

Bordeaux 2017 En Primeur Offer

'What I love about the 2017s is their overall balance and charm'

Jeb Dunnuck, jubdunnuck.com

'I can say with confidence that this is a good to very good year where some brilliant wines were made.'

Jeb Dunnuck, jubdunnuck.com

'2017 is not nearly as consistently great as 2015 or 2016, but this vintage did produce some extraordinary wines.'

Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com

'2017 is all about finesse, perfume and aromatic intensity as opposed to weighty richness.'

Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com

'Dry white Bordeaux wines generally need a huge shout-out this year – wow! These are bright, refreshing, elegant and intense'

Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com

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Unless otherwise stated, prices are quoted 'in bond' and are exclusive of duty, VAT and delivery (expected in spring 2020). You will be notified by post once your wines have arrived. Bottle sizes are 75cl unless otherwise stated.

For full details please see our terms and conditions on Page 44.



Bordeaux 2017: Vintage Summary

I'm not generally a fan of vintage reports that focus on the weather rather than the wines, but this year it's tricky as there's simply so much of it to talk about, making it impossible to ignore.

The buzz phrase this year is frost, you'll hear a lot about that and with good reason. In many areas in Bordeaux this year it's destroyed 30-50% of the harvest, if not more. However, what you perhaps don't hear is what the impact the frost has on the resultant wine. Often it's assumed that where there's frost, there's a poor quality, but that's something to largely dismiss in this case given the timing of when it hit in 2017. Like Burgundy in 2016, it struck in April and so it destroyed the nascent buds. It impacted the maximum potential yields rather than directly impacting maximum potential quality and like Burgundy 2016 we now know the direct impact of April frosts on quality is minimal. It is worth considering that you do have secondary buds that flowered after the frost and those buds do tend to produce fruit. However they tend to yield lower quality unless the rest of the vintage has high on perfect ripening conditions and that wasn't *quite* the case, though it made a good stab at it.

To summarise, there can be quite a variance in quality between those properties who used that secondary fruit from those who did not, from those who were hit by frost and those that were not and from those who sacrificed volume for quality and those that did not. It's also important to note the location of the frost damage was inland, the châteaux closest to the river largely escaped meaning the top Crus Classés in the Médoc were impacted far less than the inland châteaux of Moulis for example. It's easy when assessing the vintage to understand therefore why it is considered such a patchwork vintage with plenty of excellent quality on offer, but also why there are several wines to give a wide berth to...at this stage at any rate.

Although generalisations are tricky in 2017 for the reasons mentioned in the paragraphs above, there are certainly a few that I would make. 2017 isn't as powerful a vintage as say 2015 or 2016, the alcohol levels are a little lower and the wines tend to show a little fresher because of a cooler spell in August. The fruit is ripe and perfumed, it's a more traditional Bordeaux vintage, a little like 2014, 2008, 2004 or 2001. It's just not a blockbuster like 2009, 2010, 2015 or 2016. In the latter group of vintages, you could readily choose from a list of wines at random and you would be assured of top quality, but to counter that you tend to pay a premium for those vintages. The appeal with vintages like the former group is that you can often find gems which don't cost the earth. That's the key in my view with 2017. There are some excellent wines, just not as high a proportion as the blockbuster vintages, but for those châteaux who price well, there ought to be some very good buys to be had. When I speak to colleagues and customers over the years, it's rarely the superstar vintages that crop up in conversation about what their favourite purchases have been, but the smart buys they've made in the less celebrated vintages where there was better value to be had.

As I've already alluded, 2017 is a vintage to either taste for yourself or to discuss with someone who has and that's where I'd hope the Fine Team here can be of use. It's not an easy vintage to contend with, but with the right advice it's one that will give plenty of pleasure. Unlike 2015 where Margaux was undoubtedly the star of the show or 2016 where St-Estèphe shone, I don't feel in 2017 any one appellation leaped out ahead of the crowd for good reasons or bad. At a push I think St Emilion, St-Estèphe, Fronsac and St Julien had the edge in the reds and I'd probably advise a little caution when buying Margaux as it was perhaps a little patchier than the others.

Every year after tasting in Bordeaux I wonder why we don't sell more dry white and sweet Bordeaux. With one or two notable exceptions, the prices are superb, and the quality is excellent in 2017. [Château La Garde Blanc](#) for example (now out at £178 per 12 in bond) is exceptional quality and value and yet it tends to struggle to sell! As for the sweet wines of Bordeaux in a vintage like this, there is so much to appreciate. The effort that goes into making a single bottle of Sauternes is astonishing and yet you can pick up a half bottle of a sensational [Château Coutet](#) at £171 per 12x37.5cl, which is terrific value given the calibre of the wine.

What would I recommend?

Naturally at this point we don't know the pricing of many wines, so this list is based on what I'd expect prices to come out at. As I've alluded to already, this is not a vintage to buy blindly, please do compare critics notes and speak to one of us, but below are some of the wines I'd expect to be the highlights of our range.

At the top end of the spectrum there have been several wines scoring maximum points from the likes of RobertParker.com, so there is great quality available in 2017. Given the likely prices I feel Châteaux Gloria and Malescot-St-Exupéry should offer a great balance between outright quality and price and the likes of Châteaux Lafite-Rothchild, Figeac and Smith-Haut-Lafitte were outstanding wines by any vintage standard.

At the more affordable end, Château Dalem in Fronsac rivals its more fashionable and expensive labels from Pomerol to its south and Château Monregard La Croix was a delightfully ripe and easy to appreciate Pomerol. Ducru-Beaucaillou's new Moulis, Château Cantelaude-Borie showed very well and was a rare Moulis success in 2017.

I've already alluded to my appreciation for the whites of Château Coutet and La Garde and there are many other whites aside from these two listed I'd happily recommend, such as Château Doisy-Daëne and Château Talbot's Caillou Blanc.

<u>My 'money no object' Picks</u>		<u>My Value Picks</u>	
Domaine de Chevalier	Pessac-Léognan	Château Cantelaude-Borie	Moulis
Château Smith-Haut-Lafitte	Pessac-Léognan	Château Gigault 'Cuvée Viva'	Côtes de Bordeaux Blaye
Château Malescot-St-Exupéry	Margaux	Château Capbern	St-Estèphe
Château Clerc-Milon	Pauillac	Château Gloria	St-Julien
Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste	Pauillac	Château Puy-Blanquet	St-Emilion
Château Lynch-Bages	Pauillac	Château Dalem	Fronsac
Château Mouton-Rothschild	Pauillac	Château Labégorce	Margaux
Château Lafite-Rothschild	Pauillac	Château Monregard La Croix	Pomerol
Château Pavie-Macquin	St-Emilion	Château Malescasse	Haut-Médoc
Château Figeac	St-Emilion	Vieux Château Saint André	Montagne-St-Emilion
Château Calon-Ségur	St-Estèphe	Château Coutet	Barsac
Château Ducru-Beaucaillou	St-Julien	Château La Garde Blanc	Pessac-Léognan

Angus McLean, Fine Wine Manager

April 2018

Summary of Red Wines Released

<u>Code</u>	<u>Wine (Red)</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Case Size</u>	<u>Case Price</u>
P6983301	Château Gigault 'Cuvée Viva'	Côtes de Bordeaux Blaye	91-92 JS	12	£95
P6983601	Château Lanessan	Haut-Médoc Cru Bourgeois	89-90 JS	12	£115
P6983802	Château Marsau	Francs Côtes de Bordeaux	92-93 JS	12	£120
P6984101	Clos Floridène	Graves	89-92 WS	12	£130
P4521701	Château Malescasse	Haut-Médoc Cru Bourgeois	89-91 NM	12	£143
P4529901	Château Cantelaude-Borie	Moulis-en-Médoc	-	6	£72
P4513401	Château Puy-Blanquet	St-Emilion Grand Cru	16 JR	12	£155
P6984801	Château Dalem	Fronsac	92-93 JS	12	£165
P6984901	Château La Garde	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	90-93 WS	12	£165
P6984701	Château Lilian-Ladouys	St-Estèphe	91-93 WE	12	£170
P6984601	Château Capbern	St-Estèphe Cru Bourgeois	91-92 JS	12	£174
P4513501	Château Chantalouette	Pomerol	-	12	£190
P4510301	Château Haut-Bages-Monpelou	Pauillac Cru Bourgeois	91-92 JS	12	£204
P4521601	Château Monregard La Croix	Pomerol	88-90+ JD	12	£210
P6985401	Marquis de Calon-Ségur	St-Estèphe 2nd Wine of Calon Ségur	92-94 WE	12	£220
P6985701	Château Labégorce	Margaux Cru Bourgeois	92-93 JS	12	£220
P6985601	Château Lalande Borie	St-Julien	91-93 WE	12	£222
P6985901	Château Meyney	St-Estèphe Cru Bourgeois	92-93 JS	12	£227
P6986001	Château Siran	Margaux Cru Bourgeois	92-94 WE	12	£228
P6986201	Château Les Ormes-de-Pez	St-Estèphe Cru Bourgeois	91-93 NM	12	£235
P6986501	Château Cantemerle	Haut-Médoc 5ème Grand Cru Classé	93-94 JS	12	£246
P6986101	Château La Tour Carnet	Haut-Médoc 5ème Grand Cru Classé	92 DC	12	£250
P6986301	Château Belgrave	Haut-Médoc 5ème Grand Cru Classé	92-94 WE	12	£252
P6985501	Château Tour Saint Christophe	St-Emilion Grand Cru	93-94 JS	12	£260
P6986601	Château Maillet	Pomerol	92-93 JS	12	£285
P4521401	Château Lynch-Moussas	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	92-93 JS	12	£310
P6987501	Château Gloria	St-Julien Cru Bourgeois	91-94 AG	12	£315
P6986701	La Dame de Montrose	St-Estèphe (2nd Wine of Montrose)	90-92 JD	12	£324
P6987401	Château Marquis d'Alesme	Margaux 3ème Grand Cru Classé	93-95 JD	6	£165
P6988101	Château Pédesclaux	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	93-95 WE	12	£354
P6987801	Pagodes de Cos	St-Estèphe (2nd Wine of Cos d'Estournel)	92-93 JS	12	£360
P4512601	Château Capbern (150cl)	St-Estèphe Cru Bourgeois	91-92 JS	6	£185
P6986801	Château Berliquet	St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé	91-93 RP	12	£372
P6988001	Château d'Armailhac	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	93-94 JS	12	£388
P6988201	Château Batailley	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	92-93 JS	12	£393
P6988601	Château Malartic-Lagravière	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	90-93 WS	6	£199
P6987201	Château Bellefont-Belcier	St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé	93-94 JS	12	£408
P6988401	Château Branaire-Ducru	St-Julien 4ème Grand Cru Classé	91-93 NM	12	£410
P6987701	Château Bourgneuf	Pomerol	91-94 JS	12	£425
P4522501	Château La Serre	St-Emilion Grand Cru	89-90 JS	12	£425
P4514901	Château Malescot-St-Exupéry	Margaux 3ème Grand Cru Classé	95-96 JS	6	£215
P4506601	Clos du Marquis	St-Julien	93-94 JS	6	£219
P4512801	Château Labégorce (150cl)	Margaux Cru Bourgeois	92-93 JS	6	£225
P6988701	Château Talbot	St-Julien 4ème Grand Cru Classé	92-93 JS	6	£228
P6989001	Château St. Pierre	St-Julien 4ème Grand Cru Classé	92-95 AG	6	£234
P4515001	Château Giscours	Margaux 3ème Grand Cru Classé	93 DC	6	£255
P4531802	Château Feytit-Clinet	Pomerol	93-96 AG	6	£255
P4518901	Château Haut-Batailley	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	94-95 JS	6	£260

<u>Code</u>	<u>Wine</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Case Size</u>	<u>Case Price</u>
P4515601	Domaine de Chevalier	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	94-97 JD	6	£260
P4515501	Château Larcis-Ducasse	St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé	94-95 JS	6	£294
P4515101	Alter Ego de Château Palmer	Margaux	17 JR	6	£295
P6990201	Château Pavie-Macquin	St-Emilion 1er Grand Cru Classé	95-97 RP	6	£315
P4515801	Château Rauzan-Ségla	Margaux 2ème Grand Cru Classé	94-96 RP	6	£324
P6990301	Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	94 DC	6	£324
P6990601	Château Léoville-Barton	St-Julien 2ème Grand Cru Classé	95-97 WE	6	£327
P6990901	Château Léoville-Poyferré	St-Julien 2ème Grand Cru Classé	95-96 JS	6	£333
P6991001	Château Clinet	Pomerol	93-95 JD	6	£345
P6990801	Château Pape-Clément	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	95-96 JS	6	£380
P4531901	Château Troplong-Mondot	St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé	95-98 AG	6	£432
P6991301	Château Haut-Bailly	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	94-96 RP	6	£444
P6991801	Château Lynch-Bages	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	95-96 JS	6	£445
P6992501	Château Pichon-Lalande	Pauillac 2ème Grand Cru Classé	95-97 WE	6	£558
P6992001	Château Bélair-Monange	St-Emilion 1er Grand Cru Classé	96-98 RP	6	£590
P6991901	Château Montrose	St-Estèphe 2ème Grand Cru Classé	96-99 RP	6	£591
P6993001	Château Figeac	St-Emilion 1er Grand Cru Classé	95-96 JS	6	£738
P6992801	Château Ducru-Beaucaillou	St-Julien 2ème Grand Cru Classé	97-98 JS	6	£744
P6992301	Pavillon Rouge du Château Margaux	Margaux (2nd wine of Ch. Margaux)	94-95 JS	6	£810
P6993201	Château La Fleur-Pétrus	Pomerol	95-96 JS	6	£895
P6993401	Vieux Château Certan	Pomerol	97-98 JS	6	£1,032
P6993901	Château La Mission Haut-Brion	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	95-97 RP	6	£1,380
P6994001	Château Haut-Brion	Pessac-Léognan 1er Grand Cru Classé	95-97 RP	6	£2,025
P6994101	Château Margaux	Margaux 1er Grand Cru Classé	97-98 JS	6	£2,160
P6994201	Château Mouton-Rothschild	Pauillac 1er Grand Cru Classé	97-99 RP	6	£2,160
P6994501	Château Ausone	St-Emilion 1er Grand Cru Classé (A)	96-97 JS	6	£2,825

(WA) www.RobertParker.com | (JR) www.jancisrobinson.com | Neal Martin (NM) www.vinous.com | Wine Enthusiast (WE) www.winemag.com
(JD) www.jebdunnuck.com | Antonio Galloni (AG) www.vinous.com | Decanter (DC) www.decanter.com | (JS) www.jamesuckling.com

Summary of White Wines & Mixes Released

<u>Code</u>	<u>Wine</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Case Size</u>	<u>Case Price</u>
P1506401	Château Clos Haut-Peyraguey (37.5cl)	Sauternes 1er Grand Cru Classé	92-93 JS	12	£145
P1496301	Château Doisy-Védrières (37.5cl)	Sauternes 2ème Cru Classé	92-95 WS	12	£160
P1496401	Château Doisy-Daëne (37.5cl)	Barsac 2ème Cru Classé	92-95 WS	12	£165
P1496501	Château Coutet (37.5cl)	Barsac 1er Grand Cru Classé	95-97 RP	12	£171
P1496601	Château Rieussec (37.5cl)	Sauternes 1er Grand Cru Classé	96-98 RP	12	£255

<u>Code</u>	<u>Wine</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Case Size</u>	<u>Case Price</u>
P1497101	Château La Garde Blanc	Pessac-Léognan	93-94 JS	12	£178
P1508801	Château Talbot Caillou Blanc	Bordeaux	92 DC	6	£132
P1506701	Château La Tour Carnet Blanc	Bordeaux	90-91 JS	6	£140
P1497301	Domaine de Chevalier Blanc	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	96-97 JS	6	£413
P1497401	Château Smith-Haut-Lafitte Blanc	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	96-98+ RP	6	£496
P1506901	Château Pape-Clément Blanc	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	97-98 JS	6	£600

(WA) www.RobertParker.com | (JR) www.jancisrobinson.com | Neal Martin (NM) www.vinous.com | Wine Enthusiast (WE) www.winemag.com
 (JD) www.jebdunnuck.com | Antonio Galloni (AG) www.vinous.com | Decanter (DC) www.decanter.com | (JS) www.jamesuckling.com

St-Estèphe

Château Lilian-Ladouys 2017
St-Estèphe



£170 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2030
 Arriving Spring 2020

89-91 Neal Martin
86-88 Antonio Galloni

90-91 James Suckling
88-90 Robert Parker

90-92 Jeb Dunnuck
91 Decanter

“The 2017 Lilian Ladouys was picked from 20 to 29 September and matured in 40% new oak. It has a perfumed, floral bouquet with blue and red fruit, a subtle chalkiness in the background. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin, pinched on the mid-palate with a tightly wound, slightly austere finish. Not bad but it will need three or four years in bottle. I would like more charm to develop and indeed, when I encountered this growth towards the end of my trip, I felt that it was beginning to show more personality.”
 89-91 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

“This Saint-Estèphe estate continues to produce a ripe, sexy wine from their 45-hectare vineyard located on sandy, gravelly, clay soils. The 2017 is a blend of 50% Merlot, 43% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Petit Verdot, all aging in 40% new oak. It's a plump, rounded, sexy beauty that boasts a deep purple color as well as loads of ripe cherry and currant fruits, underbrush, and floral nuances. It can be drunk on release or cellared for 10-12 years.”
 90-92 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

Château Capbern 2017
St-Estèphe



£174 per 12 IB
£185 per 6 magnums IB
 Drink to 2030
 Arriving Spring 2020

89-91 Neal Martin
17 Matthew Jukes

91-92 James Suckling
90-92 Jeb Dunnuck

16.5 Jancis Robinson
88-90 Antonio Galloni

“The 2017 Capbern was cropped at 43.5hl/ha and matured in 60% new oak. It has a fresh, lively cranberry and blackcurrant-scented bouquet, a little savory in style with hints of Japanese nori (seaweed). The palate is nicely structured with a keen thread of acidity. There is a little compactness on the entry but it gently unfolds towards the finish that exerts subtle grip. It is the precision rather than the power that defines this Capbern and if released at similar prices to previous vintages, could be one of the must-buys of 2017. Drink 2021-2032.”
 89-91 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com, May 2018

“This large estate has turned out a classic wine in 2017 that just screams of Saint-Estèphe. Checking in as a rough blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot, and the rest equal parts Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, it will spend 18 months in 60% new French oak. Textbook Saint Estèphe dark fruits, damp earth, and tobacco leaf all flow to a medium-bodied, rounded, nicely textured wine that has the cooler, perfumed, aromatics style of the vintage, good mid-palate depth, and gorgeous purity of fruit. Classic Bordeaux lovers will dig this.”
 90-92 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

Marquis de Calon 2017
St-Estèphe



£220 per 12 IB
Drink to 2028
Arriving Spring 2020

88-90 Neal Martin
88-90 Robert Parker

89-90 James Suckling
88-90 Jeb Dunnuck

17 Jancis Robinson
90 Decanter

"The 2017 Le Marquis de Calon Ségur is gorgeous. Silky, understated and wonderfully expressive, the 2017 is a wine of pure and total seduction. Bright red-toned fruit and lifted floral notes extend effortlessly into the finish. In 2017, the Merlots and Cabernet Franc struggled most with the cool, overcast weather of August, so most of that fruit went into the Marquis. The blend is 57% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc. The Marquis is a lovely second wine from Calon Ségur. Tasted three times."

89-90 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com April 2018

"The 2017 Marquis de Ségur, the deuxième vin of Calon-Ségur, was cropped at 43.5hl/ha and matured in 30% new oak. It has quite a powerful bouquet that almost dwarfs the 2015 that I tasted alongside. Merlot dominates the aromatics, a mélange of black and blue fruit, later crushed violet making it almost Margaux-like in style. The palate is medium-bodied with a sweet core of fruit and crisp acidity. It is quite saline in the mouth and then tapers towards a cedar-tinged finish that expresses the Cabernet Sauvignon. Good potential and a fine second label"

89-90 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

Château Meyney 2017
St-Estèphe Cru Bourgeois



£227 per 12 IB
Drink to 2030
Arriving Spring 2020

90-92 Neal Martin
89-92 Antonio Galloni

92-93 James Suckling
86-88 Robert Parker

92 Decanter
87-90 Wine Spectator

"The 2017 Meyney has a clean and fresh bouquet with blackberry and raspberry fruit mingling with cedar and light cigar humidior aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent, ripe tannin and a fine bead of acidity. I find this surprisingly juicy in style that probably belies the structure underneath. This will be one of the more approachable Saint-Estèphe wines in this vintage, but one that I find well made. 2020 – 2035"

90-92 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

"Two thousand seventeen is a very fine vintage for Meyney. A powerful, resonant Saint-Estèphe, the 2017 is endowed with striking aromatics that give the wine a bit more freshness than has been the case in some recent vintages. Dark red-toned fruit, leather, smoke and grilled herb overtones add nuance throughout. This is one of the finer recent vintages I have tasted from Meyney. Winemaker Anne Le Naour did a terrific job with the 2017. The blend is 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 11% Petit Verdot, aged in 40% new barrels. Tasted three times."

89-92 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com May 2018

Château Les Ormes-de-Pez 2017
St Estèphe Cru Bourgeois



£235 per 12 IB
Drink to 2030
Arriving Spring 2020

91-93 Neal Martin
88-90 Antonio Galloni

92-93 James Suckling
89-91 Jeb Dunnuck

16 Jancis Robinson
92 Decanter

"Ormes has managed another good vintage after a run of them. This is a lovely wine and a buy for me. Succulent, bristling and charming, it has juicy brambled fruit extraction and tension. It doesn't take itself too seriously, just asking to be loved. The fruit spectrum is rich with blueberries and damsons, with integrity and a swirl of vanilla bean oak. Includes 6% Cabernet Franc in the blend. No need to wait too long for this. 45% new oak. Drinking Window 2022 – 2035"

92 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com, April 2018

"The 2017 Les Ormes de Pez was matured in 45% new oak with 13.42% alcohol. None of the vines were touched by frost. Cropped at round 50hl/ha, it has a clean, pure red cherry, blackcurrant and cedar-scented bouquet, more Pauillac in style than Saint-Estèphe. The palate is well balanced with ripe tannin that feel more malleable than previous vintages at this stage, a little saline in the mouth with a silky smooth finish. This will be delicious over the next couple of decades and I suspect it will be more approachable than the 2016. Don't ignore this. 2021 - 2036"

91-93 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com, May 2018

La Dame de Montrose 2017
St-Estèphe



£324 per 12 IB
Drink to 2030
Arriving Spring 2020

88-90 Neal Martin
89-91 Robert Parker

91-92 James Suckling
87-89 Antonio Galloni

90-92 Jeb Dunnuck
90 Decanter

“The 2017 La Dame de Montrose represents 40% of the total production this year. The Merlot, which constitutes nearly half the blend, occupies the driving seat on the nose with copious black cherry, raspberry and cedar scents that blossom in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with a ripe, almost confit-like entry. It feels harmonious with fine tannin, perhaps not the length of say the 2014 or 2016 La Dame de Montrose, a little more compact in style at the moment, loosening up and gaining more harmony by the time of my second visit in mid-April. It certainly has pleasing purity and it should drink well over the next decade. Drink 2019 - 2030.”

88-90 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

“A good year for Dame de Montrose, showing extremely well balanced plum and damson fruits, and a lovely texture. There was no frost here, as you would expect from a vineyard so close to the Garonne river. Harvest took place between 12-29 September. 4% Cabernet Franc makes up the blend given here. The cellar is now equipped with over 90 small-sized vats, and this is matured in 30% new oak. 40% of production. Drinking Window 2024 – 2038”

90 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com April 2018

Les Pagodes de Cos 2017
St-Estèphe



£360 per 12 IB
Drink to 2035
Arriving Spring 2020

90-92 Neal Martin
90-92 Robert Parker

92-93 James Suckling
89-91 Antonio Galloni

17 Jancis Robinson
90 Decanter

“The 2017 Les Pagodes de Cos, which is being matured in 30% new oak (half of the Grand Vin), has a very clean and pure bouquet with black cherries, boysenberry jam and Indian ink. There is certainly impressive intensity here considering this is the deuxième vin. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent ripe tannin. It is furnished with pretty blackberry and wild strawberry notes laced with white pepper and a subtle graphite seam. It has good sustain in the mouth with a “Pauillac” inspired finish in terms of discrete austerity and tannic backbone. I admire the focus here and even though there is not huge length this should age well. Tasted twice with consistent notes. 2020 – 2030.”

90-92 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

“This is enjoyable right off the bat, with its firm dark chocolate, liquorice and cassis character, joined by licks of gourmet patisserie swirling through - exactly what you expect from Pagodes de Cos, without losing its sense of restraint. I like the subdued power, and it seems more in the style of 2014 than 2015 or 2016. It's a touch austere but appealing, with a sumptuous touch that keeps it in the Cos stable. 60% of production went to the second wine this year, almost entirely from separate plots. Just 20% of the plots are interchangeable between grand vin and second wine, depending on the vintage character. Drinking Window 2024 – 2038.”

90 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com April 2018

Château Montrose 2017
St-Estèphe
2^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£591 per 6 IB
Drink to 2040+
Arriving Spring 2020

96-99 Robert Parker
94-96 Neal Martin

96-97 James Suckling
96 Decanter

92-95 Antonio Galloni
93-95+ Jeb Dunnuck

"The 2017 Montrose is a blend of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. Deep purple-black in color, the nose is a little closed at first, but with coaxing, it opens to reveal remarkable earth and exotic spice notes of crushed rocks, black truffles, star anise, cassia and fenugreek over a core of crème de cassis, blackberry preserves, violets and blueberry pie with touches of cigar box, charcuterie and black soil. Medium-bodied with a rock-solid frame and an exquisitely ripe, very fine-grained texture, it has wonderful freshness with electric energy and a very long, minerally finish. Possessing great poise and intensity, this is one of the greatest Montrose's I have tasted!"

96-99 Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com April 2018

"The 2017 Montrose is wonderfully polished and nuanced. Silky tannins and mid-weight structure confer finesse to a Montrose that possesses superb harmony from start to finish. All the elements fall into place effortlessly. In 2017, the Grand Vin (35% of the production) is 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. Because of the late season rains, Montrose has more Cabernet Sauvignon than is typically the case. The winemaking team opted for a large number of smaller-lot vinifications (82 instead of 50-ish, to be exact), in order to optimize picks according to ripeness. Although alcohol alone can never tell the whole story of a wine, at 13.5% alcohol, Montrose has a very attractive freshness to it. The Grand Vin represents about 37% of the chateau's production. The 2017 is all class."

92-95 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com May 2018

Pauillac

**Château Haut-Bages-Monpelou
 2017
 Pauillac Cru Bourgeois**



£204 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2025
 Arriving Spring 2020

**88-90 Robert Parker
 89-91 Neal Martin**

91-92 James Suckling

91 Decanter

“The 2017 Haut-Bages-Monpelou, which is vinified at Château Batailley, has a clean and fresh, mint-tinged bouquet that opens nicely in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with fine grain tannin, plenty of tightly wound black fruit laced with tobacco towards the saline finish. Enjoy this well made, lesser-known Pauillac over the next four or five years. Tasted twice with consistent notes.”
 89-91 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

“The Casteja family owns this 15ha estate on the gravelly plateau of Batailley, between châteaux Grand Puy Lacoste and Batailley. The vines were part of Duhart Milon until the 1860s, so was in fact classified in 1855 before being sold off separately and losing its classified status. The wine is vinified at Batailley. It takes its time to open, but has a lovely richness once it does, showing subtle but rich black fruit flavours with soft tobacco notes. It has strict tannins and is full of Pauillac character, a little more austere than Lynch Moussas but clearly one that is going to settle into itself. It's an excellent wine that's worth knowing about.”
 91 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com April 2018

**Château Lynch-Moussas 2017
 Pauillac 5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé**



£310 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2032
 Arriving Spring 2020

**89-91 Neal Martin
 87-89 Robert Parker**

**92-93 James Suckling
 87-89 Jeb Dunnock**

**16 Jancis Robinson
 91 Decanter**

“The 2017 Lynch-Moussas, cropped at 51hl/ha from 19 to 26 September, has quite a strong sea influence on the nose, touches of oyster shell and mudflats infusing the well defined black fruit. It is not as intense as the 2016 but it is nicely focused. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, a fine bead of acidity with just a touch of star anise and clove that infuse the red fruit towards the spicy finish. Fine. Tasted twice with consistent notes.”
 89-91 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com April 2018

“The 2017 Lynch Moussas, composed of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon and 22% Merlot, is medium to deep garnet-purple in color with a very pretty nose of red roses and chocolate box over a core of crushed blackcurrants, blackberries and wild blueberries with touches of garrigue and wood smoke. The palate is medium-bodied with a firm, grainy backbone and oodles of freshness, finishing with great length and a mineral character coming through.”
 89-91 Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com April 2018

Château Pédesclaux 2017
Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé



£354 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2036
 Arriving Spring 2020

90-92 Neal Martin
89-91 Robert Parker

93-94 James Suckling
88-90 Antonio Galloni

92-94 Jeb Dunnuck
93 Decanter

“The 2017 Pédesclaux contains 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Cabernet Franc, 25% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot, the first time that all four grapes are in the final blend. It was cropped at 47hl/ha and contains 13.25° alcohol. It has a very harmonious bouquet, quite mineral driven with pencil lead and crushed stone infusing the black fruit that is one of the most precise that I have encountered in recent years. The palate is medium-boiled with fine grain tannin, quite precise and poised, the 50% new oak is nicely integrated with a finish that is fleet of foot. Very fine. Tasted twice with consistent notes.”

90-92 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

“They have certainly continued to build up the feeling of serious weight and power at this property. It opens up carefully and consistently over ten minutes in the glass, with a clear focus on Cabernet flavours such as dark spice, blackcurrant berries and buds, liquorice and walls of slate. This wine is taking its place slowly but surely among the really good Pauillacs, and has managed to continue to make an impression in 2017.”

93 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com April 2018

Château d'Armailhac 2017
Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé



£388 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2038+
 Arriving Spring 2020

90-92 Neal Martin
90-92 Robert Parker

93-94 James Suckling
91-93 Jeb Dunnuck

16 Jancis Robinson
91 Decanter

“The 2017 d'Armailhac has an opulent bouquet despite this comprising one of the highest percentages of Cabernet Sauvignon ever, which Philippe Dhalluin attributes to the maturity of the berries. There is some lovely cassis and blueberry fruit here with a smear of vanilla. The palate is structured with fine tannin, here the Cabernets are much more expressive with a fine bead of acidity, an attractive pencil lead tincture coming through towards the finish. This is a more floral d'Armailhac that will drink well for the next decades. [Readers should note that my sample included 60% new oak although the final blend will be 40%.] Tasted three times with consistent notes. Drink 90-92.”

90-92 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

“The 2017 Château d'Armailhac is an undeniable success in the vintage. Based on a rough blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot that will see 35% new French oak, this medium to full-bodied, textured, shockingly opulent 2017 offers of terrific notes of black cherries, blackberries, spice box, and earth. With its impressive depth and density, it should drink nicely in its youth yet also cruise in the cellar.”

91-93 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

Château Batailley 2017
Pauillac 5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£393 per 12 IB
Drink to 2032
Arriving Spring 2020

90-92 Neal Martin
91-93 Robert Parker

92-93 James Suckling
88-91 Jeb Dunnuck

16+ Jancis Robinson
93 Decanter

“This is good, showing less dominant oak than in some recent years and with a good level of fruit and extraction. It's a good year for appellation typicity up in this part of the Medoc, and this displays firm Pauillac tannins, well held together, with savoury and juicy fruit. I get the impression that this will close down, because those tannins are pretty serious, and with good levels of freshness this will age very well. They are doing great work at this estate at the moment. 52hl/ha yield. 60% new oak. Drinking Window 2025 – 2038”
93 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com, April 2018

“Pauillac is one of the highlights in the Médoc in 2017, and the 2017 Château Batailley has outstanding potential. Deep purple-colored with a smoky, graphite, back fruit-driven bouquet, it's broad, chunky and chewy on the palate. It lacks some elegance at the moment, but it's an undeniably pleasure-bent effort.”
88-91 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

Château Haut-Batailley 2017
Pauillac 5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£260 per 6 IB
Drink to 2035
Arriving Spring 2020

94-95 James Suckling
Jean-Marc's Pick!

92-94 Jeb Dunnuck

92 Decanter

“This is very structured and serious. Full-bodied, tannic and powerful. Boom. This is one of the best Haut-Batailleys in years. From the new owners, who also own Lynch-Bages.”
94-95 Pts James Suckling, James Suckling.com April 2018

“A true gem in the vintage, and from an estate on the uptick, the 2017 Château Haut Batailley checks in as 66% Cabernet Sauvignon and 34% Merlot that was brought up in 60% new French oak. It's a big, medium to full-bodied, yet perfectly balanced 2017 that has loads of dark berry fruits, violets, leafy herbs and damp rock-like aromas and flavors. It has a touch of oak to integrate, building tannin, and a great finish, all pointing to a rockstar 2017 that will need short-term cellaring and keep for two decades. Bravo!”
92-94 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste
2017
Pauillac 5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£324 per 6 IB
Drink to 2042
Arriving Spring 2020

91-93 Neal Martin
90-93 Antonio Galloni

92-93 James Suckling
18.5+ Matthew Jukes

17 Jancis Robinson
94 Decanter

“The 2017 Grand Puy Lacoste was picked from 15 to 29 September cropped at 45hl/ha, matured in 75% new oak. It has a clean, precise and conservative bouquet that takes time to open. I like the mineral tension here, the focus, and hints of freshly shucked oyster shell emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with fine grain tannin, fresh in the mouth with plenty of cedar and tobacco-infused red and black fruit that drive a long, slightly peppery finish. It is a quintessential Grand Puy Lacoste, sans the frills of the 2016 and yet you can already imagine this being drunk to the very last drop in about ten years time. It is simply a very likeable Grand Puy Lacoste in the making. Tasted twice with consistent notes. Drink 2022 - 2042.”
91-93 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

“These guys often over-deliver in challenging years, and have done so yet again. As you would expect in a vintage that has produced such an excellent Lacoste Borie, this GPL is exceptional, a real success that's juicy and carefully extracted. It has weight and impact, with a Pauillac tannic hold and presence. It's one of my wines of the vintage, and a must buy. The balanced, sculpted, juicy black fruits fully deliver personality and signature style. Harvested 15-29 September, yielding 45hl/ha. 80% new oak. Drinking Window 2025 – 2038.”
94 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com April 2018

Château Lynch-Bages 2017
Pauillac 5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£442 per 6 IB
Drink to 2045
Arriving Spring 2020

91-93 Neal Martin
92-95 Antonio Galloni

95-96 James Suckling
92-94 Jeb Dunnuck

17 Jancis Robinson
95 Decanter

“The 2017 Lynch-Bages is a wine of impeccable balance and class. Deep, fleshy and inviting, the 2017 should be ready to deliver pleasure with minimal cellaring. All of the Lynch-Bages signatures come through in a very pretty, deceptively medium-bodied wine loaded with personality. Lynch-Bages is never a huge wine, but like most of his colleagues, proprietor Jean-Michel Cazes opted for especially delicate extractions.”
92-95 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com May 2018

“The 2017 Lynch Bages was picked from 18 September with the young Merlot vines and finishing on 30 September. It was cropped at around 50hl/ha. It is aged in 75% new oak for 18 months. It offers good intensity on the nose, not as precise or as mineral-driven as the 2016 last year, with cedar and pencil shaving infusing the black fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, very refined, a touch of white pepper and cedar with impressive depth on the finish. This will be an approachable Lynch Bages, probably pre-destined to be overshadowed by the magnificent (if nascent) 2016 but it will certainly give 20 to 25 years of drinking pleasure. Tasted four times with consistent notes. 2022 – 2042”
91-93 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

Château Pichon-Lalande 2017
Pauillac 2^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£558 per 6 IB
Drink to 2040
Arriving Spring 2020

93-95 Neal Martin
92-95 Antonio Galloni

95-96 James Suckling
93-95 Jeb Dunnuck

17 Jancis Robinson
94 Decanter

“The 2017 Pichon-Longueville Comtesse de Lalande is gorgeous, but it is also going to need time to come together. The sensuality and allure typical of so many Pauillacs is not at all evident here. A rush of dark cherry, plum, smoke, charcoal and exotic spice make a strong opening statement in a powerful Pichon Comtesse that is not ready to show all of its cards. The 2017 was incredibly reticent in several tastings, which is probably a very good thing for its long-term potential. Today, though, the 2017 is dense, powerful and closed in on itself, without the layers that define the 2014, 2015 and 2016.”
92-95 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com April 2018

“If you just taste the big name Pauillacs, you would be hard-pressed to understand that 2017 has been a challenging year. This is one of my wines of the vintage, no question. It's from 21ha, biodynamically farmed, with Vincent Masson as consultant. Just a few plots further away from the river were affected by frost. The slight austerity of 2017 is evident, with a savoury quality to the fruit, but this is exceptionally good, with plenty of stunning fruit and well defined tannins. The aromatics are very refined, and the intense cassis fruit doesn't sacrifice any intensity or power. It demonstrates the energy that Comtesse has displayed so consistently in recent vintages, with gorgeous finesse and structure to the tannins. The new cellar has raised the level of Cabernet from 65% to 70+%, with 12% press wine. This is going to age extremely well. Drinking Window 2026 – 2040”
94 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com April 2018

**Château Mouton-Rothschild
2017
Pauillac 1^{er} Grand Cru Classé**



£2160 per 6 IB
Drink to 2040+
Arriving Spring 2020

**97-99 Robert Parker
94-96 Neal Martin**

**97-98 James Suckling
92-95 Antonio Galloni**

**95-97 Jeb Dunnuck
97 Wine Enthusiast**

"The 2017 Mouton Rothschild has one of the highest percentages of Cabernet Sauvignon ever at 90%, with 9% Merlot and 1% Petit Verdot. Very deep purple-black in color, the nose is already singing of crushed black currants, warm blackberries and chocolate-covered cherries with hints of violets, star anise, cinnamon stick and cloves plus wafts of pencil lead and unsmoked cigars. Medium-bodied, wonderfully delicate yet intense in the mouth (gaining some richness in the mid-palate on my second taste two and a half weeks later), it has super fine-grained, smooth tannins and incredible freshness, finishing very long with tons of tightly wound layers. Wow. This vintage is going to be very long-lived in the cellar!"

97-99 Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com April 2018

"Vibrancy is one of the key themes of the year in the most successful properties, and this has bright, plump fruit and good depth of colour, even if it's less concentrated than the past few vintages. The Pauillac first growths have done a great job in 2017, and it's hard to question the depth of fruit and richness here - there's no doubting that this is a great Mouton. Cassis and blackberry notes are delivered with precision, but there is a clear restraint that is another signature of 2017, and perhaps doesn't reflect Mouton's personality as much as some of its neighbours. There's not the same weight of tannins as 2016 (around 70 IPT this year, still a high amount), but it's a beautiful, persistent, gorgeous wine that will age gracefully. 100% new oak. (Image is the 2015 bottle; the design for the 2017 label will be revealed later). Drinking Window 2027 – 2042"

96 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com April 2018

St-Julien

Château Lalande Borie 2017
St-Julien



£222 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2030
 Arriving Spring 2020

89-91 Neal Martin
88-90 Robert Parker

91-92 James Suckling
90-92 Antonio Galloni

16 Jancis Robinson
91-93 Wine Enthusiast

“The 2017 Lalande-Borie, which was created by Jean-Eugène Borie in 1970, is matured in 30% new oak for 12 months. It has a well-defined bouquet with slightly broody dark fruit that need some encouragement from the glass. Here there is a majority of red rather than black fruit, complemented by bay leaf and a touch of truffle. The palate is medium-bodied with fine grain tannin, crisp acidity, very focused with tangible mineralité that surfaces on the final third of the wine. Good potential. I like the sapid nature of this wine and it should drink well over the next decade.”
 89-91 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

“From the terrific team at Ducru-Beaucaillou, the 2017 Château Lalande-Borie checks in as a blend of 66% Merlot and 34% Cabernet Sauvignon brought up in 30% new oak. It’s a downright pretty, elegant Saint-Julien that has a silky, soft, pure character to go with a floral, spice-laden bouquet. It’s not a powerhouse, with medium body and moderate concentration, yet it’s impeccably balanced and will keep for a over a decade.”
 87-89 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

Château Gloria 2017
St-Julien Cru Bourgeois



£315 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2040
 Arriving Spring 2020

89-92 Neal Martin
91-94 Antonio Galloni

90-91 James Suckling
89-91 Robert Parker

16.5 Jancis Robinson
92 Decanter

“The 2017 Gloria is superb. At once deep and fleshy, but also beautifully delineated, the 2017 is incredibly satisfying. Succulent red and blue fruit, cedar, tobacco, anise and leather are some of the many notes that develop in the glass in an explosive, potent Saint-Julien that delivers the goods, and then some. Best of all, Gloria remains one of the most compelling values in all of Bordeaux. Don’t miss it. Tasted three times.”
 91-94 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com May 2018

“The 2017 Gloria is deep garnet-purple in color and scented of warm plums and blueberry pie with hints of potpourri, tilled soil and espresso. The palate is medium-bodied with just enough expressive fruit and a fine, approachable frame. The blend is currently 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 8% Petit Verdot.”
 89-91 Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com April 2018

Château Branaire-Ducru 2017
St-Julien 4^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£410 per 12 IB
Drink to 2030
Arriving Spring 2020

91-93 Neal Martin
88-90 Robert Parker

92-93 James Suckling
90-92 Jeb Dunnuck

15.5 Jancis Robinson
90-93 Wine Spectator

"The 2017 Branaire Ducru was picked 13 September until 4 October over a three-week period, cropped at 39.6hl/ha. The alcohol here is 13.2°. The wine is aged in 60% new oak, which is how the sample was made. It has a harmonious bouquet with brambly black fruit, melted tar and tobacco scents, not powerful but precise. The palate is medium-bodied with a smooth texture, fine tannin, just a subtle savory note developing and merging nicely with the black fruit, hints of white pepper and cedar towards the poised finish that is quintessential Saint-Julien. There is an essence of drinkability about this Branaire-Ducru and I can imagine this being approachable after three to four years. This is a very fine Branaire-Ducru."

91-93 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com April 2018

"The deep garnet-purple colored 2017 Branaire-Ducru gives up notes of baked black berries, red cherries and mulberries with touches of potpourri and smoked meats. Medium-bodied with a lively line lifting the good concentration of red and black fruits, it has a chewy frame and grippy finish."

88-90 Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com, April 2018

Clos du Marquis 2017
St-Julien



£219 per 6 IB
Drink to 2035+
Arriving Spring 2020

90-92 Neal Martin
90-93 Antonio Galloni

93-94 James Suckling
91-94 Jeb Dunnuck

17 Jancis Robinson
90 Decanter

"The 2017 Clos du Marquis is fresh, lifted and wonderfully energetic, and yet also has quite a bit of textural depth. The flavors really sizzle in this highly expressive Saint-Julien from Hubert Delon. There is a sense of energy and tension to the 2017 that is impossible to miss. Much of that is attributable to the Cabernet Sauvignon that is the core of the wine this year. Floral notes reappear on the finish, adding lift to the creamy, layered finish. I can't wait to taste it from bottle."

90-93 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com May 2018

"Made from 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, and a splash of Cabernet Franc, the 2017 Clos du Marquis is another beauty from the team at Leoville Las Cases. Offering a deep, concentrated, yet rounded style, as well as terrific ripe fruits, forest floor, and tobacco aromatics, it has a great mid-palate and building tannin, all while staying in the more forward, charming style of the vintage. Give it a few years and enjoy over the following two decades."

91-94 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

Château Talbot 2017
St-Julien 4^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£228 per 6 IB
Drink to 2035+
Arriving Spring 2020

90-92 Neal Martin
88-91 Antonio Galloni

92-93 James Suckling
17.5 Matthew Jukes

18 Jancis Robinson
89 Decanter

"The 2017 Talbot was picked from 18 to 4 October using manual and optical sorting, matured in 50% new oak. It has a relatively light but well-defined, floral bouquet, pressed flower filtering through that blackberry and boysenberry scents, a little clove and bay leaf lending complexity as it opens in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with fine but firm tannin that frame the slightly savory black fruit, just a little earthiness developing towards the finish. It is a classic Talbot really, exactly what you would expect for the vintage. Drink 2020-2036."

90-92 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

"The powerful, singular, graphite theme here is very enjoyable and the fruit is plush and focussed and it looks well-made and also smooth and long. With a polished feel throughout this is a proud Talbot and it is going to open up very slowly to reveal a rather ravishing creature. The tannins and acidity are both judged nicely and this will provide both early drinking as well as mid-term pleasure."

17.5 Pts Matthew Jukes, MatthewJukes.com April 2018

Château St. Pierre 2017
St-Julien 4^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£234 per 6 IB
Drink to 2045
Arriving Spring 2020

92-94 Neal Martin
92-95 Antonio Galloni

92-93 James Suckling
91-94 Robert Parker

16 Jancis Robinson
94 Decanter

“One of the real gems of the vintage, the 2017 Saint-Pierre is powerful, deep and quite concentrated. Despite its obvious richness, the 2017 has more than enough supporting structure to back it up. Gravel, smoke, tobacco, leather, licorice and spice lead into the potent finish in a muscular, tannic Saint-Julien built for the cellar. This is an outrageously beautiful wine. Tasted three times.”

92-95 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com May 2018

“They have done a great job this year of not dipping far below the quality of the last few vintages. The only indications really are in the texture and the more savoury-edged register of the fruit. The tannins are a touch more pulled in on the finish, closing things off just slightly too early. Overall this is a clear success, with punch, personality, juice, fine tannic hold, and notes of bilberry fruits, charcoal and cedar smoke. Very good quality. Drinking Window 2026 – 2040”

94 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com April 2018

Château Léoville-Barton 2017
St-Julien 2^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£327 per 6 IB
Drink to 2040
Arriving Spring 2020

93-95 Neal Martin
91-93+ Robert Parker

94-95 James Suckling
95 Decanter

93-96 Antonio Galloni
94-96 Jeb Dunnuck

“The 2017 Léoville Barton has a high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon this year at 93%, the remainder is Merlot. It was picked between 15 and 18 September for the Merlot and 22 to 29 September for the Cabernet Sauvignon, then aged in 60% new oak. It has a perfumed and pure bouquet that demonstrates a little more cohesion and refinement than some of its Saint-Julien peers. Blackberry and touches of bilberry fruit, cedar and crushed stone – this is a knockout nose with bags of potential. The palate is medium-bodied with filigree tannin, perfectly pitched acidity and beautifully integrated oak. Seriously, this is nudging (not equaling, nudging!) the 2016 in terms of quality and there are just a handful of properties where I can state that this year. 2022 – 2045.”

93-95 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

“One of the few truly exceptional Left Bank wines of the vintage, the 2017 Léoville-Barton is simply fabulous. The 2017 also has the distinction of having a very high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon. Inky crème de cassis, white flowers, lavender, crushed rocks, menthol and spice give the 2017 a distinctly layered, resonant feel. The 2017 offers fabulous density and structure, although the tannins need time. The blend is 93% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Merlot. The September rains were especially challenging for the Merlot and Cabernet Franc. As a result, Cabernet is pushed up in the blend, while there is no Franc at all. Tasted two times”

93-96 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com May 2018

Château Léoville-Poyferré 2017
St-Julien 2^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£333 per 6 IB
Drink to 2038
Arriving Spring 2020

95-96 James Suckling
92-95 Antonio Galloni

91-93 Neal Martin
95 Decanter

93-95 Robert Parker
93-95 Jeb Dunnuck

"Very tight and energetic finish to this young, new red with currant and blackberry character. Hints of crushed stones. Dense and four-square with a chewy tannin structure and a long finish. Very muscular. Serious encore to the 2016. Same level?"

95-96 Pts James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com April 2018

"The 2017 Léoville Poyferré was cropped at around 50hl/ha between 20 September and 6 October at 44hl/ha. It has a gorgeous bouquet that is very pure with scents of black cherry, cassis, cedar and a touch of graphite, all very focused and neatly entwined with the 85% new oak. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannin, crisp and focused, very harmonious with a touch of cedar and black pepper towards the finish. I appreciate the combination of weight and finesse here, a really quite enthralling valedictory Léoville Poyferré who is due to retire this coming July. Bon vin. 2021 - 2040"

91-93 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

Château Ducru-Beaucaillou 2017
St-Julien 2^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£744 per 6 IB
Drink to 2040+
Arriving Spring 2020

97-98 James Suckling
95-97+ Robert Parker

93-95 Neal Martin
96 Decanter

93-96 Antonio Galloni
94-96 Jeb Dunnuck

"Holy.... This is so powerful and dense with amazing depth of fruit and beautifully ripe tannins. Full body, layers of fruit and tannins. It's has a long finish but then kicks off at the end. Remains classic in style."

97-98 Pts James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com April 2018

"The 2017 Ducru Beaucaillou was picked from 18 to 23 September for the Merlot, and from 25 to 30 September for the Cabernets. It is matured in 100% new oak over 18 months. It offers copious black fruit, violets, bay leaf and Asian spice notes on the nose that gathers momentum in the glass after a deceptively understated opening. The palate is medium-bodied with quite firm tannin, the oak nicely integrated, not quite as harmonious as the 2016 but then again, few 2017s are. There is a rigid structure to this Ducru Beaucaillou underneath the carapace of ripe black fruit with touches of tobacco and spice lingering on the aftertaste. It is probably going to require more cellar age than many of its peers but it will be worth the wait. Drink 2024 - 2045."

93-95 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

Margaux

Château Labégorce 2017
Margaux Cru Bourgeois



£220 per 12 IB
£225 per 6 magnums IB
 Drink to 2030
 Arriving Spring 2020

89-91 Robert Parker
90-93 Wine Spectator

92-93 James Suckling
91-93 Jeb Dunnuck

92 Decanter
92 Jeff Leve

“Beginning with the 2009 vintage, Labégorce Zédé was folded into Labégorce, both of which are owned by the Perrodo family (as is the recently acquired Marquis d'Alesme). Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2017 Labégorce gives pronounced black fruits, blackberries and black plums with suggestions of underbrush, lavender and bay leaves. The palate is medium-bodied, ripe, plump, juicy and expressive with plush tannins and good length. The current blend is 46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 6% Petit Verdot.”
 89-91 Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com, April 2018

“The 2017 Château Labégorce checks in as 46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot (which is slightly more than normal), 8% Cabernet Franc and the rest Petit Verdot, aging in 45% new French oak. Its vibrant purple color is followed by a beautiful bouquet of crème de cassis, crushed flowers, classy oak, and graphite. With medium to full-bodied richness, an awesome texture, and ripe tannin, it's up with the top wines from the appellation. Tasted twice. This is an estate readers need to have on their radar.”
 91-93 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, April 2018

Château Siran 2017
Margaux Cru Bourgeois



£228 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2038
 Arriving Spring 2020

90-91 Neal Martin
89-92 Antonio Galloni

92-93 James Suckling
88-90 Robert Parker

90-93 Jeb Dunnuck
92 Decanter

“The 2017 Siran is dark, powerful and super-expressive. Black cherry, chocolate, leather, licorice and smoke infuse a powerful, luscious Margaux long on class and character. There is good depth and persistence, along with enough stuffing to support many years of fine drinking. There is no shortage of personality or character. That much is obvious. Tasted three times.”
 88-92 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com May 2018

“This is rather lovely, with excellent aromatics and fine tannins with a feeling of flex and precision. There is no question that the fruit has form and density, with focussed cassis and tobacco notes and some slate. This also lasts well on the palate. The fruit is at the fresher end of the scale, as is true across most wines in 2017, but it's clearly successful. Hubert de Bouard is consultant at this estate, owned by Edouard Mialhe with winemaker Marjolaine DeFrance. There was no frost here, and the season was two weeks ahead of normal. Harvested 19 September to 5 October.”
 92 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com April 2018

Château Marquis d'Alesme 2017
Margaux 3^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£165 per 6 IB
Drink to 2040
Arriving Spring 2020

92-94 Neal Martin
92-94 Robert Parker

91-92 James Suckling
93-95 Jeb Dunnuck

16.5 Jancis Robinson
92 Decanter

"The 2017 Marquis d'Alesme Becker was picked from 25 September to 6 October and matured in 65% new oak. It has a very pure bouquet with black cherries, blueberry and violet aromas that are detailed and pure. This is quite a sophisticated Margaux and it manifests more and more complexity with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with supple black fruit laced with spice and white pepper. This feels very cohesive with impressive weight in the mouth, good grip with a dense, almost sinewy finish that is determined to make an impression. This is a very fine Margaux that deserves four or five years in bottle."

92-94 Pts Neal Martin, RobertParker.com April 2018

"Brought into the US exclusively by Jeffrey Davies, the 2017 Château Marquis d'Alesme Becker might just be the finest wine from this estate to date. Made from 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot and the rest Petit Verdot, aged in 65% new French oak, its deep purple color is followed by a gorgeous perfume of crème de cassis, black cherries, crushed violets, and cedary spice. Possessing terrific purity of fruit, medium to full body, building tannin, and a great finish, this balanced, impeccably made 2017 will need 2-4 years of cellaring and keep for two decades or more. It's a gem in the vintage and readers owe it to themselves to check out this estate, which has an undeniably gorgeous terroir."

93-95 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, April 2018

Château Malescot-St-Exupéry
2017
Margaux 3^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£215 per 6 IB
Drink to 2035+
Arriving Spring 2020

95-96 James Suckling

91-93 Robert Parker

91-93 Neal Martin

"A fantastic 2017 from Margaux with a deep and ripe core of fruit in the center palate. Silky and juicy tannins. Full body, plenty of fruit and a long, flavorful finish."

95-96 Pts James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com April 2018

"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2017 Malescot St. Exupery is scented of crushed red and black cherries, warm plums and mulberries with touches of roses and wood smoke. The palate is medium-bodied with plenty of vibrant red and black fruits and soft, plush tannins, with a long, perfumed finish."

91-93 Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com April 2018

Château Giscours 2017
Margaux 3^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£255 per 6 IB
Drink to 2040
Arriving Spring 2020

90-92 Neal Martin
90-93+ Antonio Galloni

92-93 James Suckling
90-92 Robert Parker

16.5+ Jancis Robinson
93 Decanter

"The 2017 Giscours is a terrific, and also a worthy follow up to both the 2015 and 2016. Rich and pliant in the glass, the 2017 exudes notable depth in its super-ripe dark cherry, plum, chocolate, leather and menthol flavors. Above all else, the 2017 offers a striking combination of juiciness, freshness and brightness, with terrific depth and plenty of nuance. The 2017 finishes with notable creaminess and textural elegance. This is very nicely done."

90-93+ Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com April 2018

"The 2017 Giscours, picked 15 September to 5 October, is matured in 50% new oak with around 5 or 6% of vin de presse. It has a perfumed bouquet with black fruit, a touch of oyster shell and iris, very pure and quite sensual in style. It does not make an immediate impact but rather grows on you. The palate is medium-bodied, the mouthfeel supple, smooth and harmonious with fine-grain tannin, perhaps just missing a little structure towards the conservative, straight-laced finish. That suggests it will be an approachable Giscours compared to the 2015 and 2016, but one with breeding and class. Tasted on three occasions. Drink 2021 - 2040."

90-92 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

**Alter Ego de
Château Palmer 2017
Margaux**



£295 per 6 IB
Drink to 2038
Arriving Spring 2020

92-93 James Suckling

91 Decanter

89-92 Wine Spectator

"This shows excellent body and depth of fruit. Rich and very deep. Layered and flavorful. Solid and chewy. Serious second wine."

92-93 Pts James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2018

"The blends for the grand vin and second wine are similar this year. This is carefully presented, accomplished and precise, with fresh mint and peony notes on the nose followed by bright and vibrant black fruit flavours. It's extremely pretty, with some lovely floral notes. The yield was 38hl/ha as they lost a few plots to frost over to the west of the appellation. 13.5% press wine. 45% of overall production, representing 9,000 cases. IPT 66."

91 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com, April 2018

**Château Rauzan-Ségla 2017
Margaux
2ème Grand Cru Classé**



£324 per 6 IB
Drink to 2038
Arriving Spring 2020

**94-96 Robert Parker
92-94 Neal Martin**

**94-95 James Suckling
90-93 Antonio Galloni**

**16.5 Jancis Robinson
91-94 Jeb Dunnuck**

"Composed of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot and sporting a deep garnet-purple color, the 2017 Rauzan-Ségla (Rausan-Ségla) has a profound nose of cassis, warm blackberries and black plums with touches of baking spices, violets, mocha and smoke plus a waft of garrigue. Medium to full-bodied with a great core of sustained, energetic black fruit, a frame of fine-grained tannins and a lively backbone, it finishes with great length."

94-96 Pts Lisa Perotti-Brown, RobertParker.com April 2018

"The 2017 Rauzan-Ségla is a fleshy, seductive wine. Soft contours and ripe silky tannins add to the wine's immediacy and sheer appeal. The viticultural and winemaking team has succeeded in adding finesse and detail to the Grand Vin without altering its classic sense of structure and proportion. A vertical explosion of fruit laced with expressive floral notes build into the finish in a classy, understated Margaux that hits all the right notes. Hints of tobacco, crushed flowers, leather, licorice and dried cherry add the closing shades of nuance. What a gorgeous wine this is. Tasted three times."

90-93 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com April 2018

**Pavillon Rouge du
Château Margaux 2017
Margaux**



£810 per 6 IB
Drink to 2030+
Arriving Spring 2020

**94-95 James Suckling
92 Decanter**

**88-90 Neal Martin
91-93 Robert Parker**

**89-92 Antonio Galloni
92-94 Jeb Dunnuck**

"There is very pretty purity of fruit to this with lots of currant, strawberry and plum character. Lots of chocolate and hazelnut too. Full body, velvety tannins and a chewy finish. Excellent for the vintage. About half the normal production. This is the same level of quality as 2016."

94-95 Pts James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com April 2018

"The 2017 Pavillon Rouge de Margaux, which is matured in 50% new oak, has a lovely, melted tar-tinged bouquet with plenty of black fruit. I like the definition and focus here. The palate is medium-bodied with slightly gritty, rigid tannin on the entry that lend this Pavillon Rouge quite a firm backbone. It does not convey the elegance of the 2016 but there is plenty of spice and vigour on the finish. 2021 - 2032"

88-90 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

Château Margaux 2017
Margaux 1^{er} Grand Cru Classé



£2160 per 6 IB
Drink to 2040+
Arriving Spring 2020

93-95 Neal Martin
96-98 Robert Parker

97-98 James Suckling
96 Decanter

94-97 Antonio Galloni
95-97 Jeb Dunnuck

“This is a very dense Margaux, and especially for the vintage, with a full body, grainy tannins and a long and rich finish. Impressive depth of fruit and structure. Luscious and muscular at the same time.”
97-98 Pts James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com April 2018

“The 2017 Margaux, matured in 100% new oak, was blended in the second half of February. It has a very pure, floral bouquet with scents of iris and violet infusing the black and subtle blue fruit. There are touches of crushed stone and with aeration, a little candied orange peel. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent ripe tannin, very harmonious in the mouth, caressing and sensual with black fruit, hints of graphite and a light marine influence. There is a fine build to this Château Margaux, commencing almost understated but finishing with an insistent grip and a long, quite spicy aftertaste. It's not the bewitching 2015 however, it purrs like a Rolls Royce and will age with panache. 2023 - 2045”
93-95 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com April 2018

Graves & Pessac-Léognan Reds

Clos Floridène 2017
Graves



£130 per 12 IB
Drink to 2028
Arriving Spring 2020

88-90 Neal Martin
87-89 Robert Parker

89-92 Wine Spectator

87 Decanter

“The 2017 Clos Floridène Rouge has a well defined bouquet with blackberry, raspberry, singed leather and light cedar aromas that gain intensity in the glass whilst remaining classic in style. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, plenty of pencil lead infused black fruit with just the right amount of dryness on the finish to beckon another sip. Very fine.”

88-90 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com April 2018

“Jean-Jacques Dubourdieu has done a good job with this wine. There's a little more extraction than some - a sign of confidence in his clay-red sand and gravel soils in the commune of Pujols-sur-Ciron, on the approach to Barsac. Aged in 33% new oak, this has a lift and sense of minerality through the palate, with fairly juicy blackberry markers. The acidity finishes just a little high, as I am finding in a lot of the red Graves this year, but it's a good wine with attractive weight. Medium-term.”

87 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com April 2018

Château La Garde 2017
Pessac-Léognan
Grand Cru Classé



£165 per 12 IB
Drink to 2027+
Arriving Spring 2020

86-88 Neal Martin
86-88 Antonio Galloni

90-91 James Suckling
90 Decanter

16 Jancis Robinson
90-93 Wine Spectator

“The 2017 La Garde has a well-defined bouquet with tobacco-tinged black fruit, and just a hint of black olive. The palate is medium-bodied with fine grain tannin, quite foursquare in style with a fresh, slightly saline finish. Not bad at all, although given the choice, I would plump for its white counterpart.”

86-88 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

“This makes clever use of smoked oak to glide over that mid-palate fruit dip. It is also in the signature of the estate, delivering an extremely consistent feel. The careful fruit selection is clear, with damson and mulberry notes that are smartly extracted - the winemaker's hand is evident, but it's a skilful one. A great drinking wine.”

90 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com, April 2018

Château Malartic-Lagravière
2017
Pessac-Léognan
Grand Cru Classé



£199 per 6 IB
Drink to 2040
Arriving Spring 2020

90-92 Neal Martin
89-91 Robert Parker

92-93 James Suckling
89-91 Jeb Dunnock

16.5 Jancis Robinson
93 Decanter

“The 2017 Malartic Lagravière Rouge has a precise and focused bouquet with blackberry, briary and mineral scents that gain intensity with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with firm, grippy tannin. This is a more masculine and structured Malartic-Lagravière that might lack the sophistication of recent vintages but delivers fine depth towards the finish. Hopefully the élevage will soften up the edges to make this more approachable by the time it is bottled. 2021 – 2040”

90-92 Pts Neal Martin, RobertParker.com April 2018

“A carefully extracted, well constructed palate delivers a sense of finesse and freshness. The fruit is not particularly expressive on the attack - you need to sit down with this for a while and wait, allow those retracting tannins to soften and unwind. Eventually, a gorgeously pure expression of cassis comes curling through, with liquorice and woodsmoke notes rounding things off. Needs time. Drinking Window 2025 - 2038”

93 Pts Jane Anson Decanter.com April 2018

Domaine de Chevalier 2017
Pessac-Léognan
Grand Cru Classé



£260 per 6 IB
Drink to 2045
Arriving Spring 2020

93-95+ Robert Parker
92-94 Neal Martin

93-94 James Suckling
94-97 Jeb Dunnuck

17+ Jancis Robinson

“Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2017 Domaine de Chevalier opens with a cedary waft giving way to a good core of crushed black currants, blackberries and mulberries with suggestions of black truffles, tilled soil and black olives plus a hint of smoked meats. Medium-bodied with a good, solid frame of ripe, fine-grained tannins and oodles of freshness, it is elegantly fruited yet well sustained on the mid-palate and long finish”
93-95+ Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com April 2018

“The 2017 Domaine de Chevalier Rouge was cropped at 34hl/ha between 11 and 29 September and is matured in 35% new oak for 18 months. It has a vivacious bouquet with quite generous black fruit, raspberry, brine and black olive that is well-defined and focused, if not possessing the complexity of the previous two vintages. The palate is medium-bodied with fine, slightly edgy tannin – layers of black fruit interlaced with melted tar and graphite, closing in a little towards the finish with a gentle grip. I appreciate the deft manner in which this fans out and leaves a mineral residue on the finish. A Domaine de Chevalier of refinement rather than power, one with “buvabilité” or “drinkability”. Drink 2021 - 2045.”
92-94 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

Château Pape-Clément 2017
Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru
Classé



£380 per 6 IB
Drink to 2040
Arriving Spring 2020

92-94 Neal Martin
92-94 Robert Parker

95-96 James Suckling
94-96 Jeb Dunnuck

16.5 Jancis Robinson
94-97 Antonio Galloni

“The 2017 Pape Clément was not touched by the frost and was picked from 15 September to 3 October, manually de-stemmed berry by berry with some of the ripe stems added back into the blend (like Les Carmes Haut-Brion down the road). Malolactic is done in barrel where it aged for 18 months. It offers intense black cherry, raspberry, fig and sous-bois scents on the nose, tightly coiled at the moment with just a hint of cedar and tobacco. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe tannin, a mixture of red and black fruit, touches of cedar and white pepper, leading to a structured and fresh finish that leaves a spicy aftertaste. Classic in style, this Pape Clément will benefit from several years in bottle. 2022 – 2045”
92-94 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

“The 2017 Pape Clément is fabulous. One of the rare 2017s with a real sense of structure, Pape Clément possesses dazzling intensity from start to finish. A rush of dark cherry, plum, chocolate and grilled herb notes hits the palate as this majestic, towering wine shows off its personality. Time in the glass brings out a brighter and more floral set of flavors. The 2017 is the first vintage made with a portion of whole clusters, an inspiration Bernard Magrez takes from Châteauneuf-du-Pape, where he recently bought a small property. Quite simply, the 2017 Pape Clément is a magnificent wine by any measure. Don't miss it. The only problem with the 2017 is that yields are down 40% because of frost.”
94-97 Pts Antonio Galloni Vinous.com May 2018

Château Haut-Bailly 2017
Pessac-Léognan
Grand Cru Classé



£444 per 6 IB
Drink to 2035+
Arriving Spring 2020

92-94 Neal Martin
93-96 Antonio Galloni

94-95 James Suckling
94-96 Robert Parker

95 Decanter
92-95 Jeb Dunnuck

“The 2017 Haut-Bailly is an understated beauty. Nothing in particular stands out rather it is the wine's balance that impresses most. All the classic Haut-Bailly signatures come through in a mid-weight, super-finesse wine that hits all the right notes. Dark red and blue stone fruits, graphite, smoke, licorice and incense are all laced into the super-expressive finish. The 2017 emerges from the estate's central, most historic parcels, as those vineyards were not affected by the April frost that took with it 30% of the production.”
93-96 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com May 2018

“The 2017 Haut-Bailly was cropped at 28hl/ha (40hl/ha on non-frozen parcels and 2hl/ha on frosted parcels) and includes co-fermented Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. It is unlikely to contain any vin de presse this year, unlike in 2016, and it is matured in 50% new oak. There is a pH of 3.74 with 13.2° alcohol. It has an attractive and quite opulent bouquet, a mixture of red and black fruit, hints of crushed stone and briary, a light oyster shell influence. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin but there is good backbone here, quite “solid” for Haut-Bailly and it will need to just soften the edges during its élevage. With moderate length and a very attractive graphite aftertaste, this Haut-Bailly will require five or six years in bottle but will repay the patient wine-lover. Drink 2021 - 2040.”
92-94 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

Château La Mission Haut-Brion
2017
Pessac-Léognan
Grand Cru Classé



£1380 per 6 IB
Drink to 2038
Arriving Spring 2020

93-95 Neal Martin
92-95 Antonio Galloni

96 Decanter
95-97 Robert Parker

95-96 James Suckling
93-95 Jeb Dunnuck

“The 2017 La Mission Haut-Brion, blended of 56% Merlot, 39.6% Cabernet Sauvignon and 4.4% Cabernet Franc, is very deep garnet-purple in color and scented of crushed blackcurrants, blackberries and chocolate-covered cherries with suggestions of cigar box, bay leaves, Indian spices and dusty soil. Medium to full-bodied with very firm, grainy tannins and a racy backbone supporting the taut, muscular fruit, it has bags of mineral and earthy suggestions layering the very long finish.”
95-97 Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com April 2018

“The aromatics here are incredible, and there is the most gorgeous density of black brambly fruit on display. It's graceful but intense, and utterly delicious. It doesn't have the same intensity through the palate as the wonderful 2016, but it really does stand out in the vintage as being extremely good quality. It's going to take its time to come round, so settle in for the long haul. 51% of overall crop. 3.86pH.
Drinking Window 2026 - 2042.”
96 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com April 2018

Château Haut-Brion 2017
Pessac-Léognan
1^{er} Grand Cru Classé



£2025 per 6 IB
Drink to 2040+
Arriving Spring 2020

94-96 Neal Martin
93-96 Antonio Galloni

97 Decanter
95-97 Robert Parker

95-96 James Suckling
94-96+ Jeb Dunnock

"A hugely captivating wine, one of the contenders for red of the vintage. There's an incredible plush, dense texture to the fruit here, with just the slightest pulling back on the final section that suggests the damson, cassis and black cherry fruit is not at the full extent of ripeness seen in 2016 and 2015, but there is absolutely no question that this is a successful, rich and well-expressed wine. It's extremely powerful and well constructed, with great tannins and a succulence which grows through the palate. 3.73pH. Drinking Window 2026 - 2042"
97 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com April 2018

"The 2017 Haut-Brion was picked from 31 August to 29 September, the longest harvest ever, matured in 69% new oak with 14.25% alcohol (lower than recent vintages.) It has a more generous bouquet than the La Mission Haut-Brion at this point: black cherries, blueberry, a little confit fruit, hints of warm gravel and clove. It is much more restrained than the previous vintages – cooler and linear. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannin, nicely structured with more grip in the mouth than the La Mission. What it has in common with the aforementioned is a sense of symmetry. It feels very persistent with a light marine/oyster shell influence on the finish. This probably has the edge over the La Mission Haut-Brion at the moment, but intra-family competitiveness aside, it boils down to a great follow-up to the brilliant 2015 and 2016. Drink 2022 - 2050."
94-96 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

Other Left Bank Reds

**Château Lanessan 2017
Haut-Médoc Cru Bourgeois**



£115 per 12 IB
Drink to 2028
Arriving Spring 2020

89-90 James Suckling

“A tight and vibrant Haut-Medoc with plenty of acidity, fine tannins and a fresh finish. Shows a good backbone.”
89-90 Pts James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2018

**Château Malescasse 2017
Haut-Médoc Cru Bourgeois**



£143 per 12 IB
Drink to 2028
Arriving Spring 2020

**89-91 Neal Martin
87-89 Jeb Dunnuck**

92-93 James Suckling

88-91 Wine Spectator

“The 2017 Malescasse shrugs off a little reduction on the nose to reveal an attractive bouquet with blackberry, bilberry and black pepper/truffle aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannin, crisp graphite-infused black fruit, conservative in style, but there is plenty of freshness and decent length. Good potential.”
89-91 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com, May 2018

“From an estate located between Margaux and Saint Julien, in a great terroir for Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2017 Château Malescasse is ruby/purple-colored and is a ripe, rounded, plush beauty that has terrific blue fruits, leafy herbs, bay leaf, and earth aromas and flavors. With moderate acidity and sweet tannin, it's an incredible charmer that's going to impress right out of the gate.”
87-89 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

**Château Cantelaude-Borie 2017
Moulis-en-Médoc**



£72 per 6 IB
Drink to 2030
Arriving Spring 2020

Bruno Borie is the proprietor of one of the best performing properties over the last few years, Château Ducru-Beaucaillou. As those familiar with the striking orange label of the aforementioned 2nd growth will immediately spot, this is from the same owner. A new project from M. Borie, Château Cantelaude-Borie was one of the first dozen or so wines we tried during our visit and was etched in my memory for the week. Based in Moulis, just south of Margaux, this new venture was tasted among the very finest that Moulis had to offer and quite frankly, such was the quality of this wine, we're not listing any other Moulis in this year's offer. It's considerably less expensive than the more familiar names from Moulis and in my view considerably better. Typically for a wine from the Ducru-Beaucaillou stable, this is vibrant, full of red fruit and incredibly polished. It's ripe, elegant, and the tannins are wonderfully silky.

**Château Cantemerle 2017
Haut-Médoc
5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé**



£246 per 12 IB
Drink to 2030+
Arriving Spring 2020

**93-94 James Suckling
89-91 Robert Parker**

88-90 Neal Martin

92 Decanter

“This shows a polished yet encompassing structure of solid tannins, which support flavors of mulberries and black cherries. Medium-bodied, velvety with rather chewy. Long finish.”
93-94 Pts James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com April 2018

“The 2017 Cantemerle has quite a sultry bouquet with blackberry, damp earth and tobacco scents that reluctantly unfurl in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin that frame quite voluminous black dusky fruit. There is a powdery texture to this Cantemerle, quite long on the finish even if it is missing the refinement of a top vintage.”
88-90 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

Château La Tour Carnet 2017
Haut-Médoc
5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£250 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2028
 Arriving Spring 2020

88-90 Neal Martin
87-89 Robert Parker

90-91 James Suckling
89-92 Jeb Dunnuck

15.5 Jancis Robinson
92 Decanter

“The 2017 La Tour Carnet is a blend of 60% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc picked between 21 September and 5 October, matured in 30% new oak barrel for 16 months. It needs some encouragement from the glass but eventually reveals scents of blackberry, boysenberry jam and a faint hint of orange rind. The palate is medium-bodied with slightly dry tannin that grip the mouth. There is fine purity and detail here, but it is resolutely linear and strict, and I find the finish needing a soupçon more fleshiness, just to offset the firmness of the tannins.”
 88-90 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com April 2018

“The deep garnet-purple colored 2017 la Tour Carnet opens with scents of cassis, plums and cherries with nuances of earth, tar and pencil shavings. Medium-bodied, it's just a little thin and chewy in the mouth but provides interesting fruit layers and pleasing harmony.”
 87-89 Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com, April 2018

Château Belgrave 2017
Haut-Médoc
5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£252 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2032+
 Arriving Spring 2020

87-89 Neal Martin
91 Decanter

90-91 James Suckling
87-89 Jeb Dunnuck

16 Jancis Robinson
88-91 Wine Spectator

“The 2017 Belgrave offers crisp blackberry and tobacco scents on the nose, a touch of gravel developing with time. The palate is medium-bodied with dry tannin, masculine and rather austere towards the finish where I would have liked more flesh. A second showing towards the end of my tasting did indicate a wine developing more fruité towards the finish and my score reflects anticipated amelioration during its barrel maturation.”
 87-89 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

“This displays a fairly high level of oak toasting, but grilled cedar rather than vanilla in character, making it more classically Médoc. It is sombre, tightly-knit and handles the mid-palate well. It's not exuberant but has menthol and slate notes, providing good Médoc signature. It offers enjoyment but will take its time to relax.”
 91 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com, April 2018

St-Emilion & Satellites

Château Puy-Blanquet 2017
St-Emilion Grand Cru



£155 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2032
 Arriving Spring 2020

16 JancisRobinson.com

“Mid crimson. Light peppery nose. Super-fresh fruit with just a hint of coffee and oak sweetness. Sweet tannins, good balance, finely built.”
 16 Pts Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com April 2018

Château Tour Saint Christophe
2017
St-Emilion Grand Cru



£260 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2035
 Arriving Spring 2020

89–91+ Robert Parker
92-94 Jeff Leve

93-94 James Suckling

91-93 Jeb Dunnuck

“The tentative blend of the 2017 Tour Saint-Christophe is 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. Deep garnet-purple in color, it’s purely scented of fresh blackberries, blackcurrants and mulberries with touches of pencil shavings and lavender. The palate is medium-bodied, finely crafted and refreshing in the mouth with firm, fine-grained tannins and an herbal lift on the finish.”
 89–91+ Pts Lisa Perotti-Brown, RobertParker.com, April 2018

“Dense and layered red with dark berry, volcanic ash and white pepper. Full-bodied, layered and chewy. Muscular.”
 93-94 Pts James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2018

Château Berliquet 2017
St-Emilion
Grand Cru Classé



£372 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2038
 Arriving Spring 2020

88-90 Neal Martin
91-93 Robert Parker

92-93 James Suckling
86-89 Antonio Galloni

88-90 Jeb Dunnuck

“Made by the team at Canon, the 2017 Château Berliquet is a blend of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc. Solid notes of black cherries, scorched earth, graphite, and violets give way to a rich, medium-bodied, nicely concentrated red that’s going to put on weight with time in barrel and bottle. It has good acidity, the fresh, moderately concentrated style of the vintage, and a clean finish. It has outstanding potential and should drink nicely for upwards of a decade. Tasted twice.”
 88-90 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

“Deep purple-black in color, the 2017 Berliquet has a lovely perfume of violets, pencil lead and baking spices over a core of kirsch, wild blueberries and red currant jelly plus a waft of underbrush. Medium-bodied, fine and fresh in the mouth with firm, chewy tannins, it’s elegant and perfumed with a long finish.”
 91-93 Pts Lisa Perotti-Brown, RobertParker.com April 2018

Château Bellefont-Belcier 2017
St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé



£408 per 12 IB
Drink to 2035
Arriving Spring 2020

89-91 Robert Parker
90 Decanter

93-94 James Suckling
92-95 Jeb Dunnuck

16 Jancis Robinson
93 Jeff Leve

“Very focused and compacted, showcasing extremely polished and firm tannins. Medium-to full-bodied and finely glossy and precise. Dark fruits, wet earth and an intense finish. Excellent length.”
93-94 Pts James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2018

“The 2017 Bellefont Belcier is deep garnet-purple colored and scented of baked plums and dried mulberries with touches of fragrant earth and underbrush. Medium-bodied, soft and plush, it has plenty of fruit and a gorgeous texture, finishing long. The tentative blend is 75% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon.”
89-91 Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com, April 2018

Château La Serre 2017
St-Emilion Grand Cru



£425 per 12 IB
Drink to 2030
Arriving Spring 2020

86-88 Robert Parker
90-92 Jeb Dunnuck

89-90 James Suckling
91 Decanter

16 Jancis Robinson
87-90 Wine Spectator

“From 17 acres of clay and limestone soils around Saint-Emilion, the 2017 Château La Serre offers a vibrant ruby color as well as a ripe, fruity bouquet of black cherries, passion fruits, hints of cassis, tobacco, and exotic spices. Ripe, rounded, and supple on the palate, with beautiful purity of fruit, it's a charming, elegant wine that has terrific fruit. A blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, it's an early drinker. Tasted twice.”
90-92 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

“Deep cherry red. Sweet blueberry fruit. Rich and inviting aroma with the sweetness of oak just showing. Toasty on the palate, smooth and rounded if not terribly persistent.”
16 Pts Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com April 2018

Château Larcis-Ducasse 2017
St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé



£294 per 6 IB
Drink to 2040
Arriving Spring 2020

94-95 James Suckling
92-95 Jeb Dunnuck

92-95 Antonio Galloni
92-94 Robert Parker

91-93 Neal Martin

“A very pretty and structured red with blackberries, blueberries and hints of limestone character. Medium to full body, solid tannins and a real freshness underneath. Long and flavorful.”
94-95 Pts James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com April 2018

“The 2017 Larcis Ducasse is a rich, sensual wine, with softer contours and more plushness than is typically the case, part of which is attributable to the vintage and part of which is the result of gentler winemaking. Dark red cherry and plum fruit is nicely pushed forward in this succulent, racy Saint-Émilion. Mocha, licorice and menthol wrap around the juicy, pliant finish. The 2017 is an especially succulent, racy Larcis. It has been consistently brilliant on the four occasions I have tasted it so far.”
92-95 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com April 2018

Château Pavie-Macquin 2017
St-Emilion
1er Grand Cru Classé



£315 per 6 IB
 Drink to 2040
 Arriving Spring 2020

95-97 Robert Parker
92-94 Neal Martin

93-96 Antonio Galloni
93-95+ Jeb Dunnuck

94-95 James Suckling
92 Decanter

“The 2017 Pavie Macquin is deep garnet-purple in color and opens with flamboyant notes of warm black and red plums, black cherries and tilled soil with delicate touches of cloves, star anise, red roses and forest floor. Medium-bodied with a firm backbone of very finely grained, very ripe tannins and tons of freshness, it has wonderfully elegant yet intense fruit layers and a long, minerally finish. Just beautiful.”

95-97 Pts Lisa Perotti-Brown, RobertParker.com April 2018

“A se*y, racy wine, the 2017 Pavie Macquin is full of personality. A rush of sweet red cherry, plum, rose petal, mint and blood orange infuses this sumptuous, racy Saint-Émilion. A wine of striking purity and total class, Pavie Macquin dazzles. As always, Pavie Macquin is marked by stunning fruit purity, red fruit, soft contours and silky, voluptuous tannins. In 2017, the blend has a bit more Cabernet Franc than in the past, now that younger vineyards have come online.”

93-96 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com April 2018

Château Troplong-Mondot 2017
St-Emilion
1er Grand Cru Classé



£432 per 6 IB
 Drink to 2040
 Arriving Spring 2020

95-98 Antonio Galloni
91-93 Neal Martin

95-97 Robert Parker
96 Decanter

95-96 James Suckling

“The 2017 Troplong Mondot is easily one of the wines of the vintage. New CEO Aymeric de Gironde (formerly of Cos d’Estournel) and consulting oenologist Thomas Duclos are masterminding a remarkable new chapter in the life of Troplong Mondot. A major stylistic shift in the direction of freshness and energy has resulted in a positively stunning Troplong Mondot endowed with tremendous depth and vibrant. A rush of black cherry, plum, mocha, new leather and spice builds as this gorgeous Saint-Émilion shows off its breeding and total class. The blend is 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc .”

95-98 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com May 2018

“Troplong Mondot saw hardly any frost—less than 10%. The 2017 Troplong Mondot is blended of 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc. Very deep purple-black in color, it offers up a cedar chest, cinnamon stick and cloves-laced nose with a core of crème de cassis, blackberry compote and preserved plums plus wafts of licorice, violets and sandalwood. Full-bodied, concentrated and sporting a firm frame of velvety tannins, it has a lively line lifting the densely packed fruit, finishing long and on a compelling savory note.”

95-97 Pts Lisa Perotti-Brown, RobertParker.com April 2018

Château Bélair-Monage 2017
St-Emilion
1er Grand Cru Classé



£590 per 6 IB
Drink to 2040
Arriving Spring 2020

94-96 Neal Martin
94-97 Antonio Galloni

94-95 James Suckling
96-98 Robert Parker

95 Decanter
92-94 Jeb Dunnuck

"The 2017 Bélair-Monage is fast-becoming the jewel in the crown of J-P Moueix, and also the home of Edouard Moueix and his family. It has a very perfumed and winsome bouquet, so pure and delineated with crystalline red cherries, crushed strawberry and very subtle cassis scents that are sutured with the oak. The palate is medium-bodied with fine grain tannin. Tensile from the start, this Bélair-Monage conveys a sense of tension and energy that lingers on the aftertaste, a touch of white pepper leaving the tongue tingling 30 seconds after it has departed. This is an assured, and bewitching Saint-Émilion, one that is really beginning to fire on all cylinders. Drink 2023 - 2045."
94-96 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

"The 2017 Bélair-Monage is shaping up to be a real gem. Flamboyantly ripe and exotic, the 2017 possesses terrific richness and aromatic intensity. Charcoal, menthol, licorice, plum, and black cherry infuse this sumptuous yet mid-weight Saint-Émilion. Bélair-Monage is a wine of tremendous power and intensity, but is also on the riper side of things. "Psychologically, it is very hard to drop crop when many of your neighbors have lost yield because of the frost," Christian Moueix told me. "But we knew it was the right thing to do."
94-97 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com April 2018

Château Figeac 2017
St-Emilion
1^{er} Grand Cru Classé



£738 per 6 IB
Drink to 2040+
Arriving Spring 2020

94-97 Antonio Galloni
94-96 Robert Parker

93-95 Neal Martin
93 Decanter

95-96 James Suckling
94-96 Jeb Dunnuck

"The 2017 Figeac is magnificent. Beautifully layered and exquisite in the glass, the 2017 possesses remarkable balance and harmony from the very first taste. An utterly beguiling, captivating wine, the 2017 simply has it all. Bright, red-toned fruit, mint, spice, lavender and rose petal overtones flesh out in the glass, but above all else, Figeac is a wine of total harmony. The Grand Vin includes 10% second generation fruit. Even so, production is down around 50%."
94-97 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com May 2018

"The 2017 Figeac was picked from 7 September to 3 October at 22hl/ha (average across frosted and non-frosted parcels) with 13.5° alcohol. It has a deep purple hue. The bouquet is very well defined, quite strict at first with well-behaved blackberry, raspberry, pressed rose petals and just a touch of violet. The palate is medium-bodied with a fine backbone, fresh in the mouth with a sense of energy, quite precise and linear with a pinch of spice towards the finish, a little graphite lingering on the aftertaste. This is unapologetically classic in style and whilst it might be over-shadowed by the sensational 2015 and 2016 Figeac, this is an impressive follow-up to that might pair that has really put Figeac back on the map. Drink 2023 - 2045."
93-95 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

**Château Ausone 2017
St-Emilion 1er Grand Cru
Classé (A)**



£2825 per 6 IB
Drink to 2045+
Arriving Spring 2020

**97-99 Robert Parker
95-98 Antonio Galloni**

**96-97 James Suckling
97 Decanter**

**94-96 Neal Martin
18 Jancis Robinson**

"Blended of 55% Cabernet Franc and 45% Merlot, the deep garnet-purple colored 2017 Ausone offers up slowly emerging notes of crushed black plums, blackberries and mulberries with nuances of anise, violets, new leather and unsmoked cigars plus suggestions of black olives and truffles and a touch of cast iron pan. Medium to full-bodied with firm, very finely grained, super ripe tannins and an uplifting backbone of freshness perfectly supporting the profoundly layered, tightly wound yet incredibly intense fruit, it finishes very long with mineral accents and compelling tension."
97-99 Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com April 2018

"The 2017 Ausone was cropped at 35hl/ha between 23 and 25 September with respect to the Merlot and 28 and 29 September for the Cabernet Franc. It is aged in 100% new oak as usual for 20 months. It has a crisp, precise, mineral-driven bouquet with slightly more red fruit than black this year: crushed strawberry, hints of cassis, blueberry and traits of freshly tilled loamy soil. The palate is medium-bodied with cashmere tannin and a fine line of acidity. It is very harmonious and already quite seductive. I admire the depth of this Ausone, the sensuality that is conveyed towards the sustained, glycerin-tinged, peacock's tail finish that lingers for more than 45 seconds. What a great Ausone this is destined to be. Drink 2024-2050."
94-96 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com April 2018

Pomerol & Lalande de Pomerol

Château Chantalouette 2017 Pomerol



£190 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2027
 Arriving Spring 2020

Always flying under the radars of the major critics, this great value Pomerol is part of the Moueix stable alongside the likes of Château Petrus. A richly fruited style with the ability to age for a decade, it is one of our customer favourites year-on-year.

Château Monregard La Croix 2017 Pomerol



£210 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2028+
 Arriving Spring 2020

**85-87 Neal Martin
 86-88 Robert Parker**

**89-90 James Suckling
 88-90+ Jeb Dunnuck**

**87-90 Antonio Galloni
 88 Decanter**

"I loved the 2017 Monregard La Croix, and it's a ripe, primordial barrel sample that has serious potential. Blue fruits, violets, and spring flower aromas and flavors, medium to full body, a ripe, rounded, plump texture, and ample length all make for a terrific Pomerol that I suspect will need short-term cellaring to round into form. It might match the 2015"

88-90+ Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, April 2018

"The 2017 Monregard La Croix is pleasant, if a touch light. Dark cherry, plum, lavender, licorice and chocolate notes develop in a mid-weight Pomerol that plays on the darker end of the flavor spectrum."
 87-90 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com May 2018

Château Maillet 2017 Pomerol



£285 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2035
 Arriving Spring 2020

86-88 Antonio Galloni

92-93 James Suckling

90-92 Jeb Dunnuck

"Blueberries, black cherries, graphite, and hints of scorched earth all emerge from the 2017 Château Maillet. This beauty is medium to full-bodied, rounded and se*y on the palate, with beautiful purity of fruit. With ripe tannin, integrated acidity, and a great finish, it has real class."

90-92 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

"The 2017 Maillet is dark, juicy and expressive. With a little more mid-palate depth it might merit a slightly higher rating. The dark red stone fruit, mint, pomegranate and spice flavors are nicely delineated, and there is good energy in the glass, but this needs more palate weight."

86-88 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com May 2018

**Château Bourgneuf 2017
Pomerol**



£425 per 12 IB
Drink to 2030
Arriving Spring 2020

**91-93 Robert Parker
91-94 Wine Spectator**

**91-92 James Suckling
92 Decanter**

90-92 Jeb Dunnuck

"A final blend of 90% Merlot with 10% Cabernet Franc, the 2017 Bourgneuf is deep garnet-purple in color with a nose of red and black plums, cassis and black soil with hints of cigar box and wild thyme. Medium-bodied, fine-grained and refreshing in the mouth with beautiful fruit and earth layers, it finishes with a fragrant lift."

91-93 Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com April 2018

"From 9ha of gravel and clay soils, this is a meaty, rich and chewy Pomerol that absolutely works. It has great tannic structure with give and pliability, full of rich black fruits, cassis and raspberry notes, and pulled along by slatey minerality. It has real texture, even though yet again you can tell the fruit flirts with the fresher end of ripeness. Still, this has huge potential, should age well, and is extremely well-handled."

92 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com April 2018

**Château Feytit-Clinet 2017
Pomerol**



£255 per 6 IB
Drink to 2036
Arriving Spring 2020

**93-96 Antonio Galloni
90-92 Neal Martin**

91-92 James Suckling

90-92 Robert Parker

"A wine of real distinction and class, the 2017 Feytit-Clinet possesses tremendous intensity and exceptional balance. Inky black cherry, lavender, charred earth and licorice, along with potent tannins, give Feytit-Clinet its explosive rich personality. As always, Feytit-Clinet is an especially virile, tannic Pomerol. All the elements are wonderfully fused together. The 2017 was tremendous on each of the three occasions I tasted it. In a word: Superb."

93-96 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com April 2018

"The 2017 Feytit-Clinet has quite a complex bouquet with red berry fruit, a touch of seaweed and smoke. It is not as powerful as the previous two vintages although it displays impressive focus. The palate is very refined on the entry, silky smooth in texture (as usual) with a fine bead of acidity. It just needs to manifest more precision towards the finish but that will hopefully develop during its barrel maturation. I have been a big supporter of Jeremy Chasseuil's often overlooked Pomerol and though, this is not from his top-drawer, it still shows potential. I am prudent with my assessment for now."

90-92 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

**Château Clinet 2017
Pomerol**



£345 per 6 IB
Drink to 2032
Arriving Spring 2020

**92-94 Neal Martin
92-94 Robert Parker**

**92-93 James Suckling
90-93 Antonio Galloni**

**16 Jancis Robinson
93-95 Jeb Dunnuck**

"The 2017 Clinet was picked from 19 to 26 September for the Merlot and on 29 September for the Cabernets at 35h/ha. It is matured in 72% new oak and the remainder one year old. The alcohol is 13.1° compared to say 14.4° for 2016. It has a perfumed bouquet with mainly red berry fruit, top notes of loam and a touch of violet. It is certainly well defined. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, well delineated, and saline in the mouth. It is quite open towards the finish, perhaps with less grip than other Pomerols that I have tasted, but it is undeniably elegant and well balanced with a hint of cured meat cropping up on the aftertaste. Classic Clinet! Drink 2022-2040."

92-94 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

"Reminding me of the 2014, the 2017 Château Clinet is a beautiful, dense, concentrated wine that has terrific notes of blueberries, spring flowers, and chocolaty oak. It's very much in the style of the vintage with its cool, perfumed aromatics and sensational purity of fruit, yet it also has richness and weight. It's a brilliant Pomerol"

93-95 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

**Château La Fleur-Pétrus 2017
Pomerol**



£895 per 6 IB
Drink to 2045
Arriving Spring 2020

92-94 Neal Martin
93-96 Antonio Galloni

95-96 James Suckling
94-96 Robert Parker

95 Decanter
94-96 Jeb Dunnuck

"The 2017 La Fleur-Pétrus has the most expressive and flamboyant bouquet from the J-P Moueix range and I can see why Edouard Moueix is smitten by its early showings. There is a mélange of red and black fruit, crushed violet and a distant tang of the sea (or should that be the Dordogne river?) The palate is medium-bodied with succulent tannin, quite rich of the vintage but not overpowering or glossy, delivering a velvety smooth second-half that caresses the senses and leaves you utterly beguiled. If am to quibble, it just misses a little complexity and nuance on the finish but otherwise...très bon vin. Drink 2022 - 2045."

92-94 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

"The 2017 Lafleur-Petrus is dazzling. Bright, lifted and precise, the 2017 captures all the best qualities of the vintage in its radiant fruit, expressive aromatics and silky tannins. A wine of pure and total sensuality, the 2017 is impressive from the very first taste. Medium in body, gracious and exceptionally polished, the 2017 simply has it all. In a second tasting, the 2017 showed darker tonalities of fruit and more muscle, which suggests it is a Pomerol that will have much to say over the coming years and decades. Tasted two times."

93-96 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com April 2018

**Vieux Château Certan 2017
Pomerol**



£1032 per 6 IB
Drink to 2045+
Arriving Spring 2020

94-96 Neal Martin
96-98 Antonio Galloni

97-98 James Suckling
96-98 Robert Parker

93 Decanter
96 Wine Enthusiast

"The 2017 Vieux Château Certan is a rapturously beautiful wine. Dark, sumptuous and seamless in the glass, the 2017 is going to tempt readers early. This is the first vintage that includes a bit of young vine Cabernet Sauvignon planted in 2012 to complement the old-vine Merlot and Franc that are the core of Vieux Certan. A wine of exceptional balance and purity, the 2017 dazzles from start to finish. There is an element of tension in the 2017 that is incredibly appealing. "We are back to Bordeaux," adds Alexandre Thienpont in reference to the personality of the year as compared to both 2016 and 2015. The blend is 81% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, aging in 70% new oak."

96-98 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com May 2018

"The 2017 Vieux Château Certan was picked in three passages through the vineyard, 12 and 13 September, 18 and 19 September and finally 25 September to 2 October. The yields are 37hl/ha with 14.2° alcohol and a 3.75 pH. It is the first vintage to contain Cabernet Sauvignon for several years. It has a very pure, Merlot-driven bouquet with black cherries, redcurrant and wild strawberry scents, just a hint of iris and incense in the background. The 70% new oak is nicely integrated here. The palate is medium-bodied with edgy tannin, a deep well of black and red fruit interwoven with allspice, truffle, white pepper and a little sage. This Vieux Château Certan manifests more complexity and profundity as it aerates, delivering genuine, spine-tingling mineralité on the persistent finish. It gains even more precision when I return to the property to re-taste it again. Tasted twice, ten days apart at the property. Drink 2023-2050."

94-96 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

Other Right Bank Reds

**Château Gigault
 'Cuvée Viva' 2017
 Côtes de Bordeaux Blaye**



£95 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2028
 Arriving Spring 2020

**88-90 Neal Martin
 88-90 Antonio Galloni**

**91-92 James Suckling
 86-88+ Robert Parker**

**86-89 Jeb Dunnuck
 85 Decanter**

"The 2017 Gigault Cuvée Viva, the property of Christophe Reboul Salze, has quite an opulent, vivacious bouquet with lovely cassis and strawberry aromas that convey a sense of pizzazz. The palate is medium-bodied with fleshy ripe tannin. This is a lively, quite delicious Bordeaux Côtes de Blaye predesigned to give plenty of drinking pleasure over several years. Recommended.
 88-90 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

"Gigault's 2017 Cuvée Viva, 100% Merlot, is wonderfully fleshy and seductive. Super-ripe red cherry, plum, rose petal, spice and new leather are all fused together in this juicy, inviting Côtes de Bordeaux. This is a decidedly ripe, flashy style. I would prefer to drink it on the young side. Tasted two times."
 88-90 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com May 2018

**Château Marsau 2017
 Francs Côtes de Bordeaux**



£120 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2026
 Arriving Spring 2020

92-93 James Suckling

"A very pretty and solid red with dark berries, chocolate and hints of spice. Lovely richness and intensity. Medium to full body and chewy tannins. Great length and drive at the end for this appellation and the vintage."
 92-93 Pts James Suckling, James Suckling.com April 2018

**Château Dalem 2017
 Fronsac**



£165 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2027
 Arriving Spring 2020

92-93 James Suckling

89-92 Jeb Dunnuck

89-92 Wine Spectator

"This is so solid and beautiful with a delicious core of ripe fruit of dark berries and currants. Some chocolate. Medium body, silky tannins and a fresh finish."
 92-93 Pts James Suckling, James Suckling.com April 2018

"From an 18-hectare estate on the Fronsac plateau owned by Brigitte Rullier, the inky-colored 2017 Château Dalem is a deep, rich, modern style beauty that gives up plenty of classy oak as well as crème de cassis, blueberries, crushed violets, and underlying minerality. It's textured, nicely concentrated, and balanced, yet I suspect it's going to need 2-3 years of bottle age. It's a rockstar Fronsac. The rough blend is 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, brought up in 40% new oak, with the balance in once-used barrels."
 89-92 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

Dry Whites

Château La Garde Blanc 2017
Pessac-Léognan



£178 per 12 IB
Drink to 2027
Arriving Spring 2020

89-91 Neal Martin
90-93 Wine Spectator

93-94 James Suckling
93 Decanter

16.5 Jancis Robinson

“This is an excellent La Garde, a success in both red and white guises in a vintage that was not clear cut. Clever use of rounding oak smooths the flavours and delivers a Pessac Léognan signature that not everyone has managed. It has good aromatics with pronounced citrus notes, and rich stone fruits fill out the mid-palate. The finish is elongated, stretching out over several minutes. This impressive wine is one to own, and a great way to win over newcomers to white Bordeaux. 40% new oak.”
93 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com, April 2018

“This is very linear and really energetic with a driven acidity and tight and compact fruit. Full-bodied yet remains so agile and bright. The lemon-zest and salty character is impressive. Only 10% new wood here.”
93-94 Pts James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com April 2018

Château Talbot Caillou Blanc
2017
St-Julien 4^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£132 per 6 IB
Drink to 2025
Arriving Spring 2020

87-89 Neal Martin

88-91 Robert Parker

92 Decanter

“The 2017 Caillou de Talbot Blanc is matured in one-third new oak with no racking. It has a simple but attractive bouquet with scents of red apple, melon and grapefruit, all well defined. The palate is balanced with a taut line of acidity that imbues this white Saint-Julien with attractive tension. Whilst it is not overly complexed, the lightly spiced finish is welcome and it has satisfying length.”
87-89 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

“A very good Caillou Blanc with wonderfully intense finessing on the aroma and on the attack. An intense sunflower yellow in colour, with some definite oak influencing on the palate. I'm surprised, in fact, by quite how rich this is - undoubtedly a successful, powerful, layered Sauvignon character, but with a silky texture through the palate and good juicy lift on the finish”
92 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com April 2018

Château La Tour Carnet Blanc
2017
Bordeaux



£140 per 6 IB
Drink to 2035
Arriving Spring 2020

86-88 Neal Martin
87-89 Robert Parker

90-91 James Suckling
87-89 Jeb Dunnuck

92 Decanter

“The 2017 La Tour Carnet Blanc was picked from 6 to 11 September, matured in Burgundy barrels. It has a simple cooking apple, pear and white peach scented nose that just needs to muster more vigour. The palate is fresh on the entry with peach and light mandarin notes, moderate weight with a clean and fresh, lightly spiced finish.”
86-88 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

“An impressive dry white well worth the effort to track down, the 2017 Château La Tour Carnet Blanc offers up a perfumed bouquet of ripe lemons, citrus blossom and honeysuckle in a medium-bodied, clean, classy style. It's ideal for drinking over the coming 2-3 years, if not longer.”
87-89 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

**Domaine de Chevalier Blanc
2017
Pessac-Léognan
Grand Cru Classé**



£413 per 6 IB
Drink to 2040
Arriving Spring 2020

**93-95 Neal Martin
92-95 Antonio Galloni**

**96-97 James Suckling
95-97+ Jeb Dunnuck**

**17.5+ Jancis Robinson
94 Decanter**

“As with the red, this really does punch at the top end of the appellation. It's more herbal than some, showing attractive fresh herb notes of rosemary and sage. High quality white peach and nectarine flavours run through the palate, with slaty edges on the finish that are scraping the sides. It's a great wine that is going to age and develop. Oh - and there was a touch of frost here, but Domaine de Chevalier was, of course, well prepared, being located in a vulnerable spot. One-third new oak. Drinking Window 2025 – 2040”.
94 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com April 2018

“The 2017 Domaine de Chevalier Blanc is fabulous, but it is also going to need a number of years to be at its very best. Powerful and dense in the glass, the 2017 offers terrific brightness and cut, all backed up with serious structure. Smoke, melon, orchard fruit and mint are some of the many notes that develop as this gorgeous wine shows off its personality. Quite simply, the 2017 has class to burn, but readers will have to be patient. Tasted three times.”
92-95 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com April 2018

**Château Smith-Haut-Lafitte
Blanc 2017
Pessac-Léognan
Grand Cru Classé**



£496 per 6 IB
Drink to 2035
Arriving Spring 2020

**96-98+ Robert Parker
92-94 Neal Martin**

**96-97 James Suckling
93-96 Antonio Galloni**

**17.5 Jancis Robinson
96 Decanter**

“A blend of 90% Sauvignon Blanc with 5% Sauvignon Gris and 5% Sémillon, the Smith Haut Lafitte 2017 Blanc offers up gorgeous, super-intense scents of pink grapefruit, white peaches, kumquats and ginger with wafts of under-ripe pineapple, lime blossoms and crushed rocks. Medium-bodied, it's very polished, sophisticated and wonderfully electric in the mouth, with sparks of citrus fruits, tropical notions and floral perfume exploding on the palate, finishing with epic persistence.”
96-98+ Pts Lisa Perotti-Brown, RobertParker.com April 2018

“The 2017 Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc is magnificent. In the glass, the 2017 reminds me of the superb 2013, but with less austerity and more depth. Jasmine, lemon confit, white flowers and mint are finely cut. Above all else, the 2017 Blanc is a wine of energy and pure pedigree. I loved it. The blend is 90% Sauvignon Blanc, 5% Sémillon and 5% Sauvignon Gris.”
93-96 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com May 2018

**Château Pape-Clément Blanc
2017
Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru
Classé**



£600 per 6 IB
Drink to 2030
Arriving Spring 2020

**91-93 Neal Martin
94-96+ Robert Parker**

**97-98 James Suckling
94-96 Jeb Dunnuck**

**17 Jancis Robinson
93-96 Antonio Galloni**

“A white of real distinction and class, the 2017 Pape Clément Blanc is textured, racy and super-inviting. Stylistically, the 2017 is more citrus and floral driven than in the past. Tropical notes and the more unctuous feel that are typical of the Blanc are present, but less overt than in the past. Above all else, in 2017 the Blanc stands out for its exceptional purity, nuance and delineation. The Blanc has been nothing else than deeply impressive on the four occasions I have tasted it so far.”
93-96 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com May 2018

“A blend of 55% Sauvignon Blanc and 45% Sémillon, the Pape Clément 2017 Blanc gives up profound notes of apricots, spiced pears and apple tart with suggestions of orange blossoms, fresh ginger and beeswax. The palate is medium-bodied with plenty of tightly wound, intense stone fruit and spicy layers supported by fantastic freshness, finishing very long.”
94-96 Pts Lisa Perotti-Brown, RobertParker.com, April 2018

Sauternes & Barsac

**Château Clos Haut-Peyraguey
 2017 (37.5cl)
 Sauternes 1^{er} Grand Cru Classé**



£145 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2040
 Arriving Spring 2020

**91-93 Neal Martin
 90-92 Robert Parker**

94-96 Jeb Dunnuck

92-95 Wine Spectator

“The 2017 Clos Haut-Peyraguey was cropped at 16.5hl/ha between 26 September and 13 October. It has an energetic bouquet that leaps from the glass; dried honey and quince, just a touch of French pâtisserie. The palate is viscous on the opening, fresh, well balanced with a fine bead of acidity, notes of orange zest, honey and a touch of spice towards the nicely proportioned finish. This should turn into a quite delicious Sauternes.”
 91-93 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

From the team at Pape Clement, the blockbuster 2017 Clos Haut-Peyraguey shows how successful Sauternes was in the vintage. With full body, a deep, layered, thick mid-palate, bright acidity, and notes of caramelized limes, lychee nut, sugared mint and awesome botrytis, it's a brilliant Sauternes that delivers the goods. Tasted twice.”
 94-96 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

**Château Doisy-Védrières 2017
 (37.5cl)
 Sauternes 2^{ème} Cru Classé**



£160 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2035
 Arriving Spring 2020

**92-94 Neal Martin
 91-94 Antonio Galloni**

93-94 James Suckling

92-95 Wine Spectator

“The 2017 Doisy-Védrières, which was reduced to 6hl/ha this year, is more like Doisy-Daëne! It feels much more linear and less fatter than previous vintages, notes of apple blossom and wild honey gradually unfurl in the glass. The palate is well balanced with a viscous opening, a fine bead of acidity, quite energetic in the mouth with a persistent, mineral finish. I would swear this was Doisy-Daëne but this year their personalities appear swapped...at least at this early stage!”
 92-94 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

“This is very oily and rich with loads of dried mangoes, sliced apples and peaches. Full-bodied, very sweet and honey-like.”
 93-94 Pts James Suckling, James Suckling.com April 2018

**Château Doisy-Daëne 2017
 (37.5cl)
 Barsac 2^{ème} Cru Classé**



£165 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2050
 Arriving Spring 2020

**93-96 Antonio Galloni
 93-95 Neal Martin**

**92-94 Robert Parker
 92-95 Wine Spectator**

94 Decanter

“A wine of real density and weight, the 2017 Doisy-Daëne is positively stunning. It is also likely to require a number of years to be at its best, given its currently reserved, shy state of mind. The 2017 is marked by an almost phenolic impression of structure. There is so much to admire, including the wine's explosive energy, but the best is very obviously still to come. What a wine!”
 93-96 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com May 2018

“As with its next door neighbour, this benefits from limestone soils in what is a late-onset botrytis vintage for the sweet wines of Bordeaux. It means it has some fresh, fine, blooming acids, just scraping through the mid-palate and balanced by gorgeous notes of candied ginger, white flowers, honeysuckle, jasmine and a seam of freshness. It really grows on me, and has great persistency.”
 94 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com April 2018

Château Coutet 2017
(37.5cl)
Barsac 1^{er} Grand Cru Classé



£171 per 12 IB
Drink to 2035
Arriving Spring 2020

93-94 James Suckling
95-97 Wine Enthusiast

93-95 Jeb Dunnuck

92-95 Wine Spectator

"Lots of powdered mushrooms, dried lemons and apricots. Full-bodied, dense and layered. Beautiful finish. A top sweet white for the vintage."

93-94 Pts James Suckling, James Suckling.com April 2018

"Another rocking sweet wine is the 2017 Château Coutet. This big, full-bodied, opulent beauty has serious notes of orange blossom, buttered citrus, and honey, yet also shows the more pure, precise, and elegant style of the vintage on the palate. The cool, overcast summer allowed good ripeness while preserving the purity of fruit and the whites (and dessert wines) from this vintage are beautiful!"

93-95 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

Château Rieussec 2017
(37.5cl)
Sauternes 1^{er} Grand Cru Classé



£255 per 12 IB
Drink to 2045+
Arriving Spring 2020

92-94 Neal Martin
96-98 Robert Parker

97-98 James Suckling
19+ Matthew Jukes

95-97 Jeb Dunnuck
94 Decanter

"This is an effortless Rieussec that's elegant and harmonious, displaying a wonderful quickening through the mid-palate compounded by a confident and energetic uplift on the finish. It has an excellent silky texture, and although the acidity and sweetness play off against each other, they could go a little higher. They were 15% affected by frost here, but only on plots used for their second wine and dry white wine. Drinking Window 2020 - 2040 "

94 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com April 2018

"The 2017 Rieussec is a killer Sauternes that shows the fresh, chiseled style of the vintage while still packing awesome fruit. Huge notes of orange blossom, honeyed citrus, mints and exotic flowers flow to a full-bodied, viscous 2017 that has beautiful purity, a clean, perfectly balanced texture, integrated acidity and a great finish. It's a rockstar effort."

95-97 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018



En Primeur Terms and Conditions

- Our En Primeur prices are the 'in bond' cost. The first instalment covers the cost of the wine itself, and when the wine is ready, you can decide whether to keep the wine in bond, or pay the Duty and VAT on the first instalment and receive the wine or store it Duty Paid.
- No discount or vouchers shall apply to En Primeur wines.
- When we place your order we will send you a reservation certificate to the address provided by you. You will not receive any wine at this time. Although should you be a Premiere or Charter Plus member and order 12 or more bottles, we will send you your usual complimentary bottle(s).
- Wines ordered through our En Primeur service can only be cancelled within 14 days of placing the order. A full refund of any payment made up to this point will be given on receipt of written notification of the cancellation of the order. Due to the nature of the En Primeur sales we regret that orders cannot be cancelled after this time.
- When the wine arrives with us in the UK, we will send you the final invoice. This invoice will include the delivery cost to a UK address, duty (currently £2.23 per 0.75l bottle excl VAT), plus the VAT applicable on the day of the final invoice (currently 20%). Upon payment of the appropriate amount we will action your despatch instructions.
- If you do not contact us with instructions within 6 weeks of your wines being ready, we will place the wines into bonded storage on your behalf and at your cost. For further details please refer to our full Ts & Cs.
- All wines and spirits or other goods ordered remain the property of Laithwaite's Wine until appropriate payment is received in full.
- We can store your wine (both 'duty paid' or 'in bond') in ideal, long-term cellar conditions. Please contact us for further details.
- It is your responsibility to keep us informed of any changes of address in order to maintain any reservations you may have with us.
- All wines are insured by us at the original invoice value until your delivery and/or storage instructions have been completed.
- All goods are offered subject to availability. If the wines you have selected are unavailable we will contact you to advise you of this. If the producer fails to supply us with the wine we will contact you with available alternatives or offer a refund of monies paid.
- Force Majeure – Direct Wines Ltd/Laithwaite's Wine will not be liable for failure to meet agreed obligations due to prevailing circumstances including but not limited to any act of God, war, strike, lock-out, industrial accident or other event beyond its reasonable control.
- All disputes arising out of this contract shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Courts of England and Wales.
- For our full terms and conditions, including those relating to our 100% guarantee, non-delivery and cancellations, please go to www.laithwaites.co.uk/terms.

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