



HOUSE OF TOWNEND

FAMILY WINE MERCHANTS SINCE 1906



BORDEAUX 2023
EN PRIMEUR

BORDEAUX 2023

The 2023 Bordeaux En Primeur campaign is one of the earliest on record, a sign that the Bordeaux Châteaux need to sell some wine! The commercial environment for Bordeaux has changed since the market for Fine Wine in China came to a halt, and it was quite noticeable that there were far few buyers from Asia at the Union des Grands Crus tastings during the last week of April. There is also the added ingredient of very healthy yields in 2023 with the cellars full, a welcome change to previous smaller vintages.

The good news is that these changing times have brought welcome price reductions, so the Claret drinker has a lot to smile about! The biggest reductions come in the upper echelons of the Bordeaux hierarchy, with Chateaux Mouton-Rothschild and Lafite-Rothschild showing 37% and 31% reductions respectively. There are reductions across the board although it must be said that there is far less room for manoeuvre at the everyday drinking level. As a wine merchant, we are pleased to see a return to proper En Primeur pricing which gives the consumer a real incentive to buy.

The 2023 vintage certainly had its climatic challenges. Back in July, there were press reports that 90% of the crop had been destroyed by mildew, a result of the warm temperatures and frequent rains in June. The reality was that mildew had 'touched' 90% of the vineyards, but hey, never let the truth get in the way of sensationalising a story.

There is no denying that the early summer was a very challenging time and the vineyard teams worked their fingers to the bone fighting the mildew attacks. Merlot was worst affected and so we see lower percentages of this variety in many of the Left Bank wines.

By mid August the weather turned for the better. Temperatures soared and the heatwave remained throughout September. This wonderful period of weather in late summer was a godsend and a just reward for the trials and tribulations of May and June. It ensured that the grapes ripened and attained a very good phenolic ripeness too. Patience was required however, as the ripening period was uneven with picking dates varying from plot to plot. It was one of the longest harvests on record, starting in early September and continuing well into October.

Yields were very healthy in 2023, especially in the prestigious appellations, where the wealthy Grand Cru Classés are well equipped to deal with the challenging conditions. The average yield in St Julien was 52hl/ha with Pauillac and Saint-Estèphe similar. Only Margaux came up short with an average of 38hl/ha.



On the Left Bank, it is fair to describe the 2023 vintage as a heterogenous one – that is the traditional beauty of Bordeaux, with a more notable variation between Châteaux and appellations than in previous years. We tasted some outstanding wines that showed wonderful balance, a welcome restraint in alcohol (Gruaud Larose came in at 12.62% - and what an excellent wine it is.) and impressive fruit concentration, produced in a classic style. The tannin structures are very good, with many wines showing similar levels to the 2022 vintage, so they will age well too. Gone, it seems, are the days of Robert Parker inspired wines, and amen to that. This is certainly a vintage for the traditional claret drinker.

Turning to the Right Bank, we tasted some delicious Merlot and Cabernet Franc blends, with a greater balance and freshness than recent years, largely due to more normal yields. We particularly liked the wines of Pomerol and there are some exceptional value wines from Lalande de Pomerol and Montagne St Emilion.

In conclusion, the 2023 vintage was one of the most climatically challenging vintages in recent years. Despite such challenges, there are some truly fantastic wines, produced in a classic style with a core of concentrated, ripe fruits, beautifully crafted tannins and a delicious balancing freshness. Those wines that we have selected deserve their place and will offer great pleasure and, dare I say, good value!



JOHN C. TOWNEND
MANAGING DIRECTOR



NEIL GOLDIE
PRESTIGE ACCOUNT DIRECTOR



CONTENTS

BORDEAUX BLANC

Pessac-Léognan	Château Olivier Château de Fieuzal Grand Cru Classé
Sauternes	Château Liot

BORDEAUX AND BORDEAUX SUPERIEUR

	Château Tour de Luchey Château d'Argadens
--	--

CRU BOURGEOIS

Haut-Medoc	Château Semonlon
------------	------------------

CRU BOURGEOIS SUPÉRIEURS

Haut-Médoc	Château Cissac Château Beaumont
------------	------------------------------------

CRU BOURGEOIS EXCEPTIONNELS

Médoc	Château Potensac
Moulis	Chasse-Spleen
St Estephe	Château Phelan-Segur
Margaux	Château Angludet



GRAND CRU CLASSÉ

Haut-Medoc	Château La Lagune 5ème Cru Classé Haut-Medoc Château Cantemerle 5ème Cru Classé
St Estèphe	Château Montrose 2ème Cru Classé
Pauillac	Château Duhart Milon Rothschild 4ème Cru Classé Château Clerc Milon 5ème Cru Classé Château d'Armailhac 5ème Cru Classé Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste 5ème Cru Classé Château Lynch Bages 5ème Cru Classé Château Pontet-Canet 5ème Cru Classé Château Batailley 5ème Cru Classé Château Pichon-Longueville, Comtesse de Lalande 2ème Cru Classé Château Lafite-Rothschild 1er Cru Classé Château Mouton-Rothschild 1er Cru Classé
St-Julien	Le Petit Ducru de Ducru Beaucaillou (3rd wine) Sarget de Gruaud Larose (2nd wine) Les Fiefs de Lagrange (2nd wine) Château de Glana, St Julien Château Gloria, St Julien Château Talbot 4ème Cru Classé Château Gruaud Larose 2ème Cru Classé Château Beychevelle 4ème Cru Classé Château Langoa-Barton 3ème Cru Classé Château Léoville-Barton 2ème Cru Classé Château Léoville-Poyferré 2ème Cru Classé Château Ducru Beaucaillou 2ème Cru Classé Château Léoville-Las-Cases 2ème Cru Classé
Margaux	Alter Ego de Palmer, Margaux Châteaux Kirwan, 3ème Cru Classé Château Brane-Cantenac 2ème Cru Classé Château Rauzan-Segla 2ème Cru Classé Château Giscours 3ème Cru Classé Château Palmer 3ème Cru Classé Château Margaux 1er Cru Classé
Pessac Léognan	Château Olivier Grand Cru Classé

RIGHT BANK

Satellite St Emilion	Château Corbin Château du Courlat Château du Courlat Cuvee Jean-Baptiste
St Emilion	Château Fonplegade, Grand Cru St Emilion Château Grande Mayne, Grand Cru St Emilion
Pomerol	Château Les Hauts-Conseillants Château Bonalque Clos du Clocher Château Rouget

WHY BUY EN PRIMEUR?

Historically, there are a number of reasons for buying 'En Primeur', the most obvious being that you are buying your wine at the initial release price from the Château. The wines of Bordeaux take many years to develop before they are ready to drink by which time they may not be commercially available, and even if they are the price becomes prohibitive.

Importantly, by buying En Primeur you can be sure of the provenance of your wine, knowing where and how it has been stored. When buying mature wine on the open market there is always the danger that it has been around the world, stored in variable conditions, which may cause damage to the wine.

Buying En Primeur needs careful judgement. Recent years have seen large increases in the value of certain wines, and in the low interest rate environment of the past ten years wine has been seen to be a good place to invest monies. However, this has resulted in release prices increasing, and now with interest rates returning to historic norms, investing in wine needs great consideration. We always say – 'We are wine merchants, not financial advisors!' We only advise what to buy from a drinking perspective.

We also advise you to purchase from a traditional, established wine merchant in whom you can place your trust. The House of Townend celebrates 118 years in the hands of the same family and we pride ourselves in giving personal, considered advice.

Example

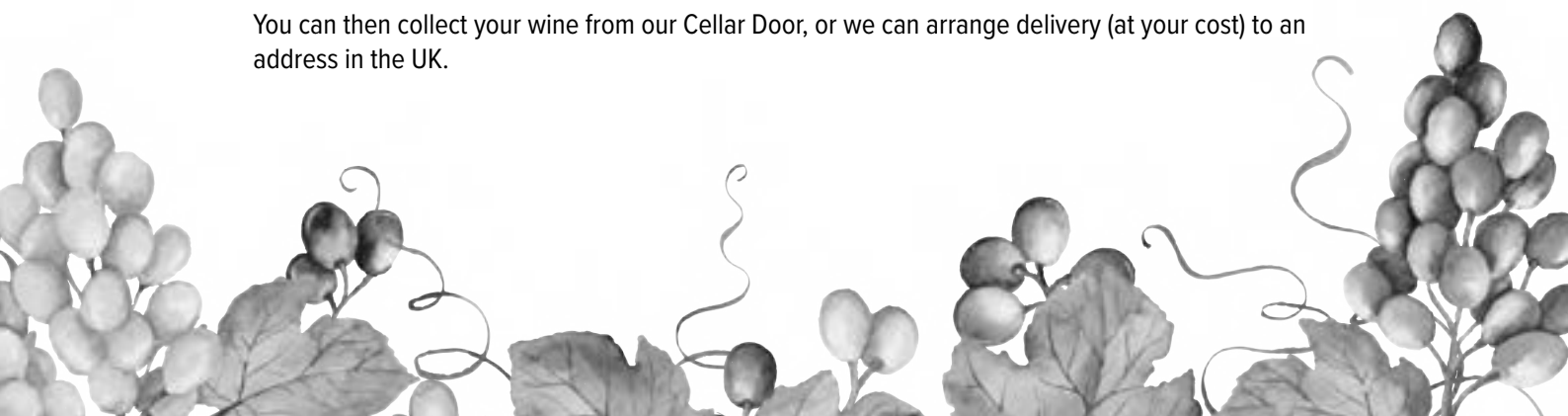
You purchase a case of 6 bottles for £140.00.

When the wine arrives in the UK and you wish to remove it from bond, the following process is completed in order for this to happen. Charges will apply.

- Payment of VAT on initial purchase - £28.00
- Duty payment including VAT at the current rate - £19.24
- Total Duty and VAT - £47.24

Therefore bringing the total cost of your case of wine to £187.23 or £31.20 a bottle.

You can then collect your wine from our Cellar Door, or we can arrange delivery (at your cost) to an address in the UK.





BORDEAUX BLANC

PESSAC-LÉOGNAN BLANC

Often overlooked for its white wines, Bordeaux actually offers some outstanding everyday drinking, with wines of great character, not just one-dimensional fruit. It is a great source of rich and creamy blends, yielding flavours and aromas of creme brûlée, baked apples, orange zest, figs and lemon butter.

Geographically Pessac-Léognan is a continuation to the south-east of Haut-Médoc. Many vineyards in the north have disappeared as the city of Bordeaux has extended outwards. The whole region was formerly known as Graves, but since 1996 it has been divided into two appellations, Pessac-Léognan and Graves. Pessac-Léognan is the most northerly and best part, where most of the Grands Crus are situated.

Château Olivier Grand Cru Classé (12x75cl)
Grape Mix: 80% Sauvignon Blanc, 70% Semillon

£280.00 per case IB

(J. Suckling: 94-95 points)
(Jane.Anon.com: 93 points)
(Neal Martin: 91-93 points)

Classified for its red and white wines, Château Olivier is surrounded by forest that not only influences the property's micro-climate, but which has given it 8 hectares of prime vineyard, already in the Pessac-Léognan AOC.

This is a wonderfully balanced and citrus-laden Olivier, 80% Sauvignon and 20% Semillon, supported by 35% new oak and 10 months in barrel. Open and lush now, this will age for 5-10 years as the freshness of acidity underscores the ripe peach, dessert apple and mineral fruit.

Drink 2026 - 2033 

Château de Fieuzal Grand Cru Classé (6x75cl)
Grape Mix: 60% Sauvignon Blanc, 40% Semillon

£252.00 per case IB

(J. Suckling: 93-94 points)
(Jane.Anon.com: 92 points)

The Château was acquired in 2001 by Irish businessman and philanthropist, Lochlann Quinn, who has invested heavily whilst also increasing the vineyard holdings, to become one of the larger Classified Growths of the Pessac-Léognan Appellation. The 48ha of vines are split 39ha of red grapes (60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 4.5% Cabernet Franc and 2.5% Petit Verdot) and 9ha of white grapes (split equally between Semillon and Sauvignon Blanc).

This is one of the finest white wines of the 2023 vintage. Ripe peach skin, a touch of apricot and a streak of minerality and wet stone, this is a full bodied and zippy Pessac, benefiting from 40% new oak and 12 months in barrel.

Drink 2026 - 2033 

SAUTERNES

After a satisfying meal, what's better than a chilled glass of dessert wine with your favourite pudding? Especially from the world's finest dessert wine producing region.

Located to the south of Bordeaux this area is perfectly suited to dessert wine production due to the close proximity to the Garonne River where grapes often develop Botrytis Cinerea. This noble rot is a fungal rot that causes ripe grapes to shrivel under perfect conditions, reducing the moisture content of the grapes resulting in incredibly intense sweet wines.

Château Liot (12x37.5cl)
Grape Mix: 80% Sémillon, 15% Sauvignon Blanc, 5% Muscadelle

£104.00 per case IB

(J. Suckling: 88-89 points)

This 25-hectare property has been in the David family for several generations and is currently run by Jean-Gérard David. Although it is labelled Sauternes, it is actually situated on the Haut-Barsac plateau on typical red clay over limestone soils, in the commune of Barsac, next to Château Climens.

Aged in oak barrels for 12 months. A vibrant golden colour, the bouquet offers aromatic clarity and the palate is rich with concentrated pineapple, ripe apricot and juicy peach.

Drink 2025 - 2033 

BORDEAUX & BORDEAUX SUPÉRIEUR

BORDEAUX AND BORDEAUX SUPÉRIEUR

This appellation covers an area of 51,000 hectares of which 44,000 hectares are devoted to the production of red wines. Maximum yields are 55hl/ha with alcohol levels of between 10% and 13% vol. There is a lot of sub-standard wine in this appellation; however, with careful (sometimes tedious) selection it is the home of some wonderful wines that are great value for money for everyday drinking.

The Bordeaux Supérieur appellation covers the same geographical area as Bordeaux AOC, however the wines are produced from older vines and released 12 months later than Bordeaux AOC. Again, there are some fantastic wines to be found at this level.


Château Tour de Luchey, Bordeaux (6x75cl)

£24.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 80% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc

This 25ha Château, situated in Moulon, to the south of St Emilion, is owned and run by the Massé family. Fermented and aged in cement and stainless steel tanks, with 5% aged in oak barrels.

A rich and intense bouquet showing concentrated aromas of black fruits. The palate is dense, black cherry fruits dominate with a touch of dark chocolate lending a creamy feel to the wine and there is a crunchy acidity and freshness, all supported by super yielding tannins. This wine will offer great everyday drinking!

Drink 2025 - 2027 


Château d'Argadens, Bordeaux Supérieur (6x75cl)

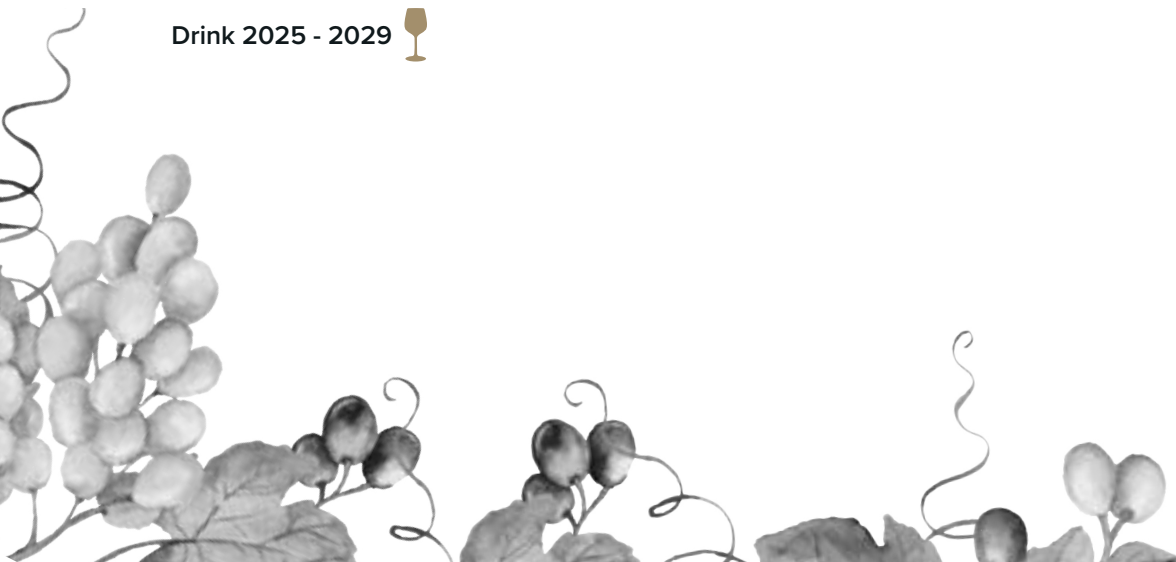
£36.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 63% Merlot, 32% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc

In 2002 this property, situated in Saint-André-du-Bois, 60km south of Bordeaux, was purchased by the Sichel family, owners of Château Angludet and co owner of Château Palmer. A major investment programme was undertaken. The vineyards were re-structured with increased plantation density, and the winery and ageing cellar re-built. The result? Well, this property now produces the very best wine you can kind find at this level. Its popularity in recent years has soared and is now one of our most popular drinking clarets.

The fruit is hand-harvested and fermented in large vats, then aged in 30% new French oak barrels for 14 months, receiving light fining and filtering prior to being bottled. Succulent, rich and round in style, the palate is full of cassis fruits with soft approachable tannins.

Drink 2025 - 2029 



CRU BOURGEOIS

MÉDOC AND HAUT-MÉDOC

The Médoc AOC covers approximately 5,700 ha which constitutes 34.5% of the Médoc in total. The soils are gravel and clay-limestone with frequent areas of heavy, clay rich moisture, retentive soils.

Around the edges of the Médoc and between the specific communes lies the Haut-Médoc (Upper Médoc). It varies in quality from some of the finest wines, most notably Château La Lagune in Ludon in the south and Château Sociando-Mallet in the north, to the somewhat mediocre. In normal years, careful selection is required when choosing wines from the Haut-Médoc but value for money can be found here, which is hardly what Bordeaux is renowned for!

Château Semonlon, Haut-Médoc (12x75cl)
Grape Mix: 60% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon

£66.00 per case IB

This property is located in Avensan, a small commune not far from Margaux. Its vineyards border those of Château Citran. Owned by the Dumora family, whose patrimony spans several generations, its 7 hectares are planted with 40% Cabernet Sauvignon and 60% Merlot, while the average age of the vines is 35 years. The soil is comprised of muddy gravel, large stones and small amounts of clay.

Olivier Dumora uses 1 and 2 year old barrels from Château Prieure-Lichine for the élevage of this wine that punches hard and is a great entry into the Haut-Medoc appellation. The bouquet offers a fabulous rich and raisined black fruit aroma with an overt freshness. The mouthfeel is dense with a crunchy black fruit compote and juicy balance, firm but yielding tannins and a touch of sandalwood on the finish. This wine offers supreme value.

Drink 2026 - 2030 



CRU BOURGEOIS SUPÉRIEURS

HAUT-MÉDOC

Château Cissac, Haut-Medoc (12x75cl)

£99.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 8% Petit Verdot, 2% Malbec

(Jane.Anson.com: 91 points)

Château Cissac belongs to the Vialard family, and its reputation was built on the tireless work of Louis Vialard, who established the wine's fame through the 1970s and 1980s. Situated in the northern-most Haut-Médoc appellation, this historic château dates from 1769. The soil in the vineyards is less diverse than in the Médoc, predominantly sandy, with gravel.

Vibrant and fresh black fruits with a lovely blueberry fruit freshness on the nose, leads to a palate that is compact with concentrated cassis fruit flavours. There is a lick of cedar oak and the tannins are suave and silky, so much more approachable compared to the more rustic character that this château was renowned for years ago. This is an excellent, value for money claret that will delight the traditional claret drinker.

Drink 2027 - 2036 

Château Beaumont, Haut-Medoc (6x75cl)

£57.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot

(Neal Martin: 88-90 points)

(Decanter 90 Points)

This is a highly regarded Château under the same ownership as Château Beychevelle. Located on the left bank of the Gironde, between the communes of Margaux and Saint-Julien, Château Beaumont draws its finesse and its delicacy from the deep gravels of the best soils of the Haut-Médoc.

Deep and woody on the bouquet with concentrated blackberry fruit aromas. This is a super, high intensity wine, finely crafted with an impressive underbelly of creamy cassis and black olive. There is a crunchy freshness and juiciness that gives balance, the tannins are in check and the finish is full and long. Very impressive.

Drink 2027 - 2035 



CRU BOURGEOIS EXCEPTIONNELS

MÉDOC

Château Potensac (6x75cl)

£90.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 17% Cabernet Franc

(James Suckling: 93-94 points)

(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 89-91 points)

(Jane.Anson.com: 92 points)

A beautiful estate in the Haut-Médoc situated only 15km from the city of Bordeaux. Owned by Bruno Von der Heyden and Florence Deguillaume, who have invested heavily in the 54 ha of vines and wine cellars over recent years.

The nose expresses a super ripe black fruit intensity, ripe and succulent yet there is an excellent balancing freshness and beautifully singing tannins. This is an impressive wine with a velvety texture that extends right through to the long finish.

Drink 2027 - 2036 

MOULIS

Along with Listrac, this appellation tends to be less familiar to buyers than the four major appellations, but does produce some outstanding Cru Bourgeois. The area is situated to the north west of Margaux on a gravelly plain.

The best soils are on the great dune of gravel, stretching from Grand Poujeaux in Moulis, inland through Listrac. It is here where the likes of Château Chasse-Spleen and Château Poujeaux are situated.

Château Chasse-Spleen (12x75cl)

£250.00 per case IB

**Grape Mix: 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot,
10% Petit Verdot, 3% Cabernet Franc**


(J. Suckling: 92-93 points)

(Jane.Anson.com: 91 points)

(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 89-91 points)

This renowned property was included in the new Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel classification in 2003, and rightly so as many think it worthy of Cru Classé status. It is always extremely popular with our En Primeur buyers.

The vineyards were badly affected by hail on the 7th July, with large scale losses, yielding only 33hl/ha. The sturdy Petit Verdot survived the mildew and hail and takes a greater role in the blend this vintage. A dark, dense and richly concentrated wine, it is creamy in texture, smoky, earthy with great depth, some chocolate notes and a richly extracted structure. Cedar oak notes on the finish, this will be a popular wine with lovers of this Château.

Drink 2029 - 2040 

CRU BOURGEOIS EXCEPTIONNELS

ST-ESTÈPHE

St-Estèphe is the largest producer of the Haut-Médoc appellations, situated at the northern limit of the appellation. It is closest to the mouth of the river Gironde, joining the Atlantic Ocean. Here the richer soil with higher clay content retains moisture well during summer. Wines from the St-Estèphe commune take time to develop but are also very long lived and at their best rival the finest wines of any of the Médoc communes.

Château Phelan Segur (6x75cl)

£186.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot

(J. Suckling: 96-97 points)


(JaneAnson.com: 95 points)

(Neal Martin: 92-94 points)

(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 91-93 points)

This 66ha property is a consistent producer of classic St. Estèphe – solid, structured and long-lived. It is situated very close to both Château Montrose and Château Calon-Ségur, so in rather good company! Purchased by Xavier Gardinier in 1985 it is now run by his sons, Thierry and Laurent.

Rich, almost New World in style upon first taste, this Phelan is a layered, complex claret with a firm structure, tight, building tannins, and a dense core of concentrated black forest fruits. The acidity is fresh, and there are notes of spice, capsicum and some graphite. Altogether a rich, brooding Saint-Estèphe

Drink 2030 - 2037 

MARGAUX

This is the largest commune in the Médoc. The lighter, gravelly soils yield some of the most sensual and elegant wines of the Médoc, the complete opposite of Pauillac. The commune is the most southerly of Médoc's appellations and encompasses the neighbouring villages of Cantenac, Arsac, Labarde and Soussans. The 1855 classification includes more wines from Margaux than from any other appellation.

Château Angludet (6x75cl)


£144.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 43% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 17% Petit Verdot

(JaneAnson.com: 93-94 points)

Owned by the Sichel family and managed since 1989 by Ben, the youngest of the Sichel brothers, this property is blessed with ideal conditions for producing splendidly consistent wines. The sandy and gravelly soil provides good natural drainage, which increases concentration in the fruit.

Now farmed biodynamically, Angludet is producing great wine year on year. Dark and dense in colour, the bouquet is aromatic and forward with an emphasis on raspberry freshness. A solid core of sweet red and black fruits on the initial palate, energised by a delicious freshness. There is elegance here, with pure and precise tannins that support the sweet creamy fruit, interlaced with violet and a hint of vanilla oak. Spicy throughout, this is a polished and vibrant wine that brilliantly reflects the Margaux appellation.

Drink 2030 - 2040 

GRAND CRU CLASSÉ

HAUT-MEDOC

Château La Lagune 5ème Cru Classé Haut-Médoc (6x75cl)
Grape Mix: 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot

£165.00 per case IB

(J. Suckling: 94-95 points)

(Jane.Anson.com: 93 points)

Situated just below the village of Margaux and next to Château Cantemerle, this has long been a very popular château. Since 2000 La Lagune has been in the hands of the talented Jean-Jacques Frey who is producing excellent wines year after year.

A yield of 30hl/ha, the wine is aged in 50% new oak for 14 months. Lagune has produced quite a profound wine this vintage, brooding and smouldering, with black fruits, plums as well as black olive concentration and a touch of spice. There is a lovely blueberry freshness that provides an excellent equilibrium and the tannins are ripe and chewy. Long and persistent on the finish.

Drink 2029 - 2040 

Château Cantemerle 5ème Cru Classé Haut-Médoc (12x75cl)
Grape Mix: 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot,
6% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot

£220.00 per case IB

(J. Suckling: 93-94 points)

(Jane.Anson.com: 92 points)

(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 88-89 points)

Situated in the commune of Macau just below the village of Margaux and next to Château La Lagune, this is one of the finest value Growth Clarets. It was the final property to be classified as one of eighteen Cinquièmes Crus (Fifth Growths) in the Bordeaux Wine Official Classification of 1855.

A very impressive, concentrated black fruit laden bouquet, fresh and expressive. The palate is rich, round and creamy, shouting black fruits – blackcurrant, prune and raisin, with soft integrated tannins and notes of cedar oak on the finish. This will no doubt be a real crowd pleaser.

Drink 2029 - 2038 



GRAND CRU CLASSÉ

ST ESTÈPHE

Château Montrose 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)

£714.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc

(J. Suckling: 99-100 points)

(Jane.Anson.com: 98 points)

(Neal Martin: 96-98 points)

(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 97-100 points)

Montrose is one of the great traditional names of Bordeaux, always sought-after by En Primeur fans. It was bought in 2006 by the Bouygues family and in recent years an astonishing investment programme has been carried out at the château. Now under the stewardship of Herve Berland, formerly at Mouton Rothschild, this château continues to compete at the very highest level.

Harvested between the 5th - 28th September. The Grand Vin is aged in 60% new oak barrels for 18 months and accounts for 35% of the crop.

This is another magnificent wine from a Château that has been on top form for many years now. In 2023 the first wine was produced from the original terroir of the property known as Terrace 4. A powerful and intense wine, muscular yet finely crafted, showing remarkable purity of cassis fruits, liquorice, graphite and fine pencil shaving notes. The finish is long and very impressive. TOP wine!

Drink 2033 - 2045



GRAND CRU CLASSÉ

PAUILLAC

The name of Pauillac is assured from the reflected glory of its three First Growths - Lafite, Mouton-Rothschild and Latour, not to mention the other fifteen Cru Classé Châteaux situated in the commune. The wines, produced from vineyards that sit on a generally heavy gravel soil with varying sub-soils, are among the most powerful and well structured in the whole of the Bordeaux region.


Château Duhart-Milon Rothschild 4ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)
Grape Mix: 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot

£342.00 per case IB

(J. Suckling: 94-95 points)
(Jane.Anson.com: 95 points)
(Neal Martin: 93-95 points)
(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 92-94 points)

Another Rothschild property produced by the team that makes Lafite. Duhart is always a high achiever. This 46-hectare estate is ever increasing its reputation for excellent, consistent quality, producing great wines over recent vintages.

A very impressive, concentrated black fruit laden bouquet, fresh and expressive. The palate is rich, round and creamy, shouting black fruits – blackcurrant, prune and raisin, with soft integrated tannins and notes of cedar oak on the finish. This will no doubt be a real crown pleaser.

Drink 2033 - 2048 


Château Clerc Milon 5ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)
Grape Mix: 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 6.5% Cabernet Franc, 1.5% Carmenere, 1% Petit Verdot

£330.00 per case IB

(J. Suckling: 95-96 points)
(Jane.Anson.com: 96 points)
(Neal Martin: 92-94 points)
(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 92-94 points)

Part of the Mouton Rothschild stable and made by the same winemaking team. Aged in 55% new oak barrels for 18 months.

A big, dark and muscular Pauillac, showing hints of raspberry, pomegranate over a core of dense cassis and sweet lack cherry fruit. An enigmatic note of bruised apple and forest floor gives a lovely counterpoint to the black fruit, and the tannins, considerable that they are, show elegance and a roundness to the structure. Very good - classic Pauillac!

Drink 2033 - 2043 



GRAND CRU CLASSÉ

PAUILLAC

Château d'Armailhac 5ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)
**Grape Mix: 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot,
13% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot**

£204.00 per case IB

(J. Suckling: 93-94 points)
(Jane.Anson.com: 94 points)
(Neal Martin: 91-93 points)
(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 92-93 points)

Formerly known as Château Mouton Baron Philippe this excellent property is still owned by the Rothschild family and is one to follow.

A smoky rich bouquet with notes of cherry, cedar oak and tobacco. This is a well structured wine showing black berry fruits, firm tannins, sweet oak and a summer pudding freshness. A delicious claret.

Drink 2031 - 2042 


Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste 5ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)
Grape Mix: 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot

£273.00 per case IB

(J. Suckling: 95-96 points)
(Jane.Anson.com: 94 points)
(Neal Martin: 93-95 points)
(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 93-95 points)

Owned by the Borie family, this 45-hectare property has a reputation for producing excellent, full-bodied Pauillac.

This top Pauillac property has performed very well in 2023. The 23% Merlot shows an uplifted, forward nose of rich mocha fruit and hint of cassis, plum and raspberry. The palate is charming, beautifully refined and elegant, layers of vibrant red and black fruits, pencil, black olive, sweet vanilla oak and some jam. The tannins are soft at first, then tighten considerably on the finish. Fresh throughout.

Drink 2033 - 2045 

Château Lynch-Bages 5ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)
**Grape Mix: 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot,
3% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot**

£420.00 per case IB

(J. Suckling: 97-98 points)
(Jane.Anson.com: 96 points)
(Neal Martin: 93-95 points)
(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 93-95 points)

Situated on the Bages plateau, one of the finest gravelly rises in the appellation, this Château, owned by the Caz family for nearly 100 years is always one of the most popular amongst Bordeaux drinkers.

This Château always produces one of Pauillac's most powerful and muscular wines and 2023 is no different. The nose is a super compote of black cassis, cedar oak and tobacco, brooding and intense. Full bodied, tightly knit and sturdy in structure, on the palate there is a massive concentration of black fruits with tightly woven, finely tuned tannins and a lovely smattering of graphite. A top wine this vintage as well as a very encouraging price reduction!

Drink 2033 - 2045 

GRAND CRU CLASSÉ

PAUILLAC

Château Pontet-Canet 5ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)
**Grape Mix: 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot,
6% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot**

£395.00 per case IB

(J. Suckling: 97-98 points)
(Jane.Anson.com: 98-100 points)
(Neal Martin: 93-95 points)
(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 96-98 points)

Alfred Tesseron has passionately built this estate over many years to the pinnacle of Bordeaux winemaking. Farmed organically, including working the vineyards by horse, Pontet-Canet is punching up there with the very best.

A beautifully contracted wine in 2023, Pontet-Canet oozes finesse and elegance whilst retaining the power and concentration of the Pauillac appellation. A deep and savoury bouquet, the palate shows a seductive creaminess with black fruits and liquorice, an underlying forest floor character and beautiful defined ripe tannins. The finish is long and impressive.

Drink 2033 - 2045 


Château Batailley 5ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)
Grape Mix: 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot

£162.00 per case IB

(J. Suckling: 95-96 points)
(Jane.Anson.com: 96 points)
(Neal Martin: 93-95 points)

Château Batailley, a 5th Grand Cru Classé of the classification of 1855, is the family Castéja's and Borie-Manoux's flagship. It is one of the oldest estates in the Médoc. The name is derived from the battle that took place where the Château and vineyard are today, during the 100-years war in 1452. In this battle, the French re-conquered the neighbouring Chateau Latour from the English, a crucial point in the history of Aquitaine. A few years later the first vines were planted on this historical and blood soaked grounds.

A ripe and powerful claret, showing the benefit of investment in both vineyard and cellars. Dark and dense in colour, slightly oily on the rim. The bouquet is forward, very ripe and sweet, with notes of red cherry, raspberry coulis and a hint of dark chocolate. The tannins are muscular without being gripping, and support the sweetly ripe fruit, all cut through with a fresh acidity and spice. Overall, this is a wonderfully balanced, fresh and elegant Pauillac that shows a degree of opulence that is missing from others.

Drink 2033 - 2043 



GRAND CRU CLASSÉ

PAUILLAC

Château Pichon-Longueville, Comtesse de Lalande 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl) £660.00 per case IB
Grape Mix: 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc

(J. Suckling: 98-99 points)
(Jane.Anon.com: 98 points)
(Neal Martin: 96-98 points)
(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 97-99 points)

This is one of the great Châteaux of Bordeaux and is rightly one of the most sought after Second Growths, with a reputation for producing wines that are typically Pauillac. Now owned by the Champagne House Louis Roederer, the recently installed winery is quite magnificent.

This is one of the stars of the vintage – refined, classic and complex. The palate is rich and muscular, showing layers of bitter dark chocolate, cherry, cassis and vanilla. Spice aplenty, integrated with rigid tannins, concentrated yet with a lovely elegance and poise. Fresh acidity supports throughout.

Drink 2033 - 2045 


Château Lafite-Rothschild 1er Cru Classé (6x75cl) £2460.00 per case IB
Grape Mix: 93% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Merlot, 1% Petit Verdot

(J. Suckling: 97-98 points)
(Neal Martin: 95-97 points)
(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 97-99 points)

One of the original “First Growth” Clarets, Château Lafite is one of the most famous names in the world of wine. Responsibility for winemaking has been under the watchful eye of Eric Kohler since 2015, the results have been quite magnificent.

The grapes are hand-harvested, and each parcel is vinified separately. The yield was a healthy 45hl/ha and the fermentation took place in stainless steel vats, after which the wine is run off into 90% new oak barrels for 22 months ageing.

Harvested between the 7th September – 29th September, this is a very classic and classy Lafite that is being touted as the ‘wine of the vintage’.


Drink 2036 - 2053 

Château Mouton-Rothschild 1er Cru Classé (6x75cl) £2034.00 per case IB
Grape Mix: 93% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot

(J. Suckling: 98-99 points)
(Jane.Anon.com: 98-100 points)
(Neal Martin: 96-98 points)
(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 94-96 points)

Upgraded to First Growth status back in 1973, Mouton Rothschild was more famous for the annual appointment of famous artists to design the label. Under technical director Jean-Emmanuel Danjoy, Mouton is on top form and fully justifies its position at the altar of the Bordeaux hierarchy.

Harvested between the 7th – 30th September. The grapes are hand-picked, and the juice is fermented in barrels, not in vat, followed by ageing in 100% new oak for 22 months. The high degree of Cabernet Sauvignon at 93% is the second highest in history and makes this the most structured and muscular Mouton since the great 2016 vintage. Arguably this is a notch up on 2022 which makes the 37% drop in release price all the more enticing!

Drink 2036 - 2053 

GRAND CRU CLASSÉ

ST-JULIEN

The smallest producer of the four main Haut-Médoc communes but one that boasts some of the finest châteaux, including several Cru Bourgeois that perform to the 1855 Classification standard. The soil is gravel with a subsoil of sandstone and clay. Drainage is very good, which allows the appellation to perform well even in wetter years. The wines tend to be a little smoother and more elegant than their Pauillac neighbours, drinking a little earlier, while at the same time offering that classic Bordeaux typicity.

Le Petit Ducru de Ducru Beaucaillou (6x75cl)

£123.00 per case IB


Grape Mix: 72% Merlot, 24% Cabernet Sauvignon and 4% Petit Verdot

(J. Suckling: 90 points)

(Jane.Anson.com: 90 points)

(Neal Martin: 90-92 points)

A great entry into the Ducru-Beaucaillou range, this wine used to be sold under the Château Lalande-Borie label and always offers tremendous value for money. Aged for 12 months in oak barrels. A delicious, creamy, plum filled wine, medium bodied, soft and succulent with a lovely compact style. The oak is subtle and there is a tad a spice on the finish.

Drink 2029 - 2035 

Sarget de Gruaud Larose, St Julien (6x75cl)

£114.00 per case IB

**Grape Mix: 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot,
5% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot**

This second wine of Gruaud-Larose gives a really good glimpse of what a second growth Claret is, and the value is exceptional, particularly given the notable improvements at this Château in recent years. This is the second vintage produced under organic certification, following a sustained period of progress. Aged for 12 months in 30% new oak barrels this really is a super claret.

Drink 2027 - 2032 

Les Fiefs de Lagrange (12x75cl)

£180.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, 13% Petit Verdot

(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 89-91 points)

This is a superb second wine that provides a glimpse of the Grand Vin at a fraction of the price. Claret drinkers will enjoy its warmth and generosity.

With an average vine age of 35 years, the quality of grapes is exceptional. Vinified in 63 impressive stainless steel tanks of 66-220 hl at temperatures below 30 °C. After fermentation the wine matures for 13 months in oak barrels, of which 20% is new. A wonderful palate showing cassis and dark cherry fruits, soft and yielding ripe tannins and a delicious freshness on the finish.

Drink 2027 - 2032 



GRAND CRU CLASSÉ

ST-JULIEN

Château de Glana, St Julien (12x75cl)
Grape Mix: 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot

£180.00 per case IB

(J. Suckling: 90-91 points)

This is one of the finest Cru Bourgeois properties in St Julien, enjoying a fine location between the towns of Beychevelle and Saint Julien. It has expanded by purchasing Classed Growth vineyards from the 3rd Growth Château Lagrange. The wine produced here is a wonderful combination of power, depth and charm and offers very good value. Now that is not an easy thing to say in Saint Julien!

Charming nose, open and lush, the palate shows nice concentration with notes of red and black fruits, cassis, some graphite and cedar supporting. The structure is well balanced, medium weight and freshens towards the finish. The tannins are held in check by the sweet fruit and acidity, with an overall impression of elegance, charm and ripeness.

Drink 2028 - 2038 


Château Gloria, St Julien (6x75cl)
**Grape Mix: 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot,
10% Petit Verdot, 5% Cabernet Franc**

£138.00 per case IB

(J. Suckling: 93-94 points)
(Jane.Anon.com: 94 points)
(Neal Martin: 90-92 points)
(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 90-92 points)

This Château is somewhat of an anomaly in Bordeaux. It is made up of small plots purchased from neighbouring Classed Growth properties, including Château Léoville-Poyferré, Château Gruaud-Larose and Château Duhart-Milon (who owned a small plot in St-Julien). However, once they were sold to the creator of Château Gloria, Monsieur Henri Martin, the vineyards ceased to possess their Classed Growth status. It is, however, Growth Claret in all but name. 45 hectares of vines with an average age of 45 years old, it continually performs year in year out to the highest level.

A charming and pretty bouquet yet showing a smouldering underlying power. The palate is intense and powerful, creamy in texture with ripe sweet red fruits supported by savoury capsicum and a trace of dark chocolate. The tannins are finely integrated into the core of the wine and the finish is tight and laden with spice.

Drink 2031 - 2040 



GRAND CRU CLASSÉ

ST-JULIEN

Château Talbot 4ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)

£231.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot

(J. Suckling: 94-95 points)


(JaneAnson.com: 94 points)

(Neal Martin: 91-93 points)

(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 92-94 points)

This Château has always had a very strong following amongst our customers here in the North of England - no doubt due to its continued policy of offering good Claret at a competitive price to its peers.

Aged in 60% new oak, this is a really impressive wine from this Château, now a consistent top performer of the St Julien appellation. Impressively structured, tight and classic in style, the fruit is fleshy with concentrated blackberry, plums and a touch of chocolate which adds to the viscosity on the palate. There is spice and forest floor and the tannins are perfectly tuned, whilst the finish is taut with notes of cedar.

Drink 2033 - 2043 

Château Gruaud Larose 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)

£358.00 per case IB


Grape Mix: 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.5% Merlot, 2.5% Cabernet Franc

(JaneAnson.com: 95 points)

(Neal Martin: 93-95 points)

Situated to the far south of the St Julien appellation, this is one of the most famous and historic Saint Julien 2nd growth properties that consistently delivers exceptional claret.

Another standout wine from this super 2nd growth. Refined, elegant and seamless, there is a high degree of concentrated black and red fruits, vanilla and spice that are centred within a dark and dense structure of tannins, wood, minerality and acidity. This is a big wine, yet the sensation is still one of refinement and elegance. A measured alcohol of 12.62%.

Drink 2033 - 2043 

Château Beychevelle 4ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)

£360.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot

(J. Suckling: 94-95 points)

(JaneAnson.com: 94 points)

(Neal Martin: 92-94 points)

(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 93-94 points)

Beychevelle is one of the most beautiful chateaux of the Medoc, with its new winery proudly visible as you drive past. Extremely popular throughout the world.

In 2023 Beychevelle used its highest percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon ever in its final blend, 61%, with 35% Merlot. Aged in 70% new oak this is a seriously rich and concentrated claret, dark with creamy cassis, fresh raspberry and notes of sweet oak, coconut, graphite and cedar.

Drink 2033 - 2043 

GRAND CRU CLASSÉ

ST-JULIEN

Château Langoa-Barton 3ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)

£177.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc

(J. Suckling: 94-95 points)


(JaneAnson.com: 94 points)

(Neal Martin: 91-93 points)

(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 93-95 points)

This 20 hectare estate is the 'sister' to Léoville-Barton and is also very fairly priced for the consistency of its quality. The grape varieties and wine-making methods are similar to these of Léoville-Barton.

A classic bouquet – vibrant, rich and brooding in the glass, it is brimming with rich mocha notes and there is an appealing whiff of graphite. The palate is structured, a core of dark forest fruits and black cherry balanced by a zesty raspberry freshness and touch of wood tannins and pencil lead. Long on the finish, elegant and very polished.

Drink 2032 - 2043 

Château Léoville-Barton 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)

£336.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc

(J. Suckling: 96-97 points)


(JaneAnson.com: 97 points)

(Neal Martin: 92-94 points)

(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 94-96 points)

This Château is always one of the bestselling En Primeur wines, due to its consistent high quality and the long standing commitment by the Barton family to maintain a sensible pricing policy. The vineyards are intensely planted with 9,100 vines per ha. Aged for 18 months in 60% new oak, this is a balanced and impressive claret, very much in the Leoville style.

Cabernet Sauvignon dominant, the nose is rich, dark and intense in the glass. The palate is a combination of sweet black fruits cut with notes of savoury capsicum, cedar and some graphite. The palate is powerful and somewhat opulent, sweet-edged and muscular and then it tightens on the finish. A superb claret!

Drink 2033 - 2045 

Château Léoville-Poyerré 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)

£337.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc

(J. Suckling: 95-96 points)


(JaneAnson.com: 98 points)

(Neal Martin: 95-97 points)

(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 93-95 points)

Owned by the Cuvelier family since 1921, the third of the Léoville properties has been regarded as the most lightweight for decades. That changed when Didier Cuvelier took charge in the 1970's, and a period of continuous improvement now sees this château amongst the finest châteaux of St-Julien.

This is one of the wines of the vintage and has been released at a generous 33.5% reduction on 2022, making this wine a top offering this vintage. An intense and dreamy bouquet, with notes of black cherry and cedar wood, the palate is dense and multi-layered, concentrated with cassis fruits, a touch of graphite and long and creamy finish. Yields of 53hl/ha. Aged in 80% new oak barrels for 18-20 months.

Drink 2033 - 2045 

GRAND CRU CLASSÉ

ST-JULIEN

Château Ducru Beaucaillou 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)
Grape Mix: 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot

£744.00 per case IB

(J. Suckling: 96-97 points)
(JaneAnson.com: 96 points)
(Neal Martin: 94-96 points)

This 49 hectare estate has recently been in outstanding form to maintain its reputation as a 'Super Second Growth'. Bruno Borie has continued to reduce the quantity of Ducru produced, nearly halving the quantity since 2003.

Aged for 18 months in 100% new oak, this is a beautifully crafted wine that puts this Château in the upper echelons of the 2023 performance league. A dreamy bouquet showing intense black fruit aromas and a whiff of graphite. The palate is quite sumptuous, classic with Cabernet Sauvignon domination and beautifully woven tannins that complement the structured and powerful core. This is a multi-layered wine that is balanced by an energetic and fragrant freshness.

Drink 2033 - 2045 


Château Léoville-Las-Cases, 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)
Grape Mix: 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc, 4% Merlot

£831.00 per case IB

(J. Suckling: 97-98 points)
(Jane.Anson.com: 98 points)
(Neal Martin: 95-97 points)
(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 94-96 points)

Château Léoville-Las-Cases is one of the finest 'Super Second' growths of the Medoc, and in many eyes, not least their own, is worthy of First Growth status. Close to the border between St Julien and Pauillac, it is situated just next to Château Latour, and for this reason the wine is as much Pauillac in its expression, as it is of its own appellation, St Julien.

The bouquet is quite regal. Serious and smouldering, there is a great concentration of black Cabernet fruit and taut graphite on the bouquet. The palate is complex – cassis, black cherry and liquorice with finely integrated tannins, pencil lead and stony minerality. Pure and precise, this a top wine in 2023.

Drink 2035 - 2048 



GRAND CRU CLASSÉ

MARGAUX

Alter Ego de Palmer, Margaux (6x75cl)

£354.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 43% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot

(J. Suckling: 95-96 points)


(JaneAnson.com: 93 points)

(Neal Martin: 92-94 points)

(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 92-94 points)

The second wine of Château Palmer, Alter Ego is always rich and voluptuous in style given the high percentage of Merlot in the blend.

Produced from yields of only 32hl/ha and approximately 1/3rd of the total crop, this is a dark, creamy textured wine, loaded with expressive layered plummy Merlot fruit, with further notes of cassis and blueberry. Aged in 25% new oak, this will be a popular wine.

Drink 2028 - 2043 

Château Kirwan 3ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)

£174.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 6% Petit Verdot, 1% Carmenere

(J. Suckling: 93-94 points)

(Neal Martin: 90-92 points)

Owned by the Schÿler family, Kirwan is on top form since the new winery was installed in 2016. A wine of great breeding and a great reference for the Margaux appellation.

A rich, blackcurrant fruit bouquet, almost lush with a wonderful blueberry freshness. There is a hint of balsamic and cherry stone, wrapped around supple tannins and a note of coffee. A stylish Margaux offering an alluring purity and elegance.

Drink 2031 - 2040 

Château Brane-Cantenac 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)

£267.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc, 1% Carmenere

(J. Suckling: 95-96 points)


(JaneAnson.com: 96points)

(Neal Martin: 93-95 points)

(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 93-95 points)

The vineyards of this château are located to the west of the village of Cantenac. Proprietor Henri Lurton has improved the quality in the vines, regrafting previously planted Merlot to high quality Cabernet Sauvignon. Planted on 72 hectares of fine gravel and clay that forms the 'Brane' of Cantenac - a plateau that regularly produces exceptional wines.

A higher than usual percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon has elevated and 'grown' this Margaux into a really powerful wine in 2023. Dense and dark in the glass, there is a brooding limpidity and sheen to the colour. The nose is immediate and intense thick with black fruits. The palate is equally so, powerful, rich and concentrated, layered with crunchy black fruits, cassis, kirsch and spice, with a fine note of plum. There is a delicious freshness that perfectly balances the fruit and holds the powerful tannins around the sweet core. Muscular, dense and brooding.

Drink 2031 -2043 

GRAND CRU CLASSÉ

MARGAUX

Château Rauzan-Ségla 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)

£360.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13.5% Merlot, 1.5% Petit Verdot

(J. Suckling: 97-98 points)


(JaneAnson.com: 96 points)

(Neal Martin: 93-95 points)

(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 94-96 points)

This 43 hectare château has made major strides since its purchase by Chanel in 1994. It is fair to say that it now punches fully to its 1855 classification and is one of the great Super-Second's.

At Rauzan, such was the threat of mildew, the vineyard teams used 12 treatments to hold back the fungal disease. A heavy percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon (85%) saw Merlot diminish - and just a meagre 30 hl/ha were harvested (8 Hectares were not in production). The result is a rich, intense and yet elegant Rauzan, offering a vivid bright cherry and cassis dominated palate with a lovely chalkiness and good minerality supporting the sweet underbelly of fruit. Tannins are compact and firming.

Drink 2031 - 2043 

Château Giscours 3ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)

£246.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc

(J. Suckling: 96-97 points)


(JaneAnson.com: 95 points)

(Neal Martin: 90-92 points)

(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 94-96 points)

A very popular château renowned for producing a rich and powerful style of wine. This Château is very much on top form, under the watchful eye of Alexander Van Beek.

Giscours continues to shine, evidence of investment from the Albada Jelgersma family and a better understanding of their 100 ha of vines that unusually for Bordeaux, sits in a single block (almost) surrounded by forest and pasture. This 2023 is powerful, rich and complex, layered with notes of boiled blackcurrants, decadent kirsch and fresh plum and supported by restrained tannins that are structured and firming on the finish. The acidity is well balanced and frames the fruit perfectly. The finish is elegant and polished.

Drink 2030 -2043 



GRAND CRU CLASSÉ

MARGAUX

Château Palmer 3ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)

£1440.00 per case IB


Grape Mix: 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot

(J. Suckling: 97-98 points)
(JaneAnson.com: 97 points)
(Neal Martin: 95-97 points)
(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 96-97 points)

After the First Growths this is traditionally one of the highest performing Châteaux and is always in high demand. Winemaker Thomas Duroux has overseen the Château's move to 100% biodynamic farming, a journey that began back in 2008 with certification in 2014.

This vintage the first wine accounts for 66% of the crop. Aged in 50% new French oak barrels for 12 months, followed by ageing in foudre.

This is a sensational wine! Rich, dense and explosive, brimming with concentrated blackberry fruits and notes of liquorice, cedar and spice. So voluptuous in texture with a long and moreish finish. Quite outstanding.

Drink 2033 - 2045 

Château Margaux 1er Cru Classé (6x75cl)


£2160.00 per case IB

Grape Mix: 89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot

(J. Suckling: 99-100 points)
(JaneAnson.com: 98 points)
(Neal Martin: 97-99 points)
(William Kelley, Wine Advocate 95-97 points)

Château Margaux, a Premier Grand Cru Classé Bordeaux, is one of the most famous wines in the world. Care has been lavished on the property by a line of owners with an abiding concern for the reputation of the estate. For more than five hundred years, season after season, generations of vineyard-workers, grape harvesters, cellar-workers, coopers and many other craftsmen have all played a part in making Château Margaux what it is today.

The first wine accounted for 41% of the crop in 2023. Winemaker Philippe Bascaules has produced a classic, seamless Margaux, of which there is 15% press wine included in the assemblage. Beautifully crafted, this is without doubt one of the finest wines produced this vintage.

Drink 2035 - 2053 

PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

Geographically this region is a continuation to the south-east of Haut-Médoc. Many vineyards in the north have disappeared as the city of Bordeaux has extended outwards. The area produces notable red and white wines, but the trend has been towards more red over the past two decades. The whole region was formerly known as Graves, but since 1996 it has been divided into two appellations, Pessac-Léognan and Graves. Pessac-Léognan is the most northerly and best part, where most of the Grands Crus are situated.

Château Olivier Grand Cru Classé (12x75cl)


Grape Mix: 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot

£240.00 per case IB

(Jane.Anson.com: 93 points)

Classified for its red and white wines, Château Olivier is surrounded by forest that not only influences the property's micro-climate, but which has given it 8 hectares of prime vineyard, already in the Pessac-Léognan AOC. A detailed geological survey in 2003 revealed the forest was planted on a croupe of compact gravel, perfect for Cabernet Sauvignon.

This is an elegant and refined wine showing deep and dark fruits, black cherry, plum and a layer of cassis. The fruit is vivid and bright, with balancing acidity and light oak. The tannins are tight and firm, but the fruit will swell over the next few years. A bold and expressive wine.

Drink 2032 - 2045 

RIGHT BANK

SATELLITE ST EMILION

Situated just to the north and northeast of Saint-Emilion are four separate appellations known as the 'St Emilion satellites'. They are Lussac-Saint-Emilion, Montagne-Saint-Emilion, Puisseguin-Saint-Emilion, and Saint-Georges-Saint-Emilion. Here the temperatures are a little cooler than in St. Emilion as the region is further from the Dordogne which means the harvesting is a little later. This is a great source of value for money wines, especially in top vintages.

Château Corbin, Montagne St Emilion (6x75cl) £42.00 per case IB
Grape Mix: 75% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Malbec

Overlooking both Cheval Blanc and Pétrus, this is a beautifully located, family owned château that produces outstanding, affordable claret. It is one of the oldest properties in Montagne which in itself is the smallest appellation in the Bordeaux region with only 18 growers. Dating back to the 16th Century the property has 23ha of vines that surround the Château. Jacques Rambaud took over from his father in 2005.

This is a hidden jewel of a Château, offering some of the finest value for money on the Right Bank. Aged in 40% old barrels and 60% in tank, Jacques Rambaud includes a small proportion of Malbec in the blend, which is co-fermented with Cabernet Franc. Packed with intense, stewed plums and ripe mulberry fruits, this is so suave and fruity. There is a lovely velvety feel to the palate with a crunchy freshness and mineral edge and the tannins are beautifully polished. This wine is a wonderful representation of the terroir and character of Montagne-Saint Emilion.

Drink 2032 - 2045 

Château du Courlat, Lussac St Emilion (12x75cl) £92.00 per case IB
Grape Mix: 95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc

From the long driveway of Cyprus trees on your approach, this estate inspires peace and tranquillity. Nature is present at every turn, with a large lake at the centre of vines, forest and Château.

Dark violet in colour, this is a super ripe Merlot dominant wine. Vibrant, fresh and aromatic with oodles of blackcurrant jam fruit, rich and moreish and yummy chewy tannins. Absolutely sumptuous, this is a great everyday drinker.

Drink 2025 - 2029 

Château du Courlat Cuvée Jean-Baptiste, Lussac St Emilion (12x75cl) £123.00 per case IB
Grape Mix: 100% Merlot

(Jane.Anson.com: 92 points)

In honour of Pierre Bourotte's Grand-father, Jean-Baptiste Audy, this is a wine of power and depth, produced from the oldest Merlot vines of the property grown on a deep clay soil.

Dark purple in colour, the nose is dense, full of blackcurrant aromas and a light smattering of oak. The palate is incredibly concentrated and ripe, with blackberry coulis, stewed prunes and cherry liqueur, but there is also a delightful freshness which provides perfect balance. This is one to note.

Drink 2026 - 2033 

RIGHT BANK

ST EMILION

On the right bank of Bordeaux, this is a large appellation where the Merlot grape dominates on the clay and limestone soils. Here the wines are rich and sumptuous. For those who like ballet dancing, head for the Médoc. For those who like belly dancing, this is the place for you!

St Emilion wines were not included in the 1855 Bordeaux classification with the first classification made in 1954. Unlike the 1855 classification, the St Emilion classification is regularly revised.

Château Fonplegade, Grand Cru St Emilion (6x75cl)
Grape Mix: 85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc

£186.00 per case IB

(JaneAnson.com: 95 points)
(James Suckling: 93-94 points)

The impressive 18.5ha property, situated close to the famous Château Angelus, belongs to American Denise Adams who, with the advice of Michel Rolland and Stéphane Derenoncourt is now producing one of the best value for money Grand Crus in St.Emilion, using bio-dynamic farming principles.

Produced biodynamically. Aged for between 16 and 18 months in 50% new French oak barrels, 30% one year barrels, 10% cement eggs and 10% amphora.

2023 is another super result. An expansive, rich and fragrant bouquet, the palate is bursting with compact and concentrated, voluptuous black fruit flavours, beautifully polished and well defined tannins and a rich and long finish.

Drink 2029 - 2038 


Château Grand Mayne, Grand Cru St Emilion (6x75cl)
Grape Mix: 75% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc

£162.00 per case IB

(J. Suckling: 92-93 points)
(Jane.Anson.com: 93 points)
(Neal Martin: 92-94 points)

Located north-west of the town of St-Emilion, this château was built in 1767 and since 1934 has been owned and run by the Nony family with Jean-Pierre Nony at the helm since 1975. With 19 hectares of vineyards, the château is superbly sited on the edge of a limestone plateau, where the soils are rich in clay, limestone and iron.

Grand Mayne is one of the stars of the appellation this vintage - dark, dense and smoky on the nose, lush black fruits combining with a fragrant red cherry note. The wine is intense, charming and pure, building with firming tannins and a note of cocoa powder and raspberry, balanced by a fine freshness. Powerful, concentrated and rounded on the finish.

Drink 2030 - 2038 

RIGHT BANK

POMEROL

Pomerol is the smallest of the major Bordeaux appellations. It is only 3 kilometers by 4 kilometers in dimension, with only 800 hectares under vine and around 150 châteaux. Whilst Pomerol is the home to some of the most sought after wines in the world, unlike other Bordeaux regions, it has no official wine classification. With soils of blue clay, the wines produced are sensual, rich and alluring.

Château Les Hauts-Conseillants (12x75cl)
Grape Mix: 95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc

£144.00 per case IB

(Jane.Anson.com: 91 points)

Located in Lalande de Pomerol, just across from Pomerol itself, the 10 hectare Château Les Hauts-Conseillants is owned and managed by the Bourotte family. Like some of the best soils in Pomerol, Les Hauts-Conseillants lies on a clay/gravel bed mixed with sand and produces a consistently full bodied plummy wine.

Destemmed 100%. Fermented plot by plot in small stainless and cement vats with manual pumping over and punching of the caps. The wine is aged for 18 months in fine-grained French oak barrels (30% new)

This is a magnificent result, given the viticultural challenges in June 2023. A charming Merlot rich wine, velvety in texture, full of concentrated black fruits and juicy plums with a delicious raspberry freshness. The tannins are subdued and supporting and the finish is intense.

Drink 2027 - 2035 

Château Bonalgue (6x75cl)
Grape Mix: 95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc


£138.00 per case IB

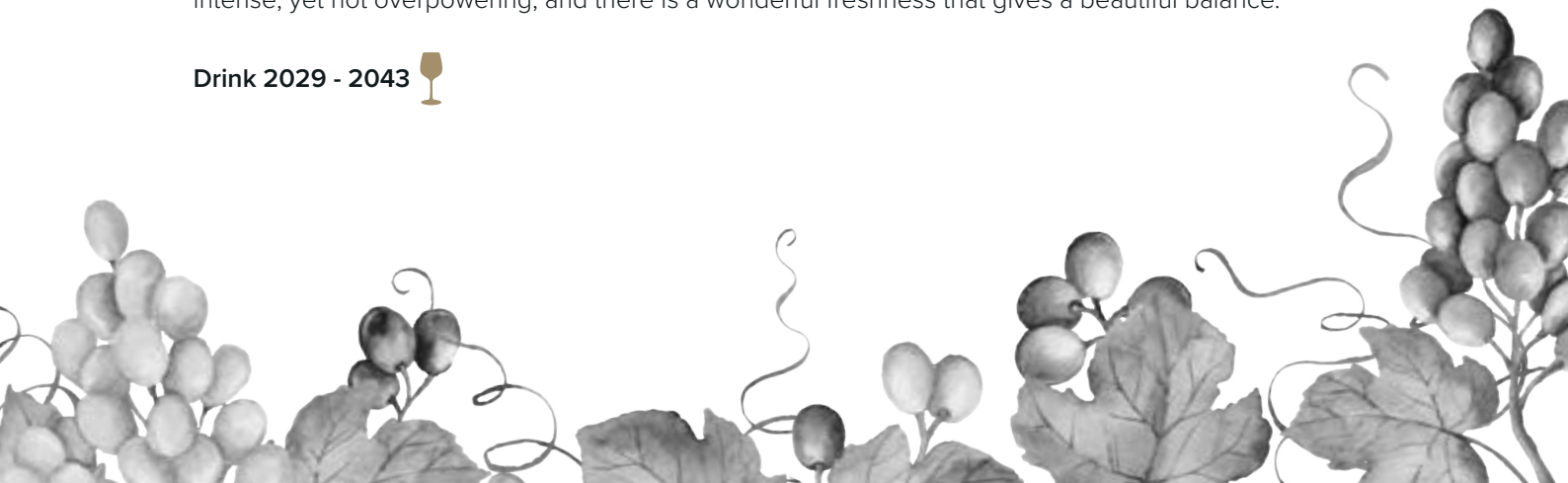
(J. Suckling: 95-94 points)
(Jane.Anson.com: 93 points "VALUE")

Originally built by one of Napoleon's officers on his return from the Egyptian campaign over 200 years ago this property covers 7 hectares with an ideal exposure. Owned by the Bourotte family, this excellent property covers 7 hectares with an ideal exposure, producing classic Pomerol.

Destemmed 100%. Yields of 35hl/ha. Fermentation is carried out plot by plot, in small stainless and cement vats with manual pumping over and punching of the caps. The malolactic fermentation took place in barrel. Aged for 18 months in fine-grained French oak barrels (50% new).

A super Pomerol, rich in moreish, ripe prune fruit, soft and creamy with a voluptuous mouthfeel. Layer upon layer of dark cherry jam, mocha and coffee notes fill the mouth. The tannins are powerful and intense, yet not overpowering, and there is a wonderful freshness that gives a beautiful balance.

Drink 2029 - 2043 



RIGHT BANK

POMEROL

Clos du Clocher (6x75cl)
Grape Mix: 70% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc

£258.00 per case IB

(J. Suckling: 96-95 points)
(Jane.Anson.com: 96 points)

A great little 4.6ha property in the ownership of Audy. The exposure of this property is perfect. Located in front of the chapel, only 200m from Vieux Château Certan and 300m from Château Petrus.

Yields of 40hl/ha. Fermentation carried out plot by plot, in small stainless and cement vats with manual pumping over and punching of the caps. The malolactic fermentation took place in barrel. Aged for 18 months in fine-grained French oak barrels, 50% new.

A fantastic follow-on to a stupendous 2022. Rich and ripe on the nose, with a careful level of extraction. The palate is full, densely bound with mocha, cherry, kirsch and crunchy blackcurrant notes, diffused with dusty cocoa and some minerality and graphite. The tannins are firm, not unyielding but robust enough to hold the fruit and balancing acidity.

Drink 2029 - 2039 


Château Rouget (6x75cl)
Grape Mix: 80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc

£198.00 per case IB

(J. Suckling: 96-97 points)
(Jane.Anson.com: 94 points)

This estate is owned by the Labruyère family, the only Burgundian family to own a Bordeaux château. The influence of Burgundy is notable with a 30% whole cluster ferment in the vinification process, providing a wonderful freshness.

A yield of only 26hl/ha with ageing in 30% new oak barrels for 16 monthd. Plump, elegant and smoky, dialled down from the chewy, oak dominated wines of previous vintages. This Rouget is elegance personified, but with the signature Pomerol notes of lush sweet mocha, cherry and plum fruit, cut through with a refined acidity and touch of pepper and liquorice. Generous, rich and rounded.

Drink 2031 - 2043 



BORDEAUX EN PRIMEUR 2023 ORDER FORM

Prices given are per case, in bond Melton (ex VAT & Duty)

		Cases Req'd	Cost IB	Total
BORDEAUX BLANC				
Pessac-Léognan	Château Olivier Grand Cru Classé (12x75cl)	.....	£280.00	.....
	Château de Fieuzal Grand Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£252.00	.....
Sauternes	Château Liot (12x37.5cl)	.....	£104.00	.....
BORDEAUX AND BORDEAUX SUPÉRIEUR				
	Château Tour de Luchey, Bordeaux (6x75cl)	.....	£24.00	.....
	Château d'Argadens, Bordeaux Supérieur (6x75cl)	.....	£36.00	.....
CRU BOURGEOIS				
Haut-Médoc	Château Semonlon, Haut-Médoc (12x75cl)	.....	£66.00	.....
CRU BOURGEOIS SUPÉRIEURS				
Haut-Médoc	Château Cissac, Haut-Médoc (12x75cl)	.....	£99.00	.....
	Château Beaumont, Haut-Médoc (6x75cl)	.....	£57.00	.....
CRU BOURGEOIS EXCEPTIONNELS				
Médoc	Château Potensac (6x75cl)	.....	£90.00	.....
Moulis	Château Chasse-Spleen (12x75cl)	.....	£250.00	.....
St Estephe	Château Phelan Segur (6x75cl)	.....	£186.00	.....
Margaux	Château Angludet (6x75cl)	.....	£144.00	.....
GRAND CRU CLASSÉ				
Haut-Médoc	Château La Lagune 5ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£165.00	.....
	Château Cantemerle 5ème Cru Classé (12x75cl)	.....	£220.00	.....
St Estèphe	Château Montrose 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£714.00	.....
Pauillac	Château Duhart-Milon Rothschild 4ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£342.00	.....
	Château Clerc Milon 5ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£330.00	.....
	Château d'Armailhac 5ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£204.00	.....
	Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste 5ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£273.00	.....
	Château Lynch-Bages 5ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£420.00	.....
	Château Pontet-Canet 5ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£395.00	.....
	Château Batailley 5ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£162.00	.....
	Château Pichon-Longueville, Comtesse de Lalande 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£660.00	.....
	Château Lafite-Rothschild 1er Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£2460.00	.....
	Château Mouton-Rothschild 1er Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£2034.00	.....

BORDEAUX EN PRIMEUR 2022 ORDER FORM

Prices given are per case, in bond Melton (ex VAT & Duty)

		Cases Req'd	Cost IB	Total
GRAND CRU CLASSÉ				
St-Julien	Le Petit Ducru de Ducru Beaucaillou (6x75cl)	.....	£123.00	.....
	Sarget de Gruaud Larose, St Julien (6x75cl)	.....	£114.00	.....
	Les Fiefs de Lagrange (12x75cl)	.....	£180.00	.....
	Château de Glana, St Julien (12x75cl)	.....	£180.00	.....
	Château Gloria, St Julien (6x75cl)	.....	£138.00	.....
	Château Talbot 4ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£231.00	.....
	Château Gruaud Larose 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£358.00	.....
	Château Beychevelle 4ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£360.00	.....
	Château Langoa-Barton 3ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£177.00	.....
	Château Léoville-Barton 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£336.00	.....
	Château Léoville-Poyerré 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£337.00	.....
	Château Ducru Beaucaillou 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£744.00	.....
Château Léoville-Las-Cases, 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£831.00	.....
Margaux	Alter Ego de Palmer, Margaux (6x75cl)	.....	£354.00	.....
	Château Kirwan 3ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£174.00	.....
	Château Brane-Cantenac 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£267.00	.....
	Château Rauzan-Ségla 2ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£360.00	.....
	Château Giscours 3ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£246.00	.....
	Château Palmer 3ème Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£1440.00	.....
Pessac-Léognan	Château Margaux 1er Cru Classé (6x75cl)	.....	£2160.00	.....
	Château Olivier Grand Cru Classé (12x75cl)	.....	£240.00	.....
RIGHT BANK				
Satellite St Emilion	Château Corbin, Montagne St Emilion (6x75cl)	.....	£42.00	.....
	Château du Courlat, Lussac St Emilion (12x75cl)	.....	£92.00	.....
	Château du Courlat Cuvee Jean-Baptiste, Lussac St Emilion (12x75cl)	.....	£123.00	.....
St Emilion	Château Fonplegade, Grand Cru St Emilion (6x75cl)	.....	£186.00	.....
	Château Grand Mayne, Grand Cru St Emilion (6x75cl)	.....	£162.00	.....
Pomerol	Château Les Hauts-Conseillants (12x75cl)	.....	£144.00	.....
	Château Bonalgue (6x75cl)	.....	£138.00	.....
	Clos du Clocher (6x75cl)	.....	£258.00	.....
	Château Rouget (6x75cl)	.....	£198.00	.....

BORDEAUX EN PRIMEUR 2023 ORDER FORM

To purchase any of our Bordeaux 2023 wines En Primeur, please visit www.houseoftownend.com.

Alternatively, you can return the enclosed order form and send your payment by Bank Transfer.

Please return this form along with your payment to:

House of Townend Ltd
Wyke Way
Melton West Business Park
Melton
East Riding of Yorkshire
HU14 3BQ

Account Name: J Townend & Sons (Hull) Ltd
Sort Code: 40-25-20
Account Number: 20814660
Please use the reference: Bordeaux 2023

Payment details:

(CAPITALS PLEASE)

Name:

Tel No:

E-mail:

Address:

.....

.....

Postcode:

Signed

House of Townend reserve the right to refuse removal of any stock held in Melton Bond if the customer is outside the agreed trading terms and offset any value against outstanding monies on the customer's trading account.

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF SALE

In Bond: All prices are quoted as IN BOND lying at Hull No 9 Bond, Wyke Way, Melton West Business Park, Melton, HU14 3BQ. All wines will attract a charge for the Excise Duty (currently £16.03 per case of 6 bottles/ £32.06 per case of 12 bottles) and VAT, when the wine is taken out of Bond.

Storage: We will be pleased to store your wines in our secure Bonded Warehouse in Melton, if you so wish. The rental is 15 pence plus VAT per case per week, which covers all charges.

Delivery: When shipped the wines will be automatically entered into your private reserves in bond here in Melton. Wines will be shipped in Spring 2026; however, shipment dates do vary. We will notify you by email when they arrive. You can either then collect from our Cellar Door or we can arrange delivery on your behalf. We will advise of the cost of delivery at the time.

Follow us @houseoftownend



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01482 638899 - cellardoor@houseoftownend.co.uk
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