

Bordeaux 2016 En Primeur Offer

"A red wine year – the best are up with the greatest ever produced."

Jane Anson, Decanter Magazine

"Bordeaux enjoyed an exceptional vintage in 2016 ... Readers will find compelling wines on both the Left and Right Banks."

Antonio Galloni

'What we know for sure is that 2016 is an outstanding vintage for Bordeaux for both whites and reds. Mathieu Chardonner, head of the important Bordeaux negociant house of CVBG, put it best. "This is as good as Bordeaux gets'

James Suckling

"The majority of wines were a pleasure to taste and some were quite outstanding"

Jancis Robinson

"Is 2016 a finer vintage than the rather delicious 2015? I am certain that it is and in some cases, by a long chalk."

Matthew Jukes

"It's a year that anyone who loves elegant, nuanced Bordeaux should consider purchasing."

Tim Atkin

"With a very solid 2014 and potentially even better '15, things are looking up. And here comes 2016, perhaps even better still."

James Molesworth, Wine Spectator

"The more you taste them, the more you realise the quality: there are exceptional wines at all price levels."

Jane Anson, Decanter Magazine

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Unless otherwise stated, prices are quoted 'in bond' and are exclusive of duty, VAT and delivery (expected in spring 2019). You will be notified by post once your wines have arrived. Bottle sizes are 75cl unless otherwise stated.

For full details please see our terms and conditions on Page 53.



Bordeaux 2016 Vintage 'Report'

Each time I return from a tasting trip overseas, I rack my brain for an 'angle' for the latest vintage report. Not being the most creative character, I tend to rely on numbers, facts and logic to see me through. I started writing the Bordeaux 2016 vintage report in the usual way – describing the weather conditions each month and explaining how the tannic structure developed in the wines creating the best vintage since 'The Last Best Vintage'.

Then came a fateful bank holiday Friday evening stuck in traffic on the M25. I was waffling away about this very report to my waffle-loathing, wine-loving other half. I was suddenly confronted with an infuriatingly prudent, albeit comfort-zone-crushing, question, "What do the customers actually want to know?". Do you *really* want to know the flowering date relative to The Last Best Vintage or the IPT of the resultant wine? Perhaps you do, but then we've never asked.

Having been rather delayed in writing this, I eventually reached the point of wondering whether a report like this is even necessary. Does anyone read it? As it turns out, someone does because I received emails from customers and colleagues asking where my report is. Phew, existential crisis averted...

So, what to tell you? Well, at the end of this report I pose that question directly to you. Until I have the answer, though, I still feel the need to provide the obligatory weather report.

After a very dry end to 2015, the record rainfall in January initially provided welcome relief and refreshed the soils. However, when the downpour still continued three months later, there was a very real fear that this could be a disaster of a vintage. A perfectly timed week or so of clear weather came to the rescue in the first half of June, enabling healthy and timely flowering and ensuring volumes were not adversely impacted. In late June the rain at last relented, the sun shone and temperatures started to ramp up. Crucially – and unlike 2003 or 2009 – the hot days were combined with sufficiently cool nights throughout July and August which ensured ripe fruit but lovely fresh acidity, along with well-developed yet fine tannins. It could so easily have gone horribly wrong, but the powers that be were kind to Bordeaux this year.

In terms of appellations, how did 2016 stack up? The appeal of each appellation in 2016 depends, to an extent, on how it performed in previous vintages; after all, the attraction to a certain product is surely relative? For example, one could argue that many of the Margaux 2015s represent marginally better value versus the 2016s. There are exceptions of course, but it's something worth bearing in mind. Given the variation across the region, I've put together a quick run-down of the 2016 highlights for each appellation (in my opinion).

For those of you who are reading this, I'd be delighted to receive any feedback on what you would like to read about in this type of report and how it can be improved. Please send your thoughts to me directly at

angus.mclean@laithwaiteswine.com

2016 Appellation Highlights

St-Estèphe

I start here because it seems logical in terms of geography, but also it's the first appellation that springs to mind when I think what I recommend to buy in 2016. St-Estèphe was arguably the best-performing appellation in 2014, but suffered from rain in 2015, so was relatively inconsistent. This year everything slotted into place and I think I can say in general that 2016 is the best vintage I've tasted in St Estèphe. Montrose was exceptional, dense, concentrated, complex and firm; I think my favourite wine of the vintage if you have patience, but there are many candidates. The 2016 was the best Cos d'Estournel I've tasted; a little more flamboyant than Montrose, but a far cry from the 2009, say – Cos has dialled it back considerably since then. Calon-Ségur I think may be the best 2016 buy though – probably not quite as good as Montrose or Cos but, factoring in the likely price, it's what I would buy if I could justify giving myself an allocation (this is going to be tough to allocate, please see the paragraph at the foot of this report). At the more affordable end of the spectrum, the other two wines from the Calon-Ségur stable Marquis de Calon and Capbern were super, the latter probably being one of my top five value buys across the vintage. It's now released at £170 per 12 IB and, while relatively expensive versus the 2015, based on what's in the bottle it's a smarter buy. Châteaux Les Ormes de Pez, Le Bosq and Lilian Ladouys are three other recommendations assuming the pricing is as expected.

Pauillac

While arguably the most disappointing appellation in 2015, it's come back with style in 2016. The wines are generally generous, rich in fruit, but well structured. Though with the exchange rate they will be more expensive than their 2015 equivalents, I think they'll be worth paying the extra for the 2016s. I thought Lafite-Rothschild has improved dramatically this year after a run of slightly disappointing vintages in the context of the high standards they set, considerably more flamboyant in style, this is clearly the best Lafite since 2010. Lynch-Bages was typically rich and exciting, a real winner and Grand-Puy-Lacoste should prove to punch well above its weight again; always a great buy if you want top quality for a relatively sensible price. This is not an appellation where you find too many bargains though Lacoste-Borie, Réserve de la Comtesse and particularly Pedesclaux are worth keeping an eye out for.

St-Julien

Like Pauillac, pretty weak overall in 2015, but vying with St-Estèphe this year for the appellation of the vintage in 2016. A little more universal appeal than the firmer structured and longer lived wines from Pauillac or St Estèphe, these 2016s tend to be polished, pure and refreshing. Ducru-Beaucaillou & Léoville-Las-Cases were superb, but I suspect they'll be prohibitively expensive for most of us, though at a notch down in price I'm looking forward to seeing Branaire-Ducru and Beychevelle release, that latter was absolutely superb this year. Lalande-Borie at the more affordable end should be outstanding value if the price remains typically modest.

Margaux

A tricky one this year given the absolutely outstanding 2015s. Can it be much better? No, in short, I cannot imagine how it could be in general. The additional ripeness in 2015 suited Margaux to a tee in my view. The best 2016s at this stage are just a little tighter, almost more Pauillac in style than Margaux. Given time I wonder if they'll be more distinct, but for many Châteaux I'd say, go back to 2015 and see what you can snap up. But, there are exceptions clearly, there always are. Brane-Cantenac and Kirwan I thought were better than 2015 (though some seem to disagree with me on the latter). The absolute no brainer this year is Château Labégorce. We've bought as much as we could buy in 2014, 2015 and now 2016 and must be one of the biggest stockists in the UK. If we have any left when you read this I propose you login to your account and buy a case...or more. If we've sold out, Siran is another option which has performed superbly.

Pessac-Léognan & Graves

Like Margaux, another appellation which was so strong in 2015 that 2016 was always likely to struggle. Some critics are of the opinion that 2016 in Pessac was equally strong, in my experience the appellation was patchy this year, but with a handful of super wines. I felt the wines didn't quite have the richness and balance that they showed in 2015, with some suffering from intrusive acidity. Châteaux Pape-Clement and Haut-Bailly were two notable exceptions at the more exciting end of the price range. Clos Floridène once again represents good value and a more generous, approachable style from the region.

The Rest of the Médoc

While the sub-heading 'The rest of the Médoc' covers a pretty broad geographic area, there is naturally a little variation here. In saying that, I believe this is the area which will represent some of the most appealing buys in 2016. Far more consistent than last year and with prices at this level relatively stable, there will be plenty of choice. Fresher, denser and more precise this year, some of the wines to look out for should be Senéjac, Charmail, Lanessan and towards the top end of this appellation price spectrum Cantemerle was once again excellent. As one of the most affordable of the Grands Crus Classés, it has a loyal following and should sell well.

Pomerol

2015 was spectacular in Pomerol, 2016 in my view just a little step behind. In saying that, two of my favourite wines from the entire vintage were Pomerols; La Conseillante and Vieux Château Certan. The latter was absolutely text book and I cannot think how it could be improved; wonderful purity of fruit and the hallmark refreshing acidity from the vintage. La Conseillante was just a little more exotic and flamboyant, this perhaps a little more appealing to a wider audience, but let's be honest, with the volume made, Vieux Château Certan won't reach a wide audience! At the more affordable end of the market, I thought Chantallouette made their best wine since at least 2009; rich, ripe and very easy to appreciate, while Bourgneuf and Les Hauts-Conseillants (technically Lalande de Pomerol) should also be considered.

St-Emilion

Such a large appellation with so many different Châteaux, a confusing and ever-changing classification system and such a variety of philosophies it's arguably the appellation which requires the most advice. Historically I've not been Pavié's biggest fan, stylistically just not my preferred style, but this year it was sensational. Since 2014 they've been producing a more restrained, elegant style and it is working wonders. At the slightly more affordable end, Bellefont-Belcier was excellent for the second year in a row. Though at the entry level quality was patchier than 2015, Puy-Blanquet was quite possibly the best vintage I've tasted – not one for those looking for power over refinement, but a super, traditional St-Emilion.

The Rest of the Right Bank

Though last year was the year for St Emilion and Pomerol, what struck me this year was how the less fashionable appellations on the Right Bank performed. Up in the Côtes de Blaye and Francs in particular there are some stunning buys. Though there are plenty of candidates for this accolade, Château Gigault 'Cuvée Viva' is quite possibly my number one 'must buy' of the vintage. I couldn't believe the quality. It is on the richer side of the spectrum, so universally appealing and I believe all of us who tasted in Bordeaux are buying some this year. Château Marsau in Francs was outstanding too; a slightly fresher, red fruit driven, delicate style more akin to the vintage overall you could argue. Finally up in Fronsac, without question the best wine from the appellation this year was Château Dalem, rich, dense and structured to allow it to cellar for 10 years plus, this is a serious wine from an often looked over appellation.

Dry Whites

Though I think this is a sector where I feel the UK doesn't buy enough and normally I'm a campaigner for the UK to buy more white Bordeaux, I often wonder if they'd sell considerably more if they put Sauvignon Blanc on the label. As it is though, I think this is a sector which is under-represented, especially at the entry-mid range. 2016 was perhaps not quite as strong for dry whites as a handful of recent years, but there are still some wines which come highly recommended. A wine which I feel is on the up this year is La Tour Carnet Blanc and this should be sensibly priced. Blanc de Lynch Bages and the white from one of our red favourites Château d'Aiguilhe ought to be good value. At the top end I don't feel many shone to the extent that they justify their high prices, but if you do want to splash out, Smith-Haut-Lafitte Blanc I feel is the one to go for, though I'll be intrigued how Domaine de Chevalier Blanc shows once bottled.

Sauternes

Like the dry whites, I don't feel it is an epic vintage for the sweet wines of Bordeaux, but they are of a certain style that I suspect will appeal to many. While the levels of botrytis didn't reach the levels of 2015, 2009 or 2007, the wines produced are a lovely clean, refreshing and possibly earlier drinking style. So the likes of Châteaux Doisy-Védrines, Doisy-Daëne and Coutet represent excellent value, but three different takes on the style. Doisy-Védrines being a little racier and citric, Coutet being opulent, really sweet and rich, then Doisy-Daëne sitting somewhere between the two. I think this is my absolute pick from this year's sweet wines.

An addendum about allocations

One of the most difficult parts of working in Fine Wine is to tell a customer you get on really well with that they cannot buy the wines they want. This happens most frequently in Burgundy where volume are so tiny, but this is also the case in Bordeaux given demand is so great, so I thought it would be reasonable to explain my methodology which I ask my colleagues to follow. Obviously demand for a wine varies dramatically from one vintage to the next and is largely dependent on how critics score the wines.

First of all, assuming we get the same allocation of a given wine, priority will be given to the customer who bought the previous vintage. So in the case of what will be one of the most in demand wines this year, Calon-Ségur we will first offer the wine to the customers who bought the 2015 vintage. Generally speaking if we buy 100 cases of Calon-Ségur in 2015, we'll get 100 cases in 2016. So this seems like a logical approach to reward regular buyers of a given wine. Should our allocation decrease, then the customers who are only buying the most desirable wines from the vintage are likely to be the customers who miss out, whereas those customers who are buying a range of less in-demand wines from the vintage will be most likely to have their allocation maintained. When it comes to the top labels and customers who want to buy them, they are all valuable customers to us, so it's often one of the most difficult parts of our job having to say no to them, but I think this process is fair.

If of course our allocation increases or we have customers who don't take up their allocation this year, we'll not only be able to guarantee an allocation to those who had the wine in the previous vintage, but we'll then be able to consider requests from customers who didn't. Priority for new orders in this vintage will go to those who have been the most loyal customers to us over the years.

Summary of Wines

<u>Code</u>	<u>Mixed Cases</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Case Size</u>	<u>Price (IB)</u>
P7104901	Bordeaux 2016 Early Releases Mix	Mix	12	£150
P7100101	Sauternes 2016 Mix	Mix	12	£155
P7100401	Bordeaux 2016 St-Estèphe Mix	Mix	12	£260
P7100501	Bordeaux 2016 Premium Mix	Mix	12	£595
<u>Code</u>	<u>Red Wine</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Case Size</u>	<u>Price (IB)</u>
P6898601	Château Les Grands-Maréchaux	Côtes de Bordeaux Blaye	12	£70
P6878901	Château Gigault 'Cuvée Viva'	Côtes de Bordeaux Blaye	12	£95
P6895101	Château Gigault 'Cuvée Viva' (150cl)	Côtes de Bordeaux Blaye	6	£105
P6895201	Château Gigault 'Cuvée Viva' (300cl)	Côtes de Bordeaux Blaye	1	£60
P6889701	Château Sénéjac	Haut-Médoc	12	£115
P6893201	Château Lanessan	Haut-Médoc Cru Bourgeois	12	£120
P6887401	Château Marsau	Francs Côtes de Bordeaux	12	£125
P6887501	Clos Floridène	Graves	12	£125
P6889801	Château Charmail	Haut-Médoc Cru Bourgeois	12	£135
P6889002	Château Puy-Blanquet	St-Emilion Grand Cru	12	£150
P6894701	Château d'Arsac	Margaux	12	£165
P6885701	Château Capbern	St-Estèphe Cru Bourgeois	12	£170
P6898701	Château Lilian-Ladouys	St-Estèphe	12	£170
P6888001	Château Dalem	Fronsac	12	£170
P6906601	Château La Garde	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	12	£170
P6905501	Château Fontenil	Fronsac	12	£175
P6901101	Château Côte de Baleau	St-Emilion Grand Cru	12	£180
P6898201	Château Capbern (150cl)	St-Estèphe Cru Bourgeois	6	£185
P6892501	Château Chantalouette	Pomerol	12	£190
P6879101	Château d'Aiguilhe	Côtes de Bordeaux Castillon	12	£190
P6888901	Château Fombrauge	St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé	12	£205
P6888601	Marquis de Calon	St-Estèphe 2nd Wine of Calon Ségur	12	£228
P6884601	Château Lalande Borie	St-Julien	12	£232
P6888502	Château Meyney	St-Estèphe Cru Bourgeois	12	£245
P6882202	Château Siran	Margaux Cru Bourgeois	12	£245
P6898401	Château La Tour Carnet	Haut-Médoc 5ème Grand Cru Classé	12	£245
P6900201	Château Les Ormes-de-Pez	St-Estèphe Cru Bourgeois	12	£250
P6898301	Château Labégorce (150cl)	Margaux Cru Bourgeois	6	£250
P6906501	Château Belgrave	Haut-Médoc 5ème Grand Cru Classé	12	£250
P6891401	Château Chasse-Spleen	Moulis-en-Médoc	12	£255
P6879301	Château Cantemerle	Haut-Médoc 5ème Grand Cru Classé	12	£260
P6893301	Château Maillet	Pomerol	12	£295
P6903001	Château Fonplégade	St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé	12	£310
P6901901	La Dame de Montrose	St-Estèphe	12	£312
P6891601	Château Berliquet	St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé	12	£325
P6897401	Château Lynch-Moussas	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	12	£330
P6891301	Château Bellefont-Belcier	St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé	12	£335
P6891201	Château du Tertre	Margaux 5ème Grand Cru Classé	12	£345
P6890801	Château Marquis d'Alesme	Margaux 3ème Grand Cru Classé	6	£175
P6884301	Château Gloria	St-Julien Cru Bourgeois	12	£355
P6898501	Château Prieuré Lichine	Margaux 4ème Grand Cru Classé	12	£355
P6909801	Château Grand-Mayne	St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé	12	£360

Laithwaite's

... FINE WINE ...

P6892401	Château Bourgneuf	Pomerol	12	£375
P6895402	Pagodes de Cos	St-Estèphe	12	£384
P6892001	Château de Fieuzal	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	12	£385
P6900801	Château Pédesclaux	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	12	£396
P6883101	Château Batailley	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	12	£415
P6888401	Château Langoa-Barton	St-Julien 3ème Grand Cru Classé	12	£415
P6894601	Château La Serre	St-Emilion Grand Cru	12	£420
P6899901	Château Branaire-Ducru	St-Julien 4ème Grand Cru Classé	12	£465
P6902401	Clos du Marquis	St-Julien	6	£235
P6892101	Château Malartic-Lagravière	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	6	£246
P6887801	Château Talbot	St-Julien 4ème Grand Cru Classé	6	£246
P6881501	Château Giscours	Margaux 3ème Grand Cru Classé	6	£270
P6901401	Château St. Pierre	St-Julien 4ème Grand Cru Classé	6	£275
P6890401	Alter Ego de Château Palmer	Margaux	6	£280
P6891101	Château d'Issan	Margaux 3ème Grand Cru Classé	6	£285
P6890601	Château Brane-Cantenac	Margaux 2ème Grand Cru Classé	6	£315
P6888801	Château Larcis-Ducasse	St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé	6	£321
P6902301	Château Duhart-Milon	Pauillac 4ème Grand Cru Classé	12	£645
P6884001	Domaine de Chevalier	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	6	£324
P6888701	Château Trottevieille	St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé	6	£350
P6885501	Château Gazin	Pomerol	6	£355
P6890901	Château Pavie-Macquin	St-Emilion 1er Grand Cru Classé	6	£360
P6883201	Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	6	£368
P6881101	Château Rauzan-Ségla	Margaux 2ème Grand Cru Classé	6	£370
P6884501	Château Léoville-Barton	St-Julien 2ème Grand Cru Classé	6	£375
P6884401	Château Léoville-Poyferré	St-Julien 2ème Grand Cru Classé	6	£395
P6884701	Château Haut-Bailly	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	6	£498
P6890701	Château Clos Fourtet	St-Emilion 1er Grand Cru Classé	6	£506
P6890201	Château Beauséjour Duffau	St-Emilion 1er Grand Cru Classé	6	£513
P6890101	Château Bélair-Monange	St-Emilion 1er Grand Cru Classé	6	£660
P6882701	Château Pichon-Lalande	Pauillac 2ème Grand Cru Classé	6	£710
P6908101	Château Montrose	St-Estèphe 2ème Grand Cru Classé	6	£750
P6886101	Château La Conseillante	Pomerol	6	£930
P6886201	Château La Fleur-Pétrus	Pomerol	6	£950
P6886501	Château l'Eglise Clinet	Pomerol	6	£1,350
P6885402	Château La Mission Haut-Brion	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	6	£1,975

<u>Code</u>	<u>Sweet Wine</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Case Size</u>	<u>Price (IB)</u>
P1450301	Château Clos Haut-Peyraguey (37.5cl)	Sauternes 1er Grand Cru Classé	12	£145
P1449701	Château Doisy-Védrières (37.5cl)	Sauternes 2ème Cru Classé	12	£145
P1448901	Château Coutet (37.5cl)	Barsac 1er Grand Cru Classé	12	£160
P1449002	Château Doisy-Daëne (37.5cl)	Barsac 2ème Cru Classé	12	£160
P1450101	Château Rieussec (37.5cl)	Sauternes 1er Grand Cru Classé	12	£250

<u>Code</u>	<u>Dry White Wine</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Case Size</u>	<u>Price (IB)</u>
P1449101	Château Thieuley 'Cuvée F. Courselle'	Bordeaux	12	£75
P1454901	Château La Garde Blanc	Pessac-Léognan	12	£170
P1449201	Château La Tour Carnet Blanc	Bordeaux	6	£135
P1454401	Château Malartic-Lagravière Blanc	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	6	£246
P1449902	Domaine de Chevalier Blanc	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	6	£426

Jancis Robinson (JR) www.jancisrobinson.com | Neal Martin (NM) www.robertparker.com | Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast (WE) www.winemag.com
 Antonio Galloni (AG) www.vinous.com | Jane Anson, Decanter (Dec) www.decanter.com | James Suckling (JS) www.jamesuckling.com

St-Estèphe

Château Lilian-Ladouys 2016
St-Estèphe

£170 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

93-94 Points James Suckling
91-93 Points Neal Martin

"Firm and silky with a lovely depth of fruit and polished tannins. Some cedar and berry. Full and dense. Excellent length. Energetic acidity at end. Yes. Better than the super 2014. Best ever"

93-94 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

"The 2016 Lilian Ladouys is a blend of 32% Cabernet Sauvignon, 62% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot picked between 3-17 October and matured in 30% new oak. It has a tightly wound bouquet with blackberry, wild hedgerow and graphite, plenty of fruit here with excellent delineation. The palate is medium-bodied with ebullient red berry fruit laced with white pepper and bay leaf, a touch of brown spice towards the generous finish. Very fine...this is a step up from the 2015."

91-93 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



Drink to 2030+

Château Capbern 2016
St-Estèphe

£170 per 12 IB
£185 per 6x150cl IB
Arriving Spring 2019

92-93 Points James Suckling
90-92 Points Neal Martin
17 Points Jancis Robinson

"Love the stone, tar and black currant in this. Full and tight with firm and silky tannins and a long, long finish. Spicy, too. Can't wait to see how this evolves. Serious."

92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

"The 2016 Capbern (the erstwhile "Château Capbern-Gasqueton") is a blend of 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, delivering around 14% alcohol with a total acidity of 3.5 grams per liter. It was cropped at 42 hectoliters per hectare and is being matured in 60% new French oak. It has a clean and precise bouquet with blackberry, mint and just a hint of boot polish. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin; this is a typical Saint-Estèphe in terms of a bold, almost Montrose-like tannic structure, gently grippy with more than enough freshness on the pert finish. There is a lovely touch of cracked black pepper on the aftertaste. Give this three or four years in bottle as this is a fine Château Capbern."

90-92 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



"69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 4% very old Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot. 60% new oak. Very deep crimson. Round and flattering texture with lots of zappy tannin. A little more angular than the famous 2009 but very easy to drink. Tannins quite marked at the moment. Very round tannins but they are there in such profusion that you will have to wait... **GV**"

17 Points – Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com, April 2017

Drink to 2030

Marquis de Calon 2016 £228 per 12 IB
St-Estèphe (2nd wine of Calon-Ségur) Arriving Spring 2019

"This is a beautiful wine. Stylish and elegant, it has structure while at the same time impressive fruitiness. The velvety tannins go with the crisp black-currant fruits. It will certainly age well and should be drinkable from 2026."

93-95 Points – Roger Voss, *Wine Enthusiast*, April 2017

"Dark berry, tar and stone character. Medium to full body, firm and silky tannins and a flavorful finish. Balance and intensity. Very pretty density. Pretty fruit. Second wine of Calon."

92-93 Points – James Suckling, *JamesSuckling.com*, April 2017

Drink to 2030

93-95 Points Wine Enthusiast
92-93 Points James Suckling



Château Meyney 2016 £245 per 12 IB
St-Estèphe Cru Bourgeois Arriving Spring 2019

"Solid and incredible depth reminds me of the Meyney of the 1960s that were so structured and incredible. Full body yet polished and refined. Super structure."

95-96 Points – James Suckling, *JamesSuckling.com*, April 2017

"The 2016 Meyney has quite an opulent and flamboyant bouquet, which is something I do not expect from this Saint Estèphe. It seems to calm down in the glass and attains more delineation and poise. The palate is sweet on the entry with impressive precision, quite linear in style with blackberry, graphite and smoky notes, leading to a finish that offers satisfying persistence. Excellent. Drink Date 2021 - 2040"

90-92 Points – Neal Martin, *RobertParker.com*, April 2017

Drink to 2030

95-96 Points James Suckling
90-92 Points Neal Martin



Château Les Ormes de Pez 2016 £250 per 12 IB
St Estèphe Cru Bourgeois Arriving Spring 2019

"Powerful and structured with lots of blueberry, blackberry and currant character. Full-bodied, tight and tannic yet polished and beautiful. Fantastic. Juicy."

93-94 Points – James Suckling, *JamesSuckling.com*, April 2017

"The 2016 Les Ormes de Pez is a blend of 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 52% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot picked from 28 September until 12 October. It has an impressive bouquet: blackcurrants, boysenberry and crème de cassis, all with very well integrated new oak. There is a lot of panache here, a word perhaps I have not associated with this Saint Estèphe in recent years. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, a lovely grainy texture, quite pure with lovely blackberry, melted tar and slightly savory, almost meaty notes. Harmonious right to the end, this is an excellent Les Ormes de Pez that seems to revel in the 2016 vintage. This might be one of the best wines from the estate."

92-94 Points – Neil Martin, *Wine Advocate*, April 2017

Drink to 2030

93-94 Points James Suckling
92-94 Points Neil Martin



**La Dame de Montrose
St-Estèphe (2nd Wine of Montrose)**

**£312 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019**

**17 Points Jancis Robinson
90-92 Points Neal Martin**

"The 2016 La Dame de Montrose is a blend of 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 52% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 11% Petit Verdot. It is often a difficult Deuxième Vin to taste en primeur, and it often meliorates considerably during its élevage. Here, the aromatics took some time to coalesce in the glass: blackberry, graphite and a noticeable oyster shell aroma. The palate is medium-bodied with a gentle grip in the mouth, grainy in texture with very fine balance towards the finish where the quality of the vintage showed through. Doubtless those aromatics will improve and gain harmony by the time it is in bottle, and indeed, when I returned for a second visit I discerned a little more finesse and prettiness on the finish. This is a delightful La Dame."

90-92 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017

"A solid and four-square white with lemon-rind and dried-apple character. Pears, too. Full and dense with layers of fruit and phenolic character. Red wine texture in a white. One for aging."

17 Points – Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com, April 2017

Drink to 2030



**Pagodes de Cos 2016
St-Estèphe (2nd Wine of Cos d'Estournel)**

**£384 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2019**

**93-94 Points James Suckling
92 Points Decanter**

"The brightness and focus to this second wine of Cos are certainly impressive. You can see the quality. Full body, a tight and focused palate and beautiful fruit and density. Ultra-fine tannins. Gorgeous. Sophisticated."

93-94 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

"This is a serious wine representing 55% of the overall production, with the other 45% in Cos ('not one drop into a third wine or bulk' says director Aymeric de Gironde). Extremely dark black cassis fruits and graphite show the power of St-Estèphe clays. Fresh, bright and well structured (3.61pH, 65IPT), this is bristling with fruit and silky tannins, and may even close down for a few years. A blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46.5% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot and 0.6% Cabernet Franc from vines averaging 35 years old, aged in 30% new oak. Drinking Window 2023 - 2040"

92 Points – Jane Anson, Decanter.com, April 2017

Drink to 2030



Château Montrose 2016
St-Estèphe 2^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£750 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

97-98 Points James Suckling
97-99 Points Neal Martin

“A solid and tight Montrose with a linear structure of ripe tannins that gives wonderful length and energy. Full-bodied, yet reserved and toned. Stone and mineral character underneath is impressive. Beautiful center palate. The class and focus are marvelous. Better than 2015. This is what Montrose is all about.”

92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“The 2016 Montrose is a blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc (no Petit Verdot this year) picked between 23 September to 14 October and matured in 60% new oak. It has a very sophisticated bouquet with blackberry, briary, a touch of blue fruit and violets. Sometimes this Saint Estèphe can be a little broody at en primeur, but this certainly is more expressive, maintaining very fine delineation and precision, unfolding with each swirl of the glass and revealing a hidden graphite/marine influence. The palate is very fresh on the entry. The first facet of this wine that strikes you is the freshness that lasts from start to finish. This is an animated, vivacious Montrose that starts in almost understated fashion yet builds in the mouth towards what is almost a sensual finish, not a descriptor often applied to Montrose. It is a disarmingly and hauntingly beautiful 2016, extremely long and the aftertaste lasting two or three minutes. NB This is one example where I felt my second visit, over a fortnight after the first, revealed a wine with much greater potential, and I therefore raised my banded score accordingly. Drink Date 2026 - 2060”

97-99 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



Pauillac

Château Lynch-Moussas 2016
Pauillac 5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£330 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

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

“This is very dense and intense with lovely intensity and energy. Dense, round and savory tannins. Another winner from here.”

93-94 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“The 2016 Lynch Moussas is a blend of 17% Merlot and 83% Cabernet Sauvignon cropped at 48 hectoliters per hectare between 3 and 19 October. Matured in 60% new oak and the remainder one year old, this has a concentrated bouquet that offers tobacco-infused black fruit, briary and then with aeration, veins of pencil lead. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannin cloaked in plenty of black fruit, quite spicy for Lynch Moussas with a touch of orange rind developing towards the finish. I appreciate the salinity on the aftertaste here. This is excellent and may well surpass the impressive 2015 last year.”

92-94 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017

Drink to 2040



Château Pédesclaux 2016
Pauillac 5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£396 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

94-95 Points James Suckling
93-95 Points Neal Martin

“This is very tight and focused with a precise, almost piercing depth. Full body, ultra-refined and a long finish. Fantastic length. Great elegance here with power.”

94-95 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“The 2016 Pedesclaux is a blend of 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc, picked between 29 September and 18 October, matured in 60% new oak. It has a tightly-wound bouquet with blackberry and raspberry fruit, a touch of iodine and graphite. I like the subtle nature of this Pedesclaux, the brooding intensity. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine tannin, crisp and fresh, a gorgeous salinity and a long and persistent, lightly spiced finish. This leaves the 2015 Pedesclaux far behind.”

93-95 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017

Drink to 2040



Château Batailley 2016
Pauillac 5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£415 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

95-96 Points James Suckling
93-95 Points Neal Martin
17+ Points Jancis Robinson

"The 2016 Batailley is a blend of 12% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot, 85% Cabernet Sauvignon cropped at 50h hectoliters per hectare. Matured in 60% new oak. It has an intense graphite infused bouquet with fine delineation, some freshly picked Pauillac mint coming through with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannin that grip the mouth insistently; with graphite and tobacco-infused black fruit dominating, this a classically styled Batailley in the vein of previous vintages with the elegance coming through towards the finish. This is one of those wines that grows on you, perhaps not as easy or as charming to taste as other Pauillac 2016s at this stage, but knowing this property well, I know how it can blossom when it matters, which is when you and I drink it. Drink 2022 - 2050."

93-95 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



"I thought the 2015 defined the new Batailley, but this is fantastic. Full-bodied and so tannic and powerful. Flavors of chocolate, coffee and spices. Excellent finish. Very muscular. Tight and precise."

95-96 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

Drink to 2040++

Château Duhart-Milon 2016
Pauillac 4^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£645 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

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

"A firm and silky young red with a medium to full body and lovely chocolate, cedar and currant character. Flavorful finish. One of the best in a very long time."

94-95 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

"The 2016 Duhart-Milon-Rothschild is a blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon and 33% Merlot picked between 26 September and 12 October with around 13.3% alcohol, slightly higher than in 2015 that suffered a little dilution. The bouquet is tightly wound with blackberry, cigar box and sous-bois aromas that gently unfold in the glass. This is classic, conservative Duhart-Milon. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, a crisp line of acidity, just a touch of black pepper enlivening the black fruit. Overall, this represents in some ways a return to the slightly more austere style of Duhart-Milon, yet there is perhaps now more approachability and certainly plenty of freshness. For me, this is a step up from the 2015 and it comes recommended."

92-94 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



Drink to 2040

Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste 2016
Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé

£368 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

96-97 Points James Suckling
95-97 Points Neal Martin

“This is all about the finish with a sweet-tobacco, berry and light milk-chocolate character. Full body, very fine tannins and a juicy finish. Love the intensity and finesse at the end. Lots of energy. Could better the exquisite 2014.”

96-97 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“The 2016 Grand-Puy-Lacoste is a blend of 79% Cabernet Sauvignon and 21% Merlot that matured in 75% new oak. It has 13.3% alcohol this year. It has an extraordinarily pure bouquet with blackberry, briary, touches of pencil shaving and cedar aromas-- quintessential Grand-Puy-Lacoste, basically. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine tannin. Gone are the days when this Pauillac was as hard as nails for the first decade. The tannins are nowadays much finer and the acidity lends this tension and plenty of freshness. There is an effortless quality to this Pauillac with wonderful length and such finesse on the finish that you immediately want to go back and re-taste it. Like so many others, this improved with aeration, gaining ever more harmony and precision. What a brilliant wine. It is classic Pauillac to its core.”

95-97 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



Drink to 2040

Château Pichon-Lalande
Pauillac 2^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£710 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

97-100 Points Antonio Galloni
96-98 Points Neal Martin
96-97 James Suckling

"A deeply emotional, moving wine, the 2016 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is simply extraordinary. The tannins are nearly buried by the sheer intensity of the fruit, while the 100% new oak is remarkably well integrated at this stage. Dark, powerful and brooding, the 2016 possesses remarkable polish for such a big wine. The purity of the flavors is simply captivating. Scents of graphite, smoke, leather, tobacco and menthol soar from the glass, enhancing a core of deep, plush, dark fruit. All the elements fuse together in a wine of nearly unparalleled beauty. Although not inexpensive, Pichon-Lalande is arguably the single finest relative value in ageworthy wine in Bordeaux right now. Readers should do whatever they can to pick up the 2016. It is without question one of the wines of the vintage and potentially a legendary wine in the making. Tasted three wines."

97-100 Points – Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com, April 2017



"The 2016 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc (compare that to the 2010 that had 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, for example--that should give you some pointers). The alcohol level is 13.32% and a pH of 3.76. I tasted from a new oak barrel and the final blend will include around 60% new wood and 40% one year old, which is something I took into account. It has a very succinct bouquet, one that is almost understated at first, gradually unfolding with blackberry, cedar and graphite scents, in the vein of say the 1986 or 1996 Pichon Lalande of the past. The palate is very well balanced and what I appreciate here is that it is still as much identifiable as Pichon Lalande as it is a Pauillac and a 2016. There is that touch of roundness imparted by the Merlot, even though the Cabernet dominates the blend, surely the terroir sculpting the wine. It gently builds in intensity, maintaining freshness, a gentle but insistent grip towards the finish and a very long aftertaste. This is probably just a notch up on the outstanding 2015 Pichon-Lalande, a Rolls Royce with a purring engine. Drink 2025 - 2060."

96-98 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017

Drink to 2050

St-Julien

Château Lalande-Borie 2016
St-Julien
(2nd wine of Ducru-Beaucaillou)

£232 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

17.5 Points Jancis Robinson
92-93 Points James Suckling
90-92 Points Neal Martin

“Rich and very lively on the nose. Real freshness and raciness. Beautiful wine! Really vibrant and rich. But with masses of energy. Just very slightly dry on the end. But such a charmer! GV 13.66%”
17.5 Points – Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com, April 2017

“The 2016 Lalande-Borie is a blend of 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, delivering 13.66% alcohol and matured in 30% new oak and the remainder one year old. There is something almost clinical about the nose, very pure, no frills (at the moment), hints of crushed violet emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, very harmonious and cohesive, citrus-like freshness from start to finish with a long and velvety blueberry and blackberry finish. This is very polished and it should give plenty of drinking pleasure for several years.”
90-92 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



Drink to 2035

Château Gloria 2016
St-Julien Cru Bourgeois

£355 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

93-94 Points James Suckling
93-95 Points Neal Martin

“Dense and layered red with berry and tobacco character, a full body and a savory finish. Got it all here.”
93-94 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“The 2016 Gloria is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot and 7% Cabernet Franc that was picked from 29 September until 17 October. It is matured in slightly less oak than the Saint-Pierre, at 40%. This is a little more backward and broody compared to the Saint-Pierre and indeed its Saint Julien peers, demanding more coaxing from the glass. It almost reluctantly unfolds and unveils subtle pencil box and dry tobacco aromas. The palate is more outgoing than the aromatics with a vibrant, almost citrus-fresh opening, tensile tannins and a satisfying sense of energy. This feels nimble and agile in the mouth with a touch of white pepper lingering on the aftertaste. You come away with the feeling that this Gloria has something up its sleeve for those with patience to cellar it for eight to ten years.”
93-95 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



Drink to 2040

Château Langoa-Barton 2016
St Julien 3^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£415 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

95-96 Points James Suckling
91-93 Points Neal Martin
17.5 Points Jancis Robinson

"Tight and chewy with a solid tannin structure and depth of fruit. Full body and lots of depth and texture. A Barton with lots happening already. Develops beautifully on the palate. Should be better than the 2015."

95-96 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

"The 2016 Langoa Barton is a blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc picked between 29 September and 13 October. It is being matured in 60% new oak barrels. It has a very succinct bouquet, with a mixture of black and red fruit, a slight sea spray/estuarine tincture, hints of leather and brown spice in the background. The palate is very harmonious on the entry with a grainy texture. There is good backbone here, maybe just a little foursquare compared to other Saint Julien wines, but it gathers pace towards the finish that displays touches of spice and cedar. Understated and classic Langoa."

91-93 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



Drink to 2040

Château Branaire-Ducru 2016
St. Julien 4^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£465 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

94-97 Points Wine Spectator
95-96 Points James Suckling

"A fresh bay leaf note leads off, followed quickly by pure, enticing layers of cassis, blackberry and black cherry fruit that emerge steadily through the long finish. Offers lovely mouthfeel and purity. A very pretty expression of St.-Julien"

94-97 Points – James Molesworth, WineSpectator.com, April 2017

"This is clearly the best wine I have tasted from Branaire-Ducru. Exquisite depth and richness are on offer, yet this is always framed and focused. Layers of fruit and tannins. So deep and long. Incredible quality."

95-96 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017



Drink to 2040++

Clos du Marquis 2016
St-Julien (2nd Wine' of Léoville Las Cases)

£235 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

93-95 Points Neal Martin
94-95 Points James Suckling

"The 2016 Clos du Marquis was picked from 30 September to 19 October and consists of 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc, matured in 55% new oak. Yields came in at 40 hectoliters per hectare and the alcohol at 13.55%. The bouquet is very intense at the moment with small black cherries, incense, iris and a touch of shucked oyster shells. The palate is beautiful, perhaps one of the most powerful that I came across in Saint Julien, certainly no shy retiring flower, yet it effortlessly manages to retain the precision and tension one expects from this cru. There is a firm back bone here, but the tannins are so precise that you barely notice, while the aftertaste has superb salinity. This is a majestic Clos du Marquis, but it will require several years in the cellar. Drink 2025 - 2055."

93-95 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017

"The clarity and beauty of this young red are brilliant with blackberry, blueberry and mineral undertones. Full and racy. Long and wonderfully polished. Racy. Better than the 2015."

94-95 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

Drink to 2030



Château Talbot 2016
St-Julien 4^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£246 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

93-94 Points James Suckling
92-95 Points Antonio Galloni

"A full-bodied red that stays in check with a firm and lightly chewy tannin backbone. Full body and an intense finish. Shows excellent potential."

93-94 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

"The 2016 Talbot is shaping up to be a jewel of a wine. Black cherry, plum, gravel, smoke, lavender and mint all flesh out in this decidedly imposing, vertical Saint-Julien. Concentrated and forbiddingly tannic at this stage, the 2016 is going to need at least a few years to start coming into its own. It should age gracefully for decades. The blend is 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot. Stéphane Derenoncourt and Julien Lavenu consult."

92-95 Points – Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com, April 2017

Drink to 2040



Château Saint Pierre 2016
St-Julien 4^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£275 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

94-95 Points James Suckling
94-96 Points Neal Martin

"Blueberry, blackberry and fresh currant-leaf character. Full-bodied, refined, beautiful, dense and tight. Great depth. Best ever."
94-95 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

"The 2016 Chateau Saint-Pierre is a blend of 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc picked between 29 September and 3 October for the Merlot and 5-17 October for the Cabernet Sauvignon. The wine is matured in 50% new oak. The Cabernet comes through strongly on the nose as you would expect: quite intense black fruit, graphite and just a touch of dried herbs. There is lovely definition and focus on display. The palate is well balanced with grainy tannin, a crisp line of acidity, classic in style in keeping with the style of the vintage with very fine mineralité and tension towards the sprightly finish. It is one of the most Pauillac-like Château Saint-Pierres that I have tasted, a very well crafted, almost understated but sophisticated wine that will age for 20 to 30 years. This is a fantastic Saint Julien that may well rest at the top of my banded score."
94-96 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



Drink to 2040

Château Léoville-Barton 2016
St-Julien 2^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£375 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

96-99 Points Wine Spectator
95-96 Points James Suckling
93-96 Points Antonio Galloni
93-95 Points Neal Martin

"This packs some serious punch and drive, with a terrific core of blueberry, açai and plum reduction notes, backed by waves of graphite and roasted apple wood. Has the pleasantly chewy feel typical of St.-Julien, along with an extra-racy graphite edge."
96-99 Points – James Molesworth, Wine Spectator, April 2017

"Tight and chewy with a solid tannin structure and depth of fruit. Full body and lots of depth and texture. A Barton with lots happening already. Develops beautifully on the palate. Should be better than the 2015."
95-96 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017



Drink to 2050

Château Léoville-Poyferré 2016
St-Julien 2^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£395 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

95-96 Points James Suckling
95-97 Points Neal Martin

“The buildup on the palate is impressive with blackberry and blueberry character. Plenty of currants, too. Full-bodied, linear and tight. Racy tannins and a long finish. Shows tension, depth, real raciness and pure finesse. A combination of the best from both 2009 and 2010.”

95-96 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017



“The 2016 Leoville-Poyferre is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc. Didier Cuvelier told me that color leached out naturally and he conducted an 8 day pre-fermentation maceration. Matured in 80% new oak with some malolactic in barrel, it has a typical bouquet for this estate with opulent but neatly controlled, billowing scents of black cherries, black plum, crème de cassis and violets. The palate is beautifully balanced with fine tannin, a killer line of acidity and perhaps one of the most harmonious Poyferré that I have encountered at this juncture. It just glides across the mouth and slips down the throat with consummate ease. Superb. Drink 2024 - 2060.”

95-97 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017

Drink to 2050

Margaux

**Château d'Arsac 2016
Margaux**

**£165 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2019**

**92-94 Points Wine Enthusiast
16 Points Jancis Robinson**

"The wine shows fine, smooth tannins and a dark texture that gives it great long-term potential. It is a beautifully made wine: firm where it needs to be and with fine fruitiness. It will be ready in 2027."

92-94 Points – Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast, April 2017



Drink to 2030

**Château Siran 2016
Margaux Cru Bourgeois**

**£245 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019**

**92-94 Points Neal Martin
94-95 James Suckling**

"The 2016 Siran is a blend of 46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 9% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc picked from 26 September until 20 October. The alcohol level is 13.9% with a pH of 3.61. The nose, for want of a better word, is very charming. No, not powerful nor is it flamboyant, yet the aromas are nicely focused and it has a disarming sense of purity: blackberry, bilberry and just a very faint hint of liquorice. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit, good grip in the mouth and fine purity. This is a strong follow-up to the 2015 Siran and tasting the two side by side, this is one of the very few occasions in the appellation where I think it might surpass it. Edouard Mialhe has radically improved Siran in recent years (see last year's report) and this is certainly one to watch."

92-94 Points – Neal Martin, Wine Advocate, April 2017



"This is a great follow-up to the 2015! Full-bodied, chewy and powerful. Solid core of ripe fruit and intense tannins. A triumph... again."

94-95 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

Drink to 2035

Château Labégorce 2016
Margaux Cru Bourgeois

£250 per 6x150cl IB
Arriving Spring 2019

94-96 Points Neal Martin
94-95 Points James Suckling

"This may be the best Labégorce ever. Full-bodied and dense yet vivid and energetic. Greatness in the making."

94-95 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

"The 2016 Labégorce is a blend of 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 52% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot picked between 4-21 October and matured in 45% new oak. What I like about the bouquet is that it is quintessential Margaux--it could not come from anywhere else. Crushed violets infuse black cherries, blueberry and iodine. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, very well-judged acidity, an elegant and very charming Margaux with pencil lead and a touch of spice on the long finish. What a brilliant wine from a Margaux estate that has really upped its game."

94-96 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



Drink to 2040

Château du Tertre 2016
Margaux 5ème Grand Cru Classé

£345 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

94-95 Points James Suckling
90-92 Points Neal Martin

"A dense and tight red with currants, blueberries and hints of walnuts. Changes from pure fruit and then back to wet earth. The purity in the cabernet, the linear tannins and the drive with acidity behind it makes it one of the best Tertres ever. Better than 2015?"

94-95 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

"The 2016 Du Tertre is a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot picked from 27 September until 19 October. Estate manager Alexandre van Peek told me that this represents one of the highest levels of Cabernet Sauvignon in recent years. Matured in 35% new oak, it has a harmonious bouquet with pure blackberry, raspberry and mineral scents that are neat and well defined. The palate is medium-bodied with crisp tannin, quite saline on the entry, understated at first, but gaining weight in the mouth and delivering a precise and mineral, classic Margaux finish. All it's missing is the persistence on the finish. It just seems to rush out the exit door before you've really gotten to know it. Hopefully it will develop that side during barrel maturation. Drink 2021-2045."

90-92 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



Drink to 2040

Château Marquis d'Alesme 2016
Margaux 3^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£175 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

92-94 Points Neil Martin
17 Points Jancis Robinson

"The 2016 Marquis d'Alesme Becker is a blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc cropped between 4-24 October and matured in 65% new oak. It has a tight and focused bouquet, well defined but less generous than its peers: blackberry, briary, a touch of limestone and cedar aromas gently unfolding in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with a grainy texture, very harmonious with superb depth, perhaps demonstrating more roundness and opulence than its peers with a very concentrated finish where I would just like to see more finesse come through."

92-94 Points – Neal Martin, Wine Advocate, April 2017

"Aromatic and fresh with lovely texture and integrity. Very firm spine. Lots of excitement. Well done."

17 Points – Jancis Robinson, Jancisrobinson.com, April 2017

Drink to 2040



Château Prieuré-Lichine 2016
Margaux 4^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£355 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

93-96 Points Antonio Galloni
95 Points Decanter

"The 2016 Prieuré-Lichine is one of the most beautiful and expressive wines of the year. Dark, sensual and inviting, it possesses remarkable depth and textural richness. All the elements are in the right place. Silky tannins, bright red fruit and soaring, lifted aromatics all contribute to the wine's sensual personality. Consulting winemakers Stéphane Derenoncourt and Julien Lavenu are doing absolutely brilliant work here. The new winery, inaugurated with the 2015 harvest, is giving the team the flexibility to pick and vinify smaller lots, which is one of the reasons quality has improved in recent vintages. The blend is 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot."

93-96 Points – Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com, April 2017

"This beautiful Margaux might not exceed the 2015 but it is undeniably doing a good job of keeping up. It combines elegance and richness, with extremely well extracted deep fruits and plenty of layers of finesse in the form of charcoal, slate, grilled almonds and cloves. An excellent Prieuré with good ageing potential. Drinking window 2027-2050."

95 Points – Jane Anson, Decanter.com, April 2017

Drink to 2040



**Château Giscours 2016
Margaux 3^{ème} Grand Cru Classé**

**£270 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019**

**96-97 Points James Suckling
93-95 Points Neal Martin**

"This is extremely long and linear with a powerful and refined texture of superfine tannins. Full-bodied, yet so tight and polished. The finish is very, very impressive. Snaps at the end. Better than the 2015?"

96-97 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

"The 2016 Giscours is a blend of 81% Cabernet Sauvignon and 19% Merlot, the highest percentage of Cabernet in recent years, picked between 26 September and 20 October. It was cropped at 45 hectoliters per hectare with 13.2% alcohol, which is a little less than in 2015. Naturally that dominant proportion of Cabernet drives the aromatics with blackberry, cedar and graphite aromas. The palate is very well structured, more masculine than the 2015 and maybe without quite the same level of precision, but there is great density and length to this Giscours. I found that improved in the glass, gaining more energy from the ether. It is an impressive follow-up to last year's Giscours. Drink 2022-2055."

93-95 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017

Drink to 2040



**Alter Ego de Château Palmer 2016
Margaux (2nd wine of Ch. Palmer)**

**£280 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019**

**95-96 Points James Suckling
93 Points Decanter**

"This is very concentrated yet soft and fresh in texture. Full-bodied and round and mouth-filling. So impressive how it fills your mouth yet remains fresh. It's so framed."

95-96 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

"Palmer lost 20% of its crop in the spring, and the Merlot was affected more than the Cabernet so there is only around half as much Alter Ego as normal. The yield here is 29hl/ha, so a lot less than most of Margaux, mainly due to vineyard rebalancing after moving to biodynamics and the spring crop loss. The harvest start date of 3rd October was the latest on record, following on from a very long, slow ripening leading to lots of tannins (71 IPT) which although soft and integrated are at a higher level than 2015, while the 3.65pH remains the same. Late harvests encourage elongated tannins, and Thomas says he has never seen such sophistication in the construction of the wines here, so different from the 2015. As with Palmer, Alter Ego has a highly aromatic nose, majoring here on damson and blackberry. Tasted on an overcast Friday morning and yet it sings, with the most beautifully soft expression of black fruits. It's a different style to others, the 13% ABV being extremely low for this amount of Merlot. Beautiful. Drink 2023 - 2040."

93 Points – Jane Anson, Decanter.com, April 2017

Drink to 2030



Château d'Issan 2016

Margaux 3ème Grand Cru Classé

£285 per 6 IB

Arriving Spring 2019

96-97 Points James Suckling

93-95 Points Neal Martin

"This is so energetic for a young d'Issan with lots of white pepper, crushed stones and blackberries. Full body, ultra-fine tannins and great length. One of the greatest ever. Superb depth and intensity to this real Bordeaux. Wow."

96-97 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

"The 2016 D'Issan is a blend of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon and 36% Merlot cropped between 29 September and 19 October, and matured in 50% new barrels. The alcohol is 13.3% and with a pH of 3.71. It has a very classic, slightly introverted bouquet with a light marine influence coming through, but remaining very reserved, a little aloof. The palate is medium-bodied with crisp tannin and fine delineation; it is very crisp and focused, a classic Margaux through and through with outstanding salinity and persistence towards the precise finish. This is a beautiful D'Issan for long-term ageing, on par with the 2015. Drink Date 2026 - 2060"

93-95 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



Drink to 2050

Château Brane-Cantenac 2016
Margaux 2^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£315 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

96-98 Points Neal Martin
95-96 Points James Suckling

"The 2016 Brane-Cantenac is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Carmenere picked from 22 September until 17 October (the tiny parcel of Carmenere picked three days later). The yields came in at 51 hectoliters per hectare and it is matured in 75% new oak and 25% one-year-old barrels, the final alcohol level 13.3%. It has a beautifully defined, very detailed bouquet with mineral-rich black fruit laced with cedar and graphite notes, living up to its nom de plume as the "Pauillac of Margaux." The palate is simply the best that I have ever tasted at the estate, without question. This has presence, but also weightlessness, filigree tannin and perfectly pitched acidity, with real intensity and drive. The tension here is outstanding and the persistence is incredibly long. It is not the showiest of all the 2016s by a long stretch, and yet it is everything you could possibly want from a Margaux. Like Beychevelle this year, the 2016 Brane-Cantenac puts recent vintages in the shade, thanks not only to the growing season, but also a new punching down system in their gravity-fed winery that was completed in 2015. The 2016 is a benchmark against which future vintages will be compared."

96-98 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017

"This is really strong from Brane-Cantenac this year with toned muscles and beautiful fruit. Full-bodied, chewy and polished. Shows wonderful intensity and density yet remains reserved and very tight. Very impressive from here. Grabs you. One of the best ever from here."

95-96 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

Drink to 2040



Château Rauzan-Ségla 2016
Margaux 2ème Grand Cru Classé

£370 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

96-97 Points James Suckling
95-97 Points Neal Martin

“A solid red with currant and blackberry character. Full body, soft tannins and a flavorful finish. Shows richness and excitement. Juicy and se*y undertone to this.”

96-97 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“The 2016 Rauzan-Ségla (Rausan-Segla) is a blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot picked between 20 September and 15 October at 45 hectoliters per hectare. The wine is being aged in 60% new oak for 18 months. It has 13.2% alcohol. It has a very powerful and intense bouquet with layers of blackberry, kirsch, cedar and a touch of mint. The palate is medium-bodied with plenty of fruit concentration: layers of ripe blackberry and boysenberry, segueing into what feels like a very spicy and peppery second half that seems to calm down and attain more nuance with aeration in the glass. It is a wonderful follow-up to the 2015 last year, although not quite with the same audacity and bravado.”

95-97 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



Drink to 2040

Graves & Pessac-Léognan Reds

**Clos Floridène (red) 2016
Graves**

**£125 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019**

**91-92 Points James Suckling
89-92 Points Wine Spectator**

“Very good depth of fruit here with plum and berry character. Medium to full body and a savory finish. Solid Graves, as always.”
91-92 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“ripe, with black cherry and plum sauce flavors, backed by a solid tarry edge. Focused finish.”
89-92 Points – James Molesworth, WineSpectator.com, April 2017

Drink to 2030



**Château La Garde 2016
Pessac-Léognan**

**£170 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019**

**17 Points Jancis Robinson
90-93 Points Wine Spectator**

“50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot. Very dark crimson. Light and fresh and concentrated. Really exciting, nervy, silky wine. Cool and beautiful balanced.”
17 Points – Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com, April 2017

“This sports a warm fruitcake note out front, followed by slightly toothy plum and raspberry paste flavors, turning to licorice hints on the well-toasted finish. A bit ambitious, but the showy fruit will have fans.”
90-93 Points – James Molesworth, Wine Spectator, April 2017

Drink to 2025



**Château de Fieuzal 2016
Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé**

**£385 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019**

**92-93 Points James Suckling
93 Points Decanter**

“A wine with depth and structure that’s defined by blackberry, blueberry and chocolate character. Full body, chewy tannins and a juicy finish. Shows potential.”
92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“Deep rose-violet colour, showing how easily anthocyanins were extracted this year. This is a lovely rich, well extracted, intense wine of succulent black cherry and damson fruits coupled with cigar box scents. It has this stunning balance and 'essence of Bordeaux' spirit that Pessac delivers so well in its best vintages.”
93 Points – Jane Anson, Decanter.com, April 2017

Drink to 2035



Château Malartic-Lagravière 2016
Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé

£246 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

95-96 Points James Suckling
94-96 Points Neal Martin

“The 2016 Malartic-Lagraviere is a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot picked between 13-20 October at 46 hectoliters per hectare. It is matured in 80% new oak and the remainder one year old. It has a very composed and pure bouquet with blackberry, mint and just a touch of blueberry, the new oak neatly integrated and menthol developing with time. The palate is very well balanced with crisp acidity, fine structure and a keen line of acidity; this is a pixelated Pessac-Léognan that exudes style and panache. There is an effortless nature to this wine and it feels so persistent in the mouth that you cannot wait to take another sip. This is (another) impressive release from the bonny Bonnie family and do not be surprised if it eventually surpasses the outstanding 2015.”

94-96 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



“This is so linear and refined with compacted fruit and superb tannin texture. The length and beauty to this grab you immediately and make you pay attention. Wait and see.”

95-96 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

Drink to 2040

Domaine de Chevalier 2016
Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé

£324 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

96-97 Points James Suckling
94-96 Points Neal Martin

“A dense and tight DC with mineral, crushed stone, cement and black currant. Full, tight and racy. Gorgeous. Leafs and tobacco undertones. Very tannic. Tight and so structured. Complex.”

96-97 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“The 2016 Domaine de Chevalier is a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot picked between 4-21 October at 45 hectoliters per hectare, and matured in 35% new oak. Oh yes! This is a perfumed bouquet that unfolds beautifully in the glass with blackberry, cedar, smoke and a light marine influence, not unlike Japanese nori. The palate is medium-bodied with such fine tannins that it bought to mind Burgundy rather than Bordeaux. There is a grainy texture here, quite saline in the mouth with an entrancing sense of symmetry, very classic but not austere on the finish, with a long and saline aftertaste. This is an outstanding Domaine de Chevalier from the busiest man in Bordeaux, Oliver Bernard.”

94-96 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



Drink to 2040

Château Haut-Bailly 2016
Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé

£498 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

98-99 Points James Suckling
96-98 Points Neal Martin
97 Decanter

"This young wine shows such pinpoint precision with a full body, dense fruit and gorgeous intensity. Muscular yet toned and beautiful. It really builds on the finish. Very fine-grained. So long and beautiful. Sophisticated power. Oyster shell and iodine undertones. Traditional style yet with a modern interpretation. Savory."

98-99 Points – James Suckling, *JamesSuckling.com*, April 2017

"The 2016 Haut Bailly is a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc picked between 26 September until 18 October. Coming in with 13.6% alcohol and an IPT of 81, which is quite close to 2010, this was quite closed at first and so I allowed my sample 15-20 minutes to open while discussing the vintage with Véronique Sanders and technical manager, Gabriel Vialard. It has a classic bouquet that is certainly less opulent and extravagant than recent vintages. This is more controlled and focused, beautifully delineated with blackberry, cedar and Earl Grey aromas that gently waft from the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine-grain tannin, sappy with superb delineation and real weight and presence in the mouth. There is just the right amount of spice and salinity, the latter beckoning you back for another sip and there is a haunting pencil lead note that forms the closing credits on the aftertaste. What a brilliant Haut-Bailly, perhaps the best that I have tasted in almost 20 years of tasting at this estate. Drink 2024-2060."

96-98 Points – Neal Martin, *RobertParker.com*, April 2017

Drink to 2050



Château La Mission Haut-Brion 2016
Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé

£1975 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

98-100 Points Neal Martin
96-97 Points James Suckling
98 Points Decanter

"The texture to this is very beautiful with chewy yet very polished tannins. Full-bodied, tight and mouth-filling. Starts very slowly and then takes off. Love the energy in this."

96-97 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

"The 2016 La Mission Haut Brion is a blend of 57.5% Merlot and 42.5% Cabernet Sauvignon picked between 19 September and 14 October, one of the longest ever. "We had to be patient and wait for each plot," Jean-Philippe Delmas told me. "It took longer than usual." As is customary, I allowed my sample, and likewise all the wines poured at this tasting, around 40-45 minutes to open since they always transform in the glass. It has a clean and precise, quite understated bouquet with fine mineralité, cold stone aromas infusing the black fruit. This has incredible precision, perhaps even more pixelated than the "gaff over the road" Haut-Brion. The palate is medium-bodied with supple and lithe tannin. I appreciate the line of acidity here, the smoothness and harmony that takes your breath away. Every atom is infused with life-affirming freshness. It is a wine bridled with incredible focus and delineation. I thought that the 2015 La Mission Haut-Brion flirted with perfection. The 2016 has that extra edge, a "je ne sais quoi" that leaves you reaching for the thesaurus looking for superlatives. Drink 2026-2070."

98-100 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017

Drink to 2060



Other Left Bank Reds

Château Sénéjac 2016
Haut-Médoc

£115 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2019

92-93 Points James Suckling

"Dense and layered with blueberry and chocolate character. Medium body, fine tannins and a flavorful finish. Racy and refined already."

92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017



Drink to 2026

Château Lanessan 2016
Haut-Médoc Cru Bourgeois

£120 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2019

92-93 Points James Suckling

"A structured young red with currant and berry character. Medium body, velvety tannins and a savory finish."

92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017



Drink to 2027

Château Charmail 2016
Haut-Médoc

£135 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

91-92 Points James Suckling
90-92 Points Neal Martin

"The 2016 Charmail is a blend of 12% Cabernet Franc, 10% Petit Verdot, 36% Merlot and 42% Cabernet Sauvignon cropped between 3-21 October and matured in one-third new oak. It has a slightly leafy bouquet that is nicely detailed, good depth with cracked black pepper emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with rustic tannin, great depth and grip, very fine salinity with a Saint-Estèphe-like structure on the finish. The 2015 Charmail was excellent and this is likewise."

90-92 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



"Blueberry and blackberry character with hints of stones and minerals. Medium to full body and firm and silky tannins. Wonderful tannin quality here."

91-92 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

Drink to 2030

Château La Tour Carnet 2016
Haut-Médoc 5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£245 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

92-93 Points James Suckling
91-93 Points Neal Martin

"A linear and pretty wine with plenty of blackberry aromas and flavors to complement a tight and chewy tannin structure. Medium to full body and a bright finish. More structured than the 2015."
92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

"The 2016 La Tour Carnet is a blend of 60% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc that was picked between 4 and 21 October. Matured in 30% new oak, it has more freshness and delineation than the Château des Grands Chênes that I tasted alongside, touches of blue fruit and floral scents lending it a Margaux-like personality. The palate is smooth and velvety on the entry with fine tannin, lush and precocious yet maintaining fine freshness and precision on the finish. Its texture is nigh irresistible. It is excellent, though will it surpass the 2015?"
91-93 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



Drink to 2040

Château Belgrave 2016
Haut-Médoc 5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£250 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

92-93 Points James Suckling
90-92 Points Neal Martin

"This is really constructed and powerful with lots of muscular tannins and rich fruit. Full-bodied, juicy and intense. Very serious. One of the best in years."
92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

"The 2016 Belgrave is a blend of 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot and was picked from 28 September until 20 October. It has a generous bouquet with small dark cherries, blueberry and crushed violet aromas, quite Margaux-like in style. There is certainly good intensity here. The palate is medium-bodied with a supple opening: blackberry, mint and cedar. From the start there is fine tension and there is very impressive structure towards the finish, plus a long saline aftertaste. This is a very strong follow-up to the 2015 Belgrave and indeed, it may surpass it."
90-92 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



Drink to 2035

Château Chasse-Spleen 2016
Moulis-en-Médoc

£255 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

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

“A solid and linear young wine with blackcurrant and berry character, a medium to full body and a savory finish. Another excellent, young Chasse-Spleen.”

92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“The 2016 Chasse-Spleen has a very elegant bouquet with neatly integrated oak, the terroir really showing through here, hints of cedar and smoke emerging with time. The palate is fresh as a button on the entry. It is cut through with a superb line of acidity that engenders superb tension, the tannins firm but fine with a subtle marine influence towards the persistent finish. This is a fabulous Chasse-Spleen, the best I have ever tasted from the estate. It could end up at the top of by banded score.”

92-94 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



Drink to 2030

Château Cantemerle 2016
Haut-Médoc 5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£260 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

94-95 James Suckling
93 Points Decanter

“Dense and chewy already with plenty of ripe tannins and bright fruit. Vivid acidity. Full body, a firm and silky texture and a flavorful finish. Lots going on. Excellent follow-up to the great 2015!”

94-95 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“For me this is easily one of their best ever wines, totally living up to its fifth growth billing. Lovely and juicy with excellent tension, really walking that line. Menthol, cassis and cedar are framed by well-wrought tannins that bring the whole thing together and lead onto a juicy finish. The blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot is aged in 40% new oak for 12 months, followed by a further four months in vats before bottling.”

93 Points – Jane Anson, Decanter, April 2017



Drink to 2040

St-Emilion & Satellites

Château Puy-Blanquet 2016
St Emilion Grand Cru

£150 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2019

90-91 Points James Suckling
16.5 Points Jancis Robinson

“A firm and structured young wine with blackberry, berry and dark-chocolate character. Medium body and fine tannins. Lovely energy and clarity.”

90-91 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“Fresh and vibrant on the nose. With an extremely dark colour. Very fresh - even skittish! A real emissary of the vintage at this address. Light tannins. Drink 2022-2034.”

16.5 Points – Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com, April 2017

Drink to 2030



Château Côte de Baleau 2016
St-Emilion Grand Cru

£180 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

90-92 Points Neal Martin
91 Points Decanter

“The 2016 Cote de Baleau has a lovely, very pretty bouquet with ebullient red cherry and crushed strawberry fruit with beautifully integrated oak. The palate is medium-bodied with precise, carefully placed tannin. There is fine focus here, just a touch of rigidity in the mouth, quite saline and spicy, a Saint Emilion that just needs a little (during élevage) to gain some more flesh.”

90-92 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017

“A 14.9ha property owned by Philippe and Matthieu Cevelier of Clos Fourtet, one of their fairly recent purchases of three properties. This has some clear black fruit flavours and lovely, controlled spicing. Very appetising , with the focus on minerality and salinity even though this is powerfully structured. Hugely promising. Planted to 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon.”

91 Points – Jane Anson, Decanter.com, April 2017

Drink to 2030



Château Fombrauge 2016
St-Emilion Grand Cru

£205 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

93-94 Points James Suckling
91-93 Points Neal Martin

"Dense and fresh red with lots of blackberries, blueberries and walnuts. Hints of chocolate. Full-bodied, tight and refined yet always showing muscle."

93-94 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

"The 2016 Fombrauge is a blend of 93% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc picked from 30 September to the 22 October, clearly more expressive on the nose compared to the 2016 Magrez-Fombrauge with attractive blackberry, raspberry coulis and cold stone aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, linear but fresh with a grippy, slightly tarry finish that lingers in the mouth. It needs to find a little more "lightness" in terms of personality rather than intensity, perhaps not take itself quite so seriously. But I still find much to enjoy here and I look forward to tasting it in bottle. Tasted twice with consistent notes."

91-93 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017

Drink to 2040



Château Fonplégade 2016
St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé

£310 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

94-95 Points James Suckling
91-93 Points Neal Martin

"Tight and layered with beautiful fruit here. Full and chewy. Lots going on here. Interested to see its evolution. Velvety and rich. From organically grown grapes."

94-95 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

"The 2016 Fonplégade, Stephen and Denise Adams' property in Saint Emilion, has a tightly wound bouquet at first, so much so that I afforded it ten minutes to unfold in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with a firm grip on the entry. This is a more opaque Saint Emilion compared to others, although I like the balance and the weight/concentration towards the muscular finish. There is much more backbone here compared to the 2015 but I also discern more control and precision. This is probably a wine that is going to require a few years in bottle, but it should be worth that wait."

91-93 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017

Drink to 2035



Château Berliquet 2016
St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé

£325 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

95-96 Points James Suckling
91-93 Points Neal Martin

"The 2016 Berliquet, 25% Cabernet Franc and 75% Merlot, is the third vintage that has seen more emphasis on Cabernet Franc. It has an attractive bouquet with black cherries, a touch of crème de cassis and incense aromas, quite generous and pretty. The oak is nicely integrated here. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent ripe tannin that exert a gentle but insistent grip in the mouth. There is a lovely saline seam in the mouth with a little chalkiness coming through on the aftertaste. This is a strong follow-up to the 2015 Berliquet, and the substance suggests that it will age well in bottle."

91-93 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017

"This is a really powerful red with fantastic density and richness. Silky and chewy tannins. Lots of chalky, crushed limestone character. Impressive. Let's see what is better: the 2016 or 2015."

95-96 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

Drink to 2040



Château Bellefont-Belcier 2016
St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé

£335 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

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

"The 2016 Bellefont Belcier is a blend of 65% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon matured in 80% new oak. It has a satisfying if not sensational bouquet that does not quite get to grips with its propitious terroir as I was hoping. This came across as a little muted perhaps. The palate is sweet and velvety on the entry with a fine bead of acidity. It gathers pace, gaining more intensity towards its spice-tinged finish with a hint of graphite courtesy of the Cabernet Sauvignon, although I was seeking a little more length on the aftertaste. There is certainly good aging potential here, and I suspect that it will come together nicely once in bottle."

92-94 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017

"Wow. This really excelled in 2016 with so much intensity and focus. Dark berry and floral character. Full and tight. Superfine tannins. Excellent."

94-95 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017



**Château La Serre 2016
St Emilion Grand Cru**

**£420 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2019**

**91-92 Points James Suckling
17 Points Jancis Robinson**

“Chewy and juicy with lots of fruit and walnut character. Hints of vanilla. Full to medium body, a round texture and a flavorful finish. Like it.”

91-92 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“Deep crimson. Very rich blackberry compote nose. Rather exotically ripe top notes. Then great zip on the palate. Beautifully judged freshness. Real energy here. Drink 2024-2038.”

17 Points – Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com, April 2017

Drink to 2032



**Château Larcis-Ducasse 2016
St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé**

**£321 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019**

**95-96 Points James Suckling
93-95 Points Neal Martin**

“This is very polished and beautiful with ultra-fine tannins and a long, linear finish. It has a density and beauty that seduces you.”

95-96 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“The 2016 Larcis-Ducasse is a blend of 87% Merlot and 13% Cabernet Franc picked between 12-19 October, matured in 225- and 500-liter barrels. It matured in 50% new oak, which is a lower proportion than you would have found in 2009 or 2010. It has a lively, expressive bouquet with detailed blackberry, briary and cranberry aromas that are neatly embroidered with the new oak, allowing the terroir to show through. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, very well balanced, quite spicy and peppery in the mouth but maintaining satisfying tension from start to finish. This is a very well crafted Larcis-Ducasse although I hope that during the élevage it will just gain more persistence on the aftertaste. One to watch.”

93-95 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017

Drink to 2040



Château Trottevieille 2016
St-Emilion 1^{er} Grand Cru Classé

£350 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

97-98 Points James Suckling
93-95 Points Neal Martin

“The polish and intensity to this are really impressive with such finesse and balance. Full-bodied yet tight and gorgeous. Tight and reserved. Such ethereal beauty. Finish goes on for minutes.”

97-98 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“The 2016 Trottevieille is a blend of 45% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Sauvignon and 53% Cabernet Franc picked on 6 October for the Merlot and 18 October for the Cabernets, one of the latest in recent years. The yield was 37 hectoliters per hectare, and it is matured entirely in new oak. The bouquet is quite intense, although personally I would have employed less new oak. However, it does open up nicely in the glass and imparts nuances such as orange blossom and incense aromas with time. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, well judged acidity, and here I feel the oak is simpatico with the fruit. It has a lovely grainy texture, great depth and maintains precision all the way through to the finish. This is a strong follow-up to the 2015 Trottevieille although it will require several years in bottle to subsume the oak.”

93-95 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



Drink to 2040

Château Pavie-Macquin 2016
St-Emilion 1^{er} Grand Cru Classé

£360 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

96-99 Points Antonio Galloni
97-98 Points James Suckling

“A wine of total finesse, the 2016 Pavie Macquin is also one of the most riveting wines of the vintage. Silky and supple on the palate, with no hard edges and exceptional balance, it takes over all the senses and never lets up. The flavors are bright, precise and beautifully nuanced. Above all else, Pavie Macquin is a wine of elegance, and that is exactly what comes through in the 2016. The wine plays in the dimensions of bright, floral-infused, red-toned fruits, silky tannins and length more than pure power or breadth. The 2016 is a stunningly beautiful bottle of wine and one of the finest reds of the year - it's as simple as that. In 2016, Nicolas Thienpont opted for long macerations of around four weeks in a combination of cement and oak. Tasted three times.”

96-99 Points – Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com, April 2017



“This is a really fantastic PM! The licorice, fresh mushroom, sous bois and stone character is so exciting. It's full and very layered with exceptional depth and length. Compressed and focused. Pure silk.”

97-98 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

Drink to 2040

Clos Fourtet 2016
St-Emilion 1^{er} Grand Cru Classé

£506 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

95-96 Points James Suckling
95-97 Points Neal Martin

"This is a solid and structured 2016 with fabulous density and freshness. Full-bodied yet vibrant and exciting. Wow. We will see."
95-96 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

"The 2016 Clos Fourtet is a blend of 90% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc aged in 60% new oak. It has a generous, well defined licorice-tinged fruit that is very focused. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, blackberry and boysenberry fruit with that salted licorice theme continuing. This Clos Fourtet has impressive concentration, yet there is real elegance and persistence, fanning out wonderfully towards the finish. Mathieu Cuvelier has overseen another outstanding Clos Fourtet. Tasted twice, with a second bottle demonstrating a tad more backbone but equally admirable."
95-97 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



Drink to 2045

Château Beauséjour
(Duffau-Lagarrosse) 2016
St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé

£513 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

98-99 Points James Suckling
96 Points Decanter
93-95 Points Neal Martin

"Is this the twin brother of the amazing 2015? We will see. What a superb density and richness with bright and intense tannins that are buttressed with fresh acidity. Beautiful finish."
98-99 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

"The 2016 Beausejour (Duffau Lagarrosse) is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc picked between 18 October and 21 October, matured in 55% new oak. The alcohol is 14.4%, with a pH of 3.38. It has a very perfumed bouquet with luscious red cherry and wild strawberry fruit, fine delineation, touches of truffle and smoke in the background. The palate is medium-bodied with very supple tannin that belie the structure of this Saint Emilion. This has a gorgeous salinity and spiciness that lend it character, very long and persistent with a tang of black pepper on the aftertaste. This is a step up from the 2015 last year and should rest at the top of my banded score once in bottle. Drink 2021 - 2040"
93-95 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



Drink to 2035

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

£660 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

94-96 Points Neal Martin
95-96 Points James Suckling

“The 2016 Belair-Monange, the home of Edouard Moueix and his family, is a blend of 92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc. It has a tightly wound bouquet with red and black fruit, touches of cedar and smoke developing in the glass, reticent at first but unfolding nicely in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with grippy tannin, a more structured and rigid Belair-Monange compared to recent vintages, adorned with fine salinity on the finish. It will require several years in bottle to show its best, but it will be worth waiting for. Drink Date 2022 - 2056”

94-96 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017

“A very dense and pretty center palate of dried fruit, spices and dried tobacco. Medium to full body, chewy tannins and a savory finish. Linear and racy. Tight and reserved now but wait to see the structure develop fabulously.”

95-96 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

Drink to 2040



Pomerol & Lalande de Pomerol

Château Chantalouette 2016
Pomerol

£190 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2019

“Not as yet scored by the major critics, but having tasted this wine since the 2000 vintage, I’m confident that this is the finest vintage I’ve tasted. Rich, dense and concentrated, but with the hallmark freshness of Moueix’s wines.”

Angus McLean, Fine Wine Manager



Drink to 2024

Château Maillet
Pomerol

£295 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2019

94-95 Points James Suckling

“Another winner from this chateau with very pretty and dynamic fruit, fine tannins and a savory finish. Big wine that needs taming.”

94-95 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017



Drink to 2035

Château Bourgneuf 2016
Pomerol

£375 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2019

92-93 Points James Suckling
92-94 Points Wine Enthusiast

“Linear and racy with pretty berry and blackberry character and hints of walnuts. Medium to full body and firm tannins. Shows intensity and class.”

92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017



“A dense wine with ripe tannins. The fruit is there, although buried in the firm structure. It’s good for the long term.”

92-94 Points – Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast, April 2017

Drink to 2038

**Château Gazin 2016
Pomerol**

**£355 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019**

**94-96 Points Neal Martin
94-95 Points James Suckling**

“The 2016 Gazin is a blend of 87% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8% Cabernet Franc this year, picked from 22 September with respect to the Merlot and from around 7 or 8 October for the Cabernet Franc. Now this has quite a powerful bouquet for Gazin, more heightened fruit compared to recent vintages with blackberry, briary and pressed flower aromas that are well defined (although my sample demanded two or three minutes to really find its voice). The palate is medium-bodied with a gently grip on the entry. I adore the tannic structure to this Gazin, equidistant between masculine and feminine, a backbone that will ensure this will age over many years. There is abundant, lightly spiced black fruit with a touch of cracked black pepper and clove towards the finish. The 50% new oak will add a little muscle onto the finish, thereupon you will have a really marvelous Gazin that will give three years (sic) of drinking pleasure, possibly more. Drink 2023-2055.”

94-96 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017

“Tight and silky with plum, blackberry and blueberry character. Medium-to full-bodied, firm and silky. Very linear and bright. A pretty follow-up to the stupendous 2015.”

94-95 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

Drink to 2040



**Château La Fleur-Pétrus
Pomerol**

**£950 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019**

**98-99 Points James Suckling
98 Points Decanter
95-98 Antonio Galloni**

“So much to this and it shows the magic of Pomerol. Full-bodied, layered and tannic with all the energy and focus of a great vintage from this estate. Superb.”

98-99 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“It's been fascinating to watch the progression of this wine over the past few years as they have pushed out the less interesting parcels and pulled in those of Guillot and Providence. It is now a very complete footprint of 18.7ha around the 'plateau', not dropping below 30 metres (their definition of a plateau). This is now without a doubt one of the true stars of the appellation, planted to 91% Merlot and 9% Cabernet Franc on gravel and deep clay on an iron-rich subsoil. There are no corners cut here at all. It pulls you in with a seductive caress of violet and peony notes, then fills up the mid-palate with black cherry and bilberry, rounding it off with slate and cool ash. Tightly controlled and perfectly extracted.”

98 Points – Jane Anson, Decanter.com, April 2017

Drink to 2040



**Château L'Eglise-Clinet
Pomerol**

**£1350 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019**

**97-99 Points Neal Martin
98-99 Points James Suckling
98 Points Decanter**

"The 2016 L'Eglise-Clinet is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc picked between 21 September and 4 October for the former and on 6 October for the latter. It was cropped at 43 hectoliters per hectare and matured in 80% new oak, with around 14.2% alcohol. Lucid in color, it has a quintessential L'Eglise-Clinet bouquet with blackberry, raspberry coulis, liquid minerals and hints of iris and incense. The palate is very precise and crisp, some of the finest tannins that you will encounter in Pomerol, tensile right from the beginning, taut and linear with immense precision towards the extended mineral-soaked finish. This is nothing less than a brilliant wine from Denis Durantou, undoubtedly one of the stars of the vintage.

Drink Date 2024 – 2050."

97-99 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017

"This has so much violet and black-olive character to it. It's full-bodied and powerful with incredible power and depth of old-vine tannins. It just rolls on and on. What a finish."

98-99 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

Drink to 2030



Other Right Bank Reds

Château Les Grands-Maréchaux 2016
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux

£70 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

92-93 Points James Suckling
88-90 Points Antonio Galloni

“Direct and linear with blackberry, blueberry and dark-cherry character. Medium-bodied, tight and bright. Better in 2016 than 2015. No rain.”
92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“The 2016 Les Grands Maréchaux is gorgeous. Silky, perfumed and light on its feet, the 2016 possesses terrific persistence and good aromatic lift to its bright red fruit. Medium in body and nicely polished, it is shaping up to be a jewel of a wine. The 2016 is 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc from a clay/limestone site in Blaye. Julien Lavenu and Romain Bocchio consult.”
88-90 Points – Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com, April 2017



Drink to 2030

Château Gigault ‘Cuvée Viva’ 2016
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux

£95 per 12 IB
£105 per 6x150cl IB
£60 per 1x300cl IB
Arriving Spring 2019

93-94 Points James Suckling

“Tight and rich with a very dense center palate and pretty fruit. Medium to full body and a long finish. Special cuvee shines in 2016!”
93-94 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017



Drink to 2030 (2035+ in magnums and double-magnums)

Château Marsau 2016
Francs Côtes de Bordeaux

£125 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2019

93-94 Points James Suckling
90-93 Points Wine Spectator

“This is a rich and dense Marsau and probably the best ever. Full body and a wonderful depth of fruit and chocolate. Love the texture and intensity. Shows sophistication.”
93-94 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“This sports a fleshy feel, with warm plum and cassis notes supported by a fresh chalky spine. Shows good energy through the finish. Sneakily long.”
90-93 Points – James Molesworth, WineSpectator.com, April 2017



Drink to 2024

Château Dalem 2016
Fronsac

£170 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2019

92-93 Points James Suckling
90-93 Points Wine Spectator

“Crushed-stone and blackberry character. Full and dense. Fantastic depth and purity. Tightly wound, silky ball. Better than 2015?”

92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“Shows ripe, almost lush flavors of plum and blackberry fruit that spill over the bay, tobacco and chalk notes. Pulls together nicely on the finish. Should be solid when finished.”

90-93 Points – James Molesworth, WineSpectator.com, April 2017

Drink to 2030



Château Fontenil 2016
Fronsac

£175 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

92-93 Points James Suckling
90-92 Points Neal Martin

“Very pretty balance to this with a juicy fruit character, bright acidity and a long and flavorful finish. Savory and juicy.”

92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“The 2016 Fontenil has a tightly wound bouquet with blackberry and subtle undergrowth aromas that change towards more marine-like, estuarine scents. There is certainly good complexity here. The palate is nicely poised with plenty of dusky black fruit. There is actually a very slight green edge...not under-ripe, perhaps more a leafiness that actually complements this Fronsac and lends freshness. I think this will turn out very fine once in bottle.”

90-92 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017

Drink to 2030



Château d'Aiguilhe 2016
Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux

£190 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

91-94 Points Wine Spectator
90-92 Points Neal Martin

“Well-formed and integrated already, with a fleshy edge and good energy throughout. Features plum, anise and blackberry fruit, accented by a streak of bramble. A tasty wine in the making.”

91-94 Points – James Molesworth, Wine Spectator, April 2017

“The 2016 Chateau d'Aiguilhe is a blend of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc picked from 30 September until 18 October, matured in 30% new oak. It has a warm and sensual bouquet: small macerated black cherries, blueberry and sloes, a light floral tincture emerging with time. This has a little more strictness compared to the 2015 last year. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin and good body. Sappy black fruit, a touch of spice towards the finish, and you have yourself a very fine Côtes de Castillon.”

90-92 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017

Drink to 2030



Dry Whites

**Château Thieuley 'Cuvée Francis
Courselle' Blanc 2016
Bordeaux**

**£75 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019**

**87-89 Points Neal Martin
87-88 Points James Suckling**

"The 2016 Cuvée Francis Courselle Blanc from Château Thieuley has a light, slightly chalky bouquet that needs just a touch more presence. It feels a little distant at the moment. The palate is fresh on the entry with crisp acidity, a hint of sour lemon on the entry with good freshness and a lively, stem ginger tinged finish."
87-88 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



"Soft and fruity with cooked-apple and pear character. Medium body and a simple finish."
87-88 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017
Drink to 2025

**Château La Garde Blanc 2016
Pessac-Léognan**

**£170 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019**

**92-93 Points James Suckling
92-94 Points Wine Enthusiast
89-91 Points Neal Martin**

"Tight and minerally with sliced-apple and lemon character. Medium body and flavors of fennel and stone with hints of chalk. Creamy texture and a flavorful finish. Punch at the end."
92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017



"The La Garde 2016 Blanc is a blend of 86% Sauvignon Blanc and 14% Sémillon from vines grown only on limestone soil, matured in 12% new oak. It has a light apple blossom and gravel-scented bouquet that needs just a little more energy. The palate is well balanced with crisp acidity, fresh lime and grapefruit cordial on the entry with a touch of spice towards the finish. I appreciate the weight of this La Garde and there is fine tension on the finish. This is well worth checking out, especially given the market price."
89-91 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017

Drink to 2024

**Château La Tour Carnet Blanc 2016
Bordeaux**

**£135 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2019**

**91-92 Points James Suckling
90-92 Points Neal Martin**

"A fresh and very pretty white with sliced apples, pears and lemon rind plus hints of salt. Medium body, bright fruit and a steely finish."
91-92 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

"The La Tour Carnet 2016 Blanc is a blend of 75% Sauvignon Blanc and 25% Semillon that was cropped at 26 hectoliters per hectare. It has a lovely bouquet with lime flower and lemon curd scents mixed with a touch of chalk dust. The palate is fresh and vibrant with fine acidity, the two grape varieties working well together, fanning out with pineapple and hints of papaya on the long and tender finish. This comes recommended."
90-92 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



Drink to 2030

Château Malartic-Lagravière Blanc 2016 £246 per 6 IB
Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé Arriving Spring 2019

93-94 Points James Suckling
90-93 Points Antonio Galloni

“A dense and layered white with lots of cooked-pear and apple character. Full and intense. Lots going on here. Wait and see.”
93-94 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“Malartic Lagravière's 2016 Blanc is one of the most distinctive whites of the vintage. Creamy, vivid and layered, it exudes personality from start to finish. Slate, crushed rocks, white orchard fruit, smoke and citrus notes are all beautifully delineated in this classy, expressive wine. Michel Rolland is the consultant.”
90-93 Points – Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com, April 2017



Drink to 2030

Domaine de Chevalier Blanc 2016 £426 per 6 IB
Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé Arriving Spring 2019

96-97 Points James Suckling
90-92 Points Neal Martin

“A white with sliced apple, pear and lemon character. Medium to full body, layered and so long. Tight and exciting. So salty and minerally. Structured. Phenolic intensity and all wound up. What a white!”
96-97 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“The Domaine de Chevalier 2016 Blanc has a somewhat delicate, nuanced bouquet this year, one that demanded gentle coaxing from the glass. It reveals delineated aromas of green apple, gooseberry and kiwi fruit, flintiness tucked just behind. The palate is well balanced and slightly Burgundy-like on the entry (strangely, not unlike a Nuits-Saint-Georges Blanc!). It opens nicely in the glass but never loses its head. The palate is well balanced with crisp acidity and fine delineation, with pretty lemongrass and shaved ginger notes judiciously sprinkled over the finish. It is a Domaine de Chevalier Blanc that I would be inclined to consume in its youth rather than cellar, but hey, you never know the longevity of these wines; they can always surprise you.”
90-92 Points – Neal Martin, RobertParker.com, April 2017



Drink to 2030

Sauternes & Barsac

Clos Haut-Peyraguey 2016 (37.5cl)
Sauternes 1^{er} Grand Cru Classé

£145 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

94-95 Points James Suckling
92-95 Points Wine Spectator
17 Points Jancis Robinson

"This is really spicy and rich with lots of dried-pineapple and honey character. Full-bodied, oily and flavorful. Really captures your attention. Better than the 2015"

94-95 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

"Quite intense nose. Lots of richness. Very classic, rich pear juice. Beautifully balanced and very intense."

17 Points – Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com, April 2017

Drink to 2030++



Château Doisy-Védrières 2016
(37.5cl)
Sauternes 2^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£145 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

91-92 Points James Suckling
93 Points Decanter
16.5 Points Jancis Robinson

"Tangy and fruity with a honey and lemon-rind character. Lots of orange peel, too. Medium to full body and a sweet finish."

91-92 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

"Based in Barsac, and has that wonderful spicy tight minerality of a Barsac. A really late harvest this year, right through til the end of October. This has such a beautiful balm yet again for me lacks some pep. It's not a 2007 or 2001 or 2011. But it's gorgeous. The texture of these wines is so crazily seductive and the power and intensity of toasted blood orange slices is stunning, but it would benefit from a lime soaked twist."

93 Points – Jane Anson, Decanter Magazine, April 2017

Drink to 2030+



Château Coutet 2016 (37.5cl)
Barsac 1^{er} Grand Cru Classé

£160 per 12 IB
Arriving spring 2019

94-95 Points James Suckling
95-97 Points Wine Enthusiast

"Oily and dense with lots of sliced-cooked-pineapple, honey and light spice character. Full body and a long and spicy finish. Lasts a long time on the palate."

94-95 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

"This wine is dense, mingling spicy nutmeg along with superb ripe honey and marmalade flavors. With its balanced acidity and opulence, it is going to be a great wine."

95-97 Points – Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast, April 2017

Drink to 2030++



Château Doisy-Daëne 2016 (37.5cl)
Barsac 2^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£160 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

94-95 Points James Suckling
17 Points Jancis Robinson

“This is very serious with lots of spicy, botrytis character and a deep and dense palate. Full-bodied, very sweet and long on the finish.”

94-95 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“Serious stuff. Very precise. Racy edge that reminds me of something medical – a refreshing pine disinfectant? Lots of energy. Valérie Lavigne has taking an interest in this for some time. A worthy memento of the late Denis Dubordieu. Drink 2024-2037”

17 Points – Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com, April 2017

Drink to 2030++



Château Rieussec 2016 (37.5cl)
Sauternes 1^{er} Grand Cru Classé

£250 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

98-99 James Suckling
93-96 Antonio Galloni

“Lots of botrytis here in addition to dried mushrooms and dried fruit such as pineapple and peaches. Medium to full body. Medium sweet. Very long and intense. A triumph.”

98-99 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2017

“The 2016 Rieussec is gorgeous. Despite the relatively low acidity of the vintage, it preserves a good deal of aromatic freshness, with plenty of lemon confit, passion fruit and coconut overtones. The decision to lower the Sémillon a touch and increase the Sauvignon Blanc has paid handsome rewards. The 2016 is not a truly profound Sauternes - that would have been nearly impossible this vintage - but it comes close. Quite frankly, it is nearly impossible to spit.”

93-96 Points – Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com, April 2017

Drink to 2040



Mixed Cases

2016 St-Estèphe Mix

£260 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

Contains two bottles each of:

Château Capbern, St-Estèphe Cru Bourgeois **92-93 JS**
Château Lilian-Ladouys, St-Estèphe **93-94 JS**
Château Meyney, St-Estèphe Cru Bourgeois **95-96 JS**
Château Les Ormes-de-Pez, St-Estèphe Cru Bourgeois **93-94 JS**
La Dame de Montrose, St-Estèphe (2nd Wine of Montrose) **17 JR**
Pagodes de Cos, St-Estèphe (2nd Wine of Cos) **93-94 JS**



2016 Premium Mix

£595 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

Contains two bottles each of:

Château d'Armailhac, Pauillac 5^{ème} GCC **95-96 JS**
Château Batailley, Pauillac 5^{ème} GCC **95-96 JS**
Château Brane-Cantenac, Margaux 2^{ème} GCC **96-98 WA**
Domaine de Chevalier, Pessac-Léognan GCC **95-96 JS**
Château Pavie-Macquin, St-Emilion 1^{er} GCC **96-99 AG**
Château Léoville-Barton, St-Julien 2^{ème} GCC **96-99 WS**



2016 Sauternes Mix (37.5cl)

£155 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2019

Contains three half bottles each of:

Clos Haut-Peyraguey, Sauternes 1^{er} G. Cru Classé **94-95 JS**
Château Doisy-Védrières, Sauternes 2^{ème} G. Cru Classé **93 Dec.**
Château Doisy-Daëne, Barsac 2^{ème} Grand Cru Classé **94-95 JS**
Château Coutet, Barsac 1^{er} Grand Cru Classé **96 Dec.**





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- Wines ordered through our En Primeur service can only be cancelled within 14 days of placing the order. A full refund of any payment made up to this point will be given on receipt of written notification of the cancellation of the order. Due to the nature of the En Primeur sales we regret that orders cannot be cancelled after this time.
- When the wine arrives with us in the UK, we will send you the final invoice. This invoice will include the delivery cost to a UK address, duty (currently £2.16 per 0.75l bottle excl VAT), plus the VAT applicable on the day of the final invoice (currently 20%). Upon payment of the appropriate amount we will action your despatch instructions.
- If you do not contact us with instructions within 6 weeks of your wines being ready, we will place the wines into bonded storage on your behalf and at your cost. For further details please refer to our full Ts & Cs.
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- It is your responsibility to keep us informed of any changes of address in order to maintain any reservations you may have with us.
- All wines are insured by us at the original invoice value until your delivery and/or storage instructions have been completed.
- All goods are offered subject to availability. If the wines you have selected are unavailable we will contact you to advise you of this. If the producer fails to supply us with the wine we will contact you with available alternatives or offer a refund of monies paid.
- Force Majeure – Direct Wines Ltd/Laithwaite's Wine will not be liable for failure to meet agreed obligations due to prevailing circumstances including but not limited to any act of God, war, strike, lock-out, industrial accident or other event beyond its reasonable control.
- All disputes arising out of this contract shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Courts of England and Wales.
- For our full terms and conditions, including those relating to our 100% guarantee, non-delivery and cancellations, please go to www.laithwaites.co.uk/terms.

28.02.18