

Bordeaux 2015 En Primeur Offer

"I can already say that 2015 is indeed a fantastic year, producing rich and opulent reds with ripe and velvety tannins. The wines have a lot of "wow" factor when you taste them."

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com

"Generally, 2015 is an excellent vintage ... you could argue that it might pip the quality of 2005 due to subsequent advances in technology and know-how."

Neal Martin, WineAdvocate.com

"Put quite simply there were some sensational wines made in Bordeaux in 2015 and anyone who enjoys drinking claret will love them."

Will Lyons

"...the 2015 primeurs were a joy to taste. That said, I can't remember the commune of Margaux performing so consistently well as it did in 2015 in any other vintage"

Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com

"The best appellations are Pomerol, St. Emilion, Pessac-Léognan, and Margaux but there are lots of smaller appellations that excelled including Lalande-de-Pomerol and Fronsac."

"...there are many amazing wines in 2015."

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com

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Prices are quoted 'in bond' unless otherwise stated and are exclusive of duty, VAT and delivery, which is expected through the course of early 2018. You will be notified by post once your wines have arrived. Bottles sizes are 75cl unless otherwise stated.

For full details please see our terms and conditions on page 16.

Bordeaux 2015 Vintage Report

I'm always keen to try to avoid harping on about weather conditions too much in reports like this. If you're an aspiring MW or are keen on the minutiae of coastal weather patterns it may be interesting, but for the majority of wine-drinkers I suspect it's superfluous. However, in a vintage like 2015 which is as complicated as much as it is delicious (in the most part), then I think it's important to understand what went on in order for both us merchants and consumers to understand what they should and shouldn't buy. Of course, if such information doesn't interest you at all, feel free to skip the next paragraph!

The weather

I suspect it was mid-summer last year when the Bordeaux hype-machine, which has been quiet for the last 4 vintages engaged its clutch and went into gear. The conditions up until July were superb, absolutely textbook. Some suggested we could be looking at another 2009 or perhaps a 2003 given if anything it was a little too hot and certainly very dry which left some hoping for a little rain and cooler temperatures. At this stage though it was perhaps leaning a little too close to 2003, which on the whole produced jammy wines with limited structure and longevity, though admired by Parker in particular at the time. The Châteaux got their wish in June though which saw a little rain, much appreciated to keep the vines fresh, balanced and healthy.

August saw a big shift though in the weather with rain across most parts of Bordeaux, although more in the Médoc than the right bank. In many cases this was very welcome after the hot summer, but where it became difficult was in the Northern Médoc where the rain persisted into September when the harvest was due to take place. Based on our tastings it seems that those vineyards who had better draining, gravel-laden soils were largely unaffected in the North, but this is where there is the greatest inconsistency with 2015.

The Appellations

So, where did well? A little dispute among us in the trade here, but we love a good debate, so I wouldn't have it any other way. Where there is little debate is as to the quality of Pomerol and St Emilion. Certainly the most consistent in St Emilion since 2005 in my view with less harsh tannin and better balance of alcohol than both 2009 and 2010. For the first time on this trip Châteaux representatives openly admitted that they made wine specifically to suit Robert Parker's palate in years gone by, but now he's no longer the main journalist in terms of scoring Bordeaux, this is less prevalent. Parker's preference certainly seemed to be for the big, extracted, higher alcohol wines and for my taste this aim to please Parker was to the detriment of St Emilion in particular.

I think a real success story though this year is the quality of the less fashionable appellations on the right bank. Castillon, Fronsac, Lalande de Pomerol and the St Emilion Satellites produced some cracking stuff and we had plenty of top notch Bordeaux Supérieur too.

So, what about the left bank? This is more complicated. Graves and Pessac-Léognan were outstanding, producing supple wines, with lovely ripe, enjoyable tannins, though this applies mainly at the top end of the Pessac range. The more affordable Pessacs were less impressive. Good yes, but in the context of the vintage, not as impressive as the better value options we tried elsewhere. Moving up North we hit Margaux, for the first time in a long while Margaux's got to be the best performer in the Médoc. The vintage suited it perfectly, plenty of ripe aromatic fruit and a good dose of refreshing acidity. Pauillac and St Julien were the patchiest communes in my view. There were some tremendously impressive wines like Lynch-Bages at the top end and du Glana and Haut-Batailley at the more affordable end, but this is where you must choose carefully. Where many people disagree with me is St-Estèphe. I had read a number of reports pre-trip suggesting St-Estèphe was the worst hit with the harvest-time rain and the bulk of the wines suffered accordingly. But, based on my tastings, I'd suggest that St-Estèphe was above St Julien and Pauillac. Calon-Ségur and Montrose among others were particularly good.

As always it's a real shame to leave only a paragraph to the dry whites and sweet wines of Bordeaux, but the reality is that the vast majority of buyers are solely interested in the reds, a real shame when you consider the time and effort that goes into producing many such affordable Sauternes. The whites this year are excellent with it almost impossible for vintage conditions to be more perfect, harvested between the two spells of rain, the acidity was maintained, but harvest took place in glorious conditions. As far as the sweet wines are concerned the same is true with the rain coming at just the right time to generate botrytis in the grapes, from June to the last selection of the grapes in October. The Sauternes are perhaps not as fat and sweet as the 2005s or 2009s, but far better balanced, not dissimilar to the 2007s in my experience.

While there's little doubt that the best wines of 2015 are up there with the highlights from 2005, 2009 & 2010 there are some disappointments, yet stylistically there is something for everyone in this complicated vintage, I'd certainly encourage you to chat through the options with us when making your purchases this year.

My picks of the vintage (subject to price)

Château Margaux, Margaux
Château Lafite-Rothschild, Pauillac
Château Montrose, St- Estèphe
Château Brane-Cantenac, Margaux
Château Lynch-Bages, Pauillac
Château La Mission Haut Brion
Domaine de Chevalier, Pessac-Léognan
Château Angelus, St Emilion
Château Figeac, St Emilion
Château La Fleur-Pétrus, Pomerol
Vieux Château Certan, Pomerol
Château Ausone, St Emilion

Best buys of the vintage

Château du Glana, St Julien
Château Labégorce, Margaux
Château Capbern, St-Estèphe
Château Clement-Pichon, Haut-Médoc
Château du Retout, Haut-Médoc
Château Siran, Margaux
Château Puy-Blanquet, St Emilion
Ch. Les Vieux Ormes, Lalande de Pomerol
Château Belfont-Belcier, St Emilion
Château Haut-Batailley, Pauillac
Château Gigault 'Cuveé Viva', Blaye
Château Doisy-Védrines, Sauternes

Angus McLean
Fine Wine Manager 15th April 2016

Bordeaux 2015 Pricing

<u>Case Code</u>	<u>Red</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Price</u>
P6780201	Château Gigault 'Cuvée Viva'	Côtes de Bordeaux Blaye	90-93 WS	£85 per 12 IB
P6770801	Château du Retout	Haut-Médoc	89-92 WS	£85 per 12 IB
P6787301	Château Belle Coline	Côtes de Bordeaux Blaye	91-92 JS	£90 per 12 IB
P6777901	Château Sénéjac	Haut-Médoc	92-93 JS	£105 per 12 IB
P6778701	Château Villars	Fronsac	17 JR	£105 per 12 IB
P6795201	Château Marsau	Francs Côtes de Bordeaux	92-93 JS	£55 per 6 IB
P6780601	Clos Floridène	Graves	17 JR	£120 per 12 IB
P6769301	Château Puy-Blanquet	St-Emilion Grand Cru	16.5 JR	£140 per 12 IB
P6769501	Château Capbern	St-Estèphe Cru Bourgeois	93 WE	£140 per 12 IB
P6789001	Château Lilian-Ladouys	St-Estèphe	90-91 JS	£140 per 12 IB
P6769901	Château Chantalouette	Pomerol	-	£155 per 12 IB
P6788501	Château du Glana	St Julien	89-90 JS	£160 per 12 IB
P6790501	Château Haut-Bages-Monpelou	Pauillac	90-91 JS	£165 per 12 IB
P6792201	Marquis de Calon	St-Estèphe	92-94 WE	£185 per 12 IB
P6780401	Château Siran	Margaux	94-95 JS	£200 per 12 IB
P6782501	Château Meyney	St-Estèphe Cru Bourgeois	90-93 AG	£200 per 12 IB
P6781701	Château Bellefont-Belcier	St Emilion Grand Cru Classé	92-94 NM	£270 per 12 IB
P6787501	Château Lynch-Moussas	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	92-94 NM	£275 per 12 IB
P6771101	Château Gloria	St-Julien	95 TA	£285 per 12 IB
P6770501	Château d'Armailhac	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	17.5 JR	£310 per 12 IB
P6769401	Château Cantenac-Brown	Margaux 3ème Grand Cru Classé	93-96 AG	£350 per 12 IB
P6769201	Château Talbot	St-Julien 4ème Grand Cru Classé	92-93 JS	£410 per 12 IB
P6781501	Château Brane-Cantenac	Margaux 2ème Grand Cru Classé	93-95 NM	£495 per 12 IB
P6789501	Château Duhart-Milon	Pauillac 4ème Grand Cru Classé	94+ TA	£510 per 12 IB
P6771001	Château Lynch-Bages	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	95-96 JS	£445 per 6 IB

<u>Case Code</u>	<u>Sweet Wines</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Price</u>
P1388701	Château Doisy-Daëne (37.5cl)	Barsac 2ème Cru Classé	18.5 JR	£145 per 12 IB
P1388601	Château Coutet (37.5cl)	Barsac 1er Grand Cru Classé	94-97 WS	£150 per 12 IB

<u>Case Code</u>	<u>Dry Whites</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Price</u>
P1392401	Ch. Thieuley 'Cuvée Francis Courselle'	Bordeaux	16.5 JR	£70 per 12 IB
P1392601	Château Smith-Haut-Lafitte Blanc	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	94-96 NM	£330 per 6 IB

TA – TimAktin.com JS – JamesSuckling.com WS – Wine Spectator.com
JR – Jancis Robinson NM – Neal Martin WE – Wine Enthusiast

Pomerol & Satellites

**Château Chantalouette 2015
Pomerol**

£155 per 12 IB

Arriving Spring 2018

15.5 Points Gus McLean

'In the context of the vintage, this is a little more savoury than it was last year for example. A little more old-fashioned. Dark, brambly fruit, but relatively restrained on the palate, good acidity levels.'
Gus McLean, Fine Wine Manager, April 2016



Drink to 2025

St Emilion & Satellites

**Château Puy-Blanquet 2015
St Emilion Grand Cru**

£140 per 12 IB

Arriving Spring 2018

**87-90 Points Wine Spectator
16.5+ Points Gus McLean**

"Offers a core of plum and anise, with a modest toasty edge on the finish. A gentle, lighter-bodied style overall."

87-90 Points – James Molesworth, Wine Spectator, April 2016

'Without doubt, the best vintage of this wine I've tried, ahead of the 2009 and 2010. The extra heat in 2015 has given this extra oomph that I think it's occasionally lacked in the last few years. Still red-fruit dominant and a core of bright freshness, but so much more generous on the palate. Lovely fine silk tannins.'

Gus McLean, Fine Wine Manager, April 2016



Drink to 2024+

**Château Bellefont-Belcier 2015
St Emilion Grand Cru Classé**

£270 per 12 IB

Arriving Spring 2018

**94-95 Points James Suckling
92-94 Points Neal Martin**

"The quality of tannin here is really exceptional with ultra-fine tannins and beautiful length. Blackberry and blueberry. Love it."

94-95 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2016

"The 2015 Bellefont Belcier is a blend of 68% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 12% Cabernet Sauvignon cropped at 39 hl/ha. Matured in 80% new oak, it has a sweet, ripe black cherry and boysenberry nose. At the property, the nose showed a little blowsiness, though subsequent samples exuded much more freshness. There is a touch of shoe polish here. The palate is dense and balanced with fine tannins and well-judged acidity. The palate has much more to offer than the aromatics and the lascivious finish is both harmonious and sensual, a touch of spice lingering on the aftertaste. This is a very well-crafted Saint Emilion with panache and class. Drink 2018-2030."

92-94 Points – Neal Martin, Wine Advocate, April 2016



Drink to 2028

Other Right Bank

Château Gigault 'Cuvée Viva' 2015
Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux

£85 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2018

91 Points Tim Atkin
90-91 Points James Suckling

"Racy and refined Gigault with blackberry and blueberry character. Medium to full body, fresh finish. Fine tannins."
90-91 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2016

"The 2015 Gigault Cuvée Viva jumps from the glass with remarkable richness and intensity. Sumptuous, racy and intense, the Cuvée Viva is a picture-perfect example of the year. Silky tannins add to an overall impression of creaminess in a ripe, flamboyant Côtes de Blaye that is a real overachiever. Raspberry jam, menthol and sweet spices wrap around the expressive finish. Julien Lavenu and Romain Bocchio are the consulting winemakers. Tasted two times."
89-91 Points – Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com, April 2016



Drink to 2028

Château Belle Coline 2015
Côtes de Bordeaux Blaye

£90 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2018

91-92 Points James Suckling
89-92 Points Wine Spectator

"This is really salty and spicy with oyster shell character. So stylish. Medium to full body, structured and flavorful."
91-92 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2016

"The 2015 Belle Coline, a blend of 91% Merlot and 9% Malbec, has a fragrant bouquet of red cherries, raspberry jam and a touch of baking powder, nicely defined and pretty. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit with good grip thanks to that judicious use of Malbec. This should drink nicely over the next 4-5 years. Drink 2018-2023."
87-89 Points – Neal Martin, Wine Advocate, April 2016



Drink to 2023

Château Villars 2015
Fronsac

£105 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2018

17 Points Jancis Robinson
93 Points Wine Enthusiast

"Attractively scented. Round and plummy. Hugely satisfying with both fruit and stony notes. Sappy. Very long. Bravo! **GV?** Drink 2022-2030."
17 Points – Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com, April 2016

"The pure red-fruit flavors of this wine shoot through the firm tannins to give freshness while allowing plenty of space for the development of the tannins. It is a wine that shows both the fruit and the structure of the vintage."
93 Points – Wine Enthusiast, WineMag.com, April 2016



Drink to 2028

Château Marsau 2015
Francs Côtes de Bordeaux

£55 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2018

92-93 Points James Suckling
89-91 Points Neal Martin

"A very dense and rich Marsau with big tannin structure and ripe fruit. Full body, tar and blackberry character. Asphalt and graphite undertones. Fascinating you red."

92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2016

"The 2015 Marsau is made by the "better half" of CVBG's Mathieu Chardronnier. It is 100% Merlot from 30-year-old vines planted on clay soil and matured in 30% new oak. It felt a little pinched on the nose at first, a little unresponsive, though with aeration I found a light marine influence tinturing the black fruit and it began to find a (prenatal) voice. The palate is medium-bodied with grippy tannin. There is good weight here: furry textured tannin, but appreciable freshness and a sense of elegance on the finish. Give this 2-3 years in bottle and you will have a fine Francs - Côtes de Bordeaux on your hands. Drink 2018-2028.'

89-91 Points – Neal Martin, Wine Advocate, April 2016

Drink to 2028



Médoc, Haut-Médoc & Moulis-en-Médoc

Château du Retout 2015
Haut-Médoc

£85 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2018

88-92 Points Wine Spectator

"An iron note forms along the edges of the slightly tangy red currant and damson plum fruit, lingering through the finish. Very solid, with good typicity."

89-92 Points – James Molesworth, Wine Spectator, April 2016

Drink to 2028+



Château Sénéjac 2015
Haut-Médoc

£105 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2018

92-93 Points James Suckling
89 Points Decanter

"This shows density and structure for a 2015 with ripe tannins and bright fruit character. Full body. Chewy texture. Extremely well done for Médoc."

92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2016

"Good, lifted cassis fruit and polished winemaking. Another elegant Sénéjac with depth and finesse."

89 Points – Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com, April 2016

Drink to 2028



Margaux

**Château Siran 2015
Margaux**

**£200 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2018**

**94-95 Points James Suckling
92-94 Points Neal Martin
17 Points Jancis Robinson**

"This really is fantastic with so much ripe fruit and ripe tannins. Exquisite purity and beauty. 55% merlot, 38% cabernet sauvignon and 7% petit verdot."

94-95 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2016

"The 2015 Siran is a blend of 55% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Petit Verdot picked between 17 September to 12 October. It is raised in 25% new oak plus one-year barrels. It is a little richer and more opulent than its neighbor, the 2015 Dauzac, due to the higher proportion of Merlot. It veers to more red fruit here, wild strawberry and later cassis. The palate is smooth and sensual on the entry, very well defined with a keen thread of acidity. It grips the mouth, implying that there is more Cabernet than there actually is. I like the volume here, and unlike previous vintages that seemed to show some warmth on the finish, here the finish is much more linear and controlled, fanning out gracefully but with power emanating from that Merlot. This is likely to be proprietor Edouard Mialhe's best wine in recent years."

92-94 Points – Neal Martin, Wine Advocate, April 2016

Drink to 2028+



**Château Cantenac-Brown 2015
Margaux 3^{ème} Grand Cru Classé**

**£350 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2018**

**93-94 Points James Suckling
92-94 Points Neal Martin**

"Very structured and muscular with black currant, chewy tannins and a flavorful finish. Full body. Yet polished and intriguing."

93-94 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2016

"The 2015 Cantenac Brown follows their excellent 2014 with another great Margaux. Here, a nuanced nose that does not come racing from the blocks, but keep your nose in the glass and it reveals detailed blackberry, cranberry and strawberry aromas that are neatly embroidered with the new oak. The palate is medium-bodied with fine, quite tensile tannin. There is breeding interwoven into this Margaux, palpable sophistication, and it finishes with panache, fanning out with lightly spiced red and black fruit. It is not the most ostentatious Margaux in what is a fecund season for the appellation, but I suspect it will surprise a few wine-lovers as its ages. Drink 2020-2045."

92-94 Points – Neal Martin, Wine Advocate, April 2016

Drink to 2040



Château Brane-Cantenac 2015
Margaux 2^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£495 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2018

93-94 Points James Suckling
93-95 Points Neal Martin

"This is very big and rich wine with dense and rich tannins, lots of ripe fruit. Blackberry, blueberry flavors. Muscular yet polished."

93-94 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2016

"The 2015 Brane-Cantenac is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 1% Carmenère that was picked from 17 September until 7 October (that Carmenère was actually picked on 19 October). It was cropped at 51 hl/ha. This is classic Brane-Cantenac down the line: austere at first, almost aloof, but very well defined and over time it starts revealing lovely tobacco-stained black fruit. The palate is very well balanced with raspberry and wild strawberry on the entry, perhaps more red fruit than I was anticipating. Veins of undergrowth and cedar are in situ on this very well-balanced, reserved and classic Margaux boasting a long and persistent finish that feels satisfying, reassuring even. Not a Margaux for those that seek tons of fruit, it is nonetheless a very terroir-expressive wine that will repay those who know that this cru demands preferably 12-15 years in the cellar. Henri Lurton never wavers from his style of Margaux and it pays dividends here on this great wine for those with patience. Drink 2030-2060."

93-95 Points – Neal Martin, Wine Advocate, April 2016

Drink to 2040



Saint-Julien

Château du Glana 2015
St Julien

£160 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2018

89-90 Points James Suckling
88-90 Points Neal Martin

"A fresh and clean red with blueberry and blackberry character. Tangy acidity. Citrusy. Medium to full body."

89-90 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2016

"The 2015 Château du Glana has a tightly wound, bell pepper-tinged bouquet that has a Loire influence. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent, ripe red plum and cranberry fruit, a keen line of acidity and a slightly foursquare but fresh finish. Tasted twice with the second bottle showing a tad more elegance and cohesion on the finish. Drink 2019-2032."

88-90 Points – Neal Martin, Wine Advocate, April 2016

Drink to 2030



**Château Gloria 2015
St Julien**

**£285 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2018**

**92-93 Points James Suckling
90-92 Points Neal Martin**

"Pretty Gloria with plenty of tension and energy. Full body yet silky textured and extremely long. Exciting."

92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2016

"The 2015 Gloria is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 6% Petit Verdot cropped at 51 hl/ha, matured in 40% new wood. It was picked between 21 September and finishing on 7 October with the Cabernet Sauvignon. It has a fragrant bouquet with dark cherries, cedar and touches of cigar box - classic Saint Julien in many ways, though it does not have the complexity of great recent vintages such as the 2010. The palate is well balanced, clean and pure with fine tannin. The acidity is nicely judged, not a million miles away from the 2015 Lagrange in terms of its refinement, but this has perhaps a touch more detail on the finish. Perhaps one of the more approachable Saint Julien wines this vintage, give this 4-5 years in bottle and then drink over the next 20 years. Drink 2021-2040."

90-92 Points – Neal Martin, Wine Advocate, April 2016

Drink to 2035



**Château Talbot 2015
St Julien 4^{ème} Grand Cru**

**£410 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2018**

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

"A refined yet chewy young red with lots of blackberry and blueberry aromas and flavors. Full body, ripe tannins and a fresh and clean finish."

92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2016

"The 2015 Talbot has a very typical nose for this Saint Julien estate: unapologetically classic in style, reserved even, with very subtle blackberry and briary scents tinged with pencil shavings. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, moderate weight in the mouth, but it feels very linear and conservative towards the finish. Talbot rarely shows well out of barrel and can improve in bottle, so I will be a little more optimistic in my score and hope that it gains matière during élevage. Drink 2022-2040."

88-90 Points – Neal Martin, Wine Advocate, April 2016

Drink to 2030



Pauillac

**Château Haut-Bages-Monpélou 2015
Pauillac Cru Bourgeois**

**£165 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2018**

**90-91 Points James Suckling
16.5 Points Jancis Robinson**

"This shows a pretty center palate with currant and blueberry character. Medium to full body, fine tannins. Depth and style for this cru."

90-91 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2016

"Little brother of Ch Batailley but a completely separate estate. Quite rich and ripe on the nose. Good freshness on the end. Racy! GV?"

16.5 Points – Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com, April 2016

Drink to 2025



Château Lynch-Moussas 2015
Pauillac 5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£275 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2018

92-93 Points James Suckling
92-94 Points Neal Martin

"Extremely well done for the vintage in Pauillac with attractive dried flower, currant and light stone character. Medium to full body. Fine tannins."
92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2016

"The 2015 Lynch Moussas is a blend of 79% Cabernet Sauvignon and 21% Merlot cropped at 44 hl/ha between 17 September and 1 October. It has a very controlled bouquet at first with tightly wound raspberry and wild strawberry fruit, the oak nicely integrated and some lovely undergrowth aromas surfacing with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, the acidity well judged, leading to a spice-tinged finish that lingers long in the mouth. It is a very fine follow-up to the 2014 last year, with a freshness and class that I did not find conveyed ten years ago. Drink 2020-2040."

92-94 Points – Neal Martin, Wine Advocate, April 2016
Drink to 2030



Château d'Armailhac 2015
Pauillac 5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£310 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2018

92-93 Points James Suckling
17.5 Points Jancis Robinson

"A refined and pretty red with plum, blackberry and black cherry aromas and flavors. Full to medium body, fine tannins. Exuberant."
92-93 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2016

"60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot.

Particularly bright crimson. Savoury, lively nose. Drier and lighter than most but racy and satisfying in the new style. Good freshness and breadth. Really very polished. Drink 2024-2040."

17.5 Points – Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com, April 2016

Drink to 2035



Château Duhart-Milon-Rothschild 2015
Pauillac 4^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£510 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2018

91-92 Points James Suckling
90-92 Points Neal Martin

"A firm and silky red with blackberry and chocolate character. Hints of walnut. Full and chewy. Fresh finish."

91-92 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2016

"The 2015 Duhart-Milon is soft, open-knit and expressive, with gorgeous dark red and purplish fruit pushed forward and pretty spiced notes that add complexity. Medium in body and gracious, the 2015 should drink nicely with minimal cellaring. This is a very pretty, understated Duhart. The blend is 73% Cabernet Sauvignon and 27% Merlot."

90-92 Points – Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com, April 2016

Drink to 2030



Château Lynch-Bages 2015
Pauillac 5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£445 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2018

95-96 Points James Suckling
93-95 Points Neal Martin

"Very classic style Lynch with pretty ripe fruit and tannin balanced. Full body, firm and chewy tannins yet polished and refined. Alcohol and fruit balance are lower than other top years and give this wine freshness and energy."

95-96 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2016

"They 2015 Lynch Bages is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot that was picked from 23 September until 2 October, matured in 75% new oak. There is an overwhelming sense of purity on the nose: perfumed, almost floral blackberry, wild strawberry, graphite and cedar scents, unmistakably Pauillac in style. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannin, a keen citrus thread that impart tension and ample freshness. Tasting this as the first wine of the day, it instantly refreshes the mouth and leaves it tingling with energy after it has departed. This is an excellent, top-grade Lynch Bages that deserves 8-10 years in bottle and then will offer three decade of pleasure, maybe more. Drink 2025-2060"

93-95 Points – Neal Martin, Wine Advocate, April 2016

Drink to 2050+



Saint-Estèphe

Château Capbern 2015
St Estèphe

£140 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2018

92-94 Points Wine Enthusiast
90-91 Points James Suckling

"Despite the obvious fruitiness, this wine has an impressive amount of structure, which gives a dry core to the juicy black currant fruits and tight acidity. There is a touch of extraction in the black coffee flavors, although the main character is fruit."

92-94 Points – Wine Enthusiast, WineMag.com, April 2016

"The 2015 Capbern (formerly Capbern Gasqueton) is a blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot and 4% Petit Verdot, to be matured in 60% new oak over the next 18 months. This is the first time that Petit Verdot has been included in the blend from new plantings, around ten-years-old now. It has a crisp blackberry and bilberry scented bouquet, quite linear, a floral aspect emerging after a couple of minutes in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with quite a structured opening, a decidedly more masculine Capbern Gasqueton in the making, with a slight tinniness towards the finish. Give this 3-4 years in bottle for the jaggedness in those tannins to soften. Drink 2019-2030."

89-91 Points – Neal Martin, Wine Advocate, April 2016

Drink to 2028+



Château Lilian-Ladouys 2015
St Estèphe

£140 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2018

89-90 Points James Suckling
88-90 Points Neal Martin

"A fresh and clean red with blueberry, plum and light walnut aromas and flavors. Medium body, integrated tannins. Tight."

89-90 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2016

"The 2015 Château Lilian Ladouys is a blend of 62% Merlot, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc. It has a broody, earthy, very Saint Estèphe bouquet that was showing a great deal of new oak when I tasted it. The palate is medium-bodied with soft tannin on the entry, quite masculine and foursquare, plenty of fruit with strong tobacco notes coming through on the finish. If I am being honest, I was just hoping for a little more from this ever-improving Cru Bourgeois under the guiding hand of Emmanuel Cruse, though I feel that it is just slightly compromised by the September storm clouds. Drink 2020-2030."

88-90 Points – Neal Martin, Wine Advocate, April 2016

Drink to 2025



Marquis de Calon 2015
St Estèphe

£185 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2018

92-94 Points Wine Enthusiast
91-92 Points James Suckling

"Very finely textured with blueberry and blackberry character. Very polished tannins. Fresh finish. Second wine of Calon Segur."

91-92 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2016

"The 2015 Marquis de Calon Segur is a blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc cropped at 47 hectoliters per hectare and matured in 50% new wood over the next 17 months. The blend is indicative of a decreasing proportion of Merlot. The nose is very attractive, quite rich and opulent in style, macerated black cherries, cassis and violet, nicely defined and gaining intensity in the glass. The palate is smooth on the entry with ripe blackberry and boysenberry fruit. There is a little graininess to the texture and a pleasant salinity that just crescendos towards the finish, leaving a marine-influenced residue in the mouth. This has very good potential and is certainly an improvement in terms of the deuxième vin compared to previous vintages. Drink 2020-2035'

88-90 Points – Neal Martin, Wine Advocate, April 2016

Drink to 2030



Château Meyney 2015
St Estèphe Cru Bourgeois

£200 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2018

91-92 Points James Suckling
92-94 Points Wine Enthusiast

"An outstanding red with blackberry and chocolate character. Full to medium body, silky tannins and a fresh finish. Very well done for the vintage considering less than perfect conditions in St. Estèphe."

91-92 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2016

"The 2015 Meyney is round, supple and inviting. This is an especially creamy, voluptuous Saint-Estèphe with the fruit pushed forward and silky tannins that add to an impression of raciness. Ultimately the 2015 offers lovely density, not to mention considerable polish in a fruity, juicy style. Tasted two times."

90-93 Points – Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com, April 2016

Drink to 2030



Graves and Pessac-Léognan Red

**Clos Floridène (red) 2015
Graves**

**£120 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2018**

**90-92 Points Neal Martin
17 Points Jancis Robinson**

"The 2015 Clos Floridene offers up luscious redcurrant, wild strawberry and floral scents on the nose, almost Burgundy-like in terms of purity. The palate is well balanced with fine but firm tannin, a little pinched at the moment, but by the time of bottling it will have undone its top-shirt button. Plenty of energy here, a Graves with a nod to Volnay, bound to offer 8-10 years of pleasure. Drink 2018-2028."

90-92 Points – Neal Martin, Wine Advocate, April 2016

Drink to 2026



Dry White

**Château Thieuley (White)
'Cuvée Francis Courselle' 2015
Bordeaux**

**£70 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2018**

16.5 Points Jancis Robinson

"Very lively and rich. Lots of fun and glamour here. **GV**. Drink 2016-2019."
16.5 Points – Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com, April 2016

Drink to 2019



**Château Smith-Haut-Lafitte Blanc 2015
Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé**

**£330 per 6 IB
Arriving Spring 2018**

**96-97 Points James Suckling
94-96 Points Neal Martin**

"A beautiful white with pretty density and richness. Bright and clear with intense aromas and flavors of lilacs and stones. Some violet. Full and bright. Firm phenolic tension. Bright acidity."

96-97 Points – James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2016

"The 2015 Smith-Haut-Lafitte Blanc is a blend of 90% Sauvignon Blanc, 5% Sauvignon Gris and 5% Sauvignon Blanc matured in 50% new oak. It has a crisp, conservative bouquet, tightly wound at first, reticent even, though with a couple of minutes' swirling, it reveals intense fresh lime flower, pink grapefruit, guava and blood orange scents. The palate is extremely well balanced with a silver bead of acidity, a dab of sour lemon than cleanses the mouth, followed by pink grapefruit, citrus lemon and green apple notes towards the long finish. This is another outstanding white Smith-Haut-Lafitte from winemaker Fabien Tietgen and the famille Cathiard."

94-96 Points – Neal Martin, Wine Advocate, April 2016

Drink to 2030



Sweet Whites

Château Doisy-Daëne 2015 (37.5cl)
Barsac 2^{ème} Grand Cru Classé

£145 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2018

95-97 Points Neal Martin
95-96 Points James Suckling

"The 2015 Doisy-Daëne has a detailed bouquet, very correct, nothing showy or flamboyant as is typical of Denis Dubourdieu's Barsac. The palate is extremely well balanced and very pure: citrus fruit infusing the honeyed botrytis, veins of white peach and quince, leading to a very precise and sustained finish that leaves you with a smile on your face...and the wine ain't even finished yet! Just a wonderful wine - full of class and nascent joie-de-vivre. Chapeau Denis!"

95-97 Points – Neal Martin, Wine Advocate, April 2016



"Bright greenish gold. Complex, immediately appealing nose. Racy yet with weight. A very superior wine. Real attack and structure. I wonder what L'Extravagant is like?! Really very rewarding and compelling. Lots of substance but not at all heavy. Such drive and energy here! Drink 2026-2050."

18.5 Points – Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com, April 2016

Drink to 2040+

Château Coutet 2015 (37.5cl)
Barsac 1^{er} Grand Cru Classé

£150 per 12 IB
Arriving Spring 2018

95-97 Points Wine Enthusiast
18 Points Jancis Robinson

"The wine is ripe yet stylish and pure. It has a great balance between bright acidity and rich fruitiness. It is a very fine wine with great aging potential, as it hints at the more opulent future to come."

95-97 Points – Wine Enthusiast, WineMag.com, April 2016



"Looks very substantial in the glass. Floral nose. Massive weight. This tastes very ripe indeed and with considerable botrytis influence. Quite a dramatic statement! Though the finish is surprisingly dry and appetising. Drink 2028-2050."

18 Points – Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com, April 2016

Drink to 2035

En Primeur Terms and Conditions

- Our En Primeur prices are the 'in bond' cost. The first instalment covers the cost of the wine itself, and when the wine is ready, you can decide whether to keep the wine in bond, or pay the Duty and VAT on the first instalment and receive the wine or store it Duty Paid.
- No discount or vouchers shall apply to En Primeur wines.
- When we place your order we will send you a reservation certificate to the address provided by you. You will not receive any wine at this time. Although should you be a Premiere or Charter Plus member and order 12 or more bottles, we will send you your usual complimentary bottle(s).
- Wines ordered through our En Primeur service can only be cancelled within 14 days of placing the order. A full refund of any payment made up to this point will be given on receipt of written notification of the cancellation of the order. Due to the nature of the En Primeur sales we regret that orders cannot be cancelled after this time.
- When the wine arrives with us in the UK, we will send you the final invoice. This invoice will include the delivery cost to a UK address, duty (currently £2.16 per 0.75l bottle excl VAT), plus the VAT applicable on the day of the final invoice (currently 20%). Upon payment of the appropriate amount we will action your despatch instructions.
- If you do not contact us with instructions within 6 weeks of your wines being ready, we will place the wines into bonded storage on your behalf and at your cost. For further details please refer to our full Ts & Cs.
- All wines and spirits or other goods ordered remain the property of Laithwaite's Wine until appropriate payment is received in full.
- We can store your wine (both 'duty paid' or 'in bond') in ideal, long-term cellar conditions. Please contact us for further details.
- It is your responsibility to keep us informed of any changes of address in order to maintain any reservations you may have with us.
- All wines are insured by us at the original invoice value until your delivery and/or storage instructions have been completed.
- All goods are offered subject to availability. If the wines you have selected are unavailable we will contact you to advise you of this. If the producer fails to supply us with the wine we will contact you with available alternatives or offer a refund of monies paid.
- Force Majeure – Direct Wines Ltd/Laithwaite's Wine will not be liable for failure to meet agreed obligations due to prevailing circumstances including but not limited to any act of God, war, strike, lock-out, industrial accident or other event beyond its reasonable control.
- All disputes arising out of this contract shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Courts of England and Wales.
- For our full terms and conditions, including those relating to our 100% guarantee, non-delivery and cancellations, please go to www.laithwaites.co.uk/terms.

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