

PRIVATE CELLAR



Château la Fleur-Pétrus, Pomerol

Bordeaux 2006

2006 is inspiring many emotions, some more related to market conditions than the quality of the wines on offer. Bizarrely, there is no real consensus of opinion on the 2006 vintage except that it is not 2005. What is clear is that the wines are in many cases good or very good and, had they not followed the epic 2005, they would be receiving much more positive attention than at present.

Here we have listed the wines that we think tasted best when we visited Bordeaux in March and April. Prices are starting to emerge and we will update you with new releases as they come onto the market.

Tasting notes are by Nicola Arcedeckne-Butler MW and prices are per case, in bond London. Magnums and half bottles are available at a supplement of £7.00 for magnums and £11.00 for half bottles.

Médoc & Haut Médoc

Château Cap de Haut, Cru Bourgeois, Haut-Médoc

£63

Vibrant red black to pink on the rim. Crushed black fruits on the nose, some spice and vanillin, leading to a sweet, crunchy black fruit palate with substantial yet supple tannins behind going to a long, grilled red and black fruit finish. Very pretty wine. From 2012

Château La Lagune, 3ème Cru Classé, Médoc

£260

Dense black red right to the rim, tight and mineral on the nose with dusty black fruits and a hint of spice. Rich and dense on the palate, super-ripe fruit yet deliciously fresh too on the palate, with ripe, substantial tannins and balanced acidity going to a firm finish. From 2013

Château Potensac, Cru Bourgeois, Médoc

£115

Deep red black to the rim, with sweet, smoky black fruits on the nose, leading to a plump, full bodied palate of black fruits, dense and tarry, with supple tannins behind, going to a long finish. From 2010

Pauillac

- Château d'Armailhac, 5ème Cru Classé, Pauillac** **SOLD OUT** **£198**
 Red black to the rim, with a sweet, red berry nose underscored by some distant cedar. On the palate spiced red fruits, some oak, with delicious ripe tannins behind and a distant hint of cinnamon. Pretty, not massive, and stylish. From 2013
- Les Carruades de Lafite, Pauillac** **SOLD OUT** **£375**
 Deep red to pink on the rim, with a tight nose of black skinned fruit overlaid with some sweet cedar and crushed red fruits. Lovely concentration on the palate with fine tannins and grilled red fruits going to a long finish. Refined rather than massive. From 2012
- Château Clerc Milon, 5ème Cru Classé, Pauillac** **£250**
 Red black to pink on the rim, quite closed on the nose with yeasty, mineral black fruits. Pretty on the palate with restrained red fruits, supple and ripe tannins, going to a long, expressive finish. From 2013
- Château Duhart Milon, 4ème Cru Classé, Pauillac** **£230**
 Deep purple black to firm on the rim, with a concentrated nose of dusty black skinned fruit, closed. Dense black fruits on the palate, with substantial ripe tannins and acidity, sweet, ripe and fresh. Giving little away at present, but with serious breeding evident behind. From 2013
- Château Grand Puy Ducasse, 5ème Cru Classé, Pauillac**
 Red black to the edge, with a tight nose of stalky black fruit and a hint of mint. Blackcurrants and black skinned fruits on the palate, with sweet ripe tannins and fine balance. For the midterm. From 2012
- Château Grand Puy Lacoste, 5ème Cru Classé, Pauillac** **SOLD OUT** **£315**
 Deep purple red right to the rim, with a nose of crushed, creamed black fruits, dense and spiced. On the palate an explosion of black fruit, sweet, concentrated and ripe with again a hint of cedar, beautiful and pure with grilled notes behind. Amazing freshness – lovely wine. From 2013
- Château Haut Batailley, 5ème Cru Classé, Pauillac** **SOLD OUT** **£185**
 Deep purple black right to the rim with a tightly spiced black fruit nose overlaid with some distant cedar. Dense and rich on the palate, with pretty black fruits, combining opulence and restraint, with fine ripe tannins and a long finish. From 2012
- Château Lafite, 1er Grand Cru Classé, Pauillac**
 Dense purple black right to the rim. On the nose tight mineral black fruit, perfumed and concentrated with hints of cedar. Explosive on the palate – dense perfumed black fruits with grilled notes behind, almost opulent but holding itself in check, fine acidity and ripe tannins, going to a rich, grilled pure finish. From 2017
- Château Latour, 1er Grand Cru Classé, Pauillac**
 Dense red black right to the rim, opaque, with a racy, mineral nose of dusty black skinned fruit with some distant cedar and herbs. On the palate, densely fruited yet hugely restrained mineral black fruits, damson and sloe, with super-ripe tannins behind, going to a long, persistent finish. Superb wine. From 2017
- Château Lynch Bages, 5ème Cru Classé, Pauillac** **SOLD OUT** **£390**
 Dense red black right to the edge, with a delicious nose of appealingly ripe black fruits, soft with some vanillin, almost edible. Big black fruits on the palate with substantial yet supple tannins behind, dense, going to a firm, long finish. From 2014

Château Mouton Rothschild, 1er Grand Cru Classé, Pauillac

Deep purple black right to the rim, with a tight, restrained nose of pure blackcurrant fruit, grilled and perfumed, leading to a dense, intense palate of super-ripe but tightly checked black fruits, with hints of cedar and chocolate and supple yet substantial tannins behind, going to a long, promising finish. One of the wines of the vintage. From 2018

Château Pichon Longueville Baron, 2ème Cru Classé, Pauillac**£530**

Deep purple black, opaque to the rim. Tight, creamed black fruits on the nose, with hints of cedar, leading to a palate of crushed blackcurrant, sappy with dense, smooth tannins, ripe and very appealing already, with a long finish. From 2014

Château Pichon Lalande, 2ème Cru Classé, Pauillac**£660**

A fascinating experiment here by Gildas d'Ollone made us radically reconsider our tasting notes – two tastings, one wine, in two presentations: decanter and bottle. From the decanter, the nose was opulent, almost exotic, whilst the palate was a touch flat, whilst from the bottle, the nose was muted but the palate was explosive, taut and super rich, with fine tannins and excellent concentration. From 2014

Château Pontet Canet, 5ème Cru Classé, Pauillac**SOLD OUT****£410**

Jet black to dense black red on the rim, almost viscous in its concentration. Tight, black cherry fruit on the nose with a distant hint of perfume, leading to an even denser palate of peppery, extracted black fruit, ripe tannins and a light floral touch. Long and dense on the finish, this is a tour de force. From 2014

St Julien

Château Beychevelle, 4ème Cru Classé, St Julien**£250**

Deep black red, not opaque, to rim, with a tightly fruited nose of creamed blackcurrants, very restrained, leading to a deeply attractive nose of smooth black fruits overlaid with spice and a touch of oak, with ripe tannins providing a balanced backbone, going to a long finish. From 2013

Clos du Marquis, St Julien**£240**

Fine deep black to rim. Reasonably complex on the palate with good blackcurrant tones. The high percentages of Merlot (41%) and Cabernet Franc (13%) lead to a slightly lighter style than normal. Long finish. From 2012

La Croix de Beaucaillou, St Julien

Deep purple black to the rim, with a lovely perfumed nose of ripe black fruits, pure and fresh. Dense on the palate with black skinned fruits, a hint of cedar, rich and concentrated, almost spiced with a fine, fresh finish. Breeding shows here. From 2012

Château Ducru Beaucaillou, 2ème Cru Classé, St Julien**£770**

Serious investment in the vineyard and chais over the past decade have paid off in spades, with superb finesse and terroir coming through. Dense purple black to firm on the rim, with primary black fruits on the nose, crushed and creamed, with a hint of perfume behind. Dense dusty, mineral black fruits on the palate, again perfumed, with ripe tannins scarcely noticeable behind the fruit, fresh and persistent right to the end. Power and finesse in one glass. From 2015

Château Gruaud Larose, 2ème Cru Classé, St Julien**SOLD OUT****£285**

Deep red black to the rim. Dusty, black skinned fruit on the nose overlaid with spice and a hint of cedar, leading to a finely crafted palate of dense black and red fruits, spiced and layered, with fine, ripe tannins on the end to balance, going to a long finish. Its power lies in the finesse. From 2013

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Château Lagrange, 3ème Cru Classé, St Julien**£240**

Semi-opaque to rim, with a delicious nose of ripe, crushed black fruits leading to a densely fruited palate of rich black fruits, ripe tannins behind and well balanced. Delicious. From 2013

Château Lalande Borie, Cru Bourgeois, St Julien

Deep red black to lighter on the rim, with ripe red and black fruits on the nose, overlaid with violets and perfume. On the palate concentrated, dusty black skinned fruits, spiced, with ripe tannins and acidity behind going to a long, fresh finish. Ducru's finesse for around a tenth of the price. From 2012

Château Langoa Barton, 3ème Cru Classé, St Julien**SOLD OUT £320**

Red black to firm on the rim, with a tight, dusty black fruit nose, with hints of violets and sappy oak, leading to a beautifully balanced, ripe, perfumed palate of black fruits with supple ripe tannins and balancing acidity going to a long finish. Pure and appealing. From 2013

Château Léoville Barton, 2ème Cru Classé, St Julien**SOLD OUT £395**

Semi-opaque to purple on rim. Sweet, creamed black skinned fruit on the nose, tight, with a hint of cedar and spice, leading to a richly fruited palate of black fruits, supple, restrained tannins with again a spiced note. Delicious and long. From 2014

Château Léoville Las Cases, 2ème Cru Classé, St Julien**£1150**

Dense black right to the rim with very tight, dusty black fruit on the nose, mineral with a distant hint of cedar, not giving much away at present. On the palate it is dense and weighty on entry, almost sumptuous in its richness, ripe black skinned fruits with scarcely discernible tannins. Unbelievably stylish wine, a supreme triumph for the vintage.

Château Léoville Poyferré, 2ème Cru Classé, St Julien**£370**

Deep black red to semi-opaque. Intense, appealing black fruit on the nose, grilled and ripe, leading to a smooth, dense palate of spiced black fruits with rich, supple tannins, going to a long, well defined finish. Good wine. From 2014

Château Talbot, 4ème Cru Classé, St Julien**SOLD OUT £230**

Rich red black to firm on rim. Tight, ripe black fruits on the nose, sweet and appealing yet restrained at the same time, leading to a deliciously balanced palate of pure ripe black fruits with a hint of grilled notes and fine, supple tannins. Long and juicy on the finish. From 2014

Margaux

Alter Ego de Palmer, Margaux**£235**

Deep red black right to the rim, with crushed, creamed black fruits on the nose, rich and primary and not marked by oak. High toned dense black fruits on the palate with superb ripe tannins and grilled notes behind, going to a sustained, concentrated finish. From 2014

Château d'Angludet, Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel, Margaux**SOLD OUT £150**

Deep black red, with tight peppery black fruit on the nose, voluptuous, with hints of black cherry. Deliciously smooth on the palate with black skinned fruits, deceptively ripe tannins and a lovely, balanced structure, going to a sweet, long, toasty finish. Superb effort. From 2012

Château Giscours, 3ème Cru Classé, Margaux**SOLD OUT £270**

Deep red black to the rim, not opaque. On the nose sweet red and black fruits, complex and ripe, leading to a soft, supple palate of extremely dense black fruits with loads of ripe tannins, rich and subtle, with a distant grilled note on the finish. Great finesse. From 2013

Château d'Issan, 3ème Cru Classé, Margaux £250

Intense red black to vibrant on the rim, semi-opaque. Dense, spiced black fruits on the nose, powerful, rich yet restrained, going to an intense palate of black skinned fruit with ripe, supple tannins, with lovely structure and length on the finish. This Château improves year on year. From 2013

Château Kirwan, 3ème Cru Classé, Margaux £240

Deep red black right to the rim, with a nose of exotic red fruits overlaid by toasty new oak, very fresh, modern style. Big black fruit on the palate, with strong tannins and grilled oak behind, going to a ripe, black, structured finish. From 2013

Château Margaux, 1er Grand Cru Classé, Margaux

The highest ever percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon at Château Margaux, at 90% this year as underperforming Merlot plants are gradually phased out, and with a mere 36% of the total crop going into the first wine. Tight black fruits on the nose, mineral, dense and closed. Initially closed on the palate, but then expanding into dense, black skinned fruit with hints of bitter chocolate, lovely extraction and fine, ripe tannins. Superb structure, unctuous and long. From 2017

Château Palmer, 3ème Cru Classé, Margaux

Deep red purple to firm on the rim. Primary black fruits on the nose, crushed fresh blackcurrants with mineral overtones, again completely unmarked by oak, leading to a dense, concentrated palate of ripe black fruits, almost racy, with fabulous purity and clarity. With distant grilled notes on the finish, long and perfumed, this is superb. From 2016

Pavillon Rouge du Château Margaux, Margaux SOLD OUT £355

Deep red black right to the rim, with ripe red fruits on the nose, some black fruits and a floral hint. On the palate rich, black fruits, smooth, dense and concentrated with distant grilled notes going to a long, structured finish. Great finesse. From 2014

Château Prieuré Lichine, 4ème Cru Classé, Margaux £190

Deep red black with a voluptuous nose of cedar, black fruits and crème pâtissier. On the palate it is densely fruited, sweet and ripe with some substantial ripe, supple tannins behind and a long finish, this is a real crowd pleaser. From 2012

Château Rauzan Ségla, 2ème Cru Classé, Margaux SOLD OUT £395

Vineyard and chais improvements over the past decade are now really showing their worth, with Rauzan Ségla improving year on year. Deep red black, not opaque, right to the rim, it has a refined nose of roses and flowers with some black cherry behind, leading to a dense palate of sweet black fruits, with finely extracted tannins, ripe and rich going to a long, floral, stylish finish. Refined. From 2013

St Estèphe

Château Calon-Ségur, 3ème Cru Classé, St Estèphe SOLD OUT £310

Deep purple black right to the rim, semi-opaque, with a dense nose of black skinned fruits – sloe, damson, some mineral earthiness. On the palate pure, almost racy black fruits, currant and berry, with a hint of black cherry, fine yet substantial tannins and a long finish. From 2016

Château Cos d'Estournel, 2ème Cru Classé, St Estèphe £720

On a visit in March we were the first outside the Cos team to taste the 2006 which had been blended that very moment – what a treat! Deep, deep purple black in colour, virtually opaque, with a delicious nose of plums, prunes and black cherries with a hint of perfume and cedar behind, leading to a dense, sweet palate of supremely concentrated black fruits with ripe, firm tannins behind. Immensely long with restrained power on the finish, this is one of my wines of the vintage. From 2014

Château Lafon Rochet, 4ème Cru Classé, St Estèphe **SOLD OUT** **£185**
 Deep black red right to the rim, with a nose of sweet, creamed red and black fruits, tarry and nicely concentrated. On the palate, dense yet freshly fruited, again tarry, with ripe, long tannins behind going to a long finish. Very satisfying. From 2012

Château Montrose, 2ème Cru Classé, St Estèphe **SOLD OUT** **£480**
 Deep red black right to the rim, semi-opaque. Big, dense black skinned fruit on the nose, cassis with a mineral twist and some cedar notes, leading to a massive fruit attack on the palate, good density, backed up by masked but present tannins and acidity going to a fine finish. A bit angular at present but has all the ingredients to soften out. From 2014

Les Pagodes de Cos, St Estèphe **SOLD OUT** **£198**
 Deep red black to purple on the rim, with a smoky, earthy, mineral nose behind bright red fruits. Densely fruited on the palate, plums and cassis, with ripe tannins almost entirely covered by the fruit, going to a rich, ripe, fine finish. From 2012

Château Phélan Ségur, Cru Bourgeois, St Estèphe **SOLD OUT** **£170**
 Red black to firm on the rim, not opaque. On the nose delicious black fruits vie with some distant grilled notes, leading to a sweet cassis palate with ripe tannins behind going to an elegant finish. Finely structured. From 2012

Pessac-Léognan

Château Bahans Haut Brion, Pessac-Léognan **SOLD OUT** **£335**
 Deep red black right to the rim, with dusty black skinned fruit on the nose overlaid by a hint of the exotic. Dense black fruits on the palate, tight with some cedar and oak, sweet and ripe with lovely balanced, ripe tannins behind. Juicy and fresh with a fine structure and a long finish. From 2013

Château les Carmes Haut Brion, Pessac-Léognan **£275**
 Vibrant bright red to dense on the rim, with a pure nose of red and black fruits, currently unmarked by oak, very appealing, leading to a concentrated red fruit palate with hints of cigar box and some spice. Firm but ripe tannins, with lovely finesse. From 2014

Domaine de Chevalier Blanc, Pessac-Léognan **SOLD OUT** **£430**
 Pale gold, with rich leesy fruit on the nose, sweet, ripe and plump, replicated on the palate with concentrated ripe fruit, vanillin with a hint of grilled, exotic fruits – mango and lychee – going to a long finish. Seriously delicious. From 2014

Domaine de Chevalier Rouge, Pessac-Léognan **£240**
 Dense black red, not opaque, right to the rim. On the nose tight, dusty black fruit, very closed, with some sappy notes behind leading to a dense, tightly fruited palate with red fruits and herby notes, delicate and more refined than the nose implies, going to a sweet fruited finish. From 2015

Château Haut Brion, 1er Grand Cru Classé, Pessac-Léognan
 Deep, deep red black, right to the rim. Tight, racy nose of cassis and black fruits, some distant grilled cedar notes but dense and very restrained. Huge, smooth, cool fruits on the palate yet super concentrated too, with the substantial tannins scarcely noticeable behind the fruit. Rich, spiced yet not showy, with a pure, fresh, long finish, this is superb. From 2017

Château la Mission Haut Brion, Cru Classé, Pessac-Léognan

Deep black to pink on the rim, with wild cassis on the nose, some cedar and ripe black fruits. Tightly fruited on the palate, restrained yet powerful with juicy black fruits, ripe tannins and some acidity on the finish. Rich but very restrained, with a long, grilled finish. From 2016

Château Pape Clément, Cru Classé, Pessac-Léognan

Deep black right to the rim, almost inky. Tight, spiced black fruit on the nose, very dense and dusty, leading to a massively fruited palate with ripe tannins and bags of fruit behind, with a firm, grilled finish. From 2015

Château Smith Haut Lafitte Rouge, Pessac-Léognan**£310**

Deep red black to the rim, not opaque. Sweet, tarry black fruits on the nose with a distant hint of oak, quite closed at present. On the palate black fruits, sweet and grilled behind but intensely closed, with supple tannins behind and a long finish. From 2014

Château Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc, Pessac-Léognan**£380**

Water white, with lovely Sauvignon fruit on the nose and a hint of oak, nicely balanced. On the palate sweet, super ripe fruit on entry, a hint of tropical fruits behind, with good depth and concentration, well defined with some distant grilled notes behind going to a long finish with a fine acid balance. Good wine. From 2010

St Emilion**Château Angélu, 1^{er} Grand Cru Classé, St Emilion**

Deep, deep red black in colour, right to the rim, with a tightly fruited nose of super-ripe damson and black fruit, very restrained at present. Explodes onto the palate with dense black skinned fruit - damson, sloe - very ripe, inky, with some perfumed wood behind and tannins scarcely showing. What a great wine. From 2018

Château Ausone, 1^{er} Grand Cru Classé, St Emilion

Deep, deep red black, opaque to the rim, with a concentrated, black fruit nose overlaid with spicy oak - very expressive yet very tight at the same time. Wonderfully restrained, cool fruit on the palate, fresh black and red berries, skilfully extracted to a long finish. Beautifully balanced. From 2018

Château Belair, 1^{er} Grand Cru Classé, St Emilion**SOLD OUT £375**

Deep red black to firm on the rim, with stalky, creamed black fruits on the nose. On the palate pure, fresh red fruits, some crème pâtissier, lovely balance but not massive, with ripe, supple tannins behind. From 2014

Château Canon, 1^{er} Grand Cru Classé, St Emilion

Year on year this property improves, repaying the investment made by Chanel over the past decade. Dense red black in colour, not opaque, with a ripe, evolved red fruit nose. Sweet ripe red fruits on the palate, paradoxically seeming light but concentrated at the same time, with fine ripe tannins and a long finish. Gorgeous finesse. From 2014

Château Canon la Gaffelière, Grand Cru Classé, St Emilion**£425**

Deep red black, dense right to the rim. On the nose inky black fruit, with violets and even a hint of the exotic, leading to a concentrated palate, again inky, with substantial tannins behind the sweet, ripe fruit, dense and long. From 2014

Château Cheval Blanc, 1^{er} Grand Cru Classé, St Emilion

Deep, deep purple black, with a dense, mineral, tightly fruited nose of sloes and damson. Almost spiced on the palate and less overt than the nose, there are super-ripe black fruits and substantial yet smooth tannins underlying gorgeous fresh fruit. Pure and long on the finish. What a triumph. From 2017

Château Destieux, Grand Cru, St Emilion**£190**

Red black to the rim with sappy black fruit on the nose, sweet and ripe, leading to a ripe, dense black fruit palate with some cedar behind. Finely concentrated but not a blockbuster, going to a long finish. From 2013

Château Figeac, 1^{er} Grand Cru Classé, St Emilion**£480**

Dense red black to the rim, with stalky, ripe red fruits on the nose and a hint of spice, leading to a grilled, densely fruited palate with just a hint of stalkiness, fine tannins and super sweet on the finish. From 2014

Château Fonbel, Grand Cru, St Emilion**£95**

Owned by the Vauthier family of Château Ausone. Deep black red to the rim, intense and semi-opaque. Stalky black fruits on the nose, tight and giving little away. On the palate rich black fruits, densely extracted flavours with supple tannins behind lead to a rich, long finish. From 2012

Château Fonroque, Grand Cru Classé, St Emilion**£145**

Dense, opaque in colour to pink on the rim, with inky, mineral black fruit on the nose: plum, cherry and damson, sweet and tight. Intense smoky black fruits on the palate with firm, ripe tannins behind, deceptively approachable, rich and ripe to the end. From 2013

Château Moulin du Cadet, Grand Cru Classé, St Emilion**£160**

Vibrant black red in colour with lovely, lively blackcurrant fruit on the nose but restrained. Smooth red fruits on the palate, rich, sweet and perfumed, with substantial yet subtle tannins behind, very pure. From 2013

Petit Cheval, St Emilion

Deep red black right to the rim, with a nose of mineral, sappy, crushed black fruits and violets. Smooth, almost soft on entry to the palate, with rich creamed black fruits behind, spiced, dense yet not massive, with lovely supple tannins. Fabulous. From 2014

Château le Prieuré, Grand Cru Classé, St Emilion**£160**

Deep red black to the rim, with stalky, crushed black fruits on the nose, leading to a palate of ripe red and black fruits, dense but not massive, with supple ripe tannins behind. Medium density, fine structure, to a soft, ripe finish. From 2013

Château Simond, St Emilion

Owned by the Vauthier family of Château Ausone. Deep red black, with a soft, stalky nose of leafy black fruits. On the palate, rich, inky black fruit, dense and sweet with some evolving notes, pure and fresh with no wood ageing. Pretty wine. From 2011

Château le Tertre Rôteboeuf, Grand Cru, St Emilion (6 per case)**£425**

Deep red black, dense but not opaque. On the nose freshly picked blackcurrant, fruits de bois, explosive fresh fruit and distant grilled, spiced notes. On the palate ripe, sweet black fruits on entry, supremely sweet and dense, black fruits with such sublimely balanced tannins and acidity that you can scarcely detect them. Superb wine. From 2017

Pomerol

Château Beaugard, Pomerol

£185

Deep red black, not opaque. On the nose tight black fruit, sweet, with some cedar, but closed, leading to a ripe, sweetly fruited palate of black fruits, going to a fine, pure finish. Mid-weight and stylish. From 2013

Château Bourgneuf Vayron, Pomerol

£190

Red black right to the rim, with sweet, well defined red fruits on the nose, earthy and dense. On the palate mineral, densely fruited, a clear step up in quality, with delicious red fruits and ripe, substantial tannins going to a long finish. Good wine. From 2013

Château Certan Marzelle, Pomerol

SOLD OUT £325

Dense red black to the rim, with rich, creamed black fruit on the nose, restrained. On the palate dense black fruit on entry, with marked but supple tannins, rich, crushed blackcurrant fruit with a light, stalky touch, going to a long finish. From 2014

Château Certan de May, Pomerol

£470

Dense black colour right to the rim. Wild black fruits on the nose, silky and surprisingly expressive, with a distant hint of oak. On the palate inky black fruits, dense, rich and super-ripe with supple, scarcely noticeable tannins, going to a long, toasty finish. Delicious. From 2015

Château Clinet, Pomerol

Vibrant pink black right to the rim. Sappy black fruits on the nose, dense and expressive, leading to a substantially extracted palate with firm black fruits, supple tannins, creamy and also stalky, going to a long, smooth finish with a hint of vanilla. From 2014

Château La Conseillante, Pomerol

SOLD OUT £655

Deep purple black to the edge. Wonderfully concentrated black fruits on the nose, sloe and damson, blackcurrant, racy and eloquent. On the palate substantial black fruits, dense, ripe, extracted, with fine supple tannins going to a satisfying finish. From 2015

Château l'Évangile, Pomerol

SOLD OUT £950

Deep red black, with a wildly fruited nose of black berries with a hint of spice, very attractive even now, leading to a densely fruited palate, again lightly spiced, opulent and rich, with fine, supple tannins behind. Lovely wine. From 2014

Château Feytit Clinet, Pomerol

SOLD OUT £250

Impressive deep black red colour. On the nose, full, opulent and rich - ripe fruits with well integrated tannins going to a lovely long smooth finish. From 2014

Château Gazin, Pomerol

SOLD OUT £306

Deep purple black to pink on the rim, with sweet, black fruit on the nose overlaid with some distant cedar. On the palate dense, evolved black fruits, almost overripe, with substantial ripe tannins behind, fine balancing acidity and a long finish. Another good effort. From 2013

Château Hosanna, Pomerol (6 per case)

SOLD OUT £330

Deep purple black to red on the rim, with a sweet, creamy black fruit nose, stalky, mineral and layered. On the palate sensuous black skinned fruit, damsons and sloes, with lovely silky tannins, again layered and complex, going to a concentrated, perfumed finish. What a wine. From 2017

Château La Fleur Pétrus, Pomerol**SOLD OUT £550**

Medium red black to the rim, deep but not opaque. On the nose crushed, perfumed black fruits, creamed and pretty, leading to a dense black fruited palate, mineral, with firm, ripe tannins behind, concentrated and elegant – not massive but beautifully crafted. From 2015

Château Mazeyres, Pomerol**£115**

Deep black to pink on the rim, with dense black fruit on the nose and a hint of black cherry. Massive black cherry attack on the palate, sweet and ripe with a supple tannic backbone, going to a long, fruited finish. From 2012

Château Plince, Pomerol**£160**

Deep red black to firm on the rim, not opaque, with a delicious nose of cedar and ripe red fruits, tight and perfumed. On the palate again perfumed red fruits with hints of spice and vanillin, not a blockbuster but pretty, sweet and ripe, beautifully structured. From 2012

Château La Pointe, Pomerol**£175**

Deep, deep purple black, with a rich nose of black fruits and a touch of hay, but also quite closed. Dense black fruits on the palate, well extracted with fine tannins and acidity, restrained and well made. From 2013

Vieux Château Certan, Pomerol (6 per case)**SOLD OUT £420**

With production down by a staggering amount due to rigorous selection, allocations will be squeezed ever further this year. Deep red black, firm to the rim, with an opulent nose of ripe, creamed black fruits overlaid with spice and cedar, the palate is dense, ripe and creamy, with substantial but supple tannins behind. Sustained on the finish. From 2015

Other Regions of Bordeaux...

Château Beaulieu Comtes de Tastes, Bordeaux Supérieur**£65**

Deep red black right to the rim, with a fresh, black fruited nose, creamed and sappy, going to a densely fruited palate, cedar and spice with ripe tannins behind, and a long finish. Great value. From 2010

Château Haut Gay, Bordeaux Supérieur**£50**

Red black, intense to the rim, with primary, sappy black fruits on the nose with a hint of cedar. On the palate pretty floral fruit, ripe, crunchy red fruits and light tannins behind, not complex but delightful. From 2010

Château Carignan, Premières Côtes de Bordeaux**£58**

Deep red black to lighter on the rim, with stalky red fruits on the nose, along with some creamed blackcurrants, spiced. On the palate creamy, stalky red and black fruits with succulent acidity behind, lovely supple tannins, rich and grilled right to the end of the long finish. Fine effort indeed. From 2011

La Source Rouge, Bordeaux**£139**

Deep red to the rim, not opaque, with spiced red fruits, balanced and ripe, with a hint of oak, leading to a rich red fruit palate, again spiced with a fresh, almost stalky nose, fine tannins and acidity, going to a long, balanced finish. From 2010

La Source Blanc, Bordeaux**£129**

Pale straw, with a rich, intense nose of grilled citrus fruits and ripe apricots, dense and exotic, leading to a fine, racy palate of distinct Sauvignon fruit with lemon and grapefruit notes going to a creamy, zesty finish. Beautifully balanced, fine white Bordeaux. From 2009

Château Haut Lariveau, Fronsac**£88**

Deep purple black to the rim, with lovely crushed black fruits on the nose, rich, ripe plums and some sous bois. On the palate sweet, rich dense black fruits overlaid with some cedar, mineral, rich and long. Very satisfying. From 2011

Château Roc de Cambes, Côtes de Bourg**£295**

Deepish black red to firm rim. Bright red cherry fruit on the nose, some vanillin, sweet and delicious, leading to a wonderfully rich palate of red cherry fruit, fruits de bois, pure with supple ripe tannins and muted acidity, fabulous depth going to a long, grilled finish. What a wine! From 2013

Château Samonac, Côtes de Bourg

Vibrant purple red to pink on the rim, with deliciously appealing red fruits on the nose, creamy and stalky, leading to a brightly fruited palate with some firm tannins going to a sweet, ripe finish. Deceptively attractive. From 2010

Clos Puy Arnaud, Côtes de Castillon**£125**

Dense opaque black red, with a super-ripe, exotic nose of black fruit with grilled notes behind. On the palate, delicious sweet red fruits, exotic and spiced with a twist of freshness, substantial but unobtrusive tannins, going to a long, fine finish. From 2012

Sauternes

Chateau d'Yquem, 1er Grand Cru Classé Sauternes**£3,250 bottles****£3,261 halves**

At their first release in March, we were struck by how few Sauternes appeared to have been touched by botrytis, the magic ingredient for Sauternes. Not so Yquem: with its rich, dense nose of honey and blossom with a mineral streak, it is sumptuous on the palate, fresh, dense, sweet and waxy with phenomenal balance. From 2018