

# 2025 Bordeaux En Primeur

Tasting notes and opinion



Montrachet  
Fine Wine Merchants

# 2025 BORDEAUX

Serious, modern reds - Rich, dry whites - Stupendous, sweet whites

2025 Bordeaux is a small crop of intensely flavoured, balanced wines that joins the ranks of several successful recent vintages which combine richness with ageing potential: 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020 & 2022.

After a mild spring and an early flowering, one of the warmest summers on record guaranteed an early harvest. The poor flower initiation because of the dismal 2024 summer weather had already limited the size of the potential crop which was further restricted by one of the driest summers on record. All five summer months from May to September saw rainfall below the average of the past 30 years with above average temperatures and hours of sunshine in all but September. As usual, there were discrepancies in where the rain fell with the northern Médoc (Pauillac and north) receiving somewhat more rain than vineyards to the south.

June and August were particularly hot and by mid-August, many vines were showing signs of stress from lack of water, particularly young plants without deep root systems on free-draining, gravel soils. The white varieties were already close to maturity with the merlot not far behind.

Most of the dry, white producers decided to pick early to retain the maximum of freshness and satisfactory acidity levels. Those that had maintained a decent canopy on their vines to shade the fruit were rewarded with healthy, ripe fruit that had rich aromas and a good balance of sugar and acidity. Much was picked before the rain eventually arrived on 20<sup>th</sup> August with the remainder soon after. Yields were low and the resulting wines are rich and concentrated with the best having surprising vitality and no trace of heaviness.

The rain refreshed the merlot and picking started on the earlier-ripening right bank at the end of August with many properties recording their earliest ever harvest. Further rain on 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August encouraged most producers to proceed apace and much of the merlot was picked in the first week of September. Sugar levels were good but not excessive because of the rain, and acidity levels remained sufficiently high to give well-balanced juice. After a brief pause, the later ripening cabernet franc and cabernet sauvignon were harvested, mostly in the second week of September on the right bank and the third week in the Médoc and Graves.

With only intermittent rain, growers could pick their moment to harvest and ensure that each plot was harvested at optimum

maturity. The cooler September temperatures allowed a smooth, gentle ripening process and contributed to the cabernets reaching full phenolic maturity without arriving at high levels of sugar or dangerously low acidities which often happens in hot vintages.

By the middle of September the cabernet harvest was in full swing. With heavy rain forecast to set in from 20<sup>th</sup> September, most châteaux chose to accelerate their picking and completed the harvest by the 19<sup>th</sup>. These wines are generally 1% lower in alcohol than the corresponding 2022s which were harvested a little later and in warmer conditions.

A few estates, however, decided to wait, feeling that the fruit would gain in complexity and richness with a further week's ripening. The risk was that the fruit would deteriorate with the onset of rot, necessitating more rigorous sorting and a further reduction in the size of what was already a small crop. In reality, after three days of rain, the weather improved and late pickers such as Château Margaux found that their best cabernets were those harvested between 24<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September. Stylistically, these wines are richer, more opulent and more alcoholic than those picked 7-10 days earlier.

The September rain kickstarted the noble rot in Sauternes with a rapid and consistent development of botrytis from the end of September, and the first half of October provided excellent conditions for gathering the fruit with high levels of both sugar and acidity.

Overall, 2025 is a fine vintage across Bordeaux, producing full-bodied but crisp, dry whites, concentrated but fresh reds and sumptuous, complete sweet whites. The wines are surprisingly fresh with little sign of the hot summer, a testament to the improved viticulture and wine-making being practised in Bordeaux. Better canopy management protected the fruit through the summer, precise harvesting ensured that individual plots were picked at the optimum moment and careful vinification allowed the fruit flavours to shine through. The result is a wealth of wonderful wines that have the intensity of the finest vintages with excellent purity of fruit and the structure to age magnificently.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. Below the signature is a long, thin horizontal line that tapers at both ends.

Charles Taylor M.W.

April 2026

# PAUILLAC

## Château Lafite Rothschild

*1er Cru Classé, 94% CS, 5% M, 1% PV*

Eric Kohler, technical director since 2016, has produced one of his finest Lafites yet. So satisfied was he with the quality of fruit that 60% of the crop will be used for the *grand vin* this year and, at just 12.5% alcohol, this is one of the most elegant wines of the vintage. Carefully extracted (25 days *cuvaison*), this beautiful Lafite has cool, fresh, blackcurrant fruit on the nose with a hint of spice from the use of 100% new oak barrels. 17% of press wine was used in the blend to provide structure and reinforce the palate. Brilliantly textured, with stylish fruit, supple tannins and a refined, aristocratic finish. 99 points. Drink 2036-2055.

## Château Mouton Rothschild

*1er Cru Classé, 98% CS, 2% M*

Mouton's free-draining, deep, gravel soils once again proved key in this hot, dry year. 2025 was the earliest harvest ever from 5<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September and the *grand vin* includes a historically high proportion of cabernet sauvignon in the blend. Technical director, Jean-Emmanuel Danjoy, shortened the *cuvaison* to extract only the finest tannins and the wine will be aged, as usual, in 100% new French oak barrels for 18 months. This is the fleshiest and most generous of the first growths with ripe blackcurrant and sweet spices on the nose, a rich, sumptuous texture and powerful but supple tannins that will ensure it ages magnificently. 99 points. Drink 2038-2055.



Château Mouton Rothschild

## **Château Latour**

*1er Cru Classé, 93.6% CS, 6.4% M*

The *grand vin* at Latour is produced exclusively from L'Enclos, the famous walled vineyard surrounding the château and the cellars. After a hot, dry summer, the merlot harvest started on 30<sup>th</sup> August, the earliest since 1893. The last cabernet was picked on 21<sup>st</sup> September immediately before the heaviest of the September rain. The 2025 is a glorious Latour, with rich, aromatic cassis fruit on the nose and a wonderfully powerful palate. 13.3% alcohol, carefully extracted tannins and excellent acidity provide structure to complement the generous, ripe fruit. The addition of a small amount (4.5%) of press wine enhances the mid palate and builds a long, sumptuous finish. Will need time, but a true masterpiece. As usual, this won't be released en primeur, as owner François Pinault prefers to wait until the wine is more mature. 99 points. Drink 2038-2060.

## **Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande**

*2ème Cru Classé, 81% CS, 15% M, 4% CF*

Estate director, Nicolas Glumineau, continues to include a larger proportion of cabernet sauvignon in the blend and once again has crafted one of the most impressive wines of the vintage. The healthy harvest required little sorting and the consistent quality across the estate allowed him to use 55% of the production for the *grand vin*. The wine has exquisite blackcurrant and cedar aromas, vivacious energy and some of the silkiest tannins of the Médoc. Has a magnificent, close-knit texture and builds in the mouth to a splendid, persistent finish. 97 points. Drink 2035-2055.

## **Château Pichon Baron**

*2ème Cru Classé, 84% CS, 16% M*

Christian Seely manages this magnificent property for the AXA insurance group and, together with technical director Pierre Montégut, has made one of the most profound wines of the vintage. Cropped at 24 hl/ha and with the *grand vin* coming exclusively from the vines planted on the deep gravel, south-facing slopes adjacent to Château Latour, the 2025 has much of the depth and richness of the 2022 in a fresher, leaner style. Bright, red and black fruits are complemented by ripe tannins and excellent acidity. A fine, harmonious, complete wine of immense quality. Will be aged in 70% new French oak barrels. 97 points. Drink 2036-2050.

## **Château Lynch Bages**

*5ème Cru Classé, 66% CS, 28% M, 3% PV, 3% CF*

An over-achieving fifth growth, owned by the Cazes family since 1939. 2025 was the earliest harvest since 1989, starting on 9<sup>th</sup> and finishing on 21<sup>st</sup> September. The yield at 30 hl/ha was the same as in 2024 and a long way short of the 50 hl/ha that Jean-Charles Cazes targets but, in recent years, has rarely achieved. The 2025 is a typically dense, muscular wine with concentrated fruit flavours. Backward at present but with a close-knit texture and powerful, fine tannins that guarantee a long future. A great success. 96 points. Drink 2037-2050.

### **Château Duhart Milon**

*4ème Cru Classé, 73 % CS, 27% M*

A fine, fully organic, 76 hectare property owned by Lafite Rothschild and produced with the same experienced winemaking team led by Eric Kohler. This has lovely, open, forward fruit on the nose, with just a hint of spice from 50% new oak. Displays an inviting, creamy texture on the palate with perfectly ripe tannins derived from a gentle *cuvaison* and the addition of 13% press wine. Builds in the mouth to a persistent, sweet, harmonious finish. One of the most elegant Pauillacs of the vintage and one which, after a period of ambitious pricing, should represent excellent value. 96 points. Drink 2034-2048.

### **Château Haut Batailley**

*5ème Cru Classé, 58% CS, 37% M, 5% PV*

Haut Batailley has gained in both stature and precision since being acquired by the Cazes family of Lynch Bages in 2017. It is now one of the finest Pauillac fifth growths and the best value. There has been huge investment in both the vineyards and the wine-making facilities and the quality has jumped with the introduction of the second wine Haut Batailley Verso and the consequent stricter selection for the *grand vin*. The vineyards now comprise 41 hectares in the south-west of the appellation near the border with Saint Julien. The wines are a perfect synthesis of Pauillac and Saint Julien; rich and powerful but with finesse and elegance. The 2025 is as good a wine as Jean-Charles Cazes has produced at Haut Batailley so far; polished and refined with delicious, fresh fruit, fine structure and a succulent finish. 96 points. Drink 2035-2048.

### **Château Grand Puy Lacoste**

*5ème Cru Classé, 76% CS, 24% M*

This superb, 64 hectare estate lies on the gravel plateau to the south-west of the town of Pauillac and produces wine that surpasses its fifth growth classification. 2025 is the first vintage to be vinified in Grand Puy Lacoste's new gravity-flow winery which houses 24 stainless steel vats of 76 hl and 99 hl capacity. The fruit was picked promptly with the harvest completed on the 18<sup>th</sup> September. The Borie family, together with technical director, Christel Spinner, has produced a powerful but fresh wine with dense, cassis fruit and a touch of sweet cedar on the nose. Has an impressive, close-knit texture on the palate, firm but ripe tannins and a long, fresh finish. 96 points. Drink 2035-2050.

### **Château Clerc Milon**

*5ème Cru Classé, 62% CS, 28% M, 8% CF, 1% PV, 1% C*

Caroline Artaud has managed this 40 hectare estate for the Rothschild family superbly since 2020 and the 2025 is her finest effort yet with wonderful precision and purity of fruit allied to the traditional, fleshy Clerc Milon character. The vineyards lie to the north of Pauillac between the estuary and the vines of Mouton and Lafite. There is a wide range of soils incorporating both clay and gravel with five different grape varieties making an appearance. Only seven of the estate's 40 hectares were deleafed in 2025, resulting in a rich, harmonious wine with both opulent fruit and impressive freshness. Has sweet, blackcurrant fruit, carefully extracted tannins and a touch of spice on the finish. 96 points. Drink 2035-2050.

## Château d'Armailhac

*5ème Cru Classé, 67% CS, 21 % M, 10 % CF, 2 % PV*

A beautiful 80 hectare property bordering Château Mouton Rothschild and benefitting from the same ownership and winemaking expertise. At 13% alcohol, this is an elegant, refined d'Armailhac, with sublime florality on the nose, a creamy texture on the palate with soft tannins and fine freshness to balance. Builds in the mouth to a long, sweet, lingering finish. The most harmonious and polished of the Pauillac fifth growths. Will be aged in 50% new oak barrels. 95 points. Drink 2035-2048.

## Château Pontet Canet

*5ème Cru Classé, 56% CS, 39% M, 4% CF, 1% PV*

The Tesseron family, together with technical director, Mathieu Bessonnet, have crafted another rich, opulent wine at this famous, biodynamically farmed fifth growth. Once again they relied on regular Kaolin (a clay-based solution that acts as sunscreen) applications to protect the grapes during the hot, sunny summer. Their earliest ever harvest began on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and, after a careful infusion of the fruit with minimal pumping over, the result is a vividly fruity, generous wine with lifted red and black cherry aromas, masses of sweet fruit on the palate and bold, round tannins. 95 points. Drink 2035-2048.



## **Château Batailley**

*5ème Cru Classé, 78% CS, 19% M, 3% PV*

A fine 60 hectare estate that has been owned by the Castéja family for over 100 years and continues to improve under technical director Hugues Mathieu and consultant oenologist Axel Marchal. The 2025 has concentrated blackcurrant fruit, a full, creamy texture, silky ripe tannins and a long, sweet finish. Will be aged in 60% new oak barrels and fully deserves its status as one of the finest value Pauillac *crus classés*. 95 points. Drink 2035-2050.

## **Château Haut Bages Libéral**

*5ème Cru Classé, 83% CS, 15% M, 1% CF, 1% PV*

Owned by Claire Villars, this lesser-known but finely-situated fifth growth has been certified organic since 2019. Many of the plots are situated close to the estuary adjacent to Château Latour where the unusually high proportion of limestone gives the wine tremendous freshness. Further, free-draining gravel plots on the plateau of Bages bring muscular backbone and a persistent finish. Full of attractive, red berries and sweet spices, this has a compact, lean texture, ripe tannins and fresh acidity. Will be aged between 12 and 16 months in a mixture of vessels with 35% of the crop in new oak barrels, 35% in one year old barrels and 30% in ovoid concrete vats. 94 points. Drink 2034-2042.

## **Château Pédesclaux**

*5ème Cru Classé, 69 % CS, 21% M, 9% CF, 1% PV*

Owner, Jacky Lorenzetti and estate director, Christophe Congé, previously of Lafite, have been steadily increasing the proportion of cabernet sauvignon in the *grand vin* to bring it into line with the other top Pauillac *crus classés*. A stricter selection (only 54% of the crop was selected for the *grand vin*) has given additional weight and concentration to the wine and the 2025 is as good as any vintage so far. 80% of the wine is being aged in traditional 225 litre oak barrels with 20% in larger 400 litre casks and 1500 litre *foudres* to preserve the maximum of fruit. A lovely, elegant, refined Pauillac with excellent purity of fruit, a fresh, lively texture and persistent finish. 94 points. Drink 2035-2042.

## **Pichon Comtesse Réserve**

*52% CS, 46% M, 2% PV*

One of the finest second wines tasted this year which includes grapes from several of the younger cabernet sauvignon plots that are likely to be destined for the *grand vin* once they have developed a deeper root system. This has a delightful nose of rich, blackcurrant and sweet cedar with a generous texture and a hint of toastiness on the finish. A beautiful, seductive wine with sufficient structure achieved by the addition of 13% press wine. Finishes sweet and long. 94 points. Drink 2033-2045.

## **Château Lynch Moussas**

*5ème Cru Classé, 77% CS, 23% M*

A lesser-known fifth growth which has been owned by the Castéja family of Château Batailley since 1919. Vast improvements in both the vineyards and winery over the past decade have lifted the winemaking to new heights and this now shows all the hallmarks of a fine *crû classé*. Has rich, blackcurrant fruit on the nose and full-bodied, burly tannins on the palate. Not as refined as the Castéja's Batailley but just as dense and muscular. A typical, sturdy Pauillac that represents excellent value for money. 94 points. Drink 2035-2043.

## **Château Grand Puy Ducasse**

*5ème Cru Classé, 66% CS, 31 % M, 3% PV*

An improving Pauillac fifth growth, owned by Crédit Agricole, this is the finest vintage Grand Puy Ducasse have produced since moving into their new cellars three years ago. No *effeuillage* this year and as a result, the château has produced a relatively healthy 33 hl/ha. Brambly, cassis fruit on the nose to go with a gentle spice from 35% new oak. The palate is rich and gutsy with firm but ripe tannins, a generous texture and concentrated, dark fruits on the finish. 94 points.

Drink 2034-2042.

## **Lacoste-Borie**

*68% CS, 24% M, 8% CF*

No longer a second wine in the sense that it now comes from the same terroir every year; the vines planted in 1978 that lie to the west of the parkland that dissects Grand Puy Lacoste's 64 hectares. Vinified in the new winery with 24 smaller vats that allows for more precise vinification, Lacoste Borie now has its own dedicated ageing cellar. A wine that remains more forward and approachable than Château Grand Puy Lacoste, this has vivid, red cherry and blackberry fruit on the palate, excellent acidity and finishes fresh and generous. 93 points.

Drink 2032-2040.

## **Château Bellegrave**

*71% CS, 29% M*

Julien and Ludovic Meffre (also owners of Château du Glana in Saint Julien) continue to make one of the finest non-classified châteaux in Pauillac. Surrounded by the vines of numerous celebrated *crûs classés*, they recently exchanged plots with both Châteaux Latour and Pédesclaux, an indication of the pedigree of their vineyards. Full and firm, the 2025 is a full-bodied, sturdy Pauillac with lovely, blackcurrant fruit, a touch of spicy oak and a long, sweet finish. 93 points.

Drink 2033-2040.



*Las Cases*

Château Léoville Las Cases

# SAINT JULIEN

## **Château Léoville Las Cases**

*2ème Cru Classé, 82% CS, 12% CF, 6% M*

The Delon family have built a vast, new, 13,000 m<sup>2</sup> cellar in which they have tripled the number of oak and stainless steel vats from 40 to 120 to increase the precision with which they can vinify their wines. Jean-Hubert Delon has been joined in the day to day running of the estate by his son, Arnaud, and they have restricted the selection of the *grand vin* to only 65% of the plots from their famous, 54 hectare 'Grand Enclos' vineyard, situated on the estuary immediately to the south of Château Latour. The result is a dense, concentrated wine with an impressive, close-knit texture and a long, elegant finish. 6% *vin de presse* was added and this is more approachable than many of the great vintages of the past thanks to the careful extraction and high quality of the tannins. 98 points. Drink 2036-2055.

## **Château Léoville Barton**

*2ème Cru Classé, 86% CS, 12% M, 2% CF*

The Bartons are celebrating 200 years of ownership of their magnificent Saint Julien second growth in 2026 and have a glorious 2025 to help publicise the occasion. With a high proportion of cabernet sauvignon in the blend, this has dense, blackcurrant fruit on the nose and a powerful but precise palate with high quality, ripe tannins. The texture is close-knit and the finish both fresh and persistent. A beautiful, harmonious wine with splendid ageing potential. 97 points. Drink 2036-2055.

## **Château Léoville Poyferré**

*2ème Cru Classé, 61 % CS, 26% M, 8% CF, 5% PV*

Poyferré was traditionally one of the latest châteaux to pick in Saint Julien but 2025 was their earliest and quickest harvest of recent years, starting on 8<sup>th</sup> September and lasting only 15 days. The 2016 harvest, in comparison, was completed more than four weeks later on 20<sup>th</sup> October. Wine-maker, Isabelle Davin, was careful not to extract too much tannin, reducing the fermentation temperature and the amount of pumping over. The result is a sumptuous, rich, full-bodied wine with beautiful, sweet fruit, ripe tannins and impeccable freshness and vitality that builds in the mouth to an impressive, long finish. 96 points. Drink 2036-2050.

## **Château Ducru Beaucaillou**

*2ème Cru Classé, 79% CS, 21% M*

With the first merlot picked on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, this was the earliest start to the harvest since 1945. Despite the hot summer, Bruno Borie has successfully made a sumptuous, fresh wine with a relatively modest 13.5 % alcohol and no lack of depth nor concentration. After a careful extraction, the structure of the wine has been built by the addition of 12% press wine, a higher percentage than in the past. The result is a glorious, vividly fruity wine with lovely, plum and cassis aromas, a succulent texture and a long, energetic finish. Will be aged for 18-20 months in 100% new oak barrels. 96 points. Drink 2035-2055.

### **Château Gruaud Larose**

*2ème Cru Classé, 77% CS, 21% M, 2% CF*

Another fine effort from this 82 hectare Saint Julien powerhouse that has been steadily improving under the guidance of technical director Virginie Salette and consultant oenologist Eric Boissenot. They have maintained and refined the classic, full-bodied Gruaud style and this is amongst the finest wines they have ever produced. Has dark, deep, black fruits on both the nose and palate, a generous, close-knit texture and a solid structure. Backward at present but will be aged for 18 months in new French oak barrels that will allow the fruit to develop and the tannins to harmonise. Has great ageing potential, one of the most impressive Saint Juliens of the vintage. 97 points. Drink 2035-2055.

### **Château Langoa Barton**

*3ème Cru Classé, 45% M, 40% CS, 15% CF*

The higher proportion of merlot in the vineyard at Langoa makes it more forward in style than Léoville Barton and technical director François Brehant has made a beautifully rich, fleshy wine in 2025. At 13.5% alcohol, this has excellent freshness to balance the generous, plummy fruit and round, creamy texture. Has a touch of spice from 60% new oak barrels, fine tannins and a long, concentrated finish. 95 points. Drink 2035-2048.

### **Château Beychevelle**

*4ème Cru Classé, 52% CS, 43% M, 5% PV*

Estate director, Philippe Blanc, has been at Beychevelle since 1995 during which time the vineyards have been renovated and a new winery built in 2016. The wines have steadily gained in stature and precision and the 2025 is one of the finest yet. The harvest, starting on 5<sup>th</sup> September, was the earliest ever, and the yields, at 31 hl/ha, the lowest since 2013. The wine is dense and concentrated with splendid, blackcurrant fruit, a seamless texture and a persistent, sweet aftertaste. 95 points. Drink 2035-2050.

### **Château Talbot**

*4ème Cru Classé, 74% CS, 17% M, 9% PV*

This glorious, 110 hectare, estate has been owned by the Cordier family for over a century and, with the skill and expertise of estate director Jean-Michel Laporte, has become one of the finest fourth growths in the Médoc. At 13.2% alcohol, this has greater freshness than the 2022 (13.8%) whilst retaining terrific richness and opulence. Has dense, powerful dark fruit together with spice and cedar from ageing in 60% new oak barrels. Finishes sweet and long. 95 points. Drink 2035-2050.

## Château Branaire Ducru

*4ème Cru Classé, 62% CS, 26% M, 6% CF, 6% PV*

Technical director, Jean-Dominique Videau, achieved the highest yield (33 hl/ha) at a Saint Julien *cru classé* and the consistently high quality of the crop allowed owner François-Xavier Maroteaux to use 62% of it for the *grand vin*. Fresh, vibrant, blackcurrant and red plum fruit on the nose precedes a supremely elegant palate with supple tannins and a seamless, refined texture. At 13.2% alcohol, it has superb freshness to balance and builds gloriously to a harmonious, smooth finish. 95 points. Drink 2035-2048.

## Château Saint Pierre

*4ème Cru Classé, 78% CS, 15% M, 4% CF, 3% PV*

Acquired by the Triaud family of Château Gloria in 1982, the wine is made in the same cellars by the Gloria team led by Rémi di Constanzo. The vineyards of Saint Pierre lie principally around the château in the village of Beychevelle, close to the estuary and make a splendid, dense wine with rich, concentrated fruit, firm but ripe tannins and a sumptuous finish. The 2025 has impressive precision and is as fine a wine as the château has ever produced. 95 points. Drink 2036-2048.



Château Saint Pierre

## Clos du Marquis

*73% CS, 21% M, 6% CF*

This comes from the 44 hectares of vines of the Léoville Las Cases estate that lie to the west of the D2 road and is vinified in the same, vast new winery. Harvesting is a few days later than in the ‘Grand Enclos’ to ensure optimum ripeness and the low yield (24 hl/ha) and addition of 7% press wine have boosted the concentration of this superb wine that is the equal of the neighbouring Saint Julien classed growths. Will be aged for 16 months in French oak barrels, 55% of which are new. Rich and powerful with vivid blackcurrant fruit, firm but ripe tannins and a long, cultured finish. 95 points. Drink 2035-2050.

## Château Lagrange

*3ème Cru Classé, 77% CS, 18% M, 5% PV*

Estate director, Matthieu Bordes, continues to refine the style of Lagrange and this is one of his best efforts yet. Benefitting from the replantings of the 1980s and 1990s which are now in their prime and selecting only 50% of the crop for the *grand vin*, he has produced a glorious, aromatic wine with vivid, brambly fruit on the nose and excellent generosity on the palate. Has perfectly ripe tannins, a seamless texture and fine freshness on the finish. Will be aged in 50% new and 50% one year old French oak barrels. 94 points. Drink 2035-2048.

## Le Petit Ducru de Ducru Beaucaillou

*83% M, 9% CS, 8% PV*

This wine, known until 2018 as Château Lalande-Borie, comes from vines in the west of the Saint Julien appellation adjacent to Châteaux Talbot & Lagrange that Bruno Borie's father, Jean-Eugène, purchased in the 1970s from the then underperforming Château Lagrange. The sandier soils and higher proportion of merlot give a soft, ripe, succulent wine with generous fruit, just the right amount of tannin and a sweet, juicy finish. Will be aged in 30% new French oak barrels to add a touch of spice. A highly attractive Saint Julien at a very sensible price. 93 points. Drink 2033-2042.

## Château Gloria

*56% CS, 34% M, 6% PV, 4% CF*

Rémi di Costanzo has been technical director at Château Gloria since 2000 and is responsible for the consistently high quality of the estate, the finest of the non-classified Saint Julien châteaux. During his tenure, the viticulture has been refined and the cellars have been completely renovated with the installation of a magnificent battery of stainless steel vats. The estate has been certified as organic since 2024 and the 2025 vintage, harvested between 10<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September at an average yield of 20 hl/ha, is one of the richest ever. Dense, ripe, blackcurrant fruit, full-bodied, chunky tannins and a long, sweet finish all point to a fine future. A great success for this substantial 55 hectare property. Will be aged in 50% new French oak barrels. 94 points. Drink 2034-2045.

## Château du Glana

*70% CS, 30% M*

After a dry summer that stressed the younger plants and reduced yields to 28 hl/ha, brothers Julien and Ludovic Meffre decided to pick the younger vines early on 6<sup>th</sup> September before returning to harvest the more resistant, older vines from 9<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> September. Carefully vinified to maximise the fruit and freshness, the 2025 Château du Glana is a true delight with delicious, open red and black fruit on the nose, a soft, open texture and a succulent finish. A great success and superb value from an estate that borders the vineyards of Châteaux Talbot and Lagrange. 93 points. Drink 2033-2042.

# SAINT ESTEPHE

## Château Montrose

*2ème Cru Classé, 77% CS, 19% M, 4% CF*

Vincent Decup, technical director at Montrose since 2014, has brought the best out of the château's famous *Terrasse 4* soils in recent years and the 2025 is another glorious effort. Anticipating a hot summer with low yields, he opted against a green harvest and reduced the amount of *effeuillage*. Fermentation was at a cool 24-26C, resulting in a powerful yet refined wine with impeccable freshness and precision. Has vivid dark fruits on the nose and an impressive, close-knit texture on the palate. Fine-grained tannins and excellent freshness precede a sumptuous, concentrated finish. The most complete of the Saint Estèphe *crus classés*. 97 points. Drink 2036-2055.

## Château Cos d'Estournel

*2ème Cru Classé, 60% CS, 39% M, 1% PV*

In his 26<sup>th</sup> year in charge of the winemaking, Dominique Arangoits leant on all his experience to produce a classic, refined Cos d'Estournel. With a small (29hl/ha) crop of ripe, concentrated fruit, he opted for a *cuvaison* of 3 weeks at 26C rather than the traditional 4 weeks at 28C to extract only the finest of tannins. The resulting wine has beautiful aromas with brambly, blackcurrant fruit and a touch of spice. The palate is fresh and elegant with a generous texture. Builds in the mouth to a persistent, harmonious finish. Will be aged in 50% new oak. 96 points. Drink 2035-2050.

## Château Calon Ségur

*3ème Cru Classé, 80% CS, 17% M, 2% CF, 1% PV*

Vincent Millet continues to impress at this famous 55 hectare estate and has produced another rich, powerful (13.6% alcohol) wine which manages to retain class and finesse. Saint Estèphe benefitted from two days of light rain (25mm apiece) at the end of June & July which refreshed the vines and prevented them shutting down due to hydric stress. Vincent fermented the fruit at a lower (22-23C) temperature, reduced the maceration period to 20 days with almost no *remontage* and built the structure of the wine by adding 18% *vin de presse* which was of unusually high quality. The result is a dense, aromatic wine with an impressive, close-knit texture and full-bodied structure that will reward patience and develop beautifully over time. As usual, it will be aged for 20 months in 100% new oak barrels. 96 points. Drink 2035-2052.

### **Château Lafon Rochet**

*4ème Cru Classé, 66% CS, 29% M, 3% CF, 2% PV*

Splendidly sited property just inland from Cos d'Estournel and immediately to the north of Lafite. Wine-maker Vincent Bache-Gabrielsen has introduced a range of larger (1200-1500 litre) oak *foudres* in which 40% of the *grand vin* is now aged. The aim is to reduce the oak flavour in the wine and maximise the fruitiness without losing the traditional Saint Estèphe structure. The 2025 succeeds impeccably with dense, concentrated fruit on both the nose and palate, together with excellent purity and freshness. Finishes sweet and long. 94 points.

Drink 2035-2045.

### **Château Ormes de Pez**

*58% M, 35% CS, 4% CF, 3% PV*

Ormes de Pez has made its debut vintage of a delicious white wine but the real interest remains with its splendid red, a characterful, fleshy wine that oozes fruit and charm whilst retaining its usual rich, sturdy structure. Benefitting from the same ownership as Château Lynch Bages, the 2025 is another great success with the high proportion of merlot bringing a ripe, sunny character to the wine and the careful vinification ensuring that only the ripest tannins were extracted. 94 points. Drink 2035-2045.

### **Château Capbern**

*62% CS, 36% M, 2%PV*

Made by the highly talented Vincent Millet who also manages nearby Château Calon Ségur, the 2025 Capbern is made in the same, rich, fleshy style and will sport a fresh, new label hinting at the strong ties between these two properties. Consistently one of the finest non-classified châteaux of Saint Estèphe, the 2025 displays a wealth of juicy, blackcurrant fruit, a full-bodied, muscular structure, and plenty of vitality on the finish. At 13.8% alcohol, it's reminiscent of the magnificent 2022 vintage and destined for a long life. Will be aged for 18 months in 60% new oak barrels. 94 points. Drink 2034-2042.

### **Château Lilian Ladouys**

*61% M, 30% CS, 9% PV*

Run in tandem with Jacky Lorenzetti's other Saint Estèphe property, Château Lafon Rochet. The wine-making is in the highly competent hands of Vincent Bache-Gabrielsen, and Lilian Ladouys has established itself as the best value non-classified châteaux in the appellation. The 2025 is another delicious, ripe, vividly fruity wine with the high proportion of merlot giving a warm, generous character. Ripe and juicy with fine freshness and a highly attractive, fleshy texture. 93 points. Drink 2033-2040.

# MARGAUX

## Château Margaux

*1er Cru Classé, 89% CS, 6% M, 4% CF, 1% PV*

Managing director, Philippe Bascaules, took a different approach to most of his neighbours, harvesting later, after the rain of 21<sup>st</sup> September, and finding that the best cabernet sauvignon was picked towards the end of the month from 24<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>. At 13.8% alcohol, this is one of the most powerful wines of the Médoc but one which retains fine elegance and precision. Rich and generous with intense, blackcurrant fruit, a close-knit texture and silky, ripe tannins this has much in common with the magnificent 2022. A beautiful, complete, harmonious wine that is a candidate for the wine of the vintage. Will be aged, as usual, in 100% new oak barrels. 99 points. Drink 2040-2060.

## Château Palmer

*3ème Cru Classé, 55% M, 41 % CS, 4% PV*

Another year of low yields (20 hl/ha) at this magnificent, biodynamically farmed estate. After a hot, dry summer, the fruit was of such high quality that it required almost no sorting and estate director, Thomas Duroux, has triumphed with a majestic, fleshy Palmer. Luxurious, blackcurrant and red plum aromas combine beautifully with sweet cedar and spice on the nose. The palate is full of creamy fruit with a voluptuous texture and fine freshness to balance. Finishes long, rich and satisfying. 98 points. Drink 2035-2055.



Château Palmer

## Château Brane Cantenac

*2ème Cru Classé, 80% CS, 18% M, 1% CF, 1% C*

Henri Lurton is celebrating 100 years of Lurton family ownership at this magnificent second growth that dominates the plateau of Cantenac and the 2025 vintage will have a special, as yet unrevealed, label. The *grand vin* comes from the finest plots in front of the château and represents only 40% of the estate's production, guaranteeing a quality that rivals nearby Châteaux Margaux and Palmer. With its magnificent *Terrasse* 3 and 4 soils, the cabernet sauvignon achieves impressive levels of concentration and intensity. Powerful cassis and blackcurrant fruit on the nose, great weight and depth on the palate (12% press wine incorporated) with a rich, creamy texture and perfectly ripe tannins. Sweet cedar and spice from 100% new oak barrels, this builds superbly to a magnificent, sumptuous finish. 96 points. Drink 2035-2048.

## Château Rauzan Ségla

*2ème Cru Classé, 65% CS, 33% M, 1.5% PV, 0.5%CF*

Nicolas Audebert and his team at Rauzan continue with the estate's restructuring programme that will increase the density of plantation and reorientate the rows to run north-south, giving greater protection from the sun in hot summers. The consistently high quality of the fruit in 2025 has allowed him to make equal volumes of first and second wine. The *grand vin*, produced essentially from the *Terrasse* 4 gravel soils in front of the château is, at 13.5% alcohol, a beautiful, typically refined, aromatic Rauzan. Has fragrant, blackcurrant and violet aromas on the nose, a seamless texture on the palate with silky tannins and an impressively long, harmonious finish. Will be aged in 60% new oak barrels. 96 points. Drink 2035-2048.

## Château Lascombes

*2ème Cru Classé, 60% CS, 35% M, 4% PV, 1% CF*

The finest vintage made by Axel Heinz since his arrival as estate director in 2023. The *grand vin* is now produced from the historic heart of Château Lascombes which was classified as a second growth in 1855 plus a few high quality parcels acquired since. In 2025 the *grand vin* accounted for only 54 of the total 115 hectares. In addition to the stricter selection, there is no longer a pre-fermentation, cold maceration, the *cuvaison* is shorter and ageing is in less (50%) new oak than in the past. The result is a fresher, fruitier, more elegant wine that retains the traditional body and depth of Lascombes but in a more complete, harmonious style. The 2025, harvested from 8<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> September with an average yield of 35 hl/ha, is deep and dense with vivid, plum and blackcurrant fruit, a touch of spice, carefully extracted tannins and a long, sweet finish. 95 points. Drink 2035-2048.

## Château Durfort Vivens

*2ème Cru Classé, 91% CS, 9% M*

Owner Gonzague Lurton has farmed this fine, 65 hectare estate biodynamically since 2016. The 2025 will be aged 45% in new French oak barrels, 40% in larger oak *foudres* and 15% in TAVA amphoras. Cropped at 25 hl/ha, it has a vivid, dark fruited nose, impressive concentration and a rich, succulent texture that displays perfectly the quality of ripe cabernet sauvignon that dominates the blend. 95 points.

Drink 2034-2045.

### **Château Giscours**

*3ème Cru Classé, 64% CS, 31% M, 5% CF*

This fine, 60 hectare estate consistently makes one of the richer, more generous wines of the appellation and the 2025 is no exception with estate director, Alexander Van Beek, describing it as having an ‘enormous amount of drive with noble tannins’. They have continued their practice of picking the vines sequentially, returning to the same plot on three occasions to ensure that all the fruit is harvested at optimum ripeness. Overall yields were relatively low at 30hl/ha and the result is an impressively concentrated wine with bright, red and black cherry fruit aromas, a voluptuous texture and a persistent, fresh finish. 95 points. Drink 2035-2045.

### **Château d’Issan**

*3ème Cru Classé,*

*64% CS, 30% M, 2% CF, 2% Malbec, 2% PV*

Emmanuel Cruse has been steadily making finer and finer wines at d’Issan over the past twenty years and the 2025 is as good as any. The plot of petit verdot acquired in 2020 is included in the *grand vin* adding strength and vitality. 12% *vin de presse* was also incorporated. As always, the cabernet sauvignon shines through in this seamless, polished wine that has exemplary, pure fruit and silky tannins. A beautiful, harmonious wine that is quintessential Margaux. 96 points. Drink 2035-2045.

### **Château Malescot Saint Exupéry**

*3ème Cru Classé, 60% CS, 34% M, 6% PV*

A greater proportion of cabernet sauvignon in the blend this year due to its exceptionally high quality, Jean-Luc Zuger has produced an aromatic, characterful Malescot, with a complex nose of blackcurrant, plum and sweet cedar from ageing in 45% new oak barrels. The palate is typically rich and fleshy, with firm but ripe tannins and masses of succulent fruit. Well-structured with a persistent finish. 94 points.

Drink 2035-2045.

### **Château du Tertre**

*5ème Cru Classé, 65% CS, 18% M, 11% CF, 6% PV*

Much of this 52 hectare property is being replanted as a long term (2007-2035) project to increase the density of plantation from 7,300 to 9,100 vines per hectare. The proportion of cabernet sauvignon is being increased and the *grand vin* is now being produced exclusively from the higher, more gravelly plots adjacent to the château. Technical director, Romain Beurienne, still has the use of the best parcels planted in the 1960s which contribute depth and precision and the 2025 is a delicious, rich, generous wine full of vivid fruit. Displays blackberry and violets on the nose with refined tannins and sensual fruit on the palate. 94 points. Drink 2035-2043.



Château Brane Cantenac

## Château Prieuré Lichine

*4ème Cru Classé, 60% CS, 35% M, 5% PV*

With 85 hectares of vines spread across all four communes of the Margaux appellation, the quality at this fine fourth growth has improved dramatically over the past decade. Estate director, Etienne Charrier, lowered the temperature of fermentation and reduced the *cuvaison* to 23 days (often 28 days in the past) to extract only the ripest tannins. Only 60% of the crop was selected for the *grand vin* which will be aged in 30% new and 70% one year old oak barrels. The result is a quintessential Margaux with ripe, plummy, red and black fruits on the nose and a round, elegant, sensual texture on the palate with fine freshness and soft tannins to match. 94 points. Drink 2035-2042.

## Château Angludet

*55 % CS, 38 % M, 7 % PV*

Ben Sichel continues to farm the family estate, acquired by his father Peter Sichel in 1961, along sustainable, biodynamic lines. With extensive cover crops between the rows and fruit trees within the vines, he leaves the prunings on the ground each year to promote soil regeneration. The 2025 is a rich, full-bodied wine with sweet fruit, excellent structure and a persistent finish. Ben was particularly pleased with the quality of the petit verdot which he considers to be ‘a fine link between the cabernet sauvignon and merlot’. The wine will be aged in a mixture of 700 litre amphoras and traditional 225 litre *barrisques* supplied by Tonnellerie Saint Martin from oak grown in the forest of Jupilles in north-western France. 94 points. Drink 2035-2042.

## Château Le Coteau

*90% CS, 8% M, 2% CF*

Proprietor, Eric Léglise, is passionate about biodiversity and has long eschewed the use of herbicides and insecticides on his impeccably run 12 hectare estate. The vineyards lie on some of the finest gravel soils of Arsac adjoining Châteaux Giscours, du Tertre and Monbrison. Eric responded to the hot, dry summer by not performing the usual *effeuillage* and left a larger and denser canopy than usual. He was rewarded with healthy yields of 38 hl/ha, well above the appellation average. He considers the cabernet sauvignon is amongst the highest quality he has ever produced. With the fruit in superb condition, Eric harvested relatively late – 14<sup>th</sup> September to the 3<sup>rd</sup> October – and has made a fine, vividly fruity wine with bright, blackcurrant fruit on the nose and a rich, generous texture. Impressive freshness and a touch of spice on the finish completes one of the best ever Le Coteaus. 93 points. Drink 2032-2040.

# MÉDOC

## Château La Lagune

*3ème Cru Classé, Haut Médoc, 50% M, 41% CS, 9% PV*

It's all change at this 3<sup>rd</sup> growth property with Delphine Frey taking over the management of the estate from her sister Caroline, and *maitre de chai* Xavier Moragues working with consultant oenologist Thomas Duclos for the first time. The vineyards continue to be farmed biodynamically but the proportion of new oak has been reduced from 50% to 25% and 30% of the crop is now aged in larger oak *foudres* and 30% in stainless steel vats. Together with a higher proportion of merlot than in recent years, this has resulted in a delicious, vividly fruity wine with carefully extracted tannins, a rich, generous texture and a long, sweet finish. 20% *vin de presse* was added to build structure and this is a hugely successful debut vintage for the new team. 94 points. Drink 2035-2043.

## Château Chasse Spleen

*Moulis-en-Médoc, 63% CS, 30% M, 5% PV, 2%CF*

Céline Villars, along with husband Jean-Pierre Foubet, has established Chasse Spleen as one of the finest family-owned properties in Moulis. They have reduced the percentage of new oak from 40% to 30% to put greater emphasis on the fruit and this is a lovely, aromatic Chasse Spleen, with blackcurrant and violets on the nose, followed by a generous, fruity palate. Fresh, black fruits and a hint of sweet cedar build towards a harmonious finish. 94 points. Drink 2034-2043.

## Château Cantemerle

*5ème Cru Classé, Haut Médoc, 71% CS, 18% M, 7% CF, 4% PV*

The first vintage to be made in the château's impressive, 6,000 m<sup>2</sup> cellar is a great success and comfortably in the same league as the glorious 2022. Estate director, Laure Canu, has made huge progress at this large, 96 hectare, estate since her arrival in 2021 and was able to use 70% of the crop in the *grand vin*. She chose to include 12% of the *vin de presse* and the 2025 has bright, vibrant redcurrant and blackberry fruit on the nose, a seamless texture, fine freshness and a touch of sweet cedar on the finish. An outstanding Cantemerle which, given the château's history of sensible pricing, should make it one of the best value *crus classés* upon release. 94 points. Drink 2034-2042.

## Château de Camensac

*5ème Cru Classé, Haut Médoc, 60% CS, 40% M*

Jean-Pierre Foubet and Céline Villars run this fine *crus classés* that lies just outside the Saint Julien appellation in tandem with their other highly regarded estate, Château Chasse Spleen. Over 30% of the vineyards have been replanted over the past twenty years with the proportion of cabernet sauvignon increasing and the wines gaining in concentration and depth. Carefully vinified to maximise the fruit, the 2025 is a delicious, open-textured wine with vivid, blackcurrant fruit, soft tannins and excellent freshness. This will be highly attractive at an early age but has the balance to mature gracefully. 93 points. Drink 2033-2040.

### **Château Mauvesin Barton**

*Moulis-en-Médoc, 48% CS, 48% M, 4% CF*

Mélanie Barton is making the wine at Mauvesin, a substantial, 46 hectare, Moulis estate acquired by the Barton family in 2011. The vineyards have been renovated and the cellars rebuilt allowing the quality to improve dramatically. The 2025 is the best ever with bright red fruits, a succulent texture and a long, sweet finish. At 12.5% alcohol, it is fresh and approachable but will age gracefully in the medium term. Will be aged in one third new French oak barrels. 93 points. Drink 2032-2039.

### **Château Sénéjac**

*Haut Médoc, 52 % CS, 35 % M, 8 % CF, 5 % PV*

Jean-Michel Laporte, winemaker at Château Talbot, is also responsible for the wines at this fabulously situated 37 hectare estate, owned by the Cordier family since 1999. Low yields of 30 hl/ha have produced a splendid wine which, at 13.2% alcohol, is superbly fresh and aromatic. A touch of sweet spice from 25% new oak is perfectly balanced by generous, red and black fruits on the palate. Open-textured and fresh, this will give an enormous amount of pleasure from a young age but also mature gracefully. 93 points. Drink 2032-2040.

### **Château Cissac**

*Haut Médoc, 50% CS, 40% M, 5% PV, 5% Malbec*

Owner, Marie Vialard, and wine-maker, Laurent Saint Pasteur, have refined the style and are making more elegant, less austere wines without compromising the traditional, ageing potential of Château Cissac. The 2025 is as fine as the splendid 2022 with blackcurrant and red plums on the nose and a touch of spice from ageing in 30% new oak. Bright and refreshing on the palate with fine tannins and a pure, classic finish. 92 points. Drink 2032-2040.

### **Château Fourcas Dupré**

*Listrac-Médoc, 74% CS, 26% M*

Since taking over the winemaking in 2019, Lucas Leclercq has sought to bring new levels of refinement and precision to this fine, 46 hectare Listrac estate. He has introduced larger 300 and 600 litre French oak barrels from nine different *tonnelleries* and is experimenting with ceramic amphoras. In 2025 he has achieved a greater degree of elegance whilst maintaining the classic structure for which Listrac is renowned. Only 7 *remontages* were carried out to extract the finest of tannins and the result is a wonderfully vivid Fourcas with fresh, blackcurrant fruit, a round, generous texture and a persistent, harmonious finish. 93 points. Drink 2032-2040.

### **Château Beaumont**

*Haut Médoc, 62% CS, 34% M, 4% PV*

Philippe Blanc, who runs this estate in tandem with Château Beychevelle, has made another delicious wine at this well-known Haut Médoc château. He has decided to focus on the very best 65 hectares of the 100 hectare property to improve the quality and the 2025 is a great success. Full of sweet, blackberry fruit, it has excellent freshness and fine grip on the finish. It will be aged for a year in 33% new oak barrels and will be immensely enjoyable at an early stage whilst having sufficient depth and richness to age well in the medium term. 93 points. Drink 2032-2040.

# PESSAC-LEOGNAN & GRAVES

## Château Haut Brion

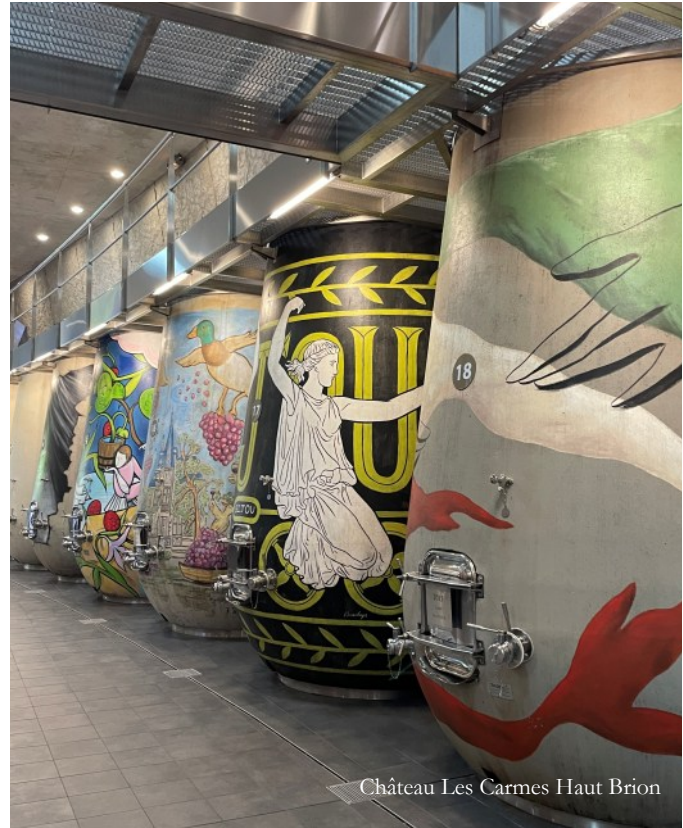
*1er Cru Classé, 62% M, 26% CS, 12% CF*

The fourth vintage to be made in the temporary facilities whilst the new winery is being built. The 2025 has highest proportion of merlot and the lowest percentage of cabernet sauvignon for many years. Estate director Jean-Philippe Delmas reduced the amount of *effeuillage* to protect the fruit from the sun and has made a rich, creamy wine with complex aromas of blackcurrant, plum and spice. Full and generous with impressive freshness and vitality, this starts discreetly but builds in the mouth to a magnificent, grandiose finish. Only 13% alcohol but the low yields (29 hl/ha) bring concentration and structure. 2% *vin de presse* was added as usual and the wine will be aged in 59% new oak. A brilliant wine that will give huge pleasure relatively young but has the depth and balance to age splendidly. 98 points. Drink 2036-2055.

## Château La Mission Haut Brion

*Cru Classé, 58.3% CS, 38.3% M, 3.4% CF*

More cabernet sauvignon in the blend here and yields were even lower at 23 hl/ha. Rich and profound with a dense, close-knit texture and refreshing acidity. Tight and less open than the Haut Brion at the moment but shows startling promise. A little more alcoholic (13.6%) but finishes fresh and long. Needs time to open up but has huge potential. 97 points. Drink 2036-2055.



Château Les Carmes Haut Brion

## Château Haut Bailly

*Cru Classé, 55% CS, 36% M, 5% CF, 4% PV*

Owned by the American Wilmers family since 1998, this famous estate, recognised in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as the equal of the first growths, is now run by Véronique Sanders, the grand daughter of the previous owner. The wine-making is in the highly capable hands of technical director Gabriel Vialard who benefits from the new winery built in 2021. Haut Bailly had one of the lowest rainfalls in the run up to the harvest but the vines suffered little from water stress and gave a small (26 hl/ha) but perfectly ripe and healthy crop. Harvested from 4<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> September, the 2025 *grand vin* is fresh and vibrant with remarkable purity of fruit and an impressive, close-knit texture. Restrained and harmonious, it builds in the mouth to a magnificent finish. Classic Graves and one of the wines of the vintage. 97 points. Drink 2035-2050.

## Château Les Carmes Haut Brion

*Pessac-Léognan, 54% CF, 29% CS, 17% M*

Just 7 hectares of vines make up this innovative property, which lies in the suburbs of Bordeaux on some of the finest soils in the north of the Pessac-Léognan appellation. Technical director, Guillaume Pouthier, was so satisfied with the ripeness of the fruit that he used 65% whole bunches in the vinification this year. With a majority of cabernet franc in the blend and ageing 70% in new oak barrels, 19% in larger, 18hl *foudres* and 11% in clay amphoras, this is a unique wine in Bordeaux. Deep and dense on the nose, with dark fruits and a touch of spice, this has a fine, close-knit texture and welcome acidity and freshness on the finish. Backward at present and requiring time to harmonise, this has all the elements to age magnificently. 95 points. Drink 2035-2048.

## Château Smith Haut Lafitte

*Cru Classé, 68% CS, 27% M, 4% CF, 1% PV*

Fabien Teitgen chose to pick the merlot relatively early, starting on 3<sup>rd</sup> September but decided to wait for much of the cabernet sauvignon and didn't finish until 30<sup>th</sup> September. He was rewarded by making one of the most complete wines of the vintage, the rich, fully ripe fruit having an extra dimension from an additional 7-10 days hanging on the vine. Full-bodied with masses of red plum and blackcurrant fruit, this is rich and aromatic and has impressive intensity of flavour. Finishes with an opulence rarely found in 2025 - a great success. 95 points. Drink 2035-2048.

## Château Pape Clément

*Cru Classé, 60% M, 36% CS, 3% CF, 1% PV*

Bernard Magrez's most famous property comprises 64 hectares of vines in the Bordeaux suburb of Pessac and has made a typically ripe and generous wine. With a high proportion of merlot, this is rich and fleshy with a dark colour, vivid plum and blackcurrant fruit, a succulent texture and a long, sweet finish. Will be aged 85% in French oak barrels, of which one third are new, and 15% in larger oak *foudres*. 95 points. Drink 2035-2048.

## Domaine de Chevalier

*Cru Classé, 65% CS, 30% M, 5% PV*

Domaine de Chevalier is one of the great family owned and run estates of Bordeaux. Olivier and Anne Bernard have been joined by their sons Adrien and Hugo and the wine continues to go from strength to strength. The expansion of the vineyards in the 1980s and 1990s has now borne fruit with a series of splendid wines that are amongst the most elegant of the Graves. The 2025 is beautifully aromatic with a close-knit texture thanks to the low (34 hl/ha) yields. Rich and generous on the palate, this has silky tannins, fresh acidity and a long, sweet finish. 95 points. Drink 2035-2050.

## Château de Fieuzal

*Cru Classé, 50% M, 40% CS, 10 % PV*

The Irish Quinn family are celebrating 25 years of ownership of this substantial 76 hectare estate and wine-maker Stephen Carrier has made one of the château's finest ever vintages. Hand-harvested in fine conditions between 4<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September at low yields of 28 hl/ha, the *grand vin* was fermented in a mixture of cement and stainless steel vats. Carefully extracted at lower temperature with less pumping over, the 2025 is a refined version of the opulent 2022 with beautiful, fresh, vivid fruit, firm but ripe tannins, moderate alcohol and fine acidity. 94 points. Drink 2034-2045.

## Domaine de la Solitude

*Pessac-Léognan, 65% CS, 30% M, 5% PV*

Olivier Bernard of Domaine de Chevalier has been farming this fine 45 hectare property since 1993 and has invested heavily in the estate replanting the vineyards and improving the wine-making facilities. He now owns a substantial part of the vineyards whilst leasing the remainder of the estate from the religious order of the Sisters of La Sainte Famille. This is as fine as the magnificent 2022, marginally less flamboyant but with greater precision and purity of fruit. Fresh and elegant with a complex mixture of blackcurrant and plum fruit, a touch of spice and a hint of vanilla from ageing in 20% new oak casks. Has a rich, generous texture, silky tannins and a succulent finish. As good as most of the Graves *crus classés*. 93 points. Drink 2032-2040.

## Vieux Château Gaubert

*Graves rouge, 50% CS, 50% M*

The finest château of Portets where Dominique Haverlan believes in harvesting at full maturity in order to make gloriously, rich, full-bodied wines. In 2025 he was one of the last to finish picking, extending the harvest well into October. Aged in 30% new oak, this is a characterful, gutsy wine with a complex mixture of blackcurrant fruit, spice and oak on the nose, firm but ripe tannins on the palate and a long, sweet finish. 92 points. Drink 2031-2038.

# POMEROL

## Vieux Château Certan

*Pomerol, 80% M, 15% CF, 5% CS*

Alexandre and Guillaume Thienpont harvested from 8<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September, later than at neighbouring Châteaux L'Evangile and Conseillante. At 14% alcohol, this is a sunny, opulent Vieux Château Certan with masses of ripe fruit and a dense, rich texture. Alexandre compares it to other hot vintages including '2018, 2020 and 2022'. Cropped at 22 hl/ha with nearly all the wine selected for the *grand vin*, it is big and powerful with plenty of tannin and a long aftertaste. Dominated by the ripeness of the merlot, it has plenty of muscle and ageing potential but less finesse than usual. 95 points. Drink 2034-2044.

## Château Gazin

*Pomerol, 87% M, 10% CS, 3% CF*

With 26 hectares in a single block on the Pomerol plateau, Château Gazin is one of the largest of the top Pomerol properties. The merlot was picked promptly from 28<sup>th</sup> August to 10<sup>th</sup> September with the cabernets left to ripen until the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September, just before the arrival of heavy rain on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Rich and generous with excellent structure, this is a splendid success, a beautiful, complete wine that combines ripe, plummy fruit with carefully extracted tannins and fresh acidity. 95 points. Drink 2034-2045.

## Château L'Evangile

*Pomerol, 86% M, 13% CF, 1% CS*

The energetic and talented Juliette Couderc has overseen this fine Pomerol estate (part of the Lafite stable) since 2020 and the blend once again includes the cabernet sauvignon planted in 2015 which has proved to be a highly successful experiment. The modest yield of 23 hl/ha has given impressive concentration to the wine, and this has wonderful aromas of blackberries and sweet spices, a luscious, satin-like texture and high quality, fine tannins. The most elegant of the top Pomerols this year. 96 points. Drink 2035-2048.

## Château La Conseillante

*Pomerol, 87% M, 10% CF, 3% CS*

Winemaker Marielle Cazaux has made a rich, bold Conseillante which combines ripe, opulent, plummy fruit and fresh acidity. 85% of the crop was selected for the *grand vin*, including for the first time the plot of cabernet sauvignon planted in 2023. Cropped at a low but, in the context of the vintage, satisfactory yield of 30 hl/ha, this rich, full-bodied Pomerol has 13.5% alcohol and will be aged in 70% new oak barrels. Powerful and generous whilst retaining great vitality and finishing sweet and long. 95 points. Drink 2034-2045.

## **Château du Domaine de L'Eglise**

*Pomerol, 98% M, 2% CF*

This 7 hectare property lies just to the north of the church of Pomerol and is owned by the Castéja family of Château Trotte Vieille. The estate benefits from the same viticultural and wine-making team led by Christophe Dussoutour and unsurprisingly, the wine has the same, dense, close-knit texture and impressive structure that guarantees a long life. Has masses of dark fruits, firm but ripe tannins and a long, fresh finish. 94 points. Drink 2035-2042.

## **Château La Croix de Gay**

*Pomerol, 86.5% M, 13.5% CF*

Chantal Lebreton consistently makes one of the most characterful and best value wines on the Pomerol plateau. With just 4.2 hectares of vines on varying *terroirs*, La Croix de Gay is a sumptuous, fleshy Pomerol. The gravel soils at the northern end of the plateau adjacent to Château Lafleur provide freshness and elegance whilst the heavier clay soils with a high proportion of iron bring power and strength. The 2025 vintage was one of the earliest and quickest on record with the merlot being picked from 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September and the cabernet franc on 12<sup>th</sup> September. Yields were moderate at 25 hl/ha and macerations lasted between 23 and 25 days. This is a fine, harmonious wine with sumptuous fruit, fresh acidity and firm but ripe tannins. Will be aged in 35% new French oak barrels. 94 points. Drink 2034-2042.

## **Château La Croix du Casse**

*Pomerol, 96% M, 4% CF*

This fine 9.5 hectare property in the south of the appellation was bought by the Castéja family of Château Trotte Vieille in 2005. The warm, gravel and sand soils consistently give ripe, fleshy wines that show well when young but in 2025, the dry summer provided extra depth and concentration that will guarantee a fine future. Rich and fruity with masses of fruit on both the nose and palate, this is an open-textured crowd pleaser with impressive generosity and a succulent finish. Will be aged in 38% new French oak barrels. 93 points. Drink 2033-2040.

## **Château Siaurac**

*Lalande de Pomerol, 68% M, 19% CF, 13% Malbec*

At 45 hectares, this is one of the larger Lalande de Pomerol estates, situated just across the Barbanne stream from the plateau of Pomerol and the prestigious vineyards of Gazin and Petrus. Under the same ownership as Château Calon Ségur, the wine-making at Siaurac benefits from the flair and expertise of Vincent Millet and his team. The 2025 is a beautiful, vividly fruity wine that is a synthesis of the opulent 2022 and the vibrant, fresh 2023. Will be aged in a mixture of traditional oak barrels, cement amphoras and larger concrete vats to preserve the maximum of fruit. One of the very best value right bank wines. 93 points. Drink 2032-2040.

# SAINT EMILION

## Château Ausone

*Saint Emilion, 65% CF, 30% M, 5% CS*

Brother and sister, Edouard and Constance Vauthier have produced a beautifully refined, harmonious Ausone with real depth and class from their magnificent 7.25 hectares on the limestone plateau and *côtes* of Saint Emilion. By reducing the height of the canopy without exposing the fruit to the sun they managed to restrict the alcohol level whilst avoiding any trace of over-ripeness, producing a sublime, aromatic wine with vivid fruit, a sumptuous texture, silky tannins and a long, velvety finish. 98 points. Drink 2035-2050.

## Château Figeac

*St Emilion 1er Grand Cru Classé 'A', 38% M, 32% CS, 30% CF*

Managing director Frédéric Faye has overseen another triumph despite the hot, dry conditions. Temperatures exceeding 40C were recorded for over a week in August and the usual defoliation was abandoned to protect the fruit from the intense sunshine. No sulphites were added prior to completion of the alcoholic and malolactic fermentations, a policy that Frédéric believes enhances the aromatic quality of the wine. The consistently high quality of the fruit has allowed 90% of the crop to be reserved for the *grand vin* which has deep, intense aromas of dark plum, cherry, cassis and cedar followed by a bold structure with plenty of grip and firm but ripe tannins. Fine freshness on the finish will guarantee long and graceful ageing. 96 points. Drink 2035-2050.

## Château Cheval Blanc

*Saint Emilion, 51% M, 45% CF, 4% CS*

Nicolas Corporandy found that the average weight of a berry in 2025 was just 0.7 g instead of the usual 1.2 to 1.4 g, an indication of how little juice remained in the fruit after one of the warmest (a record 41.6 C recorded in August) and driest summers on record. This was despite the welcome 24mm of rain that fell at the end of August and which refreshed the vines and enabled the fruit to reach full phenolic ripeness. The high skin to juice ratio promised a record tannin potential and necessitated a gentle approach to vinification with shorter macerations for the younger vines in particular and less frequent *remontages*. Alcohol levels remained modest (12.7% compared to 14.5% in the similarly hot summer of 2010) and the 2025 Cheval Blanc is a beautiful, harmonious wine with excellent freshness and purity of fruit. 85% of the crop was selected for the *grand vin* with no Petit Cheval produced, the remaining 15% being sold anonymously in bulk. As usual, none of the press wine was used. Not as opulent as many great vintages of the past but an impressive, concentrated wine, backward at present but with undeniable potential. 96 points. Drink 2035-2050.

## Château Canon

*Saint Emilion 1er Grand Cru Classé, 76% M, 24% CF*

Technical director, Stéphane Bonnasse, has been at Canon since Chanel bought the château in 1996 and 2025 is his earliest harvest ever. To compensate for the hot, dry summer, Stéphane performed no green harvest and only minimal *effeuillage*. Picking started on 28<sup>th</sup> August with the merlot and finished with the last cabernet franc on 13<sup>th</sup> September. The 23 hectares of vines on the limestone plateau showed little sign of stress and gave a highly satisfactory yield of 40 hl/ha. Vinification was careful with the maceration lasting 30 days at a lower temperature than usual and only short *remontages*. 12% *vin de presse* was added to give additional strength and structure and the result is a beautiful, fresh wine with impressive purity of fruit, excellent acidity and silky tannins. Finishes sweet and long and will age effortlessly. 96 points. Drink 2035-2048.

## Clos Fourtet

*St Emilion 1er Grand Cru Classé, 84% M, 10% CF, 6% CS*

This is consistently one of the finest wines of the appellation produced from 19 hectares on the limestone plateau immediately to the west of the town of Saint Emilion and adjacent to Châteaux Canon and Belair-Monange. The limestone maintains freshness in warm years such as 2025 and owner Matthieu Cuvelier managed to harvest a satisfactory 28 hl/ha. Will be aged 18 months in their underground caves in 40% new, 58% 1 year oak and 2% amphoras. A juicy, harmonious wine with silky tannins and plenty of energy. 95 points. Drink 2035-2045.

## Château Trotte Vieille

*St Emilion 1er Grand Cru Classé, 51% CF, 46% M, 3% CS*

The most improved 1er Grand Cru Classé in recent years. The new cellar inaugurated in 2021 has cemented its position as a rival to Ausone and Cheval Blanc and the 2025 is as fine a wine as any produced at the 12 hectare estate that sits at the top of the limestone *côtes* to the east of the town. Rich and dense with a wonderful mixture of red and black fruits, a close-knit texture and a long, fresh finish. 95 points. Drink 2035-2050.

## Château Troplong Mondot

*Saint Emilion 1er Grand Cru Classé, 85% M, 13% CS, 2% CF*

Estate director, Aymeric de Gironde, continues to make one of the most elegant wines of Saint Emilion. Since his arrival in 2017, he has transformed Troplong from a dense, oaky, highly extracted wine to one that is fresh and lively, full of charm and fruit. A cold, pre-fermentation maceration is followed by a cool fermentation with little pumping over. Ageing is now in larger oak *foudres* as well as traditional 225 litre barrels to give pure fruit flavours and a harmonious texture. The 2025 vintage was the earliest start (28<sup>th</sup> August) on record but continued until 27<sup>th</sup> September ensuring that each parcel was picked at the optimum moment. The 2025 is rich and fleshy with 13.5% alcohol, vivid, juicy fruit, a close-knit texture and a long, generous aftertaste. A beautiful, complete wine that combines structure with finesse. 95 points. Drink 2034-2044.



### **Château La Clotte**

*Saint Emilion, 85% M, 15% CF*

Acquired in 2014, the tiny, 4 hectare, La Clotte has flourished under the perfectionism and technical expertise of the Vauthier family of Ausone and now ranks amongst the finest Saint Emilion *châteaux*. The 2025 has ripe, plummy fruit on the nose with a rich, flamboyant palate, fine tannins and a touch of sweet cedar on the finish. A beautiful, complete, harmonious wine that deserves greater recognition. 95 points. Drink 2035-2045.

### **Château Moulin Saint Georges**

*Saint Emilion Grand Cru, 85% M, 15% CF*

A 7 hectare vineyard situated on cooler, west and north-west facing, clay-limestone slopes just across the valley from Château Ausone. Also owned by the Vauthier family and made by the same wine-making team, Château Moulin Saint Georges is aged for 18 months in 100% new oak barrels and is a fresh, compact version of its famous neighbour. In 2025 the merlot was harvested on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September with the cabernet franc following on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Has beautiful, precise, vibrant red and black fruits and a tight, close-knit texture and persistent finish. Restrained at present but has everything in place to develop beautifully. 94 points. Drink 2034-2045.

### **Château Grand Corbin**

*Saint Emilion Grand Cru Classé, 83% M, 12% CF, 5% CS*

This relatively large (34 hectares) estate is improving under the direction of estate manager, Laure Canu and consultant oenologist, Axel Marchal. A small crop of 28 hl/ha, harvested early, has produced one of the finest Saint Emilion *crus classés*, with forward, attractive plummy fruit on the nose and a generous, fleshy texture. There is excellent freshness and vitality to complement the ripeness of the fruit. Will be aged in 35% new oak barrels. 93 points. Drink 2032-2038.

### **Château de Fonbel**

*Saint Emilion Grand Cru, 60% M, 30% CS, 5% CF, 5% C*

Château de Fonbel, owned by the Vauthiers of Ausone, remains one of the best kept secrets in Bordeaux. With a significant number of gravelly plots across 16 hectares, it has an unusually high proportion of cabernet sauvignon. Despite the hot summer, the Vauthiers didn't rush to pick, preferring to wait until the fruit was physiologically fully ripe and were rewarded with a splendid, generous, vividly fruity wine with delicious blackcurrant and red plum aromas on the nose and a generous, succulent texture on the palate. Finishes fresh and long. 93 points. Drink 2032-2040.

### **Château Jacques Noir**

*Saint Emilion, 100% M*

With 5 hectares of merlot on the limestone *côtes* to the east of Saint Emilion, the Ducourts produce a delicious, harmonious wine that shows well when young but ages gracefully. Careful extraction ensures plenty of ripe, juicy fruit and a touch of spicy oak derives from 12 months ageing in French oak barrels. Drink 2031-2037.

# DRY WHITES

## **Château Haut Brion Blanc**

*Pessac-Léognan, 53% Sémillon, 47% Sauvignon*

A splendid, rich wine with beautiful, ripe fruit and a creamy texture. Full-bodied and generous with 14.5% alcohol and just enough acidity. The harvest was early and swift from 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> August with unusually the sémillon being picked before the sauvignon. Yields were even lower (23 hl/ha) than for the red wine and the white Haut Brion, fermented and aged in 45% new oak barrels is a majestic, concentrated wine that will be delicious upon release and age gracefully. 95 points.

Drink 2029-2035.

## **Château La Mission Haut Brion Blanc**

*Cru Classé, Pessac-Léognan, 64.5% Sémillon, 35.5% Sauvignon*

The higher proportion of sémillon, despite the early harvest, gives a rich, broad texture to this full-bodied, concentrated wine. Beautiful, pure fruit flavours enhanced by a touch of oak make this a harmonious, complete wine with an impressive, long, saline finish. Will be aged for nine months in 31% new French oak barrels. 95 points. Drink 2029-2035.

## **Domaine de Chevalier Blanc**

*Cru Classé, Pessac-Léognan, 70% Sauvignon, 30% Sémillon*

The 2025 is another brilliant white Domaine de Chevalier with fine, fresh, honeyed fruit allied to excellent acidity and a touch of crisp salinity on the finish. Whilst not quite as crystalline as the perfect 2024, this has both richness and definition and will age magnificently. Harvested as usual with a succession of passages through the vineyard, the juice was fermented and aged for up to 18 months in oak vessels of various sizes ranging from traditional 225 litre *barriques*, through 600 litre casks to 2,500 litre *foudres*. 94 points. Drink 2029-2038.

## **Château Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc**

*Cru Classé, Pessac-Léognan,*

*90% Sauvignon Blanc, 5% Sauvignon Gris, 5% Sémillon*

Consistently one of the finest dry white wines of Bordeaux, brilliantly vinified by Fabien Teitgen and his team. Harvested promptly from 20<sup>th</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September, picking only took place in the cool of the morning to maximise the vitality of the wine. The white wine is vinified in 50% new French oak barrels from the estate's own cooperage. Fresh and aromatic with remarkable depth and concentration because of the very low (18 hl/ha) yields. Has bright, floral aromas, ripe, succulent fruit and excellent acidity on the impressive, long finish. 94 points. Drink 2028-2035.

## Château de Fieuzal Blanc

*Pessac-Léognan, 70% Sauvignon, 30% Sémillon*

Wine-maker Stephen Carrier is from a family of Champagne producers and understands the importance of pressing the fruit. The juice from each *pressoir* is separated into three lots and fermented separately before being evaluated and either incorporated into or discarded from the blend for the *grand vin*. Only 9,600 litres were selected in 2025 which is one of the finest, dry white wines of the vintage. Fermented and aged in both oak and acacia barrels which are less porous and preserve the maximum of fruit and vitality. Shows a complex mixture of citrus and stone fruits on the nose, a rich, generous texture and a sumptuous finish. A magnificent, complete wine. 94 points. Drink 2028-2035.

## Caillou Blanc du Château Talbot

*Médoc Blanc, 88% Sauvignon, 12% Sémillon*

A lovely, rich, full-bodied (14.1% alcohol), aromatic wine that has honeyed fruit, a generous texture and just enough acidity to finish fresh and clean. Produced from 6 hectares of the estate planted in the 1930s by Georges Cordier, the grandfather of the current owner, Nancy Bignon-Cordier. Wine-maker, Jean-Michel Laporte, has reduced the amount of *bâtonnage* and the percentage of new oak barrels to enhance the wine's vitality and the 2025 has spent only 6 months in wood before bottling in early summer. 93 points. Drink 2028-2033.



Château de Fieuzal

## **Château Fourcas Dupré Blanc**

*Médoc Blanc, 64% Sauvignon, 36% Sémillon*

Estate director, Lucas Leclercq, is making one of the finest white wines of the Médoc. Produced on the limestone soils that underpin great white wines from Listrac, this has a minerality and freshness rarely seen in 2025. Vinified in a mixture of 300 litre French oak barrels, amphoras, 900 litre cement eggs and stainless steel vats to retain fruit and vitality. Forward, peachy fruit, great zip on the mid palate and a touch of toast on the finish, this will be delicious upon release and age gracefully. 93 points. Drink 2027-2031.

## **Château Doisy Daëne ‘Sauvignon sur Calcaire’**

*Bordeaux Blanc, 100 % Sauvignon*

The limestone subsoil at Doisy Daëne is equally suited for the production of world class dry and sweet wines. Jean-Jacques Dubourdieu’s late father, Denis, pioneered the production of crisp, aromatic dry, white Bordeaux and his own château’s wine has consistently been one of the finest each year. Fermented and aged in both 225 litre barrels and larger (500-870 litre) oak *foudres*, this is gloriously aromatic with stylish, crisp fruit, a generous texture and excellent, balancing acidity. 93 points. Drink 2027-2032.

## **Domaine de la Solitude Blanc**

*Pessac-Léognan, 70% Sauvignon, 30% Sémillon*

Olivier Bernard harvests the white grapes at Domaine de la Solitude with the same diligence and precision as at Domaine de Chevalier. In 2025, picking was over two weeks from 26<sup>th</sup> August to 8<sup>th</sup> September with three successive passages through the vines, harvesting only the perfectly ripe bunches on each occasion. Fermented and aged in small, French oak barrels, the 2025 is rich and generous with fine, peachy fruit, a generous texture and fine, balancing acidity. Already delicious, this has the density and concentration to age magnificently. 93 points. Drink 2028-2032.

## **Vieux Château Gaubert Blanc**

*Graves Blanc, 50% Sauvignon, 50% Sémillon*

Dominique Haverlan has been making fantastic white wines at Portets in the heart of the Graves for over 40 years. His son, Romain, now makes the wine with him and the 2025 is another great success. The Vieux Château Gaubert is produced from their oldest vines in the communes of Castres and Portets, fermented in 225 litre barrels of which 30% are new each year. Half of the barrels are supplied by Seguin-Moreau and have their ends made from acacia, a wood that is less porous than oak and therefore allows the transmission of less oxygen. Acacia also gives a delicate honeyed aroma to the wine rather than the more overt vanilla flavour of oak. The 2025, harvested at the end of August is a beautiful, vibrant, aromatic wine with generous fruit and a long, crisp finish. 93 points. Drink 2027-2031.

# SAUTERNES AND BARSAC

## **Château Suduiraut, 1<sup>er</sup> Cru Classé, Sauternes** *100% Sémillon*

After an initial *tri* from 18<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October, the finest juice was obtained from a second passage through the vineyards between 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October, which represented 60% of the crop. A third *tri* on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October completed the harvest before heavy rain set in. With an overall yield of a small but satisfactory 13 hl/ha, this is one of the richest and most intensely flavoured wines of the vintage. Beautiful, peach and citrus fruit is complemented by a touch of oak, creamy sweetness (158 g/l of residual sugar), a full structure (13.5% alcohol) and thrilling acidity (3.4 g/l). Will be aged in 50% new and 50% 1 year old oak barrels for approximately 18 months. 97 points. Drink 2032-2045.

## **Château Coutet, 1<sup>er</sup> Cru Classé, Barsac** *97% Sémillon, 2% Sauvignon, 1% Muscadelle*

Philippe Baly and his niece Aline made three passages through the vineyards between 17<sup>th</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> October and with the expertise of wine-maker Laurier Girardot have crafted one of the finest wines of the vintage. Beautiful, pure fruit and a silky, fresh texture are hallmarks of the traditional Coutet elegance. Fermented and aged in 25% new French oak barrels, the 2025 has 13.5% alcohol and 155 g/l residual sugar. A brilliant wine with both power and finesse. 96 points. Drink 2032-2045.

## **Château Guiraud 1<sup>er</sup> Cru Classé, Sauternes** *66% Sémillon, 27% Sauvignon Blanc, 7% Sauvignon Gris*

Sandrine Garbay has produced one of the richest Guirauds in recent years, with 145 g/l of residual sugar. A short harvest, from the 15<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October in 4 *tris* produced a satisfactory yield of 14 hl/ha. In the blend, Sandrine opted for a higher percentage than usual of sauvignon gris due to the exceptional development of botrytis in the variety and this has a lovely, floral nose, with honeysuckle, peach and apricot to go with a superbly concentrated palate which is both rich and luscious, but also with the characteristic freshness for which Guiraud is known. Will be matured in 100% new oak barrels. 96 points. Drink 2032-2045.

## **Château Doisy Daëne, 2<sup>ème</sup> Cru Classé, Barsac** *88% Sémillon, 12% Sauvignon*

Purchased by Georges Dubourdieu in 1924, this estate is today run by his great-grandson, Jean-Jacques. The humid weather in September 2025 gave perfect conditions for botrytis to develop and Jean-Jacques considers this wine 'one of the best Doisy Daënes ever made'. I would concur, the 2025 having both richness and finesse. With 155 g/l of residual sugar it is one of the sweetest but has a silky texture and a delightful freshness and vitality on the palate. 96 points. Drink 2032-2042.

### **Château Doisy Védrières, 2ème Cru Classé, Sauternes**

*88% Sémillon, 8% Sauvignon, 4% Muscadelle*

Owner Guillaume Lefebvre, and wine-maker Frédéric Deyres, have made another brilliant wine in 2025. Consistently one of the richest and most powerful Barsacs (but they choose to label it as Sauternes), Doisy Védrières also manages to retain the quintessential Barsac characteristics of freshness and elegance. The 2025 was harvested with three passages through the vineyards between 17<sup>th</sup> September and 13<sup>th</sup> October and 70% of the crop was selected for the *grand vin*. With 14% alcohol and 140 g/l of residual sugar, the 2025 is a beautiful, harmonious wine that combines honeyed fruit and thrilling acidity. 95 points. Drink 2030-2038.

### **Château Broustet, 2ème Cru Classé, Sauternes**

*85% Sémillon, 10% Sauvignon, 5% Muscadelle*

Denis Merlaut purchased this fine *cru classé* in 2010 and continues to invest heavily, renovating the cellars and acquiring an additional 12 hectares of adjoining land this year. The 2025 is as fine a vintage as he has produced so far. After a warm, dry summer, rain at the end of August and beginning of September allowed the noble rot to develop quickly and the harvest started early on 15<sup>th</sup> September and was completed by the 20<sup>th</sup> October. Wine-maker Jean-Hubert Beaupuy said that ‘the sauvignon has never been so good’ and he considers the 2025 to be more complex than other great vintages such as 2010 and 2022. Rich and honeyed with 150 g/l of residual sugar, this is a delicious yet harmonious wine with vibrant fruit and fresh acidity. A great success. 95 points. Drink 2030-2038.

### **Château Doisy Dubroca, 2ème Cru Classé, Barsac**

*67% Sauvignon, 33% Sémillon*

The Dubourdieu purchased this tiny 3 hectare *cru classé* from the Lurton family in 2014 and have invested heavily, replanting the vineyard, and with the 2025 vintage producing the château’s finest ever wine. 13.5% alcohol and 164 g/l of residual sugar provide the backbone for an intensely flavoured, concentrated wine that has both power and finesse. Shows wonderful purity of fruit, a touch of oak and a splendid, persistent aftertaste. 95 points. Drink 2031-2040.

### **Château Lamothe Guignard, 2ème Cru Classé, Sauternes**

*90% Sémillon, 5% Sauvignon, 5% Muscadelle*

Philippe Guignard makes a lighter, fresher style of Sauternes which enables him to retain much-needed acidity and vitality in richer vintages such as 2025. Harvested between 23<sup>rd</sup> September and 16<sup>th</sup> October with an overall yield of 12 hl/ha, the 2025 has 14% alcohol and 120 g/l of residual sugar. Has wonderful, fresh fruit and a rich yet delicate texture. The palate is full and concentrated with a delightful, persistent finish. 94 points. Drink 2030-2038.

### **Château Cantegril, Barsac**

*96% Sémillon, 4% Sauvignon Blanc*

Château Cantegril lies just down the road from Château Doisy -Daëne on the limestone plateau of Barsac and was purchased by the Dubourdieu family over 100 years ago. Produced with the same care as Doisy Daëne with fermentation and ageing for 18 months in small French oak barrels, Cantegril is brilliant value. The 2025 has impressive purity of fruit, 13.5% alcohol and 149 g/l of residual sugar. A lovely, harmonious wine that will age gracefully. 94 points. Drink 2030-2038.

# How our 2025 Bordeaux En Primeur Offer works:

- **The recommended wines**

This booklet represents my personal selection of the most successful wines of the vintage. I have tried to include wines at every level and from a wide spread of appellations. At the time of going to press we do not have prices of any of the châteaux so I cannot make ultimate judgements of value for money. There are other excellent wines that I have tasted that I will buy if the price is right. Conversely, I may decide that the price asked for some of my chosen wines is too high. The points I have given are relative within this vintage.

- **Let us have your wish list**

Please let us know as soon as possible if there are any specific châteaux (whether they are on my list or not) in which you are interested and we will make you an offer as soon as the wine is released.

- **Prices by email**

As the châteaux release their wines onto the market, we will send out the prices by email. If you have not already received any 2025 Bordeaux information from us by email, please let us have your email address so that we can keep you informed.

- **Order by email or telephone**

office@montrachetwine.com

Telephone: 020 7821 1337

We would urge you to place your order as quickly as possible. The châteaux have a limited supply and the most successful wines sell out within hours.

- **Timetable**

We expect the individual châteaux to release their prices at any time between now and the end of June. The wine is sold whilst still lying at the châteaux for delivery after bottling. i.e. 2025 Bordeaux will be shipped to the UK in spring/summer 2028.

**For further information or to place an order,  
please contact our en primeur specialists:**

**Charles Taylor M.W., Ed Hume-Kendall,  
Thomas Britten, Jasper Taylor,  
Liam Dufraisse and Beth Layder**

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### Terms and conditions

Wine will be invoiced at the IN BOND price, lying at London City Bond, Creek Road and which excludes costs such as delivery, duty & VAT. The IN BOND price for the wine must be paid for at the time of the order. The duty, VAT and delivery costs are due, if applicable, when the wines are shipped in 2028.

Wine is generally sold in 6x75cl bottle cases (i.e. 4.5 litres) and we supply all 'En Primeur' purchases in this size unless otherwise instructed. Wine can be bottled in different formats: Halves 12x37.5cl, Magnums 3x150cl, Double Magnums 1x300cl etc. There is a surcharge for this; please specify your requirements at time of ordering.

We ask that your minimum total order of wines from the 2025 vintage is £1000.

*Whilst detailing the blend of varieties at the individual châteaux the grape varieties are abbreviated as follows:  
Cabernet Sauvignon - CS, Cabernet Franc - CF, Merlot - M, Petit Verdot - PV, Carmenère - C*

*Front cover: Château Margaux*

*Back cover: Château Léoville Las Cases*



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