



GREAT WINES OF BORDEAUX TASTING TICKET

HK\$488 PER PERSON | 90 MINUTES | 40 WINES TO TASTE

James and his team in Hong Kong are tasting hundreds of 2019 Bordeaux samples at the moment. Their total wines to be tasted should be almost 2,000. The 2019 is one of a trilogy of excellent vintages including 2018, 2019, and 2020. Here is what James wrote in his report about 2019 barrel samples back in Spring 2020: “The wines I have tasted so far from 2019 seem good to excellent and comparable in quality to 2018, 2016 and 2015 – all excellent vintages.”

There is already a debate about which year is better: 2018 or 2019. Both years had very similar growing seasons with cold and wet weather most of the first six months of the year, and then hot and very dry conditions during the summer. Harvest conditions were excellent. The 2018 made slightly more opulent wines in Bordeaux due to the slightly warmer summer weather than 2019. The 2019s are more classic in structure with slightly more acidity and firmer tannins.

Fronsac

#1 Chateau de La Dauphine Fronsac 2019

Very pretty aromas of crushed berries, such as brambleberries and hints of plums with some wet earth. The palate is full-bodied with layered of ripe yet firm tannins with a surprising amount of energetic acidity. Better in 2024 and onwards, when it will come more together. 93pts

#2 Château de la Huste Fronsac 2019

This is a solid Fronsac with crushed-blackberry, stone and dark-chocolate aromas and flavors. It's medium-bodied with a chewy tannin backbone and stony, earthy highlights at the finish. Needs time to soften. Try after 2023. 92pts

#3 Château de Carles Fronsac 2019

Lots of plum skin and spice with hints of subtle oak and dried flowers on the nose. Stones, too. Full-bodied with chewy, rich tannins that flow across the palate, making it a real mouthful. Sweet fruit at the end. This needs time to soften and come together. Traditional in style. Drink after 2024. 93pts

Puisseguin-St.-Emilion

#4 Château des Laurets Puisseguin-St.-Emilion Baron Sélection Parcelleire 2018

Aromas of dried blueberry, dark chocolate and walnut husk. It's medium-to full-bodied with firm, creamy tannins. Rich and polished. Give this more time. Try from 2023. 92pts

St.-Emilion

#5 Château Grand Corbin-Despaigne St.-Emilion 2019

This is a very salty and spicy red with ripe berry, cherry, chocolate and dried dark mushrooms. Chalky, too. It's full and layered with chewy, velvety tannins and a fresh finish. Citrusy undertone. Better after 2025. 94pts

#6 Château Ferrand Pomerol 2019

Mulberries, cherries, plums, dark chocolate and sweet spices on the nose. Medium-bodied with fine tannins. Round and creamy with a bright core of fruit on the mid-palate and a silky texture. Drink after 2023. 92pts

#7 Château Moulin du Cadet St.-Emilion 2018

Sweet-berry, coffee and mushroom aromas follow through to a full body with chewy tannins and a juicy finish. Needs time to soften. Try after 2024. 93pts

St.-Emilion

#8 Château Sansonnet St.-Emilion 2018

Blackberry, black truffle, red tile and walnut on the nose. Full-bodied with a very dense, polished palate of ripe, firm tannins and beautifully pure fruit. Transparent and gorgeous. This will age nicely. Try after 2024. 96pts

#9 Château Soutard-Cadet St.-Emilion 2018

Blackberry and bark with some sandalwood and mushroom on the nose. It's full-bodied with juicy fruit and tight, creamy tannins. Linear and racy. Gorgeous finish. Rather reserved now, but good, serious promise. Try after 2024. 94pts

#10 Château Tour de Pressac St.-Emilion 2018

Aromas of fresh raspberry, plum, tar and gravel. It's medium- to full-bodied with firm, silky tannins. Sleek and juicy with a mineral finish. Lovely depth. Try from 2023. 93pts

#11 Château Jean Faure St.-Emilion 2019

Beautiful complexity and finesse with tile, incense, light chocolate, hazelnut and plum aromas and flavors. Hints of dried meat, too. It's medium-bodied with creamy tannins and a soft, refined finish. Drink after 2023, but it's surprisingly attractive now. 93pts

#12 Château Martinet St.-Emilion 2018

romas of blackberry, tea leaf, clove and toasted hazelnut. It's medium-to full-bodied with firm, silky tannins. Juicy dark-fruit and spice flavors lead to a long, layered finish. Very fine. Drink from 2024. 94pts

#13 Château Bellefont-Belcier St.-Emilion 2019

Very attractive plum and cherry aromas with hints of flowers and wet earth, following through to a medium to full body with linear, polished tannins and a juicy finish. Juicy fruit to finish with some minerality and forest-flower undertones. A little tight, but very pure at the end. Drink after 2025. 95pts

#14 Château Laroque St.-Emilion 2019

Blackcurrant, cherry and violet aromas follow through to a medium to full body with very well-integrated tannins that give a soft and creamy impression. Long and satisfying already, but needs another three or four years to come together. Try after 2023. 94pts

#15 Haut-Bailly.II Pessac-Léognan 2018

A very elegant red. Crushed berries, some spices and earthy tones as well. It's full-bodied and structured with a balanced, velvety texture and firm tannins. Long, flavorful finale. A blend of 65% merlot and 35% cabernet sauvignon. Try after 2023. 94pts

#16 Château Tour Saint Christophe St.-Emilion 2019

Beautiful, intense fruit, dark-earth and chocolate character on the nose. Full-bodied with great density and plush, fine tannins that give a fine-velvet texture. It's extremely long, polished and sophisticated. Needs time to come together, but expressive and glorious. Fantastic relative value. 80% merlot and 20% cabernet franc. Drink after 2025. 96pts

Côtes de Bordeaux

#17 Château de Marsan Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2018

Fresh-plum, soil, licorice and walnut-husk aromas. It's medium-bodied with sleek, tight-grained tannins. Juicy finish. Try from 2022. 90pts

#18 Château de Marsan Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2019

Crushed-tile, blackberry and currant aromas follow through to a medium body with saline and crushed-stone character and hints of citrusy acidity. Fresh and creamy texture from the medium tannins at the end. Drink in 2023 onwards. 91pts

Pessac-Léognan

- #19 Château La Garde Pessac-Léognan 2018** 92pts
Very beautiful aromas of blackberries and crushed stones with hints of dried flowers. It's full-bodied with soft, creamy tannins that are softly knit. Round, creamy finish. Drink after 2023.
- #20 Château Latour-Martillac Pessac-Léognan 2018** 93pts
Aromas of blackcurrant, spiced cherry, charred wood and some smoked meat. It's medium-to full-bodied with firm, fine-grained tannins. Tight layers of dark fruit and spice. Better from 2024.
- #21 Château Olivier Pessac-Léognan 2018** 93pts
A beautiful, tight young wine, yet it delivers plenty of plum, chocolate, walnut and forest-floor character. It's full-bodied, but so poised and refined. Nicely crafted. Try after 2023.
- #22 Château Malartic-Lagravière Pessac-Léognan 2019** 93pts
Very complex aromas of dark berries, mushrooms, earth, flowers and incense. Crushed stone, too. Full-bodied with very fine, refined tannins that are caressing and beautiful. It's very, very long and persistent in the finish with subtle and complex flavors. This will deliver beauty with age. Drink after 2025.
- ## ***Haut-Médoc***
- #23 Château Peyredon Lagravette Haut-Médoc 2018** 92pts
Dark cherries, currants and plums on the nose. Notes of red bell pepper and some spices, too. It's medium-to full-bodied with a juicy texture, combined with grippy tannins and a clean, salivating finale. Better after 2023.
- #24 Château Caronne-Ste.-Gemme Haut-Médoc 2018** 94pts
Fresh blackcurrant and blackberry leaf on the nose. Tobacco, violets and mocha, too. It's medium-to full-bodied with firm, fine-grained tannins. Nicely structured with a deliciously fragrant, leafy quality. Extremely well done. 55% cabernet sauvignon, 40% merlot and 5% petit verdot. Try from 2024.
- #25 Château de Lamarque Haut-Médoc 2019** 95pts
Plenty of dark-berry, spice and sandalwood aromas follow through to a full to medium body with integrated, chewy tannins that are long and focused. Pretty finish with plenty of energy and intensity. Perhaps the best Lamarque ever. Try after 2025.
- #26 Moulin de la Lagune Haut-Medoc 2018** 95pts
A very attractive second wine from La Lagune with currant, blackberry, black-olive and dried-tobacco character. It's medium-to full-bodied with firm, lightly chewy tannins and a fresh finish. From organically grown grapes. Drinkable now, but better in two or three years.
- #27 Château Cantemerle Haut-Médoc 2019** 95pts
A red with lots of currant, blackberry, fresh-herb and tobacco character. Hint of mushroom, too. It's full and layered with polished, chewy tannins and a bright and fresh finish. Very long and focused. Give it time to come together. Very classic character here. Best after 2026.
- #28 Château de Lamarque Haut-Médoc 2019** 92pts
Plenty of dark-berry, spice and sandalwood aromas follow through to a full to medium body with integrated, chewy tannins that are long and focused. Pretty finish with plenty of energy and intensity. Perhaps the best Lamarque ever. Try after 2025.
- #29 Château Labat Haut-Médoc 2019** 96pts
This is fine-tannined with pretty fruit of plums and redcurrants. Medium-bodied with round tannins and a juicy, savory finish. Drinkable now, but better in 2024.

Margaux

#30 Château Marquis de Terme Margaux 2019 94pts
This is a solid Margaux with blackberries, blackcurrants and undertones of fresh tobacco and a wet earth. It's full and layered with beautiful energy and structure. Tight at the end, as it should be. Try after 2025.

#31 Château Siran Margaux 2018 94pts
Blackberries, mushrooms and flowers on the nose. Full-bodied with a very compact palate that shows creamy and refined tannins that are strong and driven. Some tar and wet earth at the end. Needs three or four years to come together. Best after 2025.

Margaux

#32 Château Siran Margaux 2019 94pts
Lovely, soft tannins with a juicy and flavorful palate of currants, slightly toasted oak and chocolate. It's full-bodied and layered with a plush texture and a long, flavorful finish. Warm and rather flamboyant for the vintage. Try in 2025.

#33 Château Cantenac Brown Margaux 2018 94pts
Rich and polished aromas of blueberry, lavender, dark chocolate, hazelnut and sweet tobacco. It's full-bodied with firm, velvety tannins. Creamy layers of ripe fruit and wood. Long and caressing. Lovely ripe fruit in the center palate. Try from 2024.

#34 Château du Tertre Margaux 2019 94pts
Beautiful purity of fruit here with currant and berry aromas, as well as fresh roses and other flowers. Citrus peel as well. Full-bodied with creamy and lightly velvety tannins that are long and beautiful. Hints of citrus to the lovely fruit. Textured and polished. A blend of 54% cabernet sauvignon, 27% merlot, 13% cabernet franc and 6% petit verdot. Try after 2024.

#35 Château Marquis de Terme Margaux 2019 94pts
This is a solid Margaux with blackberries, blackcurrants and undertones of fresh tobacco and a wet earth. It's full and layered with beautiful energy and structure. Tight at the end, as it should be. Try after 2025.

St.-Julien

#36 Château Léoville Poyferré St.-Julien 2018 97pts
Dark cherry, plum, spice and cacao with earthy notes and wood undertones. Cloves, too. Full-bodied, yet in control and poised. Balanced, complex and flavorful. Firm tannins and a long, precise finish. It goes on and on. Structured is the word. Try after 2025.

#37 Château Gloria St.-Julien 2018 94pts
A full-bodied red with a dense, juicy palate of blueberries and blackcurrants. Some black tea and tree bark, too. Tight yet long and linear finish. Very structured and polished. Drink after 2024.

#37 Château Langoa Barton St.-Julien 2019 96pts
Plenty of blackberry, currant and floral aromas. Some mint as well, following through to a full-bodied palate with layers of ultra-fine tannins and wonderful length. This is sophisticated and beautifully crafted with style and personality, displaying its terroir. Extremely well done. Drink after 2025.

Pauillac

#39 Château Batailley Pauillac 2019 95pts
This is a fine-tannined and racy young wine with blackberry, blackcurrant and light mint aromas that follow through to a full to medium body with long, polished tannins and a persistent finish. A classic and classy young wine. 74% cabernet sauvignon, 25% merlot and 1% petit verdot. Drink after 2025.

#40 Château Lynch-Moussas Pauillac 2018 93pts
Ripe blackcurrant, stewed blackberry, clove, chocolate, graphite and hints of lemon verbena. It's medium-to full-bodied with firm, tight-grained tannins. Focused and polished. Try from 2024.

