# Many happy returns: Bordeaux 2005 from the bottle

Our man in Bordeaux, Gavin Quinney, re-assesses the vintage of the century

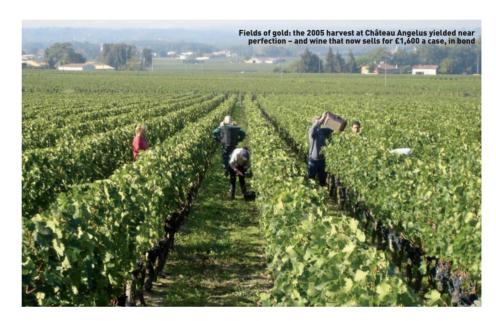
In case you hadn't heard, 2005 was the greatest vintage in Bordeaux in living memory. And, having tasted 450 of the leading wines from the bottle – the first "critic" to have done so – I urge you to catch some of these wonderful wines before prices rise once again, or before many become impossible to find.

Whether you are looking to invest in a few cases for the long term, or are looking for a tasty drop for a tenner a bottle, there are still stocks available from UK merchants.

Unlike the mad stampede of the barrel tastings last April, when the press and the trade from the world of wine come to town, my tasting marathon of 2005s has been a personal labour of love. I have been to almost 100 chateaux and tasting rooms around Bordeaux between September to November 2007, and listed here is a summary of the best wines.

No other vintage has produced so many brilliant wines across the region as a whole. But there are some mediocre wines, too; so my advice is not to think, "2005 – this must be good", but to choose carefully.

The best wines have come from the best run estates with the best vinevards - which may sound like the bleedin' obvious, but in such a warm, dry year like 2005, terroir played a crucial role. Vines really deliver what matters when they are on the edge, with access to just enough moisture in the subsoils to sustain them at the crucial stages. So it's no surprise then that the top spots were the gravelly mounds overlooking the Gironde - whether in Margaux, St-Julien, St-Estephe, Pauillac or the Haut Médoc - the precocious soils of Pessac-Léognan, the clay and limestone as well as the gravel terroirs around St-Emilion, or the famous plateau in Pomerol. Great values can also be had from excellent sites, such as in Fronsac and in the Côtes, especially Castillon.



The vast majority of wines that I tasted from the bottle were true to the barrel samples that I tasted in April 2006. Indeed, many have improved in the barrel, while only a handful of wines have fallen slightly short of my original assessments for the Top 100 wines in the May 2006 issue.

Now that the wines have been bottled, which took place between April and September this year (except Chateaux Margaux, Yquem and Pavie, who have held on for longer), the hallmarks of the vintage are again evident: stunning wines with deep colour and a core of delicious ripe fruit, amazing balance and length, and extraordinary freshness given the high counts of tannin, alcohol and acidity.

What about the exorbitant prices? The First Growths, despite some enormous increases over previous vintages, have proved a sound investment as re-sale values are up between 30 per cent and 100 per cent in fewer than 18 months. Not a bad return. Meanwhile, some highly rated wines have continued to rise in price, but there are still some values out there.

The lists over the next few pages are designed to be a buyer's guide, not an in-depth tasting analysis, wine-by-wine. If you take up my suggestions for the selections I call the "3i" boxes – the choices for Investors, Insiders and Imbibers – you will not be disappointed.

As always, buy from a merchant that you can trust, as delivery may be some months away; and if you are buying for investment or your storage space is next to the boiler, keep the wine in bond.

# How to use this guide

Over the following pages, wines I scored 88 points or higher (out of 100) are listed by appellation, with those rated 90 or more being outstanding. Wines I tasted recently from the bottle – as well as from barrel last year – are rated with a single score, whereas those I tasted prior to bottling are marked with a spread (for example, 96-98).

Go to bordeauxreport.com for my tasting notes and maturity dates. Overleaf, prices in the first column refer to the opening prices en primeur last May and June, compared to the current price of a case in bond (ie excluding duty and Vat), as of November 2007. Increases over 10 per cent are noted. Track down where to buy the wines on wine-seacher.com.

#### **BORDEAUX 2005 – BUYER'S GUIDE**

Chateau/wine

score

In Bond on In Bond Increase release,06 Nov 07

## Margaux



Château Margaux, tasted just prior to bottling in November (the last Cru Classé from the Médoc to be bottled) is arguably the wine of the vintage. It will be best from 2015 and will last 40 years. The second wine, Pavillon Rouge, is their best yet, and Palmer is breathtaking. In all, 2005 is a brilliant vintage in Margaux, and the appellation offers a stack of top-flight wines for reasonable prices notably d'Issan, Brane Cantenac and Giscours. Approach them after seven years, while Boyd-Cantenac needs more time. Mr Parker will score Lascombes even higher, methinks. Less expensive values include Ferrière and a host of lesser Crus like d'Angludet, Labégorce Zédé and d'Arsac, and second wines.

Margaux	99-100	£/4 500	£6,600	47%
Palmer	98	£1,370	£1,900	39%
Pavillon Rouge du	94	f350	£500	43%
Château Margaux	74	E330	£300	4570
d'Issan	94	£300	£330	10%
Brane-Cantenac	94	£300	£350	17%
Rauzan-Ségla	93	£480	£490	1770
Malescot St-Exupery	93	£355	£500	41%
Lascombes	93	£420	£430	4170
Giscours	93	£330	£350	
Boyd-Cantenac	93	f220	f240	
Kirwan	92	f300	£330	10%
du Tertre	91	f210	f220	1070
Prieuré Lichine	91	f240	£245	
Pouget	91	£170	£190	12%
Ferrière	91	f175	£180	12 /0
Dauzac	91	£200	£220	10%
d'Angludet	91	£150	£180	20%
Alter Ego de Palmer	91	£240	£300	25%
Marquis de Terme	90	£210	£230	10%
Durfort-Vivens	90	£210	£220	
Ségla	89		tba	
Rauzan Gassies	89	£225	£225	
Monbrison	89	£160	£200	25%
Labégorce Zédé	89	£155	£160	
La Dame de Malescot	89		tba	
Cantenac Brown	89	£210	£240	14%
Blason d'Issan	89	£125	£125	
La Sirène de Giscours	88	n/a	£130	
Labégorce	88	£159	£160	
La Gurgue	88	£110	£110	
d'Arsac	88	£110	£110	

#### St-Julien



A seriously successful vintage here. Léoville Las Cases is of First Growth quality and Ducru-Beaucaillou and the other two Léovilles are close behind. Léovilles Las Cases and Barton, and Branaire Ducru, should be locked away for a decade or more, whereas Ducru-Beaucaillou, Poyferré, Saint Pierre, Lagrange and Beychevelle will be approachable after seven years. Some truly delicious "second" wines are here - not least Clos du Marquis, La Croix de Beaucaillou and Moulin Riche, and there are real values to be had under £200.

Léoville Las Cases	98	£1,630	£1,675	
Léoville Poyferré	96	£450	£550	22%
Léoville Barton	96	£470	£700	49%
Ducru-Beaucaillou	96	£980	£1,150	17%
Branaire-Ducru	95	£370	£420	14%
Saint Pierre	94	£300	£330	10%
Lagrange	93	£275	£280	
Gruaud Larose	92	£330	£400	21%
Beychevelle	92	£280	£310	11%
Langoa Barton	91	£410	£420	
La Croix de Beaucaillou	91	£170	£175	
Clos du Marquis	91	£275	£290	
Talbot	90	£280	£280	
Moulin Riche	90	£130	£130	
Gloria	90	£190	£195	
Moulin de la Rose	89	£130	£134	
Sarget de Gruaud Larose	88	£100	£100	
Les Fiefs de Lagrange	88	n/a	£110	

# St-Estephe

**Prices for Cos and** Calon now look reasonable in the light of the Firsts and the context of the vintage. and Haut Marbuzet have made their best wine to date. Patience is required for the first four wines drink 2015 to 2030.



Cos d'Estournel	97	£1,120	£1,150	
Calon Ségur	95	£430	£500	16%
Montrose	93	£630	£750	19%
Haut Marbuzet	92	£250	£250	
Les Pagodes de Cos	91	£200	£210	
Lafon-Rochet	91	£215	£220	

Phélan Ségur	90	£200	£230	15%
Cos Labory	90	£175	£190	
La Dame de Montrose	89	£160	£180	13%
de Pez	88	£140	£145	
Les Ormes de Pez	88	£165	£170	
Le Crock	88	£120	£120	
Le Boscq	88	£120	£130	

## Pauillac

First Growths Latour and Lafite are magical wines with different personalities: the power and the beauty. Then follow several estates that are punching above their weight, with Pontet Canet leading the way in value. The first five listed below need at



least a decade in the cellar and will last 30 years-plus. Clerc Milon is a good bet, along with several other wines for under £300 a case.

	100	C / F00	CF 000	1001
Latour	100	£4,500	£7,200	60%
Lafite Rothschild	98	£3,750	£6,200	65%
Pontet-Canet	96	£460	£550	20%
Pichon-Longueville Baron	95	£725	£750	
Mouton Rothschild	95	£3,350	£4,250	27%
Lynch-Bages	93	£470	£650	38%
Grand-Puy-Lacoste	93	£430	£450	
Les Forts de Latour	93	£650	£850	31%
Clerc Milon	93	£270	£280	
Petit Mouton	92	£420	£500	19%
Pichon Lalande	91	£780	£780	
Haut-Batailley	91	£215	£240	12%
Duhart Milon	91	£240	£240	
Carruades de Lafite	91	£380	£700	84%
d'Armailhac	91	£235	£240	
Haut-Bages Libéral	90	£200	£225	13%
Les Tourelles de Longueville	90	n/a	£215	
Pibran	90	£150	£150	
Batailley	90	£180	£230	28%
La Reserve de la Comtesse	89	n/a	tba	
Haut Bages Averous	89	£175	£180	
Grand Puy Du casse	89	£165	£180	

# Haut-Médoc and other appellations

Differing styles here, and plenty of values: the revitalised La Lagune, from the southern end of the Haut-Médoc near Margaux, has turned in a stunning, elegant effort, and unclassified Sociando Mallet – from north of St-Estephe – a powerful,



muscular wine for the long haul. La Tour Carnet is a big wine while Poujeaux from Moulis is superb. There are several great values from the Haut-Médoc, notably Belgrave, Sénéjac, Charmail and Beaumont. See bordeauxreport.com for a broader list.

La Lagune	94	£260	£310	19%
Sociando-Mallet	93	£250	£250	
La Tour Carnet	91	£180	£180	
Poujeaux	90	£150	£155	
Sénéjac	90	£130	£130	
Belgrave	90	£135	£140	
Cantemerle	90	£160	£160	
Potensac	89	£130	£130	
Beaumont	88	£70	£80	14%
de Camensac	88	£115	£135	17%
Chasse-Spleen	88	£153	£185	21%
Clarke	88		n/a	
Citran	88	£100	£105	
Charmail	88	£105	£110	
Les Grands Chenes	88	£115	£118	
Maucaillou	88	£121	£125	
Moulin de la Lagune	88		tba	

### Pessac-Léognan

En primeur buyers of Haut-Brion and La Mission have seen a nice return already. Oh, and the wines are fantastic – as is Pape Clement. Smith Haut Lafitte, Haut-Bailly and Malartic-Lagravière have produced brilliant efforts. Keep them all for eight years-plus.



La Mission Haut-Brion	99	£1,950	£3,950	103%
Haut Brion	98	£3,000	£6,200	107%
Pape Clément	97	£850	£900	
Smith Haut Lafitte	94	£375	£380	
Haut-Bailly	94	£420	£480	14%
Malartic-Lagravière	93	£250	£290	16%
Larrivet-Haut-Brion	91	£165	£165	
Domaine de Chevalier	91	£290	£290	
Les Carmes Haut Brion	91	£344	£355	
La Tour Haut Brion	90	£350	£450	29%
Clos Marsalette	90	£135	£150	11%
Carbonnieux	90	£170	£200	18%
Bahans Haut-Brion	90	£325	£400	23%
Haut-Bergey	90	£160	£160	
La Chapelle de la Mission	89	£240	£315	31%
Olivier	89	£160	£165	
Latour-Martillac	89	£151	£215	42%
de Fieuzal	88	£160	£160	
Brown	88	£120	£120	
Picque Caillou	88	£95	£110	16%
La Louvière	88	n/a	£165	
Bouscaut	88	£135	£135	

#### **BORDEAUX 2005 – BUYER'S GUIDE**

Chateau/wine

score

release,06 Nov 07

In Bond on In Bond Increase

## St-Emilion



A huge appellation that dwarfs those above, with many smaller estates. So it's no surprise that there is a stash of great wines, given that 2005 is a special vintage for St-Emilion - but careful selection is required. Lots of styles, too, so I have asterisked those wines that are huge, full bodied, powerful wines as they are not for everyone. I love them – but expect even bigger scores for these from Robert Parker. My advice is to check the prices and look for relative values, starting with A for Angélus. A truly amazing wine, as is Cheval Blanc, which flirts with perfection. Only Troplong Mondot didn't want to show their wine at this stage, so my note is from last June.

Ausone*	98-100	£9,000	£18,000	100%
Cheval Blanc	99	£4,700	£6,300	34%
Angélus	99	£1,450	£1,600	10%
Pavie-Macquin	98	£450	£975	117%
Pavie*	98-100	£1,800	£1,900	
La Mondotte*	97	£2,050	£2,400	17%
Larcis Ducasse	97	£670	£1,200	79%
Clos St Martin	96	£350	n/a	
Bellevue Mondotte*	96	£1,550	£1,700	10%
Valandraud	95	£1,780	£1,800	
Pavie Decesse*	95	£1,250	£1,650	32%
Clos Fourtet	95	£430	£450	
Canon La Gaffelière	95	£500	£500	
Troplong Mondot	95-97	£850	£1,250	47%
Trottevielle	94	£550	£585	
Rol Valentin	94	£340	£340	
Gracia*	94		£950	
La Gomerie	94	£600	£650	

#### Investor's choice

Even at current prices (see relevant entries), I believe that these outstanding wines will prove good investments in the long term

Angélus Léoville Poyferré Cheval Blanc Margaux Cos d'Estournel La Mission Haut-Brion L'Eglise Clinet Palmer L'Evangile Pape Clément Lafite Rothschild Pavie Latour Pavie-Macquin Léoville Barton Pontet-Canet Léoville Las Cases Vieux Château Certan

La Gaffelière	94	£400	£400	
Fleur Cardinale*	94	£200	£275	38%
Le Dôme	93	£950	£950	
Destieux*	93	£220	£250	14%
La Clotte	93	£260	£260	
Beau-Séjour Bécot	93	£420	£420	
L'Arrosée	93	£255	£360	41%
Virginie de Valandraud	92	n/a	£330	
La Tour Figeac	92	£200	£220	10%
Figeac	92	£650	£650	
Faugères*	92	£195	£195	
Clos de l'Oratoire	92	£230	£230	
Le Carré	92	£440	£440	
Beauséjour Duffau-Lagarrosse	92	£550	£675	23%
Les Asteries	92	£365	£365	
Le Petit Cheval	91	£700	£750	
Laforge	91	£225	£225	
Les Grandes Murailles	91	£250	£318	27%
Grand Pontet	91	£210	£215	
Grand Mayne	91	£250	£260	
Franc Mayne	91	£180	£200	11%
La Fleur	91		n/a	
Canon	91	£500	£500	
St-Georges Côte Pavie	90		n/a	
Sansonnet	90		£192	
Quinault l'Enclos	90	£250	£260	
Monbousquet*	90	£300	£350	17%
Magdelaine	90		£475	
Grand Corbin Despagne	90	£135	£150	11%
Fonplegade*	90		n/a	
Ferrand Lartigue	90	£135	£135	
Clos des Jacobins	90	£212	£225	
Clos Badon	90	£150	n/a	
Chauvin	90	£200	£225	13%
Berliquet	90	£190	£195	
Belair	90	£330	£375	14%
Ripeau	89	£132	n/a	
Grand Destieu	89	£140	£150	
La Couspaude	89	£370	£374	
Faizeau Vielles Vignes	89	£95	£110	16%
Côte de Baleau	89		£120	
Corbin	89	£155	£155	
Balestard la Tonnelle	89	£175	n/a	
Trianon	88	£127	n/a	
de Pressac	88		£166	
Fonroque	88		£180	

#### Insider selections

Stunning wines, rated from 93-95 points, from £250 to £500 a case

Branaire-Ducru Brane-Cantenac Calon Ségur Canon La Gaffelière Clerc Milon Clos Fourtet Giscours Grand-Puy-Lacoste Fleur Cardinale

Haut-Bailly d'Issan La Lagune Lagrange

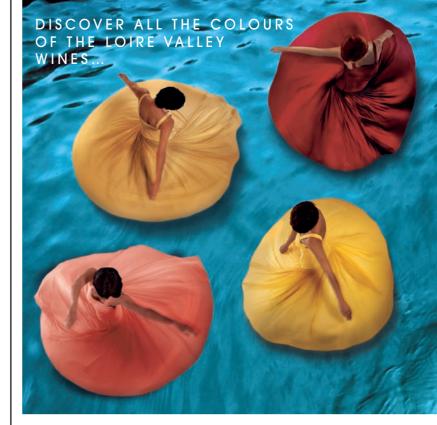
Malartic-Lagravière Pavillon Rouge Rol Valentin Saint Pierre **Smith Haut Lafitte** Sociando-Mallet

#### **Pomerol**



The team that make Pétrus think the current price is "indecent". If you want something of similar quality that doesn't require a second mortgage (just a fortnight's school fees), go for l'Evangile. There is a gap between the best vineyards on the plateau and the rest, both in terms of quality and price, but we can't all drive Ferraris. The top wines can be approached after seven years and will last another 20. Relative values include Clinet, Gazin, Vieux Maillet and Rouget.

L'Evangile	97	£1,100	£1,200	
L'Eglise Clinet	97	£1,100	£1,200	50%
Pétrus	96-100	£12.000	£24.000	100%
Lafleur	96	£6.000	£12.000	100%
Le Pin	96-97	£9.000	£22,000	144%
Vieux Château Certan	95	£7,000	£1.000	144 /0
La Conseillante	95	£725	£900	24%
Clos l'Eglise	94-95	£660	£1.000	52%
Hosanna	94	£590	£900	53%
Clinet	94	£550	£575	JJ 70
Trotanoy	93	£900	£1,150	28%
Le Gav	93	£600	£750	25%
La Fleur-Pétrus	93	£550	£850	55%
Bon Pasteur	93	£500	£630	26%
Gazin	92	£320	£330	20 /0
La Fleur de Gay	92	£520	£630	
Providence	91	£450	£600	33%
Pensées de Lafleur	91	L430	£720	JJ 70
Vieux Maillet	90	£180	£185	
Rouget	90	f210	f220	
Petit Village	90	£285	£285	
Nenin	90	£355	£355	
Le Moulin	90	£275	£275	
Manoir de Gav	90	LZ/O	n/a	
La Croix de Gay	90	£195	£205	
Clos du Clocher	90	f189	f210	11%
Beauregard	90	£214	£220	
La Sergue (Lalande de Pomerol)	90		£130	
La Gravière (Lalande de Pomerol)	90		n/a	
La Fleur de Boüard (Lalande)	90	£195	£195	
Vray Croix de Gay	89		£320	
Montviel	89		n/a	
Latour à Pomerol	89		£365	
Domaine de l'Eglise	89	£240	£240	
La Croix	89		n/a	
Certan Marzelle	89	£350	n/a	
La Pointe	88		n/a	
Lagrave a Pomerol	88		n/a	
Bourgneuf Vayron	88		£220	
Grand Ormeau Madelaine	88		£200	



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Chateau/wine	GO	In Bond on	In Bond	Increase
	score	release, 06	Nov 07	%

## Fronsac

Some big, juicy, Merlot-based wines here. Drink from four to 12 years.

Defi de Fontenil	92	n/a	n/a	
Fontenil	91		n/a	
La Vieille Cure	90	£127	£130	
Moulin Haut-Laroque	90	£131	£192	47%
du Gaby	90	£120	n/a	
Barrabaque, prestige	90	£100	n/a	
Haut Carles	89		£180	
de la Dauphine	89	£95	£95	
Les Trois Croix	88	£110	£110	
Dalem	88	£119	£120	
Carlmagnus	88		£125	
Moulin Pey-Labrie	88		n/a	
Cassagne Haut Canon	88		n/a	

## Imbiber's choice

#### Affordable wines for drinking (from £60 to £250 a case)

d'Aiguilhe Les Fiefs de Lagrange d'Aiguilhe Querre Fougas-Maldoror d'Arsac Gloria Grand Corbin Despagne Beaumont Bel Air La Royère **Grand Destieu** Belgrave **Grand Pontet** Berliquet Haut Bages Averous de Camensac Haut Marbuzet Cantemerle Joanin Bécot Labégorce Zédé Cap de Faugères Charmail Laforge Clos Marsalette Larrivet-Haut-Brion Moulin Riche Clos Puy Arnaud Clos de l'Oratoire Pibran Cos Labory Picque Caillou Côte de Baleau Potensac La Croix de Beaucaillou Poujeaux Le Crock Sarget de Gruaud Larose Faugères Sénéjac La Tour Carnet Ferrand Lartigue

Villa Bel Air

# Côtes and other Right Bank

A treasure chest of values here, all Merlot dominated, and there are more that I could have included. Really good wines from small properties with super vineyards in less celebrated parts of town, including straight Bordeaux.



Joanin Bécot	92	£160	£165	
Domaine de l'A	92	£180	n/a	
Clos des Lunelles	92	£232	£325	40%
Girolate	91	£340	£340	
Bel Air La Royère	91	£105	£135	29%
Clos Puy Arnaud	91	£145	£165	14%
d'Aiguilhe	91	£155	£155	
Veyry	90	£120	£120	
Clos l'Eglise	90	£160	£160	
Cap de Faugères	90	£96	£105	
Fougas-Maldoror	90	£122	£124	
Le Pin Beausoleil	90	£108	£125	16%
Reignac	90	£150	£150	
Balthus	90	£325	£325	
Marsau	89	£105	£105	
Beaulieu Comtes de Tastes	89	£66	£80	21%
Mont-Perat	88	£100	£105	
Feret Lambert	88	£80	n/a	
Clos Chaumont	88	n/a	n/a	
Carignan, Prima	88	£120	£120	
Côte Monpezat	88	£52	£60	15%
d'Aiguilhe Querre	88	£65	£65	
La Tour Mirambeau	88	n/a	£72	



Ferrière

## Sweet whites: Sauternes and Barsac

A fabulous vintage, perhaps just a shade behind 2001, with Yquem in another class. It will be bottled next April, but right now, assembled and in the tank, it is sublime. You can still taste it as you are driving back up the autoroute. Prices haven't moved a great deal, so many wines are reasonable. These are more for pure pleasure than investment – Rieussec, La Tour Blanche, Suduiraut and Guiraud especially – and they can be tackled quite soon. Drink 2009-2020.



Yquem	99-100	£4,000	£4,000
Rieussec	95	£395	£395
La Tour Blanche	94	£285	£285
Suduiraut	94	£395	£395
Guiraud	94	£300	£300
Clos Haut Peyraguey	93	£240	£240
Climens	93	£600	£650
Coutet	92	£295	£295
Lafaurie-Peyraguey	92	£280	£280
Sigalas-Rabaud	91	£210	£210
Rayne Vigneau	91	£240	£240

de Malle	91	£225	£225	
Doisy Vedrines	91	£190	£190	
Nairac	90	£335	£335	
Doisy Daene	90	£210	£210	

# Dry whites: Pessac-Léognan

Smith Haut Lafitte and Malartic-Lagravière have made outstanding white wines with real freshness and zip in 2005.

Haut Brion Blanc	96	£3,000	£3,200	
Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc	95	£400	£400	
Laville Haut Brion	94		£1,700	
Malartic-Lagravière Blanc	94	£283	£300	
Domaine de Chevalier Blanc	92-93	£400	£460	15%
de France Blanc	91		n/a	
Latour-Martillac Blanc	90	£163	£175	
Couhins-Lurton Blanc	90		n/a	
Carbonnieux Blanc	90		£200	
Bouscaut Blanc	90		£159	
Olivier Blanc	89	£135	£135	
Larrivet-Haut-Brion Blanc	89	£189	£198	

Gavin Quinney moved to Bordeaux in 1999 when he bought Château Bauduc. He makes the house white for Gordon Ramsay and Rick Stein, and has reviewed en primeur campaigns since 2000. See bordeauxreport.com.

