

Bordeaux En Primeur 2023

tame, Midwan

The Bordeaux 2023 En Primeur Campaign has concluded, leaving much to mull over. Unlike 'solar' vintages such as 2022, 2023 proved to be a 'proof of the pudding is in the eating' sort of vintage and the market eagerly awaited the thoughts of top spectators regarding the quality of the wines as the campaign got underway. Fortunately, critical reviews have been incredibly positive, with many praising this more typically "Atlantic" style vintage as compared to the more "continental" profile of the sunnier, drier vintages of 2022, 2020 and 2018, where alcohol levels were high and acidities were relatively lower for the region. Experts have praised the fleshy mid-palate that many 2023s exhibit, drawing comparisons to the much-lauded 2019, with refreshing acidity and moderate alcohol levels providing sapid, refreshing vins de terroir, classically statured for medium to long term drinking once bottled.

In this brochure we have collated the allocations we have that remain available from our Bordeaux 2023 En Primeur Campaign. In accordance with our usual objective, we have identified the most attractive releases of the campaign alongside some good value picks which won't break the bank, giving pleasure in the shorter term while affording an opportunity to those putting a toe in the en primeur market for the first time.

With limited stocks remaining we aim, as ever, to allocate as fairly as possible.

Yours in wine,

The Weather

The 2023 vintage has provided an intriguing enigma, not least in terms of the weather. Despite the year being the second warmest in recorded history in Bordeaux it wasn't particularly sunny, and periods of rainfall and associated mildew pressures have provided challenges to growers across the region. That said, an early budbreak combined with a swift and successful flowering period promised encouraging yields and this was affirmed by phases of warm, sunny weather pre-harvest which delivered ample quantities of perfectly ripe fruit in many communes. Nevertheless, it was once again the properties that had the capacity to respond to viticultural pressures and invest in rigorous sorting at reception that proved most successful this vintage, a theme that is becoming more prevalent not only in Bordeaux but across all classic wine regions.

The Market

Much of the talk around the 2023 vintage has been around pricing. Fortunately, many châteaux appeared to have listened to the concerns of the market and subsequent releases show encouraging discounts on last year, with 30-40% reductions recorded in numerous instances. This presents some exciting prospects to buyers wishing to capitalise on the relatively good value of not only the top addresses for investment, but also of wines that will offer delicious drinking shortly after their shipment and for many years thereafter.



About En Primeur

Over the last thirty years, we have developed strong bonds with the negociants, growers and châteaux in Bordeaux and Burgundy. Every year we travel to these regions to taste the new wines and secure good allocations of the very best wines for our customers. As soon as prices are released, the wines are available for purchase "En Primeur", the process of buying wine before it's bottled and released onto the market. Wines can only be purchased by the straight case as supplied by the winery (case sizes may vary from 3, 6, 12 and 24 half bottles) and are usually delivered 2-3 years after the vintage. The wines generally offered En Primeur by JN Wine are from Bordeaux, Burgundy, the Rhône Valley and Ridge Vineyards (California).

En Primeur prices exclude VAT & duty but do include shipping from the winery to our bonded warehouse in Belfast and then onwards to your door within NI or ROI. Onward delivery of duty paid wines to addresses in GB mainland is £10.95 for 1 case and £7.95 per case thereafter. Onward delivery to other bonded warehouses in GB mainland is charged at the pallet rate. Please contact us for a quote. Vat & duty become payable once the wine is withdrawn from a bonded warehouse.

Once the wines have arrived in Belfast, you will be notified of their arrival and asked for storage instructions or onward delivery instructions. You can choose to store them in our Customers' Reserves area of our bonded warehouse in Belfast or have them delivered. If/when you choose to have the wines released from a bonded warehouse, the duty and VAT become payable at the prevailing rates in the jurisdiction of delivery.

Duty

From 1 August 2023, UK duty is calculated according to ABV, meaning wines of different ABV attract different amounts of duty. Between 1 August 2023 and 31 January 2025 wine between 11.5% and 14.5% ABV will be treated as 12.5% ABV which currently equates to £32.06 per case (12x75cl). From 1 February 2025 this bracket will no longer apply.

Duty in ROI is currently €38.24 per case (12x75cl bottles) and VAT (applied to the combined purchase price of the wine and duty) is 23%.

Storage

Storage is available under bond at £10.00 / €11.50 per unit case per year. Wine released during the storage year will be charged pro-rata. The storage year runs from 1st September to 31 August, and is billed in arrears. Please note that wines stored under bond can only be removed in full cases.

Availability

All products are sold subject to availability. James Nicholson Wine Ltd. and James Nicholson Wine Merchant Ltd. reserve the right to amend prices, for example following Government or legislative changes or in the event of foreign major exchange movements.

Errors & omissions

James Nicholson Wine Ltd. and James Nicholson Wine Merchant Ltd. accept no liability arising from any errors (including typographical) or any omissions.

Côtes de Bourg



Domaine de Cambes 2023, 75cl

Case of 6 £183.00 / €210.00 ex VAT & Duty



Château Roc de Cambes 2023, 75cl

Case of 6 £265.00 / €306.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc. Cask sample. Open and aromatic with raspberry coulis and floral (violet) notes. Seductive fruit, refined tannins and freshness. Early drinking but should age a bit as well."

16.5 points James Lawther MW jancisrobinson.com (May 2024)

"Herbs, spearmint, tobacco, licorice, and red berries are on display in the nose, and on the palate. The fruits are vibrant, sweet, chewy, and fresh with a savory, salty accent in the finish. The wine blends 80% Merlot with 20% Cabernet Franc. Drink from 2027-2037."

90-92 points Jeff Leve
The Wine Cellar Insider (May 2024)

92-94 points Adrian van Velsen VINUM (April 2024)

Critical scores:

"Concentrated, round, and juicy, with depth, lift, energy, and vibrance which allows the layers of dark, red berries, spice, and herbs to shine. The finish displays the sweetness, as well as the brightness in the fruit in the mid-palate, which carries all the way though to the chewy, red berry finish. The wine blends 80% Merlot with 20% Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink 2027 - 2040."

92-94 points Jeff Leve The Wine Cellar Insider (May 2024)

"80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon. Cask sample. Deep colour. Big, rich and plush with spice and cassis notes. Opulent fruit with plenty of gras then chalky tannins that will need time to resolve. Dry finish."

16.5+ points James Lawther MW jancisrobinson.com (May 2024)

"The 2023 Roc de Cambes delivers oodles of black cherries and cassis fruit on the nose. It's very floral and extravagant yet retains delineation and focus. The palate is medium-bodied with licorice-tinged black fruit, hints of Indian spice and marmalade. This is quite a tangy Roc de Cambes with a persistent, figgy finish."

89-91 points Neal Martin vinous.com (April 2024)

Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux



Domaine de l'Aurage 2023, 75cl

Case of 12 £260.00 / €299.00 ex VAT & Duty



Domaine de l'Aurage 2023, 150cl

Case of 6 £260.00 / €299.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"Good depth, crunchy vibrant fruit, grilled spice, this is one to drink and share, tons of personality, unfussy with an easy mouthwatering salinity. Caroline and Louis Mitjavile owners, this is one to look out for, a buy in the vintage."

93 points Jane Anson
Inside Bordeaux (April 2024)

Critical scores:

"Rich, aromatic with chocolate and coffee-bean notes. Broad and sweet on the palate with a chalky note behind. Dry finish. Exuberant in the Mitjavile way."

16+ points James Lawther jancisrobinson.com (April 2024)

Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux



Domaine de l'Aurage 2023, 300cl

Case of 3 £299.00 / €345.00 ex VAT & Duty



Château Alcée 2023, 75cl

Case of 12 £155.00 / €173.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"Black raspberries, licorice, espresso, and floral aromatics fill the core of the wine on the nose, and on the palate. Sweet, vibrant, earthy, and fresh, with good energy, and lift in the chalky, edged, savory finish. The wine is produced from 100% Merlot. 14.5% ABV. Drink from 2026-2038."

91-93 points Jeff Leve The Wine Cellar Insider (May 2024)

Critical scores:

"This is very long and salty, with dark fruit and fine tannins. It highlights the quality of the vintage. Medium body and fine tannins. 88% merlot and 12% cabernet franc."

92-93 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

"Flowers, blackberries, black cherries, and licorice, with a touch of spicy chocolate shows well in the nose, and on the medium-bodied palate. The wine is round, juicy, and fresh, with sweetness, lift, and a refreshing, spicy note on the backend in the finish. The wine was produced from 88% Merlot with 12% Cabernet Franc. Drink from 2026-2036."

91-93 points Jeff Leve

92-94 points Lisa Perrotti-Brown MW The Wine Independent (May 2024)

The Wine Cellar Insider (May 2024)

Francs-Côtes de Bordeaux



Château La Prade 2023, 75cl

Case of 12 £118.00 / €130.00 ex VAT & Duty



Château Puygueraud 2023, 75cl

Case of 12 £125.00 / €137.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"This is very crunchy, with bright blackberries, cherries and some chocolate. Medium body, supporting a solid core of fruit and a flavorful finish. Shows energy. Another excellent wine from limestone soils. 79% merlot and 21% cabernet franc."

93-94 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

"Medium-bodied, forward, with sweetness, and firmness, freshness, ripe, crisp, chewy, rustic, sweet, dark cherries, raspberries, and plums with licorice, florals, spice, and a touch of marine influences on the palate, as well as in the finish. You can enjoy this on release, or age it for at least a decade or more. Made from 79% Merlot, with 21% Cabernet Franc. Drink from 2026-2033."

91-93 points Jeff Leve The Wine Cellar Insider (May 2024)

92 points Jane Anson Inside Bordeaux (April 2024)

90-92 points Lisa Perrotti-Brown MW The Wine Independent (May 2024)

Critical scores:

"Full of blackberry, black-olive and chocolate aromas and flavors on a medium to full body with lightly chewy tannins."

92-93 points James Suckling jameessuckling.com (May 2024)

"As usual, the 2023 Puygueraud, a blend of 90% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc and 1% Malbec, remains a sure bet for readers seeking well-executed Bordeaux wines. It exhibits aromas of mulberries, blueberries, spices and delicate oaky hints. Medium to full-bodied, layered and concentrated, it's fleshy and seamless with a long, dense and mineral finish framed by licorice and spice hints."

89 - 90 points Yohan Castaing The Wine Advocate (April 2024)

Saint-Estèphe



Château Montrose 2023, 75cl

Case of 6 £714.00 / €840.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"Wow. This is the essence of Montrose, with blackberry, blackcurrant, crushed stone and earth. I have not tasted a Montrose like this in 42 years of my career. It has a much more vertical nature to it, with layered tannins that go very deep and long, The muscular structure and intensity is something else. This is a new era for Montrose. It is now made from only 45 hectares of vineyards right in front of the chateau, instead of about 60 before. 75% cabernet sauvignon, 21% merlot and 4% cabernet franc".

99-100 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

"The 2023 Montrose is another brilliant wine from an estate that's now routinely among Bordeaux's very best, year in, year out. A blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Sauvignon, derived exclusively from the estate's historic core on the fourth terrace situated just in front of the château itself, it unwinds in the glass with aromas of cassis and wild berries mingled with notions of lilac, violet and pencil shavings. Full-bodied, deep and layered, with a textural attack that segues into a dense, multidimensional mid-palate framed by beautifully ripe tannins and lively acids, it concludes with a long, resonant finish. It will be worth a special effort to seek out".

97-100 points William Kelley The Wine Advocate (April 2024)

"Gorgeously dark and vibrant fruit, with gunsmoke and campfire, concentrated cassis and blackberry pastille, grilled almond, saffron and pomegrante, luscious but measured, showing the inky character that seems to be at the heart of the best Cabernets of this vintage, with their ripe but not overly exuberant classicism. Organic conversion, to be certified 2025. The first vintage this 1st wine of Montrose is coming only from the section of the vineyard located on Terrace 4 of the Médoc gravel banks that line the Garonne river along the peninsula. Following soil studies from Pierre Becheler, this comprises 35% of the overall production in 2023, or 45ha of vines, and is the historic heart of the property. Pierre Grafeuille director, Vincent Decup technical director."

Saint-Estèphe



La Dame de Montrose 2023, 75cl

Case of 12 £288.00 / €336.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"The blackberries and blackcurrants show through beautifully, together with very integrated tannins. Dense and textured. Transparent. Graphite coming through. Second wine of Montrose. 61% merlot, 32% cabernet sauvignon, 5% petit verdot and 2% cabernet franc." 94-95 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

"Another strong performance from this bottling, which dependably numbers among Bordeaux's top three or four second wines, the 2023 La Dame de Montrose reveals aromas of cassis, pencil shavings and licorice, followed by a medium to full-bodied, deep and dense palate that's polished, pure and layered, with sweet tannins, lively acids and a saline finish. It's a blend of 61% Merlot, 32% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc."

91-93 points William Kelley
The Wine Advocate (April 2024)

"Silky tannins with grip and intensity, a lovely balance of texture and fresh acidities. Slate and pummice stone grip, this is delicious, with appellation typicity in its powerful black fruits, but measured with a saline kick on the finish. In organic conversion, to be certified 2025."

92 points Jane Anson
Inside Bordeaux (April 2024)



Château Lafite Rothschild 2023, 75cl

Case of 6 £2460.00 / €2850.00 ex VAT & Duty



Château Lafite Rothschild Carruades de Lafite 2023, 75cl

Case of 6 £930.00 / €1050.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"The finest of the first growths this year appears to be the 2023 Lafite Rothschild, a terrific effort that unwinds in the glass with deep and incipiently complex aromas of cassis, pencil shavings, lilac and violets mingled with hints of cigar wrapper and mint. Medium to full-bodied, layered and concentrated, it's vibrant and refined, with a deep core of fruit, plenty of sweet structuring tannin and a compelling marriage between energy and plenitude. It's a blend of 93% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Merlot and 1% Petit Verdot that reminds me of 2019's tannins combined with 2016's unimpeachable classicism."

97-99 points William Kelley The Wine Advocate (April 2024)

"The purity of cabernet sauvignon is so evident here. It mesmerizes you with aromas of black and red currants, cedar, tobacco and bark. It's full-bodied yet there's very impressive weightlessness and agility, as well as subtlety and focus. Some iron and terra-cotta. Cedar and sandalwood undertones. Juicy and plummy at the end. 12.9% alcohol. 3.75 pH. A blend of 60% cabernet sauvignon and 40% merlot." 97-98 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

Critical scores:

"A savory and juicy Carruades with softness and notes of ripe berry, cedar and dried tobacco. Like Lafite from the 1980s but more precise. Round and pretty. It really grows on the finish with such sweetness of fruit and length. Pointed, fine tannins at the end. Very long. A blend of 60% cabernet sauvignon and 40% merlot."

95-96 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

"A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, the 2023 Carruades de Lafite is lovely, bursting with aromas of minty blackberries, cassis and cigar box, followed by a medium to full-bodied, fleshy and layered palate that's creamy and textural, its generous core of fruit largely concealing its powdery structuring tannins, concluding with a long, resonant finish." 91-93 points William Kelley The Wine Advocate (April 2024)



Château Lynch Bages 2023, 75cl

Case of 12 £840.00 / €965.00 ex VAT & Duty



Château Echo de Lynch Bages 2023, 75cl

Case of 12 £310.00 / €356.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"Blackberry, black cherry, crushed stone and graphite. Lead pencil, too. It's full-bodied with juicy, chewy tannins. Vertical and layered with lovely length. Quite plush. Chewy tannins at the end. Cabernet sauvignon driven. Showing excellent potential."

97-98 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

"As usual one of the chunkier, broader-shouldered wines of the Médoc, the 2023 Lynch-Bages exhibits aromas of dark berries and cassis mingled with pencil shavings, licorice and pipe tobacco, framed by creamy new oak. Medium to full-bodied, rich and layered, it's deep, concentrated and generously extracted, with plenty of youthfully chewy tannin to carry it along in the cellar. The 2023 is a blend of 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot."

93-95 points William Kelley
The Wine Advocate (April 2024)

Critical scores:

"A balance of blackberry, chocolate and stone with a medium body, creamy texture and a soft finish. The length and depth are very pretty, while the juicy, velvety tannins are so attractive." 92-93 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

"The 2023 Echo de Lynch-Bages has a hightoned bouquet of cassis and floral notes that will appeal to those seeking a more hedonistic Pauillac in this vintage. The palate is mediumbodied and fleshy with succulent tannins and a cashmere-like mouthfeel. The finish is ripe and quite long. Drink it over the next six to eight years."

88-90 points Neal Martin vinous.com (April 2024)



Château Pichon Longueville Réserve de la Comtesse 2023, 75cl

Case of 12 £402.00 / €468.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"I like the freshness and linear character to this second wine of Pichon Lalande. It's mediumbodied with creamy and polished tannins that are fine at the end. It is linked from start to finish. 60% cabernet sauvignon, 30% merlot, 5% cabernet franc and 5% petit verdot."

94-95 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

"A terrific second wine, the 2023 Resèrve de la Comtesse wafts from the glass with a pure bouquet of blackcurrants, dark berries, lilac and pencil shavings. Medium to full-bodied, layered and velvety, it's sensual and vibrant, with melting tannins and a deep core of cool fruit framed by polished but present tannins. This blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Franc marks the 50th anniversary of this second wine's production." 91-93 points William Kelley robertparker.com (April 2024)



Château Pontet-Canet 2023, 75cl

Case of 12 £789.00 / €924.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"A very structured Pontet-Canet that expands in the mouth with a gorgeous combination of beautifully ripe fruit and intense tannins. Very structured for the vintage. Full-bodied with excellent presence and length. So much raw pencil shavings to the blackcurrants. Graphite and tar. Fresh and vivid. They picked cabernet at the right time at the end of September. 52% cabernet sauvignon, 39% merlot, 6% cabernet franc and 3% petit Verdot".

97-98 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

"With the 2023 vintage, this estate has crafted a wine of unprecedented aromatic intensity and precision that marks a significant evolution. Revealing an elegant, fresh bouquet of mulberries and cassis mingled with notions of violets, gentian and menthol, the 2023 Pontet-Canet is medium to full-bodied, seamless and multidimensional, with a pure and precise core of fruit that's framed by ultra-refined tannins and a powerful but controlled profile, concluding with long, mineral, licorice-inflected finish. It's the result of more daring harvest decisions than in previous years: By picking the Merlot earlier to highlight fresh, fruity notes rather than baked, sun-kissed flavors and simultaneously delaying the Cabernet Sauvignon harvest until after September 28 to refine tannins, the 2023 Pontet-Canet marks a significant evolution at this renowned estate. At this early stage, its élevage appears to be more discreet, too. This wine, which I'd be delighted to own, is a blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot, matured in 50% new oak barrels, 35% amphorae and 15% once-used barrels".

96-98 points Yohan Castaing The Wine Advocate (April 2024)

Margaux



Château Margaux 2023, 75cl

Case of 6 £2160.00 / €2520.00 ex VAT & Duty



Pavillon Rouge du Château Margaux 2023, 75cl

Case of 6 £720.00 / €840.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"The 2023 Château Margaux shows considerable promise, unfurling in the glass with aromas of cassis, violets, spring flowers and sweet tobacco, framed by a deft touch of new oak. Medium to full-bodied, deep and layered, it's taut, concentrated and classically structured, with sweet, refined tannins and lively acids, concluding with a long, mouthwatering finish. It's a blend of 89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot that attained 13% alcohol."

"The aromas in this young Margaux are so primary, reminding me of grape must fermenting in the vat, then turning to perfumes and flowers. Violets and roses. Full-bodied but it comes across as so agile and bright, with vivid acidity that makes the wine crunchy and linear. As Alexis, one of the owners of Margaux said, this really shows the DNA of the estate. Weightless. One of the wines of the vintage. 3.6 pH. Blend of 89% cabernet sauvignon, 5% merlot, 4% cabernet franc and 2% petit verdot."

99-100 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

The Wine Advocate (April 2024)

Critical scores:

"Somewhat reminiscent of a cooler-fruited version of the lovely 2019, Château Margaux's 2023 Pavillon Rouge wafts from the glass with aromas of cassis, raspberries, licorice and pipe tobacco, deftly framed by creamy new oak. Medium to full-bodied, ample and fleshy, with a sweet core of fruit, ripe tannins and a lively, succulent profile, it's a blend 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc that attained 13.3% alcohol." 92-94 points William Kelley The Wine Advocate (April 2024)

"Very Château Margaux, with perfumed violets, currants and other berries, as well as oranges. Medium body with fine, caressing tannins that are tight and vivid. Racy and refined. Brightness and beauty to this second wine. Succulent. Refined. One of the best Pavillon Rouges in a while. 30% of the production. 79% cabernet sauvignon, 14% merlot, 5% petit verdot and 2% cabernet franc."

96-97 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

"An aromatic punch of white and red roses, feels very much in the DNA of the estate, with perfume, richly nuanced cassis, bilberry, tobacco leaf, cigar box. Fine tannins, with energy and clear - and this is a 2nd wine that elevates the possibilities of the 2023 vintage. September 11 through to October 5 for harvest, 30% of the production in Pavillon." 93 points Jane Anson Inside Bordeaux (April 2024)

Margaux



Château Rauzan-Ségla 2023, 75cl

Case of 12 £720.00 / €840.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"The 2023 Rauzan-Ségla shows considerable promise, unwinding in the glass with aromas of cherries, dark berries and plums mingled with hints of pencil shavings and violets. Medium to full-bodied, layered and concentrated, it's deep and fleshy, with terrific purity of fruit, supple tannins and a long, resonant finish. This classic in the making is a blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13.5% Merlot and 1.5% Petit Verdot." 94-96 points William Kelley The Wine Advocate (April 2024)

"Rauzan-Segla with solid tannins that are muscular, well toned and beautiful. Black currants, blueberries and flowers. Chewy finish. One for the cellar. Classic. The cabernet went to the gym. 85% cabernet sauvignon, one of highest percentages ever."

97-98 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

"Inkier and more luscious in texture than the Ségla, this has rich layers to its aromatic palate, showing rhubarb, savoury cassis and blueberry, peony, rose petals, soot, gunsmoke, graphite, flint, weight and texture, spiralling upwards. Wonderful expression of a wine that seems supremely Margaux and supremely Rauzan Ségla. 50% new oak."

96 points Jane Anson Inside Bordeaux (April 2024)

Saint-Julien



Château Léoville Las Cases 2023, 75cl

Case of 6 £831.00 / €972.00 ex VAT & Duty



Château Léoville Barton 2023, 75cl

Case of 6 £336.00 / €390.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"Exceptional quality of cabernet comes through here, with a lot of graphite, lead pencil, crushed stone, walnut and currant fruit. It grows and expands on the palate, remaining in focus at the same time. Refined and seamless with beautiful tannins that show power and intensity. It rolls across the palate with verve. 86% cabernet sauvignon, 10% cabernet franc and 4% merlot". 97-98 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

"A blend of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc and only 4% Merlot, the 2023 Léoville Las Cases is one of the more serious, structured wines of the vintage, reminiscent of a modern-day version of the estate's excellent 2001. Unwinding in the glass with aromas of cherries, cassis and plums mingled with hints of licorice, mint and creamy new oak, it's medium to full-bodied, deep and concentrated, with a taut core of fruit, lively acids and plenty of fine, youthfully firm tannins. It will require and reward patience."

94-96 points William Kelley The Wine Advocate (April 2024)

Critical scores:

"The tannins here are cashmere-like. You can touch it, but at the same time it is weightless and beautiful. Medium to full-bodied and textural. Soars at the end. This is really seamless and dialed in. Third year using the cellar. 87% cabernet sauvignon, 10% merlot and 3% cabernet franc."

96-97 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

"The 2023 Léoville Barton is a lovely classic in the making, unfurling in the glass with aromas of cassis and blackberries mingled with notions of pencil shavings, licorice and violets. Medium to full-bodied, ample and fleshy, it's layered, concentrated and suave, with beautifully refined tannins, vibrant acids and a long, penetrating finish. Benefiting from the Barton family's new highly functional winery, as well as experimentation with more discreet cooperage choices, it's somewhat reminiscent of the estate's terrific 2016. The 2023 blend is 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc."

94-96 points William Kelley The Wine Advocate (April 2024)

Saint-Julien



Château Léoville Poyferré 2023, 75cl

Case of 6 £337.00 / €395.00 ex VAT & Duty



Château Langoa Barton 2023 OWC, 75cl

Case of 6 £179.00 / €205.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"Aromas of cassis, plums, pencil shavings and toasty new oak introduce the 2023 Léoville Poyferré, a medium to full-bodied, rich and chunky wine with a deep core of succulent fruit framed by sweet, generously extracted tannins. It's a blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot that saw some saignée and osmosis for additional concentration. As usual, it's the creamiest, most "modern"-styled of the three Léovilles. Harvest began on September 14 and concluded on October 5, with fermentations a little cooler than usual, perhaps an intimation of a stylistic evolution in progress."

93-95 points William Kelley The Wine Advocate (April 2024)

"This is already very pretty and polished with plenty of currant and plum character. Mediumto full-bodied with creamy, round tannins and a juicy finish. Caressing. Very refined." 95-96 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

Critical scores:

"The 2023 Langoa Barton is a very accomplished wine, the family's new winery having permitted more precise, parcel-by-parcel winemaking as well as gentler handling of the fruit to deliver a wine with all this estate's customary intensity of flavor but more polish and refinement. Unwinding in the glass with aromas of dark berries, cassis and plums mingled with hints of pencil shavings and dried rose petals, it's medium to full-bodied, with an inky core of fruit, vibrant acids and plenty of suave structuring tannin. This classic blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc is sure to number among the intelligent purchases of the en primeur campaign."

93-95 points William Kelley The Wine Advocate (April 2024)

"There's depth of fruit here with blackberries, blackcurrants and hints of cedar and tobacco. The tannins are very solid and polished with juiciness and depth. Pristine. Bright acidity. 60% cabernet sauvignon, 37% merlot and 3% cabernet franc."

94-95 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

Saint-Julien



Château Gloria 2023, 75cl

Case of 6 £137.00 / €159.50 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"Blackberries and blueberries with stone and sandalwood undertones. It's medium to full-bodied with integrated tannins that are polished and refined. Long finish. Solid and rather muscular. Could move up a notch."

93-94 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

"An attractive effort, the 2023 Gloria offers up aromas of dark berries and plums mingled with subtle hints of violets and licorice. It's medium to full-bodied, taut and lively, with good depth and persistence. This blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet France is the third and final vintage of organic conversion at Gloria."

90-92 points William Kelley
The Wine Advocate (April 2024)

Pessac-Léognan



Château Haut-Brion 2023, 75cl

Case of 6 £1890.00 / €2190.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"This is tight, yet so upright and proper, with a vertical line of fine tannin that runs true and deep. It's medium- to full-bodied with an exquisite texture and a long, structured finish. 52.3% merlot, 38.6% cabernet sauvignon and 9.1% cabernet franc."

98-99 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

"The 2023 Haut-Brion exhibits a more Cabernet-inflected personality than the richer 2022, offering up a deep but youthfully reserved bouquet of dark wild berries, licorice, smoke and pencil lead mingled with notions of cigar wrapper, nicely integrated new oak and spices. Full-bodied, deep and velvety, it's layered and concentrated, with a deep core of fruit structured around abundant but velvety tannins, concluding with a long, controlled finish. Somewhat reminiscent of the estate's successful 2006, it's a blend of 52.3% Merlot, 38.6% Cabernet Sauvignon and 9.1% Cabernet Franc."

95-97 points Yohan Castaing The Wine Advocate (April 2024)

Pessac-Léognan



Château Les Carmes Haut-Brion 2023, 75cl

Case of 6 £456.00 / €535.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

This is a fantastic wine and very, very exciting, with purity and brightness to the floral, spicy and blackberry notes. It's full and deep with agility and weightless. You feel the greatness in this. The winemaker says this is more concentrated and structured than the 2022. Lightly salty. 60% whole-berry fermentation. 50% cabernet franc, 30% cabernet sauvignon and 20% merlot. From organically grown grapes." 98-99 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

"The 2023 Les Carmes Haut-Brion was picked September 11 to 25 with 60% whole bunch and more Cabernet Franc than usual. Aging was 70% in new barrels, 20% in 18-hectoliter foudres and 10% in amphorae. This offers plenty of dark berry fruit mixed with cedar and pinecones on the nose, very well defined and focused. The palate is medium-bodied with pliant tannins, and the acidity is very well-judged. Just a soupçon of white pepper appears toward the finish. This is a much more succinct Les Carmes than the 2022. but it's extremely harmonious and characterful." 94-96 points Neal Martin

vinous.com (April 2024)

"Guillaume Pouthier and his team have once again crafted one of Bordeaux's most unique and characterful wines. Revealing aromas of mulberries and raspberries mingled with notions of vine smoke, orange zest, rose petals and spices, the 2023 Les Carmes Haut-Brion is medium to full-bodied, fleshy and concentrated, with a powerful, vibrant and complete midpalate, concluding with a long, ethereal and mouthwateringly saline finish. Sensual, suave and seamless, its beautifully refined tannins are, analytically, more abundant than even those of the 2022 vintage, yet they are so brilliantly integrated as to be near-imperceptible. This blend of 50% Cabernet Franc, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot is crafted for longevity, though its refined structure will make it surprisingly approachable at an early age. It's maturing 70% in new oak barrels, 20% in 18-hectoliter foudres and 10% in amphorae. A creditable yield of 50 hectoliters per hectare represents a decided agronomic success in what was a challenging growing season".

97-99 points Yohan Castaing robertparker.com (April 2023

Pomerol



Château La Conseillante 2023, 75cl

Case of 6 £894.00 / €1050.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"One of the great wines of the vintage, and one that can rival its 2022 counterpart, the 2023 La Conseillante wafts from the glass with a strikingly floral bouquet of violets, lilac, raspberries, exotic spices, candied orange, pipe tobacco and rose petals. Medium to full-bodied, supple and fleshy, its textural attack segues into a layered and enveloping core of pure, vibrant fruit framed by sweet tannins and concluding with a long, precise finish. It's a blend of 88% Merlot and 12% Cabernet Franc, some 30% of which is maturing in amphorae. Harvest began on September 7, lasting until Oct 2, block by block."

98-100 points William Kelley The Wine Advocate (April 2024)

"Wow. What beauty, elegance and length in this young wine, with medium body and vivid, bright acidity that gives energy and greater length. The tannins are extremely fine-grained, with an endless, silky texture. Another al-dente wine with brilliance. Goes on for minutes. 88% merlot and 12% cabernet franc."

97-98 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

"A punch of floral aromatics sets the scene for this gorgeous wine, and this is a brillant La Conseillante with textured powerful depths to the blueberry and blackberry fruit, laced with cocoa bean and espresso, and a fame of juicy tannins on the giving structure and lift. Easily among the most successful wines of Pomerol in the vintage. Started picking September 7 and finished October 2. 3.6ph. 3% of amphora, 43hl/h yield. 70% aged in new oak. Marielle Cazeaux director."

Pomerol



Vieux Château Certan 2023, 75cl

Case of 6 £1110.00 / €1320.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"The 2023 Vieux Château Certan bursts from the glass with demonstrative aromas of dark berries, pencil shavings, violets mingled with notions of burning embers, iris, crushed mint and black tea. Medium to full-bodied, velvety and sensual, with a gourmand attack that segues into a layered, enveloping mid-palate, it's polished and perfumed, with a sweet core of fruit and a long, gently oak-inflected finish. This year's blend of 82% Merlot and 18% Cabernet Franc checks in at 14% alcohol and a pH of 3.74."

94-96 points William Kelley Wine Advocate (April 2024)

"Fresh floral heights to the aromatics, then dark berry fruits and a core of muscles of the palate, classically-weighted with grip and texture, white pepper spice and salted cracker salinity on the finish. Stretches out through the palate, feels gloriously old school, full of hidden depths and pleasures. 43hl/h yield, harvest September 18 through to 29. Youngest vines here are 1988, which helps give the complexity that is so celebrated at VCC."

96 points Jane Anson Inside Bordeaux (April 2024) "A very fine and polished young VCC with subtle density and a racy backbone of tannins. Compact with well-toned muscles and a persistent finish. Very silky. Really grows at the end. 82% merlot and 18% cabernet franc."

97-98 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)



Château Canon 2023, 75cl

Case of 6 £537.00 / €630.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"This is so elegant and sophisticated already, with a really electric presence and length that goes on and on. It's medium- to full-bodied with an intensity of tannins. It remains weightless and energetic. The pH is 3.41, making this a vivid and lively wine. Currant, orange and stone. Sea salt, too. The limestone soils created a unique wine here in 2023. A blend of 71% merlot and 29% cabernet franc."

99-100 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

"Wafting from the glass with aromas of mulberries and raspberries mingled with spices, rose petals, licorice and violets, the 2023 Canon is another brilliant wine from a property whose excellence can almost be taken for granted. Medium to full-bodied, deep and layered, it's seamless and concentrated, its vibrant core of fruit framed by sweet, powdery tannins and girdled by lively acids, concluding with a long, mineral finish."

96-98 points William Kelley The Wine Advocate (April 2024) "Finesse and saline limestone character on full display, spiced plum, textural as ever, with finely boned architecture, in the line of great Canon vintages, with density to the black fruits and the mouthwateringly precise tannic grip and oyster shell salinity. 50% new oak for ageing, harvest September 6 through to October 4 (with Merlot going right through until the end, unlike many places, here they really waited). 45hl/ha yield, in organic conversion. Tasted twice."



Château Cheval Blanc 2023, 75cl

Case of 3 £1170.00 / €1350.00 ex VAT & Duty



Château Cheval Blanc Le Petit Cheval 2023, 75cl

Case of 6 £720.00 / €829.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"One of the most profound wines of the vintage is the 2023 Cheval Blanc, a striking wine that stands out for its strong sense of identity and seamless integration at such an early stage in its life. Wafting from the glass with notes of mulberries, lilac, dark fruits, iris root and violets, it's medium to full-bodied, supple and seamless, with a gourmand core of cool, vibrant fruit that entirely conceals its sweet structuring tannins, concluding with a long, perfumed finish. It's a blend of 52% Merlot, 46% Cabernet Franc and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon, drawing on fully 46 of the blocks that make up Cheval Blanc, and it attained 13.8% alcohol."

98-100 points William Kelley The Wine Advocate (April 2024)

"This is so cabernet, with blackcurrants, blackberries, crushed stone, graphite and lead pencil. Full-bodied with tight, chewy tannins that remain fine yet energetic. Winemaker Pierre-Olivier Clouet says this wine is a benchmark for Cheval Blanc. Reminds me of the great 1983. 13.8% alcohol. 52% merlot, 46% cabernet franc and 2% cabernet sauvignon." 98-99 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

Critical scores:

"There's depth of fruit, good structure and freshness in this black-cherry and chocolate-scented wine. It's full-bodied, yet it tightens up on the finish. Toned, muscular and crisp. 10% of the production of Cheval. 50% merlot and 50% cabernet franc."

94-95 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

"50% Merlot, 50% Cabernet Franc. 15% of the harvest. From 5 parcels out of the 46 currently in production. Cask sample. Leafy and floral, the Cabernet Franc notable. Very smooth with fine, filigree tannins for medium-term ageing. Lots of freshness, so appetising."

16.5 points James Lawther jancisrobinson.com (April 2024)

"There are only 15,000 bottles of the 2023 Le Petit Cheval, a blend of equal parts Merlot and Cabernet Franc that didn't have quite the plenitude of the grand vin. Offering up an attractive bouquet of minty berries, cherries, plums and petals, it's medium-bodied, pillowy and vibrant, with polished tannins and a bright core of fruit. I suspect that a bit of patience will be rewarded by more fat and texture."

89-91 points William Kelley The Wine Advocate (April 2024)



Château Le Tertre Roteboeuf 2023, 75cl

Case of 6 £775.00 / €888.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"The 2023 Le Tertre Roteboeuf offers up aromas of crème de cassis, blueberry liqueur, kirsch, espresso roast and creamy new oak, followed by a full-bodied, rich and layered palate that's sweet, dense and concentrated, somewhat reminiscent of François Mitjaville's 2011. When I tasted it, the wine had only been in barrel for a matter of weeks, as the 2023 took an unusually long time to ferment to dryness."

92-96 points William Kelley The Wine Advocate (April 2024)

"Licorice, black raspberries, flowers, smoke, truffle, and cherries are all the place in the nose, and on the palate. The wine is balanced between its freshness, concentration, depth, and energy. The fruit offers an almost racy profile, with its mint-accented, dark red berries, peppery spice, and licorice on the palate. The finish continues with more of those sweet, spicy, and fresh black raspberries. The blend is 85% Merlot, with 15% Cabernet Franc, 14.5% ABV. Harvesting took place on one day, September 26. Drink from 2028-2050."

94-96 points Jeff Leve The Wine Cellar Insider (May 2024) "Francois explained that he was initially very cautious with his extractions. He started off being gentle so as to not extract anything aggressive, however, he pressed harder and harder tasting each time. To his surprise, the fruit kept on giving and there were no 'rude tannins'. As a result, the wine has terrific colour and is one of the densest and most profound wines of the vintage. The bouquet is a smorgasbord of fine herbs, beautiful perfumed fruit, decadent griotte liqueur, graphite, truffle and damp earth. The palate is sumptuous as ever with velvety crème de mûre fruit. Utterly hedonistic; yet another spectacular Tertre Roteboeuf which belies the challenges of the vintage."

92-94 points Neal Martin vinous.com (April 2024)

"80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc. Cask sample. Bright purple hue. Dark, rich and toasted, those Radoux barrels showing as always at this stage. Ripe but not over the top. Really glossy palate with gourmand fruit, svelte but powerful tannins and freshness. Couldn't be anything but Tertre Roteboeuf but with a little more tension than usual."

17.5 points James Lawther MW jancisrobinson.com (May 2024)



Château Larcis-Ducasse 2023, 75cl

Case of 12 £600.00 / €705.00 ex VAT & Duty



Château Laroque 2023, 75cl

Case of 12 £240.00 / €285.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"This is really classic in character, with a fine tannin structure and medium body. It starts slowly and then accelerates quickly into intense black cherries, currants and a salty note. Savory and subtle. 86% merlot and 14% cabernet franc."

96-97 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

"Excellent quality, this is clearly going to age extremely, has depth, intensity and sculpted tannins, fine grained and sappy. Sweet character to the brambled damson and black cherry fruit, sage, rosemary, lavender, a great benchmark wine as ever, with salinity and grip. Tasted three times, once at the estate with owner Jacques-Olivier Gratiot. 43hl/ha yield, Nicolas Thienpont and David Suire celebrating their 22nd vintage together at the estate. 3.55ph, 50% in new barrels for ageing."

95 points Jane Anson Inside Bordeaux (April 2024)

"86% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc. Cask sample. Deep crimson hue. Attractive berryfruit nose. Fresh and lifted. Lovely texture and aromas on the palate. Good depth of fruit with fine, integrated tannins. Persistent. Good effort. (JL) 14.5%. Drink 2030 - 2045."
17+/20 points James Lawther MW jancisrobinson.com (May 2024)

Critical scores:

"The 2023 Laroque has an outstanding bouquet that shades many of its peers. It conveys transparency and mineralité at a higher level and leaves you wanting more. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins that frame the pure black cherry and raspberry fruit. There is structure here, and the finish is notably longer than other wines of its class. This is very impressive, and I can imagine it aging with style." 94-96 points Neal Martin vinous.com (April 2024)

"Exhibiting aromas of dark, minty berries, bay leaf and creamy new oak, the 2023 Laroque is medium to full-bodied, with a sweet core of fruit, powdery tannins and a penetrating, mineral finish."

92-94 points William Kelley The Wine Advocate (April 2024)

"This is full and substantial, with firm tannins and a crunchy finish. Lots of blue fruit, blackberry, crushed-stone and mineral character. Very structured. 99% merlot and 1% cabernet franc." 93-94 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)



Château Ausone 2023, 75cl

Case of 3 £1320.00 / €1515.00 ex VAT & Duty



Château Pavie Macquin 2023, 75cl

Case of 12 £576.00 / €672.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"Density and well-cushioned fruit, another stunning vintage of a wine that somehow manages to make an effortless impression, edges of cloves and grilled sandalwood, full of nuance and capturing the aromatics depths and heights of the vintage, gorgeous. 100% new oak. Philippe Baillarguet cellar master, Vauthier family owners, organic certified in the vineyard." 97 points Jane Anson Inside Bordeaux (April 2024)

"The 2023 Ausone reveals an incipient bouquet of violet, smoke, dark wild berries, spices and cherries, all beautifully interwoven with creamy new oak. Medium to full-bodied, layered and concentrated, with a rich chassis of tannin, it has a vibrant core of fruit and a long, mineral, vanillin-inflected finish. At 60% Cabernet Franc and 40% Merlot, this ranks alongside the 2014 vintage as one of the most Cabernet-dominant Ausone vintages of recent years, and it will mature for 20 months in new oak barrels."

95-97 points Yohan Castaing
Wine Advocate (April 2024)

Critical scores:

"The depth and intensity is really out of this world. The richness is there, but it's all in balance and has an almost weightless feel to it. It's mediumto full-bodied with purity and definition, and the magic of limestone soils keeps the pH low, giving energy, bright acidity and verve. Terrific young red. 51% merlot, 32% cabernet franc and 17% cabernet sauvignon. Best ever?"

99-100 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

"The 2023 Pavie was picked from September 18 to October 5 at 32.76hL/ha, with some Cabernet Franc actually picked after the Cabernet Sauvignon. Raised in 72% new French oak plus one-year-old barrels, this has a very well-defined and fresh bouquet that articulates the terroir with some style. It is completely different from the Pavie wines I tasted at the estate 10 to 15 years ago - more classical and sophisticated. The palate is medium-bodied with a clean and precise entry. It's lightly spiced with a subtle marine influence - shucked oyster shells and seaweed are embroidered through the black fruit. There's a dash of black pepper toward the finish that remains focused and feels long in the mouth. This is an excellent Pavie in the making." 95-97 points Neal Martin vinous.com (April 2024)



Château Figeac 2023, 75cl

Case of 6 £894.00 / €1050.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"A brilliant classic in the making, the 2023 Figeac unwinds in the glass with aromas of cassis and mulberry mingled with notions of iris, cigar wrapper, pencil shavings, burning embers and spices. Medium to full-bodied, rich and layered, it's deep and concentrated, with an enveloping core of fruit that's framed by powdery tannins and lively acids, concluding with a broad, atypically mineral finish. It's a blend of 41% Merlot, 32% Cabernet Franc and 27% Cabernet Sauvignon that attained 13.5% alcohol." 96-98 points William Kelley

"The density and finesse to this is terrific, offering blackberry, dark chocolate, walnut and hazelnut, as well as currant and sandalwood. Orange peel, too. Full-bodied and compact with a superb core of thick, velvet-textured tannins and a juicy finish. Extremely long. 41% merlot, 32% cabernet franc and 27% cabernet sauvignon." 97-98 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

The Wine Advocate (April 2024)

"Fragrant floral aromatics straight off the bat, peony and violet, and a vibrant juiciness that travels through the palate. Savoury dark fruit character, with flint and textural interest, full of Figeac finesse. 130th vintage of the Manoncourt family at Figeac, and the first vintage where they knew they were Premier Grand Cru Classé A from the start of the season, as it was announced in September 2022. 130mm of rain lower than average over the growing season here, allowing a long slow harvest from September 6 to October 5, 45hl/h yield."



L'If 2023, 75cl

Case of 6 £600.00 / €720.00 ex VAT & Duty

Critical scores:

"The 2023 L'If, crafted by Cyrille Thiepont and originating from vines owned by Jacques Thienpont, unveils a dark bouquet of licorice, dark wild berries, pencil lead, coniferous forest, spices and oak. Medium to full-bodied, creamy and unctuous, it's rich and concentrated with a fleshy core of fruit framed by powdery tannins, culminating in a long, mineral, chalky finish. This is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc."

95-96 points Yohan Castaing The Wine Advocate (April 2024)

"What strikes you about this wine is the centerpalate and the purity of cool fruit notes, such as brambleberry and orange peel. Medium body. Whole and layered with ultra-fine tannins leading to a silky texture and persistent finish." 96-97 points James Suckling jamessuckling.com (April 2024)

Duclot



Duclot Bordeaux Collection 2023, 75cl

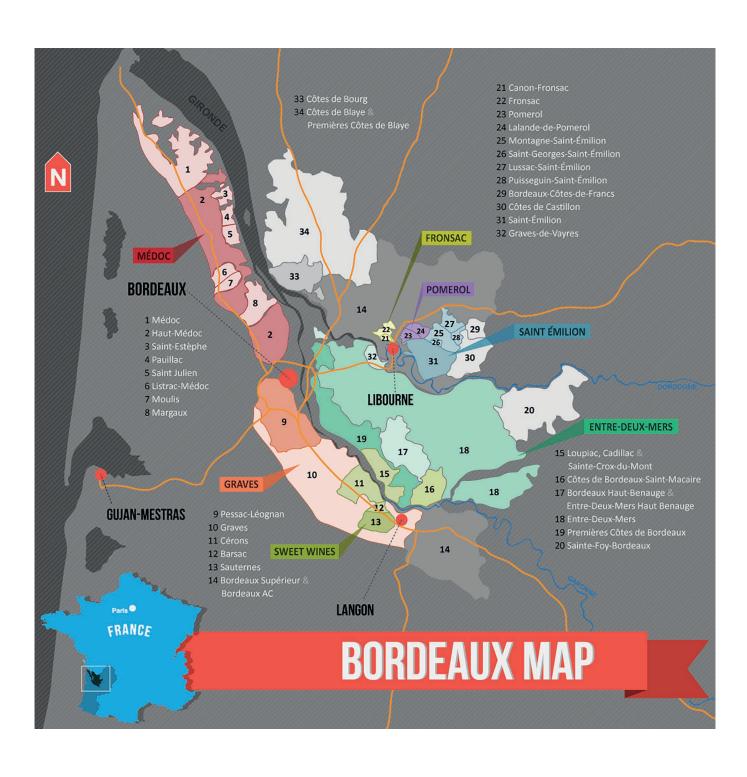
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