

BORDEAUX 2017

Roderick Smith MW
April 2018

Bordeaux Primeurs 2017

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The spectacular winery buildings of Château Pedesclaux in Pauillac

2017 is an unexpectedly very good vintage in Bordeaux.

After the trio of very good to spectacular vintages: 2014 (especially for Cabernet), the exuberant and ripe 2015, and the utterly compelling 2016, expectations were high for 2017 in Bordeaux.

Vintages ending in a -7 have not got a good track record - the last great one was 1947. Has 2017 broken this pattern?

Yes, it has. But in fact 2007 was a superb year for Sauternes (and so is this), so the pattern had already been broken.

The real issue is that there is no such thing as 'good' or 'bad' vintages any more. In any given year, the talented people make great wine, and the less so, well, they reflect that.

But 2017 was not auguring well. A devastating frost on the nights of April 27-28 managed to kill off a significant percentage of the vines' new buds. Some estates were spared, some lost literally everything. But while frost is bad for the viticulturist's blood pressure and the accountants' spreadsheets, it is not - necessarily - bad for wine quality. By reducing the quantity - something winemakers have been engineering for centuries with close-planting, pruning, water stress, green harvesting and everything else - frost can in a way increase the quality of what is left. 1961 - a great vintage by anyone's standards - was plagued by frost.

The problem is that the vine will then re-shoot, or try to, and this '*deuxième pousse*' will produce very different fruit to the earlier one, all the more so when the frost is late in Spring, as it was in 2017.

There then followed a period of hot dry weather. Not quite the *canicule* that Provence experienced throughout the summer, but a heat-wave all the same. It lasted until June causing heat-stress (often useful, sometimes disastrous).

Then it rained. A lot. There was a threat of rot.
Then it didn't rain. At all.

It was not especially hot in August. Nothing was normal, but things looked very promising (except for those badly affected by the frost). The grapes for dry whites were harvested, and people were very happy (Bordeaux's 2017 Dry Whites are exceptional). Then the beginning of September brought more rain, sometimes very heavy. This was in the middle of the Merlot harvest and people were faced with

choices of picking wet fruit a little early or delaying, risking rot and over-ripening by waiting and hoping (those that did the latter were well rewarded). At La Conseillante in Pomerol, for example, the harvest lasted over a month, but only took nine days of it (with exceptional results). Cabernet was less hit, ripening later, and by September the good weather returned allowing for a really very wonderful Sauternes harvest.

So, how good the wines are depends rather on when and how the Merlot was picked, and whether any second bud fruit was included (and if it was, when it had been harvested).

But the real thing is that there is no such thing as a 'good' or 'bad' vintage. That's not how nature works, and it's not how great winemakers work, either. François Mitjavile of Tertre Roteboeuf firmly believes that the vintage is as much a part of the terroir as the soil. He does not make a selection or second wine in consequence. We get to drink what the vineyard gave him to make it with. Like many other wines, (and many other vintages for François) his 2017 is superb.



François Mitjavile of Château Tertre-Roteboeuf

For many – perhaps even the majority of – consumers, however – it's a different matter. In a bizarre (read 'wrong') kind of a way, Bordeaux vintages have become brands of sorts. Either good or bad. Nothing in between (which is of course nonsense). Historically, this black and white characterisation may have held some grain of truth, but it hasn't for years – decades even. Bordeaux is in itself culpable to some degree. Great vintages like 2005, 2009, 2010, 2015 and 2016 are so trumpeted as such that it is inevitable they then over-shadow the vintages around them, irrespective of the cause of any issues, or how they were dealt with. Personally I don't think really hot years make great Bordeaux. It's Bordeaux's success in a less-than-perfect climate (for growing grapes), that is – at least part of – the charm for me. 2016 is I think significantly superior to 2015, just as 1989 is now regarded as far better than the ripe 1990 vintage that seduced so many in its youth (same with 1986 v 1985, 1996 v 1995 and so on).

These days, too, so much can happen in the vineyard, winery and laboratory, and at the meteorological station, that there is far less of a risk than in the past. Even the very apparently-worst of vintages will have some great wines. Reference the sublime Pontet-Canet 2012.

And so I can confidently state that 2017 is a **great** vintage!

But not for everyone! And that, of course, makes it a *bad* vintage! Tant pis.

Naturally it depends on the still-to-come release prices, but if you buy wine to drink it in the future then 2017 is likely to offer some real gems if you pick carefully, and in fact even if you pick indiscriminately you'll probably be alright, because there are far fewer 'downs' than 'ups' in this 'up and down' vintage. If you buy wine to make money in the future, then it may not prove quite such a shrewd investment. Time will tell.



Château Latour – perhaps the absolute highlight of 2017 (as it was in 2016)

Notes

The wines in this document are presented by appellation/commune, and then in alphabetical order. A separate Excel spreadsheet is available which is also sorted by rating.

Tastings 8 – 13 April 2018

9 April

UGCB central tasting, Hangar 14, Bordeaux
Bordeaux Vins Sélection - Institut Culturel Bernard
Magrez

10 April

Pontet-Canet, Montrose, Rieussec, d'Yquem

11 April

Figeac, Cheval-Blanc, Tertre-Rôteboeuf, Vieux
Château Certan, Angélu, Pavie, Nenin, La
Conseillante

12 April

Haut-Brion, Carmes Haut-Brion, Ducru-Beaucaillou, d'Issan,
Palmer, Margaux, Léoville Las Cases

13 April

Mouton-Rothschild, Lafite, Cos d'Estournel, Pedesclaux, Haut-Batailley, Latour,



- * An extraordinarily good wine which outperforms its level/commune. Likely to be a good buy.
- ** An exceptional wine which outperforms its expected level. Likely to be a good buy.
- * An exceptional wine, which is to be expected and therefore likely priced to match.

191 red wines, 21 white wines, 15 Sauternes



View of St Emilion vineyards from Château Tertre-Rôteboeuf

Côtes de Bordeaux

Cap de Faugères – Castillon **85 - 87**

85 M 10 CF 5 CS

Very deep livid purple colour. Bright violet fruit aromas. Rich simple crushed berry fruit flavours. Good acidity and freshness. Simple. Good value 15.5

Joanin Bécot – Castillon **87 - 89**

80 M 20 CF

Deep purple colour. Scents of spices and blueberry fruit. Some coffee from oak. Rich and rounded, freshness and soft but dry tannins. Well made and concentrated if not hugely multi-layered. 16

Clos Lunelles - Castillon **89 - 91**

80 M 10 CF 10 CS

Very sweet and spicy red fruit aromas. Some juice and blackcurrant jam scents. Very concentrated and extracted. Really in the characteristic Perse style with great concentration depth and sweetness. Held in check with fresh acidity, but ripe tannins and warmth (14.66% alcohol) on the finish. A likely crowd-pleaser. 16.5

de la Dauphine – Fronsac **87 - 89**

90 M 10 CF

Very intense and spicy aromas, some new oak apparent. Rich juicy fruit. Blueberries, and serious oak/spice/tannin. Some coffee and dry grainy tannic finish. Very ambitious, although perhaps needs a bit more fruit weight to justify the depth of tannins. 16

Domaine de Cambes - Côtes de Bourg **87 - 89**

70 M 30 CF

Plenty of spices and coffee aromas. Ripe red fruit scents. Rich and juicy, a touch of leanness and elegance. Ripe rounded tannins and fresh acidity. Rounded soft finish. Very good 16

Esprit de Pavie – Bordeaux **87 - 89**

65 M 20 CF 15 CS 13.7%

Deep purple colour. Bright violet aromas, some hints of leafy green pyrazine. Juicy and fruity with some orange, plum and bright berry fruit. Fresh acidity. Less leafy than the aroma, but still there. Fresh fairly simple finish. 16

Roc de Cambes - Côtes de Bourg **85 - 87 ***

77 M 20 CS 3 Malb (*Vieilles Vignes*)

Intense coffee and warm spices. Concentrated and rich, with more black fruit than red, and juicy blueberries. Absolutely no greenness. Really ripe and yet fresh and approachable. Lovely. 17

l'Aurage – Castillon **93 - 95 ****

90 M 10 CF

Very deep colour and intensity of fruit aromas. Sweet rich fruit and juice. Ripe rounded tannins, but fresh acidity. Completely ripe and round. Full and delicious. Terrific. 18



Graves & Pessac-Léognan

Bouscaut 88 - 90

69 M 20 CS 11 Malb

Deep, but not so purple. Spices, coffee and cocoa, (42% new oak) plenty blue fruit. Inviting. Rounded, sweet and soft tannins. Some hint grassy greenness, but with good fruit concentration. 16+

Carbonnieux 89 - 91

60 CS 30 M 5 PV 5 CF

Juicy fruity red and black fruit. Rich and with sweet spices. Balanced acidity and tannins. Fruity but appealing and rounded. Good depth and length. 16.5

Carmes Haut-Brion 92 - 94 **

41 CF 30 M 29 CS,

50% whole bunch, 65% new oak + amphorae, concrete and foudres.

Very deep purple black colour. Inviting black fruit scents, some spices already – hints of coffee and toast. Rich and deep fruit flavours, with good acidity and freshness. Very good quality. 17.5 **

Le C des Carmes Haut Brion 90 - 92 *

54 CS 45 M 1 PV

(from 30ha in Martillac, not therefore a second wine at all. 25% lost to frost). Some whole bunches

Very deep purple colour. Vibrant juicy fruit aromas. Black fruit, some sweet spices. Concentrated and fresh with lovely bright fruit. Not massively complex, but absolutely delicious. Very well made. 17



De France 88 - 90

50 M 50 CS

Very deep black fruit and cassis aromas. Very rich and spicy, dry tannins, some leafiness. Rich black fruit. Cassis, dry grainy long-term tannic structure. 16+

Domaine de Chevalier 88 - 90

63 CS 30 M 5 PV 2 CF

Very bright violet fruit and cassis. Some oak, but not much yet. Rich sweet black fruit, some sinew, green. Leafy freshness. Good. 16

Ferrande 83 - 85

60 CS 40 M

More muted aroma. Some oak, dusty fruit. A little hollow and lean, but fresh and elegant. 14.5

Haut-Brion

95 - 97 *

53 M 41 CS 6 CF

Super concentrated black fruit aromas, with just a tinge of oak, and a whiff of ripe menthol and peppermint. Brooding, with tar and violet complexity. Rich in the mouth with concentrated fruit flavours, spices, and damson notes. Dry tannins, fresh acidity. Very long indeed. For me, La MHB has it this year, with just a little more layered complexity. 19

**Le Clarence de Haut-Brion**

92 - 94

55 M 38 CS 5 CF 2 PV

Warm spices and coffee bean complexity. Well extracted fruit. Not as bright violet fruit as the C de MHB, but more serious. Juicy in the mouth with well extracted fruit depth, cassis and crème de mûre. Elegant and complex with plenty of spices, red and black fruit and fresh acidity. Very good. 17.5

Larrivet Haut Brion

85 - 87

12 M 24 CF 64 CS

Chocolate oak, coffee, spices. Warm sweet fruit and black cherry flavours, hint green and sinewy. Good, not as good as last year. 15.5

Latour Martillac

89 - 91 *

63 CS 30 M 7 PV

Very rich and spicy aromas and flavours. Inviting and deep. Rich and sweet spices. Rounded and juicy. No leanness. Full and rich. Good tannic structure, acidity and length. Very good. 16.5

La Louvière

85 - 87

75 CS 25 M

Lots of spicy oak aromas, with black cassis fruit and juiciness. Juicy and rich with pointed tannins and spicy fruit flavours. Tiny bit hollow on the finish. 15.5

Malartic la Gravière

89 - 91

65 CS 30 M 3 CF 2 PV

Very deep colour. Spices, cocoa dust and coffee aromas. Inviting. Very rich deep fruit flavours. Juicy blueberry and cool mint complexity. Really good. 16.5+

La Mission Haut-Brion

95 - 98 *

56 M 39.5 CS 4.5 CF

Very deep purple black colour. Super intense inky black fruit with lots of cassis, plum and damson. Not yet oaky at this stage. Packed and spicy intensity with cream and pastry notes. Concentrated fruit, powerful dry tannins and fresh, well balanced acidity. Power and elegance, hugely long. Very refined and pure. Excellent. 19.5

**La Chapelle de la Mission Haut-Brion**

91 - 93

49 M 42 CS 9 CF

Very deep purple colour. Intensely fruity and spicy aromas. Some clove and cassis, juicy. Bright. Violets. Inviting. Juicy fruit flavours, pronounced but ripe tannins, bright acidity. Dry finish. Not quite as intense as usual perhaps, but elegant. Long. 17

Olivier

87 - 89

58 CS 40 M 2 PV

Spicy deep oak aromas. Lots of coffee and black fruit. Very rich and sweet fruit, no green leanness. Rich and juicy. Very concentrated and spicy. Rich and long. Very good. 16.

Pape Clement 93 - 95

65 M 45 CS

Intense and rich spicy fruit aromas. Chocolate and coffee intensity and richness. Very deep concentrated fruit. Elegant and powerful, complex. No green, but a freshness. Long. Good 18

Pique Caillou 85 - 87

65 CS 35 M

Spicy savoury oak aromas. Rich black fruit. Not hugely forthcoming. Rich and lean, some streaky cabernet fruit tannins. Elegant and fresh, but slightly lacking a little flesh. 15.5

Rahoul 87 - 89

61 CS 37 M 2 PV

Inky deep colour. Spices, some oak already. Deep and concentrated. Very rich, with a lean green streak. Sinewy texture, but good depth. Black fruit. Cassis. Spice. Good quality and value. 16+

Smith Haut Lafite 91 - 93

60 CS 35 M 4 CF 1 PV

Very deep colour. Oaky and spicy aromas. Very rich and concentrated with sweet fruit and spices. No leanness and great tannic structure and length. Good 17

Médoc

Chasse Spleen - Moulis 87 - 89

50 CS 41 M 6 PV 3 CF

Very deep colour. Juicy spicy oak and fruit aromas. Some chocolate and coffee. Chalky and rounded in the mouth with fresh fruit and good acidity, but something just a little hollow on the finish. 16

Clarke - Lustrac 84 - 86

80 M 20 CS

Deep colour and deep spicy cassis fruit aromas. Juicy but slightly lean and green fruit flavours in the mouth. Fresh finish. 15

La Clare 85 - 87

45 M 40 CS 15 CF

Purple colour. Bright vibrant fruit aromas, not overtly oaky yet, but with hints of coffee. Baked red and black fruit flavours. Juicy and fruity, with dry tannic extract, good acidity, but just lacking a little flesh in the mid-palate. 15.5

Ducluzeau - Lustrac 87 - 89

89 M 9 PV 2 CS 13.4%

Inky purple colour. Some spices and black fruit. Soft black fruit character. Spicy grainy tannins, fresh acidity. Well balanced, not hugely complex, but well made and rounded. Soft finish. 16

Fonréaud - Lustrac 89 - 91

52 CS 44 M 4 PV

Deep purple colour. Black fruit and violets, some pyrazine fresh greenness and leafy touches. Juicy extract and some spice. Relatively simple, but fresh and appealing. Well balanced tannins and acidity. No oak yet. Straightforward but balanced finish. 16.5

Fourcas-Borie - Lustrac 89 - 91

75 M 16 CS 9 PV 13.4%

Dark purple colour. Chalky blue fruit aromas. Some spice and fresh peppermint scents. Slightly herbal and fresh flavours. No real green, but not hugely ripe flavours. Simple and elegant, fruity and fresh. 16.5



Fourcas Dupré – Lustrac 89 - 91
52 M 47 CS 1 PV
(40% lost to frost)

Deep colour. Floral and fruity aromas, inviting, no obvious oak to scent. Juicy and fruity extract and fresh acidity, simple blue fruit flavours, light tannins and good length. Simple but appealing. 16.5

Fourcas Hosten – Lustrac 84 - 86
66 CS 31 M 3 PV

Relatively muted aroma, some hints of oak. Blue fruit, a little dilute and lean in the mouth. 15

Goulée de Cos (d'Estournel) 87 - 89
72 M 24 CS 4 CF

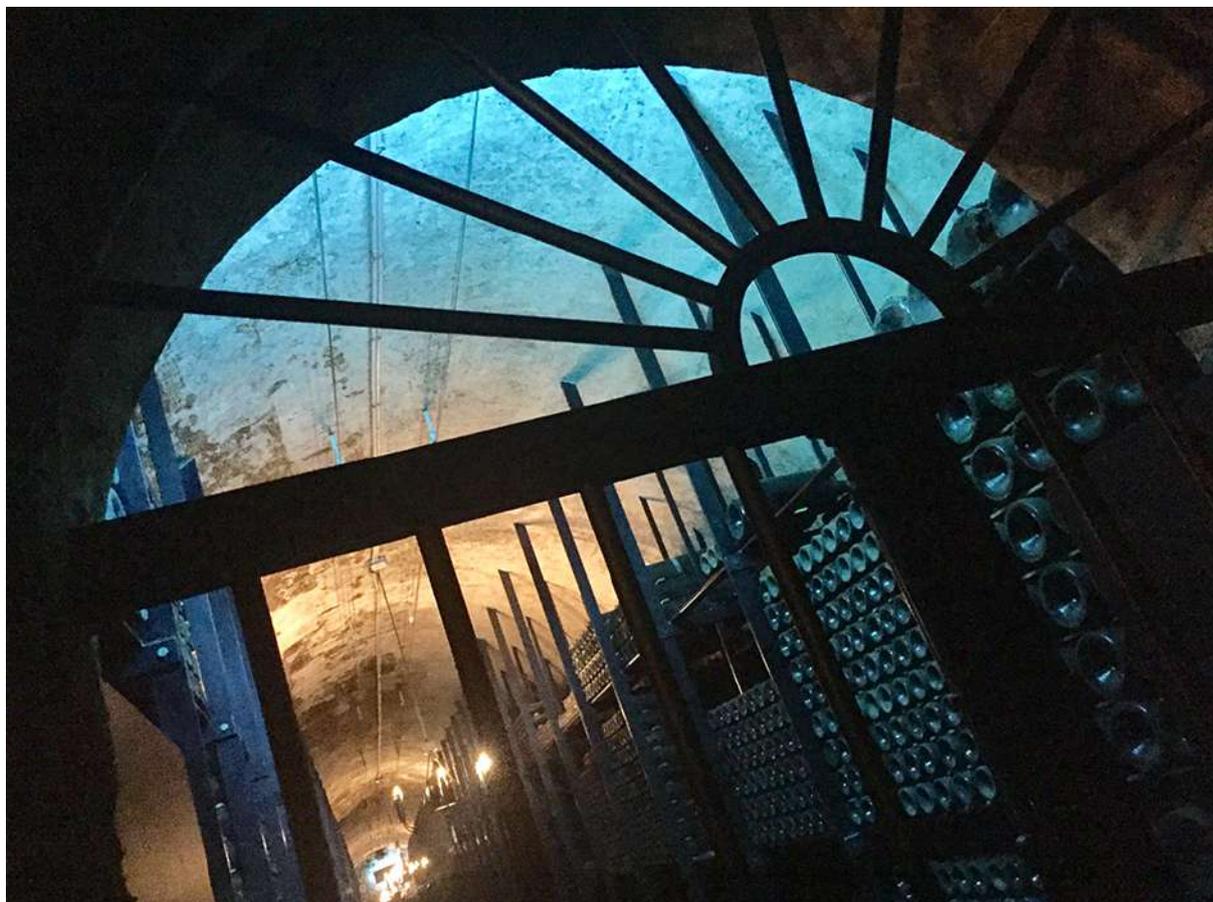
Quite savoury oak aromas with dry earthy fruit. Some plum and hawthorn. Spicy and a little leafy. Chalky tannins and freshness. Some thyme and mint, plum fruit. Dry tannins. Fresh acidity but relatively simple. Pleasant and well rounded, smooth soft finish. 16

Les Grands Chênes 85 - 87
79 M 29 CS 1 CF

Deep purple colour. Concentrated and juicy rich extract. Spices and some oak. Rich black fruit, cool mint, not hugely multi-layered. 15.5

Greysac 85 - 87
65 M 29 CS 3 CF 3 PV

Very deep purple colour. Chalky bright fruit, rich spice and mocha hints. Sweet fruit, not hugely complex or deep, but rounded and ripe black and red fruit. Long sweetly fruity finish. Great value. 15.5+



Haut Condissas 92 - 94 **

60 M 20 PV 10 CS 10 CF

Very inviting inky purple colour and aroma – violets, chalk and spearmint with black fruit. Super concentrated with lots of juicy fruit, grippy tannins and extract. Deep black fruit and mocha spice with tobacco and cinnamon. Dry rich tannins on the finish. Already plenty of oak notes. 17.5+

Maucaillou – Moulis 89 - 91

55 CS 40 M 5 PV

Warm and slightly oaky aromas, with soft red and black fruit and some floral perfume. A little streaky greenness. Plummy and quite rich with a well rounded, warm and slightly soupy but full palate of red fruit and spices. 16.5

Potensac 91 - 93 *

47 M 35 CS 17 CF 1 PV (*none lost to frost*)

Super-purple depth and spicy scents. Sweet black fruit aromas, some coffee and clove. Juicy and delicate red and black fruit flavours with balancing acidity and some complexity of flavour. Very appealing and elegant with no harshness or greenness. Very good. 17

Chapelle de Potensac 89 - 91 *

72 M 21 CS 7 CF

Mid-deep ruby purple colour. Bright vibrant violet floral aromas, and juicy, chalky fruit scents. Blueberries, spice. Creamy texture, Rounded red fruits and subtle tannins, with fresh acidity and plenty of red and black fruit. Very well structured and balanced. Really very good. 16.5

Poujeaux - Moulis 89 - 91

62 CS 25 M 13 PV

(*60% lost to frost*)

Very deep colour. Spices and cocoa dust to scent. Some minty leafiness. Warm and soft fruit extraction with some leafiness, but good tannic structure. Fresh and elegant finish. 16.5

Rollan de By 89 - 91 *

70 M 10 CF 10 CS 10 PV

Very deep purple colour. Very deep juicy coffee spice and fruit aromas. Very rich extract of blueberry and cassis fruit. Good tannic structure, and fresh acidity. No green. Ripe mouth-coating tannins. Very good. 16.5

La Tour Seran 89 - 91 *

65 M 15 CS 10 CF 10 PV

Very intense and spicy violet aromas with purple fruit. Oak, but not over-dominant. Very rich extract of deep spicy fruit with plenty of coffee and earth. Rich juicy finish. 16.5





Château Bellegrave in Médoc

Haut Médoc

Bellegrave

90 - 92

85 CS 12 M 3 PV

(normally some CF, all lost to frost)

Very deep colour and concentrated fruit extract. Cassis and spices. Juicy fruit, good acidity and structure, fine tannins. Not hugely concentrated and deep, but elegant and not at all green. Good concentration on the finish. Pretty wine, if not powerful. 16.5+

Cantemerle

87 - 89

70 CS 25 M 5 PV

Rich and coffee-ish inviting oak scents. Some black fruit and floral aromas. Cool fruit flavours, and juicy fruit. A little simple and one-dimensional, but well made and pleasant flavours. 16

Citran

89 - 91

47 M 36 CS 17 CF

Very deep colour and spicy, oaky aromas. Coffee and some cocoa. Lots of cassis and juicy black fruit flavours. Some violet and plum. No green. Soft tannins, good acidity. Juicy, and delicious. 16.5

Couffran

84 - 86

85 M 15 CS

Deep colour. Spices and coffee-oak aromas. Black fruit flavours. Rich, but a little lightweight on the fruit in the mouth. Spicy tannins and a tiny bit baked tasting on the finish. 15

La Lagune

87 - 89

70 CS 25 M 5 PV

Very inky deep black colour and lots of spicy oak scents, Inviting. Meaty and savoury. Juicy fruit underneath, powerful and tannic. Good acidity and freshness, but a lot of oak already for this level of fruit. Will need time to come around, a classic traditional style. 16

de Lamarque

87 - 89 **

60 CS 35 M 5 PV (normally 50/40 CS M, and 10 PV, PV too powerful, CS was excellent so % upped)

Very black colour. Deep spicy coffee oak and cocoa dust aromas. Juicy black fruit extraction and sweet tannins. Very ripe and rich (especially for the vintage). Great extract and depth, big tannins but rich fruit holding everything together. A real discovery. Very good. 17



Barrel room at Château Les Carmes Haut-Brion

La Tour Carnet

87 - 89

60 M 35 CS 5 PV

Very deep and spicy aromas. Plenty violet fruit escaping. Delicious extract of balanced black and red fruit flavours with violet and plum. Oak held in check. Concentrated, but fresh and elegant. Good 16.5

La Tour de By

84 - 86

70 CS 5 PV 25 M

Deep inky colour. Spicy oak aromas. Slightly green lean fruit flavours in the mouth. Black fruits, and a leafy touch. 15

Margaux

Brane Cantenac

91 - 93 *

74 CS 21 M 4 CF 1 PV

Deep colour. Juicy black fruit and perfume. Some rose and cassis. Inviting. Juicy and sweet extract. Good tannins and acidity. Lots of oak, even at this age. Juicy fruit flavours. Soft long finish. Good 17

Cantenac Brown

91 - 93

67 CS 33 M

Deep and spicy oak aromas, black fruit and coffee scents. Rich and spicy flavours. Good cassis and plum complexity, soft tannins and good freshness. Well made and appealing. 17



Dauzac 84 - 86

69 CS 31 M (65% new wood, no frost)

Deep colour, some leafy aromas, with black fruit scents. Good acidity and tannin balance, but fairly simple in approach. Dry tannins and a little hollow on the finish. 15

Desmirail 91 - 93 *

55 M 35 CS 10 PV

Juicy and perfumed, very -Margaux-y aromas. Inviting. Juicy red and black fruit flavours and extract. Juicy, but with big tannic structure and good acidity. Well made and fresh. Very appealing. 17

Durfort-Vivens 91 - 93 *

91 CS 9 M

Mid deep colour, with a ruby aspect. Sweet fruit and floral aromas. Some currant complexity. Juicy and not too tannic with fine balanced acidity and freshness. Juicy red fruit flavours and warm soft fruit length. Good. 17

Ferrière 92 - 94 *

79 CS 19 M 2 PV

Very deep dark colour - almost black. More cassis and spice than the Durfort. Rich and inviting with black fruit and a floral touch. Rich and spicy fruit flavours with juice and flowers. Soft tannins, fresh acidity. Very Margaux style. 17.5 *

Giscours 89 - 91

71 CS 24 M 5 PV

Very black fruit aromas with lots of spices - clove and cinnamon. Oak, and fruit to scent. Juicy black fruit flavours, with a slight pyrazine streak underneath. Great extract, and spicy tannins, with good balancing acidity and freshness. Black fruit finish. Pretty structured and dark for a Margaux. Good. 16.5



Château d'Issan

d'Issan 94 - 96 **

65 CS 35 M 50% new oak

Mid deep ruby colour. Some sweet spices, and coffee oak. Bright deep fruit too. Rich and structured, without being too powerful, retaining elegance, freshness and brightness of fruit. Floral and fresh with beautiful delicacy and structure. Very good indeed. 18+

Blason d'Issan 89 - 91

60 CS 40 M 35% *new oak*

Mid deep ruby colour. Fruity red plum and cherry aromas, some hints of spice. Inviting. Juicy and fresh, with good acidity and bright vibrant fruit. No green, fresh fruit and ripe but not heavy tannins. Balanced and well made. 16.5

Malescot St Exupéry 91 - 93

70 CS 30 M

Warm smoky and floral fruity oaky aromas. Some coffee and powerful red fruit scents. Juicy and serious with concentrated tannins, fresh acidity and depth. A serious and quite traditional style, muscular and profound. Good. 17

Tertre 84 - 86

75 CS 10 M 10 CF 5 PV

Mid deep colour. Squidgy and ripe red fruit aromas and flavours, some warmth and softness. Mid acidity and rounded tannins. Soft, approachable and balanced, but a little disjointed and lacking freshness. 15

Kirwan 92 - 94

55 CS 30 M 10 CF 5 PV

Super juicy floral Kirwan smell of roses, violets and red fruits. Some perfume, hardly any discernible oak yet. Rich and rounded with sweet tannins, juicy flavours and good fresh structure. Serious finish with good tannins. Very good. 17.5



Château Kirwan

Labegorce 89 - 91

40 M 46 CS 6 PV 8 CF (*more CF than usual, less Merlot*)

Juicy black and red fruit aromas. Some spices and oak. Concentrated and rich, with black fruits, good freshness and depth. Excellent structure and good acidity. Well made and very good. 16.5

Lascombes 89 - 91

57 CS 40 M 3 PV

Savoury and almost meaty oak aromas, with deep black fruit scents underneath. Inviting and fresh. Juicy fruit flavours with spices and savoury meaty edge. A serious traditional style. Earthy dry tannic finish. 16.5

Margaux**95 - 97 ***

89 CS 8 M 2CF 1 PV

10% lost to frost. Grand Vin is 37% of the crop 13.5%

Closed in by spicy coffee-ish oak at the moment, with deep brooding fruit underneath. Very intense fruit extraction with beautifully balanced acidity and ripe tannins. Lots of layers of flavour with spices, rich blueberry fruit, crème de mûre, cinnamon, toast and coffee bean. Tightly packed tannins, but rounded fruit. Very deep and long. Massive, packed deep long finish. A classic Margaux. Elegance and power, perfume and substance. 19++

Pavillon**93 - 95 ***

76 CS 17 M 4 CF 3 PV 22% of the crop (lowest for many years) 13.5%

Deep purple ruby colour. Cool mint, herbs and spices to accompany the plum and blueberry fruit scents. Very juicy and soft with good commune character of rose petal, bramble and sweet red fruit. Elegant and fresh, but very concentrated fruit flavour. Crisp tannins on the long finish. Better than last year I think. 18

*Château Margaux***Marquis de Terme****89 - 91**

60 CS 35 M 5 PV

Very black colour. Deep spicy oak aromas. Black fruit, spices and liquorice. Rich and classic palate with juicy fruit and plenty of tannic structure. Delicious – good balance of acidity and tannins. 16.5

Monbrison**87 - 89**

69 CS 28 M 3 PV

Mid deep colour. Juicy fruit aromas, with plum, damson and some warmth. Good simple extraction of fruit, rounded tannins and good acidity. Fairly simple, but rounded soft and appealing. 16

Palmer 95 - 97 *

54 M 42 CS 4 PV (*lost 20 % to frost*) 13.2%

Deep inky purple colour. More fruit and less obvious oak than the Alter-Ego. Bright purple fruit with blueberry and raspberry aromas. Very rich and concentrated and deep fruit and spice. Cloves, cinnamon and cream with damson and plum, some floral perfume but more St Julien in style in some ways - serious and structures. Mouth-coating tannins on the finish, but with a great balance and freshness. Very good. 19

Alter-Ego de Palmer 92 - 94

53 M 41 CS 6 PV 13.1%

Very dark purple colour. Some savoury and quite meaty oak aromas. Black and red fruit. Some cool mint and spices, tight black fruit. Very rich and sweet fruit flavours. Quite cool and fresh acidity. No green, but elegant and fresh. Classic Margaux style. 17.5



Prieuré-Lichine 92 - 94 *

55 CS 40 M 5 PV

Warm and floral Margaux fruit aromas, with spices and some coffee. Fairly serious structure and depth, plenty of tannins, spices, rich fruit, coffee and spice. A youthful but very balanced wine. Very good. 17.5

Rauzan Gassies 85 - 87

65 CS 25 M 5 PV 5 CF

Warm spicy oak aromas, some red fruit. Spicy tannins and acidity, Perhaps just missing a little bit of fruit weight to support. Soft finish. 15.5

Rauzan Ségla 95 - 97 *

62 CS 36 M 1 PV 1 CF

Deep colour. Super inviting aroma of sweet red and black fruit with some spices and chocolate. Fresh floral notes, and good acidity, with well integrated tannins and juiciness. Really very well made and well extracted fruit flavours with great depth, layered complexity and fresh acidity. Very good quality indeed. Elegant, classic. Long. 19

Siran 87 - 89

46 CS 45 M 9 PV

Very deep colour. Inky spicy and inviting aromas. Juicy fruit with some floral and cassis. Tough to follow Rauzan-Ségla, but this is good if not in the same league by some way. Fairly simple and fresh palate and finish. Good tannins and acidity. 16



St Julien

Beychevelle 92 - 94

50 CS 45 M 1 CF 4 PV

Very deep colour. Warm violet spice and some oak, sweet fruit. Inviting and fruity. Juicy fruit extract, good acidity, profound complexity and excellent balance of acid to tannin to fruit. Very good 17.5

Branais-Ducru 89 - 91

70 CS 22 M 5 CF 3 PV

Spicy, meaty savoury oak aromas, with some deep black fruit underneath. A little hollow in the mid-palate with spiky, spicy tannins and fresh acidity. Needs time to flesh out. Elegant style. 16.5

Clos du Marquis 92 - 94 **

72 CS 27 M 1 CF

Very deep and intense colour. Spicy black fruit aromas. Juicy and rich. Intense and violetty with spices, coffee and black fruit. Delivering a lot. Delicious sweet fruit on the finish. Long. (Tasted also at Léoville Las Cases) 17.5

Petite Marquise 85 - 97

74 M 26 CS

Deep ruby purple. Some meaty, leafy herby fruit aromas. Elegant and just a shade lean (are these young vines?) with red and black fruits and quite pointy tannins. Good balancing acidity and structure. Fresh finish. A little disjointed. 15.5

Ducru-Beaucaillou 92 - 95 *

90 CS 10 M (No loss to frost) 13.5%

Incredibly dark purple black colour. Very intense aromas. Purple aromas. Spicy black fruit, coffee, clove and liquorice flavours. Very rich ripe tannins, no greenness. Good but not strong acidity. Balanced and approachable with raspberry compote fruit flavours, spices and great length. Very classic St Julien style. 18.



La Croix du Beaucaillou 92 - 94 *

(Separate plot, not second wine - which is le Petit Caillou)

50 M 39 CS 3 PV

Inky black colour. Very deep chalky tannins, spices and rich black fruit. Very intense. Rich and juicy black fruit. Juicy and intense and sweet black fruit. Very good indeed. Super rich finish. 17.5

Gloria

92 - 94 *

61 CS 26 M 8 PV 5 CF

Earthy spicy oak aromas with coffee and cinnamon, fairly muted fruit at this stage. Very rich and deep with plum and blackcurrant fruit. Great extract and balanced tannins and acidity. Fresh, but deep. Concentrated spicy finish. Good. 17.5

Gruaud Larose

91 - 93

61 CS 29 M 7 CF 3 PV

Deep colour. Some oaky spice coffee and toast. Plenty of black fruit underneath. Juicy rich black and red fruit flavours. Spices and great tannic extract. Juicy and delicious, fresh acidity. Really well made, in an elegant style. 17

Lagrange

89 - 91

67 CS 28 M 5 PV

Deep colour. Packed and rich tannic palate with fresh acidity and fleshy fruit profile. Red plum and damson. Soft and rounded in the mouth. Elegant and fresh, with a powerful finish, but just a little fruit dilution in the mid palate. 16.5



Château Lagrange in St Julien

Lalande-Borie

92 - 94 *

66 M 34 CS 40% new wood. 40% lost to frost.

Deep purple colour. Spices, and mocha. Big tannic extraction with violet fruit and pepper, alongside cassis and plum. No greenness, Rich and rounded. Spicy tannins on the finish. Very rich and intense. Really rather good. 17.5

Langoa Barton

87 - 89

57 CS 34 M 9 CF

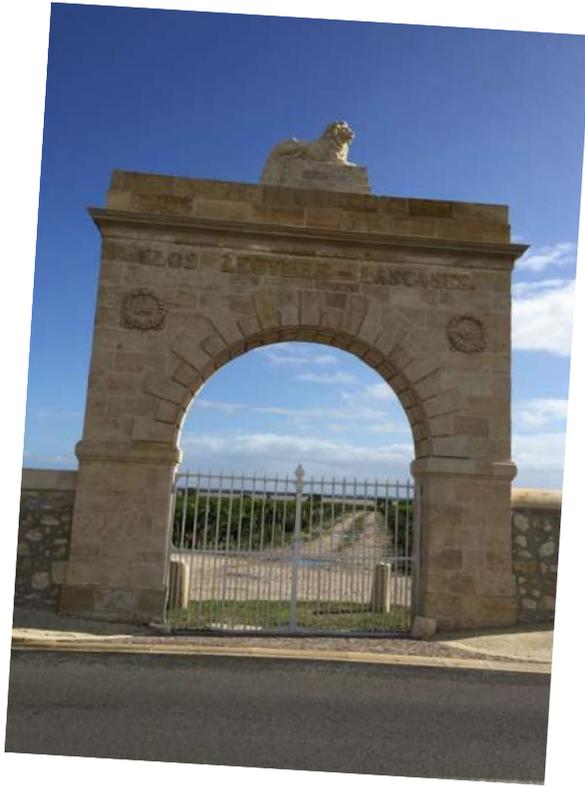
Deep colour. Earthy and spicy aromas with coffee and cocoa dust. Some blackberry and cream scents. Rich but fresh and lightweight, soft tannins and well balanced acidity. Not hugely complex, but very well balanced. Delicious, if not for the long-term. 16.5

Léoville Barton

93 - 95 *

93 CS 7 M

Inky black colour. Concentrated and super-spicy aromas of coffee and black fruit, with some earth and even tar. Inviting and complex. Big juicy fruit extraction with concentration and depth. Rich black fruit flavours. Deep and profound. Very good. A star of the vintage. 18



Léoville Las Cases

95 - 97 *

79 CS 11 CF 10 M 90% *new oak*

Deep purple colour, but not black. Coffee and spicy oak and seed-wood aromas. Packed extract and very complex flavours of spices, clove, earth, toast and black fruit. Very complex. Balanced fresh acidity with bright cherry-like freshness, but deep cassis and almost nutty complexity. Very good indeed. 19

Le Petit Lion (du Marquis de Las Cases) 89 - 91

56 CS 34 M 14 CF 30% *new oak*

Mid deep ruby purple colour. Earthy clay and mocha, with dusty black fruit aromas, some hawthorn and rosehip. Black fruits. Quite complex. Very well balanced with elegant tannins, bright cherry-like acidity and fresh red fruits. Long and complex finish. Very good. 16.5

Léoville Poyferré

92 - 94

67 CS 27 M 2 PV 3 CF

Intense, savoury and meaty oak aromas. Concentrated and deep. Flavour packed and deep black and red fruits. Concentrated and still elegant, with good acidity and rounded tannins. Juicy fruit finish. Very good. 17.5+

Saint Pierre

91 - 93

73 CS 20 M 7 CF

Very deep inky colour. Deep, spicy and coffee-ish aromas of earth and roasted kernel. Black fruit underneath. Very profound and deep flavours - serious traditional style. Rich black fruit, savoury meaty touches from oak, and big tannins. Rounded warm finish. Good. 17

Talbot

92 - 94 *

68 CS 26 M 6 PV

Wrapped in oak scents, with plenty of blackberry and damson fruit. Some spices and earth. Very rich and deep, good tannins and fresh acidity. Dry and grainy, with a classic edge, and very good acidity and tannin balance in the mouth. Long finish. Good 17.5





Pauillac

d'Armailhac 91 - 93 *

68 CS 22 M 7 CF 3 PV

Meaty and savoury oak aromas. Some bacon and tar. Black fruit. Rich and deep very concentrated tannins and spice, fresh acidity. Well balanced and deep. Long. Good. 17

Batailley 89 - 91

80 CS 17 M 3 PV

Juicy and spicy aromas, with blackberry and damson. Juicy fruit with dry grainy tannins and great structure. Fresh acidity and soft mouthfeel. Very good. 16.5

Clerc Milon 92 - 94 **

60 CS 23 M 14 CF 2 PV 1 Carmenère

Lots of ink and spice and leafy menthol touches. Plush black fruit. Juicy and rich with marked fresh acidity and deep tannins. Great concentration and depth. Very good. 17.5+

Croizet-Bages 88 - 90

65 CS 35 M

Earthy, inky violet spice and fresh black fruit. Rich texture and depth with graphite and savoury edge. Black fruit, dusty tannins and crisp acidity. Long and dry finish. Good 16.5

Duhart Milon 88 - 90

76 CS 24 M

Mid deep ruby-purple colour. Juicy fruit aromas. Some spices and earth. Rounded soft fruit and elegant refined tannins. Fine acidity. Fresh red plum and redcurrant fruit. Refined and a little light. Fresh finish. 16.5

Grand-Puy Ducasse 88 - 90

57 CS 43 M

Mid-deep colour and spicy oaky aromas. Some earth, tar, spice and cocoa. Dry grainy tannins, fresh acidity and good extract. Traditional and almost a little rustic in style, but good, and likely to last. 16.5

Grand-Puy-Lacoste 89 - 91

80 CS 20 M

Bright red fruit aroma, with some earthy spice underneath. Inviting. Fresh acidity and moderate tannins, perhaps lacking the layers of fruit depth that some of the other wines have. Elegant and fresh finish. 16.5

Haut-Bages Libéral 85 - 87

80 CS 20 M

Some linear green sinewy notes to the fruit profile, without any obvious oak dominance yet. Richer in the mouth with bright fruit, but still a little lean and green. 15.5

Haut Batailley 92 - 94

66 CS 34 M 60% new oak

Very deep purple colour. Spicy coffee-ish oak and earthy smoky complexity. Rich extract and depth with spicy tannins, fresh acidity and sweet cherry and prune fruit. Complex and mouth-coating. Juicy concentrated fruit finish. Very good 17.5



Le Second de Haut Batailley 89 - 91

(No name yet! How about "l'Évoque", being a synonym for 'Echo', and now part of the Cazes stable?)

60 CS 40 M

Deep purple colour. Savoury meaty aromas (although no new oak). Spicy and a little funky. Very concentrated tannins (indeed) deep extract and full black fruit. A little rustic on the finish, but full flavoured and good. 16+



Château Lafite-Rothschild

Lafite-Rothschild 95 - 97

96 CS 3.5 M 0.5 PV

Very dark purple colour. Super concentrated aromas of black fruit and spices. Some cinnamon and earth, rosehip and violet. Very concentrated and earthy-spicy with deep black fruit flavours and elegance, deftness of tannins. Balanced, creamy texture with freshness and complexity. Very long finish with fine tannins. It's powerful and flavoursome, but not the equal of the 2016. 19-

Carruades de Lafite 92 - 94

60 CS 35 M 5 CF

Deep purple colour. Warm coffee and nutty oak aromas, with cassis and blueberry fruit. Juicy and sweet fruit, with great depth and layered complexity. Spicy tannins, fresh acidity and ripe dry tannins. Great concentration and depth. Elegant and yet complex. No greenness. Very good. 17.5

Latour 96 - 98 *

92 CS 8 M (0.1% PV) 13.3%

Inky purple colour. Deep spicy coffee oak aromas. Hugely packed tannins and rich spices. Intense almost savoury complexity with coffee bean and mocha. Powerful black fruit flavours, with liquorice, some sweet mint, deep damson and juniper flavours. Very complex and multi-layered and balanced. Juicy fresh acidity on the finish. Not a monolithic Latour, but a blockbuster nevertheless with a great depth of extract and complexity. Wine of the vintage for me. 19.5

Les Forts de Latour 92 - 94

65 CS 33 M 1 CF 1 PV 13.3%

Inky purple colour. Chalky dusty earthy aromas, with coffee and some flowers. Rich and concentrated fruit extract. Liquorice, damson, plum and sweet spices. Plenty of oak already apparent. Juicy fruit complexity. Very rounded tannins and a creamy velvety mouth feel. Long fresh finish. Very good 17.5+

Pauillac de Latour**89 - 91***(lost 2ha to frost – all normally used for the Pauillac)*

53 CS 40 M 7 PV 13.4%

Deep purple colour. Inky spicy aromas, with extracted purple fruit scents. Blueberries and cream. Packed with fruit. Creamy blackberry and apple pie flavours. Fresh acidity and balanced tannins. Not massively complex, but really delicious. 16.5

**Lynch-Bages****95 - 97 ***

70 CS 24 M 4 CF 2 PV

Super saturated inky colour. Very deep and concentrated fruit aromas, with some floral violet and cocoa. Complex and inviting. Rich in the mouth with cool mint, spicy tannins, graphite and cassis fruit. A touch of sweet fruit to offset, good acidity. Well balanced. Very good. 19

Echo de Lynch Bages**89 - 91**

74 CS 24 M 2 PV

Deep inky purple colour. Spices and cool peppermint aromas with cassis fruit. Juicy concentrated extract. Juicy and concentrated with deep fruit flavours, plentiful round tannins and some violet floral. Good acidity, packed fruit. Not massively complex and quite tannic on the finish (no new oak). Good 16.5

Lynch-Moussas**90 - 92**

78 CS 22 M

Mid-deep colour, fleshy and fruity aroma. Rich and inviting. Juicy fruit, good acidity and freshness, ripe tannins. Lots of coffee-ish flavours to accompany the fruit on the palate. Soft chocolatey long finish. Good 17



Mouton-Rothschild 95 - 97 *

90 CS 9 M 1PV

Inky black colour. Spicy rich coffee oak aromas, with plush cassis and damson. Some toast and sweet herbs. Intense and juicy fruit flavours with black cherry and damson. Ripe rounded tannins. Fresh acidity and structure. Mouth-coating velvet feeling, ripe tannins. Fine and manages elegance despite the power. Very good indeed. 19

Petit Mouton 91 - 93

81 CS 17 M 2 CF

Deep purple-black colour. Fresh and inviting aroma with some spices, pepper and coffee, but rich black fruit dominating. Intense extract, fresh acidity and black fruit. A little mint leaf in there, but with liquorice and cassis to balance. Fairly chunky tannins. Good extract and depth. Long concentrated finish. 17



Pèdesclaux 92 - 94 **

65 CS 25 M 7 CF 3 PV 13.25%

(less than 5% lost to frost. First vintage of more Cabernet than Merlot)

Deep purple colour and rich black fruit scents with beginnings of oak. Some coffee and spices, powerful cassis and black cherry flavours. Ripe and rounded. Very modern style but very successful. Rich fruit characters and depth. Fresh acidity. Deep. Complex flavours on the finish. 17.5++

Fleur de Pedesclaux 90 - 92 *

75 M 20 CS 5 PV 13.3% less than 10% new oak.

Very ripe fruity concentration on the nose. Intense and not yet oaky at all. Bright, violetty and inviting. Black fruit. Rich and pretty serious tannic structure with balancing acidity and war, baked fruit and pastry. Really good. 17

Pibran 92 - 94 *

70 CS 30 M

Spicy and deep smoky aromas, some graphite and black fruit. Concentrated and spicy with fresh acidity and serious tannins with good structure and grip. Plenty of complexity on the finish. Good value. 17.5

Pichon Baron 93 - 95 *

79 CS 21 M

Very deep purple colour. Spicy meaty and savoury oak aromas, with deep black fruit. Rich and full in the mouth with rounded tannins, cool mint and chocolatey notes. Profound fruit. Good tannic structure and length. Very good. 18

Pichon Longueville 92 - 94

Comtesse de Lalande

70 CS 23 M 6 CF 1 PV

Spicy and savoury, meaty oak scents, some smoke and bacon. Rich and floral, with a touch of green-edge to the fruit, but profound tannin, concentrated fruit and fresh acidity. A little lean on the finish, but with ripe tannic structure. Very good. 17.5

Pontet Canet 93 - 95 *

64 CS 30 M 4 CF 2 PV

(First year fermented in concrete eggs (and tanks))

Inky deep purple colour. Rich red and blue fruit aromas. Spice from oak, some coffee, but great fruit extract. Packed and juicy fruit. Lots of extract and depth. Spices, blue fruit, mocha. Big tannins, balanced acidity. Elegant, but powerful. Big tannic finish. Not too alcoholic. Very good. 18

St Estèphe

Calon Ségur

95 - 97 *

60 CS 20M 18 CF 2 PV

Very deep colour. Spicy coffee-ish and black fruit aromas. Very intense and profound. Deep and structured with a wonderful velvet texture and multi-layered fruit flavours. Calon-Ségur does it again. A sumptuous and multi-layered wine with excellent tannins, acidity and fruit extract in balance. Wonderful. First Growth quality. 19

Marquis de Calon

89 - 91

76 CS 24 M

Inky deep colour. Sweet bright fruit aromas. Juicy and intense scents of blueberry and some spice. Rich and concentrated flavours. Spicy tannins with fresh acidity. Very delicious. 16.5

Cos d'Estournel

95 - 97 *

No frost on the whole property (Médoc and St Estèphe)

66 CS 32 M 1 CF 1 PV 60% new oak

Warm coffee spice and intense plum and damson fruit. Inviting. Inky deep and complex aromas, forest fruits and crème de mûre. Very concentrated and deep flavours with huge extract, but freshness and spice. Some hints of tea and rosehip, with lots of cassis and black fruit. Deep, good acidity ripe but fill tannins and a spicy long finish. Very good indeed. First growth quality. 19+

Les Pagodes de Cos

93 - 95

56 CS 42 M 1 CF 1 PV 30% new oak

Inky purple colour. Intense spicy aromas inviting deep fruit. Very intense and creamy textured with soft red and black fruits and rounded tannins. Juicy black fruit. Huge extraction and depth with powerful tannins, rounded black fruit and fresh acidity. Deep and long finish. Very good indeed. 18



Cos Labory 87 - 89

57 CS 38 M 5 CF

Very deep colour. Inky smoky scents with tar and floral notes. Juicy, chalky fruit flavours. A little angular and slightly rustic tannins, but fresh. 16

Haut Marbuzet 87 - 89

50 CS 40 M 10 CF

Mid deep colour. Juicy fruit and sweet redcurrant aromas. Sweet fruit in the mouth. Uncomplicated but charming, although surprisingly lightweight for the appellation. 16

Laffitte Carcasset 87 - 89

70 CS 30 M

Very deep purple colour. Blue fruit and cool mint aromas, no apparent oak yet. Fresh and inviting. Fruity and fresh in the mouth. Not hugely complicated, but appealing and charming, in an elegant, fresh way. 16

Lafon Rochet 87 - 89

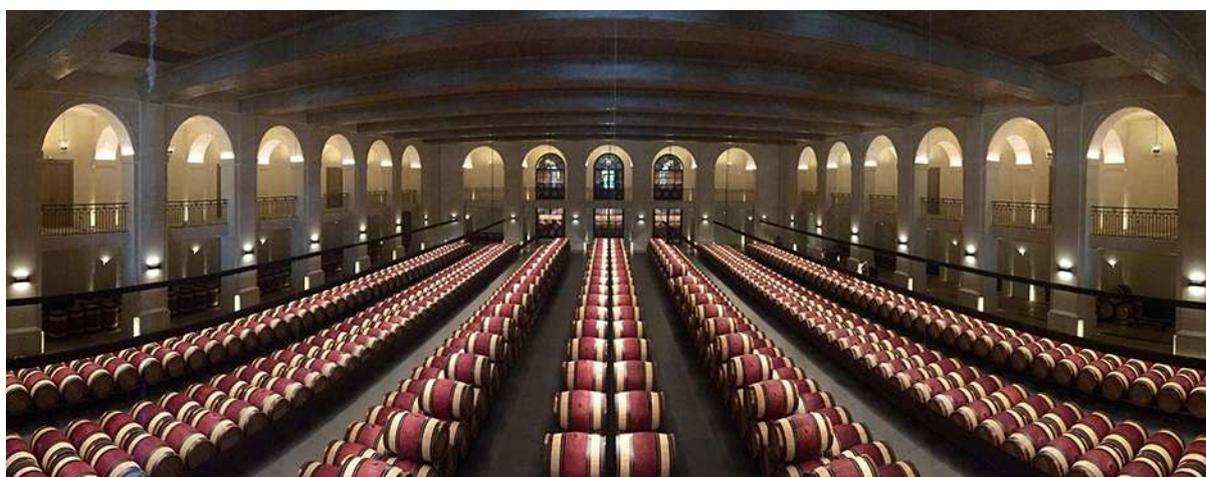
55 CS 34 M 6 PV 5 CF

Inky, spicy fruity aromas, with some coffee and cocoa. Juicy and fruity, but quite soft and a little rounded in terms of tannins and acidity. Very pleasant, but not quite as good as usual for Lafon Rochet. 16

Lilian Ladouys 91 - 93 *

50 M 43 CS 7 PV

Very bright violet fruit and floral aromas, no obvious oak aromas yet. Juicy black fruit aromas. Well extracted black fruit and spices. Damson, black plum and some kirsch. Good tannin depth and fresh acidity. Full flavoured and balanced, Great depth and a real result within the commune. Very good. 17+



Château Montrose

Montrose 91 - 93

No frost at the property.

76 CS 20 M 3 CF 1 PV

Inky purple black colour. Lots of warm oak mocha scents. Powerful black fruit. Some thyme and garrigue-like complexity. Excellent acid balance, and powerful tannic structure, good fruit extraction, classic in an elegant style. Just a tiny bit green and leafy on the mid-palate. Tannic finish. 17

La Dame de Montrose 91 - 93

49 M 43 CS 2 CF 4 PV

Some spices and earthy wood aromas, deep fruit. A little muted. Rounded juicy fruit, but with a slight hollow edge in the mid-palate. Some pyrazine. Big tannic extraction and a little dry-edged. Very serious and traditional for a second wine. 17

Ormes de Pez**89 - 91**

51 M 42 CS 6 CF 1 PV

Very deep purple colour. Rich spicy oak and black fruit aromas. Juicy black fruit and with some damson and redcurrant freshness. Not hugely complex or deep, but charming and fresh. Good long finish with relatively soft tannins. 16.5

de Pez**89 - 91**

51 CS 46 M 1.5 CF 1.5 PV

Very deep colour. Bright inviting blue fruit and spices. Some damson, some plum. Good fresh acidity and redcurrant fruit, with structured tannins. Not vastly complex, but delicious and appealing 16.5

Phélan Ségur**86 - 88**

59 CS 39 M 1 PV 1 CF

Very deep colour. Bright vibrant violet and spiced fruit aromas. Beginning of oak. Sweet soft fruit, with gentle acidity and fleshy plum characters. A little bit flat and disappointing for Phélan Ségur to me. 15.5

Tronquoy-Lalande**91 - 93 ***

55 CS 37M 6 PV 2 CF

Very deep colour. Cocoa dust, spices and warm rich fruit aromas. Inviting. Sumptuous palate and depth. No greenness, not massively complex, but very well balanced and structured, with good acidity and tannins in harmony. Good. 17





Pomerol

Beauregard 87 - 89

60 M 40 CF

Very deep colour and spicy oak aromas. Violets and red fruit. Not hugely extracted, but charming and elegant. Freshness on the finish. A little simple but very drinkable. 16

Le Bon Pasteur 88 - 90

80 M 20 CF

Very deep almost black colour. Muted and rather oaky aromas dominating. Super concentrated and rich, but with a lean streak underneath. Spicy clove-like finish. 16

Clinet 91 - 93

92 M 8 CS

Deep purple ruby colour. Warm and herbal spices and black fruit. Complex and inviting aromas. Quite woody somehow, but with massed tannins, fresh acidity and balance. Deep spicy, and very traditional style. Long rich tannic finish. For the long term. 17

Clos du Clocher 89 - 91

70 M 30 CF

Warm, rounded and spicy fruit aromas, some coffee and cocoa. Inviting. Soft and ripe flavours, ripe but grainy tannins. Soft acidity. Well structured and deeply flavoured. Good. 16.5

La Croix de Gay 90 - 92

93 M 7 CF

Deep colour. Spicy chalky black fruit aromas. Deep black fruit. Perfume. Rich extract, with a fresh acidity to balance and good depth. Spicy tannins on finish. 16.5

La Cabanne 87 - 89

100 M

Juicy inky and violettish aromas, no obvious oak. Sweet and inviting. Juicy and rich but with a slightly lean and baked aspect underneath. Good tannins and juiciness. Fresh acidity. 16



La Conseillante 95 - 97 *

85 M 15 CF

Warm spices and deep blue fruit aromas. Some violet and plum. Very inviting. Rounded and sumptuous, with no harsh edges and very fine acidity. Beautifully textured and classy. What a star. Very long spicy finish. Great balance 19+

Gazin 92 - 94 *

95 M 5 CF

Very deep purple colour. Floral violet perfume. Fresh. Inviting. Very well extracted and juicy fruit with beautiful acidity and ripe tannins. Well balanced and good length. Very good. 17.5

Mazeyres 90 - 92 **

(Biodynamic. 50 lost to frost.)

86 M 14 CF

Very deep colour. Spices and rich fruit. Generous and rounded, without any obvious oak yet. Delicious and rounded, Well balanced and excellent value as always. 17

Nenin

92 - 94

58 M 42 CF

(Lost 70% of second wine to frost. 10% of grand vin. No second bud fruit).

Very deep purple colour. Creamy and toasty scents. Black and red fruit. Concentrated and enticing aroma. Packed tannins and rich fruit. Oak already apparent. Concentrated and long with good freshness and depth. Fleshy fruit and fresh acidity, fine ripe tannins. Powerful, but still elegant. Good. 17.5

Petit Village

94 - 96 *

71 M 20 CF 9 CS

Very deep colour. Closed oaky aromas. Spicy and some oak at this stage. Rich floral aroma. Rich and sweet fruit flavours, fresh acidity and depth. Concentrated and structured. Polished. Very good. 18

*Château Petit-Village***Rouget**

92 - 94 *

85 M 15 CF

Black as pitch! Packed and very chocolatey deep coffee spice aromas and flavours with sweet black fruit. Very juicy and rich. Balanced acidity and tannins. Very good indeed. 17.5

Vieux Château Certan

95 - 97 *

81 M 14 CF 5 CS 14.2%

Very deep ruby purple colour. Spices and rich red fruit. Inviting and intense aroma. Deep flavours of red and black fruits with plenty of sweet herbs and cocoa. Licorice and violet. Intense and full flavoured, with good balancing acidity and great structure. Full but ripe tannins. Very good indeed. 19

Vieux Maillet

93 - 95 **

80 M 18 CF 2 CS

Violet floral and sweet cinnamon spices with black fruit cherry and damson scents. Serious structure and depth, with fresh acidity. Beautifully balanced in terms of tannin and acidity. Concentrated and powerful, but elegant. Very classy. 18

St Emilion

Angélu

95 - 97 *

70 M 30 CF

Saturated glass-stainingly deep colour. Already lots of sweet spicy oak aromas. Warm black fruit and blueberry scents. Very rich approach with deep black fruits, some damson and plum. If there was anything green going on in the vineyards, then it went into the Carillon, because it is not present here. Black and concentrated fruit. Depth and power, but with freshness. A really good example of a success in the vintage. Mouthcoating grainy tannins on the finish suggesting a long life ahead, but super-complex and deep. 19+



Carillon d'Angélu

89 - 91

90 M 10 CF

Deep purple colour. Warm perfume and spices. Coffee and cinnamon with some cocoa. Black and red fruit. Warm extract with juicy fruit and purple berries. Lots of tannins and just a hint of leafy freshness. But backed by powerful black fruit. Intense. Mouth coating tannins with good fresh acidity. Rich and slightly warm finish. 16.5

Ballestard le Tonnelle

85 - 87

70 M 25 CF 5 CS

Very deep purple colour. Grassy and rich aroma. Sweet but somehow pyrazine at the same time. Very rich and chocolatey, but rounded. Ripe. Perhaps a little warm. 15.5

Cap de Mourlin

87 - 89

65 M 25 CF 10 CS

Rich oaky and deep aromas. Soft fruit, spicy tannins. Rich and spicy, dry and rich black fruit. No greenness, but fresh and rounded. Pretty good. 16

Beau-Sejour Bécot

90 - 92

80 M 15 CF 5 CS 13.1%

Slightly savoury, meaty oak aromas. Fresh black fruit. (Early harvest). Light and elegant, fresh fruit flavours. Balanced and not a monster, not warm. Fresh and long finish. Charming. 16.5



Bellevue

93 - 95*

(de Bouïard)

100 M

Inky purple-black colour. Lots of liquorice spice with some clove and cinnamon. Concentrated and intense. Very rich in the mouth with super-ripe concentrated inky fruit. Blueberries and damsons, plums and roses. Not especially oaky at this stage, but with mouth-staining tannins and depth. Good fresh acidity to back this up. Very ripe. Great depth and extract on the finish. Very good. 18

Bellevue-Mondotte

92 - 94 *

90 M 5 CF 5 CS 14.5%

Inky black colour. Super concentrated and juicy sweet black fruit aromas. Almost jammy and concentrated. Makes you wonder how they manage to get this consistency of flavour and approach from year to year, weather irrespective! Lots of coffee oak but drenched in sweet black fruit, kirsch and crème de mûre. Holds balance with fresh acidity, and ripe tannins. 17.5

Berliquet 84 - 86

70 M 30 CF

Mid deep colour. Muted oaky aroma. Lots of fresh red fruit, but just a little green streak of woody tannins. 15

Canon 89 - 91

77 M 23 CF

Warm and spicy oak aromas, sweet red fruit. Juicy and fresh, but just lacking a little something fleshy in the mid palate. Rounded tannins and acidity. Fresh finish. 16.5

Canon la Gaffelière 91 - 93

60 M 30 CF 10 CS

Bright and vibrant red and black fruit aromas, no obvious new oak. Rounded tannins and soft fruit in balance. Good fresh acidity, but plenty of flesh, weight and structure. Ripe and soft finish. Good 17



Château Cheval-Blanc

Cheval Blanc 93 - 95

56 M 30 CF 14 CS

*30% lost to frost (clay soils, CF mainly) 8% of the total production
78% of the production. 100% new oak (18 months) 13%*

Very oaky spicy and cocoa dust oaky aromas. Floral, violet and leafy. Black fruit, Inviting in a classic style. Lean fruit, some greenness. Rich cassis and black plum fruit flavours. Spicy oak, and dry tannins. Fresh dry finish. Classic, but just a little expressive of the frost and the vintage. 18

Petit Cheval 86 - 88

52 M 48 CF

13% 50% new oak. Second bud material used.

Mid deep colour. Some spicy meaty oak aromas, black fruit underneath. Some herby leafy aromas. Dry spices. Some green herby leafy touches, but with black fruit, some coffee hints, and dry spices. Good acidity and tannin balance, but a little lacking in complexity. 15.5



**Clos Fourtet**

92 - 94

86 M 10 CS 4 CF

Rich warm oak and deep fruit aromas. Rounded sweet black and red fruit flavours, good extract and depth. Soft tannic structure and acidity. Some cocoa complexity. Well made and with lovely tannic structure on the finish. Very good. 17.5

La Couspaude

88 - 90

75 M 20 CF 5 CS

Mid colour. Soft and rounded fruit aromas, a little warm. Spicy oak. Red fruit and hints of leather spice. A little bit too much oak for the fruit even at this stage, but fresh and elegant, not a monster, and not warm in alcohol. Would be good to see the development here. 16?

Daugay

91 - 93

(de Bouiard)

74 M 17 CF 9 CS

Purple-black colour. Warm oaky aromas already with coffee bean, clove and cinnamon. Plenty of red plum and black cherry fruit backing up. Concentrated and extracted palate, with juicy purple fruit flavours, some floral and spicy tannins. Crisp fresh acidity all holding everything in check. No hint of greenness issues. Good. 17

La Dominique

90 - 92

10% Amphora. 30% new wood.

70 M 20 CF 10 CS

Very deep colour. Spicy oak aromas and cinnamon. Black fruit. Inviting. Not hugely fleshy in the mouth but with excellent tannic structure and depth. Good acidity and classic. Will be good. 16.5

Faugères

89 - 91

85 M 10 CF 5 CS

Inky purple colour. Liquorice spice and blue fruit aromas. Inviting and concentrated. Rich plush sweet fruit extract. Dry tannins and fresh acidity underneath. Very enjoyable. Excellent value for money here. 16.5+

Figeac

93 - 95 *

43 M 47 CS 10 CF 13.5%

Really deep and expressive Cabernet nose. Black fruit, violets and sweet earth. Very inviting. Rich and mouth-filling with marzipan hints, sweet fruit and layered complexity, but fresh. Fine tannins, and good acidity, with plush sweet fruit and spices. Very good indeed. 18

La Fleur-Perey

92 - 94 *

90 M 10 CF

Very deep inky black colour. Rich spicy aromas. Lots of tightly packed cassis and bramble fruit. Juicy and concentrated with intense fruit - completely ripe, but not over-ripe (seemingly a big achievement in this vintage). A little warm, but held in balance with powerful extract and depth. Very good wine indeed. 17.5+





Fombrauge

89 - 91

93 M 7 CF

Inky and sweet spices with some oak scents. Very juicy and rich with sweet black fruit and blueberry juice. Rich tannins, but fresh. Great right bank effort. 16.5

Franc Mayne

89 - 91

95 M 5 CF

Deep colour, and deep oaky spicy scents. Brooding and violetty. Inviting. Rich fruit extraction and with juicy fruit. Good tannins and freshness. Rounded. Relatively simple, but charming and delicious. 16.5

La Gaffelière

86 - 88

55 M 45 CF

Savoury and rich oak scents. Spices and meaty coffee. Warm and a little soupy, with good tannins, but lacking a certain degree of freshness. Warm finish. 15.5

Grand Mayne

87 - 89

85 M 15 CF

Spicy black fruit and cassis aromas. Some hints of oak. Fresh black fruit, good acidity and balance. Elegant and quite charming. 16

Larcis Ducasse

87 - 89

92 M 8 CF

Very dark colour. Sweet black fruit aromas. Very inviting and in the blockbuster style. Lots of dry spicy tannins and rich savoury extract. Deep fruit. Long spicy tannic finish. 16

Lusseau

93 - 95 *

70 M 20 CF 10 CS 13.4%

Deep ruby-purple colour. Rich and ripe inky violet aromas. Toast and spices, mocha and blueberry fruit flavours. Rich and complex. Completely ripe. Juicy sweet fruit extract and depth. Complex and intense, with great length. Fresh finish. Very good. 18

Monbousquet 91 - 93

60 M 30 CF 10 CS 13.4%

Saturated purple colour. Inky deep sweet red and black cherry fruit aromas. Some spices. Juicy red and black fruit flavours. Inky texture and structure. Warm grippy tannins, balanced acidity, no green, fresh long deep fruity finish. Good. 17

Angelique de Monbousquet 87 - 89

60 M 30 CF 10 CS 13.3%

Deep purple colour. Very sweet rich ripe fruit aromas and flavours. Rich and deep inky earthy spice, big tannins, slightly grippy and woody. Fresh acidity, but just a shade hollow in the mid palate. 16



Pavie 93 - 95

60 M 22 CF 18 CS 14.6%

Inky black colour. Deep and spicy aromas. Less open than the Arômes, which is perhaps not surprising as this is in 80% new wood. Monster extraction and depth with tinglingly rich tannins and sweet fruit. Bright violet and spice – almost Syrah-like in its intensity. Powerful, packed fruit and sweet tannins. A streak of acidity holding it together. Intense and very good of its style. 18

Arômes de Pavie 92 - 94

65 M 18 CF 17 CS 14.6%

Purple black colour. Chocolate, mocha and sweet black fruit liqueur aromas. Lots of oak, lots of fruit, lots of everything. Super concentrated and rich with powerful very-ripe tannins, balancing acidity, and lots of sweet fruit extract. Manages to be balanced. Just. 17.5

Pavie Decesse 89 - 91

90 M 10 CF 14.51

Incredibly deep inky purple-black colour. Massive extract of juicy black fruit with some kirsch and cassis liqueur scents. Super-rich and concentrated extract with sweet juicy fruit, some bramble jelly and sweet peppermint-crème. Very concentrated with rich tannins, just enough acidity and a liqueur like finish. 16.5-

Pavie Maquin 91 - 93

80 M 18 CF 2 CS

Very dark colour. Deep spicy fruit flavours, and warm juicy tannins. Warm in the mouth with big extract and depth. Spicy fruit. Concentrated and deep. Well balanced warm finish which manages to retain elegance. Very good. 17

Peby Faugères

92 - 94 *

100 M

Super concentrated and inky coloured and scented. Rich and inviting warm oaky aromas. Powerful sweet blue and red fruit flavours, coffee, spices and cocoa. Concentrated and warm. Very good. 17.5

Quinault l'Enclos

88 - 90

62 M 16 CF 22 CS 13% *no frost*

(Served a little cold, hence muted aroma) Spices, dry earth and oak already showing. Full rich fruit, with a streak of lean minty leafy fruit. Good acidity and tannins, but a little streaky fruit and dry lean finish. Elegant, but perhaps overly so. 16-?

Le Roc de Boisseaux

92 - 94 *

70 M 25 CF 5 CS

Mid-deep colour. Violet and red fruit aromas, serious spices and coffee scents from oak already apparent. Very rich extract with plenty of ripe fruit, coffee, earth, toast and blueberry flavours. Lots of bright ripe tannins. Rounded rich mouthfeel. Spicy finish. Freshness and richness in balance. Very good. 17.5

Soutard

85 - 87

89 M 10 CF 1 Malb

Very deep colour and spicy oak aroma. Rich and deep, soft black and fed fruit flavours. Lacking a little precision and freshness. Simple and appealing. 15.5

Terte Roteboeuf

95 - 97 *

85 M 15 CF. *No frost, no selection.*

Intense spicy powerful oak aromas. Rich blue fruit. Perfectly balanced ripe soft tannins and fresh acidity with layered complex expressive fruit. Wonderfully compelling depth and extract. No harsh edges, but will last. Exceptional. 19

La Tour Figéac

86 - 88

80 CF 20 M

Spicy blueberry fruit and inviting chalky freshness. Black cassis aromas. Just a little dilute on the palate with some leafiness to accompany the black fruit. 15.5



Tour Perey

92 - 94**

70 M 20 CS 10 CF

Lots of warm, spicy coffee oak. Sweet black fruit and spices. Big tannic extract, fresh acidity. Very oaky at this stage, but with powerful red and black fruit underneath, ripe but not over-ripe. Very rich finish. Good. 17.5

Troplong Mondot

91 - 93

85 M 13 CS 2 CF

Very intense blue fruit and violet aromas. Concentrated and inviting. Some youthful oak, but predominantly deep fruit and cassis flavours. Rich with sweet spices. Concentrated and delicious, if a little warm on the finish. 17

Trotte Vieille

85 - 87

43 M 1 CS 46 CF

Mid colour. Warm sweet fruit aromas. Juicy and fresh, with a slight green streak. Bit hollow on the finish. 15

Valandraud

92 - 94

90 M 10 CF

Incredibly deep colour. Very intense and deep extraction of colour and flavour. Spices. Not especially oaky (yet!) Very rich and concentrated. Deep juicy fruit. Some floral, great tannic depth and good acidity. Great texture and depth. Long. Very good. 17.5

Villemaurine

89 - 91

80 M 20 CF

Very deep colour. Sweet black fruit and violet aromas. Juicy and inviting. Packed and deep fruit flavours. Juicy and fruity. Good balance and depth. Fine tannins on the finish. 16.5



Château Angéus

White Wines

Bordeaux AoC

Aile d'Argent 95 - 97 *

53 SB 46 Sem 1 Muscadelle
Deep candied grapefruit and nectarine aromas. Very sweet citrus with orange-blossom and honey. Hugely concentrated and inviting, but fresh. Wow! What an achievement! This really is a great year for whites, and this wine really proves that. Intense with baked citrus, traces of honey and flowers, but a powerful nectarine and peach core. Fresh grapefruit acidity underpins all this, and just a streak of pith-phenolic to balance it out. Fine acidity and astonishingly long. Very good indeed 19.

Blanc de Lynch Bages 92 - 94

40 SB 41 Sem
19 Muscadelle
Warm creamy hints of lime and pastry. Flowers and some very ripe rhubarb aromas. Grassy grapefruit and citrus pip/pith complexity. Deep baked lime and fresh floral complexity. Very good. Needs the oak it is about to get to round out and soften 17.5

Cos d'Estournel 93 - 95

80 SB 20 Sem
Sweet lime and floral aroma, with some apricot and nectarine aromas. Creamy, beginnings of oak. Rounded candied lemon and lime curd flavours. Full flavoured and concentrated with rich citrus, some pith and hints of tropical fruit. Very concentrated and deep. Not quite the measure of Aile d'Argent, but very good indeed. 18+

Monbousquet Blanc 92 - 94

60 SB 30 SG 5 Sem 5 Muscadelle 13.5%
1 ha (4000b)
Warm and honeyed lemon curd aromas. Big fat full textured fruit flavours with citrus and honeydew melon. Oak not yet dominant, but some phenolic. Good acidity and structure, Rich ripe, very good. 17.5

Pavillon Blanc de Margaux 95 - 97 *

100 SB
Will be under Diam, dark glass. 3.07 acidity. 13.9 % 20% new oak
Very rich concentrated. Grapefruit and peach, apricot and white flowers. No oak aromas at all at the moment. More Sauvignon-y to taste with greengage and yellow plum, but also nectarine and peach. Incredibly concentrated and deep with rich juicy fruit concentration and depth. Very well balanced acidity and fruit weight. Remarkable. 19.



Graves & Pessac-Léognan

Bouscaut

89 - 91

68 SB 32 Sem

Floral, lime, greengage and grapefruit. Rich to the point of tasting like 2 - 3 g/L RS. Grapefruit and some phenolic. Quite complex, and very drinkable. Good 16.5

Chantegrive 'Cuvée Caroline'

85 - 87

50 Sem 50 SB

Lime, citrus, leaf, fresh. No oak apparent. Simple and fresh. Appealing and fresh acidity, mid-length. Appealing. 15.5

Carbonnieux

92 - 94

65 SB 35 Sem

Gooseberry and leafy aromas. Fresh fruit, some peach and nectarine richness, quite complex. Very appealing. Very delicious, long balanced finish. Ripe but fresh. Very good 17

Domaine de Chevalier

86 - 88

55 SB 45 Sem

Hints of oak appearing. Honeyed and rich green fruit and floral aromas. Slightly lacking depth in the mid palate, but fresh and lively. Very pleasant, green finish. 15.5

Ferrande

91 - 93 *

40 Sem 60 SB

Richer citrus and lime aromas, with some slight pastry hints. Some honey and almost hints of almond nut complexity. Rather appealing and deeply flavoured. Well balanced. 17



Château Haut-Brion

Haut-Brion

96 - 98 *

56 SB 44 Sem

Very intense candied grapefruit aromas, with lime blossom and hints of honey and vanilla oak. Rich and concentrated with lemon meringue pie depth of cream, pastry and citrus curd. Some floral. Sharp but pinpoint poised acidity and freshness. Hint of almond-skin bitterness balancing the very rich lime-marmalade depth. Exceptional. 19.5

La Clarté de Haut-Brion

90 - 92

30.5 SB 69.5 Sem

Intensely citrusy with lemon and grapefruit aromas. No obvious oak apparent. Fresh and balanced, with good acidity, touch of phenolic pith and balanced fruit flavours. Concentrated but relatively simple fruit depth. Lemon and lime finish. Just a shade disappointing for the (excellent for whites) vintage - perhaps more went into the Grand Vin? 16

Latour Martillac

89 - 91

50 SB 50 Sem

Some honey and white flowers, hints grapefruit and nectarine. A little phenolic and with some almond skin complexity. Rather delicious, with sweet lemon curd on the finish. Good 16.5

La Louvière

87 - 89

60 SB 40 Sem

Greengage and leafy fresh lime fruit aromas. Bright and vibrant fresh acidity and leafy, mineral complexity. Good 16

Malartic la Gravière

88 - 90

80 SB 20 Sem

Some honeyed green fruit and floral aromas, with mint and baked root vegetable complexity. Not fierce acidity, but fresh and well balanced. Not hugely complex, but very pleasant and well made. 16



La Mission Haut-Brion

94 - 96 *

24 SB 76 Sem

Some warm vanilla oak aromas. Deep baked lemon fruit scents. More concentrated and complex. Some pastry/lemon curd complexity. Rich with some notes of honey and nectarine. Concentrated with a hint of dry spicy phenolic and thyme. Concentrated and rounded, with delicious acidity and depth. Very good indeed. 18.5

Olivier

89 - 91

78 SB 22 Sem 2 Muscadelle

Beginnings of oak aromas, with honeyed fruit and some green citrus scents. Rounded and quite soft in the mouth with some pastry and key-lime pie complexity. Well made and rounded. 16.5

*Château Pape Clément***Pape Clément**

92 - 94 *

60 SB 40 Sem

Warm with the beginnings of oak aromas. Rich green fruit scents, appealing and inviting. Rich and rounded, with great extract and depth of yellow plum and greengage fruit, some pastry hints. Rich and complex finish. Good. 17.5

Pique Caillou

87 - 89

80 SB 20 Sem

Some rounded and slightly muted almost phenolic pith aromas, with leaf and fresh citrus fruit. Rich in the mouth. Some honey, ripe nectarine and yellow plum fruit flavours. Good. 16

Rahoul

89 - 91

60 Sem 40 SB

Some oak hints beginning to creep in. Rich leafy straw and honey hints. Rounded acidity. Lemon and lime. Some cheesecake complexity. Good. 16.5

Smith Haut Lafite

91 - 93

90 SB 5 SG 5 Sem

Warm, and some oak already showing on the nose. Rich lime and gooseberry fruit flavours, cream, honey and toast. Rather complex and delicious. Deeply flavoured and balanced. Really good. 17



Sauternes & Barsac

Bastor Lamontagne

91 - 93

80 Sem 20 SB

Earthy rich botrytis aromas with mushroom and candied peel. Lemon and flowers. Creamy texture with good balance of acidity to sweetness – not overpowering. Some peel and candied fruit complexity. Clean finish. Good 17.

Broustet

85 - 87

75 Sem 15 SB 10 Muscadelle

Clean, fresh lemony, and not hugely botrytis notes on the nose. Rich in the mouth with good acidity and creaminess of texture, but lacking a great amount of depth and complexity. 15

Coutet

92 - 94

75 Sem 23 SB 2 Muscadelle

Warm oak, pastry and botrytis aromas. Very rich and creamy fruit characters, with a real crème caramel touch. Enough balancing acidity and lots of complexity and depth. Very long, mouthfilling finish. Very good. 17.5+

Doisy Daëne

86 - 88

100 Sem

Oak aromas. Honey, spices and confit citrus peel. Super sweet, but not quite cloying. Just enough balancing acidity. Warm, aldehyde banana skin and pear flavours. Very sweet. To me not quite sure this maintains (enough) balance. 15.5

Doisy Védrières

89 - 91

80 Sem 15 SB 5 Muscadelle

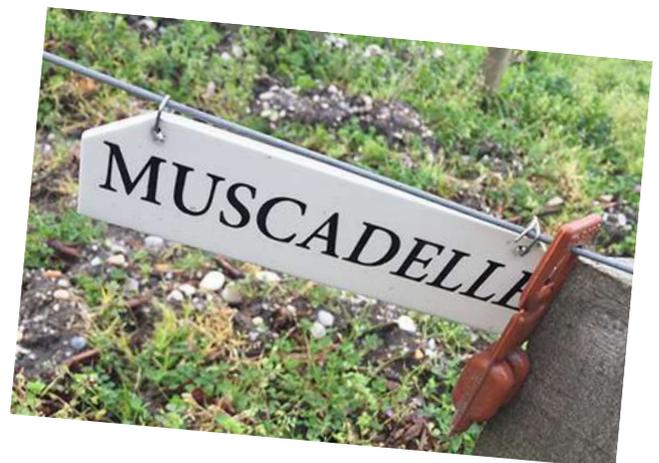
Fresh confit citrus aromas, with some honey and baked bread characters. Intensely sweet, but with enough fresh balancing acidity. Warm, and rich in the mouth and honeyed on the finish. A little disjointed at this stage, but will be good. 16.5

De Fargues

87 - 89

80 Sem 20 SB

Creamy and lime citrus aromas, with some pastry and baklava hints. Very sweet, with soft acidity and juicy lime and raisin fruit. Not hugely complex, but well balanced and pleasant. 16



Guiraud 92 - 94 *

65 Sem 35 SB

Fairly deep golden colour. Some youthful raw oak scents, with plenty of honeyed crystallised fruit. Inviting. Good balancing acidity and freshness, plenty of deep palate weight. long, warm, honeyed finish. Good 17.5

Haut Peyraguey 92 - 94 **

95 Sem 5 SB

Mid deep golden colour. Huge botrytis aromas. Rich honeyed fruit. Citrus and orange blossom. Some marzipan. Complex and delicious. Good balancing acidity. Long finish. 17.5



Lafaurie-Peyraguey 90 - 92

95 Sem 5 SB

Mid deep golden colour, some green. Very rich botrytis aromas. Lots of honey and cream. Intensely sweet with honey, marzipan and butterscotch. Good, but very powerful and concentrated. 16.5

Rayne Vigneau 92 - 94

80 Sem 20 SB

Deep golden colour. Very rich ripe aromas of orange peel, flowers and some honeyed nuts. Powerful and concentrated botrytis and deep fruit flavours, with some hints of oak already. Very concentrated and sweet spiced finish. Long. Good. 17.5

Rieussec 95 - 97 *

83 Sem 17 SB

129g/L. 15% lost to frost, most of the Muscadelle not used.

Very involving and harmonious nose, without any obvious oak aromas yet. Crème brûlée, and honey with fresh citrus fruit scents. Lots of botrytis, without being too much. Incredible creamy texture and depth, with honey and spices. Unctuous, but with great balancing acidity (considering the relatively low %age of SB). Very long finish, butterscotch and candied peel. Very long. Really great. 19.

Suduiraut

93 - 95 *

94 Sem 6 SB

18 mnths oak 50% new

Plenty of oak to scent, but with honey and spices, as well as candied fruit. Very concentrated and deep fruit flavours with honey, nuts and citrus peel. Rich and very sweet, but balanced acidity and freshness. Very good. Complex long finish. 18+

Sigalas Rabaud

89 - 91

90 Sem 10 SB

Relatively pale colour. Warm oak and botrytis aromas. Honey and cream as well as candied lime and flowers. Fresh acidity. Lacks the complexity of some of the others, but makes up for it in freshness. Very appealing. 16.5

La Tour Blanche

91 - 93

85 Sem 13 SB 2 Muscadelle

Fairly deep colour. Warm marzipan aromas with botrytis held in check, and baked fruit. Rich and honeyed flavours. Not cloying but hugely deep and sweet. Honey and candied fruit flavours. Very rich, warm and rounded sweet finish. 17

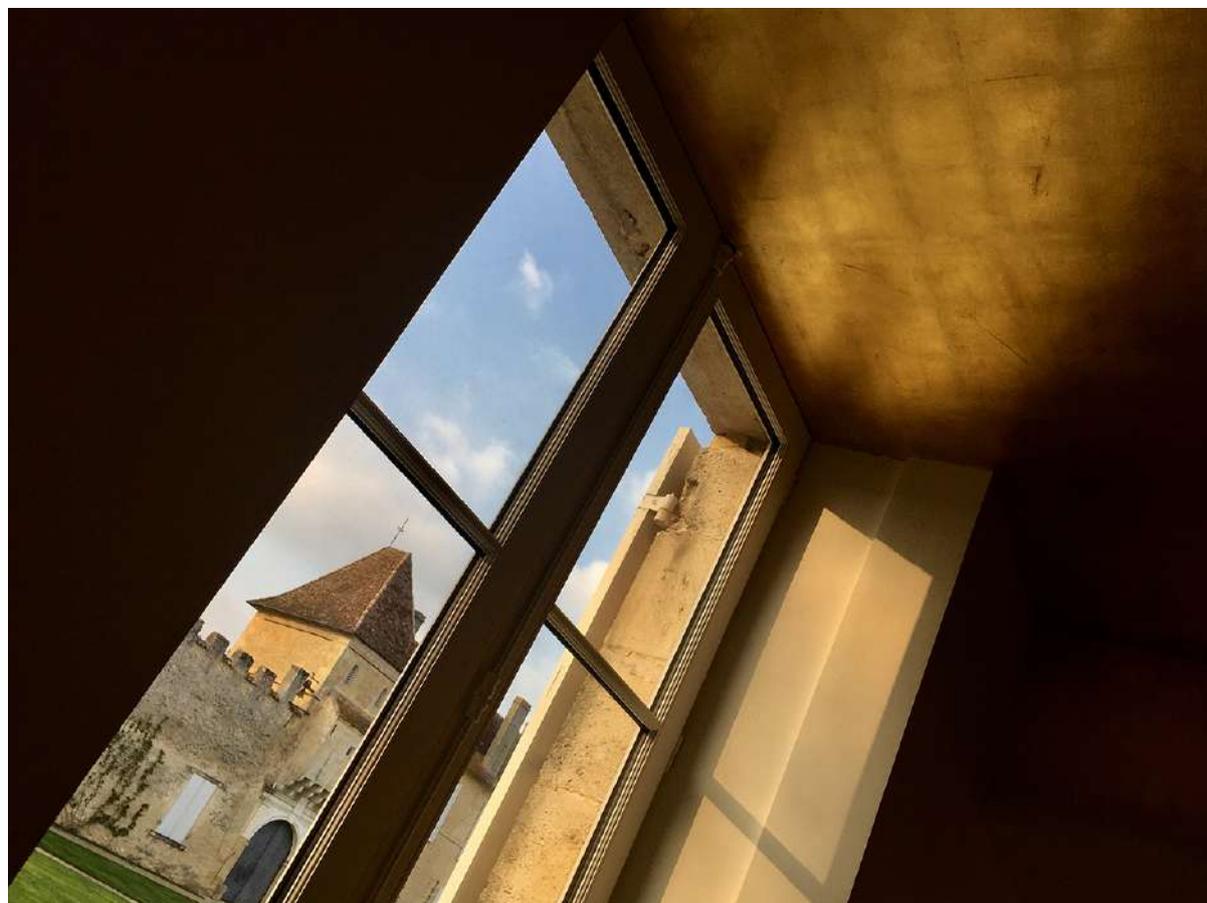
d'Yquem

96 - 98 *

85 Sem 15 SB

148 g/L no frost. Harvest end Sept – only three weeks, Two tries (only)

Lots of honeyed vanilla oak aromas. Sweet candied orange peel aromas, some rosewater floral. But actually a little closed in aroma. Very rounded despite its intense sugar. Enough fresh acidity to compensate, very deep rich marzipan, cream and honey flavours. Magnificent intensity on a very long finish. Manages balance despite huge amounts of everything. Great wine. 19.5



Château d'Yquem



Art at Château Pedesclaux in Pauillac,