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**BORDEAUX
2016**

EN PRIMEUR

BORDEAUX - AN OVERVIEW

Bordeaux has a habit of delivering great vintages in pairs. Think of 1989 and 1990, 1995 and 1996, 2009 and 2010. What makes Bordeaux all the more fascinating is that successive great vintages tend to have totally different personalities.

Strictly speaking the 2015 vintage does not fall into the category of 'great' as it did not offer the same uniformity of quality across all appellations. The late season rains saw 150ml of rain in the northern Médoc, specifically in the commune of St. Estèphe which led to dilution of the grapes. That said, there were some truly great wines produced in St Julien and Margaux in particular, and also in on the left bank in Pomerol and St Emilion. Wines from these areas are amongst the very best.

The 2016 vintage is already being lauded as a great vintage. The cynics and critical observers will smile wryly in the knowledge that the Bordelais are able to claim greatness without cracking a smile of their own, given half the chance! Our annual excursion to the vineyards of Bordeaux to visit the top Châteaux and attend the UGC (Union des Grands Crus) tastings is our opportunity to make our own independent assessment of how good the wines really are. This year would be the first time that my daughter, Georgia Townend, 5th generation and currently working in the commercial department of Bordeaux Négociant, Maison Sichel (also owner of Château Angludet and co proprietor of Château Palmer), joined us on our tastings.

So after a week of intense tastings we have now had time to reflect and deliver our verdict. Rather than just describing it as a 'Great' vintage, we would prefer to label it as a 'Classic' Bordeaux vintage. This should put a wide smile on the face of the Claret lover. Charles Sichel refined this further by saying "we are on the best side of classicism". The wines are powerful with a remarkable intensity and tannin structure. They possess a delicious freshness and due to the warm temperatures (as opposed to hot) are lower in alcohol compared with 2015. This resulted in the aromas being a little subdued at the time of tasting compared to the same time last year when we were assessing the 2015 vintage; however they will develop with time. The lower alcohol has also allowed the red fruit characteristics to show themselves, as opposed to the distinct black fruit character of the 2015 vintage.

Currently the wines are tight, brooding and a little introvert, characteristics that are a pre-requisite for fine Claret. They are a great succession to the more extrovert, rich wines of 2015. The wines from the 2016 vintage are very suave, full of power and energy and will have a very long lifespan. Maybe the Bordelais are right to be somewhat smug!



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WHY BUY BORDEAUX “EN PRIMEUR”?

There is no doubt that this has become a very contentious question in recent years, particularly when it comes to Bordeaux. What was once meant to be a system that benefited everyone, from Château owner through to the end consumer, has fallen victim to the greed of the Château owners who seem to think that no one should benefit from any value appreciation other than themselves. We must point out that this accusation is directed in particular towards the 1st Growths and ‘Super Seconds’, although there are others who have followed suit at the first opportunity.

Historically, there are a number of reasons for buying ‘En Primeur’, the most obvious being that you are buying your wine at the initial release price from the Château. The wines of Bordeaux take many years to develop before they are ready to drink by which time they may not be commercially available, and even if they are the price becomes prohibitive.

Also by buying En Primeur you can be sure of the provenance of your wine, knowing where and how it has been stored. When buying mature wine on the open market there is always the danger that it has been around the world, stored in variable conditions, which may cause damage to the wine.

Finally, it is important to purchase from a traditional, established wine merchant in whom you can place your trust. The House of Townend celebrates 110 years in the hands of the same family and we pride ourselves in giving personal, considered advice.



2016 - THE GROWING SEASON

2016 proved to be an exceptionally difficult year for winemaking in France, particularly in the northern areas with the Loire Valley, Chablis and Burgundy all suffering from extreme weather conditions. Somehow the area of Bordeaux was blessed by the Gods and we go into more detail on this in the 'Growing Season' section of this offer. Words such as 'miraculous' and 'crazy' were often used by the Châteaux owners when discussing the 2016 vintage, not because of how good it was, but to emphasise how lucky they were. Many weather bullets had been dodged. Yann Laudeho, winemaker at Château Smith Haut Lafitte, described it a "catastrophe that never happened".

The very wet winter proved to play a fundamental role in the success of this vintage. Between January and May it was particularly wet, with rainfall two to three times higher than the norm. Bud break took place in late March, but by late April and early May there were serious concerns as to how the poor weather would affect the flowering of the vine. Then a ten day period of beautiful weather allowed a very swift and homogenous flowering. Phew!

The central theme to the growing season was dryness. Remember, great vintages are made in dry years in Bordeaux, not hot ones. Light is far more important than heat. From the 20th June until September 13th there was no rain.

From late June the weather was perfect with long, warm and sunny days yet not too hot. The lack of rain during the summer period caused some concern, particularly for the younger vines that were suffering from hydric stress. Gentle stress is good for the vine, as it stops growing and the photosynthesis is focused on the ripening of the grapes. Maturation is then optimised. However, too much stress causes the vine to close down. The very wet winter had replenished the moisture in the soils, with those vineyards with a high element of clay benefiting more.

By early September it was getting serious but on the 13th September a brief storm arrived with perfect timing, refreshing the grapes. This limited rain was much needed, before a further period of fine weather allowed the grapes to continue ripening. The dry and sunny days were complemented by plummeting temperature in the evenings, sometimes as low as 3°C, which maintained the acidities at a high level.

Harvest took place in mid to late October. Some Merlot plots were showing early signs of rot and so were picked before they were phenolically ripe. Selection of the Merlot grape was very important in this respect. The Cabernet Sauvignon in particular performed spectacularly – very small berries, high in concentration with low PH readings. For this reason the wines of the Médoc are heavily dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon this vintage.

After a very testing growing season the winemakers set to work with the knowledge that the weather Gods had been on their side. All was set for something very special.



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2016 - THE WINES

There is a real sense that Bordeaux is moving on from the Robert Parker inspired era of big, rich and alcoholic wines and reverting back to the more classic, traditional style of Claret. This is a subtle shift but a notable one nevertheless. The weather conditions in 2016 have perhaps accentuated this return to 'Classic Bordeaux'.

Our tastings revealed a greater uniformity in quality as compared to its predecessor, the dry and warm summer being enjoyed by all communes in the Médoc. The real winner in 2016 is the Cabernet Sauvignon which benefitted from the long periods of warm sunshine and light with harvest not taking place until mid October. There is a high proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon in the blends of the top Châteaux and this is always a good sign of a strong vintage.

The Médoc has produced wines that are powerful and intense with great definition. The tannin structures are quite superb and the wines are beautifully textured. This is enhanced by a fragrance and freshness that provides a streak of elegance and polish. An important characteristic of 2016 is the lower levels of alcohol which enables the red fruit characteristics to stand out, adding character to the more dominant black fruits.

Whereas in 2015 it was Margaux that stole the show, there is a strong case for Pauillac being the commune to follow in 2016. This commune has produced some outstanding wines. Those who love the aristocratic, decadent, complex and smouldering wines of this commune are in for a real treat. They will no doubt be in very high demand. However, there are many great wines produced in the other major communes, St Julien in particular.

Pessac-Léognan is often overlooked, but this appellation often produces superb wines and this vintage has delivered some sensational wines – ignore it at your peril!

Over on the right bank there were concerns that the wines may be a little overblown, the dry weather causing the Merlot to suffer and rot setting in. The clay soils proved their worth as our tastings showed some outstanding wines from St Emilion, whilst Pomerol has performed particularly well. There are many wines with real substance and complexity. Alexandre Thienpont of Vieux Château Certan simply described it as "Haut Cuisine!"

"2016 is unequivocally a great vintage in Bordeaux.....we are looking at a vintage that can send tingles down the spine and back up again." Neal Martin, The Wine Advocate



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BORDEAUX

This appellation covers an area of 51,000 hectares of which 44,000 hectares are devoted to the production of red wines. Maximum yields are 55hl/ha with alcohol levels of between 10% and 13% vol. There is a lot of sub-standard wine in this appellation; however with careful (sometimes tedious) selection it is the home of some wonderful wines that are great value for money for everyday drinking.

Château Moulin de Mallet, Bordeaux (6x75cl) £20.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2018-2021)
Grape Mix: 80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc

This super little Château is situated on the plateau of Pujol, a rocky outcrop overlooking the Dordogne and facing the slopes of St Emilion. Owned and run by Serge Couderc and his son Julien who manage the estate, following “lutte raisonnée” principles, they always look to take low yields hence the intensity of concentrated fruits

Another great result from the château that occupies the place of “House Claret” in our list. Expressive, aromatic and fresh, the palate is full of bilberry and plum fruits supported by very well defined tannins.

Château Tour de Luchey, Bordeaux (6x75cl) £21.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2018 - 2021)
Grape Mix: 80% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc

This 25ha Château, situated in Moulon, to the south of St Emilion, is owned and run by the Massé family who produce a terrific wine that is another great choice for your everyday claret. Fermented and aged in cement and stainless steel tanks, with 5% aged in oak barrels, this is a delicious everyday claret. Ripe and moreish with understated tannins and a lush plum underbelly, balanced by a lovely freshness.



BORDEAUX SUPÉRIEUR

The Bordeaux Supérieur appellation covers the same geographical area as Bordeaux AOC, however the wines are produced from older vines and released 12 months later than Bordeaux AOC. Again, there are some fantastic wines to be found at this level.

Château d'Argadens, Bordeaux Supérieur (6x75cl) £27.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2019+)

Grape Mix: 64% Merlot, 24% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc, 7% Petit Verdot

This Château was purchased by the Sichel family (owners of Palmer and Angludet) in 2002. An ambitious programme of restoration began and the results have been fantastic. This is simply brilliant everyday drinking claret. Succulent, broad, with a rich mouth feel, cassis fruits, soft, ripe tannins and balancing acidity. A touch of sweet liquorice on the finish gives an added dimension.



CÔTES DE BOURG

This lesser known appellation, created in 1936, is a great source of well priced claret, especially in good vintages. Situated on the right bank just to the north of Fronsac and south of the Cote de Blaye, the soil is composed of mainly clay and limestone with some gravel and sand.

Château Saumon, Côtes de Bourg
(Drink 2018+)

£45.00 per case in Bond

Grape Mix: 90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon

Owned by the Sinan-Braud family, Château Sauman is located in the north of the Côtes de Bourg appellation. It comprises a 25 hectare-estate located on the south facing hill outside the village of Villeneuve overlooking the Garonne. Véronique Braud is the fifth generation managing the estate. Traditional winemaking techniques are used, and ageing is partly in oak.

Always buy Côtes de Bourg in vintages such as 2016, as the soils thrive in such dry conditions. Hand harvested, this wine is so vibrant, ripe and fruity. With beautiful, succulent tannins and a low acidity enabling very early drinking. Great value.



FRONSAC

This is also one of the lesser know appellations of Bordeaux. Situated to the north west of the town of Libourne near Pomerol and St Emilion, it produces wines dominated by Merlot grown on clay and limestone soils. The wines are often a little hard and tannic even though they are Merlot dominated but we have found a little gem here that just oozes richness.

Château La Vieille Cure
(Drink 2021+)

£180.00 per case in Bond

Grape Mix: 82% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, 3% Cabernet Sauvignon

Owned by Americans, Colin Ferenbach and Peter Sachs, who are advised by consultant oenologist, Michel Rolland, there is no surprise that this has a rich American feel. This château is situated on an exceptional terroir with a high clay content – perfect in vintages such as 2016. Handpicked 100% and fermented in stainless steel followed by ageing in oak barrels. Structured, rich and intense with plum and chocolate characters along with finely polished tannins. Very impressive.



MÉDOC

The Médoc AOC covers approximately 5,700 ha which constitutes 34.5% of the Médoc in total. The soils are gravel and clay-limestone with frequent areas of heavy, clay rich moisture, retentive soils that come to the fore in dry vintages such as 2016. The Cabernet Sauvignon grape performed particularly well this year.

Château Tour St Bonnet
(Drink 2020+)

£90.00 per case in Bond

Grape Mix: 50% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon and Franc, 5% Petit Verdot

This 40 hectare estate is situated in the north of the Médoc in the commune of St Christoly. Jacques Merlet ages his wine in large oak foudres for 18 months to protect the fruit characteristics of the wine. This is a really well constructed wine with the Cabernet Sauvignon giving a superb richness and structure. Bags of cassis fruits and a hint of chocolate, the tannins are soft and finely woven and the length very impressive.

Château Potensac
(Drink 2022+)

£210.00 per case in Bond

Grape Mix: 44% Merlot, 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot

From the same stable as Léoville Las Cases, this property is run by Jean-Hubert Delon and is situated in the far north of the Médoc, close to Château Sociando Mallet, and it gets better every year. After hand harvesting the wine is aged in 33% new oak for 15 months. The vines are an average 40 years old and planted on soils similar to those of St Estèphe. Very careful selection has meant only 55% of the vineyards production was used in the Grand Vin in 2016. This wine is really dense, concentrated and full of cassis, plums and cherries with a hint of coffee and a little rustic spice. A classic Claret. Arguably the finest from this property for many years.



HAUT-MÉDOC

Around the edges of the Médoc and between the specific communes lies the Haut-Médoc (Upper Médoc). It varies in quality from some of the finest wines, most notably Château La Lagune in Ludon in the south and Château Sociando-Mallet in the north, to the somewhat mediocre. In normal years, careful selection is required when choosing wines from the Haut-Médoc but value for money can be found here, which is hardly what Bordeaux is renowned for!

Château Semonlon £69.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2020+)
Grape Mix: 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 60% Merlot

This property is located in Avensan, a small commune not far from Margaux. Its vineyards border those of Château Citran. Owned by the Dumora family, whose patrimony spans several generations, its 7 hectares are planted with 40% Cabernet Sauvignon and 60% Merlot, whilst the average age of the vines is 35 years. The soil is comprised of muddy gravel, large stones and small amounts of clay. Aged in 1 and 2 year old barrels sourced from the 4th Growth Grand Cru Classé, Château Prieuré-Lichine, the bouquet is full yet aromatic with a beautiful fragrance; the palate is rich and plummy with velvety tannins giving a sumptuous mouth feel.

Château Caronne Ste Gemme £105.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2021+)
Grape Mix: 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot

Situated 500 metres from St Julien, adjacent to Château Gruaud Larose and Château Lascombes, this property is blessed with some very fine vineyards producing fruit worthy of Classed Growth status, delivering outstanding value for money. In 2013 Francois Nony installed a new winemaking team, including Olivier Seze and Bruno Sauquet (previously at Montrose) to take this Château to the next level. This has proved to be a great decision. The grapes are destemmed and then slightly crushed, before fermentation in thermo-regulated stainless steel fermentation vats. The wine is aged for 12 months in 25% new oak barrels. Whiffs of ripe cassis and a touch of cedar on the bouquet are very enticing. The palate is deep and ripe with sturdy tannins, cedar notes, coffee and a little pencil lead. This is a serious claret with great intensity and balance.



HAUT-MÉDOC

Château Beaumont £105.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2021+)
Grape Mix: 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot

This is a highly regarded Château under the same ownership as Château Beychevelle. A very stylish and polished wine this vintage. Tightly knit with intense black fruits and a hint of chocolate, finely tuned tannins and a touch of spice.

Château Lagune Haut Médoc 3ème Cru Haut-Medoc £420.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2026+)
Grape Mix: 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot

Situated just below the village of Margaux and next to Château Cantemerle, this has long been a very popular château. Since 2000 La Lagune has been in the hands of the talented Jean-Jacques Frey who is producing excellent wines year after year. A very exotic, rich, ripe and overt wine that has immediate appeal, with sumptuous and pronounced cassis flavours. The tannins are soft and support well. Always tremendously popular, lovers of this château will be delighted.

Château Cantemerle 5ème Cru Classé Haut-Médoc £258.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2022 +)
Grape Mix: 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot

Situated just below the village of Margaux and next to Château La Lagune, this is one of the finest value Growth Clarets. This is a stunning Cantemerle. A very rich and appealing bouquet with a mouthful of sweet lush black fruit, crème de mure and a hint of spice. There is decadence and opulence with a lovely fresh finish. The weight of fruit is perfectly supported by firm yet yielding tannins and a long rich finish. A wine of great purity. Very fine.



LISTRAC

This is the smallest appellation in the Médoc, with just 567 hectares in production and only 4% of Médoc's vineyards. The limestone plateau that cuts through Listrac is part of the oldest geological layer in the Médoc and sits at the highest point of the peninsula, at 43 metres above sea level. Fourcas Hosten is without doubt the star property.

Château Fourcas-Hosten Cru Bourgeois £150.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2024+)

Grape Mix: 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc

This Château is the finest producer in Listrac, one of the six appellations of the Haut-Médoc. Purchased in 2006 by two brothers, Laurent and Renaud Mommeja, members of the Hermès luxury-goods family, the 47 hectares of vines are planted on clay and limestone, as well as a gravel plot nearby hamlet in Fourcas. A rich, ripe raisiny wine, soft tannins and a fine rounded finish.



MOULIS

Along with Lustrac, this appellation tends to be less familiar to buyers than the four major appellations, but does produce some outstanding Cru Bourgeois. The area is situated to the north west of Margaux on a gravelly plain.

The best soils are on the great dune of gravel, stretching from Grand Poujeaux in Moulis, inland through Lustrac. It is here where the likes of Château Chasse-Spleen and Château Poujeaux are situated.

Château Chasse-Spleen Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel £258.00 per case in Bond (Drink 2024+)

Grape Mix: 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc

This renowned property was included in the new Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel classification in 2003, and rightly so as many think it worthy of Cru Classé status. It is always extremely popular with our En Primeur buyers as it provides terrific drinking at a relatively sensible price. Very ripe and forward with a deeply appealing nose. Crushed black fruits, a hint of herbal savouriness and lots of concentrated black jam, spice and cedarwood. The palate is rich, open and lush at first with plenty of fleshiness and a good whallop of tannin that supports the very sweet fruit. Integrated oak, black fruit pastilles and a delicious long finish. Very, very good.

Château Poujeaux Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel £260.00 per case in Bond (Drink 2024+)

Grape Mix: 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot

It is fair to say that this Château never fails to produce a great wine, always outperforming its appellation, hence its continuous popularity. This 68 hectare estate is now owned by Philippe Cuvelier, also owner of Clos Fourtet. An impressive bouquet of bilberry and blackberry with a touch of cedar oak. The palate is full of ripe blackcurrant juice with a touch of jam making it instantly appealing, however this is nonetheless a well structured wine with an impressive solidity.



ST-ESTEPHE

St-Estèphe is the largest producer of the Haut-Médoc appellations, situated at the northern limit of the appellation. It is closest to the mouth of the river Gironde, joining the Atlantic Ocean. Here the richer soil with higher clay content retains moisture well during summer, so this appellation is well suited to the dryness encountered in 2016. Wines from the St-Estèphe commune take time to develop but are also very long lived and at their best rival the finest wines of any of the Médoc communes.

Château Lafon-Rochet 4ème Cru Classé £408.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2026+)
Grape Mix: 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot

This Château is situated very close to Pauillac's Château Lafite and just along the road from Cos d'Estournel – what great neighbours! Lafon's reputation has grown enormously in recent years, although one of the lesser known, which means a much more sensible pricing policy. Produced bio-dynamically by Basile Tesson. A very restrained wine, brooding away but leaving you in no doubt that beneath the surface lies a powerful body of ripe blackberry fruits and super ripe tannins. Excellent acidity, all in perfect balance. Finely integrated and very well constructed.

Château Les Ormes-de-Pez £252.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2026+)
Grape Mix: 52% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot

This Château is owned by the Cazes family who also own the very popular and top performing Château Lynch Bages. Yummy! The bouquet is so alluring and the palate is rich and filled with creme de cassis, characters of tobacco and roasted coffee along with a hint of graphite. A superb wine this vintage, one of the very best, and it offers such good value for money. Not something that is often found in Bordeaux.



ST-ESTEPHE

Château Montrose 2ème Cru Classé
(Drink 2026+)

£1,250.00 per case in Bond

Grape Mix: 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc

Montrose is one of the great traditional names of Bordeaux, always sought-after by En Primeur fans. It was bought in 2006 by the Bouygues family and in recent years an astonishing investment programme has been carried out at the château. Now under the stewardship of Herve Berland, formerly at Mouton Rothschild, this château continues to compete at the very highest level.

Only 37% of production is to be used in the Grand Vin this vintage. Wow – powerful, spicy notes, quite intoxicating with superb breeding on the nose, quite direct and focused. Rich, fragrant black fruits, intense and quite lush with rich tannins and a muscular structure. The oak is integrated at this early stage and the power is held in check with the jammy black fruits and freshness.



PAUILLAC

The name of Pauillac is assured from the reflected glory of its three First Growths - Lafite, Mouton-Rothschild and Latour, not to mention the other fifteen Cru Classé Châteaux situated in the commune. The wines, grown on a generally heavy gravel soil with varying sub-soils, are among the most powerful and well structured in the whole of the Bordeaux region. After tasting all of the great wines of the Médoc, it is our view that Pauillac is the star performing commune of the 2016 vintage.

Château Duhart-Milon 4ème Cru Classé £640.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2027+)
Grape Mix: 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot

Another Rothschild property produced by the team that makes Lafite. This 46-hectare estate is ever increasing its reputation for excellent, consistent quality, producing great wines over recent vintages. Produced by the Lafite winemaking team this château is always a clever buy. Classic in every sense, with a masterful austerity suggesting excellent ageing potential. There is plenty of ripe cassis fruit, cedar and tobacco with a streak of graphite and a balancing freshness on the finish.

Château Clerc Milon 5ème Cru Classé £600.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2026+)
Grape Mix: 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot 1% Carmenera

Part of the Mouton Rothschild stable and made by the same winemaking team. A classic Pauillac. Rich and fragrant in style, with delicious black fruits that open and swell in the mouth, almost sweetening as the wine opens. Layers of complex spice, minerals, roasted berry, mulled wine notes and vanilla all appear and dissolve. This is a superb Clerc, showing a distinct suave character even at this early stage and hinting at a long life.



PAUILLAC

Château d'Armailhac 5ème Cru Classé £390.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2026 +)
Grape Mix: 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot

Formerly known as Château Mouton Baron Philippe this excellent property is still owned by the Rothschild family and is one to follow. Aged in 40% new oak for 18 months. A sturdy and powerful Pauillac, laden with ripe cassis and supported by beautifully poised tannins. There is a delicious freshness that gives poise and balance, along with a touch of smoke and cedar. This muscular, dense wine is arguably one of the star performers this vintage and certainly one of the finest wines ever produced at this Château.

Château Grand Puy Lacoste 5ème Cru Classé £735.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2026+)
Grape Mix: 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot

Owned by the Borie family, this 45-hectare property has a reputation for producing excellent, full-bodied Pauillac. This is a very well defined, classic claret and is once again a Château to follow, as it always gives some good value even at today's heady prices. Aged in 75% new oak. A green pepper bouquet with overtones of cedar and tobacco. The palate is tight and well defined, with concentrated cassis fruit and finely poised tannins. A wine of great finesse.

Château Lynch-Bages 5ème Cru Classé £1175.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2028+)
Grape Mix: 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot

Situated on the Bages plateau, one of the finest gravelly rises in the appellation, this Château, owned by the Caz family for nearly 100 years is always one of the most popular amongst Bordeaux drinkers. Monumental in stature, with layer after layer of complex black fruits, stewed, mulled and crunchy – showing firmness and yielding tannins balancing perfectly with notes of coconut, oak and spice. This is a great Lynch, balancing power, weight and structure with a paradoxical elegance and freshness.



PAUILLAC

Château Pontet Canet 5ème Cru Classé £1370.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2026+)

Grape Mix: 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot

This is one of the finest wines produced in 2015, a quite magnificent wine that reinforces the rise of this Château to the upper echelons of the Bordeaux hierarchy. Farmed organically for the past ten years, including the use of horses in the vineyard.

Opaque in colour, an inviting bouquet with stewed black fruits revealing a richness that is almost to be expected of this Château. Chewy at first, then the palate explodes with streaks of rich black and red fruits, roasted plum, cassis, crème de Mure and cinnamon all appear. This is a great claret with an astonishing intensity and perfectly balanced. Complex – long – extremely good!

Château Pichon Longueville £1420.00 per case in Bond
Comtesse de Lalande 2ème Cru Classé
(Drink 2028+)

Grape Mix: 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc

This is one of the great Châteaux of Bordeaux and is rightly one of the most sought after Second Growths, with a reputation for producing wines that are typically Pauillac. Now owned by the Champagne house Louis Roederer, the new, recently installed winery is quite magnificent.

Deep black colour, a bouquet of crushed blackcurrants, ripe and fragrant with hints of boiled sweet, vanilla and spice. This wine is muscular at first, but then melts as the wine opens in the glass, showing generous fruit, integrated sweet oak, spice and cedar notes. There is a touch of iron to this wine that balances well with the overt sweetness of the fruit.

Château Pichon Longueville, Baron 2ème Cru Classé £1350.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2028+)

Grape Mix: 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot

Another of the great Châteaux that is in the ownership of the AXA Millésimes Group. Produced solely from fruit grown in the original vineyards of this Château next to Leoville Las Cases and opposite those of Latour. Another classic wine showing more masculinity than 2015. Very intense and concentrated, the tension is subdued by a rich and pure cassis fruit with characters of cedar and toast. The palate is supremely defined with lead and graphite followed by a long and harmonious finish. A superb classic claret.



PAUILLAC

Château Lafite-Rothschild 1er Cru Classé (6x75cl) £3000.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2030+)
Grape Mix: 92% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot

For some years now, it has felt as though Lafite has rested on its laurels knowing that they have a ready taker in China. Well they have certainly upped their game in 2016 because this is a classic! A very high proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon this vintage. Aged in 100% new oak. Wow, and WOW again!! An impressive, bold, brooding and serious claret, showing sweet black fruits, cassis, cherry and bitter chocolate amongst the integrated freshness and minerality. Complex, profound and utterly delicious – this wine is almost perfection in every sense. Worthy of its status.

Château Mouton Rothschild 1er Cru Classé (6x75cl) £2590.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2028+)
Grape Mix: 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot

Upgraded to First Growth status back in 1973, Mouton Rothschild was more famous for the annual appointment of famous artists to design the label. During the 1990's its form dipped, however since the arrival of Philippe Dhalluin in 2003, Mouton is on top form and fully justifies its position at the altar of the Bordeaux hierarchy. The first wine accounts for 53% of production this vintage. Aged in 100% new oak. A massive, dense wine, laden with intense black fruits, cassis and liquorice. Powerful yet also elegant, with a refreshing acidity giving great balance. A wine of great pedigree that certainly lives up to the hype.



ST-JULIEN

The smallest producer of the four main Haut-Médoc communes but one that boasts some of the finest châteaux, including several Cru Bourgeois that perform to the 1855 Classification standard. The soil is gravel with a subsoil of sandstone and clay. Drainage is very good, which allows the appellation to perform well even in wetter years. The wines tend to be a little smoother and more elegant than their Pauillac neighbours, drinking a little earlier, while at the same time offering that classic Bordeaux typicity.

Château Lalande-Borie, St Julien £235.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2024+)

Grape Mix: 55% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon

This Château was created in the 1970's when the Borie family, owners of Ducru Beaucaillou, Grand Puy Lacoste and Haut Batailley, purchased the Lalande terroir in St Julien and then added their family name to the property. The Château is situated to the west of Ducru on a single plot of 25ha surrounded by well-known Crus Classés and beautifully expresses the qualities of St Julien – finesse, power, elegance and richness. Very impressive once again; tight with blackcurrant fruit, cedar oak characters and a touch of pencil lead.

Sarget de Gruaud Larose, St Julien £198.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2024+)

Grape Mix: 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot

The second wine of Gruaud Larose, Sarget is always good to include in your cellar, especially in great vintages. At a reasonable price you get a wine that gives a really good glimpse of what a second growth Claret is. Aged in 15% new oak. Vibrant, packed with cassis fruits with an appealing freshness. A very impressive second wine.

Château Les Fiefs de Lagrange £210.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2024+)

Grape Mix: 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot

Our advice is to always buy second wines in very good vintages, and this is certainly the case for this Fiefs de Lagrange. With an average vine age of 35 years, the quality of grapes is exceptional. Rich and fruity with charming tannins that supports an impressive body of cassis fruits.

"You cannot really go wrong with Les Fiefs, and I bet it will be a great value once released" – Wine Advocate, Parker



ST-JULIEN

Clos du Marquis, St Julien
(Drink 2026+)

£470.00 per case in Bond

Grape Mix: 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc

Clos du Marquis is one of those wines that carries a little confusion. It is not, in fact, the second wine of Leoville Las Cases, but a wine produced from the said property's vineyards close to Leoville Poyferré, a more St Julien-like terroir. Léoville Las Cases tends to be more Pauillac-like given that it sits alongside Château Latour.

Worthy of Classed Growth status in its own right, Clos de Marquis has put in an outstanding performance in 2016, helped in part by the introduction of a second wine "La Petite Marquise". A powerful, classic claret of great density – black fruits, a little chocolate along with interesting notes of pencil lead and cedar. The tannins are perfectly wrapped. The finish long and impressive.

Château Gloria, St Julien
(Drink 2024+)

£360.00 per case in Bond

Grape Mix: 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot

This Château is somewhat of an anomaly in Bordeaux. It is made up of small plots purchased from neighbouring Classed Growth properties, including Château Léoville-Poyferré, Château Gruaud-Larose and Château Duhart-Milon (who owned a small plot in St-Julien). However, once they were sold to the creator of Château Gloria, Monsieur Henri Martin, the vineyards ceased to possess their Classed Growth status. It is, however, Growth Claret in all but name. 45 hectares of vines with an average age of 45 years old, it continually performs year in year out to the highest level. This wine is laden with crunchy cassis fruit, intense and concentrated with a firm tannic structure and a classic, leafy dimension. A very enjoyable claret.

Château Talbot 4ème Cru Classé
(Drink 2026+)

£492.00 per case in Bond

Grape Mix: 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot

This Château has always had a very strong following amongst our customers here in the North of England - no doubt due to its continued policy of offering good Claret at a competitive price to its peers.

A very rich and opulent wine, the result of a larger proportion of Merlot in the blend. Blackcurrants and morello cherries give a really opulent feel to the wine; the acidity seems relatively low which enhances the moreish mouth feel. This wine will no doubt be very popular.



ST-JULIEN

Château Gruaud Larose 2ème Cru Classé £618.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2026+)

Grape Mix: 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot

This is one of the most famous and historic Saint Julien 2nd growth properties and has also been one of the most popular for many years, that consistently delivers exceptional claret. A classic Gruaud; firm, brooding and smouldering with a super charged cassis fruit intensity, leafy with notes of cedar and pencil shavings. There is also a hint of coffee. This is a wine of great precision and finesse.

Château Beychevelle 4ème Cru Classé £690.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2026+)

Grape Mix: 47% Merlot, 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot

Beychevelle, extremely popular throughout the world, is also one of the most beautiful châteaux of the Médoc, with its brand new winery proudly visible as you drive past. Aged in 50% new oak for 16 months, this is a top performance from Beychevelle in 2016. A rich, overt and exotic bouquet, the palate is thick, fleshy and raisiny with sweet berry fruits, and lush tannins. A sumptuous wine. This will be highly sought after, especially in Asia.

Château Langoa Barton 3ème Cru Classé £420.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2026+)

Grape Mix: 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc

This 20 hectare estate is the 'sister' to Léoville Barton and is also very fairly priced for the consistency of its quality. The grape varieties and wine-making methods are similar to these of Léoville Barton. A seriously good claret. Open and generous with great breeding and fruit. There is fragrance and sweetness, yet the wine remains firm and structured throughout. It builds in flavour as you taste, offering depth and complex notes of black fruits, spice, herbs and coffee. A great showing in 2016.



ST-JULIEN

Château Léoville-Barton 2ème Cru Classé
(Drink 2026+)

£744.00 per case in Bond

Grape Mix: 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot

This Château is always one of the best selling wines, due to its consistent high quality and the long standing commitment by the Barton family to maintain a sensible pricing policy. The vineyards are intensely planted with 9,100 vines per ha. Aged for 18 months in 60% new oak.

Hedonistic and generous as always, yet with a firm structure of tannins that support this generous sweet fruit. Ripe, deep, almost opulent and showing poise and length. A firm, well balanced, complex and decadent wine.

Château Léoville-Poyerré 2ème Cru Classé
(Drink 2026+)

£800.00 per case in Bond

Grape Mix: 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot

Owned by the Cuvelier family since 1921, the third of the Léoville properties has been regarded as the most lightweight for decades. That changed when Didier Cuvelier took charge in the 1970's, and a period of continuous improvement now sees this Château amongst the finest châteaux of St-Julien.

An intriguing, inviting bouquet, offering fragrance and beauty. This is a powerful Léoville Poyferré, with a decadent style that seems more complete and muscular than previous vintages. A great density of ripe cassis fills the mouth and is well supported with firm tannins and a hint of cedar and wood smoke. A very fine wine.

La Croix de Beaucaillou
(Drink 2022+)

£420.00 per case in Bond

Grape Mix: 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot

Deeply coloured, a super fragrant bouquet, and a serious core of concentrated and creamy black fruits. Myrtle, ironstone and coffee are encased in a band of sweet oak that slips away to reveal a finish of velvet-like sweetness and delicacy. A super second wine from a "super second" Classed Growth property that will give excellent drinking.



ST-JULIEN

Château Ducru Beaucaillou 2ème Cru Classé £1,700.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2026+)
Grape Mix: 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot

This 49 hectare estate has recently been in outstanding form to maintain its reputation as a 'Super Second Growth'. Bruno Borie has continued to reduce the quantity of Ducru produced, nearly halving the quantity since 2003. La Croix de Beaucaillou, the Chateau's second (and also very impressive) wine, now accounts for a greater share of the crop than the first wine. This has resulted in the quality of Ducru Beaucaillou sky rocketing. Aged in 100% new barrels for a period of 18 months. Serious in stature with profoundly rich black fruits. There is a perfumed bouquet of sweet black fruits that opens to reveal firmness and rigidity of tannins and acidity, yet the sweetness of fruit is more than a match for this structure. The very long, almost fragrant finish offers both freshness and minerality.

Château Léoville-Las-Cases 2ème Cru Classé £1,475.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2030+)
Grape Mix: 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc

This Château is widely regarded as being one of the 'Super, Super' second growths, which produces wine worthy of the top classification. A first Growth in all but name, it tends to be closer in style to Pauillac than that of St Julien, the commune in which it lies.

Wow, what a wine! Decadent, smoky, powerful and warmly alluring, there are opulent black and red fruits, fleshy at first, then the tannins close up and bolster the richness and structure of the wine in the glass. There is great complexity, and the finish reveals notes of parma violets, roasted coffee and vanilla - one of the top wines of the vintage!



MARGAUX

This is the largest commune in the Médoc. The lighter, gravelly soils yield some of the most sensual and elegant wines of the Médoc, the complete opposite of Pauillac. The commune is the most southerly of Médoc's appellations and encompasses the neighbouring villages of Cantenac, Arsac, Labarde and Soussans. The 1855 classification includes more wines from Margaux than from any other appellation.

Château Angludet Cru Bourgeois £250.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2025+)

Grape Mix: 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 12% Petit Verdot

Owned by the Sichel family and managed since 1989 by Ben, the youngest of the Sichel brothers. This property is blessed with ideal conditions for producing splendidly consistent wines. The sandy and gravelly soil provides good natural drainage, which increases concentration in the fruit. Careful selection ensures a perfect balance between fruit, structure and tannins. The fermentation was carried out in concrete vats followed by ageing in 30% new oak barrels.

A higher proportion of Petit Verdot this vintage. This is a stunning wine, laden with cassis and very intense. A Growth Claret in all but name and one to follow. The tannins are very impressive and characters of cigar box and a hint of cedar and smoke give a smouldering feel to this wine. Outstanding.

Château Kirwan 2ème Cru Classé £378.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2026+)

Grape Mix: 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot

This is the second vintage produced at the new winery that has been installed with the same tanks as those designed for Château Cheval Blanc. The fermentation is cool at a maximum 25°C in order to contain the extraction and showpiece the classic Margaux characters. There will be between 40%-50% new oak. A structured and serious Margaux, this Château seems to be getting better and better each year. Ripe, juicy red fruits with a touch of cassis that fills the underbelly. There is a fragrance and freshness to this wine that gives a good balance whilst the tannin structure gives an edge of masculinity. A wine for the future.



MARGAUX

Château Rauzan-Ségla 2ème Cru Classé £735.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2026+)
Grape Mix: 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot

This 43 hectare Château has made major strides since its purchase by Chanel in 1994. It is fair to say that it now punches fully to its 1855 classification and is one of the great Super-Second's.

Winemaker Nicolas Audebert has produced a sensational wine in 2016, aged in 60% new oak for 18 months. Round and intense with a fragrant feminine touch, there is a lovely black fruit sweetness within the tight tannin structure. The mouthfeel portrays a silkiness and purity with undertones of spice and pepper. A great wine.

Château Giscours 3ème Cru Classé £540.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2026+)
Grape Mix: 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot

This Château is very much on top form. Aged in 45% new oak for 18 months, this is another sublime wine produced by Alexander Van Beek and his team.

Deep in colour, an intriguing and inviting nose of ripe blackcurrants, cedar, stones and roasted coffee, with some notes of Parma violets and a hint of vanilla. This is a generous, rich wine, offering immediate lush black fruits, jam, spice and hedonistic creamy characters. Underlying this, there is a beautiful freshness and a very impressive balance. Very very fine – as good as the 2010?

Château Brane Cantenac 2ème Cru Classé £630.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2026+)
Grape Mix: 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 1%
Carmenere

Owned by AXA Millésimes since 1989. Under the direction of Christian Seely this Château has been totally transformed and is producing excellent wine.

Another very impressive wine from this property, possibly surpassing the excellent 2015, shows that it really is punching to its 2nd Growth status. A powerful style of Margaux, nevertheless retaining its expected charm and elegance. Almost opaque in colour, the bouquet is rich in black fruits with overtones of cedar wood. The palate is finely integrated, despite very firm tannins, and shows a quite astonishing complexity. A great wine this vintage.



MARGAUX

Château Cantenac Brown 2ème Cru Classé £474.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2026+)
Grape Mix: 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot

This Château has historically been overlooked as a source of top claret. That all changed back in 1989 when it was acquired by AXA Millésimes, also owners of Pichon Baron and Lynch Bages. Since then it has been on a constant upward trajectory and is now producing excellent wine with great consistency. A wine that also provides very good value, this is another super result. Fresh and vibrant on the bouquet with red strawberry fruit on the palate, beautiful and elegant. The finish is persistent and fine. A very typical Margaux.

Alter Ego de Palmer (6x75cl) £285.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2023+)
Grape Mix: 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 12% Petit Verdot

Alter Ego accounts for 35% of the production at Château Palmer in 2016, reflecting the high quality of this vintage, and is aged in 20-30% new oak. Yields of only 29hl/ha having lost 20% of the crop in Spring. Deliciously fresh and fragrant, this is a very powerful wine with remarkable structure, beautiful tannins and lovely texture. Intense, Christmas cake richness with ripe prunes, damsons and cassis. A beautiful, expressive wine this vintage.

Château Palmer 3ème Cru Classé (6x75cl) £1420.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2026+)
Grape Mix: 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot

After the First Growths this is traditionally one of the highest performing Châteaux and is always in high demand. Winemaker Thomas Duroux has overseen the Château's first 100% biodynamic wine this vintage following a journey that began back in 2008.

Wow! This is a great Palmer. Complete in almost every sense, this is a wine of legendary stature and character even at this early stage. A core of concentrated sweet black fruits, opulent and creamy that opens to reveal a wine that has laced tannins, great freshness and poise with a wonderful 'taut' character that keeps the wine focused and poised. Undoubtedly one of the top wines of the vintage.



PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

Geographically this region is a continuation to the south-east of Haut-Médoc. Many vineyards in the north have disappeared as the city of Bordeaux has extended outwards. The area produces notable red and white wines, but the trend has been towards more red over the past two decades. The whole region was formerly known as Graves, but since 1996 it has been divided into two appellations, Pessac-Léognan and Graves. Pessac-Léognan is the most northerly and best part, where most of the Grands Crus are situated.

Château Olivier £258.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2023+)
Grape Mix: 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot

Classified for its red and white wines, Château Olivier is surrounded by forest that not only influences the property's micro-climate, but which has given it 8 hectares of prime vineyard, already in the Pessac-Léognan AOC. A detailed geological survey in 2003 revealed the forest was planted on a croupe of compact gravel, perfect for Cabernet Sauvignon.

Another great example of how well the Pessac appellation has performed this vintage. Very broad, oozing rich and ripe black fruits with notes of cedar and a touch of tobacco. The blackcurrant fruit character is very dominant and makes this an instantly appealing wine. Admirably supporting, soft tannins give added breadth. Sumptuous.

Château Haut-Brion 1er Cru Classé (6x75cl) £2490.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2030+)
Grape Mix: 56 % Merlot, 37.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6.5% Cabernet Franc

The creeping urbanization of Bordeaux has reached the vineyards at this great Château – no sooner are you out of the city, you are in the vineyards of one of the greatest estates in Bordeaux. Haut-Brion always produces truly great claret. A sleeper! Jean Philippe Delmas has produced another astonishing wine from arguably the most reliable of the First Growths. A very aristocratic claret. Masterful. Intense, unyielding and multi dimensional with all enveloping, but very ripe, tannins. Layers of ripe cassis, carefully integrated oak with overtones of smouldering cigar and wood smoke.



SATELLITE ST EMILION

Situated just to the north and northeast of Saint-Emilion are four separate appellations known as the 'St Emilion satellites'. They are Lussac-Saint-Emilion, Montagne-Saint-Emilion, Puisseguin-Saint-Emilion, and Saint-Georges-Saint-Emilion. Here the temperatures are a little cooler than in St. Emilion as the region is further from the Dordogne which means the harvesting is a little later. This is a great source of value for money wines, especially in top vintages.

Château Corbin, Montagne St Emilion (6x75cl) £32.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2020+)

Grape Mix: 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc

Overlooking both Cheval Blanc and Pétrus, this is a beautifully located Château that produces outstanding, affordable claret. It is one of the oldest properties in Montagne which in itself is the smallest appellation in the Bordeaux region with only 18 growers. Dating back to the 16th Century the property has 23ha of vines that surround the Château. Since Jacques Rambaud took over from his father in 2005, he has overhauled the vineyard management and introduced careful oak ageing – 40% of the wine is aged in 1-4 year old oak.

Château du Courlat, Lussac St Emilion £84.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2020+)

Grape Mix: 95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc

From the long driveway of Cyprus trees on your approach, this estate inspires peace and tranquility. Nature is present at every turn, with a large lake at the centre of vines, forest and Château. Produced from 95% Merlot, this is arguably the best Courlat ever. The heavy clay soil meant that the vines didn't suffer too much from the dry weather. Chunky, rich and ripe this wine is emboldened by succulent and viscous black fruits and fine, soft tannins. Yum!

Château du Courlat Cuvée Jean Baptiste £117.00 per case in Bond
Lussac St Emilion
(Drink 2021+)

Grape Mix: 100% Merlot

This property is owned by the Audy family whose négociant house is situated in Libourne. In honour of Pierre Bourotte's grand-father, Jean-Baptiste Audy, this is a wine of power and depth, produced from the oldest Merlot vines of the property grown on a deep clay soil.

This is a step up and shows an impressive degree of sophistication. Rich, plummy and ripe, the palate is enhanced by a beautiful tannin structure and excellent balancing acidity. Another excellent vintage.



ST EMILION

On the right bank of Bordeaux, this is a large appellation where the Merlot grape dominates on the clay and limestone soils. Here the wines are rich and sumptuous. For those who like ballet dancing, head for the Médoc. For those who like belly dancing, this is the place for you!

St Emilion wines were not included in the 1855 Bordeaux classification with the first classification made in 1954. Unlike the 1855 classification, the St Emilion classification is regularly revised.

Château Fonplegade, Grand Cru St Emilion
(Drink 2023+)

£300.00 per case in Bond

Grape Mix: 90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc

The impressive 18.5ha property, situated close to the famous Château Angelus, belongs to Americans Denise and Stephen Adams who, with the advice of Michel Rolland and Stéphane Derenoncourt are now producing one of the best value for money Grand Crus in St.Emilion. It is now certified organic. A stunning bouquet, very forward and youthful, showing fragrance and perfume. The palate is rich, ripe and thick, balanced and cut through with lovely freshness and hints of chocolate, spice, herbs and roasted plum. The wine goes on and on, filling out and becoming more fleshy and yet always there is structure and a lovely acidity.



POMEROL

Pomerol is the smallest of the major Bordeaux appellations. It is only 3 kilometers by 4 kilometers in dimension, with only 800 hectares under vine and around 150 châteaux. Whilst Pomerol is the home to some of the most sought after wines in the world, unlike other Bordeaux regions, it has no official wine classification. With soils of blue clay, the wines produced are sensual, rich and alluring.

Château Les Hauts Conseillants, Lalande de Pomerol £138.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2021 +)

Grape Mix: 95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc

Located in Lalande de Pomerol, just across from Pomerol itself, the 10 hectare Château Les Hauts-Conseillants is owned and managed by the Bourotte family. Like some of the best soils in Pomerol, Les Hauts-Conseillants lies on a clay/gravel bed mixed with sand and produces a consistently full bodied plummy wine. Aged in 35% new oak, this is the epitome of charm! Open and fragrant, the palate is juicy with ripe plums and a hint of chocolate giving real depth of flavour. A hint of pencil lead and graphite, the tannins are firm and binding and finish is long and intense.

Château Bonalque £234.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2022+)

Grape Mix: 100% Merlot

Originally built by one of Napoleon's officers on his return from the Egyptian campaign over 200 years ago this property covers 7 hectares with an ideal exposure. The bouquet is smouldering with whiffs of cedar and red fruits. The palate is fresh, intense and chewy with a great concentration and backbone, red and black fruits and softly enveloping tannins.

Clos du Clocher £444.00 per case in Bond
(Drink 2023+)

Grape Mix: 79% Merlot, 21% Cabernet Franc

The exposure of this property is perfect. Located in front of the chapel, only 200m from Vieux Château Certan and 300m from Château Petrus. Integral Vinification, a method of full berry ferment inside wooden barrels which remain open to increase ferment oxidization, is used at this château. Aged in 65% new oak for 14 months. An outstanding wine this vintage. A super intensity of rich, ripe fruit aromas dominate the bouquet and lead to a succulent mouthful of multi layered dark chocolate and plums. This is so inviting with a balancing freshness and a long and lingering finish. Wow!



BORDEAUX EN PRIMEUR 2016 ORDER FORM

		Cases Req'd	Cost IB	Total
Prices given are per case, in bond Melton (ex VAT & Duty)				
Bordeaux	Château Moulin de Mallet, Bordeaux	.....	20.00	.....
	Château Tour de Luchey, Bordeaux	.....	21.00	.....
Bordeaux Supérieur	Château d'Argadens, Bordeaux Supérieur	.....	27.00	.....
Côtes de Bourg	Château Saumon, Côtes de Bourg	.....	45.00	.....
Fronsac	Château La Vieille Cure	.....	180.00	.....
Médoc	Château Tour St Bonnet	.....	90.00	.....
	Château Potensac	.....	210.00	.....
Haut-Médoc	Château Semonlon	.....	69.00	.....
	Château Caronne Ste Gemme	.....	105.00	.....
	Château Beaumont	.....	105.00	.....
	Château Lagune Haut Médoc 3ème Cru Haut-Medoc	420.00
	Château Cantemerle 5ème Cru Classé Haut-Médoc	258.00



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BORDEAUX EN PRIMEUR 2016 ORDER FORM

		Cases Req'd	Cost IB	Total
Prices given are per case, in bond Melton (ex VAT & Duty)				
Listrac	Château Fourcas-Hosten Cru Bourgeois	.....	150.00	.....
Moulis	Château Chasse-Spleen Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel	.....	258.00	.....
	Château Poujeaux Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel	.....	260.00	.....
St-Estèphe	Château Lafon-Rochet 4ème Cru Classé	.....	408.00	.....
	Château Les Ormes-de-Pez	.....	252.00	.....
	Château Montrose 2ème Cru Classé	.....	1250.00	.....
Pauillac	Château Duhart-Milon 4ème Cru Classé	.....	640.00	.....
	Château Clerc Milon 5ème Cru Classé	.....	600.00	.....
	Château d'Armailhac 5ème Cru Classé	.....	390.00	.....
	Château Grand Puy Lacoste 5ème Cru Classé	.....	735.00	.....
	Château Lynch-Bages 5ème Cru Classé	.....	1175.00	.....
	Château Pontet Canet 5ème Cru Classé	.....	1370.00	.....
	Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande 2ème Cru Classé	.....	1420.00	.....
	Château Pichon Longueville, Baron 2ème Cru Classé	.....	1350.00	.....
	Château Lafite-Rothschild 1er Cru Classé	.....	3000.00	.....
	Château Mouton Rothschild 1er Cru Classé	.....	2590.00	.....



BORDEAUX EN PRIMEUR 2016 ORDER FORM

		Cases Req'd	Cost IB	Total
Prices given are per case, in bond Melton (ex VAT & Duty)				
St-Julien	Château Lalande-Borie, St Julien	.....	235.00	.....
	Sarget de Gruaud Larose, St Julien	.....	198.00	.....
	Château Les Fiefs de Lagrange	.....	210.00	.....
	Clos du Marquis, St Julien	.....	470.00	.....
	Château Gloria, St Julien	.....	360.00	.....
	Château Talbot 4ème Cru Classé	.....	492.00	.....
	Château Gruaud Larose 2ème Cru Classé	.....	618.00	.....
	Château Beychevelle 4ème Cru Classé	.....	690.00	.....
	Château Langoa Barton 3ème Cru Classé	.....	420.00	.....
	Château Léoville-Barton 2ème Cru Classé	.....	744.00	.....
	Château Léoville-Poyerré 2ème Cru Classé	.....	800.00	.....
	La Croix de Beaucaillou	.....	420.00	.....
	Château Ducru Beaucaillou 2ème Cru Classé	1700.00
	Château Léoville-Las-Cases 2ème Cru Classé	1475.00



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BORDEAUX EN PRIMEUR 2016 ORDER FORM

Cases Req'd	Cost IB	Total
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Prices given are per case, in bond Melton (ex VAT & Duty)

Margaux	Château Angludet Cru Bourgeois	250.00
	Château Kirwan 2ème Cru Classé	.....	378.00	.....
	Château Rauzan-Ségla 2ème Cru Classé	.....	735.00	.....
	Château Giscours 3ème Cru Classé	.....	540.00	.....
	Château Brane Cantenac 2ème Cru Classé	.....	630.00	.....
	Château Cantenac Brown 2ème Cru Classé	.....	474.00	.....
	Alter Ego de Palmer	.....	285.00	.....
	Château Palmer 3ème Cru Classé	.....	1420.00	.....
Pessac-Léognan	Château Olivier	.....	258.00	.....
	Château Haut-Brion 1er Cru Classé	.....	2490.00	.....
Satellite St Emilion	Château Corbin, Montagne St Emilion	.....	32.00	.....
	Château du Courlat, Lussac St Emilion	.....	84.00	.....
	Château du Courlat Cuvée Jean Baptiste Lussac St Emilion	117.00



BORDEAUX EN PRIMEUR 2016 ORDER FORM

Cases Req'd	Cost IB	Total
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Prices given are per case, in bond Melton (ex VAT & Duty)

St Emilion	Château Fonplegade, Grand Cru St Emilion	300.00
Pomerol	Château Les Hauts Conséillants, Lalande de Pomerol	138.00
	Château Bonalgue	234.00
	Clos du Clocher	444.00



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BORDEAUX EN PRIMEUR 2016 ORDER FORM

Please return this form with your payment to:

House of Townend Ltd
Wyke Way
Melton West Business Park
Melton
East Riding of Yorkshire
HU14 3BQ

Payment details:

I enclose cheque for £

or

Please debit my Card No: ___ / ___ / ___ / ___

Expiry Date: __ / __ Sec No: ___

Name:
(CAPITALS PLEASE)

Signed

Tel No:

Fax No:

E-mail:

Address:

Postcode:

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House of Townend reserve the right to refuse removal of any stock held in Melton Bond if the customer is outside the agreed trading terms and offset any value against outstanding monies on the customer's trading account.

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF SALE

In Bond: Wines offered are lying in Bond in Melton, and these wines will attract a charge for the Excise Duty (currently £25.98 per case of 12 bottles) and VAT, when the wine is taken out of Bond.

Storage: We will be pleased to store your wines in our secure Bonded Warehouse in Melton, if you so wish. The rental is 15 pence per case per week, which covers all charges.



