

Bordeaux 2017 En Primeur Offer

'What I love about the 2017s is their overall balance and charm'

Jeb Dunnuck, jubdunnuck.com

'I can say with confidence that this is a good to very good year where some brilliant wines were made.'

Jeb Dunnuck, jubdunnuck.com

'2017 is not nearly as consistently great as 2015 or 2016, but this vintage did produce some extraordinary wines.'

Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com

'2017 is all about finesse, perfume and aromatic intensity as opposed to weighty richness.'

Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com

'Dry white Bordeaux wines generally need a huge shout-out this year – wow! These are bright, refreshing, elegant and intense'

Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com

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Unless otherwise stated, prices are quoted 'in bond' and are exclusive of duty, VAT and delivery (expected in spring 2020). You will be notified by post once your wines have arrived. Bottle sizes are 75cl unless otherwise stated.

For full details please see our terms and conditions on Page 27.

Bordeaux 2017: Vintage Summary

I'm not generally a fan of vintage reports that focus on the weather rather than the wines, but this year it's tricky as there's simply so much of it to talk about, making it impossible to ignore.

The buzz phrase this year is frost, you'll hear a lot about that and with good reason. In many areas in Bordeaux this year it's destroyed 30-50% of the harvest, if not more. However, what you perhaps don't hear is what the impact the frost has on the resultant wine. Often it's assumed that where there's frost, there's a poor quality, but that's something to largely dismiss in this case given the timing of when it hit in 2017. Like Burgundy in 2016, it struck in April and so it destroyed the nascent buds. It impacted the maximum potential yields rather than directly impacting maximum potential quality and like Burgundy 2016 we now know the direct impact of April frosts on quality is minimal. It is worth considering that you do have secondary buds that flowered after the frost and those buds do tend to produce fruit. However they tend to yield lower quality unless the rest of the vintage has gone on perfect ripening conditions and that wasn't *quite* the case, though it made a good stab at it.

To summarise, there can be quite a variance in quality between those properties who used that secondary fruit from those who did not, from those who were hit by frost and those that were not and from those who sacrificed volume for quality and those that did not. It's also important to note the location of the frost damage was inland, the châteaux closest to the river largely escaped meaning the top Crus Classés in the Médoc were impacted far less than the inland châteaux of Moulis for example. It's easy when assessing the vintage to understand therefore why it is considered such a patchwork vintage with plenty of excellent quality on offer, but also why there are several wines to give a wide berth to...at this stage at any rate.

Although generalisations are tricky in 2017 for the reasons mentioned in the paragraphs above, there are certainly a few that I would make. 2017 isn't as powerful a vintage as say 2015 or 2016, the alcohol levels are a little lower and the wines tend to show a little fresher because of a cooler spell in August. The fruit is ripe and perfumed, it's a more traditional Bordeaux vintage, a little like 2014, 2008, 2004 or 2001. It's just not a blockbuster like 2009, 2010, 2015 or 2016. In the latter group of vintages, you could readily choose from a list of wines at random and you would be assured of top quality, but to counter that you tend to pay a premium for those vintages. The appeal with vintages like the former group is that you can often find gems which don't cost the earth. That's the key in my view with 2017. There are some excellent wines, just not as high a proportion as the blockbuster vintages, but for those châteaux who price well, there ought to be some very good buys to be had. When I speak to colleagues and customers over the years, it's rarely the superstar vintages that crop up in conversation about what their favourite purchases have been, but the smart buys they've made in the less celebrated vintages where there was better value to be had.

As I've already alluded, 2017 is a vintage to either taste for yourself ([you can do so at our En Primeur Tasting on the 19th June](#)) or to discuss with someone who has and that's where I'd hope the Fine Team here can be of use. It's not an easy vintage to contend with, but with the right advice it's one that will give plenty of pleasure. Unlike 2015 where Margaux was undoubtedly the star of the show or 2016 where St-Estèphe shone, I don't feel in 2017 any one appellation leaped out ahead of the crowd for good reasons or bad. At a push I think St Emilion, St-Estèphe, Fronsac and St Julien had the edge in the reds and I'd probably advise a little caution when buying Margaux as it was perhaps a little patchier than the others.

Every year after tasting in Bordeaux I wonder why we don't sell more dry white and sweet Bordeaux. With one or two notable exceptions, the prices are superb, and the quality is excellent in 2017. [Château La Garde Blanc](#) for example (now out at ~£15 a bottle in bond) is exceptional quality and value and yet it tends to struggle to sell! As for the sweet wines of Bordeaux in a vintage like this, there is so much to appreciate. The effort that goes into making a single bottle of Sauternes is astonishing and yet you can pick up a half bottle of a sensational [Château Coutet](#) at ~£14 which is terrific value given the calibre of the wine.

What would I recommend?

Naturally at this point we don't know the pricing of many wines, so this list is based on what I'd expect prices to come out at. As I've alluded to already, this is not a vintage to buy blindly, please do compare critics notes and speak to one of us, but below are some of the wines I'd expect to be the highlights of our range.

At the top end of the spectrum there have been several wines scoring maximum points from the likes of RobertParker.com, so there is great quality available in 2017. Given the likely prices I feel Châteaux Gloria and Malescot-St-Exupéry should offer a great balance between outright quality and price and the likes of Châteaux Lafite-Rothschild, Figeac and Smith-Haut-Lafitte were outstanding wines by any vintage standard.

At the more affordable end, Château Dalem in Fronsac rivals its more fashionable and expensive labels from Pomerol to its south and Château Monregard La Croix was a delightfully ripe and easy to appreciate Pomerol. Ducru-Beaucaillou's new Moulis, Château Cantelaude-Borie showed very well and was a rare Moulis success in 2017.

I've already alluded to my appreciation for the whites of Château Coutet and La Garde and there are many other whites aside from these two listed I'd happily recommend, such as Château Doisy-Daëne and Château Talbot's Caillou Blanc.

<u>My 'money no object' Picks</u>	
Domaine de Chevalier	Pessac-Léognan
Château Smith-Haut-Lafitte	Pessac-Léognan
Château Malescot-St-Exupéry	Margaux
Château Clerc-Milon	Pauillac
Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste	Pauillac
Château Lynch-Bages	Pauillac
Château Mouton-Rothschild	Pauillac
Château Lafite-Rothschild	Pauillac
Château Pavie-Macquin	St-Emilion
Château Figeac	St-Emilion
Château Calon-Ségur	St-Estèphe
Château Ducru-Beaucaillou	St-Julien

<u>My Value Picks</u>	
Château Cantelaude-Borie	Moulis
Château Gigault 'Cuvée Viva'	Côtes de Bordeaux Blaye
Château Capbern	St-Estèphe
Château Gloria	St-Julien
Château Puy-Blanquet	St-Emilion
Château Dalem	Fronsac
Château Labégorce	Margaux
Château Monregard La Croix	Pomerol
Château Malescasse	Haut-Médoc
Vieux Château Saint André	Montagne-St-Emilion
Château Coutet	Barsac
Château La Garde Blanc	Pessac-Léognan

Summary of Red Wines Released

<u>Case Code</u>	<u>Wine</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Case Size</u>	<u>Case Price</u>
P6983301	Château Gigault 'Cuvée Viva'	Côtes de Bordeaux Blaye	91-92 JS	12	£95
P6983601	Château Lanessan	Haut-Médoc Cru Bourgeois	89-90 JS	12	£115
P6983802	Château Marsau	Francs Côtes de Bordeaux	92-93 JS	12	£120
P6984101	Clos Floridène	Graves	89-92 WS	12	£130
P4521701	Château Malescasse	Haut-Médoc Cru Bourgeois	89-91 NM	12	£143
P4513401	Château Puy-Blanquet	St-Emilion Grand Cru	16 JR	12	£155
P6984801	Château Dalem	Fronsac	92-93 JS	12	£165
P6984901	Château La Garde	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	90-93 WS	12	£165
P6984601	Château Capbern	St-Estèphe Cru Bourgeois	91-92 JS	12	£174
P4512601	Château Capbern (150cl)	St-Estèphe Cru Bourgeois	91-92 JS	6	£185
P4513501	Château Chantalouette	Pomerol	-	12	£190
P4521601	Château Monregard La Croix	Pomerol	88-90+ JD	12	£210
P6985701	Château Labégorce	Margaux Cru Bourgeois	92-93 JS	12	£220
P4512801	Château Labégorce (150cl)	Margaux Cru Bourgeois	92-93 JS	6	£225
P6988701	Château Talbot	St-Julien 4ème Grand Cru Classé	92-93 JS	6	£228
P6986201	Château Les Ormes-de-Pez	St-Estèphe Cru Bourgeois	91-93 NM	12	£235
P6986501	Château Cantemerle	Haut-Médoc 5ème Grand Cru Classé	93-94 JS	12	£246
P6986101	Château La Tour Carnet	Haut-Médoc 5ème Grand Cru Classé	92 DC	12	£250
P6986301	Château Belgrave	Haut-Médoc 5ème Grand Cru Classé	92-94 WE	12	£252
P6985501	Château Tour Saint Christophe	St-Emilion Grand Cru	93-94 JS	12	£260
P4521401	Château Lynch-Moussas	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	92-93 JS	12	£310
P6987401	Château Marquis d'Alesme	Margaux 3ème Grand Cru Classé	93-95 JD	6	£165
P6988001	Château d'Armailhac	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	93-94 JS	12	£388
P6988301	Château Langoa-Barton	St-Julien 3ème Grand Cru Classé	93-94 JS	12	£390
P6988201	Château Batailley	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	92-93 JS	12	£393
P6988601	Château Malartic-Lagravière	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	90-93 WS	6	£199
P6987201	Château Bellefont-Belcier	St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé	93-94 JS	12	£408
P6988401	Château Branaire-Ducru	St-Julien 4ème Grand Cru Classé	91-93 NM	12	£410
P6987701	Château Bourgneuf	Pomerol	91-94 JS	12	£425
P4522501	Château La Serre	St-Emilion Grand Cru	89-90 JS	12	£425
P4514901	Château Malescot-St-Exupéry	Margaux 3ème Grand Cru Classé	95-96 JS	6	£215
P6988501	Clos du Marquis	St-Julien	93-94 JS	6	£219
P4518901	Château Haut-Batailley	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	94-95 JS	6	£260
P4515601	Domaine de Chevalier	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	94-97 JD	6	£260
P6989601	Château Duhart-Milon	Pauillac 4ème Grand Cru Classé	94 DC	12	£565
P4515101	Alter Ego de Château Palmer	Margaux	17 JR	6	£295
P4515201	Château Clerc-Milon	Pauillac 5ème Grand Cru Classé	93-95 RP	6	£312
P6989901	Château Beychevelle	St-Julien 4ème Grand Cru Classé	92-95 AG	6	£324
P6991001	Château Clinet	Pomerol	93-95 JD	6	£345
P4514001	Château Gazin	Pomerol	94-95 JS	6	£352
P6990801	Château Pape-Clément	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	95-96 JS	6	£380
SOLD OUT	Château Hosanna	Pomerol	96-98 RP	6	SOLD OUT
P4511801	Château L'Evangile	Pomerol	94-97 AG	6	£1050
P6993601	Château Palmer	Margaux 3ème Grand Cru Classé	96-98 RP	6	£1,175

(WA) www.RobertParker.com | (JR) www.jancisrobinson.com | Neal Martin (NM) www.vinous.com | Wine Enthusiast (WE) www.winemag.com
(JD) www.jebdunnuck.com | Antonio Galloni (AG) www.vinous.com | Decanter (DC) www.decanter.com | (JS) www.jamessuckling.com

Summary of White Wines Released

<u>Case Code</u>	<u>Wine</u>	<u>AOC</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Case Size</u>	<u>Case Price</u>
P1506401	Château Clos Haut-Peyraguey (37.5cl)	Sauternes 1er Grand Cru Classé	92-93 JS	12	£145
P1496301	Château Doisy-Védrières (37.5cl)	Sauternes 2ème Cru Classé	92-95 WS	12	£160
P1496401	Château Doisy-Daëne (37.5cl)	Barsac 2ème Cru Classé	92-95 WS	12	£165
P1496501	Château Coutet (37.5cl)	Barsac 1er Grand Cru Classé	95-97 RP	12	£171
P1507001	Clos Floridène Blanc	Graves	91-93 WE	12	£155
P1497101	Château La Garde Blanc	Pessac-Léognan	93-94 JS	12	£178
P1508801	Château Talbot Caillou Blanc	Bordeaux	92 DC	6	£132
P1506701	Château La Tour Carnet Blanc	Bordeaux	90-91 JS	6	£140
P1497301	Domaine de Chevalier Blanc	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	96-97 JS	6	£413
P1506901	Château Pape-Clément Blanc	Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru Classé	97-98 JS	6	£600

(WA) www.RobertParker.com | (JR) www.jancisrobinson.com | Neal Martin (NM) www.vinous.com | Wine Enthusiast (WE) www.winemag.com
(JD) www.jebdunnuck.com | Antonio Galloni (AG) www.vinous.com | Decanter (DC) www.decanter.com | (JS) www.jamesuckling.com

St-Estèphe

Château Capbern 2017
St-Estèphe



£174 per 12 IB
£185 per 6 magnums IB
Drink to 2030
Arriving Spring 2020

89-91 Neal Martin
17 Matthew Jukes

91-92 James Suckling
90-92 Jeb Dunnuck

16.5 Jancis Robinson
88-90 Antonio Galloni

“The 2017 Capbern was cropped at 43.5hl/ha and matured in 60% new oak. It has a fresh, lively cranberry and blackcurrant-scented bouquet, a little savory in style with hints of Japanese nori (seaweed). The palate is nicely structured with a keen thread of acidity. There is a little compactness on the entry but it gently unfolds towards the finish that exerts subtle grip. It is the precision rather than the power that defines this Capbern and if released at similar prices to previous vintages, could be one of the must-buys of 2017. Drink 2021-2032.”
89-91 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com, May 2018

“This large estate has turned out a classic wine in 2017 that just screams of Saint-Estèphe. Checking in as a rough blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot, and the rest equal parts Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, it will spend 18 months in 60% new French oak. Textbook Saint Estèphe dark fruits, damp earth, and tobacco leaf all flow to a medium-bodied, rounded, nicely textured wine that has the cooler, perfumed, aromatics style of the vintage, good mid-palate depth, and gorgeous purity of fruit. Classic Bordeaux lovers will dig this.”
90-92 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

Château Les Ormes de Pez 2017
St Estèphe Cru Bourgeois



£235 per 12 IB
Drink to 2032
Arriving Spring 2020

91-93 Neal Martin
88-90 Antonio Galloni

92-93 James Suckling
89-91 Jeb Dunnuck

16 Jancis Robinson
92 Decanter

“Ormes has managed another good vintage after a run of them. This is a lovely wine and a buy for me. Succulent, bristling and charming, it has juicy brambled fruit extraction and tension. It doesn't take itself too seriously, just asking to be loved. The fruit spectrum is rich with blueberries and damsons, with integrity and a swirl of vanilla bean oak. Includes 6% Cabernet Franc in the blend. No need to wait too long for this. 45% new oak. Drinking Window 2022 – 2035”
92 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com, April 2018

“The 2017 Les Ormes de Pez was matured in 45% new oak with 13.42% alcohol. None of the vines were touched by frost. Cropped at round 50hl/ha, it has a clean, pure red cherry, blackcurrant and cedar-scented bouquet, more Pauillac in style than Saint-Estèphe. The palate is well balanced with ripe tannin that feel more malleable than previous vintages at this stage, a little saline in the mouth with a silky smooth finish. This will be delicious over the next couple of decades and I suspect it will be more approachable than the 2016. Don't ignore this. 2021 - 2036”
91-93 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com, May 2018

Pauillac

Château Lynch-Moussas 2017
Pauillac 5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£310 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2032
 Arriving Spring 2020

89-91 Neal Martin
87-89 Robert Parker

92-93 James Suckling
87-89 Jeb Dunnuck

16 Jancis Robinson
91 Decanter

“The 2017 Lynch-Moussas, cropped at 51hl/ha from 19 to 26 September, has quite a strong sea influence on the nose, touches of oyster shell and mudflats infusing the well defined black fruit. It is not as intense as the 2016 but it is nicely focused. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, a fine bead of acidity with just a touch of star anise and clove that infuse the red fruit towards the spicy finish. Fine. Tasted twice with consistent notes.”
 89-91 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com April 2018

“The 2017 Lynch Moussas, composed of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon and 22% Merlot, is medium to deep garnet-purple in color with a very pretty nose of red roses and chocolate box over a core of crushed blackcurrants, blackberries and wild blueberries with touches of garrigue and wood smoke. The palate is medium-bodied with a firm, grainy backbone and oodles of freshness, finishing with great length and a mineral character coming through.”
 89-91 Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com April 2018

Château d’Armailhac 2017
Pauillac 5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£388 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2038+
 Arriving Spring 2020

90-92 Neal Martin
90-92 Robert Parker

93-94 James Suckling
91-93 Jeb Dunnuck

16 Jancis Robinson
91 Decanter

“The 2017 d’Armailhac has an opulent bouquet despite this comprising one of the highest percentages of Cabernet Sauvignon ever, which Philippe Dhalluin attributes to the maturity of the berries. There is some lovely cassis and blueberry fruit here with a smear of vanilla. The palate is structured with fine tannin, here the Cabernets are much more expressive with a fine bead of acidity, an attractive pencil lead tincture coming through towards the finish. This is a more floral d’Armailhac that will drink well for the next decades. [Readers should note that my sample included 60% new oak although the final blend will be 40%.] Tasted three times with consistent notes. Drink 90-92.”
 90-92 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

“The 2017 Château d’Armailhac is an undeniable success in the vintage. Based on a rough blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot that will see 35% new French oak, this medium to full-bodied, textured, shockingly opulent 2017 offers of terrific notes of black cherries, blackberries, spice box, and earth. With its impressive depth and density, it should drink nicely in its youth yet also cruise in the cellar.”
 91-93 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

Château Batailley 2017
Pauillac 5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£393 per 12 IB
Drink to 2032
Arriving Spring 2020

90-92 Neal Martin
91-93 Robert Parker

92-93 James Suckling
88-91 Jeb Dunnuck

16+ Jancis Robinson
93 Decanter

“This is good, showing less dominant oak than in some recent years and with a good level of fruit and extraction. It's a good year for appellation typicity up in this part of the Medoc, and this displays firm Pauillac tannins, well held together, with savoury and juicy fruit. I get the impression that this will close down, because those tannins are pretty serious, and with good levels of freshness this will age very well. They are doing great work at this estate at the moment. 52hl/ha yield. 60% new oak. Drinking Window 2025 – 2038”
93 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com, April 2018

“Pauillac is one of the highlights in the Médoc in 2017, and the 2017 Château Batailley has outstanding potential. Deep purple-colored with a smoky, graphite, back fruit-driven bouquet, it's broad, chunky and chewy on the palate. It lacks some elegance at the moment, but it's an undeniably pleasure-bent effort.”
88-91 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

Château Haut-Batailley 2017
Pauillac 5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£260 per 6 IB
Drink to 2035
Arriving Spring 2020

94-95 James Suckling
Jean-Marc's Pick!

92-94 Jeb Dunnuck

92 Decanter

“This is very structured and serious. Full-bodied, tannic and powerful. Boom. This is one of the best Haut-Batailleys in years. From the new owners, who also own Lynch-Bages.”
94-95 Pts James Suckling, James Suckling.com April 2018

“A true gem in the vintage, and from an estate on the uptick, the 2017 Château Haut Batailley checks in as 66% Cabernet Sauvignon and 34% Merlot that was brought up in 60% new French oak. It's a big, medium to full-bodied, yet perfectly balanced 2017 that has loads of dark berry fruits, violets, leafy herbs and damp rock-like aromas and flavors. It has a touch of oak to integrate, building tannin, and a great finish, all pointing to a rockstar 2017 that will need short-term cellaring and keep for two decades. Bravo!”
92-94 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

Château Duhart-Milon 2017
Pauillac 4^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£565 per 12 IB
Drink to 2038
Arriving Spring 2020

89-91 Neal Martin
89-91 Robert Parker

90-91 James Suckling
89-92 Antonio Galloni

16.5 Jancis Robinson
94 Decanter

“The 2017 Duhart-Milon has a crisp, pencil lead scented bouquet, introverted at first, a little conservative with smoke and freshly rolled tobacco. It is classic Duhart-Milon really. The palate is medium-bodied with a sharp, pointed entry. This is already quite austere and saline in the mouth, just a little toughness towards the finish that should soften by the end of the élevage. There is something almost standoffish about this Pauillac, a noticeable bell pepper tang developing towards the finish that lingers after the wine has departed. Tasted twice with consistent notes. Drink 2020 - 2035.”
89-91 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

“A brilliantly elegant, suave Duhart, one of the successes of the appellation for me. This is a classically structured Duhart, a wine that is not overly exuberant but that has a sense of direction and balance, and is well held together. There's a very attractive quality to the tannins, joined by dark bilberry fruits that gain weight through the palate. It doesn't quite have the dense concentration and richness of 2016, but that was an exceptional vintage. This is a wine that I look forward to following as it ages. Around 5% frost on the northwest corner, affecting the Merlot for the second wine (not tasted). But overall the vintage was so early that even though the September rains probably brought alcohol levels down a touch, they did not unduly worry as the fruit was already ripe enough. 3.75pH. 50% new oak. 38hl/ha yield. Drinking Window 2026 – 2038”
94 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com April 2018

St-Julien

Château Langoa-Barton 2017
St-Julien
3^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£390 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2040
 Arriving Spring 2020

90-92 Neal Martin
90-92 Jeb Dunnuck

93-94 James Suckling
92 Decanter

17 Jancis Robinson
17.5 Matthew Jukes

“Healthy cherry red. Inviting and elegant dark-fruit aroma with just a light char. Here, after several left-bank wines that lacked enough fruit depth in the middle, is one that has weight and depth on the mid palate that gives a rounded, fresh and complete wine. Succulent, juicy and well-structured for the longer term but still elegant. Drink 2027-2040”
 17 Pts Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com April 2018

“The 2017 Château Langoa Barton showed beautifully both times I was able to taste it. Black cherries, plums, leafy herbs and spring flowers all emerge from this medium-bodied, ripe, lively Saint-Julien that shows the pretty, charming, elegant style of the vintage. As with all the wines from this vintage, it’s not massive by any means, yet it is nicely concentrated and impeccably balanced. The blend is 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc, with harvest stretching between the 15th and 18th of September for the Merlot and the 22nd to the 29th of September for the Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. It’s still aging in 60% new oak.”
 90-92 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, April 2018

Château Branaire-Ducru 2017
St-Julien 4^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£410 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2030
 Arriving Spring 2020

91-93 Neal Martin
88-90 Robert Parker

92-93 James Suckling
90-92 Jeb Dunnuck

15.5 Jancis Robinson
90-93 Wine Spectator

“The 2017 Branaire Ducru was picked 13 September until 4 October over a three-week period, cropped at 39.6hl/ha. The alcohol here is 13.2°. The wine is aged in 60% new oak, which is how the sample was made. It has a harmonious bouquet with brambly black fruit, melted tar and tobacco scents, not powerful but precise. The palate is medium-bodied with a smooth texture, fine tannin, just a subtle savory note developing and merging nicely with the black fruit, hints of white pepper and cedar towards the poised finish that is quintessential Saint-Julien. There is an essence of drinkability about this Branaire-Ducru and I can imagine this being approachable after three to four years. This is a very fine Branaire-Ducru.”
 91-93 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com April 2018

“The deep garnet-purple colored 2017 Branaire-Ducru gives up notes of baked black berries, red cherries and mulberries with touches of potpourri and smoked meats. Medium-bodied with a lively line lifting the good concentration of red and black fruits, it has a chewy frame and grippy finish.”
 88-90 Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com, April 2018

Clos du Marquis 2017
St-Julien



£219 per 6 IB
Drink to 2035+ - % ABV
Arriving Spring 2020

90-92 Neal Martin
90-93 Antonio Galloni

93-94 James Suckling
91-94 Jeb Dunnuck

17 Jancis Robinson
90 Decanter

"The 2017 Clos du Marquis is fresh, lifted and wonderfully energetic, and yet also has quite a bit of textural depth. The flavors really sizzle in this highly expressive Saint-Julien from Hubert Delon. There is a sense of energy and tension to the 2017 that is impossible to miss. Much of that is attributable to the Cabernet Sauvignon that is the core of the wine this year. Floral notes reappear on the finish, adding lift to the creamy, layered finish. I can't wait to taste it from bottle."
90-93 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com May 2018

"Made from 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, and a splash of Cabernet Franc, the 2017 Clos du Marquis is another beauty from the team at Leoville Las Cases. Offering a deep, concentrated, yet rounded style, as well as terrific ripe fruits, forest floor, and tobacco aromatics, it has a great mid-palate and building tannin, all while staying in the more forward, charming style of the vintage. Give it a few years and enjoy over the following two decades."
91-94 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

Château Talbot 2017
St-Julien 4^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£228 per 6 IB
Drink to 2035+
Arriving Spring 2020

90-92 Neal Martin
88-91 Antonio Galloni

92-93 James Suckling
17.5 Matthew Jukes

18 Jancis Robinson
89 Decanter

"The 2017 Talbot was picked from 18 to 4 October using manual and optical sorting, matured in 50% new oak. It has a relatively light but well-defined, floral bouquet, pressed flower filtering through that blackberry and boysenberry scents, a little clove and bay leaf lending complexity as it opens in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with fine but firm tannin that frame the slightly savory black fruit, just a little earthiness developing towards the finish. It is a classic Talbot really, exactly what you would expect for the vintage. Drink 2020-2036."
90-92 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

"The powerful, singular, graphite theme here is very enjoyable and the fruit is plush and focussed and it looks well-made and also smooth and long. With a polished feel throughout this is a proud Talbot and it is going to open up very slowly to reveal a rather ravishing creature. The tannins and acidity are both judged nicely and this will provide both early drinking as well as mid-term pleasure."
17.5 Pts Matthew Jukes, MatthewJukes.com April 2018

Château Beychevelle 2017
St-Julien
4^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£324 per 6 IB
Drink to 2040
Arriving Spring 2020

92-95 Antonio Galloni
90-92 Neal Martin

93-94 James Suckling
92 Decanter

92-94 Jeb Dunnuck

"The 2017 Beychevelle is absolutely gorgeous. Creamy and beautifully layered on the palate, Beychevelle exudes exotic richness in its ripe red/purplish berry fruit. Even though the 2017 is rather flamboyant in style, it retains quite a bit of brightness to play off its more extroverted leanings. Beychevelle was impressive on the several times I tasted it."
92-95 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com May 2018

"Very fine tannins already with a solid core of blackberry and blueberry character. Hints of flowers. Full-bodied, well-integrated and tight, not to mention fresh and long."
93-94 Pts James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com April 2018



Margaux

**Château Labégorce 2017
Margaux Cru Bourgeois**



**£220 per 12 IB
£225 per 6 magnums IB**
Drink to 2030
Arriving Spring 2020

**89-91 Robert Parker
90-93 Wine Spectator**

**92-93 James Suckling
91-93 Jeb Dunnuck**

**92 Decanter
92 Jeff Leve**

“Beginning with the 2009 vintage, Labégorce Zédé was folded into Labégorce, both of which are owned by the Perrodo family (as is the recently acquired Marquis d'Alesme). Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2017 Labégorce gives pronounced black fruits, blackberries and black plums with suggestions of underbrush, lavender and bay leaves. The palate is medium-bodied, ripe, plump, juicy and expressive with plush tannins and good length. The current blend is 46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 6% Petit Verdot.”
89-91 Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com, April 2018

“The 2017 Château Labégorce checks in as 46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot (which is slightly more than normal), 8% Cabernet Franc and the rest Petit Verdot, aging in 45% new French oak. Its vibrant purple color is followed by a beautiful bouquet of crème de cassis, crushed flowers, classy oak, and graphite. With medium to full-bodied richness, an awesome texture, and ripe tannin, it’s up with the top wines from the appellation. Tasted twice. This is an estate readers need to have on their radar.”
91-93 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, April 2018

**Château Marquis d'Alesme 2017
Margaux 3^{ème} Grand Cru Classé**



£165 per 6 IB
Drink to 2040
Arriving Spring 2020

**92-94 Neal Martin
92-94 Robert Parker**

**91-92 James Suckling
93-95 Jeb Dunnuck**

**16.5 Jancis Robinson
92 Decanter**

“The 2017 Marquis d'Alesme Becker was picked from 25 September to 6 October and matured in 65% new oak. It has a very pure bouquet with black cherries, blueberry and violet aromas that are detailed and pure. This is quite a sophisticated Margaux and it manifests more and more complexity with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with supple black fruit laced with spice and white pepper. This feels very cohesive with impressive weight in the mouth, good grip with a dense, almost sinewy finish that is determined to make an impression. This is a very fine Margaux that deserves four or five years in bottle.”
92-94 Pts Neal Martin, RobertParker.com April 2018

“Brought into the US exclusively by Jeffrey Davies, the 2017 Château Marquis d'Alesme Becker might just be the finest wine from this estate to date. Made from 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot and the rest Petit Verdot, aged in 65% new French oak, its deep purple color is followed by a gorgeous perfume of crème de cassis, black cherries, crushed violets, and cedary spice. Possessing terrific purity of fruit, medium to full body, building tannin, and a great finish, this balanced, impeccably made 2017 will need 2-4 years of cellaring and keep for two decades or more. It’s a gem in the vintage and readers owe it to themselves to check out this estate, which has an undeniably gorgeous terroir.”
93-95 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, April 2018

Château Malescot-St-Exupéry
2017
Margaux 3^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£215 per 6 IB
Drink to 2035+
Arriving Spring 2020

95-96 James Suckling

91-93 Robert Parker

91-93 Neal Martin

"A fantastic 2017 from Margaux with a deep and ripe core of fruit in the center palate. Silky and juicy tannins. Full body, plenty of fruit and a long, flavorful finish."

95-96 Pts James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com April 2018

"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2017 Malescot St. Exupery is scented of crushed red and black cherries, warm plums and mulberries with touches of roses and wood smoke. The palate is medium-bodied with plenty of vibrant red and black fruits and soft, plush tannins, with a long, perfumed finish."

91-93 Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com April 2018

Alter Ego de
Château Palmer 2017
Margaux



£295 per 6 IB
Drink to 2038
Arriving Spring 2020

92-93 James Suckling

91 Decanter

89-92 Wine Spectator

"This shows excellent body and depth of fruit. Rich and very deep. Layered and flavorful. Solid and chewy. Serious second wine."

92-93 Pts James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2018

"The blends for the grand vin and second wine are similar this year. This is carefully presented, accomplished and precise, with fresh mint and peony notes on the nose followed by bright and vibrant black fruit flavours. It's extremely pretty, with some lovely floral notes. The yield was 38hl/ha as they lost a few plots to frost over to the west of the appellation. 13.5% press wine. 45% of overall production, representing 9,000 cases. IPT 66."

91 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com, April 2018

Château Palmer 2017
Margaux 3^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£1,175 per 6 IB
Drink to 2045
Arriving Spring 2020

97-98 James Suckling

95 Decanter

92-95 Wine Spectator

"This is a se*y and well-formed 2017 with very velvety and suave tannins that go on for minutes. Full-bodied, soft and round. Extremely long and last for minutes."

97-98 Pts James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2018

"It's very interesting to watch a 'super-second' risk scaling back the muscular attributes of its wine. The key, says director Thomas Duroux, was building the blend carefully and using the press wines to preserve the mid-palate (12% press in this wine, around the same as the 2015). It's less powerful and concentrated than the last few vintages, and yet the wine feels sculpted and sewn into place. The fine tannins are extremely clear and precise, and there's a purity of fruit expression that gives an overwhelming initial impression. The aromatics are really striking, offering an abundance of violet notes on the nose with huge finesse. It just gets better and better in the mouth,, and the tannins do that slow-build thing that is so disarming. This has clear ageing potential. Very low SO2 use for the past few years, in keeping with their biodynamic principles. Just one plot of Petit Verdot for the grand vin was hit by frost. Harvested 20-29 September. 11,000 cases of Palmer, representing 55% of the crop."

95 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com, April 2018

Graves & Pessac-Léognan Reds

Clos Floridène 2017
Graves



£130 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2028
 Arriving Spring 2020

88-90 Neal Martin
87-89 Robert Parker

89-92 Wine Spectator

87 Decanter

“The 2017 Clos Floridène Rouge has a well defined bouquet with blackberry, raspberry, singed leather and light cedar aromas that gain intensity in the glass whilst remaining classic in style. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, plenty of pencil lead infused black fruit with just the right amount of dryness on the finish to beckon another sip. Very fine.”

88-90 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com April 2018

“Jean-Jacques Dubourdieu has done a good job with this wine. There's a little more extraction than some - a sign of confidence in his clay-red sand and gravel soils in the commune of Pujols-sur-Ciron, on the approach to Barsac. Aged in 33% new oak, this has a lift and sense of minerality through the palate, with fairly juicy blackberry markers. The acidity finishes just a little high, as I am finding in a lot of the red Graves this year, but it's a good wine with attractive weight. Medium-term.”

87 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com April 2018

Château La Garde 2017
Pessac-Léognan
Grand Cru Classé



£165 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2027+
 Arriving Spring 2020

86-88 Neal Martin
86-88 Antonio Galloni

90-91 James Suckling
90 Decanter

16 Jancis Robinson
90-93 Wine Spectator

“The 2017 La Garde has a well-defined bouquet with tobacco-tinged black fruit, and just a hint of black olive. The palate is medium-bodied with fine grain tannin, quite foursquare in style with a fresh, slightly saline finish. Not bad at all, although given the choice, I would plump for its white counterpart.”

86-88 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

“This makes clever use of smoked oak to glide over that mid-palate fruit dip. It is also in the signature of the estate, delivering an extremely consistent feel. The careful fruit selection is clear, with damson and mulberry notes that are smartly extracted - the winemaker's hand is evident, but it's a skilful one. A great drinking wine.”

90 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com, April 2018

Château Malartic-Lagravière
2017
Pessac-Léognan
Grand Cru Classé



£199 per 6 IB
 Drink to 2040
 Arriving Spring 2020

90-92 Neal Martin
89-91 Robert Parker

92-93 James Suckling
89-91 Jeb Dunnuck

16.5 Jancis Robinson
93 Decanter

“The 2017 Malartic Lagravière Rouge has a precise and focused bouquet with blackberry, briary and mineral scents that gain intensity with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with firm, grippy tannin. This is a more masculine and structured Malartic-Lagravière that might lack the sophistication of recent vintages but delivers fine depth towards the finish. Hopefully the élevage will soften up the edges to make this more approachable by the time it is bottled. 2021 – 2040”

90-92 Pts Neal Martin, RobertParker.com April 2018

“A carefully extracted, well constructed palate delivers a sense of finesse and freshness. The fruit is not particularly expressive on the attack - you need to sit down with this for a while and wait, allow those retracting tannins to soften and unwind. Eventually, a gorgeously pure expression of cassis comes curling through, with liquorice and woodsmoke notes rounding things off. Needs time. Drinking Window 2025 - 2038”

93 Pts Jane Anson Decanter.com April 2018

Domaine de Chevalier 2017
Pessac-Léognan
Grand Cru Classé



£260 per 6 IB
Drink to 2045
Arriving Spring 2020

93-95+ Robert Parker
92-94 Neal Martin

93-94 James Suckling
94-97 Jeb Dunnuck

17+ Jancis Robinson

“Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2017 Domaine de Chevalier opens with a cedary waft giving way to a good core of crushed black currants, blackberries and mulberries with suggestions of black truffles, tilled soil and black olives plus a hint of smoked meats. Medium-bodied with a good, solid frame of ripe, fine-grained tannins and oodles of freshness, it is elegantly fruited yet well sustained on the mid-palate and long finish“

93-95+ Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com April 2018

“The 2017 Domaine de Chevalier Rouge was cropped at 34hl/ha between 11 and 29 September and is matured in 35% new oak for 18 months. It has a vivacious bouquet with quite generous black fruit, raspberry, brine and black olive that is well-defined and focused, if not possessing the complexity of the previous two vintages. The palate is medium-bodied with fine, slightly edgy tannin – layers of black fruit interlaced with melted tar and graphite, closing in a little towards the finish with a gentle grip. I appreciate the deft manner in which this fans out and leaves a mineral residue on the finish. A Domaine de Chevalier of refinement rather than power, one with “buvabilité” or “drinkability”. Drink 2021 - 2045.”

92-94 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

Château Pape-Clément 2017
Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru
Classé



£380 per 6 IB
Drink to 2040
Arriving Spring 2020

92-94 Neal Martin
92-94 Robert Parker

95-96 James Suckling
94-96 Jeb Dunnuck

16.5 Jancis Robinson
94-97 Antonio Galloni

“The 2017 Pape Clément was not touched by the frost and was picked from 15 September to 3 October, manually destemmed berry by berry with some of the ripe stems added back into the blend (like Les Carmes Haut-Brion down the road). Malolactic is done in barrel where it aged for 18 months. It offers intense black cherry, raspberry, fig and sous-bois scents on the nose, tightly coiled at the moment with just a hint of cedar and tobacco. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe tannin, a mixture of red and black fruit, touches of cedar and white pepper, leading to a structured and fresh finish that leaves a spicy aftertaste. Classic in style, this Pape Clément will benefit from several years in bottle. 2022 – 2045”

92-94 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

“The 2017 Pape Clément is fabulous. One of the rare 2017s with a real sense of structure, Pape Clément possesses dazzling intensity from start to finish. A rush of dark cherry, plum, chocolate and grilled herb notes hits the palate as this majestic, towering wine shows off its personality. Time in the glass brings out a brighter and more floral set of flavors. The 2017 is the first vintage made with a portion of whole clusters, an inspiration Bernard Magrez takes from Châteauneuf-du-Pape, where he recently bought a small property. Quite simply, the 2017 Pape Clément is a magnificent wine by any measure. Don't miss it. The only problem with the 2017 is that yields are down 40% because of frost.”

94-97 Pts Antonio Galloni Vinous.com May 2018

Other Left Bank Reds

Château Lanessin 2017
Haut-Médoc Cru Bourgeois



£115 per 12 IB
Drink to 2028
Arriving Spring 2020

89-90 James Suckling

“A tight and vibrant Haut-Medoc with plenty of acidity, fine tannins and a fresh finish. Shows a good backbone.”
89-90 Pts James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2018

Château Malescasse 2017
Haut-Médoc Cru Bourgeois



£143 per 12 IB
Drink to 2028
Arriving Spring 2020

89-91 Neal Martin
87-89 Jeb Dunnuck

92-93 James Suckling

88-91 Wine Spectator

“The 2017 Malescasse shrugs off a little reduction on the nose to reveal an attractive bouquet with blackberry, bilberry and black pepper/truffle aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannin, crisp graphite-infused black fruit, conservative in style, but there is plenty of freshness and decent length. Good potential.”
89-91 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com, May 2018

“From an estate located between Margaux and Saint Julien, in a great terroir for Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2017 Château Malescasse is ruby/purple-colored and is a ripe, rounded, plush beauty that has terrific blue fruits, leafy herbs, bay leaf, and earth aromas and flavors. With moderate acidity and sweet tannin, it's an incredible charmer that's going to impress right out of the gate.”
87-89 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

Château Cantemerle 2017
Haut-Médoc
5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£246 per 12 IB
Drink to 2030+
Arriving Spring 2020

93-94 James Suckling
89-91 Robert Parker

88-90 Neal Martin

92 Decanter

“This shows a polished yet encompassing structure of solid tannins, which support flavors of mulberries and black cherries. Medium-bodied, velvety with rather chewy. Long finish.”
93-94 Pts James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com April 2018

“The 2017 Cantemerle has quite a sultry bouquet with blackberry, damp earth and tobacco scents that reluctantly unfurl in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin that frame quite voluminous black dusky fruit. There is a powdery texture to this Cantemerle, quite long on the finish even if it is missing the refinement of a top vintage.”
88-90 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

Château La Tour Carnet 2017
Haut-Médoc
5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£250 per 12 IB
Drink to 2028
Arriving Spring 2020

88-90 Neal Martin
87-89 Robert Parker

90-91 James Suckling
89-92 Jeb Dunnuck

15.5 Jancis Robinson
92 Decanter

“The 2017 La Tour Carnet is a blend of 60% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc picked between 21 September and 5 October, matured in 30% new oak barrel for 16 months. It needs some encouragement from the glass but eventually reveals scents of blackberry, boysenberry jam and a faint hint of orange rind. The palate is medium-bodied with slightly dry tannin that grip the mouth. There is fine purity and detail here, but it is resolutely linear and strict, and I find the finish needing a soupçon more fleshiness, just to offset the firmness of the tannins.”
88-90 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com April 2018

“The deep garnet-purple colored 2017 la Tour Carnet opens with scents of cassis, plums and cherries with nuances of earth, tar and pencil shavings. Medium-bodied, it's just a little thin and chewy in the mouth but provides interesting fruit layers and pleasing harmony.”
87-89 Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com, April 2018

Château Belgrave 2017
Haut-Médoc
5^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£252 per 12 IB
Drink to 2032+
Arriving Spring 2020

87-89 Neal Martin
91 Decanter

90-91 James Suckling
87-89 Jeb Dunnuck

16 Jancis Robinson
88-91 Wine Spectator

“The 2017 Belgrave offers crisp blackberry and tobacco scents on the nose, a touch of gravel developing with time. The palate is medium-bodied with dry tannin, masculine and rather austere towards the finish where I would have liked more flesh. A second showing towards the end of my tasting did indicate a wine developing more fruité towards the finish and my score reflects anticipated amelioration during its barrel maturation.”
87-89 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

“This displays a fairly high level of oak toasting, but grilled cedar rather than vanilla in character, making it more classically Médoc. It is sombre, tightly-knit and handles the mid-palate well. It's not exuberant but has menthol and slate notes, providing good Médoc signature. It offers enjoyment but will take its time to relax.”
91 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com, April 2018

St-Emilion & Satellites

Château Puy-Blanquet 2017
St-Emilion Grand Cru



£155 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2032
 Arriving Spring 2020

16 JancisRobinson.com

“Mid crimson. Light peppery nose. Super-fresh fruit with just a hint of coffee and oak sweetness. Sweet tannins, good balance, finely built.”
 16 Pts Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com April 2018

Château Tour Saint Christophe
2017
St-Emilion Grand Cru



£260 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2035
 Arriving Spring 2020

89–91+ Robert Parker
92-94 Jeff Leve

93-94 James Suckling

91-93 Jeb Dunnuck

“The tentative blend of the 2017 Tour Saint-Christophe is 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. Deep garnet-purple in color, it's purely scented of fresh blackberries, blackcurrants and mulberries with touches of pencil shavings and lavender. The palate is medium-bodied, finely crafted and refreshing in the mouth with firm, fine-grained tannins and an herbal lift on the finish.”
 89–91+ Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com, April 2018

“Dense and layered red with dark berry, volcanic ash and white pepper. Full-bodied, layered and chewy. Muscular.”
 93-94 Pts James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2018

Château Bellefont-Belcier 2017
St-Emilion Grand Cru Classé



£408 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2035
 Arriving Spring 2020

89-91 Robert Parker
90 Decanter

93-94 James Suckling
92-95 Jeb Dunnuck

16 Jancis Robinson
93 Jeff Leve

“Very focused and compacted, showcasing extremely polished and firm tannins. Medium-to full-bodied and finely glossy and precise. Dark fruits, wet earth and an intense finish. Excellent length.”
 93-94 Pts James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, April 2018

“The 2017 Bellefont Belcier is deep garnet-purple colored and scented of baked plums and dried mulberries with touches of fragrant earth and underbrush. Medium-bodied, soft and plush, it has plenty of fruit and a gorgeous texture, finishing long. The tentative blend is 75% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon.”
 89-91 Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com, April 2018

**Château La Serre 2017
St-Emilion Grand Cru**



£425 per 12 IB
Drink to 2030
Arriving Spring 2020

**86-88 Robert Parker
90-92 Jeb Dunnuck**

**89-90 James Suckling
91 Decanter**

**16 Jancis Robinson
87-90 Wine Spectator**

"From 17 acres of clay and limestone soils around Saint-Emilion, the 2017 Château La Serre offers a vibrant ruby color as well as a ripe, fruity bouquet of black cherries, passion fruits, hints of cassis, tobacco, and exotic spices. Ripe, rounded, and supple on the palate, with beautiful purity of fruit, it's a charming, elegant wine that has terrific fruit. A blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, it's an early drinker. Tasted twice."
90-92 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

"Deep cherry red. Sweet blueberry fruit. Rich and inviting aroma with the sweetness of oak just showing. Toasty on the palate, smooth and rounded if not terribly persistent."
16 Pts Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com April 2018

Pomerol & Lalande de Pomerol

**Château Chantalouette 2017
 Pomerol**



£190 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2027
 Arriving Spring 2020

Always flying under the radars of the major critics, this great value Pomerol is part of the Moueix stable alongside the likes of Château Petrus. A richly fruited style with the ability to age for a decade, it is one of our customer favourites year-on-year.

**Château Monregard La Croix
 2017
 Pomerol**



£210 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2028+
 Arriving Spring 2020

**85-87 Neal Martin
 86-88 Robert Parker**

**89-90 James Suckling
 88-90+ Jeb Dunnuck**

**87-90 Antonio Galloni
 88 Decanter**

"I loved the 2017 Monregard La Croix, and it's a ripe, primordial barrel sample that has serious potential. Blue fruits, violets, and spring flower aromas and flavors, medium to full body, a ripe, rounded, plump texture, and ample length all make for a terrific Pomerol that I suspect will need short-term cellaring to round into form. It might match the 2015"

88-90+ Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, April 2018

"The 2017 Monregard La Croix is pleasant, if a touch light. Dark cherry, plum, lavender, licorice and chocolate notes develop in a mid-weight Pomerol that plays on the darker end of the flavor spectrum."
 87-90 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com May 2018

**Château Bourgneuf 2017
 Pomerol**



£425 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2030
 Arriving Spring 2020

**91-93 Robert Parker
 91-94 Wine Spectator**

**91-92 James Suckling
 92 Decanter**

90-92 Jeb Dunnuck

"A final blend of 90% Merlot with 10% Cabernet Franc, the 2017 Bourgneuf is deep garnet-purple in color with a nose of red and black plums, cassis and black soil with hints of cigar box and wild thyme. Medium-bodied, fine-grained and refreshing in the mouth with beautiful fruit and earth layers, it finishes with a fragrant lift."

91-93 Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com April 2018

"From 9ha of gravel and clay soils, this is a meaty, rich and chewy Pomerol that absolutely works. It has great tannic structure with give and pliability, full of rich black fruits, cassis and raspberry notes, and pulled along by slatey minerality. It has real texture, even though yet again you can tell the fruit flirts with the fresher end of ripeness. Still, this has huge potential, should age well, and is extremely well-handled."
 92 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com April 2018

**Château Clinet 2017
Pomerol**



£345 per 6 IB
Drink to 2032
Arriving Spring 2020

92-94 Neal Martin
92-94 Robert Parker

92-93 James Suckling
90-93 Antonio Galloni

16 Jancis Robinson
93-95 Jeb Dunnuck

“The 2017 Clinet was picked from 19 to 26 September for the Merlot and on 29 September for the Cabernets at 35hl/ha. It is matured in 72% new oak and the remainder one year old. The alcohol is 13.1° compared to say 14.4° for 2016. It has a perfumed bouquet with mainly red berry fruit, top notes of loam and a touch of violet. It is certainly well defined. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, well delineated, and saline in the mouth. It is quite open towards the finish, perhaps with less grip than other Pomerols that I have tasted, but it is undeniably elegant and well balanced with a hint of cured meat cropping up on the aftertaste. Classic Clinet! Drink 2022-2040.”
92-94 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

“Reminding me of the 2014, the 2017 Château Clinet is a beautiful, dense, concentrated wine that has terrific notes of blueberries, spring flowers, and chocolaty oak. It’s very much in the style of the vintage with its cool, perfumed aromatics and sensational purity of fruit, yet it also has richness and weight. It’s a brilliant Pomerol!”
93-95 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

**Château Gazin 2017
Pomerol**



£352 per 6 IB
Drink to 2032+
Arriving Spring 2020

94-95 James Suckling

91-93 Neal Martin

92-95 Jeb Dunnuck

“A dense and flavorful red already with dark-berry, seaweed and wet-earth undertones. Full body and round and chewy tannins. Green olives on the finish. Serious for the vintage.”
94-95 Pts James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com April 2018

“The 2017 Gazin has a very classic Pomerol bouquet with black brambly fruit infused with black truffle and subtle raspberry confit notes. Then, as it opens, there are loamy aromas that lend more complexity. The palate is medium-bodied with fine grain tannin and a fine bead of acidity. There is a slightly powdery texture, feeling quite saline. White pepper and fennel notes become more conspicuous towards the finish. Just a classic Gazin from proprietor Nicolas de Bailliencourt and his team.”
91-93 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

Other Right Bank Reds

**Château Dalem 2017
 Fronsac**



£165 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2027
 Arriving Spring 2020

**92-93 James Suckling
 My Pick!**

89-92 Jeb Dunnuck

89-92 Wine Spectator

“This is so solid and beautiful with a delicious core of ripe fruit of dark berries and currants. Some chocolate. Medium body, silky tannins and a fresh finish.”

92-93 Pts James Suckling, James Suckling.com April 2018

“From an 18-hectare estate on the Fronsac plateau owned by Brigitte Rullier, the inky-colored 2017 Château Dalem is a deep, rich, modern style beauty that gives up plenty of classy oak as well as crème de cassis, blueberries, crushed violets, and underlying minerality. It’s textured, nicely concentrated, and balanced, yet I suspect it’s going to need 2-3 years of bottle age. It’s a rockstar Fronsac. The rough blend is 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, brought up in 40% new oak, with the balance in once-used barrels.”

89-92 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

**Château Marsau 2017
 Francs Côtes de Bordeaux**



£120 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2026
 Arriving Spring 2020

92-93 James Suckling

“A very pretty and solid red with dark berries, chocolate and hints of spice. Lovely richness and intensity. Medium to full body and chewy tannins. Great length and drive at the end for this appellation and the vintage.”

92-93 Pts James Suckling, James Suckling.com April 2018

Dry Whites

Clos Floridène Blanc 2017
Graves



£155 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2025
 Arriving Spring 2020

89-91 Neal Martin
89-91 Robert Parker

93 Decanter
89-92 Wine Spectator

16.5 Jancis Robinson

“The 2017 Clos Floridène Blanc has a lovely fresh green lemon, white flower and vanilla scented bouquet that opens nicely with aeration. The palate is well balanced with a ripe, tropical-tinged opening with just the right amount of acidity to keep everything focused and fresh. There is a subtle tang of ginger and marmalade towards the finish that feels long. This should be a great value once released.”
 89–91 Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com April 2018

“Jean-Jacques has done a great job in a vintage that you just know his father Denis Dubourdiou would have loved to make. 2017 has produced some of the best Graves whites for years (where they escaped the frost), and this has those singing touches of minerality that this terroir does so well. It's fairly subtle on the varietal side, with clear citrus and lemongrass notes, but it stays well away from caricature. It steals up on you, finishing with a really clear, juicy, saline character and good persistency, revealing those Barsac-adjacent limestone soils. Fermented in oak , 25% new, then kept in barrels for eight months with regular lees stirring. A buy!”
 93 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com April 2018

Château La Garde Blanc 2017
Pessac-Léognan



£178 per 12 IB
 Drink to 2027
 Arriving Spring 2020

89-91 Neal Martin
90-93 Wine Spectator

93-94 James Suckling
93 Decanter

16.5 Jancis Robinson

“This is an excellent La Garde, a success in both red and white guises in a vintage that was not clear cut. Clever use of rounding oak smooths the flavours and delivers a Pessac Léognan signature that not everyone has managed. It has good aromatics with pronounced citrus notes, and rich stone fruits fill out the mid-palate. The finish is elongated, stretching out over several minutes. This impressive wine is one to own, and a great way to win over newcomers to white Bordeaux. 40% new oak.”
 93 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com, April 2018

“This is very linear and really energetic with a driven acidity and tight and compact fruit. Full-bodied yet remains so agile and bright. The lemon-zest and salty character is impressive. Only 10% new wood here.”
 93-94 Pts James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com April 2018

Château La Tour Carnet Blanc
2017
Bordeaux



£140 per 6 IB
 Drink to 2035
 Arriving Spring 2020

86-88 Neal Martin
87-89 Robert Parker

90-91 James Suckling
87-89 Jeb Dunnuck

92 Decanter

“The 2017 La Tour Carnet Blanc was picked from 6 to 11 September, matured in Burgundy barrels. It has a simple cooking apple, pear and white peach scented nose that just needs to muster more vigour. The palate is fresh on the entry with peach and light mandarin notes, moderate weight with a clean and fresh, lightly spiced finish.”
 86-88 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com April 2018

“An impressive dry white well worth the effort to track down, the 2017 Château La Tour Carnet Blanc offers up a perfumed bouquet of ripe lemons, citrus blossom and honeysuckle in a medium-bodied, clean, classy style. It's ideal for drinking over the coming 2-3 years, if not longer.”
 87-89 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018

Château Talbot Caillou Blanc
2017
St-Julien 4^{ème} Grand Cru Classé



£132 per 6 IB
Drink to 2025
Arriving Spring 2020

87-89 Neal Martin

88-91 Robert Parker

92 Decanter

"The 2017 Caillou de Talbot Blanc is matured in one-third new oak with no racking. It has a simple but attractive bouquet with scents of red apple, melon and grapefruit, all well defined. The palate is balanced with a taut line of acidity that imbues this white Saint-Julien with attractive tension. Whilst it is not overly complexed, the lightly spiced finish is welcome and it has satisfying length."

87-89 Pts Neal Martin, Vinous.com May 2018

"A very good Caillou Blanc with wonderfully intense finessing on the aroma and on the attack. An intense sunflower yellow in colour, with some definite oak influencing on the palate. I'm surprised, in fact, by quite how rich this is - undoubtedly a successful, powerful, layered Sauvignon character, but with a silky texture through the palate and good juicy lift on the finish"

92 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com April 2018

Domaine de Chevalier Blanc
2017
Pessac-Léognan
Grand Cru Classé



£413 per 6 IB
Drink to 2040
Arriving Spring 2020

93-95 Neal Martin
92-95 Antonio Galloni

96-97 James Suckling
95-97+ Jeb Dunnuck

17.5+ Jancis Robinson
94 Decanter

"As with the red, this really does punch at the top end of the appellation. It's more herbal than some, showing attractive fresh herb notes of rosemary and sage. High quality white peach and nectarine flavours run through the palate, with slatey edges on the finish that are scraping the sides. It's a great wine that is going to age and develop. Oh - and there was a touch of frost here, but Domaine de Chevalier was, of course, well prepared, being located in a vulnerable spot. One-third new oak. Drinking Window 2025 - 2040".

94 Pts Jane Anson, Decanter.com April 2018

"The 2017 Domaine de Chevalier Blanc is fabulous, but it is also going to need a number of years to be at its very best. Powerful and dense in the glass, the 2017 offers terrific brightness and cut, all backed up with serious structure. Smoke, melon, orchard fruit and mint are some of the many notes that develop as this gorgeous wine shows off its personality. Quite simply, the 2017 has class to burn, but readers will have to be patient. Tasted three times."

92-95 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com April 2018

Château Pape-Clément Blanc
2017
Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru
Classé



£600 per 6 IB
Drink to 2030
Arriving Spring 2020

91-93 Neal Martin
94-96+ Robert Parker

97-98 James Suckling
94-96 Jeb Dunnuck

17 Jancis Robinson
93-96 Antonio Galloni

"A white of real distinction and class, the 2017 Pape Clément Blanc is textured, racy and super-inviting. Stylistically, the 2017 is more citrus and floral driven than in the past. Tropical notes and the more unctuous feel that are typical of the Blanc are present, but less overt than in the past. Above all else, in 2017 the Blanc stands out for its exceptional purity, nuance and delineation. The Blanc has been nothing else than deeply impressive on the four occasions I have tasted it so far."

93-96 Pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous.com May 2018

"A blend of 55% Sauvignon Blanc and 45% Sémillon, the Pape Clément 2017 Blanc gives up profound notes of apricots, spiced pears and apple tart with suggestions of orange blossoms, fresh ginger and beeswax. The palate is medium-bodied with plenty of tightly wound, intense stone fruit and spicy layers supported by fantastic freshness, finishing very long."

94-96 Pts Lisa Perrotti-Brown, RobertParker.com, April 2018

Sauternes & Barsac

Château Doisy-Védrières 2017
(37.5cl)
Sauternes 2^{ème} Cru Classé



£160 per 12 IB
Drink to 2035
Arriving Spring 2020

93-94 James Suckling

92-95 Wine Spectator

“This is very oily and rich with loads of dried mangoes, sliced apples and peaches. Full-bodied, very sweet and honey-like.”

93-94 Pts James Suckling, James Suckling.com April 2018

Château Coutet 2017
(37.5cl)
Barsac 1^{er} Grand Cru Classé



£171 per 12 IB
Drink to 2035
Arriving Spring 2020

93-94 James Suckling
95-97 Wine Enthusiast

93-95 Jeb Dunnuck

92-95 Wine Spectator

“Lots of powdered mushrooms, dried lemons and apricots. Full-bodied, dense and layered. Beautiful finish. A top sweet white for the vintage.”

93-94 Pts James Suckling, James Suckling.com April 2018

“Another rocking sweet wine is the 2017 Château Coutet. This big, full-bodied, opulent beauty has serious notes of orange blossom, buttered citrus, and honey, yet also shows the more pure, precise, and elegant style of the vintage on the palate. The cool, overcast summer allowed good ripeness while preserving the purity of fruit and the whites (and dessert wines) from this vintage are beautiful!”

93-95 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com April 2018



Mixed Cases

TBC



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.

18.05.18