

House of Townend

FAMILY WINE MERCHANTS SINCE 1906



EN PRIMEUR

020

WINE

Bordeaux 2020

It is not often that Bordeaux serves up a trilogy of top vintages. The last time that we saw three consecutive excellent vintages was in the late 1980's, when we were spoiled by the trilogy of 1988, 1989 and 1990.

The Wine Advocate lead on the 2018 vintage, labelling it "high in the list of greatest ever vintages in Bordeaux". Jane Anson gave 2019 a 4.5/5 score and only just behind the greats of 2010 and 2016. Released during the first lockdown, it is also one of the best value vintages in years, although the Châteaux did limit the amount of wine released En Primeur, unsure of how the market would perform.

So, what about 2020? Is it indeed the third in a trilogy of exceptional vintages, as touted by many wine world critics, or is it just Bordeaux hype? Let's remember, the Bordelais are the true masters of hype!

The weather pattern was not without its challenges, and in this respect, there were a lot of similarities with both 2018 and 2019. A mild and rainy winter, a hot and wet Spring with a precocious flowering, followed by a hot summer and a warm, dry and early harvest.

From our tastings we certainly concur that there are many beautifully crafted wines produced in this vintage, very much in the classic style of claret. We were very impressed by the freshness and lower alcohol levels, which enabled the individual terroirs to express their true characteristics. The last few years have seen a welcome return to the more, traditional, cultured style of winemaking, following the retirement of Robert Parker, whose influence lead to a richer, more extracted and alcoholic style of Bordeaux.

The International reviews of the 2020 vintage offer very high praise indeed.

Neal Martin describes 2020 as "..an excellent vintage" which does indeed "..form the third of a trilogy of great vintages after 2018 and 2019". The weather conditions posed challenges and so there was some lack of homogeneity, however at the top level he argues that the "elite have never had it so good".

Lisa Perrotti-Brown (The Wine Advocate) favours the wines of the right bank as well as Pessac-Leognan, with the Merlot outstanding, although she was also impressed by the Cabernets on the left bank, depending on the location and commune.

James Suckling says "I can 100% confirm that it is another great year for Bordeaux".

So there you are!

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John C. Townend Managing Director



2020

THE GROWING SEASON

The weather pattern in 2020 was not without its challenges, and in this respect, there were a lot of similarities with both 2018 and 2019. A mild and rainy winter, a hot and wet Spring with a precocious flowering, followed by a hot summer and warm, dry and early harvest.

The early months of 2020 saw temperatures well above average for the time of year, through until May, although this was combined with plenty of rain. Inevitably this led to an early bud-break, some two weeks earlier than normal, which actually proved to be rather fortuitous, as the subsequent early flowering ultimately led to an early harvest, with all the grapes entering the wineries in perfect condition, safe from the heavy rains that arrived in early October.

The warm and wet Spring time conditions created the perfect environment for the onset of mildew, with many properties battling to treat the vineyards as quickly as possible. Yields were reduced because of mildew with some Châteaux losing up to half of their normal volumes.

May and June saw thunderstorms, but these tended to be very localised, resulting in some areas being hit very hard whilst others remained mostly untouched.

The summer months were hot and very dry, with only a little rain in early August, leading to a lot of vine stress. Temperatures were consistently high, and though there were few real spikes, the ripening of the grapes slowed down. Properties with a high clay content, that retained the water from the rains earlier in the season, or those fortunate to have deep old vines, were better positioned to produce high quality fruit.

Harvest began on the 14th September for the red varietals, the early ripening Merlot picked in ideal conditions, whilst the later ripening Cabernets were picked at the end of the month and before the October rains. Careful selection of the Cabernet plots was vital to ensure the grapes were fully ripe, again resulting in lower overall yields.

Each vintage throws up its own challenges, mostly weather related, although for the second year running the Bordelais were also faced with the uncertainties that COVID-19 brings. The final results delivered great reward to the immense work carried out in the vineyards throughout the growing season and 2020 takes its place as one of the notable vintages on the Bordeaux Vintage Chart.

2020

THE WINES

For some, 2020 is the third in a trilogy of top vintages, and that is a reasonable assessment to make. As always it is best to add a caveat. Even in good vintages, it is vital that the correct measures are taken to ensure that the selection of wines purchased reflect the very best that the vintage has produced.

This was the second year in a row that our buying team had to carry out the tasting and selections remotely. Rather than decamping to Bordeaux at the end of March and early April, to visit the Châteaux and partake in the UGC tastings, we were limited to zoom tastings and barrel samples being sent to our cellars here in Melton. I must take this opportunity to thank the negociants and Châteaux for the extremely professional manner in which they ensured that we were able to taste our way through the wines of 2020. I hope it is the last time we have to work this way and look forward to returning to Bordeaux to taste the 2021 vintage!

There is little doubt that this vintage has produced some memorable wines that stand alongside those of other illustrious years. The testing and often very localised climatic conditions has caused variation, and in this respect, it is fair to say that there is less homogeneity than both 2018 and 2019.

On the Left Bank, the wines are very much in the mould of the more traditional classic style of Bordeaux, so the Claret lover will be delighted. Tightly knit, structured with a well defined tannin structure, the wines also tend to be lower in alcohol than those from 2018 and 2019. The Cabernet Sauvignon grapes were extremely small and concentrated and needed to be handled very carefully to avoid over extraction. There is no particular stand out commune this vintage, it is very much on a Château by Château basis as to who has performed well.

On the Right Bank, St Emilion and Pomerol have performed exceptionally well, and it is fair to say that there is a clear uniformity in the wines produced, compared to the less homogenous wines of the Left Bank. Yields were healthy and the Merlot was harvested in tip top condition. Overall, the wines are rich, generous and brimming with succulent ripe fruits. They bring immediate appeal and represent their appellation extremely well.

Pessac-Leognan is often overlooked. A kind of half-way house between the aristocratic wines of the Left Bank and the voluptuous and exotic wines of the Left Bank, it combines the characteristics of both and so often provides outstanding quality. 2020 is very much a year for this appellation and it would be a big mistake to overlook Chateau Olivier, for instance.

Finally, my golden rule is always to buy Petit Châteaux in good vintages. As a company we always dive in and boost our stocks, so that we can cover lesser vintages in the future. Just as Petit Châteaux can be so outstanding in the good times, they can also be rather stringy and weedy when the weather Gods decide to be troublesome. The likes of Moulin de Mallet, Tour de Luchey and Corbin, as well as the Cru Bourgeois Châteaux in this offer, deliver really good drinking and exceptional value. Don't miss out!

BUYING PROCESS

The process of purchasing wine under bond can seem a little daunting if you have never done it before, but it is actually quite simple.

One of the main benefits of buying wine under bond is that it allows you to split the cost of the purchase. As wine is a product that is subject to Excise Duty and VAT in the UK, a significant proportion of the cost to the consumer of buying wine is actually tax. Buying wine under bond allows the consumer to purchase the wine and then pay the tax that is due on the wine at a later date – when it is removed from bonded storage.

There is the initial payment to purchase the wine from the wine merchant, and at that point the wine becomes yours. Most merchants will offer you the facility to store your wine under bond with them for a charge. In our case we have climate controlled storage facilities for which the charge is 18 pence per case per week (£9.36 per year), for which you will receive an annual invoice. When the time comes that you wish to remove your purchase from bond, the Duty and VAT on the wine becomes due to the Government – this payment is made to the Government by the wine merchant on your behalf and then you will be invoiced for the amount. The Duty and VAT due is at the rate at the time of removal, not at the time of purchase – currently Duty is £26.78 per case of 12 (£13.39 per case of six) on wine and VAT is 20%.

You can then either collect your wine from our Cellar Door or we can organise delivery on your behalf. We will advise you of the cost of delivery at the time.

We have decided to include a worked example which might make things clearer if you have never bought under bond before. Please note that the tax costs are based on the current rates of Duty and VAT and these are liable to change.

Example

You purchase a case of 6 bottles for £120.00.

When the wine arrives in the UK and you wish to remove it from bond, the following process is completed in order for this to happen. Charges will apply.

- Payment of VAT on initial purchase £24.00
- Duty payment including VAT at the current rate £16.07
- Total Duty and VAT £40.07

Therefore bringing the total cost of your case of wine to £160.07 or £26.68 a bottle.

You can then collect your wine from our Cellar Door, or we can arrange delivery (at your cost) to an address in the UK.



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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 Semillon 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. Fermented in stainless steel tanks and bottled after only 5 months in order to retain natural freshness

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

This 45 hectare property in the Entre-deux-Mers region was purchased by Maison Sichel in 2002. Originally called Salle d'Arche it was renamed in honour of its owners and probable founders in the 14th century, the Argadens family. Sichel embarked on a major investment programme to restructure the vineyard, increase plantation density, modernise the winery and rebuilt an ageing cellar. The results have been fantastic. This is one of the finest value for money white Bordeaux on the market.

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.





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

£35.00 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 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-2025

Château Olivier Grand Cru Classé (6x75cl) Grape Mix: 75% Sauvignon Blanc, 25% Semillon

£112.00 per case in Bond

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.

Pale-yellow colour. The nose is very expressive, displaying citrus notes. The wine starts out lively with noticeable citrus aromas following through to the palate. Sweet pastry overtones come to the fore, giving the impression of sweetness. The finish is long and remarkably fruity.



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: 80% Semillon, 15 % Sauvignon Blanc, 5% Muscadelle

£85.00 per case in Bond

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.

This vintage, Liot possesses a brilliant and golden colour, a true aromatic clarity and a rich and concentrated palate.Vibrant golden colour, a very 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.



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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, 20% Cabernet Franc

21.50 per case in Bond

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 2022-2026

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

21.00 per case in Bond

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 2022 - 2025





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

£29.00 per case in Bond

£188.00 per case in Bond

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 kind 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 2023 - 2027

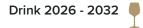
FRONSAC

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: 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon (92 points, Jane Anson, Decanter.com, May 2021) (J. Suckling: 91-92 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. A yield of 44hl/ha and aged in 70% new oak

Dark in the glass, broodingly powerful nose with dense, succulent mulled black fruits, raisined berries and boiled jam notes. This is blackstrap fruit, dense liqourice, black olives balanced with a smoky, peppery tannin structure leading to a hedonistic finish. Warming and generous, this is a thick, heady and full bodied wine. American Claret!



barrels for between 12 and 15 months.

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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 2020. The Merlot 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 in Bond

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 Classe, Château Prieuré-Lichine. A lovely rounded and intriguing nose, showing the Merlot dominance at this estate. A smattering of spice box sprinkled on a core of sweetly rounded, voluptuous red and black fruits, a touch of sandalwood and bitter chocolate adds seasoning and complexity. Long restrained and focused quality to the finish.

Drink 2023 - 2029



CRU BOURGEOIS

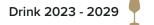
MEDOC

Château Tour St Bonnet, Medoc Grape Mix: 55% Cabernet Sauvignon and Franc, 45% Merlot

£92.00 per case in Bond

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 Medoc 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.

Tour St Bonnet offers a classic nose, showing depth and integrity - the ripe black fruits, softish tannins and notes of cedar and graphite that typifies this appellation. The Cabernet comes through, balanced by an even, balancing freshness and a touch of minerality.



ST-ESTÈPHE

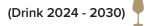
St-Estèphe is the largest producer of the Haut-Médoc appellations, situated at the northern limit of the appellation. It is closest to the mouth of the river Gironde, joining the Atlantic Ocean. Here the richer soil with higher clay content retains moisture well during summer, so this appellation is well suited to the dryness encountered in 2020. 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 Tour des Termes Grape Mix: 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot

£164.00 per case in Bond

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

An outstanding estate, 2020 is a delicious claret, surprisingly succulent, with finely balanced and complex notes of black fruits, mulling spice, integrated vanilla oak, weight, power and yet elegant throughout - such a beautiful wine; easy, lush and balanced.



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HAUT-MÉDOC

Château Caronne Ste Gemme, Haut-Medoc Grape Mix: 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% 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 Classes 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.

A very aromatic violet bouquet, the palate is profound with ripe cassis fruit, hints of sweet tobacco, a touch of pencil lead and finely integrated oak. There is a classic rigidity to this wine with fine, polished tannins and a chewy ripe fruit texture. As always, this Château delivers great poise and balance.

Drink 2025 - 2035

Château Beaumont, Haut-Medoc Grape Mix: 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, 8% Petit Verdot (J. Suckling: 92-93 points)

£104.00 per case in Bond

£96.00 per case in Bond

£108.00 per case in Bond

This is a highly regarded Château under the same ownership as Château Beychevelle. Located on the left bank of the Gironde, between the communes of Margaux and Saint-Julien, Château Beaumont draws its finesse and its delicacy from the deep gravels of the best soils of the Haut-Médoc

A yield of 40hl/ha, 2020 Beaumont has a lovely vibrant fresh fruit bouquet and a palate laden with crunchy black fruits, a super minerality and balancing freshness. The tannins are perfectly in check, supporting the structure well. A lovely claret.

Drink 2024 - 2032

Château Cissac, Haut-Medoc Grape Mix: 57.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 4.5% Petit Verdot (J. Suckling: 94-95 points)

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.

Cissac is a real favourite and this vintage will be well received. A ripe blueberry and cassis bouquet, the palate portrays a wonderful definition, filled with black fruits, supporting tannins and wonderful balancing freshness. A very clean and lengthy finish – impressive.

(Drink 2025 - 2032)

01482 638888



Château Clément-Pichon Grape Mix: 70% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc

One of the most beautiful châteaux in the Medoc. Situated in Parempuyre in the southern Medoc, 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 of 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 fantastic weekday claret!.... and absolute steal at the price. Exhibiting a richness and balance of tannins, oak and sweetly ripened fruits, rounded, elegant and intense without losing its lush open character. Spice abounds, laced with vanilla and touch of graphite and minerality. Balanced and long in the mouth. A Classed Growth in all but price.

Drink 2025 - 2032

Château de Malleret Grape Mix: 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% 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.

The nose expresses a super ripe black fruit intensity, ripe and succulent 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.

Drink 2024 - 2030

Château Lamothe Bergeron, Haut-Medoc Grape Mix: 55% Merlot, 43% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% 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 Medoc, 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.

Wonderfully aromatic with classic claret forest floor notes. The palate is beautifully balanced, with succulent sweet ripe black fruits, cassis and black cherry, a delicious freshness, graphite and lead and a superb tannin structure. The finish is long, beautiful and seasoned, with lingering flavours of Belgian chocolate, raspberry coulis and cinnamon.

Drink 2024 - 2030



£124.00 per case in Bond

£162.00 per case in Bond

£170.00 per case in Bond

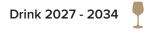
CRU BOURGEOIS SUPÉRIEURS

ST-ESTÈPHE

Château Lilian-Ladouys (6x75cl) £75.00 per case in Bond Grape Mix: 56% Merlot, 34% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Petit Verdot, 5% Cabernet Franc (J. Suckling: 92-93 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.

Rich, smoky, decadent and showing great depth of warmly stewed, mulled forest fruits, oak, smoky robust tannins, and a touch of citrus. Massive structure, polished tannins, and the finish is long, creamy and very ripe. There is a super thread of graphite and pencil lead on the finish. A super St-Estephe!



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 Grape Mix: 58% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc (Lisa Perrotti-Brown robertparker.com : 88-90)

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 perennial favourite amongst British claret lovers - a wine that offers real VFM! A well balanced nose, sour cherries laced with raspberry coulis. There is more structure and rigidity but with a spice mid palate, and a degree more freshness and minerality that adds balance to the sweet mid to finish. A very classic claret.

Drink 2026 - 2034

£160.00 per case in Bond

MÉDOC

Château Potensac Grape Mix: 44% Merlot, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot (Neal Martin: 90-92 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.

It is very much a style for the traditional claret drinker. A core of fresh and crunchy blackcurrant fruit, there is a soothing and harmonious tannin structure, a touch of gravel and an underlying cedar touch on the finish.

Drink 2026 - 2034 📍

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 Grape Mix: 49% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, 6.5% Petit Verdot, 2.5% Cabernet Franc (J. Suckling: 94-95 points) (Neal Martin: 89-91 points)

£243.00 per case in Bond

£195.00 per case in Bond

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. The vinification is carried out in stainless steel thermoregulated tanks and cement or resin-coated epoxy. The maceration lasts about a month with 18 months in 45% new oak barrels.

A big, impressive, intense bouquet of stewed black fruits. The palate is sturdy and chunky with pronounced characters of ripe blackcurrant and damson, finely integrated sawn timber. A subtle streak of boiled jam hints at the warmth of the vintage, tempered by notes of mulberry and pomegranate that add elements of freshness to give a super balance. Big and powerful - a keeper.



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CRU BOURGEOIS EXCEPTIONNELS

ST-ESTÈPHE

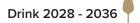
Château Les Ormes-de-Pez Grape Mix: 54% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot (Neal Martin: 90-92 points) £225.00 per case in Bond

This Château is owned by the Cazes family who also own the very popular and top performing Château Lynch Bages. Aromatic, vibrant and loaded with blueberry and cassis, the palate is firm, structured and poised, but there is a super richness of plum and black fruits with the Merlot element playing well. The tannins are polished and there is also a whiff of gun-smoke, whilst the finish is long and intense.

Drink 2029 - 2040

Château Phelan Segur (6x75cl) £184.00 per case in Bond Grape Mix : 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot (J. Suckling: 95-96 points)

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. Oh my word! A wonderful impressive and brooding nose, this is classic claret, with layers of creamy mulled black fruits, tobacco and cigar box, a touch of mulberry and some fleshy notes. A classic terroir driven claret, big, robust yet laced with intriguing qualities that will unfold and delight in time. It is a big wine, but deceptively elegant even at this early stage.



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 (6x75cl) Grape Mix: 46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, 12% Petit Verdot (J. Suckling: 92-93 points) (Neal Martin: 90-92 points)

£137.00 per case in Bond

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.

We detect a subtle change in style this vintage at Angludet, maybe driven by the introduction of amphoras in the winemaking process. The bouquet is fresh and aromatic whilst the palate possesses a delectable expression, subtlety and purity of fruit. Sweet and succulent, the crunchy cassis fruits are supported by a wonderful tannin structure, with a note of cedar wood on the finish.

Drink 2026 - 2035



HAUT-MÉDOC

Château Cantemerle 5ème Cru Classé Haut-Médoc Grape Mix: 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 6% Petit Verdot (J. Suckling: 93-94 points)

£218.00 per case in Bond

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. Aged for 12 months in barrel – 40% new, 40% 1 year and 20% 2 year followed by a further 4 months in vat. Cantemerle has been on an upward curve for several years and this wonderful 2020 shows the benefits of major investment. The nose is intense, forward and youthful, with deeply chocolaty tones overarching the bold lick of ripe Cassis from the Cabernet influence. As well as fresh raspberry coulis, a jacket of sweet cedar oak dominates at the moment, but this will integrate gently, and the resultant wine will have both depth and composure. A gentle, yet brooding giant of a wine. This is first class.

Drink 2024 - 2032

ST-ESTÈPHE

Château Montrose 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl) Grape Mix: 64 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot (98 points, Jane Anson, Decanter.com, May 2021) £770.00 per case in Bond

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.

"A serious wall of blueberry and blackberry compote, and a ton of savoury Cabernet sinew and freshness. This is a great Montrose, inky, broad-shouldered and structured. It needs time to aerate and open in the glass, then you see the precision, the heft, the chiselling of the fruits with a ton of graphite, cigar box and campfire smoke - huge persistency. This will need a long time and will reward patience. One of the few where a 1986, 2016 and 2010 comparison makes sense. A yield around 30hl/ha. 1% Petit Verdot, 3.86pH, IPT 80. 45% of the overall production".

98 Jane Anson, Decanter.com, May 2021



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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, produced from vineyards that sit 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.

Château Duhart Milon Rothschild 4ème Cru Classé (6x75cl) Grape Mix: 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot (J. Suckling: 95-96 points)

£342.00 per case in Bond

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.

"This is so refined with beautiful currant, berry and some subtle chocolate and coffee. It's full and very subtle with fine tannins that have a long finish. Such purity and finesse with structure. Fresh and savory".

95/96 James Suckling, April 2021

Drink 2028 - 2042

Château Clerc Milon 5ème Cru Classé£690.00 per case in BondGrape Mix: 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc,2% Petit Verdot(J. Suckling: 94-95 points)5

Part of the Mouton Rothschild stable and made by the same winemaking team. Aged in 55% new oak for 18 months.

Deep purple, the bouquet is impressive, deep and brooding with black fruits. The palate is classic, with cassis, olive and a delightfully fresh red cherry crunch. There are notes of tobacco and graphite, integrated cedar oak and finely tuned tannins. Super wine!

Drink 2028 - 2040



Château d'Armailhac 5ème Cru Classé (6x75cl) Grape Mix: 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot (Neal Martin: 92-94 points)

£198.00 per case in Bond

Formerly known as Château Mouton Baron Philippe this excellent property is still owned by the Rothschild family and is one to follow.

Deep red colour, fragrant and fresh with ripe black fruit aromas and notes of light toast. The palate is rich and powerful, ripe but with a super crunchy freshness, cassis, kirsch and liqourice characters and beautifully defined tannins. The oak is subtle and there is a touch of pencil lead on the finish. A super wine.

Drink 2030 - 2040

Château Grand Puy Lacoste 5ème Cru Classé Grape Mix: 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot (J. Suckling: 96-97 points)

£607.00 per case in Bond

Owned by the Borie family, this 45-hectare property has a reputation for producing excellent, full-bodied Pauillac. Vinification is carried out in temperature controlled, stainless steel tanks. The wine is then aged in 75% new oak barrels for 18 months.

The colour and bouquet are textbook Pauillac - powerful, dark and robust, with an intensity and focus that puts this above it's 5th Growth status. Brimming with stewed cassis, a touch of black olive, ironstone and gun smoke, with cedar and forest floor characters all in the mix. Succulent, yet with balancing freshness and a gentleness that is almost beguiling. The tannins develop later in the glass, hinting at long life. This could be a sleeper of the vintage.

Drink 2030 - 2044

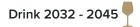
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Château Lynch-Bages 5ème Cru Classé Grape Mix: 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot (J. Suckling: 98-99 points)

Situated on the Bages plateau, one of the finest gravelly rises in the appellation, this Château, owned by the Cazes family for nearly 100 years is always one of the most popular amongst Bordeaux drinkers. The first and second wines from Lynch-Bages are drawn off into split stave-wood oak barrels with optimum aromatic capacity, made by reputed barrel-makers, before being aged in their cellars. Before being used, they are required to rest for a period of time in order to soften out and fully integrate the aromas imparted from the oak. The winemaker's skilled craft involves regular racking and fining for harmonisation before the wines are bottled at the château and aged.

Wow! Opaque in the glass, thick and broodingly oily, a hedonistic, powerful and deeply impressive Lynch, with a rigid structure that opens slowly to reveal lush red fruits, integrated oak, seasoned tannins and a generous stone fruit and cassis character. Long, big - heaven. A keeper.



Château Pontet Canet 5ème Cru Classé (6x75cl) Grape Mix: 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot (J. Suckling: 98-99 points)

£445.00 per case in Bond

£520.00 per case in Bond

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.

50% in new oak barrels, 35% in dolia (bespoke made with concrete containing some Pontet-Canet terroirs elements) and 15% in 1 year old barrels.

The colour is so dark and inky, it is opaque. A monumental wine, dense, powerful and structured with perfect definition and precision. The bouquet broods, aromas of blackcurrant and expressive minerality, the palate is tightly knit, laden with black fruits, with a combination of graphite, pencil lead and cedar providing great balance. The tannins are perfectly in tune and finely polished and the finish is long with soothing spices lingering. A great wine.



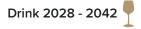


£168.00 per case in Bond

Château Batailley 5ème Cru Classé Grape Mix: 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot (J. Suckling: 94-95 points)

Château Batailley, a 5th Grand Cru Classé of the classification of 1855, is the family Castéja's and Borie-Manoux's flagship. It is one of the oldest estates in the Médoc. The name is derived from the battle that took place where the Château and vineyard are today, during the 100-years war in the in 1452. In this battle, the French re-conquered the neighbouring Chateau Latour from the English, a crucial point in the history of Aquitaine. A few years later the first vines were planted on this historical and blood soaked grounds. Chateau Batailley's garden was designed by Barillet-Deschamps, Napoleon III's garden architect. In 1855 Napoleon III created the classification for the Grands Crus Classés of the Medoc. And Batailley was knighted Grand Cru.

Batailley is a typical Pauillac, with a beautiful, black fruit intensity and very good structure. Very stable quality across the vintages due to the very old vines. Dark, sturdy and structured, this is a classic Pauillac. Sweet, ripe blackcurrant fruits, an underlay of cigar box and pencil lead with beautifully polished tannins, this is a crowd pleaser and a top performer in 2020.

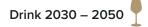


Château Pichon Longueville, Comtesse de Lalande 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl) £810.00 per case in Bond Grape Mix: 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc (J. Suckling: 97-98 points)

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. 12% press wine is included in the final blend. Aged in 60% new oak for 18 months.

"The 2020 Pichon-Lalande has a backward nose similar to that of its neighbour Pichon-Baron, and so I decanted the bottle for 45 minutes. It then revealed gorgeous scents of blackberry, wild hedgerow, seaweed (Japanese nori) and wild mint. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit and gentle but insistent grip. Very intense but not ripe; there is a coolness about this Pauillac that I like, whilst the finish is very classically styled and leaves behind a persistent, slightly briny aftertaste. This is a magnificent, cerebral Pichon-Lalande that will deserve serious aging and the patience of anyone still waiting for The Cure's new album. Tasted three times, including directly from the château".

Drink: 96/98 Neal Martin, vinous.com, May 2021



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Château Lafite-Rothschild 1er Cru Classé (6x75cl) Grape Mix: 92% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 1% Petit Verdot (J. Suckling: 99-100 points) (Neal Martin: 96-98 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.

"Rather ethereal and so refined with finesse, focus and brightness that provides incredible energy and pedigree. It's full-bodied with ultra fine tannins that go on and on. Superb presence with tannins that melt into the wine. This is 12.8%. I love the wine. Lots of dark fruit and fresh tobacco. Lead pencil, too. 92% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot and 1% Petit Verdot".

James Suckling.com, May 2021

Drink 2035 - 2060

Château Mouton Rothschild 1er Cru Classé (6x75cl) Grape Mix: 84% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot (J. Suckling: 99-100 points) (Neal Martin: 96-98 points)

£2598.00 per case in Bond

2948.00 per case in Bond

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.

"The 2020 Mouton Rothschild is an intriguing proposition, aromatically speaking. Initially, it is less forthcoming than the last three vintages, but it's just toying with you, eventually releasing captivating scents of blackberry, raspberry, crushed stone, touches of India ink and traces of violet petal. The oak is seamlessly integrated and these aromatics grow in stature with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with very lithe and finely chiseled tannins that frame the pixelated black fruit. Displaying wonderful mineralité and tension, this is a less exuberant and lavish Mouton Rothschild, perhaps, but more cerebral and intellectual than this First Growth during the 1990s. As smooth as Snoop Dogg's flow, this is a marvellous Mouton".

Neal Martin, vinous.com, May 2021

Drink 2035 - 2060



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 Grape Mix: 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 48% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot

This second wine of Gruaud Larose is always worth following, showing all the hallmarks of the St Julien appellation. It 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, and in vintages such as 2020 the value is exceptional.

Drink 2025 - 2030

Château Les Fiefs de Lagrange Grape Mix: 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 9% 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. An excellent second wine that gives a perfect glimpse of what the Grand Vin offers at a fraction of the price. A real wine drinkers claret, it is warm, generous and deep, with layered sweet cherry and black fruit, soft plush tannins, a hint of citrus and notes of minerality, and balanced by a beautiful raspberry freshness.

Drink 2025 -2030

Château Gloria, St Julien Grape Mix: 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 11% Petit Verdot (J. Suckling: 94-95 points)

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 is a Growth Claret in all but name. A very impressive and drinkable claret, it is beautifully structured, tightly knit and possesses a beautiful definition. The palate is full of Morello cherry, layers of chocolate and sweetly rounded oak, with a shake of sweet spice and generous warmth and texture. Long, silky tannins provide great support to this very classic St Julien.

Drink 2027 - 2038

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houseoftownend.com

£215.00 per case in Bond

£317.00 per case in Bond

£220.00 per case in Bond



Clos du Marquis, St Julien Grape Mix: 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc (J. Suckling: 94-95 points) (Neal Martin: 92-94 points)

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.

This another very impressive, powerful St Julien. A wonderful expression of blackcurrant, plum and liqourice fruits, there is an impressive backbone, the tannins are perfectly poised and there is a touch savoury on the finish. Multi-layered, this is a wine of great finesse.

Drink 2028 - 2040

Château Talbot 4ème Cru Classé Grape Mix: 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot (J. Suckling: 94-95 points) (Neal Martin: 92-94 points)

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.

What an absolute belter of a wine! Richly structured, almost smoky with notes of coffee, chocolate, kirsch and spice along with a leafy, forest floor balance. The finish is long and deeply impressive, rounding out evenly and with a suppleness that is surprising for such a powerful St Julien. A classic claret.

Drink 2028 - 2038

Château Gruaud Larose 2ème Cru Classé Grape Mix: 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc (Neal Martin: 92-94 points)

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.

Yields of 32hl/ha, GL is vinified in a combination of cement tanks and wood vats, a portion of the malolactic fermentation takes in place in French, oak barrels (about 35%). The remainder of the malolactic fermentation takes place in a combination of cement vats and oak tanks. Aged in 80% new, French oak barrels for between 18-24 months.

Drink 2029 - 2045



£450.00 per case in Bond

£478.00 per case in Bond

£695.00 per case in Bond

Château Beychevelle 4ème Cru Classé (6x75cl) Grape Mix: 51% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Petit Verdot (J. Suckling: 94-95 points) (Neal Martin: 94-96 points)

Beychevelle, extremely popular throughout the world, is also one of the most beautiful châteaux of the Médoc.

A very impressive Beychevelle, the bouquet is so appealing, whiffs of black fruit compote. The palate is ripe, rounded, supple and finely balanced, exhibiting more red fruits than black, with a succulence and brooding integrity that is almost beguiling. There are notes of both ground black peppercorn and white pepper whilst the tannins are finely polished.

Drink 2029 - 2042

Château Langoa Barton 3ème Cru Classé £358.00 per case in Bond Grape Mix: 53.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 8.5% Cabernet Franc (J. Suckling: 93-94 points) (Neal Martin: 92-94 points)

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. Yields of 34hl/ha. Aged in 60% new French oak this is a wine for the long term.

A very intense, concentrated and fresh bouquet, the palate displays a wonderful velvety texture with blueberries and blackberries, a touch of herb and savoury spice, polished tannins and a lovely graphite streak. Balanced with a charming freshness, this is a wine with real personality.....and must be one of the best valued Classed Growth Clarets this vintage.

Drink 2029 - 2045

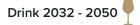
Château Léoville-Barton 2ème Cru Classé Grape Mix: 85.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.5% Merlot (J. Suckling: 96-97 points) (Neal Martin: 94-96 points)

£758.00 per case in Bond

£348.00 per case in Bond

This Château is always one of the bestselling 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 in 60% new oak barrels for 18 months

This is one of our wines of the vintage. Very dark, almost opaque. A stunning concentration of cassis, prunes and liqourice, a little toast and grippy, enveloping ripe tannins. The dominant Cabernet Sauvignon provides a superb backbone and cassis intensity. A superstar wine yet again from this wonderful property.



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Château Léoville-Poyerré 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl) Grape Mix: 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot (J. Suckling: 96-97 points) (Neal Martin: 95-97 points)

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.

This is a fabulous wine, deeply impressive on the nose and palate; rich in sweet rounded fruit, quite meaty with some integration of sweet red and black fruits, interlaced fine tannins, coffee, black fruit jam citrus and crème Anglais. Long, succulent, focused and almost broodingly weighty. Wow!

Drink 2030 - 2048

Château Ducru Beaucaillou 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl) Grape Mix: 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot (J. Suckling: 98-99 points) (Neal Martin: 96-98 points) £960.00 per case in bond

£432.00 per case in Bond

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.

The 2020 vintage marks the 300th Anniversary of this wonderful Château.

"Yields were down by 25%. Opaque colour, the bouquet explodes with rich black fruits, crushed gravel, exotic oak spices and a floral perfume. This wine possesses a tight structure with layered, silky tannins, great precision and breadth of flavours, underpinned by a superb freshness. Very elegantly composed with perfectly mastered power. Great finish, the flavours perfume the palate with an endless persistence".

René Lusseau, Cellar Master, Château Ducru-Beaucaillou.

Drink 2029 - 2050



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 Rauzan-Ségla 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl) Grape Mix: 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot (J. Suckling: 97-98 points) (Neal Martin: 95-97 points)

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 has resulted in a very intense R-S, deep and concentrated with a core of cassis, plum and black cherry fruits. There is an impressive freshness with notes of raspberry, a little tobacco and a firm tannin structure, that supports the wine beautifully. A wine of great personality.

Drink 2030 - 2042

Château Giscours 3ème Cru Classé Grape Mix: 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot (J. Suckling: 96-97 points) (Neal Martin: 93-95 points)

£492.00 per case in Bond

£399.00 per case in Bond

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. Aged in 50% new oak for 17 months. Aromas of crushed berries, dried flowers and spices with undertones of ink and iron. Full-bodied with wonderful, fine tannins that are totally embedded in the structure. Endless length and such refinement. Rather ethereal.

"Another winner from Giscours".

96/97 James Suckling, April 2021

Drink 2030 - 2040



Château Kirwan 4ème Cru Classé (6x75cl) Grape Mix: 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Cabernet Franc, 14% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot (J. Suckling: 94-95 points)

Owned by the Schÿler family, Kirwan is on top form since the new winery was installed in 2016. A wine of great breeding and a great reference for the Margaux appellation. The fermentation is cool at a maximum 25°C in order to contain the extraction and showpiece the classic Margaux characters. Aged in 40% new oak.

The colour is dark and opaque, the nose both forward and intensely rich, offering warmly baked black fruits, a hint of minerality and a lush, succulent quality, balanced throughout and utterly decadent - the obvious spice and oak all integrate with layers of kirsch and sweet oak. Long, rounded, supple. Beautiful. A corker!

Drink 2028 - 2038

Château Palmer 3ème Cru Classé (6x75cl) Grape Mix: 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 48% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot (Neal Martin: 96-98 points)

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.

A rich, dense and supremely rich wine, the high proportion of Merlot providing an impressive, textured palate. The tannins are fine and polished, supporting the seductive nature of this super Palmer.

Drink 2030 - 2050

Château Margaux 1er Cru Classé (6x75cl)£2598.00 per case in BondGrape Mix:89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot(Neal Martin: 98-100 points)

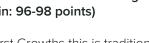
Château Margaux, a Premier Grand Cru Classé Bordeaux, is one of the most famous wines in the world. Care has been lavished on the property by a line of owners with an abiding concern for the reputation of the estate. For more than five hundred years, season after season, generations of vineyard-workers,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

"Much like the Deuxième Vin, the 2020 Château Margaux has a discreet nose; it is not interested in fireworks or in dazzling the taster. At first unassuming, it unfolds with black cherries, blueberry and signature crushed violet aromas, all delivered with the delineation and purity expected from an estate of this standing. Looking deeper, one finds touches of potpourri and India ink. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins and crisp acidity, perhaps more noticeable on the 2020 compared to the previous two vintages. This Margaux is surfeit with tension and coiled-up, nascent energy, then it tightens up toward a linear finish that strangely recalls a Pauillac, thanks to a subtle graphite note that lingers on the saline aftertaste. This is a classically styled Château Margaux that will gain weight and depth during its élevage. Cerebral and sophisticated, and one of the wines of the Left Bank in 2020".

Neal Martin, vinous.com, May 2021

Drink 2035 - 2060





£1440.00 per case in Bond

£180.00 per case in Bond

OPESSAC-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 Grand Cru Classé (6x75cl) Grape Mix: 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42 % Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot (Neal Martin: 92-94 points)

£112.00 per case in Bond

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.

Dark purplish-red colour. The complex nose is underpinned by ripe, crunchy fruit and spicy notes. Starts out straightforward on the palate with plenty of tannin and no aggressiveness whatsoever. The wine is wonderfully concentrated, with crunchy fruit aromas once again coming to the fore. The freshness contributes elegance, precision, and complexity, culminating in an impressively long finish.



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RIGHT BANK

SATELLITE ST EMILION

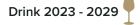
Situated just to the north and northeast of Saint-Emilion are four separate appellations know as the 'St Emilion satellites'. They are Lussac-Saint-Emilion, Montagne-Saint-Emilion, Puisseguin-Saint-Emilion, and Saint-Georges-Saint-Emilion, Here the temperatures are a little cooler than in St. Emilion 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) Grape Mix: 75% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc, 5% Malbec

£36.00 per case in Bond

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.

This is the first vintage that Jacques Rambeaud has introduced Malbec into the blend. Aged in 60% old barrels and 40% in tank. This is a fabulous, rich Corbin packed with black fruits, over a rich underlay of stewed prunes and ripe plums. The tannin structure is very impressive, ripe but sturdy, and the finish impressive. Undoubtedly one of the best valued wines in our 2020 En Primeur offering.



Château du Courlat, Lussac St Emilion Grape Mix: 95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc

£82.00 per case in Bond

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. Fermented in stainless and cement vats, with manual pumping over. Aged in vats and fine-grained French oak barrels.

Produced from 95% Merlot grown on a cool terroir of clay, so important in hot summers such as 2020. There was no hydric stress at all in the vineyards. An outstanding wine, and deceptively powerful. Black/ purple colour, almost Ribena-like nose, rich, lush, open and inviting - the palate and nose are defined by hints of port like warmth, spice, boiled jam and forest fruit. A stunning, voluptuous and intense wine with great length.

Drink 2023-2029



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 (Neal Martin: 91-93 points)

£338.00 per case in Bond

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, using bio-dynamic farming principles.

This wine features a beautiful blazing ruby red colour. It reveals a profound and fresh cherry nose with a touch of exotics fruits and ending with subtle floral notes. The palate balances a precise structure with powerful and vibrating energy, a beautiful touch of black fruits ending with a salty and chalky final. The fine-grain tannins reveal all the delicacy of this vintage. The 2020 vintage has all the potential of a great wine for the coming decades.

Drink 2027 - 2036

Château Grand Mayne, Grand Cru St Emilion Grape Mix: 74% Merlot, 23% Cabernet Franc, 3% Cabernet Sauvignon (Neal Martin: 93-95+ points)

£336.00 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.

A property that we have followed for several years and with good reason. Lushly decadent with a balancing rigidity of structure. At first taste it seems open and supple, but there is a structure within that supports a core of classic red and black cherry fruits, mocha, a balancing twist of sweet pepper and ginger with the finish becoming more feminine and savoury. Impressive, long and very on point.



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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 Grape Mix: 95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc (J. Suckling: 90-91 points)

£132.00 per case in Bond

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.

This is an absolute belter! Deep black colour, almost opaque. Forward and intense nose brimming with black fruit aromas, impressively rich at this stage offering layers of baked plum, cherry, mocha and sweet oak. Voluptuous with a delicious streak of dark chocolate, this wine is stylish, lush with a balancing note of black olive and spice to add a seasoned note to the long finish.

Drink 2024 - 2032

Château Bonalgue Grape Mix: 95% Merlot. 5% Cabernet Franc (J. Suckling: 93-94 points)

£234.00 per case in Bond

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. Owned by the Bourotte family, this excellent property covers 7 hectares with an ideal exposure, producing classic Pomerol.

Classic Pomerol, the bouquet is rich, port-like but with a degree of restraint. This Merlot dominant wine is oozing rich plum fruits, with a complex yet robust structure and impressive depth and length. There is a core of mulled black fruits, raisins and prune with a delectable balancing freshness and spice. A deeply big and powerful Pomerol with a long life.

Drink 2025 - 2035

£414.00 per case in Bond

Clos du Clocher Grape Mix: 75% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc (J. Suckling: 95-96 points) (Neal Martin: 92-94 points)

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 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 for 18 months in fine-grained French oak barrels (60% new).

A big, rich and powerful wine laden with ripe plum, an underbelly of liquorice and black currant enveloping the tightly knit structure. There are also notes of mocha and black cherry, long, earthy cedar and spicebox characters. A supremely stylish wine, this is a top Pomerol.

Drink 2027 - 2038



BORDEAUX EN PRIMEUR 2020 ORDER FORM

Prices given are per case, in bond Melton (ex VAL & Duty)		Cases Req'd	Cost IB	Total
EVERYDAY DRINKING				
Bordeaux Blanc	Les Hauts de Bel Air (6x75cl) Château Argadens (6x75cl) Château Trebiac, Graves (6x75cl) Château Olivier Blanc, Grand Cru Classé (6x75cl)	······	£20.00 £29.00 £35.00 £112.00	·····
Sauternes	Château Liot, Sauternes (12x37.5cl)		£85.00	
Bordeaux & Bordeaux Superieur	Château Moulin de Mallet (6x75cI) Château Tour de Luchey (6x75cI) Château d'Argadens (6x75cI)	·····	£21.50 £21.00 £29.00	
Fronsac	Château La Vieille Cure		£188.00	
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 SUF	PÉRIEURS			
Haut-Médoc	Château Caronne Ste Gemme Château Beaumont Château Cissac Château Clément-Pichon Château de Malleret Château Lamothe Bergeron	······	£108.00 £104.00 £96.00 £170.00 £162.00 £124.00	······
St Estephe	Château Lilian-Ladouys (6x75cl)		£75.00	
Listrac	Château Fourcas-Hosten		£160.00	
CRU BOURGEOIS EXC	EPTIONNELS			
Médoc	Château Potensac		£195.00	
Moulis	Château Chasse-Spleen		£243.00	
St Estephe	Château Les Ormes de Pez Château Phelan-Segur (6x75ci)		£225.00 £184.00	
Margaux	Château Angludet (6x75ci)		£137.00	
GRAND CRU CLASSÉ				
Haut-Medoc	Château Cantemerle 5ème Cru Classé		£218.00	
St Estèphe	Château Montrose 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)		£770.00	
Pauillac	Château Duhart Milon Rothschild 4ème Cru Classé (6x75cl) Château Clerc Milon 5ème Cru Classé Château d'Armailhac 5ème Cru Classé (6x75cl) Château Grand Puy Lacoste 5ème Cru Classé	·····	£324.00 £690.00 £198.00 £607.00	

BORDEAUX EN PRIMEUR 2020 ORDER FORM

Cases

Req'd

Cost

ΙB

Total

GRAND CRU CLASSÉ

GRAND CRU CLASSÉ		
Pauillac	Château Lynch Bages 5ème Cru Classé (6x75cl) Château Pontet Canet 5ème Cru Classé (6x75cl) Château Batailley 5ème Cru Classé (6x75cl) Château Pichon Longueville, Comtesse de Lalande 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl) Château Lafite-Rothschild 1er Cru Classé (6x75cl) Château Mouton Rothschild 1er Cru Classé (6x75cl)	£520.00 £445.00 £168.00 £810.00 £2948.00 £2598.00
St-Julien	Sarget de Gruaud Larose Château Les Fiefs de Lagrange Château Gloria Clos du Marquis Château Talbot 4ème Cru Classé Château Gruaud Larose 2ème Cru Classé Château Beychevelle 4ème Cru Classé (6x75cl) Château Langoa Barton 3ème Cru Classé Château Léoville-Barton 2ème Cru Classé Château Léoville-Poyferré 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl) Château Ducru Beaucaillou 2èmeCru Classé (6x75cl)	£220.00 £215.00 £317.00 £450.00 £478.00 £450.00 £458.00 £358.00 £758.00 £432.00 £960.00
Margaux	Château Rauzan-Segla 2ème Cru (6x75cl) Château Giscours 3ème Cru Classé Château Kirwan 4ème Cru Classé (6x75cl) Château Palmer 3ème Cru (6x75cl) Château Margaux 1er Cru Classé (6x75cl)	£399.00 £492.00 £180.00 £1440.00 £2598.00
Pessac Léognan	Château Olivier, Grand Cru Classé (6x75cl)	£112.00
RIGHT BANK		
Satellite St Emilion	Château Corbin (6x75cI) Château du Courlat	£36.00 £82.00
St Emilion	Château Fonplegade, Grand Cru St Emilion Château Grande Mayne, Grand Cru St Emilion	£338.00 £336.00
Pomerol	Château Les Hauts Conseillants Château Bonalgue Clos du Clocher	£132.00 £234.00 £414.00

Total

BORDEAUX EN PRIMEUR 2020 ORDER FORM

To purchase any of our Bordeaux 2020 wines En Primeur, please visit www.houseoftownend.com.

Alternatively, you can return the enclosed order form and send your payment by Bank Transfer.

Please return this form along with your payment to:

House of Townend Ltd	
Wyke Way	Account Name: J Townend & Sons (Hull) Ltd
Melton West Business Park	Sort Code: 40-25-20
Melton	Account Number: 20814660
East Riding of Yorkshire	Please use the reference: Bordeaux 2020
HU14 3BQ	

Payment details:

(CAPITALS PLEASE)

Name:
Tel No:
E-mail:
Address:
Postcode:
Signed

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 £26.78 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 plus VAT per case per week, which covers all charges.
- **Delivery:** When shipped the wines will be automatically entered into your private reserves in bond here in Melton. Shipment dates vary but we will notify you by email when they arrive. You can either then collect from our Cellar Door or we can organise delivery on your behalf. We will advise of the cost of delivery at the time.

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