

# BORDEAUX PROMOTION

FRANCE'S PREMIER WINE REGION HAS BEEN MY REFERENCE POINT FOR THE GREATEST WINES OF THE WORLD FOR ALL MY LIFE. MY FATHER WAS A GREAT COLLECTOR OF BORDEAUX AND HIS PASSION BECAME MY PASSION, AND I HAVE BEEN VISITING AND RATING THE REGION FOR FOUR DECADES.

MY TEAM AND I JUST TASTED THE LATEST EN PRIMEUR SAMPLES LAST MONTH IN MAY. HERE IS A CURATED LIST OF SOME OF OUR FAVOURITES BACK TO 2009, OF TOP WHITES, RIGHT BANK REDS AND LEFT BANK CLASSIFIED GRAND CRUS. DRINK AND ENJOY.

<b>BORDEAUX BLANC</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Glass</b>	<b>Bottle</b>
<b>Château Grand Village Bordeaux Blanc 2018</b> Green-apple, dried citrus-peel, lime, fennel and leek aromas. It's medium-bodied with bright, tangy acidity and a waxy texture. Vibrant at the end. Drink now.	92	100	
<b>Pavillon Blanc du Château Margaux Bordeaux Blanc 2015</b> This is tight and bright and shows so much energy and panache. Such a beautiful Margaux white with the stone, cooked-pear and lemon character. Full and racy with such focus and brightness. Love it already but will improve with age beautifully.	96		2950
<b>Château Pape Clément Pessac-Léognan Blanc 2013</b> Fantastic aromas of papaya, lemons, and pears with hints of cream. Full body, very layered and intense. Superb flavors and intensity. Vibrant acidity and freshness. Lasts so long on the palate. One of the wines of the vintage. A blend of 54% semillon, 36% sauvignon blanc, 8% sauvignon gris and 2% muscadelle. Drink or hold.	97	490	
<b>Château Smith-Haut-Lafitte Pessac-Leognan Blanc 2008</b> Lots of dried fruits such as apples and pears. Mineral, and lanolin. Medium to full body, dense and flavorful. Bright acidity. Waxy finish. Very serious structure. Drink now.	94		1500
<b>RED</b>			
<b>Château Le Rey Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux Les Rocheuses 2019</b> Aromas of blackcurrants, spice and flowers follow through to a medium body with fine tannins and a delicious, savory finish. So lovely to drink now, but will improve nicely with age. Very refined and balanced. Try after 2022.	93	145	725
<b>Château Phélan Ségur St.-Estèphe 2018</b> Aromas of blackcurrants, spice and flowers follow through to a medium body with fine tannins and a delicious, savory finish. So lovely to drink now, but will improve nicely with age. Very refined and balanced. Try after 2022.	95	140	700
<b>Château La Patache Pomerol 2018</b> Red plum, stewed blackberry, baking spice, and black olive on the nose. Cocoa powder and dried leaves, too. It's full-bodied with sleek, supple tannins and fresh acidity. Rich and juicy with a long, mineral finish. Long creamy textured finish. Try from 2024.	94	170	850
<b>Château Pape Clément Pessac-Léognan 2018</b> Aromas of wild blackberries, blueberries, dried lavender, cloves and eucalyptus with gravel and cocoa butter. It's full-bodied with firm, powdery tannins. Polished and creamy with a core of ripe fruit that evolves to herbs, spices and chocolate. Fantastic concentration and seamless integration. Try from 2024.	97	250	1250
<b>Château Nenin Pomerol 2018</b> Elegant, complex nose with dark and blue fruit, as well as spicy and earthy undertones. Sandalwood and cedar with dark chocolate, too. Full body with firm, ultra fine tannins. Structured, layered and flavorful on the palate. It's very polished with a lovely texture and a long finish. Pure and luscious. Merlot with 37% cabernet franc. Best ever. Try after 2024, but already very beautiful.	97	280	1400

<b>Tour Prignac Médoc Grande Réserve 2016</b>	92	100	500
Aromas of blackcurrants, flowers and sandalwood follow through to a full body that is tight and connected with a lovely balance of fruit, tannin and acidity. Firm and chewy. Drink in 2023.			
<b>Château Le Boscq St.-Estèphe 2016</b>	94	155	
Wonderful aromas of crushed, fresh flowers and berries. Fantastic. Full body and round, velvety tannins. Deep and glorious. This delivers way above its price level. A blend of 48 per cent cabernet sauvignon, 47 per cent merlot and five per cent petit verdot.			
<b>Château Phélan Ségur St.-Estèphe 2016</b>	95	180	
A very serious St.-Estèphe with excellent concentration, firm tannins and a dark soul. I love the earth, walnut, bark and smoke aromas that pour out of this. Very long, dramatic, dry finish. Better from 2021.			
<b>Château Pédesclaux Pauillac 2016</b>	95	210	1050
So aromatic with crushed currants, raspberries and blackberries with hints of graphite and lead pencil. Full-bodied and very tight with beautiful tannins and a long, flavorful finish. The tannins really build at the end of the palate. Try from 2024.			
<b>Château Maillet Pomerol 2016</b>	95	195	975
Decadent and attractive with blueberry and blackberry aromas that are abundant and clear. Full body, firm and chewy tannins and a long, flavorful finish. Very structured and poised. Try from 2023.			
<b>Château Bonalgue Pomerol 2016</b>	94	195	975
Really beautiful nose with crushed berries and flowers. Medium to full body, firm and silky tannins and a long, flavorful finish. Shows tension and precision. Better than 2015. A blend of 90 per cent merlot and ten per cent cabernet franc. Drink in 2022.			
<b>Château Giscours Margaux 2016</b>	96	230	1150
This has attractive, glossy, ripe red-plum and licorice aromas with cedar, flowers and red berries, as well as a stony edge. A very fragrant, cabernet-driven nose. The palate has elegance and grace with sleek and charming, balanced style and a discreet tannin structure that holds the finish long and fresh. A blend of 81 per cent cabernet sauvignon and 19 per cent merlot. Try from 2023.			
<b>Château Larcis Ducasse St-Emilion 2016 ( No.7 Wine of the Year 2019)</b>	99	260	1300
The aromas here are so spellbinding with shitake mushrooms, wet earth and moss, as well as tree bark and, finally, dark fruit. The palate is incredible as it builds and grows with full body, but always tight and reserved. It shows so much depth and complexity. Please try not to touch this until 2025.			
<b>Château Pichon-Longueville Baron Pauillac 2016</b>	99	395	
The concentration and largesse of the 2016 Pichon Baron is apparent from the get-go with incredibly alluring, ripe and expansive fruit aromas in the blackberry, dark-cherry, mulberry and plum zone. Espresso and cedar, as well as a slate-like, stony mineral edge add complexity. The palate has incredible depth, drive and detail. Fine and plush tannins stretch the palate in every direction. So fresh and vivacious, this is the greatest Pichon Baron since 1989 and has a long future. Try from 2024.			
<b>Château Figeac St-Emilion 2016</b>	96	500	2500
This is a very linear and driven Figeac with smooth and fine tannins. Full-bodied, yet compact and reserved. Blackberry, chocolate and hazelnut flavors. Direct and structured. A blend of 38% cabernet sauvignon, 36% merlot, and 26% cabernet franc. Better after 2024.			
<b>Château Valandraud St.-Emilion 2016</b>	98	540	2700
Incredible perfumes and beauty with ripe plum and berry character, as well as an array of spices, such as nutmeg and cinnamon. Full-bodied, firm and silky with beautifully polished tannins. Rendered and defined. A wine with lovely, classy nature and personality. One of the best Valandrauds I have tasted at this stage. Try from 2026.			

<b>Château Duhart-Milon Rothschild Pauillac 2015</b>	93	190	
The smoke, almond, dark-berry and plum character is impressive to this young Duhart. Full body, round and silky tannins and beautiful fruit and spice undertones. Plenty of coffee and cedar flavors at the end. A pretty Duhart. Needs four or five years bottle age.			
<b>Réserve de la Comtesse Pauillac 2015</b>	93	208	1040
This is an impressive second wine. It shows a lot of vibrant red berries, blackberries and darker plum fruits. The palate is impressive for the vibrant and lively acidity cast amid sturdy but supple tannins. Second wine from Pichon-Lalande. Try from 2021.			
<b>Château Phélan Ségur St.-Estèphe 2015</b>	94	210	1050
A beautifully perfumed young red with blackcurrants, blackberries and dark chocolate. Some sweet tobacco. It's medium-to full-bodied with a very balanced and refined palate, showing focus and tightness. This needs time to open. Try after 2023. Reviewed in Hong Kong Chinese Wine Tasting July 2020.			
<b>Château Clerc Milon Pauillac 2015</b>	95	250	
Extremely floral with blackberry and blueberry character plus hints of violets. Full-bodied yet always in check and reserve with fine tannins and bright acidity that goes on for minutes. Limestone undertones. The finish is particularly long this vintage. Super Clerc. Try in 2021.			
<b>Château Monlot St.-Emilion 2015</b>	93	310	1550
Extremely perfumed and pretty with rose-petal and dark-berry aromas that follow through to a medium to full body. Super-integrated and tight tannins and a long, flavorful finish. A beautiful wine now but will deliver more excellence in three to four years of bottle age.			
<b>Château Pichon-Longueville Baron Pauillac 2015</b>	95	395	
Blackberries, sweet tobacco, incense and currants. Aromatic. Medium to full body and firm, sleek tannins. Racy and refined. Shows lovely balance and finesse. Pretty now, but needs another three or four years of bottle age. Try from 2023. Reviewed in Hong Kong Chinese Wine Tasting July 2020.			
<b>Carruades de Lafite Rothschild Pauillac 2015</b>	94	630	3150
Lead-pencil aromas with currants and plums, too. Full body, silky tannins and a focused and very refined finish. It's the tannins that drive things. An excellent second wine of Lafite. Needs two or three years to soften. Start drinking in 2021.			
<b>Château Canon St.-Emilion 2015 (No.1 Wine of the Year 2018)</b>	100	845	4225
Seductive. The nose draws you in deep: It's like staring into a well of pristine dark cherries, dark plums, blackberries and mulberries. All the oak is perfectly subsumed. The palate's flawless with immense depth and power and it's so balanced as to appear to float. Immaculate fresh dark-berry and plum flavors. Silky and deep, ribbon-like finish. Perfect. Best from 2022.			
<b>Château Phélan Ségur Saint-Estephe 2014</b>	92	170	
The spice and floral characters are fresh and perfumed. Walnuts. Medium body with firm and silky tannins and a linear and crisp finish. Orange peel undertone to the currants. Tight and racy. Needs two to three years to open up. Try in 2020.			
<b>Château Gruaud-Larose St.-Julien 2014</b>	94	250	1250
Aromas of strawberries and cherries follow through to a full body, silky tannins and a tangy finish. Fresh and clean. Linear and pretty. Purity of fruit is impressive. Drink in 2020.			
<b>Château Clerc Milon Pauillac 2014</b>	94	275	
Extremely floral and fresh with currants, light chocolate and orange peel. Red clay, too. Full-bodied, firm, silky and long with a flavorful finish. Salty undertone. Stones. Really serious. Better in 2021.			
<b>Essence de Bourdeaux Bordeaux 2014</b>	94	380	
Lots of aromas of tar and dark berries with walnuts and currants that follow through to a full body. The round, soft tannins are tight and focused with lovely freshness. Better after 2021, but already beautiful to drink.			

<b>Château Calon-Ségur St.-Estèphe 2014</b>	96	520	2600
This is real powerful and sexy with a voluptuous style of ripe fruit, mushrooms and wet earth. Leafy. Full and seductive. Better after 2021 but already fantastic.			
<b>Château Clerc Milon Pauillac 2012</b>	93	220	1100
Blueberry, chocolate and stone aromas with undertones of flowers follow through to a full body, cream tannins and a clean finish. Concentrated for the vintage. Pure fruit. Needs three to four years to soften. Better in 2017.			
<b>Château Trottevieille St.-Emilion 2012</b>	93	370	1850
Such purity of fruit to this wine with plum, currant and berry character. Solid core of fruit and fine tannins. Full and balanced. Very successful for the vintage. Better in 2017.			
<b>Château Clerc Milon Pauillac 2011</b>	93	350	1750
A chewy wine, but the tannins are polished and pretty. Full body, intense fruit and tannins and a persistent finish. Muscular, but balanced. Try in 2018.			
<b>Château Faugères St.-Emilion 2010</b>	95	235	1175
Very fruity and rich wine with dried strawberries and blackberries. Full body, with an opulent palate of ripe fruit and toasted oak. Yet racy and refined with a beautiful balance. It's fresh and racy. Try after 2018.			
<b>Château Les Carmes-Haut-Brion Pessac-Léognan 2010</b>	93	400	2000
The blueberries, walnut and chocolate character here is impressive. Full and very silky with refined tannins and a silky finish. Very pretty. Wonderful balance like the 2009. Try in 2016.			
<b>Château Pichon-Longueville Baron Pauillac 2010</b>	95	410	2050
A dense and layered wine with lots of ripe and sweet fruit. Loads of currants, plums and tar. This is concentrated and almost jammy with velvety tannins. Powerful. Chewy. Try in 2020.			
<b>Château La Gaffelière St.-Emilion 2010</b>	97	420	2100
This is more precise and focused with black truffle and berry. Full body, layered and refined. Beautiful freshness and form. Framed.			
<b>Château Belgrave Haut-Médoc 2009</b>	90	130	650
A wine with sliced-plum and lemon character and hints of lemon grass on the nose and palate. Medium to full body with fresh acidity and a clean finish. Try after 2016.			
<b>Château Lascombes Margaux 2009</b>	94	420	2100
Aromas of black tea, blackberries, blueberries and coffee bean, follow through to a full body, with velvety tannins and a juicy finish. Lovely mouth feel. Very well done. Try in 2019.			
<b>Château Péby-Faugères St.-Emilion Grand Cru 2008</b>	92	320	
Intense aromas and flavors of dried herbs, blackberries and minerals. Full and chewy, with loads going on. Structured and rich for the vintage. Try after 2014.			
<b>Château La Dominique St.-Emilion 2005</b>	93	345	1725
This is a beautiful wine that shows attractive merlot character with chocolate, walnut and hazelnut aromas and flavors. Full-bodied, deep and rich. Extremely long and delicious. Shows a wonderful potential for aging yet it is so approachable now. Drink or hold.			
<b>Château Sociando-Mallet Haut-Médoc 2005</b>	93	360	
This continues to be a firm and structured red with lots of slate, wet-earth and blackcurrant character. Full body, polished, chewy tannins and a flavorful finish. Give it time. Better after 2021.			