



HOUSE OF TOWNEND

FAMILY WINE MERCHANTS SINCE 1906

**BORDEAUX
2018**



EN PRIMEUR

BORDEAUX 2018

2018 is already being labelled as a top vintage. The Wine Advocate's report on the 2018 vintage is dazzling, labelling it 'high in the list of greatest ever vintages of Bordeaux'. They go on to describe the best wines of the vintages being "mind-blowingly incredible". Lisa Perrotti-Brown goes on, "It was a vintage that favoured the agile, those willing to go the extra mile and who have the hyper focus to cope with fast-paced developments."

The growing season has been described as a 'game of two halves'. Terrible weather until 10th July followed by superb weather for the remainder of the growing season.

The season started as badly as anyone could have predicted, such are the changing weather patterns that the world is now experiencing. The poor weather was unrelenting and those who farm organically or biodynamically suffered terribly. Château Pontet Canet only produced a 1/3 of their normal production, Château Angludet lost 80% of their crop due to mildew and Château Palmer only managed to yield 11hl/ha over a month of harvesting. Palmer will be highly sought after. Internationally acclaimed wine critic James Suckling says "I have never tasted anything like this in all my 38 years as a wine critic in Bordeaux."

Once the sun came out to play, it stayed out and continued into an Indian summer. From the depths of despair, the Bordelais have somehow conjured up an outstanding array of wines.

Our buying team visited Bordeaux in the first week of April, commonly known as UGC week (Union des Grands Crus), when the Châteaux show for the first time the new vintage. The week was to start with a tasting at Hangar 14, a large conference hall on the banks of the Garonne river, where we were able to taste wines from all the appellations under one roof, meeting Château owners and winemakers to discuss their wines and the vintage in general. This is a great introduction to the week. Three hours of tasting later and you are already forming your own personal view of the vintage, which communes have performed well and indeed who are the star performing Châteaux.

Thereafter we visited the great properties of the Médoc, strictly by appointment, where the likes of Mouton Rothschild, Lafite, Margaux, Palmer, Ducru Beaucaillou, Pichon Comtesse and Baron, proudly revealed their 2018 vintage. All were mighty impressive wines and will come at a price!

We then attended the individual commune UGC tastings of St Estèphe/Pauillac, St Julien and Margaux, St Emilion Grand Crus, Pomerol as well as the Sauternes tasting at Château Lagune and the Cru Bourgeois tasting at Château Fonreud.

2018 is a stellar vintage. Great wines have been produced, although it is certainly not homogeneous – but that would be boring, wouldn't it? For me, heterogeneity is what makes Bordeaux arguably the greatest wine producing region in the world.

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2018 – THE GROWING SEASON

The season started with rain, then cold, then more rain... then it rained, and then it rained some more. The Borderlais' heads were down. The vineyards were so wet it rejected the liquid advances and started to flood. 125mm of rain fell in March alone - the 30 year average is 64mm. In April 87mm of rain – again, the 30 year average is 75mm. Not so bad, but compared to the 21mm of rain in 2017 Bordeaux was awash.

The flowering in May/June was settled for the small period it needed to be, then hail arrived in late May causing severe losses in Bourg, Blaye and Macau. As temperatures rose in the vineyards in June, rot was a problem, as was mildew. The mildew was, to almost all affected, like a tsunami of hurt that no one could prepare for. If you farmed organically you were like a turkey seeing the first Xmas card. 'Merde' was a word used frequently. This was perhaps a vintage to write off, to shun, to gather in and sell off to négociants?

Then, in between the 10th and 12th July, the sun came out! As Charles Sichel at Château Palmer said "It was if a light switch had been turned on". The sun came out, a blazing orange orb of welcoming warmth and respite, and stayed out. The 3 months leading up to the vintage were calm, hot and dry, with just enough rain (23-25mm) at sporadic times in August and September, to feed the vines and prevent stress. Temperatures rose, aiding the colour changes in July and August. Of the last 45 days before vintage started in late September, 22 days were above 30°C. July 2018 was the warmest on record, after 1983 and 2006. From the wettest first half of a year ever, this became a warm, ripe vintage, close to 2003 in average temperatures and heat summation, with potential alcohols that climbed and attained over 15% in some appellations.

Although an average volume overall, yields from one vineyard to another varied enormously. Some had plentiful crops, others produced very small quantities.

The harvest took place in almost ideal conditions, with no risk of rot. It stretched from around 21st August for the first of the dry whites, well into October for Sauternes and the later ripening Cabernets. The busiest period for harvesting the reds was during the second half of September and the first week of October. The continued drought had an impact on the volume, as the berries were thick-skinned and in no way diluted by any harvest rain. However the quality was sensational and that's what makes great wine

Each and every vintage has its own story. Each has its challenges and the resulting wines have their own different personalities. There is no doubt that in early July the Bordelais were fearing the worst and had no reason to believe that by September they would be about to produce one of the very finest Bordeaux vintages.

2018 – THE WINES

The difficult months up until July were vintage defining for some châteaux, especially those who have chosen the delicate path of biodynamics and organic farming. The wet and humid weather created the ideal conditions for the onslaught of aggressive powdery mildew that ravaged the vineyards, particularly at the likes of châteaux Angludet and Palmer in Margaux.

The region also experienced some serious hail damage in both May and July which also contributed to the reduction on yields. However, after the 10th July, the weather could not have been better and the resulting wines are big, rich and powerful. The tannin levels are particularly high and many struggled to keep the alcohol levels in check, but on tasting this was not evident, such is the powerful fruit intensity and beautiful refreshing acidities. Nicolas Glumineau, Directeur Général of Château Pichon Longueville, Comtesse de Lalande told me, “John, you know, it was easy to make an ‘over everything’ wine, due to the incredible weather conditions in the summer of 2018.

So who has fared well? Certainly St Estèphe and the northern Pauillac have produced sensational wines. The clay rich soils in St Estèphe were particularly helpful. St Julien showed fantastic homogeneity, but it has to be recognised that it is the smallest of the major Médoc communes. Margaux, the largest of the communes in the Médoc, showed more variation with some very high alcohols in places, especially with the Merlot.

Over on the right bank, the winemakers are more used to the higher alcohols of the Merlot grape, and were better prepared in dealing with them. Some fantastic Pomerols have been produced and we also tasted some superb St Emilion Grand Cru. Indeed, in many, many cases, St.Emilion reached the heights of 2016, which is quite something.

2018 is a vintage that will be remembered with dismay by some châteaux but as one of the greatest by others. It is similar to 2015, yet with more acidity, providing superb balance. Bruno Borie of Château Ducru Beaucaillou sees similarities with 2010 and 2016. Very small and concentrated berries, with skin to juice ratio very low. It also has a better freshness than 2009. As you can see, we are using great vintages to draw comparisons.

“The year 2018 didn’t give Bordeaux winemakers much time to breathe due to the weather conditions, which were extraordinary at times. This new vintage will be unquestionably marked by all the energy exerted in caring for the vineyards.” – Allan Sichel

WHY BUY EN PRIMEUR?

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.

Buying En Primeur needs careful judgement. 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.

We advise to purchase from a traditional, established wine merchant in whom you can place your trust. The House of Townend celebrates 113 years in the hands of the same family and we pride ourselves in giving personal, considered advice.



Our Bordeaux buying team: Neil Goldie, David Archibald & John Charles Townend

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2018 – SUGGESTED CELLARS

Choosing wines from such an array of fine Châteaux can be difficult. We are always on hand to give you our advice and personal thoughts, however we would add that if a wine is in this offer it is there on merit.

We are often asked to make suggestions for cellars of varying values, and so this year we have put together a few options that may be helpful.

£500 CELLAR

2 cases (6x75cl)	Les Hauts de Bel Air Sauvignon Blanc
2 cases (6x75cl)	Château d'Argadens, Bordeaux Superieur
1 case (6x75cl)	Château Corbin, Montagne St Emilion
1 case (12x75cl)	Château Caronne Ste Gemme, Haut Médoc
1 case (12x75cl)	Château Clement-Pichon, Haut Médoc
1 case (12x37.5cl)	Château Liot, Sauternes

£1000 CELLAR

2 cases (6x75cl)	Château Trebiac, Graves
1 case (12x75cl)	Château Semonlon, Haut Medoc
1 case (12x75cl)	Château Cissac, Haut Medoc
1 case (12x75cl)	Château Beau-Site, St Estephe
1 case (12x75cl)	Château Caronne Ste Gemme, Haut Médoc
1 case (12x75cl)	Château Angludet, Margaux
1 case (12x75cl)	Château du Courlat Cuvee Jean Baptiste, Lussac St Emilion
1 case (12x75cl)	Château Les Hauts Conseillants, Lalande de Pomerol
1 case (12x37.5cl)	Château Liot, Sauternes

£2000 CELLAR

1 case (12x75cl)	Château Tour St. Bonnet, Médoc
1 case (12x75cl)	Château Clement Pichon, Haut Médoc
1 case (6x75cl)	Château Angludet, Margaux
1 case (6x75cl)	Château Duhart Milon Rothschild, 4ème Cru Pauillac
1 case (12x75cl)	Château Langoa Barton, 2ème Cru St Julien
1 case (12x75cl)	Château Ormes de Pez, St Estpèhe
1 case (12x75cl)	Château Bonalgue, Pomerol
1 case (12x75cl)	Château Fonplegade, Grand Cru St Emilion

The above cellars are priced as 'lying in bond' in Melton. These wines will attract a charge for the excise duty (currently at £26.78 per case of 12/ £13.39 per case of 6 bottles/ £13.39 per case of 12 x 37.5cl) and VAT, when the case is removed from bond.

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EVERYDAY DRINKING

BORDEAUX BLANC

Often overlooked for its white wines, Bordeaux actually offers some outstanding everyday drinking, with wines of great character, not just one dimensional fruit. Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon are the most important grapes used for the dry white wines of Bordeaux, as well as for the sweet white wines. Muscadelle and Sauvignon Gris are also planted in the vineyards as well.

There are light and fruity wines that offer aromas of honey, citrus, spices and grapefruit as well as rich and creamy blends, yielding flavours and aromas of creme brûlée, baked apples, orange zest, figs and lemon butter.

Les Hauts de Bel Air, Bordeaux (6 x 75cl)
Grape Mix: 100% Sauvignon Blanc

£20.00 per case IB

Produced by the Sichel family at their Cave Bel Air winery, this is a modern style white Bordeaux.

Instant Sauvignon Blanc! Aromas of freshly cut grass scream out the glass and the immediate reaction is to put the glass to your lips. Bordeaux blanc may not be the most fashionable of wines but if you are a fan of Sauvignon this is a great little wine.

The palate is tangy, with ripe white fruit notes, Gala melon, lime, elderflower and tinned pear. There is also a dose of minerality and a little sea salt. So quenching with super varietal typicity. This is a wine to grab, open, and guzzle with gusto – no pretensions, just wonderful clean and refreshing fruit. Who needs Marlborough Sauvignon when you can offer someone a wine with REAL fruit and underlying minerality. No need to wait, summer is nearly here and this wine is ready to drink.

Drink now

Château d'Argadens (6x75cl)
Grape Mix: 65 % Sauvignon Blanc, 35% Semillon

£29.00 per case IB

Having obtained optimum maturity, the grapes are harvested by machine. The Sémillon grapes are pressed immediately, whereas the Sauvignon is vatted immediately and undergoes pre-fermentation maceration. Pre-fermentation maceration is carried out under carbon dioxide gas to protect the grapes and must from oxidation. After pressing and settling out, some of the must is fermented in temperature-controlled stainless steel vats and some in new, 225-litre French oak barrels. After fermentation the wine is lightly racked and aged on the fine lees with regular stirring. The different parcels of Sauvignon and Sémillon are then blended and fined prior to bottling in February.

A delicious bouquet of ripe, tropical fruit with notes of melon, pineapple, gooseberry and Golden Delicious apple. The palate is wonderfully concentrated with a clean citrus streak that keeps the wine energetic and vibrant, all supported by a delicious note of oak that adds weight and structure.

Drink now-2021



EVERYDAY DRINKING

Château Trebiac, Graves (6x75cl)
Grape Mix: 100% Semillon

£30.00 per case IB

Skilfully managed by Arnaud de Butler, Château de Trébiac lies on a gravel plateau at Portets, 35 km south of Bordeaux. Over the past five years, both the estate's vines and winery have been received major investment. This wine is produced from 100% Sémillon with 3 months ageing in new oak.

Rounded, open and lush with floral and citrus notes. Gala apple, gooseberry, a touch of vanilla and almond. This is an excellent Graves, more weighty than the Hauts Bel Air, with a riper, more pronounced fruit quality that is subtly supported by a whiff of oak. Beautifully balanced with a slightly spicy finish.

Drink now-2021

SAUTERNES

After a satisfying meal, what's better than a chilled glass of dessert wine with your favourite pudding? Especially from the world's finest dessert wine producing region.

Located to the south of Bordeaux this area is perfectly suited to dessert wine production due to the close proximity to the Garonne River where grapes often develop Botrytis Cinerea. This noble rot is a fungal rot that causes ripe grapes to shrivel under perfect conditions, reducing the moisture content of the grapes resulting in incredibly intense sweet wines.

Château Liot (12x37.5cl)
Grape Mix: 85% Sémillon, 10 % Sauvignon Blanc, 5% Muscadelle

£85.00 per case IB

This 25-hectare property has been in the David family for several generations and is currently run by Jean-Gérard David. Although it is labelled Sauternes, it is actually situated on the Haut-Barsac plateau on typical red clay over limestone soils, in the commune of Barsac, next to Château Climens.

An exceptionally dry summer in Sauternes led to a late development of Botrytis Cinerea with the harvest beginning with the 1st sort on September 28th. This vintage, Liot possesses a brilliant and golden colour, a true aromatic clarity and a rich and concentrated palate. It is aged in oak barrels for 18 months, and will become a lush and unctuous wine of great concentration.

Drink 2020-2028

Château Liot, Sauternes



EVERYDAY DRINKING

BORDEAUX AND BORDEAUX SUPERIEUR

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.

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 Moulin de Mallet, Bordeaux (6x75cl) **Grape Mix: 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc**

£20.00 per case IB

This super little Château 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

This château has been the source of our leading 'Every Day Claret' for a number of years and provides exceptional quality at a very attractive price. Always very expressive, it screams ripe black fruit aromas on the bouquet, whilst the palate is brimming with succulent mulberry and plum fruits, supported by a soft, underpinning tannin structure.

Drink 2021-2024

Château Tour de Luchey, Bordeaux (6x75cl) **Grape Mix: 80% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc**

£21.00 per case IB

This 25ha Château, situated in Moulon, to the south of St Emilion, is owned and run by the Massé family. Fermented and aged in cement and stainless steel tanks, with 5% aged in oak barrels. Aromas of ripe berry fruits and a hint of spice on the nose. The palate is juicy but also warm and rich, beautifully textured with well supporting tannins. This wine punches well above its status, and makes for an excellent everyday claret.

Drink 2020 - 2023

Château d'Argadens, Bordeaux Supérieur (6x75cl) **Grape Mix: 63% Merlot, 32% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc**

£29.00 per case IB

In 2002 this property, situated in Saint-André-du-Bois, 60km south of Bordeaux, was purchased by the Sichel family, owners of Château Angludet and co owner of Château Palmer. A major investment programme was undertaken. The vineyards were re-structured with increased plantation density, and the winery and ageing cellar re-built. The result? Well, this property now produces the very best wine you can find at this level. Its popularity in recent years has soared and is now one of our most popular drinking clarets. Succulent, rich and round in style, the palate is full of cassis fruits with soft approachable tannins.

Drink 2021 - 2024

EVERYDAY DRINKING

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
Grape Mix: 90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon

£45.00 per case IB

We have followed this little know Château for a number of years now, and it continually produce a luscious and supple modern style.

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.

Sometimes wines from this area can be a little foursquare, but not this one! Ripe and rich cassis fruit, finely crafted tannins and a subtle goût de terroir. A super wine!

Drink 2020 - 2024

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
Grape Mix: 87% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 3% Cabernet Sauvignon

£180.00 per case IB

J. Suckling: 92-93 points

Owned by Americans, Colin Ferenbach and Peter Sachs, who are advised by consultant oenologist, Michel Rolland, there is no surprise that this wine has a rich American feel. This château is situated on an exceptional terroir, facing Pomerol, with high clay content. Small yields of only 38hl/ha and aged in 33% new oak for between 15 and 18 months, this wine is big and powerful with notable extraction. The mouth feel is both intense and meaty with sweet ripe black cherries and intense raisin characters. A lot going on in this wine, with a smattering of dark cocoa on the finish. Very much 'where Bordeaux meets the Napa Valley!

Drink 2024 - 2030

EVERYDAY DRINKING

MÉDOC AND HAUT-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.

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, Haut-Médoc
Grape Mix: 60% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon

£66.00 per case IB

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, while 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, there is a high proportion of Merlot in the blend for a Médoc. Bags of ripe plum fruits, this is a beautifully constructed wine with finely integrated tannins, a succulent mouthfeel and long, rich finish. A kind of Right Bank Left Bank sort of wine – if you know what I mean!

Drink 2022 - 2028



CRU BOURGEOIS

MEDOC

Château Tour St Bonnet, Médoc

£92.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 65% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon and Franc, 5% Petit Verdot

This 40 hectare estate, owned by Jacques Merlet, is situated in the north of the Médoc in the commune of St Christoly. We loved the wines of the Northern Médoc in this vintage and there is real value in this wine – a real puncher! Produced from 35 year old vines and aged for 18 months in large oak foudres, this is always offers superb value for money.

Ripe prunes dominate the bouquet and the palate is pure rich black fruit juice, with tuned tannins and a refreshing finish. Great drinking this vintage.

Drink 2022 - 2028

ST ESTEPHE

Château Tour des Termes

£164.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot

Made by consultant Eric Boissonet and Christophe Coupez in this smart estate in the north of St Estèphe – with a mixture of heavy gravel and some chalk and clay. A very good aspect spread of 15Hectares that borders Château du Pez to the south.

Rich and sweet, with an appealing sense of freshness and weight. The palate continues with layers of spiced black fruits, subtle cherry and raspberry flavours and a good coating of vanilla oak and spice. Rounded, elegant and almost sumptuous. A fine example of how well St Estèphe has performed this vintage.

(Drink 2023 - 2028)

Château Tour Saint Bonnet, Medoc



CRU BOURGEOIS SUPÉRIEURS

HAUT-MÉDOC

Château Caronne Ste Gemme, Haut-Médoc

£110.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot

J. Suckling: 91-92 points

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 Classés Growth status, delivering outstanding value for money. In 2013 François 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 35% new oak barrels.

François Nony was amazed by the quality of fruit at harvest time. The berries were rich and ripe, with structured Cabernet Sauvignon, voluptuous Merlot and particularly harmonious Petit Verdot. A vibrant violet bouquet, intense and powerful, the palate oozes ripe black berry fruits with hints of sweet tobacco, a touch of pencil lead and finely integrated oak. The tannins are polished and the finish highly focused. A beautiful wine showing great poise and balance.

Drink 2023 - 2035

Château Beaumont, Haut-Médoc

£112.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 47% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Petit Verdot

This is a highly regarded Château under the same ownership as Château Beychevelle. Yields were limited to only 33hl/ha. A very generous and complex bouquet, very harmonious, concentrated with silky tannins and great freshness giving balance. The Merlot is very ripe with fleshy and silky tannins, the Cabernet Sauvignon is powerful with a long finish and the Petit Verdot has a beautiful acidity with bags of freshness. This is a finely crafted claret and will offer great drinking.

Drink 2023 - 2032

Château Cissac, Haut-Médoc

£99.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 9% Petit Verdot, 2% Malbec

J. Suckling: 92-93 points "One of the best wines from here in years"

Château Cissac belongs to the Vialard family, and its reputation was built on the tireless work of Louis Vialard, who established the wine's fame through the 1970s and 1980s. Situated in the northern-most Haut-Médoc appellation, this historic château dates from 1769. The soil in the vineyards is less diverse than in the Médoc, predominantly sandy, with gravel. This is a very welcome return to our portfolio after many years absence. In years gone by we found this wine to be extremely tough; however there is a real sense that the winemaking style has modernised and although the masculine core remains, there is a delicious sweet cassis character that gives an excellent suppleness. The yield was low at only 38hl/ha and the wine is aged in 30% new oak for between 14-16 months. On the bouquet it is all plum and raspberry, and on the palate there are layers of crème de Mure and cassis. The oak is quite restrained, with a softer, more elegant and lushly structured claret the result. Good – very good!

Drink 2022 - 2030

CRU BOURGEOIS SUPÉRIEURS

Château Clément-Pichon

£175.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc

One of the most beautiful châteaux in the Médoc. Situated in Parempuyre in the southern Médoc, this 25 ha property dates back to the 14th century. Between 1601 and 1880, the Château was owned by the Pichon family. Now in the ownership Clément Fayat, who also owns Château La Dominique in St Emilion, considerable investment has been made and the quality of wine produced is exceptional.

A very impressive, overt bouquet with dark fruits and a touch of stewed plum. The palate is soft and linear with a well defined structure. Rich in creamy black fruits with an emphasis on cassis and cedar, the tannins are firm and there is a refreshing balance. The finish is long and lingering, round and stylish. What great value this is!

Drink 2023 - 2030

Château de Malleret

£110.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot

A beautiful estate in the Haut-Médoc situated only 15km from the city of Bordeaux. Owned by Bruno Von der Heyden and Florence Deguillaume, who have invested heavily in the 54 ha of vines and wine cellars over recent years.

Super ripe black fruits, this is simply dripping with ripeness yet there is an excellent balancing freshness and beautifully singing tannins. This is an impressive wine with a velvety texture that extends right through to the long finish. Those who bought the super 2010 vintage will know the heights that this château reaches.

Drink 2023 - 2028

Château Lamothe Bergeron, Haut-Médoc (6x75cl)

£62.00 per case IB

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

This château is located to the south of St Julien on a plot of high land, the 'motte', between St Julien and Margaux in Cussac Fort de Médoc, near the banks of the Gironde on a fine gravel and clay soil. It has been owned by the Cognac H Mounier Group since 2009. The property is run by Mery Laurent, who is supported in the winemaking process by Hubert de Bouard of Château Angelus.

A robust and structured wine, with a superb fruit structure. There is a delicious, rich, black cassis character with an underlay of chocolate, notes of pencil lead, a touch of forest floor and fine tannins. The finish is polished and impressive.

Drink 2023 - 2032

CRU BOURGEOIS SUPÉRIEURS

ST ESTEPHE

Château Beau-Site

£156.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot

J. Suckling: 92-93 points

Owned by Philippe Casteja, owner of Château Batalley, since 2002, this château is situated outside the village of St. Corbian, next to the 3rd Growth Château Calon Segur, one of Ste Estephe's finest properties. Its 18th century underground cellar is one of the oldest in Medoc and presents the perfect maturing conditions for a wine that is vinified with the same care and technique as a Grand Cru Classé.

Deep colour, inky black to the rim, the bouquet is very, very appealing with stewed black fruits, almost confiture in character. The bouquet carries onto a finely balanced palate of ripe and lush black fruits, spice, and a freshness that appears almost earthy and tangy at the same time. Notes of Parma violet, sweet oak and finely tuned tannins show well at this early stage. Aristocratic for its appellation, this is an excellent wine, full of power and temperament – a classic Saint-Estèphe.

Drink 2023 - 2033

Château Lilian-Ladouys

£180.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 55% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc

J. Suckling: 93-94 points

This 40ha property has been owned by the Lorenzetti family, who also own Château Pedesclaux in Pauillac, since 2013. Located on the rich, gravel soils overlooking the Gironde, we have seen a continuous upward trend over recent years. A rich and robust wine, there is a stunning concentration of blackcurrant fruits with a touch of liquorice on the palate. Notes of tobacco and spice with a lick of cedar provide an added dimension. This wine offers super value for money this vintage.

Drink 2026 - 2034

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

£160.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 58% Merlot, 38.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2.5% Petit Verdot, 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.

2019 was the first year of conversion to organic conversion at Fourcas-Hosten – an unfortunate year to start! This resulted in a reduction of 30% in volume with yields of only 24hl/ha being produced.

Aged in 28% new oak, there is a lovely whiff of blackcurrants on the bouquet – very expressive. The palate is open, lush and rounded, with layers of chocolate, coffee bean, cherry and roasted plum. Good ripe structure, with supple tannins and a finely balanced fresh finish. Very moreish.

Drink 2025 - 2033



CRU BOURGEOIS EXCEPTIONNELS

MEDOC

Château Potensac

£216.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 45% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot

J. Suckling: 93-94 points

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.

Yields were good, coming in at 49hl/ha. After hand harvesting the wine is aged in 35% new oak for 15 months. Dark ink in colour, this is a super Potensac. Rich in pure cassis fruits and black plums, it is beautifully balanced by a beautiful freshness. The texture of this wine is so silky, no hard edges with a perfect tannin structure. A super long finish. Great drinking claret that will develop quite early but with a propensity to age.

Drink 2023 - 2032

MOULIS

Along with Listrac, 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 Listrac. It is here where the likes of Château Chasse-Spleen and Château Poujeaux are situated.

Château Chasse-Spleen

£294.00 per case IB

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.

Yields of only 22hl/ha after the vineyards were subject to a massive mildew attack on the 4th July, causing an 80% loss. What had been produced is really quite delicious. A very plush bouquet with cassis, roasted cherry and vanilla sweetness. On the palate the tannins are firm and structured with a very impressive underbelly of ripe cassis fruits. This is a big wine, fleshy and smoky with a muscular style and pencil lead finish.

Drink 2025 - 2035

CRU BOURGEOIS EXCEPTIONNELS

ST ESTEPHE

Château Les Ormes-de-Pez

£250.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 50% Merlot, 41% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot

This Château is owned by the Cazes family who also own the very popular and top performing Château Lynch Bages. Very impressive, this is a well made attractive wine. Another highly impressive wine this vintage and sure to be extremely popular. Tight with a stunning purity, the overriding feature is the expression of fresh black fruits beautifully supported by firm tannins. A finely crafted streak of cedar oak boosts the palate. There is a great underlying power to this wine. Stylish and polished.

Drink 2025 - 2034

Château Phelan Segur

£425.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 43% Petit Verdot

This 66ha property is a consistent producer of classic St. Estèphe – solid, structured and long-lived. It is situated very close to both Château Montrose and Château Calon-Ségur, so in rather good company! Purchased by Xavier Gardinier in 1985 it is now run by his sons, Thierry and Laurent.

Now this wine would stop conversation! Totally pleasurable and generous, offering notes of sweet lush creamy black fruits, almost jammy but not in a sweet ‘toothache’ way. This has real ripeness across the entire taste spectrum. Brooding sense of concentrated black fruit, iron-like fist of tannins that almost melt into the fruit, yet give lift and power to this already formidable wine. Spicy, full and warming, but complex too – layers of hedgerow fruits, cranberry, cherry and vanilla, with nutmeg, coffee and a little Kirsch. Long, long finish, savoury and brooding. A top wine!

Drink 2028 - 2036

MARGAUX

Château Angludet (6x75cl)

£156.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 18% Petit Verdot

Owned by the Sichel family and managed since 1989 by Ben, the youngest of the Sichel brothers, this property is in the process of switching to bio-dynamic farming. For the second year in a row Angludet was the victim of extreme weather related conditions, with mildew ravaging the vineyards and reducing the crop by 80%. The final yield was only 10hl/ha!

The fermentation was carried out in cement vats followed by ageing in 33% new oak barrels for 12 months. An intense, powerful bouquet with ripe prunes and black fruits dominating.

The palate is structured and compact with a stunning black fruit intensity, finely integrated, soft tannins and a moreish, long, succulent finish. Sadly there isn't much of this highly impressive wine and it will be much sought after.

Drink 2028 - 2038

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.

Sarget de Gruaud Larose, St Julien

£218.00 per case IB

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

This second wine of Gruaud Larose is always good to include in your cellar and offers good early drinking. At a reasonable price you get a wine that gives a really good glimpse of what a second growth Claret is. What's more, in vintages like 2018, you get a lot of bang for your buck!

Drink 2024 - 2030

Château Les Fiefs de Lagrange

£215.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot

One of the most popular second wines, this wine always offers good value and gives a good insight into the Grand Vin of this property. With an average vine age of 35 years, the quality of grapes is exceptional. A charming claret. Arguably the most generous and rounded ever produced, this is so sumptuous. Racy tannins and a touch of spice give a powerful edge to this succulent wine.

Drink 2024 - 2030

Clos du Marquis, St Julien

£464.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc

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

A very impressive powerful St Julien. The bouquet offers everything you would expect from this wine – full of aromatic black fruits, cedar, tobacco and gun smoke. The palate is highly concentrated with cassis and black olives the dominant flavours. There is also a touch of chocolate and a fine balancing minerality. Multi-layered, this is a wine of great finesse.

Drink 2028 - 2040

ST JULIEN

Château Gloria, St Julien

£347.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 5% 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.

Classic claret. The expected ageing is 14 months in 40% new oak barrels. Masculine with tight cassis fruits, there is a lovely fresh graphite quality and carefully integrated cedar oak. The finish is full of energy. Finely balanced, this wine will surely prove to be an excellent claret in the years to come.

(Drink 2027 - 2038)

Château Lalande-Borie, St Julien

£229.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 60% Merlot, 40% 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 vineyards are 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.

With very small, concentrated berries producing yields of only 35hl/ha, this is probably the richest ever Lalande-Borie. Aged in 30% new oak for 12 months, it is a beautiful silky wine, laden with black cherry fruits, liquorice and cassis. Superbly concentrated with great depth, graphite and pencil lead characters make this a classic claret. Quite exemplary.

(Drink 2025 - 2034)

Château Gloria, St Julien



RIGHT BANK

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) £34.00 per case IB
Grape Mix: 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc

Overlooking both Cheval Blanc and Pétrus, this is a beautifully located, family owned 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. Jacques Rambaud took over from his father in 2005.

Aged in 60% old barrels and 40% in tank. Jacques marvelled at the quality level of his Cabernet Sauvignon this year. "The best I have ever seen". This is an immensely rich Corbin, with stewed prunes and ripe plums dominating the palate. The tannins are so succulent. This is so gluggable!

Drink 2021 - 2028

Château du Courlat, Lussac St Emilion £89.00 per case IB
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 grown on a cool terroir of clay, so important in hot and dry vintages such as 2018. There was no hydric stress at all in the vineyards. Aged in 1 and 2 year old oak barrels and with healthy yields of 46hl/ha, this wine has a beautiful balance between rich and voluptuous black fruits and a fresh, energetic balancing acidity. So scrumptious!

Drink 2022-2028

Château du Courlat Cuvée Jean Baptiste, Lussac St Emilion £120.00 per case IB
Grape Mix: 100% Merlot

This property is owned by the Audy family whose négociant house is situated in Libourne. This particular cuvee is produced 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. Aged in 30% new oak, it is profound and intense, filled with plum fruit and broad tannins. Très soyeux!

Drink 2023-2030

RIGHT BANK

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
Grape Mix: 90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc

£324.00 per case IB

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.

Now farming to biodynamic principles (certified in 2013), this was a very challenging vintage and the final yield was barely 20hl/ha!

Deeply coloured, the nose is very open and full of black fruits and deep brooding aromas of smoky liquorice. The texture is quite remarkable, velvet and silk and the black currant sweetness is so alluring. The wine is beautifully balanced and a fine line of minerality runs through the core. The investment in this château in recent years is now bearing outstanding results.

Drink 2025 - 2034

Château Grand Mayne, Grand Cru St Emilion
Grape Mix: 70% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc

£346.00 per case IB

Located north-west of the town of St-Emilion, this château was built in 1767 and since 1934 has been owned and run by the Nony family with Jean-Pierre Nony at the helm since 1975. With 19 hectares of vineyards, the château is superbly sited on the edge of a limestone plateau, where the soils are rich in clay, limestone and iron.

Aged in 60% new oak, this wine really benefits from the 30% component of Cabernet Franc. A very impressive wine. Big, rich and intense with red currants and cherries giving freshness to the massive plum fruit intensity. A wine of great finesse and elegance.

Drink 2024 - 2034



RIGHT BANK

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

£144.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc

J. Suckling: 90-91 points

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.

At the end of June the vineyards suffered an attack of mildew which reduced the yields to 36hl/ha. The final wine is really very good. Aged in 35% new oak, it is the epitome of charm. Deep damson fruits on the nose, rich and moreish on the palate with an underlying dark chocolate character. A little spice on the finish gives it a further dimension.

Drink 2022 - 2030

Château Bonalgue

£240.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 100% Merlot

J. Suckling: 93-94 points

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.

Yields were good at 43hl/ha. Michel Rolland rates this as "one of the best Bonalgues ever produced"

Produced from 100% Merlot and aged in 50% new oak barrels, there is an astonishing depth of prune laden fruit on the bouquet. Very ripe, the palate is round and plump. Fruit dominant at the moment, however the core is strong and firm with finely polished tannins giving extra support. An excellent wine, rivalling the recent 2016 in quality.

Drink 2023 - 2033

Clos du Clocher

£432.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 70% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc

A great little 4.6ha property in the ownership of Audy. The exposure of this property is perfect. Located in front of the chapel, only 200m from Vieux Château Certan and 300m from Château Pétrus. Integral Vinification, a method of full berry ferment inside wooden barrels which remain open to increase ferment oxidization, is used at this château. This vintage is aged in 30% new oak barrels.

This vintage the 30% Cabernet Franc is so important, as it gives a great freshness and balance to the wine whilst also providing a slightly savoury character. Intensely packed black fruits with overtones of black olives this is a highly concentrated wine that will give great pleasure.

GRAND CRU CLASSE

HAUT-MEDOC

Château Cantemerle 5ème Cru Classé Haut-Médoc

£246.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 6% Petit Verdot

Situated in the commune of Macau just below the village of Margaux and next to Château La Lagune, this is one of the finest value Growth Clarets. It was the final property to be classified as one of eighteen Cinquièmes Crus (Fifth Growths) in the Bordeaux Wine Official Classification of 1855.

Yields at this château were reduced by 45% this vintage due to an attack of mildew on the 15th July. Aged in 40% new oak, this is a classic Cantemerle. A subtle, ripe bouquet with a touch of gun-smoke. Structured and firm, there are delicious flavours of black stewed fruits, notes of coffee and a streak of pencil lead. The oak is subtle and there is a lovely freshness on this finish. A super wine this vintage.

Drink 2023 - 2032

ST ESTEPHE

Château Montrose 2ème Cru Classé

£1560.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot

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.

50% of the crop was used in the Grand Vin this vintage, aged in 66% new oak. Deep and brooding with an intense black currant filled bouquet. The mouthfeel is rich and succulent, almost creamy in texture, multi layered with power and poise. This is an astonishingly good Montrose.

Drink 2028 -2048

The UGC tasting at Hangar 14



GRAND CRU CLASSE

PAUILLAC

Château Duhart Milon Rothschild 4ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)
Grape Mix: 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot

£328.00 per case IB

Another Rothschild property produced by the team that makes Lafite. Duhart is always a high achiever.

This 46-hectare estate is ever increasing its reputation for excellent, consistent quality, producing great wines over recent vintages. Complex, rich and brooding nose – more powerful than normal – this is a succulent, almost decadent Pauillac. Powerful, ripe and creamy black fruits, almost confiture in style. There is also a fine sprinkle of spice and sweet chestnut. I like the twist of minerality that adds graphite characters to the sweet lush core. Long, broad, powerful yet complex and very fine.

Drink 2028 - 2042

Château Clerc Milon 5ème Cru Classé

£730.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot, 1% Carmenere

Part of the Mouton Rothschild stable and made by the same winemaking team. Aged in 55% new oak for 18 months. This is a big wine! Fresh on first approach, with an intriguing mix of ripe red and black fruits, a lovely immediate bouquet that is both appealing and sweetly ripe. The palate is succulent, open and quite lush, but the wine develops, tightens and turns more complex and backward as the wine opens, showing firm tannins and a lovely ripe sweetness in equal measure. Oak is very evident, but in tune with the sheer weight of the wine.

Drink 2028 - 2042

Château d'Armailhac 5ème Cru Classé

£420.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 5% 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 50% new oak this is a big, spicy, almost decadent and luxurious claret, forward in style, with rich black fruits, almost Black forest gâteau, kirsch, cassis and cherry, layered with notes of smoked meat, coffee and graphite. Oak is evident, yet supports the sweet fruit well.

Drink 2026 - 2038

Château Grand Puy Lacoste 5ème Cru Classé

£672.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot

Owned by the Borie family, this 45-hectare property has a reputation for producing excellent, full-bodied Pauillac. Interestingly, this wine, much liked by all, also showed less alcohol – an almost 'fresh' 13.9% ABV! It is ageing in 75% new oak barrels.

A delicious ripe, sweet claret, the core of concentrated black fruits is encased by a tightening band of tannins that give an almost brooding and powerful edge to the fruit.

There is a lovely mineral character from the heavy limestone soil; this is a great wine – fresh and very moreish with a long and lingering finish of forest floor and notes of cedar.

Drink 2028 - 2043

GRAND CRU CLASSE

PAUILLAC

Château Pontet Canet 5ème Cru Classé

£ 1040.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot

Alfred Tesseron has passionately built this estate over many years to the pinnacle of Bordeaux winemaking. Farmed organically, including working the vineyards by horse, Pontet Canet is punching up there with the very best.

Biodynamic farming was very difficult this vintage and 2/3 of the yield was lost. Monsieur Tesseron simply brushed it off and said "we just concentrate on the 1/3 we have!" Aged in 55% new oak barrels and 45% concrete Amphora, this is a very exotic Pontet-Canet. Astonishingly aromatic with prunes, prunes and more prunes! Wide, broad and expressive, this is a beautiful hedonistic wine.

Drink 2028 - 2043

Château Lynch-Bages 5ème Cru Classé

£1068.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc, 3% 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.

We tasted this wine three times during our buying week and were very impressed. This wine could turn you religious, or at least believe in Angels. A profoundly rich, succulent and moreish claret, powerful, layered, complex and yet balanced and utterly charming even now. Notes of crème de mure, cassis, cherry, pomegranate and lead pencil. Big yet soft, muscular yet vibrant and energetic, powerful with sinew and great length, grip and finish that goes on and on. A truly great wine with massive ageing potential.

Drink 2029 - 2050

Château Pichon Longueville,

£1656.00 per case IB

Comtesse de Lalande 2ème Cru Classé

Grape Mix: 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot

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.

Vastly reduced yield of 35hl/ha, with the grapes so ripe they naturally achieved a higher alcohol of 14%Abv. This is great winemaking!

Ripe black fruits, almost jammy in intensity and character, notes of liquorice, roasted cherry pie, plum and a touch of coffee and vanilla spice. There is a developing core of sweet Blackcurrant pastille within; this opens to add layers of spice, cinnamon, herbs and coffee again. Muscular in body, but with a lovely degree of elegance that makes the wine seem almost beguiling.

Drink 2030 – 2050



GRAND CRU CLASSE

PAUILLAC

Château Pichon Longueville, Baron 2ème Cru Classé
Grape Mix: 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot

£1400.00 per case IB

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.

Aged in 80% new oak for 18 months. The colour is deeper than space, with a very ripe, forward bouquet of concentrated black and red fruits. Oozing finesse even at this early stage. The palate is power-packed, intense and richly structured, layers of sweet blackcurrant, blueberry, vanilla spice and succulent, jammy note of cherry and crème de mure. A layer of bitter chocolate shows the heavy Cabernet dominance in such a dry summer, with power and a brooding sense of force behind every sip. There is a fair dollop of vanilla oak evident on the long, tightening and hedonistic finish.

Drink 2028 - 2048

Château Lafite-Rothschild 1er Cru Classé
Grape Mix: 91% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8.5% Merlot, 0.5% Petit Verdot

£TBC per case IB

J. Suckling: 99-100 points

One of the original "First Growth" Clarets, Château Lafite is one of the most famous names in the world of wine. It has been particularly popular in China in recent years which has seen the value of its wines soar. The grapes are hand-harvested, and each parcel is vinified separately. The fermentation takes place in stainless steel vats, after which the wine is run off into 100% new barrels for 22 months ageing.

Lafite-Rothschild has been voted wine of the 2018 Bordeaux vintage in the Liv-ex 2018 En Primeur survey. So the wine trade's choice of number 1 and it is hard to argue with this viewpoint. It is a flawless masterpiece, rich and powerful with a seamless, yet explosive palate. A complex compote of plums, black currants and coffee notes, there is a classic underpinning of cigar tobacco characters and beautiful cedar wood. A masterpiece!

Drink 2035 - 2055

Château Mouton Rothschild 1er Cru Classé
Grape Mix: 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc

£5112.00 per case IB

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 Dallhuin in 2003, Mouton is on top form and fully justifies its position at the altar of the Bordeaux hierarchy.

The grapes are hand-picked, and the juice is fermented in barrels, not in vat, followed by ageing in 100% new oak for 22 months. Aged in 100% new oak. A pure cassis bouquet, this is a mighty Mouton. Rich, robust and voluminous, the palate is so broad with unctuous cassis fruit, cigar tobacco and finely crafted cedar notes. The tannin structure is truly immense yet the wine possesses an unshakeable balance. There is also a touch of nutmeg and terroir flavours. A great wine!

Drink 2035 - 2055

GRAND CRU CLASSE

ST JULIEN

Château Talbot 4ème Cru Classé

£518.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot

This Château has always been very popular, but recent vintages has seen an upward trend in the quality of wine produced, and so we anticipate the high demand for Talbot to continue.

Aged for 16 months in 60% new oak, this is very refined and stands its ground in the company of its more illustrious peers. The bouquet is rich and overt, full of cassis notes and a whiff of pencil shavings. The palate is rich and moreish, with mulberry fruits, leafy in character and notes of cigar tobacco. The tannin structure is highly impressive. This is a top Talbot.

"One of the best Talbots in a long time" James Suckling 94-95

Drink 2028 - 2038

Château Gruaud Larose 2ème Cru Classé

£660.00 per case IB

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.

Vinified in 50% barrel and 50% tank with between 18-24 months in 80% new fine grain barrels. A really impressive performance this vintage. The bouquet is fragrant with mulberry, black cherries and plum fruit aromas, notes of cedar and a hint of black coffee. The palate is lush, generous and open. Dense black fruits dominate with a lick of toasted oak and soft, ripe tannins. A very sumptuous wine filled with blackberry crumble on the finish.

Drink 2028 - 2040



GRAND CRU CLASSE

ST JULIEN

Château Beychevelle 4ème Cru Classé

£720.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 50% Merlot, 41% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Cabernet Franc, 6% Petit Verdot

Beychevelle, extremely popular throughout the world, is also one of the most beautiful châteaux of the Médoc. It has released less wine En Primeur this vintage so no doubt demand for this excellent wine will outstrip supply.

An exotic, rich, prune laden bouquet with a slight hint of vanilla. The high proportion of Merlot in the blend always provides a rich, black forest fruit cake character to the wine – so flamboyant! The mouthfeel is seductive with layers of black fruits, no hard edges and soft underlying tannins. A stunning Beychevelle.

Drink 2028 - 2038

Château Langoa Barton 3ème Cru Classé

£435.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 9% 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.

Oh My! This Langoa has such a beautiful bouquet – so classic. It is no longer the little sister of Leoville, having developed over the years to be a very impressive château in its own right. Seriously interesting, the palate is quite explosive with black cherries, cassis and a little chocolate. It is tightly knit with layers of fruit and finely tuned tannins; there is a freshness and energy on the finish that adds grace to the wine. Beautiful.

Drink 2028 - 2040

Château Léoville-Barton 2ème Cru Classé

£758.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% 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.

Yields of 42hl/ha and aged in 60% new oak barrels. Arguably our favourite St Julien this vintage, although we seem to say this every year. This is a superstar wine! A true classic claret, it is sturdy and powerful with an immense structure. Rich, intense, deep and brooding, the high proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon delivers a superb masculinity. Tightly knit with black cassis dominant, a stroke of pencil lead and impressive minerality, this is a complete wine. Perfectly balanced which will ensure long ageing potential.

Drink 2032 - 2050

GRAND CRU CLASSE

ST JULIEN

Château Léoville-Poyerré 2ème Cru Classé

£816.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 3% 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.

Aged in 80% new oak for 18 months. The colour is an impressive dark ink, vibrant in the glass. A moreish, ripe and expansive bouquet entices you to put glass to lip. This is a blockbuster of a wine, big, rich and tannic with a powerful core. The fruit structure is focused on black fruits, crème de cassis and kirsch, with a dose of chocolate giving a warm succulence. The tannins are firm and powerful and there is a note of liquorice on the finish. A very powerful wine.

Drink 2030 - 2045

Château Ducru Beaucaillou 2ème Cru Classé

£1729.00 per case IB

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'. Ripe, hedonistic yet elegant. This sums up this wonderfully complex and beautifully knit claret from the humorous and always entertaining Bruno Borie. Layers of warm black fruits, infused with notes of cinnamon, nutmeg, vanilla pod and cassis. Elegant throughout yet powerfully structured. A lovely touch of herbal freshness permeates this wine, yet underlying these fresh and elegant touches is the brooding sense of power, generous tannins and sinew. Long in the mouth, persistent, creamy and concentrated. Outstanding.

Drink 2033 - 2048

Château Ducru Beaucaillou



GRAND CRU CLASSE

MARGAUX

Château Rauzan-Ségla 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)

£450.00 per case in Bond

Grape Mix: 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 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.

Low yields of only 32hl/ha, the wine is ageing in 65% new oak for 18 months. Lovely rich and opulent style, almost decadent with a core of creamy black fruits, kirsch, cherry and damson fruit. There is a real kick of spice in the mid-palate, combined with subtle notes of coffee, and a streak of cassis. This is seriously good – broad, generous and integrated, with the vanilla oak structured to support and broaden the fruit and mouthfeel. To balance there is freshness in abundance, giving a real energy to the finish. Lovely!

Drink 2030 - 2040

Château Giscours 3ème Cru Classé

£546.00 per case in Bond

Grape Mix: 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot

A very popular château renowned for producing a rich and powerful style of wine. This Château is very much on top form, under the watchful eye of Alexander Van Beek. Yields are low at 30hl/ha, the wine is aged in 48% new oak for 18 months. Alexander Van Beek and his team have produced a super wine.

Aromatic, concentrated and yet fresh bouquet. There is lovely sweet, open black fruit, spiced with a note of fresh Scottish raspberry. This is aromatic, concentrated and powerful. Very attractive! The palate opens with a thick black fruit quality that then opens to reveal notes of dried herbs, coffee and elderberry. It softens mid palate and shows great subtlety, polish and elegance. A degree of cedar and minerality on the finish seems to lift the whole wine onto a different level. Wow!

Drink 2030 - 2040

Château Brane Cantenac 2ème Cru Classé

£623.00 per case in Bond

Grape Mix: 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot

The vineyards of this château are located to the west of the village of Cantenac. Proprietor Henri Lurton has improved the quality in the vines, regrafting previously planted Merlot to high quality Cabernet Sauvignon.

Richly aromatic, generous nose, like sniffing a jam making factory through a spice box filter! Supple and silky fruits appear from the glass – blueberry, cassis, sweet plum. A degree of opulence on the nose and palate, with subtle, silky tannins and a lovely 'lift' of freshness that seems to separate the layers of fruit individually. Elegant throughout with great length. A seriously good Margaux.

Drink 2028 - 2038

GRAND CRU CLASSE

MARGAUX

Château Cantenac Brown 2ème Cru Classé

£474.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc

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.

In 2018 the mildew reduced the crop to a sensible 48hl/ha, with the grapes coming in at optimum ripeness.

This is a stylish and generous Margaux, with supple black fruits that open out and coat the tongue, supported by the fresher raspberry and red cherry that lifts the whole ensemble. Poised, almost brooding quality gives interest and the feeling of real power. Lush fruits in the mouth, a nice degree of sweetness and a lovely balancing freshness. I really like this. Impressive!

Drink 2028 - 2038

Château Palmer 3ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)

£1518.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 7% 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.

Palmer had a real issue with reduced yields – the effects of serious outbreak of Mildew that could not be fully controlled as they now farm organically. Therefore no Alter Ego was produced, and the yields at Palmer were down by around 60% - only 18ha/ha. Yikes!! Aged in 60% new oak barrels for between 18-20 months.

Described as "A Potential Legend" and "The Greatest Palmer since 1961". This is a powerful and concentrated Palmer. Deep, brooding and wonderfully structured, with a sublime balance. Sweet black fruits, laced with notes of Parma Violets, cherry and black fruit jam – supported by freshness from the heavy dose of Petit Verdot. The low yields give this wine immense concentration and sweetness, all encased in a shell of ripe and gripping tannins. There is elegance, yet this Palmer will go a long way. One for the long term, but my word, it will be a wonderful wine.

Drink 2029 - 2050



GRAND CRU CLASSE

MARGAUX

Château Margaux 1er Cru Classé

£5112.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot

Château Margaux, a Premier Grand Cru Classé Bordeaux, is one of the most famous wines in the world. Care has been lavished on the property by a line of owners with an abiding concern for the reputation of the estate. For more than five hundred years, season after season, generations of vineyard-workers, grape harvesters, cellar-workers, coopers and many other craftsmen have all played a part in making Château Margaux what it is today: a wine with an incomparable personality, reflected in the elegant Palladian building which adorns its label.

With a vastly reduced yield of 31hl/ha, this Margaux was destined to be richly structured and decadent even before the grapes were fully harvested.

WOW! Decadent throughout, sweet, lush and yet supple with a powerful structure and ripe tannins. Behind the basics hedonistic structure there is a real sweetness, with streaks of cassis, cherry, raspberry and Crème de Mure. The oak is integrated yet adds weight and spice, the finish is long, silky and forceful, with a brooding quality that is a paradox against what is an already elegant wine. Power and beauty – what a combination!

Drink 2032 - 2048

PESSAC LEOGNAN

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 Haut-Brion 1er Cru Classé (6x75cl)

£2450.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 49.4 % Merlot, 38.7% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11.9% Cabernet Franc

J. Suckling: 98-99 points

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 great Haut-Brion. Brooding power, this is a very aristocratic wine. The nose is exciting with notes of clove and sage finely woven into the dark ripe cassis fruit aromas. There is an explosive intensity of black fruits on the palate, tobacco, gun smoke and leather with concentrated liquorice traits too. The finish is long with toasted oak providing extra depth of flavour.

Drink 2034 - 2055

BORDEAUX EN PRIMEUR 2018 ORDER FORM

		Cases Req'd	Cost IB	Total
Prices given are per case, in bond Melton (ex VAT & Duty)				
EVERYDAY DRINKING				
Bordeaux Blanc	Les Hauts de Bel Air	.....	£20.00	.....
	Château Argadens (6x75cl)	.....	£29.00	.....
	Château Trebiac, Graves	.....	£30.00	.....
Sauternes	Château Liot, Sauternes (12x37.5cl)	.....	£85.00	.....
Bordeaux & Bordeaux Superieur	Château Moulin de Mallet (6x75cl)	.....	£20.00	.....
	Château Tour de Luchey (6x75cl)	.....	£21.00	.....
	Château d'Argadens (6x75cl)	.....	£29.00	.....
Cotes de Bourg	Château Saumon	.....	£45.00	.....
Fronsac	Château La Vieille Cure	.....	£180.00	.....
Haut-Médoc	Château Semonlon	.....	£66.00	.....
CRU BOURGEOIS				
Médoc	Château Tour St Bonnet	.....	£92.00	.....
St Estephe	Château Tour des Termes	.....	£164.00	.....
CRU BOURGEOIS SUPÉRIEURS				
Haut-Médoc	Château Caronne Ste Gemme	.....	£110.00	.....
	Château Beaumont	.....	£112.00	.....
	Château Cissac	.....	£99.00	.....
	Château Clément-Pichon	.....	£175.00	.....
	Château de Malleret	.....	£110.00	.....
	Château Lamothe Bergeron (6x75cl)	.....	£62.00	.....
St Estephe	Château Beau-Site	.....	£156.00	.....
	Château Lilian-Ladouys	.....	£180.00	.....
Listrac	Château Fourcas-Hosten	.....	£160.00	.....
CRU BOURGEOIS EXCEPTIONNELS				
Médoc	Château Potensac	.....	£216.00	.....
Moulis	Château Chasse-Spleen	.....	£294.00	.....
St Estephe	Château Les Ormes de Pez	.....	£250.00	.....
	Château Phelan-Segur	.....	£425.00	.....
Margaux	Château Angludet (6x75cl)	.....	£156.00	.....



BORDEAUX EN PRIMEUR 2018 ORDER FORM

		Cases Req'd	Cost IB	Total
ST JULIEN				
	Sarget de Gruaud Larose	.....	£218.00	.....
	Les Fiefs de Lagrange	.....	£215.00	.....
	Clos du Marquis	.....	£464.00	.....
	Château Gloria	.....	£347.00	.....
	Château Lalande Borie	.....	£229.00	.....
RIGHT BANK				
Satellite St Emilion	Château Corbin (6x75cl)	.....	£34.00	.....
	Château du Courlat	.....	£89.00	.....
	Château du Courlat Cuvée Jean Baptiste	.....	£120.00	.....
St Emilion	Château Fonplegade, Grand Cru St Emilion	.....	£324.00	.....
	Château Grande Mayne, Grand Cru St Emilion	.....	£346.00	.....
Pomerol	Château Les Hauts Conseillants	.....	£144.00	.....
	Château Bonalque	.....	£240.00	.....
	Clos du Clocher	.....	£432.00	.....
GRAND CRU CLASSÉ				
Haut-Medoc	Château Cantemerle 5ème Cru Classé	.....	£246.00	.....
St Estèphe	Château Montrose 2ème Cru Classé	.....	£1560.00	.....
Pauillac	Château Duhart Milon Rothschild 4ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£328.00	.....
	Château Clerc Milon 5ème Cru Classé	.....	£730.00	.....
	Château d'Armailhac 5ème Cru Classé	.....	£420.00	.....
	Château Grand Puy Lacoste 5ème Cru Classé	.....	£672.00	.....
	Château Pontet Canet 5ème Cru Classé	.....	£1040.00	.....
	Château Lynch Bages 5ème Cru Classé	.....	£1068.00	.....
	Château Pichon Longueville,	.....	£1656.00	.....
	Comtesse de Lalande 2ème Cru Classé	.....		.....
	Château Pichon Longueville, Baron 2ème Cru Classé	.....	£1400.00	.....
	Château Lafite-Rothschild 1er Cru Classé	.....	£TBC	.....
St-Julien	Château Mouton Rothschild 1er Cru Classé	.....	£5112.00	.....
	Château Talbot 4ème Cru Classé	.....	£518.00	.....
	Château Gruaud Larose 2ème Cru Classé	.....	£660.00	.....
	Château Beychevelle 4ème Cru Classé	.....	£720.00	.....
	Château Langoa Barton 3ème Cru Classé	.....	£435.00	.....
	Château Léoville-Barton 2ème Cru Classé	.....	£758.00	.....
	Château Léoville-Poyferré 2ème Cru Classé	.....	£816.00	.....
	Château Ducru Beaucaillou 2ème Cru Classé	.....	£1729.00	.....



BORDEAUX EN PRIMEUR 2018 ORDER FORM

		Cases Req'd	Cost IB	Total
GRAND CRU CLASSÉ				
Margaux	Château Rauzan-Segla 2ème Cru (6x75cl)	.....	£450.00	.....
	Château Giscours 3ème Cru Classé	.....	£546.00	.....
	Château Brane Cantenac 2ème Cru Classé	.....	£623.00	.....
	Château Cantenac Brown 2ème Cru Classé	.....	£474.00	.....
	Château Palmer 3ème Cru (6x75cl)	.....	£1518.00	.....
	Château Margaux 1er Cru Classé	.....	£5112.00	.....
Pessac Léognan	Château Haut Brion 1er Cru	.....	£2450.00	.....
			Total	.....



BORDEAUX EN PRIMEUR 2018 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.

Whilst some of the everyday drinking wines will be shipped to the UK from February 2020, we anticipate the arrival of most wines to be from February 2021 onwards.

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 £26.78 per case of 12 bottles) and VAT, when the wine is removed from 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.

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