

BORDEAUX PROMOTION

BORDEAUX HAS BEEN MY REFERENCE POINT FOR THE GREATEST WINES OF THE WORLD 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. IT IS ONE OF FRANCE'S PREMIER WINE REGIONS AND MY TEAM AND I JUST TASTED THE LATEST EN PRIMEUR SAMPLES LAST MONTH IN MAY. HERE IS A CURATED LIST OF SOME OF OUR FAVORITES BACK TO 2009, OF TOP WHITES, RIGHT BANK REDS AND LEFT BANK CLASSIFIED GRAND CRUS. DRINK AND ENJOY.

BORDEAUX BLANC

	Score	Glass	Bottle
Château Grand Village Bordeaux Blanc 2018 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	
Blanc de Lynch-Bages Bordeaux 2018 Beautiful aromas of white peach, honeydew, white grapefruit, lemon grass, jasmine and flint. It's full-bodied with a creamy texture and bright acidity. Layered and phenolic with tangy, lightly pithy citrus notes and a mineral edge. Drink or hold.	94	250	
Pavillon Blanc du Château Margaux Bordeaux Blanc 2015 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
Château Pape Clément Pessac-Léognan Blanc 2013 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	
Château Smith-Haut-Lafitte Pessac-Leognan Blanc 2008 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
RED			
Château Maillet Pomerol 2018 Blackcurrants, blueberries, minerals and cedar on the nose. It's full-bodied with firm tannins. Juicy and suave texture with a ink-like feel on the palate. Very polished tannins. Tight finish that's still in reserve. Underlying, classic beauty here. Try after 2024.	94	195	
Château Phélan Ségur St.-Estèphe 2018 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
Château Pape Clément Pessac-Léognan 2018 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
Tour Prignac Médoc Grande Réserve 2016 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.	92	100	500
Château Le Boscq St.-Estèphe 2016 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	94	155	775

sauvignon, 47 per cent merlot and five per cent petit verdot.

Château Faugères St.-Emilion 2016	95	150	750
The nose is redolent with ripe plums and dark cherries, as well as abundant red and purple flowers and a faint, blonde-tobacco edge. The palate delivers an ultra-rich and flavorful palate with polished, sinewy tannins that will carry this wine for some time to come. Freshness and balance, finishing taut and youthful. Full of promise, this is one of the finest recent releases from here. Try from 2023.			
Château Phélan Ségur St.-Estèphe 2016	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.			
Château Pédesclaux Pauillac 2016	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.			
Chateau Batailley Pauillac 2016	96	235	
Shows beautiful, ripe cabernet aromas with currants, plums, meat and smoke. Flowers, too. Full body, deep and ripe fruit and exquisite, ripe tannins. Flavorful finish. Tight right now, but shows excellent potential. Best ever. Try after 2024.			
Château Larcis Ducasse St-Emilion 2016 (No.7 Wine of the Year 2019)	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.			
Château Pichon-Longueville Baron Pauillac 2016	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.			
Château Figeac St-Emilion 2016	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.			
Château Valandraud St.-Emilion 2016	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.			
Château Duhart-Milon Rothschild Pauillac 2015	93	190	950
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.			
Château Nenin Pomerol 2015	97	200	
Classic Pomerol character of black olives, wet earth, violets and dark fruit. Full-bodied, tight and silky-textured with fabulous texture. Stones and dark berries. So serious and real. The depth is like looking down a well. Give it three to four years to integrated but already beautiful. Try in 2023 and onwards.			

Château D'issan Margaux 2015	96	215	
Very complex aromas of currants, blackberries and iodine with hints of dried mushrooms and flowers. Full-bodied, very fine and silky with a very, very long finish. Shows tension and finesse. Structured yet shows an ultra-fine texture. Deep, dense center palate, yet it's all so polished. A wine for the future. Drink in 2022.			
Réserve de la Comtesse Pauillac 2015	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.			
Château Trottevieille St.-Emilion 2015	99	310	
Subtle and complex aromas of dried flowers, berries, blackberries and black olives. Minerals, limestone and rust to boot. Full-bodied, layered and tannic, yet the phenolic structure is all about strength with finesse. It lasts a very long time. The new classic from here... 1961 all over? Try in 2024 and behold.			
Château Monlot St.-Emilion 2015	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.			
Carruades de Lafite Rothschild Pauillac 2015	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.			
Château Canon St.-Emilion 2015 (No.1 Wine of the Year 2018)	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.			
Château d'Armailhac Pauillac 2014	94	195	
This is very tannic yet polished and firm with currants, bark, and stones. Full-bodied and muscular and linear. Love the length. Beautiful. Try in 2020.			
Chateau Batailley Pauillac 2014	94	225	1125
Fantastic aromas of crushed plums and blackberries. Perfumed! Full-bodied and very silky with stone undertones. Best ever? Drink in 2021.			
Château Gruaud-Larose St.-Julien 2014	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.			
Château Clerc Milon Pauillac 2014	94	275	1375
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.			
Essence de Dourthe Bordeaux 2014	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.			
Château Calon-Ségur St.-Estèphe 2014	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.			
Château Branaire-Ducru St.-Julien 2012	91	190	950
A clean and fresh wine with blueberry, mineral and floral character. Medium to full body, fine tannins and a crisp finish. This is a very refined and beautiful Branaire. Better in 2017.			

Château Clerc Milon Pauillac 2012	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.			
Château Trottevieille St.-Emilion 2012	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.			
Château Clerc Milon Pauillac 2011	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.			
Château Les Carmes-Haut-Brion Pessac-Léognan 2010	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.			
Château Pichon-Longueville Baron Pauillac 2010	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.			
Château La Gaffelière St.-Emilion 2010	97	420	2100
This is more precise and focused with black truffle and berry. Full body, layered and refined. Beautiful freshness and form. Framed.			
Château Clerc Milon Pauillac 2009	94	315	1575
This wine shows aromas of licorice, raspberries and tar. Full body and very silky with dense tannins, yet the bright fruits soften the wine. So delicious and refined. Gorgeous now, but much better in 2018.			
Château Lascombes Margaux 2009	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.			
Château Péby-Faugères St.-Emilion Grand Cru 2008	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.			
Château La Dominique St.-Emilion 2005	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.			
Château Sociando-Mallet Haut-Médoc 2005	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.			