

WORLD OF BORDEAUX



GRANDS CRUS CLASSÉS FROM SAINT-ÉMILION
PORTRAITS OF 36 BORDEAUX WINEMAKERS
700 TOP WINES PUT TO THE TEST

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KEEPING AN OVERVIEW



Sometimes it is difficult to see the wood for the trees. You get lost in details and forget how things fit together. In such moments, a good friend of mine says: 'I drag my eyes out of their sockets and let them just float above me, so that I can find an overview again.' Today he would probably use a drone.

Attention to detail is worth its weight in gold in viticulture. 'Every year, I juggle a thousand details in order to create a harmonious whole', explains one well-known estate manager among the many portraits included in this issue. Another is rediscovering nature and the microcosmos of their winery, and wants to share this enthusiasm with visitors. Other estates are seeking inspiration in innovative winery architecture and the combination of form and function. Or cultivating family ties by cooking together. Handling wine is not an exact science, but is a

profoundly human one, which is why this issue presents nearly 40 portraits of winegrowers and winemakers. Amid all the detail, we urge them not to lose sight of the message they are sending out to the world in bottle form.

The members of the association of 49 Grands Crus Classés from Saint-Émilion (founded in 1982) also have a clear message, and are tirelessly travelling the world to showcase their wines and promote contact with wine enthusiasts. Their message is as follows: we bottle top-quality wines that everyone can afford, wines that reflect their natural environment as authentically as possible. We have devoted an extensive article to these winemakers.

Rolf Bichsel

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LIVING BORDEAUX

WORLD CLASS FOR EVERY BUDGET

by Rolf Bichsel

Bordeaux fine wine has never been better, and there have never been so many to choose from. The region's great historic estates are also becoming increasingly attractive as living environments.



There is a silver lining to crises: they prompt us to reflect. Together with lockdown and quarantine, this has inspired us to take a good look at ourselves. 'People who spend their time gazing off into the distance often forget that there can be good things so close by', explains one estate manager among this issue's portraits, continuing: 'Because we have been unable to travel and in some cases even to welcome visitors, we have been dependent on ourselves and have rediscovered our own environment. We became aware how privileged we really were here in Bordeaux.'

Yes, Bordeaux is and will remain a pampered wine region, at least for fine wine. It might be tempting to criticise the big estates, reproach them for their size and thus their power and presence on the global wine market, and question their price policy. I have done this often, so I will not repeat myself here. I would boldly consider myself to be a constructive forward-thinker. The past only

interests me insofar as it affects the present and future. I hate polarisation and unproductive bellyaching, and would rather work to find a solution. I look for the good things within the bad and support them as effectively as I can. From a wine perspective, as well as being a global market, Bordeaux is also one of the most innovative wine regions, for better or worse. Bordeaux was a later arrival to the ecological movement than regions such as Burgundy (owing not least to the size of many of its estates), but now consistently takes an environmentally friendly approach. Dozens of new wineries – both functional and aesthetic but also obeying the most progressive environmental standards – have sprung up in recent years, and are continuing to do so. The well-being and working comfort of staff is becoming increasingly important. The welcome offered by estates is continually being improved thanks to new tourism infrastructure. The crisis restricting many estates to their own living en-



Work in the vegetable garden at Château Talbot in Saint-Julien.

vironment has prompted many owners, managers and staff to see this environment properly for the first time. The top estates are more than just historic monuments: they are genuine habitats, biotopes worthy of preservation that humans share with flora and fauna. Many winemakers have discovered that their estates also house parks, meadows and forests, green lungs that add some variety to what is otherwise a very monotonous vineyard landscape. Forest trails are becoming passable again and being opened up to hikers and cyclists. Hedgerows and trees have been replanted to maintain or boost biodiversity. Ducks and geese cackle, chickens cluck around the desilted pond, flocks of sheep and horses graze on the meadows, and old vegetable gardens have been brought back to life, all to the delight of the increasing numbers of visitors. This does not mean in any way that Bordeaux is now an open-air museum. This wine region has simply become more interesting. Whilst tourists previously hurried straight from the beautiful city to the Atlantic, they now stop off on the way. And wine is once again becoming what it should be: a complete work of enjoyment that is fully integrated into its surroundings, born of a hugely harmonious interplay between humans and the environment.

And it is no accident that this has affected the style of top Bordeaux. A harmonious environment almost automatically means more harmonious wines. Top Bordeaux's have long been of impeccable quality (and not just the top examples, as the quality of 'simpler' wines is also continuing to increase), thanks to top-class technical installations as well as drastically improved work in the vineyard. Up until five or ten years ago, the primary benchmarks for measuring a wine's quality were body, extract, fullness and density. Easy drinkability often fell by the wayside. Criticism was brushed aside with the

argument that top Bordeaux needed to mature for decades, and that this was normal. Global warming has at least had one positive effect: good sugar content and extract is now available to all. This difference lies (once again) in the freshness, elegance, polished tannins and aromatic complexity, in the very qualities that once made Bordeaux famous across the globe. Bordeaux has never made better wines, nor so many of them. To cite just one example: the quality of the Grands Crus Classés from Saint-Émilion, the majority of which belong to the AGCCSE association (Association de Grands Crus Classés de Saint-Émilion) and to which we have devoted a special report within this issue, is quite simply sensational. Wine enthusiasts can find fantastic, authentic Saint-Émilion that does not cost the earth.

Despite a slight price increase for the exceptional 2020 en primeur year, there are good-value wines available across all categories. Below 20 euros these include Fonréaud (Lustrac/Médoc) and de Malleret (Haut-Médoc); below 30 euros Monbrison (Margaux), Olivier (Pessac-Léognan), de Sales, Laroque, Larose and Franc Mayne (Saint-Émilion); below 40 euros La Lagune (Haut-Médoc), Prieuré-Lichine, Lafon-Rochet and Carbonnieux. Even absolutely top wines such as Branaire-Ducru and Langoa-Barton (Saint-Julien), Beaugard or Clos du Clocher (Pomerol) are available for less than 50 euros. And these are just a few examples of many.

Top wines stand out with their ability to express themselves in exceptional form over a long period of time. We also undertook the entertaining accounting exercise of adding up the scores of the top 200 Bordeaux wines from the last ten tastings ('en primeur' and bottled wines) and dividing them by two to produce a score on a hundred-point scale. The results (and it is up to you how seriously you take them) are presented on the next page.

THE VINUM RANKING OF THE BEST RED BORDEAUX

The Vinum classification of the best 50 (or more precisely 51) red Bordeaux wines was created by looking at the scores of the last ten regular tastings ('en primeur' and bottled wines from 2015 to 2018). If a wine was missing from a tasting (2020 in most cases), this was replaced with an average of the previous tastings. The overall score was divided by two and rounded up or down to a whole number so that it fit on a hundred-point scale. One well-known wine (Vieux Château Certan) is missing as it has not featured often enough in our tastings. Please note that this is an average of ten scores, which automatically brings the total score down somewhat.

99 POINTS

Château Pontet-Canet

96 POINTS

Château Brane-Cantenac | Château Durfort-Vivens

95 POINTS

Château Ausone
Château Cheval Blanc

94 POINTS

Château Haut-Bailly
Château Latour
Château Margaux
Château Mouton Rothschild

93 POINTS

Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste
Château Léoville-Barton
Château Figeac
Château Pétrus
Château Pichon-Baron
Château Pichon-Longueville

92 POINTS

Château Angélys
Château Canon
Château Ferrière
Château Giscours
Château Léoville-las-Cases

91 POINTS

Château Calon-Ségur
Clos du Clocher
Château Haut-Brion
Château La Mission
Haut-Brion
Château Palmer
Château Rauzan-Ségla

90 POINTS

Château Batailley
Château Beauregard
Château Bélair-Monange
Château Cos d'Estournel
Château Ducru-Beaucaillou
Château la Conseillante
Château Monbrison
Château Pape-Clément
Château Saint-Pierre

89 POINTS

Château Beauséjour
Duffau-Lagarosse
Château Branaire-Ducru
Château d'Issan
Château Gazin
Château Gruaud-Larose
Château Lafite Rothschild
Château La Gaffelière
Château Malescot
Saint-Exupéry
Château Montrose
Château Pavie

88 POINTS

Domaine de Chevalier
Château de Pressac
Château Fonroque
Château Lagrange
Château Malartic-Lagravière
Château Pavie-Macquin
Château Prieuré-Lichine
Château Petit Village
Château Smith Haut-Lafitte



2009

2009 and 2010 both produced magnificent wines. But unlike the very erratic 2010, the 2009 is very accessible even as a young wine. It is already exquisitely fruity and joyfully full, with velvety, silky tannins. This will delight for a long time.

2010

Christian Seely waited a long time to uncork this very unapproachable-seeming wine at table. The 2010 has been opening up more and more over the past two years. The prevailing drought resulted in smaller grapes than in 2009. Despite its fullness, the wine is significantly shaped by its structure and is hugely sophisticated. In a few years' time it is likely to surpass the 2009.

2012

Even more so than 2014, this vintage demonstrates how well Pichon Baron performs even in less highly regarded years. The 2012 currently has a very precise expression of aromas and offers impressive subtlety, harmony and finesse. It is ready now, and is therefore the wine to sweeten the wait for gently maturing vintages of this Pauillac Deuxième Cru.

2014

This is meatier than the 2012, but less full than the 2015. It is a particularly clear representation of the Pichon Baron style and the result of a rather cool summer followed by an endlessly warm and dry autumn, ensuring ideal ripening for the grapes. It will not lose any of its freshness and elegance in the coming years.

2015

Unlike its predecessors, this vintage's grapes benefited from a hot, dry summer and were harvested earlier than usual. Compared with the 2014, the 2015 is exuberantly full-bodied and generous, with tempting ripe berry notes. It needs to be left for four or five years and could keep for a couple of decades.

2016

Thanks to a virtually perfect year in terms of weather, despite its young age this wine is already offering particular freshness, depth, sophistication and huge harmony. The quality of the tannins is unparalleled. Together with the 2010, this is one of the most impressive wines from the tasting and could mature indefinitely.

VERTICAL TASTING

PICHON BARON

Pichon Baron is one of the greatest wines in the world. And general director Christian Seely (left) knows why: this estate, classified a second Grand Cru in 1855, has top-quality soils of deep gravel on a plateau at the heart of Pauillac.

The role of a vertical tasting is not to decide which vintage is the best, but rather to identify how a wine has adapted to each vintage. 'Pichon Baron is a transcendent combination of power and elegance', Christian Seely explains. 'This fundamental characteristic is common to all vintages. It all begins with the deep gravel plateau, where our old Cabernet Sauvignon grapes ripen and produce wines of particular polish and exquisite finesse.'

To the estate's delight, Pichon Baron essentially represents the quintessence of fine Pauillac, with the elegance of a Lafite, the fullness of a Mouton and the sophistication of a Latour. Even 'en primeur' it reveals excellence and harmony, it matures for ever, and it develops particular aromatic complexity making it exceptional even in so-

called lesser vintages. In the past 30 years, there has not been a single Pichon vintage that does not come recommended.

Winemaker Jean-René Matignon, who has been working at Pichon since 1986, is responsible for Baron's ongoing development. 'Jean-René has one particular quality: he knows the Pichon terroir like the back of his hand, but remains consistently in its service. He is never completely satisfied with what he has achieved and strives to improve even further the following year - but never seeks to tame the expression of the terroir. He strives to present it in the bottle in even purer, more unadulterated form.' His success in his endeavours can be seen by the tasting notes from the past six years, presented on the next page.



ASSOCIATION DE

GRANDS CRUS CLASSÉS DE SAINT-ÉMILION

Where is it all hotting up in Bordeaux? In Saint-Émilion of course, more specifically at the estates that have joined the hugely active Association de Grands Crus Classés de Saint-Émilion, more than enough reason to devote a detailed article to this organisation.









Saint-Émilion is a particularly well-preserved, picturesque, medieval-looking village. With its numerous sights, it has become a real magnet for visitors.

There are numerous reasons why our tastings have prioritised the members of the association of Grands Crus Classés from Saint-Émilion. First of all, we set great store by solidarity between winemakers and estate owners. If we all pull together then everything becomes much easier, quicker and better. This benefits not only the producers themselves but also consumers. If you would like to find out more about Saint-Émilion estates that gained new wind in old sails (in a very short space of time), just type the acronym AGCCSE into a search engine. Second, competition based on amicable exchange is a good, useful thing – competition that encourages the competitors to be swept forwards by others that have already achieved progress. Third, the members are a group of wine estates that in addition to performing fantastic work, are also becoming increasingly green, and not just on paper. Fourth, the winemakers of AGCCSE stand for particularly reliable yet also diverse wines resulting from a whole mosaic of exceptionally well-suited soils. Fifth, almost all estates are headed by families that have a true passion for their land. Sixth, these Grands Crus Classés of Saint-Émilion differ from the Premiers Crus from the same region in one specific way: their wines have remained astonishingly affordable. No, not cheap. Stinginess is not the key to fine wine. They are good value for money, in the truest sense. Seventh, these are often historic estates that know how to pair old winegrowing tradition with modern conditions in the vineyard and winery. And eighth – and on the list goes.

Keeping things local

Of course, everyone in the world knows Bordeaux, exactly where it is, what it looks like and how to tell the difference between the region's wine saints that have conquered the world of wine in the city's name. Otherwise, Max or Moritz or Sam or Pam would probably paint Bordeaux as being a cosy village on a hill surrounded by vines, with magnificent houses and a church tower proudly standing in the middle. Although Bordeaux is now a major metropolis where vines have not grown for a long time, the illustrators of our imagination are not wrong. Because that village really does exist. The village is Saint-Émilion, with not



just one church but several, sat enthroned on a hilltop of pure fossil limestone on the right bank of a river called the Dordogne, which then meets another called the Garonne further downstream. Together they form the Gironde, which eventually flows out into the Atlantic. And the primeval ocean that once covered Saint-Émilion and its surrounding area has effectively been replaced by a vast sea of vines, which enjoy exceptional growing conditions all around the village.

Riches left and right

The first thing you have to learn about the Bordeaux of wine is that there are right-bank and left-bank areas and these are not all the same to winemakers, as habits and customs vary considerably either side of the river. Bordeaux is not a single entity but many, which is unsurprising given that it has more than 100,000 hectares of cultivated land. If you have been paying attention, you will have realised that Saint-Émilion is one of the right-bank areas. Together with its 'satellite' municipalities, this brings the region to a huge 7500 hectares of vines, split across four AOCs. The Cru Classé distinction is held by only a small number of these, and definitely not those at the bottom of the pile.

Who invented 'new French claret', as the English named the dark, mysteriously aromatic, beautifully maturing red

wine from the Gironde from the 17th century onwards? Who made this new Bordeaux world-famous? Of course it was the traditional Bordeaux trade, which is still based in the city on the Garonne. Given this, it almost automatically began with the left-bank areas, taking virtually exclusively wines from the historic chateaus on the left bank and sending them all over the world. The first interest in right-bank areas did not begin emerging until 200 years later. The mighty 1855 classification was limited to left-bank estates: several dozen from Sauternes and the Médoc and one from Graves de Bordeaux, now Pessac-Léognan. This might reinforce the impression that all of the 'new fine Bordeaux' is created on the left bank. This is not entirely untrue, but not entirely true either.

Winegrowing in the Gironde may well have begun in Saint-Émilion. Those good old ancient Romans, who also civilized Bordeaux and shared their accomplishments with the locals, liked to build their country estates in the hilly area around the current village – and every Roman villa had its own vineyard. As well as being ideal for winegrowing, the rolling slopes of clay over limestone so characteristic of Saint-Émilion also reminded the conquerors of their native land. But that's not all: around a thousand years later, when Médoc was still one big wetland, there were already a handful of wine chateaus around Saint-Émilion, and wine fever truly set in from the 17th century onwards. Initially, the harvest from these chateaus was primarily sold in the region itself and in northern France.

The fact that wines from Saint-Émilion and the surrounding area gained international success later on also has its benefits: Saint-Émilion and its surroundings have remained pristine and retained their rural charm. As a picturesque medieval village, Saint-Émilion became a real crowd-puller. And the nearby villages are more modest but no less romantic. Saint-Émilion's naming as a World Heritage Site in 1999 (the first wine region to be granted this honour by UNESCO) also guarantees that it will remain so for a long time to come: for nearly 20 years, it has been virtually impossible to create any architectural eyesores here. The same applies to new winery buildings, which are required to comply with strict standards. But this does not mean that Saint-Émilion is becoming an open-air museum. Numerous star architects have created and built attractive, in some cases extremely bold new wineries that fit beautifully within the landscape and make the region even more worth a visit.

A class idea, better late than never

The idea of also creating a classification for Saint-Émilion emerged in the second half of the 19th century. However, the phylloxera crisis, which broke out slightly later but no less ferociously here than on the left bank, undid all of the good work in this regard. The creation of the AOC in 1936 laid the first foundations for a new beginning. In 1954, the regulation was expanded with three further appellations: Saint-Émilion Grand Cru, Saint-Émilion Grand Cru Classé and Saint-Émilion Premier Grand Cru Classé. The actual classification was ultimately enshrined in 1955, but with the requirement that it be revised every ten years, unlike the historic 1855 classification. The next revision is plan-

ned for 2022. The currently valid version of the classification, from 2012, names 18 Premiers Grands Crus Classés and 64 Grands Crus Classés. 49 of these currently belong to the AGCCSE association, which was founded in 1982. Their representatives tirelessly travel the world to share their passion for independent Saint-Émilion with wine enthusiasts.

And so the historic context has been set, and we are back at the actual topic: the Saint-Émilion estates that have achieved great things in the last 20 or 30 years, becoming a true sensation in the process. Although the technical quality of their wines has been indisputable for a long time, over the past ten years – and the last three in particular – there has been a genuine style revolution. In rural Saint-Émilion with its modestly sized estates (and a few exceptions that prove the rule) that have nevertheless remained relatively affordable despite rising land prices, the Bordeaux boom has attracted new winemakers from all over the world who have come here to realise their dream of owning their own wine estate. The majority have been families or wine-loving heirs who have taken over wine estates that had become rather run-down, because (especially after the 1956 frosts) many local owners quite simply lacked the resources to replant their vineyards with high-quality vines and to maintain their winery and facilities. A fresh inflow of funds from outsiders, to whom passion is more important than creating value in record time and who are planning for the long term (in some cases for generations), arrived right on cue and created a dynamism that spread to the remaining local estate owners.

A break and revolution in style

However, it takes at least a decade and generally longer to whip a wine estate back into shape from a technical perspective. Anyone wanting to do so and regain even a small part of their investment must initially adapt their style to the latest fashion, whether they like it or not. Up until the end of the 1980s, many Saint-Émilions only had a distant relationship with oak and were lacking colour, structure and density. In around 2000 many wines suddenly gained far too much of all of these, but Saint-Émilion as a whole nevertheless began producing far better wines, albeit ones that were rather non-committal in style. Still, quite a number of Cru Classé owners resisted trends and continued to produce very refined wines, which despite being buried in the fierce competition of blind tastings, nevertheless delighted real wine enthusiasts. Others nonchalantly managed the balancing act of combining fullness and structure with sophistication and elegance.

However, in recent years there has been a genuine style revolution, spearheaded by the AGCCSE estates. This development is due to the mundane realisation that the primary role of wine is to offer pleasure; that it can do this better if it is distinguishable from neighbours' wines; that a fine wine is born in the vineyard and should be as authentic as possible a reflection of what we call terroir, namely the complex interplay between soils, climate, microclimate, aspect, and people whose philosophy and history also plays a role; and that a healthy vine that is





«Whether daringly modern or classic, Saint-Émilion's chateaus and wineries fit seamlessly within the landscape.»

integrated into its natural environment quite simply will produce more substantial grapes. 'You have to live here to understand the diversity of our soils. People do not shape their environment – the environment shapes people', as a member of the group explains.

The song of terroir

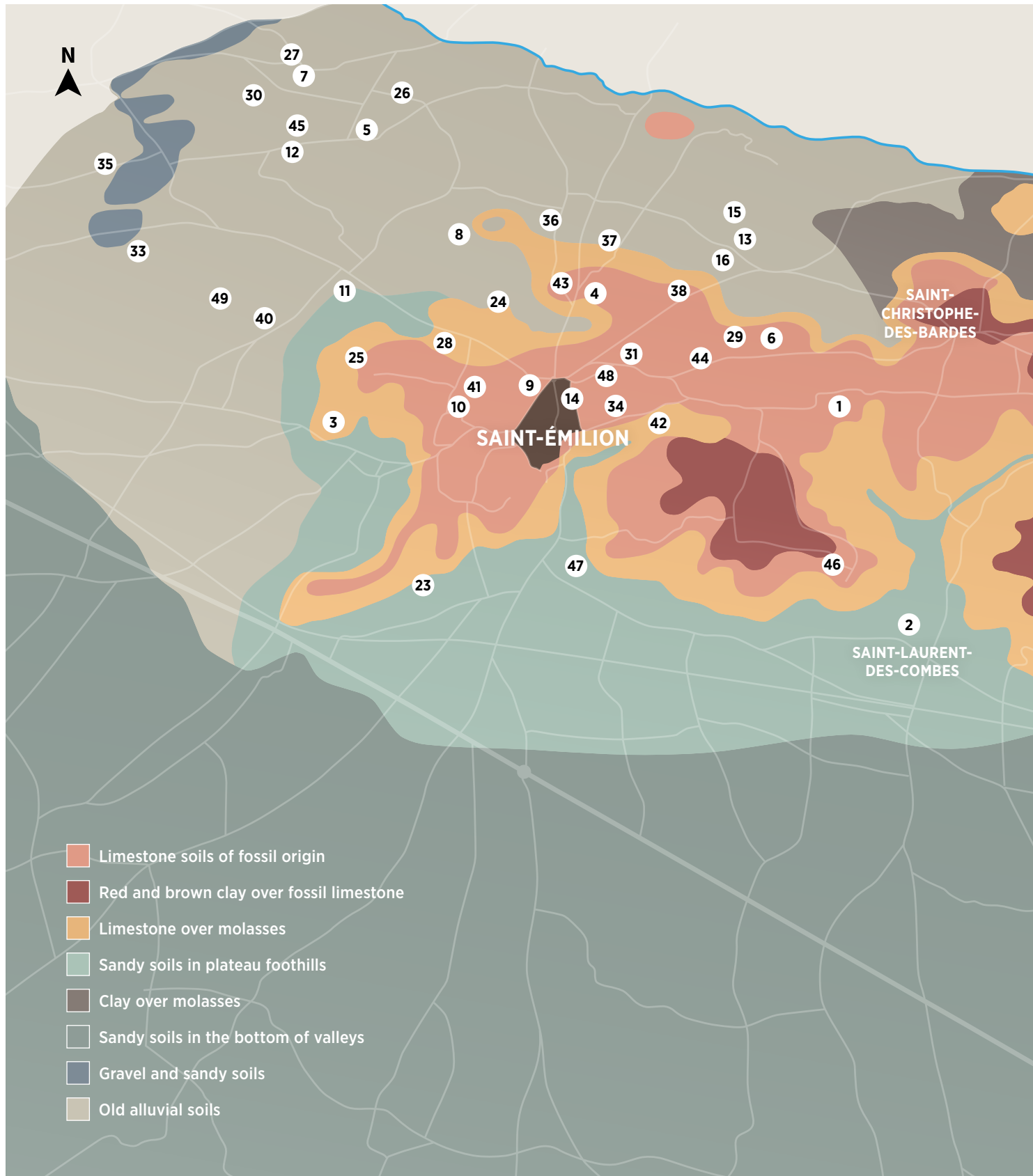
The soil's water balance is crucial for the quality of the grapes. Vines do not like things too dry or too damp. What gives the grape juice maximum complexity is the ability to blend it from base wines with varying qualities that complement each other. The choice of grape variety affects this complexity, but it is the terroir factor that should dominate. The vineyards of Saint-Émilion stand around a hill. This means a range of aspects and altitudes, and thus differing levels of sunshine. In Bordeaux an Atlantic climate reigns supreme, but Saint-Émilion enjoys some mitigating continental influences. Holm oaks and other Mediterranean flora grow here. The nearby river also has a mitigating effect. Around ten years ago, a location south of the village was a clear benefit, even if this was resolutely refuted by at least two well-known estates, namely Cheval Blanc and Figeac. However, both stand out not just in terms of terroir, but also in the varieties used for their wines from the plateau, and are therefore not necessarily representative of the appellation.

The Saint-Émilion plateau, reaching up around a hundred metres, has a fossil limestone skeleton. This plays a key role as a regulator of moisture. Limestone is porous and absorbs water: too much of this drains away, particularly in hillside locations. A subsoil of hard clay has similar properties. Both promote regular, leisurely ripening without pushing sugar production, and without there being any overly long pauses in the ripening process that would result in harsh tannins. Most Crus Classés have one of these two subsoils. What lies above the subsoil is also important. There can be lean limestone on the surface – this only provides the vines with tentative nourishment, which has a positive impact on the wine's elegance, polish and minerality. A thick layer of rich clay on the surface creates powerful wines with lots of tannin and a pronounced complex of sweetness. Weather-beaten sand and meagre scree delay ripening, maintain acidity and moderate alcohol levels. This is of increasing benefit in current weather conditions, particularly to the east and north of the hill.

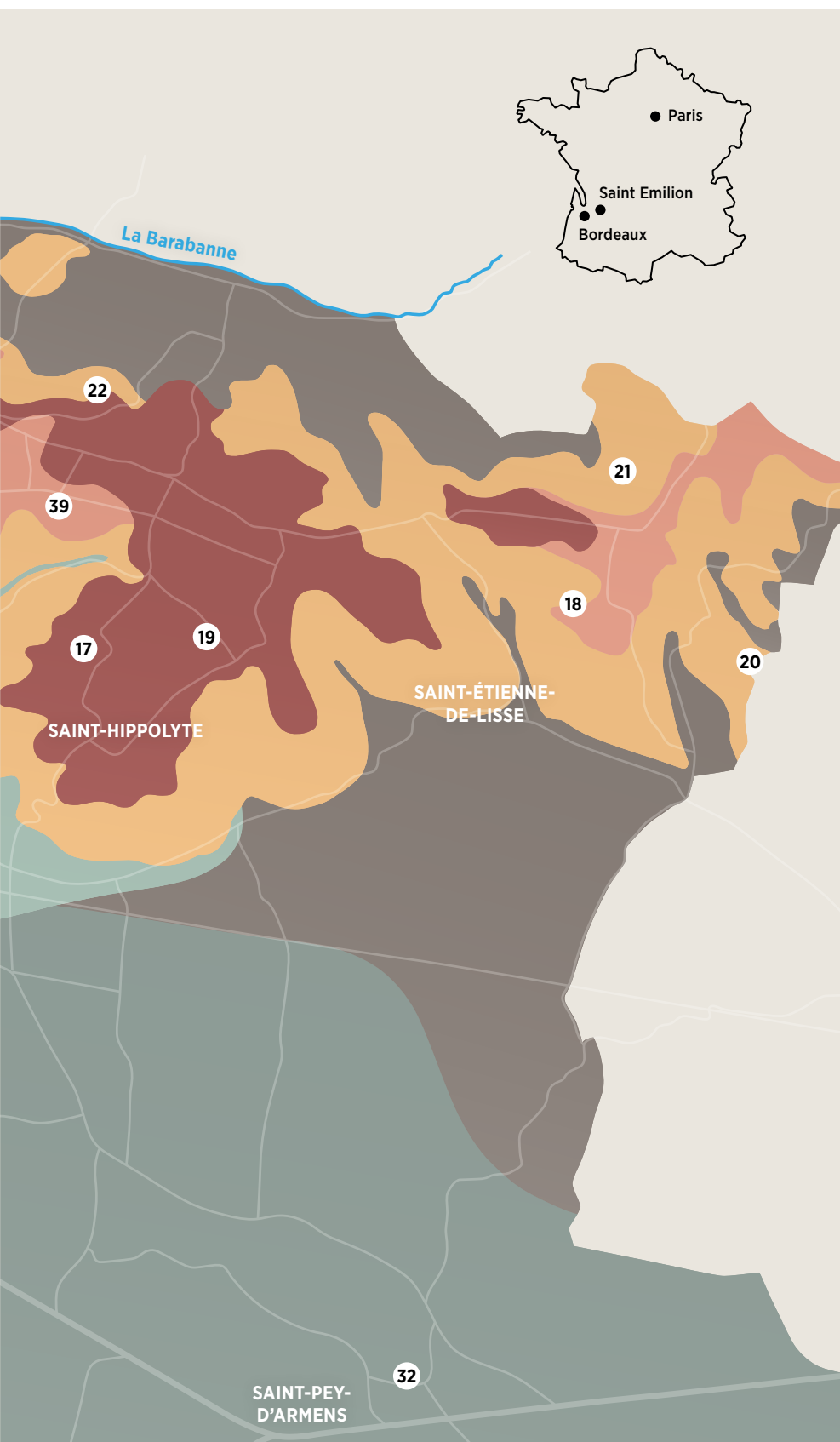
Médoc terroirs are very uniform and do not change every two metres, as is the case in Burgundy. This does not hold true in Saint-Émilion. Despite their sometimes modest sizes, most Crus Classés have plots across a varying range of soil types with different aspects and altitudes. Many have refurbished their winery facilities in recent years and invested in smaller fermentation tanks that enable them to harvest and vinify plots (or even parts of plots) separately. Thanks to perfectly ripe grapes, so important for Merlot which has a much smaller ideal harvest window than Cabernet, this increases not only the precision of the final wine (if the grapes cannot be processed separately there is also no point harvesting them separately, if it all goes into the same tank and cannot be separated back out; in this event, it is better to harvest earlier rather than later, which can result in clumsy base wines) but also its complexity. Those with access to high quality components covering a range of styles will produce more complex wines. The region's first Grand Cru Classé to gain organic certification was a member of the association, serving as a role model. An increasing number of the estates in question undertake very natural work in the vineyard, currently follow organic cultivation standards, or already hold organic and/or biodynamic certification. Naturally cultivated wines have not only measurably higher acidity levels, but also greater aromatic complexity. The phrase 'what is the point of having the best wine terroir if you treat it like a motorway' has become virtually a guiding principle. 'I do not want to lecture people. Everyone must find their own way to be happy. But I am delighted that we, who were viewed as crackpots here in green Saint-Émilion just 20 years ago, are now serving as role models', a well-established organic pioneer explains with a smile.

The upshot: here and now, we are taking up the cause of the Saint-Émilion Grands Crus Classés belonging to the association, because we are utterly convinced that the 'esprit de groupe', or team spirit, is what has enabled this revolution. They have played a significant role in the fact that Saint-Émilion is producing some truly sensational wines that are being vinified in increasing harmony with nature, complex, reasonably priced, full-bodied yet easy drinking, immensely fruity but with good aging potential. Even those who have turned their back on Bordeaux in recent years should be interested in the Grands Crus Classés from Saint-Émilion we present on the following pages.

TERROIR, GEOGRAPHY AND



ALL 49 ESTATES



OVERVIEW OF AGCCSE ESTATES

1. Château Barde Haut
2. Château Bellefont-Belcier
3. Château Bellevue
4. Château Cadet Bon
5. Château Chauvin
6. Château Clos de Sarpe
7. Château Corbin
8. Château Côte de Baleau
9. Château Les Grandes Murailles
10. Clos Saint-Martin
11. Clos des Jacobins
12. Château La Commanderie
13. Clos de l'Oratoire
14. Couvent des Jacobins
15. Château Dassault
16. Château Faurie de Souchard
17. Château de Ferrand
18. Château de Pressac
19. Château Destieux
20. Château Faugères
21. Château Fleur Cardinale
22. Château Fombrauge
23. Château Fonplégade
24. Château Fonroque
25. Château Franc Mayne
26. Château Grand Corbin
27. Château Grand Corbin-Despaigne
28. Château Grand Pontet
29. Château Haut Sarpe
30. Château Jean Faure
31. Château la Couspaude
32. Château la Fleur Orange
33. Château la Marzelle
34. Château la Serre
35. Château la Tour Figeac
36. Château Laniote
37. Château Larmande
38. Château Petit Faurie de Soutard
39. Château Laroque
40. Château Laroze
41. Château le Chatelet
42. Château le Prieuré
43. Château Moulin du Cadet
44. Château Sansonnet
45. Château Ripeau
46. Château Rochebelle
47. Château Saint-Georges Côte Pavie
48. Château Villemaurine
49. Château Yon Figeac

THE 49 AGCCSE CHATEAUS

With commune, owner/manager, website, vineyard area, grape varieties, special facilities. Unless specified otherwise, the owners offer visits and tastings by appointment and run a shop. H = hectare, M = Merlot, Cf = Cabernet Franc, Cs = Cabernet Sauvignon, Pv = Petit Verdot, Mc = Malbec, Cm = Carménère.

1. Barde Haut

33330 Saint-Émilion

Hélène Lévêque

www.chateaubardehaut.com

① 16.89 H, clay/limestone; 73% M, 27% Cf

2. Bellefont-Belcier

33330 Saint-Émilion

Kwok family/Jean-Christophe Meyrou

www.vignoblesk.com

① 13.5 H, clay over limestone; 72% M, 17% Cf, 11% Cs | Guest rooms

3. Bellevue

33330 Saint-Émilion

Pradel de Lavaux/Hubert de Bouïard de Laforest

www.chateaubellevue.fr

① 6.82 H, clay and limestone; 100% M, restaurant

4. Cadet Bon

33330 Saint-Émilion

Guy Richard

www.cadet-bon.com

① 5.84 H, clay/limestone; 80% M, 20% Cf

5. Chauvin

33330 Saint-Émilion

Sylvie Cazes

www.chateauchauvin.com

① 15 H, clay-sand/ferrous clay; 70% M, 25% Cf, 5% Cs

6. Clos de Sarpe

33330 Saint-Émilion

Jean-Guy Beyney

www.clos-de-sarpe.com

① 3.7 H, clay over limestone; 85% M, 15% Cf, no shop.

7. Corbin

33330 Saint-Émilion

Anabelle Cruse Bardinet

www.chateau-corbin.com

① 13 H, clay-sand/ferrous clay; 83% M, 17% Cf

8. Côte de Baleau

33330 Saint-Émilion

Philippe Cuvelier

www.cotedebaleau.com

① 15 H, clay over limestone/clay-sand; 90% M, 10% Cf

9. Les Grandes Murailles

33330 Saint-Émilion

Philippe Cuvelier

www.cotedebaleau.com

① 2 H, clay-limestone; 100% M.

10. Clos Saint-Martin

33330 Saint-Émilion

Sophie Fourcade

No website

① 1.36 H, clay over limestone; 80% M, 15% Cf, 5% Cs, not open to visitors

11. Clos des Jacobins

33330 Saint-Émilion

Thibaut & Magali Decoster

www.mtdecoaster.com

① 8.5 H, limestone rock/clay/limestone boulders; 80% M, 18% Cf, 2% Cs, restaurant

12. La Commanderie

33330 Saint-Émilion

Thibaut & Magali Decoster

www.mtdecoaster.com

① 3.7 H, limestone shards/ferrous sand/clay; 75% M, 25% Cfs | Restaurant

13. Clos de l'Oratoire

33330 Saint-Émilion

Stephan von Neipperg

www.neipperg.com

① 13.07 H, clay/limestone, molasses; 80% M, 20% Cf

14. Couvent des Jacobins

33330 Saint-Émilion

Xavier Jean

www.couvent-jacobins-saint-emilion.com

① 10.07 H, clay-limestone/clay-sand/molasses 80% M, 15% Cf, 5% Pv, guest rooms

15. Dassault

33330 Saint-Émilion

Dassault Wine Estates/Romain Depons

www.dassaultwineestates.com

① 24 H, sandy-clay over molasses, 70% M, 25% Cf, 5% Cs

16. Faurie de Souchard

33330 Saint-Émilion

Dassault family/Romain Depons

www.dassaultwineestates.com

① 12 H, clay/sandy-clay; 70% M, 25% Cf, 5% Cs

17. de Ferrand

33330 Saint-Hippolyte

Philippe & Pauline Chandon-Moët

www.chateauferrand.com

① 42 H, clay/limestone; 70% M, 29% Cf, 1% Cs.

18. de Pressac

33330 Saint-Etienne de Lisse

Jean-François Quenin

www.chateaupressac.com

① 36 H, limestone/clay over limestone; 71% M, 16% Cf, 9% Cs, 2% Cm, 2% Mc

19. Destieux

33330 Saint-Émilion

Christian Dauriac

www.vignobles-dauriac.com

① 8,12 H, clay/limestone/silicon; 66% M, 17% Cf, 17% Cs

20. Faugères

33330 Saint-Étienne de Lisse

Silvio Denz

www.chateau-faugeres.com

① 37 H, limestone/limestone-clay over molasses, 85% M, 10% Cf, 5% Cs

21. Fleur Cardinale

33330 Saint-Émilion

Dominique & Florence Decoster

www.fleurcardinale.com

① 23.5 H, clay over limestone; 76% M, 18% Cf, 6% M

22. Fombrauge

33330 Saint-Christophe des Bardes

Bernard Magrez

www.bernard-magrez.com

① 58 H, clay/limestone/molasses; 90% M, 10% Cf

23. Fonplégade

33330 Saint-Émilion

Denise Adams

www.fonplegade.com

① 18.5 H, clay/limestone; 90% M, 10% Cf

24. Fonroque

33330 Saint-Émilion

Guillard family/Alain Moueix
www.fonroque.com

Ⓜ 17.6 H, clay/limestone; 80% M, 20% Cf

25. Franc Mayne

33330 Saint-Émilion

Savare family/Pierre Arnald
www.chateaufrancmayne.com

Ⓜ 7 H, clay/limestone/sand over clay; 90% M, 10% Cf | Guest rooms

26. Grand Corbin

33330 Saint-Émilion

SMA Group/Laure Canu
www.grandcorbin.com

Ⓜ 29.5 H, silicon over clay; 80% M, 16% Cf, 4% Cs, no shop and no tasting

27. Grand Corbin-Despaigne

33330 Saint-Émilion

François Despaigne
www.grand-corbin-despaigne.com

Ⓜ 28.8 H, ferrous blue clay/silicon/sand; 75% M, 24% Cf, 1% Cs

28. Grand Pontet

33330 Saint-Émilion

Marie Pourquet
www.chateaugrandpontet.com

Ⓜ 14 H, clay/sand over limestone, 70% M, 18% Cf, 7% Cs, 5% Mc

29. Haut Sarpe

33330 Saint-Émilion

Jean-Philippe Janoueix
www.hautsarpe.com

Ⓜ 19 H, clay over limestone; 70% M, 30% Cf, guest rooms

30. Jean Faure

33330 Saint-Émilion

Olivier Decelle/Marie-Laure Latorre
www.jeanfaure.com

Ⓜ 18 H, clay; 35% M, 60% Cf, 5% Mc

31. La Couspaude

33330 Saint-Émilion

Aubert family
www.aubert-vignobles.com

Ⓜ 7.01 H, clay/limestone; 75% M, 20% Cf, 5% Cs

32. La Fleur Morange

33330 Saint-Pey d'Armens

Jean-François and Véronique Julien
www.lafleurmorange.club

Ⓜ 2 H, ferrous clay/limestone; 70% M, 30% Cf | Guest rooms

33. La Marzelle

33330 Saint-Émilion

Sioen family/Jean-Charles Joris
www.lamarzelle.com

Ⓜ 17 H, gravel/clay; 73% M, 20% Cf, 7% Cs

34. La Serre

33330 Saint-Émilion

Arnaud d'Arfeuille
www.chateaulaserre.com

Ⓜ 7 H limestone; 80% M, 20% Cf.

35. La Tour Figeac

33330 Saint-Émilion

Rettenmaier family/Pierre Blois
www.latourfigeac.fr

Ⓜ 14.6 H, gravel/sand over deep clay; 65% M, 35% Cf

36. Laniote

33330 Saint-Émilion

Arnaud and Florence de la Filolie
www.laniote.com

Ⓜ 5 H, clay over limestone; 80% M, 15% Cf, 5% Cs, guest rooms

37. Larmande

33330 Saint-Émilion

AG2R la Mondiale/Bertrand de Villaines
www.chateau-larmande.fr

Ⓜ 20 H, clay/limestone/silicon; 65% M, 30% Cf, 5% Cs, no shop

38. Petit Faurie de Soutard

33330 Saint-Émilion

AG2R la Mondiale/Bertrand de Villaines
www.chateau-soutard.com

Ⓜ 8 H, clay/limestone/sand; 79% M, 20% Cf, 4% Cs

39. Laroque

33330 Saint-Christophe des Bardes

Beaumartin family/David Suire
www.chateau-laroque.com

Ⓜ 61 H, clay over limestone rock; 88% M, 10% Cf, 2% Cs

40. Laroze

33330 Saint-Émilion

Guy Meslin
www.laroze.com

Ⓜ 27 H, silicon over clay; 62% M, 28% Cf, 10% Cs

41. Le Chatelet

33330 Saint-Émilion

Julien Berjal

www.chateau-le-chatelet.com

Ⓜ 3.19 H clay/limestone; 80% M, 20% Cf

42. Le Prieuré

33330 Saint-Émilion

Les Terroirs de Suravenir
www.chateauprieure.com

Ⓜ 6.24 H, limestone, 80% M, 20% Cf

43. Moulin du Cadet

33330 Saint-Laurent des Combes

Marie-Bénédicte Lefèvre
www.chateau-sansonnet.com

Ⓜ 2.85 H, clay/limestone, 100% M

44. Sansonnet

33330 Saint-Émilion

Marie-Bénédicte Lefèvre
www.chateau-sansonnet.com

Ⓜ 7 H, clay/limestone; 85% M, 8% Cf, 7% Cs

45. Ripeau

33330 Saint-Émilion

Peggy and Cyrille Grégoire
www.chateau-ripeau.com

Ⓜ 16.1 H, sand/gravel/ferrous clay; 65% M, 30% Cf, 5% Cs

46. Rochebelle

33330 Saint-Laurent des Combes

Philippe Faniest
www.chateurochebelle.com

Ⓜ 3 H, clay/limestone; 85% M, 15% Cf, restaurant

47. Saint Georges Cote Pavie

33330 Saint-Émilion

Philippe Masson
www.saint-georges-cote-pavie.com

Ⓜ 5 H, clay/limestone; 80% M, 20% Cf

48. Villemaurine

33330 Saint-Émilion

Marie-Bénédicte Lefèvre
www.villemaurine.com/index.php

Ⓜ 7 H, limestone plateau; 80% M, 20% Cf

49. Yon Figeac

33330 Saint-Émilion

Alain Château
www.yon-figeac.com

Ⓜ 24,23 H, sand/clay/ferrous clay; 80% M, 14% Cf, 6% Pv

GOING FOR GREEN

FRANC MAYNE

It is no accident that Sophie Mage is looking after the technical side of Franc Mayne's wine activities. She has huge amounts of experience with implementing organic cultivation, which she is now putting to full use at Franc Mayne.



In Rennes they run a traditional banknote printing company and in Saint-Émilion they will be making wine: the Savare family recently acquired Franc Mayne. Thomas Savare has a clear idea of the direction in which he wishes to take this estate with its just seven hectares, wonderfully located on the edge of the limestone plateau. Sustainability and ecology have long been daily concerns for this entrepreneur, and in Sophie Mage he

found the ideal person for the task of converting the estate to organic cultivation. She has spent ten years of her professional career guiding wine estates gently but firmly down the green path. From 2022 Franc Mayne should hold organic certification, 'because it is quite simply the best way of growing for the plant, the wine and the people involved', she explains with conviction. 'We are responsible not only for our environment but also for our staff and our numerous visitors. Franc Mayne offers five guest rooms, one of which is in a romantic tree house. Our guests have a right to spend their holidays in an unspoiled environment and healthy surroundings.' Renovation work was carried out at the estate itself, with the aim of integrating it even more effectively into the landscape.

Franc Mayne has long been producing a particularly fruity, harmonious and tempting wine. The aim is for this to now become even fresher and more precise, an even better reflection of its particular terroir. With varying amounts of sand over clay, clay, and sand depending on the particular site, despite its modest size Franc Mayne has a real mosaic of soils all in hillside locations with gradients of two to fifteen percent. The layer of soil over the limestone base is often just 20 to 30 centimetres thick.

One hectare of the highest site, reaching up to 75 metres above sea level, has just been replanted with Cabernet Franc. It offers the grape variety ideal conditions for a slow, even ripening process. 'Arduous restructuring work in the vineyard in order to drastically increase the proportion of Cabernet Franc alone serves to prove how seriously the new owners are taking their task. Converting a significant part of the cultivation area from Merlot to Cabernet Franc and working towards organic growing in the future are not obvious steps to take', Sophie notes. 'But it is in keeping with our philosophy of a global, respectful handling of a valuable ecosystem, where minerals, flora, fauna and humans are able to happily coexist.'



«Organic cultivation is quite simply the method that is best for the wine, people and nature.»

Sophie Mage



FIRST CLASS RETURN

PRESSAC

The reproduction of the Pressac label that Jean-François Quenin presents is nearly a hundred years old. It states 'Premier Cru Saint-Émilion'. This was unofficial, but well deserved.





«I am of course applying for the title of Premier Cru in the new classification that was launched recently, even if my chances are slim.»

Jean-François Quenin

As Jean-François Quenin says with a smile and a wink: 'I am of course applying for the title of Premier Cru in the new classification that was launched recently, even if my chances are slim.' In fact, there is no need. In our hearts (and on our palates), Pressac has long been a Premier Cru. Pressac was named as such on its label a hundred years ago, long before Saint-Émilion had its own official classification (which was not created until 1955).

The fact that Pressac is now at least unofficially part of the cream of Saint-Émilion's crop is primarily due to its industrious owner. Jean-François Quenin took over Pressac in 1997, and transformed and generally overhauled virtually everything. 90% of the vines were replaced, the chateau dating from the second half of the 19th century was renovated in line with old plans, new winery facilities were built, and much more. However, Pressac is also a wine estate with top-quality soils in an exceptional location, a true chateau overlooking a hill bedecked with vines, an estate with an incredibly long history.

'We have looked through and studied files dating back as far as the 15th century. Winegrowing was going on here even then', the chateau owner explains. The English army's surrender was signed here in 1453 after the Battle of Castillon, bringing an end to the Hundred Years' War between England and France. In 1730, Pressac was taken over by nobleman Vassal de Montviel, originally from Cahors. He planted a grape variety from his native land – Auxerrois (now known as Malbec), which enjoyed a career as 'Noir de Pressac' and was the most widespread high-quality variety on the right bank up until the phylloxera crisis.

Pressac is a very special wine: powerful, full-bodied and well structured, yet always juicy and crisp. It is extremely precisely made, matures for a very long time and then develops huge aromatic complexity, as currently being illustrated by the 2001 and 2002 vintages, which are a long



way from passing their peak. As previously explained, this is firstly due to the exceptional hillside soils, which lay fallow until Jean-François took over the estate due to the difficulty of cultivating them. To enable the steepest plots to be planted, five hectares had to be laboriously terraced. But Pressac is becoming even better and more precise. The two recently finished fermenting rooms with twelve smaller tanks will enable harvests to be macerated separately by plot in future.



THE MAGIC OF AROMAS

BELLEFONT-BELCIER

The aroma of truffle is considered particularly exquisite, especially in mature Saint-Émilion. Jean-Christophe Meyrou likes truffle dishes with his wines – made using his own truffles!



Since 2018, Bellefont-Belcier has belonged to a Francophile (wine) entrepreneur from Saigon: Peter Kwok. Jean-Christophe Meyrou, who has been running the K Group estates since 2014, has known him and valued his input for 20 years. 'Peter is one of those owners from all over the world who have made Saint-Émilion what it is today: the most successful appellation in the region', he emphasises.

Peter Kwok is not a traditional entrepreneur who just wants to create added value. He has strongly championed preserving historic sites such as Bellefont-Belcier, which – like many estates – has a long history to look

back on. He wants to create jobs for locals. His resources enabled Bellefont-Belcier to be renovated with style and respect. 'There is a lot of talk nowadays, especially here in Saint-Émilion, about recreating greater biodiversity. We are fortunate enough that we do not need to do so, as our biodiversity never disappeared. All we can do is maintain and improve it. Our vineyards are surrounded by forest. No trees were felled here in order to plant more vines.' Creating a truffle plantation with 400 oaks is fully in line with this philosophy. 'There are some parallels between truffle oaks and vines. Both are plants that consistently express their terroir.'



BIC WRITING WINE HISTORY

DE FERRAND

Gonzague de Lambert signs his bottles with the pen that goes the longest: this lofty wine estate in Saint-Émilion belongs to the family of BIC creator Baron Bich.

'A BIC can write for up to three kilometres, it is not a throw-away product', manager Gonzague de Lambert proudly explains. The entrepreneur who acquired Ferrand in 1977 is honoured in the tasting room, with a mural created entirely using BIC ballpoint pens. Baron Bich's daughter Pauline and her husband Philippe Chandon-Moët have been running Ferrand since 1994.

Château de Ferrand is a large estate with 42 hectares of vines as a single piece of land, rare in Saint-Émilion, standing between 85 and 105 metres above sea level on a limestone and clay plateau, surrounded by forest and a ten-hectare park. 'We work in a harmonious, magical en-

vironment!', Gonzague explains excitedly. 'Our soils are very diverse. Some parts have a layer of clay, sometimes limestone virtually comes through all the way the surface, and in some cases it is buried under 30 centimetres of earth. We have created a precise map to help us understand our terroir better. After ten years of natural viticulture (Terra Vitis, high environmental sustainability HVE, ISO 14100), we are currently working to convert to organic cultivation.' De Ferrand is almost an archetype of classic Saint-Émilion, meaty yet also particularly fresh, decidedly mineral and refined, expressing itself the best when it has been allowed to mature somewhat.





LEGACY AND FUTURE

DASSAULT

This ancient vine was already making wine before Romain Depons was even born. It represents two of the most important requirements for winegrowing: sustainability and durability.



The Dassault family's estates, which also include the Cru Classé Faurie de Souchard and the Grand Cru La Fleur, are being constantly further developed. This includes extensive restructuring work in the vineyard, laborious soil analyses and mass propagation of selected examples of their own vines to maintain genetic diversity. In 2022, Dassault will also be gaining a new winery facility, enabling even more precise work. All of this illustrates the owners' clear desire to return to the upper echelons of Bordeaux. Marcel Dassault acquired his first Saint-Émilion wine estate in 1955. Today, Dassault Wine Estates calls a good 50 hecta-

res of vines its own. 'Dassault, an industrial family working in the aviation industry that is still building aircraft in the region, stands for innovation and progress, passion and excellence', explains Romain Depons, who began his career at La Fleur in 2002 at the age of just 22 and is now responsible for all the Dassault estates.

This philosophy is also expressed in the winemaking. However, the Dassaults, represented by three siblings and general director Christophe Salin, also show huge respect for the terroir and its history. The vines in the picture offer a further reminder of this.



WINE AS CRAFTSMANSHIP

BELLEVUE

The vine cutter that Axel Pradel de Lavaux is holding is the most important tool for viticulture. It is a reminder that wine is created in the vineyard, not the winery.

With its 6.8 hectares of vines, planted entirely with Merlot, Bellevue is one of the smallest estates in Saint-Émilion. This enables craftsmanship with a gardener's precision. The soils are gently tilled by horse. From the chateau there is a beautiful view ('belle vue' in French) of the unique panorama. The estate boasts traces of Gallo-Roman architecture and the park contains cedars and lario pines, highlighting the almost Mediterranean climate.

Since 2007, Bellevue has been equally co-owned by the de Bouard de Laforest (Angélus) and Pradel de Lavaux families. The Angélus team is responsible for wi-

nemaking. 'The Pradel de Lavaux have been based in Saint-Émilion and involved in winemaking for eons', Axel Pradel de Lavaux explains. In 1740 they founded Horeau-Beylot, the first trading house on the right bank of the Gironde. They have been based at Bellevue since 1640. Bellevue is a real gem – and not just because of its modest size and unique location. The soils, with their traces of blue clay, are some of the most interesting in the appellation. They produce two types of wine: powerful and elegant. The result is a particularly crisp, full-bodied wine with velvety tannins. 'Bellevue', Axel Pradel de Lavaux says, 'is concentrated power in velvet gloves'.





PORCELAIN IN BLOOM

FLEUR CARDINALE

Caroline and Ludovic Decoster like symbols. The coffee pot made of Limoges porcelain represents their parents' former trade, and the bunch of flowers the estate's biodiversity.



The Decosters obtained Fleur Cardinale in 2001 and have been working tirelessly to improve its infrastructure ever since. This approach has met with success: their impressively full-bodied, well-structured wine is very popular. In the new winery, visitors can learn about the family's history and philosophy. A thousand handmade porcelain flowers on one wall of the winery symbolise the transformation from porcelain to flower ('fleur' in French). 'Respect for nature and social commitment go hand in hand. You cannot and should not separate humans from their environment', Caroline explains, and Ludovic adds: 'We

are also committed to the health and well-being of our employees, and to unspoiled nature'. To do so, the family has taken the UN's 17 sustainable development goals as its paradigm. They are currently meeting ten. As a specific measure to combat global warming, every year they plant 10,000 trees all over the world (such as in Tanzania or Peru). Their commitment is a constant presence at the estate. The Decosters have lived here, amid their vines and the natural surroundings, since the very beginning. In 2021 they decided to switch to organic cultivation, with the aim of gaining certification in 2024.



ENERGY AND GOOD VIBRATIONS

FONROQUE

The picture of Fabienne Verdier presented by Alain Moueix has no title. To Alain it expresses energy and vibrations, the two foundations of biodynamic cultivation.

Alain Moueix has been responsible for Fonroque since 2002. He has been interested in modern art ever since he was young, discovering it at the same time as wine, and the parallels between them still fascinate him today. The taste and aesthetic dimension, the vibrations felt when tasting or observing, emotions, fun, independence, sincerity. 'It is not just wines that mature. Works of art can too', he says quietly.

An artwork is an emanation and projection of the self, as Matisse put it. When an interviewer told Talcott that one of his finished works was quite simply perfect, he answered that in his view, it was still in its infancy. 'Like

painters striving for the ideal picture, winemakers strive year after year for the ideal wine, yet always start all over again'.

Fonroque, a pioneer of natural cultivation and the first Cru Classé to hold organic certification, has a variety of soils that produce hugely complex wines. The new fermentation room with 27 small tanks will enable this to be expressed even more precisely. Alain's function at Fonroque is that of a consultant: 'I embody the wine, but am not responsible for administrative affairs. We use biodynamic cultivation because I am convinced that this enables the plant to offer up the very best of itself.'





HARMONY IN TRIPLE TIME

LA TOUR FIGEAC

On behalf of the Otto Rettenmaier family, Pierre Blois directs this estate next to Figeac and Cheval Blanc with a sure touch, ensuring harmony and skilfully avoiding discord.



The terroir of La Tour Figeac has a particularly complex score, taking an experienced conductor to pull the concert together. And then wonderful music is born! Harmonious and elegant, brimming with exhilarating perfume, a supporting structure and fruity chords. 'Otto Max Rettenmaier is a huge music fan. Instead of numbers, our fermentation tanks bear the names of classical composers', Pierre Blois explains. 'Music is a constant presence on our estate. But instead of a baton, I conduct with a vine shoot. Our composer is the soil, my colleagues are the musicians, and I am responsible for ensuring a coherent performance.'

La Tour Figeac is on the edge of the appellation, close to Pomerol. It currently consists of nearly 15 hectares of vines as a single piece of land, growing in soils of sand and gravel over a layer of clay. The site belonged to Figeac until 1879. La Tour Figeac was acquired by the Otto Rettenmaier family, German entrepreneurs, in 1973.

Son Otto Max liked it here so much that he took over the running in 1994. He converted the estate to organic cultivation and modernised the winery. When everything was working like clockwork, Otto Max returned to Germany in 2010 for family reasons. 'I arrived in 2016 to relieve him', Pierre Blois adds.



CRYSTAL-CLEAR VISION

FAUGÈRES

Vincent Cruège pours pure wines – from a decanter and into a glass made by the legendary crystal manufacturer Lalique, which (like Faugères) belongs to Swiss entrepreneur Silvio Denz.



Silvio Denz is a man of crystal-clear vision, with a nose for excellence – he began his career selling perfume – and a strong sense of aesthetics. This also comes through in his commitment to fine wine. 'The Saint-Émilion landscape, which has remained astonishingly intact, is a piece of human cultural heritage. Faugères particularly benefits from this natural beauty. The view from the tower of our winery, created by Mario Botta, is simply breathtaking', enthuses Vincent Cruège, winemaker and manager of Faugères and the other Denz wine estates, including Péby-Faugères and Cap de Faugères. 'We op-

ted for a contemporary building made of local natural stone that sits harmoniously within the landscape.'

The Faugères winery is as aesthetic as it is functional. It enables particularly careful winemaking, such as gentle maceration by force of gravity. A new winery designed by Mario Botta is currently also being built at Péby. 'A functional winery makes work easier and enables precise translation of a terroir's identity. But a building such as this should also make you feel happy. Wine creates happiness if the place where it is created radiates well-being.'



LIKE A FLOWER GARDEN

GRAND CORBIN

Laure Canu works amid a large garden. The flowers she is holding were collected this morning from the forest and meadows surrounding the estate's vineyards.



'All too often, Bordeaux is viewed as synonymous with sophisticated wine technology', explains the brand-new director of the two Crus Classés Cantemerle (Haut-Médoc) and Grand Corbin in Saint-Émilion. 'But that is only part of the truth. A wine estate, particularly one here in Saint-Émilion, is a living, breathing place.' And in fact, Grand Corbin is anything but a modern wine chateau. Instead, it is a stately farm in a rural setting, a gently rolling green landscape with orchards and a vegetable garden.

Laure's relationship with nature dates back essentially to birth. His grandfather was virtually infatuated with

the world of plants: he regularly took Laure round his garden and taught her to be aware of her surroundings, the world of smells, shapes, colours and a thousand aromas. 'We cut flowers and tied them into colourful bouquets - unforgettable moments.'

At Grand Corbin, Laure has regained a piece of her childhood: freedom, the joy of listening, smelling and discovery. 'When I share a glass of Grand Corbin with wine enthusiasts, I want to convey to them a piece of the little paradise where we work. Grand Corbin is a particularly accessible wine, a wine for all of the senses that should be enjoyed to the full.'



THE NAME OF THE ROSE

LA SERRE

The rose is the most elegant, fragrant, seductive flower of all. To Arnaud d'Arfeuille, it is almost the perfect epitome of the estate's identity and philosophy.

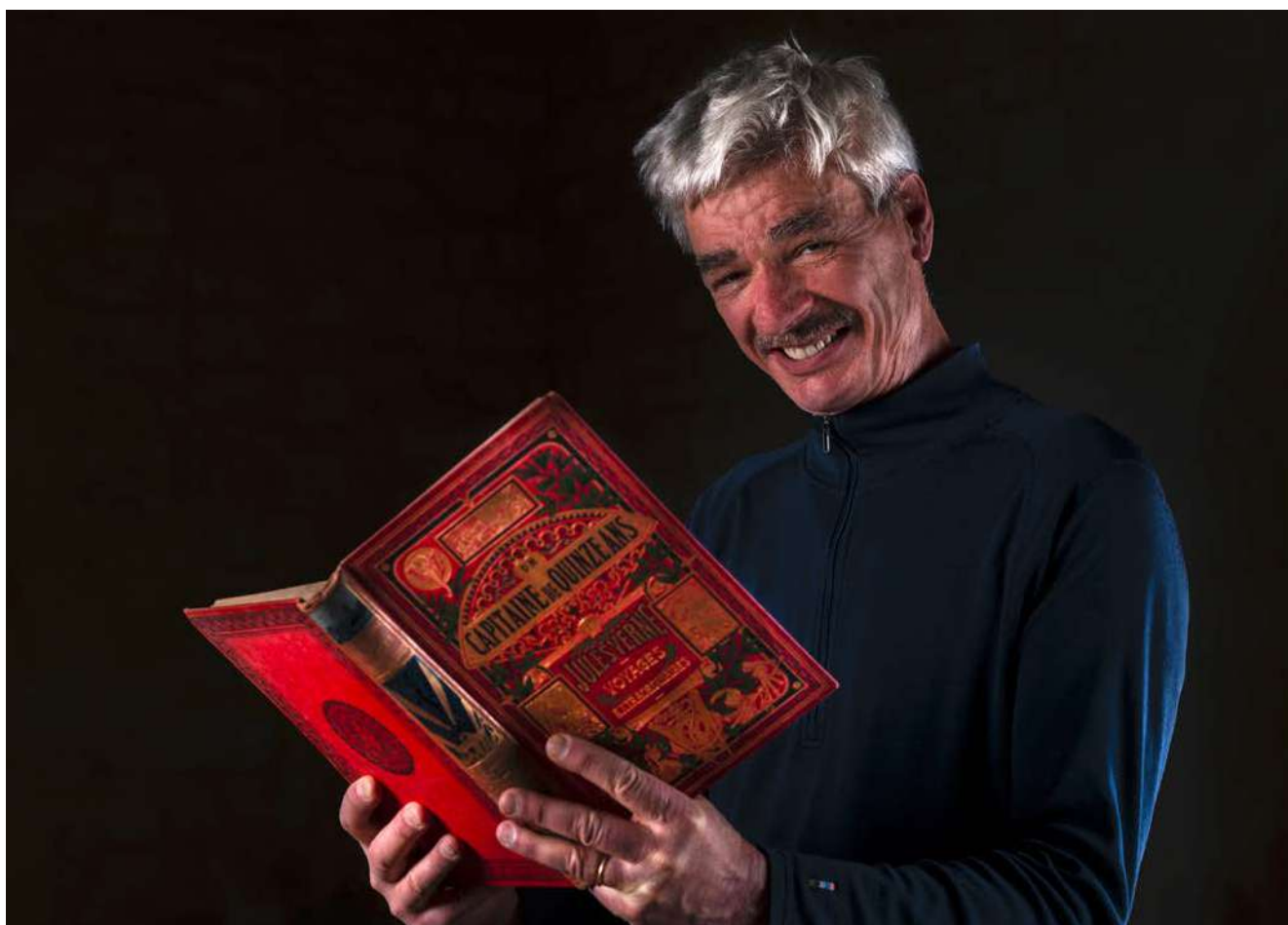
Roses bloom in the garden at La Serre. Arnaud rarely leaves the house without picking one. The La Serre label is also a pale pink colour, reflecting the elegance and freshness of La Serre wines. The d'Arfeuilles have remained true to this style, even through dark times when it was not really fashionable to do so – to the delight of La Serre fans, who still celebrate the wine as a shining example of precisely made fine Saint-Émilion.

With its just seven hectares of vines up on the plateau, La Serre is one of the smallest top-quality chateaus in the appellation. It is also one of the region's last truly family estates. The d'Arfeuilles were able to acquire La Serre

in 1956, but they have long been successfully involved in the wine business. They also own a Fronsac estate in the shape of Château Tessendey.

Arnaud has been working at La Serre since 2013. For the first few years he provided energetic support to his uncle (who still lives at the estate), gaining valuable experience from him in the process. He is now responsible for running the estate. 'We have invested in a new, functional winery. But other than this, everything else has remained as it has always been. La Serre is a particularly long-lasting wine. It offers minerality and exquisite harmony. Nothing about that will change.'





A CAPTAIN OF 30 YEARS

LAROZE

The bibliophile edition of Jules Verne's 'A Captain at Fifteen' that Guy Meslin is flicking through is part of his family heritage. Guy has slightly exceeded this age requirement, but his talent is not in dispute.



He devoured the collection of 80 novels and novellas as a child. The story of Dick Sand, who single-handedly steered the pilgrim safely into harbour after the captain's death, is one that he still enjoys today: 'Anyone who can steer a ship at just 15 has undisputed talent, although that has nothing to do with age – either you have a talent or you do not. Dick is therefore a role model who has accompanied me throughout my life. Winemaking does admittedly involve technique, terroir and experience, as well as employees you can rely on. But I believe that it takes more than that. Flair perhaps, that certain something that means that a wine is more than just techni-

cally perfect, but also has soul. I am not a painter or a musician. My means of expression is wine.' Laroze has remained in the same family since 1882, and is now run by Guy and his two siblings. Guy has been responsible for running the estate for the past 30 years. 'I am a captain at fifteen twice over', he explains with a smile. Jules Verne was a visionary. That's another thing he likes. 'Everything is changing. What worked in the past is becoming obsolete today. We have to constantly rethink without being governed by fashion.' His success with this is demonstrated by his wonderfully idiosyncratic, exceptionally made wines.



SHAPED FROM THE EARTH

GRAND CORBIN-DESPAGNE

‘Wine means dealing with the land’, says François Despagne, estate owner, winemaker, art fan and organic winegrower for the past 17 years – out of conviction, and not because it is currently in fashion.



It is no accident that he is holding a sculpture by Alsatian artist Michel Wohlfahrt. ‘I am a tactile person. I need to feel things with my hands: the earth, the vines, a sculpture. I live on the estate, surrounded by vineyards. My family has been based here for centuries. After the French Revolution, one of my forebears was able to acquire a plot from the old aristocratic Grand Corbin residence. Now I am the sole owner. That comes with obligations.’ Grand Corbin-Despagne is on the edge of the Saint-Émilion appellation, near to Pomerol. The grapes benefit from the very particular geography on the edge of the

plateau. The underground layer of blue clay has a long-term impact on the grapes’ ripening process, and thus the wines’ form of expression.

François Despagne bottles wines that combine elegance with velvety power and comforting fullness, just like a Pomerol. ‘Terroir is a loose term. There is a lot affecting how terroir impacts the style of a wine. To me, respect for the earth is a concrete expression of terroir, and wine is something virtually moulded from the earth with huge respect for nature! I do not set myself in the foreground. This is a maxim that I seek to implement in all that I do.’



'GREEN GROW...

JEAN FAURE

...the rushes, O', as the old folk song goes. At the Jean Faure wine estate, this growth is under the watchful eye of Marie-Laure Latorre.



'In the spring, our vineyards are like a colourful garden. I collected the flowers and herbs from my bouquet here, some of which we use for plant protection preparations', explains Marie-Laure Latorre, who has been running the estate since 2018. Flowers are also sown to help bees collect pollen.

Jean Faure has belonged to Olivier Decelle since 2004. This founder of a successful chain of frozen product stores switched over entirely to winemaking in 1999, and now owns nearly 200 hectares of vines in Bordeaux, the Rhône, Roussillon (Mas Amiel) and Burgundy. Olivier Decelle

has always been interested in natural cultivation. Jean Faure has been a certified organic estate since 2017. Plants are cared for using natural preparations, essential oils or compost. Jean Faure is a neighbour to Cheval Blanc and Pomerol. The soils consist of a 40cm layer of clay, which is planted with 65% Cabernet Franc along with 5% Malbec. Merlot is the minority grape here. This creates a very particular style: in their youth, these particularly full-bodied and well-structured wines are not always easy to understand. However, as they mature, they develop irresistible aromatic complexity paired with exquisite sophistication.



BACK TO THE FUTURE

LA MARZELLE

Jean-Charles Joris is holding an old issue of Vinum. The picture shows his mother, who died 18 months ago – in all her glory, as he smilingly adds.



To a Belgian, there is only one wine in all of the world – Bordeaux. It is therefore no accident that the (Belgian) entrepreneurial Sioen family invested in a Saint-Émilion wine estate in 1997. 'La Marzelle has been a part of our family's DNA for twenty years', explains Jean-Charles Joris, who has been running this small yet perfectly formed estate since his grandmother's death. 'My grandmother took care of La Marzelle with particular passion, making a lot of investment, initially in the vineyards and then in a new winery in 2012. Her death was a shock. However, she prepared everything without letting us know too much.' There are two reasons why he is hol-

ding this picture. Firstly it is to illustrate the continuity, and secondly to highlight the owner's philosophy of drawing on tradition and history to pave the way for the future. This is showcased by the bulbous amphoras that can be seen in the picture. 'We employ winemaking methods that date back to the ancient Romans, use biodynamic and organic cultivation (with organic certification since 2020), yet consider ourselves to be an utterly modern winery operation. You can reinvent yourself without having to reinvent everything!' Proof alone that La Marzelle is one of those wines that you absolutely must try.



BEAUTY FROM BEDROCK

LAROQUE

Laroque means 'rocks' – which is no surprise, given that it stands on them. David Suire is the lord of an estate that resembles a medieval stronghold from afar.



To begin with this was foreboding rock looming over the landscape. It served as a pedestal for the old manor house, the 12th-century fortified tower from which remains, resembling an impregnable fortress. In the 16th century it became the foundation of an extensive wine estate, covering up to 270 hectares of vines. Today, Laroque (which has been owned by the Beaumartin family since 1935) has a good 61 hectares of vines, and is therefore still the largest wine estate in the appellation.

David Suire has been running Laroque since 2015. In record time, he has transformed this undoubtedly exceptionally made wine into a true gem that never fails to have an

impact. 'Only a small part of the credit is mine. The Beaumartins above all have put a lot of long-term thought and planning into things, right from the beginning. Alongside its history and the exceptional location, they are the third cornerstone underpinning Château Laroque's success.'

Laroque produces a technically top-quality, particularly full-bodied, generous wine that is never lacking in freshness. It is delicious when young, but improves even further when allowed to mature for a while. 'To me, wine is always an expression of a place, a location. At Laroque it reflects the landscape where it was born – which is just as it should be!'



CHILDREN OF THE VINES, GO FORTH AND MULTIPLY

SANSONNET & CO

Wine was something that fell into Marie Lefèvre's lap. But wine never fails to have an impact. In record time, she made a name for herself as a determined winemaker.

More accurately, we should be calling her 'Doctor', since she has a doctorate in pharmacy. She came into contact with wine (whether directly or indirectly) in her youth, via the wineries of the estates that her family owned in Saint-Émilion and Pomerol. But then she took an entirely different career path. However, no-one ever leaves wine behind after their first encounter. She found her way back to the vines when she and her husband, who runs a construction company, seized the opportunity to buy Château Sansonnet, an estate with excellent clay and limestone soils up on the Saint-Émilion plateau. Since Marie never does things by halves, she devoted herself

entirely to her new task. Sansonnet was overhauled from the ground up, and soon began being hailed by enthusiastic critics. She achieved the feat of combining extract and fullness with freshness and sophistication in exemplary fashion.

'But it is obvious: wine is about friendship and conviviality. It should trigger emotion, otherwise its role is reduced to that of a banal beverage. Or a trophy. I want to produce wines that make people happy, it's that simple.' With the emphasis on 'wines' in the plural, because Marie now runs three exceptional Crus Classés in Saint-Émilion – more on the next page.





DESTIEUX

Christian Dauriac is a doctor and a biologist. By purchasing Château Destieux, he was quite simply pursuing his huge passion for wine.

Christian Dauriac acquired Destieux in 1971, when he was a hospital doctor. Right up until he retired, he ran both his biology company and the wine estates that he gradually took over. For the scientific work required during his studies, he opted for oenology and viticulture, during which he got to know the legendary wine specialists Michel Rolland and Hubert de Boüard, with whom he is still close friends.

He came to Destieux via his father, who marketed almost all of the Saint-Émilion association's production in his role as a wine merchant. At the time, the wines from the estate were pressed and bottled separately. 'When I found out that Destieux was up for sale, I immediately snapped it up, and I have not regretted it since', he joyously explains. 'In the wine trade, you never retire. You can die from your passion, but ideally you die with your passion.'

MOULIN DU CADET, VILLEMAURINE

Sansonnet is the parade horse in Marie Lefèvre's stable. But the other two Crus Classés that she runs are not far behind!

This is not a matter of ambition. There was a much clearer reason for buying two other classified wine estates in Saint-Émilion: they were all opportunities that the two Lefèvres simply could not pass up. 'Of course, we were also thinking about our two children. However, first and foremost these were projects that we could not resist. Villemaurine is up on the limestone plateau, a former Premier Cru Classé with hugely elegant, refined wines. Moulin du Cadet stands somewhat lower down and makes particularly fruity, juicy, refreshing wines from 100% Merlot.' Starter, main, dessert – a true Cru Classé menu!



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HAUT-BAILLY

INTERGALACTIC SPACESHIP

with Véronique Sanders

The first time you step into the new sacred halls of Haut-Bailly will be a metaphysical experience: there is no more unique winery in terms of either form or function.



We were just lacking space. Our 16th-century winery building had been renovated every twenty years, but this did not really solve the precarious space situation or the technological shortcomings. Our 'future of Haut-Bailly' project tackled this issue. The first phase was in the vineyards, where we wanted to record our soils more effectively, study how plants reacted to the new climate situation, and implement long-term measures to preserve our unique heritage. This phase took two years and laid the foundation for the second: the renovation of the winery, which is now complete. The third phase will be devoted to renovating the existing buildings and improving the wine tourism infrastructure.

We needed a new winery, but we did not want to create either a romantic, historic winery building or one to modern standards that would need renovating again in a few years' time. We had the ambition to in-

vent the winery of the future and wanted to combine structural innovation and optimum winery technology with functionality, aesthetics and ecology.

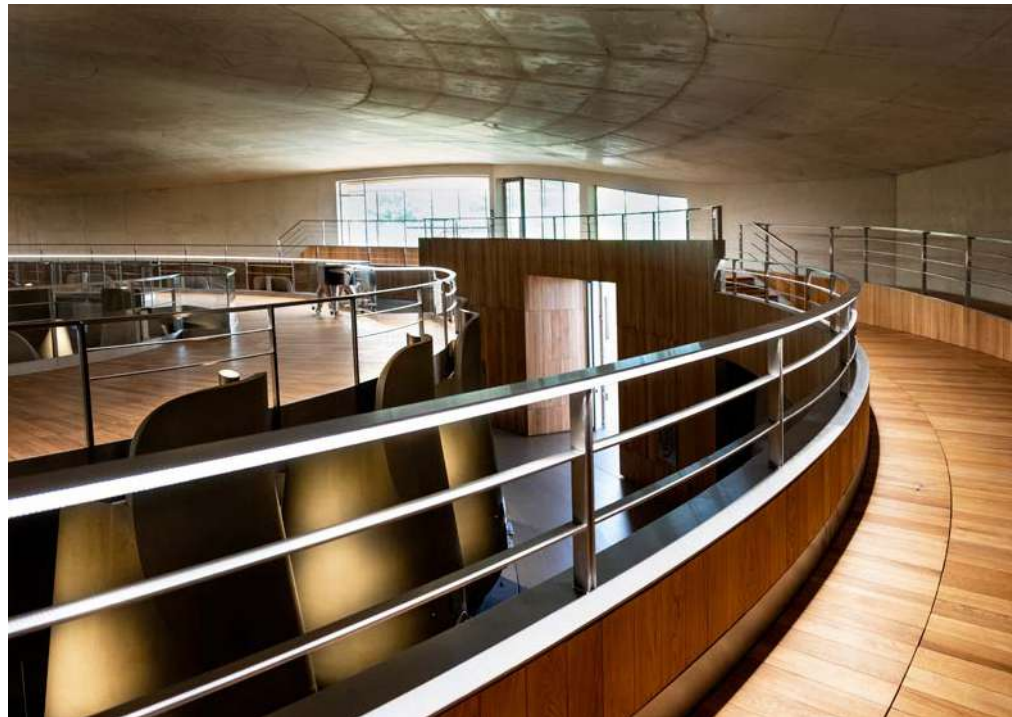
The Haut-Bailly vines reach up as far as the existing buildings, so there was limited room for a new structure. We had to create space without wasting space. The new winery is a spaceship that has landed between the vineyard and the chateau, but with only its dome still visible. This bears a garden that lives and breathes in line with the seasons. The winery itself is circular, like snail shell. Without any visible joins, bolts or cables, it winds down into the ground following the grapes. These are gently transported downwards by the action of gravity until they reach the lowest room in the barrel store. Working with the talented young architect Daniel Romero, we paid attention to every single detail without losing sight of the primary goals: environmental compatibility, harmony and a comfortable workplace.

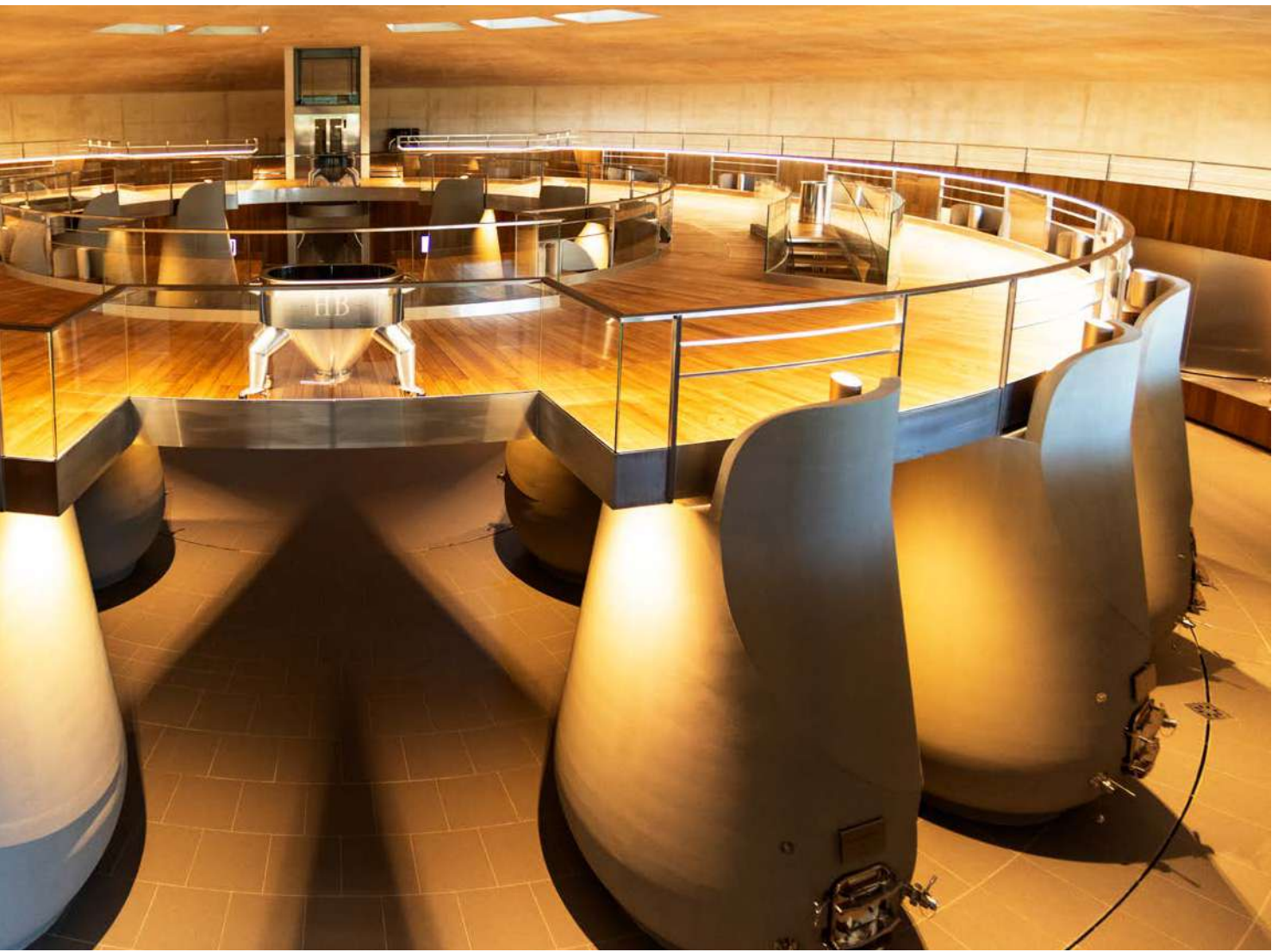


Starship captain with a feel for innovation: general manager Véronique Sanders.

*«We strove to invent
the winery of the future
and wanted to combine
structural innovation
and optimum technolo-
gy, functionality, aest-
hetics and ecology.»*

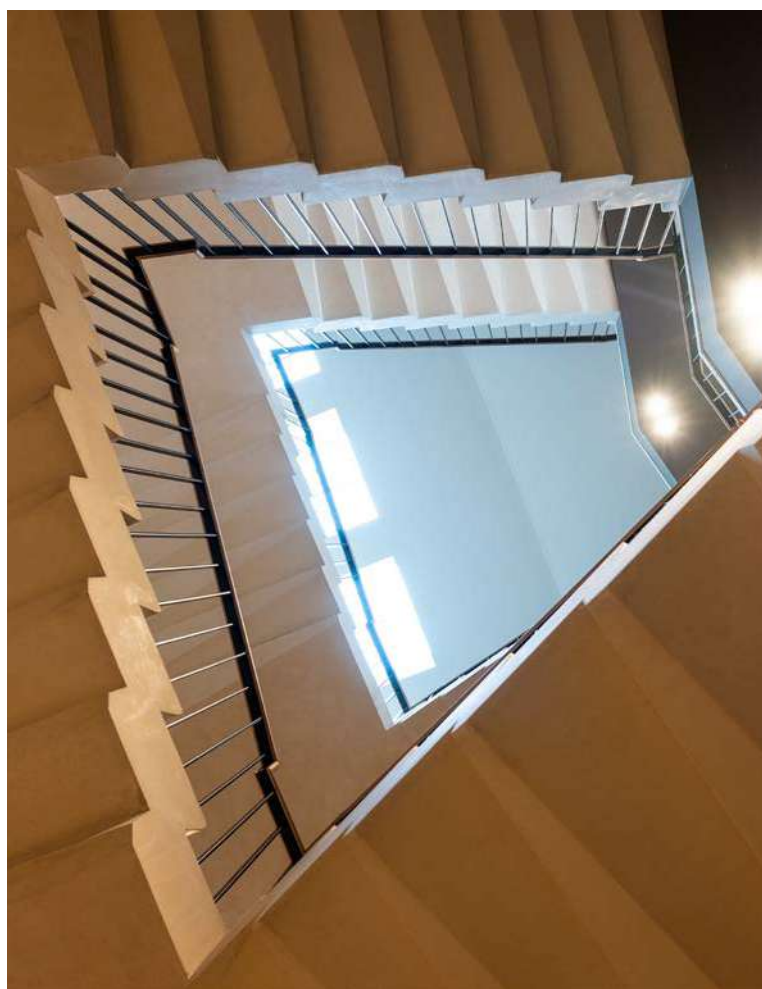
Véronique Sanders







Troplong Mondot, owned by the reinsurer SCOR, is more than just a winery - it is a destination for the whole family.



TROPLONG MONDOT

TROPLONG MONDOT – FOUR YEARS OF HARD WORK

with Aymeric de Gironde

The winery renovations at Premier Cru Troplong Mondot in Saint-Émilion followed one clear dictum: wine had to be something that could be experienced as a sensory work of art – an adventure for the whole family.



The renovation work here at Troplong Mondot took four years – a long period of time, which we spent taking an extensive look at the matter at hand. We began with the purely technical side of things, enabling us to work even more precisely. We quintupled the size of the actual technical facilities, digging down twelve metres to find the required space.

From an external perspective, however, very little has changed. We have not sacrificed any vineyards or created any conspicuous new buildings in the protected UNESCO area. At most, we are living up to the magnificent views here at the highest point in the appellation. On the inside, however, everything is new. As well as implementing challenging aesthetic specifications, we also met ideal environmental criteria. Our energy footprint has now received the highest possible certification, with the rating of 'excellent'. For example, our heating uses solely biomass made

from our own wood waste. Our restaurant serves vegetables grown in a permaculture vegetable garden. The aim of ensuring maximum comfort at work in a friendly environment essentially automatically prompted a closer look at agro-ecology.

We made further progress, and we are now sharing our experiences with the increasing numbers of visitors coming to the estate. Troplong Mondot is more than just a winery: a restaurant, a guesthouse with two small apartments and two rooms amid the vines, a destination for wine enthusiasts the world over. We take crafty connoisseurs on a three-hour tour of the vineyard and show them the details of how we work. Activities available for their children include a treasure hunt in the vineyard, driving a mini electric Land Rover or enjoying a colouring book whilst their parents take part in a tasting. Troplong Mondot is therefore an exciting adventure for the whole family.

ANGÉLUS

PRECISION FROM THE SACRED

with Stéphanie de Boüard-Rivoal

Der 2012 aufwändig renovierte Keller von Château Angéluſ gleicht einer Kathedrale. Der neue Carillon-Keller auch. Der erste steht für Tradition und Geschichte, der zweite für Gegenwart und Zukunft.

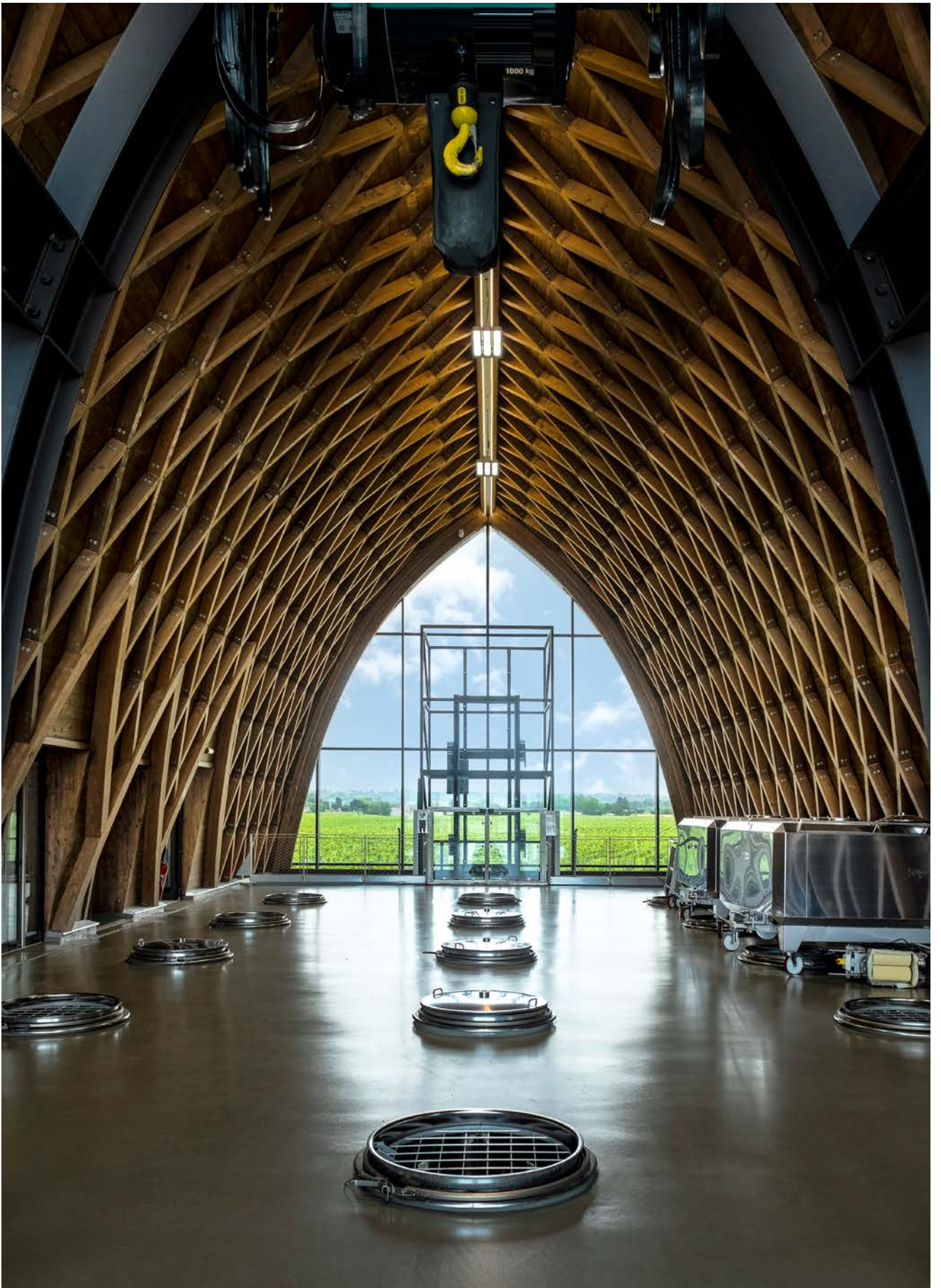


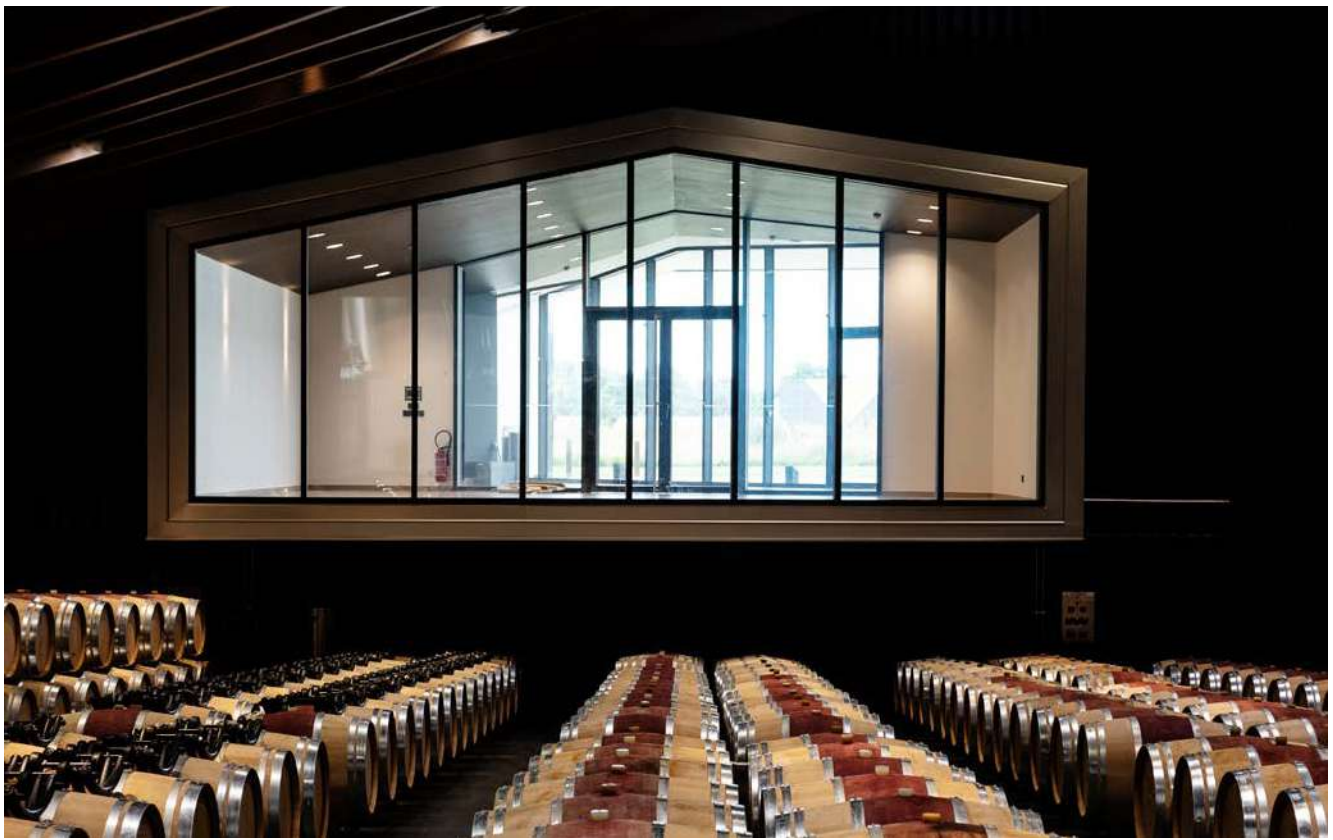
Let's begin with Angéluſ's history: my ancestor Jean de Boüard bought some vines here in the hamlet of Mazérat in 1782. A wine business developed and has been handed down from generation to generation. I represent the eighth generation and the ninth is already helping with the harvest. Angéluſ has been renovated around every hundred years. At the most recent general overhaul, as well as remembering our long history and family tradition, we also wanted to do justice to this location's very special atmosphere and almost religious soul. We prioritised natural stone and wood, with carved beams that were precisely handled and executed in keeping with ancient artisan tradition and thus offer a reminder of the precision that is so essential in winemaking, and has also become an artisan craft. The vaulted ceiling is not unlike a church nave.

We also used traditional construction methods to meet the requirements of the UNESCO classification. Angéluſ is

at the heart of Saint-Émilien, on the margins of the medieval village. For Carillon, our second wine, we were able to implement a whole new project. Just a few kilometres away, outside of the protected area, we have built a winery with a shape and aesthetic that is reminiscent of the upturned ship belly that is Angéluſ, but is otherwise ultra-modern in terms of technical facilities. The grapes are slowly and gently transformed into wine under the action of gravity. The steel tanks literally hang above the heads of the winery team.

Carillon started life as the younger sibling of Angéluſ, but it has gradually grown and developed a reputation in its own right – hence the new winery. It comes from 25 hectares of vines growing in gravel soils between Figeac and Cheval Blanc, limestone soils in Saint-Christophe-des-Bardes and clay soils on the edge of Angéluſ. The young vines in the Carillon sites produce Angéluſ's third wine.





A look (up) at Château Angéhus's new Carillon winery.



CARBONNIEUX

PORTRAIT OF A FAMILY

with Eric Perrin

The secret to the exceptional, ever-increasing quality of red and white Carbonnieux? Farming and viticulture are in the Perrins' blood, and have been for generations.



Yes, family is particularly important to us. Over the 30 years or so that my brother Philibert and I have spent at Carbonnieux, there has been a constant focus on the idea that the estate would be passed down to the next generation. I think it has something to do with our history. The Perrins are originally from Burgundy. My grandfather acquired Carbonnieux in 1956. At the time, he was looking after the farming business that his grandfather had set up in Algeria (wheat, cattle breeding, wine). When Algeria gained independence in 1962, he permanently relocated to Bordeaux.

After completing his studies at the agricultural school in Gers, my father produced Armagnac before acquiring Carbonnieux. I worked in the Napa Valley before arriving at Carbonnieux in 1988, and Philibert

joined me in 1992. We were what they call a 'jack of all trades': we put our hand to whatever was needed. I have been sharing responsibility for running the estate with Philibert since 2006. He looks after the production itself whilst I take care of the finished bottles and their sale. I value contact with our customers. To me, wine is about interaction, which is exactly what I love about our job. My sons now also work alongside me. Marc attended business school and helps me in that area, Andréa studied oenology and worked at Olivier Leflaive (Burgundy), at Opus One (Napa Valley), with Sacha Lichine (Provence), at Cheval des Andes (Chile) and at Jaboulet (Rhône) before joining us as a winemaker. This means that he has gained experience with white, red and rosé wines.



A family tradition of getting stuck in: the Carbonnieux crew Andréa, Philibert, Eric and Marc Perrin.



BRANE-CANTENAC

A WINE ESTATE AS A NATURAL UNIT

with Henri Lurton

Top Margaux estate Brane-Cantenac is more than just a wine operation – it is a vibrant microcosmos made up of top-quality, natural sites and spacious winery facilities, surrounded by a garden and park.



A wine estate is a natural unit. This is expressed in the architecture (which was particularly important to my father) as well as in how it fits within its natural surroundings. The park, garden and vineyards are particularly close to my heart. I planted various tree species and rose varieties here a long time ago.

And organic cultivation essentially automatically appeals to me, because I studied biology and I am particularly interested in the earth's life cycle. A significant proportion of our vines have long been naturally cultivated. My father took a dim view of excessive crop protection to the detriment of nature and the vines.

I have been extensively examining biodynamics, but I admit that my pragmatic, scientific side does sometimes get in the way. Nevertheless, I have found an experienced consultant in Jean-Michel Comme (formerly of Pontet-Canet). I have also been conducting experiments with the biomon-

itoring of environmentally friendly synthetic compounds based on nature. That has not been uninteresting. I also particularly wonder how often a tractor needs to drive through the vines. Although it is applying organic preparations, its carbon footprint is poor and the soils are severely compacted. Should we use horses? Some organic products are poisonous to horses... And another issue is the abundant use of copper sulphate. In a direct comparison, the vines at Brane-Cantenac (where we only make sparing use of copper) are in a better condition than the neighbouring vines growing in soils saturated with copper. We pay particular attention to biodiversity: flowers, shrubs and trees provide habitats for insects and birds, and a natural balance is established. Although these considerations are all currently very fashionable, they have been occupying me for years. I would never do something just because others are – I do it after careful consideration of the topic and with scientific rigour.



Brane-Cantenac mastermind Henri Lurton.





Skilfully keeping the balance: Dominique Befve.

LASCOMBES

JUGGLING POWER AND ELEGANCE

with Dominique Befve

Long-time Lascombes boss Dominique Befve has accomplished a brilliant feat: year after year, he establishes the perfect balance between weightiness and bewitching delicacy.



Yes, winemaking is a juggling act. No vintage is alike. We are working with a thousand different parameters that change every year. We juggle them and can never let them drop. Rules and preconceptions hinder progress. It takes experience, lots of flair and a touch of luck.

And we have such luck, because the owners of Lascombes have never felt the need to prescribe a style. We make the wine we believe in. Sure enough, Lascombes has become fruitier and a little less rich in extract in recent years. This is to do with changing consumer preferences, to which we want to do justice, but also with my personal taste, which has changed over the years. Whilst we previously harvested the grapes slightly overripe, we now bring them in a little earlier for a fruitier, more refined result. However, Lascombes is still a full-bodied, seamlessly dense,

thoroughbred Margaux. We are also juggling our future. We have significantly improved our wine tourism infrastructure in recent years – the city of Bordeaux was at long last named a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and we want to do justice to this in Margaux – and we are now building a new winery facility that will be commissioned for the 2021 harvest. Our cellar master, our technical director and I as general manager began by defining the technical specifications (state-of-the-art technology, gravity-fed press feeding, tanks that ensure an optimum maceration process), which the architect then transformed into a complete design. I have been working here for 20 years and could in fact have retired three years ago, but I have just signed on for another three years. That speaks volumes. The team is great, the wine is great – what more could you want?

MALLERET

A RAPID RISE TO THE BIG LEAGUES

with Paul Bordes

If there is one Haut-Médoc wine estate that currently deserves particular attention, it is Château de Malleret on the edge of the city of Bordeaux. It is already one of the best unclassified wines in the region.



In 2013 I became the manager of Château de Malleret, a Haut-Médoc wine estate that had huge potential but was mostly in the doldrums. Before that I worked all over Europe. Malleret is the tenth winery I have worked at in my long career.

Historically, two activities have always been conducted at de Malleret: horse breeding and winemaking. Early on, the Clossmann family established a stud farm here that is one of the best in France. The Clossmanns and their successors the de Viviers also devoted themselves to winemaking. However, the estate was eventually sold and then seriously neglected by the new owners, until the old owners bought it back and began its renaissance. Horse breeding activities were expanded with an arena and a modern bathing therapy area for horses, which now looks after animals from all over the world. Our breeding stable has 60 horses. Because Malleret has long been particularly famous for its horses

(and still is today), it was the winemaking side of things that required particular effort and targeted investment. Malleret now has nearly 60 hectares of vines growing in exceptional gravel soils, in a natural area surrounded by 250 hectares of forest, 20 hectares of meadows and a 14-hectare park, all on the doorstep of the city of Bordeaux. We therefore had to start by looking after the seriously neglected vineyard plots and missing vines. We are currently converting to organic cultivation, with mechanical soil tilling and the use of environmentally friendly crop protection products. In order to tap all of this potential, we built a modern winery that (among other things) has enabled us to press grapes by plot by force of gravity, as well as a spacious barrel store. Malleret is a particularly refined, elegant wine to which the winery's architecture seeks to do justice. The owners' task is crystal clear. 'Château de Malleret is a Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel on a par with a Cru Classé.'



Paul Bordes (right) is justifiably proud of his impressive new winery, where both red and white Malleret are created.





Enjoying the sunny outlook in the glass: winemaker Vincent Priou.

BEAUREGARD

BEAUTIFUL VIEWS

with Vincent Priou

The switch to organic cultivation and the new winery facility have paid off: the organic Beauregard estate is now producing one of the most elegant and thus the best Pomerols there is.



You cannot just be slightly pregnant – and nor can you be slightly organic. When we decided to switch to organic growing eleven years ago, we wanted to do it properly, with certification and thus checks. An environmentally friendly approach is not a trend, it is a necessity. There is no going back. This opinion is also held by the new owners who acquired the estate in 2014, including the Moulin family (Galerie Lafayette). They do more than just give me free rein, they encourage me – for example, by investing in a new winery facility that enables the results achieved in the vineyard to be precisely transferred to the wine.

Switching to organic cultivation takes time and is labour-intensive. In the initial years we had to accept a smaller harvest. Now we have much more resistant vines that are also able to cope better with global warming. We are harvesting clearly riper, more substantial grapes and making wines with a much purer expression of fruit, less sugar and a slightly higher level of acidity.

We are also constantly changing the vine stock: in recent years we have increased the proportion of Cabernet Franc, which was already playing a key role here. This currently makes up 25 to 30 percent of Beauregard, but it will soon reach up to 40 percent. Of course, we are continuing to plant our reigning variety of Merlot, as well as some Cabernet Sauvignon. In the winery, we seek to respectfully and skilfully translate the results achieved from the vineyard (foliage work, mechanical soil tilling, and also sowing grains or herbs) into the wine. We seek harmony, elegance, polish and huge aromatic purity, but also a well-integrated supporting structure. Beauregard is and will remain a wine that can mature for a long time, even 30 or 40 years. 'There is no doubt that Beauregard is currently one of the top four or five Pomerols and one of the premium wines offering the best value for money', an experienced taster recently told me. That makes me extremely happy.

GISCOURS

REDISCOVERING THE HABITAT

with Alexander van Beek

Château Giscours is not just one of the greatest Margaux wines: Giscours is also an expansive, vibrant biotope that manager Alexander van Beek loves to share with visitors.



Once upon a time, we led visiting experts directly into the tasting room and spent hours sitting with a glass in hand discussing terroir, typicity and vintages. There is absolutely nothing wrong with this in itself. However, in the heat of the moment, it is easy to forget what Giscours actually is: a unique, expansive biotope made up of vineyard plots, forests and animals, inhabited by the families working here. Today, we start by taking visitors on a drive in an electric car through the unique vineyards (100 hectares of Margaux AOC, 65 hectares of Haut-Médoc AOC), wandering through the park created in 1870 by the famed horticulturalist Eugène Bühler with its powerful oaks and spruces, its pond with its ducks, the blooming rhododendrons, the flocks of sheep and Ferme Suzanne ('Suzanne farm') with its horses, or pilfering a few strawberries from a large, colourful vegetable garden.

Perhaps we needed the period when we were unable to travel. People who spend their time gazing off into the distance often forget that there can be good things so close by. We suddenly became aware of how privileged we really were, with our nearly 400 hectares of habitat that we were rediscovering. We seized the opportunity to find out more about our in some cases very old vines (the oldest were planted in 1926), cared for by the families living here on the estate. We tailored canopy management for Merlot in particular in order to better control sugar levels, and as well as being vinified by plot, winemaking for the 2020 harvest also paid attention to the age of the grapes. The result is an even more precise, more refined Margaux.

The next step is already being planned: renovating the winery. The current winery was designed by Pierre Skawinski, who revolutionised Médoc winemaking in the 19th century. We want to preserve this historic heritage, but with the necessary changes in terms of state-of-the-art winery technology. Visitors are guaranteed never to be bored at Château Giscours in Margaux!





A dynamic new leader for Sociando-Mallet: owner Sylvie Gautreau.

SOCIANDO-MALLET

CUT FROM THE SAME CLOTH

with Sylvie Gautreau

In 1969, Jean Gautreau (who died in 2019) bought a ruin with five hectares of vines in the middle of nowhere and transformed it into one of the most famous wine estates in the Médoc. His daughter Sylvie is continuing his life's work.



Yes, I am my father's daughter. Sociando-Mallet is Jean Gautreau's life's work. Carrying on his legacy is not easy, but we are cut from the same cloth. We had a close relationship. During his lifetime, I remained in his shadow – and I was happy to do so. He had already begun gradually pulling back from the estate a few years before his death at the age of 92. It was not a brutal severing. Nothing got in our way. During blending tests, he often said: 'Let Sylvie decide, her tasting is better than mine.' But to be honest, we had the same taste.

He discovered Sociando-Mallet by accident. My father was a wine broker. In 1969, a Belgian client asked him to find a property in the Médoc, and Jean came across Sociando-Mallet. 'I stood where the entry portal is now, in front of a ruin overgrown with thorn bushes. A ray of sunshine broke through the clouds. I saw the Gironde below and was bewitched', he explained. He came back with

my mother, who just shook her head and thought he had gone completely crazy. But, as always, he got his own way. Gérard, a long-established winegrower who knew the estate like the back of his hand, helped him rebuild. At the beginning, Sociando-Mallet had five hectares of vines in an exceptional terroir, a deep gravel hilltop with river views. Now there are 82 hectares. I admit that I would never have piled up so many vines. When I was young, I would often come to Sociando-Mallet on a moped with a friend. We would light a fire and pull up an old mattress next to it... Saint-Seurin de Cadourne is a bewitching place in the middle of nowhere, with the river, the vines, the forests and the meadows. It was an almost automatic decision to develop our wine tourism infrastructure, with guest rooms (the Villa Sociando in the little harbour of La Maréchale), our own 'carrelet' (fisherman's hut) and our rental bicycles. Jean has left us – but Sociando-Mallet lives on.

MALARTIC-LAGRIVIÈRE

KEEPING PACE WITH THE SEASONS

with Séverine Bonnie

In an interesting volume that was published recently, the Bonnie family illustrates life on their classified wine estate in Pessac-Léognan, interspersed with delicious tips and recipes.





«Malartic-Lagravière has only had four owners in its long history - family is key for the estate!» Séverine Bonnie»

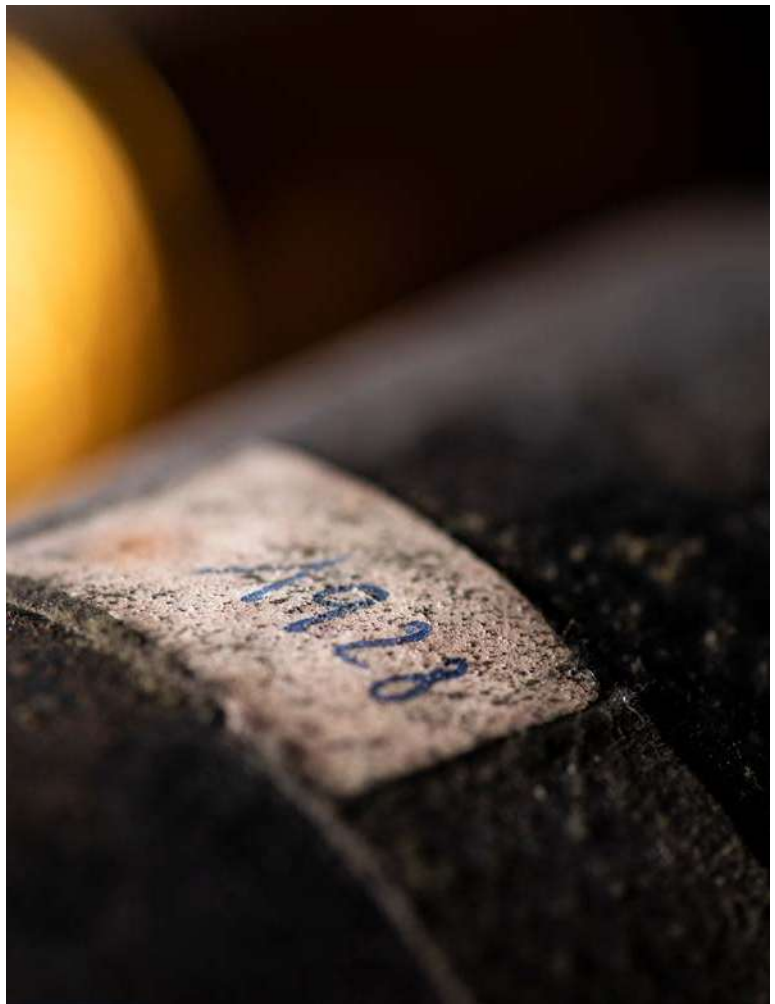
Séverine Bonnie

The kitchen forms the heart of Malartic-Lagravière. The whole family gathers here regularly, enjoying relaxed chats round the table. I spent a lot of time cooking here during lockdown, both family recipes and dishes that I discovered on my travels. Of course, we also opened countless bottles of our estate's wine. This almost automatically inspired us to share our experiences with wine enthusiasts. Wine is not a sterile thing. Wine is enjoyment, hospitality and interaction! We therefore decided to write a book entitled 'Les quatre saisons de Malartic' (the four seasons of Malartic'). It contains 24 personal recipes, six per season, using seasonal produce. The book also gave us the opportunity to detail family life on a wine estate, in keeping with the seasons. It looks at work in the vineyard and the winery, and also offers an insight into the Bordeaux region, although from our family's perspective.

My parents-in-law Alfred and Michèle acquired Malartic-Lagravière in 1997. Before that, after being founded by the count, Malartic had only been owned by two other families: Angèle Richard, who built the chateau that my parents-in-law renovated and upgraded, and the Laurent Perrier family. Family is a key element at Malartic, which is still a family home. The company is currently owned by my husband Jean-Jacques and his sister Véronique, who has lived here in Bordeaux since 2010 but has been managing our estates for much longer (as well as Malartic, this also includes Gazin-Rocquencourt in Pessac-Léognan and Diamandes in Argentina). I myself have been working alongside Jean-Jacques since 2003. My area is communications, the profession in which I trained. I am particularly passionate about the welcome that we provide at the estate, with a nature trail enabling us to show visitors our pursuit of holistic winegrowing, the time-consuming care and attention paid to the vines, the planting of hedges, trees and flower meadows, and the upkeep of the forests.

PS: Our book is available in French and English. The first ten VINUM readers to send us an email (malartic-lagraviere@malartic-lagraviere.com) will receive a free copy (please specify which language you would like)! Otherwise, it is available from our on-line shop: www.malartic-lagraviere.com/en/shop/.





TALBOT

GREEN AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE

with Jean-Michel Laporte

Jean-Michel Laporte took over the running of Talbot in Saint-Julien three years ago, and is extremely happy here. Despite its impressive 110-hectare size, Talbot has remained a true family estate.



2018 was a very special year for us. The Cordier family acquired Château Talbot exactly a hundred years before. Our 2018 was therefore marketed in a very special bottle. The fact that Talbot remains in the hands of the same family today is not least due to the fact that it is their family home: Nancy Bignon-Cordier, her husband Jean-Paul Bignon and their three children spend several months a year at Talbot. Talbot is very close to their heart. The owners attach great importance to the house and garden. However, Nancy Bignon-Cordier has also made it clear what she wants: not a soulless park with trimmed trees and shrubs, but rather a garden where nature is allowed to express itself. Decorative vines and ivy climb the façade, and the stone staircase leading up to the house is overgrown with flowers and herbs. This is both incredibly dangerous and incredibly charming. The plants are as important to the owners as the buildings are. They want a place of life. There is a large

vegetable garden behind the house. It is looked after by employees and supplies fresh vegetables to both the team and the owners.

Living nature and a cosy garden are one side of Talbot – the other is a top-quality, ultra-modern winery facility. Talbot may not be a sensational wine that follows every trend, but it is guaranteed to be one of the most consistent Crus Classés of all in terms of quality, and has been for over a hundred years. No vintage falls short, even those named as 'lesser' vintages. To ensure that this remains so, the technical facilities, offices and reception buildings were laboriously renovated between 2012 and 2016. Talbot now has a seven-room barrel store. It is a total joy to work in. We have everything we need to make our three wines – Talbot, Connetable and the white wine Caillou Blanc. The new facilities are both aesthetically attractive and hugely practical.

BRANAIRE-DUCRU

ELEGANCE AND BEWITCHING FRESHNESS

with François-Xavier Maroteaux

Branaire-Ducru in Saint-Julien is one of the great Médoc classics. However, owner François-Xavier Maroteaux (left) and winemaker Jean-Dominique Videau are not resting on their laurels.



Classified estates make top wines, but they are also historic monuments with an increasing number of visitors. Previously, we took these visitors into a fairly dark tasting room with views of the fermentation room and barrel store. Visiting experts often headed directly to this room without giving the chateau, park or conservatory a second look. This meant that we were showcasing the technical side of things. We were very aware of this when we planned the work we were undertaking on the new vat house. To avoid distractions while tasting, we had to find a new location. The new vat house was a necessity as the old one was built thirty years ago: it was ultra-modern at the time, but since then Branaire-Ducru has grown by ten hectares to a current total size of 60 hectares. Some things have also changed from a technical perspective. In the new winery, which will be inaugurated with the 2021 harvest, we will have the use of 75 smaller vats rather than the current

38. Work will be much more pleasant for employees, and also more precise. In addition, we wanted to take environmental aspects such as energy and water management into account.

We 'sacrificed' a wing of the chateau itself to create a tasting room. Branaire-Ducru is a very elegant, fresh, airy wine. We therefore chose a particularly bright room with lots of glass and views of the park and conservatory. However, we did not want to separate the new elements from the old. During their tour, visitors should experience the whole world of Branaire-Ducru as a single entity where past, present and future are intertwined. Don't forget that Branaire-Ducru is a family estate! My mother still lives here. We want to offer a better welcome to our visitors, but we do not wish to become an open-air museum or a hotel. The Branaire-Ducru style will also not change – our winemaker Jean-Dominique Videau is making sure of that.



An insight into the world of Branaire-Ducru: chateau buildings with decorative vines, conservatory and elegant lounge.





D'ARCHE

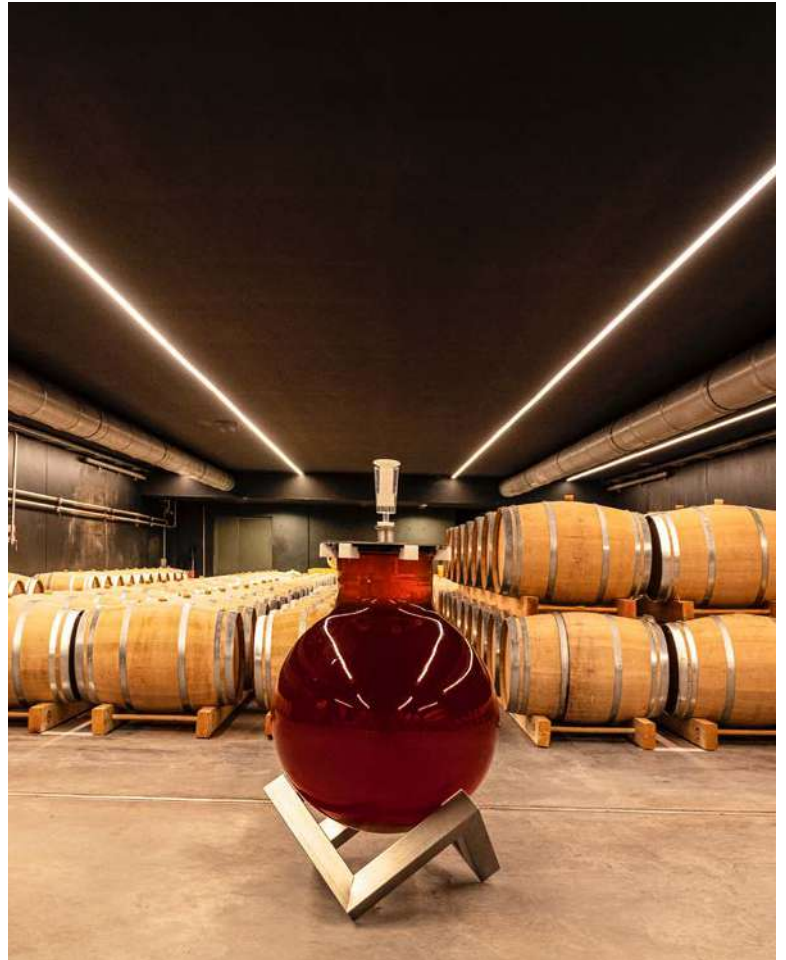
SAUTERNES WITH A THOUSAND FACES

with Didier Galhaud

Is Sauternes a difficult region? At Château d'Arche, manager Didier Galhaud would argue the exact opposite, with innovative wine tourism projects and a colourful range of top-quality wines.

Perhaps we are too subtle. Whenever a Cru Classé like us opens a hotel or restaurant, it is treated as an event. When we opened our four-star hotel with nine rooms in the romantic 17th-century chartreuse in 2002, we did so without any pomp or circumstance. We were subsequently awarded the 'Best of Wine Tourism' trophy. Today, we have a trail equipped with QR codes leading through our beautifully located vineyard above the village of Sauternes. Between 2017 and 2019 we constructed a new winery to the latest environmental standards, with a spacious underground barrel store for 400 barrels, a fermentation room with 30 tanks, an air-conditioned bottle store, a small store for spirits that we mature as a service in barrels previously used for d'Arche, a conference room and a shop. And we will soon be breaking ground for a five-star hotel with 60 rooms and three restaurants, which will fit entirely within the protected land-

scape. I have been living here in Sauternes since 2005 and identify hugely with this wonderful appellation, the region and its people. In doing so, I have had to learn to deal with the economic reality. For centuries, the region has specialised in white wines, primarily made from the native Sémillon variety. For more than a hundred years, sweet Sauternes wines were some of the most sought-after in the world. That is no longer the case. We could deplore this and hope for a better future – or we could respond. We decided to do the latter, and have diversified what we offer. Tourism is one track, new and original products are another, including an original dry sparkling wine made from base wines matured in barrels previously used to make d'Arche: a dry white wine from our own vines, a fruity rosé, a red Graves, and a wonderful Sauternes called Soleil d'Arche in a very special bottle. Something to suit everyone!







LANGOA-BARTON

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

with Damien Barton Sartorius

In the glass it is a fine, elegant, long-lasting Saint-Julien. However, Langoa has long stood in the shadow of its brother Léoville in terms of reputation. Under the new leadership of Damien Barton Sartorius, this is rapidly changing.

It is true that Langoa stands in the shadow of Léoville Barton. Strictly speaking, this is the first of the two estates: my ancestor Hugh acquired Langoa exactly 200 years ago, and the Léoville vines came somewhat later. Langoa is in fact the oldest classified estate to still be in the hands of its original family! The tiny hamlet here, the winery, offices, garden, and chateau where my grandparents live – that is Langoa.

When I arrived in 2015, I initially tried my hand at everything, particularly in the vineyard. I thus became well aware of how underestimated Langoa ultimately is. Some people think that this historic Cru Classé is a second wine. There are various reasons for this: until 2009, Langoa was sold as an exclusive product, and not via local trade. At just 20 hectares, Langoa is also much smaller than Léoville.

I have been fully responsible for Langoa since 2018. Langoa is a historic location. The centre of the village was once here, as the village school, wash house, a spring, a draw well and the bread oven all demonstrate. There were stables and a farm here. We did not want to sacrifice all of this to build a new winery facility, so we hesitated for a long time. However, it eventually became necessary, for work comfort and energy management reasons among others. When the architect asked me what time frame we were envisaging for the new winery – 20, 30 years? I answered 'Much longer! The buildings here have been standing for more than 200 years.' Today, Langoa is one large construction site. But on the outside, nothing will change: anyone who visits us in a few months' time will only spot the renovation work if they enter the winery facility.



MAZEYRES

METAMORPHOSIS OF A GREEN OASIS

with Alain Moueix

Château Mazeyres is one of our favourite wines in Pomerol – not because it offers particular body, but thanks to its bewitching elegance and freshness. The estate is overseen by winemaker Alain Moueix.

Mazeyres is first and foremost my home. I have been living here since 1992. My wife and I have made space in the house for our modern art collection, which is particularly close to our heart. Mazeyres is on the outskirts of the town of Libourne. However, its parks and vines make it a green oasis: the green belt shields us from the noisy hustle and bustle of our surroundings. Converting to biodynamic cultivation a few years ago has further strengthened our connection with nature. Whenever I cross the long avenue and clatter over the little bridge leading over the moor, I feel safe.

I came straight to Mazeyres once I had finished my training. At the time, I still believed absolutely everything that my professors had taught me, and initially opted for integrated cultivation with Terra Vitis certification. However, as I gained experience I also became increasingly sceptical about a method that involved too many compromises. We

switched to organic cultivation and now hold biodynamic certification. People who adhere to organic cultivation methods have already travelled a long road, so it would be a shame not to take this one step further. Biodynamics are an obvious step to me and the effect on the wine is evident on the palate: Mazeyres now offers much greater precision in the expression of its fruit, and perceptibly greater tension and freshness.

I firmly resolved to make time to examine my experiences and put them down on paper. Writing means reflection. Rudolf Steiner showed us the way. He did not want to create dogmas, but was simply striving for greater freedom and independence. I want to increasingly study my sources, and examine Goethe's 'Metamorphosis of Plants' but from a modern perspective: I am not working on a mixed farm in Germany in 1924, but on a Pomerol wine estate in the 21st century.



A dynamic organic pioneer in a green oasis: Alain Moueix.

BORDEAUX 2018

JUICY, POWERFUL AND SOPHISTICATED



Perhaps we did this vintage somewhat of a disservice in the 'en primeur' process with our cautious scoring: the boisterous generosity of many wines, in other words their high alcohol levels, paired with extract and in some cases astonishing, not always perfectly integrated acidity, did not seem to entirely match the Bordeaux style we were looking for. Vintages such as the erratic 2016 or the airy, elegant 2017 were (and are) a better fit for our palate.

Perhaps we have just become a bit more tolerant – or, after 2019 and 2020, we have become used to all this richness and fullness. It is also true that we cannot reproach Bordeaux for what we love so much in northern Italian wines: fruitiness, fullness and sophistication. In any case, we have increased more of our 'en primeur' scores than in other years. In most Pomerol and Saint-Emilion estates, development has brought greater polish and better integration of alcohol, extract and acidity than in Pessac-Léognan or the Médoc. This only serves to illustrate how important it is not to rely on 'en primeur' impressions alone, but also to take a closer look at fine Bordeaux once it is in the bottle.

2018 may be out of the ordinary in terms of style from a long-term perspective, but it stands as a triplet alongside

the last two vintages. The upshot: fans of Bordeaux in the style of a Brunello will love 2018. In any case, we have never claimed that the region's winemakers could have done any better in 2018 – in fact, quite the opposite. 2018 was a complicated year in terms of weather (which is gradually becoming the new normal). After months of lingering rain, July saw nothing but searing sunshine. Flowering went spectacularly well in these conditions, but the astonishingly rapid arrival of downy mildew (another part of the new normal) caused some commotion, particularly in naturally cultivated estates. However, what remained was perfectly ripe, across all estates and locations. High sugar, tannin and acidity levels were standard for red wines. In hindsight, the 2018 vintage was quite simply the first of an unholy trio of particularly meaty, full-bodied wines. In a ranking of these three vintages, 2018 sits in third place. Nevertheless, it will be exciting to compare the three again in a few years' time.

The sweet wines are at most lacking botrytis complexity (as in 2020). For dry white wines, we took a look at the 2019s, which have already hit the market. They are full but with supporting acidity, and interesting floral and fresh fruit aromas without any overripe notes.

RED WINES

CHATEAUS FROM A TO Y

A

Château Andron Blanquet
Saint-Estèphe
16 points | 2026 to 2035

Berry and spice aromas, full in the attack, juicy development, dense structure, full-grained tannins; a characterful wine.

Château Angéhus
Saint-Émilion
18 points | 2028 to 2045

An interesting, very cultivated, complex, still youthful nose, full-bodied and weighty in style yet with particular mineral polish, already with a foreshadowing of elegance and refinement.

Château Angéhus, Carillon
Saint-Émilion
16 points | 2024 to 2030

Pastry spice, full in the attack, elegant development, perceptible headiness.

Château Ausone
Saint-Émilion
19 points | 2030 to 2050

Immensely complex nose of berries, herbs, flowers and spice, offering fullness and above all particular depth, with refined, polished tannins; once again unique.

Château Ausone, La Chapelle
Saint-Émilion
17 points | 2024 to 2030

Berries and spice, offering volume, depth, freshness and fullness; a more accessible version of what we expect from Ausone.

B

Château Balestard la Tonnelle
Saint-Émilion
15.5 points | 2028 to 2035

Shaped by development, concentrated and full yet also very robust; needs to mature.

Château Barde-Haut
Saint-Émilion
16 points | 2026 to 2034

An interesting nose with fresh herb aromas, spicy in the attack, straightforward on the palate with fresh tannins and a lingering finish.

Château Batailley
Pauillac

17.5 points | 2028 to 2040

Tempting, promising, smoky, fruity and floral development notes on the nose, fully yet weighty with sophistication and astonishingly mineral, chocolate polish on the tannins: pleasingly well balanced.

Château Beau-Séjour Bécot
Saint-Émilion

16.5 points | 2028 to 2035

Very shaped by development, hugely sophisticated tannins, with just the heady finish currently somewhat disrupting the harmony; needs to mature to be worth 17 points.

Château Beau Soleil
Pomerol

15 points | 2026 to 2032

Perceptible oak spice, fresh in the attack, densely woven, full-bodied, a certain smoothness despite the oak-driven finish.



Harmony and precision

Château Beauregard
Pomerol

18.5 points | 2026 to 2040

Bulk is not everything: aromatic complexity and finesse, elegance and polish, charm, precision and harmony all also make excellent parents, and this stunning wine is the proof, now even better and more complete than it was 'en primeur'.

Clos Beauregard
Pomerol

15.5 points | 2026 to 2032

Spicy in the attack, dense structure with tart, well-integrated tannins, very lingering.

Château Beauséjour Duffau Lagarrosse
Saint-Émilion

17.5 points | 2028 to 2040

Very closed at this stage yet with huge density and depth, and top-quality chocolate tannins. Needs to mature.

Château Bel Orme Tronquoy de Lalande
Haut-Médoc

16 points | 2024 to 2029

Dense structure, grainy tannins, lingering finish, well-integrated oak, ending with lovely berry notes.

Château Bélair-Monange
Saint-Émilion

18 points | 2028 to 2040

A still very youthful yet interesting, complex nose of pastry spice; particularly sophisticated on the palate, meaty and powerful yet also polished. Exceptional once again in this vintage.

Château Belgrave
Haut-Médoc

17 points | 2026 to 2035

Tempting black berry nose, dense in the attack, full bodied with a firm structure, lively tannins and a lingering finish; a perfectly balanced wine that comes recommended.

Château Bellefont-Belcier
Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2026 to 2034

Tempting nose, fruity in the attack, densely woven and juicy with crisp tannins, good length, well balanced with lovely berry notes in the finish; pleasing development.

Château Bellegrave
Pomerol

14.5 points | 2028 to 2034

Robust and angular with rather bitter tannins.

Château Bellevue
Saint-Émilion

16.5 points | 2027 to 2032

Tempting forest berry nose, powerful in the attack, well balanced, refreshing, with lively tannins and a lingering finish; exceptionally made.

Château Berliquet
Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2024 to 2034

Fruity and spicy with forest berry aromas, straightforward in the attack, smooth structure, fine-grained tannins, a lingering finish.

Château Beychevelle
Saint-Julien

16 points | 2026 to 2034

Offering density, volume and headiness with ripe, rounded tannins, pleasing development, far better balanced than 'en primeur'.

Château Blaignan
Médoc

15 points | 2022 to 2030

Appealing, fruity, pleasant.

Château Bois du Roc Cuvée Prestige
Médoc

16 points | 2024 to 2035

Top-class development, good, fruity length with berry and cocoa notes, exceptionally made, a real discovery.

Château Bonalgue
Pomerol

16 points | 2024 to 2035

Full-bodied, juicy, appealing, exceptionally made: as always, a wine made to be drunk.

Château Bourgneuf
Pomerol

16 points | 2024 to 2030

Immensely fruity and juicy in style, full-bodied, even heady, yet also sophisticated.

Château Bouscaut
Pessac-Léognan

16 points | 2026 to 2040

Tempting nose, fruity in the attack, well structured, full-bodied, with perceptibly grainy tannins, lingering, with well-balanced use of oak and black berries in the finish.

Château Boyd-Cantenac
Margaux

17 points | 2028 to 2040

Very reticent with redcurrant aromas, dense structure, polished tannins and particular minerality, which is striking in this vintage; offering character and typical style.

Château Branaire-Ducru
Saint-Julien

17 points | 2028 to 2040

Shaped by development but with perceptibly good aromatic potential, compact in the attack, immensely full-bodied style on the palate, spicy with lively tannins; utterly in keeping with our impressions from 'en primeur'.



Airy adventures

Château Brane-Cantenac
Margaux

19 points | 2028 to 2040

Just as it was en primeur, offering particular aromatic complexity with subtle notes of black olives and red berries, particularly sophisticated tannins, and a literally endless finish; superb without denying its vintage.

Château Brondelle
Graves

16.5 points | 2025 to 2032

Temptingly spicy and full with seductive spice, elegant in the attack, classic structure, well balanced with fine-grained tannins, lingering, fresh and sophisticated, in exceptional cultivated style: a hit price for bargain hunters.

C

Château Cadet-Bon
Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2026 to 2034

Straightforward and lively with crisp tannins, and perceptible oak spice in the utterly lingering finish; classic style.

Château Calon-Ségur
Saint-Estèphe

16 points | 2026 to 2034

Intense nose of ripe berries and oak, impressive in the attack, meaty and juicy development, full-bodied, lively in the finish. In keeping with the vintage.

Château Cambon La Pelouse, Aura
Margaux

16 points | 2026 to 2035

Fruity and spicy nose, straightforward, classic in style, full-bodied tannins and a lingering finish; impeccably made.

Château Camensac
Saint-Estèphe

16 points | 2028 to 2038

Meaty and juicy structure, lively in the finish, in keeping with the vintage.

Château Canon
Saint-Émilion

17.5 points | 2026 to 2040

Very youthful with development notes, yet also particularly fruity then floral; combining fullness with juiciness, sophistication and polish.

Château Canon la Gaffelière
Saint-Émilion

17.5 points | 2026 to 2035

Reticently fruity and floral with ideal contours, dense with tightly knit tannins that balance out the alcohol well; we like the wine's elegance and harmony.

Château Cantemerle
Haut-Médoc

16 points | 2026 to 2035

Well-balanced use of oak, well structured, tart, very lingering with the freshness it needs; you can't go wrong.

Château Cantenac Brown
Margaux

17.5 points | 2028 to 2038

In bottle this is once again one of those Margaux that has managed to prioritise a lively, easy-drinking style over weight and fullness without disavowing the vintage. Full-bodied, even weighty, with sophisticated tannins, transparently fruity and excellently made, utterly recommended.

Château Cap de Mourlin
Saint-Émilion

15.5 points | 2028 to 2035

Spicy and herbaceous, robust in the attack, full-bodied with angular tannins, tart, worth laying down for a while.

Château Carbonnieux
Pessac-Léognan

17.5 points | 2024 to 2035

Tempting developmental spice notes of cocoa, compact in the attack, full development with top-quality, ripe yet fresh tannins, hugely lingering without overly dominating headiness; appealing and sophisticated.

Château Caroline**Moulis****16 points | 2025 to 2032**

Pleasantly fruity and appealing, already astonishingly communicative, full in the attack with a compact structure, tart and juicy tannins, perceptible yet well-balanced headiness and a lingering finish; reliable and exceptionally made, just needs to mature somewhat.

Château Certan de May de Certan**Pomerol****17 points | 2025 to 2035**

Polished, fresh and sophisticated with still youthful but promising spice, walnut notes, huge tension and an impressively lingering finish.

Château Chasse-Spleen**Moulis****16.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

A fruity nose still shaped by development, smooth in the attack, a full and meaty structure, tart but well-integrated tannins and a juicy, lingering finish; offering spirit, freshness and sophistication.

Château Chauvin**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2028 to 2035**

A herb and spice nose still shaped by development, fresh in the attack, straightforward development with an angular structure of tannins, still needs to mature.

Château Chêne Liège**Pomerol****15 points | 2027 to 2034**

Robust, full-bodied, lively, lots of oak.

Château Cheval Blanc**Saint-Émilion****19 points | 2028 to 2040**

A still very reticent yet particularly tempting floral nose; particularly floral, in velvety, extremely elegant, refined style, demonstrating once again that greatness is not dependent on breeding. One of the best wines of the vintage.

Château Cheval Blanc, Petit Cheval**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2026 to 2032**

Particularly elegant, offering charm and elegance, harmonious enough that it is already enjoyable now but could still mature well.

Clarendelle (Haut-Brion)**Saint-Émilion****15 points | 2023 to 2030**

Temptingly spicy, then powerful in the attack, densely knit and lingering, appealing.

Château Clerc Milon**Pauillac****17 points | 2026 to 2040**

Again particularly well balanced after some development, with aromatic potential, weighty and fruity on the palate but with particular mineral polish; combining body with class.

Château Corbin**Saint-Émilion****16.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Pleasing aromatic potential, fruity, then rounded in the attack, sophisticated and elegant, well balanced, with a juicy, crisp finish that possesses the freshness it needs; a stylish wine.

Château Cos d'Estournel**Saint-Estèphe****17 points | 2026 to 2034**

Cos d'Estournel is once again truly a child of its vintage: currently still very shaped by development, beginning in immensely heavy and heady style, but developing a structure of particularly fine-grained tannins and a lingering, weighty finish with hints of dried fruit.



Special prize for regularity

Château Cos Labory**Saint-Estèphe****17.5 points | 2028 to 2035**

Good aromatic potential with spice and berry aromas, refreshing in the attack, straightforward on the palate with impressive stature, light and decidedly spirited with a perfectly lingering finish; made and matured with flair.

Château Côte de Baleau**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2024 to 2034**

Elegant, straightforward, fresh with a lingering finish; well balanced and well made.

Château Couhins**Pessac-Léognan****16 points | 2026 to 2032**

Spicy nose, elegant in the attack, dense structure, fresh tannins, lingering finish.

Château Croix des Rouzes**Pomerol****16.5 points | 2026 to 2032**

Tempting spice and berry aromas, meaty in the attack, juicy tannins, pleasantly lingering, fresh and sophisticated.

Château Croizet Bages**Pauillac****16 points | 2027 to 2035**

Full in the attack with crisp tannins and a juicy finish of lovely berry notes.

D

Château d'Armailhac**Pauillac****16.5 points | 2026 to 2032**

Compact, even tart in style yet also particularly juicy, with refreshing herb notes in the lingering finish and the fullness kept well in check.

Château d'Escurac**Médoc****15 points | 2026 to 2035**

Robust with a tart texture and a finish shaped by tannins, thus slightly harsh and dry.

Château d'Issan**Margaux****17.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

A full-bodied, fruity, lively Margaux utterly in the style of the vintage: Fellini would have had a lot of fun.

Château Dalem**Fronsac****15.5 points | 2028 to 2035**

Subtle nose with oak spice, intense in the attack, powerful in style, with bulky, angular tannins, very lingering and shaped by oak, with a slightly bitter finish.

Château Dassault**Saint-Émilion****15.5 points | 2026 to 2035**

Rich in extract, full-bodied, with fresh tannins and a tart finish with perceptible barrel notes; utterly in line with the brand's style.

Château Dauzac**Margaux****16 points | 2028 to 2035**

Rich in extract, angular yet juicy, hiding the smouldering headiness well.

Domaine de Chevalier**Pessac-Léognan****17.5 points | 2026 to 2040**

Delicate red berry nose, full in the attack with a bulky yet fresh structure, high-quality tannins and a lingering finish; the alcohol is once again perceptible, but the wine as a whole is coherent, lively and sophisticated.

Château de Compostelle**Pomerol****15.5 points | 2028 to 2034**

Compact in the attack with powdery tannins, lingering with freshness, and a fruity, spicy finish; a reliable wine. Needs to mature.

Château de Ferrand**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2025 to 2032**

Subtle nose, fruity with red berries, shaped by acidity in the attack, lively in style, straightforward, with rather angular tannins, good freshness and a pleasingly lingering tart and fruity finish.

*Back to new freshness***Château de Fieuzal****Pessac-Léognan****17 points | 2026 to 2045**

Appealing nose with perceptible oak spice and black berry aromas, intense in the attack, in firm, tart style, powerful with dense, rich tannins and a spicy finish with the freshness and spirit it needs; true class.

Clos de l'Oratoire**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2024 to 2034**

Complex, spicy and fruity with forest berry aromas, compact in the attack, well made, even powerful, with tart yet well-integrated tannins; pleasingly authentic.

Clos de la Vieille Eglise**Pomerol****16 points | 2026 to 2034**

Tightly woven, full-bodied, with tart yet well-integrated tannins and a spicy finish, recommended. Has improved further.

Château de Lamarque**Haut-Médoc****16 points | 2026 to 2034**

Still shaped by development on the nose, in dense, tannin-driven, astonishingly classic style despite its fullness and restrained headiness; reliable and recommended.

Château de Pez**Saint-Estèphe****16.5 points | 2026 to 2035**

Fresh in the attack, dense development, with sophisticated, polished tannins, the perfect balance between freshness, structure and fullness, best left to mature.

Château de Pressac**Saint-Émilion****17.5 points | 2026 to 2040**

Superb nose of pastry spice and berry aromas, in weighty yet also particularly juicy, crisp style with perfectly integrated tannins, successful and recommended in the style of the vintage.

Château de Sales**Pomerol****17 points | 2025 to 2035**

Stunning nose of floral, herb and berry aromas, with polished, fresh tannins and an immensely harmonious whole; complex and distinctive.

Clos de Sarpe**Saint-Émilion****15.5 points | 2026 to 2032**

Interesting developmental nose of spruce and resin; full-bodied in the attack with perceptible acidity, yet also a certain level of juiciness despite the heady style.

Château de Valois, Éclat**Pomerol****14.5 points | 2026 to 2032**

Shaped by development, uncertain in the attack, medium density, with robust, angular tannins and a rather dry finish. The Cuvée L'Éclat is similar in style.

Clos des Jacobins**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2026 to 2034**

Perceptible but not excessive oak spice, then forest berry aromas; compact in the attack with perceptible ripeness, powerful with juicy tannins and a spicy finish.

Château Desmirail**Margaux****17 points | 2026 to 2034**

Temptingly fruity and spicy on the nose, also fruity in the attack with smooth development and polished tannins, elegant and charming once again in this vintage.

Château Destieux**Saint-Émilion****15.5 points | 2025 to 2032**

Oak-driven and spicy, robust in the attack, corpulent in structure with perceptibly grainy tannins yet also the freshness it needs, and a fruity, spicy finish.

Château Deyrem Valentin**Margaux****16 points | 2026 to 2035**

Tempting nose, floral with black berry notes, elegant in the attack, smooth structure, well balanced with crisp tannins despite the headiness, a lingering finish, well-integrated oak, fun.

Le Clos du Beau-Père**Pomerol****15 points | 2025 to 2032**

Perceptible use of oak, bulky structure, powdery tannins, robust, rich in extract, and thus a slightly bitter finish.

Clos du Clocher**Pomerol****18 points | 2028 to 2040**

The oak is perceptible yet not dominant, thanks to the freshness and juiciness of the top-quality tannins. As always particularly sophisticated with complex, mineral fruity aromas.

Château du Domaine de l'Eglise**Pomerol****16.5 points | 2026 to 2035**

A stilly youthful, spicy, full-bodied, yet juicy and particularly lively wine with a high level of fruit, needs to mature.

Château du Tailhas**Pomerol****15.5 points | 2026 to 2032**

Spicy, straightforward in the attack, well-balanced structure, juicy with lively tannins and well-integrated oak, classic.



Silky, complex, delicate

**Château Durfort-Vivens
Margaux**
20 points | 2024 to 2034

Has not lost any of its particular, sensual, elegant, charming style, its silky tannins, its incredible finesse, its delicate fruitiness or its immense aromatic complexity. Exactly how I picture top Margaux. Small harvest, reduced quantities!

**Château du Tertre
Margaux**

17 points | 2025 to 2035

Still very shaped by development, but with interesting aromatic potential; full-bodied yet also pleasantly velvety, fruity and heady, exceptionally made.

**Château Ducru-Beaucaillou
Saint-Julien**

17.5 points | 2030 to 2040

Very shaped by development and closed at this early stage, weighty and heady on the palate with high-quality tannins, one of those wines that is currently suffering from the extremes of the vintage and therefore absolutely needs to mature.

**Château Ducru-Beaucaillou, Croix
Beaucaillou**

Saint-Julien

16 points | 2023 to 2030

Elegant development notes of pastry, bulky in the attack, hugely dense and sophisticated with perceptible headiness, exceptionally made in the opulent style of the vintage.

F

**Château Faugères
Saint-Émilion**

16 points | 2026 to 2034

Subtle nose of herb aromas with lots of new oak, perceptible extract right from the attack, robust development, powerful and full with still rather angular tannins that shape the lingering finish; needs to mature.

**Château Faurie de Souchard
Saint-Émilion**

16 points | 2028 to 2035

Spicy and toasted aromas with perceptible oak spice, powerful in the attack in full, robust style with perceptibly grainy tannins and a tart finish; absolutely needs to mature.

**Château Ferrière
Margaux**

18 points | 2028 to 2040

Astonishing aromatic complexity with tempting berry and herb aromas, full in the attack, dense development with a full-bodied structure of juicy tannins that support the fullness; characterful and sophisticated despite the opulence typical of the vintage.

**Château Feytit-Clinet
Pomerol**

15 points | 2028 to 2034

Heavily shaped by barrel oak and thus very closed – only maturation will tell whether this wine will be enjoyable or collapse under the weight of oak.

**Château Figeac
Saint-Émilion**

18 points | 2026 to 2036

A remarkable, stunningly delicate, fruity and spicy nose, astonishing amidst the other wines tasted, tempting and precise, with perceptible fullness right from the attack, as velvety as a Pomerol yet also hugely fresh thanks to the silky tannins, hugely weighty and lingering; not a classic Figeac, clearly a child of the vintage.

**Château Fleur Cardinale
Saint-Émilion**

16.5 points | 2027 to 2035

A still very closed yet also extremely clean nose, full in the attack, powerful and tart in structure with perceptibly grainy tannins and a lingering finish of fruity and spicy notes. This estate is showing pleasing development towards better integrated oak and better control of extract.

**Château Fombrauge
Saint-Émilion**

16.5 points | 2026 to 2035

Weightiness, meatiness and fullness are kept in balance, and the finish is juicy and lingering.

**Château Fonbadet
Pauillac**

15.5 points | 2030 to 2040

Concentrated, rich in extract, with a powerful structure, angular tannins and a spicy finish; a characterful wine that needs to mature.

**Château Fonplégade
Saint-Émilion**

15.5 points | 2028 to 2035

A reticent yet also complex and very cultivated nose, powerful in the attack, dense development, with robust, angular, rather bare tannins and perceptible alcohol; rather 'overpressed' en primeur but less oak-driven.

**Château Fonréaud
Listrac**

16 points | 2025 to 2032

Smoky notes and oak spice, fresh in the attack with powdery tannins, classic structure, and a pleasantly lingering fruity and spicy finish; authentic.



A hit price for bargain hunters

**Clos Floridène
Graves**

17 points | 2026 to 2045

Complex with a spicy herb, fruity, and spicy nose, velvety in the attack, decidedly elegant, floral with smooth tannins and a lingering, fresh, spirited finish; utterly successful.

Château Fonroque
Saint-Émilion

17.5 points | 2028 to 2040

Fresh herb and black berry nose, creamy in the attack, well structured, well balanced with smooth tannins, fresh and sophisticated.

Château Fontenil

Fronsac

15.5 points | 2026 to 2032

Smooth and full-bodied with ripe, suitably fresh tannins and perceptible headiness.

Clos Fourtet

Saint-Émilion

17 points | 2028 to 2035

Rather harsh in style and still rather closed at this stage, with tart tannins.

Château Franc-Maillet

Pomerol

15 points | 2025 to 2032

Fruity, spicy and intense with grainy tannins.

Château Franc Mayne

Saint-Émilion

16.5 points | 2026 to 2034

Full with well-integrated tannins and a decidedly lingering finish, perfectly balanced.

G

Château Gazin

Pomerol

18 points | 2028 to 2040

A bulky, dense, powerful wine with top-quality velvety tannins, harmonious despite the fullness, still needs to mature.

Château Giscours

Margaux

17.5 points | 2028 to 2035

Cocoa notes, full in the attack, with juicy, slightly tart tannins and a generous finish; exceptionally made in the style of the vintage.

Château Gombaude-Guillet

Pomerol

18 points | 2028 to 2040

Very reticent and complex, full in the attack, dense development with top-quality powdery tannins, hugely lingering; a fine, characterful wine that needs to mature.

Château Grand Corbin

Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2026 to 2034

Clean on the nose, classic structure, spicy with fresh tannins, medium length, well balanced with subtle bitter notes; delicious, in cultivated style.

Château Grand Corbin-Despaigne
Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2028 to 2040

Clean, fruity and spicy on the nose, fresh in the attack with lively tannins, full-bodied and tart in the finish, still needs to mature.

Château Grand Moulinet

Pomerol

15.5 points | 2024 to 2029

Slender in the attack with a smooth structure and juicy tannins, lingering.

Château Grand-Pontet

Saint-Émilion

15 points | 2025 to 2032

Perceptible oak spice, fresh in the attack, robust in style, angular with an oak-driven finish, still rather harsh and dry.

Château Grand-Puy Ducasse

Pauillac

16.5 points | 2028 to 2035

Robust in the attack, powerful structure, fruity with tart yet well-integrated tannins and a very lingering finish, still very robust and angular at this stage so absolutely must be left to mature.



One of the best year after year

Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste
Pauillac

18 points | 2030 to 2040

Very closed at this stage, but perfectly defined and particularly harmonious, stylish despite the supporting structure and particular fullness, does not deny the vintage yet remains true to its style.

Château Grangeneuve
Pomerol

15 points | 2026 to 2032

Spicy on the nose, straightforward on the palate with tart yet well-integrated tannins, very lingering, pleasantly fresh.

Château Gruaud Larose

Saint-Julien

17 points | 2028 to 2035

The aromatic complexity and the particular finesse of the tannins are rather brutally offset by the still perceptible headiness; a child of the vintage that should gain greater elegance as it matures.

Château Guadet

Saint-Émilion

15 points | 2027 to 2032

Shaped by development, spicy with lots of new oak, robust in the attack with angular, dry tannins and a harsh finish.

H

Château Haut-Bages Libéral

Pauillac

18 points | 2028 to 2040

A nose that is still shaped by development yet very interesting; very juicy and crisp in style with particularly fresh, mineral tannins and a lingering, fruity, weighty yet not stinging finish, rather more closed than 'en primeur' but with unmistakable class.

Château Haut-Bailly

Pessac-Léognan

18 points | 2030 to 2040

This wine manages to square the circle: it has the fullness and headiness of the vintage, but also particular sophistication thanks to top-quality tannins and the flawless expression of fruit. Clearly one of the best wines of the vintage.

Château Haut-Batailley

Pauillac

16.5 points | 2026 to 2034

Polished and fresh tannins, tart in the finish; very reliable and well made.

Château Haut-Brion

Pessac-Léognan

17.5 points | 2028 to 2040

The superb, complex nose of a fine wine; astonishingly juicy right from the attack, then perceptibly full and smoulderingly heady yet also crisp and fresh, impressive and weighty.

Château Haut-Brion, le Clarence**Pessac-Léognan****16 points | 2022 to 2030**

Pastry spice nose, offering volume, structure, sophistication and good balance.

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

Compact, robust and angular in style.

Château Haut-Sarpe**Saint-Émilion****16.5 points | 2026 to 2035**

Complex spicy and fruity nose, powerful in the attack, tart with lively tannins and a lingering, fresh, sophisticated finish.

Château Hosanna**Pomerol****16.5 points | 2025 to 2030**

Spicy oak notes on the nose with some pastry spice, combining fullness and headiness with sophistication, in the style of the vintage.

J, K**Château Jean Faure****Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2028 to 2035**

Tart and intense, hugely fresh with a tart, fruity style; worth laying down for a while.

Château Kirwan**Margaux****16.5 points | 2026 to 2035**

Impressive with smooth, fresh tannins and a lingering, harmonious finish of lovely berry notes; stylish and perfectly balanced.

L**Clos l'Eglise****Pomerol****15 points | 2024 to 2032**

Bulky and heady with angular, tart tannins.

Château l'Enclos**Pomerol****16 points | 2026 to 2032**

Tempting nose of forest berries, with smooth, fresh tannins and a lingering finish; harmonious and in cultivated style.

Château l'Évangile**Pomerol****18 points | 2025 to 2040**

Fruity and spicy nose, immensely bulky, full-bodied with top-quality tannins, lingering, an impressively juicy and intense wine.

Château la Cabanne**Pomerol****15.5 points | 2026 to 2032**

Pleasing aromatic potential, fruity, fresh in the attack, well balanced, juicy, with smooth, fresh tannins.

Château la Clémence**Pomerol****15 points | 2026 to 2032**

Perceptible oak spice, tart, very corpulent with robust tannins and a rather dry finish.

Château la Clotte**Saint-Émilion****16.5 points | 2024 to 2034**

Fresh cherry aromas, straightforward with fine-grained tannins, pleasingly lingering, fresh and sophisticated, stylish and cultivated.

Château la Commanderie**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2026 to 2034**

A pleasing fruity nose with perceptible oak spice, spicy in the attack, well made with lively tannins, intense with a very lingering finish.

Château la Couspaude**Saint-Émilion****15 points | 2026 to 2035**

As always, shaped by oak; angular on the palate, robust, still rather tart and dry.

Château la Création**Pomerol****16 points | 2026 to 2032**

Appealing fruity nose of black berry aromas, also fruity in the attack, rounded on the palate, smooth with silky, fresh tannins, pleasantly lingering and decidedly sophisticated; fun.

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

Reticently fruity with the fullness of the vintage, bulkier than 'en primeur' but with tannins made of velvet and silk.

Château la Croix de Gay**Pomerol****16.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Compact and full-bodied, pleasantly lingering with top-quality tannins, characterful and fresh, confirming its impression from 'en primeur'.

Château la Croix du Casse**Pomerol****16 points | 2024 to 2030**

Tempting oak and berry nose, in juicy, rather slender style, pleasingly dense with an appealingly tart finish.

*A subtle pinnacle for connoisseurs***Château la Croix Saint Georges Pomerol****17 points | 2026 to 2035**

A particularly full-bodied, dense, weighty Pomerol shaped by top-quality barrel notes, that needs to mature somewhat; positive development following maturation, recommended.

Château la Croix-Toullifaut**Pomerol****15 points | 2026 to 2032**

Straightforward with a medium structure and tart tannins.

Château la Dominique**Saint-Émilion****17 points | 2026 to 2035**

Plays skilfully with the opulence and headiness of the vintage, balanced out well.

Château la Fleur de Gay**Pomerol****17 points | 2025 to 2035**

Perceptible but not excessive barrel notes, with a slender structure, dense and fresh.

Château la Fleur Morange**Saint-Émilion****15 points | 2026 to 2032**

Bulky with tart tannins, still needs to mature.

Château la Fleur Pétrus**Pomerol****17.5 points | 2028 to 2040**

Very reticent in its expression, hugely dense and deep with the alcohol perfectly balanced out, perceptible without dominating.



A skilful staging of a top terroir

Château la Gaffelière
Saint-Émilion

18 points | 2028 to 2040

Very reticent aromatic expression, similarly closed on the palate but with impressive depth and density, fullness and length; excellent but absolutely must be left to age.

Château la Gurgue
Margaux

16 points | 2025 to 2032

Juicy and crisp with well-balanced, lively tannins, ending with lovely berry notes, already enjoyable young. Has significantly improved since the 'en primeur' tasting.

Château la Lagune
Haut-Médoc

17.5 points | 2028 to 2040

Tempting dark chocolate nose, full in the attack, dense with a crisp, juicy structure and ripe, polished, fresh tannins, decidedly sophisticated.

Château la Louvière
Pessac-Léognan

16.5 points | 2025 to 2035

A tempting, spicy, fruity nose of forest berries, refreshing right from the attack, intense development with lively tannins that offer a healthy tartness, and a lingering finish.

Clos la Madeleine
Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2025 to 2035

In compact yet also very meaty style, not unsophisticated. Suitable for aging.

Château la Marzelle
Saint-Émilion

17 points | 2024 to 2034

We like the particular fruitiness and freshness, the clean style, and the transparency of the wine and can accept the hints of herb, which are refreshing rather than grassy; easy-drinking and sophisticated.

Château la Mission Haut-Brion
Pessac-Léognan

17 points | 2026 to 2045

Superb development notes, complex and elegant, weighty in the attack, extremely dense and full with top-quality tannins refined by development, and a hugely lingering ripe berry finish; a child of the vintage.

Château la Mission Haut-Brion, Chapelle
Pessac-Léognan

15 points | 2023 to 2026

In compact, tart, rather herbaceous style.

Château la Mondotte
Saint-Émilion

17 points | 2028 to 2034

Very intense nose of spice, berry and herb aromas, bulky in the attack, hugely taut with tart yet well-integrated tannins and a perfectly lingering finish.

Château la Patache
Pomerol

15 points | 2026 to 2032

Lots of oak, with perceptible, robust extract and a medium-length tart and spicy finish.

Château la Pointe
Pomerol

15 points | 2025 to 2032

Shaped by development, compact with tart tannins and a rather abrupt, dry finish.

Château la Renaissance
Pomerol

15 points | 2026 to 2032

Forest berries on the nose, compact in the attack, well made, fresh.

Château la Serre
Saint-Émilion

16.5 points | 2025 to 2035

Exceptionally heady but with velvety, rounded tannins, exceptionally made.

Château la Tour Carnet
Haut-Médoc

16 points | 2028 to 2035

Perceptible oak spice, powerful in the attack, firm in style, full-bodied with perceptibly grainy tannins and a finish still shaped by development.

Château la Tour Figeac
Saint-Émilion

16.5 points | 2024 to 2032

Well made with dense, robust, fresh tannins and a pleasingly lingering finish; authentic.

Château la Tribune
Pomerol

15 points | 2026 to 2032

Tart structure, dense with powdery tannins and a lingering dark chocolate finish.

Château la Truffe
Pomerol

15.5 points | 2026 to 2032

Weighty with tart tannins, still rather harsh, ending with black berry notes.

Château la Violette
Pomerol

16 points | 2024 to 2030

As always decidedly floral, rounded, ripe, smooth and appealing, not lacking freshness.

Château Lafleur Grangeneuve
Pomerol

15 points | 2026 to 2032

Lively in the attack in full-bodied, robust style.



The perfect wine for true connoisseurs

Château Lafon-Rochet
Saint-Estèphe

17 points | 2026 to 2035

Subtle black berry aromas, meaty in the attack with rich, smooth development, silky tannins and a perfectly lingering finish of fruity and spicy notes; a pleasing wine that is already enjoyable but could easily mature.

Château Lagrange**Saint-Julien****17 points | 2026 to 2035**

Very shaped by development yet also fruity, full in the attack with fresh tannins that balance out the fullness well, a very weighty finish; reliable and well made.

Château Lagrange à Pomerol**Pomerol****16 points | 2023 to 2028**

Velvety, comfortingly corpulent, with well-integrated tannins; fun.

Château Langoa Barton**Saint-Julien****17 points | 2026 to 2040**

This may be one of the ranks of stout, high-alcohol wines, but with its 'just' 13.5% ABV, its wonderfully well-rounded, silky tannins and its astonishing harmony, it is one of the few truly classic wines of the year. A top buy!

Château Laniote**Saint-Émilion****15 points | 2025 to 2032**

Subtle smoky and spicy nose, robust with a dense texture; very lingering.

Château Larcis Ducasse**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2026 to 2034**

Smoky and shaped by oak, fresh, dense with tart but well-integrated tannins and a lingering finish with freshness.

Château Larmande**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2024 to 2030**

Classic developmental notes, smooth in the attack, full development, well-integrated tannins that even get a little drowned in the heady fullness; do not lay down for too long.

Château Laroque**Saint-Émilion****17 points | 2026 to 2040**

With superb, complex, promising spice, then compact and dense in the attack, particularly sophisticated and fresh despite the headiness, with top-quality tannins and a lingering finish; even better than 'en primeur', in the style of a Brunello!

Château Laroze**Saint-Émilion****17 points | 2028 to 2040**

An immensely complex nose of spice and herb aromas, compact in the attack, dense development, high-quality tannins, hugely fresh, taut and lingering; offering Burgundian class! Absolutely must be left to age.

Château Lascombes**Margaux****17.5 points | 2024 to 2035**

Not only hugely precise but also particularly fruity and juicy, joyful, appealing in the best sense, with top-quality tannins and freshness despite the fullness; utterly enjoyable.

Château Latour à Pomerol**Pomerol****16 points | 2024 to 2030**

Lovely oak spice, full in the attack, juicy and heady structure with supporting tannins: represents the vintage and its own particular style.

Château Latour-Martillac**Pessac-Léognan****16.5 points | 2026 to 2038**

Subtle nose, compact in the attack, dense structure with tart but well-integrated tannins, very lingering, full-bodied and fresh in the finish; once again a classic in this vintage.

Château le Caillou**Pomerol****15 points | 2026 to 2032**

Spice, berries and herbs; robust in the attack, rather angular on the palate, in keeping with its style.

Château le Chatelet**Saint-Émilion****16.5 points | 2026 to 2035**

Tempting spice and smoke aromas, weighty in the attack with lively, tart development, tension and thus a lingering finish; characterful.

Château le Chemin**Pomerol****16.5 points | 2026 to 2034**

Temptingly fruity with black berry aromas, creamy in the attack, smooth structure, well balanced with smooth tannins and a decidedly lingering fruity finish; stylish, harmonious, fun.

Château le Gay**Pomerol****15.5 points | 2028 to 2035**

A wine of two halves: an impressive spicy nose, but dominated by alcohol and tartness on the palate.

Château le Moulin**Pomerol****15 points | 2026 to 2032**

Explosive nose with oak and black berry aromas, weighty in the attack, very rich in extract, heavy, with a spicy finish.



Smooth and hugely harmonious

Château le Prieuré**Saint-Émilion****17 points | 2025 to 2034**

A temptingly fruity cherry nose, creamy in the attack with a smooth, well-balanced structure, smooth and fresh tannins, and a perfectly lingering finish; pleasingly harmonious and very cultivated in style.

Château Léoville Barton**Saint-Julien****18 points | 2028 to 2040**

A weighty, full-bodied Léoville Barton with wonderfully velvety tannins, hugely fresh despite the exceptional headiness: cannot disavow its vintage, nor its inimitable style.

Château Léoville Poyferré**Saint-Julien****17 points | 2028 to 2035**

Particularly polished tannins, good control of the fullness, and a heady, lingering finish with preserved fruit notes: making the best of the vintage.

Château les Grandes Murailles**Saint-Émilion****15.5 points | 2025 to 2032**

Robust in the attack, structure rich in extract, and a tart finish shaped by development.

Château Lilian Ladouys**Saint-Estèphe****16.5 points | 2026 to 2035**

Full in the attack with polished tannins and lingering chocolate notes; exceptionally made, utterly recommended.

Château Lynch-Bages**Pauillac****17 points | 2030 to 2040**

Dense, bulky and tart in style with a bare yet dense texture.

Château Lynch-Moussas**Pauillac****17 points | 2028 to 2035**

Fresh, with tension and depth, and a lingering fruity and spicy finish; sophisticated.

M

Château Malartic-Lagravière**Pessac-Léognan****17.5 points | 2026 to 2040**

Hugely dense and spirited, with high-quality tannins boasting minerality and freshness, and a fruity finish: superb.

Château Malescot Saint-Exupéry**Margaux****17.5 points | 2028 to 2040**

A weighty, robust, yet not rustic wine with character, spirit, density and a lingering finish. It is a good thing that such wines exist!



Potential for utter elegance

**Château Marquis de Terme
Margaux****18 points | 2024 to 2035**

Utter Margaux elegance, stunningly polished and hugely lingering, so precisely made that it can be easily enjoyed now but has the potential for a long life: in bottle, this is once again one of the year's best buys!

Château Margaux**Margaux****19 points | 2022 to 2036**

Very subtle yet also flawless, promising nose, elegant right from the attack, precisely defined with tannins that offer freshness via their slightly tart style; a particularly lingering finish of fruity and refined spicy touches, generous yet authentic.

Château Marquis d'Alesme**Margaux****16.5 points | 2024 to 2032**

Tempting, full-bodied, juicy, fruity, exuberant, very precisely made.

Château Mazeyres**Pomerol****17 points | 2026 to 2035**

We like the particular juicy freshness of this wine, its tension and its elegance.

Château Meyney**Saint-Estèphe****17 points | 2028 to 2040**

Full in the attack with leisurely development, top-quality tannins and a weighty, lingering finish; a generous, characterful wine.

Château Monbrison**Margaux****17 points | 2026 to 2032**

Boasts aromatic complexity despite its huge fullness, with polished tannins and a heady finish: a child of its vintage.

Château Monregard la Croix**Pomerol****15 points | 2026 to 2032**

Slender, tart and fresh, angular, spicy.

Château Montrose**Saint-Estèphe****17 points | 2028 to 2040**

Weighty in the attack, hugely dense, full and lingering with top-quality tannins and a generous, heady finish of dried fruit notes; for cold winter evenings.

Château Montviel**Pomerol****15 points | 2024 to 2030**

Polished and fresh with a dense yet juicy structure: only the perceptible alcohol in the finish disrupts the balance somewhat.

Château Moulin du Cadet**Saint-Émilion****17 points | 2026 to 2035**

Superb nose, full-bodied with huge depth and smooth, fresh, top-quality tannins; an impressive wine.

Château Moulin Haut-Laroque**Fronsac****17.5 points | 2028 to 2040**

A superb nose, mineral and floral, then compact in the attack, powerful with smooth, deep tannins, decidedly spirited and hugely lingering; an impressive wine.

Château Mouton Rothschild**Pauillac****18.5 points | 2028 to 2040**

Development has made the absolute best of what this wine has to offer: top-class tannins, elegance and harmony despite the perfect, well-controlled fullness, and exuberant fruit to an extent rarely seen – outstanding.

Château Mouton Rothschild,**Petit Mouton****Pauillac****17 points | 2023 to 2032**

Still rather shaped by development on the nose, astonishing polish and particular harmony for the vintage, impeccably made, juicy, fruity, appealing yet also offering depth.

N, O

Château Nenin**Pomerol****17 points | 2026 to 2040**

Complex nose, full in the attack, elegant development with dense, polished, fresh tannins and a hugely lingering finish; very enjoyable.

Château Olivier**Pessac-Léognan****17.5 points | 2028 to 2040**

Dark chocolate aromas, dense in the attack, sophisticated and elegant with particularly noble tannins and an impressively lingering finish; harmonious, in perfect balance.

P

Château Palmer**Margaux****17.5 points | 2024 to 2032**

Astonishing nose of stewed and fresh berries, velvety structure, fine-grained tannins, a lingering heady and fruity finish; a skilful mixture of fruitiness, volume and curvaceous elegance.

Château Pape Clément**Pessac-Léognan****18 points | 2026 to 2040**

Hugely sophisticated with top-quality tannins, polished and full, exactly what we expected from this wine in this vintage.

Château Pavie Macquin**Saint-Émilion****16.5 points | 2028 to 2035**

Still shaped by development, with sophistication and headiness keeping each other in check, polished tannins, and a finish currently shaped by alcohol. Best left to age for a while.

Château Péby Faugères**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2028 to 2035**

Perceptible oak spice and forest berry aromas, compact in the attack with impressive development, full-bodied with a bare, dense texture.

Château Pédesclaux**Pauillac****17 points | 2026 to 2034**

Fresh herb and spice aromas, full in the attack, creamy on the palate with rich, perfectly ripe tannins and a lingering finish.

Château Petit Beauséjour**Pomerol****16 points | 2026 to 2032**

Tempting black berry spice, slender in the attack, elegant in style, well balanced with tannins made of velvet and silk.

Château Petit Faurie de Soutard**Saint-Émilion****15.5 points | 2027 to 2032**

Fresh in the attack with angular tannins and a medium structure and finish.

Château Petit-Village**Pomerol****18 points | 2026 to 2040**

Impresses not with bulk but with minerality; particularly fresh and well-balanced with perfect polish.

Château Peymouton**Saint-Émilion****15.5 points | 2024 to 2034**

Fruity, medium stature, harmonious.

Château Phélan Ségur**Saint-Estèphe****17.5 points | 2028 to 2040**

Dense in the attack with leisurely development, top-quality tannins, and huge depth; a great, perfectly proportioned wine that is stylish despite the typical features of the vintage and still needs to mature.

Château Pibran**Pauillac****16.5 points | 2028 to 2034**

Velvety in the attack, well-balanced structure, elegant with polished, fresh tannins, brimming with sophistication; a stylish wine.

Château Pichon Baron**Pauillac****18 points | 2030 to 2050**

A particularly reticent, refined, smoky nose with perfectly measured oak, full in the attack, leisurely development, sophisticated tannins, hugely spirited despite the fullness and the perceptible headiness; offering weight and depth.

Château Pichon Longueville**Comtesse de Lalande****Pauillac****18 points | 2026 to 2035**

With the fullness and headiness of the vintage, fruity yet also with huge depth, boasting remarkable precision and an endlessly lingering finish; there is no better compromise between the vintage and the wine's style.

Château Pierhem**Pomerol****15.5 points | 2025 to 2030**

Tempting nose, intense in the attack, well balanced, fresh, with a healthily tart finish shaped by the tannin.

Château Plincette**Pomerol****15.5 points | 2026 to 2032**

Straightforward on the palate, spicy with lively tannins, medium length, well balanced, ending with lovely berry notes, harmonious.

Château Pontet-Canet**Pauillac****20 points | 2024 to 2040**

This stands apart from every other wine first of all with its stunning aromatic complexity: there are dried fruit notes such as dates or prunes, but also mineral and spicy herb elements. On the palate this wine is solidly built with huge depth, particularly polished tannins, and lingering aromas supported by the acidity. The wine as a whole is already enjoyable but could still mature: this wine does not tell just a story, it is an entire novel.

Château Porte Chic**Pomerol****15.5 points | 2025 to 2032**

Appealing nose, spicy and fruity with blackberry aromas, then fresh in the attack, well made with tart but well-integrated tannins and a spicy finish; development has done it good.

Château Pouget**Margaux****16.5 points | 2024 to 2032**

Lovely developmental notes, robust and juicy in style, compact, sophisticated, stylish, enjoyable.

Château Prieuré-Lichine**Margaux****17.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Tempting berry and pastry spice nose, full-bodied with fine-grained, smooth tannins and a perfectly lingering finish of refreshing berry notes; perfectly proportioned, stylish, enjoyable.

Q, R**Château Quinault****Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2024 to 2033**

Creamy in the attack, smooth structure, silky, with polished, fresh tannins and a very lingering finish; a Saint-Émilion in the style of a Pomerol.

Château Quintus**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2024 to 2030**

Very shaped by development, with the acidity and the berry notes skilfully hiding the alcohol.

Château Quintus, Dragon**Saint-Émilion****15 points | 2024 to 2032**

Spicy, medium structure, tart tannins.

Château Rahoul**Graves****16 points | 2026 to 2032**

Dense structure, smooth tannins, pleasantly lingering with the freshness it needs.

Château Rauzan-Gassies**Margaux****16.5 points | 2026 to 2035**

Subtle nose, slender in the attack, full development, lingering with the freshness it needs.

Château Rauzan-Ségla**Margaux****18 points | 2026 to 2035**

Manages to offer elegance even in this vintage thanks to immensely delicate, silky tannins and particularly fruity redcurrant notes. Superb, one of the best Margaux.

Clos René**Pomerol****16.5 points | 2026 to 2035**

Immensely precisely made, juicy and fresh, this wine has impressive body but has retained its contours during development.

Château Ripeau**Saint-Émilion****15.5 points | 2025 to 2032**

Lively, straightforward, with barely ripe tannins.

Château Rochebelle
Saint-Émilion**15.5 points | 2026 to 2034**

Full-bodied with tart tannins, has improved.

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

A rather overbearing sweet oak nose, heady on the palate with well-integrated tannins.

S

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

Full in the attack, dense structure, full-bodied and fresh tannins, with a delicately bitter finish.

Château Saint-Georges Côte Pavie
Saint-Émilion**15.5 points | 2025 to 2032**

Spicy in the attack, tart structure, rather dry tannins, a finish shaped by development.

Clos Saint-Martin
Saint-Émilion**16 points | 2025 to 2032**

Densely made with fresh tannins and a pleasantly lingering finish; easy-drinking, exceptionally made.

Château Saint-Pierre
Pomerol**15 points | 2025 to 2030**

Slender and tart with fresh tannins.

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

A superb, fruity, delicately spicy nose, elegant in the attack, well-balanced development, crisp and juicy with well-integrated, elegantly polished tannins and a perfectly lingering finish; well balanced and stylish.

Château Sansonnet
Saint-Émilion**17 points | 2026 to 2040**

This wine astonishes once again after some maturation: it is bulky and heady, with polished tannins and oak that is present but does not dominate. Weighty yet sophisticated.

Château Siran
Margaux**16 points | 2026 to 2035**

Appealing spice nose, corpulent in the attack, well made, full-bodied with tart, fresh tannins, pleasantly lingering, cleanly made, well balanced.

Château Smith Haut-Lafitte
Pessac-Léognan**17 points | 2024 to 2034**

Full in the attack, rounded structure, fresh tannins, and a full yet also juicy finish; combines sophistication with a fun, easy-drinking style.

Château Sociando-Mallet
Haut-Médoc**17 points | 2030 to 2040**

The fiftieth bottling from this estate brought back to life by the Gautreau family: a promising nose still shaped by development, clear in the attack then quickly offering immensely dense yet fine-grained tannins, and an impression of juiciness despite the fullness; a must for fans of this wine.

Château Soutard
Saint-Émilion**16 points | 2023 to 2032**

Full in the attack, juicy and heady development with crisp tannins, spirited with a certain weightiness and pizzazz.

T

Château Taillefer
Pomerol**16 points | 2028 to 2034**

Rich structure with smooth, fresh tannins, fresh and spirited.

Château Talbot
Saint-Julien**17 points | 2028 to 2035**

Juicy and fruity in the attack with compact, seamlessly dense tannins and a full, lingering finish: impeccably made, typical of the vintage.

Château Tour Maillet
Pomerol**15.5 points | 2025 to 2032**

Very alcohol-driven, with powdery tannins and a dark chocolate finish.

Château Troplong Mondot
Saint-Émilion**17.5 points | 2026 to 2035**

Tempting developmental aromas, offering remarkable, even astonishing transparency and precision of expression with top-class tannins and freshness, minerality and complexity despite the fullness and headiness.

Château Troplong Mondot, Mondot
Saint-Émilion**15.5 points | 2024 to 2028**

Full-bodied, smooth, heady yet also fruity, fun in the style of the vintage.

Château Trotanoy
Pomerol**17.5 points | 2026 to 2034**

Bewitching mineral and spicy nose, particularly dense and spirited with top-quality tannins but a very heady finish: a top-class wine in the style of the vintage.

Château Trotte Vieille
Saint-Émilion**17 points | 2024 to 2034**

Depth, exquisite sophistication and particular minerality, and a lingering, juicy finish of herb and blueberry notes; in the style of the vintage and up there with the best of them!

V, Y

Château Valandraud
Saint-Émilion**16.5 points | 2025 to 2030**

Shaped by development, like a Black Forest gateau; immensely full and as heady as a port – but exceptionally made.

Château Vieux Maillet
Pomerol**15 points | 2025 to 2030**

Very compact and tartly dry.

Château Villars
Fronsac**16 points | 2027 to 2035**

Well made with robust, perceptibly grainy tannins; medium length with a healthy tartness.

Château Villemaurine
Saint-Émilion**16.5 points | 2028 to 2035**

Lilac and cocoa nose developing red berry aromas, polished and dense with perfectly ripe tannins and well-integrated alcohol.

Clos Villemaurine
Saint-Émilion**16.5 points | 2026 to 2035**

Spice, berries and herbs; well made with polished tannins and a pleasingly lingering finish.

Château Vray Croix de Gay
Pomerol**17 points | 2025 to 2035**

Still reticent, in compact, dense style with polished, fresh tannins, exceptionally made: characterful.

Château Yon-Figeac
Saint-Émilion**16 points | 2028 to 2034**

Spice, berries and herbs; robust in the attack, well made, tart with fresh tannins.

Sweet wines from

SAUTERNES/BARSAC

Château Broustet

15.5 points | 2022 to 2030

Initially compact and dense, developing opulence with full, oily sweetness, cleanly made.

Château Coutet

16 points | 2025 to 2035

A subtle nose still shaped by development, corpulent in the attack, well made, even powerful, with a finish dominated by sweetness.

Château d'Arche

15.5 points | 2023 to 2030

Harmonious, full-bodied, dense, with well-integrated sweetness and a very lingering dried fruit finish.

Château d'Yquem

19 points | 2030 to 2040

Incredibly pure botrytis, wonderfully oily and full, superbly spirited; a monumental wine that combines body with class. Needs to be left to age somewhat.



Particularly refined

Château Doisy-Védrières

18 points | 2024 to 2035

A complex nose of candied fruit and fresh herbs with botrytis and nut aromas, slender in the attack, elegant structure, a pleasingly lingering finish with a delicate bitter touch; elegant and refined, which is rare in this vintage.

Château de Malle

16.5 points | 2023 to 2030

Tempting with a well-balanced structure, elegant, fresh, lingering; appealing.

Château de Myrat

17.5 points | 2021 to 2033

Well balanced, in invitingly fruity and joyful style, just the right amount of sweetness paired with freshness good length, already unrestrainedly fun. Has improved further with aging.

Château Doisy Daëne

17.5 points | 2023 to 2032

In intense and oily style, elegant and mineral; a superb wine that could mature further.

Château Filhot

16 points | 2023 to 2030

The wine is shaped by sweetness, but freshness is also present, ensuring elegance and harmony.

Château Guiraud

18 points | 2023 to 2035

Reticent dried fruit and floral nose, hugely spirited and dense, juicy and fresh with no hint of clumsy sweetness thanks to the supporting acidity, and a dried apricot finish: exceptionally made.

Clos Haut-Peyraguey

17.5 points | 2023 to 2030

The concentration of the vintage with oily, luscious sweetness as well as density and minerality, and a long, full finish: perfectly made.

Château La Tour Blanche

17 points | 2023 to 2030

Oily density, full sweetness, yet also freshness and length; classic, exceptionally made.

Château Lamothe Guignard

15.5 points | 2023 to 2030

Full-bodied, juicy, dense, with rather clumsy sweetness, in the style of the vintage.

Château Rayne Vigneau

16 points | 2022 to 2030

Perceptible botrytis aromas on the nose, together with dried apricot notes; offering dense, full, oily sweetness and a pleasantly lingering finish.



Vintage frontrunners

Château Sigalas Rabaud

18.5 points | 2023 to 2033

A superb, complex nose; immensely spirited and fresh, offering density, length, minerality and length: utterly sophisticated and one of the best sweet wines of the vintage

Château Rieussec

Sauternes

17.5 points | 2021 to 2040

Full bodied, fruity and meaty, yet also hugely fresh; superb.

Rieussec, Carmes de

Sauternes

15 points | 2020 to 2022

Well balanced in style, fruity yet also fresh, appealing and well made, best enjoyed young.

Château Suau

15.5 points | 2021 to 2029

In inviting, exuberantly fruity style, candy-like, appealing.

Château Suduiraut

17 points | 2022 to 2030

Oily in style and rich in extract, viscous, even somewhat clumsy in this phase, yet well made.

Dry white wines from PESSAC-LÉOGNAN



Hugely mineral and spirited

Château Carbonnieux 2019

18.5 points | 2024 to 2034

A complex, promising nose, hugely dense and spirited, mineral and lingering with a juicy grapefruit finish; harmonious and very cultivated, even better than the 'en primeur'!

Château Bouscaut 2019

Pessac-Léognan

16 points | 2022 to 2028

Still closed, but with tension and particular spirit, needs to mature somewhat.

Château Couhins 2019

Pessac-Léognan

17 points | 2023 to 2032

Very reticent, hugely sophisticated and decidedly mineral, slender yet also hugely lingering; particularly stylish and impeccably made: getting better and better.

Château Couhins-Lurton 2019

Pessac-Léognan

19 points | 2028 to 2040

Reticent touches of herbs and flowers, almost bursting with minerality, spirit, and stunning density, as well as energy, tension and length; an excellent white wine best laid down for a long time.

Château Haut-Brion Blanc 2019

Pessac-Léognan

18 points | 2023 to 2032

Combining finesse, spirit and length with juicy fruitiness. Very precisely made, needs to mature somewhat. One of the best white Haut-Brions in recent years (or decades).

Château Haut-Brion, Clarté 2019

Pessac-Léognan

16 points | 2021 to 2025

Spirited and sophisticated with good length, could mature somewhat.

Château La Garde 2019

Pessac-Léognan

16 points | 2021 to 2026

Lovely white peach nose, pleasantly full and dense, fresh and spirited with an nicely lingering finish; appealing and well made.

Château La Louvière 2018

Pessac-Léognan

16.5 points | 2023 to 2028

Initially very shaped by development, but becoming much more interesting after extensive swirling, developing subtle peach notes, then crystal clear in the attack with good balance between the extract, alcohol and freshness, then lovely minerality and a delicate bitter note in the finish; sophisticated, but absolutely must be laid down for a year or served from a decanter.

Château La Mission Haut-Brion 2019

Pessac-Léognan

18 points | 2022 to 2032

Already astonishingly well rounded compared to the 'en primeur' sample, full-bodied, smooth and dense.

Château Latour-Martillac 2019

Pessac-Léognan

17 points | 2023 to 2032

Full-bodied, robust, dense, with perfectly balanced oak and a juicy grapefruit finish; thoroughly enjoyable.

Château Malartic-Lagravière 2019

Pessac-Léognan

18 points | 2027 to 2040

The white wine has also jumped up a notch compared with the 'en primeur': hugely mineral, dense and spirited with a delicate bitter note in the lingering finish; first class!

Château Olivier 2019

Pessac-Léognan

17.5 points | 2024 to 2035

Currently very defiant and acidity-driven, but also offering particular minerality, only revealing its particular spirit and sophistication once swirled, so should not be opened too early.

Château Pape Clément 2019

Pessac-Léognan

15.5 points | 2020 to 2024

Rather intrusively floral at this stage, soft and rounded on the palate with a medium-length lemony finish. Enjoy young.

Château Smith Haut-Lafitte 2019

Pessac-Léognan

17.5 points | 2022 to 2035

Boisterous and weighty in style, spirited juicy, full and dense, will be very enjoyable at every stage of its life. Spirited and sophisticated with a perfectly lingering finish, could mature somewhat.



Huge aromatic sophistication

Domaine de Chevalier 2018

18 points | 2026 to 2036

Still shaped by development, but a promising nose of oak, white peach and exotic fruit notes; full in the attack with a dense, juicy structure and a subtle bitter note, stunningly sophisticated and lingering.

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BORDEAUX 2020

EVEN MORE POWER



As previously mentioned, at first sip there is more that unites the last three Bordeaux vintages than divides them. In some estates 2020 is the best, for others it is the 2019, but all three were successful.

In terms of style, 2020 was also impacted by the quickly changing but consistently fiery climate. The winter of 2020 virtually disappeared, with spring-like warmth as early as March. The vines developed shoots around three weeks earlier than the long-term average. April was mild but rainy with the first storms, May was dry and warm: flowering took place in late May in ideal conditions. June was just as rainy as 2018, but with greater variation from one village to the next. Winegrowers once again had their hands full keeping fungal diseases in check. The summer months were hot and very dry, but the early budding and the soil's water reserves meant that growth was rarely halted. The fair, dry weather held until mid-September.

The dry white grapes were harvested in the final days of August, and the Merlot and first Cabernet from 10 September. However, the rainy autumn forced winegrowers to harvest their red wine grapes quickly, by the end of September. The Cabernet Sauvignon grapes in cooler locations were not therefore able to ripen completely fully. The grapes for sweet wines were ripe by early September, but noble rot was slow to set in and subsequently

suffered in the rainy conditions. Sauternes and Barsac grapes had to be harvested relatively quickly: the results are perhaps not quite on a par with absolutely top years, but are better than expected. The dry whites were once again excellent, if not boasting quite the aromatic freshness of the 2019s.

In the red wine corner, the highest point scorer is Saint-Émilion, followed by Pessac-Léognan and Pomerol. In the Médoc the vintage was somewhat more complex, with numerous exceptional wines as well as some slightly angular ones: it is worth taking a particularly close look at our tasting notes for these. With well-balanced headiness, sophistication, body and depth, the red wines are somewhat reminiscent of top Tuscan examples in terms of style. Fans of modern, exceptionally made, utterly joyful, in some cases even cheeky, lively wines that will be enjoyable in just a few years but could still mature for a long time, wines that speak directly to our stomachs, will currently find what they are looking for in Bordeaux.

As we emphasised in our introduction at the beginning of this issue: on the 'en primeur' market, this vintage is currently slightly more expensive than the 2019 was, but is generally better value than the 2018s. However, given the high quality of the wines, 2020 is well worth a purchase, whether 'en primeur' or in bottle.

RED WINES

CHATEAUS FROM A TO Y

A

Château Andron-Blanquet **Saint-Estèphe**

15.5 points | 2028 to 2035

Spicy nose, fresh in the attack, medium structure, straightforward with tart, even rather angular tannins, characterful.

Château Angélu **Saint-Émilion**

18 points | 2032 to 2050

A promising, complex nose, crystal clear in the attack with an immensely dense, firm, but never broad or corpulent texture and top-quality tannins, taut and lingering with mild headiness only coming through in the finish.

Château Angélu, Carillon **Saint-Émilion**

15.5 points | 2025 to 2035

Top-quality oak notes, spirited and fresh despite the fullness and headiness.

Château Angludet **Margaux**

17 points | 2028 to 2040

Particularly fruity in the attack, dense and sinewy development, with polished tannins that rein in the alcohol; once again offering Margaux's elegance and class in this vintage.

B

Château Balestard La Tonnelle **Saint-Émilion**

16 points | 2028 to 2040

Forest berry aromas, well made, rich in extract with well-integrated oak, characterful.

Château Barde-Haut **Saint-Émilion**

16 points | 2028 to 2035

Firm and full-bodied in style with perceptibly grainy tannins, pleasing potential.

Château Batailley **Pauillac**

17.5 points | 2028 to 2045

As is so often the case, pairs the sophistication of a Saint-Julien with the weight of a Pauillac; top-quality tannins, well balanced headiness and a lingering, fruity finish.

Château Beauregard **Pomerol**

19 points | 2026 to 2040

Berry, spice and herb aromas, exquisitely polished tannins, good balance between the particular freshness and supporting structure, and a lingering aromatic finish; a 'small' Petrus.

Clos Beauregard **Pomerol**

15.5 points | 2026 to 2032

Well balanced and full-bodied with fresh tannins and a finish dominated by oak.

Château Bel Air **Pomerol**

15.5 points | 2026 to 2032

Straightforward with fine-grained tannins, lingering.

Château Bélair-Monange **Saint-Émilion**

18 points | 2030 to 2040

Berry and spice notes, with a silky, particularly dense, mineral structure and excellently polished tannins; sophisticated.



Pleasure at affordable prices

Château Belgrave

Haut-Médoc

17 points | 2028 to 2038

Made with stylistic confidence, offering dense, polished supporting tannins, well-balanced alcohol and a fruity finish; reliable and exceptionally made.

Château Bellefont-Belcier **Saint-Émilion**

16 points | 2027 to 2035

Slender in the attack, lively development, with a finish still very shaped by development.

Château Bellegrave **Pomerol**

15 points | 2024 to 2032

Fruity, medium bodied, with powdery tannins and a finish shaped by oak.

Château Bellevue **Saint-Émilion**

16.5 points | 2026 to 2032

Black berry aromas, full in the attack, rich in extract with well-integrated, juicy tannins, perfectly lingering; very cultivated.

Château Berliquet **Saint-Émilion**

16 points | 2026 to 2032

Fruity and juicy with a healthy tartness that balances out the restrained headiness.

Château Beychevelle **Saint-Julien**

16.5 points | 2030 to 2040

Dark chocolate and cherry aromas, compact in the attack with a dense, firm structure, perfectly ripe tannins, well-integrated alcohol and a lingering, fruit-driven finish. One of the best vintages from this estate.

Château Bonalgue **Pomerol**

16 points | 2026 to 2034

Robust and characterful in style with well-controlled fullness, spirit and potential.

Château Bourgneuf **Pomerol**

16 points | 2026 to 2034

The fruity nose reminiscent of blackberry and the juicy texture compensate for the rather harsh tannins.

Château Bouscassé Vieilles Vignes **Madiran**

18 points | 2030 to 2050

A superb nose only slightly shaped by development, then pink grapefruit, forest berry and spice aromas, full in the attack, hugely dense and lingering with top-class tannins and a present but well-integrated complex of sweetness; can (and should) be left to mature for a long time.

Château Bouscaut
Pessac-Léognan

16 points | 2027 to 2034

A nose still very shaped by development, beginning full-bodied and meaty, then with perceptible headiness that is kept in check by the rather tart tannins. A child of its vintage.

Château Boyd-Cantenac
Margaux

16.5 points | 2030 to 2040

Very in keeping with this wine's style, rather angular and robust at this stage with somewhat harsh tannins and good acidity; will gain more polish with age.

Château Brane-Cantenac
Margaux

19 points | 2030 to 2040

Wonderful nose of fresh currants and lilac, already hugely elegant at this stage, slender yet sinewy, taut and polished with top-class tannins, extremely lingering; exceptionally authentic and true to its vintage, one hundred percent Margaux. A top buy once again in this vintage.



Elegant rather than full

Château Branaire-Ducru
Saint-Julien

18 points | 2030 to 2045

Fruity and tempting on the nose with subtle barrel notes, rounded in the attack, perceptibly fruity with solid grain, wonderfully silky tannins and a very lingering, fruit-driven, particularly fresh finish; a wonderful, perfectly balanced wine and a must in this vintage.

Château Brondelle
Graves

16 points | 2027 to 2035

Compact in the attack with tart, robust tannins and thus a rather angular finish, but well-integrated alcohol; needs to mature somewhat.

C

Château Cadet-Bon
Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2028 to 2034

Tempting red berry nose, creamy in the attack, densely woven, full-bodied with powdery tannins and a decidedly lingering finish; meticulously made.

Château Calon-Ségur

Saint-Estèphe

17 points | 2030 to 2040

In the style of the past two vintages, in other words less bound to elegance, full-bodied, meaty, heady, with perceptible oak and smouldering headiness in the finish.

Château Calon-Ségur, Marquis

Saint-Estèphe

15 points | 2026 to 2032

Lots of oak on the nose and on the palate, with a heady, rather dry finish.

Château Camensac

Haut-Médoc

16 points | 2027 to 2035

Particularly fruity, in slender yet dense style, with barely perceptible alcohol; will mature into an easy-drinking wine.

Château Canon

Saint-Émilion

19.5 points | 2028 to 2040

Absolutely delicious fruitiness, elegant and lingering, with huge precision and freshness. The perfect expression of a top terroir. One of the top wines of the vintage and a shining example of great Saint-Émilion, without having to flex its muscles.

Château Canon, Croix Canon

Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2026 to 2032

Fruity nose, corpulent in the attack, rich structure with velvety tannins and a lingering finish; harmonious and very cultivated.

Château Cantelauze

Pomerol

15 points | 2027 to 2033

Perceptible extract right from the attack, robust structure, angular finish; true to its own style.

Château Cantemerle
Haut-Médoc

16.5 points | 2027 to 2040

Lovely barrel notes, full-bodied, well balanced, pleasantly lingering, definitely appealing, but also stylish and exceptionally made.

Château Cantenac-Brown
Margaux

17.5 points | 2030 to 2040

Offering precision right from the nose, with fresh cherry notes, then juicy in the attack with full-bodied development, and top-quality tannins that offer both support and freshness; one of the top wines of the vintage.

Château Cap de Mourlin

Saint-Émilion

15.5 points | 2028 to 2035

Powerful structure, tart tannins, and a still rather dry and abrupt finish; needs a few years in bottle.

Château Capbern Gasqueton

Saint-Estèphe

15.5 points | 2028 to 2035

Compact, dense, with tart, slightly coarse-grained tannins, thus very robust and angular at this stage.

Château Carbonnieux

Pessac-Léognan

17.5 points | 2028 to 2040

A promising fruity and spicy nose, full-bodied and meaty in the attack but also offering bite and particular spirit thanks to top-quality tannins that keep the alcohol in check; once again an exceptional success, made with huge precision and easily worth its price tag.

Château Castera

Médoc

15 points | 2025 to 2030

Crisp and compact, herbaceous yet juicy, with a medium finish.

Château Certan de May de Certan

Pomerol

17.5 points | 2029 to 2035

Reticent but very promising on the nose with precise development notes, elegant in the attack, dense, polished and sophisticated with top-quality tannins; there is a lot of terroir in this exceptionally made wines.

Château Caroline

Moulis en Médoc

15.5 points | 2028 to 2035

Recently shaped by development, rather austere but pleasantly slender in style, with still rather bare tannins but the beginnings of elegance. Needs to be left to age somewhat.



Eemplary harmony

**Château Canon-La-Gaffelière
Saint-Émilion
18 points | 2026 to 2036**

Polished tannins, delicate and unobtrusive fruitiness, successfully integrated alcohol, and elegance despite the fullness: everything about this top-class wine is just right, a magnificent wine in perfect balance.

**Château Chêne Liège
Pomerol**

15 points | 2026 to 2032

Robust with angular tannins, very lingering, spicy and tart.

**Château Chauvin
Saint-Émilion
16.5 points | 2028 to 2035**

An interesting, promising nose, compact structure, juice, dense, with angular tannins but no rusticity, and well-proportioned alcohol. A second sample was even more precise and fruity, exceptionally well proportioned with supporting tannins.

**Château Clerc-Milon
Pauillac
18 points | 2030 to 2050**

Particular aromatic complexity, a high level of fruit with top-quality, silky tannins that offer polish and minerality, and alcohol that is very present but merely serves as a connecting link between the fruitiness and body; exceptional, distinctive, characterful. One of the top wines of the year.

**Château Clerc-Milon, Passtourelle
Pauillac**

15.5 points | 2022 to 2028

An informal wine in its own way, medium-bodied; for drinking rather than thinking.

**Clos 56
Pomerol**

15 points | 2026 to 2032

Spicy, robust, with lots of oak and perceptibly grainy tannins, medium bodied.

**Château Cos d'Estournel
Saint-Estèphe
18 points | 2029 to 2045**

Subtle developmental notes at this stage, perceptible aromatic precision, very smooth and fruity in the attack, slowly developing its structure of top-quality tannins, with perceptible but exceptionally well-balanced alcohol; skilfully combines opulence with a touch of elegance.

**Château Cos Labory
Saint-Estèphe**

17.5 points | 2030 to 2040

Interesting nose thanks to the well-balanced use of oak; compact in the attack, densely woven with tart but well-integrated tannins and a lingering finish; once again exceptionally made.

**Château Côte de Baleau
Saint-Émilion**

16 points | 2026 to 2034

Pleasant berry nose, a well-balanced, fruity structure, juicy tannins and a pleasing fruit and spice finish.

**Château Couhins
Pessac-Léognan**

17 points | 2028 to 2036

Very shaped by development and slightly reductive at this early stage, straightforward on the palate with top-quality tannins and a well-integrated complex of sweetness, will mature into an elegant, easy-drinking wine.

**Château Couhins-Lurton
Pessac-Léognan
16 points | 2026 to 2034**

Fruity in the attack, spirited with ripe tannins and good balance; will mature into a reliable, easy-drinking wine.

**Château Couvent des Jacobins
Saint-Émilion**

16 points | 2028 to 2035

Spicy nose, dense and weighty structure with a pleasantly lingering finish; a robust, characterful wine.

**Château Crabitey
Graves**

16.5 points | 2026 to 2033

Top-quality barrel aromas, full in the attack, dense structure, velvety tannins; once again very well balanced and well made.

**Château Croix des Rouzes
Pomerol**

15.5 points | 2026 to 2034

Temptingly spicy and fruity with black berry notes, impressive in the attack with powdery tannins and a lingering finish; robust and characterful.

**Château Croizet-Bages
Pauillac**

16 points | 2027 to 2035

Fruity and spicy nose, robust in the attack, compact development with well-integrated, suitably lingering tannins; good prospects.

D

**Château d'Aiguilhe
Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux**

15 points | 2027 to 2032

Fresh in the attack, firm structure, still shaped by development, thus rather tight in style.

**Château d'Arche Rouge
Graves**

15.5 points | 2023 to 2027

Slender and easy-drinking on the palate, refreshing.

**Château d'Armailhac
Pauillac**

16 points | 2028 to 2035

Weighty in style: the new oak and the rather angular tannins keep the alcohol in check.

**Château d'Escurac
Médoc**

16 points | 2024 to 2032

Full and meaty structure with crisp tannins and perceptible fullness; exceptionally made.

**Château d'Issan
Margaux**

17.5 points | 2030 to 2040

Top-quality tannins, hugely taut and lingering, spirited and sophisticated; could reach 18 points in bottle.

**Château Dalem
Fronsac**

16.5 points | 2028 to 2040

Fruity and crisp with polished tannins and well-balanced alcohol, one of the best wines ever made here.



A real find

Château d'Alix
Pessac-Léognan
17 points | 2026 to 2032

Jean-Nöel Belloc (Château Brondelle) is also behind this wine, which keep pace with the Crus Classés: particularly fruity and wonderfully well balanced in style with caressing tannins, elegant and tempting with well-integrated alcohol, harmonious and sophisticated.

Château Dassault
Saint-Émilion
15.5 points | 2028 to 2035

Tart with angular tannins and perceptible barrel notes. True to style.

Château Dauzac
Margaux
16.5 points | 2028 to 2035

Compact, juicy and fresh, with ripe tannins and a raspberry finish. Enjoyable.

Domaine de Chevalier
Pessac-Léognan
18 points | 2030 to 2040

Offering extract and crisp, fresh tannins that balance out the alcohol well, and a very lingering finish of fresh raspberry notes; on a par with the best vintages.

Château de Ferrand
Saint-Émilion
16 points | 2026 to 2034

Full in the attack, dense development, with perfectly lingering dark chocolate notes.

Château de Fieuzal
Pessac-Léognan
17 points | 2028 to 2035

Pleasingly fruity in the attack, fresh and spirited with ripe, smooth tannins, and perceptible but well-integrated alcohol; very reliable and well made, delicious.

Clos de l'Oratoire
Saint-Émilion
17 points | 2028 to 2035

Substantial and dense with polish and depth, crisp tannins and a fruity finish; particularly successful.

Clos de la Vieille Eglise
Pomerol
16 points | 2026 to 2034

Fruity with a well-balanced structure, smooth with juicy tannins and a pleasantly lingering finish.

Château de Malleret
Haut-Médoc
16 points | 2026 to 2034

Slender in the attack, well-balanced structure, velvety tannins, juicy finish; very well balanced and recommended.

Château de Pez
Saint-Estèphe
16.5 points | 2028 to 2035

Fruity and spicy, fresh in the attack, classic structure with polished tannins and a very lingering, fruity finish, gleaming and fresh.

Château de Sales
Pomerol
17 points | 2025 to 2035

Mocha aromas, polished and juicy despite the fullness, with well-integrated, velvety tannins; will be enjoyable even young.

Clos des Jacobins
Saint-Émilion
15.5 points | 2028 to 2035

Sample heavily shaped by barrel aromas, at the expense of fruitiness and harmony.

Château Desmirail
Margaux
16.5 points | 2028 to 2035

A very oak-driven sample, substantial and weighty on the palate with rather harsh tannins; spirited and heady, currently somewhat at the expense of elegance.

Château Destieux
Saint-Émilion
15.5 points | 2026 to 2034

Straightforward, compact and still rather austere on the palate, tart in the finish.

Château Deyrem Valentin
Margaux
15.5 points | 2030 to 2040

Robust and even rather angular in style, with bare, slightly dry tannins; will gain further polish as it matures.

Le Clos du Beau-Père
Pomerol
16 points | 2024 to 2030

Stewed raspberry aromas, full in the attack with velvety tannins, trendy and appealing.

Clos du Clocher
Pomerol
18 points | 2028 to 2040

Heady and full-bodied, of course, but what class! Absolutely top-quality tannins, mineral and spirited despite the fullness, and an immensely lingering finish: once again exemplary.

Château du Domaine de l'Eglise
Pomerol
17 points | 2028 to 2040

Full-bodied and dense with top-quality tannins, juicy and fresh, mineral with a lingering finish; one of the best wines ever made here!



Purity and power

Château de Pressac
Saint-Émilion
18 points | 2030 to 2050

Utter purity, in other words a pure, unadulterated expression of fruit and terroir, with huge sophistication and power, superbly fresh tannins and impressive length; one of the best vintages from this estate.

Château du Tailhas**Pomerol****15 points | 2025 to 2030**

Robust and rustic in style, yet easy drinking.

Château Durfort-Vivens**Margaux****19.5 points | 2028 to 2045**

A subtle nose as complex as it is delicate, with spice, herb and fresh berry aromas alongside a hint of minerality; silky in the beginning, developing greater transparency thanks to wonderfully smooth yet firm tannins, ending with a very lingering finish of refreshing raspberry notes and no perceptible alcohol: offering particular harmony and complexity.

F

Château Faugères**Saint-Émilion****15.5 points | 2027 to 2035**

Appealing ripe berry nose, spicy in the attack with powerful development and well-integrated tannins; remaining true to its own style.

Château Faurie de Souchard**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2026 to 2034**

Spicy and toasted notes on the nose, well made with polished tannins, in cultivated style.

Château Fayat**Pomerol****15.5 points | 2026 to 2032**

Well made, fruity and spicy in cultivated style; less oak, and thus better balance.

Château Ferrand**Pomerol****15 points | 2026 to 2034**

Spicy herb and spice aromas, fresh in the attack, lively style, with a still bare, tart texture and a very lingering finish.

Château Ferrière**Margaux****18 points | 2030 to 2045**

A complex, floral mineral nose, full and even intense in the attack with particularly dense, full-bodied development via a supporting framework of top-quality tannins, sophisticated and hugely lingering without perceptible alcohol; excellent, should be left to mature.

Château Fleur Cardinale**Saint-Émilion****16.5 points | 2028 to 2034**

Berry and pastry spice aromas, compact and juicy in structure with fresh tannins and well-controlled extract: recommended.



*Bottled nature***Château Fonroque****Saint-Émilion****18 points | 2030 to 2045**

Huge aromatic complexity with fresh herb and floral aromas, juicy in the attack, hugely sophisticated with top-quality, full-bodied tannins; a particularly top-quality, long-lived biodynamic wine that nevertheless needs sufficient time to mature.

Clos Floridène**Graves****16.5 points | 2025 to 2032**

Subtle developmental aromas followed by cherry notes, full in the attack, dense structure, crisp tannins, pleasantly lingering, full, spirited and lively; utterly recommended.

Château Fombrauge Magrez**Saint-Émilion****15.5 points | 2028 to 2035**

Firm style, robust, powerful, fruity and spicy, pleasantly lingering, reliable with good potential to age.

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

Compact, down-to-earth without excessive alcohol, and with robust tannins; an authentic, distinctive wine.

Château Fonplégade**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2030 to 2040**

Powerful, solidly made, with supporting, perceptibly grainy tannins and a perfectly lingering finish: boasting character and potential.

Château Fonréaud**Listrac****17 points | 2027 to 2040**

Tempting, top-quality oak aromas, full in the attack, meaty development with rounded, perfectly integrated tannins and a lingering, juicy, fruity finish with perfectly integrated alcohol; exceptionally made.

Château Fontenil**Fronsac****16 points | 2027 to 2035**

Very shaped by development, full in the attack with definitively polished tannins and a juicy finish.

Clos Fourtet**Saint-Émilion****17.5 points | 2030 to 2040**

Good aromatic potential, fruity touches of forest berries, then compact in the attack, full-bodied with smooth, fresh tannins, impressively spirited, deep and lingering with perfect balance.

Château Franc Mayne**Saint-Émilion****17 points | 2028 to 2035**

This has long been one of the most consistent, authentic Saint-Émilions and astonishes once again with its high level of fruit and its particular juiciness and freshness.

G

Château Gazin**Pomerol****18 points | 2032 to 2040**

Interesting aromatic potential with mineral touches and herb notes, astonishingly juicy with perceptible acidity and robust tannins, hugely dense and lingering. Californian style of many wines, but also impresses as a classic Pomerol.

Château Giscours**Margaux****17 points | 2030 to 2040**

Particularly clean, subtle and fruity on the nose, substantial and full-bodied on the palate, well-structured with still rather bare, harsh tannins.

Château Gloria**Saint-Julien****16 points | 2028 to 2034**

Recently shaped by development, pleasantly slender in style, spirited and fresh with crisp tannins and a well-balanced complex of sweetness; once again successful and recommended in this vintage.

**Château Grand Barrail Lamarzelle
Figeac**

Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2025 to 2033

Compact, well made, fruity and spicy with interesting herb notes, reliable.

Château Grand Corbin

Saint-Émilion

16.5 points | 2028 to 2035

Compact, dense, straightforward, characterful, with body, spirit and depth; we like this a lot.

Château Grand Corbin-Despaigne

Saint-Émilion

17 points | 2028 to 2040

Fresh berry nose, well-proportioned oak, full-bodied, juicy with crisp tannins that balance out the fullness well; one of the best vintages from this estate.

Château Grand-Pontet

Saint-Émilion

15.5 points | 2028 to 2035

A corpulent, very heady structure with robust, tart tannins and pleasantly lingering aromas.

Château Grand-Puy Ducasse

Pauillac

17 points | 2030 to 2040

Top-quality oak aromas, powerful, dense, hugely spirited with polished, mineral tannins and a perfectly lingering finish, well-integrated alcohol.

Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste

Pauillac

19 points | 2032 to 2050

Particularly complex aromas with floral and delicately spicy touches, impressively sophisticated with top-class tannins, exquisitely fresh and lingering, once again one of the top buys of the vintage.

H, J, K

Château Haut-Bages Libéral

Pauillac

17.5 points | 2028 to 2040

Fresh cherry and mineral spice aromas, velvety in the attack, juicy development with crisp tannins, lingering, outstanding.

Château Haut-Bailly

Pessac-Léognan

19 points | 2030 to 2050

Precise spice and fresh berry aromas, silky and fruity, with bewitching elegance and transparency despite the fullness, perfectly integrated alcohol with tannins boasting mineral polish; superb.



Unique character

**Château Jean Faure
Saint-Émilion**

17.5 points | 2027 to 2035

We like the particular floral and herb nose, but also the particular spirit and freshness, the juiciness, and the unique character of this one. One of our favourites from 2020.

Château Haut-Bailly, HB.II

Pessac-Léognan

17 points | 2026 to 2034

Compact and dense with perceptible but well-integrated alcohol and top-quality tannins that are just slightly dry in the finish; exceptional for a second wine.

Château Haut-Brion

Pessac-Léognan

18 points | 2032 to 2050

Hints of spice, berry and herb on the nose, displaying volume and meatiness right from the attack, lots of tannin, impressively polished with a lively finish; a top-class Haut-Brion in the style of the vintage.

Château Haut-Brion, Le Clarence

Pessac-Léognan

16 points | 2026 to 2030

Has developed a spirited, tart style, with just the alcohol proving a little disruptive in the finish. Leave to age for a while.

Château Haut-Ferrand

Pomerol

15 points | 2028 to 2035

Shaped by acidity in the attack, with a still bare yet dense texture.

Château Haut-Maillet

Pomerol

15.5 points | 2026 to 2032

Fruity and juicy, full-bodied and robust, but not rustic; one of the best wines we have ever tasted from here.

Château Haut-Sarpe

Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2030 to 2040

A robust, full-bodied wine with substance and depth, angular tannins, hugely taut and lingering; characterful, needs to mature.

Château Hosanna

Pomerol

17 points | 2028 to 2040

Hugely cultivated with its perfectly proportioned new oak aromas, boasting not just fullness but also polish and the beginnings of elegance. It may be somewhat non-committal compared with other top wines from the producer, but that also means that it will be enjoyed more widely.

Château Kirwan

Margaux

16.5 points | 2028 to 2035

Particularly fruity nose, rather herbaceous style on the palate, but therefore refreshing, easy-drinking and not overly weighty.

L

Clos l'Eglise

Pomerol

15.5 points | 2029 to 2034

High in extract, as is its style, with a compact structure and perceptible alcohol, but well-integrated oak.

Château l'Enclos

Pomerol

16.5 points | 2026 to 2034

Fruity and tempting with well-proportioned oak, full in the attack with dense, fresh development, top-quality tannins and a perfectly lingering finish.

Château la Cabanne

Pomerol

15 points | 2026 to 2034

Spicy herb nose, in lively, tart style with a fresh, pleasantly lingering finish.

Château la Commanderie

Pomerol

15.5 points | 2026 to 2032

Classic structure, full-bodied with lively tannins, pleasantly lingering, fresh and sophisticated.

**Château la Commanderie
Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2028 to 2034**

Fruity and spicy with grainy yet fresh tannins and a dark chocolate finish.

**Château la Couspaude
Saint-Émilion****15 points | 2027 to 2034**

Perceptible oak spice with minty touches, dominated by development.

**Château la Création
Pomerol****16 points | 2026 to 2034**

Temptingly spicy and fruity, dense, crisp, with smooth, fresh tannins and a lingering finish of lovely berry notes.

**Château la Croix
Pomerol****17 points | 2028 to 2035**

Offering structure, harmony, density, length and an attack brimming with elegance and freshness; stylish.

**Château la Croix de Gay
Pomerol****16 points | 2026 to 2034**

Compact and well made with polished tannins; an honest wine in the style of the vintage.

**Château la Croix du Casse
Pomerol****17 points | 2026 to 2035**

Hugely fresh despite the fullness, and top-quality tannins, very harmonious.

**Château la Croix Saint-Georges
Pomerol****17 points | 2028 to 2040**

Dense with top-quality tannins, well-controlled fullness, and a smouldering headiness that only comes through in the finish.

**Château la Croix Toulifaut
Pomerol****16 points | 2024 to 2030**

Very classic in its slender, fruity style, its balance, and the freshness of its tannins; straightforward.

**Château la Dominique
Saint-Émilion****17 points | 2028 to 2040**

Initially very shaped by development, but much fruitier once swirled, then full in the attack with very heady development, top-quality tannins and a hugely fruity finish; only the still rather bare alcohol is slightly disruptive at this stage. Nevertheless, outstandingly made: development will do it good.

**Château la Fleur de Gay
Pomerol****16.5 points | 2026 to 2032**

Mocha and berry nose, dense development with polished tannins and a pleasantly lingering finish with headiness that is perceptible but does not dominate: in keeping with its style.

**Château la Fleur Morange
Saint-Émilion****15 points | 2027 to 2033**

Robust in the attack, medium bodied with a tart, still slightly dry finish.

**Château la Fleur Pétrus
Pomerol****17 points | 2028 to 2035**

Weighty in the attack with corpulent development into crisp yet velvety tannins and a lingering, heady finish; more power than elegance, but exceptionally made.

**Château la Gaffelière
Saint-Émilion****18 points | 2028 to 2040**

New barrel and raspberry aromas, silky in the attack, velvety development, top-quality tannins, hugely lingering; perfect balance.

*A bio boost***Château la Lagune
Haut-Médoc****18 points | 2030 to 2045**

Biodynamic wines like these are taking the lead in 2020: huge aromatic complexity thanks to berry and floral notes, particular minerality and spirit, taut with a distinct character, true to its terroir – a must.

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

Meaty and juicy on the palate with rounded tannins but perceptible headiness in the finish.

**Château la Grave
Pomerol****15 points | 2026 to 2032**

Spicy with black berry notes and a tart, medium structure, characterful.

**Château la Gurgue
Margaux****16.5 points | 2026 to 2034**

Tempting lilac and berry nose, developing density and depth thanks to top-class tannins, perfectly proportioned alcohol and a fruity finish; getting better and better!

**Château la Marzelle
Saint-Émilion****17 points | 2028 to 2036**

In cultivated style, polished and fresh with excellent balance; delicate even in this vintage, an excellent wine.

**Château la Mission Haut-Brion, La
Chapelle****Pessac-Léognan****16 points | 2025 to 2032**

A fruity nose with herbal touches, full-bodied, juicy with perfectly integrated tannins and a fruity, heady finish; the best Chapelle in recent years!

**Château la Mission Haut-Brion
Pessac-Léognan****17.5 points | 2030 to 2045**

Top-quality development notes, developing volume thanks to its present, top-quality, well-integrated tannins and substantial, perceptible and heady finish; needs to mature.

**Château la Mondotte
Saint-Émilion****17.5 points | 2028 to 2040**

Floral oak aromas, particularly sophisticated with top-quality tannins and well-integrated alcohol, taut and lingering, impeccably made.

**Château la Pointe
Pomerol****16 points | 2026 to 2032**

Full-bodied and appealing with velvety tannins and perceptible but well-integrated oak.

**Château la Renaissance
Pomerol****15 points | 2025 to 2032**

Robust, angular tannins and a rather oak-driven finish.

Château la Serre
Saint-Émilion

17 points | 2030 to 2040

Very shaped by development, full-bodied, rich in extract, even weighty, in the style of the vintage, exceptionally made, with top-quality tannins and well-integrated alcohol.

Château la Tour-Carnet
Haut-Médoc

16 points | 2028 to 2035

Compact in style with robust, even angular, herbaceous, barely ripe tannins.

Château la Tour de Mons
Margaux

15.5 points | 2026 to 2034

Shaped by development, spicy with fruity and herbal aromas, tart structure, neatly lingering, characterful.

Château la Tour-Figeac
Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2026 to 2034

Fresh berry aromas, compact yet juicy, as rounded as a ball, made from crisp berries with angular tannins and well-integrated headiness.



Bewitching balance

Château Langoa-Barton
Saint-Julien

17.5 points | 2028 to 2040

Bewitchingly fruity and smooth with top-quality tannins and a hugely lingering finish, and perceptible alcohol that nevertheless disrupts the excellent balance: as always, underappreciated!

Château la Tyre
Madiran

18 points | 2035 to 2050

Huge aromatic sophistication, weighty in the attack, developing headiness, spirit and immense density with an endlessly lingering finish; an archetypal wine of huge precision, particularly in terms of the quality of the tannins, which offer a minerality that balances out the alcohol perfectly.

Château la Violette
Pomerol

16 points | 2026 to 2032

As always particularly floral on the nose, dense and corpulent yet also with pleasing freshness, very appealing, and definitely a must for fans of this wine.

Château Labégorce
Margaux

16.5 points | 2025 to 2035

Full in the attack with a dense, even meaty structure, polished tannins and a fruity finish.

Château Lafleur du Roy
Pomerol

15.5 points | 2026 to 2034

Corpulent in the attack with perceptibly grainy tannins and a lingering finish; a classic.

Château Lafleur-Gazin
Pomerol

16.5 points | 2027 to 2034

Temptingly fruity on the nose, creamy in the attack, well balanced, full-bodied, with smooth tannins and a fruity, juicy finish; pleasingly sophisticated.

Château Lafon-Rochet
Saint-Estèphe

17 points | 2028 to 2040

Impresses not with bulk, but with its particular fruitiness and freshness, its silky tannins, its sensuality and its huge harmony.

Château Lagrange
Saint-Julien

17 points | 2030 to 2040

Very shaped by development at this stage, and thus rather closed; compact and dense in the attack, developing rather bare, angular tannins that nevertheless balance out the alcohol well. Should gain greater harmony as it matures.

Château Lagrange à Pomerol
Pomerol

16.5 points | 2026 to 2032

A substantial, velvety, even meaty wine, still shaped by development yet very harmonious: a top-quality, authentic Pomerol.



Precision and inspiration

Château Laroze
Saint-Émilion

17.5 points | 2030 to 2040

A pastry spice and herb nose shaped by development, full-bodied, velvety, with polished tannins but also depth and length; precisely defined, once again exceptionally made.

Château Laniote
Saint-Émilion

15 points | 2026 to 2034

Perceptible extract, bare tannins, tart finish; still shaped by development.

Château Larcis Ducasse
Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2028 to 2036

Very shaped by development, more compact than lingering, with robust, even angular tannins but well-integrated alcohol.

Château Laroque
Saint-Émilion

17 points | 2030 to 2040

Shaped by development with hints of top-quality oak; full in the attack with immensely dense, juicy development and crisp, top-quality tannins, impressively deep and lingering.

Château Lascombes
Margaux

17.5 points | 2028 to 2040

Floral nose with no perceptible oak, full in the attack, juicy development, and a concentrated set of top-quality tannins that balance out the smouldering headiness well; one of the best wines of recent years, worth 18 points in bottle!

Château Latour à Pomerol**Pomerol****17 points | 2028 to 2035**

Violet and berry aromas rounded out well by the oak, full-bodied, velvety, impressively lingering, pleasantly opulent.

Château Latour-Martillac**Pessac-Léognan****17 points | 2028 to 2040**

Nose shaped by development, high extract but with top-quality, hugely precise tannins and perceptible but not dominant alcohol, and a particularly fruity, fresh finish. One of the best wines we have ever tasted from here.

Château le Bon Pasteur**Pomerol****16 points | 2026 to 2034**

Polished tannins rounded out well by the spicy oak; appealing and reliable.

Château le Boscq**Saint-Estèphe****15.5 points | 2026 to 2034**

Rich in extract, juicy, more compact than lingering, very shaped by development; true to its style.

Château le Caillou**Pomerol****15.5 points | 2025 to 2032**

Perceptible freshness right from the attack, in lively, slender style.

Château le Chatelet**Saint-Émilion****16.5 points | 2028 to 2035**

Dark chocolate aromas, elegant, densely woven, well balanced with fine-grained tannins and a lingering finish; very cultivated and utterly recommended.

Château le Chemin**Pomerol****16.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Perceptible oak, a high level of fruit, dense and full, fresh and lingering; generous.

Château le Gay**Pomerol****15 points | 2025 to 2030**

The sweet oak notes and the heady finish unfortunately match what we feel to be the rather ostentatious style of recent years.

Château le Pape**Pessac-Léognan****16 points | 2025 to 2032**

In joyful, full-bodied style, rounded and velvety, juicy in the attack with perceptible but not disruptive alcohol; fun.

Château le Prieuré**Saint-Émilion****16.5 points | 2028 to 2040**

Temptingly fruity nose, dense in the attack, well-balanced development, with polished, fresh tannins and a peppery finish.

Château Lécuyer**Pomerol****15.5 points | 2026 to 2032**

Juicy style on the palate with fresh, crisp tannins and perceptible alcohol.

Château Léoville Barton**Saint-Julien****18 points | 2030 to 2045**

Particularly sophisticated and complex right from the nose, with hints of berry, flowers and spice; weighty and opulent but also very spirited, borne up by top-quality tannins and refreshing acidity.

Château Léoville Poyferré**Saint-Julien****17.5 points | 2030 to 2045**

Weighty in the attack with high but well-controlled extract and top-quality tannins; impeccable, in keeping with the vintage, remaining true to its style.



The ten-euro bargain

Château Lestage**Listrac****16 points | 2027 to 2040**

This exceptional Listrac shows that Bordeaux does not have to be expensive.

Sophisticated and polished with well-controlled fullness and aromatic complexity, classy! The best wine we have ever tasted from here.

Château les Grandes Murailles**Saint-Émilion****16 points | 2026 to 2034**

Fresh in the attack, straightforward development, crisp with tart but well-integrated tannins, pleasantly lingering, stylish.

Château Lestage**Listrac****16 points | 2027 to 2040**

Sophisticated and polished with well-controlled fullness and aromatic complexity, classy! The best wine we have ever tasted from here.

Château Lousteauneuf**Médoc****15 points | 2028 to 2035**

Perceptible oak spice, robust, tart with a still rather bare structure, very lingering.

Château Lousteauneuf, Le Grand**Médoc****15.5 points | 2030 to 2035**

Smoky with some black berry aromas, intense, with perceptible extract and bulky, angular tannins; an amphora wine as substantial as it is idiosyncratic.

Château Lynch-Moussas**Pauillac****17 points | 2028 to 2040**

Present caramel aromas from new barrels, but dominated by berry notes on the palate with polished tannins and a heady, fruity finish. Appealing and reliable.

M, O**Château Maillet****Pomerol****15.5 points | 2028 to 2035**

Perceptible oak spice, concentrated with a powerful structure, dense with tart tannins.

Château Malartic-Lagravière**Pessac-Léognan****17.5 points | 2030 to 2040**

A distinctive character once again in this vintage thanks to huge density and sophistication, top-quality tannins, taut and lingering with a perceptible but well-integrated complex of sweetness. Worth 18 points in the bottle.

Château Malescot Saint-Exupéry**Margaux****18 points | 2030 to 2040**

Tempting floral and berry nose, particularly taut and spirited with immensely crisp tannins and a hugely lingering fruity finish; particularly successful, characterful, spirited and sophisticated.

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

Combines charm and delicacy with huge freshness, spirit and structure with fullness, all in unparalleled balance, creating a hugely precise effect; a textbook Margaux on a par with the best wines ever produced here.

Château Margaux Pavillon Rouge**Margaux****18 points | 2026 to 2035**

Reticent red berry nose, very fruity in the attack, developing huge freshness but also particular density and depth via top-quality tannins and a hugely lingering fruity finish; one of the best Pavillon Rouge's ever, very similar to the Château in terms of style.

Château Marquis d'Alesme Becker**Margaux****16.5 points | 2028 to 2035**

Top-quality oak notes, compact and intense in the attack, tart development with rather coarse-grained, bare tannins that somewhat shape the fruity, fresh finish; will gain more polish as it matures.

Château Marquis de Terme**Margaux****17.5 points | 2030 to 2040**

A reticent, slightly reductive nose that then gains fruitiness, rounded and fruity in the attack, juicy development with a structure of fresh, crisp, perfectly ripe tannins; despite the smouldering but well-padded headiness, this is once again a real Margaux classic in this vintage.

Clos Marsalette**Pessac-Léognan****15.5 points | 2026 to 2032**

Straightforward with lively but still rather tightly knit tannins, very lingering, well made.

Château Mauvesin Barton**Moulis en Médoc****16 points | 2028 to 2035**

Lively in style with a still bare yet dense and crisp texture and a pleasantly lingering, fruity finish.

Château Mazeyres**Pomerol****17 points | 2028 to 2035**

An interesting, tempting nose of berry and pastry spice aromas, in fruity, elegant, yet also transparently fruity style, particularly fresh and in perfect balance: an exquisite wine for true connoisseurs, a must once again this year!

Château Meyney**Saint-Estèphe****17 points | 2030 to 2045**

Developmental notes and pastry spice, meaty structure, with top-quality supporting tannins with no hint of harshness, and a fruity and juicy finish.

Château Monbrison**Margaux****17.5 points | 2030 to 2045**

Subtle developmental aromas of top-quality oak, full in the attack with immensely fruity development, polished tannins and a wonderful, delicious raspberry jelly finish; stylish and typical of the vintage, exceptionally made. Worth 18 points in the bottle.

Château Monregard la Croix**Pomerol****15.5 points | 2025 to 2030**

Smooth and well balanced with fresh tannins and a fruity finish; fun.

Château Montus Prestige**Madiran****17.5 points | 2030 to 2045**

Reticent aromas of top-quality development, perceptible volume right from the attack, a high level of fruit thanks to top-quality tannins, and a heady finish; spirited and juicy, balancing out the alcohol well, very successful.

Château Montviel**Pomerol****15.5 points | 2024 to 2028**

Fruity and elegant, juicy, fresh and very lingering; will be enjoyable from an early stage.

Château Moulin du Cadet**Saint-Émilion****16.5 points | 2028 to 2040**

Tempting red berry nose, refreshing in the attack, straightforward on the palate with lively tannins, perfectly lingering, fresh, spirited and offering potential.

Château Mouton-Rothschild**Pauillac****18 points | 2030 to 2050**

Opulence, fruitiness, juiciness and sophistication are all Mouton-Rothschild trademarks and appear once again in this vintage; the tannins are top quality, the development is subtle, and the wine as a whole is very harmonious.

Château Mouton-Rothschild, Petit**Mouton****Pauillac****16.5 points | 2025 to 2035**

Still shaped by development, opulent, full-bodied and heady, in the style of the top wine.



Another hit price!

Château Olivier**Pessac-Léognan****17.5 points | 2028 to 2040**

A tempting chocolate and cherry nose, full in the attack with a juicy structure, top-quality mineral and polished tannins, and a fruity finish; once again exceptional and absolutely recommended – less than 30 euros!

P**Château Pape Clément****Pessac-Léognan****18 points | 2030 to 2040**

A tempting, particularly fruity nose, rich in extract but made entirely from berry fruit, with top-quality tannins and particular freshness, depth and sophistication.

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

High levels of extract but also well-integrated oak and good balance, rather more non-committal than the characterful Fonbadet, but meticulously made.

Château Pavie-Macquin**Saint-Émilion****18 points | 2032 to 2050**

A remarkably complex nose with interesting herb notes, intense and juicy in style, hugely deep, dense and lingering with fruity notes reminiscent of pink grapefruit; outstanding if it is like this in bottle.

Château Péby Faugères
Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2028 to 2035

Imposing right from the attack, full-bodied, with impressive depth, polished with smooth tannins and a lingering finish.

Château Pédesclaux

Pauillac

17 points | 2028 to 2035

As round as a ball, with well-integrated tannins; excellently made, authentic with the features of the vintage.

Château Petit Faurie de Soutard
Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2026 to 2034

Slender in the attack, well-balanced structure, lively tannins, pleasantly lingering, appealing.

Château Petit-Village

Pomerol

17 points | 2026 to 2034

Corpulent and heady on the palate with perfectly ripe and velvety tannins; however, the sweetness of fruit and the alcohol significantly dominate.

Château Pey La Tour

Bordeaux

15 points | 2024 to 2028

Very successful in its own league, compact and fruity, well-structured and juicy.

Château Peymouton

Saint-Émilion

15.5 points | 2025 to 2030

Silky with smooth, fresh tannins, lingering.

Château Pichon Baron

Pauillac

18 points | 2033 to 2040

A reticent aromatic expression, intense, immensely dense with particular depth, superbly polished tannins and well-balanced headiness, stylish: there could be no better expression of the vintage and typical style.

Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande

Pauillac

17.5 points | 2030 to 2045

Perceptible extract, yet also very juicy and fresh with top-quality tannins: impressive, but currently rather at the expense of elegance and style due to the vintage.

Château Pichon Lalande

Réserve de la Comtesse Pauillac

16 points | 2024 to 2028

Fruity, slender, elegant, smooth.

Château Pierhem

Pomerol

15.5 points | 2026 to 2034

Well-balanced use of oak, powerful structure, with perceptibly grainy, fresh tannins.

Château Plince

Pomerol

15.5 points | 2024 to 2028

Lots of oak on the nose and the palate, perceptible alcohol but ripe, rounded tannins, appealing.

Château Plincette

Pomerol

15 points | 2026 to 2032

Spicy in the attack, straightforward on the palate, refreshing, with robust tannins and a delicately bitter finish.

Château Pontet-Canet

Pauillac

19.5 points | 2028 to 2050

Particularly refined nose with floral and delicate herb aromas plus some pastry spice, immensely fruity in the attack with juicy development, seamlessly dense and top-quality tannins, and perfectly proportioned, barely perceptible alcohol: a full-bodied, velvety Pontet-Canet that does not deny its vintage and is therefore a little more erratic than the 2019, but offers no less sophistication.

Château Porte Chic

Pomerol

15.5 points | 2026 to 2032

Well made with lively tannins, ending with lovely raspberry notes; recommended.

Château Pouget

Margaux

16 points | 2028 to 2036

Compact, tart, juicy, with still rather angular tannins; reliable and well made.

Château Poujeaux

Moulis

16.5 points | 2028 to 2035

Tempting nose, fruity and spicy, then fresh in the attack, firm style, full-bodied with powdery tannins and a lingering finish; utterly appealing.

Château Prieuré-Lichine

Margaux

17.5 points | 2028 to 2035

Once again offering particular charm, with a precise expression of fruit, silky and polished tannins, and perfect proportions without dominant alcohol; in this vintage, illustrates once again what Margaux is. 18 points are within arm's reach.

Q, R

Château Quintus

Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2026 to 2032

Interesting herb spice on the nose together with liquorice and tea aromas, full in the attack with smooth development and firm, polished tannins, with just the heady finish disrupting the harmony somewhat.

Château Quintus, Le Dragon

Saint-Émilion

15 points | 2023 to 2026

Heady yet also sophisticated, with smooth tannins; should not be left to age for too long.

Château Rahoul

Graves

16 points | 2025 to 2035

Full-bodied and meaty with a supporting framework of tannins, a fruity finish and well-proportioned oak; recommended.

Château Rauzan-Gassies

Margaux

17 points | 2028 to 2040

Offering fruity elegance with tannins that are top-quality but slightly roughened by oak at this stage.

Château Rauzan-Gassies, Gassis

Margaux

15.5 points | 2025 to 2032

Tempting, fruity, smooth.

Château Rauzan-Ségla

Margaux

17.5 points | 2030 to 2040

A complex nose, elegant in the attack with full development and robust, polished tannins that also ensure particular depth, and a heady but not stinging finish; once again hugely sophisticated, combining headiness with spirit yet still displaying the beginnings of elegance. 18 points are within arm's reach.

Château Rauzan-Ségla, Ségla

Margaux

16 points | 2024 to 2028

Immensely fruity and as rounded as a ball, refreshing, exceptionally made: already very enjoyable at this early stage.

Clos René

Pomerol

16 points | 2028 to 2035

Interesting herb and berry nose, meaty development with a foundation of tart, rather harsh tannins and a heady finish; will gain more harmony as it develops.

Château Reynon
Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux
15.5 points | 2021 to 2023

Blackberry nose, juicy, compact, pleasantly lingering with smooth tannins; fun, illustrating that this has also been a successful vintage in lesser-known areas.

Château Ripeau
Saint-Émilion
15 points | 2028 to 2035

Perceptible oak spice, robust in the attack with a compact, rather harsh finish.

Château Rochebelle
Saint-Émilion
15.5 points | 2028 to 2032

Perceptible oak spice, with a straightforward structure and pleasantly lingering finish.

S

Château Sacré Coeur
Pomerol

15 points | 2027 to 2034

Perceptible extract, slightly angular tannins and a rather abrupt finish. Needs to mature.

Château Saint-Georges Côte Pavie
Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2026 to 2034

Cassis aromas, refreshing with smooth, taut tannins and a pleasantly lingering finish.

Clos Saint-Martin
Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2028 to 2034

Fruity in the attack with rich, juicy development and a pleasantly lingering finish.

Château Saint-Pierre
Pomerol

15.5 points | 2026 to 2034

An appealing, fruity nose, full in the attack, full-bodied style with the freshness it needs, and a tart, spicy finish; enjoyable.

Château Sansonnet
Saint-Émilion
18 points | 2030 to 2040

As in 2019, absolutely astonishing class, with pure fruit, immense juiciness, extract, top-quality tannins and yet exceptional balance. One of the genuine hits, because all of the superficial frills and the wine's essence are dominated by the pure juice from the vine.

Château Séraphine
Pomerol
15 points | 2027 to 2033

Taut thanks to the lively tannins.

Château Siran
Margaux
16 points | 2028 to 2040

Subtle developmental nose with well-integrated tannins and a rather stinging finish.

Château Sociando-Mallet
Haut-Médoc

16.5 points | 2030 to 2035

Sophisticated, full and hugely dense thanks to top-quality, tart tannins and admittedly perceptible but well-integrated alcohol. Leave to mature.

Château Soutard
Saint-Émilion

16.5 points | 2025 to 2032

Designed for easy drinking with its almost exemplary fruitiness, appealing, refreshing, perfectly balanced: will be enjoyable from an early stage.

Château Soutard Cadet
Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2026 to 2032

Spicy nose of black berry aromas, refreshing in the attack, straightforward on the palate, solidly built, tart.

T

Château Taillefer
Pomerol

15.5 points | 2026 to 2032

Straightforward, fruity, with powdery tannins.

Château Talbot
Saint-Julien

16.5 points | 2028 to 2038

In robust and compact style with tart, even rather angular tannins and a perceptibly heady finish, in keeping with the vintage: should gain greater polish as it matures.

Château Tessendey
Fronsac

15 points | 2024 to 2028

Particularly fruity with smooth tannins, well balanced and appealing.

Château Tour Maillet
Pomerol

15.5 points | 2026 to 2032

Crisp style with tart, well-integrated tannins and a lingering finish; characterful.

Château Troplong Mondot
Saint-Émilion

17.5 points | 2026 to 2034

A promising, reticent nose, particularly fruity and juicy in style in the attack, but boasting

substance and depth, with the alcohol skilfully balanced out by the top-quality tannins; exceptionally made, polished, could achieve 18 points.

Château Trotanoy
Pomerol

19 points | 2034 to 2050

As always very reticent with delicate minerality and floral and berry aromas, beginning in direct, immensely dense style before developing immense depth, perceptible headiness, huge spirit and a lingering finish; a magnificent wine.

V

Château Valandraud
Saint-Émilion

17 points | 2026 to 2034

As always very cultivated and shaped by new oak, full in the attack, juicy development, rounded tannins and a heady finish; impeccably made in its non-committal style.

Château Vieux Maillet
Pomerol

16 points | 2028 to 2035

Intense nose, compact, spicy with fine-grained tannins and a lingering fresh finish; a perfectly balanced wine.

Château Villars
Fronsac

15.5 points | 2027 to 2035

Reticent developmental nose, compact in the attack with full-bodied development, tart and angular tannins, and a heady, fruity finish.

Château Villemaurine
Saint-Émilion

16.5 points | 2028 to 2040

Fruity nose, meaty in the attack, rich structure, well balanced with well-integrated tannins and a juicy, crisp finish; an enjoyable wine guaranteed to please.

Château Vray Croix de Gay
Pomerol

17 points | 2028 to 2035

Pleasantly classic in style with a healthy tartness, in other words not rustic or dominated by alcohol, juicy and lingering: expressing terroir and style better than many other wines.

Château Yon-Figeac
Saint-Émilion

16 points | 2028 to 2035

Intense nose, creamy in the attack, well-balanced structure with full-bodied, smooth tannins and a lingering finish, fresh and spirited, utterly enjoyable.

Sweet wines from

SAUTERNES/BARSAC

Château Cantegril

16 points | 2022 to 2030

Stewed rhubarb aromas, rounded structure, supporting freshness, already enjoyable.

Château Coutet

17 points | 2025 to 2035

Closed as is often the case at this stage, oily, well-structured, one of the few wines from this vintage that should be left to mature.

Château d'Arche

15.5 points | 2022 to 2026

Lovely candied fruit nose, rounded on the palate with a well-balanced interplay between sweetness and acidity.

Château d'Arche, Cuvée Arche-Lafaurie

16.5 points | 2022 to 2030

Much more spirited than the 'plain' wine and offering particularly fruity freshness, ending with delicious fruit salad notes.



A successful renaissance

Château Doisy-Dubroca

17 points | 2023 to 2030

Tempting fresh pear nose, very juicy and oily on the palate yet also particularly fresh, hugely lingering and strikingly transparent: excellent, best enjoyed young. A successful renaissance for this classified estate.

Château de Myrat

17 points | 2024 to 2030

Dense, juicy, spirited with a lingering, fruit-driven finish; a fantastic success.

Château de Rayne Vigneau

16.5 points | 2025 to 2032

Oily texture, distinct sweetness, and the raisin and lemon tea finish typical of the vintage: like a Trockenbeereauslese.

Château Doisy-Daëne

17 points | 2025 to 2035

Complex nose with a hint of botrytis, juicy structure with well-proportioned sweetness; once again substantial in this vintage.

Château Doisy-Daëne, L'Extravagant

17 points | 2023 to 2028

Oily and meaty with well-integrated sweetness, supported by a barely perceptible, subtle bitter note; could mature somewhat.

Château Doisy-Védrières

17 points | 2025 to 2034

A very promising, subtle nose of floral, herb and stewed pear aromas; once again very sophisticated in this vintage, slender yet dense with well-integrated sweetness, and a lemon tea and stewed fruit finish in keeping with the vintage.

Château Filhot

15 points | 2024 to 2028

Rather intrusive developmental nose that also shapes the impression on the palate, thus rather dry alongside the well-proportioned sweetness.

Clos Haut-Peyraguey

17 points | 2022 to 2028

In immensely fruity, slender style, but with body, already elegant and harmonious.

Château Lafaurie-Peyraguey

17.5 points | 2025 to 2035

An interesting floral and fruity nose of stewed pear with a hint of mint; full in the attack with dense development and well-integrated sweetness. Suitable for laying down.

Château Lamothe Guignard

15 points | 2023 to 2028

Raisin and dried fruit aromas, rounded on the palate with well-proportioned sweetness.



Top-quality sweetness

Château Guiraud

18 points | 2024 to 2034

Tempting, varying notes of herbs, flowers and spice, crystal clear in the attack, developing fullness that is nevertheless supported by stunning freshness to create a delicious whole, uplifting, transparent yet complex: the best sweet wine of the vintage.

Château Nairac

16 points | 2023 to 2028

Fruity with well-proportioned sweetness, appealing and utterly in keeping with the vintage, will be enjoyable young.

Château Romer

16.5 points | 2023 to 2028

Enjoyably fruity, perfectly proportioned with good balance between sweetness and freshness: recommended.

Château Romer du Hayot

16 points | 2024 to 2028

Dried fruit and honey aromas, oily with a preserved pear finish, successful.

Château Suduiraut

16 points | 2025 to 2032

Offering oily fullness, perceptible volume, and a finish of honey, raisin and dried fruit

DRY WHITE WINES



Huge aromatic sophistication

Château Couhins
Pessac-Léognan
17.5 points | 2025 to 2035

Particularly juicy and dense in style, hugely mineral and fresh, particularly taut and lingering. Excellent.

Château Bouscaut
Pessac-Léognan
16 points | 2024 to 2028

Well balanced, fruity, slender, with a refreshing lemon tea finish.

Château Brondelle
Graves
16 points | 2022 to 2028

Full-bodied, juicy and pleasantly lingering; reliable and well made.

Château Cantenac-Brown, Alto
Bordeaux
15 points | 2022 to 2023

Very shaped by development with pastry spice aromas, compact, as always very spicy with a pleasantly lingering finish.

Château Carbonnieux
Pessac-Léognan
18 points | 2026 to 2040

Combining minerality with spirit, density with volume, fruitiness with floral touches, huge tautness with a lingering finish.

Château Couhins-Lurton
Pessac-Léognan

18 points | 2025 to 2040

A floral nose of blackcurrant blossom, particularly mineral and spirited, taut and lingering, very true to its terroir.

Château Coutet, Opale
Bordeaux

16 points | 2023 to 2026

Sophisticated, taut and lingering.

Château Crabitey
Graves

17 points | 2023 to 2029

Green pear and citrus fruit; juicy, taut and lingering, utterly recommended.

Château d'Alix
Pessac-Léognan

17 points | 2023 to 2032

Lime blossom, mint and lemon nose; not just aromatically complex but also particularly delicate with silky acidity and huge elegance, a subtle, absolutely pure wine.

Château d'Arche, Blanc Sec
Bordeaux

15.5 points | 2023 to 2028

In compact, juicy, even rather powerful style, well-structured and refreshing.

Domaine de Chevalier
Pessac-Léognan

17.5 points | 2026 to 2035

Peach and herb aromas, spirited and dense with a delicate, elegant bitter touch and a very weighty, lingering finish.

Château de Fieuzal
Pessac-Léognan

17 points | 2023 to 2028

Mirabelle plum and lime blossom on the nose, with a juicy, dense structure and good balance between fullness and freshness.

Château Doisy Daëne, Sec
Bordeaux Sec

16 points | 2025 to 2030

Boxwood aromas very typical of Sauvignon, tart and robust with perceptible acidity.

Château du Tertre Blanc
Vin de France

16 points | 2022 to 2024

Aromatic and well balanced, will be enjoyable young.

Clos Floridène
Graves

17.5 points | 2024 to 2034

Huge density and depth, and a wonderfully juicy, lingering finish of pear and grapefruit.

Château Haut-Brion Blanc
Pessac-Léognan

17 points | 2024 to 2030

Citrus fruit and spice on the nose, full in the attack with a bulky structure, supporting framework and delicately bitter finish; sophisticated.

Château Haut-Brion, Clarté
Pessac-Léognan

16 points | 2023 to 2026

Notes of toast, stone fruit and peach, compact and juicy, lingering, with structure, headiness and freshness.

Château Haut-Brion, Clarendelle
Bordeaux

15.5 points | 2021 to 2023

Perceptible fullness, silky texture, lingering finish; appealing, a perfect food wine.



Huge aromatic sophistication

Château Fonréaud, Le Cygne
Bordeaux Sec

16.5 points | 2022 to 2026

Delicious, juicy, refreshing, easy-drinking, aromatic. Enjoy young: guaranteed to delight.



Character and spice

Château Sigalas Rabaud, Sémillante Bordeaux Sec
16.5 points | 2026 to 2035

Interesting aromatic potential with its lime blossom and lemon tea notes, spirited and well-structured, heady, taut and dense; one of the most highly recommended white wines from here thanks to its spice and its particular character.

Château la Garde Pessac-Léognan

15.5 points | 2026 to 2034

Rather tight, compact and tart in style, well-structured, needs to mature.

Château la Mission Haut-Brion Pessac-Léognan

19 points | 2026 to 2040

Complex nose of herb, floral and exotic fruit aromas, compact and dense in the attack, developing volume and mineral structure, with a crisp, juicy, immensely lingering finish; the best dry white of the vintage.

Château Lafaurie-Peyraguey Sec Bordeaux Sec

16 points | 2025 to 2030

Straightforward, well-structured, tart, with a fruit, herb and spice finish; needs to mature somewhat.

Château Lagrange, Arum Bordeaux Sec

16.5 points | 2022 to 2025

Well-structured with lemony acidity, juicy, compact rather than lingering, fun.

Château la Tour-Carnet, Le Blanc Bordeaux

15.5 points | 2025 to 2030

Spirited with rather sharp acidity.

Château Latour-Martillac Pessac-Léognan

17 points | 2028 to 2035

Compact and full-bodied, well-structured, juicy, heady and impressively lingering.

Château Lestage, La Mouette Bordeaux

15.5 points | 2022 to 2024

Fruity and juicy, compact and fresh, well made, enjoyable.

Château Malartic-Lagravière Pessac-Léognan

17 points | 2024 to 2030

Lively and juicy in style, immensely tonic, fruity, heady and lingering.

Clos Marsalette Pessac-Léognan

15.5 points | 2022 to 2024

A lovely mint and white peach nose, compact, well-structured yet well-rounded in style.

Château Mouton-Rothschild, Aile d'Argent Bordeaux Sec

17 points | 2024 to 2030

Meaty and juicy on the palate, well balanced, exceptionally made, perfectly lingering.

Château Olivier Pessac-Léognan

17 points | 2026 to 2035

Floral nose of blackcurrant blossom aromas, slender and even rather gaunt compared with other top wines, but offering perceptible minerality and currently rather bare acidity.

Château Pape Clément Pessac-Léognan

16.5 points | 2022 to 2028

Enjoyable, slender style with lemony acidity, but also pleasantly full.

Château Rahoul Graves

16 points | 2023 to 2028

Offering structure, sophistication and density, very well balanced, exceptionally made.

Château Reynon Bordeaux Sec

15.5 points | 2021 to 2023

Slender and refreshing, well balanced and easy-drinking with a fruity grapefruit finish.

Château Suduiraut, Blanc Sec Bordeaux Sec

15.5 points | 2025 to 2030

Rather reductive with herb and menthol notes, compact, tart, closed, still needs to mature.

Château Talbot, Caillou Blanc Bordeaux Sec

16 points | 2022 to 2026

Tempting grapefruit and peach notes, rounded, fruity, pleasantly lingering.

What do our scores mean?

Wines have long been about more than just numbers. As a matter of principle, we only publish wines that we can recommend: in other words, any wine gaining 15 points or more might be of interest. Wine fans should therefore be guided first and foremost by their personal taste. If you find your favourite wine listed, you should definitely get hold of a couple of bottles. The only thing to consider is whether it is really worth its price tag. If your 15-point wine costs 15 to 25 euros, that is great. But if it is two or three times that, then maybe only spend the money if you are positive that you genuinely enjoy it, even if it clearly does not suit the palates of VINUM's tasters.

Wines with 17 points or more are world class. They do not necessarily have to cost a fortune: top wines of international class are available in Bordeaux from 25 euros, sometimes even less. However, they can cost four times that.

People buying Bordeaux as an investment are best off turning to the most widely known, most sought-after and thus most expensive brands. Their price is less related to the enjoyment they offer than to their status as an artwork traded on an international scale.

However, whether speculating with wine is a worthwhile endeavour remains to be seen.

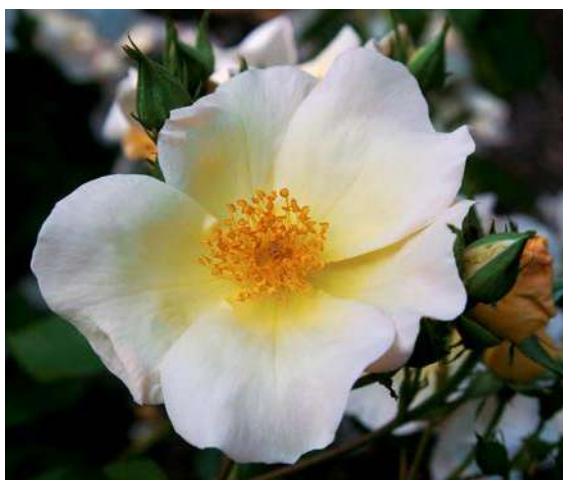
FINAL WORD

TO CLASSIFY IS HUMAN

To err is human. Creating classifications equally so. We are in our element creating classifications: wine, botany, schools, railways... And on the list goes. Do the best people really travel first class? (I only do it for the peace and quiet.) Can true class be bought? I still understand nothing of botany classifications, but that has not stopped me from looking after a hundred rose bushes in my garden.

Wikipedia tells me that the rose is a member of the Magnoliopsida class. If I read on, I see that the rose's classification does not match its genetic development, that different authors classify it differently, and that most specialists split the rose into two classes (that do not in fact really exist from a scientific or botanical perspective): old and new roses. In other words, anyone can have their own particular set of classes. Which is as it should be.

PS: In Saint-Émilion, the next planned ten-yearly revision of the 1955 classification will be in 2022. This is despite ongoing appeals regarding the 2012 version. Two estates have not submitted a new application: Ausone and Cheval Blanc, historically the highest-ranking crus and unimpeachable in terms of both quality and style. They are tired of the drama. Conclusion: class does not need classification.





WIR KAUFEN IHRE WEINE

Seit nunmehr über 20 Jahren kaufen wir zu aktuellen Höchstpreisen hochwertige Weine aus Bordeaux, Burgund, Rhone und Champagne, sowie selektiv aus Italien, Spanien und der Neuen Welt. Wir sind konstant auf der Suche nach den grossen Namen der Weinwelt, kaufen aber auch die Weine der bekannten, kleineren Chateaus. Besonders interessant sind Weine in Originalkisten und grössere Sammlungen, Lagerverkäufe, aber auch hochwertige Einzelpositionen.

Gegenüber Auktionsverkäufen bieten wir Ihnen den Vorteil von Festpreisen, ohne Abzug von Gebühren, Versicherung oder Degustationsflaschen, sowie eine unmittelbare Abwicklung und Bezahlung ohne Wartezeit.


Wir holen die Weine bei Ihnen ab. Die Zahlung erfolgt mittels elektronischem Banktransfer oder in bar.

Rufen Sie uns für eine Beratung an oder senden Sie uns eine Liste der Weine und wir erstellen Ihnen innert Kürze ein detailliertes, kostenfreies Angebot.

Wir freuen uns auf den Kontakt mit Ihnen!

Karin Hartmann & Christian Hartmann lic.oec. HSG



A man with glasses and a dark suit is smiling and holding a large bottle of wine. The bottle has a white label with a crest and the text 'Château Mouton Rothschild'. The background is a blurred wine cellar with many bottles on shelves.

**«Über 1200
Weine aus dem
Bordeaux und
der ganzen Welt
warten auf Sie.»**

Tjark Witzgall
Product Manager Bordeaux
Mövenpick Wein