

## Vintage defies the odds

Our man in Bordeaux, **Gavin Quinney**, reports on the 2006 surprises revealed in the region's annual tasting

Just when we thought we could write off the 2006 Bordeaux vintage, after the circus surrounding a spectacular 2005, it turns out there are some seriously good wines on offer from top estates. And if the price is right, they might even be worth buying.

This was a potentially great vintage that only came off the rails towards the end of the season, not a poor one playing catch up. This is revealed in the wines, many of which, at the top level, have real quality but without the intensity of fruit and the freshness of the previous year. But 2005 was always going to be a tough act to follow.

### The vintage

Although 2006 was overall another dry, warm year, the weather fluctuated from one extreme to the other at critical periods. In fact, a repeat of the great 2005 vintage looked a distinct possibility at the end of July. A cold winter with some much-needed rain in March led to a dry April, a lovely May and a hot, dry June, and flowering took place in ideal conditions.

July was the second hottest month on record before the weather turned. August was drizzly and the coolest for 20 years. Then it was back to the heat – the first 10 days of September were the hottest ever. Picking for dry whites had already begun in Pessac-Léognan, and at Haut Brion they began their Merlot on Sept 7.

Then, critically, it rained – not prolonged showers throughout the harvest but heavy, localised downpours at key times. It rained off and on from Sept 11, at which point many estates in Pomerol began harvesting; then it rained heavily on 16 and 21 Sept before the weather cleared up. Many in St-Emilion had been waiting for better ripeness

but had to act as the skins on the Merlot were already fragile and there was an acute risk of rot.

In the Médoc, the Merlots had to be brought in quickly soon after the mid-September rains, with the hardier Cabernet Sauvignons being harvested mostly during the last week of September and into early October.

### The top wines

With fluctuating weather patterns throughout and showers around harvest time, it is the best-run estates with the best vineyard sites that have made the best wines in 2006. Tasting them now shows that the top terroirs, with old, deep-rooted vines, seemed to handle the extremes of the weather better.

There are very good red wines from the major communes of St-Julien, Pauillac, St-Estèphe and Margaux and Pessac-Léognan on the Left Bank, and Pomerol and St-Emilion on the Right. Quality is by no means consistent (especially in the large catchment of St-Emilion) and this variation is more pronounced in lesser appellations.

The better wines have good intensity of colour, fine fruit character, a high tannin count and racy acidity. Many wines, especially from the Médoc, will require long ageing. There is also a sensation of great "precision" at the top level, unlike even just a few years ago. The alcohol levels range from 12.5 per cent (Lafite) to 14.3 per cent (La Mission), with most around 13 to 13.5 per cent.

En primeur prices in May and June are likely to be pitched between the prices asked for the 2004s and 2005s. Exactly where on that broad spectrum will depend on how hard the châteaux owners think they can squeeze the pips.

## Where to buy

With payment being made for wine in advance of delivery, it is essential to buy from a reputable merchant. Here are some UK merchants offering Bordeaux en primeur:

Farr Vintners farr-vintners.com	020 7821 2000
Berry Bros & Rudd bbr.com	0870 900 3400
The Wine Society thewinesociety.com	01438 741177
Corney & Barrow corneyandbarrow.com	020 7265 2400
Bordeaux Index bordeauxindex.com	020 7253 2110
Bibendum bibendum-wine.co.uk	020 7449 4120
John Armit armit.co.uk	020 7908 0600
Justerini & Brooks justerinis.co.uk	020 7484 6400
Seckford Wines seckfordwines.co.uk	01394 446622
Lay & Wheeler laywheeler.com	01473 313233
Nickolls & Perks nickollsandperks.co.uk	01384 394518
Fine & Rare Wines frw.co.uk	020 8960 1995
Majestic majestic.co.uk	0845 605 6767
Goedhuis goedhuis.co.uk	020 7793 7900
Magnum magnum.co.uk	020 7839 5732
H&H Bancroft bancroftwines.co.uk	020 7232 5440
Albany Vintners albanyvintners.com	0845 330 8858
Laithwaites laithwaites.com	0870 442 1147
Lea & Sandeman londonfinewine.co.uk	020 7244 0522

## Bordeaux 2006 – the top 100 reds

I tasted more than 400 wines in 40 locations around the Bordeaux region in late March and early April to arrive at the top 100. Only red wines have been selected for the list, and I have left out a few high scoring garage wines or special cuvées that are made in miniscule quantities.

Gavin Quinney

### Guide to Scores

I use the 100-point rating system. With an unfinished wine – a year

or so before bottling – a narrow spread of three to four points is as precise as one can be in giving an indication of quality as the wine is still evolving. Any wine scoring 90-plus points is outstanding – truly exceptional if 95 or more.

### Maturity dates

The estimated maturity dates which I have given – for example, between 2010-2020 – show the period when the wine ought to be at its best for drinking.

### Pricing estimates

Prices are released by the châteaux via a network of brokers and merchants in May and June 2007. My price estimates for each wine are based on the probable opening prices from UK merchants and are "in bond" – they exclude duty (currently £16 a case) and VAT. Duty and VAT will be payable later, if the wines are delivered to you, although you may choose to keep the wine in bonded storage when it arrives in the UK in 2009.

### Guide to blends of grape varieties

The percentage of each grape variety refers to the final blend for each château's 2006 (not the mix in the vineyard). Most great reds from the Médoc have more Cabernet Sauvignon than Merlot, whereas wines from St-Emilion and Pomerol are made with Merlot and Cabernet Franc.

CS = Cabernet Sauvignon  
M = Merlot, CF = Cabernet Franc  
PV = Petit Verdot

Gavin Quinney moved to Bordeaux in 1999 when he bought Château Bauduc, where for the past seven years, he's been making the house white wine for Gordon Ramsay and Rick Stein. He was also the Bordeaux consultant for the wine lists at Restaurant Gordon Ramsay and has been reviewing the en primeur campaigns since 2000. He became the Bordeaux critic for Wine & Spirit last year and has his own website, [www.bordeauxreport.com](http://www.bordeauxreport.com).



### 1 Mouton Rothschild, Pauillac 95-98

£1,800-2,500

A fabulous Mouton, back on form. Just 44 per cent of the production went into the grand vin, compared with 80 per cent in 2000, and strict selection has resulted in a classic beauty with opulent blackcurrant fruit. **2020-2040**  
87% CS 13% M



### 7 Lafite Rothschild, Pauillac 93-95

£1,800-2,500

A dream for those who like "classique" wines. Finesse and elegance, gentle cassis fruit, spiced with cedar, and a long finish. 100 per cent new oak shows it's no lightweight but it has just 12.5 per cent alcohol. **2017-2035**  
82% CS 16% M 2% CF



### 2 Cheval Blanc, St-Emilion 95-97

£2,200-2,800

A wonderful Cheval Blanc, made from low yields of 28hl/ha, with gorgeous aromas of black cherry, spice and mocha. Great balance and depth, plus the trademark texture of pure velvet and supple tannins. **2014-2030**  
55% M 45% CF



### 8 La Mission Haut-Brion, Pessac-Léognan 93-95

£750-1,000

The precocious terroir of this estate allowed for early picking of the Merlot and it shows. This is a scrumptious, full-on, earthy La Mission with attitude. **2018-2038**  
59% M 40% CS 1% CF



### 3 Latour, Pauillac 94-97

£2,200-2,800

The most consistent player since 2000. With brilliant delineation and layers of complexity, the outstanding '06 Latour has firm tannins and will need an age to blossom. All good things come to those who wait. **2025-2045**  
86% CS 13% M 1% CF



### 9 Haut-Brion, Pessac-Léognan 93-95

£1,700-2,000

A deep, dense Haut Brion which, at 14 per cent, is surprisingly supple and delicious. Haunting aromas of red fruit and tobacco leaves, with the 80 per cent new oak in evidence for now. **2015-2035**  
57% M 41% CS 2% CF



### 4 L'Église Clinet, Pomerol 94-96

£800-1,000

Denis Durantou has fashioned a beguiling wine of extraordinary fruit and power from his gem of a vineyard. For him, gentle extraction was the key to success in this vintage. Just 1,350 cases. **2013-2025**  
90% M 10% CF



### 10 Angélys, St-Emilion 93-95

£1,000-1,200

One of the undoubted stars of the Right Bank, the '06 Angélys already combines great concentration and power with a wonderful texture. Deep ruby, exotic black fruits and very long. **2015-2028**  
62% M 38% CF



### 5 Palmer, Margaux 94-96

£800-1,000

By no means a blockbuster, the '06 Palmer is a modern, sleeker version of the '99, itself a wine of the vintage. Stunning depth and intensity with plump, juicy, black fruit. Great precision and utterly delicious. **2015-2028**  
56% CS 44% M



### 11 Château Margaux, Margaux 93-95

£2,000-2,500

Paul Pontallier considers this "a great vintage" for Margaux. Time will tell. With less Merlot than ever, the '06 is deep purple, and has an undercurrent of firm, majestic cabernet fruit behind the smoky new oak. **2020-2040**  
90% CS 4% M 4% PV 2% CF



### 6 Ausone, St-Emilion 93-95

£3,500-4,500

A formidable, dense, purply-black wine. Full and complex on the palate with a wonderful array of flavours and masses of grip. Not quite the class of 2000, 2003 or 2005, but still a powerhouse. 1,540 cases. **2022-2040**  
55% CF 45% M



### 12 Léoville Las Cases, St-Julien 93-95

£1,100-1,400

A superb prospect for the long haul, the '06 Las Cases has power, concentration, very fine delineation and a long finish. Aromas of cassis and dark chocolate, backed by serious tannins. **2020-2035**  
85% CS 15% M



## 13 Le Pin, Pomerol 93-95

£3,500-5,000

"Choose your barrel," said Jacques. There are just 21 of them (525 cases), and the two that I tasted revealed a wine of stunning potential. This is Merlot, but not as we know it. **2013-2028**  
100% M



## 14 Lafleur, Pomerol 93-95

£1,800-2,400

The Guinaudeaus have made a sumptuous wine from their superbly sited vineyard next to Petrus. A concoction of ripe red fruits, tobacco leaf and spice. Very long and complex. **2013-2025**  
61% M 39% CF



## 15 Ducru Beaucaillou, St-Julien 93-95

£650-750

Starting with the 2003, a plusher, plumper style of Ducru under Bruno Borie's direction. The '06 is rich, intense and almost sexy for a St-Julien, even if fulsome tannins lurk. **2015-2030**  
75% CS 25% M



## 16 Pavie, St-Emilion 93-95

£900-1,400

The vintage conditions may have forced the Pavie team to take the foot off the pedal, and it almost suits the wine. Less power than top years but it's beautifully crafted. **2018-2035**  
70% M 20% CF 10% CS



## 17 Pape Clément, Pessac-Léognan 93-94

£1,000-1,300

A modern wine from the oldest estate. Super-concentrated, rich and unctuous. Grape-by-grape selection results in a pure, powerful concoction steeped in ripe dark fruits. **2018-2032**  
55% M 45% CS



## 18 Léoville Barton, St-Julien 92-94

£380-450

First on the list for value, even with the price increase. A traditionally-styled effort revealing cedary aromas, ripe cassis and mulberry fruit, in a frame of firm tannins for long ageing. **2020-2035**  
70% CS 24% M 6% CF



## 19 Cos d'Estournel, St-Estèphe 92-94

£750-950

The wine is beautifully made with a rounder, plumper texture than its neighbours. Lovely blueberry fruit and toasty oak. Full and generous but needs time. **2020-2035**  
78% CS 20% M 2% CF



## 20 Pichon-Longueville Baron, Pauillac 92-94

£500-600

Under Christian Seely, Pichon Baron has been turning out reliable, top quality Pauillac. It's all there – complexity, blackcurrant fruit, great texture, grip and length. Classic Pichon of the modern era for laying down. **2018-2032** 70% CS 28% M 2% CF



## 21 Pétrus, Pomerol 92-94

£7,500-9000

"It's not a great vintage but a useful one," said Christian Moueix. This handy wine is restrained for now, but lying beneath the surface is something ethereal. **2015-2035**  
100% M



## 22 La Mondotte, St-Emilion 92-94

£1,200-1,500

Packed with dense, dark Merlot fruit, the '06 La Mondotte has enormous concentration and gorgeous aromas of blueberries and raspberries. Not for the fainthearted or impatient. **2020-2040**  
80% M 20% CF



## 23 Pontet-Canet, Pauillac 92-94

£340-400

Alfred Tesseron's estate is punching above its weight. Low yields of 35hl/ha from this biodynamically-run vineyard have produced a wine of potential, with rich dark fruits and firm tannins. **2017-2030**  
60% CS 33% M 5% CF 2% PV



## 24 Valandraud, St-Emilion 92-94

£1,200-1,500

One of the original garage wines, Valandraud isn't simply a fruit bomb that's been extracted to its core. Jean-Luc Thunevin's '06 is brimming with ripe Merlot fruit but is a class act. **2013-2025**  
65% M 30% CF 5% CS



## 25 Pavie-Macquin, St-Emilion 92-94

£340-400

I have long admired the wines of Pavie-Macquin. This is a gorgeous, sumptuous effort from Nicolas Thienpont. Lovely balance between power, weight and texture. **2014-2027**  
80% M 20% CF



## 26 Vieux Château Certan, Pomerol 92-94

£650-800

A delicious Pomerol of the old school. Alexandre Thienpont despises new tricks and likes the vineyard to do the talking. Impressive, crunchy black fruits and toasty oak. **2013-2025**  
75% M 25% CF



## 27 Le Dôme, St-Emilion 92-93

£900-1,000

Opulent dark cherry fruit, a sensational texture and a finish that lasts for a minute. There's plenty of grip and integrated new oak to ensure a long life ahead. **2012-2022**  
75% CF 25% M



## 28 L'Evangile, Pomerol 92-93

£800-1,000

This impeccable Pomerol from the Rothschilds of Lafite oozes class, from its rich and unctuous mouthfeel to the supple tannins. A new cuverie and cellar here: the precision shows. **2015-2025** 86% M 14% CF



### 29 Pichon Lalande, Pauillac 92-93

£580-700

This is a classically-styled, feminine Pichon Lalande. Pure cassis fruit, elegant and beautifully made. Just 50 per cent new oak. **2016-2028**

64% CS 36% M



### 30 Smith Haut Lafitte, Pessac-Léognan 91-93

£320-360

Consistent fine reds from this estate run by the Catthiards. The '06 is steeped in black fruits, with aromas of coffee and spice, and has terrific purity and a long finish. **2013-2025**

60% CS 35% M 5% CF



### 31 Léoville Poyferré, St-Julien 91-93

£330-380

One of the few estates on the Left Bank to carry out 100 per cent malolactic fermentation in the barrel. A harmonious package with a softer feel to the rich Cabernet fruit. **2015-2028**

73% CS 21% M 6% PV



### 32 Pavie Decesse, St-Emilion 91-93

£800-1,000

Sublime effort from Gerad Perse, owner of Pavie. Not to everyone's taste as it is not exactly shy and retiring. A well-endowed Merlot blockbuster. **2017-2030**

90% M 10% CF



### 33 Clinet, Pomerol 91-93

£450-550

A successful Clinet improving with each year under Ronan Laborde and his new micro-winery. Deep colour with lovely ripe, supple fruit and toasty aromas. Long and delicious. **2012-2025**

85% M 10% CS 5% CF



### 34 Malescot St-Exupery, Margaux 91-93

£240-300

This was one of the best buys of Margaux but it's becoming better known now. Open-knit, approachable, elegant and lots of sweet tannins. A real crowd pleaser. **2013-2025**

65% CS 25% M 5% CF 5% PV



### 35 Clos Fourtet, St-Emilion 91-93

£320-380

Another to add to a line-up of successful vintages since coming under new ownership in 2001, this is a delicious, rich, yet structured Clos Fourtet. **2013-2025**

90% M 10% CF



### 36 Lynch-Bages, Pauillac 91-93

£350-450

Nice to see two back-to-back winners from this ever-popular estate. Full-bodied and classically styled, with ripe, dark black-currant fruit and firm tannins. **2013-2028**

79% CS 10% M 10% CF 1% PV



### 37 Grand-Puy-Lacoste, Pauillac 91-93

£320-360

An estate on the up – and it was good before. Investments by François-Xavier Borie are paying off with an impressive wine that is long on elegance but with plenty of backbone. **2013-2028**

73% 25% M 2% CF



### 38 Le Gay, Pomerol 90-93

£320-400

Catherine Péré-Vergé's acquisition of Le Gay has seen further major investment in a new winery. On the road to joining the elite of Pomerol with wines of this calibre. **2012-2025**

80% M 20% CF



### 39 Branaire-Ducru, St-Julien 90-93

£240-300

A classic St-Julien with dark Cabernet fruit and cigar box aromas, Branaire-Ducru has been on a roll this decade. One for laying down as there are ample fine grained tannins. **2015-2030**

67% CS 27% M 4% PV 2% CF



### 40 Clos l'Eglise, Pomerol 90-93

£750-900

A Pomerol to hold on to from Hélène Garcin's impressive stable. A gorgeous nose, ripe black cherry fruit and a long, unctuous finish is backed by firm, mouth-puckering tannins. **2015-2030**

80% M 20% CF



### 41 Lascombes, Margaux 90-93

£300-360

The style of Lascombes has changed since 2000. Strict selection and modern techniques give it a beguilingly soft mouthfeel, but underneath is a boatload of fruit and firm tannin. **2014-2025**

50% M 45% CS 5% PV



### 42 Hosanna, Pomerol 90-92

£450-550

From the same stable as Petrus, the '06 Hosanna is deceptively light on its feet at this stage but one can sense the quality that will burst through after time in barrel and bottle. **2010-2020**

85% M 15% CF



### 43 Troplong Mondot, St-Emilion 90-92

£400-500

Christine Valette fully deserves the new classification of premier grand cru classé when the deal is done. Juicy ripe merlot with lots of sex appeal and depth. **2012-2025**

90% M 5% CS 5% CF



### 44 Haut-Bailly, Pessac-Léognan 90-92

£260-320

A consistently successful estate in the past few years with wines of this quality. Black fruits, spice and sweet tannins dominate and there's no shortage of power and stuffing. **2014-2027**

65% CS 35% M



## 45 Canon, St-Emilion 90-92

£350-450

This beautifully-located chateau has made a delicious 2006 which could be the equal of its 2005. A classically proportioned St-Emilion of the old school made in a modern way. **2012-2022**  
80% M 20% CF



## 46 L'Arrosée, St-Emilion 90-92

£220-250

A re-emerging estate under new ownership with south-facing slopes of clay over limestone. Ripe and impressively proportioned, lovely balance, not overdone. Still relatively good value. **2012-2022**  
65% M 20% CF 15% CS



## 47 La Gomerie, St-Emilion 90-92

£450-550

Delicious ripe Merlot from a small vineyard owned by the Becot family of Beausejour Becot. Great balance and texture. Not at all over-extracted. **2011-2020** 100% M



## 48 La Conseillante, Pomerol 90-92

£450-550

Full-on Pomerol from this famous estate next to L'Evangile and opposite Cheval Blanc. Thick and dark, with concentrated black cherry and summer fruits backed by firm tannins. **2012-2025**  
80% M 20% CF



## 49 Rauzan-Ségla, Margaux 90-92

£320-400

Much admired by lovers of classic Margaux, this château has produced a delicious, fragrant and stylish 2006. Lovely core of delicate fruit and super balance. **2014-2028**  
53% CS 44% M 3% PV



## 50 La Fleur-Pétrus, Pomerol 90-92

£400-450

The Moueix team has fashioned a subtle, restrained La Fleur Petrus that will need time to open up. Red fruits, mocha and a lovely freshness. One for classicists. **2012-2022** 85% M 15% CF



## The next 50

### 51 Tertre Rôteboeuf, St-Emilion 90-92

£450-600

Francois Mitjaville has produced a different style. Crunchy red fruits, peaty-earth aromas – more like a top Burgundy. **2017-2030**  
85% M 15% CF

### 52 Calon Ségur, St-Estèphe 90-92

£320-360

New man Vincent Millet knows his Cabernet after years at Château Margaux. This is lovely. Medium bodied, fine dark fruits, smoky oak and great balance. **2015-2030**  
64% CS 33% M 3% PV

### 53 Langoa Barton, St-Julien 90-92

£250-320

It's almost as if this is a Langoa for the modern palate. A big dollop of Merlot in the blend could be why. A delicious effort. **2012-2025**  
50% M 49% CS 1% CF

### 54 Rol Valentin, St-Emilion 90-92

£250-320

A sumptuous cult wine with voluptuous Merlot fruit. **2012-2022**  
90% M 10% CF

### 55 Canon La Gaffelière, St-Emilion 90-92

£360-420

Stephane von Niepperg's estate has come up with a lighter style. Elegant Merlot fruit and supple tannins. **2012-2025**  
55% M 35% CF 10% CS

### 56 Malartic-Lagravière, Pessac-Léognan 90-92

£190-240

Huge investment by the Bonnie family reap dividends. Full-bodied, ripe dark fruits and well-knit tannic structure. **2013-2026**  
50% CS 45% M 5% CF

### 57 Les Forts de Latour, Pauillac 90-92

£400-450

Classic Pauillac with bright cassis, pain grille, grainy tannins, complexity and length. **2015-2025**  
70% CS 30% M

### 58 Prieuré Lichine, Margaux 90-92

£200-240

Soft and appealing Margaux that may not be everyone's cup of tea, but this estate has been making lovely wines since the 2000. **2012-2023**  
60% CS 37% M 3% PV

### 59 La Dominique, St-Emilion 90-92

£200-250

The impact of Jean-Luc Thunevin's "tweaking" is immediate. The 2006 is better than the 2005. Ripe, full and attractive. **2012-2020**  
95% M 5% CF

### 60 Montrose, St-Estèphe 89-91

£380-500

New owners, new direction. With Jean-Bernard Delmas (ex-Haut Brion) in charge, a new approach for Montrose. The style is more elegant with a lighter touch on the winemaking side. **2013-2024**  
72% CS 28% M

### 61 Beausejour Duffau, St-Emilion 90-92

£300-400

Top flight wine from this St-Emilion estate. Elegant and classy. **2013-2023**  
70% M 20% CF 10% CS

### 62 Monbousquet, St-Emilion 90-92

£250-300

A full-on, opulent style suited to the modern palate. **2012-2025**  
70% M 20% CF 10% CS

### 63 Gazin, Pomerol 90-92

£250-300

Classically proportioned, good value Pomerol. **2013-2025**  
90% M 6% CS 4% CF

### 64 Chapelle d'Ausone, St-Emilion 90-92

£450-600

Dense, dark blackberry fruit and firm tannins. **2013-2025**  
70% M 30% CF

### 65 Domaine de Chevalier, Pessac-Léognan 90-92

£220-260

Famous estate with improving reds, not least this one. **2013-2025**  
67% CS 24% M 5% PV 4% CF

### 66 Clos des Jacobins, St-Emilion 90-92

£180-220

Impressive and balanced. **2012-2020**  
80% M 20% CF

### 67 Les Carmes Haut Brion, Pessac-Léognan 90-92

£240-300

Small estate making great traditionally-styled wine. **2015-2025**  
55% M 25% CF 20% CS

**68 Bellevue, St-Emilion 90-92**  
£240-320

Superbly sited château with gorgeous wines.

2012-2023  
80% M 20% CF

**69 Larcis Ducasse, St-Emilion 90-92**  
£320-400

Delicious wines since 2002 that are rather more expensive now.

2012-2025  
78% M 20% CF 2% CS

**70 Trotanoy, Pomerol 90-91**  
£600-800

Restraint and elegance from this top Pomerol. 2012-2025

95% M 5% CF

**71 Clerc Milon, Pauillac 90-91**  
£200-250

Beautifully proportioned Pauillac from the Mouton stable.

2015-2027  
50% CS 44% M 6% CF

**72 Giscours, Margaux 90-91**  
£220-270

A consistently excellent Margaux since 2000. 2012-2025

65% CS 35% M

**73 La Gaffeliere, St-Emilion 90-91**  
£270-350

A classically styled St-Emilion with fine Merlot fruit.

2012-2023  
80% M 10% CS 10% CF

**74 Figeac, St-Emilion 90-91**  
£400-500

A finely-judged Figeac with Cabernets to the fore.

2015-2028  
35% CS 35% CF 30% M

**75 Le Bon Pasteur, Pomerol 89-92**  
£350-450

First rate Pomerol from Michel Rolland. 2011-2022

80% M 20% CF

**76 Clos de Sarpe, St-Emilion 89-92**  
£380-450

Expensive, hand-crafted, artisanal St-Emilion. One to keep.

2017-2028  
85% M 15% CF

**77 Laforge, St-Emilion 89-91**  
£200-250

Delicious, intense Merlot from Jonathan Maltus of Le Dome.

2011-2018  
92% M 8% CF

**78 Gruaud Larose, St-Julien 89-91**  
£250-300

One to keep. Cedar and cassis and tannins.

2016-2030  
60% CS 24% M 11% CF 5% PV

**79 Sociando Mallet, Haut-Médoc 89-91**  
£200-250

A superb estate producing classic, long-lived wines.

2017-2030  
55% CS 40% M 5% CF

**80 Haut-Bages Libéral, Pauillac 89-91**  
£150-200

An excellent, blackcurrant-filled Pauillac. 2012-2025

75% CS 25% M

**81 Issan, Margaux 89-91**  
£200-270

An old estate making supple and attractive Margaux. 2012-2028

60% CS 40% M

**82 Lagrange, St-Julien 89-91**  
£180-250

More Merlot makes for a plumper Lagrange than usual. 2012-2020

59% CS 41% M

**83 Certan de May, Pomerol 89-91**  
£320-420

Classy, elegant, restrained. 2012-2022

85% M 15% CF

**84 Talbot, St-Julien 89-91**  
£200-260

A super Talbot in the classic mould.

2013-2025  
62% CS 31% M 5% PV 2% CF

**85 Beau-Séjour Bécot, St-Emilion 89-91**  
£280-350

Lighter in style than usual. 2012-2020

70% M 26% CF 4% CS

**86 Quinault l'Enclos, St-Emilion 89-91**  
£180-240

Soft, full and attractive. 2010-2020

75% M 12% CF 13% CS/Mal

**87 Brane-Cantenac, Margaux 89-91**  
£220-260

Elegant, medium-bodied, fragrant.

2012-2022  
60% CS 36% M 4% CF

**88 Kirwan, Margaux 89-91**  
£200-260

Juicy and full-bodied. 2013-2025

55% CS 35% M 10% PV

**89 Cantenac Brown, Margaux 89-91**  
£160-220

Richer style (than '05). 2012-2022

75% CS 25% M

**90 La Lagune, Haut-Médoc 89-91**  
£180-250

Lovely, restrained, polished.

2012-2028  
55% CS 35% M 10% PV

**91 Trotteville, St-Emilion 89-91**  
£350-450

Beautifully knit, classically styled.

2012-2025  
49% CF 47% M 4% CS

**92 Moulin St Georges, St-Emilion 89-91**  
£200-240

Super wine. Full and rich. 2013-2020

80% M 20% CF

**93 Nenin, Pomerol 89-91**  
£250-300

Firm, tasty Pomerol. 2012-2023

76% M 24% CF

**94 Le Petit Mouton, Pauillac 89-91**  
£380-450

Plush and appealing second wine of Mouton Rothschild. 2014-2024

70% CS 14% M 16% CF

**95 Ferrière, Margaux 89-91**  
£160-180

Beautifully-made Margaux in a classic style.

2015-2028  
70% CS 30% M

**96 Beychevelle, St-Julien 89-91**  
£200-260

Another in a string of successful vintages of late.

2013-2023  
59% CS 29% M 7% CF 5% PV

**97 Haut-Batailley, Pauillac 89-91**  
£160-200

Ripe and delicious with cloak of sweet tannin.

2014-2030  
75% CS 23% M 2% CF

**98 Lucia, St-Emilion 89-91**  
£170-220

Succulent, stylish Merlot from biodynamic vineyard.

2010-2020  
90% M 10% CF

**99 Cantemerle, Haut-Médoc 89-91**  
£120-150

Delicious, supple wine.

2012-2022  
52% CS 33% M 8% PV 7% CF

**100 Rauzan Gassies, Margaux 89-91**  
£170-200

Quality on the up – balanced and attractive Margaux.

2014-2023  
67% CS 26% M 3% PV 4% CF