



**GRAND  
VIN**  
WINE MERCHANTS



# Bordeaux En Primeur 2015 Report

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## 2015 Bordeaux: An Introduction

The GVWM team (including the US, UK and Hong Kong branches) has returned from the better part of a week at Chateau Carignan, our home away from home in Bordeaux. As always, en primeur week is both exhausting as well as gratifying, and, like a language immersion course, you are inundated with all things Bordeaux.

We were hosted by Andy Lench of Bordeaux Wine Locators (who with the 2015s completed his 31st vintage of tasting barrel samples) and were afforded great opportunities to meet many of Bordeaux' insiders, as well as taste at a number of the finest properties in the region.

We hit the ground running on Sunday, visiting two friends and suppliers, and we tasted 120 wines! Needless-to-say, there was a bit of palate fatigue. What became clear early on, however, as we tasted through the various communes, there would be, as ever, consistency and inconsistency.

On Monday we started at the top of the Medoc at Calon Segur, and by the time 7pm arrived we had finished tasting at most of the major chateaux, ending at Rauzan Segla. The very top wines of this area have that freshness of tannins which is the hallmark of a great claret. You know that if this factor is present while still so young, you will find it there when the wine is mature and ready to drink.

2015 is an interesting vintage for certain. It was one of the hottest vintages in the region's history, but unlike 2003 where there was a long scorching period, 2015 had long hours of sunshine but with necessary rain interspersed as well as cooler nights. Although we could go on about the weather for three more paragraphs, at the end of the day we're more concerned with the product than the process, and the general outcome for Bordeaux was favorable. Left bank wines generally improved as you move north to south with some excellent wines produced in Margaux and Pessac Leognan, and Right bank wines were generally good, with some superb wines having been produced in Pomerol, and St Emilion. The depth of quality is not that of '05, '09, and '10, and there were definitely a number of wines that seemed over extracted and harshly tannic.

As is so often the case in Bordeaux, properties that possess both talent and resources were able to produce great wines in each of the appellations; so rest assured that fans of both Left and Right Bank will be able to secure wines that will hit the mark.

### The Top Wines

#### St Estephe

This northernmost commune is a little irregular in terms of quality due to the rains of early October. The highlights were **Montrose**, **Calon Segur** and quite bit lower down the price scale was **Les Ormes de Pez** - one to look out for.



## **Pauillac**

Dropping down from St Estephe, Pauillac has three First Growths along with many great Second through Fifth Growths. Again, Pauillac, faced with the same problem as St Estephe, produced some fabulous wines but also, as a whole, was inconsistent. Highlights: **Latour**, which has a whopping 97.1% Cabernet Sauvignon; **Pontet Canet**, the biodynamic leader in Bordeaux; **Mouton Rothschild**; **Grand Puy Lacoste** (a consumer favorite); **Lynch Bages**. Another wine improving year by year is **Le Petit Mouton** and also in the Mouton Stable, **Armailhac** which is always good value. **Clerc Milon** is another favorite.

## **St Julien**

**Ducru Beaucaillou** is clearly the leader here, followed by **St Pierre**. Next we have **Leoville Poyferre**, **Leoville Las Cases** (always tough to taste in barrel but clearly a very good LLC) and **Beychevelle** seems to be improving year by year and this is a superb example.

## **Margaux**

**This is one of the most consistent communes, with what we feel may potentially result in two "wines of the vintage" -- Chateaux Margaux and Palmer.** At **Margaux** is 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, full of rich, ripe, fat fruit throughout the entire palate and a finish that continues for a very long time. **Palmer**, a very different style, only 50% Cab Sauvignon, 44% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot, was one of the most complete young wines I have ever tasted, so succulent, rich and massive in the mouth with super sweet, ripe tannins--truly magnificent. **Rauzan Segla**: This is the best Rauzan tasted in barrel since the fabulous 1986. We were spoiled by this chateau, which harked back to "days gone by" and allowed us to taste from different barrel producers to give us a more complete idea of this wine's potential. There are so many very good wines, including **Malescot St Exupery**, **Giscours**, plus many others very good wines too numerous to mention.

## **Pessac Leognan**

Another one of the most consistent communes this year with the major three chateaux nestled in the city of Bordeaux. **Haut Brion**, another potential for "wine of the vintage," is a wine with massive power and fruit with fresh tannins and an enormous finish. **La Mission Haut-Brion** is always a different style from Haut Brion, surprisingly, as the vineyards are just across the road from each other. Big structure massive tannins but sweet and ripe with a great freshness. Followed by a very impressive **Smith Haut Lafitte** where the Cathiards are celebrating their 25th anniversary. A very nice **Haut Bailly** and **Pape Clement** showed very well, not the usual over-extracted wine. Also wines to watch: **Domaine de Chevalier** and **Malartic La Graviere**.

## **Pomerol**

**This commune, with its small number of properties, is the most consistent. Another potential "wine of the vintage" is Lafleur. Wow!** What a concentrated wine with pure, ripe fruit and such balance, finesse, elegance and fine structure, and with the longest of finishes. Followed closely by **Vieux Chateau Certan** 80% Merlot 19% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. It has rich creamy tannins and fat, opulent fruit that lasts a very long time on the finish. **L'Evangile** is also exceptional while **La Conseillante** was extremely attractive, plus many other great wines.



## St Emilion

Oh, it could have been so much better, BUT-----the best are fantastic, but as usual, with many there is way too much over extraction that yielded many unpleasant wines. When will they learn? **Canon was definitely the wine of the commune**, what a fantastic wine. **Beausejour Duffau Lagarosse, Le Dome, Ausone, Troplong Mondot, Clos Fourtet, Cheval Blanc, Pavie Macquin, Larcis Ducasse** all produced standout wines, and the best surprise was **Faugeres**--tasted five times with consistent notes. This is the best from the property. Numerous other great wines here, but tread carefully.

## Pessac Blanc

The whites of this region are good to very good with many of the consumer-friendly brands, **Carbonnieux, La Louviere, Malartic Lagravière, Latour Martillac and La Garde** producing very fine wines. Of course, the great Haut Brion Blanc showed marvelously. **La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc**, a big, bold wine that was quite closed but still full-bodied with vibrant, fleshy fruit. **Domaine de Chevalier Blanc** on top form, as usual, lovely citrus fruit and good acidity and balance.

## Sauternes

This region, like some of the red wine communes, is very inconsistent, but the best are extremely good. **Chateau d'Yquem** is outstanding, very rich and refined, with the requisite botrytis, great length and power but very elegant. **Doisy Daene, Guiraud, La Tour Blanche**, are all standouts with many other good to very good wines which should prove to be a bargain.

**Please find below our tasting notes and scores on the top wines of the vintage.** Additionally, **please visit our 2015 Bordeaux EP landing page** for in-depth weather reports from respected local authorities Professor Denis Dubourdieu and Bill Blatch, as well as our full list of 2015 Bordeaux updated daily as wines are released: [grandvinwinemERCHANTS.co.uk/en-primeur](http://grandvinwinemERCHANTS.co.uk/en-primeur)

**Thank you for your interest in 2015 Futures, and we look forward to supporting your pursuit of the world's finest wines with the latest exciting vintage of Bordeaux!**

Santé

The GVWM Team



## Tasting Notes: The Best of 2015

### St-Estèphe

**Calon Segur (93-95+ )** Black currants, smoke, cumin aromas, followed by ripe red cherries very fine tannins on the palate. Long finish with subtle fruit and balanced acidity. 82% Cab Sauv 16% Merlot 2% Petit Verdot with 100% new oak, with 22% press wine used in the final blend.

**Cos D'Estournel (94-96)** Maraschino cherry, hibiscus, blueberry nose with a silky, rich mouthfeel. Subtle concentration and fine, integrated tannins that carry through elegantly on the long finish

**Cos Labory (90-92 )** Rich, ripe maraschino cherry, fine tannins and medium + finish. 60% Cab Sauv, 35% Merlot, 5% Cab Franc

**La Dame De Montrose (93-95)** Ripe black cherries, roast cashew aromas followed by red and black currants, supple mouthfeel and balance. Medium ++ and a touch of kirsch on the finish. 55% Cab Sauv 41% Merlot 4% Cab Franc

**Le Marquis De Calon Segur (90-92)** Hints of smoke and bramble berry, with black currants on the palate and a rich supple mouthfeel. Silky fine tannins with a med+ finish, and racy acidity 57% Merlot 33% Cab Sauv 10% Cab Franc – 13.5% Alcohol

**Montrose (95-97)** Aromas of mineral, roast game, black and red currants. Very precise focus with ripe black and red currants, cherries, and fine tannins on the very long, structured finish. 37% of the production went into the Grand Vin. 67% Cab Sauv 29% Merlot 4% Cab Franc

**Ormes De Pez (91-93)** A rich, ripe wine with great balance and charm - one to look out for.

**Pagodes De Cos (91-93)** Red and black currants, smoke with a velvety ripe mid palate. Fine tannins with a medium plus finish and fresh acidity

**Phelan Segur (90-92 )** Wet gravel, cherry pit aromas, with very focused structure and ripe cherry fruit, slightly hard tannins. 58% Cab Sauv, 39% Merlot, 1.5% Cab Franc, 1.5% Petit Verdot

**Tronquoy Lalande (90-92)** Baking spices, blackberry aromas with ripe black cherries, hibiscus notes and fine tannins. Medium + finish with a lot of character for Tronquoy. 30% new oak, 55% Merlot 37% Cab Sauv 16% Petit Verdot



## Medoc

**Cantemerle (Haut Medoc) (91-93)** Black currant, wet gravel, and smoke aromas with very focused structure and fine, integrated ripe tannins, medium + finish.

**Potensac (Medoc) (90-92)** Currants, wet gravel, with balanced ripe raspberry and black cherry, integrated tannins and medium plus finish.

**Branas Grand Poujeaux (Moulis En Medoc) (90-92)** Red currants, blackberry, leather with balanced, succulent cherries and a medium finish.

**Chasse Spleen (Moulis En Medoc) (91-93)** Roast game, ripe currant jam with good concentration, lush fruit and ripe tannins. Medium + finish.

## Pauillac

**Carruades De Lafite Rothschild (93-95)** Hibiscus, raspberries, currants, with very succulent, ripe black and red currants and mouthwatering acidity.

**Clerc Milon (94-96)** Sandalwood, black and red currants, minerals with rich densely ripe fruit. A pleasure to taste with fine tannins and long finish

**Croizet Bages (92-94)** Blueberry aromas, followed by rich, ripe blackberry and very fine tannins and long finish. 54% Cab Sauv, 37% Merlot, 6% Cab Franc, 3% Petit Verdot

**D'Armailhac (93-95)** Black cherries wet stone hibiscus precise structure red and black currants very focused long finish

**Duhart Milon Rothschild (93-95)** Bing cherries, wet stone, and ripe red currants, followed by concentrated ripe cherry fruit and a lingering finish

**Echo De Lynch Bages (89-91)** Black cherries, mineral aromas, with clean black and red currants and fine tannins. Drops off a bit on the finish.

**Grand Puy Lacoste (94-96)** Raspberry, hibiscus give way to black currants with concentrated, silky mouthfeel and balanced acidity. Medium ++ finish. 75% Cab Sauv, 20% Merlot, 5% Cab Franc



## Pauillac

**Haut Batailley (89-91)** Raspberry, wet gravel give way to black currants, fresh, ripe Rainier cherry and fine, integrated tannins.

**Lacoste Borie (90-92)** Red currants, smoke, with fresh ripe black and red currants and cherries. Very bright fruit and balanced acidity, medium + finish. 75% Cab Sauv, 20% Merlot, 5% Cab Franc

**Lafite Rothschild (95-97)** Concentrated deep hue with complex aromas of blueberry, black currant, hibiscus, and wet gravel. Dense concentration on the palate with blackberry kirsch, big ripe tannins and very long finish

**Latour (96-98)** Black and red currants, hibiscus notes. Incredibly precise and structured black currants, cherries, mineral with broad ripe tannins and very long finish

**Le Petit Mouton (94-96)** Expressive aromas of wet gravel, blackberry. Subtle but concentrated black cherries with broad, ripe tannins and long finish

**Les Forts De Latour (94-96)** Hibiscus, blueberry, with black currants and broad ripe tannins. Long finish and so balanced.

**Lynch Bages (94-96)** Lynch Bages again stood out in the commune--a wine with power, finesse and length

**Mouton Rothschild (95-96+)** Ripe blackberries, smoke, and wet gravel aromas. Rich, dense black currants and cherries with fine tannins that expand on the long finish

**Pichon Baron (93-95)** Blackberry, leather aromas followed by ripe red and black currants, wet stone, and firm but shapely tannins and long finish. 62% Cab Sauv, 32% Merlot, 4% Cab Franc, 2% Petit Verdot

**Pichon Lalande (92-94)** Black cherry, bramble, with black currant fruit, earthy, though slightly tough tannins, medium finish. 62% Cab Sauv, 30% Merlot, 5% Cab Franc

**Pontet Canet (94-96)** Slightly-muted nose with hints of raspberry, tobacco and hibiscus, followed by pure dense black currants, fresh ripe tannins, and a long finish.

**Reserve De La Comtesse (89-91)** Black currant jam, wet stone, with blackberry fruit and fine integrated tannins. Very supple mouthfeel with a medium + finish. 62% Cab Sauv, 30% Merlot, 5% Cab Franc, 3% Petit Verdot



## St Julien

**Beychevelle (92-94)** Seems to be improving year by year and this is a superb example of the property, rich, ripe tannins and an elegance and freshness.

**Clos Du Marquis (92-94)** A very nice wine that has a good deal of finesse and elegance in a young wine. Excellent fruit with good depth and very well balanced with acidity, fruit, and tannins.

**Ducru Beaucaillou (96-98)** Clearly the leader here, a fabulous rich, ripe, full-bodied wine that has a very long finish.

**Gloria (92-94)** A big powerhouse of a wine with lots of structure and grip on the back end. Blackberries and mineral character. A really nice effort that will develop nicely given the components present.

**Graud Larose (93-95)** Good dark fruit with a nice mineral quality. Nice freshness and depth, and a sense of terroir. Very structured with plenty of grip. Nice length. Should be very nice when it comes together.

**Leoville Barton (93-95)** Dark rich fruit and plenty of structure. A rustic quality with that brambly fruit quality that usually exists in Barton. Lots of grip and tannin on the back end. Good length. A very nice Barton.

**Leoville Las Cases (93-95+)** Always tough to taste in barrel but clearly a very good LLC.

**Leoville Poyferre (94-96)** A balanced wine full of power, finesse and elegance.

**Saint Pierre Saint Julien (94-97)** A very rich wine full of sweet tannins and great length. Next best in the commune after Ducru.







## Margaux

**Alter Ego De Palmer (93-95)** Aromas of dark chocolate, raspberry, with ripe black currants and good length on the finish. 2nd vintage that was completely biodynamic.

**Cantenac Brown (92-94)** Lots of fruit with of some nice focus. Good balanced structure though to support that concentrated fruit and tannin.

**D'Issan (93-96)** Tasted twice. First sample (Vintex) was excellent. Beautiful concentration, very dark brooding fruit with a slightly smokey quality. Right up there with the '09 or better.

**Dauzac (91-93)** Red and black currants, fresh ripe cherries and blackberry on the palate with soft, broad tannins and medium plus finish.

**Du Tertre (89-91)** Maraschino cherry, ripe red currants, with good balance and a medium plus finish.

**Durfort Vivens (92-93)** I like this wine. Nice dark mineral and black fruit. Not over the top extraction but still some very firm tannins

**Giscours (92-94)** Giscours, as always, consistent, lovely fresh, ripe fruit with that Margaux elegance and charm.

**Labegorce (92-93)** Well put to gether. Packed with nice black fruit and mineral character. Good full body and integrated tannins

**Lascombes (92-94)** A very large scaled wine. Lots of big fruit and black mineral character that seems typical for most of Margaux this year. Big tannin as well.

**Malescot St Exupery (94-96)** Really large scaled with plenty of structure. Ripe but very firm tannic backbone. Seems to have the fruit to support the structure though. A wine for the long term.

**Margaux (98-100)** 87% Cab/8% Merlot/3% Cab Franc/2% Petit Verdot -Elegant, and feminine in style, the wine possesses incredible length and balance. Tannins are extremely refined. Very light on its feet. Blots of black fruit and minerality.

**Marojallia (92-94)** Good amounts of fruit and concentration with some enough acidity to lend it some charm.



## Margaux

**Palmer (99-100)** 44% Merlot/50% Cabernet/6% Petit Verdot Massive amounts of rich black fruit with great concentration and ripe integrated tannins. Very pure. Beautiful long finish. Definitely one of the best wines ever tasted here.

**Prieure Lichine (92-94)** Very good example of this wine. Well balanced, good fruit concentration with plums and currents. Well integrated tannins.

**Rauzan Segla (95-97)** Beautifully balanced. Superb red and black fruit with a lovely vein of acidity that lends it great charm. Excellent depth and layering but seamless. Ultra fine tannins. Tasted at the Chateau out of several barrels.

**Siran (92-94)** Very nice balance of good concentrated fruit and firm but fine ripe tannins. Pretty wine that has seems a little more elegant than some of the powerhouses from Margaux

## Pessac-Léognan

**Carmes Haut Brion (93-95)** A nice sense of terroir here with plenty of complexity. Pure fruit and very velvety in texture. Good long finish.

**De Fieuzal Rouge (92-94)** Lovely and sweet on the nose. Good dark fruit and a saline quality although it is fresh and pure.

**Domaine De Chevalier Rouge (94-96)** Really elegant and pure. Good delineation of fruit and showing some fine terroir. Fine length.

**Haut Bailly (94-96)** Well Structured and powerful with very fine and pure fruit, but also shows focus and elegance. Nice length and well integrated tannins

**Haut Bergey Rouge (90-92)** Owned by Helen Garcin and located in close proximity to Haut Bailly. Usually well-priced, this is a predominately Cabernet-based wine. Firmly structured wine with very black fruit and mineral character-lots of grip on the back-end. Definitely in the 'house style' for this wine. Needs to come together a little.



## Pessac-Léognan

**Haut Brion (97-99)** There's a lot going on in this wine. It's classic HB with plenty of terroir showing, but with real power. Lots of length and great depth fruit with plenty of structure for the long term. More power than the La Mission which is a slightly more refined wine.

**La Mission Haut Brion (97-99)** A very seamless wine. Ultra refined tannins and beautifully integrated. Extremely elegant showing great terroir. There's a lot of focus here and the fruit and structure are so well balanced.

**Larrivet Haut Brion Rouge (92-94)** Good structure with plenty of big black fruit. Quite powerful with some backbone but still a charm about it. Nice wine.

**Latour Martillac Rouge (91-94)** Very firm, with densely packed black fruit and firm tannic structure at the moment. A little disjointed but should come together.

**Malartic Lagraviere Rouge (93-95)** A really nice surprise for the vintage. Excellent black fruit with tar/leather and smoke character. Fine depth and layering of fruit. Surely one of the best from this vineyard. Great long finish.

**Pape Clement Rouge (94-96)** Good depth of fruit and a nice thread of acidity. The wine has nice balance and seems quite integrated. Good long finish

**Smith Haut Lafitte Rouge (95-97)** Shows some very nice terroir. This is a very good Smith Haut Lafitte. Excellent black fruit and superb length. Will be one of the top left bank efforts

## Pomerol

**Beauregard (90-92)** Brambly red fruit and dark chocolate with hints of leather. An attractive and slightly evolved nose. Medium bodied with fresh acidity and a plummy Merlot character on the finish. This should drink very well young.

**Clinet (92-94+)** Plums, figs and grilled meats on the nose. A masculine, full bodied style with black currant and hard tannin on the finish. This will need time to develop its full personality.



## Pomerol

**Croix St Georges (94-96+)** A brooding, dense nose showing notes of black cherry, chocolate and espresso. Hints of cloves. A sleek texture, with big chewy richness. A gorgeous, opulent Pomerol that will age well.

**Feytit Clinet (93-95)** An attractive nose of plums, blueberries milk chocolate. Medium to full bodied, with well integrated acidity and velvety tannins. Very pure black fruits on the complex, long finish.

**Gazin (94-96)** Red cherry and floral notes with hints of toast. Excellent ripe red fruits with caramel and liquorice. Very juicy and succulent, but with a seriously long finish. Delicious coffee tinged fruit flavours linger in the mouth. Superb.

**L'Evangile (97-99)** Black cherries, crème de cassis and violets. A very expressive perfume. It shows a cashmere like texture, with sily soft, sweet tannins and succulent raspberry and vanilla with hints of cocoa on the finish. Great elegance and overall symmetry.

**La Conseillante (96-98)** An open nose of black raspberries, blueberries and an attractive earthy character. The Cabernet Franc really comes through. Very structured, dense and concentrated. A high tanning component for this estate, but the masculine style is perfectly balanced with ripe fruit and velvety tannins. An epic wine in the making but patience will be required.

**La Croix De Gay (90-92)** A generous nose with attractive earthy notes and hints of blueberry cheesecake. Medium bodied, with ripe tannins, wild strawberry flavours and a good sense of energy. The finish shows impressive finesse and harmony. This should represent great value.

**La Pointe (92-94+)** A focused nose of dark berry fruit and subtle new oak. A hint of oyster shell develops with time in the glass. Succulent and supple with an attractive mineral character. This is a classy Pomerol with a great future ahead.

**Lafleur (98-100)** An incredible nose showing notes of blacky cherry, earth and minerals with hints of woodsmoke. Huge concentration and richness, with plenty of ripe tannin. Blackcurrant and truffle flavours linger on the extremely long finish. There is so much going on here! A real chewiness to the wine, but at the same time it is very sensual. A heavenly Lafleur.



## Pomerol

**Le Bon Pasteur (93-95+)** A sumptuous nose of plums and blackberries, with hints of mocha and truffle. Structured and tannic with a chewy mid palate, beautiful sweetness and a very long finish. A fleshy, full bodied and hedonistic wine.

**Pensees De Lafleur (94-96)** 54% Merlot/46% Cab. Definitely in the same league as '05, '09 and '10. The wine has all of Lafleur's intreaguing earthy character. Shows the same wonderful terroir sense that the Grand Vin has. No sense of heaviness, or over-extraction. Ultra-fine tannins. Superb length. A great second.

**Petit Village (93-95)** A stunning bouquet of plums, orange peel and cinnamon. Rich, ripe and full bodied with black cherry and spice. Outstanding purity and balance on the finish. An exotic Pomerol!

**Rouget (91-93+)** Blueberry and earthy red cherry fruits on the nose, with hints black pepper. Very lush and well rounded, with zesty red fruit and refreshing acidity on the finish. Dark chocolate flavours linger in the mouth.

**Vieux Chateau Certan (98-100)** A fragrant nose of red fruits, flowers, minerals and melted liquorice. Deep and full bodied with fine grained tannins and a juicy, succulent mid palate. Exceptional balance and finesse, almost Burgundian in style with a finish that lasts for over 1 minute. A legendary VCC in the making!

## Saint-Émilion

**Angelus (97-99)** 62% merlot and 38% cabernet franc. Really great lush, concentrated, and complex fruit with extraordinary depth. The fish is excellent with very good length. A very fine example of this wine.

**Ausone (97-100)** A very powerful wine. Excellent pure fruit with refined tannins. Very seamless with a lot of intensity and a finish that goes on forever. Superb.



## Saint-Émilion

**Beau Sejour Becot (93-95)** Excellent black fruit with real mineral quality, Good grip, but seems to have the fruit and acidity to balance out the tannic structure.

**Beausejour Duffau Lagarosse (97-99)** Loved this wine. Tasted 3 times. Excellent depth and concentration. Fine integrated tannins that culminate in a beautiful long finish. One of the wines of the vintage for me. Very complete with lots of stuffing.

**Canon (96-99)** Gorgeous black fruit and superb balance. Beautiful integration of fruit structure and ultra-fine tannins. There was very nice depth and complexity. Best Canon ever for certain.

**Cheval Blanc (95-97)** All 45 plots went into the making of the Grand Vin. No Petit Cheval produced. Very refined and feminine in style. Not a huge powerhouse of a Cheval, but still lots of complexity and an 'airy feeling'. Complex with fine tannins.

**Clos Fourtet (94-96)** Beautiful depth of black fruit with some great mineral character. Large-scaled wine with plenty of grip on the finish. Should come together nicely though since it remains in balance despite the sheer scale of the components.

**Faugeres (94-96)** The best surprise was Faugeres--tasted five times with consistent notes. This is the best from the property, lovely violet nose and black cherry with creamy rich tannins and a powerful finish.

**Figeac (96-98)** A higher concentration of Cabernet here due to the soil composition. Great wine with a ripe integrated tannins and beautiful pure fruit. Super black fruit with a spicy character, tons of structure. This will be epic Figeac!

**Grand Mayne (92-95)** Nose cherry & blackberry a very rich ripe balanced wine with sweet ripe tannins and great length. could be the best ever?

**La Confession (93-95)** This wine is nicely balanced, great quality of fruit and a real charm due to nice acidity. Not over-extracted with good depth.

**Laforge (95-97)** Ripe blackberry, leather, and strawberry aromas with ripe, supple black cherry on the palate. Firm but very ripe tannins and a long finish.



## Saint-Émilion

**Larcis Ducasse (96-98)** Great mineral flavors with lots of structure and the supporting acidity. Excellent depth here with a very fine but firm tannins.

**Le Dome (94-96)** Lots of black fruit and mineral graphite. Lots of velvety texture in the mouth, good balance and length.

**Les Asteries (94-96)** Wet stone and ripe black cherry aromas with bright black and red currant fruit, and well-integrated, ripe tannins.

**Pavie Macquin (94-96)** Tasted twice. Very pretty fruit, the wine has a sense of charm to it. Good fruit concentration and a nice thread of acidity running through. Well integrated tannins. The wine is harmonious and complete.

**Peby Faugeres (94-96)** Very perfumed nose, and a more feminine quality having very charming fruit and acidity. As with many of the St Emilions, there is some real grip on the finish. Will be a very long-lived wine, and should develop well. A lot going on.

**Quinault L'Enclos (93-95)** Owned by the good folks at Cheval Blanc, this wine shows some nice restraint. Not over-extracted or trying too hard. Pretty fruit with excellent balance and elegant structure. One of the prettier wines from St Emilion.

**Teyssier Saint Emilion (94-96)** Blackberry, hibiscus followed by silky, ripe blackberry and cherries with fine tannins and a long finish.

**Troplong Mondot (95-97)** Another great Troplong Mondot. Ripe and rich and slightly on the 'exotic' side. Good complexity though with nice depth and the feeling that this is a very complete wine that will go for the very long term.

**Valandraud (96-99)** 85% merlot, 10% cabernet franc and 5% cabernet sauvignon. One of the best examples of this wine I have ever tasted. Rich and powerful. Loaded with excellent quality fruit with fine depth. Very pure.

**Vieux Chateau Mazerat (92-94)** Subtle nose of ripe black and red currants with firm, broad tannins and a medium plus finish.



## Côtes de Bordeaux

**Marsau (Cotes De Francs) (90-91)** Rich, deep concentration of black currant fruit, balanced acidity and a medium plus finish.

**Carignan (Cadillac Cotes De Bordeaux) (90-92)** Blackberry pie, spices with dense, ripe succulent red and black currants and a medium plus finish.

**Carignan Prima (Cadillac Cotes De Bordeaux) (93-94)** Hibiscus, wet stone, and dark chocolate aromas with balanced black and red currants, cherries, fine tannins, and a long finish.

**Cap De Faugeres (Cotes De Castillon) (89-91)** Blueberry, hibiscus tea aromas with fresh ripe black cherries, fine tannins and a medium + finish.

**D'Aiguilhe (Cotes De Castillon) (92-94)** Minerals, black cherry with concentrated red and black currants fruit on the mid palate. Broad, ripe tannins with a firm grip on the medium plus finish.

## Pessac-Léognan & Bordeaux AOC Blanc

**Aile D'Argent (Bordeaux) (92-94)** Marmalade, fresh grass, with ripe tangerine, lime and wet pebble. Medium plus length on the finish.

**Blanc De Lynch Bages (Bordeaux) (92-94)** Fresh cut grass, lemon meringue, and pear with a full-bodied mouthfeel. Very balanced.

**Cos D'Estournel Blanc (Bordeaux) (94-96)** Lemongrass, meringue, tangerines with a round, supple mouthfeel and long finish.

**Pavillon Blanc Du Chateaux Margaux (Bordeaux) (94-96+)** Lemongrass, beeswax, and pear notes with a silky, rich, mid palate and balanced acidity. Long finish.

**Carbonnieux Blanc (Pessac Leognan) (92-94)** Cut grass, beeswax and lime zest, complemented by excellent concentration and balance with a medium plus finish.

**Couhins Blanc (Pessac Leognan) (91-93)** Aromas of lime, fresh grass followed by a round mouthfeel and crisp, long finish





## Pessac-Léognan & Bordeaux AOC Blanc

**De Fieuzal Blanc (Pessac Leognan) (91-93)** Wet stone, tangerine, lime zest with a rich, silky mouthfeel and lower acidity.

**Domaine De Chevalier Blanc (Pessac Leognan) (95-97)** Peach, lemongrass, and wet stone aromas with round, viscous pear and long finish.

**Haut-Brion Blanc (Pessac Leognan) (96-98)** Rich and powerful with Montrachet like precision. It remains light and elegant although there is so much underlying structure. Great length and precision.

**La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc (Pessac Leognan) (95-97)** Lovely subtleties - a very elegant wine with a great deal of finesse. There's a nice waxiness to the mouthfeel, honey and excellent concentration.

**Malartic Lagraviere Blanc (Pessac Leognan) (90-92)** Grassy, peach and citrus aromas, followed by ripe pear, lemon zest, and a longer finish

**Pape Clement Blanc (Pessac Leognan) (93-95)** Aromas of pear, beeswax give way to supple, ripe pear, tangerine and a touch of hay on the full, round finish.

## Sauternes & Barsac

**D'Yquem (Sauternes) (98-100)** Wow - aromas jump out of the glass! Honeyed tropical fruits, with peaches and apricots. Hints of mango and coconut. The palate is intense with layers of tropical fruits and warm, spicy botritis. Rich and unctous, but balanced by the searing acidity. Very pure and precise. The finish last for over a minute. The most impressive Yquem since 2007, but possibly even better!

**Filhot (Sauternes) (89-91)** Lemon curd and dried honey on the nose. Good balance and refreshing acidity. A medium bodied Sauternes with lots of appeal that will drink well young.

**Guiraud (Sauternes) (94-96)** Tangerine, pear and white peach on the nose. Hints of orange blossom. Very elegant and harmonious. Honey fruits on the palate, that is very fresh and focused. A touch of brioche on the finish and impressive length.

## Sauternes & Barsac

**La Tour Blanche (Sauternes) (91-93)** A lovely nose of peach, butterscotch and melted wax. Linear and focused. The acidity is very well balanced with the spicy tropical fruits. Impressive.

**Lafaurie-Peyraguey (Sauternes) (96-98)** An explosive nose of mango, apricot and honey, with hints of ginger. Very impressive weight on the palate, with zesty acidity and marmalade, mandarin and citrus flavours. A sense of elegance, with an impeccable finish. Superb.

**Suduiraut (Sauternes) (96-98)** A beautiful nose of lemon curd, white peach and marmalade. Thick and viscous on the palate with honeyed fruit and spicy botritis. The finish lingers with vibrant acidity and toasted almonds. A classic Suduiraut.

**Climens (Barsac) (96-98+)** A lovely bouquet of honey, nectarine and almond. Very pure on the palate, with fine acidity, honeyed fruit and white chocolate. A masculine Barsac. The finish is persistent and very satisfying. Outstanding, but it will need time in the cellar.

**Coutet (Barsac) (95-97)** Dried honey, orange zest and hints of walnut on the nose. Already very expressive. The palate is thick and viscous with delicious caramelised fruit. A tangy, marmalade infused finish that is powerful, yet elegant. A class act.

**Doisy Daene (Barsac) (94-96)** A rich, fruit driven nose of pear, apple, peach and honey. Hints of beeswax. Fleshy and vibrant on the palate with baked apple and honeycomb. Very well balanced finish that leaves you wanting more.

