

# **The Fine Wine Service**

## **Bordeaux 2010 En Primeur**

*"I have tasted enough wines from 2005, 2009 and 2010 to realize that these may be the three greatest Bordeaux vintages I have tasted in my career."*

*-Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com*

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## Angus McLean's Bordeaux 2010 Vintage Review

'an embarrassingly good vintage.' Bill Blatch

'dangerously good' Jancis Robinson

Given the quality and relatively high pricing for the 2009 vintage it is understandable that so many were sceptical when the news of the 2010 vintage appeared in the press. Even during the week prior to the UGCs when Neal Martin, Robert Parker et al were sending back their thoughts I was firmly camped on a very comfortable fence holding off making any comments on Bordeaux 2010 for fear of the wines not living up to the reputation and having my own thoughts clouded by those of the key critics. On my return, I was sorry to say that in general the wines are indeed superb!

*'2010 has that magic quality – acidity'* James Lawther MW, [www.decanter.com](http://www.decanter.com)

In summary, is it as good as 2009? No comment! It is different to 2009, perhaps more akin to 2005. The reason for that is that the wines have far greater refreshing acidity than 2009 and the tannic structure is far more evident. It is an excellent vintage and in my opinion offers more consistency at the more affordable end of the market. There is an argument to suggest the first growths are not quite up to last year's standards, but their second wines are outstanding. The right bank is certainly an improvement on 2009 with less over-extraction and while the alcohol levels are high, in most cases they are very well integrated.

*'I found the 2010s very easy to taste.... I think that the 2010s have a lovely tannin structure and fresh acidity that make them very precise, focused and fresh to taste. My palate doesn't get tired; it just gets ready for another wine with each sip. It's really exciting.'* James Suckling MW

As far as conditions go 2010 was wildly different to 2009. The overall temperatures were far lower than 2009 rather more akin to 2007, but the key difference was that it was a very dry vintage. This allowed a very long ripening period ensuring full phenolic ripeness and the tannins, acidity and primary fruit to develop with little need for interference from the growers. As mentioned by Stephan von Neipperg, 'it was a vintage for lazy people'.

*'No question but that this is another outstanding Bordeaux Vintage. 2009 & 2010 will figure as one of the great claret 'pairs' such as 1989/1990. But if one often feels that the quality level is similar, the styles of the two years are very different: the 09's mostly softer, sweeter, more supple, with a more immediately seductive richness, the 10's more massively elegant, fresher, firmer, more tannic (sometimes severely so), more mineral alongside the very ripe fruit. Forced to choose, you would go for the 09's in some cases, 10 in others. No hard and fast rule there.'* Michael Schuster

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## The Fine Wine Team's Picks

As is often the case in great Bordeaux vintages there were so many good wines available that we were able to list only the very best. Trying to choose our favourite wines from within the selection we have listed is a difficult task, but nonetheless we have done so. As wine drinkers ourselves, we were looking not only for out-and-out quality, but for value-for-money too, as well as wishing to highlight wines that may fall under many consumers' radar. Here are Gus's picks:

### ***Château Les Grands Maréchaux, Blaye Cotes de Bordeaux, £100 per 12 IB***

In the midst of two pretty pricey vintages it is refreshing to see something at a lower price than the 2008. The wine is suitable for relatively early drinking, but is classic Bordeaux at a very affordable price.

### ***Château Doisy-Daëne, Barsac 2ème Grand Cru Classé, SOLD OUT!***

A lovely sweet wine with a wonderful purity, refreshing acidity and plenty of botrytis character. Are Sauternes and Barsac becoming some of the best value wines in Bordeaux given the low yields, hand harvesting over several 'tris' and sheer quality and complexity in the glass? This wine would appear to argue so.

### ***Château Barde-Haut, St Emilion Grand Cru, SOLD OUT!***

This is a property that typically produces wines in a lovely rich, ripe, extrovert style and the 2010 vintage really played into its hands. There is good acidity too to keep the wine balanced and refreshing.

### ***Château de Fieuzal (rouge), Pessac-Leognan, £300 per 12 IB***

Probably my favourite from the vintage given the price. It is a lesser known region and brand, so the price is less influenced from other forces. It is pretty modern in style, but just perfectly balanced and correct.

### ***Château Lafon-Rochet, St-Estèphe, 4ème Grand Cru Classé, SOLD OUT!***

A property I have been quite sceptical of in the last few years, it has not been one of my favourites. This year though I think it was a vast improvement. Not enormously typical for St-Estèphe, a little more friendly at this age, but given the price of some of the latter released I think this is a shrewd buy.

### ***Château de Fieuzal (blanc), Pessac-Léognan, £375 per 12 IB***

The dry whites of Pessac were showing astoundingly well at the en primeur tastings, with bright, pure fruit flavours. They truly deserve to be considered alongside the best Burgundy has to offer as serious food wines with the potential to age. Château de Fieuzal's 50/50 blend of Sauvignon and Sémillon offers intense grapefruit, melon, pineapple cubes and lime.

### ***Château Gruaud Larose, St Julien 2ème Grand Cru Classé, SOLD OUT!***

I was so excited trying this one this year, it was recently suggested by one of my customers as an 'intellectual wine'. It is a wine which has so much going on it is a real challenge to try it, so much to think about. The best Gruaud I have ever had!

Here are Stewart's picks:

### ***Château d'Aiguilhe, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux, SOLD OUT!***

One of the best wines from Castillon. If it came from St Emilion it would cost more – an over-used phrase perhaps, but it's definitely true in this instance!

### ***Château Gloria, St Julien, £335 per 6 magnums IB***

Always a bargain, this property has slowly increased its vineyard holdings over the years by buying parcels from neighbouring Classed Growth properties such as Talbot, Léoville-Barton and Gruaud-Larose. Today the wine is of top quality, but without an official classification to match, so it's a great buy for drinking.

### ***La Dame de Montrose, St Estèphe, £350 per 12 IB***

2010 was a vintage where many second wines performed very well, but alas, many were released at prices that we considered outstripped the quality of the liquid in the bottle. The 2010 Dame de Montrose however is widely acknowledged as one of the best ever vintages of this wine and we feel offers plenty of value for £350.

### ***Château Cantenac-Brown, Margaux 3ème Grand Cru Classé, £440 per 12 IB***

Expressive both of Margaux with its perfume and the 2010 vintage with its structure. In a vintage that has seen some surprisingly high priced releases, I had to do a double-take when one of my favourites from the en primeur tastings came out at well under £500 per case.

### ***Château St Pierre, St Julien 4ème Grand Cru Classé, £625 per 12 IB***

A property whose recent quality increase has yet to be spotted by a wider market focussing on better know St Juliens. Great Parker point-to-price ratio (95-97+ for £625) if you are a fan of ripe styles, but Jancis liked too, calling it "very solid indeed".

### ***Château Smith-Haut-Lafitte (rouge), Pessac-Léognan, £890 per 12 IB***

Pessac/Graves is an area that often goes a little under the radar of many consumers, but 2010 was a real triumph there. This is a great example with plenty of dark fruit, a lovely minerality and an elegant, yet concentrated palate.

### ***Château Pontet-Canet, Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé, £1,500 per 12 IB***

There are two schools of thought with Pontet-Canet. The first looks at the price having gone up year after year and dismisses it for this reason. The second school, of which I am undoubtedly part, sees a wine that in 2009 and 2010 is genuinely on a par with the First Growths, but whose price tag is less than a fifth of them.

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## Summary of Available Wine

<u>Name</u>	<u>Origin</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>IB Price (£)</u>	<u>Case Size</u>	<u>RP</u>
Angélus	St Emilion	1er Grand Cru Classé	1300	6	94-96+
Ausone	St Emilion	1er Grand Cru Classé	3440	3	98-100
Bernadotte	Haut-Médoc	-	155	12	87-89
Blanc de Lynch Bages	Bordeaux	-	265	12	87-89
Brane Cantenac	Margaux	2ème Grand Cru Classé	640	12	93-96
Calon Ségur	Saint-Estèphe	3ème Grand Cru Classé	740	12	92-94+
Cantenac Brown	Margaux	3ème Grand Cru Classé	440	12	92-94+
Capbern-Gasqueton	Saint-Estèphe	-	150	12	87-89
Chantalouette	Pomerol	-	160	12	n/a
Cheval Blanc	St Emilion	1er Grand Cru Classé (A)	4850	6	96-98+
Clerc Milon	Pauillac	5ème Grand Cru Classé	570	12	91-93
Climens	Barsac	1er Grand Cru Classé	430	12x37.5cl	94-96
Clinet	Pomerol	-	1020	12	95-98
Clos de Marquis	St Julien	-	420	12	91-93
Clos Fourtet	St Emilion	1er Grand Cru Classé	855	12	95-97
Dame de Montrose	Saint-Estèphe	-	350	12	91-93
de Fieuzal	Pessac-Leognan	-	300	12	90-92
de Fieuzal Blanc	Pessac-Leognan	-	375	12	92-94
de Pez	Saint-Estèphe	-	270	12	90-92
Doisy Védrières	Barsac	2ème Cru Classé	125	12x37.5cl	n/a
Domaine de Chevalier	Pessac	Grand Cru Classé	565	12	91-93+
Ducru Beaucaillou	St Julien	2ème Grand Cru Classé	890	6	96-98+
Gazin	Pomerol	-	565	12	93-95
Giscours	Margaux	3ème Grand Cru Classé	500	12	92-95
Gloria Mags	St Julien	-	335	6x150cl	91-93
Grand Puy Lacoste	Pauillac	5ème Grand Cru Classé	665	12	93-96
Grand Puy Lacoste Mags	Pauillac	5ème Grand Cru Classé	675	6x150cl	93-96
Grands Maréchaux	Blaye Cotes de Bordeaux-		100	12	88-90
Haut Bages Libéral	Pauillac	5ème Grand Cru Classé	330	12	91-93+
Haut Bailly	Pessac	Grand Cru Classé	525	6	95-97
Haut Batailley	Pauillac	5ème Grand Cru Classé	330	12	88-90
Haut Brion	Pessac	1er Grand Cru Classé	4000	6	98-100
La Lagune	Haut-Médoc	-	490	12	93-96
La Tour Blanche	Sauternes	1er Grand Cru Classé	230	12x37.5cl	n/a
La Tour de By	Médoc	Cru Bourgeois	115	12	n/a
Lafite Rothschild	Pauillac	1er Grand Cru Classé	6200	6	98-100
Langoa Barton	St Julien	3ème Grand Cru Classé	530	12	90-92
Léoville Barton	St Julien	2ème Grand Cru Classé	850	12	91-93+
Léoville Las Cases	St Julien	2ème Grand Cru Classé	1150	6	95-98
Leoville-Poyferré	St Julien	2ème Grand Cru Classé	1200	12	95-98
Lynch Bages	Pauillac	5ème Grand Cru Classé	1250	12	95-97

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<b>Malescot-St-Exupéry</b>	<b>Margaux</b>	<b>3ème Grand Cru Classé</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>94-96</b>
<b>Montrose</b>	<b>Saint-Estèphe</b>	<b>2ème Grand Cru Classé</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>96-99+</b>
<b>Pagodes de Cos</b>	<b>Saint-Estèphe</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>90-93</b>
<b>Pavie Decesse</b>	<b>St Emilion</b>	<b>Grand Cru Classé</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>94-96</b>
<b>Phélan Ségur</b>	<b>Saint-Estèphe</b>	<b>Cru Bourgeois</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>89-91</b>
<b>Pichon Baron</b>	<b>Pauillac</b>	<b>2ème Grand Cru Classé</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>97-99+</b>
<b>Pichon Lalande</b>	<b>Pauillac</b>	<b>2ème Grand Cru Classé</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>92-95+</b>
<b>Pontet Canet</b>	<b>Pauillac</b>	<b>5ème Grand Cru Classé</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>96-100</b>
<b>Puy-Blanquet</b>	<b>St Emilion</b>	<b>Grand Cru</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Smith-Haut-Lafitte</b>	<b>Pessac-Leognan</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>95-97</b>
<b>Smith-Haut-Lafitte Blanc</b>	<b>Pessac-Leognan</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>92-95</b>
<b>St Pierre</b>	<b>St Julien</b>	<b>4ème Grand Cru Classé</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>95-97+</b>
<b>Suduiraut</b>	<b>Sauternes</b>	<b>1er Grand Cru Classé</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>12x37.5cl</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Talbot</b>	<b>St Julien</b>	<b>4ème Grand Cru Classé</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>91-93</b>
<b>Yquem</b>	<b>Sauternes</b>	<b>1er Grand Cru Classé</b>	<b>2450</b>	<b>12x37.5cl</b>	<b>96-98</b>

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## Médoc, Haut-Médoc and Moulis

### Château La Tour de By, Médoc Cru Bourgeois

£115 per 12 IB

Jancis Robinson: 16.5  
Decanter: 15  
Neal Martin: 84-86

"Very sweet, ripe black fruits on the nose. Solid, fruity, dense with gravelly chew. No artifice. Very nice expression of place and time. Some astringency, but real life and lift. A delicate hand! Transparency. Real delicacy. Very refreshing, with lovely length. But not nearly as concentrated as some. A good starting point for any student of Bordeaux? Even if very slightly austere."

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

"Good depth of quite earthy fruit, still a bit green on the finish. Drink 2015-18."

Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

"Tasted twice, the Tour de By is a little "smudged" on the nose when so many other Medocs are showing good definition. The palate is better with firm tannins on the entry, quite powdery in texture and lacking a little tension on the finish. Tasted April 2011."

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

### Château Bernadotte, Haut-Médoc

£150 per 12 IB

Robert Parker: 87-89  
Jancis Robinson: 17  
Decanter: 16.5  
Neal Martin: 90-92  
James Suckling: 89-90

"The 2010 is a solidly made, atypically powerful La Bernadotte from the owners of Pichon-Lalande. It displays notes of white chocolate, cedar, black currants and strong earthy undertones. Medium-bodied and fresh, it should drink nicely for 10-15 years."

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

"Dark crimson. Scented with just the slightest hint of green. Sweet start and very luscious. Dramatic and crowd-pleasing with real potential for development. Neat finish. Shiny and should be VGV."

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

"Good smooth fruit, good tannins, shows the closeness of the vineyards to Pauillac. Drink 2015-22."

Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

"A blend of 51.5% Cabernet Sauvignon and 48.5% Merlot clocking in at 13.7% alcohol, this has a lifted, quite assertive nose with blackberry, a touch of briary, cedar and pencil shavings. The palate is medium-bodied with firm, slightly grainy tannins, just a little hardness at the moment but that should dissipate by the time of bottling. It is a little austere and conservative towards the finish but very good weight. Masculine. Drink 2013-2020. Tasted March 2011."

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

"A balanced and fruity wine with mineral, dried flowers and berries Medium to full body, with fine tannins. 50 Cabernet Sauvignon and 50 percent Merlot."

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

**Château La Lagune, Haut-Medoc 3<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé**

**£490 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker:	93-96
Jancis Robinson:	16.5
Decanter:	18
Neal Martin:	92-94
James Suckling:	92-93

Is this 2005 déjà vu "all over again"? Proprietress Caroline Frey has elevated the quality at La Lagune since acquiring this estate, and the 2010 is another superb effort as well as one of the better values in Bordeaux. An opaque purple color is followed by an extraordinary perfume of black raspberries, black currants, licorice and subtle smoke and graphite. While uber-concentrated, full-bodied and pure, it retains both elegance and precision as well as a sensational 45-second finish. The suppleness of the tannins and stunning opulence suggest it will drink beautifully for 25+ years.

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

One of the darkest purples I have seen. No different extraction policy this year and not picked especially late, I was told by the maître de chai. Lightly sweet and minerally on the nose. Easy and yet with odd suppleness. Sweet start. Then a bit turgid and heavy and tough on the end. MASSES of extract for a left-bank wine! Just a bit of a lack of freshness. Tastes pretty hot on the finish. Falls away. I am told it's 13.9%. Tastes a bit more. 13.9% Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

Excellent concentration of ripe black fruits, spice and oak blended in, subtle and supple power and depth, great length and balance, a triumph, even better than 2009. Drink 2016-30.

Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

A blend of 55% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Petit Verdot, the La Lagune already has an expressive bouquet with ripe blackberry, bilberry, cedar and tobacco with good clarity and brightness. The palate is simple classic Cabernet with lovely, savoury-tinged black fruits, good acidity, very harmonious and natural towards the finish. Reserved but great length and persistency in the mouth, this is a great, great La Lagune.

Tasted April 2011

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

What a lovely texture to the wine, with super soft and supple tannins and blackberry and currant character. Round and juicy. One of the softest and most supple 2010s. It tastes more like a 2009 in style. 50 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 40 percent Merlot, and 10 percent Petit Verdot

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011

## Pauillac

### Château Haut-Bages-Libéral, Pauillac 5<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé

**£330 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker:	91-93+
Jancis Robinson:	16
Decanter:	17
Neal Martin:	90-92
James Suckling:	92-93

"The finest Haut-Bages-Libéral I have tasted in many years, this sleeper of the vintage exhibits a blue/purple hue as well as projected aromatics of blue and black fruits, spring flowers and subtle background oak. Full-bodied with moderately high tannins, a layered mouthfeel and a long finish, it should be at its best between 2017 and 2035."

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

"Drink 2017-2027

Bright dark crimson. Quite big and sweet and ripe. A little lacking flavour and form. Goes through the motions a bit and some greenness on the end."

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

"Well-extracted ripe cassis fruit both briary and rich, good fragrance and purity, structure and length, right up with its 5th growth peers. Drink 2017-28."

Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

"Tasted at the chateau and at the UGC, cropped at 42hl/ha, the Haut-Bages-Libéral 28% Merlot and 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, this has a very well defined nose of blackberry, briary, wild hedgerow and a touch of crushed stone. With a little aeration there is a touch of oyster shell. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine, quite succulent tannins on the entry that belies the backbone underneath. Good grip, though showing more silkiness under sunny skies and high pressure the following week at the UGC. Tasted April 2011."

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

"A balanced young wine, with smoky, blackberry and chewy aromas and flavors. Full and velvety, with a fresh finish."

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

**Château Haut-Batailley, Pauillac 5<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé**

**£330 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker:	88-90
Jancis Robinson:	16
Decanter:	17
Neal Martin:	92-94
James Suckling:	92-93

“This is always the most St.-Julien-like of the Pauillacs (although occasionally Pichon-Lalande possesses a suave, St.-Julien character and less power than many Pauillacs). The dark ruby/purple-hued 2010 reveals sweet aromas of red and black currants, cedar and spicy background oak. It is an attractive, elegant, mid-weight wine with polished tannins as well as a restrained style. Drink it over the next 10-15 years.”  
Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“Very deep purple. High toned with some mineral elements but on the palate a bit raw and lightish. More evolved than many. Gentle and easy - a very much less ambitious wine than its stablemate Grand :Puy Lacoste.”  
Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“Very good depth of elegant Cabernet fruit and lovely fragrance and lift, a perfectly poised Haut-Batailley. Drink 2015-25.”  
Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

“The Haut-Batailley '10 is a blend of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon and 22% Merlot. It has what you might describe as a very "natural" bouquet with wild blackberry, raspberry, just a touch of pencil lead and wet limestone. Not an intense nose, but very well defined. The palate is medium-bodied with very precise tannins, good acidity, just a little hardness at the front-palate, but this will soften. The backbone is very impressive, the finish very masculine, classic, the Cabernet Sauvignon dominating and imparting great purity and expression of terroir. Superb. As always, one of Pauillac's over-looked gems. Drink 2017-2040. Tasted March 2011.”  
Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

“An impressive intensity of fruit here with blueberries and lemon character. Full and very well-integrated, with ultra-fine tannins and a long, long finish. Better than 2000?”  
James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

**Château Clerc Milon, Pauillac 5<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé**

**£570 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker:	91-93
Jancis Robinson:	17
Decanter:	18
Neal Martin:	91-93
James Suckling:	95-96

“The powerful 2010 is a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc and the balance mostly Merlot except for dollops of Petit Verdot and Carmenere that achieved 14.5% natural alcohol - a record at Clerc Milon. An intense purple color is followed by notes of incense, creme de cassis and flowers and a broad, rich wine with superb purity, concentration and depth. This layered, expansive effort could turn out to be one of the finest this estate has ever made. Give it 3-5 years of cellaring and drink it over the following two decades.”  
Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“Drink 2022-2035

Tasted 17 Feb: Lighter on nose than Armailhac. Tea-leaves freshness - more attenuated than Armailhac. Very crude and raw. Very, very young! The last vat finished its malolactic only very recently apparently. Will settle down.

Tasted 8 Apr: Mid purplish crimson. Serious dry tobacco/leather spectrum notes on the nose. And then ripe black fruits. Really quite sweet and opulent on the palate. Those Cabernets seem just a tiny bit struggling up the hill to full ripeness... Bone-dry finish. (Score: 17 20-33)

Tasted blind 8 Apr: Mid crimson. Pale rim. Very ripe nose. Very thick, ripe and dramatic. Loose and a bit formless with a dry finish. There's a little tart note in there which some people might find a bit much. Drying finish. Fades rather fast. But overall there is succulence. It is clear that a lot of work has gone into this. (Score: 17 18-30).”  
Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“Rich blackcurrant fruit with some dry herbs/coffee spice nose, very good middle fruit and a firm, elegant structure and class, a château on top form. Drink 2018-35.”  
Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

“A blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Camenere is a little reticent at first, but after 2 minutes of rigorous coaxing evolves a very pure nose of macerated black cherries, blueberry and cassis with very fine delineation. The palate is medium-bodied with a compact entry that seems to expand as it remain in the mouth. The tannins are a little more prominent than the d'Armailhac with a citrus-like freshness on the finish. It has a little more alcohol (14.5%) thanks to the Merlot compared to the others, but there it is what you might describe as a joyous Clerc-Milon. Drink 2015- Tasted April 2011.”  
Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

“I can't remember tasting a young Clerc as exciting as this since the 1980s. Fascinating aromas of blackberries and currant jam. Very deep. Tar too. Full and very dense. It just tickles the tip of your tongue. So much there. 50 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 36 per cent Merlot, 11 percent Cabernet Franc, 2 percent Petit Verdot, and 1 percent Carmenère.”  
James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

**Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste, Pauillac 5<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé**

**£665 per 12 IB**  
**£675 per 6 mags IB**

Robert Parker: 93-96  
Jancis Robinson: 17  
Decanter: 18  
Neal Martin: 97-99  
James Suckling: 95-96

“The greatest Grand Puy Lacoste since the 2005, 2000 and 1990, the fabulous 2010 reveals all the hallmarks of this estate. It boasts a dense purple color along with classic notes of creme de cassis, blueberries, blackberries, crushed rocks and flowers, sweet tannin and an exceptionally full-bodied and multilayered mouthfeel as well as a boatload of tannin. Cellar it for a decade and drink it over the following three decades. Proprietor Xavier Borie's 2010 recalls the 2005.”

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“Drink 2018-2032. Dramatically intense colour. But both samples I tried were a little bit tired. Sweet start but without great intensity on the mid palate. Very chewy end. Just a bit awkward and unfocused. Correct balance though with good Pauillac character. I'm just a little worried about the freshness of samples... (Stupidly, I had the chance to re-taste this chez Dourthe but was dashing for a plane and missed both it and its stablemate Haut-Batailly. I may well have underestimated this usually very reliable wine.) “

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“Still rather reserved, but excellent depth of violetty-irony Pauillac fruit and great length and elegance, a fine classic wine that will repay cellaring over a long period. Drink 2017-35.”

Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

“A blend of 83% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17% Merlot, the Grand Puy Lacoste '10 has 13.6% alcohol with a total acidity of around 3.5gms/L. It has a very complex bouquet that I leave over 5 minutes to open, developing ripe blackberry, cassis, oyster shell and a faint tang of Japanese nori (seaweed.) Very good complexity. The palate is beautifully balanced, this GPL revelling in this vintage that countenances the Cabernet Sauvignon so much. Very refined, powerful, beautifully focused with an unerring sense of symmetry. This is a magnificent Pauillac...bravo Xavier. Drink 2020- Tasted March 2011.”

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

“Lovely aromas already, with currants and blackberries. Full body, with very fine yet dense tannins and a rich finish. Reserved and sophisticated.”

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

**Château Lynch-Bages, Pauillac 5<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé**

**£1,250 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker:	95-97
Jancis Robinson:	16
Decanter:	18
Neal Martin:	95-97
James Suckling:	98-99

“Over the last three vintages, Lynch Bages has returned with a vengeance after somewhat listless performances following their brilliant duo of 1989 and 1990. Much of the credit for this must go to Jean-Charles Cazes who has taken over for his father, Jean-Michel, one of the greatest ambassadors Bordeaux has ever had. The 2010 blew me away on each occasion I tasted it during my two week sojourn in Bordeaux. Tannic and concentrated, this huge Pauillac boasts an inky/purple color as well as impressive notes of creme de cassis, smoke, graphite and spring flowers. This dense, seriously endowed, monstrous Lynch Bages is reminiscent of some of the wines made at this estate in the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. It will require 4-5 years of cellaring and should be drinkable for 3-4 decades.”

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“Drink 2016-2022

Very dark blackish crimson. Dense and superripe. Sweet black-cherry notes on the nose but rather awkward and tart on the palate. Rather 'styled' somehow. Not very well integrated. Really quite hard work with drying green notes on the end.”

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“Very good concentration of Cabernet fruits, rich and earthy, vibrant, vigorous flavours and packed with energy, a wine that once again justifies this château's reputation. Drink 2020-40.”

Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

“Tasted at the chateau and at the UGC, the Lynch Bages 2010 is a blend of 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot raised in 70% new oak. The nose is a little reticent at first, but builds nicely with aeration with blackberry, cassis, cedar, mint and just a touch of honey. Very good delineation. The palate is full-bodied with a firm, almost vice-like grip but with more than adequate fruit to back it up: blackcurrant, cedar, graphite and a touch of tobacco. Very tannic yet fresh towards the finish that will need a decade to reach its drinking plateau. Excellent. Drink 2020- Tasted April 2011.”

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

“What incredible precision and clarity here. Currants, mineral, mint and lead pencil. Full body, with super refined tannins and a long, long finish. I am loving this young wine. It just builds on the palate. Goes so long. 79 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 18 percent Merlot, 2 percent Cabernet Franc, and 1 percent Petit Verdot.”

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

**Château Pontet-Canet, Pauillac 5<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé**

**£1,500 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker:	96-100
Jancis Robinson:	17.5+
Decanter:	18.5
Neal Martin:	93-95
James Suckling:	97-98

“Pontet-Canet's 2010 harvest took place between September 29 and October 17 (this vineyard is one of the few in Bordeaux that is fully certified as biodynamic) and the final blend was 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot that achieved nearly 15% natural alcohol. A remarkable, full-bodied effort (as was the estate's 2009 and 2008), like so many recent vintages from proprietor Alfred Tesseron, it is of first-growth quality (some may even argue that it eclipses several first-growths). Dense purple to the rim, it offers classic notes of creme de cassis, graphite, subtle smoke and spring flowers. Multidimensional with massive concentration as well as vivid purity, precision and freshness, this is another astonishing effort from an obsessive/compulsive proprietor who is doing everything right. On the downside, this 2010 will require a decade of cellaring and should evolve for 50+ years. It will be fascinating to drink it side by side with the 2009 and 2008.” Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“Dense, rich and minty on the nose with real density. Lots of luscious chew. This is clearly from a great vintage with huge vivacity. Heavy undertow. Long. Minerals and firm. Racy.” Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“Masses of concentrated cassis fruit, but already has wild violet fragrance of the greatest Pauillacs, superb middle sweetness, perfect structure and length, perhaps more elegant than Pontet-Canet's great 2009. Drink 2016-35.” Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

“The Pontet Canet has a very pure bouquet that you could almost compare to a Burgundy. Blackberry, dark cherries, a touch of mint and graphite, exceptionally well defined, flowering with 3-4 minutes in the glass. The palate is full-bodied with very fine but firm, tensile tannins, perhaps even more purity than the 2009, not a million miles away (both geographically and stylistically) from Mouton-Rothschild. The finish is very smooth with a sorbet-like freshness, firm grip, long in the mouth towards the finish with some crème de cassis and blueberry towards the finish. The Merlot content lends this a little more opulence than some of the other Pauillac 2010s. There is a lot of volume to this wine, really fills the mouth with a sweet, sensual finish, but keep find myself yearning for more Cabernet Sauvignon . Drink 2020-2050. Tasted March 2011.” Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

“What a nose of black currants, minerals and blueberries. Flowers too. Licorice. Full bodied, with a wonderful texture of super refined tannins and a long, long finish. A beautiful concentration of fruit and purity and precision. So clear and focused. Super, super long. The tannins and finish are all in balance. This is the first vintage completely certified for biodynamic. Like a Swiss watch ? A Lange! 65 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 14 percent Merlot, 20 percent Cabernet Franc, 1 percent Petit Verdot.” James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

**Château Pichon Baron, Pauillac 2<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé**

**£750 per 6 IB**

Robert Parker:	97-99+
Jancis Robinson:	18
Decanter:	18.5
Neal Martin:	94-96
James Suckling:	95-96

2010: A prodigious, blockbuster effort from Pichon Longueville Baron, the 2010 is reminiscent of this estate's titanic offerings in 1989 and 1990, but may be even greater with 30 years of longevity. Kudos to proprietor AXA and general director Christian Seeley. It was absolutely compelling on each of the three times I tasted it. Black/purple-colored with super concentration and richness as well as full body, it offers an awesome display of creme de cassis, blackberry liqueur, licorice, camphor and spring flowers. Stunningly pure and unctuously textured with high but sweet, well-integrated tannins, this superstar of the vintage is definitely a wine to purchase as a future. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2040  
Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot which had late malos. Vibrant purple colour. Very sumptuous nose with rather more interesting nose than most at this early stage. Very rich and sumptuous and gorgeous on the palate. Much more difference between the grand vin and second wine here than at Pichon Lalande across the road. Lovely complete expression of the ripeness of both fruit and tannin in 2010. Dry and cool on the finish. Very complete. Tea-leaf aromas and lovely texture. Unctuous and much less dry on the end than many 2010s. This should be a lovely wine that could be broached relatively early but will last. 13.7%  
Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

Wonderfully smoky fruit, quite compacted still with great natural depth of Cabernet Sauvignon and a great future. Drink 2022-45.  
Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

A blend of 79% Cabernet Sauvignon and 21% Merlot, 13.7% alcohol with a pH of 3.7 and total acidity of 3.3gms/L that will be raised in 80% new oak (the remainder one year old). This has a refined, much more understated nose than the 2009 that grabbed you by the lapels. It opens beautifully with aeration, blackberry, a touch of cassis, cedar and graphite, but a little gentler than other Pauillac 2010s at this early juncture. The palate is full-bodied with very fine tannins, good acidity, like the 2009, a Pauillac imbued with great symmetry and focus, very elegant and refined towards the finish that for once reminds me of the Pichon over the road. Very persistent and very "classic" towards the finish. Excellent. Drink 2015-2040+ Tasted March 2011.

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

This has wonderful purity of fruit with currants, blackberries and licorice on the nose and palate. Full body, with velvety yet polished tannins and a long, long finish. Roses and flowers at the end. Tar too! Reminds me of the 1990 PB

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

**Château Pichon-Lalande, Pauillac 2<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé**

**£795 per 6 IB**

Robert Parker: 92-95+  
Jancis Robinson: 17.5  
Decanter: 18.5  
Neal Martin: 95-97

2010 Pichon Lalande: I tasted the 2010 Pichon Lalande on three separate occasions, two consistent and one that underperformed, hence the question mark. A blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot, it reveals an opaque purple color as well as a thick, unctuous style with fresh blackberry and cassis fruit intermixed with hints of graphite, herbs and coffee. The vintage's tell-tale minerality is present in this structured, tannic, backward effort. It will require 5-6 years of cellaring and should age for 25-30 years.

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

Tasted open 7 Apr: Very, very deep crimson. Savoury yet rich - a most attractive mix! Just a little raw; is there much Petit Verdot in this? (No, just 3%, and 7% Cabernet Franc.) Very drying tannins. Not sure it's quite a dense as it needs to be for the tannin content. Inky. The gap between grand vin and second wine seems unexpectedly narrow here this year. Perhaps this was just not a good day for the grand vin? I will taste it blind tomorrow...  
Tasted blind 8 Apr: Dark, intense crimson. Very rich and supple. Round and flattering. Mid weight and nicely balanced. Very easy, representative, succulent example of 2010. Lots of integrity. Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

Lovely expression of supple, rich fruit, beautiful middle palate, lacks perhaps the power of some wines in this vintage, but makes up for it in polish and elegance. Drink 2020-40.  
Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

A blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. The Cabernet Sauvignon dominates the nose with blackberry, rose petal, pencil box and a touch of cedar all with very fine definition. The palate is silky smooth on the entry, very harmonious and focused, fine mineralité coming through, sensual and velvety towards the ripe finish. Extremely pure but powerful, this is a precise, brilliantly executed Pichon-Lalande. I bet Sylvie Cazes is hoping that all vintages will be like this. Drink 2016-2040. Tasted March 2011.

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

**Château Lafite-Rothschild, Pauillac 1<sup>er</sup> Grand Cru Classé****£6,200 per 6 IB**

Robert Parker:	98-100
Jancis Robinson:	19
Decanter:	20
Neal Martin:	95-97
James Suckling:	100

"This exceptionally rich, thick Lafite came in with the highest level of natural alcohol (13.5%) ever achieved at Lafite Rothschild. To put that in its proper context, the 2009 and 2005 were 13.3% and in the hottest Bordeaux summer ever recorded in over 200 years, the 2003 achieved 12.8%. A blend of 84% Cabernet Sauvignon and 16% Merlot, all harvested between October 9 and 14, the 2010 exhibits an extraordinarily dense color, an unctuous texture and sweet black currant fruit intermixed with graphite, charcoal and truffle notes. A director Charles Chevalier told me, between July and the October harvest, Bordeaux had its driest weather since 1949, but it never got excessively hot. Hence the tiny berries, freshness and extraordinary precision of Lafite Rothschild. This superb effort will undoubtedly shut down slightly once it is bottled despite a pH of 3.8. It needs no building up because much of Lafite Rothschild has now become an obsession with the wealthy Chinese and most of it will undoubtedly be consumed before it ever hits its prime. Ideally, it should be cellared for 10-15 years and drunk over the following 50+ years."

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

"Drink 2025-2050. 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot. Now, will this be the only time I ever get to see this wine, before it all migrates east? Very intense dark blackish crimson. Lovely Lafite scent - recognisable member of the family with a hint of oyster shells. But some extra breadth, even fat, this year. Hugely ambitious. Dense and quite dry on the end. But with Lafite breed and race. Somehow manages to have real roundness, covering the notable acidity and doubtless tannins which are very difficult to discern. Already a marvel and a pleasure to taste. Lovely, lovely balance."

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

"Fabulous nose of wild violets, wonderful lissom texture backed by aristocratic firmness, a totally captivating wine for the long term. Drink 2020-50."

Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

"The 2010 is a blend of 87.2% Cabernet Sauvignon and 12.8% Merlot, cropped between 24th September until 13th October, delivering 13.48% alcohol at pH 3.82. Whereas the 2009 Lafite was an immediate "wow", this is far more introspective and broody, particular coming directly after Latour. Deep, dusky dark berried fruit, a touch of cedar and pencil box. Good definition but not as expressive or as vigorous as I was expected. The palate is medium-bodied, very well balanced with fine but structure tannins, masculine in style, understated compared to Latour. I take a little sip (pourquoi pas?) and there is another annexe of dark cherry and a touch of boysenberry. Hints of cedar and spice towards the dry, tannic finish. This is a Lafite that will grow during its élevage. Drink 2020- Tasted March 2011."

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

"Believe the hype. Lafite is perfect in 2010. The nose is amazing with sweet tobacco, dark chocolate and currants. It is amazing. It's like gazing into the blue sky in wonder after tasting this young wine. Full and powerful with amazing minerals, currants and bitter chocolate. It starts off slowly and then finishes with a bang. This is really layered and wonderful. It goes on and on. Stunning."

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

## Margaux

### Château Cantenac-Brown, Margaux 3<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé

£440 per 12 IB

Robert Parker:	92-94+
Jancis Robinson:	15.5
Decanter:	17.5
Neal Martin:	91-93
James Suckling:	94-95

“One of the finest Cantenac Browns made in the last half century, the 2010 may be even more impressive than the 2009. Sweet, fat notes of blackberries, forest floor and earth emerge from this inky/purple-colored beauty. The tannins are slightly more serious and elevated than in the 2009, but the big, bold, full-bodied 2010 represents a remarkable turn around for this estate, which has now produced three straight top-flight vintages. It should drink well for 25-35 years.”

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“Very dark. Heady black cherry aromas. Very, very sweet. And alcoholic. And a bit drying on the end - a sort of right-bank Margaux. What's the point?”

Jancis Robinson MW, JancisRobinson.com, April 2011

“Well-extracted depth of cassis fruit, ripeness and length and more elegance than robustness than usual from this château. Drink 2015-25.”

Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com, April 2011

“A blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon and 34% Merlot, the Cantenac Brown has a ripe, showy nose with succulent blackberry, cassis and plum fruit, a world away from du Tertre's more conservative style (tasted just before.) The palate is very appealing with silky smooth tannins, a lot of vanillary new oak to seduce primeur but very composed with sufficient fruit on the finish to support it. This is a seductive Cantenac Brown, very Margaux in style, floral and feminine. I cannot remember this estate producing such a fine Margaux. Tasted April 2011.”

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011

“Chewy and structured, with ripe fruit and ripe tannins. Tar and dark fruit character. Full body. Super polished. Very Cantenac-Brown in personality. Best in a long time from here.”

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011

**Château Giscours, Margaux 3<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé**

**£500 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker:	92-95
Jancis Robinson:	17.5
Decanter:	17.5
Neal Martin:	92-94
James Suckling:	94-95

“It is a little unsettling to realize that 2009 and 2010 may be the greatest back to back Bordeaux vintages produced in the history of the region. The over-achieving Giscours has turned in a great performance in 2010, which possesses an opaque purple color as well as notes of licorice, black truffles, sweet blackberry and cassis fruit, flowers and soil undertones. It is very full-bodied and exceptionally opulent, fat and round, but the vintage's acids, precision, high glycerin, alcohol and extract are all present. Give it 2-3 years of cellaring and drink it over the following 25-30 years.”

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“Blackish crimson. Quite complex and complete. Just beautifully balanced. This is ripe claret. The sort that Edmund Penning-Roswell never encountered. Nothing forced nor self conscious. Just great balance and confidence. Fresh finish. Real Margaux. Appetising and subtle. But no blockbuster. Even a little sinewy on the finish.”

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“Very good depth of fruit, perfect Cabernet ripeness, fragrance and smoothness of texture to see a very good future. Drink 2017-30.”

Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

“Tasted twice at the chateau and the UGC, a blend of 71% Cabernet Sauvignon (the highest ever) and 29% Merlot that cropped at 25-27hl/ha. It has a pH of 3.6 and 13.7% alcohol. I must say, I really love the purity on this nose as dark cherries, cassis and crushed flower soar from the glass. Very fine delineation here. The palate is medium-bodied with very silky smooth tannins, almost Burgundian in texture. Lovely poise and focus, long in the mouth, this is the finest Giscours in a long time. Tasted April 2011.”

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

“This is very structured and muscular with a lots of toasty new wood showing now but if you dig deep you see a rich and beautiful fruit and velvety tannin structure. Is this the new 1970? Very sexy.”

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

**Château Brane-Cantenac, Margaux 2ème Grand Cru Classé**

**£640 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker:	93-96
Jancis Robinson:	17
Decanter:	18
Neal Martin:	94-96
James Suckling:	91-92

After nearly two decades of mediocre performances, Brane Cantenac has been doing impressive work over the last decade. While the 2010 may not eclipse the 2009 or 2005, it is an exceptional wine from proprietor Henri Lurton. A dense purple color is accompanied by a floral-scented bouquet revealing notes of licorice, graphite and red as well as black currants. Layered, rich and concentrated, this impressively constructed, seamless Margaux has plenty of tannin, but it is buried under the extravagant fruit and glycerin. This rich, pure, authoritative 2010 should drink well young yet keep for 25-30+ years.

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

Very dark and concentrated. Exotic nose with some spice and aromas of old-ladies' handbags. Really rather rewarding on the nose but on the palate it seems a little too sweet and soft. Then becomes a bit green and astringent. Awkward, though there are interesting elements here. Should come right in the end.

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

Beautifully expressed Cabernet fruit, pure Margaux elegance that combines intensity and finesse, long flavours, excellent balance that shows up Brane's specific style. Drink 2016-30.

Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

Tasted on three occasions, a blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc, raised in 70% new oak delivering 13.5% alcohol, the Brane-Cantenac 2010 has that trademark, very Pauillac style note, the Cabernet Sauvignon defining the nascent aromatics with graphite and cedar aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with fully ripe tannins, a little conservative on the entry but fanning out beautifully on the tightly wound mid-palate. Judicious use of the fleshy Merlot to balance out the Cabernet, composed and very harmonious towards the "classic" finish. Tasted April 2011.

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

Balanced and polished, with pretty tannins and an attractive fruit. Very elegant for the vintage. Lovely length to the wine

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

**Château Malescot St Exupéry, Margaux 3<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé**

**£710 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker:	94-96
Jancis Robinson:	16
Decanter:	17.5
Neal Martin:	93-95+
James Suckling:	96-97

“This estate, which has been on a qualitative crescendo for over ten years, has made a prodigious 2010 that ranks alongside their 2009, 2005 and 2000. A gorgeous fragrance of spring flowers, cedarwood, black and red currants and hints of spice box and subtle oak is followed by a generously endowed, full-bodied, opulent wine with layers of concentration, a restrained yet exuberant personality, superb fruit purity and a long finish. There is plenty of tannin, no doubt elevated alcohol and wonderful freshness as well as delicacy. This beauty should drink well for 25 or more years.”

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“Sweet and creamy. Then a bit too sweet. A bit forced and very painful acidity on the finish. Bit of a caricature. Aggressively astringent finish.”

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“Striking fragrance of cassis-Cabernet fruit with a hint of greenness that adds lift, very good extraction and florality beginning to emerge, will show fascinating complexity over time. Drink 2018-30.”

Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

“The Malescot Saint-Exupery has a very well defined nose, very precise with good mineralité. Blackberry, cedar, graphite and limestone, great focus and aromatic "bravura". The palate has a ripe, fleshy entry, quite noticeable new oak but there is sufficient fruit to support it. Seamless texture with dark cherries, blackcurrant, a touch of graphite and cedar towards the finish that is more "classic" in style than the entry. This has great potential and could turn out to be better than the 2009. Tasted April 2011.”

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

“This is a 2005 Malescot in the making. And that was stunning. I love the blueberries, chocolate and nuts on the nose and palate. The finish lasts for minutes with so much . Goes on and on. I want to drink this! Wow.”

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

To order please call Angus McLean or Stewart Pryce on 0845 194 7801 or e-mail  
enprimeur@laithwaiteswine.com

## St Julien

### Château Gloria, St Julien

£335 per 6 mag's IB

Robert Parker:	91-93
Jancis Robinson:	17
Decanter:	17.5
Neal Martin:	94-96
James Suckling:	90-91

"A sensational effort, the 2010 Gloria may turn out to be the finest wine they have made since 1982, although the 2009 is a serious contender for that honor as well. A bigger than life as well as more backward than normal offering, the 2010 exhibits an inky/purple color along with an opulent display of black currants, jammy cherries, licorice, cedar and roasted herbs. Some serious tannin gives the wine grip, but this is a full-bodied, big, thick, well-proportioned, super-endowed Gloria that will benefit from 2-3 years of cellaring and keep for two decades." Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

"Tasted 5 Apr: Very dense crimson. Tobacco and leather and very serious stuff. Dense and rich and sweet on the palate after a more classically styled St-Julien nose. Very appealing even if a little more astringent than a top St-Julien.

Tasted blind 8 Apr: Dark and rich and very upright. Beautifully balanced, dry and cool without being austere of drying. The fruit is succulent and yet the framework is there. Very luscious indeed but very 2010. Very firm mineral finish. Long. Bravo!"

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

"Deep cassis fruit, already a fragrant and lifted nose, refreshing Cabernet flavours and good length, the quality of a Cru Classé. Drink 2017-28."

Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

"Tasted at a negociant, the Gloria '10 has a well-defined bouquet, very precise with ripe blackberry, raspberry, cedar and graphite. Good intensity, very crisp and focused. The palate is medium-bodied with chalky tannins, very good acidity, reserved and focused with a very powerful finish of blackberry, graphite and tobacco. Long in the mouth, this is a great Gloria for long-term ageing. Tasted April 2011."

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

"A little coarse, with chewy tannins, but velvety in texture. Full body, with plenty of fruit and bright acidity. Raw but interesting."

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

**Clos du Marquis, St Julien****£420 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker: 91-93  
Jancis Robinson: 17  
Decanter: 17  
Neal Martin: 92-94

Now essentially treated as a separate estate by Jean-Hubert Delon, and not as a second wine of Leoville Las Cases (whose second wine is now the newly introduced Le Petit Lion), Clos du Marquis has been a shrewd consumer's purchase for almost two decades. Interestingly, the first vintage of Clos du Marquis was introduced in 1902! The 2010, which is an exceptional wine, was produced from the same parcel that always goes into this wine. A blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc, it is a relatively big wine at 13.6% natural alcohol, with loads of black cherries, black currants and crushed rocks in a medium to full-bodied format. Layered, intense, high-class and complex, this wine should drink nicely for 15 or more years. Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

Rich, round and polished. Easy and fun and really attractive, even if not for the long term. Very fine tannins - the most glamorous wine from this stable.

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

Fine cassis/violets nose, a perfect Saint-Julien with the precision and elegance of a Cru Classé. Drink 2017-30. Stephen Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

Cropped at just 36.7hl/ha, the Clos du Marquis is a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc raised in 37% new oak, offering 13.6% alcohol with a pH of 3.63. The nose is driven by the cedar-infused Cabernet, one of the most closed noses that I have encountered during primeur. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine, saturated tannins, a little fleshier than I was expecting given the percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon, but very harmonious on the finish that belies the structure underneath. Drink 2016- Tasted March 2011.

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

**Château Talbot. St Julien 4<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé****£465 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker: 91-93  
Jancis Robinson: 17  
Decanter: 17  
Neal Martin: 90-92  
James Suckling: 92-93

Abundant amounts of sweet, up-front fruit give this wine a precocious appeal compared to many of its brethren. It exhibits a dense plum/ruby/purple hue along with sweet boysenberry, black currant, cherry, smoke and licorice aromas and flavors. This deep, medium to full-bodied, classic Talbot should be approachable when released, and age effortlessly for 15 or more years.

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

Dark crimson. Delightful, rather floral fragrance. Medium weight. Polished and fine. A really very winning wine with great balance even if it is not the most intense 2010. For relatively early drinking.

Jancis Robinson MW, JancisRobinson.com, April 2011

Rich, very ripe cassis Cabernet fruit, smooth, even succulent flavours, quite an open style in this vintage. Drink 2016-26.

Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com, April 2011

Tasted at the chateau and at the UGC, the Talbot was picked from 29th September with the young vines and around the 4th October for the older. This is the second vintage under Stephane Derenancourt. A blend 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, the 2010 has a refined bouquet that for me, has better harmony and focus than the 2009 at this stage last year, a purity that perhaps has been missing from the estate in recent vintages. The palate is impressive: the Cabernet Sauvignon very pure and focused, a newfound sense of mineralité and elegance and precision towards the finish. One of the best Talbot produced in recent years...but there is still room to improve. Drink 2014- Tasted April 2011

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011

This super focused and firm, with a bright and intense fruit. Full and super silky, with a long, long finish. Super straight and beautiful. This is better in 2010

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011

To order please call Angus McLean or Stewart Pryce on 0845 194 7801 or e-mail  
enprimeur@laithwaiteswine.com

**Château Langoa Barton, St Julien 3<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé**

**£530 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker:	90-92
Jancis Robinson:	17.5
Decanter:	18
Neal Martin:	92-94
James Suckling:	93-94

“Softer than I expected given the highly extracted, exceptionally tannic wines routinely produced by proprietor Anthony Barton, the oaky, powerfully concentrated, dense 2010 Langoa Barton possesses silky, well-integrated tannins. Nevertheless, the level of wood and the primary nature of the black currant and black cherry fruit suggest 7-8 years of cellaring will be essential. This is a 30-year wine.”

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“Mid crimson. Notably ripe with black fruits on the nose. Then sinew and a cool finish but much more luscious than some St-Julien. Not tarted up. A very good ambassador for the vintage's characteristics. Dry finish. Very fine tannins. Succulent fruit on the nose. Lively and polished and with real vitality and pzazz. Good lift yet the solid framework of a fine St-Julien. Still very embryonic with lots of fine tannins.”

Jancis Robinson MW, JancisRobinson.com, April 2011

“Very good extraction of supple, succulent ripe fruit, a beautifully lifted and long palate, the length and harmony of a great Langoa. Drink 2018-35.”

Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com, April 2011

“Tasted at the chateau and twice at the UGC, the Langoa Barton has a very ripe, well-defined bouquet with dark berried fruits and just a hint of oyster shell. The palate is silky smooth, cashmere tannins, very pure with dark cherries a touch of cassis, very refined and composed, slips down the throat beautifully. So pure and beguiling, there is a crystalline quality to this Langoa that is utterly compelling. Drink 2018- Tasted April 2011.”

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011

“What a depth of fruit here, with dark chocolate and currants and blackberries. Full and velvety. Wonderful texture. Like it. Better than 2009.”

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011

**Château St. Pierre, St Julien 4<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé****£625 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker:	95-97+
Jancis Robinson:	17
Decanter:	18
Neal Martin:	88-90
James Suckling:	92-93

A killer trilogy (2008, 2009 and 2010) has been produced by Saint-Pierre and the 2010 is unquestionably one of the all-time great wines this estate has yet made. A candidate for one of the top wines of this remarkable vintage, it offers a thunderball of fruit, extract, glycerin and intensity. Its black/purple color is accompanied by notes of melted licorice, camphor, blackberries, blueberries, creme de cassis and subtle background oak, amazing concentration, unbelievable opulence and intense, but sweet, well-integrated tannins. Moreover, because of lower pH's and higher total acids across the board in 2010, and despite the high alcohols (this wine's alcohol content must be 14.5+%), the overall impression is one of elegance, freshness and precision. This cuvee reminded me somewhat of a St.-Julien version of another of the superstars of the vintage, the 2010 Pichon Longueville Baron. The 2010 Saint-Pierre should drink well for 30-40 years.

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

Tasted 5 Apr: Bright, deep crimson. Very fresh and aromatic. Sweet and rich but only after the freshness of the nose. Very nice for the medium term. Clean and brisk. Tasted blind 8 Apr: Only mid intensity of crimson. Savoury tobacco-leaf aromas. Great solid whack of fruit intensity on the front palate makes its presence felt in this, the first St-Julien I taste immediately after a run of Haut-Médocs. Very solid indeed. This will need quite a time to resolve itself into a gentle drink as opposed to a half-formed monument. Bone dry.

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

Dense, smoky rich fruit, succulent flavours over classic structure, fine freshness and strong tannins for the long term, probably the best ever from this rather discreet 4th Growth. Drink 2020-35.

Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

Tasted at a negociant, the nose is a little alcoholic, especially compared next to the far more refined Chateau Gloria. This is too heady for me. The palate is medium-bodied with rather angular tannins, powdery in texture, nice purity on the finish with blackberry, pain grille and graphite, long towards the finish. A very fine Saint Pierre, though it pales next to Gloria. Tasted April 2011.

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

A blackberry and black currants with minerals and full body. Loads going. Juicy red

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

**Château Léoville-Barton, St Julien 2<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé**

**£850 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker:	91-93+
Jancis Robinson:	17.5+
Decanter:	18.5
Neal Martin:	96-98
James Suckling:	97-98

“The 2010 Leoville Barton was almost impossible to evaluate because of its highly extracted, masculine, muscular style. However, it exhibits a dense purple color along with surprising amounts of oak, excruciatingly painful tannin levels, good acidity and a massive mouthfeel. One of the biggest, most backward wines of the vintage, forget it for a decade and drink it over the following 30+ years. Unfortunately, I have passed the age where it makes sense to buy a wine such as this.”  
Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“Black with a purple edge. Less obviously aromatic than the Langoa 2010. Drier but still very ripe and voluptuous. Tea leaves and a savoury note. Real energy. This should be a very long-term player.  
Tasted blind 8 Apr: Still lots of blue in the colour here. Scented and mineral. Relatively lightweight. Bone dry. A bit austere at the moment. Makes me think that these 2010s need a fair amount of weight to work..? Quite long though. (Score: 17++ 22-36) . This wine may overtake Langoa in the long term but is certainly less expressive at this stage.”  
Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“Fine concentration, quite understated at the start, then the purity and depth of fruit, classical Leoville firm texture and length becomes plain, a wine that repays keeping. Drink 2020-40.”  
Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

“Tasted at the chateau and twice at the UGC , the Leoville-Barton is a touch more timid than the Langoa at this stage, but it opens up to reveal blackberry, cassis, violets and a touch of cedar, quite Margaux-like in profile. The palate is full-bodied with exquisite purity, insistent grippy tannins, a seamless texture like the Langoa and harmonious towards the long, refined, velvety finish. Gorgeous from head to toe. Drink 2020- Tasted April 2011.”  
Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

“This is phenomenal, with dark fruits, with cassis and blackberries Full and super silky, with incredible fruit and ripe tannins. It goes on and on. So much depth of fruit here. Barton is on a roll again in this vintage.”  
James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

**Château Léoville Poyferré St Julien 2<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé**

**£1,200 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker	95-98
Jancis Robinson	17.5
Decanter	18.5
Neal Martin	93-95
James Suckling	93-94

One of the prodigious wines of the vintage, the Cuvelier family has produced an outstanding 2010 that must tip the scales at 14.5+% alcohol. It boasts an opaque purple color in addition to a sweet perfume of spring flowers, black raspberries, creme de cassis and a hint of spicy oak. This seamlessly constructed St-Julien possesses massive concentration, moderately high tannins, abundant glycerin, an unctuous texture, remarkably fresh acids and wonderful precision. It will benefit from 5-6 years of cellaring and last 30-35 years  
Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011

Very concentrated and luscious looking. Exceptionally deep crimson. Very fine and sophisticated on the nose. Both concentration and lift but then perhaps just a bit too concentrated on the palate? Certainly very attention grabbing with lots of very ripe, very dry fruit. Lustrous. With some welcoming appeal. Pure, luscious Médoc Cabernet. Very long and vibrant.

Jancis Robinson MW, JancisRobinson.com, April 2011

Fine extraction of black fruits, both richer and more tannic than the Barton, very good ripeness for long ageing. Drink 2020-40.

Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com, April 2011

Tasted at the chateau and twice at the UGC, the Leoville Poyferre is a blend of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc, a pH of 3.7 and alcohol at 14%. It has a spellbinding, extraordinarily pure bouquet that in an obtuse way reminds me of a Romanee St. Vivant. So much panache. The palate is medium-bodied with silky smooth tannins, one of the most sensual of all the 2010s that I have tasted. Seamless cashmere texture towards the finish with dark cherries, blueberry and crème de cassis all wrapped up in a veil of vanilla. Superb. Drink 2015- Tasted April 2011.

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011

This is so velvety and beautiful with a juicy, orange peel, raspberries and currant character on the nose and the palate. Full with a long, long finish. Wonderful texture to this wine. Dense and yummy

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011

**Château Ducru-Beaucaillou, St Julien 2<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé**

**£890 per 6 IB**

Robert Parker:	96-98+
Jancis Robinson:	18
Decanter:	19
Neal Martin:	95-97
James Suckling:	99-100

“Representing 45% of their total production, the 2010 Ducru will certainly compete with the efforts produced in 2009, 2008, and 2005. It hit 14% natural alcohol, compared to 13.5% in 2009 and 2008. A blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot, the wine has a surprisingly lower pH (3.62) than the 2009, or the 2005 for that matter. A truly remarkable wine, with a dense purple color and a beautiful nose of creme de cassis, spring flowers and crushed rock, this full-bodied, sensationally concentrated wine has massive richness, high but very sweet tannin, and stunning purity and depth. Proprietor Bruno Borie seems to have pulled out all the stops in turning out an absolutely compelling effort that is the essence of Ducru Beaucaillou. It should drink well for 30-40 years.”

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“90% Cabernet Sauvignon. Same analysis as last year but very different from the 2009 - indeed very different from all recent vintages of Ducru - a return to something drier and more classical. It's all about the quality of tannins, according to Bruno Borie. Very firm and solid and confident - all from terroir. You could stick a spoon up in it, but in a good way. Drier and more grown-up than in some previous years. Very long term. Perfect for those who seek something really serious.”

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“Superb colour, an explosion of fruit above great depth and much more polished, deeper and fresher than the 2009, hard to imagine a better Ducru. Drink 2020-50.”

Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

“Cropped between 29th September until 14th October, a blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot, the nose takes some coaxing from the glass. Very pure blackberry, cassis, a touch of mint and cedar, the new oak lending a touch of vanilla, this is very opulent, yet controlled bouquet. The palate is medium-bodied with saturated, velvety tannins, a real caressing mouthfeel, very good acidity to maintain freshness with an exceptionally focused, almost Pauillac-like finish. Very long in the mouth with a citric edge lingering long after the wine is ejected. Tasted March 2011.”

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

“I cant believe the precision and complexity in this wine. This is really amazing with minerals, berries, currants and blackberries. Full and extraordinary. It goes on and on and on. Tasted twice. Best ever from Ducru.”

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

**Château Léoville-Las-Cases, St Julien 2<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé**

**£1,150 per 6 IB**

Robert Parker:	95-98
Jancis Robinson:	17.5
Decanter:	19.5
Neal Martin:	96-98
James Suckling:	95-96

“As one would expect, this is a powerful, concentrated wine with 13.7% natural alcohol (compared to 2005's 13.2%). The pH is quite normal at 3.56, and its relatively high total acidity gives it a classic, fresh, yet backward style. Given how long vintages such as 1982, 1986, and I suspect, 2000 are taking to reach maturity, prospective purchasers of this wine should easily invest in a decade of cellaring, although I suspect it will be closer to 15 or more years before it reveals secondary nuances. A good 40- to 50-year wine, it is a dense purple, full-bodied style of Las Cases, with classic sweet kirsch, graphite and black currant fruit as well as hints of new saddle leather and subtle oak. Backward, layered and multi-dimensional, the wine is stunningly rich, but brooding. Forget it at least until 2020 or later.”

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“Excellent deep crimson. Very introvert and very dry. Super-sweet start and initially seems much rounder and less obdurate than usual. Though those dry tannins certainly creep up on you at the end! Some silkiness and glorying in the special ripeness of the Cabernet in this wine. Very dry end. Not that long funnily enough. A certain transparency that is not usually there.”

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“Stunning concentration of fruit, precision and purity, a great vineyard expression and a totally great wine in the most simple sense of the term. Drink 2025-50.”

Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

“Cropped at 36.7hl/ha, the Leoville Las-Cases is a blend of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc, offering 13.7% alcohol and a pH of 3.56. It will be raised in 75% new oak. The nose is very intense with notes of blackberry, cassis, tobacco and a touch of black truffle, all very well defined and perhaps less generous, but more cerebral than the 2009. The palate is full-bodied with exceptionally silky smooth tannins, wonderful harmony and sense of beguiling composure and completeness. The finish is tannic, driven by the ripe Cabernet Sauvignon. I expect this Las-Cases to close down for a few years...it will need time to mellow and reach its drinking plateau. Drink 2025- Tasted March 2011.”

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

“This is very silky, with a racy and fresh character of violets, currants and raspberries. Full with a super texture. Racy structure. Reminds me of the 1996.”

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

## St Estèphe

### Chateau Capbern-Gasqueton, Saint-Estèphe AOC

£150 per 12 IB

Robert Parker : 87-89  
Jancis Robinson : 16.5  
Decanter: 17  
Neal Martin: 90-92

"Composed of 73% Cabernet Sauvignon and 27% Merlot, this is one of the Gasqueton family's finest efforts to date (although the 2009 was also very good). The dark ruby/purple-tinged 2010 exhibits plenty of delicious red and blackberry fruit, medium body and more size and substance than most past vintages. It should drink well for a decade or more"

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011

"Only the second year this wine has been offered en primeur. A separate, very varied plot in which 26 of 37 ha have been planted. Mainly Cabernet Sauvignon but 30% Merlot, especially on a parcel of high limestone. In 2010 they built a new cuvier to improve Capbern in which each plot can be vinified separately. Lively deep crimson. Oddly, this seems fuller and sweeter than the 2009 - very punchy. Firm then furry tannins on the end and a big core of ripe fruit in the middle. Quite open and developed without that much acidity. He says he has already added 10% press wine. I found this a bit less energetic than the 2009. "

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011

"Lovely cassis nose, smoothness of texture and weight, a polished and classy wine. Drink 2016-26."

Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com April 2011

"Tasted at Calon-Segur, this sample was taken from a new barrel, though it will be raised in 80% new oak. This is the first vintage to be vinified at the new cuverie and is a blend of 73% Cabernet Sauvignon and 27% Merlot with the addition of 10% vin de presse. This has an attractive bouquet with brambly black fruits, a touch of hot slate and wild hedgerow. Very natural. The palate is medium-bodied with powdery tannins on the entry, good acidity and a lot of freshness on the finish, with notes of blackberry, wild strawberry and a touch of tobacco. What a great Saint Estèphe! Drink 2012-2022. Tasted March 2011."

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011

### Château de Pez, St Estèphe

£270 per 12 IB

Robert Parker: 90-92  
Jancis Robinson: 17  
Decanter: 17  
Neal Martin: 92-94

"Possibly the finest De Pez made in three decades or more, this sleeper of the vintage reveals a dense ruby/purple color as well as sweet cassis, pen ink and earthy notes in the background, medium to full body, fresh acidity and moderate tannin. It should be drinkable in 3-4 years and last for two decades."

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

"Tasted blind 8 Apr: Dark crimson. Light but ripe nose. Dense and racy. Very dry finish. A certain transparency and lots of minerality. Not top rank but authentic St-Estèphe.

Tasted open 7 Apr: Very dark and lustrous crimson. Scented and quite classic St-Estèphe on the nose. Certainly pretty austere – without the attempt at sweetness of its stablemate Haut-Beauséjour. Very dry finish. Tough!"

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

"Very good depth of fruit and great class from this top Saint-Estèphe estate, great in the 1970s and great once again. Drink 2018-30."

Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

"A blend of 52.5% Cabernet Sauvignon and 47.5% Merlot, the de Pez '10 has 13.9% alcohol with a pH of 3.45. The Cabernet dominates the nose with cedar, earth and pencil shavings inflecting the broody black fruit, opening nicely with time in the glass but maintaining its conservative nature. The palate is very supple and rounded on the entry thanks to the Merlot, well balanced, supple, generous, layers of ripe blackberry and black plum inflected with cedar and a touch of dried herbs coming towards the gently gripping finish. A second sample at the UGC showed a little more length and even finer tannins. Drink 2015- Tasted March 2011."

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

To order please call Angus McLean or Stewart Pryce on 0845 194 7801 or e-mail  
enprimeur@laithwaiteswine.com

**Château Phélan-Ségur, St Estèphe Cru Bourgeois****£325 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker: 89-91  
Jancis Robinson: 18  
Decanter: 17  
Neal Martin: 90-92  
James Suckling: 92-93

"A dense purple color along with rich minerality and sweet notes of boysenberries and raspberries are found in this 2010. The irrepressible Michel Rolland (the winemaking consultant at Phelan-Segur) has fashioned an impressively pure, deep, classic St.-Estèphe with a supple personality as well as robust tannins. Cellar it for 2-3 years and drink it over the following 12-15 years."

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

"Dark crimson. Nicely, convincingly integrated. Lovely luscious, supple fruit. Really great supple stuff with the undertow of St-Estèphe minerality. A really exciting wine. Very long."

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

"Rich, ripe, quite leathery fruit, very good lift and lovely potential complexity, always with a touch of spicy elegance. Drink 2017-26."

Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

"A blend of 41% Cabernet Sauvignon and 59% Merlot raised in 50% new oak, the nose takes its time to reveille in the glass: blackberry, small dark cherries, a touch of smoke and cigar box. Good definition but very tight. The palate is medium-bodied with powdery tannins, good definition but perhaps like Calon-Segur, a little disjointed at this stage. Good weight on the sinewy finish with dense black tarry fruits, quite uncompromising at the moment but that is not such a bad thing in the long term. The Phelan-Segur 2010 has good potential and may surprise in bottle just as the great 2005 is doing. Drink 2014-2025+ Tasted March 2011."

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

"This sneaks up on you, with blackberry and spices such as nutmeg and cloves. Full spices, with currants and berries. Builds on the palate like a wave."

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

**La Dame de Montrose, St Estèphe****£350 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker: 91-93  
Jancis Robinson: 17  
Decanter: 16  
Neal Martin: 90-92

"The estate's second wine represents 36% of the production in 2010. Composed of two-thirds Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Merlot, it is one of the finest examples of this cuvee I have yet tasted. Intense blueberry and cassis fruit intertwined with floral notes, a plump, unctuous texture and abundant fruit characterize this seductive, fleshy wine. Consume it over the next 10-15 years."

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

"64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 36% of total production. Very deep crimson. Lovely scented top note and then sumptuously round texture. Fresh and lively with good muscles. Excellent balance and really very flattering without being overripe or sweet. It finishes dry and minerally. Fine skinned. Really a very fine wine indeed - well done! Provided you don't mind a lack of flesh in the middle... 13.7%."

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

"Rich smoky cassis fruit, good middle sweetness and lift, less depth than expected. Drink 2015-20."

Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

"Tasted at the Château, the La Dame represents 36% of total production and is a blend of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon and 36% Merlot. It demonstrates great purity on the nose, a floral note that I have not encountered on La Dame before (perhaps more feminine in keeping with the name?) The palate is very smooth and refined, silky in the mouth with succulent blackcurrant and cassis towards the finish that belies some fine tannins underneath. It is just...delicious now and one hopes, in bottle. Drink 2013-2020. Tasted March 2011."

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

To order please call Angus McLean or Stewart Pryce on 0845 194 7801 or e-mail  
enprimeur@laithwaiteswine.com

**Les Pagodes de Cos, St Estèphe**

**£480 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker: 90-93  
Jancis Robinson: 17  
Decanter: 17  
Neal Martin: 91-93  
James Suckling: 92-93

“Possibly the finest Pagodes the estate has produced, as Jean-Guillaume Prats said, this 2010 is better than many vintages of Cos d’Estournel produced in the sixties and seventies. Forty-five percent of the production made it into this blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon and 38% Merlot that achieved 14.1% alcohol naturally. Plump and fat with an abundant concentration of black fruits as well as outstanding intensity, purity and texture, this beauty should drink well for 10-15 years.”

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“45% of production. Glistening crimson. Rich, somehow burnished fruit aromas. Very sweet and winning start and then pretty tight but in some years in the past this would have looked like a pretty good classed growth. Very slightly lean on the finish and a little tarry but well done and supple until the very end, which is a bit sudden.”

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“Big smoky cassis nose, spice and controlled fruit, impressive complexity. Drink 2014-22.”

Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

“Picked between 27th September and 10th October, the Pagodes is a blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon and 38% Merlot delivering 14.13% alcohol with a pH of 3.51. The Cabernet Sauvignon dominates the nose with blackberry, pencil shavings, a touch of plum and fine mineralité. The palate has great tension on the entry with a citric freshness, very good weight and yet it glides through to a harmonious finish. This is a lovely Pagodes. Drink 2012- Tasted March 2011.”

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

“Love the nose to this wine, with spices and berries and currants. Full and very refined with super silky tannins and a long long finish. So refined.”

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

**Château Calon-Séguir, St Estèphe 3<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé****£740 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker:	92-94+
Jancis Robinson:	18
Decanter:	19
Neal Martin:	91-93+
James Suckling:	92-93
Angus McLean:	16.5

“A higher alcohol content (13.8% versus 13.4% in 2009), but lower pH (3.7 versus 3.9 in 2009) has resulted in a concentrated, textured wine that requires a decade of cellaring. It will keep for 35-40 years thereafter. The 2010 harvest at Calon Segur occurred between September 25 and October 14, and the final blend was 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot. A dense ruby/purple color is followed by notes of plums, kirsch, licorice, incense and herbs. Full-bodied, moderately tannic, pure, fresh and precise, this beauty will require lots of patience from prospective purchasers. Anticipated maturity: 2020-2050.”  
Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot. With 14% press wine all in new oak. Extremely deep purple. Really racy and energetic on the nose (compared to Montrose..?) and with great saveur on the palate. The press wine is a little evident at the moment. Very racy and fine and terroir-driven. No added sweetness. Neat and long and very authentic. No extremes; no complexes; no obvious trying? Winemaker Vincent Millet worked at Ch Margaux eight years which gave him, he says, the technique of working the Cabernet Sauvignon to gentle effect. He felt he could add finesse to the tannins.”  
Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“Superb expression of black fruits, sensational depth of supple/succulent flavours, great harmony, purity and length, for me the best Saint-Estèphe this year. Drink 2020-50.”  
Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

“Primeur sample tasted at the Château, the Calon-Segur is a blend of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot, the Cabernet cropped between the 5th and 14th October. It has all those tertiary, smoky scents one associated with this Saint Estephe, quite rustic when compared to Montrose '10 but full of character and freshness. The palate is medium-bodied with quite brusque tannins on the entry, a little aggressive when compared to some of the other primeur samples but this will be polished by the oak before bottling. There is a lot of matière: masculine, earthy, gentle but insistent grip that leads to finish as redoubtable as Mme Gasqueton herself, it is a little rough round the edges at this stage and I just feel that 100% new oak is maybe a little excessive? Nonetheless, it retains freshness and is very promising. Drink 2020- Tasted March 2011.”  
Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

“A racy and refined red, with currants and hints of tobacco. Full and very silky. Delicate and elegant. Very long, with wonderful acidity. So friendly at this stage. A touch of fresh herbs. Like to see a little more concentration but outstanding. 86 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 12 percent Merlot and 2 percent Petit Verdot.”  
James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

To order please call Angus McLean or Stewart Pryce on 0845 194 7801 or e-mail  
enprimeur@laithwaiteswine.com

**Château Montrose, St Estèphe 2<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé**

**£790 per 6 IB**

Robert Parker:	96-99+
Jancis Robinson:	17
Decanter:	18
Neal Martin:	96-98
James Suckling:	95-96

“Jean Delmas believes this is one of the all-time great wines of Montrose, comparable to the 2009, 1990, 1989, 1959, 1947, 1945 and 1929. The 2010 harvest took place between September 27 and October 15, and the final blend is 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot that achieved 13.75% natural alcohol, a fraction above the 2009's 13.7%. Somewhat reminiscent of the 1989, only even inkier and richer, the 2010 boasts a dense purple color along with glorious aromatics of blueberries, boysenberries, black currants and a crushed chalk-like minerality. The tannins are less intrusive than I would have suspected for such a young Montrose, but they are unquestionably ripe and well-integrated. Deep, full-bodied and massive, this beauty should be at its finest between 2018-2050.”

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“53% Cabernet Sauvignon (75% last year! And expected to increase), 37% Merlot, 9% Malbec, 1% Petit Verdot. 64% of total production and remarkable for the unusually high proportion of Merlot in the grand vin blend - because of the purchase of vineyard from Phelan Ségur last year (did this help the Phelan purchase of restaurant Taillevent in Paris?) Very deep crimson. Quite different from most of these northern Médoc wines - much rounder and less fresh (presumably because of the Merlot). Very different from classical austere Montroses but soft and charming. As a wine, it is extremely well made with just a little furriness on the finish. As a Montrose it's a bit disconcerting but my mark ignores this. Rather unusual lack of freshness. Just a bit plodding, astringent and sweet on the end. 13.8%.”

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“Elegant, quite reserved fruit, quite discreet now, will gain in length, but less exciting than 2009. Drink 2020-35.”

Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

“Tasted at the Château, Montrose is a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot picked between from 27th September through to 15th October, cropped at 45hl/ha. It has 13.8% alcohol with a pH 3.65. The bouquet is tightly wound at first, pure blackberry, dark cherries, just a touch of coca with very good vigour. Very juicy, quite saturated with a very dense, impenetrable finish. Sinewy, structured and masculine, with a slight saline touch on the aftertaste. This is a great Montrose that will one day be fascinating to compare against the 2009. Drink 2020-2050. Tasted March 2011.”

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

“This is really integrated and polished, with a full body and super layers of cashmere-like tannins. Goes on and on. 53 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 37 percent Merlot, 9 percent Cabernet Franc and 1 percent Petit Verdot.”

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

## Pessac-Léognan reds

### Château de Fieuzal, Pessac-Léognan Cru Classé

**£300 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker:	90-92
Jancis Robinson:	17
Decanter:	16.5
Neal Martin:	91-93
James Suckling:	91-92

"2010: This is a rare instance where an estate's 2008 may be better than their 2010. The latter wine possesses plenty of super-ripe red and black fruits as well as hints of graphite, crushed rocks and white flowers. There is elegant minerality and a medium-bodied palate, but copious tannins kick in in the finish. Five to seven years of cellaring will be essential for this structured, masculine effort."

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

"Lustrous purple. Great polish and energy. Really very glorious. Here they have not been scared by the acidity and the balance seems about right. Very fresh and Gravesy."

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

"Well-concentrated slightly smoky blackcurrant fruit, rich and broad flavours, a big fleshy wine with controlled power. Drink 2015-25."

Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com, April 2011

"The de Fieuzal '10 has a very generous, open-knit, refined and delineated bouquet that really is a treat: so pure and feminine. The palate displays fine tannins, bright red-berried fruit with good acidity, almost Saint Emilion like towards the fleshy, silky finish. Lovely. Drink 2013-2020+ Tasted April 2011."

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

"Velvety and polished, with lovely fruit and a mineral undertone. Full and balanced. I like the 2009 slightly better."

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

**Domaine de Chevalier, Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé**

**£565 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker: 91-93+  
Jancis Robinson: 17.5  
Decanter: 18.5  
Neal Martin: 93-95  
James Suckling: 95-96

“2010: Consultant Stephane Derenoncourt along with owner Olivier Bernard have done a fabulous job over recent years, but the tannic, backward 2010 Domaine de Chevalier seemed primary and difficult to assess when I tasted it on three separate occasions. The natural alcohol is 13.5% from a blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and the rest Petit Verdot. A youthful inky/blue/purple color is opaque to the rim and the nose offers elegant aromas of crushed rocks, acacia flowers, boysenberries, black currants and subtle toast as well as oak. This thick, rich, tannic, backward wine will require patience. I would guess 7-10 years of cellaring will be essential, but this is a 30- to 40- year wine.”

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“Dark crimson. So racy and inky, mineral and sinewy. Chewy. SO youthful! Racy and sinewy. Lively, fragrant. Mouth filling and vibrant though it has yet to evolve much character but the balance seems promising. Acid dominates tannin here.”

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“Masses of beautifully concentrated fruit, nose already very expressive of vineyard class and perfect ripeness, already richly smooth and the tannins will ensure a long and elegant life ahead. Drink 2015-30.”

Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

“Tasted three times, the Domaine de Chevalier has great precision on the nose with pure dark blackberry, dark plum, black olive compote and crushed flowers. The palate is just superb, mainly because of the crispness and tension in the tannic structure, framing a very precise, very focused Domaine de Chevalier that should age beautifully. It is almost understated but with great mineralité on the finish and superb persistency. Watch it blossom in bottle. Tasted April 2011.”

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

“This is the most structured and powerful DC in a long, long time. Full bodied, with polished and rich tannins and a long finish. Tasted twice. The rising star of Bordeaux.”

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

**Château Smith-Haut-Lafitte, Pessac-Léognan****£890 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker:	95-97
Jancis Robinson:	17
Decanter:	18
Neal Martin:	93-95
James Suckling:	95-96

“2010: A qualitative home run, right up there with the profound 2005 and more opulent 2009, Smith-Haut-Lafitte has turned in a remarkable performance in this vintage, but then again, so have many other chateaux. A blend of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and the rest Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc, the wine has an inky/purple color and an extraordinary nose of graphite, blackberries, cassis, licorice, smoke, and camphor. The unbelievable skyscraper-like texture, stunning purity, and formidable intensity make for a remarkably rich, long, full-bodied wine that is classic Graves, but at the same time a staggering 2010. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2035+.”

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“Savoury and appealing on the nose. Very fresh - admirably fresh. Very Graves and fragrant with firm minerality and very dry finish. Nothing overdone. Nicely balanced for the long term.”

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“Rich tobacco leaf cassis fruit, superb balance of natural vineyard concentration and elegance, already showing fragrance and charm, a notable success for this château. Drink 2015-30.”

Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

“With a pH of 3.62, the Grand Vin is a blend of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, the bouquet is very intense and focused, stricter than the 2009 last year with blackberry, a touch of cassis and a hint of boysenberry. Fine delineation, the mineralité beginning to emerge after one minute in the glass. One is immediately struck by the almost citrus-like freshness on the entry, tight at first but then fanning out beautifully across the mouth towards the wonderfully structured finish that has more tension than it knows what to do with. Very persistent, very long. Tasted twice with consistent notes. Tasted April 2011.”

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

“Wonderful aromas of currants, berries and minerals. Very stoney. Full bodied, with an intense and dense palate structure. Loads of blackberries, sweet tobacco and hot stones. Long finish. We will see if it's better than the 2009 or not.”

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

**Château Haut Bailly, Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé**

**£525 per 6 IB**

Robert Parker:	95-97
Jancis Robinson:	17
Decanter:	18.5
Neal Martin:	92-95
James Suckling:	95-96

“Proprietor Robert Wilmers and general manager/winemaker Veronique Sanders have done an extraordinary job at this estate, which has now become one of the superstars of Bordeaux as recent vintages have admirably demonstrated. An opulently styled effort, the blue/purple-hued 2010 offers a sweet kiss of graphite, charcoal, black cherries, black currants and compelling forest floor-like notes. A seamless integration of acidity, tannin, alcohol and oak is found in this full-bodied yet delicate, precise 2010. There is plenty of tannin but it is well-hidden behind the extravagant quantity of fruit. Give it 5-7 years and drink it over the following 35-40 years.”  
Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“Blackish crimson. Really savoury, well integrated, interesting-already nose. Then a bit inky on the palate at the moment. Medium bodied and very Cabernet. Needs lots of time. A dry wine, be warned. Classical stuff.”  
Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“Great depth of slightly earthy fruit, a lifted fragrance over great vineyard concentration, more backward than usual with a superb future, a magnified Haut-Bailly. Drink 2015-35.”  
Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

“The nose is very dense and rather introspective at first, gradually unfurling in the glass with blackberry, boysenberry and a slight "clayey" aroma that moves towards coca with continued aeration. The palate is full-bodied and very powerful, very structured and tannic although the tannins are not quite as fine as say, Smith Haut-Lafitte or Pape-Clement. Touches of graphite linger on the aftertaste. The sample at the Château needed a little more tension and precision...the sample at the UGC gave it to me! Tasted April 2011.”  
Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

“Wow. What a superb nose of blackberries, flowers and licorice. Full bodied, with a powerful palate of super rich fruit yet bright tannins and loads of blackberries and citrus on the finish. This is really structural with amazing purity of fruit. It is so direct and powerful. Chic brick house of a wine. 62 Cabernet Sauvignon, 36 Merlot and 2 Cabernet Franc.”  
James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

**Château Haut-Brion, Pessac-Léognan 1<sup>er</sup> Grand Cru Classé**

**£4,000 per 6 IB**

Robert Parker:	98-100
Jancis Robinson:	18++
Decanter:	19.5
Neal Martin:	96-98
James Suckling:	97-98

“Following a harvest that finished on October 10, Haut-Brion produced a 2010 that should turn out to be one of its all-time greats ... an amazing feat given what they have accomplished over recent vintages. A blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc that came in at 14.6% alcohol, the 2010 boasts an opaque purple color as well as a gorgeous perfume of scorched earth/burning embers, blueberries, black currant liqueur and crushed rocks. Full and opulent with nobility, finesse, purity and elegance, this amazing effort possesses extraordinary levels of extract as well as formidable, but sweet, well-integrated tannins. It requires 8-10 years of cellaring and should drink well for 50+ years.”

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“23% Merlot, 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc. 7,800 cases, not 10,000+ as in 2009. 42% grand vin (compared with 57% in 2009). Full, opulent nose in which the classic Haut-Brion aroma is well masked by lots of slightly austere fruit. Very fine tannins - very drying finish. An extremely slow burner. Much drier than La Mission, and at the moment not desperately expressive. Its lips are pursed at the moment, and so are mine tasting it. Unusual to come across such a long-term wine even here. This may not make a massive impact en primeur because it is keeping so much in reserve. I think it will eventually make a great wine but it's surly at the moment. 14.6%.”

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“Stunning aromas of beautifully concentrated red fruits, already expressive, even exuberant, a taffeta-like finesse hides great strength for the long term. Drink 2020-45.”

Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

“A blend of 23% Merlot, 47% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Cabernet Franc, this has a quintessential Haut-Brion nose with that trait of fresh black olives defining the nose straight out of the blocks. It is a little less opulent than La Mission but with slightly better clarity at this stage. The palate displays very fine, succulent tannins and like the La Mission there is a Pauillac-like personality thanks to the graphite imparted by the ripe Cabernet Sauvignon. Wonderful definition towards the finish. This is a superb Haut-Brion. Tasted March 2011.”

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

“Wonderful aromas of dark fruits with sweet tobacco and lilac character. Blackberries too. Amazing nose. This is tight and powerful with beautiful tannins and a racy structure. It lasts for minutes. Super refined yet muscular style of Haut-Brion due to a much lower percentage of Merlot in the blend. I like the 2009 better. Its more typical. This is 57 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 23 percent Merlot and 20 percent Cabernet Franc.”

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

To order please call Angus McLean or Stewart Pryce on 0845 194 7801 or e-mail  
enprimeur@laithwaiteswine.com

## St Emilion

### Château Puy-Blanquet, St Emilion Grand Cru

£130 per 12 IB

Jancis Robinson: 16  
Neal Martin: 88-90

“Mid crimson. Strong beef-extract aromas. Mid intensity and nicely polished tannins. Very savoury finish – not a hint of sweetness here. Sturdy.”

Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

“Dark ruby/purple in colour, the Puy-Blanquet has a pointed, lifted bouquet with touches of cassis, blueberry and violet. Very tight and linear at the moment. The palate is not complex with slightly gritty tannins, a touch of hardness that should dissipate by the time of bottling. It mellows nicely with aeration with a slightly tinny finish. Fine. Tasted April 2011.”

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

### Clos Fourtet, St Emilion Premier Grand Cru Classé

£855 per 12 IB

Robert Parker: 95-97  
Jancis Robinson: 17.5  
Decanter: 18  
Neal Martin: 90-92+  
James Suckling: 93-94

“Although this superb 2010 is built differently, it is as impressive as the extravagant 2009 and the prodigious 2005. A blend of 85% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc made from yields of 31 hectoliters per hectare, with 14.5% natural alcohol, Stephane Derenoncourt is the consulting winemaker. One can not say enough about what proprietor Philippe Cuvelier has accomplished at Clos Fourtet over the last decade turning a perennial underachiever into one of the great wines of Bordeaux. Production from this 50-acre vineyard is nearly 4,000 cases. The inky/purple-hued 2010 displays a beautiful bouquet of incense, blueberry and blackberry liqueur, licorice and camphor. Full-bodied and opulent with more tannin and glycerin than the massive 2009, the 2010, while less sumptuous than the 2009, is a huge effort that is undoubtedly capable of lasting 30+ years.”

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“Very dark, lustrous crimson. Very interesting and intriguing nose with, already, many layers. Toast, orange peel, lustrous sheen, something akin to coconut milk (but not the cheap sheen of too-obvious American oak). Very winning and engaging. Breadth and length. Dry but not drying finish. Very vital on the finish - and long too.”

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“Outstanding effort. One of the best from this estate. Could be a great buy. Dense, round, perfumed fruit. Lovely texture and weight. Balancing freshness and long, persistent finish. Drink 2018-2040.”

James Lawther, Decanter, April 2011.

“Deep purple in colour, the Clos Fourtet has a very opulent bouquet with lifted black fruits laced with liquorice and mint. The palate is full-bodied with a ripe, oaky entry, missing a little freshness at the moment though there is a pleasing linearity on the persistent finish. This will show much better in bottle. Tasted April 2011.”

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

“A beautiful wine, with everything in the bottle. Blackberries, minerals and blueberries. Full and silky. Long, long finish.”

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

To order please call Angus McLean or Stewart Pryce on 0845 194 7801 or e-mail  
enprimeur@laithwaiteswine.com

**Château Pavie-Decesse, St Emilion Grand Cru Classé**

**£750 per 6 IB**

Robert Parker:	94-96
Jancis Robinson:	15.5
Decanter:	18
Neal Martin:	93-95
James Suckling:	95-96

“Pavie Decesse's vineyard is currently 8.5 acres (it declined dramatically after part of the vineyard was incorporated into the larger Pavie estate as both are owned by Chantal and Gerard Perse). The vines are planted in decomposed limestone soils and yields in 2010 were only 24 hectoliters per hectare. A blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc that achieved 14.5% natural alcohol (slightly higher than what Pavie reached, no doubt because of the higher percentage of Merlot). Sweet berry fruit, barbecue smoke and toasty oak aromas jump from the glass of this inky/purple-colored 2010. Softer and more restrained than previous vintages, this is a beautiful, full-bodied, opulent, stunningly pure, rich wine that should be drinkable in 5-6 years and last for three decades.”

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“Dark crimson. Almost impenetrable colour. Very rich and thick and sweet to begin with. Rather angular on the mid palate. And very drying on the end. Inky. Very uncomfortable to taste. I don't really see the point of drying the grapes to this extent.”

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“Another powerful offering from this Gérard Perse estate. Like sister Pavie, a wine of extremes with raisined notes and muscular tannic frame lifted by the freshness of the limestone terroir. Huge ageing potential but not everyone's cup of tea. Drink 2020-2040.”

James Lawther, Decanter, April 2011.

“A blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, compared to the Monbousquet, there is just a slight jamminess on the nose that is denuding the Pavie-Decesse of a little freshness. The palate is full-bodied and dense, extraordinarily powerful with masculine, structure tannins and layers of black fruit. Good focus towards the finish, this will need 15 years to reach its drinking plateau. Drink 2022- Tasted March 2011.”

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

“This is so bright and beautiful with lovely aromas of dark fruits and flowers. Full and silky yet fresh and bright. Complex.”

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

**Château Angéus, St Emilion 1<sup>er</sup> Grand Cru Classé****£1,300 per 6 IB**

Robert Parker:	94-96+
Jancis Robinson:	17.5
Decanter:	18.5
Neal Martin:	92-94
James Suckling:	97-98

“A blend of 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Franc cropped at 32 hectoliters per hectare, the 2010 may not hit the peaks of the extraordinary 2009 or 2005, but it is another fabulous wine from proprietor Hubert de Bouard. It boasts an inky/blue/purple color along with abundant aromas of acacia flowers, blueberry liqueur, black raspberries, licorice and subtle toasty oak in the background. A notion of graphite emerges as the wine sits in the glass, which tends to be a characteristic of Angelus. Long, rich, dense and full-bodied with high but well-integrated tannins, it will rival the 1989 and 1990 as well as the 2009 and 2005 as one of the finest wines made at this estate. At present, the 2009 has a slight edge because of its more sumptuous texture. Nevertheless, the 2010 is a great wine with a future of at least 30 years!”  
Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“Very dark crimson. Manages to be both savoury and luscious on the nose. Thick and dense and very sweet on the finish. All stops pulled out to make an impression! Very firm finish after great riches. Dry, slightly tarry finish.”  
Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“In the same league as the amazing '09 but an even bigger structure here. Tell-tale saturated colour. Busy, complex nose with spice, cacao and violet (45% Cabernet Franc) notes. Ripe, succulent fruit on the palate but not overblown. Lingering freshness behind. Powerful but refined tannins. Long, persistent finish. Drink 2020-2035.”  
James Lawther, Decanter, April 2011.

“The Angelus 2010 has a very ripe, quite opulent, dense bouquet with dark cherries, cassis, dark plum/Hoi Sin with good definition and a lot of ambition. The palate is full-bodied with very thick, bold tannins lending enormous structure to this Angelus. Layers of ripe blackberry, dark cherries and boysenberry with well integrated new oak. As usual, very modern in style, but very dry and tannic on the finish at the moment. Drink 2016- Tasted March 2011.”  
Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

“Wild aromas of blackberries, dark chocolate and hints of toasted nuts. Very intense. Full bodied, with super integrated tannins and a fabulous finish. Goes on for minutes. This takes off on the palate. Really impressive. 45 percent Cabernet Franc and 55 percent Merlot.”  
James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

**Château Cheval Blanc, St Emilion 1<sup>er</sup> Grand Cru Classé (A)**

**£4,850 per 6 IB**

Robert Parker:	96-98+
Jancis Robinson:	18.5+
Decanter:	20
Neal Martin:	95-97
James Suckling:	99-100

“The 2010 Cheval Blanc contains 13.8% alcohol, which is very high for this estate, and has an unusually high percentage of Cabernet Franc in the final blend (56% versus 44% Merlot). Yields were tiny, adding to the richness and intensity already instilled by the drought of summer and resulting tiny berries. In the style of some of the great Cheval Blancs of the late 1940s, this wine is rich, opulent, full-bodied, and at the risk of sounding like a broken record, as saturated purple in color as any Cheval Blanc I have seen. Mulberries, black currants, fresh minerals, and floral notes jump from the glass of this full-bodied, dense wine. With its tannins, good acidity and surprisingly modest pH, this should be an exceptionally long-lived wine, more backward and delineated than the fatter, more opulent 2009. Drink it over the next 30+ years.”

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“56% Cabernet Franc, 44% Merlot. Meaty and savoury. Almost austere on the nose relative to how young Cheval usually tastes. Very youthful but aromatic, then lovely lushness on the palate. Recalls great old Chevalls with that seductive freshness. Lovely dry finish. (Blend for 2009 was exactly the opposite.) Coulure affected Merlot in 2010. Lost lots of volume on Merlot. Great structure but also lovely floral seductive aroma. Opens out in the glass in the most convincing manner. Presumably they think it would have been even better if vinified in the new cellar that is due for completion this summer. 14.5%.”

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“Sublime wine. Fresh, floral, perfumed. More elegant and sensual than the '09. Pure, sumptuous fruit. Refined texture and tannins. Lovely acidity for balance. Seamless. Drink 2020-2050.”

James Lawther, Decanter, April 2011.

“A blend of 60% Cabernet Franc and 40% Merlot, the latter suffering a little coulure (so bunches were cut earlier during the season after veraison to increase homogeneity.) The Merlot were reaching around 14.5% alcohol and the clay/gravel soils inhibited the increased alcohol level at the end. The harvest began on 15th September and finished on 13th October with a major part of the vineyard picked on 7th October. Like many samples, the Cheval Blanc takes a long time to open but eventually reveals a very refined, tightly-knit bouquet with dark berries, espresso, underbrush, the Cabernet Franc dominating the Merlot at present. The palate is medium-bodied and much more masculine compared to the fleshier 2009 last year, like the nose, the Cabernet Franc defining the wine with touches of dried herbs, a little allspice and white pepper. There is a firm backbone to this Cheval Blanc, quite structured towards the spicy finish, fresh but obdurate and broody. This will need a decade to really open up. Very promising, but do not expect fireworks...yet. Drink 2020-2040+ Tasted March 2011.”

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

“The blueberry and blackberry character and bouquet of violets is off the charts. Full body, the Cabernet Franc dominates the blend now, with so much dark fruits, minerals and flowers with hints of spices. It is a very powerful and linear CB and shows amazing length and purity. Zen-like focus.”

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

To order please call Angus McLean or Stewart Pryce on 0845 194 7801 or e-mail  
enprimeur@laithwaiteswine.com

**Château Ausone, St Emilion 1<sup>er</sup> Grand Cru Classé****£3,440 per 3 IB**

Robert Parker:	98-100
Jancis Robinson:	18.5
Decanter:	19.5
Neal Martin:	93-95
James Suckling:	96-97

"Alain Vauthier's wines have been so remarkable since he acquired full control of Ausone that readers probably feel I have thrown my critical wits away. However, the proof is in the tasting, and the 2010 Ausone is unquestionably extraordinary. There are 1,500 cases of this beauty, which exhibits an inky/blue/purple color as well as an exotic, seamless bouquet of incense, Asian spices, blueberries, raspberries and blackberries. Full-bodied with a striking liqueur of minerality as well as a magical combination of complexity, substance and nobility, it reveals softer tannins than I expected for this vintage, so perhaps it will be more accessible in its youth than recent Ausone vintages have tended to be. It is another prodigious effort from Vauthier that should be drinkable in 6-8 years and keep for a half century."

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

"26 hl/ha. Dark crimson with a bright crimson rim. Very serious nose - so different from the Chapelle! 55% Cabernet Franc, 45% Merlot. Lovely punch and scent on the nose and then real tight impact on the palate. Not the completeness of Pétrus but a very good vintage expression. Some warm berries triumph over terroir but this is sweet then tight and tough. Extremely youthful. Very drying on the end. Cabernet Franc has dominated since 2005. Very rich and exuberant overall. Vivacious and not too, too dry on the finish. Less exaggerated than some other recent vintages."

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

"As pure as the '09 but a more emphatic structure. 55% Cabernet Franc in the blend. Fragrant fruit and floral nose. Dense, ripe fruit and an abundance of firm but finely knit tannins. Minerally freshness provides a classical edge. Great length and persistence. Huge ageing potential. Drink 2022-2060."

James Lawther, Decanter, April 2011.

"A blend of 55% Cabernet Franc and 45% Merlot, picked between 5th and 15th October. The nose takes some coaxing from the glass; raspberry, a touch of Dorset plum, wild strawberry and with further aeration there are touches of orange rind developing. The palate is medium-bodied with silky smooth tannins, very focused, hints of dark chocolate on the entry, wonderful mineralité and poise towards the seamless finish with a creamy veneer. Long in the mouth, this is a sensual Ausone. Drink 2015- tasted March 2011."

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

"There is something almost unnerving with Ausone this year. It has almost supernatural fruit character and earth shattering acidity. Full and tannic, it finishes with a dark fruit jam but then goes to citrus acidity and freshness. A tiny bit too much."

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

## Pomerol

### Château Chantalouette, Pomerol

**£160 per 12 IB**

"Conservative nose, refined and elegant rather than a dense mass, refreshing. Fresh red crushed fruits. Soft and rounded. Should be good value....again!" Angus McLean, Fine Wine Advisor.

### Château Gazin, Pomerol

**£565 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker:	93-95
Jancis Robinson:	17
Decanter:	17.5
Neal Martin:	94-95
James Suckling:	92-93

"Another remarkable effort from Gazin, the big, powerful, dense 2010 boasts an opaque purple color along with loads of black currant and kirsch-like fruit intermixed with licorice, caramel, mocha and toasty oak. This seriously endowed, broodingly backward cuvee requires 6-8 years of cellaring and should keep for three decades or more."

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

"Very dark and lustrous with some ruby at the rim. High toned and aromatic. Very comfortable and unforced. Highly successful with real vivacity. Dry finish. Was this on some clay? Well done! Quite juicy."

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

"Rich and savoury. Plenty of fruit on the palate. Powerful but refined structure. Persistent. Needs time but won't disappoint. Drink 2018-2035."

James Lawther, Decanter, April 2011.

"Tasted at the Syndicat de Pomerol. Gazin has been on form in recent vintages. The 2010 has a very pure bouquet with superb lift and purity: black cherries and raspberry, crushed stone underneath. The palate is full-bodied with grippy tannins, very good acidity, compact and masculine, huge weight on the finish, great length and ambition. Superb. Tasted April 2011."

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

"This is a little tight. But it shows plenty of coffee and chocolate notes and dark fruits. Full and silky. I really like the polish to the tannins."

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

**Château Clinet, Pomerol****£1020 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker:	95-98
Jancis Robinson:	16.5
Decanter:	17
Neal Martin:	94-96
James Suckling:	95-96

“A spectacular success in this vintage, this blend of 85% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Cabernet Franc achieved 15% natural alcohol. Sadly, there are only 3,400 cases primarily because of the small Merlot crop (yields were only 29 hectoliters per hectare). The wine's opaque purple color is followed by an extraordinary bouquet of boysenberries, blueberries, black currants, licorice, truffles and a hint of asphalt. The wine possesses great intensity, a multidimensional mouthfeel, stunning glycerin and richness, and wonderful freshness as well as precision because of the vintage conditions. This massive Pomerol will age effortlessly for 30-35 years. Equaling what Clinet achieved in 1989 and 1990, it is the third successive great vintage for this estate.”  
Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“Blackish crimson. Such ripeness it's almost cheesy on the nose. Then very firm on the palate - verging on inkiness. A real backbone here! This wine's two faces don't seem to be talking to each other yet. It may get there in the end...?”  
Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“Dark, rich and powerful. Good attack. Undoubted depth and reserve but I prefer the balance and charm of the '09. Bit more extraction this year? Drink 2018-2035.”  
James Lawther, Decanter, April 2011.

“Tasted somewhere (but I cannot remember exactly where) the Clinet 2010 has a precocious nose that soon settles in the glass: very pure dark cherry and blueberry fruit with touches of black olive and vanilla, building in intensity but remaining composed. The palate is full-bodied with ripe "clingy" tannins that do not want to let go and yet the texture of smooth and seductive. Don't be fooled by the first half. Those tannins kick in towards the second with a surprising dry, taut, tar-tinged finish. This is a complex Clinet that will really show its true colours after bottling. Well done Ronan! Tasted March 2011.”  
Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

“Nothing on the palate and then all of a sudden it blasts off on the finish. Superb Clinet. Full and velvety. Juicy.”  
James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

## **Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux**

### **Château Les Grands-Maréchaux, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2010**

**£100 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker: 88-90  
Jancis Robinson: 15

“2010: Under the guidance of consulting winemaker Stephane Derenoncourt, this blend of 80% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc hit 14% natural alcohol. Its deep ruby hue is accompanied by caramel, sweet berry, raspberry and currant notes intermixed with a hint of oak, medium-bodied flavors, silky tannins and surprising depth. A sleeper of the vintage,”  
Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

To order please call Angus McLean or Stewart Pryce on 0845 194 7801 or e-mail  
enprimeur@laithwaiteswine.com

## Dry Whites

### Blanc de Lynch-Bages, Bordeaux

£265 per 12 IB

Robert Parker: 87-89  
Neal Martin: 90-92  
James Suckling: 92-93

"Melon, grapefruit and lemon zest notes are present in this medium-bodied, dry, refreshing white."  
Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

"A blend of 67% Sauvignon Blanc, 15% Semillon and 18% Muscadelle, this has a very fresh lively, well defined nose with citrus lemon, a touch of brioche and fresh tinned pineapple. The palate is very well balanced with fresh citrus fruits, patisserie, lemon curd and a touch of custard crème at the finish. Very good acidity. This is very fine indeed. Drink now-2016."

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

"Loads of pineapple and limes. Lively as hell. Full and super fresh. Long and intense. Best in a long time."  
James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011.

### Château de Fieuzal, Pessac-Léognan Cru Classé

£375 per 12 IB

Robert Parker: 92-94  
Jancis Robinson: 17  
Decanter: 16.5  
Neal Martin: 92-94  
James Suckling: 92-93

"A brilliant effort and one of the great dry whites of the vintage is this honeyed, complex, melony, full-bodied effort that should drink well for 25+ years."

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

"Very pale. Lightly honeyed nose. A bit of wax. Very firm and lively. Some sweet impression because of the sheer density. Very racy and some delicacy on the end - even a hint of rose petals. Well done."

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

"Rich, lemony fruit, ripe and expressive, good acidity to back it up, quite exotically fruity. Drink 2013-20."  
Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com, April 2011

"The de Fieuzal Blanc has fine intensity on the nose with green apple, kiwi fruit and a touch of lime flower. A little closed at first but it unfurls nicely with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with a fine apricot and lime-tinged entry, well balanced with good acidity and vigour towards the finish. What excellent de Fieuzal from an estate that is quietly improving year after year. Tasted March 2011."

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011

"Very pretty fruit with hints of vanilla and pineapple character. Full and fresh with good citrusy acidity and a clean finish."

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011

**Château Smith-Haut-Lafitte, Pessac-Léognan**

**£770 per 12 IB**

Robert Parker: 92-95  
Jancis Robinson: 17  
Decanter: 18  
Neal Martin: 92-94

“Another phenomenal wine from the Cathiards, this rich 2010 exhibits lemon custard, melon, tropical fruit and a touch of smoky oak. It should last 20+ years.”

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“Exotically rich on the nose. Vibrant and a bit loose. Easy to appreciate and then chewy. Should give early pleasure. Bone-dry finish. Very Graves. Tingly and exciting.”

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“Exuberant expression of citrus fruits, spicy and quite exotic, full and fleshy with the acidity and minerality adding depth and structure, probably the best SHL white, combining as usual robustness and finesse. Drink 2013-20.”

Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011.

“The Château Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc 2010 is a blend of 90% Sauvignon Blanc, 5% Sauvignon Gris and 5% Semillon picked from 2nd September. At the Château it has a rather understated, almost earthy nose at first with dried white flowers and a mote of chalk dust, but at the UGC it is much more vivacious with a silver thread of citrus peel. The palate is well-balanced on the entry, fine citrus lemon, grapefruit and just a hint of spice, good weight and quite linear towards the finish but great persistency. Very fine, but showing much better under the sunshine. Tasted April 2011.”

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

## **Sauternes and Barsac**

### **Château Doisy-Védrières, Barsac 2ème Grand Cru Classé**

**£125 per 12 halves IB**

Jancis Robinson: 17  
Decanter: 18  
Neal Martin: 91-93

“Mid gold. Very rich and heady on the nose. Quite exotic and interesting. Subtle and complex. Great weight and great sweetness. A freshness on the finish but green does not dominate this wine. Pear juice with a strong dose of lime juice.”

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

“The Doisy-Vedrières has a refined bouquet of lemon curd, dried honey and just a touch of quince, perhaps not quite as rich as recent vintages, but very well-defined. The palate is well-balanced, with a touch of lime cordial and passion fruit on the entry, and zesty acidity and impressive precision towards the taut, slightly spicy rich finish. Returning after an hour, this sample has enhanced clarity and volume, and subsequent encounters confirm a very promising Doisy-Vedrières.”

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“Big body, rich texture, built for long ageing, with a completely different style from Daëne: less immediate purity, more power. Two different visions of terroir but nobody would complain to try both. Drink 2020-2040.”

Michel Bettane, Decanter, April 2011.

### **Château La Tour Blanche, Sauternes 1er Grand Cru Classé**

**£230 per 12 halves IB**

Jancis Robinson: 17+  
Decanter: 19  
Neal Martin: 92-94

“Bags of acidity balancing the very high sugar content, impressive, and as always an intriguing touch of Muscadelle-like floweriness which is the signature of the growth. Marvellous finesse. Drink 2020-2050.”

Michel Bettane, Decanter, April 2011.

“The Chateau La Tour Blanche has a complex bouquet with scents of grapefruit, honey, apricot and white flowers. The palate is very well-balanced, with a great sense of tension and poise, and notes of citrus lemon, lime, dried honey and a touch of marmalade that lead to a tightly wound, focused, almost Germanic finish. This is intriguing Sauternes that should repay considerable cellaring.”

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

“Green and coconut on the nose. Streaky green and massively sweet with the pear juice quality of botrytis. Dense and rich. A bit jagged. Very, very young.”

Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com, April 2011.

**Château Suduiraut, Sauternes 1er Grand Cru Classé****£290 per 12 halves IB**

Jancis Robinson: 18  
Decanter: 19  
Neal Martin: 94-96

"The Chateau Suduiraut has a comparatively rich, botrytized bouquet with dried honey, pineapple and a touch of Seville orange marmalade, with exquisite definition and focus. The palate is well-balanced, with a viscous texture and a good level of botrytis, demonstrating fine minerality and tautness. Dried mango, quince and spice all interlace the focused finish, which is long in the mouth. Tasted against its peers, this has a higher level of intensity and focus. A superb follow-up to the sensational 2009."

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

"Mid pale gold. Broad and rich and fresh but with very ripe pear-juice notes. There is real weight here. Much less citrus peel than most other 2010 Sauternes. Real race. Dangerously delicious now. Long. Super clean. Medium to heavy weight. Great undertow. Long. Nervy."

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

"Super nose with some exotic pineapple/mango/passion fruit undertones mixed with Vouvray-like blossom-tree and quince jelly, enormous body, but incredible purity and crystal-like transparency, great length, a masterpiece! Drink 2020-2070."

Michel Bettane, Decanter, April 2011.

**Château Climens, Barsac 1er Grand Cru Classé****£430 per 12 halves IB**

Jancis Robinson: 18  
Neal Martin: 94-96

"Berenice Lurton and her team managed to pick the crop just hours before rains fell on October 23. Tasting through every one of their lots in 2010, there was a theme of tautness, racy acidity and spice. Focusing upon two batches representing about 14% of the harvest, there was patently exquisite balance and a sense of concentrated but efficient power, counterbalanced by immense purity and effervescence. Their problem will be knowing exactly which lots to deselect!"

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, May 2011.

"There is the vintage tanginess in this wine but also the property's trademark purity and unctuousness. As usual, it was not possible to taste (or give the analysis of) anything approximating to the final blend - just lots from the various pickings in late September and October - but this is looking like a top quality rendition of 2010, even if not a big and blossomy as the 2009. Please note that the analytical data are estimations from Bill Blatch. RS 145g/l, TA 4.2. 14%"

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

"The blend is not yet made, hence no star rating. But tasting one by one the 19 elements of the future blend indicates the possibility for Bérénice Lurton, the happy owner of Climens, to build a masterpiece, enhanced with supernatural elegance and perhaps even more finesse and emotional power than Yquem!"

Michel Bettane, Decanter, April 2011.

**Château d'Yquem, Sauternes 1<sup>er</sup> Grand Cru Classé Supérieur**

**£2,450 per 12 halves IB**

Jancis Robinson: 18.5  
Decanter: 19  
Neal Martin: 96-98

"2010 was a cool year for us.' Winter and autumn cold, good dry, warm summer. Very healthy grapes, though quite a bit of rain on the flowering, A bit of coulure on Sauvignon so less than usual in the blend, just 13% compared to the usual 20%. Pale gold with slight greenness. Gorgeous, classic nose. Pear juice a go-go. Absolutely stunning freshness as well as all the botrytis. Classic. Real punchy perfect savoury Sauternes. Zesty and lovely with some chew on the end. No shortage of botrytis. Very distinctive and much less sweet than 2009. (155 g/l in 2009, 141 g/l in 2010). Refined finish. Finished 5 Nov. Five passes. Real punch and zest. Grapefruit peel. But not a massive sweet bomb. 13.55%."  
Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011.

"Extraordinary purity of aromas, with an airy power difficult to rival, a new brilliant example of the actual style of the property, with the vintage's monumental body completely hidden by the refinement of tactile sensations. Some are nostalgic for the epic oily bodies of the past, not I (even if I greatly admire them). Drink 2020-2070."  
Michel Bettane, Decanter, April 2011.

"Picked predominantly over 10 days from October 14, the 2010 d'Yquem has 141gms/L residual sugar and pH 3.80. It is a slow-burner, the nose understated at first but unfurling with each passing moment with subtle scents of freshly sliced apricots, Clementine, clear honey and white flowers. There is an underlying minerality that really defines this bouquet. The palate is similar to the nose, revealing hidden facets with almost each swirl of the glass - orange blossom, limestone, white peach and honeysuckle. This is such a precise d'Yquem; it is after you have swallowed the wine that one comprehends just how brilliant it is."  
Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011.

## Mixed Cases

### Right Bank best buys mix

**£130 per 12 IB**

Château Les Grands-Maréchaux, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2010

*"...Its deep ruby hue is accompanied by caramel, sweet berry, raspberry and currant notes intermixed with a hint of oak, medium-bodied flavors, silky tannins and surprising depth. A sleeper of the vintage,"*  
Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011. (88-90 points)

Château Puy-Blanquet, St Emilion Grand Cru

*"Dark ruby/purple in colour, the Puy-Blanquet has a pointed, lifted bouquet with touches of cassis, blueberry and violet. Very tight and linear at the moment.."*  
Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011. (88-90 points)

Château Chantalouette, Pomerol

*"Conservative nose, refined and elegant rather than a dense mass, refreshing. Fresh red crushed fruits. Soft and rounded. Should be good value....again!"*  
Angus McLean, Fine Wine Advisor.

### Left Bank best buys mix

**£150 per 12 IB**

Château La Tour de By, Médoc Cru Bourgeois

*"Solid, fruity, dense with gravelly chew. No artifice. Very nice expression of place and time. Some astringency, but real life and lift. A delicate hand! Transparency. Real delicacy. Very refreshing, with lovely length."*  
Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011. (16.5 points)

Chateau Capbern-Gasqueton, Saint-Estèphe AOC

*"The palate is medium-bodied with powdery tannins on the entry, good acidity and a lot of freshness on the finish, with notes of blackberry, wild strawberry and a touch of tobacco. What a great Saint Estephe! Drink 2012-2022. Tasted March 2011."*  
Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011 (90-92 points)

Château Bernadotte, Haut-Médoc

*"..this has a lifted, quite assertive nose with blackberry, a touch of briary, cedar and pencil shavings. The palate is medium-bodied with firm, slightly grainy tannins (...) Drink 2013-2020. Tasted March 2011."*  
Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011. (90-92 points)

Château Lalande-Borie, St Julien

*"Lots of lifted, good clear fruit, freshness and balance, a very attractive Saint-Julien."*  
Steven Spurrier, Decanter, April 2011 (16 points)

### St Estèphe mix

**£270 per 12 IB**

Château de Pez, St Estèphe

*"Possibly the finest De Pez made in three decades or more, this sleeper of the vintage reveals a dense ruby/purple color as well as sweet cassis, pen ink and earthy notes in the background."*  
Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011. (90-92 points)

Château Phélan-Ségur, St Estèphe Cru Bourgeois

*"Dark crimson. Nicely, convincingly integrated. Lovely luscious, supple fruit. Really great supple stuff with the undertow of St-Estèphe minerality. A really exciting wine. Very long."*  
Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011. (18 points)

La Dame de Montrose, St Estèphe

*"Intense blueberry and cassis fruit intertwined with floral notes, a plump, unctuous texture and abundant fruit characterize this seductive, fleshy wine. Consume it over the next 10-15 years."*  
Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011. (91-93 points)

Chateau Capbern-Gasqueton, Saint-Estèphe AOC

*"The palate is medium-bodied with powdery tannins on the entry, good acidity and a lot of freshness on the finish, with notes of blackberry, wild strawberry and a touch of tobacco. What a great Saint Estephe! Drink 2012-2022. Tasted March 2011."*  
Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011 (90-92 points)

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enprimeur@laithwaiteswine.com

### **Our favourites mix**

**£230 per 12 IB**

Château d'Aiguilhe, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux

*"... It exhibits a deep ruby/purple hue, lots of cassis, crushed rock and floral characteristics, a round, generous, savory, broadly textured style and sweet tannins. Drink it over the next decade."*

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011. (89-92 points)

Château Haut-Batailley, Pauillac 5<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé

*"It is an attractive, elegant, mid-weight wine with polished tannins as well as a restrained style."*

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011. (88-90 points)

Château de Fieuzal, Pessac-Léognan Cru Classé

*"Lustrous purple. Great polish and energy. Really very glorious. Here they have not been scared by the acidity and the balance seems about right. Very fresh and Gravesy."*

Jancis Robinson, Jancis Robinson.com, April 2011. (17 points)

Château Les Grands-Maréchaux, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux 2010

*"..Its deep ruby hue is accompanied by caramel, sweet berry, raspberry and currant notes intermixed with a hint of oak, medium-bodied flavors, silky tannins and surprising depth. A sleeper of the vintage."*

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011. (88-90 points)

### **Our top favourites mix**

**£520 per 12 IB**

Château Lafon-Rochet, St Estèphe 4<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé

*"Proprietor Basile Tesseron may have produced his finest Lafon Rochet to date. The 2010's inky/blue/purple color is followed by a distinctive bouquet of spring flowers, blueberry pie, blackberry liqueur and crushed rocks."*

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011. (92-94 points)

Château Grand Puy Lacoste, Pauillac 4<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé

*"Very refined, powerful, beautifully focused with an unerring sense of symmetry. This is a magnificent Pauillac..."*

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com, April 2011. (97-99 points)

Château St. Pierre, St Julien 4<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé

*"A candidate for one of the top wines of this remarkable vintage, it offers a thunderball of fruit, extract, glycerin and intensity (...) 2010 Saint-Pierre should drink well for 30-40 years."*

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011. (95-97+ points)

Château Cantenac-Brown, Margaux 3<sup>ème</sup> Grand Cru Classé

*"One of the finest Cantenac Browns made in the last half century, the 2010 may be even more impressive than the 2009. Sweet, fat notes of blackberries, forest floor and earth emerge from this inky/purple-colored beauty."*

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com, May 2011. (92-94+ points)

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- 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 £1.81 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.
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