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Bordeaux 2020 En Primeur

Our Full Offer



The barrel room at Mouton-Rothschild

Offered en primeur, due to land in the UK in Spring 2023.

Priced per case of a dozen, six or three bottles as listed, in bond, excluding UK duty, VAT and onward delivery, payable at the prevailing rate on release from bond. Prices herein supersede any previously published prices. ABVs (where shown) are cask strength and may not reflect final abv at bottling. Stock subject to availability, E&OE.

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Introduction to the 2020 Bordeaux vintage

2020 is an excellent vintage, the third in a trio of hot years, vying in quality with 2018 and '19, but quite distinct from those years in character. Critics like Neal Martin place 2020 ahead of 2018 and neck and neck with '19, but, for us, understanding the personality of the vintage is as important as an absolute hierarchy. On the left bank, the 2020s have an intense purity of fruit, strikingly complex aromas, wonderful freshness and fine structure. On the right bank, quality is more uniformly excellent, particularly in Pomerol and St.-Émilion. The wines are concentrated but also have fine and complex floral aromas. Merlot was a particular star of the vintage, contributing the delicate violet aromas, which it develops when perfectly ripe, to wines from both sides of the Gironde.

In an excellent but heterogeneous year such as 2020, detail is key to understanding why some areas excelled. This is the second en primeur campaign in which we have been unable to make our usual visit to Bordeaux to taste from cask. Numerous samples were sent by the châteaux, but we do miss the accompanying discussions with winemakers, they add so much to our understanding of the vintage. However, more detailed information is available than ever and these days we even receive a report from a satellite company, mapping rainfall and weather throughout the growing season at a 'granular' level, from which we have drawn in our summary, below.

The 2020 growing season

The 2020 growing season has similarities with 2016, 2018 and 2019. A wet spring was followed by a dry, hot summer; then a warm, dry harvest. As in 2018, it was an early vintage, but the extremes of temperature were not as high as during the heatwave experienced in 2018.

Early budbreak led to an early flowering, in May. Fortunately, this led to the harvest being completed in September, before heavy rain in October. From December to May, average temperatures were 2 °C above normal. This was followed by a hot summer and a very warm September. The GDD (Growing Degree Days, a measure of heat accumulation) was 1826 in 2020, compared to 1763 in 2019 and 1940 in 2018. This gives a good measure of why these years form a trilogy compared to vintages earlier in the decade. In 2011-17 the GDD hovered between 1374 and 1575!

Overall rainfall levels were also high and 2020 was the wettest in recent years (1244mm, compared to 790mm in 2019 and 950mm in 2018), but much of this came in sudden cloudbursts. Frequently, heavy rain would affect one village and leave the neighbouring village untouched. Drought hit from mid-June to mid-August, with a further 20 days with no rain at all after the last weekend of August. The vines were dehydrated when the hot

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September arrived. This was when those vineyards with vines on soils with a higher proportion of clay were really fortunate and able to excel, for example in parts of St Estèphe and Margaux, versus the more gravel-dominated Pauillac.

The case for 2020

With three excellent vintages in a row, you might be weary of hearing nothing but superlatives from us. However, it is worth remembering that we have selected the 96 wines below from amongst 158 Grands Crus Classés, 250 Cru Bourgeois wines and thousands of right and left bank petits châteaux. Many of our recommendations are at the cutting edge of viticultural and winemaking technology. Much as we love clarets from past vintages, the quality of contemporary Bordeaux wines surpasses those from even just a few years ago. Precision and micro-viticulture and vinification (where each individual parcel of vines is treated according to its unique characteristics and needs and where the fruit is vinified separately) is becoming more widespread and refined. Lynch-Bages is the latest well-known estate to build a new winery, with innovations like stainless steel tanks on elevators, capable of moving the wine through the winery via gravity, to eliminate the need for pumping. This precise approach allows the winemaker to express the identity of each vineyard more clearly and is accompanied by a trend towards less oak influence, allowing terroir notes to shine through (particularly welcome on the right bank).

Conversion to organics and biodynamics is also helping to increase quality at the best estates. A good example of this is crop thinning, rather than spraying, in response to mildew. The reduction in yields has the additional consequence of concentrating the remaining fruit; as well as leaving the vines in a healthier state, which then produce better fruit in subsequent vintages.

In summary, the wines have never been better, and the 2020 vintage offers wines for both medium-term enjoyment and long-term ageing. As we mention above, Pomerol and St.-Émilion have excelled and if you have overlooked these appellations in the past, this is the time to try them. The same goes for Pessac-Léognan, with its unique and intense expression of Cabernet Sauvignon, and where some superb wines were made. The left bank, though less uniform, has many standout successes, especially amongst wines at the top end, where those mixed clay soils and older vines with deep root systems were able to access ground water. The exceptional frosts earlier this year have reduced the potential size of the 2021 Bordeaux harvest by around a third and we expect upward pressure on prices next year. With so many excellent wines on offer from 2020, this is the ideal time to lay down your chosen wines from this excellent and distinctive vintage. **Antony Irvine**

With thanks to Gavin Quinney and Saturnalia for information from their 2020 Bordeaux Weather reports.

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Wines by Commune

Wines are listed in order of their communes, from north to south and from the left bank to the right. For completeness, we have listed all wines offered, but please be aware that some have now sold out, or have limited availability. Please contact us if a wine you are seeking is not listed. Critics' tasting notes and names are abbreviated (see the key below). More extensive notes on each release can be found on our **Bordeaux 2020 Offer**

at: www.richardkihl.ltd.uk

Critics notes & scores – abbreviations

AG: Antonio Galloni, *Vinous.com*

LPB: Lisa Perotti-Brown MW, *The Wine Advocate*

JA: Jane Anson, *Decanter Magazine*

JD: *Jebdunnuck.com*

JR: *Jancisrobinson.com* (various reviewers, including MWs Jancis Robinson, Julia Harding & James Lawther)

JS: *Jamessuckling.com*

NM: Neal Martin, *Vinous.com*

Saint-Estèphe

2020 Château Montrose, Grand Cru Classé Saint-Estèphe (LIMITED)

£770 / 6

The 2020 from Montrose was not sampled widely outside of France, so we rely this year on Jane Anson, who awards it 98 points, describing it as "a great Montrose" and interestingly makes comparisons with 1986, 2016 and 2010. This is promising, given that 2016 Montrose scored 99 points in bottle and the 2010 scores 100 points. **64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot. 13.4% abv. 30hl/ha. 1% Petit Verdot, 3.86pH, IPT 80.**



"... Dark, intense and very pure but with an energy that makes it vibrant. Big tannic frame but tannins really finely honed. Long and persistent with plenty of drive on the finish. Long ageing potential. 13.4%. Drink 2030 – 2050. **18 + points**" JR
"A serious wall of blueberry and blackberry compote, and a ton of savoury Cabernet sinew and freshness. This is a great Montrose, inky, broad-shouldered and structured...huge persistency...Drinking Window 2029 - 2050. **98 points**" JA

2020 Château Phélan Ségur, Saint-Estèphe Cru Bourgeois

£368 /doz

This estate has made a run of excellent vintages, and the 2020 joins them. Neal Martin scores it 93-95 points and says it "might well represent the appellation's best value for money". Jane Anson agrees, calling this "an estate that has just powered to better and better wines over the past few years (94 points)." Jeb Dunnuck and James Suckling are even more enthusiastic, each awarding a potential 96 points. **54% Cabernet Sauvignon 42% Merlot; Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot make up the balance. 13.5% abv. 88 IPT.**

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"... Excellent stuff, finishing up with liquorice and smoked coffee bean. This is an estate that has just powered to better and better wines over the past few years...Drinking Window 2026 - 2042. **94 points**" JA

"...a very intense and almost Pauillac-like nose of blackberry, pencil box and cedar aromas, complex and mineral-driven. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannins and plenty of black fruit laced with cedar and tobacco, quite sturdy and conveying more substance than recent vintages. This impressive Saint-Estèphe has great potential and might well represent the appellation's best value for money. **93-95 points**" NM

"Getting a legit "wow" in the notes.....gorgeous notes of crème de cassis, blueberries, damp earth, crushed violets, and graphite...a round, layered texture, serious concentration, and building structure, this is the real deal and up with the gems in Sainte-Estèphe...this is firm, mineral-laced, and structured, and is going to reward a good decade of cellaring... **94-96 points**" JD

"Bright and perfumed with some chocolate, berry, sandalwood and cedar. Very elegant and fine, medium to full-bodied palate with very integrated tannins and refined, polished texture. The tannins melt into the wine. Long finish with serious structure. Vivid and refined. Class here... **95-96 points**" JS

2020 Château Les Ormes de Pez, St.-Estèphe Cru Bourgeois

£225 / doz

54% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot, to be aged for 16 months in French oak barriques, 45% new. Abv 13.17%, pH 3.69, IPT of 79.



"...a nicely detailed bouquet of a mélange of red and black fruit – cranberry, blackberry and a touch of blueberry – accompanied by cedar and subtle wild mint aromas... Pauillac-like in style...quite compact at first. A strong saline, almost briny element comes through toward the finish, which is more quintessential Saint-Estèphe...**90-92 points**" NM

"... springs from the glass with notes of plum preserves, blueberry compote and Morello cherries, plus hints of graphite, wild mushrooms and sautéed herbs. The medium-bodied palate delivers plenty of herbs-laced black fruits with a pleasant chewiness to the texture and lovely freshness, finishing on a lingering fragrant-earth note. Drink 2024-2040. **90-92 points**" LPB

"A firm, lightly chewy red with blackberry, blueberry, spice and some chocolate. Medium body and fine tannins. It grows on the palate. Tannins sneak up at the end...**92-93 points**" JS

"Blueberry, raspberry and cassis, there is concentration but also juice. Merlot-dominant (following a restructuring of the vineyard to better align grapes with terroir) with bite and freshness. A lovely smoky edge here, this is another successful vintage for Ormes de Pez... Drinking Window 2024 - 2038. **93 points**" JA

Other recommended Saint-Estèphes...

2020 Château Capbern, Saint-Estèphe Cru Bourgeois (LIMITED)

£180 / doz

"...a hidden gem in Saint-Estèphe." JD

17 JR / 88-90 NM / 91 JA / 89-91+ LPB/ 92-93 JS /94-96 JD

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2020 Château Cos d'Estournel, Grand Cru Classé St-Estèphe (LIMITED) £684 / 6

"...a unique vintage signature expressed so beautifully" LPB

18.5 JR / 95-NM / 97 JA / 96-98 LPB / 97-98 JS

2020 Château Lafon-Rochet, Grand Cru Classé St-Estèphe (LIMITED) £340 / doz

"...shaping up to be one of the real under the radar gems of 2020...Don't miss it." AG

17 JR / 93 JA / 92-94 NM / 93-94 JS / 93-95 AG

2020 Château Meyney, St.-Estèphe Cru Bourgeois £225 / doz

"...a classy Saint-Estèphe from Meyney that will age with style." NM

17.5 JR / 91-93 NM / 91-93 JD / 93 JA / 93-94 JS

Pauillac

2020 Château Duhart-Milon, Grand Cru Classé Pauillac (LIMITED) £680 / doz

With the vineyards lying adjacent to those of Lafite, Duhart has always been the more affordable way to enjoy a glass of Rothschild greatness. And whilst most critics put the 2020 up there with the best of recent vintages (James Lawther MW for jancisrobinson.com calling it "*possibly the best Duhart yet*"), Jeb Dunnock ("*another classic, concentrated, impressive wine from this team*") and James Suckling are unequivocal, both awarding up to 96 points. Unfortunately, the château has only released very small volumes into the en primeur system as it is rumoured they want to keep it back for other markets. **72% cabernet sauvignon, 28% merlot. 13.1% abv.**



"...Power and definition but elegance as well...Fruit dense on the palate, a profusion of super-fine tannins providing a velvety texture as well as freshness. Long ageing. Possibly the best Duhart yet. Drink 2028 - 2045. 17.5 points." JR

"...vibrant notes of crushed black cherries, black raspberries and plum preserves, plus an exotic spice undercurrent of cumin seed, star anise and cardamom, with an earthy touch of black truffles.... mouth-coating, juicy black fruits with a plush texture and just enough freshness, finishing long and spicy...Drink 2024-2039. 91-93+ points" LPB

"...a rippling muscular texture, full of firm tannins with bright acidities underneath. Like the precision and the slightly austere cool blue fruits, pencil lead and liquorice root. Elegant, precise, feels very Pauillac in its density combined with fine tannins that have life and lift on the finish... Drinking Window 2028 - 2042. 95 points" JA

"Lots of tobacco, damp earth, chocolate, and lead pencil ... a beautifully balanced mouthfeel, loads of blue and black fruits, and ripe yet certainly present tannins. Its relatively plush, rounded style is not too dissimilar from the 2016, but it offers ample structure as well... 94-96 points" points" JD

"This is so refined with beautiful currant, berry and some subtle chocolate and coffee. It's full and very subtle with fine tannins that have a long finish. Such purity and finesse with structure. Fresh and savory...95-96 points" JD

2020 Château Lynch-Bages, Grand Cru Classé Pauillac (SOLD OUT) £520 / 6

Described as "a great Lynch-Bages" and "*reminiscent of Latour*" by Neal Martin (94-96 points), the scores and notes for the 2020 only tell half the story. To our minds, this is a revolutionary vintage, released with a special label to mark the first vintage be made in the new winery, designed by architect Chien Chung Pei. Part of Lynch's reputation as an over-delivering fifth growth was built on the then-revolutionary vat house built in 1850 by Skawinski. Brilliant as they are, the wines from this winery did not possess the same laser-focused purity of fruit as wines like Pichon-Lalande, made with modern micro-vinification. Jancis Robinson notes this new 'purer' direction, and Neal Martin suggests the 2020 will only

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improve during its élevage. It also allows more balanced wines in hot vintages, with the 2020 checking in at a moderate 13.4% abv. This is the first in a new breed of Lynch-Bages vintages, an exciting time for the estate. **60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 4% Cabernet Franc. 3.73pH, 75% new oak, 18 months in barrel. 13.4% abv.**



"... an intriguing bouquet, quite complex and classic in style, featuring tightly wound black fruit mixed with cedar, mint and touches of the estuary. One sniff and you know that the vines are in close proximity to the sea...everything remains balanced thanks to the fine acidic thread...reminiscent of Latour toward the finish...real substance to this wine, and that will only increase during élevage. This is a great Lynch-Bages... **94-96 points**" NM

"...tons of liquorice, grippy and charismatic cassis and blueberry fruit with a velvety texture layered with blackcurrant pastilles and rich dark chocolate...one of the best Pauillacs that I have tasted in the vintage, totally gorgeous... Lower alcohol than both 2018 and 2019, a more classical balance in fact...Drinking Window 2030 - 2048. **96 points**" JA

"Ultra-classic notes of blackcurrants, freshly sharpened lead pencil, damp earth, and crushed stone...Full-bodied and concentrated on the palate, it has brilliant purity of fruit, a layered, building sense of structure, and a great finish. While not austere or closed, this serious Lynch-Bages will need 10-15 years of bottle age to hit maturity and have 40-50 years of overall longevity. **95-97+ points**" JD

"Blackcurrants, orange peel, flowers and tar with hints of graphite. Full-bodied with a creamy texture of exquisitely polished tannins. It goes on and on. Intense flavors at the end, too, with lead pencil and lots of blackberry. Very classic and precise. **98-99 points**" JS

2020 Château Pontet-Canet, Grand Cru Classé Pauillac

£890 / doz

The phenomenal success story that is Pontet-Canet continues this year with the release of a 2020 vintage that is knocking on the door of First Growth quality, but at a Fifth Growth price. Jane Anson describes it as "*one of the few Pauillacs that, for me, overperforms on its 2019 (97 points)*". At £890 per dozen in bond, the 2020 is about the same price as the current market for the '19. It is also worth noting market prices for the 2018 (£1000) and 2016 (£1200), both rated slightly below the 2020, whilst the market for the 2010 is at £1600. The first vintage under new Technical Director Mathieu Bessonnet (replacing Jean-Michel Comme who left after 30 years of steering this estate down its revolutionary path), it is a superb achievement and an endorsement for Bessonnet to surpass the 2019 vintage. **60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot. To be aged in 50% new oak 35% amphoras, 15% one-year barrels.**



"... Dark, dense and very ripe on the nose. Riper than most Pauillacs tasted. Suave attack then a firm charge of grainy tannin. Fresh and persistent but some chew on the finish. Drink 2027 – 2040. **17 points.**" JR

"...captivating effort from the Tesseron family...Deep and substantial, the 2020 is luxuriously rich from start to finish. Swaths of incisive tannin wrap around a core of dark red cherry fruit, gravel, dried herbs and rose petal, and a whole range of floral and savory accents lend aromatic presence. The Pontet-Canet is often a charmer en primeur, but the 2020 comes across as quite serious. I can't wait to see how it develops... **95-97 points**" AG

"Highly successful Pontet, one of the few Pauillacs that, for me, overperforms on its 2019. Inky purple with ruby reflections in colour. Lots of firm but upright tannins, a good dollop of graphite, pencil lead and cassis bud, there is depth through the mid

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palate shot through with wild blackberry, hawthorn, sage, rosemary and wild mint. It has personality, and is a little old school in the best possible way. Recommended...Drinking Window 2028 - 2042. **97 points**" JA

"... evocative notes of black cherry preserves, raspberry pie, blackcurrant pastilles and damp soil, before launching into gorgeous floral and spice notions of red roses, cinnamon stick, star anise and cardamom, with a waft of crushed rocks...a lot of depth and polish...fragrant earth and floral sparks, framed by velvety tannins and seamless freshness, finishing long and mineral tinged... a singular, fascinating expression of the vintage and highly recommended! Drink 2026-2056. **96-98+ points**" LPB

"This is integrated, with superb density and beauty, offering blackcurrant, mineral and some bark. Full-bodied, yet so polished and refined. Crushed stone. Lots of expression and texture to this wine. Creamy. Pure and precise. Elegant, yet layered. Slightly plusher than the 2019. Dense, yet agile. Fresh as always... **98-99 points**" JS

2020 Aile d'Argent, Bordeaux Blanc *Château Mouton-Rothschild*

£420 / 6

Mouton's rare white wine Aile d'Argent is from a tiny plot of white grape vines planted in the 1980s, this latest vintage also has a more linear, focused feel than previously. **52% Sauvignon Blanc, 14% Sauvignon Gris and 34% Sémillon.**



"...Plenty of bright pineapple and apricot flavours, with nuance and balance, and the salty cracker finish that you always want from this wine...Drinking Window 2022 - 2030. **93 points**" JA

"...fabulously flamboyant notes of fresh pineapple, nectarines and jasmine, plus suggestions of key lime pie, passion fruit and orange zest. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers opulent tropical and citrus fruit layers, supported by plenty of freshness and a decadent touch of oiliness to the texture, finishing long and impactful. So hard to resist even at this nascent stage, I can't wait to see how this is going to age! **93-95+ points** LPB

"This is full-bodied with layers of fruit. Ripe and flavorful. Lots going on with a fleshy feel. No malolactic this year. Sweet peach, honeysuckle and citrus. Contrastive...**95-96 points**" JS

Other recommended Pauillacs...

2020 Château d'Armailhac, Grand Cru Classé Pauillac

£395 / doz

"...one of the best examples from the estate that I have tasted out of barrel." NM
16.5 JR / 90-92 LPB / 93 JA / 92-94 JD / 92-94 NM

2020 Château Clerc-Milon, Grand Cru Classé Pauillac

£690 / doz

"...This beautifully layered, pure wine shows the style of the vintage nicely" NM
17.5 JR / 91-93 NM / 92-LPB / 94 JA / 93-95 JD / 95-96 JS

2020 Carruades de Lafite, Pauillac (2nd wine of Lafite-Rothschild) (V. LIMITED)

£1295 / 6

"...one of the finest second wines out there." JD
89-91 NM / 91-93 AG / 92-94 JD / 96-97 JS

2020 Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste, Grand Cru Classé Pauillac

£606 / doz

"...a brilliant GPL from the Borie family." NM
17.5 JR / 91-93 LPB / 95-97 NM / 96-97 JS

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2020 Château Grand-Puy Ducasse, Grand Cru Classé Pauillac	£300 / doz
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"This might well be the dark horse of Pauillac. Chapeau!"

87-89 LPB / 92-94 NM / 94-95 JS / 93-95 JD

2020 Château Haut-Batailley, Grand Cru Classé Pauillac	£470 / doz
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"...a powerful, brooding Pauillac." AG

17 JS / 91-93 AG / 92-94 LPB / 92-94 NM / 94-95 JS

2020 Château Lafite-Rothschild, 1er Cru Classé Pauillac (V. LIMITED)	£2,950 / 6
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"...fantastic length and the most stunning perfume. Magnificent achievement." LPB

19 JR / 96-98 NM / 96-98 LPB / 97-99 JD / 99-100 JS

2020 Château Mouton-Rothschild, 1er Cru Classé Pauillac (V. LIMITED)	£2598 / 6
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"Could go to 100 points after ageing." JA

18.5 JR / 96-98 AG / 96-98 NM / 98 JA / 97-99 JD / 97-99 LPB / 99-100 JS

2020 Château Pichon Lalande, Grand Cru Classé Pauillac (SOLD OUT)	£807 / 6
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"...an incredible wine that's going to flirt with perfection". JD

18 JR / 96 JA / 95-97 AG / 95-97 LPB / 96-98 NM / 97-98 JS / 98-100 JD

2020 Château Pichon Baron, Grand Cru Classé Pauillac	£663 / 6
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"... hands down one of the most impressive wines of 2020. Superb." AG

96 JA / 95-97 NM / 95-97+ LPB / 96-98 JD / 96-98 AG / 97-98 JS

St.-Julien

2020 Château Branaire-Ducru, Grand Cru Classé St.-Julien	£372 / doz
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The 2019 vintage of Château Branaire-Ducru was a huge success and sold out rapidly, with great quality and a 24.7% discount on the release price. A hard act to follow, but we think the 2020 vintage is very impressive. What was especially noticeable was the refined tannins and silky, textured palate. The fruit is just as lively and as expressive as other 2020s we have tasted, but this creamy texture brought something distinct to our cask sample tastings. The richness of the Merlot fruit in this year has most likely contributed some of this rounded mouthfeel on the palate. Jane Anson applauds the sense of terroir and elegance in the 2020, awarding it 93 points, with James Suckling scoring it 93-94 points.



*"... pronounced blackcurrant cordial, plum preserves and boysenberries scents, plus hints of sautéed herbs, unsmoked cigars and graphite. The medium-bodied palate has a lot of verve, delivering appealing tension among the tightly wound black fruits and grainy tannins, finishing with an herbal lift. Drink 2024-2042. **91-93+ points**" LPB*

*"... a tightly wound bouquet of blackberry, wild hedgerow, freshly tilled loam and distinct sea spray scents, all well defined... Unlike previous vintages, there is impressive density on the midpalate where it once was a little lean, and plenty of energy and tension conveyed by the finish. Excellent. **92-94 points**" NM*

*"Blueberry, blackberry, damson and hawthorn, this has juice and tannins with an elegance and really excellent St-Julien character; A lovely Branaire, well placed. Unfussy, this is still not overly exuberant but it has a real sense of sappiness, lift and sinew. 3% Cabernet Franc completes the blend. Drinking Window 2027 - 2042. **93 points** JA*

*"A polished, creamy red with blue fruit, such as blackcurrants, and pretty, ripe and fine tannins that fill your mouth. **93-94 points**" JS*

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2020 Château Beychevelle, Grand Cru Classé St.-Julien (SOLD OUT)

£695 / doz

This latest vintage of Beychevelle wins 95-97 points from Jeb Dunnuck ("a stunner that does everything right"), along with a host of other excellent notes from the major critics. **51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot. To be aged 18 months in oak.**



"Smoke, grilled almond on the nose, even a touch of rubber from an edge of reduction. This has depth to black chocolate and bilberry fruit, it is well balanced and seductive. Enjoyable, it's pretty broad shouldered but it sits well within the successful run of vintages at Beychevelle Drinking Window 2029 - 2044. **94 points**" JA

"... opens with the most exotic bouquet imaginable. Wild flowers of all sorts, spice, lavender and inky dark fruit all saturate the palate. As always, Beychevelle is an overt, flamboyant wine, but all of the elements are so well out together. The 2020 is sexy, alluring and impossible to resist... **94-96 points**" AG

"... a stunner that does everything right, offering a monster bouquet of black and blue fruits as well as candied violets, incense, flowers, and toasty oak. A ripe, full-bodied, incredibly sexy wine in every sense, it has a great mid-palate, ripe, velvety tannins, no hard edges, and a great finish. It's one of the more up-front, exotic wines in the vintage and should be accessible with just short-term cellaring. **95-97 points**" JD

2020 Château Léoville-Barton, Grand Cru Classé St.-Julien (SOLD OUT)

£730 / doz

Few cask samples were more impressive for us than the 2020 vintage of Château Léoville Barton. Jancis Robinson was also very impressed, describing it as "majestic...I don't remember being as bowled over by a Léoville Barton at this early stage before...Such grace! (18 points)." For context, this equals her scores for Latour 2015, '16 and '18. Suckling scores it 96-97 points, finding 'mineral and graphite undertones' and describing it as 'excellent'. We were a little surprised to see a more modest 94 points awarded by Decanter's Jane Anson yesterday (the same score she awarded to the 2015), though she suggests it may increase when the wine is in bottle. That may be because the 2020 is less open and approachable at this stage than the 2019...but we love that austere quality. The tannins and structure are more pronounced and promise great things to come. At 13.6% abv and with fresh acidity, it also has remarkable balance for a wine from such a warm year. The magic of Léoville Barton is to produce wines in every vintage which express the terroir and the identity of the estate, with minimal intervention, using traditional vinification in wooden vats. With the 2016 at £950 on the market, it is also attractive value and is sure to sell out (as in 2019). For us, 2020 is an utterly classic expression of this wine and it deserves a place in your collection. A dry July and August produced a low yield in 2020 of just 34 hl/ha, leading to a 25% reduction in the harvest at Léoville. **85.5% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14.5% Merlot.**



"... Lustrous purple. Minerally, stony, saline nose. Really remarkably opulent on palate entry which almost distracts from those massive tannins underneath. There's just a suggestion of vintage port tannins here (not the sweetness). Very fine winemaking indeed. I have to admit I was tempted to swallow this, it was so majestic. I don't remember being as bowled over by a Léoville Barton at this early stage before. Lovely, confident, persistent finish. Such grace! 13.6%. Drink 2030 - 2055. **18 points.**" JR

"... a deep purple-black color, springing from the glass with vivacious scents of crushed black cherries, cassis and black raspberries, plus hints of cinnamon toast, wild sage, red roses and saffras...packed with muscular black fruits, framed by grainy tannins and loads of freshness, finishing long and perfumed. Drink 2026-2047. **93-95 points**" LPB

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"...one of the best vintages that I have encountered in barrel. Wow! This shoots from the glass with beautifully defined black fruit, mineral-rich aromas, pixelated with laser-like focus...chiseled tannins, a perfect line of acidity, layers of vibrant, vivacious black fruit and a very persistent finish that is pure class. If you don't have this in your cellar, then there will be a Léoville Barton-shaped hole to fill. **94-96 points**" NM

"A full-bodied red that builds on the palate with lots of blackberry and blueberry character, as well as chocolate. Mineral and graphite undertones. Chewy, yet very integrated. Excellent, as expected. **96-97 points**" JS

2020 Château Léoville Poyferré, Grand Cru Classé St.-Julien

£432 / 6

64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot. Plot-by-plot fermentation and ageing for 18 to 20 months. 13.7% abv.



"Rich and concentrated with violet reflections and a wall of tannins. Well structured, it sets its feet deep in the ground and will need time to soften and develop. Good quality with depth. The tannins are far more present than the alcohol, setting it apart from the 2018... Drinking Window 2028 - 2042. **96 points**" JA

"...intense yet exquisitely defined black cherries, wild strawberry, cassis and crushed stone aromas. It is high-toned as usual but not quite as hedonistic as the recently tasted 2018. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins that belie the backbone of this Saint-Julien. Slightly lactic in texture toward the spicy finish; the oak will be assimilated by the time of bottling, leaving a very suave and sophisticated wine that will give 30-40 years of drinking pleasure. Easily one of the classiest offerings from this Saint-Julien in recent years. **95-97 points**" NM

"Cut from the same cloth as the 2016 with its focused, pure, yet concentrated style...ultra-classic notes of crème de cassis, graphite, toasted spice, and unsmoked tobacco. Rich and medium to full-bodied, it has brilliant mid-palate depth and ripe, velvety tannins, all making for a beautiful Saint-Julien that will benefit from 4-6 years of bottle age and shine for 30-40 years or more. Tasted three times. **95-97+ points**" JD

"Impressive purity of fruit on the nose with crushed raspberries, blackcurrants and blackberries. Some lead pencil, too. It's full-bodied with very polished, intense tannins that go on for minutes. The quality and precision of the tannins are impressive, giving the wine form, energy and equilibrium. **96-97 points**" JS

Other recommended St.-Juliens...

2020 Château Ducru-Beaucaillou, Grand Cru Classé St-Julien

£960 / 6

"An amazing Ducru, one of the wines of the vintage." JA

95-97 LPB / 98 JA / 97-99 JD / 98-99 JS

2020 La Croix de Beaucaillou, St-Julien

£358 / doz

"...La Croix de Beaucaillou is a standout success." JA

89-91 LPB / 92-95 JD / 94-95 JS / 95 JA

2020 Château Gloria, Grand Cru Classé St-Julien

£316 / doz

"Restrained but fully ripe. Classic and successful." JR

17 JR / 92-94 LPB / 93-95 JD / 93-95 NM / 94-95 JS

2020 Château Langoa-Barton, Grand Cru Classé St-Julien (v. LIMITED)

£357 / doz

"Promises well for the future while being relatively charming even now." JR

17 JR / 92 JA / 93-94 JS / 93-95 LPB

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2020 Château Talbot, Grand Cru Classé St-Julien **£478 / doz**

"...a Talbot that marries power, breadth and savory intensity with notable stylishness and tons of personality. AG

17 JR / 92-94 NM / 92-95 AG / 94-95 JS / 95 JA

2020 Château Gruaud Larose, Grand Cru Classé St-Julien **£695 / doz**

"A big shouldered St-Julien but with a wide nuance of flavours." JA

17.5 JR / 95 JA

2020 Château Léoville Las Cases, Grand Cru Classé St-Julien **£1188 / 6**

"an excellent example of what Las Cases can deliver. Intellectual, concentrated and reined in..." JR

JR 18 / 96 JA / 96-98 NM / 96-98 LPB / 98-99 JS

2020 Château St. Pierre, Grand Cru Classé St-Julien **£462 / doz**

"One of the best in a long time." JS

17 JR / 92-94 NM / 93-95 AG / 94-96 JD / 94-96 LPB / 95-96 JS

2020 Château Lagrange, Grand Cru Classé St-Julien **£424 / doz**

"A wine that excels in the appellation...just about seamless." JD

16 JR / 93 / 93-95 NM / 94-96 JD / 94-96 LPB

Margaux

2020 Château Angludet, Margaux (LIMITED)

£274 / doz

This wine sums up the 2020 vintage in Bordeaux and the direction of the region in general. As comfortable and reassuring as putting on an old pair of leather gloves, Angludet's reputation for consistently over-delivering on quality for the price is well-deserved, but Ben Sichel and his team are also very willing to embrace change. Currently in conversion to biodynamics, the style has moved towards the expression of terroir in recent vintages, with increasing use of amphorae, to emphasise fruit and minerality rather than oak. Jancis Robinson describes these as "new old" wines which "delightfully combine the classicism of traditional bordeaux with modern winemaking and vine-growing sophistication." This certainly sums up Angludet 2020. **13.5% abv.**



*"...brisk and precise on the nose of blackberry and bilberry fruit, touches of iodine and pressed flowers coming through with time; there's wonderful focus and energy here. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins. A saline and marine-influenced Margaux, well balanced with a little grittiness toward the finish. Yet overall, this classically styled Angludet has commendable breeding and should give 20 years of drinking pleasure. **90-92 points**" NM*

*"Lots of blackberry and blueberry aromas and flavors with licorice and tar. Medium-bodied with a solid core of fruit and a long, creamy finish. Best of the trilogy. **92-93 points**" JS*

*"... outstanding, with beautiful red and blue-tinged fruits as well as notes of dried flowers, sandalwood, and leafy herbs, followed by medium to full-bodied richness on the palate. Offering a layered mid-palate and ripe tannins, it's just a round, balanced, delicious Margaux that will have 15-20 years of longevity. **91-93 points**" JD*

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2020 Château Malescot St Exupéry, Grand Cru Classé Margaux (LIMITED) £462 /doz

The 2020 vintage of Malescot St Exupéry is described as "an under-the-radar gem" by Jeb Dunnuck. This is a lovely Margaux, with some scores for this vintage equalling Rauzan Ségla, but at £462 per dozen it is only a little over half the price! James Suckling and Lisa Perotti-Brown MW put it at a potential 98 and 97 points respectively, with Suckling suggesting this is the best in the recent trilogy of vintages. Malescot usually offers intense blackcurrant fruit character, but this vintage is even more intense than usual, with excellent purity and classic Margaux velvet tannins.



"...remarkable depth and tons of character. Malescot has been one of the under the radar gems in Bordeaux these last few years. The 2020 is another gorgeous wine from the château. **93-95 points**" AG

"Lots of cassis, blackberries, toasted spices, and vanilla-tinged oak define the nose...medium to full-bodied, round, and supple on the palate. With velvety tannins, terrific mid-palate depth, and the classic purity of fruit that's the hallmark of the vintage, it builds nicely with time in the glass and is another incredibly impressive Margaux that will have two decades or more of prime drinking. **93-95 points**" JD

"... controlled opulence: lavish blueberry, Dorset plums, crushed violet and incense burst from the glass... but in orderly fashion. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe and succulent tannins that lend this Margaux a fleshy texture, yet there is clearly ample structure, as well as marvelous salinity and precision on the finish. This 2020 continues the purple patch for this property and comes highly recommended. **94-96 points**" NM

"...showy scents of ripe black and red currants, black cherries, raspberry leaves and ground cloves, plus wafts of lilacs and tilled soil. Medium to full-bodied, the palate delivers mouth-coating black and red fruit layers with a firm, grainy texture and well-balanced acidity, finishing on a lingering fragrant-earth note. **95-97 points**" LPB

"Solid red with blackberry, blueberry, chocolate and spice. Lots of hazelnut, too. It's full-bodied with chewy, polished tannins and a long, flavorful finish. Best of the trilogy vintages? **97-98 points**" JS

2020 Château Palmer, Grand Cru Classé Margaux (LIMITED)

£1440 / 6

No samples of 2020 Palmer were sent outside of France, due to the very low levels of sulphur used to stabilise the wine by winemaker Thomas Duroux. Without entering into the larger debate about biodynamics and 'natural' winemaking (which do not go hand in hand), suffice it to say that this low sulphur approach is quite revolutionary in a wine at this level, something which can only be achieved by obsessive levels of care and attention in the vineyard and the winery. Of the major critics, only those based in Bordeaux have been able to taste so far. Jancisrobinson.com scores the wine 18+ points, and Jane Anson awards it 97 points, describing it as "intense and concentrated, elegant, balanced and classical". We would not be at all surprised if this turns out to be landmark wine once in bottle. **48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 48% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot. 3.77pH, 78IPT. To be matured in 65% new oak. 14.1% abv.**



"...The Merlot provides the broad sweep and touch of sweetness on entry, the Cabernet the fine but punchy tannins that drive the wine. Lots of life and persistence, the tannins fine-grained and fresh. Clear potential. **18+ points**" JR

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"Vivid colours, and the aromatics grab hold straight away. This is intense and concentrated, elegant, balanced and classical, all about the texture which is velvety and seductive with softly-grained tannins. Moves oh so slowly through the palate with dozens of layers to get hold of. The overall feel is precise, slow and seductive, with appellation and estate signature at every turn. Sappy, hawthorn freshness, rosemary, redcurrant, tobacco, cigar box and dark chocolate shavings on the finish...Drinking Window 2028 - 2044. **97 points**" JA

"...seductive scents of black cherries, wild strawberry, iodine and crushed violets, all beautifully delineated (as per usual). The palate is medium-bodied with fine but quite firm tannins, lending this Palmer more backbone than presupposed. Blackberry, graphite and touches of liquorice develop with aeration that build towards an assertive, pencil box-tinged finish that nods towards Pauillac... destined for long-term ageing, so readers should have a cool damp cellar handy. It is a serious Palmer, very different from the previous two vintages, not a mix of the two, but content in just being itself. **96-98 points**" NM

2020 Alter Ego de Palmer, Margaux (2nd wine of Palmer)

£606 / doz

50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot. 3.73pH. 13.7% abv.



"... lively, fruit-driven with that vineyard-fresh feel but with a little more structure than previous years. Pure and appetising but will age. 13.7%. Drink 2026 – 2035. **17 + points.**" (JL), Jancisrobinson.com, Apr 21

"Chocolate shavings and smoked coffee bean on the nose, it's a vintage where you can't get away from the tannins, but here they have sinew and juice, like the best translation of the tannins in the year. This has real purity of fruit (very low SO2 addition at Palmer...Drinking Window 2024 - 2038. **93 points**" JA

"...very pure on the nose, almost Burgundian in style with lush blueberry, boysenberry, crushed violets and a touch of vanilla... Crustacea-tinged black fruit lacquer the mouth, fresh and very delineated on the finish...**92-94 points**" NM

2020 Château Rauzan-Ségla, Grand Cru Classé Margaux (LIMITED)

£399 / 6

Château Rauzan Ségla was released with a huge reduction in quantity. It is without doubt one of the wines of the vintage with critics putting it on a par with some of the first growths, including 96-98+ points from Lisa Perotti-Brown. At £399 per 6 bottle case we are having to allocate it carefully! **60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc. pH of 3.74. 13.5% abv.**



"...Perfumed violet, floral aroma with a hint of minty freshness. Smooth and spherical on attack then long and linear. Plentiful but finely honed tannins. Lovely poise and balance. A touch steelier than 2019 but clear potential. Drink 2028 – 2045. **17.5 points.**" JR

"Turmeric and cumin spices alongside concentrated cassis and bilberry fruits, this has a powerful structure where the tannins layer up through the palate...The push and pull of muscular tannins and deft supple acidity gives an extra layer of success. Should be ready to drink a little earlier than the biggest years such as 2016 or 2019, but this will still age for decades... Drinking Window 2028 - 2044. **96 points**" JA

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"Full-bodied and layered with velvety layers of tannins that are beautifully interspersed with ripe fruit and dark-chocolate notes. Silky and lightly chewy texture. Very long, solid finish. **97-98 points**" JS

"...Deep purple-black colored, aromas of blackcurrant cordial, stewed red and black plums, chocolate-covered cherries and raspberry coulis erupt from the glass, leading to an undercurrent of tar, licorice, red roses and menthol, plus a hint of unsmoked cigars...seriously impressive intensity, which is well-sustained throughout the mid-palate and finish. Refined and refreshing, delivering beautifully soft, silt-like tannins and bags of bright red and black fruits, it finishes with amazing length and a stunning perfume... Drink 2026-2056. **96-98+ points**" LPB

Other recommended Margaux

2020 Château Durfort-Vivens, Grand Cru Classé Margaux **£528 / doz**

"What really impresses here is the tannin framework...It's full, yet very polished, racy and long." JS

17.5 JR / 94 JA / 93-95 AG / 96-97 JS

2020 Château Giscours, Grand Cru Classé Margaux **£492 / doz**

"One of the most seamless Margaux in the vintage." JD

16.5+ JR / 92-94+ LPB / 93-95 JD / 93-95 NM / 95 JA / 96-97 JS

2020 Château d'Issan, Grand Cru Classé Margaux **£506 / doz**

"This is a sophisticated Margaux in the making, full of breeding and class." NM

17.5 JR / 93-95 LPB / 93-95 AG 93-95 NM / 93-95+ JD / 96 JA / 97-98 JS

2020 Château Margaux, Premier Grand Cru Classé Margaux (SOLD OUT) **£2598 / 6**

"The wonderful combination of refinement and power is already evident. Superb finish. Another great Margaux." JS

19 JR / 97-99 LPB / 99 JA / 99-100 JS

2020 Pavillon Rouge du Château Margaux, Margaux (LIMITED) **£828 / 6**

"One of the really successful second wines in the vintage." JA

17+ JR / 91-92 NM / 94 JA / 96-97 JS

2020 Château Brane-Cantenac, Grand Cru Classé Margaux (v. LIMITED) **£590 / doz**

"...this is an absolutely fantastic Brane-Cantenac, in my mind superior to the previous two vintages...A must-buy." NM

17 JR / 91-93 LPB / 94 JA / 94-96 AG / 95-97 NM

2020 Château Cantenac Brown, Grand Cru Classé Margaux **£412 / doz**

"an outrageously beautiful wine. Ample, vertical and soaring in its intensity..." AG

16.5 JR / 91-93+ LPB / 93 JA / 92-94 JD / 94-96 NM / 94-97 AG / 96-97 JS

Haut-Médoc & Médoc

2020 Château Beaumont, Haut-Médoc Cru Bourgeois **£100 / doz**

Château Beaumont is always a great favourite, one of the most reliable benchmarks of quality in the Haut-Médoc. We have tasted and re-tasted several cask samples and have enjoyed it every time. At just £100 per dozen bottles in bond, we believe this is one of the best value clarets available, with James Suckling scoring it 92-93 points...The character of the 2020 is in line with the vintage as a whole. Our tasting note for Beaumont has many of the same elements as we found in wines across the board... intensity and purity of fruit, with very fine delineation, if not the concentration of a vintage like 2018. Blackberry and cherry aromas feature repeatedly...dark fruit character, with delicacy and complexity. Beaumont also showed surprisingly complex notes of earth, black tea and violets, contributing to the impression that this is a classic year.

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"...a well-defined bouquet of blackberry, briar and light pine cone scents plus a welcome touch of orange peel. The palate is medium-bodied and classic in style, with dry-ish tannins, but in no way austere; in fact, it displays fine depth and commendable salinity toward the finish. What they used to call "English gentleman's claret," a.k.a. a good solid Haut-Médoc. Enjoy over 12–15 years. **89-91 points**" NM

"...a clear tannic frame to give balance and form to the wine without getting in the way of enjoyment, meaning this is a bottle that can easily be opened within the next few years. Silky texture, and the power builds through the palate, as concentrated brambled fruits begin to emerge. A slight bitterness overtakes the final push of the wine, this is spicy, intense and enjoyable... Drinking Window 2023 - 2034. **91 points**" JA

"A linear and polished young red with compact, silky tannins that are polished and beautiful. Lots of blackberry, blackcurrant, mushroom and spice character. Very solid wine from here. **92-93 points**" JS

2020 Château Cantemerle, Grand Cru Classé Haut-Médoc

£218 / doz

Cantemerle was amongst the earlier 2020 cask samples we tasted. It stood out, as it gave us an inkling about the style of the vintage as a whole. After the open and concentrated fruit of the 2019s, this 2020 was refined and elegant with pure but subtle blackcurrant fruit. Cantemerle often has an austerity about it and sees less oak than some of its peers, but the 2020 is still very much from a warm year...just very well-managed. The first vintage by winemaker Laure Canu, previously at Angélus, Jane Anson describes it as "*confident, succulent, elegant and classic*", awarding 93 points. **58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 6% Petit Verdot. To be aged in 40% new oak.**



"This has the tight tannins of the vintage with damson and an edge of bitter dark chocolate, but it is a success all the same - confident, succulent, elegant and classic. ...Drinking Window 2028 - 2042. **93 points**" Jane Anson, Decanter Magazine

"Lots of richness and fruit for this winery, showing blackberry, blackcurrant and dark-chocolate character. It's full and layered. Well done. **93-94 points**" JS

2020 Château Potensac, Cru Bourgeois Médoc

£195 / doz

44% Merlot, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Petit Verdot and 22% Cabernet Franc, weighing in with an alcohol of 14.05%, a pH of 3.63 and an IPT (tannins index) of 76.



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"...eager-to-please notes of fresh Bing cherries, redcurrants and black raspberries, plus hints of dried Provence herbs, dusty soil, wild mushrooms and tobacco leaf. The medium-bodied palate has a good concentration of red and black fruits with a chewy texture and just enough freshness, finishing earthy. Drink 2023-2032. **88-90 points**" LPB

"...a clean, pure black currant and blueberry nose, a little more opulent than usual, but well defined and demonstrating a bit more fruité, which it has occasionally lacked in some vintages...crisp acidity, and quite saline on the entry, with touches of black olive infusing the black fruit. A midweight with a lively, classically fashioned finish, this is a very commendable Potensac that should give 12–15 years of pleasure, but warrants 3–4 years in a cool, damp cellar. **90-92 points**" NM

"This is very balanced and round with lovely softness. Plenty of fruity. Medium body. Lots of salinity and savoriness. Long and delicious. Friendly already...**93-94 points**" JS

Other recommended Haut-Médocs & Médocs

2020 Château La Lagune, Grand Cru Classé Haut-Médoc	£324 / doz
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"...strides confidently out of the glass with bold, fantastically pure black fruit..." LPB

16.5 JR / 91-93 NM / 93 JA / 92-94 LPB / 93-94 JS

2020 Château Poujeaux, Cru Bourgeois Moulis-en-Médoc	£217 / doz
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"Potentially one of the best in a long time." JS

16 + JR / 92 JA / 94-95 JS

2020 Château Chasse Spleen, Cru Bourgeois Moulis-en-Médoc	£240 / doz
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"A beautifully constructed young Bordeaux with blackberry, walnut, nutmeg, dried herb and bark." JS

16 + JR / 89-91 NM / 94-95 JS

Pessac-Léognan

2020 Ch La Mission Haut-Brion, Grand Cru Classé de Graves, Pessac-Léognan	£1510/6
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La Mission Haut-Brion was under the same ownership as Haut-Brion as far back as the 1530's and was once rated as highly as any of the First Growths, but missed out on inclusion in the 1855 Classification. A few years back, Liv-Ex recreated a modern version of the '1855' (with criteria like location and ratings) and concluded that La Mission was the 'sixth First Growth'. With a slew of 98-99 point scores, Lisa Perotti-Brown MW describes it as "a stunning expression of this vintage!". At £1510 per six bottles, this is also perhaps the 'Haut-Brion' to drink, whilst you invest in the sibling estate. **48.6% Merlot, 43.2% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8.2% Cabernet Franc** picked 7 to 29 September. Estimated alcohol 14.7%.



"..Dark, blackish crimson. Obviously extremely dense and concentrated – so much so that initially the nose is buried in all that concentration. Then – whoosh – what a spread of firm fruit and layers of cassis and minerals! There is no shortage of ripe tannin buried under here so this will be a very slow burner but it's a worthy addition to the La Mission canon... Drink 2032 – 2055. **18 +.**" JR

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"Another sensational...a rocking perfume of ripe black cherries, tobacco, damp earth, chocolate, and exotic spices. Rich, medium to full-bodied, and concentrated, it has a ripe, expansive texture, building tannins, and just an opulent texture. The vintage doesn't get any sexier than this beauty. **96-98 points**" JD

"This really builds on the palate. Loads of blackberry and iodine with asphalt undertones. It's full-bodied with tannins that steamroll at the end and keep going. Classic blend **97-98 points**" JS

"...This is the wine to go for in the Domaines Clarence Dillon stable this year...Drinking Window 2030 - 2050. **98 points**" JA

"...a very intense and beautifully defined bouquet of blackberry, wild strawberry, wilted violet petals and hints of orange blossom...An enthralling wine in the making from Jean-Philippe Delmas and his team. **97-99 points**" NM

"... slowly emerging scents of freshly crushed blackcurrants, Morello cherries, wild blueberries and forest floor, leading to suggestions of violets, baker's chocolate and cardamom with wafts of dusty soil and oolong tea. The medium to full-bodied palate bursts with impactful, fresh red, black and blue fruit layers, supported by impressive freshness and fantastically ripe, fine-grained tannins, finishing very long and fragrant. A stunning expression of this vintage! **97-99 points**" LPB

2020 Château Malartic-Lagravière, Cru Classé Pessac-Léognan

£346 / doz

Neal Martin declares that 2020 Château Malartic-Lagravière is a wine to "Ignore at your peril. (94-96 points)". The glossy black fruit and mineral character manage to give this wine both complexity and immediate appeal, and we loved the cask sample that we tasted.



"...a powerful, tightly wound wine. There is perhaps a bit less opulence than in years past, but that just gives the wine an extra kick of energy and vibrancy that is quite attractive. Inky red cherry fruit, rose petal, spice, cedar and cinnamon all grace this beautifully taut wine from the Bonnie family. Tasted three times. **93-95 points**" Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com

"... a gorgeously pure nose of both red and blue fruits as well as lots of floral and mineral nuances...and has the vintage's rich, concentrated style yet gorgeous purity of fruit as well as ripe, polished, building tannins. It's one seriously good 2020 that will impress with short-term bottle age and keep for 25 years or more. It's up with the crème de la crème of the appellation. Tasted three times with consistent notes. **93-95 points**" JD

"...a bright, vivid nose of mineral-infused red fruit mixed with hints of blueberry and cassis. Very focused and precise, this is an aromatically sophisticated Pessac-Léognan. The palate is medium-bodied with graphite-tinged black fruit, hints of wild mint coming through, and lively and tensile toward the finish. This is one of the best vintages of Malartic Lagravière that I have encountered out of bottle. Ignore at your peril. **94-96 points**" NM

Other recommended Pessac-Léognans...

2020 Domaine de Chevalier, Grand Cru Classé, Pessac-Léognan

£565 / doz

"Easily among the best in Pessac."

17 JR / 93-95 NM / 95 JA / 95-97 AG / 96-97 JS / 95-97+ JD / 95-97+ LPB

2020 Ch Haut Bailly, Grand Cru Classé, Pessac-Léognan (V. LIMITED)

£576 / 6

"A legendary Haut-Bailly in the making." JD

17+ + JR / 96 JA / 95-97 AG / 95-97 NM / 96-98+ JD / 96-98+ LPB / 99-100 JS

2020 Ch Haut-Brion, 1er Grand Cru Classé, Pessac-Léognan (V. LIMITED)

£2598 / 6

"Wine of the vintage? 100 points" JS

18.5 JR / 96 JA / 96-98 NM / 97-99 AG / 98-100 JD / 98-100 LPB / 100 JS

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2020 Château Pape Clement, Cru Classé Pessac-Léognan (LIMITED)

£750 / doz

"Seamless in texture...an outstanding wine that should age brilliantly in bottle." NM

16.5 + JR / 94 JA / 95-97 NM / 96-98 LPB / 97-98 / 97-99 JD

2020 Ch Smith Haut Lafitte, Grand Cru Classé, Pessac-Léognan (SOLD OUT) £576 / 6

"...a thrilling wine of grandeur and spellbinding beauty." AG

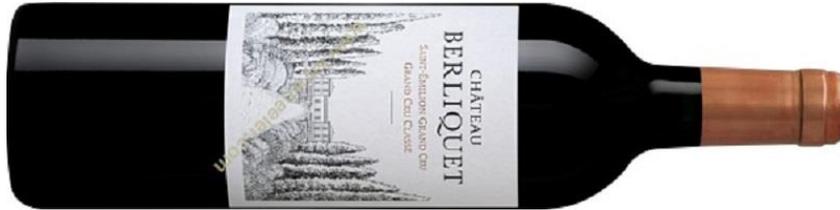
95-97 AG / 95-97 NM / 97 JA / 97-100 JD / 98-100 LPB / 99-100 JS

St.-Émilion

2020 Château Berliquet, Grand Cru Classé St-Émilion

£402 / doz

Berliquet is an excellent example of the conundrum presented by the 2020 vintage; with so much charm, it is easy to overlook what a serious and complex wine it is. We found it heady and intense, with exceptionally pure fruit aromas (cherry, plum and damson) as well as delicate peony and woodsmoke notes. The polished tannins and complex mineral notes linger on the finish. In this instance, accessibility does not mean a lack of seriousness and Perotti-Brown spots the potential (94-96 points) as does James Suckling (95-96 points). The drinking dates also point to longevity, ranging well into the 2040s. Berliquet was bought by the Chanel Group in 2017 (joining neighbouring Canon, and Rauzan Segla in Margaux) and we have seen each subsequent vintage grow in stature, narrowing the gap with Canon. Winemaker Nicolas Audebert has a very clear vision for expressing the terroir here, which he describes as distinct from Canon, formed by a unique mix of limestone from the plateau and clay. **69% Merlot and 31% Cabernet Franc. 50% new oak. 14.5% alcohol.**



*"A slightly cooler terroir than its sibling estate Château Canon, a little more clay-based which gives weight, depth and power while also being austere right now, with grippy tannins and a bite of blood orange. Great stuff, can start drinking this in five to six years to allow the structure to soften while keeping the appeal of the wild cherry and blackberry fruits...Drinking Window 2028 - 2042. **93 points**" JA*

*"...Deep purple-black colored, it trots casually out of the glass with effortlessly flamboyant scents of stewed black cherries, warm plums and baked blackberries, plus hints of chocolate mint, violets and licorice with a touch of fertile loam. The medium to full-bodied palate is very tightly wound with layers of ripe black fruits and earthy accents, framed by finely grained tannins and tons of freshness, finishing long and fragrant. Drink 2026-2046. **94-96 points**" LPB*

*"Very soft and polished with beautiful tannins that are poised and beautiful. It's medium-to full-bodied and gorgeously proportioned. Ready for even more polishing. **95-96 points**" JS*

2020 La Chapelle d'Ausone, St-Émilion Grand Cru (2nd wine of Ausone)

£695 / 6

First year of official conversion to organic farming. **60% Cabernet Franc, 35% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. 3.66pH. 100% new oak**

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*"This has a beautifully nuanced yet deep flavour, showing the tight pared-back salinity and juice of limestone alongside fleshy blackberry fruits. There are firm but flexible tannins, it has grip and tension and frankly all the things that you want from a Chapelle, giving a generous hint of what you can expect from Ausone itself. Drinking Window 2026 - 2040. **94 points**" JA*
*"...a well defined, focused bouquet. Tightly-wound at first, the 2020 opens with lavender and incense aromas infusing the red berry fruit. Touches of rose petal emerge with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with smooth tannins and moderate depth. A discrete white pepper note builds towards the finish that is vivacious and vibrant...**93-95 points**" NM*

2020 Château Les Gravieres, St-Emilion Grand Cru (LIMITED)

£165 / doz

100% Merlot from 4.5 Ha in the communes of St Sulpice de Faleyrens and St Laurent des Combes. Sandy gravel, deep gravels, cool ferriferous sub-soil. Average vine age 38 to 45 years, planting density 5500 plants/Ha with low yields of 35 Hl/Ha. Aged 16 months in oak.



*"... a powerful, bold Saint-Émilion loaded with intense mineral and savory notes that play off a core of inky dark fruit. Blueberry jam, gravel, smoke, lavender, licorice and cloves add gravitas...I very much like the vibrancy and tension here. Tasted two times. **92-94 points**" Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com*

*"... scents of plum preserves, baked black cherries and blueberry pie, plus hints of violets, clove oil and camphor, with a waft of tree bark. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers velvety tannins and a lively backbone to support the generous black and blue fruits, finishing long and spicy. Drink 2025-2045. **93-95 points**" LPB*

2020 Château Le Prieuré, Grand Cru Classé St-Émilion (LIMITED)

£188 / 6

Just last year Château Le Prieuré was acquired by the owners of Calon-Ségur. Prior to that it was owned by Francois Pinault's Artemis Group (owners of Latour). Clearly, the premier league estate owners see great potential here. Released at £188 per six bottles in bond and as high as 95-97 points by Galloni, this is one to move quickly on. Limited availability. **83% Merlot and 17% Cabernet Franc. 14.3% alcohol.**



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"Textured with depth to the hawthorn, raspberry and blackberry fruit that travels down several layers. The frame is drenched with juicy and taut limestone minerality, with almost a juniper and saline sting. Hard to argue with the quality here. Drinking Window 2027 - 2040. **94 points**" JA

"...fragrant notes of lilacs, underbrush and sandalwood over a core of Morello cherries and plum preserves, plus a waft of woodsmoke. The medium to full-bodied palate has beautiful energy and tension, featuring layers of juicy red and black fruits with a plush texture, finishing long and perfumed. What a stunner! Drink 2024-2049. **93-95 points**" LPB

"...very intense on the nose of pure blackberry, raspberry preserve and subtle blueberry scents, the oak extremely well integrated. The medium-bodied palate delivers velvety tannins and a mélange of red and black fruit laced with blood orange and hints of marmalade. This is a nimble, tensile Saint-Émilion with real puissance toward the finish and a persistent spicy aftertaste. Wonderful. **94-96 points**" NM

"...fabulous. Inky and deep, with tremendous vibrancy, it dazzles from start to finish. Blueberry jam, graphite, menthol and lavender build as the 2020 gradually shows off its pedigree. Bright saline and mineral notes punctuate the mouthwatering finish...one of the most beautiful, striking wines being made in Saint-Émilion today. **95-97 points**" AG

2020 Château Quintus, St.-Émilion Grand Cru

£465 / 6

Haut-Brion's Technical Director Jean-Philippe Delmas and owner Prince Robert of Luxembourg seem pretty committed to their Grand Cru St-Émilion estate Château Quintus taking its place alongside their otherwines, at the same quality level. The vines neighbour Angelus and are in the general vicinity of Pavie, Canon and Belair-Monange and it seems a pretty sure bet that Delmas and his team will fulfil the vision. With scores in the 94-98 point range, the release price of £465 per six bottles makes this an affordable entry point into collecting Domaines Clarence Dillon's wines. **62.5% Merlot and 37.5% Cabernet Franc, 15.4% abv.**



"... very delineated and focused on the nose, offering ebullient black cherries and raspberry fruit, crushed stone and a subtle marine element that develops with aeration; great energy here...lithic tannins, a perfect line of acidity and just a slight bitterness that imparts the necessary tension and sapidity on the finish. This is a very suave Saint-Émilion that will be difficult to resist in its youth. **92-94 points**" NM

"A big, velvety textured wine, especially in the vintage...offers a gorgeous array of pure crème de cassis and black raspberry fruits as well as leafy herbs, graphite, and chocolate. These all carry to a full-bodied Saint-Emilion with a round, mouth-filling texture, ripe tannins, and a great finish. This estate has been firing on all cylinders of late, and this should be in the same realm as the 2016, 2018, and I suspect, the 2019. **94-94 points**" JD

"...leaps from the glass with bold notes of crushed blackberries, boysenberries and stewed plums, plus suggestions of chocolate mint, clove oil, lilacs and star anise...densely laden with rich black fruits and floral accents, framed by well-balanced acidity and finely grained tannins, finishing with great length and impressive energy. Judging from this barrel sample, this is the finest, most complex and complete Quintus yet—bravo! **95-97 points**" LPB

"Wow. This is very chalky and salty with lots of mineral character. It shows lots of purple fruit and firm tannins. Racy and bright. Chewy yet fine tannins. Gorgeous. Gets better and better. **97-98 points**" JS

2020 Château Saintayme, St.-Émilion

£138 / doz

Saintayme (also known as Saintem) is from a 9-hectare parcel of vines farmed by the family of the late Denis Durantou. A single plot of Merlot in St-Etienne-de-Lisse, the terroir here is limestone, clay and gravel, with the vines averaging 35 years of age. Jeb Dunnuck says the 2020 "should be snatched up by savvy readers...in a vintage where Merlot excelled, it's a real standout (91-93 points). We found a superb density and purity of fruit and lifted acidity from the limestone terroir,

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describing it in our own tasting notes as 'a paradigm of St-Emilion'. So, both enormously enjoyable and the kind of wine to show in a tasting as an example of what this commune is all about. **100% Merlot, to be aged in 45% new oak. 14.5% abv.**



*"Deep crimson colour, plenty of deep bilberry fruits, firm tannins and good tension; a lot to like about this wine. Closes in on the finish, pretty serious in feel overall, muscular, but has the deft kick upwards that you find in many limestone-led wines in the vintage...Drinking Window 2027 - 2042. **92 points**" JA*

*"Another gem from Denis Durantou... should be snatched up by savvy readers... a real standout. Black cherries, mulberries, camphor, chocolate, and subtle oak notes all emerge from the glass, and it's medium to full-bodied, balanced, and has a great mix of richness and freshness. Drink bottles over the coming 10-12 years. **91-93 points**" JD*

*"A gorgeous red with so much black fruit and salty, mineral character. It's medium-to full-bodied with creamy, polished tannins and a long finish. The precision and fine texture is impressive. One of the best I have had for a while. **94-95 points**" JS*

2020 Château Le Tertre Rôteboeuf, St-Émilion Grand Cru (v. LIMITED)

£840 / 6

We are very fortunate to receive allocations of Francois Mitjavile's sought after wines, especially those from his St-Emilion estate, Le Tertre Rôteboeuf. This small 6 ha estate could not be more different from the grandeur of neighbours like Pavie, with its monolithic new winery, and yet we love the wines equally. The cask sample of the 2020 which we tasted this spring exploded from the glass, with complex notes of black cherry, mocha coffee, spice and liquorice; and had a dense palate, savoury, intense and layered with crushed rock character and powerful tannins. It seemed like a wine still settling into its final form, but whatever shape it takes, we know that it will be an exciting one. **85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc.**



*"This is a powerful, deeply focused and intense. Plenty of spice, cassis pastille, intense muscular tannins, fairly closed and austere right now, but a real sense of lift and juice becomes clear after 10 minutes of opening in the glass...it is easy to see that this vintage also will allow the limestone terroir to become clearer with bottle age. Drinking Window 2024 - 2036. **95 points**" JA*

*"...captivating notes of wild blueberries, crushed black plums and juicy blackberries, followed by suggestions of red roses, dark chocolate, molten licorice and rich, red soil, with wafts of garrigue and cumin seed. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers decadently intense, exotic spice and mineral-accented black fruit flavors, supported by velvety tannins and seamless freshness, finishing very long and very perfumed. This is without doubt one of the most impactful, singular, nuanced 2020 barrel samples tasted. Drink 2028-2060. **97-99 points**" LPB*

2020 Château Tour Saint-Christophe, St-Émilion Grand Cru (LIMITED)

£276/ doz

We were thrilled by our tasting of cask samples and think this is excellent value. James Suckling awards it 95-96 points, just a point below his range for sibling estate Enclos Tourmaline. The fruit purity we are seeing across the 2020s was evident in spades, with a full, rounded palate, a beautiful soft texture on the palate and an earthiness that marks it out as classic Grand Cru St-Émilion. **80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. 40% new oak. pH 3.6. 14.7% abv.**

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"Clean and precisely-spiced black fruits, austerity in the tannins and a mocha, grilled coffee bean edging through the finish. Good quality and well balanced, intense to the point of slightly bitter on the final moments. Drinking Window 2025 - 2040. **93 points**" JA

"Full-bodied and creamy with lots of spice and walnut character. Lovely softness and purity. Black fruit at the end. Very fine tannins. Well-integrated. **95-96 points**" jamefuckling.com

"A wine I continue to buy in every vintage... another no-brainer for the Saint-Emilion lovers out there... a perfumed, elegant, pure style in its darker cherry and cassis fruits as well as classic cedarwood, earth, and forest floor aromatics...just beautiful on the palate, with terrifically integrated acidity and tannins...**93-96 points**" JD

Other recommended St.-Émilions...

2020 Château Angélus, 1er Grand Cru Classé St-Émilion (SOLD OUT)	£1,524 / 6
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"...a sleek, poised, and confidently-constructed Angélus". JA

18 JR / 97 JA / 98-99 JS

2020 Château Ausone, 1er Grand Cru Classé St-Émilion (LIMITED)	£1500 / 3
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"This is powerful and blows away much of the competition...a potential 100 points." JA

18+ JR / 97-99 NM / 99 JA

2020 Château Canon, St-Émilion Grand Cru Classé (SOLD OUT)	£576 / 6
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"It has one of those bouquets that stops the clock thanks to its breathtaking delineation and focus." NM

17.5 JR / 95-97 AG / 96-98 JD / 96-98 NM / 98-99 JS / 98-100 JA / 98-100 LPB

2020 Ch Cheval Blanc, 1er Grand Cru Classé St-Émilion (SOLD OUT)	£2325 / 6
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"Hard to argue with this. Could go up after tasting in bottle, a potential 100 points." JA

17 JR / 96-98 NM / 98 JA

2020 Château Figeac, 1er Grand Cru Classé St-Émilion (v. LIMITED)	£935 / 6
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"...a magnificent Figeac from head winemaker Frédéric Faye and his team." NM

17.5+ JR / 96 JA / 95-97 AG / 96-98 JD / 96-98 NM / 96-98+ LPB / 97-98 JS

2020 Château Fombrauge, Grand Cru Classé St-Émilion	£252 / doz
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"...full-bodied, yet refined and poised. Pretty finish. Best ever?" JS

91-93 LPB / 92-94 NM / 93-95 JD / 94-95 JS

2020 Ch La Gaffelière, 1er Grand Cru Classé St-Émilion (v. LIMITED)	£325 / 6
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"...perhaps the most satin-like texture I have encountered on a young La Gaffelière." NM

17+ JR / 95+ JA / 96-97 JS / 96-98 NM LPB

2020 Château Larcis Ducasse, Grand Cru Classé St-Émilion (SOLD OUT)	£330 / 6
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"...full-bodied and chewy with intense flavors and a long, flavorful finish." JS

97-98 JS

2020 Château Laroque, Grand Cru Classé St-Émilion (v. LIMITED)	£225 / doz
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"Possibly one of the best buys out there..." JS

16.5 JR / 93-95 NM / 94-95 JA / 95-97 JD

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2020 Château Pavie, 1er Grand Cru Classé St-Émilion (LIMITED)

£1440 / 6

"As hedonic as it is cerebral this year, it is a beautiful paradox." LPB

JR 18 / 97 JA / 97-99 LPB / 99-100 JS

2020 Château Pavie-Macquin, Grand Cru Classé St-Émilion (LIMITED)

£345 / 6

"...one of the most alluring and complete recent vintages I can remember tasting. In a word: dazzling." AG

17++ JR / 91-93 NM / 95 JA / 95-96 JS / 95-97 JD / 96-98 AG / 96-98 LPB

Pomerol

2020 Château L'Évangile, Pomerol (v.LIMITED)

£1100 / 6

From the Lafite-Rothschild stable, but under a new winemaking team led by Saskia de Rothschild, Château L'Évangile seems to be an extraordinary and ground-breaking wine in 2020, fulfilling the potential of their location on the Pomerol plateau, surrounded as they are by the likes of Petrus, VCC and, over the border, Cheval Blanc. **88% Merlot and 12% Cabernet Franc, all raised in 60% new French oak.**



*"...The nose augurs a different L'Évangile, no question about that...attractive brambly red berry fruit, black currant pastilles and light rose petal scents... but what this L'Évangile conveys is newfound personality and soul and a sense of Pomerol typicité. A new chapter opens. **94-96 points**" NM*

*"...Aromatic, deep and fleshy, with magnificent purity of fruit, L'Évangile dazzles right out of the gate. Bright Franc aromatics add striking lift as well as vibrancy that carries through to the long, delineated finish. ...In the past, L'Évangile and Lafite-Rothschild were very different stylistically, but that seems to be changing...easily the most Lafite-like L'Évangile I have ever tasted. Don't miss it! **95-97 points**" AG*

*"...a gorgeous wine. Pristine fruit, silky with a whoosh of menthol. It elevates over the palate, both dense and light, with blueberry and raspberry fruits, and pulses of bitter almond and honeysuckle on the finish that gives focus and spice...Drinking Window 2028 - 2050. **98 points**" JA*

*"... mulberries, black raspberries and stewed red and black plums, plus suggestions of Indian spices, dusty soil and violets with a touch of iron ore. The medium to full-bodied palate possesses compelling freshness and a fine-grained texture to support the muscular black and red fruits, finishing long and earthy. **96-98+ points**" LPB*

*"This is so floral and pure, showing crushed-grape character with some walnut and crunchy seeds. It's full-bodied, juicy and fresh. Purity of fruit. Juicy and long...**98-99 points**" JS*

2020 Château Le Gay, Pomerol (LIMITED)

£450 / 6

Neal Martin chooses 2020 Le Gay as one of his top five Pomerols of the vintage and it is by far the least expensive of them. Le Gay is under the same ownership as 'micro-property' La Violette which with only 250 cases a year is almost impossible to obtain. Luckily in 2020, the team seem to have had more success with the Le Gay and we are pleased to be able to offer a small quantity.

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"Careful and seductive oaking, this develops and builds in power and finesse over the palate, and is a seriously enjoyable Pomerol, just packed full of appellation typicity... Drinking Window 2028 - 2042. **94 points**" JA

"... molten licorice and dark chocolate, giving way to a tantalizing core of baked black cherries, prunes and blackberry preserves, plus a hint of cardamom. The full-bodied palate is rich and decadent, featuring layers of black fruits and exotic spices with a firm yet velvety texture and seamless freshness, finishing with epic length. A hedonic powerhouse! Drink 2025-2048. **94-96+ points**" LPB

"... blackberry, bilberry, pressed iris and subtle brine scents that gain intensity with aeration; the oak is very well integrated. The medium-bodied palate features fine, grainy tannins and beautiful, very pure black fruit tinged with licorice. Superb delineation toward the finish, which fans out with style. This is a wonderful Pomerol, Le Gay fulfilling its potential as one of Pomerol's dark horses. Superb. **95-97 points**" NM

This is a young red with great intensity and vision that starts off slowly and builds with energy and verve. It's so minerally with salty, chalky and spice undertones to the cool and vibrant, purple and subtle-fruit flavors. The tannins are wonderfully toned and polished and build on the palate to deliver something very special. **98-99 points**" JS

2020 Château La Conseillante, Pomerol (v. LIMITED)

£935 / 6

For Neal Martin, 2020 La Conseillante is behind only Château Trotanoy in the Pomerol rankings, and on a par with the towering L'Eglise Clinet. La Conseillante usually shows a degree more delicacy and finesse than its peers, but often without the power; however not in 2020, and Martin uses the "old 'iron fist in a velvet glove' cliché". For Lisa Perotti-Brown however it is indeed "an exercise in elegance" and she rates it 97-99 points. **87% Merlot and 13% Cabernet Franc. 70% new oak, 27% once-used barrels and 3% amphora.**



"...beautifully fragrant floral aromatics here with concentration through the mid palate and effortless balance. A little more width and opulence in the 2019 perhaps, but here you get precision and purity, and a feeling of 2010 levels of concentration. An elegant 2020, bright, confident, bursting with life...Drinking Window 2027 - 2043. **96 points**" JA

"... pure and quite precocious black currants and crushed iris flowers; subtle touches of morello cherries develop with aeration. It is beautifully defined and the oak seamlessly integrated...succulent, ripe tannins that disguise the backbone of this exquisitely balanced Pomerol. A discreet crescendo leads to a pixelated finish of awe-inspiring persistency. The old "iron fist in a velvet glove" cliché rings true here. A deeply impressive and quite profound La Conseillante...**96-98 points**" NM

"...vivacious notes of black raspberries, kirsch and redcurrant jelly, leading to suggestions of ripe, juicy blackberries, violets, star anise and iron ore with a faint waft of dried mint...an exercise in elegance, delivering a quiet intensity of pure, energetic red and black berry layers with gorgeous floral and mineral sparks, framed by perfectly ripe, finely pixelated tannins and seamless freshness, finishing with epic length and the most breathtaking perfume. Simply mind-blowing. **97-99 points**" LPB

"The balance and energy to this is very impressive with blackberry, black-olive, tar and walnut character. It's full, but very compact with superb tannin quality that is intense, yet so fine-grained, building layers on the palate. A subtle and structured young wine. It really goes on and on. **98-99 points**" JS

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Other recommended Pomerols...

2020 Château Clinet, Pomerol (LIMITED) £399 / 6

"...extremely polished with ultra fine tannins that are so exquisite."

17 JR / 93-95 AG / 95 JA / 94-96 NM / 96-98 LPB / 96-98+ JD

2020 Château L'Eglise Clinet, Pomerol (SOLD OUT) £1285 / 6

"... a towering wine. I am not sure what else to say. After having tasted hundreds of 2020s, L'Eglise-Clinet very clearly claims a stake for itself among the wines of the vintage." AG

96-98 NM / 96-98 AG / 96-98 JD / 97-99 LPB / 98-99 JS

2020 Petite Eglise, Pomerol (SOLD OUT) £208 / 6

"...a sensual La Petite Eglise, pure and refined... Outstanding..." NM

91-M / 92-94 AG / 92-94 LPB / 95-96 JD

2020 Enclos Tourmaline, Pomerol (v. LIMITED) £295 / 3

"...could end up being a real superstar in the vintage" JD

92 JA / 92-94 AG / 94-96 LPB / 96-97 JS

2020 Château Feytit-Clinet, Pomerol (v. LIMITED) £280 / 6

"About as ripe, sexy, and opulent as they come" JD

94-96 NM / 94-96+ LPB / 95-96 JS / 95-97 AG / 96-98 JD

2020 Château Gazin, Pomerol £673 / doz

"Classic Pomerol through and through." NM

92-LPB / 94 JA / 94 NM / 94-96 JD / 96-97 JS

2020 Vieux Château Certan, Pomerol (v. LIMITED) £720 / 3

"...this is simply an incredible achievement...!" LPB

95 JA / 18++ JR / 96-98 AG / 96-98 NM / 97-99 JD / 98-99 JS / 98-100 LPB

Lalande de Pomerol & Other Right Bank Wines

2020 Château Carlmagus, Fronsac £110 / doz



"...vivacious scents of redcurrant jelly, ripe black plums and boysenberries, plus hints of iron ore, black truffles, lavender and cracked black pepper. The medium to full-bodied palate fills the mouth with intense red and black fruit layers, supported by ripe, rounded tannins and oodles of freshness, finishing long and earthy. Drink 2024-2040. 91-93 points" LPB

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2020 Château Les Cruzelles, Lalande de Pomerol (LIMITED)

£215 / doz

The cask sample of 2020 Les Cruzelles we tasted was serious, with intense dark fruit and tobacco notes, expressing the Pomerol part of its character (it is only a kilometre from L'Eglise Clinet and shares its terroir). Scoring 94 points from Anson, this is sure to sell out at this price.



"... plenty of brambly red fruit on the nose, where touches of undergrowth, menthol and cassis unfold with time...superb acidity that cuts through the graphite-tinged black fruit. Displaying wonderful focus and energy from start to finish, this is a classy Lalande de Pomerol that should give 12–15 years of drinking pleasure. Superb. **90-92 points**" NM

"...impactful notes of plum preserves, blueberry compote and kirsch, plus suggestions of violets, mocha and pencil lead. The medium to full-bodied palate explodes with vibrant black fruits and fantastic freshness, framed by ripe, velvety tannins, finishing long and fragrant...Drink 2024-2039. **91-93 points**" LPB

"Black earth and clay with dark-berry and violet character. It's medium-to full-bodied with creamy tannins and a fresh finish. More opulent than the 2019. **92-93 points**" JS

"Stands out from La Chenade in the vintage, with its velvet texture and a more serious sculpted feel overall. Tobacco and liquorice notes besides black cherry and raspberry fruits, good tension, serious but with Lalande-de-Pomerol unfussy appeal ...Drinking Window 2023 - 2034. **94 points**" JA

2020 Château Roc de Cambes, Côtes de Bourg (v. LIMITED)

£260 / 6

We are very fortunate to receive allocations of Francois Mitjavile's sought after wines, including those from his Côtes de Bourg estate, Roc de Cambes. Last year, the 2019 the cask samples we tasted were breathtakingly overt and crying out to be drunk straight away (which is exactly what we did with them after tasting!). This year, by contrast, with most right bank wines tasting rounded and accessible, the 2020 Roc de Cambes was more linear, with complex floral and tobacco notes and an emphasis on freshness and limestone-mineral notes of crushed rock.



"Smoky character on the attack, carefully interplayed with cloves, grilled tobacco, damson and red cherry fruits. Good stuff, nuanced and mouthwatering. Drinking Window 2022 - 2030. **92 points**" JA

"... a glorious, irresistible bouquet of ravishing dark cherries, blueberry, crushed violets and incense aromas; the oak here is very nicely enmeshed...finely tuned, displaying supple tannins and a silky texture. There is wonderful harmony and palpable energy toward the finish. This actually challenges Tertre-Rôteboeuf, as if to say, why should you take the gold medal every year? It's that good. **92-94 points**" NM

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2020 Domaine de Cambes, Bordeaux (LIMITED)

£185 / 6



"... Ripe, rich and concentrated, the fruit on the edge of confit. Little evidence of the oak at present but a light, grainy, tannic frame. Voluptuous and gourmand as always. 16 points" JR

Lalande de Pomerol & Other Right Bank

2020 La Chenade, Lalande de Pomerol (v. LIMITED)

£160 / doz

"...a beautiful Lalande de Pomerol – elegance personified." NM

91 JA / 89-91 LPB / 91-92 JS / 91-93 NM

2020 Château Montlandrie, Castillon, Côtes de Bordeaux

£180 / doz

"Energy and balance...Clearly a success this year. Should be GV." JR

88-90 NM / 16.5 JR / 92-93 JS / 93 JA / 92-94 LPB

Most wines available in magnums with a £15 ex VAT surcharge per case of six. Other special formats may be available, please enquire for a quotation.

Offered en primeur, ex-chateau, due to land in the UK in Spring 2023.

Priced per case of a dozen, six or three bottles as listed, in bond, excluding UK duty, VAT and onward delivery, payable at the prevailing rate on release from bond. Prices herein supersede any previously published prices. Stock subject to availability, E&OE.

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