pichon Comtesse

£340 EST

Saint-Julien

With average yields at 34 hl/ha this was a difficult growing season for the warm gravel soils of Saint-Julien and quality is not as uniformly high as it was in 2019. Lots to admire though, with concentration and freshness.

Property	Classification	Drink	Price Dozen ex Duty
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Starred First

Ch. Leoville Poyferré	2nd Growth		£660 EST
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64% Cabernet Sauvignon 31% Merlot 3% Cabernet Franc 2% Petit Verdot 35 hl/ha 85 IPT Blackcurrant, cocoa nose, very concentrated palate and big and generous texture, lots of flavours, plenty of new oak waiting to integrate. No hard edges - Fantastic

Ch. Saint-Pierre	4th Growth	2028-2045	£460 EST
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79 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc. Low yield of 33 hl/ha (roughly the average for the appellation) 13.3% ABV. A classic example of a difficult growing season leading eventually to a harvest of great quality fruit and a superb wine. Hydric stress led to blocked maturation so harvesting was delayed, resulting in even lower yields as September heat built. Dark Cabernet aromas, juicy and structured. Plenty of tannins. 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 (50% 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.

First

Ch. Gloria		2026-2040	£340 EST
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50 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 35 % Merlot, 11 % Petit Verdot, 4 % Cabernet Franc. 3.47pH 40% new oak. 13.3% ABV. Use of amphora Dark ruby, red and black fruit aromas, chocolate, cedar. Charming harmonious palate, with ripe fruits, ripe tannins and precise acidity. Appetising. Glorious

Ch. Lagrange	3rd Growth	2026-2040	£400 EST
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74% Cabernet Sauvignon 24% Merlot 2% Petit Verdot Historically low yields at less than 30hl/ha. Lovely blackcurrant nose, big stylish palate. Lots of well-handled tannin. Juicy and fine acidity. Approachable early but should keep very well.

Ch. Talbot	4th Growth	2028-2045	£460 EST
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76 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot. 13.3% ABV 35 hl/ha yield. 60% new oak This is the highest percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon in the Grand Vin since 2013. 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 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, with fruit matching the high levels of tannin. Long and well structured. Good creaminess on the mid palate. Elegant lift on the finish

High 2:1

Connetable de Talbot	2nd Wine Ch Talbot	2024-2030	£220 EST
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40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 60% Merlot. 13.3% ABV 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. 30 year old vines. 15% new oak, 15 month in barrel.

Ch. du Glana		2023-2029	£190
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62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot. From one single block near Ducru Beaucaillou but not classified in 1855. Deep ruby, glossy ruby. Rich blackcurrant and vanilla nose, very pure and enticing. Rich and silky palate, long and fine but a bit less energetic than required for a better rating.

Fiefs de Lagrange	2nd Wine Ch Lagrange		£210 EST
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47% Cabernet Sauvignon 44% Merlot 9% Petit Verdot A real crisp freshness to the wine although 13.5%

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.

Ch. Du Tertre **5th Growth** **£340**
47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 21% Cabernet Franc, 8% Petit Verdot. pH = 3.8, 13.4% ABV 40% new oak. New owners the Helfrich family. 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. 21% Cab Franc gives spicy peppery freshness whilst 8% 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..

Ch. Prieuré Lichine **4th Growth** **£316**
50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot. 77.5ha, 34 hl/ha, 13.5%. 150 different parcels. 40% new oak. 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. Very good, harmonious rich and juicy palate. Plums and cherry, some elegant oak and medium full bodied attack.

Sirene de Giscours **2nd wine Ch. Giscours** **£**
70% Cabernet Sauvignon -15% Cabernet Franc – 10% Merlot -5% Petit Verdot elegant, and fresh. Nice low abv 13.0%

High 2:1

Ch. d'Arsac **Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel** **£165**
72% Cabernet Sauvignon 28% Merlot 12 months in barrel, 50% new. 13.5% ABV. Deep ruby, Spices, cedar, blackcurrant and blackberry aromas, plenty of extraction with fine grained tannins and juicy dark fruits, some dried fruit and cocoa. Good structure behind its deep flavours and a crispness.

Ch. Siran **£250 EST**
47% Merlot, 43% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc. 35% new oak. 14.0% ABV. 25ha planted at 10,000 vines per ha (max. for appellation), 37 plots, certified HVE. Coffee, roasted fruit, some hints of potpourri. 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 than 1/3 new oak.

Not Tasted but on good form

Ch. Deyrem Valentin **Cru Bourgeois Supérieur** **£177.50**

Baron de Brane **2nd Wine of Brane Cantenac** **£211.20**

Blason d'Issan **2nd Wine of Ch. d'Issan** **£200 EST**

Ch. Dauzac **5th Growth** **£375**

Ch. Durfort-Vivens **2nd Growth** **£475 EST**

Ch. Labegorce **£253**

Ch. La Gurgue **£200 EST**
50 % Cabernet Sauvignon , 45 % Merlot, 5 % Petit Verdot. 13.5% ABV

Ch. Marquis d'Alesme Becker **3rd Growth** **£332**

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	Drink	Price Dozen ex Duty
High 2:1		
Ch. Pey La Tour Reserve du Chateau	2022-2028	£69.50
<i>92% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc. Clay limestone soils have kept their freshness, and this is a good, easy going wine that has structure and personality.</i>		

Cadillac - Cotes de Bordeaux

Property	Price Dozen ex Duty
Not Tasted but on good form	
Ch. Reynon	£94
<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	£120
<i>Wine Advocate James Suckling Decanter</i>	
<i>89-91 92-93 91</i>	

Castillon - Cotes de Bordeaux

Property	Price Dozen ex Duty
First	
Ch. Cap de Faugeres	2023-2028 £103
<i>85 % Merlot, 15 % Cabernet Franc. Yield just 19 hl/ha. 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 rich open nose with raspberry, blueberry. Opulent full bodied juicy and big, the tannins a bit rustic but decent concentration. Ripe and generous, medium+ body, well balanced and long. Powdery tannins, peppery finish. Chewy.</i>	

Ch d'Aiguilhe	£175 EST
<i>90% Merlot - 10% Cabernet Franc Yield 32 hl/ha. 30% in oak 70% in concrete vats. Deep ruby, aromas of black fruit, crushed rock, violets,. Lots of extraction, nice and fresh. Long and fine.</i>	

Not Tasted but on good form	
Ch. d'Alcée	£140.00

Canon-Fronsac

Property	Price Dozen ex Duty
High 2:1	
Ch. Canon Pecresse	£163

4ha organic property. 70% Merlot 30% Cabernet Franc. Dark violets, Cab Franc really works here, adding some grip, texture, freshness and seriousness.

Fronsac

Property

Price Dozen ex Duty

Not Tasted but on good form

Ch. Villars

£123

"Knitted down with clear oak influence, this has biting tannins on the attack but softens into a lovely velvety texture set within a muscular frame. A big wine, damson and black cherry fruits ascendent, confident with its own very clear personality. 35% new oak." Jane Anson, Decanter 91/100

Ch. Dalem

£179

Wine Advocate James Suckling *Decanter*
91-93 93-94 91

Ch. Fontenil

£183

Wine Advocate James Suckling
92-94 93-94

Lalande-de-Pomerol

Property

Price Dozen ex Duty

Not Tasted but on good form

Ch. Haut Chaigneau

£132

"The Pascal Chatonnet wines are really worth looking out for in this vintage - this has juicy, fine tannins with plenty of character, a basket of loganberry fruit and juicy, fine tannins. Plenty of character, austere and savoury, good stuff. Still suggest looking to La Sergue as an excellent example of the work this year." Jane Anson, Decanter 90/100

Ch. La Chenade

£169

Wine Advocate James Suckling *Decanter*
89-91 91-92 91

Ch. La Sergue

£205

93/100 Decanter "Pascal Chatonnet provides one of the best buys on the Right Bank with this wine. Plump and rich with well-worked tannins and tons of personality. A little more austere and concentrated perhaps than in some years, but expertly put together with momentum, majoring of black cherry and black pepper spice." Jane Anson



Pomerol

Property

Price Dozen ex Duty

Starred First

Ch. du Domaine de L'Eglise

£327

96% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc. Gravel and clay soils, neighbours with Petrus, l'Evangile and Vieux Chateau Certan. New oak, cocoa, and blueberries on the nose. Soft, creamy, rich, oaky, rounded fruit. Rather thick, plush, and polished all round. Juicy, warm, dark fruit: dark plum, blueberry. Very interesting. Soft ripe tannins but lots of them. Savoury fresh coffee and dark cocoa on the finish. Delicious already and elegant.

First

Clos René

£250 EST.

90% Merlot 10% Cabernet Franc. Deep ruby, plums and cocoa, oak on nose. Ripe black fruits fruit with nice acidity and medium+ body. Fresh and intense, ripe and quite rugged tannins, good length. Rather pleasing with its line of acidity and tannin.

High 2:1

Ch. La Croix du Casse

£225 EST

94% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc. Purple color with ruby hues. Expressive nose with redcurrant, raspberry, and blackcurrant aromas. A lot of sweetness on the attack, fine and balanced, with a nice freshness preserved. The finish is harmonious with well integrated tannins.

Tasting right bank wines with the producers via video link

Saint-Émilion

A highly successful vintage in Saint-Emilion, with some of the wines of the vintage, particularly on clay-limestone soils.

Property

Classification

Price Dozen ex Duty

Starred First

Ch. Canon La Gaffeliere

1er Grand Cru

Classé B

£650 EST

55% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon. 60% new oak barrel Lots of Cabernet Franc shows throughout the wine. Deep dense ruby, lovely ripe seductive fruit, plenty of extraction and charming complex flavours, very ripe tannins but a lifted freshness, long and fine.

Ch. La Gaffeliere

1er Grand Cru

Classé B

£550 EST

60 % Merlot, 40 % Cabernet Franc. Expressive fruity and floral aromas, beautiful texture, fresh and elegant palate, superb purity and class. Not concentrated but very long and delicate. 3.47pH 14.15%

Ch. Trotte Vieille

1er Grand Cru Classé B

£650 EST

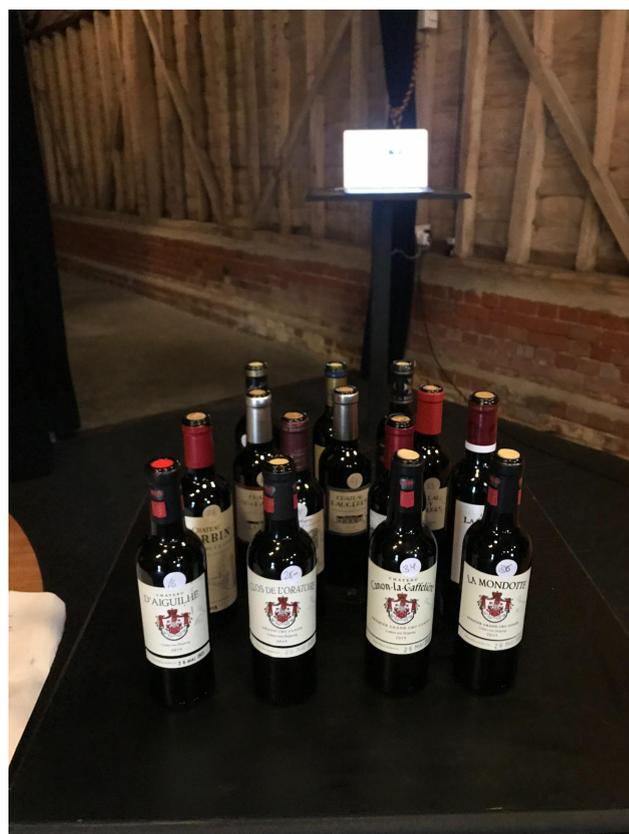
50% Cabernet Franc, 49 % Merlot, 1% Cabernet Sauvignon. Limestone and clay. 29hlha, pH = 3.6, 100yo vines. Ruby red, cream, oak, smoke, flowers, blueberry. Really fine concentration, ripe fine tannins, nice acidity, Rich, well balanced, with a long way to go.

First

Clos de L'Oratoire

Grand Cru Classé

£300 EST



90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc. Organic certification from 2020 vintage. 36 hl/ha. 50% new oak. 10-20% of the wine never in barrel - in concrete or stainless steel instead. pH = 3.5, 13.5% ABV. Dark ruby, crushed rock, black fruits, delicious rich fleshy palate. Long and firm tannins. Maintains pure fruit and freshness. Slightly savoury, smoky, mocha-like finish.

Clos Fourtet **Grand Cru Classé**

on Limestone plateau, 20ha 90% Merlot 7% Cabernet Sauvignon 3% Cabernet Franc Very dark, open aromas of cream soda, blackcurrant sorbet, violets, full bodied but elegant, ripe tannins, v sweet fruit, really good grip and structure, very long, fine, chocolatey finish. 1st Class

Ch. Faugeres **Grand Cru Classé** **£324**

70 % Merlot, 21 % Cabernet Franc, 9 % Cabernet Sauvignon. Black opaque, complex nose with tar, cassis, a little reduction, dense, chunky chewy, black fruit, less obvious acidity, sweet and creamy

Ch. Fleur Cardinale **Grand Cru Classé** **£345**

77% Merlot, 18% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Yield 43hl/ha. 100% new oak. Dense opaque black ruby, Sweet cassis and brambly aromas, violets, toasty oak. The palate really shines, with lashings of sweet fruit, charming freshness and silky tannins. Cool, clay limestone soils allow great maturation without excessive alcohol or loss of acidity. Very complete, long and fine.

Ch. Laroque **Grand Cru Classé** **£228**

99% Merlot, 1% Cabernet franc 3 types of limestone 61ha largest vineyard. 14.5% 3.44pH V dark, creamy black fruit seductive nose. Late picked, from 21st Sept. Concentrated lovely ripe, blackberry palate with lovely tannins supporting and fresh acidity. Chalky finish and ample broad fruit. First class

La Mondotte **1er Grand Cru Classé B** **£670 (6x75cl) EST**

90% Merlot - 10% Cabernet Franc 3.45pH v dark saturated black ruby. Open aromas of kirsch, blackberry, chocolate, rocks, creamy oak, lotsof stuffing, quite low acidity, ripe tannins, lots of sweet black fruits, long and generous structure.

High 2:1

Ch. l'Archange **£288**

From Pascal Chatonnet who makes La Sergue and Haut-Chaigneau in Lalande de Pomerol. 100% Merlot. V dark ruby. Chocolate, oak, blackberry nose. Heavy-duty extraction that's not to my taste, firm tannins but plenty of dark fruits. Lick of acidity. Good length

Ch. Grand Barrail Lamarzelle Figeac **Grand Cru** **£154**

73% Merlot, 27% Cabernet Franc. The Cabernet Franc adds some exciting freshness and added dimension to this wine from the Dourthe stable. 10% aged in amphora with no added SO2 at all. From vines planted on clay-sandy soils. Attractive red fruit nose, medium body with firm tannins and plenty of length.

Ch. Grand Mayne **Grand Cru Classé** **£347**

74% Merlot, 23% Cabernet Franc, 3% Cabernet Sauvignon. Yield 41 hl/ha. V dark ruby. Oak and blueberry, charred wood. Plenty of extraction with lots of tannin overwhelming the rich fruit at this moment. Big and gutsey Saint-Emilion, a little hot. Decent length. Lacks nuance.

Ch. Larmande **Grand Cru Classé** **£253**

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. Pierre 1er **Grand Cru** **£153**

80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc. Dark ruby. A touch of menthol blends with blueberries, blackberries and dusty oak. Dense, structured, concentrated with plenty of dusty tannins. Plenty of black fruits. Full on extraction gives the wine texture, depth and length. Fresh.

Mid 2:1

Ch. Fombrauge Grand Cru Classé £236.50

90 % Merlot, 10 % Cabernet Franc. 37 year old vines. 22hl/ha yield half of 2019. 35% new oak 14.9% Clay and limestone soils with 'Fronsac molasses'. St Christophe des Bardes limestone. A warm south facing parcel that gives more concentration.. V dark, floral and fruity nose, starts with a bang, goes out with a whimper.

Not Tasted but on good form

Ch. Barde-Haut Grand Cru Classé £273

<i>Wine Advocate</i>	<i>James Suckling</i>	<i>Decanter</i>	<i>Jeb Dunnuck</i>	<i>Jean-Marc Quarin</i>
93-95	95-96	94	94-96	16.5

Ch. de Fonbel Grand Cru £176

Ch. Fonplegade Grand Cru Classé £340 EST

<i>Wine Advocate</i>	<i>James Suckling</i>	<i>Decanter</i>	<i>Jeb Dunnuck</i>	<i>Jean-Marc Quarin</i>
93-95	93-94	95	93-95	16.25

Ch. Godeau Grand Cru £175

<i>Wine Advocate</i>	<i>Jeb Dunnuck</i>	<i>Jean-Marc Quarin</i>
89-91	90-92	16.5

Ch. Laroze Grand Cru Classé £191

<i>James Suckling</i>	<i>Decanter</i>	<i>Jeb Dunnuck</i>	<i>Jean-Marc Quarin</i>
93-94	93	91-93	16.5

Ch. Pavie Macquin 1er Grand Cru Classé B £600 EST

<i>Wine Advocate</i>	<i>James Suckling</i>	<i>Decanter</i>	<i>Jeb Dunnuck</i>	<i>Jean-Marc Quarin</i>
96-98	95-96	95	95-97	17

Ch. Quinault l'Enclos Grand Cru £324

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 £146

<i>Wine Advocate</i>	<i>James Suckling</i>	<i>Decanter</i>	<i>Jeb Dunnuck</i>	<i>Jean-Marc Quarin</i>
90-92	94-95	92	91-93	15

Ch. Teyssier Grand Cru £146

<i>Wine Advocate</i>	<i>James Suckling</i>	<i>Jeb Dunnuck</i>
89-91	93-94	90-92

Ch. Tour Saint Christophe Grand Cru £244

<i>Wine Advocate</i>	<i>Decanter</i>	<i>Jeb Dunnuck</i>	<i>Jean-Marc Quarin</i>
93-95	93	93-96	15.5

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

<i>Wine Advocate</i>	<i>James Suckling</i>	<i>Decanter</i>	<i>Jeb Dunnuck</i>
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PESSAC-LEOGNAN / GRAVES / SAUTERNES/ BORDEAUX BLANC

Dry Whites The hot, dry July must have been a worry but the vines hugely benefitted from the rains mid August and subsequent cooler nights, leading to some sensational dry whites and high quality across the board. 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. The average ABV for 2019 white wines is lower than in recent years, with plenty under 13%, and the average pH is also lower. I would recommend buying DRy White Bordeaux for early and mid-term drinking.

Reds Vineyards are planted with a rough 50/50 split of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, a pragmatic strategy that allows either grape to shine in any given vintage. More Merlot was employed in 2020 than normal and it's Merlot of great quality, producing some exceptionally attractive wines for medium-term enjoyment.

Sweet Whites Tiny yields and huge amounts of work in the vineyard has still not resulted in wines of great concentration or levels of sweetness. A frustrating and disappointing vintage.

Bordeaux Blanc

Property

Price Dozen ex Duty

High 2:1

Clos des Lunes 'Lune d'Argent'

£93

70 % Sémillon, 30 % Sauvignon. From vines across all five villages in the Sauternes area. Sémillon 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. August saved the vintage not too warm, cool nights, freshness comes from August. Early vintage, all harvested in September. Lots of acidity but good concentration. Not very Sémillon like. light oak texture from 25% barrel ageing. nice length.

Ch. Doisy-Daene

£154

100% Sauvignon Blanc. Fermented in barrel with 8 months on lees. Typically aromatic. Lime cordial palate as before. Almost sweetly juicy. A little spicy, a little gingery. Fresh if not concentrated. 12.5% ABV.

Graves Blanc

Property

Drink

Price Dozen ex Duty

High 2:1

Clos Floridene

£154

50 % Sauvignon Blanc, 50 % 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. Vines planted on limestone. Excellent nose with gooseberry, guava, cream, honey, inviting. Looking for big diurnal temperature range to preserve freshness. Tasty palate, sharp acid now but hoping this will soften a little with another 2 months ageing.

Ch. Rahoul

2023-2027

£117

61% Sémillon, 39% Sauvignon Blanc. Grassy Sauvignon aromas at first on the nose leads to waxy yellow apple and lemon sherbet. Very primary. Quite lightweight and not much evidence of oak Pithy finish.

Pessac-Leognan Blanc

Property	Classification	Drink	Price Dozen ex Duty
Starred First			
Domaine de Chevalier	Grand Cru Classé		£750 EST
<i>70 % Sauvignon Blanc, 30 % Sémillon. Ages for 18 months, 12 months in oak (including fermentation), then natural sedimentation over second winter in small vat. 13.5% ABV Crystalline pale gold. Really concentrated and high acidity. V powerful fruitiness, with apricot, orange, pineapple, broad and mouth filling. Sensational.</i>			
Ch. Smith Haut Lafitte	Grand Cru Classé		£475 (6x75cl) EST
<i>90% Sauvignon Blanc, 5% Sauvignon Gris, 5% Sémillon Yield 29hl/ha. 50% new oak. Harvest started August 20, one of earliest on record, through to September 9th. Certified organic (AB) as of 2019 in the vineyard. Huge concentration and salinity, balance and power throughout the nose, palate and finish. Peach, nectarine, lime, steely and pithy at the finish. Phenomenal.</i>			
First			
Ch. Carbonnieux	Grand Cru Classé		£272
<i>65% Sauvignon Blanc, 35% Sémillon. pH = 3.1, 4.4g/l TA, 13% ABV. For Philippe Perrin the harvest started a month earlier than when he started making wine. Excellent balance, concentration. Aromas And flavours of lime and grapefruit, appetising, fresh, long and harmonious. Oak not intrusive.</i>			
Ch. de Fieuzal	Grand Cru Classé		£430 EST
<i>75% Sauvignon, 25% Sémillon. 13% ABV, 3.3 pH No sulphur was added during the vinification process. 400lt barrels. Lovely aromas, clementine, rich mouthfeel concentrated and fruity. Nice acid backbone and long grapefruit, orangey finish.</i>			
Ch. Latour Martillac	Grand Cru Classé		£265
<i>60% Sémillon 40% Sauvignon blanc,. Ripe, attractive pineapple and nectarine aromas at first. Subtle citrus additions. Concentrated palate. Textural, but not intrusive oak. Lovely length. Juicy finish. Slightly spicy, mineral. Great length here and oozes class.</i>			
Le Petit Haut Lafitte	2nd wine of Smith Haut Lafitte		£280
<i>80% Sauvignon Blanc, 20% Semillon. Certified organic from 2019. Only c. 5000 bottles made per year. 29 hl/ha. Elegant aromas. Ripe nose of citrus and apple with some obvious oak. Really juicy, fine and delicious white. Very tasty and long..</i>			
Ch. Malartic Lagraviere	Grand Cru Classé		
<i>71% Sauvignon Blanc intense aromas of grapefruit, lime, nectarine. Ttangy acidity, oak is well integrated. 65% new oak, long and fine. Deceptively good.</i>			
High 2:1			
Le Comte de Malartic	2nd wine of Malartic Lagraviere		£160
<i>70% Sauvignon Blanc 30% Semillon, 3.2pH, 22% new oak, 14% ABV Green, tangy, fresh, slightly powdery sherbety acidity, precise and easy to drink.</i>			
Ch. La Garde	Grand Cru Classé	2023-2028	£185
<i>89% Sauvignon Blanc 11% Semillon. Very Sauvignon-like nose, with grapefruit, nectarine and gooseberry. 8 months in oak with batonnage are not intrusive. Medium bodied and juicy with fine line of acidity without hude development or texture on the palate.</i>			
Ch. Pape Clément	Grand Cru Classé		£550 (6x75cl) EST
<i>46 % Sauvignon Blanc, 14 % Sauvignon Gris, 40 % Sémillon. 3.2pH 14%, ABV. High Semillon content for ageing potential. 15% of the wine was fermented in concrete eggs. Very rich and aromatic. Passionfruit,</i>			

lemon sherbet nose, a little catty. Typical toasty oak but under control. Sweet, baked citrus and apricot fruit. More sherbet with passionfruit on palate. Concentrated and long.

Ch. Picque Caillou **£175 EST**
90 % Sauvignon Blanc, 10 % Sémillon. Fermentation in barrels, 7 months on lees, 30% new oak. 12.6% ABV. Lovely nose, Sémillon giving some fatness, tangy acidity, nice moreish finish. Fine oak characters.

Not Tasted but usually reliable

Ch. Baret **£117**

L'Esprit de Chevalier **2nd wine of Domaine de Chevalier** **£212**
91/100 Decanter "Light and sappy with stone fruits, apricot and nectarine, there is an underlying sweetness that is hugely appealing. It really closes in through the palate and has a ton of grip with the touch of Pessac-Léognan elegance but can be rolled out and enjoyed straight away." Jane Anson

Ch. Brown **£228**
92/100 Decanter "Silky and seductive fleshy peach and pomegranate flavours alongside stone fruits with a touch of lemongrass, citrus and grapefruit flesh. Enjoyable." Jane Anson

Graves Rouge

Property 2025-2029 Price Dozen ex Duty

High 2:1

Ch. Rahoul **£108**
62% Merlot, 32% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Petit Verdot. Ripe fruits, damson, dark chocolate, kirsch, baking spices. Soft on the palate but with zip. Supple tannins. Integrated.

Pessac-Leognan Rouge

Property Classification Price Dozen ex Duty

Starred First

Domaine de Chevalier **Grand Cru Classé** **£500 EST**
65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot. 3% Cabernet Franc. Yield 38 hl/ha 40% new oak. 13% ABV. Deep colour, dark red, black in the middle, brilliant. Great nose, intense and distinctive. Flowery expression mainly on the fruit. Black cherry, blackcurrant, blueberry. Finely peppery and vanilla spices. Impressive sensation of density on the palate, fleshy tannins and contained power. Power, balance, maturity, concentration, length, freshness, tension. Everything is there for a great vintage to keep.

Ch. Smith Haut Lafitte **Grand Cru Classé** **£420 (6x75cl) EST**
65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot. Yields 30hl/ha 14% ABV 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 cassia nose with some spice and cedar. Elegant, mineral, concentrated, long energetic palate. Silky oak and pure chewy fruit. Ripe and rich tannins but stays fresh in the mouth. Robust, concentrated, enjoyable. Very fine example of Pessac glamour.

First

Ch. de Fieuzal **Grand Cru Classé** **£275 EST**
65% Merlot (first time ever with this %), 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Petit Verdot Harvested earlier than ever before. Lovely aromas, sensual palate, rich, fresh and intense. Long slightly bitter tannins but concentrated. Very good

Ch. Haut Bailly **Grand Cru Classé** **£860 EST**

52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 3% 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. Powerful low acid but very concentrated. Rich and dense but plenty of character

Ch. Haut Bergey **£165**

40% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Cabernet Franc, 6% Petit Verdot, 1% Malbec. Average yield was just 18 hl/ha. Demeter certified for biodynamic viticulture. Black/ruby. Intriguing nose with some fennel seed charcuterie as well as typical black fruits. Medium+ body with lots of ripe supple tannins, good weight of fruit and juiciness. Long and attractive, finishing with tannin that should resolve.

Ch. Latour Martillac Grand Cru Classé **£265**

55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot. Deep ruby. A full array of fruits, oak and secondary aromas on display, with blackberry, black cherry and chocolate to the fore. Lovely weight of fruit in a concentrated but accessible palate. Plenty of ripe tannin coat the mouth but hold the flavour for a really long finish, with some freshness appearing at the end. Beautifully balanced and fine.

Ch. Malartic Lagraviere Grand Cru Classé

Cabernet-Sauvignon 50.4% Merlot 47.8% Cabernet-Franc 1.8% Yield 26hl/ha compared to 46hl/ha last year. 14.2% ABV, 65% new oak, harvest from 9 to 24 September. V dark ruby, floral and fruity nose, dense yet easy to drink, soft tannins, concentrated, mineral and racy, quite delicious.

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

50 % Merlot, 50 % Cabernet Sauvignon. 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, 13.5% ABV. Deep dark ruby colour. Plump, mixed berry, forest fruit compote on nose. Vanilla, blackberry, cassis, a little cumin. Very ripe powerful fruit, nice balance with ripe tannin and acidity. Fine grained, slightly earthy, ripe and supple tannin. More subtle and better integration of oak than previous vintages.

Ch. Picque Caillou 2025-2030 **£160**

60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30 % Merlot, 10 % Petit Verdot. 40% new oak with the remainder 2nd and 3rd fill. pH = 3.6, 13.5% ABV. Dense dark ruby, Quite dense blackcurrant aromas. Ripe Cabernet but retaining some leafiness and herbal flavours too. Very juicy and forward, with mild tannin, focussed, rich palate quite unusual texture but impressive. Acidity really brightens the whole wine up. Will drink well young. Perhaps age 5-10 years.

Le Petit Haut Lafitte 2nd wine of Smith Haut Lafitte 2023-2029 **£234**

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.. Dark, rich, tasty with some nice acidity, moreish, chocolate, blackcurrant,. Impressive second wine

High 2:1

Haut Bailly II 2nd wine of Haut Bailly **£285 EST**

54% Merlot, 46% Cabernet Sauvignon. Yield 37 hl/h Acidity pH=3.8. Plush nose with Merlot evident, power, alcohol, rich. Good acidity. Bitter but ripe tannin

Ch. La Garde Grand Cru Classé **£166**

52% Merlot, 48% Cabernet Sauvignon. Deep ruby, with evident new oak and blackcurrant aroma, with hints of cocoa. Firm tannins dominate the palate yet there is ripe fruit and enough acidity. Shorter than expected.

Le Comte de Malartic 2nd wine of Malartic Lagraviere 2023-2028 **£160**

78% Merlot, 18% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Petit Verdot. Yield 26 hl/ha Acidity 3.7pH 14.5% ABV. Very pleasing texture, plenty of colour and ripe Merlot, tasty and easy to drink

Order Deadline: 21st July 2021

To place an order contact:

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How en primeur works

Bordeaux 2020 en primeur wines will be offered for purchase in June 2021, with delivery in 2023 once the wines have been bottled and shipped. Bordeaux 2020 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.