

VINTAGE REPORT

The 2016 Bordeaux vintage is one of the most unique and exciting vintages in recent memory. From the barrel samples we tasted, the takeaway is that the wines possess elegance, glorious ripe red fruit, silky tannins, lower alcohol than in previous years and vitality. The energy of these wines is their selling point, with many displaying a pleasing freshness which will delight lovers of traditional Claret.

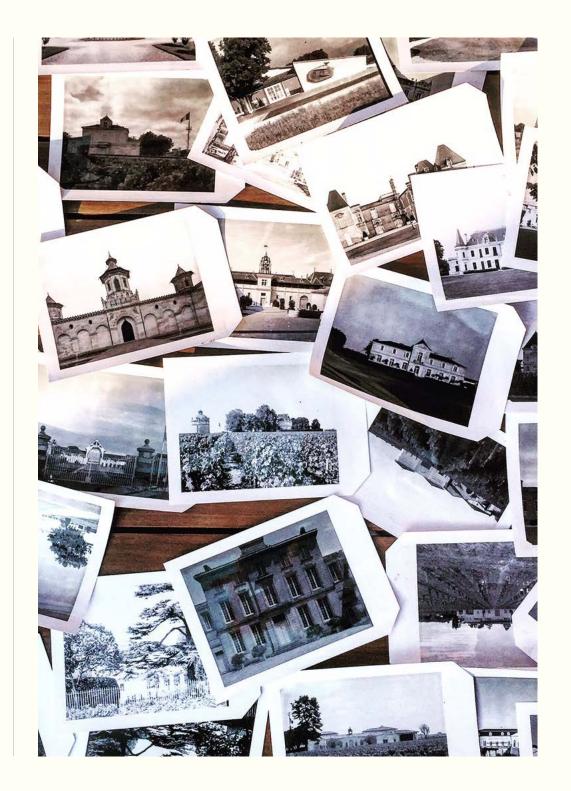
After big blockbuster vintages such as 2005, 2009 and 2010, this is a return to what the Bordelais do best: producing wine with power, concentration and freshness. Although the wines possess the characteristics of a hot vintage – dark, deep colours, ripe fruit and structure – there is a drinkability to these wines which makes them glorious to taste.

Quality is uniform across both Left and Right Banks, but if we had to be pushed on the wines we enjoyed the most, we would say the further up the Médoc we travelled, the better the wines tasted. We were notably impressed by those that had vines on clay soil, which retained the water during the vintage's long, dry summer. In that regard, Pomerol excelled.

Berry Bros. & Rudd's Buying Director Max Lalondrelle wrote ahead of the *en primeur* tastings that 2016 would be marked by having lots of body and dark juicy fruit, flavours such as blackcurrants and cassis, and finishing with a huge amount of freshness. He was right.

Stylistically it is very difficult to compare it with previous vintages. Some say it is like 2010 with more freshness, others that it has the freshness of 1986. Some producers even go as far as to say that their wines are better than in 2010. What we do know is that in 2016 Bordeaux produced a different style of vintage. As Max Lalondrelle says, 2016 is "unique" and offers a return to a lighter, fresher style, and a move away from the larger extracted styles and heavy use of oak found in the early 2000s.

The Bordelais know they have a very good vintage on their hands, but they are also aware of the market conditions and the external pressures in terms of economics. Let us hope that the châteaux get the pricing right, as there are some glorious wines which will give a great deal of pleasure over the next 20 years.



WEATHER CONDITIONS

Stéphane Derenoncourt, the international wine consultant, described the 2016 growing season as a "small miracle". Certainly by the beginning of spring, *vignerons* up and down the Médoc were worried. This is because the winter was mild, but extremely wet. But they needn't have been concerned, as the weather significantly improved in the second half of the growing season.

Rainfall during the months of January and February was above average for the last 30 years and the average temperature was also higher than usual. This meant the soil's water reserves were restored for the start of the growth cycle.

March brought cool temperatures. This, coupled with the water-logged soil, meant that budbreak was delayed until the last week of the month. The low temperatures continued until May which slowed phenological development; but, despite the coolness, there was still a very high risk of disease. The poor weather continued into the early part of May but fine weather follows rain and, by chance, there was a window of dry weather between the 3rd and 11th June. At Ch. Grand-Puy-Lacoste, flowering took place in sunny and warm conditions with the temperature climbing to 30°C. Bunches were homogenous and the number of seeds greater than average. After three days of rain in mid-June, the fine weather continued throughout July and August which ensured a uniform setting of the fruit.

From then on it was a pretty clear run. The summer was hot with a great deal of sunshine, 30 percent more compared with an average year, and August saw temperatures 5°C higher than usual. It was also very dry. Two factors helped the grapes significantly: night time temperatures were much cooler than the norm and the high water table meant the grapes could cope with the dry weather. The grapes changed colour (*véraison*) in early August during good weather. This exceptional weather helped the accumulation of anthocyanins in the skins and sugars in the pulp, while limiting the degradation of aromas and acids in the grapes.

Rain returned only fleetingly in September, on the 13th and towards the end of the month, which gave a new impetus to ripening, helping the Cabernet Sauvignon and late ripening Merlot. From then on the glorious weather continued until harvest. The good weather meant that *vignerons* were in no hurry to pick the grapes and had the luxury of picking in the sunshine at perfect ripeness without the threat of disease. In the Graves and Pessac-Léognan, harvest began at the beginning of September. The red wine harvest began in the third week of September with most of the picking taking place in the first week of October. Overall yields were much higher than in 2016 and *vignerons* – despite being pessimistic after a very wet winter – were uniformly delighted with the crop.



THE WHITES

The dry white wines of Bordeaux traditionally perform well when the weather is slightly cooler during the growing season. We found the 2016s to have less acidity than the previous three vintages, but were well balanced with good concentration of colour. Sémillon performed better than the Sauvignons, whose aromas were somewhat neutralised by the hot summer. The Sémillon added weight and texture to the final blends, with deep vinous notes of stone fruit.

There is, however, a trend towards a greater proportion of Sauvignon Blanc. Those that have excelled, like Domaine de Chevalier, have produced elegant wines, concentrated and very precise in intensity. At Ch. Haut-Brion the wine is bursting with energy and shows a lovely mineral persistence. The finest manage to combine good power, an herbaceous element and a suave texture with fantastic weight and balance, displaying an appealing citrus character, vivaciousness and a pleasing saline freshness.

The sweet wines of Sauternes performed well in 2016 with good quality, an attractive purity of fruit and the highest yields since 2009. The rain in mid and late September enabled noble rot to develop on the ripe grapes. Picking took place in late October in good weather and continued until early November. Quality is high but not homogenous, with the most impressive wines sharing the characteristics of the reds – having an attractive elegance, although perhaps not being as lively as the 2014s or as structured as the 2009s. The very best wines here exhibit great purity, with candied fruit and power rather than bright aromatics.

THE REDS

Stylistically the red wines in 2016 are very attractive with luscious red fruit, ripe tannins, lower alcohol levels than in previous years and a vitality. In short, they are a joy to taste. The growing season meant that acidity levels are high, which gives a glorious ribbon of freshness throughout the best wines. The Bordelais talk a lot about freshness, but in 2016 they really did achieve it. These are wines that leave a cool sensation on the tongue, leave your palate feeling refreshed and, dare I say it, wanting a second sip. We kept noting down descriptors such as elegance, purity, finesse and vitality.

The colour and concentration are both good and the wines have tremendous intensity, but there is a pleasing energy about the 2016s. As Jean-Michel Cazes of Ch. Lynch-Bages says, this is possibly the most unique vintage in his career: "In terms of colour, concentration and tannin I have never seen anything like it," he said.

It's difficult to say whether it is a Left or Right Bank year. There is quality everywhere in 2016, but those communes which have a higher proportion of clay, which is best for water retention, have performed well. We found wines of the greatest consistency in St Estèphe, Pomerol, St Julien and Pauillac – but there were also good wines in Pessac-Léognan and St Emilion.

In contrast to previous vintages such as 2015, 2010, 2009 and 2005, there is greater definition and freshness, but the quality is right up there with those years. These wines have purity, elegance, supple tannins, crisp ripe fruit and a long, persistent aftertaste. In the best properties, this aftertaste lasts several seconds.

It's not really possible to find a completely comparable vintage. Buying Director Max Lalondrelle describes it as unique, with freshness rather than power. Some of the wines will be drinking quite early but they all have the potential to age for many years. These are dynamic wines that will give a great deal of pleasure.

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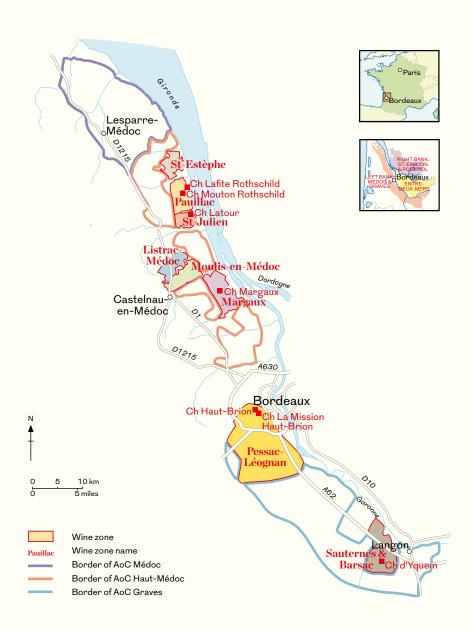
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Ch. Gazin

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LEFT BANK



St Estèphe CH. BEAU-SITE

RED

CH. BEAU-SITE

This property is now owned by the Castéja family, who also own Ch. Batailley. It is a traditionalists' Claret. The 2016 has a delicate and reserved nose of spices, blackcurrant and mocha. On the palate, the overall sensation is one of coolness, with super fresh acidity and a bright finish.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 78%, Merlot 16%, Petit Verdot 3%, Cabernet Franc 3%

CH. CALON SÉGUR

RED

LE MARQUIS DE CALON SÉGUR

For the first time, some very young vines of Cabernet Sauvignon went into this blend. Dark, inky purple, the nose offers blackcurrant and dark fruits. On the palate, there is enormous concentration of dark fruit and the tannins finish softly, giving an overall impression of elegance.

Blend: Merlot 55%, Cabernet Sauvignon 45%

CH. CALON SÉGUR

This is great Calon; it sees 20 months in 100 percent new French oak barrels. The Cabernet Franc is sensational. There is a wonderful pureness of fruit, blackcurrant and cassis, with a little creamy oak. The palate is full of energy, spice and vitality, with silky ripe tannins and then an almost menthol freshness at the end. It feels almost delicate and very elegant.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 60%, Merlot 20%, Cabernet Franc 18%, Petit Verdot 2%

CH. CAPBERN

RED

CH. CAPBERN

This is a dark, inky purple with notes of spice and blackcurrant. Wow! As soon as it falls onto the tongue, there is an almost electric current which runs through the wine. This is acidity — but pleasing acidity. The brakes are applied to the finish, like padded velvet stopping a spinning wheel.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 69%, Merlot 25%, Cabernet Franc 4%, Petit Verdot 2%



COS D'ESTOURNEL

RED

GOULÉE BY COS D'ESTOURNEL

Located deep in the northern Médoc, the vineyards for this *cuvée* enjoy cool sea breezes during the warm summer months. Dark inky and ruby in hue, the nose is smoky with a plummy note. It has a round and generous palate with notes of redcurrant, blueberries and spice. It finishes taut and velvety with good length.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 60%, Merlot 20%, Cabernet Franc 18%, Petit Verdot 2%

LES PAGODES DE COS

The fruit for Cos's second wine comes from 35-year-old vines. Dark ruby, it has an appealing nose of red fruit, while the palate has fresh tannins which give the wine an extraordinary energy and silkiness. It finishes fine and long.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 50%, Merlot 46.5%, Petit Verdot 3%, Cabernet Franc 0.5%

COS D'ESTOURNEL

This is one of the best Cos d'Estournels we have tasted in recent years: a wine that has fine, precise concentration and yet a real elegance. It broods in the glass, very dark with an inky-purple colour. The nose has elements of pure cassis, small berries, dark fruit, cinnamon and a touch of anise. The palate is perfectly structured: everything is in balance including the oak, tannin and fruit. It finishes long with a pleasing, fresh attack building and building into a crescendo.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 76%, Merlot 23%, Cabernet Franc 1%

CH. LAFON-ROCHET

RED

CH. LAFON-ROCHET

Dark, inky purple, the nose is reserved with notes of brambles and blackcurrant. It has a lovely masculine structure. On the palate, it is rich but very nicely balanced and a lovely cassis note shines through. It finishes with a fruit-driven, iron-like grip. It still feels very fresh.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 67%, Merlot 25%, Cabernet Franc 6%, Petit Verdot 2%

CH. MEYNEY

RED

CH. MEYNEY

St Estèphe was one of the best communes of the 2016 vintage and this example certainly doesn't disappoint. It has great intensity and the 2016 is generous with pleasing aromatics of black briar fruit, coffee notes and spices. It has unctuous bright fruit with a polished texture. Reliably old school.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 67%, Merlot 25%, Cabernet Franc 6%, Petit Verdot 2%

CH. MONTROSE

RED

LA DAME DE MONTROSE

Inky purple in colour, this offers a very appealing nose of blue fruit, cassis, blackberry and fruits of the forest. On the palate, it is gloriously lifted with bright acidity and a lovely earthiness, finishing long, enveloped by ripe tannins. A very complete second wine.

Blend: Merlot 52%, Cabernet Sauvignon 35%, Petit Verdot 11%, Cabernet Franc 2%

CH. MONTROSE

Rich and intense, the nose of 2016 Montrose is filled with dark fruit. There is coating of oak on the palate, adding a spiciness and dark raspberry note. Very upfront, it finishes long with an ethereal finish. It has richness but it is compacted; compact and yet supremely elegant.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 68%, Merlot 25%, Cabernet Franc 7%

CH. ORMES DE PEZ

RED

CH. ORMES DE PEZ

This has a dark ruby hue. Even before you have lowered your nose into the glass, this comes at you with a wave of dark, black fruit — think Morello cherry, cassis and liquorice. The palate feels "cool" but is full-bodied, with elegant, silky tannins and a long finish.

Blend: Merlot 52%, Cabernet Sauvignon 42%, Cabernet Franc 5%, Petit Verdot 1%

CH. PHÉLAN SÉGUR

RED

CH. PHÉLAN SÉGUR

This has an intense colour with a pleasing nose. The palate is unctuous, with round, sweet, blackberry and blue fruit. It fills the mouth, displaying the property's trademark power and structure, and ending with a persistent, saline finish.

Cabernet Sauvignon 58%, Merlot 39%, Cabernet Franc 1.5%, Petit Verdot 1.5%

CH. TRONQUOY-LALANDE

RED

CH. TRONQUOY-LALANDE

Dark and inky purple, this has a very fresh nose with notes of red berries, fine blackcurrant and good pepper spice. The palate is concentrated, but the acidity pulls it up and everything is in balance. It finishes with a spicy attack. Very good.

Blend: Merlot 58%, Cabernet Sauvignon 34%, Petit Verdot 6%, Cabernet Franc 2%

Pauillac CH. D'ARMAILHAC

RED

CH. D'ARMAILHAC

This has a glorious nose of red fruit, cassis and kirsch liqueur, which gives way to a palate with bright acidity and great, ripe tannins. The wine is long and excellent on the finish. Outstanding.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 62%, Merlot 28%, Cabernet Franc 8%, Petit Verdot 2%

CH. BATAILLEY

RED

LIONS DE BATAILLEY

Good, crisp Cabernet Sauvignon gives a lifted aroma of concentrated blackcurrant and blue fruit. On the palate, there is voluptuous, primary dark fruit married with fresh acidity. It finishes with a gentle, tannic grip promising that it will age for a number of years.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 70%, Merlot 28%, Cabernet Franc 2%

CH. BATAILLEY

Ch. Batailley is one of the oldest buildings in Pauillac. The vineyard sits on a plateau to the west of Mouton Rothschild and its name is believed to have derived from a "bataille" fought 600 years ago, between the French and the English, on the exact spot where the property sits. The 2016's nose shows blackcurrant, plum and dark fruit. The palate has some pleasing minerality, with a graphite feel, good acidity and richness. It finishes very long and persistent in a style that will age for many years.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 85%, Merlot 12%, Petit Verdot 3%

CH. CLERC MILON

RED

CH. CLERC MILON

This sits in the glass with a dark, inky colour. It has intense, ripe aromas of liquorice and pepper. Dense and creamy on the palate, the mouth is coated with flavours of blackberry and bilberry with fine tannins and spicy oak. The finish is dense with notes of dark chocolate.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 55%, Merlot 29%, Cabernet Franc 13%, Petit Verdot 2%, Carménère 1%

CH. DUHART-MILON

RED

CH. DUHART-MILON

The 2016 Ch. Duhart-Milon is very composed. It has a dark, inky purple colour and a pleasing freshness from the outset. With notes of red fruit on the palate, it is incredibly suave and polished with a balanced, grippy finish. As with all the wines in the Lafite stable, it embodies elegance and finesse.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 67%, Merlot 33%

CH. GRAND-PUY-LACOSTE

RED

LACOSTE BORIE

Dark ruby in colour, there are notes of fine cassis, spices, liquorice and cherry. Once sipped, there is an explosion of dark fruits and fresh acidity, finishing with a wave of blackcurrant fruit. Very precise.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 61%, Merlot 29%, Cabernet Franc 10%

CH. GRAND-PUY-LACOSTE

Tasting François-Xavier Borie's wines is always a highlight, as the property is now producing some of the most attractive wines in the Médoc. The 2016 Grand-Puy-Lacoste is delicate and charming with an attractive nose of cassis, blackcurrant and dark fruit. The overall fruit quality is outstanding. It's suave and generous on the palate, with fresh black fruit and a rich fleshy texture. The long finish continues for several seconds.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 79%, Merlot 21%

CH. HAUT-BAGES LIBÉRAL

RED

CH. HAUT-BAGES LIBÉRAL

With a dark ruby colour, this has attractive aromas of red fruit. Medium-bodied, on the palate there is attractive crunchy red fruit with a silky, long, persistent finish.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 70%, Merlot 30%

CH. HAUT-BAGES MONPELOU

RED

CH. HAUT-BAGES MONPELOU

This 15-hectare Cru Bourgeois is situated in the heart of Pauillac. Its 2016 has blackcurrant, spices and traces of delicate coffee and cinnamon. Generous on the palate, the tannins are incredibly silky and reveal themselves over a glorious, long finish.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 68%, Merlot 27%, Cabernet Franc 5%

CH. LAFITE ROTHSCHILD

RED

CARRUADES DE LAFITE

Pure, gentle cherry and cassis aromas on the nose give way to an ethereal mid-weight palate with notes of graphite and dark fruit. It finishes fresh, with an elegant, linear, blackcurrant core and lovely finesse.

Blend: Merlot 49%, Cabernet Sauvignon 44%, Cabernet Franc 5%, Petit Verdot 2%

CH. LAFITE ROTHSCHILD

Ch. Lafite is back to its very best in 2016; the embodiment of elegance and finesse. Subtle aromas of redcurrant and cassis play on the nose. It is deep and rich on the palate, but nevertheless there is an incredible, lacy freshness to the wine. Fine, svelte tannins and a ribbon of shallow acidity nit the glass together. The wine is long, as you would expect, with a cashmere finish. This is one of the most elegant and supple Lafites we have had the good fortune to taste *en primeur*. Sensational!

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 92%, Merlot 8%

CH. LYNCH-BAGES

WHITE

BLANC DE LYNCH-BAGES

Seeing 50 percent new oak, this has an elegant nose of white fruit, orange blossom and some floral hints. The palate is full-bodied with a suave, fresh finish, great acidity and some spicy notes.

Blend: Sauvignon Blanc 52%, Sémillon 30%, Muscadelle 18%

RED

ECHO DE LYNCH-BAGES

The second wine of Ch. Lynch-Bages, this has an attractive, dark ruby colour. It releases fresh fruit aromas of red berries and what a joy to taste! The palate is marked by spicy and oaky notes while the tannins are soft and round, but there is such energy on the palate. Very well poised, it finishes long.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 73%, Merlot 27%

CH. LYNCH-BAGES

Jean-Charles Cazes and his team have made a very serious Lynch-Bages this year. It exhibits a deep garnet-red colour and comes at you with very expressive notes of dark fruit, cassis, blackcurrants and a distinctive thread of mint. On the palate, it is full-bodied with ripe tannins and there is a great swathe of creamy cassis throughout. The finish is long-lasting and polished, leaving 2016's tell-tale note of acidity and length.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 75%, Merlot 19%, Cabernet Franc 4%, Petit Verdot 2%

CH. LYNCH-MOUSSAS

RED

CH. LYNCH-MOUSSAS

Ch. Lynch-Moussas's 2016 is super fresh and lively. Dark ruby in colour, it possesses cool fruit on the palate. The wine is balanced with plenty of refreshing, almost minty acidity.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 83%, Merlot 17%

CH. MOUTON ROTHSCHILD

RED

LE PETIT MOUTON DE MOUTON ROTHSCHILD

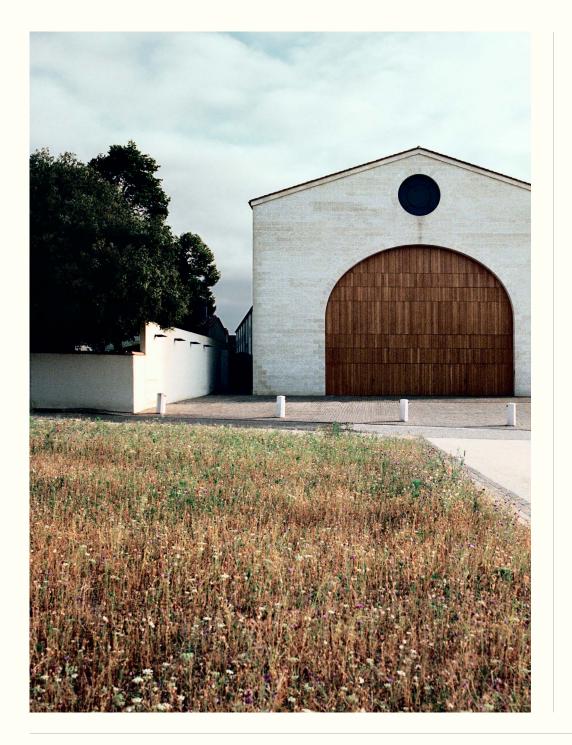
Dark red with a purple hue, the nose is redolent of black fruit with some mocha and coffee notes. Fresh and full-bodied, there are crisp tannins with a finely tuned layer of spice giving way to a well-balanced, long finish.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 62%, Merlot 35%, Cabernet Franc 3%

CH. MOUTON ROTHSCHILD

Dark, cherry red, the nose comprises blackcurrant and bilberry, with an undertone of floral notes. With time, a little pepper and spice shines through and there is a big, rich cassis note on the mid-palate. The palate is a mélange of black fruit and cocoa. Full-bodied, the wine is long with a persistent and fresh finish.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 83%, Merlot 15%, Cabernet Franc 1%, Petit Verdot 1%



CH. PÉDESCLAUX

RED

CH. PÉDESCLAUX

In recent years Pédesclaux has garnered a reputation for making a more interesting, modern style of red Bordeaux. There is a lot of ripe, plump red fruit and it finishes full-bodied, still with the trademark freshness of the vintage, but there is a little more body and joy.

Blend: Merlot 48%, Cabernet Sauvignon 47%, Petit Verdot 3%, Cabernet Franc 2%

CH. PIBRAN

RED

CH. PIBRAN

The 9.5 hectares of vineyards at Ch. Pibran stretch across a well-drained gravel bank that borders Chx Mouton Rothschild, Lynch-Bages and Pontet-Canet. The 2016 has plummy fruit on the nose with dark fruit and cassis. There is a good, leafy crunch with a wonderful, ethereal, silky texture, and it finishes on a glorious fresh note.

Blend: Merlot 55%, Cabernet Sauvignon 45%

CH. PICHON-LONGUEVILLE-BARON

RED

LES TOURELLES DE LONGUEVILLE

One can see the real quality of the 2016 straight from the nose, which abounds with plummy, cassis, coffee-infused fruit. The palate has lovely weight, a great textural quality and a lovely ribbon of cream throughout its length. With nicely rounded shoulders, this is generous and fleshy, yet tightens down towards a very long finish with a tension that bodes well for the future. This second wine (of Pichon Baron) always exceeds expectation and in 2016 we are in for a treat.

Blend: Merlot 58%, Cabernet Sauvignon 25%, Cabernet Franc 12%, Petit Verdot 5%

LES GRIFFONS DE PICHON BARON

This is a relatively new wine from the Ch. Pichon Baron stable. Big, bold and concentrated with velvet tannins and a joyous grip, the 2016 has tremendous freshness and a smooth finish. Much more serious in terms of style, this is something you could lay down.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 52%, Merlot 48%

CH. PICHON BARON

Under the directorship of Christian Seely, this property has been a strong performer, especially in good vintages, like 2016. The 2016 sits in the glass with a dark hue. The nose displays black fruit and cassis. It is very concentrated on the palate, with solid viscosity and weight — almost like a crashing wave of dark fruit swirling around one's mouth. There is a lot to unfurl here. The acidity keeps everything in balance and it finishes with a mouth-coating texture and notes of blackcurrant, mocha and coffee. Very good this year.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 85%, Merlot 15%

CH. PICHON LONGUEVILLE COMTESSE DE LALANDE

RED

RÉSERVE DE LA COMTESSE

The second wine of Ch. Pichon Longueville has great energy and lift this year. Dark ruby in hue, the nose has notes of spice and dark fruits. The palate is suave and sensual. Incredibly well balanced, it has a velvet-like texture, then — bang! — it hits you with a burst of concentration and fine tannins.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 54%, Merlot 37%, Petit Verdot 5%, Cabernet Franc 4%

CH. PICHON LONGUEVILLE COMTESSE DE LALANDE

Ch. Pichon Longueville is one of the most important Super Seconds and is really hitting its stride under winemaker Nicolas Glumineau. The 2016 has a dark, concentrated colour with a delicate nose of cassis, dark fruits and blackcurrant. Well-structured and concentrated, there is a beautiful weight and ethereal texture to this wine, combining power, elegance, density and precision. It finishes long with a slight saline note and tremendous length.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 75%, Merlot 21%, Cabernet Franc 4%

CH. PONTET-CANET

RED

CH. PONTET-CANET

A dark, inky purple, aromas of dark fruit, plum, cedar and spice give way to a wave of sweet, blue fruit on the palate. The texture is silky and soft. There is a little crunchy fruit on the midpalate, but it has a way to go and is packed full of sensual dark fruit. Big and high-toned, the finish is long.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 60%, Merlot 35%, Cabernet Franc 4%, Petit Verdot 1%

St Julien CH. BEYCHEVELLE

RED

CH. BEYCHEVELLE

Dark ruby in hue, the 2016 is aged in 50 percent new oak barrels. The nose is fresh and minty with notes of red fruit and cassis. Power, wrapped in a silky, voluptuous texture. There is a lovely tannic structure and it builds to a long, persistent finish.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 47%, Merlot 47%, Petit Verdot 5%, Cabernet Franc 1%

CH. BRANAIRE-DUCRU

RED

CH. BRANAIRE-DUCRU

Deep in colour, this has top notes of red fruit and cedar. The palate is very suave with an underlying freshness. There is a lovely weight to this wine, with some pleasing cassis notes on the mid-palate. It has a lovely, fine finish with some crunchy blackcurrant fruit. Very poised and elegant, Branaire's 2016 has great finesse.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 64%. Merlot 27%, Petit Verdot 6%, Cabernet Franc 3%

CH. DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU

RED

LA CROIX DE BEAUCAILLOU

The second wine of Ducru-Beaucaillou is made with fruit from vines situated in the heart of St Julien, on the south slope which faces the Mouline stream. With a violet colour, the nose is stunning — displaying aromas of black fruits and plums. Soft and supple on the palate, it has a pleasing roundness and finishes fresh with remarkable length.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 64%, Merlot 33%, Petit Verdot 3%

CH. DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU

Bruno Borie says he is more in touch with his mystical side this year and it shows: the 2016 is subtler and more delicate than in previous vintages. A dark purple, the nose is delicate and composed with subtle floral notes, blackcurrant, dark fruits and graphite. On the palate there is a pleasing, rounded texture with further notes of cedar, mocha and liquorice coming through. It's quite a restrained, subtle Ducru-Beaucaillou in 2016, with elegance and finesse. It finishes long with a juicy persistence.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 85%, Merlot 15%

CH. GLORIA

RED

CH. GLORIA

Rich and bold, the wine is dark maroon. It's not shy, with big blackcurrant fruit. There is an energy on the mid-palate, real vitality. It finishes with silky fruit and grippy tannins.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 65%, Merlot 25%, Cabernet Franc 5%, Petit Verdot 5%

CH. GRUAUD LAROSE

RED

SARGET DE GRUAUD LAROSE

This has an attractive perfume of dark fruits, blackcurrant, cassis, spice, cinnamon and mocha. The wine is tight, taut with a refreshing weight on the mid-palate and fine-grained tannins.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 59%, Merlot 31%, Petit Verdot 6%, Cabernet Franc 4%

CH. GRUAUD LAROSE

This is another very good effort from this historic second growth. Notes of plum and soft red fruit on the nose give way to a palate of crunchy red fruit and nicely melded tannins. The palate is suave and fresh with a grainy length and fresh finish. A very good Claret this year.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 69%, Merlot 29%, Cabernet Franc 2%

CH. LAGRANGE

RED

LES FIEFS DE LAGRANGE

The second wine of Lagrange impresses with its silky fruit. It has aromas of bright red berries; while the palate has a freshness, lots of crunchy acidity and a wonderful crisp finish.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 67%, Merlot 28%, Petit Verdot 5%

CH. LAGRANGE

Eric Boissenot consults on Lagrange and the 2016 is a muscular wine. It is very precise with blackcurrant and black cherry aromas, and a poised, mineral complexity.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 67%, Merlot 28%, Petit Verdot 5%

CH. LALANDE-BORIE

RED

CH. LALANDE-BORIE

Ch. Lalande-Borie was created in 1970 by Jean-Eugène Borie. It's made up of 30 hecatres on the western plateau of St Julien. It has the hallmark of classic Claret, with a dark garnet colour and polished, ripe, beautiful tannins. There are attractive aromas on the nose of wood smoke, spice and dark fruit. The palate is refined with subtle, racy acidity giving way to a sensational finish.

Blend: Merlot 55%, Cabernet Sauvignon 45%

CH. LANGOA BARTON

RED

CH. LANGOA BARTON

A wonderful, dark purple hue, this has a very strong, fine colour this year. There are notes of cedar, mint and pine. On the palate, it is sappy and bright with a suave texture and grippy tannins. The vines here are grown on deep gravel over a clay subsoil. It finishes long, with a saline finish.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 55%, Merlot 37%, Cabernet Franc 8%

CH. LÉOVILLE BARTON

RED

CH. LÉOVILLE BARTON

Dark purple in colour, this has attractive red fruit on the nose and a very suave feel on the palate, with a creaminess to the fruit and a polished, racy, ribbon-like texture. Lots of vitality this year, it finishes super fresh and leaves one hankering for a second glass.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 86%, Merlot 14%

CH. LÉOVILLE-LAS CASES

RED

LA PETITE MARQUISE

Dark ruby, the wine has notes of Morello cherry and hard red fruit. It's concentrated on the palate with an attractive saline finish. It finishes fresh.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 61%, Merlot 39%

CLOS DU MARQUIS

A dark ruby hue, this has bright red fruit on the nose — Morello cherry. It feels silky and cool on the palate; very precise with tremendous length which just goes on and on.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 73%, Merlot 24%, Cabernet Franc 3%

LE PETIT LION DU MARQUIS DE LAS CASES

This is made with young Cabernet vines and old Merlot from Las Cases. Dark ruby, the wine has notes of dark fruit and blackcurrant, with bright, taut tannins and a long, long finish.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 54%, Merlot 38%, Cabernet Franc 8%

CH. LÉOVILLE-LAS CASES

Dark ruby, the nose is at first reserved, then gives way to notes of Morello cherry, cacao and coffee. Very complex. On the palate it has great acidity and the tannins are wonderfully melded, but underneath there is real power and concentration to this wine. It's a keeper and will cellar for many, many years. Serious in every respect.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 75%, Merlot 14%, Cabernet Franc 11%

CH. LÉOVILLE POYFERRÉ

RED

CH. LÉOVILLE POYFERRÉ

Dark purple, the nose has a pleasing restraint and there is a little hint of blackcurrant, cedar and dried tobacco. The palate is well structured with fine, integrated tannins. There is a cool, fresh sensation with tremendous energy and lift. A lovely swathe of blackcurrant and cream envelopes the palate. It finishes long, rich and bright.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 60%, Merlot 33%, Petit Verdot 5%, Cabernet Franc 2%

CH. MOULIN RICHE

RED

CH. MOULIN RICHE

With a dark ruby hue, the nose is a mélange of cedar, spice and blackcurrant. Very suave and silky, it is polished in the mouth, with great energy and an almost mineral, stone element of pepper on the back-palate. Very focused.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 63%, Merlot 26%, Petit Verdot 11%

Margaux

CH. ANGLUDET

RED

CH. ANGLUDET

This is one of the best Angludets we have tasted in recent years. It possesses lovely, sweet, cool fruit on the nose with a hint of spice. It has a suave, ribbon-like texture with red fruit and violets coming through. It dances across the palate with an elegant, almost Burgundian finesse.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 50%, Merlot 38%, Petit Verdot 12%

CH. BRANE-CANTENAC

RED

BARON DE BRANE

There is dark concentration on the spicy nose, then there is an explosion of fruit in the mouth, with blackcurrant and violets. It's dense, yet silky and suave, with lovely fruit. It finishes with a deft freshness.

Blend: Merlot 65%, Cabernet Sauvignon 32%, Cabernet Franc 3%

CH. BRANE-CANTENAC

Henri Lurton describes this as one of the greatest, if not the greatest, Brane and it is hard not to disagree. Aromas of violets and blackcurrant give way to a concentrated, succulent wine with a long, pure, persistent, finish.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 70%, Merlot 27%, Cabernet Franc 2%, Carménère 1%

CH. CANTENAC BROWN

RED

BRIO DE CANTENAC BROWN

This wine sees 25 percent new oak, with the rest in one-year-old barrels. Dark maroon, it has a reserved nose of spice and blackcurrant. The mouth is coated with succulent fruit, reminiscent of violets, cherries and red fruits. It finishes with a glorious freshness and saline, persistent length.

Blend: Merlot 49%, Cabernet Sauvignon 40%, Cabernet Franc 11%

CH. CANTENAC BROWN

This wine sees 60 percent new barrels, with 40 percent in one-year-old barrels. Generous and aromatic on the nose, there is a glorious scent of red fruit, violets and blackcurrants with fine tannins and pleasing acidity. It starts quite muted and develops in the mouth, giving way to a long, fresh silky finish.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 68%, Merlot 32%

CH. GISCOURS

RED

LA SIRÈNE DE GISCOURS

Fresh and very pure, the 2016 has an aromatic nose of violets and red berry fruit. On the palate it has a pure, pleasing freshness. It finishes long and pure.

Blend: Merlot 58%, Cabernet Sauvignon 24%, Cabernet Franc 11%, Petit Verdot 7%

CH. GISCOURS

One of the largest Margaux properties Ch. Giscours is run by the delightful Alexander van Beek. The 2016 is dark maroon, while the nose has notes of blackcurrants, violets and dark fruit. Compact and powerful, the wine has a suave, silky body with ripe tannins, freshness, complexity and concentration. The finish is very long — powerful, persistent and saline. One that will age and delight for many years to come.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 81%, Merlot 19%

CH. D'ISSAN

RED

BLASON D'ISSAN

Dark maroon, this has a wonderful aromatic nose of red fruit, blackcurrant, liquorice and violets. The palate offers an elegant, fresh attack and persistent finish.

Blend: Merlot 60%, Cabernet Sauvignon 40%

CH. D'ISSAN

Emmanuel Cruse believes he has made a better wine in 2016 than in 2015. The nose is wonderfully expressive with succulent blackcurrant and blue fruit. The palate has defined concentration and freshness, with a suave texture that finishes with a pleasing lift. An elegant and fresh style, one of *the* wines of Margaux this year.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 64%, Merlot 36%

CH. MARGAUX

WHITE

PAVILLON BLANC DU CH. MARGAUX

This has notes of grapefruit, citrus and white flowers. The palate is creamy, waxy with good intensity and a fresh finish. On the palate, it has a long, persistent richness. Ethereal and fragrant, it lingers on the tongue.

Blend: Sauvignon Blanc 100%

RED

PAVILLON ROUGE DU CH. MARGAUX

Dark maroon, notes of spice and pepper on the nose give way to violets and red fruit. There is power behind the charm, though, with a dense concentration on the palate, a vibrant mouth-feel, and a long, almost Burgundian, finish.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 84%, Merlot 13%, Petit Verdot 3%

CH. MARGAUX

This is one of the most dense and concentrated Margaux we can remember tasting. In the glass, it has a delicate nose of dark cherry fruit and — with time — a hint of violets emerges. On the palate, it is bold with big volume, smoothness and length, ending with some sweet fruit on the finish.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 94%, Cabernet Franc 3%, Merlot 2%

CH. PALMER

RED

ALTER EGO

This has an aromatic, inviting nose of blue fruit and violets. There is a suave texture and pleasing freshness on the palate. Since 2011 Petit Verdot has been introduced into the blend for this wine, making up 12 percent this year. It finishes with vitality, energy and a ribbon of dark fruit.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 48%, Merlot 40%, Petit Verdot 12%

CH. PALMER

Deep garnet in colour, this has a delicate nose of red fruit. The palate is very rich, growing in power with grainy tannins and a silky wave of black cherry and tight sweet fruit. It feels very polished, the overall sensation one of vitality and freshness. It finishes long and grippy. Very elegant.

Blend: Merlot 47%, Cabernet Sauvignon 47%, Petit Verdot 6%

CH. RAUZAN-SÉGLA

RED

CH. RAUZAN-SÉGLA

This leaps from the glass with expressive notes of blackcurrant, cherry, a little incense and pepper, violets and mint. The body is precise and concentrated, with a pleasing vitality giving way to a taut finesse. The overall sensation is one of sensual pleasure, finishing with a deft touch which is fast becoming the hallmark of winemaker Nicholas Audebert.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 68%, Merlot 30%, Petit Verdot 2%

CH. DU TERTRE

RFD

LES HAUTS DU TERTRE

A fine introduction to Ch. du Tertre, 30 percent Cabernet Franc is included in the blend which contributes a lovely vibrancy and energy throughout. It's charming on the palate with a core of crunchy red fruit and fine, ripe tannins, finishing with lots of freshness. A chalky acidity keeps this in check. It will drink beautifully over the coming 10 to 12 years.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 53%, Cabernet Franc 30%, Merlot 17%

CH. DU TERTRE

Alexander van Beek says he has never put as much Cabernet in the blend as this year; giving the wine a creamy, savoury texture. Cool, stylish and eminently drinkable, this has fantastic style with a full, suave texture and a persistent finish.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 75%, Merlot 10%, Cabernet Franc 10%, Petit Verdot 5%

Pessac-Léognan DOMAINE DE CHEVALIER

WHITE

DOMAINE DE CHEVALIER BLANC

A pale yellow hue, this has waxy, floral notes. With aromas of lemon and lime, it has wonderful harmony and elegance. The underlying weight and richness is almost like a great white Burgundy — it is perfectly in balance. The palate is concentrated with precise intensity. It finishes long, saline and mineral, going on and on.

Blend: Sauvignon Blanc 75%, Sémillon 25%

RED

DOMAINE DE CHEVALIER

Olivier Bernard has come up trumps again in 2016 with a sensational wine. It sits in the glass with a dark purple hue and attractive aromas of blackcurrant, cassis, bramble and dark fruit. On the palate there is an explosion of concentrated red fruit with suave acidity. This is a very compact and precise wine, the tannins are there but they take an age to come through, enveloped by a coating of fruit. Oustanding!

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 65%, Merlot 30%, Petit Verdot 5%

CLOS MARSALETTE

RED

CLOS MARSALETTE

Dark inky purple, the 2016 Clos Marsalette has notes of dark blackcurrant, coffee with generous, dark fruit, bright fruit and a succulent finish. Very good indeed.

Blend: Merlot 55%, Cabernet Franc 40%, Cabernet Sauvignon 5%

CH. HAUT-BAILLY

RED

LA PARDE HAUT-BAILLY

The 2016 is dark ruby with a delicate nose of red fruit and some floral elements. The palate is very succulent with ripe tannins and good energy from the acidity. It finishes with a pleasing grip and a long finish. Very good.

Blend: Merlot 47%, Cabernet Sauvignon 47%, Cabernet Franc 6%

CH. HAUT-BAILLY

Véronique Sanders says the 2016 is a modern take on a classic vintage and it is difficult not to disagree. Dark ruby, the nose has notes of spices and cedar with delicate, dark blackberry and cassis notes. The palate is mid-weight with attractive density and finegrained, high-quality tannins. Concentrated and powerful, this is a wine which gives instant pleasure. It's long with a persistent finish, pleasing minerality and a beautiful coolness.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 53%, Merlot 40%, Petit Verdot 4%, Cabernet Franc 3%

CH. HAUT-BRION

WHITE

LA CLARTÉ DE HAUT-BRION

Pale hay colour it has attractive citrus, peach and floral notes with a fresh, taut, mineral character and white stone fruit on the palate, underpinned by a clean, spicy attack. The finish is very long with crisp acidity.

Blend: Sémillon 76.3%, Sauvignon Blanc 23.7%

CH. HAUT-BRION BLANC

Delicate and reserved on the nose, there are notes of white peach, lanolin and a broader, almost Pinot Gris-like character. The palate shows pleasing flavours of creamy vanilla, minerality, citrus, flowers, pear and a persistent, long finish. This has lots of vitality and energy.

Blend: Sauvignon Blanc 70.5%, Sémillon 29.5%

RED

LE CLARENCE DE HAUT-BRION

This sits in the glass with a dark ruby hue. With a delicate nose of blackcurrant and red fruit, the palate is very suave with a glorious, silky texture and energy that gives way to a long, intense finish.

Blend: Merlot 51.3%, Cabernet Sauvignon 33%, Cabernet Franc 13.1%, Petit Verdot 2.6%

CH. HAUT-BRION

Jean-Philippe Delmas has made a wine of extraordinary purity and elegance this year. Dark ruby in colour, the nose is delicate and reserved with notes of Morello cherry, damson and fruits of the forest. Once sipped, there is a deft, light touch to this wine. The palate is fresh, with mineral salts, ripe, crunchy tannins and smoky acidity. Bold and yet understated, this is a more gentlemanly wine than La Mission. It finishes very long, intense and persistent.

Blend: Merlot 56%, Cabernet Sauvignon 37.5%, Cabernet Franc 6.5%

CH. LA GARDE

RED

CH. LA GARDE

This has a dark maroon colour. The Merlot is grown on clay; the Cabernet on gravel. The nose offers generous fruit and liquorice. There is a savoury minerality on the mid-palate. It finishes long with a graphite edge.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 50%, Merlot 47%, Petit Verdot 3%



CH. LA MISSION HAUT-BRION

WHITE

CH. LA MISSION HAUT-BRION BLANC

A pale hay-coloured wine, this is delicate and precise. The nose is very attractive with notes of lemon, lime fruit, lemongrass and spice. Once sipped, it is mouth coating and yet there is a laser-like flow and acidity, finishing quite rich with a long, mineral finish.

Blend: Sauvignon Blanc 62.7%, Sémillon 37.3%

RFD

LA CHAPELLE DE LA MISSION HAUT-BRION

This has lifted aromas of blackcurrant, mint and black cherry. The palate is medium-bodied with good weight, a pleasing freshness and a persistent, chalky finish. A wonderfully elegant wine.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 42%, Merlot 36.5%, Cabernet Franc 21.5%

CH. LA MISSION HAUT-BRION

Dark ruby, there are pleasing notes of mocha, blackcurrant and wood smoke. On the palate this is very good, impressing with its textural feel. Swirling it around your mouth, you pick up a gravelly, smoky note and some lovely dark fruit. Powerful, there is a bold richness, yet despite all the concentration and density, it feels restrained. It's like a Rolls-Royce coasting down the Champs Elysée.

Blend: Merlot 57.5%, Cabernet Sauvignon 42.5%

CH. LATOUR MARTILLAC

RED

CH. LATOUR MARTILLAC

A dark maroon, this is very attractive on the attack with an aromatic nose of blackcurrant. It has dry, crunchy tannins, finishing with a long, graphite feel.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 55%, Merlot 40%, Petit Verdot 5%

CH. LE PAPE

RED

CH. LE PAPE

This sits in the glass with a dark, ruby hue. It has an attractive nose of spices, cedar and cinnamon. The palate is generous and succulent with dark fruits and a light, uplifting finish.

Blend: Merlot 80%, Cabernet Sauvignon 20%

CH. MALARTIC-LAGRAVIÈRE

WHITE

CH. MALARTIC-LAGRAVIÈRE BLANC

With a complex nose of citrus with a little tarragon, this has a generous weight, wonderful texture and huge concentration. The palate is dominated by citrus and floral characters, with a long, intense, concentrated finish.

Blend: Sauvignon Blanc 85%, Sémillon 15%

RFD

CH. MALARTIC-LAGRAVIÈRE

What a generous glass of wine. This has an attractive, dark ruby hue, with aromas of black cherries and spice. It is pure, clean, very suave and silky in texture with a polished, kirsch finish, with a hint of dark chocolate. Easy to love.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 53%, Merlot 40%, Cabernet Franc 4%, Petit Verdot 3%

CH. PAPE CLÉMENT

WHITE

CH. PAPE CLÉMENT BLANC

This leaps out of the glass, with an appealing nose of fresh, lemon citrus fruit alongside some floral elements and white stone fruit. Twenty percent is fermented in concrete eggs. The palate is fresh, with a creamy tightness giving way to a hawthorn character and a long, mineral finish.

Blend: Sauvignon Blanc 55%, Sémillon 45%

RED

CH. PAPE CLÉMENT

The 2016 Pape Clément has a really attractive nose of red berry fruit, cassis, black cherry, blackcurrant and spice. The vines here are planted on clay gravels. Dark ruby, the palate is medium-bodied with good tannin structure, an attractive, taut acidity and a nice lift at the end. It feels like it has been reined in this year, which is pleasing and will appeal to traditional Claret drinkers.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 50%, Merlot 47%, Petit Verdot 2%, Cabernet Franc 1%

CH. SMITH HAUT LAFITTE

WHITE

CH. SMITH HAUT LAFITTE BLANC

A charming, pale yellow hue leads you into a glass which is bursting with fresh aromas of freshly cut pink grapefruit, citrus and a trace of peach. Aged in 50 percent new oak, this has a vivacious character on the palate, with a pleasing, saline freshness and a suave, long texture.

Blend: Sauvignon Blanc 90%, Sémillon 5%, Sauvignon Gris 5%

RED

CH. SMITH HAUT LAFITTE

This sits in the glass with a brooding, dark hue. As you swirl it around, pleasing aromas of blackberry and black cherry shine through, giving way to some delicate floral notes. It's aged in 60 percent new barrels. Florence and Daniel Cathiard have made a rich and suave wine, with a beautiful, silky texture.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 65%, Merlot 30%, Cabernet Franc 4%, Petit Verdot 1%

Sauternes & Barsac CH. CLIMENS

CH. CLIMENS, BARSAC

Ch. Climens is one of the leading estates in Barsac, owned and managed by Berenice Lurton since 1992. Tasted in four lots, Climens is 100 percent Sémillon. The 2016 is marked by its power. It is richer and fatter than in previous years with very attractive fruit — notes of apricot, nectarine and clementine but still with the house freshness. Unctuous, spicy and yet lightning fresh, this is balletic on the palate. Once blended as a final wine this will not disappoint. Drink 2022-2030+.

Blend: Sémillon 100%

CH. COUTET

CH. COUTET, BARSAC

One of the largest Barsac properties, Coutet is a charming wine and always offers value for money. The 2016 has a sweet attack on the nose, with a floral, delicate character on the palate which gives way to a note of honeyed, white flowers and some freshness. Good to very good.

Blend: Sémillon 75%, Sauvignon Blanc 23%, Muscadelle 2%

CH. DOISY DAËNE

CH. DOISY DAËNE, BARSAC

The wines of Ch. Doisy Daëne are marked by their finesse and richness. The nose has an attractive bouquet of tropical fruit, primarily pineapple and there is a fresh, honeyed finish.

Blend: Sémillon 86%, Sauvignon Blanc 14%

CH. DOISY-VÉDRINES

CH. DOISY-VÉDRINES, BARSAC

Ch. Doisy-Védrines sits on 27 hectares on the highest plateau of Barsac and is owned by the Castéja family who also own Ch. Batailley. It has very attractive fruit with delicate citrus notes, white flowers and a great marmalade sweetness. The overall impression is of delicacy and finesse.

Blend: Sémillon 80%, Sauvignon Blanc 15%, Muscadelle 5%

CH. LA TOUR BLANCHE

CH. LA TOUR BLANCHE, SAUTERNES

La Tour Blanche produces some of the richest, most powerful and exotic wines in Sauternes. The 2016 has notes of tropical fruits and honey. It finishes fresh and bright with a wave of fruit.

Blend: Sémillon 83%, Sauvignon Blanc 12%, Muscadelle 5%

CH. GUIRAUD

CH. GUIRAUD, SAUTERNES

Guiraud sits in the commune of Sauternes -85 hectares on sand and gravel soil with a little clay. The 2016 is characterised by lower-toned fruit, with fine apricot and pineapple notes, and finishes light and fresh.

Blend: Sémillon 65%, Sauvignon Blanc 35%

CH. SIGALAS RABAUD

CH. SIGALAS RABAUD, SAUTERNES

Originally part of Ch. Rabaud until it was divided in 1903, the vineyards are planted on south and southeast facing slopes. The 2016 has charming aromas of orange peel, citrus, mandarin and spice. A powerful wine, it finishes with good weight on the palate.

Blend: Sémillon 85%, Sauvignon Blanc 15%

CH. SUDUIRAUT

CH. SUDUIRAUT, SAUTERNES

Ch. Suduiraut is rich in history, stretching back to the 15th century. The 2016 was very impressive indeed. There are notes of orange peel, tangerine, citrus notes and lemon. There is a lovely weight and texture to this wine, with an intense spicy note. It finishes with tremendous length.

Blend: Sémillon 94%, Sauvignon Blanc 6%



The rest of the Médoc CH. BELGRAVE

RED

CH. BELGRAVE, HAUT-MÉDOC

The 2016 is serious, savoury and structured. Its delicate nose reveals notes of fresh blackcurrant. Very compact, it is a stylish and harmonious Claret.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 69%, Merlot 28%, Petit Verdot 3%

CH. BEAUMONT

RED

CH. BEAUMONT, HAUT-MÉDOC

Eric Boissenot's Beaumont is always a reliable favourite. The 2016 has a dark hue, with attractive aromas of dark fruit, spice and wood smoke. The palate is fresh and lively with a savoury, herbaceous finish.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 50%, Merlot 45%, Petit Verdot 5%

CH. CANTEMERLE

RED

CH. CANTEMERLE, HAUT-MÉDOC

When Cantemerle is on form, it is one of the most consistent and well-loved Clarets at its price point. It has an attractive nose of red fruit and finishes with a lovely, mineral savouriness.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 64%, Merlot 28%, Cabernet Franc 5%, Petit Verdot 3%

CH. CHASSE-SPLEEN

RED

CH. CHASSE-SPLEEN, MOULIS-EN-MÉDOC

This leaps out of the glass, with a perfumed, aromatic, generous nose. Think violets and blackcurrants. The tannins are ripe. Well-balanced, it finishes light and ethereal with a long, saline note.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 65%, Merlot 30%, Petit Verdot 5%

CH. LA LAGUNE

RED

CH. LA LAGUNE, HAUT-MÉDOC

La Lagune is a firm favourite with the Berry Bros. & Rudd team. It has been a groundbreaking château over the years, being the first Cru Classé estate to install a woman, the late Jeanne Boyrie, as manager in 1964. Recently its wines have returned to their rightful place amongst the best in the region.

The 2016 is dark ruby and a first sniff reveals a huge fruit explosion, with a pleasing, fleshy nose bursting with forest fruits such as blackberries. The palate is fresh, with pleasing high acidity and a suave, elegant finish. Very good.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 60%, Merlot 35%, Petit Verdot 5%

CH. LARRIVAUX

RFD

CH. LARRIVAUX, HAUT-MÉDOC

With bright and spicy, dark fruit on the nose, this is lovely on the palate with soft, black fruit notes, bright acidity and soft, ripe tannins. This is a charming, Merlot-based wine for drinking relatively early.

Blend: Merlot 53%, Cabernet Sauvignon 26%, Petit Verdot 9%, Cabernet Franc 5%

CH. POUJEAUX

RED

CH. POUJEAUX, MOULIS-EN-MÉDOC

Philippe Cuvelier's 2016 Ch. Poujeaux is soft and round. It has attractive, forward red fruit, a vibrant palate and a wonderful crisp finish.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 50%, Merlot 40%, Cabernet Franc 5%, Petit Verdot 5%

CH. SOCIANDO-MALLET

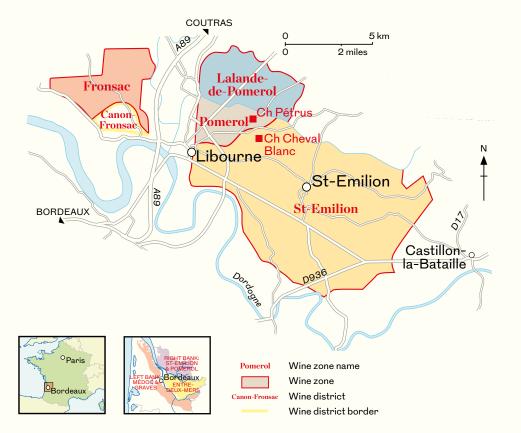
RED

CH. SOCIANDO-MALLET, HAUT-MÉDOC

This immediately appeals with an inviting, fresh nose of pure Cabernet Sauvignon. The palate is juicy and fresh with ripe tannins and a long, fresh finish.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 45%, Merlot 50%, Cabernet Franct 5%

RIGHT BANK



Pomerol CH. BOURGNEUF

RED

CH. BOURGNEUF

The fruit for this wine comes from 22 acres grown on gravel and clay with an iron-rich subsoil. Dark maroon, it has attractive aromatics of blackcurrant and red fruit. Fine, integrated tannins combine on the palate with a long, saline finish.

Blend: Merlot 85%, Cabernet Franc 15%

CH. CLINET

RED

CH. CLINET

The nose displays slightly restrained notes of cherry, cassis and blackberry. Aged in 70 percent new oak, there is sweet fruit on the palate with some toasty oak. There is great blackberry fruit on the mid-palate with great tension and then tannins which just grow and grow. It finishes with good grip and zip.

Blend: Merlot 90%, Cabernet Sauvignon 10%

CH. LA CONSEILLANTE

RED

CH. LA CONSEILLANTE

New winemaker Marielle Cazaux has got off to a flying start, producing one of the most impressive wines of the vintage. Made from 30-year-old vines, this has attractive aromas of spice, blackcurrant and blue fruit. There is a wonderful freshness on the palate, with vitality and succulence. It finishes like a tight-fitting velvet glove, taut and yet smooth.

Blend: Merlot 80%, Cabernet Franc 20%

CH. LA CROIX DU CASSE

RFD

CH. LA CROIX DU CASSE

The vines at Ch. la Croix du Casse are planted on gravel with sand and iron. This displays fresh, bright black cherry with a saline finish. This wine never disappoints, as a truly superb entry-level Pomerol. The 2016 vintage has created a wine that has great balance with dense red fruit, a medium-weighted palate and yet that characteristic spice and cooling acidity which is so often displayed in the good 2016s. This will please those looking for a future-drinking Pomerol, expertly made and yet not one you have to re-mortgage one's house for!

Blend: Merlot 93%, Cabernet Franc 7%

CH. DU DOMAINE DE L'EGLISE

RED

CH. DU DOMAINE DE L'EGLISE

From the central part of Pomerol, Ch. du Domaine de l'Eglise is just 150 yards from Pétrus and Vieux Château Certan, with the vines on gravel and clay. One of the value wines of Pomerol, it certainly delivers this year. Controlled and concentrated, it is finely structured with grippy yet fine tannins. There is no lack of power either, dense plum and bright red fruit provides persistence while the long saline finish leaves you with a sense of elegance.

Blend: Merlot 96%, Cabernet Franc 4%

CH. FEYTIT-CLINET

RED

CH. FEYTIT-CLINET

At first fairly restrained, this then reveals lovely coffee and plum notes, blackberry with a touch of underbrush. The palate is medium-bodied with a balanced seam of richness, red fruit and blueberry on the mid-palate. It's almost Burgundian in style with its cooling acidity. This has lovely ample juice. Fragrant with a long, spicy finish.

Blend: Merlot 90%, Cabernet Franc 10%

CH. GAZIN

RED

CH. GAZIN

Ch. Gazin is firing all cylinders in 2016 — the nose is rich and pronounced, with blueberry and damson fruit to the fore, espresso bean and dark plum in the background. The palate builds slowly and broadens out into a richness of black forest fruit. The tannins and acidity are very well integrated, with the tannins having a great textural feel. Depth and yet lift all in one place. This has great polish.

Blend: Merlot 90%, Cabernet Sauvignon 7%, Cabernet Franc 3%



CH. HOSANNA

RED

CH. HOSANNA

Produced from just four hectares of vines planted on gravel and red iron-rich clay, this is a deep, dark purple colour. The nose is reserved but the palate has a silky, generous texture with the vintage's trademark vitality and brightness.

Blend: Merlot 85%, Cabernet Franc 15%

CH. LAFLEUR

RED

PENSÉES DE LAFLEUR

The nose on the Pensées de Lafleur is discreet, but notes of plum and mocha can be coaxed out with a bit of swirling. The predominance of Merlot gives this wine an unctuous, beautiful and suave texture. The tannins are nicely integrated, ripe and yet with enough bite. The overall flow and balance of the wine is impeccable, giving the wine an almost gentlemanly manner. The estate does not consider this a second wine, as it comes from its own specific vineyards. A more approachable offering than its older sibling.

Blend: Merlot 55%, Cabernet Franc 45%

CH. LAFLEUR

This tiny property is just 9.1 acres, with gravel, clay and sand soils. It has all the hallmarks of a little bit of Burgundy in Bordeaux. Elegant and finessed, this is gloriously fresh with attractive red fruit and builds to a super bright finish.

Blend: Cabernet Franc 55%, Merlot 45%

CH. LAFLEUR-GAZIN

RED

CH. LAFLEUR-GAZIN

This has soft, delicate fruit with a hint of blackcurrant and spices. It has a suave mouth-feel and finishes with a fresh attack. The estate is 21.5 acres on gravel, clay and silt.

Blend: Merlot 94%, Cabernet Franc 6%

CH. LA FLEUR-PÉTRUS

RED

CH. LA FLEUR-PÉTRUS

The soils here are gravel over a deep, clay, iron-rich subsoil. The 2016 has a pleasing nose of blackcurrant and red fruits, and a suave, bright, silky texture finishing bright and super fresh. Very elegant.

Blend: Merlot 91%, Cabernet Franc 9%

CH. LATOUR À POMEROL

RED

CH. LATOUR À POMEROL

Grown on eight hectares of deep gravel and clay with loam, this has attractive, upfront aromas of raspberry fruit. There is a pleasing freshness on the palate, with bright acidity and silky tannins finishing with a grippy length.

Blend: Merlot 96%, Cabernet Franc 4%

CH. PETIT-VILLAGE

RED

CH. PETIT-VILLAGE

The past few years have seen major renovations at Ch. Petit-Village, under the stewardship of new winemaker Diana Berrouet-Garcia. The 2016 has attractive red fruit, with cassis, plum and coffee notes. Lovely and fresh, nevertheless there is a nice balance and weight. Medium-bodied, it finishes long with a saline finish.

Blend: Merlot 77%, Cabernet Franc 14%, Cabernet Sauvignon 9%

PÉTRUS

RED

PÉTRUS

One always expects great things of Pétrus, but the 2016 immediately appeals with a wonderful aromatic nose of strong cassis and blackcurrant. With lovely complexity, this has a very suave and silky texture. On the palate, there is a variety of flavours, with liquorice, black cherry, mocha, incense and coffee. The dark fruit builds to a crescendo, finishing soft and delicate.

Blend: Merlot 100%

LE PIN

RED

LE PIN

The 2016 vintage is the first time in Le Pin's history that the harvest didn't begin until October and it is one of the most concentrated wines we tasted. It has an attractive nose of spices and dark fruit. It's hugely concentrated on the palate, but this is reined in by a pleasing freshness and a saline note. It finishes with an ethereal ribbon of silky tannins.

Blend: Merlot 100%

CH. TROTANOY

RED

CH. TROTANOY

The estate consists of 18 acres of gravel, clay and black clay soil on an iron pan. A delicate nose is followed by a suave, silky texture of black and red fruits, ripe tannins and a chalky but succulent, spicy finish.

Blend: Merlot 95%, Cabernet Franc 5%

VIEUX CHÂTEAU CERTAN

RED

VIEUX CHÂTEAU CERTAN

Alexandre Thienpont has made another spectacular Vieux Château Certan in 2016. This has a deep, ruby hue with a nose of black fruit and cherries. The palate is extremely voluptuous with a succulent texture, silky tannins and a long finish. The high percentage of Merlot adds notes of chocolate, liquorice and tar.

Blend: Merlot 85%, Cabernet Franc 14%, Cabernet Sauvignon 1%

St Emilion CH. ANGÉLUS

RED

LE CARILLON D'ANGÉLUS

A savoury nose, with hints of coffee and spice, gives way to a structured, full-bodied palate and a long, persistent finish.

Blend: Merlot 75%, Cabernet Sauvignon 25%

CH. ANGÉLUS

The nose has notes of coffee and spice, while the palate is refined, rich and balanced with refreshing acidity and a suave, silky texture. The tannins are very pure with red fruit. It has a long persistent finish.

Blend: Merlot 60%, Cabernet Franc 40%

CH. AUSONE

RED

CHAPELLE D'AUSONE

This comes from vines planted on an asteria limestone plateau on calcareous clay. The wine has an attractive nose of chocolate, dark fruit and cinnamon. The palate is lively with huge intensity and a suave texture which gives way to a long, linear finish.

Blend: Cabernet Franc 56%, Merlot 22%, Cabernet Sauvignon 22%

CH. AUSONE

The vineyards of Ch. Ausone are located on a high southeast slope overlooking the medieval ramparts of St Emilion. Bearing a dark ruby hue, the nose is exquisite with notes of blueberry, damson, blackcurrant and cherry. On the palate, there is a pleasing vitality, with velvet-like tannins and a concentrated, intense finish.

Blend: Cabernet Franc 50%, Merlot 50%

CH. BEAUSÉJOUR

RFD

CH. BEAUSÉJOUR

This has an aromatic nose with notes of blackcurrant. It's full-bodied with a spicy, suave texture which leaves a long, bold, persistent finish.

Blend: Merlot 90%, Cabernet Franc 10%

CH. BÉLAIR MONANGE

RED

CH. BÉLAIR MONANGE

Supreme elegance exudes from this very fine St Emilion estate. While many wines have exceptional balance, only a few have the poise and refinement that hint at something ethereal in the years to come. Soft black cherries combine with blackcurrants and sweeter cassis to provide juicy texture lifted by an almost endless finish. Tiny quantities sadly mean very few will get to experience this wonderful 2016.

Blend: Merlot 92%, Cabernet Franc 8%

CH. BERLIQUET

RED

CH. BERLIQUET

Dark ruby with an attractive nose of red fruits, the palate is well structured and fresh with spice giving way to a persistent, saline finish.

Blend: 75% Merlot, Cabernet Franc 25%

CH. CANON

RED

CH. CANON

Ch. Canon is in good hands under Nicolas Audebert, the Admiral's son who is fast making a name for himself as one of Bordeaux's most exciting young winemakers. Following on from his brilliant 2015, which wowed critics, the 2016 has Audebert's trademark deft touch, combining delicacy with finesse. Reserved and poised, this is elegant and understated, finishing with a length which goes on and on.

Blend: Merlot 70%, Cabernet Franc 30%

CH. CANON-LA-GAFFELIÈRE

RED

CH. CANON-LA-GAFFELIÈRE

Sometimes very small changes are sufficient to turn the fortune of an estate in the eyes of the consumers and merchants. Balance and poise have returned and are almost complete in this wonderful wine. Sweet, rich cherries and blackberries provide a wealth of warm ripe fruit which is surrounded by almost seamlessly ripe tannins. This is not a subtle wine but it is unquestionably a very, very fine one which has potential to be one of the finest wines to grace your table in the years to come.

Blend: Merlot 55%, Cabernet Franc 40%, Cabernet Sauvignon 5%

CH. CHEVAL BLANC

RED

LE PETIT CHEVAL

The nose is pleasantly aromatic with notes of red berry and florals, with crunchy, juicy raspberry. On the palate, there is a delicate freshness and a pure, lifted finish. Light with plenty of red fruit.

Blend: Merlot 62%, Cabernet Franc 38%

CH. CHEVAL BLANC

There is real freshness in the 2016 Cheval Blanc. Dark ruby, it has strong aromatics of red berries and blue fruit. The palate is fresh with creamy, well-integrated, ripe, silky tannins alongside a spicy, crunchy acidity. It dances across the tongue with a flicker of polished fruit, finishing with a suave, polished character and a classy richness.

Blend: Merlot 59.5%, Cabernet Franc 37.2%, Cabernet Sauvignon 3.3%

CH. LA CLOTTE

RFD

CH. LA CLOTTE

On the nose, there are notes of mint, eucalyptus and blackcurrant. The palate is an explosion of blackcurrant with ripe tannins and chocolate. It's intense with a long, persistent finish.

Blend: Merlot 85%, Cabernet Sauvignon 10%, Cabernet Franc 5%

CH. LA DOMINIQUE

RED

CH. LA DOMINIQUE

With attractive notes of blackcurrant and red berries on the nose, the palate has a strong tannic presence with a dry, persistent finish.

Blend: Merlot 89%, Cabernet Franc 8%, Cabernet Sauvignon 3%

CH. FIGEAC

RED

CH. FIGEAC

Figeac's 2016 is cerebral. Deep, black cherry in colour, it has aromas of dark fruit, with a little spice, blue fruit and cedar. The palate is marked by a glorious freshness, a saline character and a crisp, juicy finish. Concentration and elegance: it's focused with a long finish.

Blend: Cabernet Sauvignon 38%, Merlot 36%, Cabernet Franc 26%

CH. GRAND MAYNE

RED

CH. GRAND MAYNE

This sits northwest of St Emilion and is owned by the Nony family. The 19 hectares of vineyards produce a deeply coloured wine with ripe, sweet fruit. It is a dense wine with mineral and liquorice notes alongside oriental spices. This will not fail to disappoint — a real crowd pleaser.

Blend: Merlot 75%, Cabernet Franc 20%, Cabernet Sauvignon 5%

CH. LARCIS DUCASSE

RFD

CH. LARCIS DUCASSE

The vines at Ch. Larcis Ducasse are planted on south-facing vineyards with a limestone surface. A big wine with dark fruit, this is full-bodied, structured and fresh on the palate. It finishes long with a saline note and plenty of grip.

Blend: Merlot 87%, Cabernet Franc 13%

CH. LAROQUE

RED

CH. LAROQUE

Ch. Laroque dates back to the 12th century and sits on a limestone plateau outside St Emilion. The 2016 is dark ruby, with fine aromatics of mint and blackcurrants. Suave in texture, there is a freshness and lift on the palate with a silky, grippy finish.

Blend: Merlot 95%, Cabernet Franc 4.5%, Cabernet Sauvignon 0.5%

CH. MOULIN SAINT-GEORGES

RED

CH. MOULIN SAINT-GEORGES

The soils here are clay-limestone. This is hugely expressive on the nose, with red fruits and blackcurrants. On the palate it has vitality and bright acidity, with ripe tannins which give way to a long, savoury finish.

Blend: Merlot 80%, Cabernet Franc 20%

CH. PAVIE MACQUIN

RED

CH. PAVIE MACQUIN

Dark ruby in colour, this has a spicy, peppery nose. The palate is full of energy with a ribbon of red fruit running through it. Beyond the redcurrant fruit, the wine finishes with a chalky tannic grip.

Blend: Merlot 82%, Cabernet Franc 16%, Cabernet Sauvignon 2%

CH. QUINAULT L'ENCLOS

RED

CH. QUINAULT L'ENCLOS

Fresh aromas of black fruit slowly grow to reveal spring-like notes of rhododendrons and chocolate. There is richness on the mid-palate with good volume and a suave texture. The wine finishes with a smooth, pure aftertaste.

Blend: Merlot 68%, Cabernet Sauvignon 20%, Cabernet Franc 12%

CH. QUINTUS

RED

LE DRAGON DE QUINTUS

This has a dark ruby hue, with spices and blackcurrant. Medium-bodied, it is fresh with ripe tannins and a long finish.

Blend: Merlot 90%, Cabernet Franc 10%

CH. QUINTUS

Dark ruby in colour, the nose has pleasing, delicate notes of dark fruit. Medium-bodied, there is a saline freshness on the palate which gives way to an explosion of red fruits and a long, persistent finish.

Blend: Merlot 70%, Cabernet Franc 30%

CH. TROPLONG MONDOT

RFD

CH. TROPLONG MONDOT

This sits in the glass with a purple-black colour. The nose exhibits notes of black raspberry, blackberry and spices. It is big and bold, leading to a full-bodied finish

Blend: Merlot 90%, Cabernet Sauvignon 8%, Cabernet Franc 2%

CH. TROTTE VIEILLE

RED

LA VIEILLE DAME DE TROTTE VIEILLE

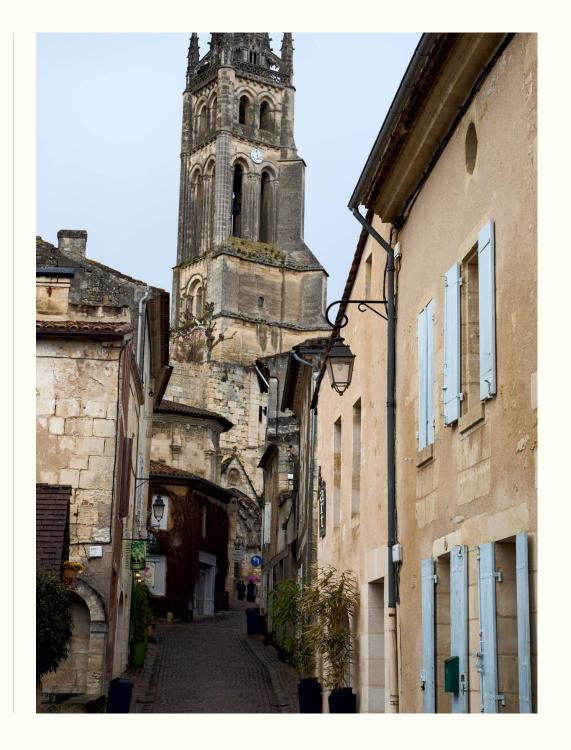
The vines for this wine are planted on clay over limestone, which adds a little freshness. Notes of blackcurrant and spice on the nose give way to a palate with restrained freshness and juicy fruit. It ends with a pleasing saline minerality, persistent length and a good, gravelly crunch.

Blend: Merlot 54%, Cabernet Franc 46%

CH. TROTTE VIEILLE

Dark ruby and purple-tinged, the wine has a pleasing nose of blackcurrant, damson red fruit, cassis and florals. On the palate, there is very good crunch, finishing with class and poise.

Blend: Cabernet Franc 53%, Merlot 45%, Cabernet Sauvignon 2%



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REGISTRATION OF INTEREST

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		15	Ch. Beychevelle		Ch. Pape Clément		Ch. Lafleur
ST ESTÈPHE		15	Ch. Brainaire-Ducru		Ch. Smith Haut Lafitte		Ch. Lafleur-Gazin
6	Ch. Beau-Site	16	Ch. Ducru-Beaucaillou				Ch. la Fleur-Pétrus
6	Ch. Calon Ségur	16	Ch. Gloria	SAU	TERNES & BARSAC	34	Ch. Latour à Pomerol
7	Ch. Capbern	16	Ch. Gruaud Larose		Ch. Climens	34	Ch. Petit-Village
7	Cos d'Estournel	17	Ch. Lagrange		Ch. Coutet		Pétrus
8	Ch. Lafon-Rochet	17	Ch. Lalande-Borie		Ch. Doisy Daëne		Le Pin
8	Ch. Meyney	17	Ch. Langoa Barton		Ch. Doisy-Védrines		Ch. Trotanoy
8	Ch. Montrose	17	Ch. Léoville Barton		Ch. la Tour Blanche		Vieux Château Certan
8	Ch. Ormes de Pez	18	Ch. Léoville-Las Cases		Ch. Guiraud		
9	Ch. Phélan Ségur	18	Ch. Léoville Poyferré		Ch. Sigalas Rabaud	ST	EMILION
9	Ch. Tronquoy-Lalande	18	Ch. Moulin Riche		Ch. Suduiraut		Ch. Angélus
							Ch. Ausone
PAU	PAUILLAC		RGAUX	TH	E REST OF THE MÉDOC		Ch. Beauséjour
9	Ch. d'Armailhac	19	Ch. Angludet	29	Ch. Belgrave		Ch. Bélair Monange
9	Ch. Batailley	19	Ch. Brane-Cantenac	29	Ch. Beaumont		Ch. Berliquet
10	Ch. Clerc Milon	19	Ch. Cantenac Brown		Ch. Cantemerle		Ch. Canon
10	Ch. Duhart-Milon		Ch. Giscours		Ch. Chasse-Spleen		Ch. Canon-la-Gaffelière
10	Ch. Grand-Puy-Lacoste		Ch. d'Issan		Ch. la Lagune		Ch. Cheval Blanc
11	Ch. Haut-Bages Libéral	21	Ch. Margaux		Ch. Larrivaux		Ch. la Clotte
11	Ch. Haut-Bages Monpelou	21	Ch. Palmer		Ch. Poujeaux		Ch. la Dominique
11	Ch. Lafite Rothschild		Ch. Rauzan-Ségla		Ch. Sociando-Mallet		Ch. Figeac
12	Ch. Lynch-Bages		Ch. du Tertre				Ch. Grand Mayne
12	Ch. Lynch-Moussas			RIG	HT BANK		Ch. Larcis Ducasse
12	Ch. Mouton Rothschild	PES	SSAC-LÉOGNAN				Ch. Laroque
13	Ch. Pédesclaux		Domaine de Chevalier	POI	MEROL		Ch. Moulin Saint-Georges
13	Ch. Pibran		Clos Marsalette		Ch. Bourgneuf		Ch. Pavie Macquin
14	Ch. Pichon-Longueville-Baron		Ch. Haut-Bailly		Ch. Clinet		Ch. Quinault l'Enclos
14	Ch. Pichon Longueville Comtesse		Ch. Haut-Brion		Ch. la Conseillante		Ch. Quintus
	de Lalande		Ch. la Garde		Ch. la Croix du Casse		Ch. Troplong Mondot
15	Ch. Pontet-Canet		Ch. la Mission Haut-Brion		Ch. du Domaine de l'Eglise		Ch. Trotte Vielle
			Ch. Latour Martillac		Ch. Feytit-Clinet		

Ch. Gazin

Ch. le Pape