

Bordeaux 2014 En Primeur Offer

“The Left Bank made truly superb wines while the Right Bank made many very good to outstanding wines”

James Suckling

“The best vintage since 2010”

Will Lyons, Wall Street Journal

“If the prices seem reasonable, then get in there and secure your stock while others dillydally and possibly miss out.”

Matthew Jukes

“The top châteaux (and some of the lesser ones) made very good to excellent wines in 2014”

Tim Atkin

“In many ways it represents the perfect vintage to woo back the legions of disaffected Bordeaux-lovers.”

Neal Martin

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Prices are quoted 'in bond' unless otherwise stated and are exclusive of duty, VAT and delivery, which is expected in spring 2017. You will be notified by post once your wines have arrived. Bottle sizes are 75cl unless otherwise stated.

For full details please see our terms and conditions on page 20.

Bordeaux 2014 Vintage Report

'Never, never, never give up'
Winston S. Churchill

Credit must be given to Château Ducru-Beaucaillou for the use of the above quote to summarise the 2014 vintage and as in 2010 for producing my wine of the vintage. On arriving at Bruno Borie's ever-improving Château, we were greeted at the door in typical Bruno Borie 'style' and handed various Ducru paraphernalia with the aforementioned Winston Churchill quote emblazoned on the front cover. It sums up 2014 very well and, on reflection, Monsieur Borie could have picked one of a dozen or so Churchill quotes and they would have been equally appropriate.

Bordeaux's success over the last decade or so has also contributed significantly to its downfall in the last few years. We find ourselves in a similar position to where we were shortly before the 2008 vintage release. Off the back of some patchy vintages for which prices were still inflated from the peaks of 2009 and 2010, the general consensus among many consumers seems to be that 2014 will be no different. I beg to disagree!

2013 in particular was difficult, but as always in the weaker vintages there are some smart buys (plenty of 97s, 02s and 07s have given me great pleasure of late because I know plenty of other people would turn their noses up at them), yet chosen carefully they exceed expectations in terms of quality and value. 2012 was excellent in Pomerol, but generally hit and miss elsewhere. 2011 was a pretty good vintage on the whole, but pricing was still inflated following the extraordinary peaks of 2009 and 2010. In my view, the market's mood is so very similar to the mood pre-Bordeaux 2008, based on quality and following a couple of so-so vintages which were also rather overpriced in parts. The initial assumption was that there was not value to be had, but the vintage's quality was only really appreciated once the wines were tasted by the wine trade in April the following year, so the Bordeaux hype-machine had not kicked into gear. The conditions for 2008 and 2014 were initially tough, but given the fortuitous Indian summer last year it all turned around at the last minute and some truly excellent wines have been produced.

While I suspect few people reading this would like to read a full weather report on the vintage, I think a brief summary is necessary to understand why the now slightly amusing, overused term 'miracle vintage' may appear once or twice in Bordeaux 2014 articles in the coming month or so. Early conditions in 2008 and 2014 suggested we were on track for a pretty shoddy set of wines, and many characters smarter-than-I were prepared to write off both vintages. Both were saved by spells of very warm weather shortly before harvest, though I think in 2014 this was even more extreme than in 2008. The weather in June, July and August 2014 was little short of a disaster, but this Indian summer meant that grapes were fully ripe and in plentiful volume by the time of harvest. The shorter spell of hot weather has probably meant the wines do not have, nor were ever going to have, the tannic structure of 2005 or 2010, but in terms of fruit profile, they are not far off. The fruit was ripe, juicy, friendly and with sufficient levels of tannin to balance the wines with moderate acidity and relatively low alcohol levels. Hand on heart, this was the easiest, most enjoyable week I have spent during this type of visit to Bordeaux. That's not to say the wines are of the calibre of 2005, 2009 or 2010 - they're not - but as Paul Pontellier of Château Margaux suggests, "it's the best of the vintages that are not quite spectacular". I'd be inclined to agree based on what experience I have. 2005, 2009 and 2010 are better, but 2014 is arguably the best of the rest since 2000, vying with 2001 and 2008 for that title.

"When you get a thing the way you want it, leave it alone."
Winston S. Churchill

So, there are plenty of excellent wines! But that's not to say that they will all be worth buying. Of course, pricing is vital. The En Primeur system used to work very well, but there were clearly question marks over its appeal in the last year or two. While it was working why tinker with it? Perhaps the big players in Bordeaux ought to have left it alone. From discussions I've had while we were over there, there are some Châteaux who will be silly with their pricing and raise prices to the point where I don't plan to offer their wares. Conversely there are many Châteaux who appreciate the failures of some recent vintages and are planning to price very attractively. Given the favourable exchange rate, this should see price drops on 2013 prices in the UK, but obviously quality is considerably up on 2013, so I feel there will be plenty of smart buys. The key will be to avoid the temptation to make generalisations and to look at each release on its own merits. We'll try to weed out the good buys from the opportunistic estates before the wines appear for sale.

So, where is the smart money this year? Well, until the prices are released we won't know for sure, but certainly St Julien, Pauillac and especially St-Estèphe have trumped Pessac-Léognan and Margaux this year. There are plenty of excellent, relatively early drinking Médocs; not that they are lightweight (they are lovely, rich and juicy in fact), but the tannic structure is such that I think the more affordable end of the spectrum will be lovely in the first 5-6 years of their life. The right bank is more complicated. St Emilion is once again patchy, some very impressive wines, but a mixed bag at all levels. Some Châteaux still seem to be trying to extract a little too much for my liking leaving some pretty astringent tannins, high alcohol and flabby fruit, but there are of course exceptions. Pomerol is far better on the whole; far more consistent, but certain areas in Pomerol are clearly producing better wines this year, so there is still a degree of care required when buying here. In saying that, looking over my notes there are a very high proportion of my absolute favourite 2014s from Pomerol despite my view that it is generally a Left Bank vintage. The highlights though on the Right Bank I think are the more affordable wines from less fashionable Fronsac, Castillon and Blaye. Fronsac in particular seemed to have a very good hit-rate of excellent 2014s. As for the strangely unfashionable sweet wines of Bordeaux, I think there is so much value to be had here, especially given the amount of effort than goes into making Sauternes. A lovely vintage for these wines and prices are as always likely to be very attractive. The dry whites were talked about very favourably by many, but I felt slightly disappointed. Few wines truly exceeded expectations with only a handful of exceptions in my highlights listed below.

Angus McLean, Laithwaite's Fine Wine, April 2015

Summary of Availability

<u>Wine</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Case Size</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Case Price IB</u>
Château Francs Les Cerisiers	Francs Côtes de Bordeaux	12	90-91 JS	£70
Château Puy-Blanquet	St-Emilion Grand Cru	12	16.5 JR	£100
Château Chantalouette	Pomerol	12	-	£115
Château Villars	Fronsac	12	-	£120
Château d'Aiguilhe	Côtes de Bordeaux Castillon	12	90-92 NM	£125
Blanc de Lynch-Bages	Bordeaux	6	94 JS	£140
Château Haut-Bages-Monpelou	Pauillac Cru Bourgeois	12	85-87 NM	£143
Connétable de Talbot	St Julien	12	89-92 AG	£145
Château Lalande-Borie	St-Julien	12	91-92 JS	£150
Château Gloria	St Julien	12	95 TA	£205
Château Prieuré Lichine	Margaux 4ème Grand Cru Classé	12	17 JR	£220
Château Batailley	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	12	92-93 JS	£234
Château d'Armailhac	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	12	93-94 JS	£235
Duo de Conseillante	Pomerol	12	-	£260
Château Langoa-Barton	St Julien 3ème Grand Cru Classé	12	92-93 JS	£285
Château Figeac	St Emilion 1er Grand Cru Classé	6	94-95 JS	£290
Château Lynch-Bages	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	6	95-96 JS	£290
Château Pichon-Lalande	Pauillac 2ème Grand Cru Classé	6	93-96 AG	£315
Château La Conseillante	Pomerol	6	94-95 JS	£320
Domaine de Chevalier (red)	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	12	93-94 JS	£320
Château Pontet-Canet	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	6	95-96 JS	£325
Château Larcis-Ducasse	St Emilion Grand Cru Classé	12	92-95 WS	£350
Alter Ego de Palmer	Margaux	12	92-93 JS	£375
Château Ducru-Beaucaillou	St Julien 2ème Grand Cru Classé	6	96-97 JS	£375
Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	12	93-96 WS	£375
Château Rauzan-Ségla	Margaux 2ème Grand Cru Classé	12	94-95 JS	£380
Pavillon Rouge du Ch. Margaux	Margaux	6	92-93 JS	£380
Château Gazin	Pomerol	12	94 TA	£385
Bélaire-Monange	St Emilion 1er Grand Cru Classé	6	94 TA	£395
Château Duhart-Milon	Pauillac 4ème Grand Cru Classé	12	92-93 JS	£400
Château Pavie-Macquin	St Emilion 1er Grand Cru Classé	12	93-96 WS	£400
Château Clinet	Pomerol	12	92-95 AG	£425
Château Montrose	St Estèphe 2ème Grand Cru Classé	6	95-97 NM	£425
Château Léoville-Barton	St Julien 2ème Grand Cru Classé	12	94 TA	£430
Château Léoville-Poyferré	St Julien 2ème Grand Cru Classé	12	92-95 AG	£430
Carruades de Lafite	Pauillac	6	94 TA	£460
Château Pontet-Canet	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	12	95-96 JS	£650
Château Palmer	Margaux 2ème Grand Cru Classé	6	94-95 JS	£750
Château Haut-Brion	Pessac 1er Grand Cru Classé	6	95-98 WS	£1160

NM = Neal Martin, JS = James Suckling, AG= Antonio Galloni, JR = Jancis Robinson, WS = Wine Spectator, TA = Tim Atkin

Pauillac

Château Haut-Bages-Monpélou 2014 £143 per 12 IB
Pauillac Cru Bourgeois Arriving spring 2017

Our Pick!
85-87 Points Neal Martin

Located between Grand-Puy-Lacoste and Duhart-Milon it's no wonder this is a very typical Pauillac, but at the price is a super buy. An interesting little property once linked to Duhart-Milon, but now part of Batailley's Borie-Manoux stable. Known as Batailley's little brother, it is an absolutely classic Pauillac this year. Brambles and classic cigar-box on the nose with a little aromatic lift provided by a high percentage of Cabernet Franc (a grape that performed especially well in 2014) in the blend. The palate is refined, elegant and very appealing even at this stage with perfectly well integrated tannins. Over the next 8 years this should offer a lot of joy.



Château Batailley 2014 £234 per 12 IB
Pauillac 5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé Arriving spring 2017

92-93 Points James Suckling
91 Points Tim Atkin
89-91 Points Neal Martin

"A big and juicy red with blueberry, cassis and chocolate character. Full and velvety with lovely purity. Wonderful ripeness of tannin. Cabernet sauvignon here."
92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2015



"This château's reputation for producing dependable, well-priced clarets is well deserved. This is a classic, Cabernet-based Pauillac, albeit in a comparatively approachable style. Focused acidity, medium structure and fine cassis and bramble fruit are supplemented by attractive oak."
91 Points – Tim Atkin, TimAtkin.com, April 2015

Château d'Armailhac 2014 £235 per 12 IB
Pauillac 5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé Arriving spring 2017

Our Pick!
93-94 Points James Suckling
90-93 Points Antonio Galloni

"Very minerally, silky and refined with a full body, firm tannins and currants, stones and citrus. Racy and fine. This has a little more merlot in the blend but is mostly cabernet sauvignon as always. One of the best Armailhacs in a long time."
93-94 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2015



"The 2014 d'Armailhac is absolutely delicious. Dark red cherry, plum, pomegranate, spice and floral notes are bold and exuberant in the glass. This is an especially extroverted, silky d'Armailhac long on class, finesse and resonance. All the elements are in the right place. Ripe, silky tannins add to an overall impression of creaminess, but there is also a terrific element of pure energy here. The 2014 has a bit more Merlot in the blend than usual and also clocks in around 13.8% in alcohol, which is high for the estate. More importantly, though, d'Armailhac is a real overachiever in this vintage. The blend is 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot."
90-93 Points – Antonio Galloni, VinousMedia.com, April 2015

Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste 2014
 Pauillac 5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£375 per 12 IB
 Arriving spring 2017

Our Pick!
 93-95 Points Neal Martin
 93-94 Points James Suckling
 93-96 Points Wine Spectator
 92-95 Antonio Galloni

"The Château Grand Puy Lacoste 2014 is a blend of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Merlot between 25 September and 9 October at 33 hectoliter per hectare. The aromatics are not as immediate as the Haut-Batailley and demand more coaxing from the glass, but that comes with the territory. It unfurls with each swirl, black fruits at first, then GPL's trademark, graphite and gravel scents storm into the room. Leaving the glass aside for 10 minutes there is a distant tang of shucked oyster shells. The palate is understated on the entry. This is not a powerhouse Grand-Puy-Lacoste, rather one that emphasizes finesse and precision. It is almost unerringly low-key and yet there is an enormous length already in place. As usual, I suspect that its secrets (or at least some of them) will be unlocked during its barrel maturation. One of the appellation's most cerebral offerings. Drink: 2020-2045."
 93-95 Points – Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2015



"This is a wine with a dense center, wonderful fruit, polished and refined tannins and a persistent finish. Full-bodied, long and intense. Beautiful pure cabernet character. Real wine. 82% cabernet sauvignon and 18% merlot. Higher percentage of cabernet than normal."
 93-94 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2015

Château Duhart-Milon 2014
 Pauillac 4^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£400 per 12 IB
 Arriving spring 2017

92-93 Points James Suckling
17 Points Jancis Robinson

"This is very solid and muscular with dark berries and blueberries. More merlot than normal but shows a serious structure that underlines the excellence of the cabernet. Small production of cabernet here with 45% merlot in the blend."
 92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2015



"Mid crimson. Lightly floral nose. Then some real substance and palate weight. Masses of tannins well managed to make a pretty competent medium-weight claret. Nothing showy but well done. Very much in Lafite style. Bone-dry finish with some persistence."
 17 Points – Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com, April 2015

£175 less than 2013 market release price (89-90 Pts JS)

Château Lynch-Bages 2014
Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé

£575 per 12 IB
£290 per 6 IB
Arriving spring 2017

Our Pick!
95-96 Points James Suckling
93-96 Points Wine Spectator
96 Points Tim Atkin

"This has fascinating aromas already with blackcurrants and cassis. Hints of spices. It's full-bodied with ultra-fine tannins and a long, focused finish. Muscular but toned and beautiful."
95-96 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2015



"Offers lovely weight and feel, with a big core of plum, blackberry and black currant fruit that manages to show refinement, while ample charcoal and warm stone notes flow underneath. This is displaying terrific depth and purity today."
93-96 Points – James Molesworth, WineSpectator.com, March 2015

Château Pontet-Canet 2014
Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé

£650 per 12 IB
£325 per 6 IB
Arriving spring 2017

93-95 Points Neal Martin
95-96 Points James Suckling
93-96+ Points Antonio Galloni

"The Château Pontet-Canet 2014 was picked between 29 September and 10 October, the 10th biodynamically. It is initially quite reticent, a little broody in the glass. However, it unfolds with each swirl revealing a very pure and I feel, a more contained and classic bouquet compared to the 2013: blackberry, graphite, minerals and a touch of incense. The palate is medium-bodied with fine, quite tensile tannin. The acidity is very well judged – crescendo of flavors that lead to a precise, lightly spiced, quite vivacious finish. What I like here is that it is very Pauillac, in the sense that I feel that recent vintages were flirting with deviating too far away from what a typical Pauillac ought to be. This is unmistakable in terms of where it comes from, but there it retains that sense of focus and mineralité that ensures this is a total success for the vintage. I find this more appealing than the 2013 last year and this 2014 should be a vintage that puts a smile on Jean-Michel Comme's face. Drink: 2018-2035."
93-95 Points – Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2015



Château Pichon-Lalande 2014
Pauillac 2ème Grand Cru Classé

£315 per 6 IB
Arriving spring 2017

93-95 Points Neal Martin
93-94 Points James Suckling
93-96 Antonio Galloni
95 Points Tim Atkin

"It has a very pure and precise bouquet with a light marine influencing the black cherries and blueberry fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with a tense, graphite-tinged opening, a fine line of acidity (pH 3.72) and a silky smooth finish. The Cabernet Sauvignon is very expressive and dominates the Merlot at the moment, although the Merlot is essentially counterbalancing what might have been a much more austere Pichon-Lalande. Under Nicolas Glumineau, this Pauillac estate is really beginning to "motor" and this is an excellent wine, one within touching distance of the First Growths. Drink: 2019-2040."
93-95 Points – Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2015



"The 2014 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is a huge wine. Rich, powerful and dense, yet remarkably precise, the 2014 boasts extraordinary density and fabulous balance. Scents of black fruits, graphite, smoke, tobacco, grilled herbs and incense meld into a huge core of fruit. Hints of black cherry jam, wild flowers and mint add an attractive aromatic top register on the close. Explosive and virile in style, the 2014 appears to have the pedigree to age well for several decades. It is without question one of the wines of the year. The blend is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 6% Petit Verdot."
93-96 Points – Antonio Galloni, VinousMedia.com, April 2015

Carruades de Lafite 2014
Pauillac

£460 per 6 IB
Arriving spring 2017

92-93 Points James Suckling
94 Points Tim Atkin
90-93 Points Wine Spectator

"Gorgeous aromas of blackcurrants, berries, blueberries and licorice. Minerals, too. Full, dense and tight. Wonderfully racy finish. Mineral, iodine and oyster shell undertones. Second wine of Lafite. "We really wanted to make an excellent Carruades," says the winemaker Charles Chevallier. They did."
92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2015



"Upright, elegant and long on the palate," is how winemaker Charles Chevalier describes his wines in 2014. This is certainly a very polished, refreshing second wine: focused, pure and refined, with taut minerality and classic cassis and lead pencil notes, complemented by refined oak."
94 Points – Tim Atkin, TimAtkin.com, April 2015

£40 less than 2013 (86-87 Pts JS)

St Julien

Connétable de Talbot 2014
 St-Julien

£145 per 12 IB
 Arriving spring 2017

89-92 Points Antonio Galloni

"The 2014 Connetable de Talbot is soft, silky and very pretty. Freshly cut flowers, sweet red berries and mint are some of the notes that emerge on the silky finish. This is a lovely second wine from Talbot."

89-92 Points – Antonio Galloni, *VinousMedia.com*



Château Lalande-Borie 2014
 St Julien

£150 per 12 IB
 Arriving spring 2017

Our Pick!
91-92 James Suckling
91 Points Tim Atkin
88-91 Points Antonio Galloni

"Lots of oyster shell and iodine and currant character with seaweed. Full to medium body, an excellent center palate and a long finish. Fantastic."

91-92 Points – James Suckling, *JamesSuckling.com*, March 2015



"'Fruit and freshness' is how Bruno Borie describes this wine from a single plot to the west of Ducru-Beaucaillou. It tends to be fresher, lighter and more forward, too, and that's the case here, showing soft tannins, easy going summer pudding flavours and silky tannins."

91 Points – Tim Atkin, *TimAtkin.com*, March 2015

Château Gloria 2014
 St Julien

£205 per 12 IB
 Arriving spring 2017

91-94 Points Antonio Galloni
92-93 Points James Suckling
95 Points Tim Atkin

"The 2014 Gloria is ample, rich and beautifully resonant, with more than enough fruit to fill out its broad-shouldered frame. Red currant, blood orange, smoke, white pepper and iron build to the deeply satisfying finish. The combination of extroverted fruit, tannin and saline-inflected minerality dazzles from the very first taste. What a gorgeous wine this is."

91-94 Points – Antonio Galloni, *VinousMedia.com*, April 2015



"This is the best Gloria in years with amazing dark blackberries, minerals, rose petals and spices. Full body, firm tannins and a very long finish. Seamless."

92-93 Points – James Suckling, *JamesSuckling.com*, March 2015

Château Langoa-Barton 2014
St Julien 3ème Grand Cru Classé

£285 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2017

Our Pick!
92-93 Points James Suckling
91-93 Points Neal Martin
93 Tim Atkin

"A beautiful young wine with raspberries and plums. Full, round and juicy. So much berry character. Round tannins and bright acidity."

92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2015

"The Château Langoa Barton 2014 is a blend of 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot and 12% Cabernet Franc cropped between 25 September and 8 October and raised in 60% new barrels. It has a backward nose that is tightly buttoned down: hints of blackberry, briary and cedar developing with time. The palate is harmonious with fine tannins, good density here for a Langoa Barton with new oak beautifully interwoven and filling out the finish. This is an impressive Langoa Barton, one of the most under-rated crus in Saint Julien. It's one that will surprise a few people once in bottle. Drink: 2019 - 2035"

91-93 Points – Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2015



Château Léoville-Barton 2014
St-Julien 2ème Grand Cru Classé

£430 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2017

92-94 Points Neal Martin
92-93 Points James Suckling
92-95 Points Wine Spectator

"The Château Léoville-Barton 2014 is a blend of 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc picked between 25 September and 8 October and matured in 60% new oak. This is clearly richer and more opulent than the Langoa Barton with small dark cherries, a touch of boysenberry and cedar, more immediate than its "little sister". The palate is sweet and sappy in the mouth with concentrated black fruit, hints of liquorice coming through on the finish that fans out with a bit of brio. It does not quite possess the clinical precision of Léoville Las-Cases, but there is certainly a lot of substance and length here. Lilian Barton can rightly be proud of this. Tasted on three occasions. Drink: 2019 - 2040"

92-94 Points – Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2015

"Mouthfilling from the start, with lovely plum sauce, steeped fig and blackberry coulis flavors, lined with warm ganache notes and carried by ample but polished tannins. Features a tarry edge at the end, but maintains a rather polished feel overall. A lovely wine, once again."

92-95 Points – James Molesworth, Wine Spectator.com, March 2015



£40 less than 2013 (89-91 NM)

Château Léoville-Poyferré 2014
St-Julien 2ème Grand Cru Classé

£430 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2017

91-93 Points Neal Martin
92-95 Points Antonio Galloni
93 Points Tim Atkin
93-94 Points James Suckling

“It has one of the most opulent set of aromatics of the appellation, with crème de cassis, boysenberry jam and macerated small dark cherries - an extravagant bouquet in the context of the growing season. The palate is full-bodied with great density and power. There is a lot of weight in this Saint Julien, spicy in the mouth with a healthy pinch of white pepper towards the finish that feels long in the mouth, although I would like to see more finesse coming through by the time of bottling. As usual, this is one of the most decadent Saint Julien wines, but one that is well-crafted by Didier Cuvelier. Give this several years in bottle. Drink: 2021 - 2040”
91-93 Points – Neal Martin, eroberparker.com, April 2015



“The 2014 Léoville Poyferré is impressive. A big, broad-shouldered St. Julien, the 2014 blossoms in the glass with superb depth and richness. Dark red cherry, plum, spice, menthol, crushed flowers, herbs and leather are some of the notes that burst onto the palate in an energetic, tightly wound Poyferré. The 2014 finishes with notable depth and huge, explosive intensity, all of which suggest it will require considerable cellaring. This is without question one of the stars of the vintage.”
92-95 Points – Antonio Galloni, VinousMedia.com, April 2015

Château Ducru-Beaucaillou 2014
St Julien 2ème Grand Cru Classé

£375 per 6 IB
Arriving spring 2017

Our Pick!
94-96 Points Neal Martin
96-97 Points James Suckling
94-97 Points Antonio Galloni

“Stunning aromas of licorice, blackcurrants, minerals, dried rose petals and wet earth. Full body, incredibly intense fruit yet this remains compacted and toned with tannins. Long, long finish. What a wine.”
96-97 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2015



“The 2014 Ducru-Beaucaillou is one of the richest, most explosive wines of the year. Scents of blackberry jam, crème de cassis, graphite, pencil shavings, exotic spices and lavender meld into a plush core of super-ripe fruit in a decidedly opulent, full-throttle Ducru that is strikingly beautiful today. The 2014 is likely to require many years to drop some of its baby fat, but it is unquestionably stunning. Veins of saline-inflected minerality add a measure of freshness to the unctuous yet brooding finish. Readers who can find the 2014 should not hesitate, as it is truly magnificent. In 2014, the blend is 90% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot.”
94-97 Points – Antonio Galloni, VinousMedia.com, April 2015

Margaux

Château Prieuré Lichine 2014
Margaux 4ème Grand Cru Classé

£220 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2017

92-93 Points James Suckling
17 Points Jancis Robinson

"Beautiful concentration and depth to this red with blueberry, blackberry and licorice character. Full and structured with strength and finesse."
92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2015



£5 less than 2013 release price (87-88 Pts JS)

Alter Ego de Palmer 2014
Margaux

£375 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2017

Our Pick!
92-93 Points James Suckling
17.25 Points Decanter

"Vibrant and fruity with currant, blueberry and spice character. Full yet tight with tension and brightness. Very velvety tannins. S*xy [censored so as not to be caught in spam filter!] already."
92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2015



"Beautiful perfume and polished flavours. Velvety-smooth, delicate tannins and a hidden depth that will build up in barrel while retaining freshness, length and purity."
17.25 Points – Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com, April 2015

Château Rauzan-Ségla 2014
Margaux 2ème Grand Cru Classé

£380 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2017

94-95 Points James Suckling
92-95 Points Antonio Galloni
90-92 Points Neal Martin
95 Points Tim Atkin

"A powerful and dense Rauzan with firm and chewy tannins that are polished and direct. Full body, yet the acid and tannin tension gives the wine impressive length. Will develop wonderfully."
94-95 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2015



"The 2014 Rauzan-Ségla is shaping up to be a real jewel of a wine. Super-polished and silky throughout, the 2014 is all about nuance. Red cherry, red currant and mint open up in a translucent, beautifully delineated wine. Ferrous and savory notes follow as the wine blossoms in the glass, revealing its depth and resonance. All the elements fall into place in a gracious wine that is at once classically austere, yet also supple and highly expressive, with virtually no sensation of tannin and terrific overall balance. Tasted twice."

92-95 Points – Antonio Galloni, VinousMedia.com, April 2015

**Pavillon Rouge du
Château Margaux 2014
Margaux**

£380 per 6 IB
Arriving spring 2017

92-93 Points James Suckling
91-94 Points Wine Spectator
92 Points Tim Atkin

"This is very structured and strong for the second wine of Pavillon Rouge. Full and very chewy. Yet it's ripe and intense. Makes you think. Very well done."
92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2015



"Very silky and refined, with supple plum and cassis notes infused with rooibos tea and bergamot hints. The long, floral-edged finish is very fine-grained, with the floral notes expanding quickly as this airs. Gorgeous in feel, with impressive length."
91-94 Points – James Molesworth, Wine Spectator, March 2015

£30 less than 2013 (88-89 Pts JS)

**Château Palmer 2014
Margaux 2ème Grand Cru Classé**

£750 per 6 IB
Arriving spring 2017

94-95 Points James Suckling
18.5 Points Decanter
95 Points Tim Atkin

"This has a fabulous depth of fruit with dark berries, currants, blueberries and hints of licorice and spice. Full-bodied, chewy and rich with velvety tannins and a fruity finish. The tannin backbone comes through at the end, giving the wine tension and freshness."
94-95 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2015



"Robust fruit from low yields but no less elegant. Wonderful richness, texture and structure, this will become a superbly balanced wine of great beauty."
18.5 Points – Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com, April 2015

St Estèphe

**Château Montrose 2014
St Estèphe 2ème Grand Cru Classé**

£425 per 6 IB
Arriving spring 2017

95-97 Points Neal Martin
94-95 Points James Suckling
94-97 Points Wine Spectator

"It was picked from mid-September via five or six tries through the vineyard. The aromatics represent a clear step in quality from the second wine, attired with far more precision and focus, much more purity with scents of blackberry, boysenberry and blue fruit, now with touches of violet and vanilla. It is beautifully defined and actually, at least at this juncture, closely aligned with Cos d'Estournel 2014. The palate is medium-bodied with filigree tannin that underpin layers of pure mineral-rich black fruit. There is an enthralling sense of energy and precision here and it fans out remarkably on the finish. Dare I say, this is one grand vin that comes perilously close to matching the heights of the 2009 and 2010. This is a brilliant Montrose, one of the best you will find on the Left Bank this vintage. Tasted on five separate occasions, twice at the château. Drink 2020-2045."
95-97 Points – Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2015



Pessac-Léognan

Domaine de Chevalier (red) 2014
Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé

£320 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2017

93-94 Points James Suckling
92-94 Points Neal Martin
18.25 Points Decanter

"The Domaine de Chevalier 2014 is a blend of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Petit Verdot and 30% Merlot. It has a fragrant bouquet with blackberry, black plum, cigar ash and woodland scents, complex though not as intense as its white counterpart. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy, quite firm tannin that underpin a classic Domaine de Chevalier that has just the right amount of austerity at this stage. Reserved perhaps, but it is beautifully knitted together with a lovely bay leaf tinged finish. Quintessential Domaine de Chevalier...which is what we all want."
92-94 Points – Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2015



"Rich and silky in texture and great sense of controlled power on the attack. Love the balance here, they have extracted more than some, but with great control and this gives very promising hints of how it will develop over the next decade. The restraint that comes with the tannins is apparent, this is an excellent wine from a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% permit verdot, 13.5%abv. Harvested up to October 17 and only started on October 1, so really made the most of the fine late autumn weather.
Drink: 2023-2040."
18.25 Points – Jane Anson, Decanter.com, April 2015

Château Haut-Brion 2014
Pessac-Léognan 1er Grand Cru Classé

£1160 per 6 IB
Arriving spring 2017

95-98 Points Wine Spectator
95-96 Points James Suckling
93-95 Points Neal Martin

"Features a youthfully muscular edge, but remains elegant despite the heft, with a core of plum, red currant and raspberry fruit, guided by supple tannins and backed by subtle tobacco and spice hints. A light bay thread chimes in on the finish, while a juniper detail adds a pleasant underpinning. Displays admirable concentration, but this will need time to soak up its *élevage*, as it is always one of the more backward wines of the spring tastings."
95-98 Points – James Molesworth, Wine Spectator, March 2015



"Dense and tight now with blackberries, blueberries, iodine, minerals and currants. Full-bodied, firm and closed, yet there's a persistence and length that is most impressive. Polished and very classy."
95-96 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2015

£35 less than 2013 (92-93 Pts JS)

St Emilion

Château Puy-Blanquet 2014
St Emilion Grand Cru

£100 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2017

89 Points Tim Atkin
16.5 Points Jancis Robinson

“Good direct fresh nose with some energy. Racy and round and very polished. Quite a charmer for early drinking. Tannins lurk almost unseen underneath.”
16.5 Points – Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com, March 2015



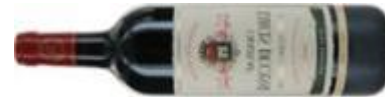
£10 less than 2013 release price

Château Larcis-Ducasse 2014
St Emilion Grand Cru Classé

£350 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2017

93-94 Points James Suckling
92-95 Points Wine Spectator
91-93 Points Neal Martin

“This has a dark fruit, blueberry with limestone and mineral character. Raisin skin. Full body, firm tannins and a firm and long finish. Tannic and lively.”
93-94 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2015



“Features cherry, creamed strawberry and red licorice notes that seem almost too easy at first, but then the back half kicks in, with a chalky spine and extra energy. Pure and long.”
92-95 Points – James Molesworth, Wine Spectator, March 2015

Château Pavie-Macquin 2014
St Emilion 1^{er} Grand Cru Classé

£400 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2017

93-96 Points Wine Spectator
92-93 Points James Suckling
91-93 Points Neal Martin

“Well-packed, with ample boysenberry, blackberry and raspberry flavors that course along, carried by anise and singed apple wood notes that stay reserved through the finish. Squarely fruit-driven, but exhibits great purity and energy.”
93-96 Points – James Molesworth, Wine Spectator, March 2015



“A juicy and pretty PM with chocolate, walnuts and dark fruit. Full body, ultra fine tannins and a long and beautiful finish. Very tight and polished.”
92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2015

Château Figeac 2014
St Emilion 1^{er} Grand Cru Classé

£290 per 6 IB
Arriving spring 2017

94-95 Points James Suckling
93-95 Points Neal Martin
95 Points Tim Atkin
93-96 Wine Spectator

"A beautiful Figeac with stones, oyster shells, chalk and fruits. Full-bodied and compacted with ultra-fine tannins. This is compressed and compacted with a wonderful style. The 32% cabernet sauvignon should give a unique structure here. More structured than the 2012."

94-95 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2015



"The Château Figeac 2014 is a blend of 32% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Cabernet Franc and 40% Merlot picked from 29 September and 12 October. It is matured in 100% new oak from six different coopers, the alcohol level 13% with a pH 3.7. I tasted the wine twice at the property and once more at a négociant. The first time, it did not quite possess the precision on the finish that I was looking for, whilst the oak felt too prominent and blurred away that distinctive Figeac character. The 2nd and 3rd samples tasted one week later showed much better. Superb delineation on the nose, the oak here nicely integrated and allowing the Figeac character to be expressed, lifted red cherries and fresh strawberry dallying with cold stone and undergrowth scents, a touch of graphite courtesy of the Cabernets. The palate is medium-bodied with typical Figeac traits of cedar and undergrowth coming through with aeration, joined by blackberry and boysenberry. The finish here displayed more precision. Yes, just a little reserved and austere but the Cabernet is on song and imparting a structured finish. There are scurrilous rumours that the Figeac style is being forsaken. On the contrary, under winemaker Frédéric Faye and the Manoncourt family, it is retained and enhanced. Drink: 2019 – 2035."

93-95 Points – Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2015

Château Bélair-Monange 2014
St Emilion 1^{er} Grand Cru Classé

£395 per 6 IB
Arriving spring 2017

93-94 Points James Suckling
94 Points Tim Atkin
89-91 Points Neal Martin
17.5 Points Jancis Robinson

"Lots of mineral, chalk and salt character with dark fruits. Full and powerful with firm tannins and a long finish. Compacted and tight with wonderful density and intensity."

93-94 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2015



"Thick and dense and very rich and opulent. Sweet and beguiling and round and velvety. Layers and confidence. Gorgeous stuff, with opulent scents and a great spread over the palate. Impressive! Drink 2024-2040."

17.5 Points – Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com, April 2015

Pomerol

Château Chantalouette 2014
Pomerol

£115 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2017

Our Pick!

"From the Moueix stable, this is up there with the 2009 and 2010 vintage of Chantalouette, an excellent, affordable Pomerol. The 2nd Wine of Chateau de Sales, I think this showed better than the Grand Vin. A ripe, dense, dark wine which is so typical of the vintage, but with a lovely savoury edge to the finish. Super value!"
Angus McLean, Laithwaite's Fine Wine



£10 less than 2013 release price

Château Gazin 2014
Pomerol

£385 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2017

94 Points Tim Atkin
90-93 Points Wine Spectator
17.25 Points Decanter

"Undemonstrative but dense and powerful. Solid fruit and tannin. Austere at present with firm but rounded tannins. Good but will need time. Drink 2022-2034."
90+ Points – James Lawther, Decanter.com, April 2015



"Mid crimson. Sweet and simple and easy without great density of fruit but quite a bit of tannin underneath. For the moment the frame dominates the flesh."
16 Points – Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com, April 2015

£35 less than 2013 release price

Château Clinet 2014
Pomerol

£425 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2017

92-95 Points Antonio Galloni
93 Points Tim Atkin
91-94 Points Wine Spectator
91-92 Points James Suckling

"The 2014 Clinet is striking. Energetic, tense and wiry, the 2014 jumps from the glass with notable intensity. The tannins are quite evident, as is the acidity, but there is a level of harmony here that is impossible to miss. Red currant, sweet red cherry, tobacco, smoke and white pepper add nuance on the pulsating finish. I imagine the 2014 is going to require quite a bit of time, but it is compelling, even at this early stage. The 2014 is 90% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon and 1% Cabernet Franc that saw 30+ days on the skins in small lot fermenters, with manual punch-downs. Malolactic fermentation took place in barrel. This is a fabulous showing from Clinet and proprietor Ronan Laborde."
92-95 Points – Antonio Galloni, vinousmedia.com, April 2015



"High in Cabernet Sauvignon by the standards of Pomerol, Clinet makes wines that have structure as well as freshness. This is a very modern style, with prominent but well handled oak, silky tannins, bright acidity and notes of red berries and blackberry. The palate length is impressive here."
93 Points – Tim Atkin, TimAtkin.com, April 2015

Château La Conseillante 2014
Pomerol

£320 per 6 IB
Arriving spring 2017

94-95 Points James Suckling
92-94 Points Neal Martin
95 Points Tim Atkin

"Wow. This really kick in here with lots of subtle yet fresh fruit and a chewy and long finish. Muscular and long with a wonderful elegance. The winemaker says the cabernet franc gives the style and structure here. And he's right."
94-95 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2015



"The Château La Conseillante 2014 is a blend of 78% Merlot and 22% Cabernet Franc, picked from 23 September to 2 October and 29 September until 6 October respectively at 35 hectoliters per hectare. There was just 2.5% vin de presse and the Grand Vin represents 88% of the total production this year. As you would expect, there is far more fruit intensity on the nose compared to the Duo, with dry tobacco-infused red and black fruit, hints of Provençal herb and black truffle - very Pomerol in style. The palate delivers the class. Supple in the mouth, very well judged acidity, poised and long, the Cabernet Franc drives this along and elevates the finish in terms of complexity. There are light spices entering the fray towards the finish that is feminine and nuanced with lovely salinity on the aftertaste that will urge you to take another sip. I was admittedly a little underwhelmed by the deuxième vin this year, but the grand vin makes up for it. It is another great Pomerol from ever-congenial winemaker Jean-Michel Laporte and his team. Drink: 2018 - 2035"
92-94 Points – Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2015

Same price as 2013 (90-91 Pts JS)

Côtes de Bordeaux

Château d'Aiguilhe 2014
Côtes de Bordeaux Castillon

£125 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2017

Our Pick!
90-92 Points Neal Martin
90-92 Points Antonio Galloni
88-91 Points Wine Spectator

"The Château d'Aiguilhe 2014 is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc picked between 3 and 13 October, vatted for 30 days and aged in 30% new oak barrels. It has an immediately pleasurable nose that should remain intact by the time of bottling: bundles of juicy mulberry and strawberry fruit with a smear of vanilla filling in any gaps. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, a touch of citric fruit lending tension, impressive depth with a nicely poised, yet elegant finish. There will be better 2014s in Bordeaux but few with the QPR of this little beauty. The only downside? Pronouncing the name when you place the order. Say "de-gwee" and you should be there however, don't blame me if a case of something completely different arrives."
90-92 Points – Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2015



"Stephan von Neipperg's 2014 d'Aiguilhe is plump, juicy and impeccably balanced. The flavors are dark and sumptuous, with plenty of red cherry, plum, spice and cedar. Polished and beautifully textured throughout, the 2014 is real stand out. Sweet floral notes add breadth to the expressive finish. The blend is 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc (Antonio Galloni)."
90-92 Points – Antonio Galloni, VinousMedia.com, April 2015

£15 less than 2013 (87-89 Pts NM)

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- No discount or vouchers shall apply to En Primeur wines.
- When we place your order we will send you a reservation certificate to the address provided by you. You will not receive any wine at this time. Although should you be a Premiere or Charter Plus member and order 12 or more bottles, we will send you your usual complimentary bottle(s).
- Wines ordered through our En Primeur service can only be cancelled within 14 days of placing the order. A full refund of any payment made up to this point will be given on receipt of written notification of the cancellation of the order. Due to the nature of the En Primeur sales we regret that orders cannot be cancelled after this time.
- When the wine arrives with us in the UK, we will send you the final invoice. This invoice will include the cost of shipping the wine to the UK, delivery to a UK address, insurance, duty (currently £2.05 per 0.75l bottle excl VAT), plus the VAT applicable on the day of the final invoice (currently 20%). Upon payment of the appropriate amount we will action your despatch instructions.
- If you do not contact us with instructions within 6 weeks of your wines being ready, we will place the wines into bonded storage on your behalf and at your cost. For further details please refer to our full Ts & Cs.
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- It is your responsibility to keep us informed of any changes of address in order to maintain any reservations you may have with us.
- All wines are insured by us at the original invoice value until your delivery and/or storage instructions have been completed.
- All goods are offered subject to availability. If the wines you have selected are unavailable we will contact you to advise you of this. If the producer fails to supply us with the wine we will contact you with available alternatives or offer a refund of monies paid.
- Force Majeure – Direct Wines Ltd/Laithwaite's Wine will not be liable for failure to meet agreed obligations due to prevailing circumstances including but not limited to any act of God, war, strike, lock-out, industrial accident or other event beyond its reasonable control.
- All disputes arising out of this contract shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Courts of England and Wales.
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