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# Bordeaux En Primeur 2014 Report

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## 2014 Bordeaux: An Introduction

Having just wrapped up our week of tasting the 2014 vintage in Bordeaux, we find ourselves once again in a state of renewed enthusiasm for Bordeaux primeurs. The team, consisting of members from our USA and UK offices, was hosted by Andy Lench, of Bordeaux Wine Locators, our importer and supplier of all things Bordeaux. Entering his thirtieth year of tasting en primeur in Bordeaux, Andy brings not only a vast knowledge of and experience with the great wines of the region, but also a deep connection to the producers and negociants, who know and heartily greet him on a first-name basis. This afforded us a tremendous advantage, gaining access not only to his expertise, but to wines and winemakers who are the very best Bordeaux has to offer.

### The 2014 Vintage

By now, plenty has been written about the weather in 2014, but few more thoroughly than one of our perennial favorite experts has on the subject: negociant and writer, Bill Blatch. The simplest version is that 2014 started out oh-so-promising in March, April, and even a wetter May, only to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune for most of the summer, which was inconsistent and mostly cooler and wetter than usual. An insane amount of work, of the herculean variety, was required to stave off the many plagues and pestilences that threatened to wipe out much of the production.

Then, somehow, as if Nature chose to reward the vignerons' hard work and devotion, a miraculously perfect September and October followed. According to Blatch, "...September was the third driest September of the last 100 years, after 1921 and 1985, and the third hottest after 1921 and 1961." October was also one of the driest and hottest on record, which gave producers confidence to pick when they felt the time was right.

The best part about these perfect latter months was the chance for the grapes to ripen fully, but thanks to the shorter daylight hours in autumn, the sugar levels increased with a very refreshing measure of low PH and higher acidity. Among the reds, this situation particularly favored Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc on both the Left and Right Banks, while the Merlots were slightly less consistent, depending on the terroir and picking times. The best reds exhibit full ripeness and beautiful concentration with a very distinct freshness...a word that we heard so much during UGC week that it would have certainly become an annoying cliché if it weren't so true.

The same was largely the case for the dry whites and Sauternes. The best of these all have great richness on the mid-palate, balanced by zesty acidity and intriguing complexity. Almost none of the top properties produced any wines lacking in these qualities, but from one to the other, 2014 is a vintage where, in terms of expression, terroir became the deciding factor.

### The Communes

In terms of overall consistency, 2014 is decidedly a Left Bank vintage, but without question, there were many great wines produced on the Right Bank that certainly qualify to be among the best. On the Left Bank, Saint-Julien and Saint-Estephe emerged to our team as the most consistent appellations overall.



This is great for consumers who are looking for relative values for drinking, rather than for investment. That being said, the First Growths of Pauillac, Margaux and Pessac-Leognan all stood the tallest among their counterparts, as they usually do. No surprise there, even though their respective communes did not perform as consistently.

On the Right Bank, the smaller area of Pomerol generally produces more consistency than Saint-Emilion, and 2014 is no exception. The top properties with higher percentages of Cabernet Franc tended to outshine those dominated by Merlot, but generalizations like this are difficult to make in 2014. Quality on the Right Bank seems to have been decided more on the basis of terroir and the winemakers' abilities to keep from over-extracting to the detriment of the fruit.

The very best dry whites were produced seemingly regardless of their communes. Haut-Brion, Margaux, Domaine de Chevalier, and even Cos d'Estournel, way up north, made stunning white wines.

Sauternes and Barsac consistently produced rich, mildly-botrytised wines with a fresh, buoyant acidity. It is always a bonus during UGC when the dry and sweet white wines are so good, since they afford our palates such a welcome relief from tasting so many young red wines from barrel.

## The Top Wines

As previously mentioned, the First Growths naturally performed among the best, most notably Latour, Haut-Brion, and Lafite. Eschewing such classifications, the shining stars of 2014 that stood out were Lafleur, La Mission, Ausone, Vieux Chateau Certan, Cos d'Estournel, Ducru-Beaucaillou, Leoville Las Cases, and Yquem. Among the relative values, Grand-Puy-Lacoste, d'Armailhac, Clerc Milon, Branaire-Ducru, Rauzan-Segla, Leoville Barton, and Leoville Poyferre were all outstanding. Beyond these, there were countless surprises among the real value wines. **Please continue reading below for a complete list of our tasting notes on the standout wines of 2014.**

## The Campaign

The familiar refrain among the trade in Bordeaux has been the same for far too many vintages: if the prices are fair, we will have a futures campaign. We've heard it, blurted it, and murmured it again and again. That being said, there does seem to be an impending change in the weather, however slight. The attention in Bordeaux seems to have shifted back to more traditional markets such as the UK, USA, and Hong Kong, so in our hope of hopes, we just might see something close to reasonable prices for the 2014s. Soon we will see, but one thing is for sure, we at Grand Vin Wine Merchants will be front and center and will most certainly be among the most competitively-priced on the best that 2014 has to offer.

Santé!

The Grand Vin Wine Merchants Team



## Tasting Notes: The Best of 2014

### St-Estèphe

**Calon Segur** Formerly owned by the Gasqueton family, it is now owned by a French Insurance company. It has one of the best terroirs in Bordeaux. The new owners have already started major renovations and we think this wine will be one to watch. 66% Cabernet Sauvignon 19% Merlot 13% Cabernet Franc & 2% Petit Verdot. A big, bold wine with a dark ruby color. Nose of raspberries with rich, ripe and creamy tannins, nice mid palate richness and quite a long finish. **92-95**

**Cos D'Estournel** Now owned by the Reybier family, who have undertaken extraordinary renovations at the property, but most impressive is the new cellar. We have visited here several times since the new installation, which is all gravity fed. It remains one of the most impressive cellars in Bordeaux. This wine is clearly one of the top wines of the vintage. In fact, we found all of St Estephe to be of this very consistent quality. 65% Cabernet Sauvignon 33% Merlot 2% Cabernet Franc. The color was black, with blueberry and exotic spices on the nose. This wine is very rich from the front and mid palate, having a very long finish. Lovely sweet ripe tannins with a great freshness, the hallmark of most of the top wines. **94-97**

**Haut Marbuzet** 50% Cabernet Sauvignon 40% Merlot 10% Cabernet Franc. Always a well-made wine and usually reasonably priced. Very dark ruby color and rustic tannins, but very well balanced. The fruit is rich, round and unctuous with a relatively long finish. **91-94**

**La Dame De Montrose** The second wine of Montrose. 65% Cabernet Sauvignon 25% Merlot 10% Cabernet Franc. Dark ruby with blueberry aromas. A well-made wine with good balance, acidity and structure. Should be ready to consume in 3-5 years. **89-91**

**Les Ormes De Pez** 47% Cabernet Sauvignon 44% Merlot 7% Cabernet Franc 2% Petit Verdot. From the Cazes stable, this is always a good value and punches well above its weight. The color is black with a cherry vanilla nose. A balanced wine with rich, ripe fruit that dominates the palate, good extract and balance. A charming wine. **89-92**

**Les Pagodes De Cos** The second wine of Cos D'Estournel. 55% Cabernet Sauvignon 43% Merlot 2% Petit Verdot. A real surprise. The quality of this second wine is definitely improving. Very dark ruby color with blueberry tones. A lovely balance and nice, rich finish. **91-93**

**Lilian Ladouys** 55% Merlot 40% Cabernet Sauvignon 3% Petit Verdot 2% Cabernet Franc. Color dark ruby with black cherry aromas. Well balanced with good acidity and medium weight. Should be very pleasant young. **89-91**



## St-Estèphe

**Meyney** 60% Cabernet Sauvignon 25% Merlot 15% Petit Verdot . A nice surprise, deep, dark ruby color with cassis and anise aromas. A big, bold St Estephe with great power and length. This wine has a balance of acidity, fruit and ripe tannins whilst also displaying the lovely freshness associated with this vintage. **92-94.**

**Montrose** The Bouygues Brothers purchased this property in 2006 and have done a complete restoration of the barrel cellars and the vat room, which is hugely impressive. 65% Cabernet Sauvignon 25% Merlot 10% Cabernet Franc. Very dark ruby color with black cherry aromas. Again we see here very fresh ripe tannins, but an underlying power and strength, with a very long finish. **92-96.**

**Tronquoy Lalande** 45% Merlot 45% Cabernet Sauvignon 10% Petit Verdot. This property has improved significantly since being purchased by the Bouygues Brothers. A bold, dark color with cherry and blueberry aromas. A rustic, bold wine with plenty of depth and finish. Well balanced with ripe tannins and structured fruit. **91-93**

## Haut-Médoc

**Beaumont** 54% Cabernet Sauvignon 42% Merlot 4% Petit Verdot. Aromas of fresh boysenberry, hibiscus and mineral with balanced black currant fruit on the palate and fine tannins. Excellent value. **90-91**

**Charmail** 48 % Merlot 30 % Cabernet Sauvignon 20 % Cabernet Franc, 2 % Petit Verdot. Brooding nose of black currants, wet stone, followed by delicious, concentrated mid palate of black currants, fine tannins, and fresh medium plus finish. **90-91**

## Pauillac

**Carruades De Lafite** The second wine of Lafite Rothschild. 58% Cabernet Sauvignon 42% Merlot. Color medium ruby, nice balance, ripe tannins. Nothing like the Grand Vin but a pleasant wine which we hope to have at pleasant price. **90-92**

**Clerc Milon** 50% Cabernet Sauvignon 36% Merlot 11% Cabernet Franc 2% Petit Verdot 1% Carmenere. A dark ruby color with cherry and blueberry aromas. Very appealing. Good balance of tannins and acidity with nice structure. The mid palate rich and full with a sweet, ripe finish. **91-93**



## Pauillac

**D'Armailhac** 53% Cabernet Sauvignon 34% Merlot 11% Cabernet Franc 2% Petit Verdot. This wine pleases us every year. Color dark ruby with cherry and cassis aromas. What struck me about this wine was the balance of acidity and ripe, sweet tannins that were so fresh, the hallmark of the better wines in this vintage. Very rich in the mid palate with a long finish. Normally reasonably priced, this will be one to search out. **92-94**

**Duhart Milon** 55% Cabernet Sauvignon 45% Merlot Color is very dark ruby with black cherry aromas. A very rich mid palate and great freshness of tannins with a good finish. Certainly the best Duhart since the great 2010. **92-94**

**Echo De Lynch Bages** 73% Cabernet Sauvignon 27% Merlot. This second wine of Lynch Bages is dark ruby in color with black cherry aromas and good classic structure from beginning to end. Displays freshness and power with a good finish. **90-92**

**Grand Puy Lacoste** 82% Cabernet Sauvignon 18% Merlot. Francois Xavier Borie is a perfectionist and this is one of the wine trade's favorites! Another top notch effort this year. A brooding, very dark ruby color with black cherry and licorice aromas. Very rich, ripe, creamy well-balanced tannins. This wine has everything: structure, balance, richness, elegance and a very long finish. **93-95**

**Lafite Rothschild** 87% Cabernet Sauvignon 10% Merlot 3% Cabernet Franc. It is always great to meet and talk with the ebullient Charles Chevallier from Chateau Lafite, and to taste this magnificent wine. The color is black with a very refined nose of cherry and tobacco. Initial muted impressions were soon eliminated because the mid palate demonstrated super richness followed by one of the longest finishes, which carried on seemingly forever. Great balance of acidity, lovely ripe tannins and, again, that freshness. Top notch. **94-97**

**Haut Bages Liberal** 75% Cabernet Sauvignon 25% Merlot. This is a favorite of ours, representing quality and value. Dark ruby color with black cherry aromas. Very nice, pure, ripe fruit with lovely balance. The tannins are well integrated. Good strong finish. **90-92**

**Haut Batailley** 78% Cabernet Sauvignon 22% Merlot. Another wine from Mr Borie. A quintessential Pauillac with a dark ruby color and black cherry aromas. Tannic, with plenty of ripe, fresh fruit to match the tannins. Good balance and acidity, with chewy ripe fruit that lingers on the palate. **91-94**



## Pauillac

**Lacoste Borie** 67% Cabernet Sauvignon 23% Merlot 10% Cabernet Franc. This wine is generally a pleasant surprise, but this year the fruit jumped out of the glass! A dark ruby wine with great freshness and blueberry aromas. It has very good balance and length, with a surprisingly high score of **91-93**. Highly Recommended

**Latour** 89.9% Cabernet Sauvignon 9.2% Merlot .06% Cabernet Franc .03% Petit Verdot. Francois Pinault's famous chateau has recently undergone further extensive remodeling which demonstrates his intense quest for perfection. We felt the 2014 was the best wine we tasted. What a shame the wines of Latour are no longer released En Primeur. We will have to delay our gratification for at least 10-15 years. What a fabulous wine! It has everything. Black color with cherry and blueberry aromas. The concentration is massive. Fresh, ripe tannins packed with powerful, rich fruit and an enormous finish. Very few wines of this vintage have so much power and richness. This is superb. **97-99**

**Le Petit Mouton** 93% Cabernet Sauvignon 7% Merlot. Black, dense fruit with chocolate and cherry aromas, followed by fresh, ripe tannins and good structure throughout. Has quite a long finish. **91-93**

**Les Forts De Latour** 71.4% Cabernet Sauvignon 28.6% Merlot. Certainly the best Les Forts since the 2010. Dark ruby color with cherry and hints of chocolate aromas. This second wine has a lot of power but also very refined tannins with sweet ripe fruit and a long finish. **93-95**

**Les Griffons De Pichon Baron** 55% Cabernet Sauvignon 45% Merlot. The second wine of Pichon Baron has a deep, dark ruby color exhibiting wild berry aromas. A refined wine very much in balance, tannins, fruit and acidity. A very fine second wine. **89-91**

**Lynch Bages** This wine, like most of the wines, was tasted 3-4 times. Our first tasting was with the ever-affable Jean-Charles Cazes, whose excellent Vintage Condition Report can be found on our website. 69% Cabernet Sauvignon 26% Merlot 3% Cabernet Franc 2% Petit Verdot. The color is black, and on the nose, black cherry and licorice. This is a tannic, large, bold wine exhibiting great freshness and balance with a super-rich mid palate that lasts a very long time. This is one of the better Lynch Bages from over the past decade, apart, of course, from the wonderful 2009 and 2010. **93-96**



## Pauillac

**Mouton Rothschild** The magnificent new cellar is now fully utilized and how impressive it is! 81% Cabernet Sauvignon 16% Merlot 3% Cabernet Franc. The Left Bank (the Medoc) is dominated by the Cabernet Sauvignon grape, and none more so than among the three Pauillac First Growths. In this case, a dark ruby color with blackberry and chocolate aromas. A very tannic wine but plenty of rich, ripe, round fruit for balance. It has a very long finish that really demonstrates the underlying power. **93-95**

**Pichon Longueville Baron** 65% Cabernet Sauvignon 35% Merlot. Owned by Axa, the French insurance giant, who have spared no expense in their quest for perfection. The color is very dark ruby with cherry aromas. This wine has lovely, ripe, pure tannins that are well balanced and fresh. Rich, full-bodied fruit on the mid palate, resulting in a long finish. **92-95**

**Pichon Longueville Comtesse De Lalande** 45% Cabernet Sauvignon 35% Merlot 12% Cabernet Franc 8% Petit Verdot. A fine example from this chateau. Very dark ruby color with exotic floral aromas. Fresh ripe, round powerful tannins. A solid sweet, ripe core of fruit with a long finish. **92-96**

**Pontet Canet** 65% Cabernet Sauvignon 30% Merlot 4% Cabernet Franc 1% Petit Verdot. Black in color, this wine has blueberry and truffle aromas combined with rich, refined and balanced fruit. The usual freshness is very apparent here, with a rich, long finish. **93-95**

**Reserve De La Comtesse** 45% Cabernet Sauvignon 35% Merlot 12% Cabernet Franc 8% Petit Verdot. The second wine of Pichon Comtesse De Lalande. Dark ruby color, blackberry aromas with nice fresh tannins that carry the fruit very well. Good structure and length. **90-92**

## St-Julien

**Beychevelle** 62% Cabernet Sauvignon 31% Merlot 5% Cabernet Franc 2% Petit Verdot. A large property that never disappoints. Dark ruby color with cherry and cassis aromas. Great freshness in the wine and very balanced lush, sweet, ripe tannins and fruit. This is an elegant and refined wine. **91-94**

**Brancaire Ducru** 70% Cabernet Sauvignon 22% Merlot 5% Cabernet Franc 3% Petit Verdot. Dark ruby color with cherry and blueberry aromas. A refined richness displaying nice balance and soft, fruity tannins. Good length and finish. **91-93**



## St-Julien

**Clos Du Marquis** 74% Cabernet Sauvignon 22% Merlot 4% Cabernet Franc. This wine is often mistaken for the second wine of Leoville Las Cases, however we can assure you it comes from an entirely separate plot in the "Petit Clos " adjacent to Leoville Las Cases. A very fine wine in its own right. A very dark, almost black color with aromas of blackberries. Fresh ripe tannins, fine balance, and a sturdy dose of rich fruit with plenty of length. **91-94**

**Ducru Beaucaillou** 90% Cabernet Sauvignon 10% Merlot. Wow, this is clearly one of the stars of the vintage! It boasts the highest proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon of all the wines we tasted. Black, dense color with strong aromas of blueberry and cassis. This wine really jumps out of the glass, so powerful yet very rich and refined. Complete balance between the sweet, ripe tannins and the very concentrated juice. A wine of great freshness and length. **95-98**

**Gloria** 65% Cabernet Sauvignon 25% Merlot 5% Cabernet Franc 5% Petit Verdot. Color dark ruby with a refined black cherry aroma. Exhibiting large structure but very nice, sweet, ripe tannins. Good balance and a very long, powerful finish. **92-94**

**Graud Larose** 61% Cabernet Sauvignon 29% Merlot 7% Cabernet Franc 3% Petit Verdot. Always one of our favorites for quality/price ratio. This is a top-notch performance. Dark ruby color with aromas of cherry and violets. The tannins are very ripe. A very sweet, fresh richness that lingers on the palate for a long time. One of the best Grauds in some time. **94-96**

**La Croix De Beaucaillou** 60 % Cabernet Sauvignon 35% Merlot 5% Petit Verdot. Another very good effort from Bruno Borie, who does not consider this a second wine. A very dark ruby color with hints of black cherry aromas. With good acidity and ripe tannins. This wine displays freshness and structure, with good length. **91-93**

**Lagrange** 65% Cabernet Sauvignon 28% Merlot 7% Petit Verdot. Color quite light given the vintage. Black cherry aromas with good balance and sweet, ripe tannins. Medium weight and reasonable length. **89-92**

**Lalande Borie** 50% Cabernet Sauvignon 45% Merlot 5% Cabernet Franc. The third of Bruno Borie wines, and a lovely one. A dark ruby color with hints of cherry and cassis. A rich, fruity wine with nice balance and length. **91-93**

**Langoa Barton** 72% Cabernet Sauvignon 25% Merlot 3% Cabernet Franc. A deep ruby color with aromas of black cherry and coffee. Good structure and acidity with lovely fresh tannins. Well balanced with a nice finish. **91-94**



## St-Julien

**Le Petit Lion** 57% Merlot 38% Cabernet Sauvignon 5% Cabernet Franc. All of the Delon wines were very good and this wine, the official second wine of Leoville Las Cases, is no exception. Dark ruby with blackberry aromas. Well structured, especially for a second wine. Good balance between the tannins and fruit, sweet ripe tannins with plenty of rich, ripe fruit and a fairly long finish. **91-93**

**Leoville Barton** 74% Cabernet Sauvignon 23% Merlot 3% Cabernet Franc. A very dark ruby color with a nose of rich black cherry. There is great balance, with this wine displaying very pure rich, ripe fruit. Great length. Another superb effort which may eventually compare to the excellent 2009. **94-96**

**Leoville Las Cases** 79% Cabernet Sauvignon 11% Cabernet Franc 10% Merlot This magnificent vineyard, comprising 98 hectares in St Julien, is situated next door to First Growth Chateau Latour. Although in different communes, these two wines can often be very similar in being the most slow-maturing wines of all Bordeaux. This is a superb Leoville Las Cases, black in color with blackberry and blueberry aromas. Powerful tannins, very well delineated, with sweet ripeness and a massive burst of rich unctuous fruit in the mid palate which lingers for almost a minute. **94-98**

**Leoville Poyferre** 60% Cabernet Sauvignon 35% Merlot 3% Cabernet Franc 2% Petit Verdot. Tasted several times with consistent notes. Color black with lovely violet and blackberry aromas. Super ripe, big, fat, rich juice. Great balance and freshness. The power is evident from the start, culminating in a very long finish. **94-97**

**Saint Pierre** 75% Cabernet Sauvignon 15% Merlot 10% Cabernet Franc. Black in color with a muted nose. However on the palate it reveals a very rich, ripe, round, dense wine with loads of structure and backbone. A solid effort. Very balanced with a long finish. **92-94**

**Talbot** 66% Cabernet Sauvignon 26% Merlot 5% Petit Verdot 3% Cabernet Franc. Dark ruby nose with black cherry and vanilla aromas. Saint Julien is such a consistent commune this vintage and Talbot exhibits all the qualities of the area. A rich, full-throttle wine with loads of rich, ripe fruit. Powerful with a strong finish. **91-94**



## Margaux

**Alter Ego Palmer** 52% Merlot 35% Cabernet Sauvignon 13% Petit Verdot. Aromas of hibiscus and ripe plum, followed by fresh black cherries and plum fruit. Balanced, broad tannins with a medium + finish. Very tasty. **93-95**

**Chevalier de Lascombes** 50% Merlot 47% Cabernet Sauvignon 2% Petit Verdot 1% Cabernet Franc. Cigar box and chutney aromas, firmly-structured mid palate with silky fruit of black cherries and currant. Firm, fine tannins with a medium plus finish. **91-92**

**Giscours** 55% Cabernet Sauvignon 40% Merlot 5% Cabernet Franc 5% Petit Verdot. Aromas of hibiscus, red currants combine with silky, yet focused texture of red and black currants, fine, ripe tannins and a medium plus finish. **92-93**

**Labegorce** 50% Cabernet Sauvignon 45% Merlot 3% Cabernet Franc 2% Petit Verdot. Aromas of leather, tar, hibiscus, Bing cherries giving way to fresh and silky blackberry and cherry on the palate. Fine, integrated tannins with a medium plus finish. **91-93**

**Lascombes** 50% Merlot 47% Cabernet Sauvignon 2% Petit Verdot 1% Cabernet Franc. Ripe black cherry, leather nose followed by solid and concentrated ripe black currants, cherries. Firm ripe tannins with medium length on the finish **93-95**

**Margaux** 90% Cabernet Sauvignon 5% Merlot 3% Cabernet Franc 2% Petit Verdot. Muted nose of wet gravel, but gives way to focused dense concentrated black and red currants plum cherries very ripe tannins incredibly long finish. **95-97**

**Palmer** 45% Merlot 49% Cabernet Sauvignon 6% Petit Verdot. Subtle tobacco nose gives way to broad ripe plums and black cherries and currants, rich mouthfeel with fine integrated tannins and a long finish **94-96**

**Pavillon Rouge du Chateaux Margaux** 77% Cabernet Sauvignon 22% Merlot 1% Petit Verdot. Aromas of tar, ruby grapefruit and hibiscus, followed by intense, focused structure, firm tannins and ripe red and black currants that carry through on long finish. **93-95**

**Rauzan-Segla** 56% Cabernet Sauvignon 42% Merlot 1% Petit Verdot 1% Cabernet Franc. Aromas of wet stone, black currants, and chutney followed by ripe red and black currants, superb structure, and fresh acidity. Ripe, firm, yet elegant tannins medium plus length on the finish. **94-96**

**Siran** 46% Merlot 40% Cabernet Sauvignon 13% Petit Verdot 1% Cabernet Franc. Wet gravel and black currants on the nose, followed by silky mouthfeel of ripe cherry, blackberries, with fine, ripe tannins and succulent finish. **92-94**



## Pessac-Léognan

**Carbonnieux Rouge** 55% Cabernet Sauvignon 35% Merlot 5% Cabernet Franc 5% Petite Verdot. Red and black currants on the nose, rich mouthfeel, very balanced with fine tannins and focused structure. **91-93**

**Domaine de Chevalier Rouge** 65% Cabernet Sauvignon 30% Merlot 2.5% Cabernet Franc 2.5% Petite Verdot. Tar, black currants and licorice nose, followed by ripe black cherry and currants, focused structure with firm ripe tannins and med plus length on the finish. **92-94**

**Haut-Brion** 50% Merlot 11% Cabernet Franc 39% Cabernet Sauvignon. Aromas of fresh raspberry, plum, currants, and tar followed by a broad mouth feel of supple black currants, black cherry. Very fine tannins, fresh acidity and an extraordinarily long finish. **96-98**

**Haut-Bailly** 66% Cabernet Sauvignon and 34% Merlot. Wet gravel, black currants aromas, with a very focused structure of red and black currants, firm, ripe tannins, and a medium plus finish. **92-94**

**La Mission Haut-Brion** 54% Merlot 45% Cabernet Sauvignon. Roast cashew, plum and wet stone aromas, followed by raspberry, red currants and chutney on the palate with finely-integrated acidity and tannins. Very long finish. **95-97**

**Larrivet Haut-Brion Rouge.** 50% Merlot 46% Cabernet Sauvignon 4% Cabernet Franc. Black currant, cigar box, wet stone nose. Rich, ripe black currants, red cherry and ripe tannins. **92-94**

**Malartic Lagraviere** 45% Merlot 45% Cabernet Sauvignon 8% Cabernet Franc 2% Petite Verdot. Expressive hibiscus, red cherry on the nose followed by a dense powerful mid-palate with ripe maraschino kirsch and big ripe tannins. Med length on the finish. **91-93**

**Pape Clement Rouge** 60% Cabernet Sauvignon 40% Merlot Expressive nose of blackberry, cherries, anise, and wet gravel. Very dense, full bodied ripe red and black currants on the palate with fine tannins, and medium plus finish. **94-96**

**Smith Haut Lafitte Rouge** 59% Cabernet Sauvignon 30% Merlot 10% Cabernet Franc 1% Petite Verdot. Wet gravel, cigar box, and black currants on the nose, followed by a solid mid-palate with red and black currants. Firm though ripe tannins with a medium plus finish. **93-95**



## Pomerol

**G Acte 6. de Lafleur** 56% Merlot 44% Cabernet Franc. Aromas of Asian plum and red currants, followed by succulent red cherry, dried currants, broad tannins and integrated acidity. Medium plus length on finish. **93-95**

**L'Église Clinet** 90% Merlot 10% Cabernet Franc Ripe blackberry and chutney nose combined with rich, ripe red and black plums, soft tannins and a medium plus finish **92-94**

**L'Évangile** 82% Merlot 18% Cabernet Franc. Hibiscus tea, fresh plum aromas, with plump yet succulent ripe chutney and ripe red currants. Very fresh, with fine, ripe tannins and a long finish. **95-96**

**La Conseillante** 78% Merlot 22% Cabernet Franc. Expressive ripe plum and hibiscus nose followed by a full, dense mouthfeel of black cherries and plums. Fresh acidity, balance, and ripeness with fine tannins and a long finish **94-96+**

**Lafleur** 44% Merlot 56% Cabernet Franc. Intensely-ripe aromas of plum, ruby grapefruit, and hibiscus, concentrated midpalate of pure plum, red cherry with beautifully-integrated, yet firm tannins, and a super long finish. **97-98**

**Le Pensees de Lafleur** 69% Merlot 31% Cabernet Franc. Aromas of hibiscus, cherries and orange peel with ripe red currants, bing cherry and firm, fine tannins. Medium plus finish. **93-95**

**Le Pin** 100% Merlot. Expressive nose of ripe plum, hibiscus and ruby grapefruit, followed by very plump richness on mid palate, with fresh plum, raspberry. Fine tannins and medium plus length on finish. **94-96**

**Vieux Chateau Certan** 80% Merlot 19% Cabernet Franc 1% Cabernet Sauvignon. Expressive nose of ripe plum and hibiscus, wet stone, combined with ripe succulent bing cherry, red currants. A touch of high acidity but integrates well with the fine tannins and very long, mouthwatering finish. **95-96**

## Saint-Émilion

**Angelus** 50% Merlot and 50% Cabernet Franc. Subtle chutney, ripe plum, and hibiscus, followed by dense, dried currant, red cherry and fine, firm tannins. Medium ++ length on the finish. **94-96**

**Ausone** 60% Cabernet Franc and 40% Merlot. Aromas of Rainier cherry, licorice and mango, followed by huge concentration of ripe black cherries and incredibly-broad mouthfeel. Super long finish and awesome structure. **96-98+**



## Saint-Émilion

**Chapelle d'Ausone** 50% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Franc 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. Chutney, hibiscus tea leaf aromas, with succulent plum and ripe currants. Broad, integrated tannins and a long finish. **93-95**

**Cheval Blanc** 45% Cabernet Franc 45% Merlot. Aromas of sandstone, fennel bulb, and red currants give way to ripe cherries, red and black currants. Fine firm tannins a touch austere on the long finish. **93-95**

**I'lf** 70% Merlot 30% Cabernet Franc. Aromas of wet stone, cherry give way to a rich midpalate of plum, ripe raspberry and bing cherry. Fine, integrated tannins and medium plus length on the finish. **93-95**

**Laforge** 82% Merlot 8% Cabernet Franc. Subtle nose of plum, violets, followed by a black cherry, plum mid-palate. Medium plus body, fine tannins and juicy acidity. **92-94**

**Le Dome** 80% Cabernet Franc 20% Merlot. Hibiscus, plum, rosemary on the nose, followed by rich silky texture of fresh red currants and blackberry. Firm, broad, ripe tannins and a long finish. **94-96**

**La Dominique** 81% Merlot 16% Cabernet Franc 3% Cabernet Sauvignon Aromas of Asian plum, hibiscus give way to ripe, full and silky plum, maraschino cherry. Medium plus length. **93-94**

**Vieux Château Mazerat** 65% Merlot 35% Cabernet Franc Aromas of hibiscus and chutney give way to ripe plums and red currants. Solid, yet linear structure with firm, fine tannins and a long finish. **94-96**





## Pessac-Léognan & Bordeaux AOC Blanc

**Carbonnieux Blanc** 70% Sauvignon Blanc 30% Semillon. Aromas of crème, tangerine, and lime zest, followed by a rich silky mouthfeel, focused acidity, and a long finish. **93-95**

**Domaine de Chevalier Blanc** 70% Sauvignon Blanc 30% Semillon. Subtle nose, but dense mouthfeel with supple, round pineapple, hints of crème. Full and finely-integrated acidity and plenty of length on finish. **94-96**

**Grand Village Blanc** 50% Semillon 50% Sauvignon Blanc. From the Guinaudeau family who own Lafleur. Fresh grass, lime zest give way to pure citrus lime and tangerine fruit. High concentration, balanced acidity, and a long finish. **92-94**

**Haut-Brion Blanc** 32% Sauvignon Blanc 68% Semillon. Complex aromas of beeswax, pear, marmalade, and lemon zest give way to a rich, silky, full mouthfeel of marmalade, lemon meringue, lime zest with beautifully-integrated acidity and an incredibly-long finish. **97-99**

**Latour Martillac** 55% Semillon 40% Sauvignon Blanc 5% Muscadelle. Marmalade and lime on the nose, with a rich mouthfeel and balanced acidity. Medium plus length on the finish. **92-94**

**Le Clarté de Haut-Brion** 66% Sauvignon Blanc 34% Semillon. Pear, grass, and lemon zest aromas with rich, silky pear and lemongrass fruit. Long finish. **92-94**

**Le Champs Libre** From the Guinaudeau family who own Lafleur, this is a new vineyard in Grand Village made from 100% Sancerre clone Sauvignon Blanc. Aromas of beeswax, pear, and hay followed by a rich, silky mouthfeel of tangerine, lime zest ripe with high acidity long finish. **94-96**

**Pape Clement Blanc** 45% Sauvignon Blanc 45% Semillon 10% Muscadelle. Aromas of beeswax and pear, with a rich mouthfeel of pear and a touch of lime zest. Well-integrated acidity and medium plus finish. **94-95**

**Pavillon Blanc du Châteaux Margaux** 100% Sauvignon Blanc. Beeswax, fresh grass and lemon meringue nose. Full, rich midpalate with silky marmalade and well-integrated acidity, and a long, balanced finish. **94-96**

**Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc** 90% Sauvignon Blanc 5% Sauvignon Gris 5% Semillon Complex aromas of beeswax, crème, and lime zest, followed by silky pear and citrus fruit, fine acidity, and a long finish. **94-95**



## Sauternes

**Coutet** 75% Semillon 23% Sauvignon Blanc 2% Muscadelle. Straw yellow color with sweet caramel and fig on the nose. This is a powerful, rich wine with great balance. Loads of sweet ripe fruit. **93-95**

**d'Yquem** 75% Semillon 25% Sauvignon Blanc. Color very light yellow with a voluptuous nose, fig, pineapple and vanilla. This is a very elegant Yquem but the botrytis and power lies hiding below the rich, ripe, subtle charm and freshness. There is a large amount of sweet power in this wine with a finish that lingers for minutes. We were fortunate to taste the wine on two different occasions and both confirmed that this is a great Yquem and certainly one to seek out. **96-98**

**Doisy Daene** 86% Semillon 14% Sauvignon Blanc. The proprietor, the famous consultant Denis Dubourdieu, has produced one of his best wines to date. We were not fortunate enough to taste the Doisy Daene Cuvee Extravagant, but if the regular wine is anything to judge by, then we are in for a great surprise. Color straw yellow with rich peach aromas. The wine displays all the attribute you want in a great sweet wine, loads of botrytis with rich, ripe fruit and great sweetness. A powerful wine with a very long finish. **93-96**

**Doisy Vedrines** 80% Semillon 15% Sauvignon Blanc 5% Muscadelle. Color straw yellow with a peach and pineapple nose. This is very rich and full bodied with good acidity and freshness. It has a long finish and should drink well young but also age gracefully. **91-94**

**Filhot** 60% Semillon 36% Sauvignon Blanc 4% Muscadelle. Color straw yellow with a peach and apricot nose. A fine effort for this property. Very clean rich, fruit, not a bit cloying, however the botrytis is evident. A nice, long finish. **91-93**

**Guiraud** 65% Semillon 35% Sauvignon Blanc. Straw yellow color with a peach and pineapple nose. A very well-balanced wine with plenty of sweet ripe fruit and full body. A very charming Guiraud and the best in many years. **93-95**

**Lafaurie Peyraguey** 90% Semillon 8% Sauvignon Blanc 2% Muscadelle. Straw yellow in color with a peach and almond nose. This is really stunning and Sylvio Denz, the new owner, is clearly making a statement with low yields and attention to detail. A very rich, sweet wine with all the right components, botrytis, acidity and rich fruit. The wine displays elegance, finesse and a long finish. **95-97**

## Sauternes

**Latour Blanche** 83% Semillon 12% Sauvignon Blanc 5% Muscadelle. I always like the style of this wine which has one of the largest percentage of Semillon of all the sweet wines. Yellow in color with caramel and tropical fruits on the nose. What a finely balanced, elegant wine! There is plenty of botrytis, however the sweetness and richness dominate at the moment with a lovely, rich, long finish. **93-96**

**Rayne Vigneau** 74% Semillon 24% Sauvignon Blanc 2% Muscadelle. Color bright yellow. Fig, peach and vanilla nose. Nice level of botrytis with a good balance of acidity and tannins. This wine is very elegant with a nice, long finish. **92-94**

**Sigalas Rabaud** 78% Semillon 19% Sauvignon Blanc 1% Muscadelle. Color is light yellow and the nose of fig and saffron. Good power and structure, showing a fair amount of botrytis and sweetness. Rich, ripe and balanced with a long finish. **91-94**

**Suduiraut** 90% Semillon 10% Sauvignon Blanc. This wine is stunning and has the largest percentage of Semillon of all the sweet wines we tasted. Color light yellow with a strong peach, nectarine and floral, racy nose. This is a big, rich, fat, ripe, round voluptuous wine, displaying everything you want in a young, sweet wine. Very powerful finish. May well compete with the fabulous 2009. **94-97**

