

BERRY BROS & RUDD

3, ST. JAMES'S STREET, LONDON

WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS



BORDEAUX 2017
En Primeur

VINTAGE REPORT

With 2017 a much-talked about vintage for many reasons, Fine Wine Buying Director and Bordeaux Buyer Max Lalondrelle shares his thoughts on what to expect from this year's offerings

As a Frenchman living in the UK for 24 years, I am used to how much the British love to talk about the weather. And in Bordeaux this year, it is the first thing to mention. There were severe frosts over the entire region on the nights of 22nd and 29th April (you might remember, we experienced the same thing in the UK). These were primarily located in the Côtes de Castillon, Côtes de Blaye, St Emilion and Pomerol. This is on the Right Bank. On the Left, the frosts affected the areas of vineyard situated within one kilometre of the river. The good news is that very few of the big estates have been affected, if anything it is the lesser vineyards of these that might have had some damage – those that supply the second or the third wine. This is with the exception of Ch. Angludet in Margaux – a Berry Bros. & Rudd customer favourite. Sadly, this Château, although situated far from the river, had 100 percent of its crop decimated. We usually open our “EP” campaign with this Château, often selling out in minutes, but this year we are sorry to say, there will be none available.

In Pessac, the vineyards have also been affected, more so than their counterparts in the Médoc and in the northern Médoc with an average loss of 20 percent of crops across the region. In St Emilion and Pomerol, despite the use of early-morning helicopters and other contraptions to shake the cool temperatures, the decrease in volume for some estates here has been between 20 and 40 percent. Fortunately, however, with some of the best vineyards in commanding positions, most of the top estates were able to harvest the majority of their most important crops.

Despite all the frost, the rest of the growing season was fairly typical with warm temperatures during the summer. It was a fairly dry and fairly good ripening season with a bit of rain towards the end which didn't affect the crop. Having tasted the wines, we can see this vintage isn't going to match the likes of the 2015, or 2016 for most estates, but nevertheless, 2017 is something that we believe will be superior in quality to 2014. You could call it “a super classic” or a “classic ++” vintage. It is a pleasure to note too that 2017 hasn't succumbed to the usual bad luck of vintages ending in “X7”.

We make no secret of the fact that not everything that we will be selling this year will be exceptional, but it will certainly be good. Yes, we have had some frost, but we also have some good wines. If you have never bought *en primeur* before, 2017 would be the ideal year for a good practice vintage – one with which to start learning how to build your cellar. I remember the first time I bought *en primeur*; it was in 2000. This was my practice year, and then I went big in 2001 and 2002. The 2002 particularly is now showing very well indeed. Then, I bought Ch. Latour 2002 for £68 a bottle – a wine that is now worth over £4,600 a case. Equally I bought Ch. Lynch Bages 2002 for £210 a case, now worth £1,100 a dozen. So now, when I am choosing something to drink, I don't go to my rack to pick up a bottle that cost me £100, I pick up one that cost me £12.50 – but whose quality is often up to 10 times the price. It is a self-funding proposition; self-fulfilling.

You might need a little more guidance this year, but there are still good wines to be bought, so, for 2017, I would still advise purchase. Our Fine Wine team, who have tasted most of the wines in situ will be happy to discuss any individual queries or questions, singling out the best bottles for investment and wines for drinking soon.



THE WHITES

In 2017, the dry white wines of Bordeaux have good concentration, generous aromatics and an attractive, elegant character. The Sauvignon Blanc did particularly well producing crisp, aromatic wine with thrilling acidity while the Sémillon added its traditional weight and texture to the final blend. At properties that did well such as Ch. Pape Clément the wine displays pleasing notes of fresh lemon and citrus, white stone fruit and peach with a very clean and precise acidity.

The whites made with grapes grown on low lying land, particularly in Entre-Deux-Mers were hit by the frost in April and as a result yields are considerably lower than in previous years. The harvest arrived early. Picking in Sauternes started in the third week of August which for some was a record early harvest and in Graves and Pessac Léognan the harvest was also one of the earliest we have seen in the last decade. In Graves, harvest began on 16th August compared with 2nd September in 2016 and 6th September in 2014. As you would expect, the grapes harvested early retained a high level of acidity

In the vintage report compiled by Dr Axel Marchal, Dr Valérie Lavigne and Professor Laurence Gény from the Institut des Sciences de la Vigne et du Vin at Bordeaux Aquitaine University, it was stated: “Picking started with Sauvignon Blanc under sunny skies in late-August and ended in mid-September with the latest-ripening Sémillon”.

The cool weather in mid-August was conducive to ripening, maintaining the acidity and potential fruitiness. Although the rain in September led to the outbreak of grey rot in certain plots, the overall condition of the grapes was very good. In Sauternes the botrytis spread quickly and as a result the wines display an attractive, rich weight.

Overall there is a good balance between acidity and fruit concentration. A very good year for white Bordeaux.

THE REDS

Stylistically the red wines in 2017 are medium bodied, pure and ripe with attractive red fruit aromatics, silky tannins and, in the best wines, there exists a very long after taste. Unlike five-star vintages such as 2010 and 2016 however, quality is not uniform.

There are no easy soundbites to describe the 2017 vintage. It will be remembered for the late frosts which hit the region last April, wiping out the crop at estates such as Ch. Angludet in Margaux and Ch. Climens in Sauternes. But although the crop was down some 40 percent on 2016 very few of the big estates were affected. In the Médoc communes such as St Julien, St Estèphe and Pauillac experienced a larger crop than the previous five vintages.

While the frost was a factor it wasn't an overwhelming determinant on quality. More important was the weather in September. The rain in early September led to an earlier than expected harvest of some Merlot grapes, particularly those with sandy soil, but on late-ripening sites the sunshine which arrived on the 23rd September foresaw good quality Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon.

There are some very attractive red wines in 2017. More delicate winemaking has led to, particularly in the case of St Emilion, a softer, fresher style. These wines possess lower alcohol levels than in big, ripe years like 2009, less oak, and allow for the *terroir* of the vineyard and the quality of the fruit to shine through. They will suit anyone who favours a finer or more delicate style.

As Berry Bros. & Rudd's Fine Wine Buying Director and Bordeaux Max Lalondrelle says: “These are wines that will reach maturity earlier but will drink consistently throughout their ageing window”. They are medium bodied, with pure red fruit, an attractive silkiness with a lighter, perfumed finesse and elegance. Wines that will give enormous pleasure in the medium term. It is certainly not a vintage to be overlooked.

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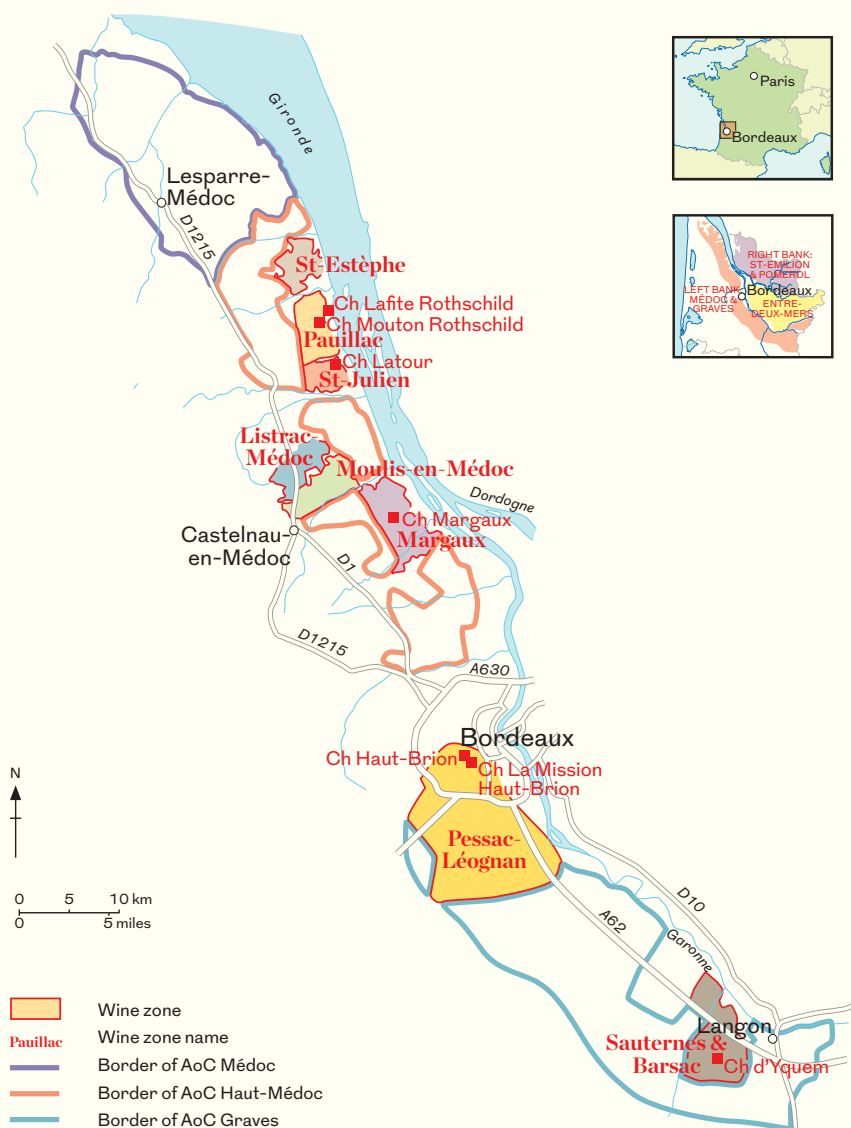
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LEFT BANK



St Estèphe

CH. BEAU-SITE

RED

CH. BEAU-SITE, ST ESTÈPHE

A neighbour of third growth Château Calon-Ségur, Beau-Site, which translates as 'beautiful site' is a well established Cru Bourgeois with a growing reputation. The 2017 is a charming wine, a blend of 70 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 25 percent Merlot, three percent Petit Verdot and two percent Cabernet Franc it falls into the glass with a vivid maroon colour and has pleasing aromatics of dark fruit, finishing with a smooth, suave texture.

15/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. CALON-SÉGUR

RED

LE MARQUIS DE CALON-SÉGUR, ST ESTÈPHE

The second wine of Château Calon Ségur is a blend of 57 percent Merlot, 38 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and five percent Cabernet Franc and sees 17 months in 30 percent new French oak barrels. It has an attractive bouquet of blackcurrant and cassis but what really shines this year is the thrilling acidity and freshness. Very silky and sleek with ripe, juicy tannins giving way to a long finish.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. CALON-SÉGUR, ST ESTÈPHE

The most northerly of the all the Médoc Grand-Crus falls into the glass with a dark inky purple colour. The 2017 is a blend of 76 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 13 percent Merlot, nine percent Cabernet Franc and two percent Petit Verdot and spends 20 months in 100 percent new French oak barrels. It has a very appealing nose of redcurrants, plum and blackcurrant. The palate is suave, rich and sophisticated finishing with an extraordinary explosion of energy, spice and ripe tannins giving way to a fresh, long finish. Very good.

18/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. CAPBERN

RED

CH. CAPBERN, ST ESTÈPHE 13.3%

Capbern sees 18 months in 60 percent new French oak barrels. It is a blend of 55 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 39 percent Merlot, three percent Cabernet Franc and three percent Petit Verdot. Dark crimson, the nose is redolent with notes of blueberry, dark fruit and damson. On the palate there is a suave suppleness which is really very appealing. With medium tannins it finishes with a saline fresh finish. Really very good.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd



COS D'ESTOURNEL

WHITE

COS D'ESTOURNEL, BLANC, ST ESTÈPHE

This is one of the crisper whites we tasted this vintage, with its layers of tropical and quince fruit kept nicely in check by a tight, fresh, green apple and grapefruit core, and a touch of minerality. A blend of 80 percent Sauvignon Blanc and 20 percent Sémillon, this Cos is both moreish and elegant, and has the complexity and structure to allow you to enjoy it over the next decade, possibly longer.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

RED

LES PAGODES DE COS, ST ESTÈPHE

A vivid, dark purple, Pagodes this year has intense, dark fruit with notes of crème de cassis and blackcurrant. A blend of 56 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 42 percent Merlot, one percent Cabernet Franc and one percent Petit Verdot, there is a pleasing vitality to the 2017 with silky tannins and an attractive, persistent finish.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

COS D'ESTOURNEL, ST ESTÈPHE

Dense and deep the 2017 is reserved and brooding on the nose coming at you with a wave of blackcurrant and crème de cassis. A blend of 66 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 32 percent Merlot, one percent Cabernet Franc and one percent Petit Verdot. The palate is suave and silky with a fresh, seductive character and a graphite, spicy finish. Really very good.

17.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. LAFON-ROCHET

RED

CH. LAFON-ROCHET, ST ESTÈPHE

The vines at Ch. Lafon-Rochet sit on a bed of deep gravel on clay soil. The grapes are harvested by hand and are a blend of 55 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 34 percent Merlot, six percent Cabernet Franc and five percent Petit Verdot. The wine sees 50 percent in new oak, and displays a dark inky purple colour with notes of blackcurrant and dark fruit. The palate is medium weight with ripe velvety tannins, juicy fruit and a masculine, iron-like tannic grip.

15.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. LE CROCK

RED

CH. LE CROCK, ST ESTÈPHE

A blend of 52 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 34 percent Merlot, eight percent Petit Verdot and six percent Cabernet Franc, this wine possesses good blackberry fruit with an unmistakable St Estèphe iron and black pepper character. There is a hint of violet, finishing with juicy, succulent dark fruit.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. MEYNEY

RED

CH. MEYNEY, ST ESTÈPHE

A blend of 50 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 35 percent Merlot and 15 percent Petit Verdot, this wine displays nice, attractive plum and Cabernet fruit on the nose. The palate has a lovely medium-bodied feel and great acidity growing into a nice explosion of fruit for a long and detailed length.

15.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. MONTROSE

RED

LA DAME DE MONTROSE, ST ESTÈPHE

La Dame de Montrose is a blend of 49 percent Merlot, 43 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, four percent Petit Verdot and four percent Cabernet Franc. The wine opens up with notes of cassis, wet pebble and stone. It is medium-bodied, with well-balanced, ripe tannins pointing down towards a long, dry finish with fresh redcurrant. A softly generous second wine that will reward patience over the next five to 10-plus years.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. MONTROSE, ST ESTÈPHE

In 2017, Cabernet Sauvignon made up 76 percent of the final blend with the rest comprising 20 percent Merlot, three percent Cabernet Franc and one percent Petit Verdot. It sits in the glass with a deep, dark purple colour and has an appealing nose of blackcurrant, violet, blackberry cassis, wet stone, dark fruit, mocha and spice. The texture is very silky and suave with a focus on elegance and finesse. As always, extremely good.

17.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. ORMES DE PEZ

RED

CH. ORMES DE PEZ, ST ESTÈPHE

Grapes were harvested by hand at Ch. Ormes de Pez with a team of around 50 people. The 2017 is a blend of 42 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 51 percent Merlot, six percent Cabernet Franc and one percent Petit Verdot. It falls into the glass with a vivid crimson colour, the aromatics are delicate with notes of blackcurrant, spice and coffee. There is an attractive weight and texture to this wine with grippy tannins married with juicy, red fruit. It finishes long with a persistent, chalky finish.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd



CH. PHÉLAN SÉGUR

RED

CH. PHÉLAN SÉGUR, ST ESTÈPHE

A blend of 58 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 39 percent Merlot, one and a half percent Cabernet Franc and one and a half percent Petit Verdot. Cool, dark fruit on the nose gives way to a structured palate — tannins are ripe and fine but build nicely. Blackberry fruit, pure with plenty of refreshing acidity. A linear feel here, sleek and silky.

15.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. LILIAN LADOUYS

RED

CH. LILIAN LADOUYS, ST ESTÈPHE

This wine provides sweet and pronounced aromas of plum, blueberry and red berry, with a little minerality and tobacco too. Precise and elegant on the palate, this is a veritable fruit-salad of strawberry, raspberry, blackcurrant and mint — with a complexity gained from notes of pepper and the kitchen spice box. In St Estèphe 2017 is good, and this could be one of the year's bargains.

16/20 Points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

Pauillac

CH. D'ARMAILHAC

RED

CH. D'ARMAILHAC, PAUILLAC

A blend of 68 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 22 percent Merlot, seven percent Cabernet Franc and three percent Petit Verdot. Garnet red with notes of liquorice, bilberry, pepper and spice. Fresh acidity in the mouthfeel. Grippy tannins and lively acidity. Vibrant berry and cherry notes on the nose. Medium-bodied and tightly wound, with crisp red cherry fruit great acidity and refreshing pepper finish. Lovely balance and poise; svelte and compact.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. BATAILLEY

RED

CH. BATAILLEY, PAUILLAC

The 2017 Ch. Batailley is a blend of 17 percent Merlot, three percent Petit Verdot and 80 percent Cabernet Sauvignon. The juice falls into the glass with a dark, crimson colour, showing aromatics of dark fruit. It has a suave texture, and is medium-bodied.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. CLERC-MILON

RED

CH. CLERC-MILON, PAUILLAC

With red berry and strawberry fruit on the nose, this wine is a touch more open and inviting than the Armailhac. With a lovely textural mouthfeel, it is open and giving on the strong and richly fruited mid palate, with red berry and cassis fruit, and good length. Juicy and rather attractive, it is open and yet still fresh. Classy, generous and very good.

17/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd



CH. DUHART-MILON

RED

CH. DUHART-MILON, PAUILLAC

In 2017, the blend for Ch. Duhart-Milon is a blend of 76 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 24 percent Merlot. Intense and compact on the nose, there is a pleasing suave, silky texture. Compact and elegant, it finishes with a slight graphite touch. Really very good.

15.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. GRAND-PUY-LACOSTE

RED

CH. GRAND-PUY-LACOSTE, PAUILLAC

The vineyards of Ch. Grand-Puy-Lacoste were unaffected by the late frosts in April. The 2017 is a blend of 80 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 20 percent Merlot. Medium crimson in colour with an attractive, yet delicate perfume of blackcurrant, cassis, raspberry and red fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with a good, thrilling acidity and a juicy finish. Owing to the weather during the growing season, the grapes don't have as much sugar as previous vintages which is here shown off to us in a lighter style. Attractive fine tannins.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. HAUT-BAGES LIBÉRAL

RED

CH. HAUT-BAGES LIBÉRAL, PAUILLAC

A blend of 70 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 30 percent Merlot, this has a juicy open-knit nose of raspberry and redcurrant. Nice fruit, good tannins, it shows a really nice balance between all its component parts. A great entry level Pauillac and one that will deserve short-to medium-term cellaring.

15/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. HAUT-BATAILLEY

RED

CH. HAUT-BATAILLEY, PAUILLAC

Now in the hands of the Cazes family, owners of Lynch-Bages, this is the first full vintage under their stewardship. A blend of 66 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 34 percent Merlot, it has a dark crimson colour with a compact, reserved nose of blackcurrants, spice and a little coffee. The palate is medium bodied and finishes with an explosion of dark, thrilling, juicy fruit.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. LAFITE ROTHSCHILD

RED

CARRUADES DE LAFITE, PAUILLAC

As usual, the second wine of Lafite Rothschild is a little shy, needing coaxing from the glass. Cassis abounds with a gentle hint of plum and lead pencil. The palate is caressing and gentle as usual with a lovely interplay between the filigree tannins and crunchy acidity. Never a large wine, this is pretty and will reward cellaring over the next 10-plus years. Pure.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. LAFITE ROTHSCHILD, PAUILLAC

This sits in the glass with a dark crimson colour and has pleasing notes of crushed rock and compact dark fruit. The palate is suave, silky and velvety, with an easy-going charm. It finishes fresh with an elegance one would expect from a wine of this classification. The 2017 is a blend of 96 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, three and a half percent Merlot and half a percent of Petit Verdot.

17.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd



CH. LYNCH-BAGES

WHITE

BLANC DE LYNCH-BAGES, PAUILLAC

This white from the famed Lynch-Bages stable often stands out as one of the wines of the vintage. Crisp and clean on the nose, this is full of white stone fruit with citrus verbenes. The palate is fresh and vibrant packed full of citrus, lemon pith, wet stone and a lovely phenolic feeling that gives depth and vivacity with precise tannins. Delicious. Keep for three to five years in bottle.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

RED

ECHO DE LYNCH-BAGES, PAUILLAC

The second wine of Ch. Lynch-Bages is a blend of 74 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 24 percent Merlot and two percent Cabernet Franc. Dark ruby in the glass there are aromas of red fruit and spice, it finishes soft and round with ripe tannins and a long finish packed full of juicy vitality.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. LYNCH-BAGES, PAUILLAC

None of the Cazes properties were affected by frost this year. The 2017 has a deep garnet red with a slight purple hue. There are notes of dark fruit, blackcurrants and a little spice on the nose. The palate is medium-bodied with a suave, polished texture and grippy tannins with a nice length. A blend of 70 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 24 percent Merlot, four percent Cabernet franc and two percent Petit Verdot.

17.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. LYNCH-MOUSSAS

RED

CH. LYNCH-MOUSSAS, PAUILLAC

Owned by Emile Castéja, who also has Ch. Batailley, Ch. Lynch-Moussas has seen improvements in recent years which has precipitated a rise in quality. The 2017 is a blend of 22 percent Merlot and 78 percent Cabernet Sauvignon. Warm and rich on the attack it has appealing notes of plum and fruit with soft tannins, a compelling freshness and an attractive, long finish.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. MOUTON ROTHSCHILD

RED

LE PETIT MOUTON DE ROTHSCHILD, PAUILLAC

This wine shows dark and reticent cassis on the nose. It has lovely cassis flesh on the medium-bodied mid palate, a great explosion of fruit on the back end and a savoury tang moving into a long finish. Very good, compact and great life ahead.

17/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. MOUTON ROTHSCHILD, PAUILLAC

A blend of 90 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, nine percent Merlot and one percent Petit Verdot. This falls into the glass with a deep, dark colour with strong aromatics of dried flowers, pepper and blackcurrant. Well-structured it has lively acidity and compact, fresh fruit with mature tannins and a smooth mouthfeel. Redcurrant, cherry and cassis with hint of pine. Lovely blue fruit on the mid-palate, a great textural mouthfeel that grows and grows into a great and very long length. Smoky mocha notes on the back end with finely integrated tannins. A compact and lovely Mouton. A rich wine and yet great complexity, layers of flavour. Goes on and on.

18.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. PÉDESCLAUX

RED

CH. PÉDESCLAUX, PAUILLAC

Ch. Pédesclaux has made an exceptionally good Pauillac in 2017. A blend of 48 percent Merlot, 47 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, three percent Petit Verdot and two percent Cabernet Franc, it has a really good depth of cassis fruit, with finely balanced Cabernet fruit, and a nice luscious note on the mid-palate. A rich and fine long length exists, with a seamless finish.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. PICHON-LONGUEVILLE-BARON

RED

LES GRIFFONS DE PICHON-BARON, PAUILLAC

A blend of 52 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 48 percent Merlot, Les Griffons has nice balance with damson, dark fruit and supple, ripe tannins. There is a slight herbal touch and a little graphite, ripe tannins and a very cool silky mouthfeel. A serious effort.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. PICHON-BARON, PAUILLAC

From the grand plateau of Pichon-Baron comes one of our favourites of the vintage. An intense show of dark, juicy fruit, chocolate and a little bit of liquorice, this is a brooding, serious and savoury wine. The finish is refreshing and saline, indicative of the *terroir*, and the vintage. Beautifully in balance, the fruit was picked in the third week of October showing a “restrained ripeness”.

17.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd



CH. PICHON LONGUEVILLE COMTESSE DE LALANDE

RED

RÉSERVE DE LA COMTESSE, PAUILLAC

The blend here is 70 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 23 percent Merlot, six percent Cabernet Franc and one percent Petit Verdot. This wine exhibits flavours of blackcurrant, spice, cedar, coffee and dark fruit. Medium-bodied, with good vitality, and savoury, grippy tannins. A powerful, intense attack. Nice juice, gentlemanly and fine. Good length, fine pepper and cassis notes.

15/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. PICHON LONGUEVILLE, COMTESSE DE LALANDE, PAUILLAC

In 2017 the Pichon Lalande has an appealing dark and blue fruit on the nose. A blend of 60 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 36 percent Merlot, two percent Cabernet Franc and two percent Petit Verdot. On the palate it is polished with a silky mouthfeel and a long, graphite persistent finish.

17/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. PONTET-CANET

RED

CH. PONTET-CANET, PAUILLAC

A blend of 64 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 30 percent Merlot, two percent Petit Verdot, four percent Cabernet Franc. Delicate scent, pure red fruit, smooth texture, silky, energy, vitality, raspberry, redcurrant. It has a persistent, medium weight, long finish. Juicy cassis and cream on the nose. Good weight on the palate with lovely, cool red fruit, and a good explosion of acidity giving this a really good balance of fruit and freshness. There is a very good grip of finely integrated tannins, with great length. This year has more freshness. A very good wine that is showy and yet tuned-in with great minerality and cooling acidity.

17.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

St Julien

CH. BEYCHEVELLE

RED

CH. BEYCHEVELLE, ST JULIEN

A blend of 50 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 45 percent Merlot, four percent Petit Verdot and one percent Cabernet Franc, this wine sits in the glass with a dark violet colour showing impressive red berry fruit, a nice hint of damson and a leafy quality. Medium-bodied, there is a silky mouthfeel and gentle acidity finishing long and persistently with just a touch of mocha and spice.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. BRANAIRE-DUCRU

RED

CH. BRANAIRE-DUCRU, ST JULIEN

A vivid crimson, the 2017 is a blend of 65 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 24 percent Merlot, four and a half percent Cabernet Franc and six and a half percent Petit Verdot. There is a slight earthy note to the nose, mingled with red fruit and spice. Medium-bodied, the palate has stylish, juicy fruit with grippy soft tannins and a core of ethereal acidity and freshness. It finishes with a consistent, saline minerality and a long, fine finish. Very charming.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd



CH. DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU

RED

LA CROIX DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU, ST JULIEN

Dark violet in colour, this wine shows an attractive, deep scent of cassis with notes of black fruit and plums. Medium bodied with a good depth on the palate, the blend of 58 percent Merlot, 39 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and three percent Petit Verdot really takes on the character of Cabernet Sauvignon. Succulent and supple this is a really, very good second wine.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU, ST JULIEN

This wine falls into the glass with a deep, dark purple character. This blend of 90 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 10 percent Merlot has reserved aromatics with notes of crème de cassis, a floral character, violets and a juicy, fresh style. It finishes with a deep, strong mouthfeel and a long, persistent length.

17/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. GLORIA

RED

CH. GLORIA, ST JULIEN

A blend of 65 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 25 percent Merlot, five percent Cabernet Franc and five percent Petit Verdot, this wine has attractive aromatics of plum and damson fruit on the nose. Medium bodied with a very good mid-palate of cassis fruit; precise, and with nicely placed tannins. Compact and poised, and the wine shows a lovely seam of fruit throughout. A very good, classic St Julien, perfumed, precise and balanced.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. GRUAUD LAROSE

RED

SARGET DE GRUAUD LAROSE, ST JULIEN

Sarget this year is a blend of 61.5 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 30 percent Merlot, six percent Cabernet Franc and two and a half percent Petit Verdot. It immediately appeals with fresh red fruit and red currant notes. Medium-bodied, there is a suppleness and juicy character to the red fruit with a nice crunch, this will be a very pleasing early drinker.

14.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. GRUAUD LAROSE, ST JULIEN

Ch. Gruaud Larose escaped with almost no frost in 2017. The *grand vin* is a blend of 67 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 31.5 percent Merlot and one and a half percent Cabernet Franc. It sits in the glass with a vivid, intense, red-purple colour. The aromatics display blackberry and blueberry fruit with a nice mocha note and a trace of chocolate. Fresh and lively with light notes of coffee and a beautiful structure.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. LAGRANGE

RED

CH. LAGRANGE, ST JULIEN

A blend of 67 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 28 percent Merlot and five percent Petit Verdot. This wine shows a fragrant, red berry nose with a gentle discourse of blackberry fruit and crunchy acidity following into a lovely length. Fine filigree tannins and a peppery, mocha-filled length.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd



CH. LANGOA BARTON

RED

CH. LANGOA BARTON, ST JULIEN

Another great Langoa from the Barton stable, this falls into the glass with a creamy, blueberry nose and attractive red fruit, blackcurrant and spice. Broadly flavoured the blend of 54 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 38 percent Merlot and eight percent Cabernet Franc has a nice textural richness, pleasing fresh acidity and a long, persistent finish. Really very good.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. LÉOVILLE BARTON

RED

CH. LÉOVILLE BARTON, ST JULIEN

Deep crimson, the aromatics, which are reticent at first, unveil themselves to produce dark Cabernet, blue fruit with notes of coffee, spice and cassis. This blend of 93 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and seven percent Merlot has good weight, effortless tannins and appealing red fruit. An absolute classic Léoville Barton.

17/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. LÉOVILLE-LAS CASES

RED

LA PETITE MARQUISE, ST JULIEN

A blend of 26 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 74 percent Merlot, this wine is dark crimson in colour, with gentle, soft aromatics. Silky smooth in texture, medium-bodied and fresh.

15.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CLOS DU MARQUIS, ST JULIEN

Bright purple and vivid colour, the 2017 is blend of 72 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 27 percent Merlot and one percent Cabernet Franc. This has a smooth, silky texture, a pleasing freshness and soft, velvety tannins with juicy fruit.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

LE PETIT LION DU MARQUIS DE LAS CASES, ST JULIEN

This is made with young Cabernet vines and old Merlot from Las Cases. Dark crimson, with a vivid purple hue, the 2017 is a blend of 52 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 34 percent Merlot and 14 percent Cabernet Franc.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. LÉOVILLE-LAS CASES, ST JULIEN

Ch. Léoville-Las Cases epitomises St Julien. Dark ruby, the nose is reserved before giving way to notes of dark fruit, black cherry, cassis and spice. A blend of 79 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 11 percent Cabernet Franc and 10 percent Merlot. The palate reflects the vintage and is fresh and medium-bodied with a suave, delicate texture, and cool fruit, giving way to a persistent, fine length. Serious and very good.

17.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. LÉOVILLE POYFERRÉ

RED

CH. LÉOVILLE POYFERRÉ, ST JULIEN

Didier Cuvelier has once again produced appealing and seductive wines. The *grand vin* is a blend of 68 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 27 percent Merlot, three percent Cabernet Franc and two percent Petit Verdot. A dark violet colour, it has very strong aromatics of cassis, mocha, coffee and a gentle spice note on the finish. There is good freshness and yet a broad swathe of sweet fruit.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. MOULIN RICHE

RED

CH. MOULIN RICHE, ST JULIEN

Always well priced, this blend of 53 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 31 percent Merlot, 15 percent Petit Verdot, and one percent Cabernet Franc has pleasing aromatics of violets and red fruit with a deep reticent cassis fruit. Medium bodied once sipped there is notes of blackcurrant, pepper and a long, generous length.

15.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. SAINT-PIERRE

RED

CH. SAINT-PIERRE, ST JULIEN

This little gem once again stands out in 2017 as one of the “under the radar” wines in terms of quality versus price buys of the vintage. An initially tight and reticent nose gives way to blackcurrant, with a hint of blackberry and garrigue. The concentrated ball of mid-palate fruit flows beautifully with blueberry on the palate into a seamless length. A real persistence on the end shows with a seasoning of pepper and spice.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. TALBOT

WHITE

CAILLOU BLANC, ST JULIEN

The owners of Ch. Talbot were one of the first to plant white grapes in the Medoc. This is a classic Bordeaux blanc with concentrated flavours of nectarine, gooseberry and baked apples. Delicate oak treatment adds a creamy complexity and an oily texture from the Sémillon is balanced by the refreshing acidity leading to a very long length (70 percent Sauvignon Blanc, 30 percent Sémillon).

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

RED

CH. TALBOT, ST JULIEN

Deep garnet purple the 2017 is a blend of 68 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 26 percent Merlot and six percent Petit Verdot. It has dark, red plum and damson fruit. On the palate there is a suave, fresh texture with fine honed tannins, and a delicate, grainy length. Classic.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

Margaux

CH. BRANE-CANTENAC

RED

CH. BRANE-CANTENAC, MARGAUX

Henri Lurton says the blend for Brane in 2017 is made up of plots not affected by the frost. It is 74 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 21 percent Merlot, four percent Cabernet Franc and one percent Petit Verdot. A dark crimson colour, it is a very expressive wine this year with notes of violets, mocha and blackcurrant giving way to a long, expressive, persistent finish.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. CANTENAC BROWN

RED

CH. CANTENAC BROWN, MARGAUX

Ch. Cantenac Brown was fortunate this year in that it escaped much of the frost. The 2017 is a blend of 67 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 33 percent Merlot aged 60 percent in new barrels and 40 percent in one-year-old barrels. Very dark opaque purple colour with notes of compact dark fruit and violets. Suave and elegant on the palate with silky tannins finishing with a bright, fresh style.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. GISCOURS

RED

CH. GISCOURS, MARGAUX

Dark crimson in colour, the 2017 Giscours is a blend of 71 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 24 percent Merlot and five percent Petit Verdot. There is a pleasing, generous, expressive, perfumed nose of violets and cassis. The palate is mid-weight and the red, crunchy Cabernet shines through.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. D'ISSAN

RED

CH. D'ISSAN, MARGAUX

Emmanuel Cruse says the D'Issan *clos*, the wall surrounding the estate that was built in 1644, protected the vines from this year's heavy frosts. A blend of 65 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 35 percent Merlot, the nose is expressive with notes of blackcurrant and red fruit. The palate is cool and fresh and finishes with the estate's signature lift and a long, grainy finish.

17/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd





CH. MARGAUX

WHITE

PAVILLON BLANC DU CH. MARGAUX, MARGAUX

This wine has a subtle, enchanting nose where passion-fruit and lemon zest abound and honeydew melon adds a jovial, ripe quality. As if dolloped in fresh cream it leads to a waxy, mouth-filling texture. Fine-boned, it has a zippy acidity and finishes with a long pithy, almost chalky mineral character. This is complex and suave, and only a suggestion of how brilliant it will be in four to six years' time.

18/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

RED

PAVILLON ROUGE DU CH. MARGAUX, MARGAUX

Pavillon Rouge this year represents just 22 percent of the harvest. A blend of 76 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 17 percent Merlot, four percent Cabernet Franc and three percent Petit Verdot. Dark crimson in colour there is a delicate, attractive perfume and a beautiful finesse. It is fresh and elegant in style.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. MARGAUX, MARGAUX

Ch. Margaux perhaps lacks the generosity of 2015 or the elegance of 2016 but it takes on its own appealing character which is one of finesse and elegance. The blend of 89 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and eight percent Merlot, two percent Cabernet Franc and one percent Petit Verdot gives the wine a ripe, tannin-led persona.

19/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. PALMER

RED

ALTER EGO, MARGAUX

The Alter Ego is hugely aromatic with perfumed and floral notes; lots of lavender, violets, ripe strawberry, black cherry and blackcurrants. The palate shows great purity of fruit. It is very juicy and vibrant but there is also structure here with silky, supple tannins and a fresh mineral finish. The blend is made up of 53 percent Merlot, 41 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and six percent Petit Verdot.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. PALMER, MARGAUX

Ch. Palmer is inky black and purple in colour with a concentrated, intense nose of ripe blackcurrant and plum, sweet spice and violets. There is a lifted elegance here which is very appealing. The palate is full bodied and concentrated but so fresh and mineral with juicy blackberry and bramble fruit. Lots of sweet spice and herbal notes make this a very complex and beguiling wine. Mouth-watering with a lovely creamy texture and supple, elegant tannins, the finish is extremely long and fresh showing wonderful poise. The blend is 53 percent Merlot, 41 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 6 percent Petit Verdot. This is a great Palmer.

17.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. RAUZAN-SÉGLA

RED

CH. RAUZAN-SÉGLA, MARGAUX

A blend of 62 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 36 percent Merlot and two percent Petit Verdot. Dark crimson in colour, the wine has a deft touch, the hallmark of winemaker Nicholas Audebert, and a finesse and elegance about it this year with a velvety texture. It finishes fresh with a long, persistent length.

17/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. DU TERTRE

RED

CH. DU TERTRE, MARGAUX

A blend of 75 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 10 percent Merlot, 10 percent Cabernet Franc and five percent Petit Verdot. Dark crimson in colour, there are notes of red fruit and a tremendous freshness which runs through it.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

Pessac-Léognan

DOMAINE DE CHEVALIER

WHITE

DOMAINE DE CHEVALIER, BLANC, PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

A blend of 75 percent Sauvignon Blanc and 25 percent Sémillon, this has a tightly wound nose with notes of citrus, white stone fruit, lemon pith and a hint of anise. Very compact and alluring with a lovely mouthfeel, coating mid-palate and flavours of peach and spice. Great acidity and really long persistent length. Very good, precise and alive with great nervous tension overlying tightly packed fruit. Bravo.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

RED

DOMAINE DE CHEVALIER, PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

Really attractive aromas of red berry, raspberry and a hint of cassis on the nose. A blend of 70 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 25 percent Merlot and five percent Petit Verdot this has a very good medium-bodied juice; the mid palate is fleshed out with a lovely seam of redcurrant and blackcurrant with a lifted finish. Great acidity and crunchy fruit, good flesh, this will age nicely. A very nice well-balanced Domaine de Chevalier.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. HAUT-BAILLY

RED

CH. HAUT-BAILLY, PESSAC - LÉOGNAN

Veronique Saunders says that in 2017 the estate lost 30 percent of fruit due to frost. Dark ruby, the nose has notes of spices, cedar, dark fruit and cassis. On the palate it is medium bodied and extremely silky with high quality tannins. A blend of 60 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 32 percent Merlot, four percent Cabernet Franc and four percent Petit Verdot, it has a gentle, delicate feel in 2017 with cool fruit and a long persistent finish.

17.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd



CH. HAUT-BRION

WHITE

LA CLARTÉ DE HAUT-BRION, BLANC, PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

A joint-second wine of Haut-Brion Blanc and La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc, this is one of the best Clarté we've tried in recent years. The nose suggests restrained depth, tension and energy amongst the lime, grapefruit, orange peel and apricot, and just a hint of oak. Pear and apricot give a touch of fatness on the palate, but the acidity lends energy and balance. Crushed stone minerality, apple, and just a touch of ginger spice linger on the moreish finish.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. HAUT-BRION, BLANC, PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

Delicate and reserved on the nose there are notes of lemon and citrus. A blend of 56 percent Sauvignon, and 44 percent Semillon, the palate shows pleasing flavours of citrus, pear, floral freshness and a creamy finish.

18/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

RED

LE CLARENCE DE HAUT-BRION, PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

Dark, inky purple with a reserved nose of blackcurrant and a little spice, the palate is suave and silky with attractive, grippy tannins and an intense energy. A blend of 55 percent Merlot, five percent Cabernet Franc, 38 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and two percent Petit Verdot.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. HAUT-BRION, PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

Jean-Philippe Delmas compares the 2017 to 1988 because of the freshness of the acidity and the ripeness of the fruit. A blend of 53 percent Merlot, six percent Cabernet Franc and 40 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, with aromatics of morello cherry and damson fruits. The palate is fresh with silky tannins, dark, ripe fruit that really shines through on the palate and coats the mouth giving the sensation of vibrant acidity coated by expressive, blue fruit. It finishes very long with a gentle, saline finish.

19.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. LES CARMES HAUT BRION

RED

CH. LES CARMES HAUT BRION, PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

One of the most exciting and progressive estates in Bordeaux. The deep Cabernet nose has a mineral note of wet stone and dark plum. There is very good dense fruit on mid-palate with a lovely saline background. A snap of acidity gives it a lovely freshness, and the fruit core carries on through the length, boding well for a few decades in bottle. A svelte and yet tightly wound Carmes. Beautifully crafted — a Graves on another level.

18/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd



CH. LA GARDE

WHITE

CH. LA GARDE BLANC, PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

2017 has delivered some really impressive dry whites and here is one classic example. A lovely lemony personality with Sauvignon Blanc dominating the blend, the nose offers aromas of green apple, lemon zest and gooseberry. There is blanched almond on the palate and little texture which balances beautifully with the underlying zip and tension. Clean and refreshing, this is a delightful bottling which will make for a fine aperitif and will well accompany other summer-food fare

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

RED

CH. LA GARDE, PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

A blend of 47 percent Merlot, 50 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and three percent Petit Verdot, this sits in the glass with a dark maroon colour. The Merlot is grown on clay, the Cabernet Sauvignon on gravel. There is generous fruit with notes of liquorice, a savoury minerality on the mid-palate, and it finishes long with a graphite edge.

15.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. LA MISSION HAUT-BRION

WHITE

CH. LA MISSION HAUT-BRION, BLANC, PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

Complex and layered on the nose as one would expect from such a high-class wine. The Sémillon shines through with hints of white peach, citrus and orange blossom, intertwined with a mineral purity. The palate is focused and precise with a beautiful texture – almost oily – and mouthfeel. This is very concentrated yet elegant, and long with a fresh, mineral finish.

17.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

RED

LA CHAPELLE DE LA MISSION HAUT-BRION, PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

A blend of 49 percent Merlot, 42 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and nine percent Cabernet Franc, this sits in the glass with a dark, maroon colour. The palate and has aromas of blackcurrant and wet stone; it is gloriously silky with a fresh and elegant finish.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. LA MISSION HAUT-BRION, PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

Dark ruby with attractive aromatics of blackcurrant, wood smoke and mocha, the wine is medium-bodied with a fresh, lively acidity and rich, dark fruit. It finishes long with a saline, taught minerality. The 2017 is a blend of 56 percent Merlot, 40 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and four percent Cabernet Franc.

18.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. LATOUR-MARTILLAC

WHITE

CH. LATOUR-MARTILLAC, BLANC, PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

This has a delicate and fragrant nose, with a hint of reduction initially, opening up to reveal citrus and white stone fruits along with gun flint. The palate is fresh, clean — as with most 2017s — and linear but expressive with crisp, stone fruit dominating. A lovely creamy mouthfeel is balanced by a bright mineral finish. Totally drinkable.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

RED

CH. LATOUR-MARTILLAC, PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

This wine shows a wonderfully fresh nose of black hedgerow fruit, knitted together with a hint of violets and a mineral elegance. Medium- to full-bodied, with fresh, juicy blackcurrant, cassis and crushed rocks initially, there is a pleasant, complex burst on the mid-palate of liquorice which adds weight. We love the structure here, the tannins are grippy now but totally balanced with a vibrant finish. A great effort.

17/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. MALARTIC-LAGRAVIÈRE

WHITE

CH. MALARTIC-LAGRAVIÈRE, BLANC, PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

The name Lagravière underlines the great quality of the soils of this vineyard. This is a wine of exceptional elegance and finesse, a clear reflection of the vintage, displaying citrus, pear and floral aromas reminiscent of orange blossom and camomile. The flavour is complex and multidimensional; vivid and lively. A mineral-laden palate with lime zest and greengages plus delicate white fruit are supported by a creamy texture carried through to a long finish.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

RED

CH. MALARTIC-LAGRAVIÈRE, PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

A glorious *grand vin* this year, this is comprised of 65 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 30 percent Merlot, 35 percent Cabernet Franc and two percent Petit Verdot. These beautifully expresses both the Graves *terroir* and 2017 classicism. Floral top notes of violets and rose lead into blueberries and red plums with needle-sharp clarity and definition. An anchor of Christmas cake and baking spices broadens the offering most enjoyably. Add to this a densely weighted palate with, fine ripe tannins and a zip of cranberries and crushed granite and all told you're left feeling rather smug that you've stumbled upon this lesser-known gem.

15.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. PAPE CLÉMENT

WHITE

CH. PAPE CLÉMENT, BLANC, PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

There is an attractive restraint about Ch. Pape Clément white this year with pleasing notes of fresh lemon and citrus, white stone fruit and peach. This is a blend of 55 percent Sauvignon Blanc and 45 percent Sémillon with 20 percent made in concrete eggs. The palate is fresh, clean and precise with oily acidity and a long, mineral finish.

17/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

RED

CH. PAPE CLÉMENT, PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

The 2017 Ch. Pape Clément falls into the glass with a deep maroon colour. It has a delicate expressive nose of red fruit, cassis, iron and wet stone pebble. The blend is 49 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 48 percent Merlot, two percent Petit Verdot and one percent Cabernet Franc planted on clay gravels. The palate is medium-bodied with a lively, tannic grip. It finishes with a long, peppery, saline minerality. A complex wine which will reveal itself over many years.

17/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. SMITH HAUT LAFITTE

WHITE

CH. SMITH HAUT LAFITTE, BLANC, PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

Florence and Daniel Cathiard have made a wine whose pale-yellow hue comes out at you with aromas of lemon, peach and pear. This blend of 90 percent Sauvignon Blanc, five percent Sémillon and five percent Sauvignon Gris finishes with a freshness and lemon zest, and a tangy energy.

15.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

RED

CH. SMITH HAUT LAFITTE, PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

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.

17/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

The rest of the Médoc

CH. BELGRAVE

RED

CH. BELGRAVE, HAUT-MÉDOC

A high proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon (88 percent) goes into this year's blend, bringing a wealth of juicy black fruit, adding to the character of this suave 2017 Belgrave. Seamlessly textured on the palate with impressively integrated fruit tannins for a young wine, it has attractive flavours of ripe blackberries and cherries that sit on the mid-palate, with good intensity and a streak of salinity through to the finish. A rewarding and delicious effort.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. CANTEMERLE

RED

CH. CANTEMERLE, HAUT-MÉDOC

Ch. Cantemerle comprises 93 hectares on silica gravel soil. The vines have an average age of 40 years and the wine spends 12 months in French oak barrels, 40 percent of which are new. Always good value, the wine here is regarded as a "classic Claret". The 2017 is a blend of 71 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 25 percent Merlot and four percent Petit Verdot. It is dark crimson in colour with pleasing aromatics and classic cassis with blackcurrant fruit. Well-integrated on the palate, it has attractive, grippy tannins. It finishes with a welcoming fresh finish. Classic in style and with panache.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. CHASSE-SPLEEN

RED

CH. CHASSE-SPLEEN, MOULIS-EN-MÉDOC

Ch. Chasse-Spleen is one of the leading Cru Bourgeois estates which regularly outperforms many more grand Châteaux in the Médoc. Cabernet sauvignon dominates as the soils are mainly gravel although there is some clay limestone where the Merlot is planted. 2017 has attractive aromatics of sweet fruit with lively red fruit notes on the palate, nice grippy tannins and an immediate appeal.

15/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. LA LAGUNE

RED

CH. LA LAGUNE, HAUT-MÉDOC

With an enticing bright ruby colour, the nose is full of fresh damson and blackberries. On the palate the hedgerow fruit character is complemented by the notes of blackcurrant leaf. This wine distinguishes itself by not being too weighty. The tannins are fine and supple with a lively crisp finish.

15.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. LARRIVAUX

RED

CH. LARRIVAUX, HAUT-MÉDOC

Situated not far from the Saint-Estèphe border the soils at Larrivau are high quality with clay over gravel and limestone. The 2017 is a blend of 61 percent Merlot, 26 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, eight percent Cabernet Franc and five percent Petit Verdot. Always reliable, it is well balanced and stylish and should provide good value drinking over the medium term.

15/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. POUJEAUX

RED

CH. POUJEAUX, MOULIS

Ch. Poujeaux is one of Moulis' finest properties with a history that dates back to the 16th century. In most vintages it provides good, reliable drinking with a soft, supple texture and fine elegance. The 2017 is no exception. A blend of 50 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 40 percent Merlot, five percent Cabernet Franc and five percent Petit Verdot it has concentrated aromatics displaying dark fruits, cassis and black cherry. Well balanced with smooth tannins, this is a very approachable wine and will be good for early drinking.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. SOCIANDO-MALLET

RED

CH. SOCIANDO-MALLET, HAUT-MÉDOC

This Estate in the Haut-Médoc region overlooks the Gironde estuary, north of St Estèphe. It is known for consistently producing outstanding wines that are worth cellaring in order for them to reach their full potential. The 2017 has a charming nose of ripe plums, black cherries and an attractive stony-mineral freshness. The palate is very well balanced, layered and full of energy, with intense flavours of pure dark fruit, cassis, blackberries and a touch of spicy liquorice. The tannins are very fine and supple, offering excellent structure, and the perfect support for the wine to develop in the bottle, becoming a beautifully complex wine.

15.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

RIGHT BANK



Pomerol CH. CLINET

RED

CH. CLINET, POMEROL

A blend of 92 percent Merlot and eight percent Cabernet Sauvignon, this ages 72 percent in new barrels and 28 percent in second-fill barrels. Dark crimson, this wine delights with notes of mixed red berries, violets, rose petal, a hint of chocolate with a thin ribbon of spice running through it. Medium-bodied there is a suave, supple, persistent finish.

17/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. LA CONSEILLANTE

RED

CH. LA CONSEILLANTE, POMEROL

This is a blend of 85 percent Merlot and 15 percent Cabernet Franc. It is deep crimson in colour with attractive notes of blackcurrant, mocha and graphite. It has a saline character on the finish and a vitality and freshness to it with a long, long finish.

17.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. LA CROIX DU CASSE

RED

CH. LA CROIX DU CASSE, POMEROL

La Croix du Casse consists of nine hectares planted towards the southern side of the appellation not far from the railway line. It is known for producing rich, plummy and voluptuous wines. The 2017 has appealing red raspberry and red cherry fruit aromatics but is medium in weight giving the wine a pretty, elegant feel.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. DU DOMAINE DE L'EGLISE

RED

DOMAINE DE L'EGLISE, POMEROL

Dark crimson, this has an attractive, leafy nose underpinned by redcurrants and blackcurrants. Tightly knit with present tannins. A blend of 97 percent Merlot and three percent Cabernet Franc.

15/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. GAZIN

RED

CH. GAZIN, POMEROL

Thanks to the high proportion of Merlot in the blend (90 percent), there are plenty of sweet blackberries and black cherries on the nose, along with violet florals and a little smoke. The palate is juicy and slightly savoury – not overtly rich or concentrated – but with a nice elegance. Underpinning the fruit is a firm structure of tannins and toasted oak, which should soften and develop in bottle over the next decade or more.

17/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. PETIT-VILLAGE

RED

CH. PETIT VILLAGE, POMEROL

Ch. Petit Village's vineyards are located on gravel and limestone soils not far from the properties of La Conseillante and Vieux-Chateau-Certan. The 2017 is a blend of 71 percent Merlot, 20 percent Cabernet Franc and nine percent Cabernet Sauvignon. There are dark fruit aromatics and the palate is sleek, svelte and suave. It finishes with a long, savoury persistence.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd



CH. NENIN

CH. NENIN, POMEROL

Ch. Nenin this year is far from shy. Merlot predominates to give classic, ripe plummy fruit, black raspberry and cassis, while the 42 percent Cabernet Franc provides structure and a meaty savoury bent. The wood is still evident through notes of cedar, clove and baking spices but these will integrate further over time in the cellar. Dense and chewy but with a fresh refined finish. A wine that will delight.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

VIEUX CHÂTEAU CERTAN

RED

VIEUX CHÂTEAU CERTAN, POMEROL

Academic, well balanced, Bordeaux. Think freshness and tension. This comprises 81 percent Merlot, 14 percent Cabernet Franc and five percent Cabernet Sauvignon. Deep in colour, it is one of the deepest hues we have ever seen from here. It has a very attractive nose of red berry fruit. The small amount of young Cabernet Sauvignon adds just a touch of chamomile. It is smooth, fresh and creamy with attractive tension and a fresh finish.

17.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

St Emilion

CH. ANGÉLUS

RED

LE CARILLON ANGÉLUS, ST EMILION

With deep cherry and cassis notes, this wine has a generous, good body that is intense and precise in its fruit and in its nicely knitted tannins. On the palate, it shows a dark-fruited edge growing into more blue fruit with coffee notes. There is a hint of mint from the Cabernet Franc in the background. Good juice. Nice wine.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. ANGÉLUS, ST EMILION

A blend of 70 percent Merlot and 30 percent Cabernet Franc, the 2017 has a deep crimson colour and appealing aromatics which display coffee and mocha notes with blackberry and damson fruit. Unctuous fruit and a suave texture, there is bright acidity that brings freshness and flesh. Behind the notes of berry and cassis there is a hint of mint. Powerful and rich on the palate, this is a very good Angélu which combines freshness, finesse, tension and elegance.

17/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd



CH. AUSONE

RED

CHAPELLE D'AUSONE, ST EMILION

The vines are spread over a limestone plateau and on calcareous clay. This is a blend of 50 percent Merlot, 40 percent Cabernet Franc and 10 percent Cabernet Sauvignon. It is dark crimson with autumnal fruit notes of plums, damson and blackberry. This wine possesses a suave texture and a silky acidity.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. AUSONE, ST EMILION

The vineyard of Ausone sits high above St Emilion on a limestone plateau on a calcareous clay slope. The 2017 is a blend of 55 percent Cabernet Franc and 45 percent Merlot. It falls into the glass with a dark, crimson character and displays compact, dark fruit, smoke, pepper and blackberry. Big, rich and bold, the texture is suave and envelops the mouth, leaving the sensation of a smooth and layered finish. Really very good.

19/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. BEAUSÉJOUR DUFFAU LAGAROSSE

RED

CH. BEAUSÉJOUR DUFFAU LAGAROSSE, ST EMILION

Located in the south-western slopes of the town of St Emilion, the wine is dark purple with a deep nose of blueberries, dark cherries, a peppery spicy note and a touch of liquorice. The palate is dense and full bodied with a vibrant freshness, then a core of fruit displaying cassis, dark ripe cherries and plums, all intertwined in a frame of finely grained tannins that give a sense of fulfilment on the mouth. A beautiful example of expressive, fleshy and well-rounded wine for St Emilion lovers.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. BEAU-SÉJOUR BÉCOT

CH. BEAU-SÉJOUR BÉCOT, ST EMILION

Situated right in the heart of St Emilion, the vines grown on the deep limestone soils of Ch Beauséjour Bécot produce a deep and concentrated wine. The 2017 displays a mix of strawberry and dark cherry fruit with a touch of spice and vanilla. The wine is rounded on the palate with firm chalky tannins that will allow it to develop into a very attractive wine in the future.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. BERLIQUET

RED

CH. BERLIQUET, ST EMILION, GRAND CRU CLASSÉ

A blend of 70 percent Merlot and 30 percent Cabernet Franc, they have decreased the new oak and the toast in this wine, this year. The idea is to have something a little more delicate and fresh. The aromatics have notes of liquorice, menthol and a herbaceous character. On the palate, there is a pleasing dark chocolate character with vitality and freshness. It finishes rich and crisp.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. CANON

RED

CH. CANON, ST EMILION

Canon has seen significant improvements in recent years and the 2017 is no exception. A blend of 80 percent Merlot and 20 percent Cabernet Franc, it has a dark crimson character with gentle aromatics of smoky notes and small, red berry fruit. There is a pleasing freshness and vitality to this wine with good weight on the palate and attractive gravelly tannins. It has the opulence, density and richness of the 2015 and the minerality, freshness and the length of the 2016. It finishes very long with lovely notes of blueberry mocha.

17.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. CANON-LA-GAFFELIÈRE

RED

CH. CANON-LA-GAFFELIÈRE, ST EMILION

Ch. Canon-la-Gaffelière lies at the foot of the slope as you descend from the town of St Emilion. Owned by the elegantly attired Comte von Neipperg, the vineyards lie on soil between those of Pavie and Ausone. The 2017 displays elegant dark, blue fruit aromatics. A blend of 55 percent Merlot, 40 percent Cabernet Franc and five percent Cabernet Sauvignon, once sipped it feels suave and elegant with a gentle coolness and freshness. The long, persistent finish gives way to a hint of pepper and a nice spice attack.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. CHEVAL BLANC

RED

LE PETIT CHEVAL, ST EMILION

A blend of 52 percent Merlot and 48 percent Cabernet Franc, this wine is very simple and direct. It is very precise deep garnet red with notes of pepper, fennel and a menthol freshness. Something like a cocoa character adds to its pleasing, saline finish.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. CHEVAL BLANC, ST EMILION

The 2017 Cheval Blanc is a blend of 56 percent Merlot, 30 percent Cabernet Franc and 14 percent Cabernet Sauvignon. It has pleasing aromas of dark red fruit notably blackcurrant, blueberry maybe a hint of raspberry and crème de cassis. It is a very elegant style, light and persistent with a long, stylish finish. A beautiful and fine Cheval with very fine tannins and a finish which goes on for several seconds.

18.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. CLOS FOURTET

RED

CH. CLOS FOURTET, ST EMILION

This has a wonderfully intense nose of vibrant plum, cassis, blueberry and violets, and is beautifully pure. It has a voluptuous feel in the mouth, with well-integrated tannins, and lots of purple and blue fruit. A touch of orange peel and mint add to its complexity, as do notes of darker fruit and chocolate. Beautifully woven, it has a long finish, and left the team smiling. One to keep an eye on.

17.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. LA CLOTTE

RED

CH. LA CLOTTE, ST EMILION

The vines for this wine are spread over a limestone hillside, south facing, sheltered from the wind by rocks. A blend of 85 percent Merlot, 10 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and five percent Cabernet Franc, there is lots of attractive red berry fruit on the nose with a suave texture and a lush, full character.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. FIGEAC

RED

CH. FIGEAC

At Ch. Figeac, production is down by almost a half but we still think the quality is high and under the guidance of Frederic Faye it continues its upwards trajectory. A blend of 43 percent Merlot, 47 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 10 percent Cabernet Franc, it has a deep purple colour with charming aromatics of small, red berry fruits, violets and liquorice. Once in the mouth there is a silky, mouth filling texture with a graphite and a mineral note finishing with a pleasing graphite grip. It has a long, persistent finish. Less density and opulence than 2015 or 2016 but it is pure in tannin and focus. A truly great Cabernet Sauvignon wine.

17.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. GRAND MAYNE

RED

CH. GRANDE MAYNE, ST EMILION

This 17-hectare vineyard produces a wine which is a blend of 75 percent Merlot, 20 percent Cabernet Franc and five percent Cabernet Sauvignon. Dark crimson in colour this has pleasing, generous aromatics of redcurrants and plum fruit. The texture is suave and harmonious, leaving a wine which is fresh and smooth.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. LARCIS DUCASSE

RED

CH. LARCIS DUCASSE, ST EMILION GRAND CRU CLASSÉ

Ch. Larcis Ducasse sits on a south facing limestone clay plateau on very shallow loamy clay soil. The 2017 is a blend of 92 percent Merlot and eight percent Cabernet Franc. It falls into the glass with a dark, crimson character and possesses compact, dark berry fruit. It is suave, with a soft texture and a long, persistent finish, and has an attractive menthol character on the finish.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. MOULIN SAINT-GEORGES

RED

CH. MOULIN SAINT-GEORGES, ST EMILION

Situated on seven hectares in a plot which borders the south entrance of St Emilion, the 2017 is a blend of 80 percent Merlot and 20 percent Cabernet Franc. It has attractive aromatics of red fruit, blueberry, crème de cassis and a suave, bright texture. A long, persistent finish.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. PAVIE

RED

CH. PAVIE, 1ER GRAND CRU CLASSÉ “A” ST EMILION

A dark and intense nose. At first, layers and layers of blackberries abound with purple juicy plum, with cherry, and some macerated cherry. This flows into eucalyptus, liquorice and a touch of menthol with a little chocolate and vanilla. On the palate the same concentration and abundance of flavour comes through. Tannins are bite-y so we would recommend this as one for laying down.

17.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd



CH. PAVIE MACQUIN

RED

CH. PAVIE MACQUIN

Ch. Pavie Macquin is named after the grandfather of the present owners, Albert Macquin. The 2017 is a blend of 80 percent Merlot, 18 percent Cabernet Franc and two percent Cabernet Sauvignon. It falls into the glass with a deep crimson character but appeals with an attractive menthol and herbaceous note. Falls a little short on the finish.

16.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. QUINAULT L'ENCLOS

RED

CH. QUINAULT L'ENCLOS, ST EMILION

A blend of 62 percent Merlot, 16 percent Cabernet Franc and 22 percent Cabernet Sauvignon. It has a deep crimson colour with strong, fresh, lively aromatics of cherry, red fruit, raspberry, cocoa and a touch of vanilla. There is a lovely freshness and vitality to this wine with a nice fleshy palate. A generous, soft and lovely wine.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. TROPLONG MONDOT

RED

CH. MONDOT, ST EMILION

Ch. Mondot is 100 percent Merlot this year with a dark crimson character with bright, briary fruit, chocolate and a hint of anise. There is good depth of fruit with great vibrancy on the finish, very pure, powerful and contained. This has lovely depth of fruit yet with a cooling acidity, finishing with a white pepper and spice note.

15.5/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. TROPLONG MONDOT

At Ch. Troplong Mondot new chief executive Aymeric de Gironde talks about a return to a pre-1998 style. The 2017 is certainly a step in that direction. A blend of 85 percent Merlot, 13 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and two percent Cabernet Franc, it has wonderful, unctuous pleasing fruit notes of dark and blue fruit, mulberry, damson, blueberry and blackcurrant. This is a wine which is full of immediate appeal and sweet fruit. But there is an elegance to the mid palate and it finishes with a dry, creamy texture. A really excellent wine.

17/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

CH. TROTTE VIEILLE

RED

CH. TROTTE VIELLE, ST EMILION

The 2017 Ch. Trotte Vieille represents everything that is good about 2017 as a vintage. The nose has fresh aromas of strawberry, cherry and red plum fruit, complimented with a delicate spice. On the palate the bright cherry fruit combines well with chalky tannins and a racy acidity before moving to cedar and smoky oak characters on the finish.

16/20 points, Berry Bros. & Rudd

TERMS & CONDITIONS

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