



# BORDEAUX 2018

## THE DARK MAJESTY OF SMALL BERRIES

Reviews and ratings  
by Thomas Boxberger

Translation supervised by Dr. Robert Parker

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Thomas Boxberger has travelled ten days in April 2019 to Bordeaux and tasted 944 barrel samples.

# BORDEAUX 2018

## THE DARK MAJESTY OF SMALL BERRIES

2018 is a truly great vintage in Bordeaux for the top-wines. The weather-conditions have been strange: during the first half of the year, it rained more than in a usual full calendar year, after which serious drought and heat set in, finishing the vegetation cycle with an extensive Indian summer right towards the harvest. Further, the 2018s from Bordeaux experienced the most substantial mildew attack of the past forty years. Naturally, this demanding scenario led to inconsistent grape quality, as each vineyard plot had diversified requirements. A maximum quality was achievable for those who had done everything right. However, there was not much room for error. Any wrong decision or omission of treatments had an immediate effect on the quality of the grapes. The berries remained small due to the persistent drought, which resulted in a powerful, dark fruit component of enormous richness in the wines, while the water reserves in the underground kept the freshness. The wines of 2018 combine the positive attributes of a hot vintage with the temperament of a cooler vintage. Finally, 2018 is a heterogeneous vintage with exceptionally good wines across all quality ranges. The best 2018s stand alongside the outstanding wines from 2015, 2016, and 2017, all four years being amongst the best Bordeaux vintages ever! You just have to choose the right wine ...

### OUTSTANDING QUARTET: 2015 TO 2018

For Bordeaux-wines 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 will be the iconic vintages of the future. Similar to the vintage twins 1989 and 1990, they will ripen to truly legendary vintages. Some producers made the comparison of these four vintages with years like 1945 and 1947, 1959 and 1961 or later 2000, 2005, 2009, and 2010 – but there has



never been such a density of quality over FOUR VINTAGES in succession from Bordeaux! For example, in all of the four vintages, the Grand Vins of Ausone and Haut-Brion are close to 100 points. This is absolutely unique! The two homogeneous years 2015 and 2016 were followed by the two heterogeneous years of 2017 and 2018. The 2017 season saw a devastating frost, in 2018, as mentioned, the vines suffered from a heavily rainy spring, mildew, dryness, and heat. In each of the four vintages, there is a large series of wines that reach the absolute maximum ratings of 100 points. Even many wineries have produced in some of the four vintages one of the best wines of their history so far if not even the best ever.

	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Ausone</b>	98–100	98–100	97–99	99–100
<b>Haut-Brion</b>	98–100	98–100	97–99	98–99
<b>Pétrus</b>	97–99	98–100	97–99	98–99
<b>Latour</b>	96–98	99–100	98–100	99–100

### VERY OWN CHARACTER

The best red wines of the vintage 2018 are absolutely outstanding. The dark berry fruit component, the powerful richness, and the stunning presence in smell and taste, as well as the impressive structure and purity on the palate, are all special attributes of the vintage. Many wines are very similar to the aromatic profile, especially if they come from the same appellation. Therefore 2018 is a vintage of less influence from the micro-climate. The vintage-character itself dominates the wine, much stronger than their terroir: dark fruit flavors, rich tannins, and powerful intensity with a broad-shouldered, full-bodied structure. This is partly because of the fact that the grape varieties Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Cabernet Sauvignon aromatically show a seldom similarity in this vintage, a complex interaction of different characters is therefore hardly achieved. Consistent harmony is the result. Many wines appear as if they were cast from one piece. Fortunately, the slightly higher alcohol content is not to be noticed at all. For many wines, the combination of tannins and acidity is reminiscent of the mighty, slowly evolving 2010s, indicating a long life for the 2018s. However, these 2018s are much more creamy and succulent than the 2010s have been at the same stage. Although 2018 was blessed with high temperatures, a vintage style in the wines, as seen in 2003, was fortunately spared. The fruit flavors appear much cooler, absolute-





Thomas Boxberger and Comte Stephan von Neipperg

ly fresh, and very clear, without any jammy or cooked notes in the fruit flavors. However, 2018 is not a great storyteller. Much like a well-known superstar can fulfill a hall without any word solely by his presence, the 2018s appear to be less eloquent than other vintages. The 2018s are exceptionally muscular, with a sense of aesthetics and the perfect performance. But anyhow, they need fewer words to express themselves than wines of other vintages. This is also evident in many of my descriptive texts on the wines, which are definitely shorter than in other years because the wines often simply »tell less«. With further barrel-aging and ripening in the bottle, the wines may be regaining eloquence again. Nevertheless, there are some top wines that even right now have given a lot of conversation to attentive tasters.

Even for the dry white wines, 2018 is an outstanding vintage. For example, Haut-Brion was able to produce one of the best white wines of the last two decades, simply 100 points! Such a deep acidic tension paired with a highly intense and pure Sauvignon-aromatic never was seen before in Haut-Brion. For many white Bordeaux', especially from the Médoc, 2018 is one of the best vintages so far, superbly pure, with brilliant fruit and profound structure.

Because it remained dry throughout the harvest, there was little fungal attack at this stage, which is perfect for dry white and red wines. Instead, the wineries in Sauternes and Barsac area were praying at the same time for the noble rot *Botrytis cinerea* to spread over the vineyards producing sweet wines. Here, the drought brought a high concentration in the berries. Only after a few rainfalls in mid-October *Botrytis* could spread quickly and evenly to the grapes. For the sweet wines, the vintage 2018 was quite good, but they do not have much complexity, tension, or longevity.

## A VINTAGE OF EXTREMES

In the 2017 vintage, the most famous and best terroirs were largely spared by the devastating frost. In the 2018 vintage, various problems have been much more complex. The rainy spring brought precipitation from December 2017 to June 2018, which often by far exceeded the rainfall of a whole year. That under these circumstances flowering happened almost uniform and relatively fast, some winemakers considered simply as a miracle. In many cases,

however, millerandage was observed. This means that not all blossoms were inseminated, which led to a lower yield and later to a more uneven maturity of the individual berries. But by far, the biggest problem in 2018 was the massive attack of mildew. Many veteran field managers and vineyard workers had never before experienced such intense fungal attack by mildew. Only a few wineries were not affected; extensive spraying was essential in particular because of the damp weather. The fight against mildew seemed much more difficult for organically farmed vineyards. In many cases, high yield losses had to be accepted. On the other hand, some organic farms had the problem quite well under control, such as Count Stephan von Neipperg from Canon-la-Gaffelière. He said that sprayings at a very early stage and in a strongly targeted manner had to be made with a lot of manpower. Neipperg's yields remained at »normal levels«. The two most famous biodynamic farmed Châteaux in Bordeaux, Pontet-Canet and Palmer, had to contend with heavy losses and could harvest just ten or eleven hectoliters per hectare instead. Even if the vineyard teams made all steps of protection, the fungal pressure was simply stronger, due to the proximity to the Gironde. After the wet phase, dryness set in, reminiscent of the 2016 drought. The temperatures rose, and it got hot too. Now the vines were again put to the test. The grapes

remained small, thick-skinned, and concentrated, sometimes they also dried and shrunk (*passerillage*) right before the harvest. These bunches tend to have raisiny liqueur-like aromas with very massive tannins. The vines, which were frost-damaged in 2017, were already struggling with the long-term consequences of the heavy frost. Growth can thereafter normalize only slowly over the subsequent vegetation cycle, which the vineyard managers were already aware of in advance. In the Dordogne valley of the Saint-Emilion appellation, where the frost of 2017 destroyed almost everything, many wines remained aromatically limited.

In August, September, and October, it was evenly warm and dry, so the harvest date could be set individually without any pressure. All grape varieties had the opportunity to mature to the maximum. Again, the later harvested Merlots remained less expressive than the early picked ones. The Cabernets reached maximum expression and dominate the aromatic profile of the wines. Late ripening Petit Verdot was also able to reach full maturity, so in the 2018 blends, Petit Verdot was used more often and with higher proportions than

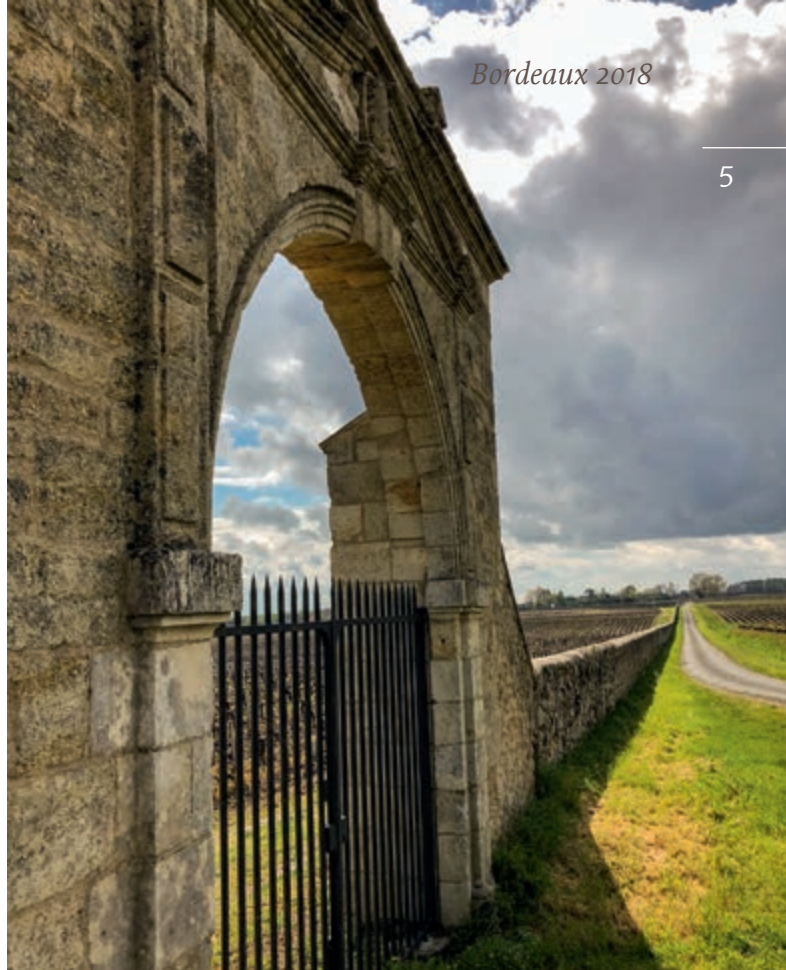


usual. The aromatic profile of the red grapes generally is largely focused on the dark-berry range. Even the normally red-fruited and cherry-scented Merlot grape remained in a dark spectrum of flavors. Late-harvested Merlots additionally had a chocolaty note to it. The loss of a Merlot-individuality is one of the reasons why the Cabernet-Style dominates to a large extent. Because only occasionally »typical«, red-fruited Merlots with a classic appearance were to be found. Alcohol levels of the 2018s usually are above those of 2017, but there were very few wines that could be described as »warm« or tasting strong in alcohol. Overall, the aromatic profile of all wines remained rather cool, voluminous, and powerful, with the aforementioned dark-berry fruit approach, which in turn tends towards massive, and they seem to be a little bit less expressive in terms of complexity and eloquence. It may be that after a ripening period in the bottle that the wines will tell more stories. But it seems to be possible that they continue to live from their impressive presence and remain less eloquent. Depending on stylistic preferences, this can also be very appealing to Bordeaux-lovers.

A similarity of the 2018s to massive vintages such as 1945 or 1959 in their youth was reported by some longtime experienced tasters. However, some wines at the first taste showed very full-bodied and intense on the palate, but then they faded relatively quickly in the aftertaste. Therefore, it was very important for all tasters to pay attention to the length and sustainability of the taste impression to detect these wines. Another important feature generally was the internal density of the wines. Some of the top-wines showed scents of oak in taste, even if the wine was aged in 50% or 60% new barrels only. Other wines, such as Léoville Las Cases or Ducru-Beaucaillou, didn't show any wood-aromas even if they were aged in 100% new barrels. These wines didn't have the aromatic concentration to cover the wooden aromatics. In general, most producers from the start reduced the proportion of new wood for the 2018 vintage. As well, the extraction of the small berries during fermentation was practiced rather gentle. Due to the low juice content in the berries, the proportion of very thick grape skins was very high. Too much extraction of tannins and flavors could have had rapidly a negative impact on the balance of musts. The best wines of the vintage show a perfect expression of terroir, great intensity, and marvelous length with excellent depth and freshness.

## VEGETATION CYCLE AND GROWTH

After the traumatic frost of 2017, the new vegetation cycle for the vines began with permanent rainfall, which varied widely from region to region as well as in quantity over the entire first half of the year. As a result, the water reserves in the subsoils were replenished after the 2017 drought. In January 2018, there was little sunshine despite quite warm temperatures. February was cooler than usual, and March already brought spring-like temperatures, with



20 rainy days and twice as high rainfall in the northern Médoc as usual. April started rainy again, the first buds sprouted around April 10, about 12 days later than 2017. From mid-April unusually warm weather set in with up to 10°C above the regular level, still daily sunshine hours remained below average. By the end of April, growth had risen sharply, but it slowed down again with the cool start of May. On May 7 and again ten days later, it became warm, with significant rainfall and two hailstorms. The first on May 20 in Graves and Sauternes and further on May 26 in Bourg, Blaye, Entre-Deux-Mers, and the Médoc. On 1,000 hectares, about 80% of the crop was destroyed.

At the end of May, the flowering began quickly in satisfactory conditions with some rainfall on June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Heavy rains between June 9 to 18 gave a precipitation 2- to 4-times higher than the average. With the last ten days of the month, warm and sunny weather set in, boosting growth significantly. Up to this point, the vegetation was actually optimal, except for the first mildew symptoms on leaves and grapes, which had been found in mid-June. On the last weekend of June, it was extremely important to spray against fungal infection, says Count Stephan von Neipperg. His team was tirelessly working in the vineyard, even on Sundays. At harvest time, Neipperg was later able to bring in the highest yield ever from La Mondotte, despite organic farming. Other organic growers claimed it would have been almost impossible to successfully combat the mildew. Apparently, each vineyard and each plot had its own specific requirements forcing the vineyard management to individual treatments. As mildew does not stop on the weekend, the 35-hour week in France had to be managed more flexible. Never before such a heavy mildew attack occurred in Bordeaux. The losses were sometimes dramatic. Although there are exceptions on both sides, conventional farming seems to have coped better with mildew than ecological. Biodynamic growers obviously had a harder time, as can be seen at Pontet-Canet and Palmer. Several hailstorms ravaged southern Médoc on July 4, and





later on July 15 in Bordeaux and southern Gironde. Further, about 10,000 hectares again were affected by frost in 2018, which is around 8% of the vineyards. As in the previous months, precipitation varied widely, from 40 mm in the northern Médoc to almost 100 mm in Sauternes, at an average temperature in July 2018 being the highest since 1954.

The warm, humid weather and strong vegetation helped the mildew grow incredibly. Fortunately, the weather changed radically in mid-July, leading to a warm and dry summer. This also slowed down the growth and ripening of the grapes. The daily maximum and minimum temperatures were between 0.5° and 3° C above average, without reaching the record levels of 2003. The change of color (*Véraison*) of the berries began at the end of July. Apart from some vineyards affected by hailstorms, the *Véraison* was completed quickly and uniformly in an almost regular time schedule. At this stage of the growing process, for a great vintage, the vines need a water shortage from precipitation as a signal to stop its vegetative growth and move its power into the maturation of the grapes. In terroirs with good drainage, this process began earlier; for the rest in mid-August, the water supply was down to comparable levels as in 2016. Now the ripening process of the grapes began in dry and hot conditions. Due to the water reserves in the deeper soils, the dryness was initially less problematic. Smaller showers at the end of August relaxed the water shortage, only some young vines on water-permeable, dry soils have been in difficulties. A dry September brought temperatures of 2 to 4 ° C above average, and it was one of the sunniest September of the last 60 years. As a result, the ripening process slowed uniformly, which allowed growers to wait for the best harvesting time for each grape variety and microclimate, without any risk of putrefaction.

## WHITE WINES

With picking the Sauvignons from the last week of August, the harvest of the white grapes was beginning about one week later than the previous year. Sémillons have been harvested until mid-September. The damp spring prevented acidity levels dropping down significantly due to the dryness in the summer, as the subsoils still had good water reserves. Nevertheless, acidities have been lower for white wines than in 2017, with generally higher sugar levels. 2018s Sauvignon Blancs aromatically have been significantly more expressive than the less tastily Sémillons. Therefore in most assemblages, the Sauvignon Blanc dominates the Sémillon clearly. For the white Haut-Brion 2018 is one of the best vintages of the past 20 years. Instead of the usual assemblage of 50% each, Sauvignon blanc and Semillon, 2018 vintage consists of 80% Sauvignon blanc, actually tasting like a single variety. A lot of 2018s white wines are exciting, especially the white Bordeaux from the Médoc!

## RED WINES

Already at the beginning of the harvest for the red varieties, on around the 7<sup>th</sup> of September, sugar levels in the early ripening Merlots have been quite high. Low acidity levels were due to the low content of malic acid in relation to tartaric acid. The aromatic expressiveness of the grapes grew in mid-September, the grape skins were thick and porous, with a high content of anthocyanins, which resulted in a rapid color extraction. The extremely ripe grape seeds led to especially rounded musts, without any green aromas. Directly after fermentation, the 2018 Merlots showed a higher quality level than in 2016 and 2017, with an unusual dark fruit component. The typical red berry aroma of this grape variety was often missing entirely. The ideal weather conditions of September lasted until mid-October, benefitting the late-maturing Cabernets and the Petit Verdot. Finally, Cabernet Francs did not show any herbaceous or immature notes, and the Cabernet Sauvignons developed a pronounced cassis fruit with a full-bodied structure. Also, Petit Verdot was reaching full ripeness with a powerful, dark scented elderberry aroma, which is present in the back aromas of many wines. Even these later ripening varieties had extremely ripe grape seeds. The long and consistent Indian summer in 2018 provided a perfect harvesting period without any risk of putrefaction or haste during the harvest. Each parcel and grape variety for dry white and red wines had been able to be picked under ideal conditions. In order to prevent negative influences on the musts, occasionally dried and shrunken grapes had to be selected at the sorting tables as well as the berries affected by mildew. Mostly a gentler extraction of the skins was operated for the vinification of red wines, with less remontage and pigeage than usual (the overshoot or submergence of the pomace). Even the fermentation temperature mostly was chosen to be slightly cooler with a maximum of 28° C. After the alcoholic fermentation, the musts often remained without further extraction of the grape skins, more in the sense of the preparation of a tea. Bordeaux' 2018 reds are very powerful, dark-berried wines with an incredible presence on the palate. Amazingly in this vintage, the grape varieties Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Cabernet Sauvignon are not very different in flavor, especially because the Merlot has changed its red fruity aromatic for dark-berried massiveness. In many wines, the Petit Verdot gives a special spiciness and profundity to the finish.

## SWEET WINES

Although summer rainfalls have been a bit more in the Sauternes area than in other regions of Bordeaux, the dry and warm conditions of September and October delayed the spread of noble rot *Botrytis cinerea*. Early ripening grapes even shrank to rosinated berries (*passerillage*). At the first *trie* of the harvest, such grapes had to be sorted out immediately. From the second week of October with cool nights and higher humidity, botrytis has spread quickly over the vineyards enhanced by some north winds. The second *trie* now was bringing the largest yield of the vintage. By a rainy period in mid-October, another botrytis wave occurred. The last *trie* took place from late October to early November. Acidity levels were quite low due to the warm summer, but concentration was high. Thus, the sweet wines of the vintage 2018 show ripe aromas with a full-bodied structure, but they don't show the tension and depth of a truly great vintage.

## MERLOT AND PETIT VERDOT

For different reasons, Merlots in the past vintages have been significantly less aromatic and flavor-full than usual: in 2014, the cold summer was to blame, in 2015 and 2016, the Merlots suffered from drought and heat. In 2017 there was frost and drought, followed by rain during harvest time. Even in 2018, only a few wines have a typical, red berry to cherry-scented Merlot component with its full-bodied richness. Significantly more aromatic than in 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017, the 2018 Merlots show an unusual dark-berry fruit set. Later picked Merlots even seem less expressive and fruity, instead, they show aspects of chocolate. Interestingly enough, in many assemblages, you can see a higher participation of Petit Verdot this year. In conversation with winemakers, most are aware of the reduced expressiveness of Merlot in the past vintages. Some claim that phenolic and aromatic ripening do not reach maturity in Merlots at the same time. One oenologist believes that presumably, the spraying against botrytis, especially in the case of Merlot, leads to a delayed aromatic development in the grapes. On the other hand, some classically-oriented growers produced early harvested Merlots from warmer terroirs that even in the past vintages showed very typical aromas and proved that it is possible to make classic Merlot. In addition, the time window for harvesting fully mature Merlot is very small. Francois Mitjavile from Tertre-Rôteboeuf says that in his opinion, there are only about two days when to harvest Merlot with full maturity and a perfectly developed aromatic profile as well as freshness. Just before this time window, Merlot tends to be lean and slightly green, and after that, it gets chocolaty and overripe, with a liqueury sweetness. The perfection, freshness and elegance a classical Merlot can achieve, simply is to be seen at Pétrus. Winemaker Olivier Berrouet, even in these difficult vintages, was able to produce a perfect wine out of 100% Merlot, due to the ideal conditions the unique terroir of Pétrus provides and his sensible hands, that observe vegetation and vinification.

Until the 1990s, Petit Verdot often didn't reach full maturity. Today, due to generally warmer weather, Petit Verdot is reaching full maturity in nearly every vintage. The aromatic profile of the two grape varieties could hardly be more different, nevertheless it could be possible that Petit Verdot replaces Merlot as a complementary part in the assemblages. At least as an opponent to the Cabernets on the left bank. In addition, only a few percents of Petit Verdot are sufficient to turn the taste of a wine completely. So growers won't have to replace Merlots by a large part in the vineyards. Interestingly Petit Verdot was to be found as a novelty in the assemblage of La Fleur Pétrus, without changing the character of the wine too much.

## THE VINTAGE COMPARISON

2018 cannot be compared with any previous vintage from Bordeaux. On the one hand, I am not aware of a vintage that has produced such a ripe dark-berry-fruit characteristic in broad across all appellations, which is especially as well present in Merlot-driven wines. On the other hand, such a uniformity of fruit flavors is more familiar from warm to hot vintages such as 2003, with jammy and cooked fruit aromatics. While the uniformity of flavors is there, jammy aromas can hardly be found in 2018. The abundant dark-berry-aromatics and richness at the same time, paired with freshness, is absolutely unique. As the 2018 vintage presents itself as a bit heterogeneous, similarities to previous vintages can only be found from Château to Château. One 2018 commemorates 2005, the other 2009, 2010, or others.

Therefore, it has to be repeatedly stated: The general vintage characteristics of 2018 is standing above the characteristics of the terroir and even above characteristics of the grape varieties. This has never happened to modern Bordeaux before just as there have never before been four consecutive vintages with qualities up to the absolute top-level.

*Hopefully, you find a lot of fun with this vintage!*  
Yours, Thomas Boxberger



### Translation from the original version in german

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*Robert has a doctor in Chemistry, studied in Oxford, living in Heidelberg, Germany. Robert supervised the translation to English for this article up to page 7.*

*Leo Constantin von Schaabner*

*My son Leo helped translating all the reviews of wines to English from page 16 to 91.*



## THE 200 BEST RED WINES BY RATING

## Rating TB Château – Appellation

99–100	AUSONE – Saint-Emilion
99–100	LATOURE – Pauillac
99–100	MOUTON-ROTHSCHILD – Pauillac
98–99	ANGÉLUS – Saint-Emilion
98–99	LA CONSEILLANTE – Pomerol
98–99	L'ÉGLISE-CLINET – Pomerol
98–99	HAUT-BRION – Pèssac-Léognan
98–99	LAFLEUR – Pomerol
98–99	LÉOVILLE LAS CASES – Pèssac-Léognan
98–99	MARGAUX – Margaux
98–99	PÉTRUS – Pomerol
98–99	TERTRE-RÔTEBOEUF – Saint-Emilion
98–99	TROTANOY – Pomerol
98–99	VIEUX CHÂTEAU CERTAN – Pomerol
97–98	CALON-SÉGUR – Saint-Estèphe
97–98	CHEVAL BLANC – Saint-Emilion
97–98	COS DESTOURNEL – Saint-Estèphe
97–98	DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU – Pèssac-Léognan
97–98	LA FLEUR PÉTRUS – Pomerol
97–98	LAFITE-ROTHSCHILD – Pauillac
97–98	LA MISSION HAUT-BRION – Pèssac-Léognan
97–98	PALMER – Margaux
96–98	HAUT-BAILLY – Pèssac-Léognan
96–98	PAVIE-MACQUIN – Saint-Emilion
96–98	SMITH HAUT LAFITTE – Pèssac-Léognan
96–97	BÉLAIR-MONANGE – Saint-Emilion
96–97	CANON – Saint-Emilion
96–97	LA CHAPELLE D'AUSONE – Saint-Emilion
96–97	LE DÔME – Saint-Emilion
96–97	EVANGILE – Pomerol
96–97	FEYTIT-CLINET – Pomerol
96–97	FIGÉAC – Saint-Emilion
96–97	FLEUR DE GAY – Pomerol
96–97	LÉOVILLE-BARTON – Pèssac-Léognan
96–97	LÉOVILLE-POYFERRÉ – Pèssac-Léognan
96–97	LYNCH-BAGES – Pauillac
96–97	MALESCOT-ST.-EXUPÉRY – Margaux
96–97	LA MONDOTTE – Saint-Emilion
96–97	MONTROSE – Saint-Estèphe
96–97	PAVIE – Saint-Emilion
96–97	LE PIN – Pomerol
96–97	RAUZAN-SÉGLA – Margaux
96–97	TROPLONG MONDOT – Saint-Emilion
95–97	CROIX DE LABRIE – Saint-Emilion
95–96	BEAUSÉJOUR DUFFAU LAGAROSSE – Saint-Emilion
95–96	BRANAIRE-DUCRU – Pèssac-Léognan
95–96	CANON LA GAFFELIÈRE – Saint-Emilion
95–96	CLERC-MILON – Pauillac
95–96	ENCLOS TOURMALINE – Pomerol
95–96	LA GAFFELIÈRE – Saint-Emilion

## Rating TB Château – Appellation

95–96	GRACIA – Saint-Emilion
95–96	GRAND PUY LACOSTE – Pauillac
95–96	GRUAUD-LAROSE – Pèssac-Léognan
95–96	HOSANNA – Pomerol
95–96	LATOURE A POMEROL – Pomerol
95–96	MAGREZ-FOMBRAUGE – Saint-Emilion
95–96	PAPE-CLÉMENT – Pèssac-Léognan
95–96	PÉBY-FAUGÈRES – Saint-Emilion
95–96	LES PENSÉES DE LAFLEUR – Pomerol
95–96	PICHON BARON – Pauillac
95–96	PICHON COMTESSE – Pauillac
95–96	TROTTE VIEILLE – Saint-Emilion
95–96	VALANDRAUD – Saint-Emilion
95–96	LA VIOLETTE – Pomerol
94–95	D'ARMAILHAC – Pauillac
94–95	BELLEFONT-BELCIER – Saint-Emilion
94–95	BELLEVUE – Saint-Emilion
94–95	BELLEVUE MONDOTTE – Saint-Emilion
94–95	BEYCHEVELLE – Pèssac-Léognan
94–95	BOURGNEUF – Pomerol
94–95	CAPBERN – Saint-Estèphe
94–95	CARILLON DE L'ANGÉLUS – Saint-Emilion
94–95	LES CARMES HAUT-BRION – Pèssac-Léognan
94–95	CERTAN DE MAY – Pomerol
94–95	CLOS FOURTET – Saint-Emilion
94–95	LA CLOTTE – Saint-Emilion
94–95	DE FIEUZAL – Pèssac-Léognan
94–95	LES FORTS DE LATOUR – Pauillac
94–95	LE GAY – Pomerol
94–95	GISCOURS – Margaux
94–95	GRAND CORBIN DESPAGNE – Saint-Emilion
94–95	HAUT-BAILLY II – Pèssac-Léognan
94–95	L'IF – Saint-Emilion
94–95	ISSAN – Margaux
94–95	KIRWAN – Margaux
94–95	LARCIS-DUCASSE – Saint-Emilion
95–96	LE MERLE DE PÉBY-FAUGÈRES – Saint-Emilion
94–95	MEYNEY – Saint-Estèphe
94–95	PEDESCLAUX – Pauillac
93–95	LES PERRIÈRES DE LAFLEUR – Bordeaux
94–95	LE PETIT MOUTON – Pauillac
94–95	LE PLUS DE LA FLEUR DE BOÛARD – Lalande de Pomerol
94–95	PONTET-CANET – Pauillac
94–95	PRIEURÉ-LICHINE – Margaux
94–95	QUINTUS – Saint-Emilion
94–95	ROC DE CAMBES – Bourg
94–95	SAINTE-PIERRE – Pèssac-Léognan
94–95	LA SERRE – Saint-Emilion
94–95	TALBOT – Pèssac-Léognan
94–95	VIEUX CHÂTEAU MAZERAT – Saint-Emilion

**Rating TB** Château – Appellation

93-94 ARÔMES DE PAVIE – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 LES ASTÉRIES – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 BALESTARD LA TONNELLE – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 BATAILLEY – Pauillac  
 93-94 BEAU SÉJOUR BÉCOT – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 BERLIQUET – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 CALICEM – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 LE CARRÉ – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 CARRUADES DE LAFITE – Pauillac  
 93-94 LE CHEMIN – Pomerol  
 93-94 CHERUBIN – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 CLINET – Pomerol  
 93-94 CLOS DE L'ORATOIRE – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 CLOS DE SARPE – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 CLOS DES JACOBINS – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 CLOS DUBREUIL – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 CLOS DU MARQUIS – Pèssac-Léognan  
 93-94 COS LABORY – Saint-Estèphe  
 93-94 LA COUSPAUDE – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 COUVENT DES JACOBINS – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 LA CROIX DE GAY – Pomerol  
 93-94 CROIZET-BAGES – Pauillac  
 93-94 LES CRUZELLES Lalande de – Pomerol  
 93-94 DOMAINE DE CHEVALIER – Pèssac-Léognan  
 93-94 DOMAINE DE L'EGLISE – Pomerol  
 93-94 DUHART-MILON – Pauillac  
 93-94 LA FLEUR POURRET – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 FONROQUE – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 DE FRANCE – Pèssac-Léognan  
 93-94 FRANC-MAYNE – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 GAZIN – Pomerol  
 93-94 GLORIA – Pèssac-Léognan  
 92-94 GRAND VILLAGE – Bordeaux  
 93-94 HAUT-BATAILLEY – Pauillac  
 93-94 HAUT CARLES – Fronsac  
 93-94 LABÉGORCE – Margaux  
 93-94 LAFON-ROCHET – Saint-Estèphe  
 93-94 LAFORGE – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 LAGRANGE – Pèssac-Léognan  
 93-94 LANGOA-BARTON – Pèssac-Léognan  
 93-94 LASCOMBES – Margaux  
 93-94 LATOUR-MARTILLAC – Pèssac-Léognan  
 93-94 LA LOUVIÈRE – Pèssac-Léognan  
 93-94 MARQUIS D'ALESMÉ BECKER – Margaux  
 93-94 MARQUIS DE TERME – Margaux  
 93-94 MONTLANDRIE – Castillon  
 93-94 LE MOULIN – Pomerol  
 93-94 MOULIN-SAINT-GEORGES – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 NENIN – Pomerol  
 93-94 ORMES DE PEZ – Saint-Estèphe

**Rating TB** Château – Appellation

93-94 PAVIE DECESSE – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 PAVILLON ROUGE DU CHÂTEAU MARGAUX – Margaux  
 93-94 LE PETIT HAUT LAFITTE – Pèssac-Léognan  
 93-94 LA PETITE EGLISE – Pomerol  
 93-94 LE PETIT LION DE MARQUIS DE LAS CASES – Pèssac-Léogn.  
 93-94 PETIT VILLAGE – Pomerol  
 93-94 PINDEFLEURS – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 DE PRESSAC – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 LE PRIEURÉ – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 RAUZAN-GASSIES – Margaux  
 93-94 ROC DE BOISSEAUX – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 ROCHEYRON – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 ROUGET – Pomerol  
 93-94 SAINT GEORGES CÔTE PAVIE – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 SANSONNET – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 SOCIANDO-MALLET Haut-Médoc  
 93-94 SOUTARD – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 DU TERTRE – Margaux  
 93-94 LA TOUR FIGÉAC – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 TOUR MAILLET – Pomerol  
 93-94 TOUR ST.-CHRISTOPHE – Saint-Emilion  
 93-94 VIEUX PLATEAU CERTAN – Pomerol  
 93-94 VIEUX TAILLEFER – Pomerol  
 93-94 VRAY CROIX DE GAY – Pomerol  
 92-94 PAUILLAC DE LATOUR – Pauillac  
 92-93 D'AGASSAC Haut-Médoc  
 92-93 D'AIGUILHE Castillon  
 92-93 DE L'AURAGE Castillon  
 92-93 D'AURILHAC Haut-Médoc  
 92-93 BEAUREGARD – Pomerol  
 92-93 LE BOSQC – Saint-Estèphe  
 92-93 CARLMAGNUS Fronsac  
 92-93 CLOS LA MADELEINE – Saint-Emilion  
 92-93 CROIX DU CASSE – Pomerol  
 92-93 DALEM Fronsac  
 92-93 LA FLEUR DE BOÛARD Lalande de – Pomerol  
 92-93 FOMBRAUGE – Saint-Emilion  
 92-93 LACOSTE-BORIE – Pauillac  
 92-93 LAGRANGE – Pomerol  
 92-93 LILIAN-LADOUYS – Saint-Estèphe  
 92-93 LYNCH-MOUSSAS – Pauillac  
 92-93 MAYNE-LALANDE Listrac  
 92-93 LES PAGODES DE COS – Saint-Estèphe  
 92-93 PETIT BOCQ – Saint-Estèphe  
 92-93 LE PIN BEAUSOLEIL Bordeaux Supérieur  
 92-93 POTENSAC Médoc  
 92-93 LA PRADE Francs  
 92-93 SÉRILHAN Haut-Médoc  
 92-93 TEYSSIER – Saint-Emilion  
 92-93 TOUR DE BESSAN – Margaux

## THE 200 BEST RED WINES A TO Z

	Rating	TB	Château – Appellation
A	92–93		D'AGASSAC – Haut-Médoc
	92–93		D'AIGUILHE – Castillon
	98–99		ANGÉLUS – Saint-Emilion
	94–95		D'ARMAILHAC – Pauillac
	93–94		ARÔMES DE PAVIE – Saint-Emilion
	93–94		LES ASTÉRIES – Saint-Emilion
	92–93		DE L'AURAGE – Castillon
	92–93		D'AURILHAC – Haut-Médoc
	99–100		AUSONE – Saint-Emilion
	B	93–94	
93–94			BATAILLEY – Pauillac
92–93			BEAUREGARD – Pomerol
93–94			BEAU SÉJOUR BÉCOT – Saint-Emilion
95–96			BEAUSÉJOUR DUFFAU LAGAROSSE – Saint-Emilion
96–97			BÉLAIR-MONANGE – Saint-Emilion
94–95			BELLEFONT-BELCIER – Saint-Emilion
94–95			BELLEVUE – Saint-Emilion
94–95			BELLEVUE MONDOTTE – Saint-Emilion
93–94			BERLIQUET – Saint-Emilion
C	94–95		BEYCHEVELLE – Saint-Julien
	92–93		LE BOSCOQ – Saint-Estèphe
	94–95		BOURGNEUF – Pomerol
	95–96		BRANAIRE-DUCRU – Saint-Julien
	93–94		CALICEM – Saint-Emilion
	97–98		CALON-SÉGUR – Saint-Estèphe
	96–97		CANON – Saint-Emilion
	95–96		CANON LA GAFFELIÈRE – Saint-Emilion
	94–95		CAPBERN – Saint-Estèphe
	94–95		CARILLON DE L'ANGÉLUS – Saint-Emilion
D	92–93		CARLMAGNUS – Fronsac
	94–95		LES CARMES HAUT-BRION – Pèssac-Léognan
	93–94		LE CARRÉ – Saint-Emilion
	93–94		CARRUADES DE LAFITE – Pauillac
	94–95		CERTAN DE MAY – Pomerol
	96–97		LA CHAPELLE D'AUSONE – Saint-Emilion
	93–94		LE CHEMIN – Pomerol
	93–94		CHERUBIN – Saint-Emilion
	97–98		CHEVAL BLANC – Saint-Emilion
	95–96		CLERC-MILON – Pauillac
E	93–94		CLINET – Pomerol
	93–94		CLOS DE L'ORATOIRE – Saint-Emilion
	93–94		CLOS DE SARPE – Saint-Emilion
	93–94		CLOS DES JACOBINS – Saint-Emilion
	93–94		CLOS DUBREUIL – Saint-Emilion
	93–94		CLOS DU MARQUIS – Saint-Julien
	94–95		CLOS FOURTET – Saint-Emilion
	92–93		CLOS LA MADELEINE – Saint-Emilion
	94–95		LA CLOTTE – Saint-Emilion
	98–99		LA CONSEILLANTE – Pomerol
F	97–98		COS DESTOURNEL – Saint-Estèphe
	93–94		COS LABORY – Saint-Estèphe
	93–94		LA COUSPAUDE – Saint-Emilion
	93–94		COUVENT DES JACOBINS – Saint-Emilion
	93–94		LA CROIX DE GAY – Pomerol
	95–97		CROIX DE LABRIE – Saint-Emilion
	92–93		CROIX DU CASSE – Pomerol
	93–94		CROIZET-BAGES – Pauillac
	93–94		LES CRUZELLES – Lalande de Pomerol
	92–93		DALEM – Fronsac
G	93–94		DOMAINE DE CHEVALIER – Pèssac-Léognan
	93–94		DOMAINE DE L'EGLISE – Pomerol
	96–97		LE DÔME – Saint-Emilion
	97–98		DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU – Saint-Julien
	93–94		DUHART-MILON – Pauillac
	98–99		L'EGLISE-CLINET – Pomerol
	95–96		ENCLOS TOURMALINE – Pomerol
	96–97		EVANGILE – Pomerol
	96–97		FEYTIT-CLINET – Pomerol
	94–95		DE FIEUZAL – Pèssac-Léognan
H	96–97		FIGÉAC – Saint-Emilion
	92–93		LA FLEUR DE BOÛARD – Lalande de Pomerol
	96–97		FLEUR DE GAY – Pomerol
	97–98		LA FLEUR PÉTRUS – Pomerol
	93–94		LA FLEUR POURRET – Saint-Emilion
	92–93		FOMBRAUGE – Saint-Emilion
	93–94		FONROQUE – Saint-Emilion
	94–95		LES FORTS DE LATOUR – Pauillac
	93–94		DE FRANCE – Pèssac-Léognan
	93–94		FRANC-MAYNE – Saint-Emilion
I	95–96		LA GAFFELIÈRE – Saint-Emilion
	94–95		LE GAY – Pomerol
	93–94		GAZIN – Pomerol
	94–95		GISCOURS Margaux
	93–94		GLORIA – Saint-Julien
	95–96		GRACIA – Saint-Emilion
	95–96		GRAND PUY LACOSTE – Pauillac
	94–95		GRAND CORBIN DESPAGNE – Saint-Emilion
	92–94		GRAND VILLAGE – Bordeaux
	95–96		GRUAUD-LAROSE – Saint-Julien
K	96–98		HAUT-BAILLY – Pèssac-Léognan
	94–95		HAUT-BAILLY II – Pèssac-Léognan
	93–94		HAUT-BATAILLEY – Pauillac
	98–99		HAUT-BRION – Pèssac-Léognan
	93–94		HAUT CARLES – Fronsac
	95–96		HOSANNA – Pomerol
	94–95		L'IF – Saint-Emilion
	94–95		ISSAN – Margaux
	94–95		KIRWAN – Margaux
	L	93–94	
92–93			LACOSTE-BORIE – Pauillac

**Rating TB** Château – Appellation

97–98 LAFITE-ROTHSCHILD – Pauillac

98–99 LAFLEUR – Pomerol

93–94 LAFON-ROCHET – Saint-Estèphe

93–94 LAFORGE – Saint-Emilion

93–94 LAGRANGE – Saint-Julien

92–93 LAGRANGE – Pomerol

93–94 LANGOA-BARTON – Saint-Julien

94–95 LARCIS-DUCASSE – Saint-Emilion

93–94 LASCOMBES – Margaux

99–100 LATOUR – Pauillac

92–94 PAUILLAC DE LATOUR – Pauillac

95–96 LATOUR A – Pomerol – Pomerol

93–94 LATOUR-MARTILLAC – Pèssac-Léognan

96–97 LÉOVILLE-BARTON – Saint-Julien

98–99 LÉOVILLE LAS CASES – Saint-Julien

96–97 LÉOVILLE-POYFERRÉ – Saint-Julien

92–93 LILIAN-LADOUYS – Saint-Estèphe

93–94 LA LOUVIÈRE – Pèssac-Léognan

96–97 LYNCH-BAGES – Pauillac

92–93 LYNCH-MOUSSAS – Pauillac

**M** 95–96 MAGREZ-FOMBRAUGE – Saint-Emilion

96–97 MALESCOT-ST.-EXUPÉRY – Margaux

98–99 MARGAUX – Margaux

93–94 MARQUIS D'ALESME BECKER – Margaux

93–94 MARQUIS DE TERME – Margaux

92–93 MAYNE-LALANDE – Listrac

95–96 LE MERLE DE PÉBY-FAUGÈRES – Saint-Emilion

94–95 MEYNEY – Saint-Estèphe

97–98 LA MISSION HAUT-BRION – Pèssac-Léognan

96–97 LA MONDOTTE – Saint-Emilion

93–94 MONTLANDRIE – Castillon

96–97 MONTROSE – Saint-Estèphe

93–94 LE MOULIN – Pomerol

93–94 MOULIN-SAINT-GEORGES – Saint-Emilion

99–100 MOUTON-ROTHSCHILD – Pauillac

**N** 93–94 NENIN – Pomerol

**O** 93–94 ORMES DE PEZ – Saint-Estèphe

**P** 92–93 LES PAGODES DE COS – Saint-Estèphe

97–98 PALMER – Margaux

95–96 PAPE-CLÉMENT – Pèssac-Léognan

96–97 PAVIE – Saint-Emilion

93–94 PAVIE DECESSE – Saint-Emilion

96–98 PAVIE-MACQUIN – Saint-Emilion

93–94 PAVILLON ROUGE DU CHÂTEAU MARGAUX Margaux

95–96 PÉBY-FAUGÈRES – Saint-Emilion

94–95 PEDESCLAUX – Pauillac

95–96 LES PENSÉES DE LAFLEUR – Pomerol

93–95 LES PERRIÈRES DE LAFLEUR – Bordeaux

93–94 LE PETIT HAUT LAFITTE – Pèssac-Léognan

92–93 PETIT BOCQ – Saint-Estèphe

**Rating TB** Château – Appellation

93–94 LA PETITE EGLISE – Pomerol

93–94 LE PETIT LION DE MARQUIS DE LAS CASES – Saint-Julien

94–95 LE PETIT MOUTON – Pauillac

93–94 PETIT VILLAGE – Pomerol

98–99 PÉTRUS – Pomerol

95–96 PICHON BARON – Pauillac

95–96 PICHON COMTESSE – Pauillac

96–97 LE PIN – Pomerol

92–93 LE PIN BEAUSOLEIL – Bordeaux Supérieur

93–94 PINDEFLEURS – Saint-Emilion

94–95 LE PLUS DE LA FLEUR DE BOÛARD – Lalande de Pomerol

94–95 PONTET-CANET – Pauillac

92–93 POTENSAC – Médoc

92–93 LA PRADE – Francs

93–94 DE PRESSAC – Saint-Emilion

93–94 LE PRIEURÉ – Saint-Emilion

94–95 PRIEURÉ-LICHINE – Margaux

**Q** 94–95 QUINTUS – Saint-Emilion

**R** 93–94 RAUZAN-GASSIES – Margaux

96–97 RAUZAN-SÉGLA – Margaux

93–94 ROC DE BOISSEAUX – Saint-Emilion

94–95 ROC DE CAMBES – Bourg

93–94 ROCHEYRON – Saint-Emilion

93–94 ROUGET – Pomerol

**S** 93–94 SAINT GEORGES CÔTE PAVIE – Saint-Emilion

94–95 SAINT-PIERRE – Saint-Julien

93–94 SANSONNET – Saint-Emilion

92–93 SÉRILHAN – Haut-Médoc

94–95 LA SERRE – Saint-Emilion

96–98 SMITH HAUT LAFITTE – Pèssac-Léognan

93–94 SOCIANDO-MALLET – Haut-Médoc

93–94 SOUTARD – Saint-Emilion

**T** 94–95 TALBOT – Saint-Julien

93–94 DU TERTRE – Margaux

98–99 TERTRE-RÔTEBOEUF – Saint-Emilion

92–93 TEYSSIER – Saint-Emilion

92–93 TOUR DE BESSAN – Margaux

93–94 LA TOUR FIGÉAC – Saint-Emilion

93–94 TOUR MAILLET – Pomerol

93–94 TOUR ST.-CHRISTOPHE – Saint-Emilion

96–97 TROPLONG MONDOT – Saint-Emilion

98–99 TROTANOY – Pomerol

95–96 TROTTE VIEILLE – Saint-Emilion

**V** 95–96 VALANDRAUD – Saint-Emilion

98–99 VIEUX CHÂTEAU CERTAN – Pomerol

94–95 VIEUX CHÂTEAU MAZERAT – Saint-Emilion

93–94 VIEUX PLATEAU CERTAN – Pomerol

93–94 VIEUX TAILLEFER – Pomerol

95–96 LA VIOLETTE – Pomerol

93–94 VRAY CROIX DE GAY – Pomerol

## THE BEST WHITE WINES

Rating TB CHÂTEAU – Appellation

99–100	HAUT-BRION BLANC – Pèssac-Léognan
97–98	LA MISSION HAUT-BRION BLANC – Pèssac-Léognan
96–97	PAPE-CLÉMENT – Pèssac-Léognan blanc
96–97	PAVILLON BLANC DU CH. MARGAUX – Bordeaux blanc
96–97	SMITH HAUT LAFITTE – Pèssac-Léognan
94–95	AILE D'ARGENT – Bordeaux blanc
94–95	COS D'ESTOURNEL – Bordeaux blanc
94–95	DOMAINE DE CHEVALIER – Pèssac-Léognan
94–95	BLANC DE LYNCH-BAGES – Bordeaux blanc
94–95	MONBOUSQUET – Bordeaux blanc
93–95	LA CLARTÉ DE HAUT-BRION – Pèssac-Léognan
93–94	CARBONNIEUX – Pèssac-Léognan
93–94	LES CHAMPS LIBRES – Bordeaux blanc
93–94	DE FIEUZAL – Pèssac-Léognan
93–94	HAUT-BERGEY – Pèssac-Léognan
93–94	LARRIVET HAUT-BRION – Pèssac-Léognan
93–94	LATOUR-MARTILLAC – Pèssac-Léognan
93–94	LE CLÉMENTIN DE PAPE-CLÉMENT – Pèssac-Léognan
93–94	LA LOUVIÈRE – Pèssac-Léognan
93–94	OLIVIER – Pèssac-Léognan
93–94	LE PETIT HAUT LAFITTE – Pèssac-Léognan
93–94	LA TOUR CARNET – Bordeaux blanc
92–93	CHANTEGRIVE CAROLINE – Graves blanc
92–93	CLOS DES LUNES LUNE D'OR – Bordeaux blanc
92–93	CLOS MARSALETTE – Pèssac-Léognan
92–93	DE FRANCE – Pèssac-Léognan
92–93	ELIXIR DU GRAND ENCLOS – Graves blanc
92–93	GRAND VILLAGE – Bordeaux blanc
92–93	LA SÉMILLANTE DE SIGALAS – Bordeaux blanc
92–93	LE NARDIAN – Bordeaux blanc
92–93	LES PAGODES DE COS – Bordeaux blanc
92–93	MAGREZ-FOMBRAUGE – Bordeaux blanc
92–93	MALARTIC-LAGRAVIÈRE – Pèssac-Léognan
92–93	REIGNAC – Bordeaux blanc
92–93	TALBOT CAILLOU BLANC – Bordeaux blanc

## THE BEST SWEET WINES

























Rating TB CHÂTEAU – Appellation

98–99	L'EXTRAVAGANT DE DOISY-DAËNE – Sauternes
96–97	CLOS HAUT PEYRAGUEY – Sauternes
95–96	COUTET – Barsac
95–96	RAYMOND-LAFON – Sauternes
94–95	BASTOR-LAMONTAGNE – Sauternes
94–95	DOISY-DAËNE – Sauternes
94–95	LAFURIE-PEYRAGUEY – Sauternes
93–94	DOISY-VÉDRINES – Sauternes
93–94	LACLOTTE CAZALIS – Sauternes
93–94	DE MALLE – Sauternes
93–94	SUAU – Sauternes
93–94	SUDUIRAUT – Sauternes
93–94	LA TOUR BLANCHE – Sauternes
92–93	CANTEGRIL – Sauternes
92–93	RABAUD PROMIS – Sauternes
92–93	RAYNE-VIGNEAU – Sauternes
92–93	ROMER – SAUTERNES
92–93	ROMER DU HAYOR – Sauternes
92–93	SIGALAS RABAUD – Sauternes
91–92	CLOS DADDY – Sauternes
91–92	PATARRIEU – Sauternes
90–91	FILHOT – Sauternes
90–91	HAUT-BERGERON – Sauternes
90–91	MYRAT – Sauternes
90–91	DE VEYRES – Sauternes
89–90	LAMOTHE GUIGNARD – Sauternes
88–89	BROUSTET – Barsac
88–89	LIOT – Sauternes

Not yet tasted: Château d'Yquem and Château Climens.



BEST SMART-BUYS RED WINES

	<b>LA PRADE</b> <i>Frans</i>		<b>DE FRANCE</b> <i>Péssac-Léognan</i>		<b>MEYNEY</b> <i>Saint-Estèphe</i>
	<b>PINDEFLEURS</b> <i>Saint-Emilion</i>		<b>TOUR SAINT CHRISTOPHE</b> <i>Saint-Emilion</i>		<b>MALESCOT-ST.-EXUPERY</b> <i>Saint-Emilion</i>
	<b>D'AGASSAC</b> <i>Haut-Médoc</i>		<b>LE PIN BEAUSOLEIL</b> <i>Bordeaux Supérieur</i>		<b>CAPBERN</b> <i>Saint-Estèphe</i>
	<b>ROC DE BOISSEAUX</b> <i>Saint-Emilion</i>		<b>FEYTIT-CLINET</b> <i>Pomerol</i>		<b>BRANAIRE-DUCRU</b> <i>Saint-Julien</i>
	<b>LACOSTE-BORIE</b> <i>Pauillac</i>		<b>CARLMAGNUS</b> <i>Fronsac</i>		<b>HAUT-BAILLY II</b> <i>Péssac-Léognan</i>
	<b>MOULIN-SAINTE-GEORGES</b> <i>Saint-Emilion</i>		<b>BOURGNEUF</b> <i>Pomerol</i>		<b>BÉLAIR-MONANGE</b> <i>Saint-Emilion</i>
	<b>ORMES DE PEZ</b> <i>Saint-Estèphe</i>		<b>BATAILLEY</b> <i>Pauillac</i>		<b>SOCIANDO-MALLET</b> <i>Haut-Médoc</i>
	<b>GRAND CORBIN DESPAGNE</b> <i>Saint-Emilion</i>		<b>LA SERRE</b> <i>Saint-Emilion</i>		<b>PAVIE-MACQUIN</b> <i>Saint-Emilion</i>



# THE BEST ...

## WINE OF THE VINTAGE

### VIEUX CHÂTEAU CERTAN

*Pomerol*



98–99 | *Alexandre and Guillaume Thienpont have again created a highly seductive VCC with the 2018!*

## HIGH ACHIEVER RED WINE OF THE VINTAGE

### PAVIE-MACQUIN

*St.-Emilion*



96–98 | *The Pavie-Macquin 2018 owns a incredibly brilliant fruit, great presence, as well as perfect race and length.*

## BEST RED WINE OF THE VINTAGE

### AUSONE

*Saint-Emilion*



99–100 | *2015, 2016, 2017 und 2018 – for the fourth vintage in a row, the Ausone is very close to the 100 points. Unique!*

## BEST WHITE WINE OF THE VINTAGE

### HAUT-BRION

*Péssac-Léognan*



99–100 | *Biting and minutes long in the finish, salty and with breathtaking play. Even better than the big 2017!*

## WINE MAKER OF THE VINTAGE

### Jean-Philippe Delmas, HAUT-BRION & LA MISSION HAUT-BRION



*Jean-Philippe Delmas creates timeless classics. The red Haut-Brion is close to 100 points for the fourth vintage in a row!*

## BEST COLLECTION OF THE VINTAGE

### HAUT-BRION LA MISSION HAUT-BRION



*Perfect qualities with white and red wines as well as with the Grand Vins and their second wines. Spectacular!*

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HIGH ACHIEVER WHITE WINE OF THE VINTAGE    HIGH ACHIEVER SWEET WINE OF THE VINTAGE

**HAUT-BERGEY***Péssac-Léognan*

93–94 | Haut-Bergey is one of the most reliable and inexpensive white Bordeaux. With a lot of juiciness and mineral pressure.

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**CLOS HAUT PEYRAGUEY***Sauternes*

96–97 | The Clos Haut Peyraguey convinces with incredible tension and complexity. Fruity, offensive, with a lot of juice and body.

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**NEWCOMER OF THE VINTAGE****GRAND CORBIN DESPAGNE***Saint-Emilion*

94–95 | Francois Despagne has produced the best Grand Corbin of all time. It has never had such fine, noble tannins!

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**REVIVAL OF THE VINTAGE****DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU***Saint-Julien*

97–98 | This is finally another classic Ducru-Beaucaillou of great depth and charisma.

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**SECOND WINE OF THE VINTAGE****HAUT-BAILLY II***Péssac-Léognan*

With the proud name »Haut-Bailly II« on the label, the quality has also been raised to a new level.

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**CRU BOURGEOIS OF THE VINTAGE****MEYNEY AND CAPBERN***both from Saint-Estèphe*

The Capbern-Meyney Festival at the head of the Cru Bourgeois. In the 2015 to 2018 vintage quartet, it was consistently big!

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## Bordeaux, Bordeaux Supérieur

**93–95 LES PERRIÈRES DE LAFLEUR** Bordeaux *Parker 92–94* |

*Suckling 93–94* |



The top cuvée of the Grand Village vineyard of the Guinaudeau family from the famous Château Lafleur, which was previously known as »Acte«, has now been renamed »Les Perrières de Lafleur«. The grapes grow on limestone in the Fronsac area and are cultivated mainly by »selection massale« from the old vineyards of Château Lafleur. In addition to Merlot, it is primarily the traditional grape Bouchet, a variety of Cabernet Franc. To the Guinaudeau family, this distinction between the classic Bouchet of the »rive droite« and the normal Cabernet Franc, as cultivated in the Loire valley, is fundamental, as the genetic and aromatic differences between each other are apparent. In fact, with the 2018 vintage, a new qualitative era breaks at Grand Village, which is reflected in the Les Perrières. Over the last few years, the Guinaudeaus have been able to sharpen the profile of all wines significantly, precision and freshness in the whites, as well as complexity and depth in the reds. The 2018 Les Perrières de Lafleur consists of 51% Bouchet and 49% Merlot, aged 35% in new barrels, and reached 14.8% alcohol. It has a dark, impenetrable color. Intense, highly compressed, and still very youthful, it presents a closed bouquet. Tight and full in the mouth, with a lot of softness and subtle acidity, its generous body builds up in the mouth, with a loose, floating tannin structure, very finely interwoven and long on the palate. It has excellent race and finesse, as well as a cool-looking fruit that attains a penetrating presence with great elegance and depth. Not only the name shows an apparent reference to the exceptional character of Lafleur, in 2018, the wine does it as well.

**92–94 GRAND VILLAGE** Bordeaux *Parker 90–93* | *Suckling 91–92* |



The winery Grand Village in Fronsac belongs to the Guinaudeau family from the famous Château Lafleur in Pomerol. The grapes grow on limestone, so the wine has a particularly firm and clear structure. 2018 is likely to be the best Grand Village so far. It achieved a proud 14.8% alcohol. The 20% new barrels in which the Grand Village ages are used only for a short time and go then into the production of Château Lafleur, so that this Pomerol does not receive too much »new oak«. Still very reserved and youthful, for Grand Village unusual dark-berry nose instead of red-fruit. Tight and full-bodied in the mouth, with vibrant acidity and full-bodied richness, the Grand Village shows a lot of power and is tightly organized and a little more austere, with a great flow. Its delicate fruit is driven by high concentration and inner compression; the tannins are fine-grained and widely spread. An excellent little Bordeaux!

**92–93 GOULÉE** Bordeaux *Parker 90–92* | *Suckling 92–93* |



The Goulée grows some 25km north of Cos d'Estournel and was harvested from 18<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October. The excellent 2018 consists of 73% Merlot, 21% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6% Cabernet Franc. It ages in 20% new barrels and has 13.7% alcohol, as well as a dark, dense color. Rich and lush, it presents itself with much substance and intensity, it is opulent and spicy, with complex flavors. Its rich structure is fresh and transparent, with subtle, red berry fruitiness and a full-bodied finish.



Nina Mitjavile, Roc de Cambes

**92–93 LE PIN BEAUSOLEIL** Bordeaux Supérieur *Parker 83–85* |

*Suckling 91–92* |



The 2018 Le Pin Beausoleil is an excellent success for a Bordeaux Supérieur. Only 20hl per hectare were harvested by hand, half of the wine ages in new barrels of the Tonnelleries Taransaud and Ana Selection. Le Pin Beausoleil is planted with 75% Merlot, but the Assemblage consists of 66% Cabernet Franc and only 34% Merlot with a total of 14.4% alcohol. Full of dark berries, dense and richly structured, with lots of substance and juice on the palate, this 2018 Bordeaux Supérieur presents itself as the best vintage to date for this estate. Powerful and with a lot of pressure, Le Pin Beausoleil offers a luscious body, with racy acidity, generous sweetness, high intensity, and perfect freshness. In relation to the quality, the mere 6,000 bottles should be sold in no time at all.

**91–92 DOMAINE DE CAMBES** Bordeaux *WeinWisser 18/20*



The Mitjavile family age all their wines every year in 100% new barrels, including the 2018 Domaine de Cambes, which consists of about 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. It grows below the terraced vineyards of the Roc de Cambes of the same winery on the banks of the Gironde across the street and is classified only as Bordeaux. Tight, intense, and full-bodied, with the typical, meaty richness and weight of all Mitjavile wines, the 2018 Domaine de Cambes is particularly creamy and smooth on the palate. Long structured, still endowed with the juvenile sharpness and edges, which will give it his very own character after bottling.

**90–91 BALTHUS DE REIGNAC** Bordeaux Supérieur *Suckling 90–91* |



The Balthus is a pure Merlot selection from the Château Reignac in the Entre-deux-Mers area. Since the Merlot turned out in the 2018 vintage to be less aromatic and unusually dark berry-scented in most Bordeaux wines, the Balthus was not able to gain a lot against the Grand Vin Reignac. Massive, black, viscous color. Tar, graphite, and liquorice smell from the glass with little core-flavor or fruit. On the palate as well, this highly concentrated and slightly over-extracted colossus shows little fruit in the middle. As a result, it is currently acting rather unaromatic, hollow and dull. Only in the dense aftertaste, some sweet fruit notes appear, together with some thick tannins on the palate. If everything arranges itself, this inaccessible Balthus can also increase in rating. However, it will hardly gain in elegance.

**90–91 ESPRIT DE PAVIE** Bordeaux *Parker 89–91 | Suckling 89–90* | The Esprit de Pavie consists of 65% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon with 13.8% alcohol. It is produced by a total of 56 hectares of vineyards with very different soil structures, and the average age is 44 years. Dark berry, chocolaty, meaty and firm, racy and with good depth, as always it was driven to the limit of extraction, without bitterness emerging, with good, rich fruit and low acidity. A good fun wine ready to be enjoyed after bottling.

**90–91 GIROLATE** Bordeaux *Parker 89–91 | Suckling 90–91* | Girolate is the top selection of Thibault Despagne from the Entre-deux-Mers. It is a highly ambitious project with a white and red wine in small production. For the red wines, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon were planted in a dense plantation with 10 000 vines per hectare near Naujan et Postiac. 2018 consists of 85% Merlot and 15% Cab Sauv. The red 2018 Girolate is densely packed and compact on the palate, with excellent breed, slightly hard acidity, and tannins. Presumably, this concentrated wine just needs more time.

**90–91 REIGNAC** Bordeaux Supérieur *Parker 87–89 | Suckling 91–92* | The Château Reignac in the Entre-deux-Mers area has approximately 76 hectares and is planted with about 67% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8% Cabernet Franc. The Grand Vin Reignac and a pure Merlot named Balthus are the top wines of the production. Black, impenetrable, viscous color. Sweet and massive in the nose, with high concentration and luscious flavors. Intense and tightly built, it seems a bit squeezed in the mouth, firm, and straight-lined on the tongue. The Reignac is simply not relaxed or natural and remains a bit bitter and dull in the finish. Currently, its aftertaste looks empty and sour, with edgy, dense tannins. Maybe it arranges itself with the time.

**89–90 BOLAIRE | DAME DE COEUR DE CHÂTEAU PEYFAURES | PEYFAURES | SAINTE BARBE** Bordeaux Supérieur

**88–89 COUR D'ARGENT | MARJOSSE | MONT-PÉRAT | PENIN** Bordeaux Supérieur



**90–91 PEY LATOUR RÉSERVE** Bordeaux Supérieur *Parker 84–86 | Suckling 91–92* |



Pey Latour Réserve 2018 is an excellent, very successful Bordeaux Supérieur. The vines grow on loamy soil, which is why they didn't suffer too much in the dry phase of the summer. To preserve the freshness and fruit of the grapes, it was decided to harvest early, the alcohol reached at the time already 14.5–15.0%. 88% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Petit Verdot were aged for 1/3 in tank and 2/3 in barriques, of which 25% were new. Powerful, dense, and harmonious, with a tight structure and very compact on the palate, the Pey Latour Réserve presents itself on an extraordinarily high level. Unusually meaty and dark berried and with excellent length, 2018 is one of the best vintages of this wine so far. Inexpensive, fresh, and full-bodied Bordeaux Supérieur with great style!



**Médoc, Haut-Médoc, Moulis and Listrac**

**93–94 SOCIANDO-MALLET Haut-Médoc Parker 85–87 |**

*Suckling 94–95 | WeinWisser 18/20*



2018 was the 50<sup>th</sup> vintage at Sociando-Mallet under the direction of the Gautreau family. The 82 hectares in production have an average age of 35 years. At Sociando-Mallet, there were only a few problems with mildew or hydric stress, so a normal yield of 48 hl/ha was harvested. The Grand Vin ages in 90% new oak, and with 66%, it consists of a fairly high Merlot share, in addition to 4% Cabernet Franc and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon. Dark, massive color. Tasted at the winery, it showed a bit restrained and less lush than expected in the nose. It has a dark berry fruit with liqueur in the top note and nuances of lead pencil. Due to the low pH of 3,55 it has a lively fine acidity that gives the Sociando excellent freshness, race, and tension. Very deep and long on the palate, with excellent tannin structure, which is straightforward and silky. Melty, full and ripe, it shows high intensity in the mouth and has a lot of core and power with good complexity and depth of focus. At two of the tastings, it was very powerful and reminded of the 2003 vintage. At the winery in the morning, directly from the barrel, it needed even more time. Despite the 14.5% alcohol, it is not heavy, but balanced, very punchy and long-lasting.



**92–93 D'AGASSAC Haut-Médoc Parker 84–86 | Suckling 92–93 |**



The excellent d'Agassac has a dark, massive color. It consists of 40% Cabernet Sauvignon and 60% Merlot. The yield was very low at 18 hl per hectare. Intense, sweet, and offensive, with high appeal to it. In the nose, it is tightly organized, has breeding reserved classy fruit flavors with a lot of spice and focused on freshness. In the mouth, it is densely woven and fleshy, with excellent breed and deep layers, accompanied by fine acidity and firm, polished tannins. Very mineral, salty, and transparent on the tongue; it remains very long and differentiated on the palate. An excellent, ripe d'Agassac of a great class!

**92–93 D'AURILHAC Haut-Médoc Parker 89–91 |**



In warm vintages with a long ripening period towards the harvest, d'Aurilhac always produces one of the best Cru Bourgeois as it was the case in 2018. Dark, rich color, viscous. Dark-berried and expansive in the nose, with plenty of spice and full-bodied richness, the d'Aurilhac has its typical, inviting crunchy, concentrated fruit that bursts with freshness. Saturated in the mouth, densely staggered, with notes of graphite and cassis fruit, it is endlessly deep and rich. The magnificent 2018 vintage produced an archetypal d'Aurilhac in the style of a true Pauillac! Do not miss it.



*Sociando-Mallet in the morning*

**92–93 MAYNE-LALANDE** Listrac *Suckling 91–92* |

The success story of Mayne-Lalande continues seamlessly. Mayne-Lalande has been the best Listrac for years. Hubert de Boüard, the owner of Château Angélu, advises at Mayne-Lalande. Lush, sweet, and intense, this serial winner in Listrac shows with a great deal of juice and freshness, that here the severity that often characterizes other terroirs of this appellation plays no part. Fruity, rich extraction, creamy, and with a good portion of meat, the Mayne-Lalande sets its solid tannins in a relaxed and natural style, with excellent depth and intensity. Its great energy radiates on the palate for a long time, making it an excellent value for money from the Haut-Médoc.

**92–93 POTENSAC** Médoc *Parker 90–92* | *Suckling 93–94* |

Already the second wine La Chapelle of Château Potensac is stunning! The Grand Vin Potensac is already confirmed for years on increasing quality even in difficult vintages as in 2013. The Potensac reached 14.42% in 2018, ages in 35% new oak barrels and consists of 45% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. Liqueur, sweetish, and intense in the nose, it has excellent fruit and richness, quite inviting, deep, and lavish. Tight, rich, juicy, and with a lot of fruit, this little Médoc also delights in the mouth. Full and rich on the palate, deep and energetic, it has a very racy structure. Dark-berried, cherry-like, and concentrated, it shows densely structured, impressive tannins, very firm, fresh, and juicy. Good body, opulent, and with solid length.

**92–93 SÉRILHAN** Haut-Médoc *Suckling 91–92* |

Since Hubert de Boüard (Château Angélu) took over the oenological consultation on Sérilhan, he was able to increase the quality continuously. Solid, dense, and sweet, the Sérilhan shows an enormous velvety substance and body. It's lush, densely woven structure is fed by 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. Incredibly vast and long, the tannins still show a slightly rough character. But the juicy body and the deeply layered tension cover the tannins easily.

**91–92 BELGRAVE** Haut-Médoc *Parker 89–91* | *Suckling 93–94* |

The Château Belgrave in the Haut-Médoc is directly adjacent to Lagrange in St-Julien, Gruaud-Larose and Talbot are also nearby. The 2018 consists of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 2% Petit Verdot. Dark color. Rich, sweet, and racy, the Belgrave smells of the glass, with fine and youthful fruitiness. It exudes a rich cherry aroma with plenty of juice within and distinctively fine oak. Its creamy texture in the mouth is dense and richly structured, with good, spicy tannins, medium body, concentrated, and delicate in the finish.

**91–92 CANTEMERLE** Haut-Médoc *Parker 86–88* | *Suckling 94–95* |

The Cantemerle consists of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 6% Petit Verdot. Harvested from 17<sup>th</sup> of September to 6<sup>th</sup> of October, the Cantemerle is being aged in 40% new barrels. Dark color, slightly ripened tone. Tasted only once, the sample presented something dull, with a good body and slightly raisiny notes in the background. Tight and full in the mouth, but not very wide or deep, the Cantemerle remains a bit pale and smooth, with compact, slightly dull tannins and a bit pointing acidity.

**91–92 CITRAN** Haut-Médoc *Parker 88–90* | *Suckling 91–92* |

The successful Citran has a black color, is super-rich and viscous in the glass. Dense, sweet, massive, and full-bodied, the Citran is very meaty, deeply woven with fine oaky spices. With a beautiful structure and a powerful body, it has as well good length but a slightly dry finish. Wide and complex, with a lot of pressure and power, it reminds of its legendary phase from 1988 to 1991, including the memorable Citran 1990.

**91–92 FOURCAS-BORIE** Listrac

The regularly slightly over-extracted Fourcas-Borie finds its wonderful balance in 2018 and surpasses the neighbors Fourcas-Hosten (90–91) and Fourcas-Dupré (89–90) instantly. The Grand Vin of 77% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8% Petit Verdot ages in 25% new barrels. Tight, concentrated, and crispy, the Fourcas-Borie is quite round and creamy, with a slightly sweet-sour fruit component and plenty of tannins. With racy acidity and good, full-bodied structure, it remains a bit obvious. If some complexity adds to it in the future, it could outgrow from the present effort and compete with Mayne-Lalande within the Listrac appellation.

**91–92 LES GRANDS CHÊNES** Médoc *Parker 89–91* | *Suckling 93–94* |

The Les Grands Chênes from the Médoc is always one of the most attractive and affordable wines in the portfolio of Bernard Magrez who is the owner of Château Pape-Clément and the many other estates in Bordeaux and the whole world. The Les Grands Chênes has an absolutely impenetrable black color. Rich, fresh, and highly concentrated, it smells intense and fruity from the glass. It shows great energy and verve as well as depth and detailed aromatics. It has a powerful attack in the mouth, with a lot of pressure and fine acidity, full-bodied structure and rich sweetness with good depth. This is an excellent Les Grands Chênes with a cool dark fruit component and chocolate notes.

**91–92 MAUVESIN-BARTON** Moulis *Suckling 92–93* |

Mauvesin-Barton is the latest acquisition of the Barton family, who is the owner of the famous Léoville-Barton. The 2018 Mauvesin-Barton consists of 54% Merlot, 39.5% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6.5% Cabernet Franc with 13.5% alcohol, aged in 33% new barrels of three different coopers. Mauvesin-Barton seems to be very relaxed in the 2018 vintage, full and intense. Uncomplicated and with dense fruit component, this excellent Moulis has a rich extraction with a meaty body and racy structure. Quite long and with good depth, the Mauvesin-Barton is recommended for easy drinking.

**91–92 LA TOUR CARNET** Haut-Médoc *Parker 90–92* |

*Suckling 92–93* |



The La Tour Carnet has a massive color with a viscous texture. In two tastings, it was always very concentrated and full, with chocolatey wood and scents of Amarena cherries, only the core flavor, however, did not entirely open. Saturated and rich in the mouth, it has a cool and linear structure with ripe and warm fruit, as well as a heavy punch and intense fleshy body. The tannins are somewhat dull and slightly less brilliant. In fact, I trust this wine is able to achieve a higher quality level with aging.



**90–91 D'ARSAC** Haut-Médoc *Parker 89–91 | Suckling 92–93 |*

The d'Arsac 2018 consists of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon and 28% Merlot. It was aged half in tank and half in wooden barrels, half of the barriques were new. The d'Arsac is fresh and powerful, richly structured, well-cut, and carries the warm year within its fruit aroma. In the nose, a hint of banana peels testifies to a strong extraction, which is reflected in the cool tannin structure with fine acidity.

**90–91 BELLE-VUE** Haut-Médoc *Parker 89–91 | Suckling 92–93 |*

The Belle-Vue recommends itself as a polished, modern, and very attractive Haut-Médoc with excellent aging potential. It consists of 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 20% Petit Verdot as well as 1% each of Cabernet Franc and Carmener. It is aged in 30% new barrels and reached 14% alcohol – dark, viscous color. Dense, sweet, and intense in the smell, Belle-Vue shows a lot of spices and fruit, with good juiciness in it and fine depth. Compact, racy and taut it starts in the mouth, showing lots of juice and richness here as well, with a wiry and clear structure, ripe tannins and a creamy, chewy body. This is a modern, harmonious wine made with great know-how.

**90–91 BRILLETTE** Moulis *Parker 90–92 |*

The Brillette consists of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot and 4% Petit Verdot. It was harvested from 20<sup>th</sup> September to 10<sup>th</sup> October with a yield of 32 hl per hectare. Thick, full, with racy spices and notes of chocolate, the Brillette shows a lot of juice on the midpalate but gets slightly dull and dry towards the finish. Considerably harmonious and transparent, this wine should grow together well.

**90–91 CAMENSAC** Haut-Médoc *Suckling 91–92 |*

The Camensac showed a slightly mature color. With luscious and sweet cherry aromas, the smell presents itself a bit superficial and with only little depth. Good freshness in the mouth and tightly structured, the Camensac then remains a bit hollow in the middle. With a lot of juice and body, it dubs this light »whole« until the tannins then strike back a little bit dull, accompanied by a hard acidity. Better to taste again after bottling.

**90–91 CHASSE-SPLEEN** Moulis *Decanter 92 |*

The color of Chasse-Spleen is unusually dark. It has a rich, dense fruit on the nose with slightly indifferent notes. In the mouth, it shows a little acidity and a lot of tannins rather. It has a hollow middle, which remains a bit dull and empty. All this does not sound like a typical Chasse-Spleen. It could be better after bottling.

**90–91 DEMOISELLE DE SOCIANDO** Haut-Médoc *Suckling 90–91 |*

The excellent Demoiselle de Sociando-Mallet represents about 30% of the production and ages in 30% new barrels, consisting of 65% Merlot and 35% Cabernet Sauvignon. Super-dense and concentrated, with a great, rich, dark-berry fruit and raisiny top notes in the nose. The Demoiselle is quite fresh and firm, limpidly oriented, and compact on the palate. The slightly sharp acidity should soften with aging. Reminiscent of the outstanding 2010!

**90–91 DUCLUZEAU** Listrac *Suckling 87–88 |*

Ducluzeau in Listrac is a sister property of the famous Ducru-Beaucaillou from Saint-Julien. It consists of 78% Merlot and 11% each of Petit Verdot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Dense, sweet, and spicy, it shows not very much Bordeaux character. Very lush and fresh, with a rich tannin structure, this attractive consumer wine appeals to a modern, urban audience.



**90–91 D'ESCURAC** Médoc *Parker 84–86 | Suckling 92–93 |*

Quite often in recent years, d'Escurac convinced with very good quality. It is produced from 20 hectares, of which each half is planted with Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, with an average age of about 18 years. The aging takes place in about 30% of new barrels. Unfortunately, the only sample I was able to taste already showed a bit mature aromas. It had a lot of pressure and body, with notes of tar and licorice, tightly structured, but remained a bit dull and dry in the finish. In addition to a lot of power and spiciness, this Médoc also has a good portion of its own character. It can certainly achieve a higher rating after bottling.

**90–91 FOURCAS-HOSTEN** Listrac *Parker 86–88 | Suckling 92–93 |*

The Fourcas-Hosten consists of 58% Merlot, 38.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2.5% Petit Verdot, and 1% Cabernet Franc, aged in 28% new barrels with 13.57% alcohol. It has an impressive tannin content of 85 IPT. The Fourcas-Hosten has a dark, rich color. Open and inviting in smell, it shows a lot of substance and power. Although not as sweet and creamy as the Fourcas-Dupré (89–90), it has a bit more class and depth, with a stylish structure. Fourcas-Borie (91–92) instead has both.

**90–91 HAUT CONDISSAS** Médoc *Suckling 89–90 |*

The Haut Condisas consists of 60% Merlot and each 10% Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon, as well as a considerable 20% Petit Verdot. It is dense, structured, and firm on the palate, with a lot of force from the massive extraction. As well it has very good depth and a long aftertaste with dark berry aromas, slightly dry in the finish.

**90–91 MALESCASSE** Haut-Médoc *Parker 88–90 | Suckling 93–94 |*

The Malescasse consists of 60% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Petit Verdot. Massive, dark color. Rich and compact in the smell, in the mouth, it shows a pithy and rich body with tension and good length. Full and tight on the palate, the Malescasse presents itself firmly, with style and finesse.

**90–91 PEYRABON** Haut-Médoc

Dark color. Tight and open in smell, the Peyrabon has a very good concentration. In the mouth, it remains a bit dry, dull, and hollow, has a lot of power and spiciness with good inner density. In the end, it might be a bit over-extracted, let's see.

**90–91 REYSSON** Haut-Médoc *Suckling 91–92 |*

Reysson belongs to the wineries of the Dourthe group. 2018 was made from 87% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. Viscous, dark color. Full, dense, and round, it shows a lot of flesh and good depth, with a high-toned inner aroma and hard edges. Its slightly pointing acidity gives it a lot of pressure, lacking a bit smoothness. Nevertheless, this is a solidly built Haut-Médoc, which recommends itself for every kind of gastronomy.

**90–91 LA TOUR DE BY** Médoc *Parker 87–89 | Suckling 91–92 |*

The La Tour de By 2018 has a solid color. Sweet, offensive, and dense, it almost is a bit upfront in smell, remains hollow and fragile at first. Quite open and wide in the mouth, it presents an unusually high concentration for La Tour de By with fine and transparent fruit and good length. It is highly recommended as a Bordeaux of the entry-price-level!

**89–90 BRANAS GRAND POUJEAUX** | Moulis | **FONRÉAUD** | **FOURCAS-DUPRÉ** | Listrac | **BEAUMONT** | **CHARMAIL** | **COUFRAN** | **HAUT-MAUDRAC** | **LANESSAN** | **PETIT VERDOT DE BELLE-VUE** | Haut-Médoc | **LA CHAPELLE DE POTENSAC** | **LOUDENNE** | **TOUR SERAN** | Médoc

**89–90 MAUCAILLOU** | Moulis | **LARRIVAUX** | **SAINT PAUL** | **VERDIGNAN** | **VILLEGEOUGE** | Haut-Médoc | **RAMAFORT** | **ROLLAN DE BY** | **TOUR ST.-BONNET** | Médoc



*Château d'Agassac with the highly recommended restaurant Table d'Agassac*



## Saint-Estèphe

**97–98 CALON-SÉGUR** Saint-Estèphe Parker 96–98 | Suckling 98–98 | WeinWisser 19+/20



Only 50 of Calon-Ségur's 55 hectares are currently planted, and 45 are in production. This can be traced back to the comprehensive restructuring program that Madame Gasqueton in 2006 initiated together with the technical director Vincent Millet. Because the original vineyards were all planted with a classical low density of vines, furthermore many died rootstocks were taken out. So the average age of the vines today is about 22 years. In recent vintages, Vincent Millet has dramatically increased quality. The new cellar offers room for more precision, which can be clearly seen in 2018. Luckily there was not much mildew, and because of clay in the subsoils, the vines were able to survive the dry phase well. Only 40% of the production went into the Grand Vin, which consists of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. The Calon-Ségur is aged in 100% new barrels and reached 14.9% alcohol, which by no means can be tasted or felt in the wine at all. Brilliant, solid color. Very sweet and offensive in the smell, highly aromatic and intense. In the mouth, Calon-Ségur carries great spiciness, lots of juice, and a racy, broad structure. Despite the high Cabernet share it belongs opulent and rich, with a saturated Merlot-velvety and intense red berry-cherry fruit, that is fat and dominant. Substantial length, extremely deep, and with excellent creaminess, this vintage has a very own character for Calon-Ségur, which reminds not very much of Saint-Estèphe due to its round nature.

**97–98 COS DESTOURNEL** Saint-Estèphe Parker 97–100 | Suckling 98–99 | WeinWisser 18.5/20



At Cos d'Estournel only 30hl per hectare were harvested due to the common problems of the vintage. Because of the drought in summer, the berries of the Cabernet Sauvignon were extremely small and with little juice. In contrast, the proportion of skin in the must was quite high, which had to be extracted more gently. Therefore a sure instinct was needed. Harvested from the 19<sup>th</sup> of September to the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, the Grand Vin consists of 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. It ages in 50% new barrels and reached 14.6% alcohol. Black color, with high-density and a huge amount of dark-berry, rich and cool fruit, the Cos d'Estournel boasts an impressive nose. Meaty, deep, and long, it has a big extraction in the mouth, very full-bodied, with lots of intensity, noble dark-berry fruit, and great breed. The fine-grained tannins are very elegant and deeply structured with cool finesse and very good length. Interestingly enough, the Cos d'Estournel has significantly more Cabernet flavor in its aroma than the Calon-Ségur.



**96–97 MONTROSE** Saint-Estèphe Parker 96–98 | Suckling 98–99 | WeinWisser 19.5/20



Due to the damp weather during flowering, Montrose had a lot of coulure (uneven insemination of the berries). 65% of the vines are managed organically, so the mildew was also an issue on Montrose. Fortunately, there was no drought, but there were also some dried-out berries here and there (passerillage). In the end, only 25hl per hectare were harvested from the 17<sup>th</sup> of September to the 5<sup>th</sup> of October, of which about 50% found its way into the Grand Vin. It consists of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, aged in 60% new barrels with 14.5% alcohol. Dark, viscous color. Rich, dark-berry-scented, compacted, and voluminous the 2018 Montrose smells on a cool side, yet it does not seem heavy or overly sweet as in a hot vintage. In the mouth, it has a round, creamy texture, with a dark berry fruit component, chocolate, tar, licorice, and coffee swings as well within. Tight on the palate, with lots of intensity, long and spicy, full-bodied, and punchy, the Montrose shows a lot of style as usual. Everything is perfectly arranged, seems polished and elegant, sweet, compact, and with excellent length. A little more laxity and naturalness might give him more style and accessibility.



**94–95 CAPBERN** Saint-Estèphe Parker 91–93 | Suckling 92–93 |



The Capbern-Meyney-Festival in Saint-Estèphe continues. Easily, in the vintage quartet 2015–2018, these two Châteaux dominate the top of the Cru Bourgeois! Capbern 2018 consists of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, and 1% Petit Verdot with 14.6% alcohol. Of the 38 hectares of vineyards only 29 are in production with an average age of 17 years; the yield was 41hl per hectare. The Capbern has a dark color. It presents a rich, powerful, velvety, and full-bodied, luscious nose with terrific sweetness. Saturated, taut, and crystal clear, it starts in the mouth and is just as powerful with racy tannins and a lot of tension as the nose was promising. A great effort and an unbelievably cheap Bordeaux for which there is hardly any competitively comparable wine in any other winegrowing area!





**94–95 MEYNEY** Saint-Estèphe *Parker 89–91 | Suckling 95–96 | WeinWisser 18/20*



The Capbern-Meyney-Festival in Saint-Estèphe continues. Easily, in the vintage quartet 2015–2018, these two Châteaux dominate the top of the Cru Bourgeois! The Meyney again has a dark, massive color, for which the Petit Verdot is not entirely innocent. Rich and sweet in the smell, with wonderfully fresh fruit and high concentration, which is reflected in liqueur top notes, massive and strongly compacted. Tight and pithy in the mouth, with a lot of intensity, this meaty explosive Meyney has an excellent dark berry-richness. Sweet elder, graphite, and tar are found in concentrated finish, profound, multi-layered, and long. This is simply a fantastic inexpensive and long-lasting Saint-Estèphe, that is full of character. Lesser Grand Crus of the Médoc seem to have a problem matching this wine in recent vintages.

**93–94 COS LABORY** Saint-Estèphe *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 92–93 |* While Cos Labory used to be dominated by indifferent dull notes, the past few years have repeatedly caught attention, as in 2018! It was harvested from the 24<sup>th</sup> of September to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October with only 25hl per hectare. At 14.2%, the alcohol remained relatively decent despite a high Merlot content of 44%, which was supplemented in the assemblage by 46% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Petit Verdot. The Grand Vin ages in 50% new barrels. Dark, viscous color with purple rim. It shows a decent nose with dark-berried aromas, tar, licorice, and a lot of power in the background. Tight and firm in the mouth, very compact in its appearance, fresh and crispy, very well structured, concentrated, and racy, with fine acidity and a lot of grip on the palate. The taut tannins are slightly rough but abundant and long, bringing a good extra sweetness to the finish.

**93–94 LAFON-ROCHET** Saint-Estèphe *Parker 90–92 | Suckling 93–94* 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 6% Petit Verdot were blended at Lafon-Rochet, reaching 14.5% of alcohol. Harvested from the 24<sup>th</sup> September to the 13<sup>th</sup> October, the Grand Vin ended up with black color. Lafon-Rochet smells intensely of dark berries, offensive and spicy, with plenty of fruit and good depth. Tight, fleshy, and full on the palate, with a firm, dark fruit in the middle, it seems a bit austere and slightly hard. But Lafon-Rochet builds up a lot of pressure and depth towards the finish. Its compact tannins have a very good grip, are powerful, and are structured with a lot of race.



**93–94 ORMES DE PEZ** Saint-Estèphe *Parker 90–92 | Suckling 93–94 | WeinWisser 17.5/20*



The 2018 Ormes de Pez is an inspiring wine. It consists of 50% Merlot, 41% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, aged in 45% new barrels with 14.6% alcohol. The measured tannin content is extremely high, with an IPT of 84. Massive, dark color, viscous. It smells of dark, compacted, fresh fruits, ink, tar, and liquorice, quite cool and intense, with a liqueur sweetness in the top note. Powerful and with enormous pressure in the first impression, it tastes like dark berries, such as rich cassis fruit and with sweet liqueur in the aftertaste. Very racy and punchy on the tongue, it has a terrific depth, expands long, and is eternally sweetly in the finish. Very solid and seems to be made out of one piece, this Ormes de Pez has an outstandingly polished presence.



**92–93 HAUT-MARBUZET** Saint-Estèphe *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 95–96 | WeinWisser 17/20*

In three tastings, the Haut-Marbuzet showed very well, even if it did not reflect a lot of core-aroma. Nevertheless, it had liqueur notes and a pleasant sweetness in the aftertaste and on the edge of the tongue, accompanied by fine, cool-toned tannins, long, sublime, and distinguished. The fruit component seems a little bit high-toned, yet everything is dense and deep. The color is intense and incredibly viscous. It will be interesting to see how the Haut-Marbuzet will evolve after bottling.

**92-93 LE BOSCOQ** Saint-Estèphe *Parker 89-91 | Suckling 93-94 |*



Le Boscoq lies in the northern part of the Saint-Estèphe appellation and belongs to the Dourthe group. Again and again, especially in warmer vintages, this is a remarkably concentrated wine. 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, and 4% Petit Verdot made it into the 2018 assemblage. Dark, purple color. Rich, deep, and youthful, this very closed-reductive Le Boscoq still smells of yogurt in the youthful state. This means it needs some more time to develop fully, but there is absolutely no hurry at all. In the mouth, it presents itself dark-berry-scented, pretty clear and pure, aromatically in a mix of cassis and blueberries – very dense structured, with excellent purity again and marvelous length. Its linear tannins are always reserved, cool, and of medium weight. Those who dislike the opulence and richness of many Saint-Emilions may feel at home here in Saint-Estèphe.

**92-93 LES PAGODES DE COS** Saint-Estèphe *Parker 93-95 |*

*Suckling 94-95 | WeinWisser 17.5/2*



About 35% of the production at Cos d'Estournel went into the second wine Les Pagodes de Cos. It consists of 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot, and 3% Cabernet Franc. With 14.6% alcohol, it ages in 20% new barrels.

Dense and meaty, full and rich, the Pagodes shows a lot of juice and great spiciness with tightly woven tannins, quite fresh and long. An excellent second wine with style and class.

**92-93 LILIAN-LADOUYS** Saint-Estèphe *Parker 90-92 |*

*Suckling 93-94 |*



In 2008, Jacky Lorenzetti acquired the Lilian-Ladouys winery in Saint-Estèphe, and a year later, the Château Pédesclaux in Pauillac. Much has been invested to increase the quality of the wines. What initially seemed a bit cool and stiff now gets more and more meat and character. For research of quality, new paths were taken here. Lilian-Ladouys, for example, ages by 40% its wine in tonneaux instead of barriques, with about twice the capacity. 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, and 4% Petit Verdot were aged in 40% new oak with 14.4% alcohol. The color is black. 2018 smells dense, dull, and cool, with quite a fresh, still somewhat of a smooth fruit aroma. Racy, very polished and clear, it remains full on the palate and has a lot of balance as well as very good concentration and length. A wine with great potential.

**92-93 MARQUIS DE CALON** Saint-Estèphe *Parker 92-94 |*

*Suckling 91-92 | WeinWisser 18/20*

The Marquis de Calon always has a very different character than the Grand Vin Calon-Ségur due to the high content of Merlot. 53% Merlot is present in 2018, with 47% Cabernet Sauvignon. It is aged in 30% new barrels and achieved a proud 14.9% alcohol, again due to the Merlot. Tight, full and meaty, the Marquis de Calon is a bit chubby as usual, round, creamy, and silky. The rich tannins are buffered with lots of juice and breed. A wine that the Frenchman likes to refer to as »vin gourmand«.



Images above: Calon-Ségur

**92-93 PETIT BOCQ** Saint-Estèphe *Suckling 90-91 | Decanter 90 |*



The Petit Bocq consists of 50% Merlot, 48% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Petit Verdot. Dark color. Rich, sweet, and intense in smell, very fruit-driven, cool, and opulent, with expansive and fully mature aromas. Powerful and compact on the palate, it shows good depth and firm tannins. Rich, massive, and chocolaty the Petit Bocq operates in the middle, with fine, lively acidity, lots of power, and generous core. This is a classic structured Saint-Estèphe with grip and a spicy-powerful finish.

**92-93 PHÉLAN-SÉGUR** Saint-Estèphe *Parker 93-95 | Suckling 95-96 |*



Somehow you would have expected a bit more from Phélan-Ségur; maybe it will come with aging. It was harvested from the 24<sup>th</sup> of September to the 11<sup>th</sup> of October; the yield was a pleasingly 49 hl per hectare. 57% Cabernet Sauvignon and 43% Merlot are aged at about 14% of alcohol in 55% new barrels. Black color. Dark berry aromas, densely staggered, and full, are present in the smell, not as deep as expected. In the mouth, the Phélan-Ségur begins round and with a creamy structure, has a lot of pressure and body, with taut tannins, a lot of tension, and a good, saturated fruit. Within the very clear structure is missing some length. It seems a little less focused than usual. Wait.

**92-93 TRONQUOY-LALANDE** Saint-Estèphe *Parker 93-95 |*

*Suckling 91-92 |*

Tronquoy-Lalande belongs to Montrose. The 2018 consists of 51% Merlot, 44% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot, and 2% Cabernet Franc. It was harvested from 18<sup>th</sup> of September to 4<sup>th</sup> of October. Dark, dense, and massive, the Tronquoy-Lalande shows a lot of substance and enormous power, with dark berry fruit and graphite in the mouth, strong tannins, and firm-bodied character.

**91–92 BERNARD MAGREZ** Saint-Estèphe *Suckling* 92–93 |

In 2016, Bernard Magrez bought a 4.73-hectare vineyard in St-Estèphe and named the wine Château Bernard Magrez. As expected, Michel Rolland is the oenologist. One part was fermented in open barriques (vinification integrale), the rest in tanks. 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon made it into the assemblage and age in 35% new oak. Liqueur sweet and very opulent in the nose with dark berry fruit. In the mouth, it shows a rich, massive tannin structure. The Bernard Magrez 2018 is round, very intense and solid, has enormous body and strength, but is somewhat untypical for Saint-Estèphe, drying out a bit in the finish.

**91–92 DE CÔME** Saint-Estèphe

With sweet fruit, liqueur, and spicy oak, the de Côme is trying hard to attract attention. Powerful and rich in extraction, it fills the mouth and remains dense and full on the palate, with a good polished structure.

**91–92 LA DAME DE MONTROSE** Saint-Estèphe *Parker* 90–92 | *Suckling* 95–96 |

The La Dame de Montrose is much rounder and smoother than the Grand Vin. This is also due to the higher Merlot content of 52%, together with 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. Dark-berried aromas, round and full on the tongue, it has fine, polished tannins, good power, and spiciness, but it looks a bit too smooth. The 14.5% alcohol does not matter in taste; it is aged in 35% new wood.

**91–92 LAFITTE CARCASSET** Saint-Estèphe *Suckling* 91–92 |

The Lafitte Carcasset has a black color. Dense and massive, it comes aromatically from a very concentrated side. Powerful and with a good, racy structure in the mouth, it has tight-knit and compact tannins with a slightly rough character. Rich, deep, spicy, and long, this small Saint-Estèphe impresses with a courageous appearance.

**91–92 DE PEZ** Saint-Estèphe *Parker* 91–93 | *Suckling* 93–94 |

With 42 hl per hectare, the yield was quite good at de Pez. Each 49% Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, and each 1% Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot age together with 14% alcohol in 30% new barrels. The tasted sample at the Union Grand Cru was taken from 80% new barrels, as we were honestly told after asking for information. At these tastings, hardly anyone asks questions, a pity. Black color with purple rim. Dense and offensive in the nose, with concentrated dark-berry fruit. It has beautiful structure of racy new oak, which gives creaminess and fullness to the sample, together with the cool and juicy fruit. Some cassis and tar in the aftertaste. Very solid Saint-Estèphe.

**90–91 DOMEYNE** Saint-Estèphe *Parker* 89–91 |

Dense, modern, and sweet, the Domeyne is very firm and pithy with a dry structure. A bit exhausting, cool, and astringent in the finish. Good grape material was at least available.

**90–91 LA HAYE** Saint-Estèphe *Suckling* 89–90 |

The La Haye consists of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, aged in 46% new barrels. Dark, dense and massive, the La Haye is built with a compact, powerful mouthfeel, it remains a bit slim in the middle and seems slightly over-extracted with a hard touch to it.

**90–91 TOUR DE PEZ** Saint-Estèphe

Dense garnet red. Offensive and clear, with abundant red berry fruit in the nose. It has a substantial attack in the mouth, with good fruit and spices, rather austere appearance, classic and with a lot of punch. In the middle, it dries a bit but shows good concentration and a limited length.

**90–91 TOUR DES TERMES** Saint-Estèphe *Suckling* 92–93 |

*Decanter* 91 |

The Tour des Termes consists of 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% each of Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Dense and concentrated, with good structure and juicy midpalate, the Tour des Termes has a soft acidity, accompanied by lots of tannins and rich oak-aromas. First somewhat dull and dry, with a good elegance, the Tour des Termes shows rather intense, but to the finish the aromatic profile is drying out.

**89–90 BEAU-SITE | SÉGUR DE CABANAC | TOUR SAINT-FORT** | Saint-Estèphe



## Pauillac

**99–100 LATOUR** Pauillac Parker 98–100 | Suckling 99–100 | WeinWisser 19.5/20



At Latour everybody was happy with the first certified organic vintage of 2018. At the same time, the mildew problem of the vintage gave a bit of concern as most of the organic producers in Bordeaux had severe losses in yield. With 28hl per hectare, the team around Frédéric Engerer can again be lucky. Some of the biodynamic run estates such as Palmer or Pontet-Canet made just a mere 10hl per hectare. Additionally because of the drought Cabernet produced smaller berries, harvested over a prolonged period from the 19<sup>th</sup> of September to the 11<sup>th</sup> of October. The Grand Vin reached 14.3% alcohol and is representing 37% of the total production. The Latour 2018 consists of 91% Cabernet Sauvignon and 9% Merlot, 7.4% of the press wine went into the Assemblage, the aging takes place in 100% new barrels. Massive, black color. Closed and massive also in the nose, highly condensed, intense, and powerful, it shows the typical Latour flavors. Saturated, fleshy, dense, linear, and pithy, 2018 is a very compact, wide-bodied Pauillac, eternally long and always fresh on the palate, with terrific tension and depth. Although it does not have quite as much grip to the smooth acidity, the race of fine-grained tannins makes up for it in the finish. The 2018 Latour is a generous and widely spread wine that seems to be made out of one piece and has an enormous tension and polished structure. Because of its very well-balanced great richness and evenly formed mouthfeel, it seems less sensational than it really is.

**99–100 MOUTON-ROTHSCHILD** Pauillac Parker 97–99 | Suckling 100 | WeinWisser 20/20



Philippe Dallhuin had only about 2% damage due to mildew at Mouton-Rothschild. For the Cabernets on pebble soils, however, he had to accept a lower yield by small berries. In the end the yield was 28hl per hectare. Harvested from the 10<sup>th</sup> of September to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October. Due to the high proportion of skins of about 50% to 50% with juice, Philippe decided for a prolonged maceration time with a smoother extraction at lower fermentation temperature for the Cabernets and a shorter cuvaison for the Merlots. The assemblage consists of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc with 13.8% alcohol. The Mouton 2018 has a black color. Massive, dense and with a dark berry fruit, this archetypical Mouton presents itself very compact, extremely deep and widely spread on the palate, with the classic leadpencil note and bursting fruit flavours. It shows an enormously broad tannin structure, eternally depth, remains always fresh and transparent, with phenomenal purity. This Mouton uses one of the widest frames of the vintage, is endlessly long and balanced, with magnificent extraction. Better than Lafite, this Mouton is at the same level with Latour. This will be a long-lasting, classic Mouton of great typicity. Bravo!



Thomas Boxberger and Philippe Dhalluin

**96–97 LYNCH-BAGES** Pauillac Parker 96–98 | Suckling 97–98 | WeinWisser 19/20



Lynch-Bages always is one of the best Pauillacs. But the 2018 carries something particularly appealing, convincing, even fascinating in itself. Lynch-Bages lost about 20% to mildew, harvesting 37 hl per hectare, 60% of which went into the Grand Vin. It consists of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. It ages in 70% new barrels and has 14.1% alcohol. The measured tannin content is extremely high with an IPT of 95! Black color. Super-concentrated, full and sweet, with a particularly appealing freshness and attractive fruit. Its liqueur top note has something hypnotizing, the aromas are quite polished and clear, with linear and deeply arranged components. Firm on the palate, closed and densely woven, it operates with a high concentration in the finish. Very solid and compact on the palate, with abundant dark berry fruit, spicy and long. This Lynch-Bages is currently much longer in the finish than both Pichons and in my opinion is the best Pauillac directly behind the Premier Crus!



Sylvie Cazes

**97–98 LAFITE-ROTHSCHILD** Pauillac Parker 98–100 | Suckling 99–100 | WeinWisser 20/20



At Lafite the mildew was fought with great effort even on the weekends, so major damage could be avoided and proudly almost 40 hl per hectare were harvested from the 17<sup>th</sup> of September to the 5<sup>th</sup> of October. Given the 35-hour week, this effort does not seem to be so easy to achieve in France. 91% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8.5% Merlot and 0.5% Petit Verdot are representing the Grand Vin, which accounts for about 36% of the production. It is aged in 100% new barrels and reached 13.4% alcohol. Dark, massive color. Distinguished, dark berry fruit and liqueur in the nose, the 2018 looks extremely concentrated and compacted and appears unusually massive and powerful for a young Lafite. Super-tight and close-meshed, the tannins appear a bit rougher than in Mouton and Latour, yet they are very fine and distinguished. Super-saturated and powerful in the mouth, round and soft, wonderfully creamy, as well as enormously fresh and clear. This Lafite is extremely deep and complex, not heavy, almost light, lingering with juiciness and tar, accompanied by licorice and elder from the small content of Petit Verdot. This is a very stylish Lafite whose massive interpretation in development will be interesting to follow.

**95–96 CLERC-MILON** Pauillac Parker 93–95 | Suckling 95–96 | WeinWisser 19/20



Clerc-Milon was harvested from the 17<sup>th</sup> of September to the 10<sup>th</sup> of October. This powerful Clerc Milon consists of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot and 1% Carmenere and has a black, impenetrable color. Super-tight in the nose with a red to dark berry fruit component. Massive and racy in the mouth, clearly fleshier and more intense than usual, it shows great extraction and freshness. Its fine grained tannins are broad and profoundly arranged. It has a massive presence, is eternally long and spicy. An excellent Clerc Milon in the top flight of the best Pauillacs right behind the Premier Crus.



**95–96 GRAND PUY LACOSTE** Pauillac *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 94–95*

Xavier Borie vinified his fortieth vintage and he was happy not to have suffered from any mildew, the yield was 40hl per hectare, harvested from the 21<sup>st</sup> of September to the 5<sup>th</sup> of October. The Grand Vin consists of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon and 22% Merlot. It ages in 75% new barrels with 14% alcohol and has a very dark color. Intensely chocolaty and with fine cassis fruit the GPL smells deep, cool and concentrated in the nose, with a delicate, liqueur note in the background. Its fine-grained tannins are profoundly structured in the mouth, with great freshness and complexity, and a racy acidity that makes it very elegant and complete. Complex aromas, very balanced, long and taut on the palate, the GPL shows great class. An outstanding anniversary achievement and a phantastic wine at a reasonable price.

**95–96 PICHON BARON** Pauillac *Parker 97–99 | Suckling 97–98 |*

At Pichon Baron there was only some mildew, the harvest took place from the 19<sup>th</sup> of September to the 11<sup>th</sup> of October, the yield was 35hl per hectare. 78% Cabernet Sauvignon and 22% Merlot made it into the Grand Vin, aged in 80% new barrels with 14.1% alcohol. Black, massively viscous color. Highly compact, offensive and with dark berry fruit and lots of juice in the nose, the Pichon Baron smells fresh and concentrated with very fine oak in the background. Creamy and sweet in the mouth, with lots of power and spice, it carries a low, soft acid (pH 3.9) and a lot of tannins, which integrate compactly and saturated into the structure. Its richly sweet, creamy finish leaves only one wish, it could be a little bit longer. I'm curious to try it again after bottling.

**95–96 PICHON COMTESSE** Pauillac *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 98–99 |*

Around 35hl per hectare were harvested at Pichon Comtesse in 2018, the average age of the vines is 35 years. The Grand Vin is composed of 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot and ages with approximately 14% alcohol in 70% new barrels. Black, massive color. Rich, dense and with a dark berry fruit component, the Pichon Comtesse smells very offensive, with an excellent, racy depth. In the mouth, it shows a tight, compact structure, deep and spicy, with a noble fruit. This fruit seems to be middleweight and somehow lighter than usual in this youthful stage. Excellent acidity and length, with delicately liqueured Cabernet fruit in the aftertaste, very lively in a compact appearance. The tannins do not seem to be quite as fine-grained and noble as in very great vintages. That would be the only possible criticism of this enchanting Comtesse.

**94–95 D'ARMAILHAC** Pauillac *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 93–94 |*

The d'Armailhac 2018 is a huge success for Philippe Dallhuin. Harvested from the 12<sup>th</sup> of September to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October. 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot came with 34hl per hectare into the blend producing a rich 14.5% alcohol. Dark and dense, with enormous freshness and fleshy fullness, it has a bursting dark-berry fruit, pithy, with a lot of breed and close-meshed, ripe tannins, long and compact. Wow, rarely seen d'Armailhac at this level!

**94–95 LES FORTS DE LATOUR** Pauillac *Parker 93–95 |*

*Suckling 94–95 | WeinWisser 18.5/20*

The Les Forts 2018 is an incredibly successful second wine from Latour. With 34% it has a high Merlot content, in addition to 65.5% Cabernet Sauvignon and 0.4% Petit Verdot with 14.2% alcohol aged in 80% new barrels. Due to the Merlot, the color is not as dark as usual. Still reserved in the nose, the Les Forts smells saturated and fruity. Balanced, condensed, firm and with a lot of juice, its appearance in the mouth is still a bit quiet, but shows great potential and depth.




**94–95 LE PETIT MOUTON** Pauillac *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 97–98 |*

The Le Petit Mouton has done excellent and is recommended to the lovers of the Mouton-Rothschild as a cheap alternative. It has a black color, is super-tight and racy, with an enormously pure and polished fruit, dark-berried, deep and concentrated. The best Le Petit Mouton ever?


*Château Pontet-Canet*
**94–95 PÉDESCLAUX** Pauillac *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 94–95 |*


In 2008, Jacky Lorenzetti acquired the Lilian-Ladouys winery in Saint-Estèphe and a year later the Château Pédesclaux in Pauillac. Much has been invested to increase the quality of the wines. The cellar of Pédesclaux is more than impressive, the strategy has clear goals. What initially seemed a bit cool and stiff now gets more meat and character. Despite a small mildew attack, 48hl per hectare were able to be harvested. 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot and a bit more than 4% each Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot were blended into the Grand Vin at almost 14% alcohol aged in 60% new barrels. Black color. Dark berried and massive, the Pédesclaux smells of rich blackberry fruit and some elder. Staggered in the mouth, it is very deep and balanced, with extremely finely polished tannins, fullbodied on the palate, very long, cool and differentiated. A modern, very harmonious Pédesclaux, which still looks a bit smooth.

**94–95 PONTET-CANET** Pauillac *Parker 97–99 | Suckling 97–98 |*

*WeinWisser 19/20*



Biodynamic management had major problems with mildew in 2018, so that only 10hl per hectare could be harvested from the 24<sup>th</sup> of September to the 5<sup>th</sup> of October. 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot aged in 55% new barriques and 45% amphorae (usually 50/50). Massive, viscous color. Rich, sweet, raisiny and intense, it smells of enormous richness, very opulent and fat, with sweetish oak scents, liqueury with berry-aromas and great intensity. Saturated and firm in the mouth, this Pontet-Canet acts with a lot of breed, but seems slightly hard in tannins and sharp in acidity. The 2018 Pontet-Canet has a lot of extraction, good length and a tight, compact structure, but currently little melting smoothness, only extreme sweetness with some dull aroma and overall a slightly hard presence. The Pontet-Canet benefits from its great core and the incredible power and sweetness, yet it lacks some harmony and juiciness, somehow it seems constructed and slightly dull.


*Jérôme Juhé – Château Pédesclaux*




**93–94 BATAILLEY** Pauillac *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 94–95 | WeinWisser 18/20*



At Batailley you could harvest a pleasing 52hl per hectare. 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot were added to the assemblage. He has a dark, dense color. Rich, full-bodied and with dark-berry, highly concentrated fruity aromas of Batailley reminiscent of the outstanding 2009. With a lot of juice and energy, great depth and freshness, this pauillac convinces with ready to drink enamel, firm, meaty tannins and excellent length. With further maturity I trust the compact and harmonious Batailley quite a lot.

**93–94 CARRUADES DE LAFITE** Pauillac *Parker 92–94 |*

*Suckling 95–96 | WeinWisser 17.5/20*

About 30% of the harvest at Lafite went into the second wine, taking place from the 17<sup>th</sup> of September to the 5<sup>th</sup> of October. 56.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot and 5.5% Cabernet Franc brought it to 13.9% alcohol and age in 20% new barrels. Massive, dark color. Cool, powerful and energetic, the Carruades smells full of fruit and depth. Compact, racy and with dark-berried midpalate, it shows very polished tannins and wiry acidity, very purely arranged and long. A highly distinguished Carruades of noble charisma.

**93–94 CROIZET-BAGES** Pauillac *Parker 89–91 | Suckling 91–92 |*



Croizet-Bages was harvested late at the end of September until the 15<sup>th</sup> of October. The half portions of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon age in 100% new barrels. Dark colour. Full, sweet and massive, the Croizet-Bages has very profound aromas in the nose, with a tidy, concentrated fruit. Thick, full and firm, the Croizet-Bages shows a powerful, muscular tannin structure, lots of juice, great freshness and spiciness and is well-packed with a dense smooth mouthfeel and good length. Powerful, pure and with a dark berry fruit component it shows a fleshy grip and a lot of body.

**93–94 DUHART-MILON** Pauillac *Parker 93–95 | Suckling 95–96 |*

*WeinWisser 19/20*



The Duhart-Milon consists of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot with 14.2% alcohol and ages in 50% new barrels. Harvested from the 17<sup>th</sup> of September to the 4<sup>th</sup> of October. Black, massive color. Closed and tight in the nose, it presents itself pretty cool in the mouth, very compact and powerful. Firm and pithy in the mouth, it has a dark berry fruit and is unusually intense, rich and full-bodied for a Duhart. Very compact appearance with excellent presence.



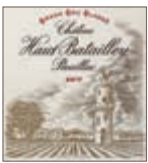
Mathilde Pfeiffer – Château Batailley







**93–94 HAUT-BATAILLEY** Pauillac *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 94–95 |*



The Haut-Batailley consists of 59% Cabernet Sauvignon and 41% Merlot. It was harvested at 35 hl per hectare, has reached 14.3% alcohol and ages in 60% new barrels. The Cazes family gave the secondary wine the catchy name of Verso, which harmonizes very well with the colleague Echo of Lynch-Bages. Dense, sweet and offensive, the Haut-Batailley smells with a lot of intensity in the background. Significantly denser, deeper and more intense than usual, it has a lot of substance and power in the mouth. Taut and purely structured, with powerful tannins, it shows significantly more material than in previous vintages. With a fine red berry fruit in the finish, it remains long on the palate with a bit of slightly sharp acidity. While Haut-Batailley was previously known for his finesse and elegance, the Cazes family gives much more intensity of extraction to it.



**92–94 PAUILLAC DE LATOUR** Pauillac *Parker 90–92 | Suckling 91–92 |*

Even the simple Pauillac of Château Latour is an excellent wine and is recommended to be enjoyed of fine dining restaurants. As much as 35% of the production went into this third wine. It consists of 56.9% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30.8% Merlot and 12.3% Petit Verdot with 14.1% alcohol and ages in 30% new barrels. Massive, dark color. Lush, offensively and slightly dull in the nose, it starts powerful and with punch in the mouth. Its clear, dark, dense fruit is driven by meaty richness and high extraction. Widely spread, dense and long, with generous structure and fresh acidity, this Pauillac shows the extraordinary potential of terroir of Château Latour.

**92–93 FLEUR DE PEDESCLAUX** Pauillac *Suckling 92–94 |*

The excellent second-wine Fleur de Pédesclaux underlines the future position of Pédesclaux in the Pauillac hierarchy. It consists of 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Petit Verdot with 14.3% alcohol and ages in 40% new barrels. Black color with purple rim. Full, round and creamy it goes to the point, very racy and deep, yet balanced, a bit smooth and round, with lots of juice and richness.

**92–93 GRAND PUY DUCASSE** Pauillac *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 93–94 |*

The Grand Puy Ducasse has a massive color. Youthfully closed in smell, sweet and dull, it shows a concentrated fruit with little looseness. In the mouth, the Grand Puy Ducasse has a lot of core, remains dense and full on the palate, with nice spices, very good tension and freshness, long and persistent. Everything seems a bit stocky, but has good potential.

**92–93 LACOSTE-BORIE** Pauillac *Parker 88–90 | Decanter 90 |*



Lacoste-Borie as a cheap Pauillac always is a recommended buy. Since 1982, this second wine is produced at Grand Puy Lacoste. 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc were harvested at 44 hl per hectare, reached 13.9% alcohol and age in 50% new barrels. Dark colour. In the nose, the Lacoste Borie has a dark-berry fruit with lots of juice and richness, very clear and deeply staggered. Full of punch it starts in the mouth, fresh and juicy, showing a lovely body with balanced, firm tannins and very good length. Xavier Borie is convinced that he has produced the best Lacoste Borie so far. Congratulations! I agree.



Xavier Borie and cellarmaster Christel Spinner

**92–93 LYNCH-MOUSSAS** Pauillac *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 93–94 |*



Lynch Moussas has sharpened its profile in recent years, as well as the sister properties Batailley and Trotte Vieille. All the Casteja family wines gained flesh and richness. The 2018 continues in this direction. It consists of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon and 28% Merlot. Tight, concentrated, powerful, with lots of pressure and massive tannins, the Lynch-Moussas was to convince on a brief tasting.



**91-92 HAUT-BAGES MONPELOU** Pauillac *Parker 92-93 | Decanter 91 |*

Haut Bages Monpelou follows the example of his big brothers Batailley and Lynch-Moussas. 2018 was produced maybe the best Haut-Bages Monpelou ever. It consists of 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. Unfortunately, I can't claim this statement exactly as I do not enjoy every vintage to taste this small Pauillac. Dense and pithy, with a lot of power, flesh and punch, the massive 2018 presents itself very well, of course, having certain limits from the terroir. Saturated, creamy and a bit dry, it still knows how to convince a hard working taster.

**90-91 ECHO DE LYNCH-BAGES** Pauillac *Parker 90-92 | Suckling 93-94 |*

In 2018 even the second wine of the extremely successful Lynch-Bages has a lot of power, a massive tannin structure and very good potential. When tasting at Haut-Batailley (Lynch-Bages is currently under construction), it was still a bit dull and closed, with little aromatic expression and slightly dry finish. Something is sure to happen there.

**90-91 FONBADET** Pauillac *Parker 89-91 | Suckling 91-92 |*

The 2018 Fonbadet consists of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon and 25% Merlot. Dense and strong, it has a lot of power and a big core. Its powerful full-bodied structure shows very fine-grained tannins and a lot of potential. Good, concentrated Pauillac.

**90-91 HAUT BAGES LIBÉRAL** Pauillac *Parker 96-97 | Decanter 92 |*

The Haut Bages Libéral consists of 79% Cabernet Sauvignon and 21% Merlot with 14.5% alcohol and ages in 40% new barrels. Tight and full-bodied, with a substantial structure, beautiful, with robust tannins of a slightly rough texture, lots of juice and richness. The high concentration remains with a subtle bitterness in the finish. Do have to wait.

**90-91 LIONS DE BATAILLEY** Pauillac *Suckling 91-92 |*

To improve the Grand Vin of the Grand Vin Batailley the second wine Lions de Batailley was introduced. This is recommended as a inexpensive Pauillac, which is not sold en primeur. Extremely good for example is the 2016 Lions actually! Rich and fruity, with lots of juice and structure, the Lion is long and compact, much like a very good Baby-Batailley.

**90-91 VERSO DE HAUT-BATAILLEY** Pauillac *Suckling 91-92 |*

The Cazes family bought Haut-Batailley in 2017 and replanted half of the vineyards. Since the vintage 2017 there is the second wine, which was now baptized Verso. The 2018 consists of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Merlot, it represents about one third of the production, reached 14% alcohol and sees no new oak at the aging. At the tasting at Haut-Batailley it showed a bit stressed with a dull, dry structure. Nevertheless, this Pauillac has a very good potential. Depending on the price, it could be an interesting purchase.

**89-90 BELLEGRAVE | TOUR SIEUJEAN** Pauillac

**88-89 LES HAUTS DE LYNCH-MOUSSAS** Pauillac





## Saint-Julien

**98–99 LÉOVILLE LAS CASES** Saint-Julien *Parker 98–100* |

*Suckling 99–100* | *WeinWisser 20/20*



From the 15<sup>th</sup> of September to the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, Léoville Las Cases harvested 35.5hl per hectare, with a fairly low pH of 3.65, which is very beneficial for transparency and freshness to the wine. The assemblage consists of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc and 9% Merlot, aging in 90% new barrels with 14.4% alcohol. The 2018 Léoville Las Cases has a solid, dark color. Dark-berried fruit, highly condensed, massive and still quite closed, it shows saturated and profound in the nose. Firm and clear it starts in the mouth, with a wide structure and a cool dark-berry fruit. Lead pencil tip and tar are present, a high extract sweetness and finely grained tannins can be found in the richly structured midpalate. Eternally deep, spicy and with great character, Las Cases in this vintage reveals more a Latour typology than a real Saint-Julien. In this monumental Las Cases neither alcohol nor even a hint of oak is obvious. Definitely on Premier Cru level!



**97–98 DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU** Saint-Julien *Parker 97–99* |

*Suckling 98–99* | *WeinWisser 19.5/20*



Together with Lalande Borie, Bruno-Eugène Borie's properties cover approximately 100 hectares in the appellation Saint-Julien. For the Grand Vin Ducru-Beaucaillou there are 30 hectares in production, the yield was 30–35hl per hectare, harvested from the 19<sup>th</sup> of September to the 10<sup>th</sup> of October. A pretty long four to five weeks Ducru Beaucaillou was macerated on the skins. The 2018 is made from 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Merlot, aged in 100% new barrels with 14.5% alcohol. The 2018 Ducru Beaucaillou has a pitch black color. Its dark scented, massive Cabernet nose is impressively full and voluminous, with coffee, tar, licorice and graphite, a lot of balsamic sweetness showing no woody influence at all. Full, intense and broad in the mouth, this is one of the best Ducrus of recent years and is reminiscent of the earlier, classic style of the 90s under Xavier Borie. With great intensity, powerful and massive, it remains fresh and clear, bulky, sweet and broad-shouldered, with enormous acidity and terrific depth. The large scaled, fine tannins have a big impact and are reminiscent of the 1996, but with more density, and higher concentration. Terrific Ducru!

Départs	
PORTE	DESTINATION
01	CH. BEYCHEVELLE 2018
02	CH. BRANAIRE DUCRU 2018
08	CH. GLORIA 2018
03	CH. GRUAUD LAROSE 2018
04	CH. LAGRANGE 2018
05	CH. LANGOA BARTON 2018
06	CH. LÉOVILLE BARTON 2018
07	CH. LÉOVILLE POYFERRÉ 2018
08	CH. SAINT PIERRE 2018
09	CH. TALBOT 2018

**96–97 LÉOVILLE-BARTON** Saint-Julien *Parker 94–96* |

*Suckling 95–96* | *WeinWisser 19/20*



At Léoville-Barton mildew was under control and the yield reached 40–50hl per hectare. The assemblage contains of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Merlot aged in 60% new barrels with 14% alcohol. Dark color. Massive, dense and profound, the Léoville-Barton has a lot of richness and great opulence in the nose. The dark-berry fruit is equally present on the palate again. Powerful and full-bodied, this Léoville-Barton always remains fresh and sweet, with an intense presence, rich tannins, filigree acidity and excellent length. The 2018 is a beefy, massively concentrated Léoville Barton with fine-grained noble tannin structure.

**96–97 LÉOVILLE-POYFERRÉ** Saint-Julien *Parker 94–96* |

*Suckling 97–98* | *WeinWisser 18/20*



At Léoville-Poyferré there were a few problems with mildew, the yield was 43hl per hectare, harvested from the 24<sup>th</sup> of September to the 12<sup>th</sup> October. The Grand Vin consists of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. It is aged in 80% new barrels with 14% alcohol. The Léoville-Poyferré has a black color with a purple rim. As always, Léoville-Poyferré has a dense, full and intense nose with enormous power and fullness. Fresh and concentrated, in the mouth it seems less muscular than usual. Highly compact, deep and clear, it still has a very high concentration and great richness, with tightly woven tannins and plenty of volume.



**95–96 BRANAIRE-DUCRU** Saint-Julien *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 95–96*

The Branaire-Ducru was harvested from the 19<sup>th</sup> of September to the 10<sup>th</sup> of October. The Grand Vin has 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 4% Cabernet Franc blend at 14.3% alcohol. Dark, massive color. Fleshy, intense, dense and sweet, the Branaire-Ducru smells with liqueur and offensive fruit character. High intensity, great freshness and plenty of juice it promotes in the mouth, with a tightly woven, rich structure, long and with lively acidity due to the low pH of 3.6. The multi-layered tannins are very fine-grained and well-balanced. A really classy Grand Cru, which always counts to the affordable, reliable values!



Jean-Dominique Videau

**95–96 GRUAUD-LAROSE** Saint-Julien *Parker 95–97 | Suckling 95–96*

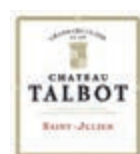
The Gruaud Larose was composed of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot and 9% Cabernet Franc. It is aged in 80% new barrels with an alcohol content of 14.2%. It has a dark, massive color. Fresh and profound in the nose, with the slightly greenish trace, which is almost typical for Gruaud-Larose. It starts powerful in the mouth, with very good richness and high intensity. It shows a subtle astringency just to the edge of bitterness, which contributes to a special depth with flavors like tar, licorice, graphite and pitch-black chocolate. Because of its great length, large breed, huge power-reserves and intensity, 2018 is one of the best vintages of the past decades for Gruaud-Larose.

**94–95 BEYCHEVELLE** Saint-Julien *Parker 94–96 | Suckling 93–94 |*

The Beychevelle has a dark, massive color and an offensive, opulent fruity, concentrated nose. Soft, round, and creamy, it starts in the mouth, appears full-bodied with a liqueur-like sweetness and ripe aromatic, a little bit less fresh, with low acidity and slightly rough tannins. Sweet-sour, chocolaty, and very present in the mouth, with a meaty and compact body, this Beychevelle could be accessible quite soon after bottling. On the other hand, it would be possible that this wine tends to ripen quickly.

**94–95 SAINT-PIERRE** Saint-Julien *Parker 94–96 | Suckling 93–94 |*

The Saint-Pierre consists of 77% Cabernet Sauvignon and 23% Merlot. It ages in 50% new barrels and has a solid dark color. Intense, sweet, opulent, and lush, it smells of dark berry fruit. Compact and very penetrating, the Saint-Pierre shows a lot of grip on the tongue, with massive, slightly dry tannins. Its high concentration is accompanied by aromas of coffee, tar, graphite, and chocolate, rich in extracts. It is offensive, and long-lasting—an excellent, intensely powerful Saint-Pierre at the limit of extraction ability.

**94–95 TALBOT** Saint-Julien *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 94–95 |*

At Talbot, mildew was under control, and the team was able to harvest 45 hl per hectare from the 19<sup>th</sup> of September to the 10<sup>th</sup> of October. The assemblage of the Grand Vin includes 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot with 14% alcohol; the aging takes place in 60% new barrels. Fleshy, dark-berried, and pithy, the Talbot appears, with plenty of pressure and crisp acidity, very rich and bright. The massive extraction of the fleshy Talbot is loosely woven and tightly knit, with very close-fitting tannins, right length, and great spiciness. It has perfect tension and freshness, lively play, and a lot of excitement. It's worth following.

**93–94 CLOS DU MARQUIS** Saint-Julien *Parker 92–94 |**Suckling 94–95 |*

The Clos du Marquis consists of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc, brings a staggering 14.5% alcohol to the scales and ages in 55% new barrels. The Clos du Marquis has an unusually dark color. Dense, creamy and round, the Clos du Marquis presents itself with rich, juicy fruit, lots of flesh, eternally long and with spicy pungency on the finish, supporting tar and graphite notes. The fine centerpiece shows great character and core. Its compact dark-berry fruit is exceptionally fresh and brings a juicy aspect to the long finish. The usual red berry component of the Clos du Marquis does not exist in this vintage.





**93–94 GLORIA** Saint-Julien *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 93–94 |*

The Gloria 2018 consists of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot and ages in 40% new barrels. It has a dark, viscous color. Offensive, lush, crisp, and sweet, the Gloria smells with a tinted depth in a classic style. It shows a beautiful tannin presence in the mouth, with attractive aromas, is broad and opulent on the palate – Classic Gloria with meat and inner tension, good power, and core, rich, massive, and long. Currently a bit dry and dull resonating, but that is likely to soften.

**93–94 LAGRANGE** Saint-Julien *Parker 93–95 | Suckling 93–94 |*



The Lagrange has a black color. The still somewhat closed nose shows a dark-berried, compacted fruit, plenty of sweetness, and outstanding clarity. It is dense and meaty in the mouth, with racy acidity, lots of extract-creaminess, and rich fullness. The compact tannins are still a bit rough and somewhat coarse-meshed; the long reverberation shows a subtle astringency. Everything has to find a little bit more together.

**93–94 LANGOA-BARTON** Saint-Julien *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 93–94 |*

The Langoa Barton consists of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, and 9% Cabernet Franc. It reached 13.8% alcohol and is aged in 60% new barrels. Massive, viscous color, purple garnet. It offers a vibrant, deep, racy nose with abundant fruit, good complexity, and depth. Taut and tightly structured in the mouth, the Langoa remains with cool aromatics and restrained, with concentrated dark-berry notes and great fullness. Its fine tannins with the high energetic acidity remind of 2010.

**93–94 LE PETIT LION DU MARQUIS DE LAS CASES** Saint-Julien

The oldest Merlots and young Cabernets of Léoville Las Cases came into the second wine, Le Petit Lion. It consists of 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, and 13% Cabernet Franc, aging in 30% new barrels with 14.47% alcohol. Tight and creamy, round, and full, the Le Petit Lion has a beautiful, transparent structure with good acidity and plenty of fruit. Long and with great, liqueur-like aftertaste and lots of juice, the Le Petit Lion shows what even the second wine of this exceptional terroir is capable.



**92–93 LES FIEFS DE LAGRANGE** Saint-Julien *Parker 90–92 |*

The Les Fiefs de Lagrange is full, dense and meaty, has plenty of juice and body, and slightly rough tannins, which are caught by the generous round fruit. Deep and long, this is an excellent second wine from Lagrange, as always at the highest stage where precision and finishing is concerned.

**92–93 LALANDE-BORIE** Saint-Julien *Parker 88–90 | Suckling 92–93 |*

The sister-Château of Ducru-Beaucaillou in 2018 was produced from 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon with 14.5% alcohol. Black color. An offensive nose with lots of fruit and extra sweetness. In the mouth, the Lalande-Borie shows a lot of juice, and beautiful spice, quite fresh and with concentrated dark berry notes. The slightly hard tannins provide a limited flow in the centerpiece, but the Merlot spoils with its generosity.

**92–93 LA CROIX DE BEAUCAILLOU** Saint-Julien *Parker 91–93 |*

La Croix de Beaucaillou is the second wine of Ducru-Beaucaillou, which consists of 35% Merlot, 62% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Petit Verdot. As it reached a whopping 15% alcohol and was aged in 30% new barrels, it is round and massive, with a lot of power and thrust, while the alcohol is barely noticeable. Fresh and offensive on the palate, the La Croix de Beaucaillou has excellent tension and tinted depth.

**90–91 LA BRIDANE** Saint-Julien *Suckling 89–90 |*

La Bridane presents itself massively, dark-berry-toned and modern, with rich, liqueur-like concentration, smoky and slightly over-extracted, the finish remains, unfortunately, a bit dull.

**90–91 DU GLANA** Saint-Julien *Parker 87–89 | Suckling 92–93 |*

Du Glana consists of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, aged in 40% new barrels. The Du Glana is dark-berried, dense and liqueur-like sweet, offensive, relatively round and creamy, with lots of substance and power on the palate. This is a solid Saint-Julien with good balance and fine acidity in the middle, to the back, it gets a bit hard and reminds of some 2010s.





## Margaux

**98–99 MARGAUX** Margaux Parker 97–100 | Suckling 99–100 | WeinWisser 19.5+/20



Château Margaux was harvested over a long period, from the 17<sup>th</sup> of September to the 13<sup>th</sup> of October. The berries, especially those of the Cabernet, were small, the yield reached only 31 hl per hectare, of which 36% came into the Grand Vin. This consists of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Merlot and Cabernet Franc each, and 2% Petit Verdot with 14% alcohol. The Château Margaux ages in 100% new barrels. Black and solid is its color. The fruit component shows in the nose a very dark aromatic profile, with blackberries, graphite, and some chocolate, a little bit it reminds of Latour. Very massive and closed, highly condensed, classy, and with immeasurable fullness in the background, Margaux 2018 shows fantastic intensity in the smell. Also in the mouth, it is enormously dark-berry-scented, with massive Cabernet presence, very dense and finely spiced, with rich extraction, vastly spread, and full on the palate. However, Margaux's frame-setting in 2018 is not quite as big and full as at Ausone, Latour, and Haut-Brion. Enormously powerful and endowed without end, the Margaux looks slightly cool and shimmers a bit dry with minimal roughened tannins. The crystalline acidity gives it a lot of play and length. The rich body shows enormous pressure and sustainability. Graphite, tar, and chocolate vibrate without sweetness in the eternally long finish. In 2018, an outstanding Margaux succeeded, which will be gaining until bottling in terms of grace and feminine elegance.

**97–98 PALMER** Margaux Parker 97–99 | Suckling 94–95 | WeinWisser 19.5/20



Although the vineyard-team at Palmer is remarkably adept, everything came too late in 2018. Biodynamic farming requires prompt treatment of mildew infection. In just six hours, all the vineyards at Palmer can be thoroughly sprayed with appropriate preparations. That was also done. And yet, in the end, there was only a yield of 11 hl per hectare, similar to Pons-Canet. So Chris Myers said blatantly: For the future, it will be followed the biodynamic path. But should more often be such loss of yield, they would bury the Biodyn project again, which seems understandable, given the most substantial mildew attack in the past 40 years. This year there will be only 6,000 instead of the usual 24,000 cases of Palmer! It was harvested from the 13<sup>th</sup> of September to the 15<sup>th</sup> of October with a meticulous selection of grapes. After all, the wine is very successful: 40% Merlot, 53% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Petit Verdot came into the assemblage with 14.3% alcohol. As the grapes have been very small, the extraction process was decided to be softer, and fermentation temperature was limited to 28 °C. After many tastings of the individual lots, 10% of the crop was completely declassified because the wines were too harsh. All of the rest went into the production of the Grand Vin. Therefore Alter Ego was not produced. The 2018 Palmer has a black color with a slightly brightening rim. Very massive, liqueur-like, saturated, and with high-density, the Palmer spreads an opulent nose with terrific intensity, bold, red-berry-fruited, and powerful. Enormously concentrated and liqueur-like, the Palmer 2018 also appears in the mouth, very full and opulent, with rich, abundant fruit. Towards the finish, the tannins seem to be a little rougher, and the acidity a little bit harder, but the molten body is able to buffer this. The inner core aroma still appears cool and not warm in its brute presence, the structure seems monolithic, with still limited flow. Overall, Palmer, this year, goes a bit more in breadth and richness rather than length and feminine elegance, due to yield and low juice content in the berries. For lovers of massive Palmer vintages, 2018 is simply ideal.



Normal harvest Château Palmer vintage 2016 in July 2017



Smallest harvest Château Palmer vintage 2018 in April 2019



**96–97 MALESCOT-ST-EXUPÉRY** Margaux Parker 94–96 | Suckling 97–98 | WeinWisser 18/20



The Malescot St. Exupéry consists of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc, aged in 70% new barriques. It was harvested from the 24<sup>th</sup> of September to the 17<sup>th</sup> of October with a yield of 52 hl per hectare. The Malescot St. Exupéry has a dark color, a fleshy, intense nose, and begins compact and powerful with fine acidity in the mouth. Dense, full, extremely deep, and spicy, the Malescot St. Exupéry shows its particular class again in 2018. It exudes plenty of juice and sweetness, is remarkably relaxed and elegant, has lots of finesse, and is powerful at the same time, with enormous length and high concentration. In the finish, juiciness, chocolatey richness, and broad tannins find a brilliant final chord. With all its lavish luxuriance, it is nevertheless tightly organized and graceful. The massive tannins serve as a decorative element to the high concentration. Delicate and typical, this is a Margaux with great intensity.



Château Malescot Saint Exupéry



**94–95 GISCOURS** Margaux Parker 90–92 | Suckling 96–97 | WeinWisser 19/20



Dark color. Offensive and bright in the nose, the Giscours 2018 has a lot of power and freshness, with a similar spiciness to the sister-estate Du Tertre. As well, it offers as a dark-berry characteristic with a slightly greenish note. Dense and powerful in the mouth, with dense tannins and sweet, intense, red-berry extract, it shows a perfect body. Very polished and long, a bit smooth and constructed, the Giscours must achieve its inner balance with the rest of the aging in barrels.

**94–95 ISSAN** Margaux Parker 94–96 | Suckling 95–96 |



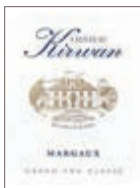
As so often, Issan is a somehow timeless and graceful beauty with a classic style. It consists of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, aged in 50% new barrels with just under 14% alcohol. 53% of the grapes were selected for the Grand Vin. Deep and multi-layered, the Issan 2018 presents itself quite loosely, with finely differentiated depth and fresh, crisp fruit. It possesses both red fruits, but also dark-berry accents intermingled together. Its creamy tannin structure has a lot of spice and style; through the deep extract-sweetness and delicate acidity, it has a long, full-bodied finish. Issan again is a classic, archetypical Margaux with a widespread, racy structure and great character because it does not want to be no more than it is.

**96–97 RAUZAN-SÉGLA** Margaux Parker 97–99 | Suckling 99–100 | WeinWisser 19\*/20



The Rauzan-Ségla consists of 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, and 2% each, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, aged in 65% new barrels with 14% alcohol. Rauzan-Ségla has a black color. With a cool-toned, rich fruit, some graphite, chocolate, dark-berry-liqueur notes, and massive concentration in the background, the Rauzan-Ségla fills its smell. Also, in the mouth, it impresses with racy, dense structure, generous concentration, as well as notes of tar and licorice in the finish. Well structured, extremely classy, and transparent, eternally deep and long-lasting, it has fine-grained tannins, right intensity, and a tremendous sense of style and finesse. A racy, dark-scented high-class-Margaux. Less exuberant than Malescot, but a bit cooler and brighter in the aromatic profile.



**94–95 KIRWAN** Margaux Parker 91–93 | Suckling 92–93 |

Thanks to the new cellar, 2018 is the fourth outstanding vintage in a row at Kirwan. And for sure it will stay that way! Vibrant, massive color. Sweet, offensive, and smooth, with dark-berry to cherry-fruit core-flavor and generous liqueur-sweetness in the overtone range. Its rich fullness and voluptuous intensity create an extremely animating nose.

Dense, full-bodied, and sweet, it starts in the mouth, with a silky, rich structure, very present and wide-spread on the palate, with generous sweetness and lots and lots of fruit. It is almost explosive and saturated, and its super-ripe tannins flow away in a wave of creamy intensity. An unbelievable fun-wine that currently costs much less than it serves.

**94–95 PRIEURÉ-LICHINE** Margaux Parker 91–93 | Suckling 93–94 |

Black color. The Prieuré-Lichine is highly intense, dense, and liqueur-sweet in the nose. Dark-berried and with lower Merlot-aromatic than in previous years, it has plenty of pressure and richness, with very cool-toned and firm aromas. The excellent, spicy tannins impress with a full-bodied structure;

in two of the four tasted samples, it still had a hollow mid-palate. Overall, the Prieuré-Lichine looks a bit glossy and constructed, and does not show much Margaux character.

**93–94 MARQUIS D'ALESME BECKER** Margaux Parker 94–96 |

Decanter 94 |

The Marquis d'Alesme Becker consists of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, and 5% each Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc, aged in 65% new wood. Massive, viscous color. The Marquis d'Alesme Becker smells intense, enormously sweet and oaky with dark-berry-fruit and some graphitic spices. With multi-layered fine-grained tannins, lots of juice, and creamy fullness, it knows how to convince in the mouth, the acidity is a bit solitary, the body is sturdy and with a good pull. Due to its pressure, high intensity, and high extraction on the tongue, the Marquis d'Alesme Becker is projecting a perfect length on the palate. A strength-athlete.



Château Marquis d'Alesme Becker

**93–94 MARQUIS DE TERME** Margaux Parker 91–93 | Suckling 92–93

Dark color, purple. Dark, fleshy, dense, and sweet, the Marquis de Termes also possesses floral notes in the nose. It has a lot of fruit in the background, a lush extraction, and a tight, offensive, slightly rough tannin structure. At the final part of the tongue, the Marquis de Terme shows a lot of creaminess, red fruits, and some good length with chocolate aromas.

**93–94 PAVILLON ROUGE DU CHÂTEAU MARGAUX** Margaux

Parker 93–95 | Suckling 95–96 |

30% of Château Margaux's production went into the second wine Pavillon Rouge. It consists of 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 9% Petit Verdot, of which the latter is usually used for the third wine. With generous 14.5% alcohol, the Pavillon Rouge is aged in 50% new barrels. Dark color, with purple rim. Dark-berried and dense in the nose, without the classic red-berry-nuances. Massive, very tightly woven, and cool-toned in the mouth, it shows a racy course, is very deep and transparent. Delicate liqueur nuances are always present, fresh, lively, long, and intense — an unusually powerful Pavillon Rouge in this vintage.

**93–94 LABÉGORCE** Margaux Parker 91–93 | Suckling 93–94 |

The Labégorce consists of 44% Merlot, 50% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% each, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc, and is aged in 40% new barrels. Black, massive color. The Labégorce has a super-fragrant, elegant, slightly woody-sweet nose, very offensive and with a feminine, seductive style. Dense and intense in the mouth, it shows a lot of concentration and play, with subtle, racy acidity, fine-grained tannins, and the right length. Fresh, with a dense structure, some graphite, tar, licorice, and a cool aromatic profile resonating. A Margaux with lots of juice, depth and good tension.

**93–94 LASCOMBES** Margaux Parker 92–94 | Suckling 94–95 |

Lacombe, as always, is equipped with a lot of power and core, full, sweet, dense, and intense. It has a penetrating Merlot-scented sweetness, obvious oak aromas, and massive extraction. Its abundant opulence runs contrary to the image of a true Margaux character. Rich and overwhelming, eternally wide-structured, but also somewhat dull and slightly over-extracted, the rough tannins show

yet little melting or flow. Everything is dedicated to its huge presence in the mouth, showing limited depth and hardly any typicity. But you can not deny the sheer quality of this supermassive Lascombes. If Margaux is supposed to be feminine, this one is armed with Botox and Silicone. So let's enjoy Lacombe with a dry-aged steak followed by a cigar.



**93–94 RAUZAN-GASSIES** Margaux *Parker 93–95 | Suckling 90–91 |*

The Rauzan Gassies consists of 84% Cabernet Sauvignon and 26% Merlot, including 13.7% press wine. The aging takes place in 50% new barrels with 13.5% alcohol. Dark color, garnet. It shows an elegant, deep nose, less intense than others. Quite open and profound in the mouth, with a bold structure, it has similarity to its sister-Château Croizet-Bages in Pauillac. Spicy tannins, much denser and finer than usual, racy and with good length, it still lacks a bit power in the aftertaste to rival the neighbor Rauzan-Ségla. Nevertheless, Rauzan-Gassies is clearly on the rise.

**93–94 DU TERTRE** Margaux *Parker 89–91 | Suckling 94–95 |*

Very dense and spicy, with a beautiful, round fruit-component, lots of juice, and freshness. Racy structure with well-knit tannins and slightly dull aftertaste, the du Tertre appears masked and not very lively. Unfortunately, only tasted once, possibly it was a weak sample.

**92–93 BOYD-CANETNAC** Margaux *Parker 89–91 | Suckling 93–94 |*

The Boyd-Cantenac consists of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot 19%, 10% Petit Verdot, and 6% Cabernet Franc with an alcohol content of 13.6%. Black, massive color. Dark-berry aromas, leathery and fleshy in the nose, built more on the intensity-side and less focused on depth or finesse. Dull and dry in the mouth, with a hollow fruit and little creaminess or elegance. Nevertheless, Boyd-Cantenac has a lot of body and rich extraction. Dry, empty finish.

**92–93 CANTENAC-BROWN** Margaux *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 93–94 |*

The Cantenac-Brown consists of 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc, aged in 60% new barrels. Tight and full, with a lot of power and core, the Cantenac-Brown shows enormous body and high extraction. Sweet and smoothly structured, the aromas are a bit dull, and the wine is somewhat constructed.

**92–93 DAUZAC** Margaux *Parker 87–89 | Suckling 93–94 |*

The Dauzac is very tantalizingly, with dense, saturated aromas. Its sweetish intensity carries lots of juice and substance. It has a big berry fruit-aroma with vibrant acidity, fleshy, round, and with dull tannins, it struggles to provide true Margaux-character.

**92–93 MAROJALLIA** Margaux *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 92–93 |*

Massive, black color. Luscious and dense, very overwhelming and full-bodied, the Marojallia attacks the nose. Saturated and concentrated in the mouth, with little acidity and a lot of body, despite its opulence, it shows race too. As well, it has more transparency and fineness than usual. The tannin structure remains dry and dull, but not as over-extracted as in previous vintages.

**92–93 MONBRISON** Margaux *Parker 88–90 | Suckling 90–91 |*

The Monbrison consists of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, and 2% Petit Verdot, aged in 40% new barrels with 14% alcohol. In two tastings, the Monbrison was still extraordinarily youthful and closed, challenging to judge. Dark color. Sweet, closed nose with a lot of intensity in the background. Powerful, with dark-berried presence, opulent, and full-bodied. Fine tannins and saturated presence in the finish.

**92–93 TOUR DE BESSAN** Margaux *Suckling 90–91 |*

At four tastings, the Tour de Bessan showed very well. The estate belongs to Marie-Laure Lurton. The assemblage consists of 60% Merlot, 29% Cabernet Sauvignon and 11% Petit Verdot. Bright color. Meaty, harmonious, with lots of juice and breed, excellent depth and texture, the Tour de Bessan possesses a very typical Margaux-presence. Redberry-like, seductive, with a lot of volume and subtle acidity, bringing its distinguished tannins to the point. Very polished, and with good length, it knows how to charm.



**91–92 BLASON D'ISSAN** Margaux *Parker 88–90 | Suckling 93–94 |*

The Blason d'Issan is a classically, precise Margaux with backbone. Very fragrant, round and creamy, full and tightly woven, with lots of breed and length. It has beautiful, fleshy fruit, good core, and spiciness, as well as great intensity.

**91–92 LE COTEAU** Margaux



The Le Coteau consists of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, and 3% Petit Verdot. The 2018 Le Coteau is more massive than usual and less elegant than before. It has a high concentration of dark-berry, fleshy fruit, fresh and well-structured, with good transparency and cool-toned character.

**91–92 MONGRAVEY** Margaux *Suckling 91–92 |*



The Mongravey consists of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, and 2% Cabernet Franc, aged in 60% new barrique-barrels. Black color, viscous. Rich, massive, and full, the Mongravey 2018 is highly concentrated and compacted; currently, it shows a bit harsh and severe, with a good, intense aftertaste. That should arrange everything by the time.

**91–92 OR NORME** Margaux *Parker 90–92 |*

The Or Norme belongs to the Château Tayac. Black, massive color. Dense and intense, with lots of power and spice, the Or Norme seems slightly over-extracted. Full of pressure and with a rich body, it has a bit too little finesse for his weight.

**91–92 SÉGLA** Margaux *Suckling 93–94 |*

The Ségla is the second wine of Rauzan-Ségla. It consists of 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, and 2% Petit Verdot, aged in 25% new barrels. Black color. Offensive and concentrated, the Ségla has an enormous freshness and rich extract sweetness in the nose. Tight, transparent, and with a good punch in the mouth, it has a perfect body and a tight acidity. Together with the right balance it has an animating drinking flow.

**91–92 TAYAC** Margaux *Parker 88–90 | Suckling 88–89 |*

Black color. The Tayac shows a lot of juice and fullness with rich extraction, while it has a lot of creaminess and good flow. So the Tayac presents itself as a modern, polished Margaux with good concentration. The Or Norme from the same producer is a bit overambitious.

**90–91 DESMIRAIL** Margaux *Parker 87–89 | Suckling 91–92 |*

Rich, sweet, and massive, the Desmirail shows excellent structure and density. Creamy and rich in extraction, the tannins are somewhat dull and dry. The Desmirail seems a bit bold and massive.

**90–91 SIRAN** Margaux *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 94–95 |*

The Siran supports a good dark-berry structure; it is full and fresh, with lots of juice and some dull tannins. In the aftertaste, it has a tendency to hardness and severe charisma with restrained fruit.

**90–91 LA TOUR DE MONS** Margaux *Parker 88–90 | Suckling 92–93 |*

The La Tour de Mons has a lighter color and a restrained nose with leathery notes. Sweetish round, concentrated and corpulent in the mouth, with plenty of substance and pressure, lemony fruit-aspects and racy acidity, but also hard tannins.

**89–90 CHEVALIER DE LASCOMBES** Margaux

**88–89 MARSAC-SÉGUINEAU** Margaux





## Graves and Pèssac-Léognan rouge

**98–99 HAUT-BRION** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Parker 97–99 | Suckling 98–99 | WeinWisser 20/20*



At Haut-Brion, the mildew was well under control with eight sprayings. There was a bit of coulure on the Cabernets, and the vineyards close to the city got a bit of hail so that a yield of 45hl per hectare could be harvested for white and red wines. The red Haut-Brion reached 14.6% alcohol and consists of 49.4% Merlot, 38.7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 11.9% Cabernet Franc. A total of 51% of the production went into the Grand Vin, which was aged in 60% new barrels. Dark color. The wide-spread nose of the Haut-Brion presents itself entirely in one piece, expansive, saturated, and fruity. Full, intense, and immensely profound, this Haut-Brion is extraordinarily balanced and multi-layered in the mouth, with a dense structure, exceptional energy, and fine acidity. The widely distributed tannins make use of one of the largest-scaled frames of the vintage, are tight and fine-grained, and imperceptibly integrate into the cathedral-like, monumental structure. Fresh and perfectly polished, once again, this Haut-Brion shows everything in the right place. Very fine and differentiated, with great, noble class and the most delicate fruit. 2018 is now the fourth vintage in a row, in which Haut-Brion is at the very top of the best Bordeaux. Only Ausone can keep pace at this level from 2015 to 2018!

**97–98 LA MISSION HAUT-BRION** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Parker 98–100 | Suckling 97–98 | WeinWisser 19.5/20*



At La Mission, the same vineyard work as at Haut-Brion was equally successful. Again, the yield is 45hl per hectare. With 14.4% alcohol, the La Mission shows a slightly lighter content than the Haut-Brion. For the Grand Vin 53% of the production were used. The assemblage consists of 53.5% Merlot, 42.9% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 3.6% Cabernet Franc, and was aged in 60% new barrels. Dark color. Dark-berry-flavor, dense and fleshy, the nose of La Mission presents itself, full and rich, with good energy and high intensity. Powerful, fresh and with a dark-berry-component, the La Mission begins in the mouth, felt with low-acidity and full-bodied meaty fruit. Its pungent tannins are profound and have a big tension with an elegant and appealing spiciness. With very good length, rich dark-berry-extract sweetness, and a good deal of force, it reminds a bit of the phenomenal La Mission 1989.



**96–98 HAUT-BAILLY** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Parker 96–98 |*

*Suckling 97–98 | WeinWisser 19+/20*

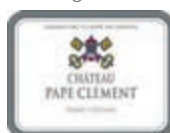


The mildew caused an uneven maturity of the grapes at Haut-Bailly. Therefore picking and sorting the grapes had to be made very differentiating and attentively. The harvest took place from the 17<sup>th</sup> of September to the 9<sup>th</sup> of October. The berries were much smaller than usual, so finally, the yield was a mere 21 hl per hectare. The remarkable second wine La Parde from the vintage 2018 on, is renamed »Haut-Bailly II«. At 14.4% and an IPT of 86, the highest ever alcohol and tannin content were measured at Haut-Bailly. The Assemblage consists of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, and 5% each, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc, aged in 50% new oak barrels. Very dark, massively viscous color. Extremely opulent, with dark-berry sweetness, and wide-spread aromatics, the big nose of the Haut-Bailly seems to be made entirely of one piece. Lush and intense in the mouth, it also shows enormous depth and subtle differentiation. Extremely dense and offensive, it is highly compacted in itself, showing a cool-toned, intensive tannin-framework, which was finely buffered with sweet extract and intensity. Eternally long and fine, it has a breathtaking creaminess and freshness, is very polished and even — a superb Haut-Bailly, in the Pèssac-Appellation just behind Haut-Brion and La Mission.



**95–96 PAPE-CLÉMENT** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Parker 96–98 |*

*Suckling 97–98 | WeinWisser 18.5/20*



Pape-Clément was harvested from the 20<sup>th</sup> of September to the 12<sup>th</sup> of October. The Grand Vin consists of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 4% Cabernet Franc. Two-thirds of it age in new barrels, a total of 10% of the Grand Vin age in big oak-casks. Black color. Fresh and highly concentrated, the Pape-Clément smells with excellent depth and generous sweetness. Deep and full, the Pape-Clement also appears in the mouth, with very fine-grained, closely woven tannins and exceptional freshness. Complex, with a racy structure and a delicate, lively acidity, it presents itself very tightly organized, cool-toned and wide, very clear and transparent, with high extraction without being chocolaty. 2018 is a full-bodied, powerful Pape-Clément, which remains long and compact on the palate and exerts great fascination.



**96–98 SMITH HAUT LAFITTE** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Parker 97–99 |*

*Suckling 98–99 | WeinWisser 19/20*



At Smith Haut Lafite, due to the ecological farming, a loss by mildew of 30% had to be accepted. The berries were small with thick skins, so technical director Fabien Teitgen opted for a gentler extraction and longer maceration time. Means, at the end of the alcoholic fermentation, the pomace was left as in a tea infusion only. Between four and six weeks, the musts were left on the skins for a quite long period. The assemblage consists of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. Much of the 60% new barriques-barrels were used from their own cooperage of Smith Haut Lafitte. Black, massive color. Dark-berried and with a hint of chocolate, the marvelous red Smith Haut Lafitte smells impressive and is yet exceptionally fresh and precise. With some graphite and very softly condensed dark-berry-aromas, it is very wide-spread, massive, and opulently rich. The mighty appearance in the mouth is reminiscent of the equally perfect Haut-Bailly, but the tannins of the Smith Haut Lafitte are a little more rounded. It has an enormous, broad structure on the palate, with perfect balance and deeply layered, soft extract-sweetness. Eternally long, this perfect 2018 SHL concludes with a lot of finesse and is always fruit-driven with generous dark-berry-aromas in the finish.



Thomas Boxberger and Fabien Teitgen

**94–95 LES CARMES HAUT-BRION** Pèssac-Léognan rouge  
*Parker 94–96 | Suckling 97–98 | WeinWisser 19/20*



Les Carmes Haut-Brion was harvested from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of September with a yield of 37hl per hectare. The Grand Vin is composed of 37% Cabernet Franc, 34% Cabernet Sauvignon and 29% Merlot with 13.75% alcohol. To keep up with modern times, 75% of the wine is aged in new barriques, 16% in big oak-casks, and 9% in amphorae. Somewhat lighter color. Fragrant and spicy, Les Carmes has a very own character in the smell, with sweetish top notes, lots of fresh fruit and red-berry kernel, very distinct, ripe, and with liqueur reflexes. The dense, racy tannin structure of Les Carmes is backed by a subtle acidity, deep and polished, very long and sexy. Slightly rougher than Haut-Bailly and Smith-Haut-Lafitte, the Les Carmes shows tremendous freshness and high concentration from the Cabernet Franc. A characterful, multi-layered Pèssac-Léognan, that invites to spend a lot of time with it.

**94–95 DE FIEUZAL** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 92–93 |*



Due to mildew at Fieuzal, only 22hl per hectare were harvested. The Grand Vin was composed of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot with 14% alcohol. Half of it is aging in new barriques, with some big oak-casks being used as well. Dark color, brightening rim. Luscious, raisiny, and fleshy, the Fieuzal rouge 2018 smells with good depth and freshness quite a bit untypical by character. Full-bodied, round and soft, very full and racy, it shows a lot of creaminess on the palate. Fine tannins accompany the beautiful, soft course. Elegant and rounded, the Fieuzal shows surprisingly few edges this year.



**94–95 HAUT-BAILLY II** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 93–94 | WeinWisser 17/20*



The La Parde is now called Haut-Bailly II and with the new name, immediately landed a direct hit. This is definitely one of the best second wines of the vintage! It consists of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot, has 14.3% alcohol, and ages in 30% new barrels. Bright color, viscous. Dark-berried, cherry-like, and with delicate herbal spice, the Haut-Bailly II smells very wide and full of meat. It has enormous power, subtle chocolatey to nutty nuances, and a lot of fruit. Dense and broad in the mouth, the tannins are excellent and precisely worked, as well as widely distributed on the palate. Silky, very compact, deep, and complex, it has a powerful liqueur-like finish. One can hardly believe that it is a second wine. Some Grand Vin could easily cut a slice here.



**93–94 DOMAINE DE CHEVALIER** Pèssac-Léognan rouge  
*Parker 94–96 | Suckling 99–100 | WeinWisser 18.5\*/20*



The Domaine de Chevalier consists of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot, is aged to one-third in new barrels with 13.5% alcohol. Dark color. Sweetish, spicy in the nose with a lot of power and fruit, ripe Merlot richness, a bit dull note, with a slightly greenish trace. Full and intense, just as somewhat dull fruit flavors, little creaminess, and juice, yet very powerful and profound. Very lively and compact Domaine de Chevalier with vibrating acidity and a full, dry finish with a lot of race.

**93–94 DE FRANCE** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Parker 90–92 | Suckling 92–93 |*



Due to the frost of 2017, the vines on de France were very productive in the following growing season and produced a whopping 52hl per hectare. The qualities are clearly on the rise in recent years at de France. The 2018 Rouge consists of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon and 45% Merlot with 13.5% alcohol and is aged in 30% new barrels. Dark color. Open, juicy, clean, and distinct, the nose of de France presents itself very animating. It has a lot of fruit with beautiful depth, fine oak presence, and good complexity. Dense and concentrated, with a liqueur-sweet, rich, and deep top note and good freshness, it presents itself in the mouth with ripe tannins, race, and grip – excellent de France with creaminess, intensity, and length.

**93–94 LATOUR-MARTILLAC** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Parker 93–95 |*

*Suckling 93–94 |*



At Latour-Martillac, the qualities of red and white have been increased in recent years. In 2018, 37 hl per hectare was harvested, and the red Grand Vin consists of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, and 8% Petit Verdot with a hot 14.7% alcohol. Dark color. The Latour-Martillac has a youthful, dull nose with liqueur top notes, chalky nuances in the core aroma, and racy fruit. Firm and clear in the mouth, the Latour-Martillac produces plenty of pressure and richness with dark-berry-liqueur-cherry fruit, full-bodied, and fleshy. It is not very complex but profound and racy. The solid tannins of the Latour-Martillac have tension and style; overall, it has a good balance and is not quite as long in the finish.

**93–94 LA LOUVIÈRE** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Parker 92–94 |*

*Suckling 92–93 |*



At La Louvière 43 hl per hectare were harvested, the Grand Vin consists of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot and is aged in 30–40% new barrels. Dark color kernel, purple rim. Open, intense dark-berry fruit in the nose, with lots of juice, some oak influence, and good depth; it is worked from one piece. Melty, juicy, powerful, and quite round, the La Louvière presents itself in the mouth, viscous, with delicate length and good tension. Deep, fresh, and with well-structured tannins, it has a punchy full-bodied midpalate with plenty of extracts and slightly dry aftertaste.

**93–94 LE PETIT HAUT LAFITTE** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Parker 90–92 |*

*Suckling 92–93 |*

Le Petit Haut Lafite is an outstanding second wine. It consists of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot with 13.5% alcohol and ages in 20% new barrels. Massive, viscous color. Dense fruit in the smell with enormously full concentration, dark-berry aroma, and high intensity. Tight and fresh in the mouth, the Le Petit Haut Lafite shows a meaty, full-bodied core with great spice and breed, as well as good length. It is not offered en primeur.

**92–93 LE CLARENCE DE HAUT-BRION** Pèssac-Léognan rouge

*Parker 92–94 | Suckling 94–95 |*

Le Clarence de Haut-Brion consists of 58.2% Merlot, 9.7% Cabernet Franc, 28.5% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3.6% Petit Verdot. It has a darker color kernel, is fleshy and rounder than the La Chapelle de La Mission Haut-Brion, with subtle acidity, lots of pressure and core, lovely cherry fruit and fine-grained tannins. Broad, with good energy.



**92–93 LE CLÉMENTIN DE PAPE-CLÉMENT** Pèssac-Léognan rouge

*Suckling 94–95 |*

The Clémentin de Pape-Clément consists of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 49% Merlot, and 1% Petit Verdot. With a lot of intensity, a broad, intensive tannin structure, a lot of pressure, and freshness, the concentrated Clémentin characterizes itself with a dark-berry, fruity presence. Somewhat monolithic and with limited creaminess.

**92–93 ELIXIR DU GRAND ENCLOS** Graves rouge

The Elixir du Grand Enclos is the top cuvée of Grand Enclos de Cérons in Graves. Dark-berried, dense, completely wrapped in spicy coffee notes and finest toasted oak in the nose. Its nose appears entirely in one piece, very subtle, with discreet sweetness, fresh and confused at the same time, profound and multi-faceted. Densely woven, very creamy, with haptic fullness and juicy core-aroma, structured with spices such as cloves, cinnamon, and juniper, which merge with caramel sweetness, tar, and licorice to form a whole. Very powerful, with finely arranged acidity, orange peel in the finish, and the most elegant tannins, which mate with the fresh wood. Outstanding, racy cuvée with a unique character and delicate sensuality.

**92–93 LARRIVET-HAUT-BRION** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Parker 91–93 |*

*Suckling 92–93 |*



At Larrivet Haut-Brion 35 hl were harvested per hectare, the Grand Vin consists of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc and 30% Merlot with 13.6% alcohol and aged in 100% new barrels. Dark color, brightening rim. Unusually red fruit, delicate and Burgundian at the beginning, the Larrivet Haut-Brion smells with fine herbal spice and gentle extraction. Tight and firm, it shows itself articulately fuller and more structured in the mouth than the nose suggests. Slightly stiff, dull, and dry, with an empty finish, the Larrivet Haut-Brion has to come to terms with the new oak.





**92–93 MALARTIC-LAGRAVIÈRE** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 93–94* |



Thirty-five hectoliters per hectare were harvested at Malartic-Lagravière. The Grand Vin was composed of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot, and 3% Cabernet Franc. It reached 13.5% alcohol and ages in 70% new barrels. Black color, viscous. Sweet, extraordinarily liqueur-like and full in the nose, a bit dull and vegetal, a lot of wood and richness, very present, with abundant fruit. Powerful, full-bodied and opulent on the palate, youthful astringency and almost bitter, with ripe fruit, slightly confused and dull, less freshness, but with soft finish. Still seems a bit indifferent.

**92–93 OLIVIER** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 92–93* | Despite some mildew, at Olivier, 40hl per hectare were able to be harvested. The Grand Vin consists of 50% Merlot, 46% Cabernet Sauvignon and 4% Petit Verdot. It has a handsome 14.9% alcohol and ages in 33% new barrels. The Olivier has a massive color, sweet nose with full-bodied character, very offensive, with warm aromas and lots of oak. Dense and racy in the mouth, it has a lot of juice and body with little flow despite fleshy dull tannins. The Olivier is currently somehow broad and superficial. Maybe the sample was taken out of new barrels, because of the evident oak aroma.



Château Olivier

**91–92 BOUSCAUT** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Parker 89–91 | Suckling 91–92* |

At Bouscaut, 42hl per hectare were harvested. 58% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6% Malbec aged in 40% new barrels. Bright color. Spicy nose with dark fruit. It is tightly structured in the mouth, with dull tannins, firm, with a fleshy midpalate, creamy body, and rounded fruit, low acidity, and rich aftertaste.

**91–92 LA CHAPELLE DE LA MISSIONHAUT-BRION** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 93–94* |

La Chapelle de La Mission Haut-Brion consists of 40.8% Merlot, 51.6% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7.6% Cabernet Franc. Dense and intense, with beautiful, rich fruit, lots of meat and breed, slightly pointing acidity. It has a compact tannin structure with a lot of juice, is full-bodied, with cherry-like aromas, quite fresh, and bright, it has a slightly rough course towards the finish.

**91–92 CLOS MARSALETTE** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Suckling 89–90* |



Count Stephan von Neipperg continuously raises the qualities of his wines. 42hl per hectare were harvested at Clos Marsalette. The red Clos Marsalette offers immense drinking pleasure. It consists of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon and 45% Merlot, and ages with 13.5% alcohol in 45% new barrels. Liqueur-like sweetness, ripe and massive, dark-berried and fresh, the Clos Marsalette is very inviting. Lush and with lots of juice and spice, it is very meaty, fruity, and equipped with saturated, rounded tannins, and good length.

**91–92 DOMAINE DE LA SOLITUDE** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Parker 90–92 | Suckling 93–94* |

Olivier Bernard of the Domaine de Chevalier also operates the Domaine de la Solitude. Black color. Dark berry, fresh and full-bodied, 2018 shows tremendous intensity. Keep an eye!

**91–92 FERRAND** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Parker 87–89 | Suckling 90–91* |

At Ferrand, a whopping 54.75hl were harvested per hectare. The Grand Vin has 13% alcohol and was composed in a 60/40 ratio of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Dark color. Discrete nose with, chocolaty scents and dark-berry aromatic. With chocolate and cherry, it also starts in the mouth, very powerful, with lots of juice and breed and limited length.

**91–92 LE PAPE** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 92–93* |



Haut-Bailly's sister-estate had to withstand a storm during flowering, which led to coulure. The assemblage is composed of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon with 14.6% alcohol. 30% age in new barrels, the color is dark and viscous. Sweet, juicy, and much more opulent than usual, the nose of Le Pape presents itself very inviting. Solid and full-bodied in the mouth, quite round meaty, with lots of juice and breed, it has a strong structure. Luscious, fat, and classy, it is long and fresh on the palate; in the finish, the alcohol flashes up a little.



**91–92 PICQUE-CAILLOU** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 89–90* |

The Picque Caillou consists of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 10% Petit Verdot with 13.5% alcohol, aged in one-third of new barrels. Sweet, voluptuous, and slightly dull, the Picque-Caillou presents itself very full, somewhat simplistic, and lifted. A little hollow in the finish, it still has a beautiful, liqueur-like aftertaste.

**91–92 RAHOUL** Graves rouge *Parker 89–91 | Suckling 92–93 |*



The Rahoul belongs to the estates of the Dourthe group. Between 45 and 50hl per hectare could be harvested at Rahoul. The assemblage consists of 60% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Petit Verdot with 13.5% alcohol and 30% new barrels. Black color. Tight, full, and roasted in the nose, with lots of new oak. Roasted, sweet, and with dark-berry to cherry fruit, Rahoul starts in the mouth. It carries a lot of body, strength, and a balsamic sweetness and shows high concentration and richness.



Château Carbonnieux

**90–91 CARBONNIEUX** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Parker 91–93 |*

*Suckling 92–93 |*



Solid 33 hl per hectare were harvested at Carbonnieux. The assemblage consists of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 5% each, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. The Carbonnieux has 14% alcohol and ages in 40% new barrels. Massive color with purple rim. It shows a slightly indifferent nose with little fruit flavors, dull and herbaceous, yet dense, with liqueur-like notes and balsamic sweetness. Spicy in the mouth, with plenty of power and a slight creaminess. Yet, little core-flavor comes through, the middle keeps hollow, with a dull aroma. Somewhat rough and crude, the Carbonnieux has a favorable overall concentration, but all this has to come together.

**90–91 DE CÉRONS** Graves rouge *Parker 85–87 | Suckling 89–90 |*

One half each, of the de Cérons, is Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, and half of the aging is done in new barrels. It represents a lot of substance, is full and concentrated, the tannins remain slightly dull, the aromatic seems mashed and imprecise. Nevertheless, de Cérons has good dark-berry fruit, showing meat and chocolate with dense structure.

**90–91 CHANTEGRIVE** Graves rouge *Parker 88–90 | Suckling 90–91 |*

The well-made Chantegrive consists of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. 35hl per hectare were harvested, with 13% alcohol content, supported by 35% new barrels for aging. Dark color. It has an open nose with quite lush top notes and restrained core-flavor. Opulent and full, it shows on the palate, with some dull tannins and slightly hard charisma. Its crystalline acidity adds crisp freshness, and the midpalate looks a bit hollow, the structure tight.

**90–91 CLOS FLORIDÈNE** Graves rouge *Parker 87–89 | Decanter 88 |*

The Clos Floridène consists of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot, aged in 33% new barrels. The fleshy Clos Floridène is dense, sweet, and lush. A vibrant acidity leads the regiment, with slightly shallow tannins, lots of pulp, but only limited finesse – a quickly accessible good wine to enjoy.

**90–91 COUHINS LURTON** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Parker 89–91 |*

*Suckling 92–93 |*

Dark color. The nose carries a dense concentration, some chocolate, currently little depth. Round and very lively in the mouth, it has good tension and differentiated depth. Very fresh, it stays on the palate for a long time, only a little bit the tannins dominate in the finish.

**90–91 GRAND ENCLOS DE CÉRONS** Graves rouge



The Grand Enclos consists of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. Dense, matured, with a lot of creaminess, and a cool-toned, precisely staggered fruit and delicate oak, the Grand Enclos shows a lot of power of spicy Cabernet. Profound, with spices, most exceptional roasted notes, and subtle sweetness, the Merlot gives it a silky richness. Lively, well-structured, deep, and multifaceted, this well-made Graves is very commendable as an inexpensive Bordeaux.

**90–91 HAUT-BERGEY** Pèssac-Léognan rouge *Parker 90–92 |*

*Suckling 91–92 |*

With the 2018 vintage, Haut-Bergey was certified biodynamic; the yield was a mere 20hl per hectare. 42% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Cabernet Franc and 6% Petit Verdot came with 13.5% into the assemblage. Dark, viscous. Discrete nose with little aroma, dark berry fruit in the background. It has a dry and hard structure in the mouth with a dull aftertaste. It remains completely dry and can hopefully be more aromatic with further aging.

**90–91 PEYRAT** Graves rouge

Reductively closed, with a rich sweetness and fresh fruit, not very broad, the Peyrat shows quite good overall potential.

**90–91 LE PRÉLAT DE PAPE-CLÉMENT** Graves rouge *Parker 87–89 |*

*Suckling 90–91 |*

The third wine of Pape-Clément is impressive. It consists of 77% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc. Dense and meaty, with a lot of dark-berry-scented extract and spiciness, lush, with distinct texture, and firm tannins.

**90–91 VIEUX CHÂTEAU GAUBERT** Pèssac-Léognan rouge

The Vieux Château Gaubert is a characterful wine. With its raspy note, it reminds a little bit of Pinot Noir, sweet and concentrated. Wide-spread and puristic in the mouth, it is clearly structured, intensive, liqueur-like notes within, a bit simplistic but exciting. At the back, the tannins beat.

**89–90 BROWN | LA GRADE | LESPAULT-MARTILLAC** Pèssac-Léognan rouge

**88–89 BARTET | COUHINS | FERRAN | Pèssac-Léognan rouge |**

**HAURA | Graves rouge**





## Pomerol

**98–99 PÉTRUS** Pomerol *Parker 98–100 | Suckling 100 | WeinWisser 20/20*



At Pétrus harvest started early, from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of September, to avoid any overripeness. Depth, precision, and transparency are the primary attributes of Pétrus. Around 37 hl per hectare were harvested. The blue clay in the subsoil was able to fill up with water reserves in the rainy spring, and in the dry, hot phase, it prevented that the vines suffered from lack of water.

Small rains at the end of the growing season helped to ensure perfect water supply. With around 20 days of skin contact, the pure Merlot of Pétrus has experienced a rather gentle extraction. It reached 14.5% alcohol and then came in half new barrels — vivid, bright, with dark color. In the nose, the Pétrus is still a bit closed, with extremely delicate, deep fruit, more in dark berry orientation but also with red fruit nuances, much more floral than usual, as always extraordinarily delicious and sophisticated. Dark-berried, fresh, perfectly ripe, and compact, in the mouth, it shows its incredible finesse and profound spice. The fine-meshed tannins of Pétrus form together to a single piece, very fine-grained, gentle, juicy, and distinctively arranged. Very complete, fleshy, with perfect balance and excellent precision, the 2018 Pétrus is equivalent to the past top vintages. The vintages of 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 should have been the highest quality and most complete quartet at Pétrus anyway. Eternally long, with excellent delicacy and pureté on the palate, this magnificent Merlot concludes with imperceptible power reserves.



**98–99 TROTANOY** Pomerol *Parker 97–99 | Suckling 98–99 | WeinWisser 19.5/20*



The Trotanoy consists of about 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. Dark, dense color, very viscous. Distinctive, full, sweet, and highly condensed, the Trotanoy smells a little less offensive, with more restraint and dark-berry-oriented, generous fruit with floral accents. Fully ripe, with lots of juice and creamy richness, the Trotanoy delivers a seductive scenario in the mouth, with delicate fruit that appears sublime and distinguished, yet has incredible power and abundance. The lively tannins are deeply anchored to the palate, velvety, and with a round fullness. Tar, licorice, and concentrated extract sweetness resonate subtly in the background. Long and dense, the Trotanoy reveals extraordinary depth and impressive harmony in the finish. Quite fluffily and unstressed, the Trotanoy brings a firework of tense aromas with remarkable distinction and extreme concentration to the palate. Together with Pétrus, Lafleur, Vieux Château Certan, l'Eglise-Clinet, and La Conseillante, Trotanoy has achieved one of the greatest Pomerols of the vintage. It would be a dream to taste these six Pomerols in ten years next to each other.



Guillaume Thienpont

**98–99 VIEUX CHÂTEAU CERTAN** Pomerol *Parker 97–100 | Suckling 99–100 | WeinWisser 19.5/20*



The Thienpont family has produced some of the most delicate Pomerols at Vieux Certan in recent years. 2018 is one of the most impressive. From the 19<sup>th</sup> of September, the harvest continued with some interruptions to the 9<sup>th</sup> of October. It was the vintage of the Cabernet Franc, says Guillaume Thienpont, the Cabernet Sauvignon had suffered a bit from the drought, and the Merlot was a little less expressive. The Cabernet Franc grows on three different plots, which were picked and vinified separately: clay, gravel, and gravelly clay. By precisely separating these plots and ultimately merging them into a perfect assemblage, the Thienponts gain the magical depth and complexity inherent in their Vieux Château Certan. 70% Merlot came to the Grand Vin in 2018 with 30% Cabernet Franc, it is aged in 70% new barrels and reached 14.4% alcohol. Lively, bright color. Very fine, profound, and energetic, the Vieux Château Certan has a delicate richness, floral notes, and is extremely subtle, with generous fruit. Very elegant, with beautiful creaminess and dense, massive structure, the Vieux Château Certan has a lot of juice and distinction in the mouth, very expressive, built on finesse, and floating length. The extremely fine-grained, filigree multi-layered tannins are finely rounded and discreetly integrated into the mineral, subtle linear body. Incredibly deep, attractive, and graceful, highly polished, and perfectly balanced. A great Vieux Château Certan.



Baptiste Guinaudeau

**98–99 LAFLEUR** Pomerol *Parker 97–100 | Suckling 100 | WeinWisser 20/20*



The Guinaudeau family of Château Lafleur delivered one of the best collections of the year in 2018. Already the simple whites and reds of Grand Village showed perfect balance. The great Lafleur is an incredibly well-done Pomerol, one of the best red wines from Bordeaux of the vintage at all. Lafleur brought it to 14.6% alcohol and is aged in 30%, not entirely new barrels. To protect Lafleur against an influence of fresh oak, the new barrels are always previously used at Grand Village for half of a year. The Lafleur consists of 46% Merlot and 54% of the traditional grape Bouchet, a variety of Cabernet Franc. To the Guinaudeau family, this distinction between the classic Bouchet of the »rive droite« and the normal Cabernet Franc, as cultivated on the Loire-valley, is crucial; because the genetic and aromatic differences are distinct. The 2018 Lafleur has a black color, and also the nose is impenetrable, very deep, and distinguished. The Grand Vin Lafleur has its own characteristic and great freshness and is much less offensively than the second wine *Pensees de Lafleur*. In the mouth, it is very fine and floating, incredibly dense, and with a creamy texture. It is enormously full on the palate and has stony notes; it has a most delicate acidity and high, inner tension. Finally, Lafleur shows a breathtaking playfulness. Although it is incredibly rich, it does not seem to be heavy or full. The Large, dark-berried Lafleur, again stands out completely from the very different terroir of the *Pensees de Lafleur* with its very own character.



Lafleur

**98–99 LA CONSEILLANTE** Pomerol *Parker 96–98 | Suckling 97–98 |*



At La Conseillante, about 10% of the harvest was lost because of coulure, but only about 4% due to the mildew. This resulted in a yield of 32hl per hectare within a very brief harvest period of just six days between the 19<sup>th</sup> of September and the 4<sup>th</sup> of October (11.79 hectares). The assemblage consists of 83% Merlot and 17% Cabernet Franc with 14% alcohol. With a measured IPT of 100 in comparison with the usual 72–75, the tannin content of 2018 La Conseillante is possibly record-breaking. But the tannin-extraction is not the only reason why La Conseillante has become one of the best wines of the vintage. Black, massive color. Dark-berried, lavish, and full, the La Conseillante smells from the glass. The incredible richness of fruit also supports some floral notes, eternally profound, intense yet delicate in itself. It offers complexity, tremendous intensity, and cool-toned, crunchy flavors, as well as enormous richness at the same time. This abundance is known for warm years, but the fruit of La Conseillante is cool and transparent. It is incredibly inviting and offers drinking pleasure, with great freshness and excitement. Eternally long on the palate with enormous tannin-intensity, which, however, conform around the palate quite mellow and round. It shows a dense, viscous texture on the finish, with balsamic notes in the long aftertaste, incredibly profound and seductive. La Conseillante is the best example of the phenomenon, that already at the primeurs tastings, many wines seemed to be ready to be enjoyed for dinner!



**98–99 L'ÉGLISE-CLINET** Pomerol *Parker 96–98 | Suckling 99–100 | WeinWisser 19.5/20*



Denis Durantou has made great efforts to maximize the quality of his portfolio further. The l'Eglise Clinet consists of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, it is aged in 70% new barrels and has 14.5% of alcohol content. It was harvested early, from the the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> September, and has a dark, massive color. Sweet, intense, and chocolaty, with fine balsamic notes, incredibly multi-layered and highly concentrated, the l'Eglise-Clinet is equipped with a deep, impenetrable fruit in the nose. Very dark-berry, massively concentrated fruit in the mouth, as well, extremely widespread on the palate with chocolaty reflections and the most excellent herbal spiciness of Cabernet Franc. It is highly compacted and distinctly structured, with enormous tension and fine-grained tannins, incredibly full-bodied and long in the finish. As always, one of the most massive, masculine Pomerols. This year, the Merlot has little of its red-fruited suppleness, dark, cool fruit flavors prevail. With 10 to 15 years of maturity, this l'Eglise-Clinet should be incredibly sexy!



*L'Eglise-Clinet*

**97-98 LA FLEUR PÉTRUS** Pomerol *Parker 94-96 | Suckling 97-98 | WeinWisser 19/20*



The famous La Fleur Pétrus consists of 91% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. Fragrant, delicate, and subtle, it shows a seductive nose, very full and compact, with plenty of juice in it and great depth. Meaty, dark-berried in the mouth, with an elegant structure and a tremendous, punchy depth, La Fleur Pétrus knows how to attract attention. With an unusually dark berried, rich fruit in liqueur-like characteristic and brilliantly crystalline acidity, it combines the imperceptibly bound, fine-grained, rich tannins with its huge body of abundant extraction. Sweet, overwhelming, and with a chocolaty finish, La Fleur Pétrus is just a touch behind the top group of Pomerol with Pétrus, Lafleur, Vieux Château Certan, L'Eglise-Clinet, La Conseillante, and Trotanoy. However, those who prefer their Pomerol a bit more intense and mind-blowing may be better served with the La Fleur Pétrus anyway.

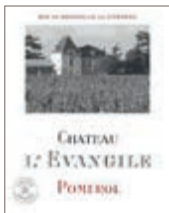


*Trotanoy*



Château Evangile

**96–97 EVANGILE** Pomerol Parker 97–99 | Suckling 98–99 | WeinWisser 19.5/20



In 2017 there was a 50% loss of yield due to frost at Evangile; in 2018, it was also 50% due to mildew. So there will be only 10hl each of the second wine Blason and the Grand Vin in this vintage. Only 20hl per hectare were harvested from the 19<sup>th</sup> of September to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October. The assemblage is a classic blend of 80/20 Merlot and Cabernet Franc with 14.5% alcohol, aged in 100% new barrels. Black color. Sweet, opulent, and with spicy, balsamic notes, the Evangile overwhelms every taster by its hedonistic nose. Its deep, fat fruit is more than appealing, with high intensity, yet it is a little bit closed, but there will be more to come with maturity. With a lot of chocolate, rich, condensed, and luscious, the Evangile starts in the mouth. Enormously fleshy, with excellent tension and massive, fruity richness, it shows a deep, long structure. At the moment, the tannins appear a bit dry, the oak influence is not noticeable, and everything is still very youthful and burstingly fresh. Most likely, the 2018 Evangile has not yet laid all the cards on the table and may catch up with La Fleur Pétrus.

**96–97 FEYTIT-CLINET** Pomerol Parker 93–95 | Suckling 95–96 | WeinWisser 18/20



The Feytit-Clinet was able to convince in four tastings and is again represented in the group of the eleven best Pomerols. As always, at this point, it is the most favorable Pomerol by price. You should not miss this offering in your cellar. Jérémy Chasseuil harvested a pleasing 42 hl per hectare from the 19<sup>th</sup> of September to the 5<sup>th</sup> of October. In the assemblage, 92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc work together with a handsome 14.8% alcohol, aged in 70% new barrels. As always, Feytit-Clinet has the darkest color of all Pomerols, nearly black. Dark-berried and full in the overwhelming nose, with lots of substance and licorice sweetness in the background. Super-concentrated and juicy in the mouth,



Jérémy Chasseuil  
Château Feytit-Clinet

it shows a generous structure, always remains fresh and complex, and is equipped with brute energy. It has round, molten, and rich tannins, as well as a crisp acidity and great length with a salty-sweetish and liqueur-like aftertaste. Very differentiated, subtle, and yet above all, an absolutely hedonistic drinking pleasure. Because this Pomerol was simply picked at the right time, without over-maturity or over-extracted weight, alcohol or fresh oak is not noticeable at any time. Great Feytit-Clinet at it's best!

**96–97 LA FLEUR DE GAY** Pomerol Parker 89–91 | Suckling 94–95 | WeinWisser 19/20



There will be about 7,000 bottles of La Fleur de Gay. While it was formerly produced from pure Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc are now integrated into the assemblage. La Fleur de Gay is sourced mainly from two plots totaling 2.25 hectares: Le Gay owns an eight-meter-deep loam bed with an overlay of fine pebbles. In the location Groupey near Trotanoy and Le Pin, the clay is already reached after 1.5 meters depth, and the pebbles are much larger here. About 30hl per hectare were harvested. La Fleur de Gay has 14% alcohol and a dark, vibrant color. Sweet, ripe, and highly intense, La Fleur de Gay has an explosive fruity nose with a subtle hint of *Goudron* (kind of tar), is super-densely woven, fresh, and crunchy. Enormously meaty, full, with massive fruit and high intensity, the La Fleur de Gay overwhelms in the mouth. With a lot of juice and extremely sugary back aroma, the magnificent fruit coats the palate. Very precise, fresh and long, with creamy, round tannins, it shows a delicate, and classy structure, rich of extracts. Full of pressure, multi-layered, and with enormous intensity, it lingers for a long time in the finish. This is promising great drinking pleasure in 10 to 15 years' time.



Chantal Lebreton  
and her son Jean-Pascale

**96–97 LE PIN** Pomerol Parker 97–99 | Suckling 98–99 | WeinWisser 19.5/20



As always, Le Pin is a pure Merlot. It was harvested at 30hl per hectare, reached 14.5% alcohol, and matured in 100% new barrels. Dark, bright color. Le Pin has a fine dark berry nose with an incredible delicacy. Still a bit closed, Le Pin shows that it again has this extremely fragrant, dancing finesse, which is often reminiscent of the very best Burgundies. With plenty of fruit, it has a rather dark-scented core-aroma and an excellent, seductive depth. In the mouth, it has beautiful, filigree, and yet firmly organized tannins. Deep and finely balanced, with plenty of fruit and a voluptuous sweetness, its silky, feminine taste also shows a delicate, slightly greenish hint. The fine-grained tannins are melt-in-the-mouth and ripe, delicate and elegantly woven, and can only be felt when you concentrate on them. Otherwise, you can indulge in the magnificent delicacy and noble charisma of this extraordinary, puristic Pomerol.

**95–96 ENCLOS TOURMALINE** Pomerol Parker 93–95 |

Suckling 96–97 |



The Vignobles K was founded in 2014 by Peter Kwok, a native of Vietnam. In the meantime, the portfolio includes the estates of Haut-Brisson, Tour Saint Christophe, and Bellefont-Belcier in Saint-Emilion, as well as La Patache and Enclos Tourmaline in Pomerol. The team behind these wines comes from the region, knows exactly what they are doing, and is highly motivated. This can also be felt in the wines. The Enclos Tourmaline is produced from about 100 acres of vineyards. Near La Fleur Pétrus and Clinet, 45 acres each are planted with Merlot. A new, small piece has now been planted with 500 vines of Cabernet Franc near Le Pin. The current production is just 3,000 bottles. The first vintage in 2012 immediately caused attention with a high rating from James Suckling. The grapes are fermented in new, open barriques (vinification integrale) and matured in them after pressing. 2018 reached 14.7% alcohol. Massive, dark color. Dark berry, extensive and rich in the nose, with a lot of character and depth. Dense, sweet, and round on the tongue, with a beautiful, polished structure, as well as lots of substance and body — graphite, chocolate, tar, and liquorice resonate. The Enclos Tourmaline has a sublime sweetness with delicate oak and good transparency. Excellent Pomerol, which has to sharpen its profile a little more.

**95–96 HOSANNA** Pomerol Parker 95–97 | Suckling 95–96 |

WeinWisser 18.5+/20



The Hosanna consists of about 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc. Dark berry, fleshy, and deep, the slightly more extroverted Hosanna presents itself in the nose with coffee, chocolate, and a liqueur-like play of aromas in the overtones. Rich in energy, strongly densified, with great depth, as well as much tension and strength in the mouth, it shows its powerful, tight structure with generous fullness, rich, round tannins, and great pleasure in the aftertaste.



Jacques Thienpot and his son –  
Château Le Pin



**95–96 LA VIOLETTE** Pomerol Parker 93–95 | Decanter 95 |



La Violette is a microcuvée from Château Le Gay. This pure Merlot is fermented in new, open barriques (vinification integrale) and aged in them after pressing. It has 14% of alcohol and was harvested from the 24<sup>th</sup> of to the 28<sup>th</sup> of September at 25 hl per hectare. The production totals 5,100 bottles. It shows an extraordinary perfume, dense, and deep, with an attractive, fine floral note, and plenty of juice. With a great creaminess, enormous concentration, and beautiful silky structure, it is extraordinarily charming and elegant in the mouth. With plenty of juice and play, great depth, and delicate, polished tannins, La Violette is more convincing in this vintage than in some slightly over-concentrated examples before. In 2018 it combined its opulent fullness and richness of extract much better with all other components to form a large-scaled picture. Chapeau.

**95–96 LATOUR A POMEROL** Pomerol Parker 93–95 | Suckling 94–95



Latour a Pomerol 2018 is a pure Merlot. Dark, massive color. Sweet and reserved in the nose, it is very fresh, you can sense its hidden intensity by the liqueur-like fruit in the background. Eternally long and subtle, it has a high fruit intensity and fleshy fullness in the mouth. Very long, with a salty presence and a great tension, it remains profound and sophisticated in the aftertaste. A great Latour a Pomerol and one of the most expressive among the pure Merlots of the vintage!





**95–96 LES PENSÉES DE LAFLEUR** Pomerol *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 95–96 | WeinWisser 18.5/20*

Like all the wines of the Guinaudeau family, the Pensées de Lafleur has also experienced a sharpening of its profile in recent years. 2018 will probably be one of the best Pensées to date. It grows on clay, sand, and pebbles on a different terroir than the Lafleur. This layer of soil runs right through the vineyard, so the grapes are harvested, vinified, and matured separately. 46% Merlot and 54% Bouchet, a variety of the Cabernet Franc, which is the real, classically native variety here in the Libournais. Black, massive color. Dark aroma, dense and spicy, with a magnificent bouquet, the Pensées shows a magnificent finely faceted nose with dark berries and intensity. Full and creamy in the mouth, with an opulent, beautiful racy character and a lot of meat in it. It is largely scaled, deep, and dense, with vibrant acidity, super fresh, and multi-layered. This Pensées has an extremely typical Pomerol character, which is otherwise rather rare. Nevertheless, its unique character is retained. I commit myself: Best Pensées de Lafleur ever!



**94–95 BOURGNEUF** Pomerol *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 93–94 | WeinWisser 18/20*



Bourgneuf is the direct neighbour of Trotanoy, the qualities have been significantly improved, and the profile sharpened in recent years. 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc are cultivated on 9 hectares, and the aging takes place in 35% new barrels. Bourgneuf 2018 consists of a classic 80/20 blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc. In recent years, Daughter Frédérique Vayron has raised the quality at Bourgneuf, and 2018 is another great success for one of the most attractive of the affordable mid-range Pomerols! This Bourgneuf is precise, fresh and crystal clear, with a very polished, rich and juicy fruit, in dark berry-scented direction, with a fleshy structure, very close to the palate, long and complex. Due to its cool-toned aura, it has even more complexity and depth than in other warm years. A true Pomerol with beautiful richness and excellent balance.

**94–95 CERTAN DE MAY** Pomerol *Parker 93–95 | Suckling 95–96 | WeinWisser 19/20*



Certan de May is the direct neighbour of Pétrus, Hosanna, and Vieux Château Certan. The Certan de May 2018 consists of 70% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. The Certan de May has never been a wine that tries to convince at the Primeurs tastings. It is an absolute character wine, which I personally appreciate very much. But it needs a lot of time in the bottle. 2018 is now much more closed and inaccessible than most other Pomerols. Dark berry aroma, strongly compacted and fleshy, it has great depth, shows itself full and tightly meshed on the palate, but remains somewhat dull. Less intense and spicy than expected, the fine-grained tannins are still a little dry. It was still too early for the Certan de May. After bottling, it will certainly present a much more positive picture.

**94–95 LE GAY** Pomerol *Parker 94–96 | Suckling 97–98 |*

Le Gay consists of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. It has 14.5% alcohol and was harvested from the 19<sup>th</sup> of September to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October at 35 hl per hectare. The production comprises 20,000 bottles. Like the Microcuvée La Violette, Le Gay is fermented in new open barriques (vinification integrale) and aged in them after pressing. Dense, full-bodied, and massive, Le Gay is richly sweet and offensive. With its melt-in-the-mouth chocolate and creamy texture, Le Gay presents its massive extraction, cherry liqueur, full-bodied and large-scaled, the aftertaste remains somewhat pale at present.



**93–94 LE CHEMIN** Pomerol *Parker 90–92 | Suckling 93–94 |*



Le Chemin comprises 0.98 hectares of pebbly land at the foot of the Pomerol plateau. Situated directly at the pilgrim path to Santiago de Compostela, giving the name Le Chemin, it is planted with pure Merlot and was taken over by the Despagne family in 2009. The grapes ferment in a single tank on Château Mazeyres of Alain Moueix, from which Francois Despagne fills about ten barriques for the aging. 2018 came to 13.2% alcohol. Dark color, purple edge. Subdued, youthful nose, delicate and floral, with darker fruit components than usual. A bit of chocolate, fine cherry accents, and a subtle mint note are evident in the transparent, fine fragrance, very deep, attractive, feminine, and clear. Wide in the mouth, with delicate, crunchy tannin spice, very charming and with beautiful oak. Very lively, long, and with lovely sweetness, it is rich in finesse. This inexpensive gem, full of character and from Pomerol, knows how to convince.



*Francois Despagne –  
Château Le Chemin and  
Grand Corbin Despagne*

**93–94 CLINET** Pomerol *Parker 94–96 | Suckling 96–96 |*

Clinet had very little mildew, and the yield was 38hl per hectare. Clinet 2018 consists of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon with 14.5% alcohol and it ages in 75% new barrels. Fresh, very intense, and full-bodied, the Clinet is very rounded, with plenty of juice, soft and powerful. With creamy fullness, generous dark berry fruit and chocolaty accents, it shows a dense, rich structure and good length. A little more character and personality would give this technically very well made Pomerol more originality ... which is easily said.

**93–94 LA CROIX DE GAY** Pomerol *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 92–93 |*

The excellent La Croix de Gay consists of 93% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc. A pleasing 48hl per hectare was harvested, the Grand Vin reached 14% alcohol and is aged in 40% new barrels. The La Croix de Gay is very massive and luxuriant, with a fleshy, fresh fullness and a very appealing, racy, massive fruit. With a lot of body and rich tannins, it shows good bite and character, as well as length.

**93–94 DOMAINE DE L'ÉGLISE** Pomerol *Suckling 94–95 | Decanter 93 |*

The Domaine de l'Église consists of 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc and matures in 60% new barrels. It was harvested from the 19<sup>th</sup> of September to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October at 34hl per hectare. Dense, rich, and fresh, the Domaine de l'Église has a very beautiful, appealing fruit with a lot of juice and spice. Its broad structure is dense and firm, with excellent concentration. Focused and powerful, it has a good complexity on the palate and a beautiful race in the finish.

**93–94 GAZIN** Pomerol *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 94–95 |*

At Gazin, 34hl per hectare were harvested. Due to the drought the berries were very small. The Grand Vin consists of 93% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc with 14.5% alcohol. Dense and substantial, with a lot of strength and spice, Gazin shows similar characteristics to classical vintages of Figéac. Slightly rough and dull, it currently appears a little unapproachable, but with fine-grained, firm tannins and plenty of juice in the finish.

**93–94 LE MOULIN** Pomerol *Suckling 90–91 |*

The Le Moulin consists of about 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc and is aged in 100% new barrels. It has a rich, dense fruit, with a beautiful, spicy structure, deep and tight, long and with plenty of grip on the palate. Dark berries, full-bodied, with fine acidity and distinguished oak, which is buffered with a lot of juice, powerful, and promising.

**93–94 NENIN** Pomerol *Parker 93–95 | Suckling 96–97 |*

The Nenin consists of 63% Merlot and 37% Cabernet Franc with 14.6% alcohol and is aged in 45% new barrels. It was harvested from the 13<sup>th</sup> of September to the 10<sup>th</sup> of October. Dark color. Fragrant and floral in the nose with thyme and discreet fruit. Very spicy, racy, and substantial in the mouth, less round, with full concentration, it is more focused on density and structure.

**93–94 LA PETITE ÉGLISE** Pomerol *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 93–94 |*

The La Petite Église is always an excellent second wine because the l'Église-Clinet Grand Vin usually rises to higher spheres on the price level. The La Petite Église stays at the ground. The assemblage consists of the classic blend of 80/20 Merlot and Cabernet Franc, and it is aged in 35% new barrels with 14.5% alcohol. It was harvested early, from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of September. Full, dense, and deep, it shows as always a very good concentration, as well as a great, substantial structure with much juice and body. Its tight acidity gives it breed, differentiated aroma, and good length. Powerful and full-bodied, it is not quite as melty in the mouth as the nose would suggest.

**93–94 PETIT VILLAGE** Pomerol *Parker 90–92 | Suckling 96–97 |*

*WeinWisser 18.5/20*

At Petit Village there was some mildew and a lot of coulure, so only 23hl per hectare were harvested. The Petit Village consists of 72% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon with 14.3% alcohol, and is aged in 40% new barrels. Meaty, dense and saturated, it has a lot of core and spice. Very powerful and with pressure, it is rather the bodybuilder among the Pomerols, with a slightly dry midpalate.



**93–94 ROUGET** Pomerol *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 96–97 | WeinWisser 18.5/20*

At Rouget the grapes were harvested early with 32 hl per hectare, the convincing Grand Vin consists of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc with 14.2% alcohol, and it is aged in 33% new barrels. Powerful and substantial, the Rouget shows just as much race, with rich, dense structure, deep tannins, plenty of juice, and excellent fullness. Salty-mineral and clear in the mouth, it shows off its high concentration very specifically and with great freshness. The red berry fruit has lots of intensity and a beautiful spicy course with a good race.

**93–94 TOUR MAILLET** Pomerol *Parker 88–90 | Suckling 94–95 |*

The Tour Maillet is a pure Merlot from a 2.22-hectare plot and is aged in 50% new barrels. The Tour Maillet lives from its liqueur-like rich presence with a berry-scented, raisiny fruit component. The tannins are still slightly dull, the body is dense and long, with a creamy sweetness and a smooth mouthfeel, it seems a little too lush and constructed. The potential is there.

**93–94 VIEUX PLATEAU CERTAN** Pomerol

The Vieux Plateau Certan took a big step in 2018. It belongs to the Pradel de Lavaux family of Château Martinet and covers an area of less than half a hectare. It consists of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc and is aged in 50% new barrels; the production is 1,200 bottles. Lively, deep and fresh, it has a juicy structure and very faceted depth with plenty of fruit. It has a very loose, eloquent presence, is very clean and long; this Pomerol is recommended as a small tip.

**93–94 VIEUX TAILLEFER** Pomerol *Suckling 92–93 |*

The 2018 Vieux Taillefer is a pure Merlot. Massive black color. Sweet and offensive in the nose, liqueur-like and fat, with slightly superficial aromas. Round, melting and juicy in the mouth, somewhat simple, but with good freshness and clarity. A lot of fruit, dark berries, cherry-scented and crunchy, not very fine, rather with strength, pressure, and pull.

**93–94 VRAY CROIX DE GAY** Pomerol *Suckling 93–94 | Decanter 93 |*



The Vray Croix de Gay belongs to the Artemis group around the Château Latour. It covers 3.36 hectares and consists of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, aged in 40% new barrels. Dark color, viscous. A full, offensive nose, some beeswax, concentrated, without showing much core-aroma. Apparently, still very young, it is rich and full-bodied in the mouth, with a lot of strength and freshness. Dark berry, velvety and intense on the palate, it has very massive tannins for a Pomerol, which reminds a little of a Médoc.

**92–93 BEAUREGARD** Pomerol *Parker 93–95 | Suckling 93–94 |*



At Beauregard there was some mildew; the yield was 34 hl per hectare. The blend consists of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc with 14% alcohol and is aged in 55% new barrels. Powerful, deep, and loose, with a lot of juice and some Cabernet pressure, it shows itself stylistically for a Pomerol a little on the casual, hearty side. Still somewhat astringent and closed, with a slightly dull tannin structure, it may have the potential to achieve a higher rating.

**92–93 BLASON DE L'EVANGILE** Pomerol *Parker 91–93 |*

*Suckling 93–94 |*

The Blason de l'Évangile is composed of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Franc. It represents half of the already sparse 2018 yield of Évangile. Dense, round, and melting, very clear and juicy, the Blason has a concentrated fruit and racy acidity. A successful second wine from distinguished terroir, which matures exclusively in used barrels.

**92–93 LE BON PASTEUR** Pomerol *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 96–97 |*

The Le Bon Pasteur consists of 80% Merlot, and 20% Cabernet Franc. A part of it was fermented in new open barriques (vinification integrale), and after pressing it is aged in these again, 70% of the barrels are used, 30% were new. The Le Bon Pasteur has firm tannins, a fleshy fullness with dark berry fruit, a lot of core and a good length. Slightly dull and angular, with a lot of juice and spice, it nevertheless appears a little smooth and glossy.

**92–93 LA CABANNE** Pomerol *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 93–94 |*

*WeinWisser 18/20*



La Cabanne is near Trotanoy. La Cabanne 2018 consists of 94% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc and is aged in 55% new barrels. With a lot of substance and juice, as well as racy acidity, La Cabanne has a nice tension and good polish in the tannins. At one tasting, it showed an almost Burgundy fruit character. Right length, nice fleshy fullness, and freshness show that something is happening at La Cabanne! Keep in mind.

**92–93 CLOS DU CLOCHER** Pomerol *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 94–95 |*



Mildew reduced the crop at Clos du Clocher to a yield of 32 hl per hectare. 2018 consists of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc with 14.5% alcohol and is aged 60% new barrels. Dark color. Rich, ripe, and luxuriant, in the typical Clos du Clocher manner, it is very substantial and with a lot of wood presence. An opulent Pomerol, which is a little simple, but will give you a lot of drinking pleasure.



**92–93 CLOS RENÉ** Pomerol *Parker 89–91 | Decanter 90 |*

The Clos René consists of 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Malbec. 30% new barrels are used. The Clos René is round and full-bodied, with plenty of juice and a lively, substantial structure.

**92–93 CROIX DU CASSE** Pomerol *Suckling 90–91* |

The Croix du Casse consists of 93% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc, brought in at 35hl per hectare. Dense, round, and creamy, very fresh and full-bodied, the Croix du Casse presents itself with nice berry aromas and fleshy fullness. Full-bodied, racy, very concentrated, and with good character, 2018 Croix du Casse is very successful.

**92–93 HAUT-MAILLET** Pomerol *Parker 84–86* | *Suckling 91–92* |

The Haut-Maillet has 5 hectares of pure Merlot, which is aged in 30% new barrels. Juicy, full, and with a beautiful fruitiness, the Haut-Maillet is tight and concentrated. It has racy tannins with a lot of grip and depth, as well as a clear, differentiated structure.

**92–93 LAGRANGE** Pomerol *Parker 90–92* | *Suckling 93–94* |

The Lagrange of the Moueix family is a pure Merlot. Unusually chocolaty with dark berry-scented aromas, dense, rich of fruit and with a lot of body, the powerful, pithy Lagrange shows good length. One of the best vintages of Lagrange in Pomerol!

**92–93 LA GRAVE** Pomerol *Parker 91–93* | *Decanter 92* |

The La Grave of the Moueix family consists of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc. Powerful and with a racy structure, La Grave is extraordinarily powerful and spicy. Only in a few years has La Grave been able to achieve this level of concentration and full-body appearance.

**92–93 MAZEYRES** Pomerol *Parker 88–90* | *Suckling 91–92* |

The Mazeyses of Alain Moueix covers an impressive 25.5 hectares and consists of 66% Merlot, 29% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. It is aged in 20% new barrels. Powerful and juicy, the Mazeyses has an unusually red fruit aroma for the vintage. Together with its always crystalline acidity and finely balanced structure, the Mazeyses presents itself excellently with freshness and outstanding depth.

**92–93 MONTVIEL** Pomerol *Parker 90–92* | *Suckling 93–94* |

The Montviel consists of 80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and is aged in 100% new barrels with 14.5% alcohol. It was harvested from the 19<sup>th</sup> of September to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October at 35 hl per hectare. The production comprises 22,000 bottles. Round and full-bodied, with velvety substance, it is a bit simple but very aromatic and with intense fruit. Very concentrated, balanced, dense, and clear.

**92–93 PLINCE** Pomerol *Parker 91–93* | *Suckling 93–94* |

Plince is one of the biggest estates in Pomerol; it consists of 79% Merlot and 21% Cabernet Franc. Round, rich, and melting, the Plince has a nice structure and length in the mouth. Very juicy and with excellent concentration, the Plince brings an impressive complexity and length to the palate.

**92–93 DE SALES** Pomerol *Parker 91–93* | *Suckling 91–92* |

With 47.6 hectares, De Sales is the largest estate in Pomerol and has been able to sharpen its profile in recent years significantly. 73% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon are aged in 18% new barrels. The successful de Sales is characterized by a good breed, a lot of substance, and a full-bodied tannin structure. Very harmonious, concentrated, and bright, fresh, structured, and long, it only has to add fruit and creaminess.

**92–93 VIEUX MAILLET** Pomerol *Parker 88–90* | *Suckling 93–94* |

The Vieux Maillet was harvested with only 26hl per hectare and consists of 73% Merlot, 19% Cabernet Franc and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon with 14.5% alcohol. Sweet, intense, and spicy, with plenty of juice and liqueur, rich aromas, long and offensive, compact, and substantial in the finish. A massive Pomerol with high concentration.

**91–92 BELLEGRAVE** Pomerol *Parker 89–89* | *Suckling 90–91* |

The Bellegrave consists of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. Full-bodied, round, and with a good, substantial structure, somewhat simple, with dry tannins and a strong acidity that is reminiscent of the 2010 vintage.

**91–92 CHÊNE LIÈGE** Pomerol *Suckling 89–90* |

The Chêne Liège consists of 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc and is aged in 70% new barrels. Offensive nose, with red berries, balsamic notes, and cherry aroma. Round body with firm tannins in the mouth, beautiful, fresh, and fruity with creamy fullness, cleanly worked, quite deep, slightly astringent.

**91–92 CLOS BEAUREGARD** Pomerol *Parker 86–88* | *Suckling 92–93* |

The Clos Beauregard consists of pure Merlot and is aged in 50% new barrels. Dense and rich, it seems very aromatic for a pure Merlot from 2018, with a lot of juice and tension, slightly hard acidity, and tannins that tend to be pungent.

**91–92 CLOS DE LA VIEILLE ÉGLISE** Pomerol *Parker 87–89* |

*WeinWisser 18.5/20*



The Clos de la Vieille Église consists of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc and is aged in 100% new barrels. Dark, viscous color. Sweet, offensive, and mature in the nose, with fine wood and balsamic notes in the back. Dull, dry, and empty in the mouth, it uses a larger frame, looks a bit constructed, and little aromatic.



**91–92 LA COMMANDERIE** Pomerol *Suckling 91–92 |*

The La Commanderie consists of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, and it is aged in 60% new barrels. Offensive, superficial, with fine, rich, fruity sweetness and little depth in the smell. Densely structured and closely-meshed, with fine-grained tannins and hard, crystalline acidity. Less aromatic, the La Commanderie still has to grow in itself, the potential is there.

**91–92 LA CRÉATION** Pomerol

La Création consists of 54% Merlot and 46% Cabernet Franc and matures in 50% new barrels. Deep, fine Cabernet Franc nose with good spice and beautiful racy fruit. Close to the palate, with a lot of race also on the tongue, firm tannins with good freshness, dull finish.

**91–92 L'ÉCUYER** Pomerol

The L'Écuyer consists of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc and matures in 30% new barrels. Massive color. Sweetly raisiny in the nose, and superficially balsamic. Dense and deep in the mouth, round and well developed, dull tannins, hard acidity, and little connection between the components.

**91–92 GOUPRIE** Pomerol *WeinWisser 17/20 |*

The Gouprie consists of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc and is aged in 50% new barrels. It is smooth and round, very juicy, and with racy acidity, little depth, and a little creaminess. Light and delicate.

**91–92 HAUT FERRAND** Pomerol

Haut Ferrand consists of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc and is aged in 30% new barrels. Dense and robust, with a lot of juice and race, very fresh and clearly structured, with good depth and balanced tannins.

**91–92 LAFLEUR DU ROY** Pomerol

The Lafleur du Roy consists of 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon and is aged in 30% new barrels. Black color. Dense, dull, and concentrated, with an interplay of acidity and tannins reminiscent of 2010, plenty of substance and intensity, little melting.

**91–92 LAFLEUR-GAZIN** Pomerol *Parker 91–93 | Decanter 93 |*

The Lafleur-Gazin is a pure Merlot. With a lot of juice and race, the Lafleur-Gazin is dense and intense, somewhat smooth on the palate, with beautiful creaminess and solid body.

**91–92 MAILLET** Pomerol *Suckling 93–94 |*

The Maillet consists of 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc and is aged in 100% new barrels. Dark berries, dense and full-bodied, the Maillet has a lot of fruit, with good, racy structure and substantial sweetness. The fine play of lively acidity and sweet aromas is kept very cool-toned and tight and ends in a long finish with a woody character. It could also reach 93.

**91–92 LA POINTE** Pomerol *Parker 89–91 | Suckling 93–94 |*

Dull tannins with rough texture, unexpressive fruit component, straight and clearly structured, of medium density and depth. Unfortunately, only tried once, probably it was not a perfect sample.

**91–92 LA ROSE FIGÉAC** Pomerol *Suckling 93–94 |*

La Rose Figeac consists of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc and is aged in 50% new barrels. Dense, intense, and full-bodied, with molten tannins, plenty of juice and good length, slightly hot.

**91–92 SÉRAPHINE** Pomerol *Parker 92–94 |*

The Séraphine consists of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc and is aged in 50% new barrels. Massive color. Dense, dull and little aromatic, empty core, good firm structure, dry, yet creamy texture. Wait and see.

**91–92 DE VALOIS** Pomerol *Parker 87–89 | Suckling 89–90 |*

The de Valois consists of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc and is aged in 55% new barrels. Fruity and round, with a beautiful, clear structure and fine tannins, light sharpness in the finish, dry, and spicy.

**90–91 BEL-AIR** Pomerol *Suckling 89–90 |*

The Bel-Air is a pure Merlot that is aged in 33% new barrels. Rich, beautiful round, somewhat dull and straightforward, dry tannins and better length.

**90–91 BONALGUE** Pomerol *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 93–94 |*

The Bonalgue consists of 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc and is aged in 50% new barrels. Sweet, dull, with good, strong structure, little aromatic, monumental tannins, full and firm, empty aftertaste.

**90–91 CANTELAUZE** Pomerol *Parker 87–89 |*

The Cantelauze consists of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc and is aged in 100% new barrels. Dark berry, fleshy, full-bodied, with rich fruit and good length. The new oak dries out the Cantelauze and makes it dull. What a pity, less new barrels would be more.



Vieux Château Certan

**90–91 LA CROIX** Pomerol *WeinWisser 19/20* |

La Croix consists of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc and is aged in 30% new barrels. Sweet and open, the La Croix shows a lot of juice and good length remains unfortunately little aromatic, with firm structure.

**90–91 CROIX DES ROUZES** Pomerol *Parker 86–88* | *Suckling 92–93* |

The Croix des Rouzes consists of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc and is aged in 34% new barrels. Full, juicy, and of a good race, the Croix des Rouzes shows a beautiful structure, a little creamy fullness, and is very modern and polished.

**90–91 CROIX ST. GEORGES** Pomerol *Suckling 92–93* |

The Croix St. Georges has a bright color. Sweet, offensive, and balsamic in the nose, lush, it remains little aromatic, dense, sweet, dull, and dry in the mouth. The nose has actually started promising.

**90–91 L'ÉCLAT DE VALOIS** Pomerol *Parker 87–89* | *Suckling 92–93* |

The l'Éclat de Valois consists of 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Franc and is aged in 100% new barrels. Dense, round, fruity and intense in the nose, it is full on the palate, with plenty of play, racy acidity, and dry tannins.

**90–91 ELISÉE** Pomerol

The Elisée consists of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc and is aged in 50% new barrels. Sweet, Sangiovese-like in the fruit, Nebbiolo-like in the tannins, it has a lot of juice, and is a little short. It will be interesting to see how this develops.

**90–91 L'ENCLOS** Pomerol *Suckling 92–93* |

The l'Enclos consists of 88% Merlot and 12% Cabernet Franc, which are aged in 40% new barrels. Dense and dull, with a nice fruit base, empty and hollow in the back, little aromatic, solidly structured.

**90–91 GRAND BEAUSÉJOUR** Pomerol

The Grand Beauséjour consists of pure Merlot, which is aged in new barrels. Dark, full-bodied and liqueury, very dense, with a lot of wood that dries out the mouth, little freshness, dull tannins, brittle.

**90–91 MANOIR DE GAY** Pomerol *Parker 89–91* |

The Manoir de Gay is produced from the young vines of Le Gay. Dense, full-bodied and round, with very beautiful fruit, lots of strength and fullness, rich extract, somewhat rough tannins, full-bodied, sweet and polished, slightly empty in the aftertaste.

**90–91 LE MOULIN BASILEUS** Pomerol

The Le Moulin Basileus consists of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc and is aged in 40% new barrels. Fruity, fresh, with firm structure and good density, long, slightly hollow and empty in the aftertaste.

**90–91 PORTE CHIC** Pomerol *Parker 89–91* |

The Porte Chic consists of 70% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon and is aged in 100% new barrels. Dark-scented fruit base, dense and polished, looks constructed and somewhat boring, with beautiful, substantial structure.

**90–91 LA RENAISSANCE** Pomerol *Suckling 91–92* |

La Renaissance consists of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc and is aged in 50% new barrels. Dense, offensive, and superficial, rich and round, La Renaissance, with all its creaminess, remains a little simple and without depth.

**90–91 TAILLEFER** Pomerol *Parker 91–93* |

The Taillefer consists of 81% Merlot and 19% Cabernet Franc. It was harvested at 32 hl per hectare and aged in 40% new barrels. The Taillefer is dense, full, and classy, with beautiful fruit, much strength, and spice, as well as with racy structure equipped.

**90–91 VIEUX CHÂTEAU FERRON** Pomerol

Vieux Château Ferron consists of 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc and is aged in 100% new barrels. Dense, full-bodied, racy, and clear, with a good presence, it remains dry and shows little melting.

**89–90 BEAUSOLEIL | LA CLÉMENCE | ENCLOS HAUT MAZEYRES | FERRAND | FLEUR DE PRINCE | FRANC MAILLET | LA GANNE | MONREGARD LA CROIX | PIERHEM | PLINCETTE | SAINT-PIERRE | TAILHAS** Pomerol

**88–89 LE CAILLOU | CLOS 56 | LA CROIX TAILLEFER | DOMAINE DE LA POINTE | LES GRANDS SILLONS | MOULINET | LA TRIBUNE** Pomerol



Château Pétrus



Château Cheval Blanc

**Saint-Emilion**

**99–100 AUSONE** Saint-Emilion Parker 98–100 | Suckling 99–100 | WeinWisser 19.5+/20



The outstanding Ausone consists of 60% Cabernet Franc and 40% Merlot, has 14.5% alcohol, and is aged in 80% new barrels. It was harvested from the 25<sup>th</sup> of September to the 9<sup>th</sup> of October. The average age of the vines is 52 years, on a total of 7.25 hectares. According to Alain Vauthier, the perfect selection of grapes was the key in 2018. Since 2011, Ausone has been using a water bath to determine the grape selection by the density of the individual berries. The berries are perfectly destemmed and preselected; ripe berries float on top, unripe and overripe berries sink and are precisely sorted out. According to Alain Vauthier, this system works better than optical selection. The Ausone 2018 has a black color, dense and incredibly fresh, it smells from the glass with dark, spicy Cabernet fruit, extremely delicate, compact and intense, with graphite, tar and dark berry fullness in the background. Highly dense and deep in the mouth, it is very loose and juicy, with chocolate, coffee, and tar, forever open on the palate, with unbelievably finesse, rich tannins of extremely fine grain. Eternally long, multi-faceted, and elegant, the Ausone creates a magnificent tension with a never-ending flow of aromas. A great Ausone that doesn't tell as many stories as other vintages yet is incredibly close to perfection. All is worked in one piece, impressive.



Thierry Grenié de Boüard – Château Angélus



Château Ausone

**98–99 ANGÉLUS** Saint-Emilion Parker 97–100 | Suckling 99–100 | WeinWisser 19.5/20



Angélus enters the first year of conversion to certified organic farming. The yield of 30hl per hectare was also somewhat lower because the berries were very small and had very little juice, but fortunately, there was no mildew. The 2018 Angélus consists of 65% Merlot and 35% Cabernet Franc with 14% alcohol. About 90,000 bottles will be produced from the 27 hectares of 1er Grand Cru vineyard, which has an average age of 38 years. The next generation, Stéphanie de Boüard-Rivoal, and Thierry Grenié de Boüard, aim to give Angélus more finesse, elegance, and transparency. The 2018 Angélus is now aging in addition to 90% new barriques barrels in 10% new 30 hectoliter oak-casks. Dark color. Explosive nose with great freshness, fine cherry nuances, some mint, incredibly deep and seductive. The Angélus begins very complex, elegant, very deep, and delicate in the mouth. It possesses a large structure, is eternally long and always subtle, with extremely fine-grained tannins, which are noble and widely spread on the palate. It has a lot of dark berry fruit, very fleshy and full, with graphite notes and enormous length. Angélus again is very fine in the mouth, and balanced, despite its good length it is not persistent forever in the aftertaste.





**98–99 TERTRE-RÔTEBOEUF** Saint-Emilion *WeinWisser 19.5/20* |



The Tertre-Rôteboeuf 2018 is a tour de force. A remarkable 16.2% alcohol, the fully ripe, small berries brought into the must. Francois Mitjavile doesn't care about sugar content, as well, not about the fact that his wine only finished its alcoholic fermentation 15 days before the primeurs tastings. Any other winemaker would have been close to despair. From 6 hectares, a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc is aged, as every year,

in 100% new barrels. Massive, the Tertre-Rôteboeuf smells unbelievably dense and intense in its inimitable way, somehow wild and untamed but still voluptuous and gentle. Very fresh, profound, and with an enormous spiciness, its nose is very impressive, full, and overwhelming. Very dense and wide-spread in the mouth, at the limit of extremes and yet fresh and balanced. Super-rich, not heavy, eternally long and highly intense, it is incredibly broad on the palate, with finesse, lively acidity, abundant, with soft and round tannins and incredible delicacy and elegance. A large structured Tertre-Rôteboeuf, which unites some extremes, possesses a unique personality and strength of character and simply delights with indulgence.



**97–98 CHEVAL BLANC** Saint-Emilion *Parker 97–99* | *Suckling 98–99* | *WeinWisser 19.5\*/20*



Small berries led to a yield of 43hl per hectare at Cheval-Blanc. The harvest began early on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September and lasted until the 11<sup>th</sup> of October. The Grand Vin consists of 54% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Franc and 6% Cabernet Sauvignon. With 14.5% alcohol, the Cheval Blanc ages in 100% new barrels. Dark, dense color. Sweet, fine and wide structured the Cheval-Blanc smells from the glass, still with restrained intensity and appealing liqueury aromas, tar, and liquorice, quite multi-layered and distinguished. Juicy and melting in the mouth, with beautiful fruit, much race, and core, as well as excellent structure with fine tannins, long arranged and melting richness, this youthful Cheval Blanc shows outstanding potential. In any case, Cheval Blanc is one of the wines that gains even more volume as it matures, so we can't wait to see how 2018 will develop.



Nicolas Thienpont

**96–98 PAVIE-MACQUIN** Saint-Emilion *Parker 95–97* | *Suckling 97–98* | *WeinWisser 19/20*



Among the three famous Saint-Emilions under the direction of Nicolas Thienpont, this year, Pavie-Macquin is ahead of Beauséjour Duffau Lagarosse and Larcis-Ducasse. Pavie-Macquin was harvested at 47hl per hectare from the 20<sup>th</sup> of September to the 12<sup>th</sup> of October. The Pavie-Macquin 2018 consists of 78% Merlot, 20% Cabernet-Franc, and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon, 90% of the production came into the Grand Vin. Massive, viscous color. Fragrant and offensive in smell, it offers a very sweet core-  
aroma with liqueurish top note, highly compressed and with lots of juice it reminds of the 2010. Dense, with a rich structure in the mouth, it carries lots of juice and energy, is very fresh and fine-grained, endlessly deep and very noble, with unbelievable tension and detailed depth. The Pavie-Macquin 2018 possesses an incredibly brilliant fruit, great presence, as well as magnificent race and length.



**96–97 BÉLAIR-MONANGE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 97–99* | *Suckling 98–99* | *WeinWisser 19/20*



The Belair-Monange vineyard extends along the edge of the plateau above its slopes. The old drive-up from below has been replaced by a gate at the top with a park-like entrance. Opposite, a huge construction site is in the process of building the new cellars. If you want to be first-class, you have to represent it; the wine does it already! The 2018 Belair-Monange consists of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. Dark, massive color. Closed and compact, the dense, sweet fragrance of the Belair-Monange was still underdeveloped and youthful. Voluminous, full-bodied, with plenty of juice and race, the Belair-Monange has a very molten body in the mouth, very polished and straight, with a lot of force and complexity, intensive structure and a crystalline acidity, as well as full-bodied tannins with a lot of pressure and spice. Deep and long, it has not yet been as expressive as the majestic 2017, which is probably the best Belair Monange yet.

**96–97 CANON** Saint-Emilion *Parker 97–99 | Suckling 98–99 | WeinWisser 18.5+/20*



Since the purchase 25 years ago, about 50% of the vines have been replanted. Green harvesting has been abandoned since 2018. The winery itself describes 2018 as the »fifth dimension«, as it was one of the densest vintages ever for Canon, even more concentrated than 2016, 2015, 2010, or 2009. Between the 7<sup>th</sup> of September and the 5<sup>th</sup> of October, the longest harvest period to date was practiced with 42hl per hectare. The entire harvest of the 24 hectares of Premier Grand Cru Classé was processed into Grand Vin, so the Croix de Canon was only produced from the 10 hectares of unclassified vineyards. The Grand Vin Château Canon consists of 72% Merlot and 28% Cabernet Franc with 14% alcohol and is aged in 52% new barrels. Black color, viscous. It offers a finest, deep nose with cool-scented fruit, dark berries, very differentiated and transparent. Very fine and delicate, the fruit also continues in the mouth, with elegant structure and radiant personality. Eternally long and full of finesse, with great tension, vibrant, and lively. With great sweetness in the aftertaste, very dense and wide. One of the most delicate and finest wines from Saint-Emilion in 2018.



**96–97 LA CHAPELLE D'AUSONE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 93–95 | Suckling 94–95 | WeinWisser 18/20*

If a second wine reaches 96–97 points, then this shows the enormous quality of vintage and terroir. The splendid La Chapelle d'Ausone 2018 consists of 50% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. It ages in about 80% new barrels and has 14.5% alcohol. Massive color, imposing, open presence with the typical, cool-toned aristocratic grace that only Ausone possesses. Deep, with a dense flow of aromas, fine-grained racy tannins, and massive body with high density, very rich in extraction, with fine crystalline acidity and deep, dark fruit. A La Chapelle that this year ranks at the level of a »good« Ausone vintage.

**96–97 LE DÔME** Saint-Emilion *Parker 97–99 | Suckling 93–94 |*



The excellent portfolio of Jonathan Maltus could already shine with a surprising Teyssier (92–93). The vineyard-selections were even better, but only Le Dôme didn't want to convince completely, a tired sample as I suspected. So two days later we only came by again for Le Dôme, it was worth it! Le Dôme consists of 80% Cabernet Franc and 20% Merlot, so this wine was particularly exciting. It is aged in about 80% of new barrels. Deep dark berry fruit, very fresh, with notes of graphite and a hint of chocolate. Rich, fruity, and with an enormous amount of substance, it has a wiry acidity, is very spicy, equipped with fine-grained tannins, and is long and compact on the palate. Terrific sweetness in the aftertaste, very differentiated and multi-layered. Le Dôme has the potential for 98/100.



**96–97 FIGÉAC** Saint-Emilion *Parker 97–99 | Suckling 98–99 | WeinWisser 20/20*



At Figéac a huge new cellar building is under construction. The new cellar should blend in imperceptibly with the old structure and offer enough space with modern levels for perfect winemaking. Because until now, everything was always a little small and simple from a technical point of view, which had something original about it. The independent character of Figéac anyway comes from the vineyard, but the wine will gain in precision!? We will see. At Figéac a lot of work was done in the vineyard; the Cabernet Franc matured late. A parcel that is cultivated organically had a hard time with mildew. About 39 hectolitres per hectare were harvested from 40 hectares of vineyards from the 17<sup>th</sup> of September to the 12<sup>th</sup> of October. Sulfur was not used for the first time during vinification, and the fermentation temperature was kept somewhat cooler. The blend consists of 37% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 33% Cabernet Sauvignon, which are aged with 14% alcohol in 100% new barrels. Dark, bright color. Fragrant, delicate, and full of finesse in the nose, with fine, fresh fruit and an excellent presence, full of character. Fine, juicy, and very distinguished in the mouth, with noble, slightly rough tannins, it shows as always a refreshingly independent character, long and with great tension. The 2018 is a powerful, intensive Figéac, which is able to be perceived with unbelievable finesse delicately, although it is actually a powerful wine.

**96–97 LA MONDOTTE** Saint-Emilion *Suckling 97–98 | WeinWisser 19/20*



La Mondotte is always a muscular wine with very good depth. The 2018 grew beyond itself in its irresistible way. It was harvested from the 20<sup>th</sup> of September to the 5<sup>th</sup> of October at 40hl per hectare, which is a good yield for La Mondotte. It consists of 75% Merlot with 25% Cabernet Franc and matures with 14% alcohol in 70% new barrels. 35 days of maceration give it a black, massive color. Sweet, offensive, and fresh in fragrance, with very attractive, profoundly complex aromas, with a sweet liqueur-like top note. Dense, full-bodied, and liqueury in the mouth, very fresh, with a juicy, rich midpalate, superb fullness, and freshly shining extracts. Fleshy, full-bodied, with an opulent finish and densely woven sweetness in the aftertaste. One of my favourite vintages of La Mondotte!

**96–97 PAVIE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 97–100 | Suckling 98–99 | WeinWisser 18/20*



The average age of the vines at Pavie is 48 years. With 38hl per hectare it was harvested from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of October. The blend of the Grand Vin consists of 60% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc and 18% Cabernet Sauvignon with 14.48% alcohol. After a 38-day maceration period, the Pavie was pressed and aged in 80% new barrels. Massive color. Rich, expressive nose, massively concentrated and wide open, extremely offensive, it soars an opulent fragrance with balsamic notes, great spice, and closed fruit aromas. Full and fresh on the palate, with a wide, large structure, the Pavie is very close to the palate, rich in the extraction and full, sweet and creamy, intense and long. Its clear fruit shows an enormous intensity and fleshy richness. Nevertheless, at this youthful stage, the Pavie is still unapproachable and dull.

**96–97 TROPLONG MONDOT** Saint-Emilion *Parker 89–91 | Suckling 97–98 | WeinWisser 19/20*



At Troplong Mondot there has been some upheaval since the estate was sold in July 2017. The new owners want to get away from the alcohol-intensive maximum-invasive wines of the past. A new cellar building is under construction, again with a restaurant. The Bellisle Mondotte (6 hectares) and Clos Labarde (4 hectares) estates were newly acquired. The Troplong-



Mondot 2018 was vinified at Bellisle Mondotte. There was no mildew on the 28 hectares of Troplong; the green harvest was abandoned, the harvest began extremely early on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September and lasted until the 10<sup>th</sup> of October with a yield of 49hl per hectare. The Grand Vin consists of 85% Merlot and 13% Cabernet Franc with 2% Cabernet Sauvignon. It is aged with 14.5% alcohol in 60% new barrels. Black, massive color. Saturated, fine, and very deep, very open and wide in fragrance, much less massive and liqueurish than before. Dense, rich, and broad in the mouth, the Troplong-Mondot has rich, racy tannins, perfect balance, and structure, powerful and multi-layered, long and with fresh fruit, it is very transparent and clear. Enormously dark berry fruited, rich in the extraction and viscous on the palate, compact, firm fleshy, and with fine acidity grip, this is limestone plateau in top form.

**95–97 CROIX DE LABRIE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 95–96 |*



The Croix de Labrie is one of the most up-and-coming wines in Saint-Emilion. Axelle Courdurié and her husband Pierre, put all their energy and passion into continuously improving their wine. Since the 2018 vintage, Croix de Labrie has been certified organic, the loss due to mildew has been a whopping 40%, resulting in a yield of 25hl per hectare. The average age of the vines



is 50 years, harvested on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September. Part of the plantations are lying below Pavie, another part near Saint-Laurent-des-Combes, and the rest around the estate near Saint-Christophe-des-Bardes. The 2018 Croix de Labrie consists of 90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc and is aged in 100% new barrels and tonneaux. Black, purple color. Dark berry, very fresh and deep in the nose. Terrific depth in the mouth, with the striking freshness of the limestone plateau, intense and liqueur-like, dark berry aroma, at the same time fresh, without any overripe or plump sweetness. Deep and multi-layered, enormously concentrated, long and racy, with fine Cabernet reflections in the base and magnificent trait on the palate. If you don't know Croix de Labrie yet, you should look for it soon!

**95–96 BEAUSÉJOUR DUFFAU LAGARROSSE** Saint-Emilion  
Parker 95–97 | Suckling 99–100 | WeinWisser 19/20



At Beauséjour Duffau there was a lot of mildew. The harvest lasted from the 20<sup>th</sup> of September to the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, with a yield of 27.5 hl per hectare. The blend consists of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, 64% made it into the Grand Vin.

Massive, viscous color. Dense, rich nose, liqueur-like, massive and fresh, broad-shouldered, clearly richer and sweeter than Pavie-Macquin, but not as deep and floating. Massive, with a lot of substance and enormous richness, it also operates in the mouth, with widely spread tannins and racy acidity, which is somewhat pointed and gripping. Great extraction with play and a lot of race, the Beauséjour Duffau reminds a little of the 2010, remains somewhat static and less energetic than Pavie-Macquin in the mouth, with likewise discreetly less tension and elegance. The Beauséjour Duffau 2018 has fine, noble tannins and a noble spice as well.



Axelle and Pierre Courdurie  
Château La Croix de Labrie



**95–96 CANON LA GAFFELIÈRE** Saint-Emilion Parker 94–96 | Suckling 94–95 | WeinWisser 19/20



At Canon la Gaffelière, mildew was well under control despite organic farming. The harvest lasted from the 17<sup>th</sup> of September to the 4<sup>th</sup> of October and yielded 35 hl per hectare. The blend contains 50% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Franc and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon with 13.5% alcohol, aged in 50% new barrels. The Canon la Gaffelière has made a whole 35 days of maceration, resulting in a dark color. It has a rich, offensive nose, very red berried, and fresh, with exotic richness. Highly dense in the mouth and saturated, with fine-grained tannins, excellent depth, and tension on the palate, long structured, lively, and with clearly defined fruit message: red, fresh, and juicy. A unique, soft drinking Canon la Gaffelière with marvelous tension and playful abundance.

**95–96 LA GAFFELIÈRE** Saint-Emilion Parker 94–96 | Suckling 95–96 |



The La Gaffelière was harvested at 45 hl per hectare, consists of 58% Merlot and 42% Cabernet Franc, which are aged at 14.4% alcohol in 66% new barrels. Dark color. Fleshy and full-bodied in the nose, with a lot of juice and race, the La Gaffelière is very deep and wide. Very loose, deep, and full of finesse in the mouth, it offers great energy, with a dark berry fruit component and profound, very long and finely staggered. The La Gaffelière shows itself in 2018 to be very substantial, with a cathedral-like structure and excellent sharpness of detail. With much strength and extract sweetness, as well as a very good, fresh back aroma, it stands clearly above previous vintages.



**95–96 GRACIA** Saint-Emilion Parker 93–95 | Suckling 93–94 | WeinWisser 18.5/20



My fears were high that the mighty Gracia with the vintage 2018 could get aromatically into problems. Completely unfounded, it turned out. 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon are found in the assemblage. Dark color. Rich, black fruity aromas with tar, graphite and liqueur-like sweetness in the overtone smell, excellent depth, but little fruit in the core-aroma. The Gracia is dense and concentrated in the mouth, with a lot of race and strength. Very rich in the extraction and massive as usual, it is powerful, with depth and tension, and shows as well a fresh, concentrated aftertaste. As always supermassive and compactly built, with a lot of substance and core, the Gracia has a slightly hard charisma with cool, dark berry aroma. This needs time.



Comte Stephan von Neipperg

**95–96 MAGREZ-FOMBRAUGE** Saint-Emilion *Suckling* 97–98 |

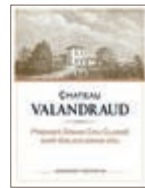
The Magrez-Fombrauge is a MicroCuvée of the oldest vines of the Château Fombrauge on a 1.96-hectare plot. The Magrez-Fombrauge consists of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc, harvested on the 3rd of October. Part of the must was fermented in open barriques (vinification integrale) and aged in them after pressing. Black color. Massive, dense, and concentrated, with very widely spread tannins and a lot of pressure in the mouth, this is a real blockbuster with maximum extraction, extremely intense on the palate. It has racy acidity, densely woven structure, is deep and long.



lot, and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon at a yield of 38 hl per hectare. The Trotte Vieille is aged in 100% new barrels. Dense, full and fine, the Trotte Vieille shows itself with a lot of substance and depth, very clear in its aroma, transparent and completely focused on elegance and detailed depth. Enormously complex, with cool-toned fruit and a long, balanced structure. A classic Saint-Emilion full of character, and with an enormous heart and personality, far away from modern blockbusters. Nothing can be felt of the new oak because the richness of the wine has simply absorbed it.



Château Trotte Vieille

**95–96 VALANDRAUD** Saint-Emilion *Parker* 95–97 | *Suckling* 97–98 | *WeinWisser* 19.5/20

Valandraud has long been a highly respected and much sought-after Saint-Emilion. However, it is only in recent years that its profile has really sharpened towards a genuine character, depth, and personality. Prior to that, concentration and richness were its primary characteristics. The blend of 2018 consists of 90% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 3% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Malbec. The Valandraud is aged in 100% new barrels. Black color. Dark, rich, and offensive aromas in the nose with cherry accents, chocolate, liqueur-sweetness, and very good depth. A lot of juice and fullness in the mouth, with racy acidity, long and intense, much power, and with distinguished tannins, Valandraud shows an excellent presence on the palate with good volume and power.

**95–96 PÉBY-FAUGÈRES** Saint-Emilion *Parker* 95–97 | *Suckling* 98–99 | *WeinWisser* 19/20

The Péby-Faugères is made from pure Merlot and aged in completely new barrels. It reached an alcohol content of 14.7%. It smells dense and with a hint of grilled bacon, rich, sweet, and intense. Very full and bombastic, it also shows in the mouth, super-ripe, sweet, and luxuriously generous. With densely structured tannins, it is very tightly woven and fine-grained, broadly stretched, and with good length, the Péby-Faugères looks somewhat smooth. It is an impressive wine with power and richness. In a direct comparison, it sometimes seemed somewhat coarser than Le Merle de Péby-Faugères.

**95–96 TROTTE VIEILLE** Saint-Emilion *Parker* 91–93 | *Suckling* 98–99 | *WeinWisser* 18/20

Trotte Vieille is an excellent 12-hectare terroir on the limestone plateau owned by the Casteja family, which also owns the Domaine de l'Eglise and Croix du Casse in Pomerol, Beau-Site in Saint-Estèphe, as well as Lynch-Moussas and Batailley in Pauillac. The heart of Trotte Vieille is an ancient parcel of Cabernet Franc, which is more than 150 years old. The average age of the vines is 50 years. The grapes were blended with 54% Cabernet Franc, 44% Mer-



**94–95 BELLEFONT-BELCIER** Saint-Emilion Parker 91–93 | Suckling 95–96 |



The Vignobles K were founded in 2014 by Peter Kwok, a native of Vietnam. Meanwhile, the portfolio includes the estates Haut-Brisson, Tour Saint Christophe, and the latest acquisition Bellefont-Belcier in Saint-Emilion, as well as La Patache and Enclos Tourmaline in Pomerol. The team behind these wines comes from the region, knows exactly what they are doing, and is highly motivated. This can also be felt in the wines. Bellefont-Belcier is a very beautifully situated estate on the Côte Pavie, below Tertre-Rôteboeuf, which has been underestimated so far. The insolation here is very good, from the forest above, it gets some fresh air. The 2018 Bellefont-Belcier consists of 65% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged with 14.3% alcohol in 30% new barrels, 60% used and 10% in a wooden egg. Dark color. Dense in the nose, very fine and deep, massively concentrated and multi-layered, enormously broad, and classically oriented. Large and wide in the mouth, enormously structured, creamy and firm fleshy, deep and with magnificent fine tannins, which are widely spread, showing a lot of energy on the palate at present. Completely ripe and dense, eternally wide-ranging, long, and with great, vibrating acidity, the Bellefont-Belcier knows how to convince.

The 2018 Bellefont-Belcier consists of 65% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged with 14.3% alcohol in 30% new barrels, 60% used and 10% in a wooden egg. Dark color. Dense in the nose, very fine and deep, massively concentrated and multi-layered, enormously broad, and classically oriented. Large and wide in the mouth, enormously structured, creamy and firm fleshy, deep and with magnificent fine tannins, which are widely spread, showing a lot of energy on the palate at present. Completely ripe and dense, eternally wide-ranging, long, and with great, vibrating acidity, the Bellefont-Belcier knows how to convince.



Vignobles K – Jean-Christophe Meyrou and Jérôme Aguirre

**94–95 BELLEVUE** Saint-Emilion Parker 92–94 | Suckling 94–95 | WeinWisser 18/20



Bellevue lies above Angélus on the limestone plateau. Hubert de Bouïard from Angélus is the co-owner of this winery. Very dense and fine, generous in finesse, fleshy, and long, with racy acidity, fine tannins, widely spread in the mouth, deep and filigree, with grip and concentration. Fresh and creamy on the palate, with great power and tight structure, it shows a tremulous acidity and finely woven limestone notes. However, Bellevue 2018 is not quite as brilliant as 2016 or 2017.

**94–95 BELLEVUE MONDOTTE** Saint-Emilion Parker 95–97 | Suckling 96–97 | WeinWisser 17+120

The Bellevue Mondotte is a two-hectare plot with an average vine age of 50 years. The estate belongs to Château Pavie by Gerard Perse. The 2018 Bellevue Mondotte consists of 90% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon with 14.5% alcohol, aged in 100% new barrels. Black color. Sweet, liqueur-like, and massive aromas in the nose, the Bellevue Mondotte is very pithy and yet somewhat superficial in its character. Saturated, sweet, and massive, the Bellevue Mondotte is intense, dense, and long in the mouth, maximum invasive and slightly astringent, it remains very dry and with incredible intensity in the finish. Chocolate, tar, and a red-berried concentrated sweetness it shows in the aftertaste.

**94–95 CARILLON DE L'ANGÉLUS** Saint-Emilion Parker 92–94 | Suckling 94–95 | WeinWisser 17/20

The Carillon de l'Angélus is produced from 15 hectares of vineyards, which are not classified as Premier Grand Cru and, therefore, may not be used in the Grand Vin. The 2018 Carillon de l'Angélus consists of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc and is aged in 50% new barrels. Dark color. Dense and massive, the Carillon de l'Angélus has a concentrated, dark berry aroma, very dense and complex. It offers fine-grained tannins with a lot of character and great depth, again dark fruit reflexes in the long aftertaste, together with tar and graphite.

**94–95 CLOS FOURTET** Saint-Emilion Parker 95–97 | Suckling 96–97 | WeinWisser 19/20



The Clos Fourtet consists of about 90% Merlot, and the rest is Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. The yield was 30hl per hectare, it is aged in less than 50% new barrels, the alcohol was 14%. Dark color, restrained nose with little expressiveness.

Dense, fresh and pithy in the mouth, very long and energetic, with plenty of juice and slightly rough tannins. It has a powerful, cool-toned fruit with notes of graphite and tar, with great pressure and fullness. The 2018 Clos Fourtet has a puristic limestone aroma, with which it has the potential to achieve 95–96 points with further maturation.



**94–95 LA CLOTTE** Saint-Emilion Parker 93–95 | Suckling 93–94 | WeinWisser 18/20



La Clotte is a sister-estate of Ausone and was classified in the Vauthier family's own hierarchy directly above Moulin-Saint-Georges. The terroir lies below La Serre on the limestone plateau, opposite of Pavie-Macquin. The 2018 consists of 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc, it is aged in 80% new barrels. The density of vines in the vineyard is 6,000 vines per hectare, with an average age of 55 years on an area of 4 hectares. The harvest lasted from the 27<sup>th</sup> of September to the 9<sup>th</sup> of October. Dark color. Exotic nose with tropical sweet fruit richness and massive power. Dense and massive also in the mouth, with finest limestone aromatics, firm fleshy, it has a lot of finesse, and is deeply arranged, with crystalline acidity and a great race. Profound and long on the palate, with melty fruit and amazing juiciness in the finish. An extremely high-quality fun wine.

**94–95 GRAND CORBIN DESPAGNE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 93–95 | Suckling 92–93 |*



Francois Despagne achieved his best Grand Corbin so far in 2018. This wine had never before reached such depth and fine-grained tannin structure. The assemblage in 2018 also corresponds to the planting of 75% Merlot, 24% Cabernet Franc and 1% Cabernet Sauvignon in the vineyard. With 14.5% alcohol, it ages in 40% new barrels. The low pH of 3.55 gives it great transparency and freshness. Black color, viscous. The Grand Corbin Despagne smells sweet, fresh, and opulent with deep, rich, and concentrated polished fruit, it keeps a little butter biscuit note and a delicate chocolate note in the background. Elegant and multi-layered in the mouth, with very fine-grained, widely spread tannins, it is very fresh and deep, with excellent tension on the palate. Rich and yet not heavy, it has a finely tuned balance with delicately extracted fruit sweetness. Not too fat, built entirely on delicacy and deep race, with a fine tannin background. Bright, fresh, and of excellent length, this is the best Grand Corbin Despagne of all time.

sive, very clear, slightly sharp at one of the tasting, with a lot of sweetness in the background. Dense and full-bodied in the mouth, somewhat smooth, and with a lot of substance and juice, the tightly controlled tannins show a beautiful spiciness as well as a powerful, pithy structure. The Larcis Ducasse remains somewhat dull and dry on the tongue, with a monolithic style, reminiscent of 2010, limited flow and creaminess. The Larcis Ducasse shows a lot of liqueur-like intensity and a chalky presence but appears heavy and massive. It's best to wait and see.

**95–96 LE MERLE DE PÉBY-FAUGÈRES** Saint-Emilion *Parker 92 | Suckling 93–94 |*

Le Merle de Péby-Faugères consists of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon with 14.5% alcohol and is aged in 35% new barrels. Dark color. Sweet, massive, deep and wide in the nose, liqueury, intense and melty, with some marzipan (almond paste) and nuts. Dense and clear in the mouth, very structured, creamy, and enormously viscous in its texture, it shows very opulently, with good acidity and depth. Somewhat constructed, but with great transparency and complexity.



Mariette Veyssière and François Capdemourlin – Château Quintus

**94–95 L'IF** Saint-Emilion *Parker 93–95 | Suckling 97–98 | WeinWisser 19+/20*



The If is the sister-estate of Le Pin in Pomerol. The 5-hectare plot is situated on the plateau of Troplong. With the 2019 vintage, two new plantings are added: 1 hectare at Puy Blanquet and 2 hectares at Lassègue. 2018 consists of 74% Merlot and 26% Cabernet Franc, with 14.5% alcohol, aged in 50% new barrels. Dark, bright color. Beautiful, deep sweetness in the nose, with still little fruit presence, it seems still closed. Dense and firm in the mouth, very deep, with multi-faceted extract-sweetness, deep melty structure, and rich, firm tannins with a lot of strength and polish. Profound and long on the palate, L'If shows year after year an increase in its potential.

**94–95 QUINTUS** Saint-Emilion *Parker 94–96 | Suckling 93–94 |*



Quintus was harvested from the 20<sup>th</sup> of September to the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, but only 30% of the crop found its way into the Grand Vin, documenting the absolute will to quality. It consists of 72.3% Merlot and 27.7% Cabernet Franc with an impressive 15.2% alcohol, aged in 39% new barrels. Dark, intense color. With a lot of juice and ripe fruit, the Quintus smells very fresh and fine, very multi-layered, and inviting. Dense and massive in the mouth, the Quintus has a lot of juice and complexity, with perfect, deep fruit of dark berry orientation. Very fresh and pithy in the mouth, with tremulous acidity and deep, long arranged tannins with juice, very compactly embedded in the large-scale structure. Distinguished, multi-layered, and broadly defined, the Quintus finds its character more and more, year by year. The alcohol is never noticeable, which shows the aromatic dimension of this great Saint-Emilion.

**94–95 LARCIS-DUCASSE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 96–98 | Suckling 97–98 | WeinWisser 18/20*



Among the three famous Saint-Emilions under the direction of Nicolas Thienpont, this year, the Larcis-Ducasse lies just behind Pavie-Macquin and Beauséjour Duffau Lagarosse. As on Beauséjour, mildew was a major problem, with a yield of 33 hl per hectare. Harvest took place from the 21<sup>st</sup> of September to the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, 72% of the crop went into the Grand Vin with 89% Merlot and 11% Cabernet Franc. Dark color. Fragrant, dark-fruity note on the nose, rich and offen-



**94–95 LA SERRE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 89–91 | Suckling 92–93 |*



La Serre goes to work with the classic blend of 80/20 of Merlot to Cabernet Franc. In recent years, La Serre has been able to express its outstanding terroir more and more. 2018 is, therefore, in line with the very good vintages before.

Deep and fragrant in smell, very fresh and transparent, with great, racy, and fine fruit in the background, and rich, fine-scaled depth from the limestone soil. Fine and persistent in the mouth, with perfect depth and salty structure, which is spicy and long, very finely polished and linear, with excellent transparency and excellent fullness. Eternally long finish with fine-grained tannins and delicately sweet fruit. An excellent Saint-Emilion of the middle price range, which offers a lot of character and longevity for the money, drinking pleasure included.



Château La Serre



**93–94 LES ASTÉRIES** Saint-Emilion *Parker 94–96 | Suckling 93–94 |*



The excellent portfolio of Jonathan Maltus could already shine with a surprising Teyssier (92–93). The vineyard selections have been even better.

The Les Astéries comes from a 1.5-hectare plot near Fonroque with limestone soil. The 2018 Les Astéries consists of 83% Merlot and 17% Cabernet Franc, aged in 80% new barrels with 14.9% of alcohol. Dark, rich color. Dark fruit aromas flow out of the glass with a lot of juice and density. Massive, dense, fleshy extraction in the mouth with great fullness, the lively acidity gives Les Astéries a lot of tension, and depth. With a lot of juice and great strength, it builds up enormous pressure on the palate and becomes somewhat dull at the back, with good length.



Jacques Capdemourlin  
Château Balestard  
La Tonnelle

**94–95 VIEUX CHÂTEAU MAZERAT** Saint-Emilion *Parker 95–97 |*

*Suckling 92–93 |*



The excellent portfolio of Jonathan Maltus could already shine with a surprising Teyssier (92–93). The vineyard selections have been even better, with Vieux Château Mazerat scoring just ahead of Le Carré and Les Astéries (both 93–94). The 3 hectares of Vieux Château Mazerat are located near Le Dôme, not far from Angéhus. The 2018 consists of 65% Merlot and 35% Cabernet Franc, and is aged in 80% new barrels with 14.7% alcohol. Massive color. The Vieux Château Mazerat is dense, full-bodied, and full of fruit, with a fine, dark berry fruit aroma in the core, very fresh and with liqueur-like ripeness. With great freshness, the Cabernet Franc comes fully through in the mouth, dense and full-bodied on the palate, long and deep, complex, and racy. It is probably the higher Cabernet Franc content that makes Vieux Château Mazerat shine ahead of Les Astéries (17%) and Le Carré (15%). In any case, it has a great density and power, which remains fresh and transparent thanks to the Cabernet.

**93–94 ARÔMES DE PAVIE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 92–94 |*

*Suckling 93–94 |*

Arômes de Pavie is Pavie's second wine and comes from a 29-hectare plot, which is not classified as Premier Grand Cru. The 2018 consists of 65% Merlot, 18% Cabernet Franc and 17% Cabernet Sauvignon. It was harvested at 42 hl per hectare and reached 14.4% alcohol. The 2018 Arômes de Pavie is massive, with dark berry aromas, fleshy and intense, with a multi-layered fruit, it shows a broad, clear structure and a beautiful spiciness.

**93–94 BALESTARD LA TONNELLE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 91–93 |*

*Suckling 93–94 |*

The Balestard la Tonnelle was very convincing during several tastings. The 2018 consists of 70% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in 50% new barrels, the alcohol lies slightly above 14%. Dense, rich, and fresh, Balestard la Tonnelle has an excellent, clear structure, is very deep, long and juicy, with clean, layered fruit, great race, and good complexity. Still with the chocolate notes as usual, yet it looks much fresher and tidier than in the past vintages, its brilliant acidity reminds a little of 2010. Probably it is rather at 94 points after the bottling, as long as it keeps its chocolate richness and gains in elegant acidity play.

**93–94 BEAU SÉJOUR BÉCOT** Saint-Emilion *Parker 95–97 |*

*Suckling 95–96 | WeinWisser 19/20*

The Beau Séjour Bécot consists of 70% Merlot, 24% Cabernet Franc and 6% Cabernet Sauvignon, and it is aged in 70% new barrels with slightly more than 14% alcohol. It has somewhat lighter color. Fresh, delicate nose, very elegant and full of finesse. Very fresh, crunchy, and deep in the mouth, with fine, somewhat light-toned fruit, concentrated, with a lot of depth and density, elegant tannins with great play and melting, deeply structured and long. In one of three samples, it had an Italian sweetness in the nose, appeared broad and hollow, probably a tired one. However, all three samples showed clear differences in their characteristics. Any deviation from the description is, therefore, within the realm of possibility.





**93–94 BERLIQUET** Saint-Emilion Parker 93–95 | Suckling 94–95 |

It was a smart move by Canon to buy the neighbor Berliquet. Because on the one hand, this estate was clearly undervalued so far, although the outstanding terroir lies on the limestone plateau between Canon and Quintus. One-third of the vineyard area lies on the plateau and two-thirds on the slopes below. At present, 7 hectares are in production, and possibly new plantings will lead to a mix of 50/50 Merlot and Cabernet Franc, so the goal. At present, large plots are planted mixed with both grape varieties, which makes cultivation and harvesting more difficult. The 2018 consists of 78% Merlot and 22% Cabernet Franc, it is aged in 45% new barrels with an alcohol level of 14.5%. Dark color. Dense, rich, and saturated, with a lot of juice and depth, very differentiated and clear, very taut, long, and with a great deep structure, always wide open on the palate. Retasted at Canon, the Berliquet appeared unusually rough, compact, and rustic.

**93–94 CALICEM** Saint-Emilion Suckling 94–95 |

In 2015, the Château Couvent des Jacobins bought an adjoining plot of just under one hectare. The Merlot vines were planted on clay and sand with limestone splinters in 1961. This is the origin of Calicem. The 2018 Calicem was harvested at 22–25 hl per hectare and fermented in new 500-liter tonneaux. Black color. Massive in the nose with lots of intensity. Viscous and substantial in the mouth, very deep and dense, broadly defined, sweet, and very fresh, with large structure and depth, with chocolaty notes, tar, and graphite.

**93–94 LE CARRÉ** Saint-Emilion Parker 93–95 | Suckling 93–94 |



The excellent portfolio of Jonathan Maltus could already shine with a surprising Teyssier (92–93). The vineyard-selections are even better. Le Carré is situated on a plateau with clay soil and covers 1 hectare. It consists of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc with 14.8% alcohol. Dense, saturated, and full-bodied, Le Carré is very deep and spicy, revealing a bit of alcohol. Full-bodied on the palate, long and with plenty of juice, it has racy acidity, a powerful midpalate and slightly austere, fine-grained, transparent tannins. Followed by plenty of juice in the aftertaste, good firm structure, somewhat light-toned aroma.

**93–94 CHERUBIN** Saint-Emilion

Cherubin is a small project by Bertrand Bourdil, who previously worked as a cellar master at Mouton-Rothschild. The 2.5 hectares are not far from Angélus, 2018 was harvested on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September with about 13.7% alcohol. Dark color. The Cherubin possesses a dark, fresh, fleshy fruit, is quite clear and transparent, with melty and generous fullness in the smell. In the mouth, it shows racy tannins, a dense core, and large tension, or *trame*, as the Frenchman says. Its racy structure is melting on the palate, salty-mineral and long, deep, and with a caramel-like complexity in the overtones. This wine should reach 94 points after the bottling.

**93–94 CLOS DE L'ORATOIRE** Saint-Emilion Suckling 94–95 |



The Clos de l'Oratoire was harvested from the 21<sup>st</sup> of September to the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, with 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc in the assemblage with 13.5% alcohol. After 30 days of maceration, it was aged in 45% new barrels. The Clos de l'Oratoire is dense and firm, chalky and deep, with excellent transparency and spiciness, very structured and long. The fruit was somewhat closed on a rainy day at my only en primeur tasting.

**93–94 CLOS DE SARPE** Saint-Emilion Parker 94–96 | Suckling 94–95 |

One-third of the Clos de Sarpe vines are about 22 to 45 years old and two thirds 65 to 85 years old. At 20 hl per hectare, the yield was pretty low, and the blend consists of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc. About 10% was fermented in 600-liter tonneaux, the rest in concrete tanks, the aging takes place in 70% new barriques. The Clos de Sarpe has a black color, a sweet, dark berry cassis fruit in the nose, a liqueur-like orientation, but limited depth. Tight and salty, the Clos de Sarpe shows a hard acidity and enormous tension in the mouth, very dense and fleshy, with a lot of strength and fullness, good length, and a dry finish.



**93–94 CLOS DES JACOBINS** Saint-Emilion Suckling 93–94 |

Decanter 90 |

The Clos des Jacobins consists of 83% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc and 1% Cabernet Sauvignon, and is aged in 75% new barrels. Massive viscous color. Full, sweet, dense, intense, round, and melty at the beginning, it shows a lot of power and fullness, extremely chocolaty, with little to no core-aroma. The tannins dominate and remain absolutely dull, a little acidity, with a lot of body, and good length in the mouth. For lovers of Pavie, the Clos des Jacobins would be an interesting, inexpensive alternative.

**93–94 CLOS DUBREUIL** Saint-Emilion Suckling 92–93 |

WeinWisser 18.5/20



The Clos Dubreuil consists of the classic 80/20 blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc. 20% of the grapes were fermented in new open barriques and later aged in them (vinification integrale). Black, viscous color. Dense, sweet, provocative, with a lot of Cabernet-fruit in the nose, with liqueur-like extract-sweetness, a bit tar, and cassis, deep and inviting. Dense, racy, and harmonious in the mouth, it has plenty of juice, dark berry notes, and ripe, liqueur-like and fat aromas, somewhat dull, dry tannins, good spice with some graphite, it is complex and rich, and quite long.

**93–94 COUVENT DES JACOBINS** Saint-Emilion *Parker 93–95 | Suckling 93–94 |*



The Couvent des Jacobins consists of 81% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc and 7% Petit Verdot, and is aged in 45% new barrels. Dark, dense color. Dense and rich, fruity, open, and with a lot of substance in the smell. Rich in the mouth, with creamy fullness, but not too opulent, massive, with racy tannins, which integrate into the loose structure with a lot of strength and body, great, densely woven centerpiece, deep, naturally pithy and long. Very good Couvent, classically oriented.



Xavier Jean, Couvent des Jacobins

**93–94 LA FLEUR POURRET** Saint-Emilion

La Fleur Pourret is the sister-estate of the famous Château Figéac, situated a little closer to the center of Saint-Emilion. The Fleur Pourret 2018 showed a still dull, dark berry nose, some dry, nevertheless fine tannins, which juice to the back. Quite long, with abundant fruit and intensity, the Fleur Pourret is already somehow a small Figéac.

**93–94 FONROQUE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 92–93 |*

Fonroque is one of the biodynamic pioneers of Bordeaux. The 2018 consists of 82% Merlot and 18% Cabernet Franc, aged in 30% new barrels. Dark color. Offensive, with juicy sweetness and fine full fruit in the smell. Concentrated, with good richness in the mouth, it shows a lot of juice, good freshness, a racy, wiry, acidity with a lot of pressure, and deep structure with substance and length.

**93–94 FRANC-MAYNE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 90–92 | Suckling 90–91 |*



The Franc-Mayne consists of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, harvested at 45 hl per hectare, and it carries 14,1% alcohol. The pictures exposed during the presentation, show barriques, and large barrels as well as an amphora, and suggest that experimentation has found a home here. Most journalists like to report this news. Dark color. Offensive, rich, sweet, liqueur-like cherry-aroma in the nose, very massive appearance. Dense, firm tannins in the mouth with a lot of pressure, somewhat dry, but widely spread, fine-grained, and harmonious. Juicy and clearly structured, with enormous depth, it shows elegant and red-berried notes. It is deliberately also rather light-toned and tender, instead of being over-concentrated, but somewhat dry in the finish.

**93–94 LA COUSPAUDE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 93–94 |*

The La Couspaude is slightly less over-extracted and chocolaty due to late harvesting than before. It consists of 75% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon with 14% alcohol. In the 50% new barrels, a part of the must is also fermented (vinification integrale). This modern-day technique makes the young wine more powerful and softened, which can have a positive effect on inexperienced tasters at primeurs tastings. But this effect reduces itself with further aging. Rich and fruity, with a lot of power and spice, La Couspaude shows a cool-toned fruit and significantly less chocolaty notes than before. Thus it gains in juiciness and flow, is still not super complex, but with good length.

**93–94 LAFORGE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 89–90 |*



The La Forge is the second Saint-Emilion in the portfolio of Jonathan Maltus. The entry wine Teyssier (92–93) surprised very much this year, La Forge is a Cuvée from several terroirs. The La Forge consists of 92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc with 14.8% alcohol. Liqueur-like and intense, rich, full, and massive, with great extract-sweetness and enormous fruit in the nose. Completely round and juicy, with a lot of substance and dark berry aromas, it is fleshy and long, and somewhat firmer and more powerful than Teyssier.

**93–94 MOULIN-SAINT-GEORGES** Saint-Emilion *Parker 92–94 |*

*Suckling 92–93 | WeinWisser 17.5+/20*



Moulin-Saint-Georges has established itself as one of my absolute favorite estates for several years now. On the one hand, because the wines are so incredibly relaxed and natural. On the other hand, because it is produced with the greatest know-how by the Vauthier family (Château Ausone). The 7 hectares have calcareous clay soil, the average age of the vines is 31 years. The 2018 harvest lasted from the 28<sup>th</sup> of September to the 9<sup>th</sup> of October. Moulin-Saint-Georges 2018 consists of the classic 80/20 blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc, aged in 80% new barrels, but with no taste of oak at all. Dark color. The Moulin-Saint-Georges smells sweet and open, with lots of flesh and great, rich, dark fruit with chocolaty reflexes and high concentration, a lot of juice, and richness in the background. Enormously melting fullness in the mouth, dense, rich, and juicy again, with wiry fresh acidity, deep and long. The wide-spread tannins have a creamy texture, seem very fresh and sweetish in the aftertaste. A great Moulin-Saint-Georges, which provides simply a lot of fun soon. Enjoy 2011 now!

**93–94 PAVIE DECESSE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 96–98 | Suckling 97–98 |*

Pavie Decesse belongs to the wineries of Gérard Perse around the jewel Château Pavie and is, as the name suggests, the direct neighbour above Pavie. The vines in average are 51 years old, and 32 hl per hectare were harvested in 2018. The Pavie-Decesse consists of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc with 14.5% alcohol, aged in 100% new barrels. Black, solid color. Dark berry nose with a toasted note of bacon, fleshy, sweet, and intense. Powerful and with a massive body, the Pavie Decesse completely dries out in the mouth, remains astringent to bitter on the tongue. It operates with maximum extraction, sweet intensity, is impulsive and fixed with a hard acidity, and is concentrated right to the pain threshold. To a cigar or grilled beefsteak, it can go well.

**93–94 PINDEFLEURS** Saint-Emilion *Parker 89–91 | Suckling 91–92 |*



The successful Pindefleurs consists of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. Natural, dark color. Deep, with dark berry aroma in the nose, it shows lots of intensity, and velour-like fullness, very appealing. Dense, harmonious, and close-meshed in the mouth, very clearly structured and equipped with racy tannins. Rich, concentrated, with flesh and great play, powerful, long, everything loosely and deeply freshly arranged. Actually, Pindefleurs has been on the upswing since 2011 at the latest. 2018 is absolutely fabulous.



Jean-François Quenin,  
Château de Pressac



**93–94 DE PRESSAC** Saint-Emilion *Suckling* 93–94 | *Decanter* 93 | *WeinWisser* 18\*/20



The sympathetic Jean-François Quenin owns de Pressac, one of the most beautiful, genuine castles on the right bank. Purchased in 1997, he afforded the luxury and consulted several renowned oenological advisors to obtain the best information mix for his wine. In recent years, the de Pressac has definitively achieved a genuine, independent character. The de Pressac 2018 consists of two-thirds Merlot and one-third Cabernet Franc and reached 15% alcohol. Black color. Fruity, gripping nose with a lot of Cabernet Franc character, offensive, fleshy, and dark berry, with a slightly fatty nature and balsamic-liqueur notes. The de Pressac is a powerful, full-bodied, racy, compact, and multi-layered wine without being heavy. It owes its silky structure, salty-mineral freshness, and great transparency to the southern foothills of the limestone plateau on which the Château truly sits. Only the tannins are not very fine-grained and somewhat rough, which I had always attributed to the presence of Pressac (Malbec) in the blend. With 2018, however, this variety went completely into the second wine.

**93–94 LE PRIEURÉ** Saint-Emilion *Suckling* 92–93 | *Decanter* 95 |



Le Prieuré belongs to the Artemis group around Château Latour. The estate is situated on the upper part of the Troplong plateau aisle to bypass Saint-Emilion from the east towards the south. Le Prieuré consists of 64% Merlot and 36% Cabernet Franc, aged in 40% new barrels. Lively, dark color. Very fresh and clear, with little fruit and a delicate chalky terroir in the nose. Firm and fleshy, with good sharpness of detail and distinguished tannins, powerful, and with a lot of energy in the mouth, its red berry fruit is accompanied with crystalline acidity, a lot of juice and backbone, in the finish, fruit and sweetness follow.

**93–94 ROC DE BOISSEAUX** Saint-Emilion *Parker* 90–92 | *Suckling* 91–92 |



The Roc de Boisseaux belongs to the family de Bouard around the Château Angéhus. The Roc de Boisseaux was harvested at 40 hectolitres per hectare, with 13.5% alcohol from a blend 80/20 of Merlot and Cabernet Franc, aged in one-third new barrels. Dense and fleshy, with fine-grained tannins, a lot of juice, and depth, very melty and multi-layered, elegant, and fine in the mouth. A really very good, incredibly inexpensive Saint-Emilion. Unfortunately, I only tasted once for a brief sip.

**93–94 ROCHEYRON** Saint-Emilion *Suckling* 96–97 |

Château Rocheyron is a joint project of Silvio Denz (Faugères) and Peter Sisseck (Pingus, Ribera del Duero) with 8 hectares of vineyards. Rocheyron 2018 consists of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc, harvested at only 18 hectolitres per hectare. With 14.5% alcohol, the Rocheyron is aged in 40% new barrels. Dark color. Massive, round, and sweet, the Rocheyron is open and fresh, with little complexity in the aromatics, with beautiful, polished tannins.

**93–94 SAINT GEORGES CÔTE PAVIE** Saint-Emilion *Parker* 93–95 | *Suckling* 94–95 |

The exceptional terroir of Saint Georges Côte Pavie lies between La Gaffelière and Pavie on the limestone plateau. Black color. Offensive, with lots of intensity and power, very cool-toned and inviting in the nose. Sweet, dense, round, and melting in the mouth, very stylish, fine-grained and juicy, with a lot of strength and race, long, intense and harmonious. One of the best Saint Georges Côte Pavie so far.

**93–94 SANSONNET** Saint-Emilion *Parker* 92–94 | *Suckling* 95–96 |



The Sansonnet consists of 85% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, and 7% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in 80% new barrels. Black color. The Sansonnet has a dense, rich nose with dark fruit, graphite, blackcurrant, coffee, and chocolate. Juicy and substantial in the mouth, with a lot of body and spice, abundant extract aromas, precise and concentrated, it is interpreted in a modern way, salty and minerally structured. Intense tannins with hard acidity, long, dry, and dull in the finish. The Sansonnet has good potential, but if it does not round off, it can only reach 92/100.

**93–94 SOUTARD** Saint-Emilion *Parker* 93–95 | *Suckling* 91–92 |



Soutard is always a very concentrated, modern wine. At the first tasting, it didn't look as stocky as usual, but dry and dull, with good depth. At the second tasting, it was offensive and somewhat rustic, with little acidity. At the third tasting, everything fitted together: The Soutard consists of 61% Merlot, 31% Cabernet Franc, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 1% Malbec, aged in 60% new barrels. Dark, dense and substantial, sweet, not as chocolaty as sister-estate Larmande, somewhat more lively, clearly deeper and broader in structure, with fine tannins, generous creaminess, and very good depth. The yield was 28hl per hectare, with 14.5% alcohol.

**93–94 LA TOUR FIGÉAC** Saint-Emilion *Parker* 92–94 | *Decanter* 91 |

The 2018 La Tour Figéac was very convincing. It consists of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc, with 14.5% alcohol it matures in 50% new barrels. Dense and racy, with a lovely classic, pithy character, with a lot of substance, and meat, and racy acidity. It shows slightly rough tannins with a gripping character, much pressure, and energy on the palate. Excellent La Tour Figéac.



**93–94 TOUR ST.-CHRISTOPHE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 92–94* |*Suckling 96–97* | *WeinWisser 18/20*

The Vignobles K were launched in 2014 by Peter Kwok, a native of Vietnam, who had already bought Tour Saint Christophe in 2012. Meanwhile, the portfolio includes, among other estates: Haut-Brisson and the latest acquisition in Saint-Emilion Bellefont-Belcier, as well as La Patache and Enclos Tourmaline in Pomerol. The team behind these wines comes from the region, knows exactly what they are doing, and is highly motivated. This can also be felt in the wines. The Tour Saint Christophe attracted attention as 2015, and since then, this Saint-Emilion has established itself at a consistently high level. The vineyard, with 20 hectares of excellent terroir, is located on the limestone plateau near Saint-Christophe-des-Bardes and looks out to the opposite side of the Secteur Mondotte, over La Croizille and Troplong-Mondot. The 2018 Tour Saint Christophe consists of 80/20 blend Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, it has 14.7% alcohol and is aged in 40% new barrels. Dark color. Deep, sweet, and fleshy in the nose. With a lot of power and with very subtle, deep acidity-tension in the mouth, densely woven, with a lot of substance, eternally long, and multi-layered, very massive, and wide on the palate.

**92–93 CAP DE MOURLIN** Saint-Emilion *Parker 92–94* |*Suckling 93–94* |

Cap de Mourlin consists of 65% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. In the 50% new barrels, part of the must was fermented (vinification integrale) and after pressing filled in again. The other half was fermented in tank and aged in used barrels. The Cap de Mourlin is dense, and full-bodied, with beautiful fruit, fresh and clear, with chocolaty spice, deep and long, with racy acidity, and a bit rough tannins. Not super-complex, somewhat superficial and covered with melty oak, it shows a slightly rough flow with a fresh finish.

**92–93 CLOS LA MADELEINE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 92–94* |*Suckling 93–94* |

In September 2017, the 2.3 hectares of Clos La Madeleine were purchased by the négociant Jean-Pierre Moueix. They are surrounded by Bélair-Monange vineyards of the Moueix family. The logical consequence was to fill the missing piece on this side of the plateau. The Clos la Madeleine consists of 76% Merlot and 24% Cabernet Franc. Dense, melting and long, with a lot of energy and fullness, very deep and spicy, with a fine, chocolaty creamy character, and delicate acidity, it shows a lot of attraction, and well integrated tannins.

**92–93 CORBIN** Saint-Emilion *Parker 91–93* | *Suckling 93–94* |

The Corbin consists of 90% Merlot, and 10% Cabernet Franc, aged in 50% new barrels. It was harvested at 42hl per hectare from the 20<sup>th</sup> of September to the 8<sup>th</sup> of October. Dense, opulent, rich and powerful, with plenty of juice, chocolaty and with soft acidity, the Corbin shows a high intensity, with a broad shouldered and fleshy presence. Dark berry, deep, long and clear.

**92–93 DAME DE TROTTE VIEILLE** Saint-Emilion *Suckling 92–93* |

The second wine of Trotte Vieille is a real stunner this year! It consists of 52% Merlot and 48% Cabernet Franc, which in 2018 is a mix with sex appeal. Dense, saturated and full-bodied, with a beautiful creamy texture, very rich in extracts, concentrated, close-meshed and long.

**92–93 DASSAULT** Saint-Emilion *Parker 93–95* | *Suckling 94–95* |

The Dassault consists of 75% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, it is aged in 70% new barrels. The Dassault is always somewhat of a modern type, dark berry fruited and fleshy, with graphite notes and concentrated, intense fruit aromas, coffee and tar, with sweet creaminess on the palate and massive tannins, not very deep or rich in finesse, yet appealing, somewhat dull.

**92–93 DAUGAY** Saint-Emilion *Parker 90–92* | *Suckling 92–93* |

The Daugey consists of 63% Merlot, 32% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. It belongs to the owner family Grenié de Bouïard of Château Angéus. Creamy, melting, juicy and round, with lively soft acidity, very harmonious, it has fine-grained tannins, much pressure and strength, as well as good length. Down-to-earth classic Saint-Emilion.

**92–93 LA DOMINIQUE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 90–92* | *Suckling 95–96* |

La Dominique harvested 42hl per hectare from the 20<sup>th</sup> of September to the first week of October. The berries were small, the blend consists of 85% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, and 3% Cabernet Sauvignon. With 14.5% alcohol, La Dominique is aged in 45% new barrels. About 10% of the Grand Vin was fermented in new barrels and matured in them after pressing (vinification integrale). Red-crimson-purple color. Restrained nose. Dense, sweet and offensive, with red berry aromas, La Dominique has a hollow middle and dull tannins. With crystalline acidity it becomes more juicy at the finish, creamy sweet and melty, it remains somewhat smooth and a bit boring. Little depth and complexity.

**92–93 LE DRAGON DE QUINTUS** Saint-Emilion *Parker 90–92* |*Suckling 92–93* |

The second wine of Quintus can also score serious points in 2018. It consists of 75.2% Merlot and 24.8% Cabernet Franc. With 47,000 bottles it represents about 40% of the production, has 14.8% alcohol and is aged in 30% new barrels. Fragrant and dense in the nose, rich, very firm fleshy and deep, it shows a clear response in the mouth, with a lot of spice and solid tannins. Juicy, full and with good energy, Le Dragon shows highly respectable qualities.

**92–93 FAUGÈRES** Saint-Emilion *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 95–96 |*

The Fauçères consists of 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, and is aged in 50% new barrels. Dark color. Offensive and red berry-fruited in the nose, full-bodied, sweet, and with somewhat dull notes in it. Melting, sweet, and rounded in the mouth, with a lot of juice, the Fauçères, therefore, shows little grip but yet a good tannin structure. Thus it remains somewhat simple and indifferent, close to the palate, yet dry and hard at the back, with crystalline acidity in the aftertaste.

**92–93 FOMBRAUGE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 93–94 |*

The Fombrauge consists of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. Dark, viscous color. Sweet and open on the nose, with plenty of fruit and a liqueur-like top note. Very dense and fresh, with beautiful rich tannins, full-bodied, melting viscous in the mouth, very crisp, concentrated, and tightly organized. With a lot of energy, rich structure, as well as finesse, good strength, and length, the Fombrauge is very polished and on a great level. A wine that should be drunk in large bottles like 3 liters.

**92–93 GRANDES MURAILLES** Saint-Emilion *Suckling 92–93 |*

*Decanter 91 |*

Dense, massive, rich, and offensive, with a lot of substance, spice, and rich concentration. Despite a lot of pressure on the palate and dark berry sweetness, the Grandes Murailles shows only a bit of a core aroma, graphite, and chocolate come back again in the aftertaste.

**92–93 GRAND MAYNE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 91–93 | Decanter 91 |*

The Grand Mayne consists of 80% Merlot, 17% Cabernet Franc and 3% Cabernet Sauvignon. It was harvested at 30hl per hectare, 65% new oak were used, and the alcohol content was 14.5%. Dark color. Raisiny, sweet, and offensive in the nose, it is fleshy and full-bodied. Sweet, offensive, and with little acidity in the mouth, it shows a broad, somewhat rough, and sweet structure, with dull, severe tannins and slightly hard aura. The Grand Mayne is still a bit difficult to judge in this youthful phase. Unfortunately, I tasted it only once.

**92–93 GUADET** Saint-Emilion *Parker 88–90 | Suckling 89–90 |*

The Guadet consists of 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Franc, matured in 30% big oak casks, and 70% Barriques, with around 10% new wood. Dense, firm with great structure, deep and fresh, unfortunately almost empty sample, only tasted once briefly. Very promising Guadet.

**92–93 HAUT BRISSON** Saint-Emilion *Parker 90–92 | Suckling 95–96 |*

The Vignobles K were founded in 2014 by Peter Kwok, a native of Vietnam. Meanwhile, the portfolio includes the Châteaux Haut-Brisson, Tour Saint Christophe, and the latest acquisition Bellefont-Belcier in Saint-Emilion, as well as La Patrice and Enclos Tourmaline in Pomerol. The team behind these wines comes from the region, knows exactly what they are doing, and is highly motivated. This can also be felt in the wines. The Haut-Brisson comes from two plots, one at Monbousquet in the plain and one at Fombrauge. The assemblage is the classic 80/20 Merlot and Cabernet Franc blend. The Haut-Brisson is aged in 40% new barrels with 14.6% alcohol. Firm, with a lot of substance and character, densely structured, with fine acidity and very good depth, it is long and fresh.

**92–93 LARMANDE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 92–93 |*

The Larmande consists of 81% Merlot, 17% Cabernet Franc and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon and is aged in 60% new barrels. Dense, sweet, chocolaty, melty, and structured, the Larmande has a lot of Cabernet spice, cassis, and a deep race, it seems a little hard in the charisma and with a hearty, toasty bacon note.

**92–93 LAROZE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 92–93 |*

The Laroze consists of 50% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in 100% new barrels. Dense and saturated, with plenty of wood, good depth and race, concentrated and with class, it also possesses excellent strength. Perhaps the new wood is a bit too much for Laroze.

**92–93 LUSSEAU** Saint-Emilion *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 91–92 |*

Laurent Lusseau is the technical director of Château Pavie. In partnership with Gérard Perse, he was allowed to present his inexpensive Lusseau at Pavie. In terms of style and price, however, it clearly stands out from the Pavie family wines. The Lusseau consists of 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. The small two hectare-plot is near Monbousquet. The average age of the vines is 47 years, the yield was 38 hectolitres per hectare, and the alcohol content is 13.45%. Loose, fleshy, deep, and fragrant, with beautiful, racy, lively acidity, clean and richly equipped, with creamy fullness, soft red berry fruit. It has a proper, firm construction, is somewhat smooth, but well structured.

**92–93 MATHILDE** Saint-Emilion

The Mathilde is a selection of La Fleur Morange; it consists of pure Merlot from a plantation that is about 50 years old. It has a black color and is highly massive and intense, very substantial, and powerful in the nose. Extremely concentrated in the mouth, massive, with a hint of grill coal, sweet, luxuriant, and with a lot of alcohol. A wine with extremely much substance, less towards finesse. If it should appear dried out after the bottling, the rating can also go down.

**92–93 MOULIN DU CADET** Saint-Emilion *Parker 90–92 |*

*Suckling 93–94 |*

The Moulin du Cadet is made from pure Merlot, aged in 80% new barrels. Dark, dense fruit with a lot of juice and freshness, strongly structured, close-meshed, with a lot of race, powerful and spicy, a bit dry.

**92–93 LE PETIT CHEVAL** Saint-Emilion *Parker 93–95 | Suckling 93–94*

The Petit Cheval this year consists of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc, it represents only 10% of the production, another 16% were sold in barrels, 74% of the production went into the Grand Vin. Therefore there is not much Petit Cheval from 2018. Dark color, fragrant and fine in smell, very creamy, with lots of juice and with delicate fruit. Dense in the mouth, slightly dull and dry at first, then the distinction of the tannins emerge, long, differentiated and noble.

**92–93 QUINAULT L'ENCLOS** Saint-Emilion Parker 92–94 |

Suckling 93–94 |



Quinault l'Enclos is the sister estate of Cheval Blanc. It consists of 71.5% Merlot, 14.5% Cabernet Franc and 14% Cabernet Sauvignon. It grows on sandy soils near Libourne. The alcohol content of Quinault l'Enclos 2018 is 14.1%, and it is exclusively aged in tonneaux of 500 liters capacity, 50% of which are new. For the 2018 vintage, the new cellar was used for the first time. As usual, it is dense and full-bodied, powerful and firm, with round, creamy richness and viscous structure, good race, depth, and length. A polished wine with class and good accessibility.

**92–93 ROLLAND-MAILLET** Saint-Emilion Parker 89–91 |

Suckling 91–92 |

The Rolland-Maillet consists of the classic blend of 80/20 Merlot to Cabernet Franc. Black color. Dense, sweet, offensive, and full-bodied it shows in the nose. Complex in the mouth, with lots of substance, viscous texture, and high concentration, with some chocolate in the finish, but also very deep in structure and with good tannins and spice, long aftertaste.

**92–93 TEYSSIER** Saint-Emilion Parker 91–93 | Suckling 91–92 |

The Teyssier was a brilliant entry-level wine in the portfolio of Jonathan Maltus. It consists of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc, was harvested at 30hl per hectare, and reached 14.8% alcohol. Fruity, rich, dense, and round, the Teyssier shows a lot of juice and substance. Firmly structured it brings a lot of pressure to the palate, with fine acidity and good grip. The tannins are very well adapted, deep, and racy. Fruity Saint-Emilion with style and depth.

**92–93 YON FIGÉAC** Saint-Emilion Parker 89–89 | Suckling 89–90 |

The Yon Figéac consists of 81% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc and 6% Petit Verdot, and it is aged in 60% new barrels. The Yon Figéac is very dense, with a rich extraction and good presence, it carries lots of juice, high concentration, and good length.

**91–92 A CAPELLA** Saint-Emilion

The A Capella is produced by the Grand Cru Clavis Orea. It is a microcuvée of about 1,000 bottles of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc, aged in two 400-liter wooden bowls of the Tonnellerie Quintessence, called *pearls*. The yield is very low at 24hl per hectare, the price for the A Capella can't be low as well. Rich, massive, slightly bitter, strongly extracted, and dull, with great concentration, which hopefully, with further aging, ensures the balance of the actual as-trinting appearance.

**91–92 ANGELOTS DE GRACIA** Saint-Emilion Parker 91–93 |

Suckling 92–93 |

The Angelots de Gracia is the second wine of Gracia. It is obtained from the classic blend of 80/20 Merlot to Cabernet Franc with an, as always, low yield of 20hl per hectare. Dark color, sweet berry aromas, strongly concentrated, dull, it is showing slightly rough tannins, some graphite, slightly chocolaty notes, clearly structured.

**91–92 CHANTE ALOUETTE** Saint-Emilion

Benoit d'Arfeuille heads Chante-Alouette. The vineyards have sandy soils with some clay. Dense, sweet and viscous, the Chante Alouette is more on the luscious side, with lots of richness and play, saturated and firm, with a lot of power and high intensity.

**91–92 CHAUVIN** Saint-Emilion Parker 92–94 | Suckling 91–92 |

The Chauvin consists of 75% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged with 60% new barrels. Massive color. Tight and firm, with good depth, lots of juice, and body with a lively structure. The Chauvin has dry, slightly dull tannins in the middle, but good juicy fullness to the finish and a rich fruit concentration with fine acidity.

**91–92 CÔTE BALEAU** Saint-Emilion Parker 88–90 | Decanter 90 |

The Côte Baleau consists of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, aged in 20% new barrels with 14.5% alcohol. Harvest was late from 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of October. Liqueur-sweet and concentrated, viscous in the mouth, with dull tannins and beautiful fruit aroma, the Côte Baleau remains a bit strict, with a hard expression in the finish. Wait, this wine could increase.

**91–92 CROIX CANON** Saint-Emilion Parker 91–93 | Suckling 92–93 |

The second wine from Canon comes from 10 hectares of vines, which are not classified as Premier Grand Cru. Nothing was out-classed by the Grand Vin this year into the Croix Canon. It has a lot of juice and a round, creamy structure, fresh, balanced, and as expected with a lot of style.

**91–92 CROIX CARDINALE** Saint-Emilion Parker 90–92 |

Suckling 91–92 |

The Croix Cardinale consists of 72% Merlot and 28% Cabernet Franc. Massive, viscous color. Little aromatic in the nose, it shows a dull fruit, anyhow, some sweetness comes through. Round, with abundant extraction and delicate spiciness, it has power and finesse, but the tannins look dull, yet with a good tension on the palate.

**91–92 DESTIEUX** Saint-Emilion Parker 89–91 | Suckling 92–93 |

The Destieux is made from 66% Merlot and 17% each Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. Dark color. Sweet and caramel, with little freshness, but a lot of juice and oaky aromas in the smell. Thick and pithy in the mouth, powerful and full-bodied, with dull tannins and a lot of extract, it looked a bit empty. Unfortunately only tasted once.

**91–92 FAURIE DE SOUCHARD** Saint-Emilion *Parker 93–95 | Suckling 89–90 |*

The Faurie de Soutard belongs to the Château Dassault and is made from 70% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in 75% new barrels. Superficial and compact, with a dark fruit base, crystalline acidity, missing a bit creaminess, full-bodied, sweet and dry.

**91–92 LA FLEUR D'ARTHUS** Saint-Emilion *Parker 84–86 | Suckling 91–92 |*

The Fleur d'Arthus consists of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc. Black color, viscous. Sweet, lush, fruity, and upfront in the nose, with little depth. Full to the beginning in the mouth, then little aromatic in the middle, with gripping tannins, a bit dry and dull, with liqueury, fruity sweetness, pleasant spiciness, and limited length.

**91–92 LA FLEUR MORANGE** Saint-Emilion *Suckling 92–93 |*

The La Fleur Morange consists of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc from approximately 2 hectares, averaging about 100 years old plants. Massive, extra viscous color. Rich, dense and lush in the nose, tightly structured in the mouth, dull, with plenty of extract and some depth.



Alain and Pauline Vauthier

**91–92 DE FONBEL** Saint-Emilion *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 91–92 |*

After at Fonbel the entire harvest was lost due to frost in 2017, the plants on the 16 hectares will have to recover first before they can produce perfect fruit. 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Carmenere, aged in 30% new barrels. With its typical, dark-berry flavor, the Fonbel is full and compact, with beautiful fruit aromas and lots of juice, compact and fresh, with good richness. Deep and long, with slight acidity, full of character and very natural.

**91–92 GRAND CORBIN** Saint-Emilion *Suckling 91–92 |*

The Grand Corbin consists of 80% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Franc and 4% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in 40% new barrels. Dense and full, with beautiful oak and subtle aromas, slightly over-extracted and solid. Sweet, saturated, and full-bodied, the sample could also have been an unrepresentative one out of a new barrel.

**91–92 HAUT SARPE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 93–95 | Suckling 91–92 |*

The Haut Sarpe consists of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc, aged in 50% new wood. Dense, full and fruity, with a lot of breed, beautiful tannin structure, it looks a bit dull and empty.

**91–92 HAUT-SIMARD** Saint-Emilion *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 92–93 |*

The Haut-Simard consists of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc, aged in 50% new wood. After the frost damage of 2017, the vines have to recover first before they can produce perfect fruit. Deep and yet less fragrant than usual, it seems a bit hollow and dull. With lots of juice and clarity, it possesses very fresh fruit, stuffy, clean, and fine, and it remains a little rough and closed with good breed.

**91–92 LYNSOLENCE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 93–95 | Suckling 93–94 |*



The Lynsolence is a pure Merlot with black, purple color. Sweet, opulent, offensive, and broad in the nose. Compact and saturated in the mouth, not very aromatic, with pointed acidity, little creaminess, and lacking expression, it reveals closed, with good freshness.

**91–92 LA MAURIANE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 88–90 |*

The La Mauriane was tasted, unfortunately, only once. Massive, super-viscous and intense, sweet and rich, with aromas of charcoal, it leaves a bit dull and dry and seems slightly stressed and over-extracted.

**91–92 MONBOUSQUET** Saint-Emilion *Parker 93–95 | Suckling 94–95 |*



The Monbousquet consists of 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon with 14.3% alcohol. After five weeks of maceration, it was transferred into 50% new barriques. Massive, viscous color. Dark aromas, with chocolate in the nose and banana peels in the overtone range, still reductive, with notes of charcuterie and liverwurst. Thick, dense, dull, and dry in the mouth, hard and bitter, some charcoal as well on the tongue, with little fruit and limited aromas in the aftertaste. Black tea-tannins, powerful, with tar on the palate. Like all terroirs in the plain valley, the vines have to recover after the frost of 2017.

**91–92 MONDOT** Saint-Emilion *Parker 89–91 | Suckling 93–94 |*

The second wine of Troplong Mondot in 2018 is a pure Merlot with 14.5% alcohol. Dense and full-bodied, with dry tannins, it looks a bit austere and hard. Rich and powerful, it has a little character and aromatic expression. A prime example of how Merlot in 2018 had problems developing aromatic character even in the best of terroirs.

**91–92 MONTLABERT** Saint-Emilion *Suckling 91–92 |*

The Montlabert is produced in the classic blend of 80/20 Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Massive color. Fresh, rich, berry fruit notes on the nose, spicy, slightly raspy reflexes, large-scaled, and appealing. Substantial in the mouth, with a lot of spice and deep structure, sweet extract, and a crystalline acidity, which assures proper tension and lively aromas.

**91–92 PUY BLANQUET** Saint-Emilion *Parker 88–90 | Suckling 92–93 |*

A lot was invested in quality at Puy Blanquet. It will be interesting to see what comes of it in the future. Full and with lots of juice, supported by racy acidity, the Puy Blanquet shows a deep, differentiated, and fine structure with an excellent length and lots of character. It was made from 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon.

**91–92 SAINTAYME** Saint-Emilion *Parker 89–91 | Suckling 92–93 |*




The Saintayme is a pure Merlot by Denis Durantou (l'Eglise-Clinet in Pomerol), harvested from the 29<sup>th</sup> of September to the 9<sup>th</sup> of October and is aged in 30% new barrels at 14.5% alcohol. Dense and round, with nice fruit and good depth, as well as a lot of juice and class. Extremely broad for a small Saint-Emilion, with a lot of power and good energy and length, the Saintayme can convince, if not brilliant.



**91–92 SANCTUS** Saint-Emilion *Parker 90–92 | Suckling 91–92* | Dark color. Racy, sweet, opulent, a bit oaky, and with little terroir-character in the nose. Tight and concentrated in the mouth, with dull tannins, creamy texture, and limited length and complexity.

**91–92 SIMARD** Saint-Emilion *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 91–92* | The Simard belongs to the Vauthier family of the Château Ausone. It consists of 70% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in 70% concrete tanks, and 30% used barrels. The Simard shows chocolatey, juicy fullness with terrific depth, lots of juice, and creamy texture. But also with excellent, bright fruit aromas, full-bodied structure, all-time sappy, long and multi-layered in the finish.

**91–92 SOUTARD CADET** Saint-Emilion *Parker 93–95 | Suckling 94–95* | The Soutard Cadet is made from 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. Black, viscous color. Sweet, dark berry fruit, intense and chocolaty in the nose, fresh and offensive. Youthful, with dull tannins, liqueur sweetness in the mouth, dry, some graphite in the finish, not very long. It needs some time to be judged definitely.

**91–92 VILLEMAURINE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 93–95 | Suckling 95–96* |  The powerful Villemaurine consists of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. It is aged in 70% new barrels. Bright color. Beautiful fruit on the nose, full and round in the mouth, with lots of substance and extract, powerful, with extremely racy acidity, compact and long on the palate, dry finish. This wine can achieve a higher rating.

**91–92 LA VOÛTE** Saint-Emilion *Suckling 92–93* | La Voûte is a pure Merlot harvested on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October. Black color. Dark berry fruit in the nose, sweet and liqueury in the top note, it shows little core-flavor, yet it is very dense structured and rich in extracts. But it leaves somehow smooth and technical, with little appeal.

**90–91 ANGÉLIQUE DE MONBOUSQUET** Saint-Emilion *Parker 90–92 | Suckling 90–91* | The Angélique de Monbousquet is made from 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon with 14.15% alcohol. Black, viscous color. Rich, sweet, and offensive in the nose, with massive, dense fruit aromas. Round, sweet, and chocolaty in the mouth, with fine-grained tannins, slightly bitter and astringent, concentrated, and a bit dry on the tongue.

**90–91 BOUTISSE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 92–93* | The Boutisse consists of 80% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% each of Cabernet Franc and Carmenere. Dark, purple color. Rich and intense in the smell, with a fat fruit-component and little depth in the nose. Round, creamy, and juicy in the mouth, concentrated, with dense tannins, crystalline acidity, and good depth in the finish.

**90–91 BRUN** Saint-Emilion | The classically oriented Brun is still very youthful and reductive. With dull aromas, full, racy, and dense, it has a lot of power, dry tannins, and robust, solidly built, fleshy style. Just needs a little more time.

**90–91 CADET BON** Saint-Emilion *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 90–91* | The Cadet Bon consists of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc, aged in 35% new barrels. The Cadet Bon shows a combination of steely acidity and slightly unsoft tannins, as they have been eminent in many 2010s. This interaction makes the Cadet Bon dull and inaccessible, with a limited flow on the palate. The dense, sweet extraction can, therefore, emit only little finesse or depth.

**90–91 CLAVIS OREA** Saint-Emilion | The Clavis Orea is produced according to the classic blend of 80/20 Merlot to Cabernet Franc. Tight, saturated, and full-bodied, with a lot of strength and broad structure, firm tannin construction, it remains a bit dull and rough in the aftertaste.

**90–91 CLOS ST. MARTIN** Saint-Emilion *Parker 89–91 | Suckling 93–94 | WeinWisser 18.5/20* | The Clos St. Martin consists of 80% Merlot and 10% each of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. Tight and firm, with a nice, rich structure and a lot of spice, in a compact, powerful way. The Clos St. Martin is a bit dull and reminiscent of some monolithic 2010s.

**90–91 LA COMMANDERIE** Saint-Emilion *Suckling 86–87* | The La Commanderie consists of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc, aged in 50% new barrels. Dense and sweet, with low acidity and little tension, it has a broad, creamy body, rich and juicy, with limited depth.

**90–91 LA FLEUR** Saint-Emilion *Parker 85–87 | Suckling 91–92* | The La Fleur belongs to Dassault, and in the same way it is extracted right to the very limit during vinification. Dark color. Discrete nose, dull, sweet, and creamy in the mouth, with little depth, fine-grained tannins, and limited length. The high quality of the tannins shows that probably more aromatic expression and balance would have been possible to achieve from the ripe grape material.

**90–91 FLEUR CARDINALE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 94–95* | The Fleur Cardinale consists of 76% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, and 4% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in 100% new barrels. Dark, viscous color. Limited nose, showing little depth, with substantial abundance and liqueur top note in the background. Rich, sweet, and round in the mouth, it has plenty of strength and body, meaty and crispy, with a lot of juice in the middle, with cherry notes and berry peels. The Fleur Cardinale shows a subtly over-extracted nuance, which could be due to dried, rosinated berries (passerillage).

**90–91 GODEAU** Saint-Emilion *Parker 87–89 | Suckling 93–94* | The Godeau consists of 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc. Black, massive color. It is rich, sweet, offensive and slightly simple in the smell, compact and intense in the mouth, very full on the palate, with lots of power. Well-balanced and spicy, it shows slightly dull and hard in the finish.





Château Bélair-Monange

**90–91 GRAND BARRAIL LAMARZELLE FIGÉAC** Saint-Emilion

Parker 87–89 | Suckling 90–91 |



The Grand Barrail Lamarzelle Figéac belongs to the wineries of the *Fourthe* group. It consists of 65% Merlot and 35% Cabernet Franc. Lively, slightly lighter color. Delicate wood aroma, slightly smoky, full and clean, very well structured and deep. It shows good density on the palate, as well as fresh acidity that gives it breed, slightly hollow center, stocky, dense tannins.

**90–91 GRAND PONTET** Saint-Emilion Parker 89–91 | Suckling 91–92

The Grand Pontet was harvested with a yield of only 19 hl per hectare and consists of 70% Merlot, 17.5% Cabernet Franc, 7.5% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Malbec. It is being aged in 90% new barrels. The Grand Pontet was dense and well-structured in a single short tasting, quite lush, with little depth and focus, the sample was a bit dull and pale.

**90–91 LA GRANGÈRE** Saint-Emilion Parker 86–88 | Suckling 91–92 |

The La Grangère was dense and richly structured in a single short tasting, sweetish, round and simple, somewhat superficial, and only moderately attractive. Weak sample?

**90–91 L'HERMITAGE LESCOURS** Saint-Emilion Parker 86–88 |

Suckling 90–91 |

The l'Hermitage Lescours consists of 80% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon. Dark color. Sweet, caramel, ripe, and with a lot of substance in the smell. Dense, dark-berried and meaty, with a chocolaty, massive extraction and a dry, slightly bitter course, dull tannins, very compact and powerful.

**90–91 LAPLAGNOTTE BELLEVUE** Saint-Emilion Suckling 90–91 |

The Laplagnotte Bellevue consists of 64% Merlot and 36% Cabernet Franc. Black color. Dense and sweet on the nose, with a hint of chlorine in this sample, caramel, and concentrated fruit. Saturated and full in the mouth, it stays a bit dry and spicy, but with a good breed.

**90–91 LASSÈGUE** Saint-Emilion Suckling 93–94 |

The Lassègue consists of 62% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Franc and 3% Cabernet Sauvignon with 14.3% alcohol, aged in 60% new barrels. The Lassègue has a dense, red color. Sweet and round, with little depth, the Lassègue shows densely staggered tannins, drying out to the finish, and shows little length.

**90–91 LA MARZELLE** Saint-Emilion Parker 92–94 | Suckling 92–93 |

The La Marzelle consists of 75% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in 85% new barrels. Good, rich Saint-Emilion, dense and sweet, with little acidity and chocolaty fullness, it remains rather dull overall.

**90–91 MONOLITHE** Saint-Emilion Parker 87–89 | Suckling 90–91 |

The Monolithe is a pure Cabernet Franc. Black color, slightly viscous. Discrete nose with multilayered depth. Very ripe, with beautiful Cabernet Franc spiciness, dense and firm in the mouth, with good structure, slightly rough and dry, with a lot of pressure and density, it lacks a bit of fruit and delicacy.

**90–91 MONTLISSE** Saint-Emilion Parker 89–91 | Suckling 91–92 |

The Montlisse consists of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc. Dense and creamy sweet, upfront, and glossy, and with good fruit, it remains a little pale and not very expressive.

**90–91 DU PARC** Saint-Emilion *Suckling 91–92* |

Du Parc is the new property of Alain Reynaud after selling Quinault l'Enclos to Cheval Blanc. With a classic grape variety blend of 80/20 Merlot and Cabernet Franc, the du Parc has a dark, dense color. Sweet, raisiny, and opulent in the nose, with a hint of depth. Rich, structured, and aromatic in the mouth, it looks slightly over-extracted and astringent, with little melting to the finish and good body. Tea-like tannin, dry, then again fruity and crisp, but it remains only a little creamy and slightly dry in the back aroma.

**90–91 PAS DE L'ANE** Saint-Emilion

The Pas de l'Ane consists of 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Franc. Massive, viscous color. Sweetish, offensive, with restrained intensity in the nose. Saturated and full-bodied in the mouth, with lots of extract and broad structure, quite rich, lively acidity, very creamy, and it has pleasant, bright aromas in the finish.

**90–91 PATRIS QUERRÉ** Saint-Emilion

The Patris Querré consists of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. Dark viscous color with a watery rim. Sweetish, offensive, and fruity, with limited richness, liqueur notes with peppermint. Dense and stuffy in the mouth, it shows a lot of strength and length, but then fades quickly.

**90–91 PIERRE 1<sup>ER</sup>** Saint-Emilion *Parker 89–91* |

With a classic grape variety blend of 80/20 Merlot and Cabernet Franc, the Pierre 1<sup>er</sup> has a dark color. Dense, with a dark fruit base and massive extraction, it shows a lot of juice and is enormously fruity, with dull, dry tannins.

**90–91 ROL VALENTIN** Saint-Emilion *Parker 90–92* | *Suckling 91–92* |

The Rol Valentin barely shows the class it possessed under the direction of Eric Prissette. His 2001 is now getting old. The 2018 Rol Valentin consists of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc and has an extremely viscous color. Sweet, artificial, and slightly greenish in the nose, it shows a glassy, fragile fruit without depth. Tight and firm in the mouth, with crystalline acidity, also with little depth and length, dull tannins.

**90–91 DE SET** Saint-Emilion

Black color. Ripened, sweet nose, chocolaty, somewhat simple, with good structure, not very deep, somewhat dull. It remains more up-front.

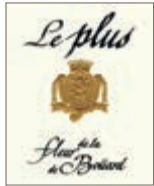
**90–91 TAUZINAT L'HERMITAGE** Saint-Emilion *Parker 90–92* |

The Tausinat l'Hermitage consists of 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc. The yield was only 26hl per hectare, and it is aged in 40% new barrels. Massive color. Dark-berried, lush, superficial, with liqueur in the smell, the Tausinat l'Hermitage shows saturated and round, massive, and full-bodied in the mouth. Rich, with a pithy style, always sweet, despite dull tannins, it ends dry and with little elegance or length.

**89–90 AMELISSE | BELLEVUE FIGEAC | CARTEAU CÔTE DAUGAY | LA CROIZILLE | DE FERRAND | FONLÉGADE | PETIT FAURIE DE SOUCHARD** Saint-Emilion**88–89 ROYLAND | TOUR BALADOZ** Saint-Emilion

**Satellites Bourg, Cadillac, Canon-Fronsac, Castillon, Francs, Fronsac, Lalande de Pomerol, Lussac-St.-Emilion, Montagne-Saint-Emilion**

**94-95 LE PLUS DE LA FLEUR DE BOÛARD** Lalande de Pomerol  
*Parker 91-93 | WeinWisser 18.5/20*



Le Plus de La Fleur de Boüard is a 4,500-bottle cuvée made from pure Merlot from 80- to 100-year-old vines. Black color, viscous. Sweetish on the nose, incredibly dense, with concentrated fruit and slightly jammy reflexes, covering a dark fruit base with blueberries. Dense and massive in the mouth, full and harmonious, with enormous richness and excellent acidity. Very creamy and saturated, with high intensity and opulent, with a good tension, very polished and bright. An impressively full-bodied wine, which consciously operates without terroir character, because in Lalande there is no expression in the expected class anyway.



Roc de Cambes

**94-95 ROC DE CAMBES** Bourg *WeinWisser 17/20*



The Roc de Cambes consists of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon; it always ripens in 100% new barrels and reached in 2018 around 15.6% of alcohol. But the family Mitjavile cares much more about the perfect ripeness of their grapes, than about sugar levels. That their vines produce a lot of sugar, lies in the nature of things. That's it. Quite fresh and deep, with a dark-berry aroma, it exposes an opulent fruit base and enormously ripeness, velvety, rich tannins, expressive, enormously full, and highly concentrated. It carries lots of juice, a gigantic aromatic profile, broad and overwhelmingly structured; at the other hand, it is extremely fine-grained and massive, with an outstanding, independent character. One of the most powerful Roc de Cambes, reminiscent of the phenomenal 2010. Appealing, great fun wine!

**93-94 LES CRUZELLES** Lalande de Pomerol *Parker 91-93 | Suckling 91-92 | WeinWisser 18/20*



The Les Cruzelles by Denis Durantou (l'Eglise-Clinet in Pomerol) consists of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, which is aged in 40% new barrels with 14.5% alcohol. The harvest took place early from 18<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of September. Dense and full, quite fresh and bright, concentrated, creamy, and with great fullness, it has fine tannins and rich intensity. Deep and long, quite spicy, with a lot of tension, pressure, and power, it shows good length with a slightly dry finish. The Les Cruzelles does not look as deep and fulfilled as expected.

**93-94 HAUT CARLES** Fronsac *Suckling 91-92 |*



The Haut-Carles is a parcellar selection of the best and oldest Merlots of the Château de Carles in the Fronsac area. The consulting oenologist is Hubert de Boüard of the Château Angélus. Massive color. Sweet and multilayered, the Haut Carles appears in the nose, elegant and delicate with plenty of fruit and depth. Tight, full, and massive in the mouth, with a lot of structure and dull tannins, good melting, and long in the aftertaste.

**93-94 MONTLANDRIE** Castillon *Parker 92-94 | Suckling 92-93 |*



The Montlandrie by Denis Durantou (l'Eglise-Clinet in Pomerol) consists of 75% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in 40% new barrels with 14.5% alcohol. It was harvested from 1<sup>st</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of October. Massive, with a dark fruit-component and intense, with a lot of pressure and enormous concentration. Spicy tannins, long, salty, with dark-berried scents in the finish. Usually, Montlandrie is just better than the Les Cruzelles, this year, however, they are closer to each other with the same rating.

**92-93 D'AIGUILHE** Castillon *Suckling 92-93 | WeinWisser 18.5/20*



The d'Aiguilhe again is an inspiring wine with generous abundance. Despite organic farming, Count Stephane von Neipperg had mastered the mildew attack and harvested 42hl per hectare from the 25<sup>th</sup> of September to the 5<sup>th</sup> of October. The grape variety ratio is of 80/20 Merlot to Cabernet Franc, with 14.5% alcohol, the wine is aged in 20% new barrels. Massive, dense style, with beautiful rich fullness and chocolaty reflections. Great freshness on the palate, very deep and racy, with excellent transparency of low pH from calcareous terroir, good length, and big pull. A hedonistic fun wine!



**92–93 ALCÉE** Castillon *Parker 91–93 | Suckling 90–91 |*



The Alcée of winemaker Nicolas Thienpont is establishing itself more and more in the top group of the wines from Castillon. Because of mildew, a mere 25 hectoliters per hectare were harvested from the 25<sup>th</sup> of September to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October, with a blend of 96% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc. Black color, viscous. Supersweet, massive, liqueur, raisiny, and full, with high extraction and fullness in the nose. Rich and creamy attack in the mouth, with lots of substance and finesse, racy structure, powerful tannins, and superb extract sweetness, fleshy, and long. This Alcée supports a beautiful sweetness of old vines, which is set alive by the elegant, crystalline acidity.



**92–93 DE L'AURAGE** Castillon *WeinWisser 18/20*



The Aurage is, as always, the most massive and blatant wine among the wines from Castillon. It consists of 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc. Like all wines of the Mitjavile family (Terre-Rôteboeuf in Saint-Emilion), it ages in 100% new barrels and reached 15.5% alcohol. Super-juicy and extremely voluptuous, massive, dense, and intense, with a lot of juice in the huge body, eternally broad and full, flowing all the way back with good energy and rich tannins, incredibly spicy and overwhelming.

**92–93 CARLMAGNUS** Fronsac *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 89–90 |*



In 1998, Arnaud Roux-Oulie, bought the 15 hectares to produce Carlmagnus and attempts since then to vinify a particularly good wine from the chalky clay soils. His 2018 he is hugely successful. It consists of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc and was aged in 50% new barrels. The Carlmagnus is extremely dense and intense, with a rich texture and a lot of power, highly condensed, very compact, and concentrated, with a beautiful, racy structure, deep, dense, and long, with rich tannins and notes of red berry liqueur.

**92–93 CLOS DE BOÛARD** Montagne-St.-Emilion *Parker 87–89 | Suckling 93–94 | WeinWisser 17.5/20*



The Clos de Boüard consists of 85% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc and 4% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in 60% new barrels with 14.8% alcohol. Dark, viscous color. Open nose with a clear, deep fruit base, juicy and sweet. Fragrant and round, with nice, creamy fruit, energetic structure, much juice and race, good tension, and a lot of deep, red-fruited core-aroma with great complexity. Thus, the Clos de Boüard remains true to its line since its debut in 2016.

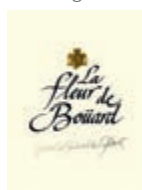
**92–93 DALEM** Fronsac *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 93–94 |*



The Dalem showed excellent form in several tastings. It consists of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc. Dark, viscous color. Full-bodied nose, very lively and lush, appealing, spicy and delicate. Tautly structured, with a firm texture, densely staggered, with lots of power and excellent play, fine-grained, widely distributed tannins and rich extraction. It's sweet, and persistent dark-berry fruit is omnipresent and sappy at any time.



**92–93 LA FLEUR DE BOÛARD** Lalande de Pomerol *Parker 89–91 | Suckling 92–93 | WeinWisser 17/20*



La Fleur de Boüard consists of 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Dark, purple color, fragrant, saturated, and full, the La Fleur de Boüard shows a lot of fruit, juice, and intensity in the smell. At one tasting, the nose reminded of a Ribera del Duero with sweet scents of blood. Tight on the palate, with a rich texture, high extraction, and lots of power, it has a fleshy centerpiece with good play and medium depth, creamy and long.



**92-93 LA PRADE** Francs *Parker 91-93 | Suckling 90-91 |*



The exceptional La Prade was harvested at 31 hl per hectare from the 25<sup>th</sup> of September to the 5<sup>th</sup> of October. The 7 hectares of vineyards are located on a plateau with perfect exposure to the sun. It consists of 88% Merlot and 12% Cabernet Franc, and it is aged in one-third of new barrels of both types, barriques, and tonneaux of 500-liter content. Black color. Full and dark berry on the nose, with excellent transparency, lots of substance, very clear and profound. Dense, juicy, and long in the mouth, it has a lot of energy and fruit, as well as a creamy hedonistic structure with fine tannins. Excellent offering at a reasonable price.

**91-92 CLOS LUNELLES** Castillon *Parker 92-94 | Suckling 92-93 |*

Clos Lunelles is one of the estates of Gérard Perse of Château Pavie. It consists of 80% Merlot, and 10% each of Cabernet Franc, and Cabernet Sauvignon, with 14.4% alcohol, aged in 50% new barrels. Supermassive color. Tight, full, and concentrated, the Clos Lunelles shows a lot of spice and structure, more play and depth than usual, is full on the palate, astringent, and long.

**91-92 FAIZEAU** Montagne-St.-Emilion *Parker 82-84 | Suckling 91-92 |*

The Faizeau is a mono-varietal Merlot made from very old vines. Dark fruit base, super-tight, and viscous in the mouth, with massive extraction and the typical sweetness of old vines. Very concentrated, loosely woven, natural, and creamy full, with lots of pressure and length.

**91-92 LA GRAVIÈRE** Lalande de Pomerol *Suckling 91-92 |*

La Gravière is part of the Château Le Gay in Pomerol. It consists of 92% Merlot and 4% each of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. Round, creamy, and compact, with rich aromas and juicy round body, quite offensive, with fine tannins. Not very long, rounded and smooth, but well built.

**91-92 MOULIN HAUT LAROQUE** Fronsac *Parker 90-92 |*

*Suckling 92-93 |*



The Moulin Haut Laroque consists of 65% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 5% Malbec. Black color. Rich and lush in the smell with liqueur fruit and greasy wood, tar and graphite. Dark berry fruit, fleshy, very close to the palate, and with a lot of breed in the mouth, the Moulin Haut Laroque has a lot of power and a great, intense structure. Rich, full-bodied, with abundant tannins.

**91-92 PUYGUÉRAUD** Francs *Parker 90-92 | Suckling 92-93 |*



The Puyguéraud consists of 85% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, and 3% Malbec, aged in 33% new barrels with 14.5% alcohol. Dark, dense, and rich, with a nice stuffy style, very clear and deep in the nose. Meaty and with plenty of juice in the mouth, the Puyguéraud shows slightly rough tannins, good core, and solid structure, with sweet extract and long finish.

**91-92 VRAI CANON BOUCHÉ** Canon-Fronsac *Suckling 91-92 |*

The Vrai Canon Bouché has an impenetrable black color. With graphite and chocolate, it smells massive, highly compressed, and sweet. Massive, viscous, and enormously full in the mouth, it shows a maximum extraction, very dense, and with a firm texture, it remains a little dry in the middle, shows little finesse, but has a good, racy density and intense fruit in the aftertaste.

**90-91 AMPELIA** Castillon *Parker 88-90 | Suckling 89-90 |*



The Ampélia by Francois Despagne belongs to the Château Grand Corbin Despagne in Saint-Emilion. It consists of the classic blend of 80/20 Merlot to Cabernet Franc. Intense color. Super-tight, full and deep in the nose, with chocolaty accents, lively and fresh, full and offensive. Energetic, penetrating, with a fine acidity-kick and an excellent tension on the palate, the Ampélia shows that it must be counted among the best Castillons. In the course of its evolution in bottle, 92 points are not unrealistic. Very well concentrated, with lots of fruit and nice smelling. With 13.3% alcohol also on the less heavy side, it has a very good flow.

**90-91 BEL-AIR** Lalande de Pomerol *Suckling 91-92 |*

The Bel-Air consists of 73% Merlot, 19% Cabernet Franc and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon. Round, full, sweet, and fruity, the Bel-Air shows a very good structure with racy tannins and solid length.

**90-91 DE CARLES** Fronsac *Suckling 91-92 |*

The de Carles is a mono-varietal Merlot from the Fronsac area. The consulting oenologist is Hubert de Bouard of Château Angéus. Dense, full, sweet, and open, the de Carles has excellent fruit and a long, creamy texture on the palate. With a lot of juice and length, it ends in a somewhat dull finish.

**90-91 LA CHENADE** Lalande de Pomerol *Parker 90-92 |*

*Suckling 92-93 |*



The La Chenade consists of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, and it is aged in 30% new barrels with 14% alcohol. Thick, full, and with a rich texture, the La Chenade is very fruity and ripe, much fresher than the Saintayme, with lots of pressure and powerful tannins.

**90-91 CÔTE MONTPEZAT CUVÉE COMPOSTELLE** Castillon

*Parker 89-91 | Suckling 90-91 |*

The Cuvée Compostelle consists of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc. Dark color. Sweet berry-fruit, open, and fragrant in the smell, with good depth, it is very inviting. Full and harmonious in the mouth, very relaxed and playful, with fine tannins, good depth, and race, as well as excellent transparency, not so abundant.

**90-91 LA DAME DE BOÛARD** Montagne-St.-Emilion *Parker 88-90 |*

*Suckling 91-92 |*

The La Dame de Bouard is the second wine from Clos de Bouard. It consists of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Franc. Round, velvety, very juicy, fresh, and with a lot of intense creaminess, it is a very successful wine in 2018.

**90-91 LA DAUPHINE** Fronsac *Suckling 92-93 |*



The La Dauphine consists of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc and has a dark to purple color. Rich, lush and dark-berried in the nose, very meaty and inviting, with juicy fruit. Opulent and polished in the mouth, with a lot of power and density, the La Dauphine always shows its modern, harmonious, but somewhat smooth personality. Clearly structured, with racy, creamy tannins, stylish, and medium-weight.

**90–91 GABY** Fronsac *Suckling 92–93* |

The Gaby consists of 80% Merlot and 10% each of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. Dark color. Sweet and provocative in the smell, with berry fruit, fresh oak, and a lot of intensity. Rich, dense, and creamy in the mouth, with a firm texture, it looks almost a bit overpowered in the beginning. To the finish, the Gaby gets slimmer, with slightly rough, dull tannins and a powerful aftertaste.

**90–91 GRAND ORMEAU** Lalande de Pomerol *Parker 89–91* |

*Suckling 89–90* |

The Grand Ormeau consists of 70% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Franc and 14% Cabernet Sauvignon. Dense and solid, with a lot of pressure and core, powerful and intense, the Grand Ormeau shows good pull and a harmonious course.

**90–91 JOANIN-BÉCOT** Castillon *Parker 90–92* | *Suckling 91–92* |

The Joanin-Bécot shows high density and haptic sweet on the tongue, very intense and with red berry aroma. With a lot of breed and slightly hard acidity, but it has little creaminess and remains dull. Unfortunately tasted only once; it does not seem to be able to keep up with the top in Castillon this year.

**90–91 RECLOS LA COURONNE** Montagne-St.-Emilion *Parker 86–88* |

*Suckling 89–90* |



The Reclos la Couronne is a pure Merlot. Dark color. Sweet, intense, and massive in the nose, the Reclos la Couronne shows no core flavor. Despite some impressive liqueur top note, the real Merlot aroma is absent. Dense and creamy in the mouth, with enormous concentration, it shows little melting and flow, as well as dry tannins.

**90–91 LE REY LES ROCHEUSES** Castillon *Parker 91–93* |

*Suckling 93–94* |

The Le Rey Les Rocheuses belongs to the Vignobles K. It consists of 80/20 Merlot to Cabernet Franc. It grows on calcareous clay, reaching a total of 14.5% alcohol in 2018 and was aged in 20% new barriques. Very dense and deep, with lots of breed, dense structure, deep and compact, with fine, multi-layered tannins, quite fresh and long.

**90–91 REYNON** Cadillac *Parker 89–91* |

The Reynon consists of 61% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Petit Verdot, aged in 33% new barrels. Dark color. Sweet, opulent, open, and quite wide and broad in the nose. Juicy and harmonious in the mouth, the Reynon shows a lot of flesh and strength, beautiful breed and a good, solid body, tightly structured and with slightly rough tannins. Spicy wine, powerful, with good length and dark berry freshness, as well as saturated richness in the aftertaste.

**90–91 SIAURAC** Lalande de Pomerol *Suckling 91–92* |

The historic estate Siaurac belongs to the Artemis group around the Château Latour, who have bought in 2014 Paul Goldschmidt's estates. The vineyard is planted with 75% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Malbec. Distinguished, dull aromas, little meat, dry tannins, some liqueur fruit, yet empty and hollow. Better to re-taste, possibly this was a weak sample.

**90–91 TOUR BAYARD** Montagne-St.-Emilion *Parker 92–94* |

*Suckling 91–92* |

The Tour Bayard consists of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc. Dense and with a substantial texture, lots of power, and spice, but with dull tannins, it has a lot of race in the acidity and little flow.

**90–91 LES TROIS CROIX** Fronsac *Parker 91–93* | *Suckling 91–92* |

The Les Trois Croix consists of 88% Merlot and 12% Cabernet Franc. Massive, viscous color. Sweet, chocolaty, and caramel-like in the nose, significantly more massive than usual. Intense and powerful in the mouth, with plenty of spice. Although it stays full on the palate, to the finish, it has little aromatic and feels almost empty, even if a lot of extract sweetness comes along.

**90–91 VEYRY** Castillon *Parker 90–92* | *Suckling 92–93* |

Christian Veyry produces a handmade, small Castillon. From the 2018 vintage, there are just 9,000 bottles. It was harvested from October 1<sup>st</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> with 40hl per hectare, consists of 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc and reached a whopping 14.9% alcohol. The Veyry is dark, very condensed, and still youthfully closed. Very intense, with fresh fruit, beautiful, clear structure, excellent depth, and spiciness.

**90–91 VIEUX CHÂTEAU PALON** Montagne-St.-Emilion

*Suckling 92–93* |



The Vieux Palon consists of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc. Massive, viscous color. Dense, sweet, and offensive in the nose, it has a slightly greenish note that gives some freshness. Chocolate, with a creamy texture and hollow middle, the Vieux Palon can not compete with the Clos de Boüard this year. Racy tannins with a lot of extract sweetness, slightly bitter, dull, and dry.

**89–90 RÉAUT** | **RICAUD** | Cadillac | **CAP DE FAUGÈRES** | **DE LAUSSAC CUVÉE SACHA** | Castillon | **SAINTE-MARIE VIEILES VIGNES** | Entre-deux-Mers | **AD FRANCOS** | **FRANCS MAGNUS** | Francs | **FONTENIL** | **DE LA HUSTE** | **LA VIEILLE CURE** | **VILLARS** | Fronsac | **LESPARRE** | Graves de Vayres | **L'AMBROISIE** | **CHAMBRUN** | **JEAN DE GUÉ** | **LE LION DE BOÛARD** | **MONCETS** | **LA SERGUE** | Lalande de Pomerol | **MESSIE AUBERT** | Montagne-St.-Emilion

**88–89 HAUT-BERTINERIE** | Blaye | **HAUT COULON** | **LAFITTE** | Cadillac | **CLOS PUY ARNAUD** | **DE LAUSSAC** | **LE REY** | Castillon | **MOULIN PEY LABRIE** | **LA RIVIÈRE** | Fronsac | **PERRON LA FLEUR** | **TOURNEFEUILLE** | Lalande de Pomerol | **BARBE BLANCHE** | **DE LUSSAC** | **LA ROSE PERRIÈRE** | Lussac-St.-Emilion



Château Haut-Brion, Jean-Philippe Delmas, Prince Robert of Luxembourg and Francois Capdemourlin (Château Quintus)

## Bordeaux, Graves und Pèssac-Léognan – Weißweine

**99–100 HAUT-BRION BLANC** Pèssac-Léognan blanc *Parker 94–96 | Suckling 95–96 | WeinWisser 19.5/20*



In 2018, one of the best white Haut-Brions of the past two decades has emerged. With 80.6%, the proportion of Sauvignon Blanc in the assemblage is unusually high, because the Sémillon aromatically was less expressive this year. Therefore, the Haut-Brion tastes like a pure Sauvignon Blanc.

Usually, the assemblage ratio of the two grape varieties is instead divided into half. With about 580 cases, it is an average production, the second wine La Clarté instead rose to a remarkable 1400 cases. Given the quite large harvest, the Grand Vin was rigorously selected. The 14.4% alcohol isn't evident as well as the discreetly used new wood, hardly more than 50–60%. It was picked from 27<sup>th</sup> August to 5<sup>th</sup> September. The white Haut-Brion by the color it shines in the glass, rich and intense it smells, enormously full and exotic, with incredibly deep Citrus notes. Fresh herbs and a touch of spices follow, very taut and with greenish shimmering nuances. Rich and fat, it also starts in the mouth, quite ripe, with creamy intensity, densely woven and with a taut bite of extract and acidity, citrus, ripe lemons, and limes are burning on the tongue. Stretched, widespread, and long on the palate, very racy structured and with excellent grip, which has a little tannin spice, the Haut-Brion shines to a majestic taste experience. Enormously long, multi-faceted, and biting in the finish, the Haut-Brion tastes for minutes, quite salty and mineral, with enormous force and breathtaking play. The second wine La Clarté is recommended to anyone for whom this lesson of acidity-kick, intensity, and tension remains financially unattainable. Winemakers, however, should not miss this aromatic *training* of Haut-Brion, no matter what it costs — put together, guys! This is the limit of what Sauvignon Blanc can be!

**97–98 LA MISSION HAUT-BRION BLANC** Pèssac-Léognan blanc *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 97–98 | WeinWisser 18/20*



The white La Mission Haut-Brion usually consists of about 80% Sémillon and 20% Sauvignon Blanc. Since the aromatic profile of Sémillon presented less expressive in 2018, its share in the assemblage shrank to 42.6%, with 57.4% Sauvignon Blanc. The production is above the average size of 620 boxes. It was harvested from 27<sup>th</sup>

August to 5<sup>th</sup> September. Rich and yellow-fruity, the La Mission smells with plenty of fat, delicate citrus, and lime flavors, as well as subtle notes of spices. Very deep and lush, it is built on opulence. Dense, full, and meaty, it shows in the mouth an enormous, creamy body with a substantial, complete centerpiece. Wide-ranging and long-arranged, with high intensity and mineral pressure, it pushes on tight-knit structured, while remaining elegant and complex, therefore exceptionally full-bodied without being heavy. Long-lasting, multi-faceted, and complex, La Mission continues on the palate. With 14% alcohol, it seems somehow easy, despite its considerable weight and body. As so often, a fascinatingly paradoxical character wine, which has to give Haut-Brion the lead.



**96–97 PAPE-CLÉMENT** Pèssac-Léognan blanc *Parker 94–96 | Suckling 98–99 | WeinWisser 18/20*



The white Pape-Clément consists of 57% Sauvignon Blanc, 39% Semillon, and 4% Muscadelle. It was harvested in two parts from 31<sup>st</sup> August to 18<sup>th</sup> September. The slow, pneumatic pressing took place under an inert gas atmosphere with whole grapes to preserve the fresh aroma of the must. It was fermented in oak barrels and large wooden casks, as well as 15% in concrete eggs, the aging will take 14 months. Dense and firm in the smell, very racy and fresh, concentrated, and with great fullness in the background. Compact and rich in the mouth, with lots of breed and firm structure, salty, with an enormous acidity, powerful, with a good deal of bite, pithy, and long, with a crisp presence. Very taut, long and spicy, with fine acidity and densely graduated Sauvignon aromas.

**96–97 PAVILLON BLANC DU CHÂTEAU MARGAUX** Bordeaux blanc *Parker 93–95 | Suckling 97–98 | WeinWisser 18/20*



Pavillon Blanc is one of the best Sauvignon Blancs in the world. The Pavillon Blanc was picked very early from the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> of August. In 2018 it reached 15% alcohol, which is neither unusual nor questionable for this exceptional wine. It does not detract from its freshness and age-ability. Extremely racy and ripe, very sophisticated and wiry, extraordinarily compact and deep, with extreme acidity and perfect, wide-spread structure, multi-layered and fresh, very clear and long, with a delicate herbal note and an extremely salty grip.

**96–97 SMITH HAUT LAFITTE** Pèssac-Léognan blanc *Parker 94–96 | Suckling 97–98 | WeinWisser 18.5/20*



The white Smith Haut Lafitte consists of 90% Sauvignon Blanc and 5% each Sémillon and Sauvignon Gris. It is vinified and aged in 50% new barrels of the own cooperage; the vines are between 15 and 80 years old, the alcohol level reached a subtle 13.5%. Bright color. Rich and offensive in the nose, with high tension and depth, as well as delicate, exotic fruit aromas. Tight on the palate, salty and intense, eternally long, punchy, and fresh, tremendously sustaining, wiry, full-bodied, and racy, with lots of energy.



Château Pape-Clément

**94–95 AILE D'ARGENT** Bordeaux blanc *Parker 93–95 | Suckling 93–94 | WeinWisser 18/20*



The Aile d'Argent consists of 55% Sauvignon Blanc and 45% Sémillon, without Muscadelle. Deep in the nose, with tropical fruit flavors and citrus, extremely racy and profound. Full and juicy in the mouth, with lots of power and fullness, lovely tension on the palate, and excellent breed. Even if it's very long, it looks a bit slimmer than usual, with lots of extracts and high acidity.

**94–95 COS D'ESTOURNEL** Bordeaux blanc *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 97–98 | WeinWisser 18/20*



The white Cos d'Estournel was harvested from 8<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September with 31 hl per hectare. It consists of two-thirds Sauvignon Blanc and one-third Sémillon, vinified and aged in 7% new barrels with 13.88% alcohol. Intensely condensed citrus nose, very compact and bright, very racy and fresh. Salty, profound, and enormously fresh in the mouth, the white Cos d'Estournel has a great, spicy, pungent back aroma with lots of meat and density, very long and racy in the aftertaste, distinct and finely woven. It has the potential for 95–96.



Florence Cathiard, Smith Haut Lafitte







**94–95 DOMAINE DE CHEVALIER** Pèssac-Léognan blanc Parker 93–95 | Suckling 97–98 | WeinWisser 19/20



The Domaine de Chevalier consists of 75% Sauvignon Blanc and 25% Sémillon, vinified and aged in 100% new barrels; the alcohol content is 13.5%, the yield was 40 hl per hectare. Dense, spicy, with delicately ripened, lush fruit and lots of substance and breed in the background. Saturated on the palate, powerfully structured and with plenty of strength and body in the middle, the Domaine de Chevalier develops a little less bite than expected. With good length and minerality, it is very compact and impressively full in the finish.

**94–95 BLANC DE LYNCH-BAGES** Bordeaux blanc Parker 90–92 | Suckling 92–93 | WeinWisser 18/20

The white Lynch-Bages consists of 59% Sauvignon Blanc, 21% Sémillon, and 20% Muscadelle with 13.1% alcohol. Dense, very juicy, and fresh, with beautiful, creamy depth, racy structure, and spicy aromas, very clear and transparent, multi-layered, and long. There is no wooden aroma in this excellent, fresh, and tense white wine.

**94–95 MONBOUSQUET** Bordeaux blanc Parker 91–93 | Suckling 92–93 |



The White Monbousquet is always one of my favorite wines tasting at Château Pavie. 60% Sauvignon Blanc, 30% Sauvignon Gris, and 5% Sémillon and Muscadelle together came with 13.75% alcohol into the assemblage; they were picked at 45 hl per hectare from one hectare of vineyards. Very solid and open, exotic, opulent, fresh, and explosive in the nose, with subtle herbal spice. Deep, full and wide in the mouth, very exciting, crisp acidity, racy, grassy, salty and mineral long on the palate. A perfect white wine with high intensity.



**93–95 LA CLARTÉ DE HAUT-BRION** Pèssac-Léognan blanc Parker 90–92 | Suckling 94–95 | WeinWisser 18/20

In 2017 and 2018, La Clarté is a highly recommendable white wine with a high potential for teaching. It is the second wine of both, La Mission Haut-Brion and Haut-Brion. Two of the best white wines in the world, which unfortunately are extremely rare and expensive. The Clarté costs only a fraction of it and is more than worth its money because, in terms of quality, this second wine ranks in these two vintages at the level of a *normal* vintage of its Grand Vins. Since the Sémillon has been greatly reduced in both Haut-Brion and La Mission, the 2018 La Clarté consists of 79.2% Sémillon and 20.8% Sauvignon Blanc. Stately 1,400 cases were produced. Quite fresh and crisp, it presents itself enormously deep and ripe, with densely staggered, firm structure and terrific acidity. It has the maximum freshness, perfect breed, and a slender-looking fruit with the balanced character of the Sémillon and spicy bite of Sauvignon. The full-bodied substance, excellent length, and sheer endless energy that this second wine exudes will inevitably make friends of Haut-Brion friends curious about the magical vintage!



**93–94 CARBONNIEUX** Pèssac-Léognan blanc Parker 91–93 | Suckling 91–92 |



The white Carbonnieux consists of 65% Sauvignon Blanc and 35% Sémillon, aged in 25% new wood with 13% alcohol. Creamy acidity in the beginning, racy, medium-bodied, with lots of juice and good power, the Carbonnieux develops bite and length to the finish, powerful with a lot of tension and rich opulence on the palate.

**93–94 LES CHAMPS LIBRES** Bordeaux blanc Parker 93–95 | Suckling 93–94 |

The Champs Libres of the Guinaudeau family (Château Lafleur in Pomerol) is a pure Sauvignon Blanc of an own clone selection. It grows on pure limestone and is produced since 2013. It is vinified and aged in 80% new barrels. Very deep and wide in smell, it is very fine and ripe, juicy and freshly arranged. With racy acidity, which gives an eternally long impression on the palate, it always belongs very fresh and full of energy. The Champs Libres shows excellent acidity and rich extract fullness on the tongue, salty, mineral, intense, and deep. With beautiful breed, and in the great finish, there is any oak influence, because this large structured white wine has absorbed it.

**93–94 DE FIEUZAL** Pèssac-Léognan blanc *Parker 92–94 |*

*Suckling 94–95 | WeinWisser 18.5/20*



The white de Fieuzal consists of 65% Sauvignon Blanc and 35% Sémillon, aged in 40% new wood with 13% alcohol; the yield was 40hl per hectare. Dense, deep, and very polished, with finely arranged, rich fruit and an elegant touch of delicate oak. Full-bodied and juicy, with lots of structure and depth, salty mineral and long, not fat, and always fresh.

**93–94 HAUT-BERGEY** Pèssac-Léognan blanc *Parker 89–91 |*

*Suckling 91–92 |*



The white Haut-Bergey consists of 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Sémillon, which were fermented in 25% new barrels and came to 13% alcohol. The yield was only 20hl per hectare! Dense, rich nose with opulent aromas. Spicy acidity-structure with less pressure at the beginning, to the finish, it increases tension, with bite and large breed — excellent Haut-Bergey with lots of juice and body, delicate citrus grip, and mineral pressure on the palate.

**93–94 LARRIVET HAUT-BRION** Pèssac-Léognan blanc *Parker 92–94 |*

*Suckling 94–95 |*



The Larrivet Haut-Brion consists of 75% Sauvignon Blanc and 25% Sémillon, which were fermented in 100% new barrels with 13.8% alcohol. Meaty, full and rich, the Larrivet shows itself with a lot of power and exotic fruits like mango and lychee. It looks a bit nebulous and dull, with good racy acidity and a lot of bite in the finish, salty, mineral, and with real depth.

**93–94 LATOUR-MARTILLAC** Pèssac-Léognan blanc *Parker 91–93 |*

*Suckling 93–94 |*



The heart-warming Latour Martillac was made from 90% Sauvignon Blanc and 10% Sémillon, fermented in 25% new barrels with 13.7% alcohol. Rich and full-bodied, with a pleasant richness, but not too broad, the Latour-Martillac has a creamy acidity with a lot of grip and race. It shows a very structured, saturated, and long finish, and it has lovely spiciness with an appealing complexity.

**93–94 LE CLÉMENTIN DE PAPE-CLÉMENT** Pèssac-Léognan blanc

*Suckling 92–93 |*

The white Clémentin of Pape-Clément consists of 83% Sauvignon Blanc, 15% Sémillon, and 2% Sauvignon Gris. Full and rich, very meaty, and with soft acidity, the Clémentin is round and creamy. To the finish, it gets salty and deeply layered, with more bite and a good race. Soon after the bottling, it will be very appealing and eager to consume.

**93–94 LA LOUVIÈRE** Pèssac-Léognan blanc *Parker 91–93 |*

*Suckling 94–95 |*

The white La Louvière is a pure Sauvignon Blanc, fermented in 30% new barrels. Slender, acidic, and taut, the la Louvière is not too broad, very fresh, with yellow, ripe fruit and citrus flavors, very clear and racy.



**93–94 OLIVIER** Pèssac-Léognan blanc *Parker 92–94 | Suckling 92–93*

The Olivier consists of 75% Sauvignon Blanc and 25% Sémillon, fermented in 25% new barrels with 14.1% alcohol. Dense and full, very straightforward, and with a lot of play and race, the Olivier has a lot of power and an intense structure with a subtle citrus note, a compact, long acidity, and salty, profound spice..

**93–94 LE PETIT HAUT LAFITTE** P.-L. blanc *Parker 90–92 | Suckling 92–93*

The Petit Haut Lafitte is the second year in a row an outstanding second wine among the white Bordeaux! It consists of 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Sémillon, fermented in 50% new barrels. The grapes were deliberately picked a little unripe. Dense and full, exotic, with grapefruit and perfect spiciness, profound and racy. With a lot of juice and crisp, fresh acidity, the abundant fruit continues with bright acidity to the finish, eternally deep and luscious sappy.

**93–94 LA TOUR CARNET** Bordeaux blanc *Parker 90–92 | Suckling 92–93*

The white La Tour Carnet shows a dense, elegant, and saturated Sauvignon fruit with a lot of breed. Very fresh and deep on the palate, with high citrus-like tension, wide, eternally dense, and long in the finish. Slim and with a lot of power.

**92–93 CHANTEGRIVE CAROLINE** Graves blanc *Parker 89–91 |*

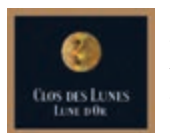
*Suckling 91–92 |*



The Cuvée Caroline consists of 50% Sémillon and 45% Sauvignon Blanc with 5% Sauvignon Gris, which were fermented in 50% new barrels at 13.5% alcohol. Dense, sweetish, and compactly full-bodied, the Caroline presents itself quite powerful, as always exotic and overwhelming, with a beautiful, concentrated structure and considerable length. Saline and racy, it gets a little lighter in the background.

**92–93 CLOS DES LUNES LUNE D'OR** Bordeaux blanc *Parker 90–92 |*

*Suckling 93–94 |*



Clos des Lunes is a project by Olivier Bernard of the Domaine de Chevalier, producing dry white wines in the Sauternes area. Dense and rich, intense, and with precious substance, full-bodied and compact on the palate, the Lune d'Or is, as always, significantly more voluptuous than the Lune d'Argent. Full of pressure and delicate wood, as well as a lot of citrus aromas and freshness on the smooth finish.

**92–93 CLOS MARSALETTE** Pèssac-Léognan blanc *Suckling 90–91 |*



The white Clos Marsalette is a real fun wine in 2018 vintage! It consists of 55% Sauvignon Blanc and 45% Sémillon, reached 13% alcohol, was fermented in the tank, and matured in 30% new barrels. Dense and fresh, very creamy and racy, with lots of juice and spiciness, totally salty and with great acidity, it creates tension without an end, remains firm and juicy on the palate and delights with its looseness and fruit.

**92–93 DE FRANCE** Pèssac-Léognan blanc *Parker 89–91 |*

*Suckling 93–94 |*



The Château de France has been attracting attention in recent years with a continuously increasing quality. Harvested at an impressive 54hl per hectare, the white de France consists of 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Sémillon, aged in 30% new barrels with 13.5% alcohol content. Dense, racy, and firm, with lovely, rich fruit, good grip, and depth. Beautifully polished, with clean and pure fruit aromas, it shows a juicy structure and considerable length, with subtle citrus fruit in the back aroma and proper tension. Very long, fresh, and bright in the aftertaste. An excellent, inexpensive Pèssac-Léognan.

**92–93 ELIXIR DU GRAND ENCLOS** Graves blanc

The Elixir is the top cuvée of Grand Enclos de Cérons by Giorgio Cavanna, co-owner of the Castello di Ama in Tuscany. The Elixir has a much more exotic, denser, and richer fruit component in contrast to the simple Grand Enclos. Finely embedded in fresh oak, the nose shows much more weight and intensity, which is confirmed by the creamy, densely woven texture in the mouth. Here, citrus, banana, and exotic nuances such as pineapple and papaya mix to form a full-bodied core aroma that increases in intensity, density, and sweetness. There is a subtle sharpness in the finish that is reminiscent of chili notes but is covered by the sweetish richness in the long finish. The Elixir is a very concentrated, vibrant, and ambitious Graves that can compete with many white Pessacs.

**92–93 GRAND VILLAGE** Bordeaux blanc *Parker 90–93 |**Suckling 91–92 |*

The Guinaudeau family produces two white wines at Grand Village. Half of the regular Cuvée is made out of Sauvignon Blanc from an own clone selection, which originally came from the Loire valley. The rest is 25% Sauvignon Blanc of Bordeaux origin and 25% Sémillon. The assemblage has 14% alcohol. Due to the drought, the time window for harvesting was tiny, so a fast picking was essential. Densely and youthfully reductive in the nose, it shows excellent freshness. Its very racy acidity is accompanied by a cool-toned fruit component in the mouth, with a delicate greenish trace — salty, long, and complex.

**92–93 LA SÉMILLANTE DE SIGALAS** Bordeaux blanc

La Sémillante de Sigalas is a pure dry Sémillon from the Château Sigalas-Rabaud in the Sauternes area. It is produced without the use of anti-botrytis sprays and partly fermented in oak barrels. Dense, sweet, and massive, it has a lot of material, ripe fruit with great creaminess. Powerful and with a compressed, lively acidity, it creates a lot of grip on the tongue.

**92–93 LE NARDIAN** Bordeaux blanc *Parker 92–94 |*

The Le Nardian consists of 70% Sauvignon, 10% Sémillon, and 20% Muscadelle. Dense, rich, and full-bodied, the Le Nardian is expressively exotic as usual, with lots of juice and racy acidity, it shows salty and intense in the mouth. Enormously tight and fruity on the palate, it has a lot of power with a wonderfully biting acidity in the finish — handmade, white Bordeaux with a lot of character.

**92–93 LES PAGODES DE COS** Bordeaux blanc *Parker 90–92 |**Suckling 92–93 |*

Even the white Cos d'Estournel has now a second wine to improve the quality of the first. The Les Pagodes de Cos consists of 93% Sauvignon Blanc plus 7% Sémillon and is aged in only 3% new barrels with 13.6% alcohol. Exotic, deep Sauvignon nose with beautiful breed, apparent, fresh, and precisely worked, it is very dense and deep. This can be an exciting white Bordeaux in the future.

**92–93 MAGREZ-FOMBRAUGE** Bordeaux blanc *Parker 91–93 |**Suckling 92–93 |*

The Magrez Fombrauge consists of 40% Sémillon and 30% each of Sauvignon Blanc and Sauvignon Gris. The Magrez Fombrauge is highly compressed, intense, and powerfully spicy in the nose. In the mouth, it has an amazingly deep Citrus-fruit with exotic nuances, that is richly structured and very tight to the palate. Long, powerful, and with an excellent verve and racy acidity, it was not able to show the high tension this year as it used to. Tasted two times.

**92–93 MALARTIC-LAGRAVIÈRE** Pessac-Léognan blanc *Parker 91–93 |**Suckling 95–96 |*

The Malartic Lagravière consists of 90% Sauvignon Blanc and 10% Sémillon, which were aged in 55% new barrels with 13.5% alcohol. Dense, full, and offensive, with nice acidity, the Malartic shows somewhat broadly despite actually low alcohol. In the back, it develops good bite and race, and also, the length is excellent. Maybe everything will be arranged a little bit more for focus and structure.

**92–93 REIGNAC** Bordeaux blanc *Parker 90–92 |*

The white Reignac consists of 53% Sauvignon Blanc, 26% Sémillon, and 21% Sauvignon Gris. Dense, open, and with beautiful, rich fruit, the Reignac has much substance and character. With a lot of punch and a juicy structure, it shows very good wood integration with oak of highest quality. With great intensity in the middle, it closes long and vibrating on the palate.

**92–93 TALBOT CAILLOU BLANC** Bordeaux blanc *Parker 89–91 |**Suckling 89–90 |*

The white Talbot consists of 69% Sauvignon Blanc and 31% Sémillon. The average age of the vines is now 48 years! With 13.5% alcohol, it is aged in 40% new barriques. It has an abundant, yellow fruit component, sweet and soft in the middle, and lots of juice within. Towards the finish, it's enjoyable, racy acidity dominates, which remains a bit solitary, showing medium punch and focus. This Caillou Blanc needs a little more time.

**91–92 BOUSCAUT** Pessac-Léognan blanc *Parker 90–92 |**Suckling 91–92 |*

The Bouscaut consists of 68% Sauvignon Blanc and 32% Sémillon. Rich, widespread, full, and massive, the Bouscaut shows a lot of body, with crispy tension and a dry finish.

**91–92 DE CÉRON** Graves blanc *Parker 85–87 | Suckling 91–92 |*

The white de Cérons consists of 70% Sauvignon Blanc, 20% Sémillon, and 10% Sauvignon Gris, vinified and aged in tanks of stainless steel. Dense and racy, with beautiful, fresh fruit, with hints of grapefruit and rich intensity. Very clear and racy, with good acidity, deep, long, and ripe, the de Cérons is a refreshing white Bordeaux, which is recommended to be served with food.

**91–92 LES CHARMES GODARD** Bordeaux blanc *Parker 90–92 |**Suckling 92–93 |*

The Les Charmes Godard consists of 63% Sémillon, 21% Sauvignon Blanc, and 16% Sauvignon Gris. It was harvested from the 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of September, and fermentation took place in 500-liter tonneaux, of which 15% were new. Creamy and fresh, with a magnificent structure, lively juicy, widespread, and with an excellent breed, the Les Charmes Godard is quite deep and spicy. Somewhat soft in the finish, it is very clean, bright, and long, it reminds a little of a Riesling.

**91–92 CLOS DES LUNES LUNE D'ARGENT** Bordeaux blanc*Parker 87–89 | Suckling 92–93 |*

The Lune d'Argent impresses with its freshness and crispness, while the stronger Lune d'Or carries more weight. Clos des Lunes is a project by Olivier Bernard of the Domaine de Chevalier, producing dry white wines in the Sauternes area. Fresh, dense, and profound, with a lot of race and creaminess, the Lune d'Argent has a great structure, which is wide spread on the palate and powerful. This is an excellent, inexpensive dry white Bordeaux from the Sauternes area!

**91–92 GIROLATE** Bordeaux blanc *Parker 90–92 | Suckling 90–91 |*

The white Girolate is a cuvée of 50% each Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon, which were planted in a high density of 10,000 vines per hectare near Grézillac in the Entre-deux-Mers area. The production of 9,000 bottles has been fermented in 30 used barrique barrels. Exotic and multi-layered, the Girolate presents a lovely fruit and great depth, with lots of juice and core, and also, the length is perfect. A little more individual character would help to reach a higher level of expression.

**91–92 GRAND ENCLOS DE CÉRONS** Graves blanc



The white Grand Enclos de Cérons consists of equal parts Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Full, dense, and voluptuous, this 2018 presents itself in the nose, with a lot of substance, spicy notes, and full-bodied spiciness. Rich and firm, it is also full-bodied in the mouth, with an excellent racy course, it carries lots of juicy intensity and salty mineral notes. Deep, dense, and long on the palate, the Grand Enclos de Cérons is a thoroughly brilliant white Bordeaux.

**91–92 G DE GUIRAUD** Bordeaux blanc



In recent years the G de Guiraud has always been one of the most exciting white Bordeaux in the entry level. Now 2018 is outstanding. Tight, full, and round, it carries a considerable amount of substance and magnificent structure that is filled with a lively, fresh, and exotic fruit. With just the right amount of richness and maturity, as well as unrestricted drinking pleasure. Eternally long.

**91–92 PICQUE-CAILLOU** Pèssac-Léognan blanc *Parker 90–92 | Suckling 90–91 |*

The Picque Caillou consists of 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Sémillon, and it was aged in 20% new barrels. Dense and full, with fine citrus fruit, slender, and slightly dull, even with some bitter notes. It has a hint of herbal spice and little depth but shows overall a full-bodied structure.

**91–92 LE PRÉLAT DE PAPE-CLÉMENT** Graves blanc *Parker 88–90 | Suckling 91–92 |*

The white Le Prêlat de Pape-Clement consists of 71% Sémillon, 16% Sauvignon Blanc, 12% Sauvignon Gris and 1% Muscadelle. Rich and dense, with lots of material and fruit, long, fresh, and with subtle and spicy tannins, the inexpensive Le Prêlat is recommended as a full-bodied, small Graves with terrific style.

**91–92 RAHOUL** Graves blanc *Parker 88–90 | Suckling 91–92 |*



The white Rahoul consists of 77% Sémillon and 23% Sauvignon Blanc, fermented in 15% new barrels reaching 13.5% alcohol. Dense at the beginning with a dull note of wood, rich, with a bright fruit component behind, a lot of breed and spices. With a concentrated midpalate, it lacks a bit of elegance and verve; even in the aftertaste, it seems a bit hard.



**91–92 ROCHEMORIN** Pèssac-Léognan blanc

The white Rochemorin is produced from pure Sauvignon Blanc. Dense and full-bodied, it is quite long structured with some subtle spiciness. Its dense staggered acidity has proper tension.

**90–91 D'AIGUILHE** Bordeaux blanc *Suckling 90–91 |*



The white d'Aiguilhe was harvested on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> August, with a yield of 44 hl per hectare. It consists of almost pure Sauvignon Blanc with some Sauvignon Gris and is aged in 7% new oak barrels. Very bright and deep, with a lovely freshness, delicate oak aroma, and creamy fruit, leaving salty and animating in the finish.

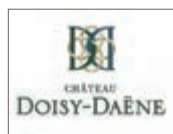
**90–91 CHARDONNERET** Bordeaux blanc

The Chardonneret of Château Peyredon-Lagravette consists of 62% Sauvignon Blanc and 38% Sauvignon Gris. Tight and spicy, with great power and length, the Chardonneret shows a lot of juice and open structure. Full-bodied on the palate, with excellent Sauvignon character and crystalline acidity, this Bordeaux blanc is long and racy, with a greenish tinge. Attractive, inexpensive, white Bordeaux.

**90–91 CLOS FLORIDÈNE** Graves blanc *Parker 89–91 |*

The Clos Floridène consists of 51% Sauvignon Blanc and 49% Sémillon, fermented in 25% of new Barrique barrels. Fruity and open, the 2018 Clos Floridène presents itself with a lot of Sauvignon character. It has delicate spice notes and rich extract sweetness. Clean, creamy, and racy, it also has considerable length due to its supporting acidity.

**90–91 DOISY-DAËNE** Bordeaux blanc *Parker 90–92 | Suckling 93–94 |*



The dry Doisy Daëne is a pure Sauvignon Blanc that is fermented and aged in 20% new barrels. It carries sweet and fruity aromas and has an excellent structure and good breed. Rich, fresh and with attractive length, it does not develop the dynamics that some other dry white wines from the Sauternes area have reached.

**90–91 PUYGUÉRAUD** Bordeaux blanc *Parker 89–91 | Suckling 90–91 |*

The white Puyguéraud consists of 90% Sauvignon Blanc and 10% Sauvignon Gris, which were fermented and aged exclusively in steel tanks. Fresh and very crisp, it presents a lot of ripe fruit, is full on the palate, with a lot of creaminess, but leaves a bit dull and hollow in the middle. Racy, juicy, with a citrusy and fresh in the aftertaste.

**89–90 D'ALIX** | Pèssac-Léognan blanc | **BRONDELLE** | **FERRANDE** | Graves blanc | **DOURTHE NO.1** | **FONRÉAUD LE CYGNE** | **HAUT-BERTINERIE** | **MARJOSSE** | **MONT-PÉRAT** | **REYNON SAUVIGNON BLANC** | **LA RIVIÈRE** | **THIEULEY** | Bordeaux blanc

**88–89 CÔTE MONTPEZAT CUVÉE COMPOSTELLE** | **CRABITEY** | **HAUT-LAGRANGE** | **PATRIS QUERRÉ** | **RÉAUT** Bordeaux blanc





With Bill Blatch, 2016



With Jacques Thienpont  
Le Pin, 2015



With Pascal Vazart and Frank Trost, Evangile, 2016



With Comte Stephan von Neipperg  
and Paula Bosch, 2002



With Paul Pontallier,  
Château Margaux, 2014

# THE PRIMEURS MARATHON

IN THE PAST 26 YEARS I WAS ALLOWED TO TASTE THE VINTAGES 1993 TO 2018 IN BORDEAUX FROM BARREL, TO DISCUSS WITH THE WINEMAKERS AND TO LEARN.



With Olivier Berrouet, Pétrus, 2017



Bill Blatch's »Château-Hopping-Tour« 1995. Clyde Beffa (K&L wines, upper row, second from left), Mark Levin (Southern Wines & Spirits, middle row, first from left), Thomas Boxberger (middle row right), Fonger Kranenburg (Residence Wijnen, bottom row, first from left), Jasper Morris (Morris & Verdun, bottom row, second from left), Bill Blatch (bottom row, second from right).



With Comte Stephan von  
Neipperg, 2016



With Charles Chevalier,  
Lafite-Rothschild, 2014



With Axelle Courdurié,  
Croix de Labrie, 2016



# MY RESTAURANT TIPS FOR BORDEAUX

Wherever great wines are cultivated, there is also good cooking! This applies to every wine region in the world. But in Bordeaux there are also fresh oysters, seafood and fish due to its proximity to the Atlantic Ocean. That makes it somehow special. If you travel to the Bordelais and taste its great wines, sooner or later you will also be plagued by hunger. In the 26 years that I have visited Bordeaux, I found several restaurants to be among my absolute favourites. On this page you will find a selection of my restaurant tips for Bordeaux and the surrounding area.



## BRASSERIE BORDELAISE

Bordeaux

The Brasserie Bordelaise is located in the lively old town. Here you can meet many winegrowers and merchants with local cuisine, great Pata Negra ham, good meat with fries and more.



## LE PRESOIR D'ARGENT – GORDON RAMSEY

Bordeaux  
3-star chef Gordon Ramsey (London) runs this fine restaurant with very expressive, intensive cuisine without frills in the Grand Hotel Inter-Continental. Expensive but of real class; currently two Michelin stars.



## LA GRANDE MAISON – PIERRE GAGNAIRE

Bordeaux  
Bernard Magrez (Pape-Clément) installed the 3-star chef Pierre Gagnaire (Paris), the best and most elaborate restaurant in Bordeaux. Magnificent ambience, unforgettable. Currently two Michelin stars, three appear tangible!



## LA TABLE D'AGASSAC

Ludon-Médoc

Jean-Luc Zell from Château d'Agassac loves good food. He has therefore brought an ambitious team into the beautiful castle. Excellent, fine cuisine with excellent lobster and intensive meat dishes. Don't miss the rare Précision d'Agassac!



## LA TABLE DE PLAISANCE

Saint-Emilion

Gerard Perse (Pavie) installed the 5-star Hotel Hostellerie de Plaisance with a fantastic terrace over the old town of St-Emilion. Terrific, creative cuisine with some taste explosions, yet not too artificial. Currently two Michelin stars.



## BRASSERIE LE NOAILLES

Bordeaux

Centrally located at the Place de la Comédie. Here you will find the best oysters of the city, an excellent Tatar de Boeuf and the finest dessert cakes. If you find any better oysters somewhere in the city, please let me know.



## COMPTOIR CUISINE

Bordeaux

The Comptoir Cuisine is opposite the Opera House on the central Place de la Comédie. Modern, versatile cuisine, product-related and perfectly cooked, great desserts. Very interesting, varied wine list.



## LE PAVILLON DES BOULEVARDS

Bordeaux

A young team conjures up very sophisticated cuisine, rich in finesse, which remains light and lasting on the palate. Very good wine advice, beautiful ambience and feel-good service. Currently 1 Michelin star and actually very inexpensive.



## LE LION D'OR

Arcins en Médoc

The highest quality among the original restaurants in the Médoc. Wonderful sardines, delicious calf's head, hearty stews. If they have Pauillac lamb, order it! The world is still fine here. Only a few Grand Crus on the wine list.



## L'ENVERS DU DÉCOR

Saint-Emilion

Gerard Perse (Pavie) runs this excellent bistro with very hearty cuisine in the old town of St-Emilion. The wine list is very extensive also beyond Bordeaux. Great stews, very good oysters. Rebuilt in 2019 – bigger, brighter and more beautiful.



## LA CO(O)RNICHE

Pyla-sur-mer

In summer, when the sun is shining, there is hardly a more beautiful view of the Atlantic near Arcachon and the Dune du Pyla. Excellent seafood, great atmosphere and lively service. Hotel and restaurant equally recommendable.

Atlantic

# EXPERIENCE BORDEAUX

St-Julien

Château Latour

Pauillac

Gironde

with Thomas Boxberger as travel companion



Visit the wine-growing region BORDEAUX with its many facets and let Thomas Boxberger guide you through the famous Châteaux. Experience the pulsating city of Bordeaux and enjoy the dreamlike peace of the countryside. Visit the Médoc, Graves or St-Emilion and Pomerol. Take a boat trip to the famous Bassin d'Arcachon and enjoy delicious oysters from the grower or fresh seafood overlooking the »Dune du Pilat«, Europe's largest drifting dune. Let us arrange a programme for you according to your individual desires, if you wish, including hotel booking, shuttle service, restaurant reservations or even air travel. You don't have to worry about anything except feeling the deepest joie de vivre. As a private pleasure trip, exclusive gift, company event or for incentives.



## We plan for you:

- Full day tours through the different regions of Bordeaux
- Visits to famous Châteaux and up-and-coming insider tips
- Lunch on a Château and delicious dinners from Bistrot to the gourmet restaurant
- Entertaining and informative background information about Bordeaux and winemaking
- Travel organization of flight, hotel and permanent shuttle service during the round trip

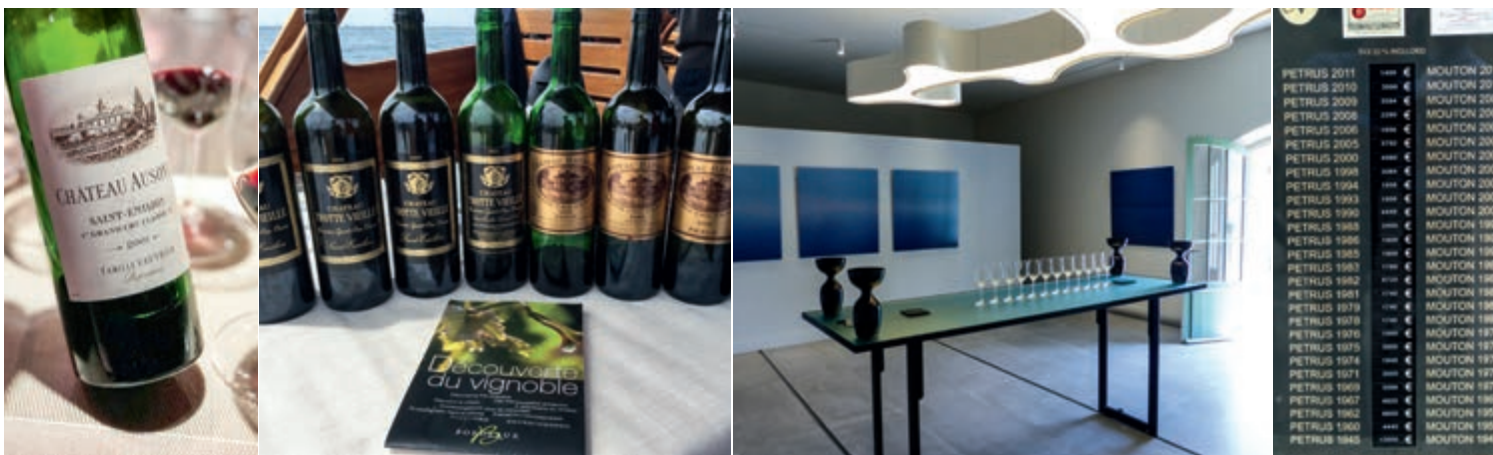
## By the way

- **Travel to other wine-growing areas** like Tuscany, Piedmont, Burgundy, Champagne or the Rhône are also possible.
- **Culinary delights**  
Thomas Boxberger not only has wine expertise, he has also learnt to cook in star gastronomy and speaks English, French and Italian. This makes the culinary dimension of this travel companion even more valuable.

## TOURS AND CHÂTEAU VISITS



## TASTE AND UNDERSTAND



## ENJOY IN A VARIETY OF WAYS



## RECOVER!





**W**ine is one of the most important cultural achievements of mankind. Because through wine nature is interpreted and origin can be tasted. Wine awakens emotions and creates experiences. It reflects the individual handwriting of the winegrower, gives pleasure and carefree enjoyment. Wine preserves current evolution within the framework of its shelf life. But wine can only be all this if it has been carefully produced and selected with understanding".

*Thomas Boxberger*  
 Owner of Extraprima Weinimport in Mannheim, Germany  
 Wine dealer and freelance wine journalist



In March 1966 Thomas Boxberger was born in Mannheim, Germany. In 1985, at the age of 19, Thomas Boxberger discovered his passion for wine. He quickly became intensively and purposefully involved with the red wines from Bordeaux. Together with like-minded wine lovers he developed into a hobby chef. Instead of studying mathematics as originally planned, from 1988 to 1990 he learned the profession of cook in the then 1-star restaurant »Zum Goldenen Pflug« in Eiterbach. He then worked for a year in the gastronomy trade and in April 1991 came to the young wine shop extraprima in Mannheim as managing director and thus returned to his favourite subject of wine. In the middle of 1992 he bought the wine shop extraprima and built it up as an import company with nationwide dispatch. In 1994 Thomas Boxberger travelled the Bordelais

for the first time with the legendary »Château-hopping-tour« with négociant Bill Blatch. In April 2019, 2018 was the 26<sup>th</sup> vintage in a row that Thomas Boxberger was allowed to taste from barrel in Bordeaux, visiting all the most famous Châteaux.

Thomas Boxberger regularly visits the most important wine-growing regions in Europe and tastes at least 5,000 to 6,000 wines every year. In recent years he has regularly written articles about wine as a freelance author in the publications WeinWisser by Konradin-Verlag and Weinwirtschaft and Weinwelt by Meininger-Verlag. From the 2018 edition he worked for Vinum Weinguide Deutschland and in the 2019 edition he assumed responsibility for the Baden wine-growing region.



## extraprima®

Champagner and wine import

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