



INTERNATIONAL FINE WINES

LEFT AND RIGHT BANK THE 2010 RED'S



"...it is an inescapable truth that 2010 has produced another year of compelling Bordeaux that will go down as a prodigious vintage alongside 2009. Take your pick – this news is either tragic or mythical, but I have tasted enough wines from 2005, 2009 and 2010 to realize that these may be the three greatest Bordeaux vintages I have tasted in my career."

Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate, May 2nd, 2011.

"So, not just in my opinion, 2010 is looking like THE greatest Bordeaux vintage, so far, and, contrary to expectations, not tiring to taste."

Steven Spurrier, Decanter.

"I find it hard to imagine that I will ever again encounter such successful consecutive vintages in Bordeaux as 2009 and the infant 2010s I have just tasted."

Jancis Robinson MW.

"Whatever Deity divvies up good fortune decided that Bordeaux deserved yet another splendid growing season. Whoever's up there bestowed Bordeaux with another embarrassing "once-in-a-lifetime" vintage that followed the "once-in-a-lifetime" 2009."

Neal Martin, Robert Parker's Wine Advocate.

Email: orders@ifw.com.au

Phone: 1300 627 725

Fax: 1300 942 662

Visit: 19-21 Russell Street, Abbotsford Vic. 3067

Terms & Conditions:

- Ex Cellars [XC] prices per bottle are GST inclusive and are payable at time of order.
- You pay the balance between the first listed XC price and the total cost [in brackets] when the wines land in Australia. This full price is ex our Melbourne warehouse and includes all taxes.
- Shipment: expect shipment by mid to late 2013.
- All offers are subject to availability.
- All orders will be confirmed by return email subject to availability and, if required, once we have secured more stocks.
- Formats: All wines are offered as 750ml. But at this stage, you can order 375ml or 1500ml formats (or larger) if you so desire. The XC prices for these will be based on the bottle price – halves for half the price plus the winery surcharge (+\$2.90 per half), magnums for twice the price (+ \$5.40 surcharge). You will be billed the appropriate premium for the formats you order. The premiums for different formats are available on request.
- Please Note: We require a credit card with an expiry date beyond April 2013 as we will apply your credit card to the entire order. You will only be charged for the XC price now, the balance, to the same credit card when the wines are soon to arrive. Local freight charges, if applicable, will also be charged at this time. You will be notified of this by post or email. This process speeds up delivery to you considerably. Thank you for your co-operation.

The wines are listed from Left Bank to Right Bank and then by price. We are able to access a wider offering than those listed below. Please contact us if you wish us to try to source a specific Chateau or wine.

2010 CHATEAU REYNON 1ÈRES COTES DE BORDEAUX

XC \$18/BT [TTL COST \$23/BT]

"From the property of well-known Professor Denis Dubourdieu, this delicious, supple, silky textured red offers abundant notes of black cherries intermixed with hints of cedarwood and earth. Round and generous, it is ideal for drinking in its first 2-3 years of life. Drink 2011-2014" **87-88/100 points, Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)**

"This has a lightly roasted plum and raspberry core, with a streak of firm chalk lending focus to the finish. A pure, mineral style." **88-91/100 points, James Molesworth (Wine Spectator)**

2010 CHATEAU BEAUMONT CRU BOURGEOIS HAUT MEDOC

XC \$19/BT [TTL COST \$24/BT]

Situated close to the Gironde between Margaux and St-Julien, Beaumont covers some 105 hectares on well drained, deep and gravelly soils, 2/3rds of which are planted with Cabernet-Sauvignon, and the remainder with Merlot, Cabernet-Franc and Petit-Verdot. The vines average 25 years of age and are planted at a dense 6666 vines/ha. This elegantly styled Bordeaux, noted for its mellow persona and its bright cherry and blackberry fruit, is a perennial favourite with us and our clients. It's easy to see why. With a soft and gentle palate, a touch of oak and cedar and a fresh finish, this is a classy, great value Cru Bourgeois with on-the-money line and length; pure, attractive and lingering.

"Distinctive autumnal notes on the nose. Fresh and vital and relatively lightweight but very serious. Round and polished on the palate. Full of appeal and with just a bit of leafiness to stop it being sickly. Lots of pure pleasure and confident attack here. Appetising. Sinewy. Drink 2015-2023." **16.5/20 points, Jancis Robinson.**

"Nicely presented ripe fruit, good balance and length, lovely balance. Drink 2014-20."

16/20 points, Decanter.

2010 CHÂTEAU SENEJAC AOC HAUT MÉDOC

XC \$22/BT [TTL COST \$28/BT]

Owned and run by the Cordier sisters who also own Château Talbot in St Julien, with technical advice given by Alfred Tesseron, owner of Château Pontet Canet, this estate is under conversion toward organic farming. Always a great value, well balanced, fleshy, mid-term drinking proposition *"Pontet-Canet's brilliant proprietor, Alfred Tesseron, has begun to look after the wines of Senejac and the result is a tasty, elegant 2010 offering copious berry fruit notes intermixed with hints of cedarwood and spice. This cuvee should be drinkable upon release and evolve for a decade. Drink 2011-202."* **87-90/100 points, Wine Advocate (Robert Parker)**

"Lots of fresh herb and currant character on the nose and

palate. Full body. Soft tannins. Better than 2009." **89-90/100 points, James Suckling (James Suckling.com)**

"Deep, compact yet complex flavours, a very elegant southern Haut-Médoc with a good future. Drink 2014-22." **16.5/20 points, Decanter.**

2010 CLOS FLORIDENE PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

XC \$23/BT [TTL COST \$29BT]

"This Clos Floridene is a little pinched at the moment with a pleasant herbaceous quality. Good definition. The palate is medium-bodied with attractive, harmonious dark berried fruit, good acidity and fine length. Nothing outrageous here...just very fine Pessac wine to accompany your meal." **90-92/100 points, Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)**

"This focused red delivers a pure beam of cherry and red currant fruit easily holding sway over mineral and sweet tobacco notes, with a very pure, fresh finish and lovely mouthfeel." **90-93/100 points, James Molesworth (Wine Spectator)**

2010 CHATEAU LANESSAN CRU BOURGEOIS SUPÉRIEUR HAUT MÉDOC

XC \$23/BT [TTL COST \$29/BT]

Lanessan has always been a wine to search out for value as well as essentially classified growth quality. Shrewd Bordeaux buyers have long followed this excellent Médoc Estate, which produces wine that can easily be confused with a St-Julien or Pauillac. Although Parker himself has tried to 'out' this great value, writing, "This underrated Medoc consistently produces wines of fifth-growth quality..." Château Lanessan remains as eminently affordable as it is fine. It consistently offers copious quantities of creme de cassis, new leather and spice box aromas with a medium to full-bodied concentrated style. It also has an excellent track record of evolving for up to 15 + years or more. All this for less than \$30 per bottle!

"Quite firm, smoky cassis fruit, fine middle depth and elegant structure. Drink 2014-20."

16/20 points, Decanter.

"Soft and silky, with lovely fruit and a long and caressing texture. Excellent core of fruit. Solid for the vintage. An excellent Lanessan."

91-92/100 points. James Suckling (www.jamessuckling.com).

2010 CHATEAU BELLE-VUE HAUT MÉDOC

XC \$24/BT [TTL COST \$31/BT]

Next-door to Giscours (3eme Margaux), Belle-Vue is a fine Chateau specialising in rich, svelte Bordeaux. Most unusually for the Left Bank, as its vineyards contain a high percentage of Petit Verdot. In ripe vintages like 2010, this grape brings intense colour and gorgeous inky depths to Belle-Vue. The site is planted on a deep garonne gravel terroir that has excellent drainage. Some of our contacts tell us this may be the top Haut Médoc of the vintage. As with last year, Petit Verdot makes up 20% of the blend with the wine's balance being

42% Cabernet Sauvignon and 38% Merlot. Certainly the reviews below point to a superb, rich and velvety Left Bank red. Buy with confidence for everyday drinking.

"From the family of the late Vincent Mulliez, like Gironville. Blackish. Very chewy finish and lots of concentration on the way. Something like elderberry juice here. No shortage of oomph but this needs time. It's a bit brutal on the finish at the moment."

17/20 points, Jancis Robinson.

"Rich black berry fruits, elegantly extracted and good length, an elegant, polished wine. Drink 2014-20." **16.5/100 points, Decanter.**

"Rounded and enticing, with a mix of crushed blueberry, plum and raspberry fruit backed by spice and toasty vanilla hints. Not shy about the toast, but there's plenty of fruit as well."

88-91/100 points, Wine Spectator. 2

2010 PETIT BOCQ CRU BOURGEOIS ST ESTEPHE XC \$25/BT [TTL COST \$32/BT]

This primarily Merlot-based St.-Estephe jewel is rightly considered one of the great values of Bordeaux. Unusually for a Left Bank property, Merlot comprises almost 70% of the vineyard area and the rest is planted with Cabernet Sauvignon. The Lagneaux family have 8ha planted across 5 plots, some of which border the highly regarded Chateau Haut-Marbuzet, which itself is tucked between the great Chateaux of Cos d'Estournel and Montrose. This is prime St.-Estephe real estate. As the notes below allude, this looks to be an excellent year for the Bocq with the pushiness of the Merlot moulding perfectly with the structured, perfumed Cabernets resulting in a classic, full bodied and generous wine with fine textures and firm tannins. A fantastic value with loads of sex appeal; this is a must buy for those Médoc lovers with Right Bank sympathies! www.chateau-petit-bocq.com

"Explosive fruit on the nose and fine, fleshy palate with natural tannins and grip for a good future. Drink 2015-24." **16/20 points, Decanter.**

"The Le Petit Bocq has impressive freshness and vitality on the nose with fresh brambly blackberry fruit. The palate is fresh and well defined with tensile tannins, ebullient red-berried fruit marked with superb acidity and vigour. Perhaps not a long-term Saint Estephe but very feminine and beautifully crafted. Tasted April 2011." 91-93pts, Neal Martin, Robert Parker's Wine Advocate.

2010 CHÂTEAU ROLLAN DE BY CRU BOURGEOIS, MEDOC XC \$25/BT [TTL COST \$33/BT]

For over a decade now Rollan de By has been one of the most consistent performers of the Medoc. The 2009 appears to be another great value.

"One of the over-achieving cru bourgeois estates in the Medoc, Rollan de By's 2010 possesses a dense ruby/purple color as well as sweet notes of creme de cassis, toasty oak, forest floor and spice. Medium to full-bodied and rich with excellent freshness, texture and length, it should drink well for a decade or more. Drink 2011-2021." **88-90/100 points, Wine Advocate (Robert Parker)**

"The Rollan de By has a ripe blackcurrant, cassis and plum-scented bouquet with a hint of blueberry jam developing with time. The palate is medium-bodied with a lactic entry, very polished with prominent new oak leading to a fleshy, easy-going finish. Tasted March 2011."

88-90/100 points, Wine Advocate (Neal Martin)

2010 CHÂTEAU CHARMAIL HAUT-MÉDOC XC \$26/BT [TTL COST \$34/BT]

Under the stewardship of Olivier Sèze, Charmail continues to "over-achieve", producing firm and bright fruited wines that age very well whilst maintaining very reasonable prices. A mini St Estephe.

"This impressive 2010 is one of the most powerful, rich wines I have ever tasted from this over-achieving estate in the northern sector of the Medoc. A blend of 50% Merlot, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc and the rest Petit Verdot that achieved 14.2% natural alcohol (a record at this property), it boasts an inky/blue/purple color along with a sweet perfume of blueberry liqueur, acacia flowers, graphite, espresso roast and white chocolate. The complex aromatics are followed by a deep, medium to full-bodied wine with outstanding concentration and texture. It should drink well for a decade or more. Drink 2011-2021." **88-90/100 points, Wine Advocate (Robert Parker)**

2010 CHATEAU POTENSAC CRU BOURGEOIS HAUT MEDOC XC \$34/BT [TTL COST \$43/BT]

Like Sociando-Mallet, Potensac is yet another chateau which illustrates the defunct nature of the 1855 classification of Bordeaux. Potensac regularly turns out wines of classed growth quality, but has only a Cru Bourgeois designation, although in the Cru Bourgeois classification of 2003 (which subsequently collapsed following a legal challenge), it was accorded Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel status, a short-lived recognition of the quality to be found here. There are many reasons why Potensac is so successful, but like all great wines the success has its roots in the vineyard, and of course with the expertise of the proprietors. Jean-Hubert Delon is the latest generation in a vinous dynasty that have shown their quality time and time again in Bordeaux, and their wines are frequently worth seeking out. Like many wines of the region, regardless of its 'lowly' status, it cries out for time in the cellar, and when finally opened it demands to be drunk with food, as do so many of the valued wines of Bordeaux.

"Traditionally made, yet exhibiting some modern touches such as ripe fruit, the 2010 Potensac is another sleeper of the vintage from this estate, owned by Jean-Hubert Delon, the proprietor of Leoville Las Cases. Classic Bordeaux notes of red and black currants, earth, and spice box are well-presented in this deep ruby/purple-colored, medium-bodied wine, which should drink nicely for a decade or more. Drink 2011-2021."

87-89/100 points, Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)

"The Potensac '10 is a blend of 42% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot including 9.3% vin de presse. It offers 13.6% alcohol with a pH of 3.55. There is just a slight sense of sur-maturité on the nose perhaps from the Merlot, just a hint of prune. Not over the top but it is just there. The palate is full-bodied with succulent grippy tannins...a huge Potensac that is redeemed but very silky finish. Long in the mouth, one of the few 2010's that actually reminds me of the 2009. Tasted March 2010." **89-91/100 points, Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)**

"Very primal, with cassis and violet running from start to finish, backed by a lightly chalky, slightly tight finish. Shows the austere side of the vintage, but has admirable length. Tasted non-blind."

90-93/100 points, James Molesworth, Wine Spectator.

2010 CHÂTEAU LABEGORCE CRU BOURGEOIS XC \$33/BT [TTL COST \$43/BT]

Followers of Labegorce can look forward to an excellent vintage of this wine. Our sources tell us it is still very classy and feminine though slightly more layered than the recent vintages.

"This is the debut vintage for consultant Claude Gros and the quality is the finest I have ever tasted from this estate. (Beginning in 2009, the neighbouring estate of Labegorce Zede was incorporated into Labegorce.) Made from a blend of 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot that hit 14% natural alcohol, this sleeper of the vintage reveals a dense purple color in addition to abundant notes of charcoal, spring flowers, black currants and subtle smoky barrique in the background. Medium to full-bodied and ripe with sweet tannin, this beauty should drink nicely for a decade or more. Drink 2011-2021." **88-90/100 points, Wine Advocate (Robert Parker)**

"The Labegorce 2010 has a ripe, opulent bouquet of macerated dark cherries, cassis and boysenberry with moderate definition. The palate is medium-bodied with silky smooth tannins, good acidity and tension towards the finish with dark cherry, cedar and blueberry. Nice focus and poise. Excellent. Tasted April 2011."

90-92/100 points, Wine Advocate (Neal Martin)

"Best ever from here with a blackberry and licorice. Full and velvety with loads going on. Mega." **92-93/100 points, Jamessuckling.com**

2010 CHATEAU CHASSE SPLEEN MOULIS XC \$40/BT [TTL COST \$51/BT]

This popular cru bourgeois is situated in the village of Moulis in the Medoc and owned by the same family as Gruaud Larose, Haut Bages Liberal and Ferriere. The vineyards lie not far from Arcins, the soils are mostly Garonne gravel, with some chalky clay mixed in, and the 80 hectares of vines, which average 30 years of age, are largely Cabernet Sauvignon (73%), with 20% Merlot and 7% Petit Verdot. Manually harvested the fruit is fermented in stainless steel and cement vats with temperature control, and then aged for between 12 and 14 months in oak barrels, of which 40% are new each year.

"A strong effort, the tannic, medium to full-bodied 2010 possesses good minerality, zesty acidity, admirable freshness and both blue and black fruits. With impressive depth and length, this pure Moulis should drink well for 15+ years." **88-90/100 points, Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)**

"Tasted at the Cru Bourgeois primeur tasting. This has a lovely ripe blackberry, cassis and vanillary nose with beautifully integrated new oak. Seamless. The palate is medium-bodied with a rich, liquorice tinged entry, sappy dark berries, a touch of soy perhaps towards the finish. Unruly at the moment, ambitious and sure to make a big impression after bottling. Tasted April 2011." **92-94/100 points Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)**

2010 CHÂTEAU MONBRISON CRU BOURGEOIS SUPÉRIEUR, MARGAUX XC \$42/BT [TTL COST \$54/BT]

All reports state that this is a dark, youthful and strongly-built

Monbrison consisting of Cabernet Sauvignon 59%, Merlot 36%, Petit Verdot 5%, which will benefit from an extended period of time in the cellar. A very strong performance by this wine and an excellent value.

"Fragrant, elegant crushed blackcurrant fruit, good concentration of old-vine depth and will show very well. Drink 2015-25." **17/20 points, Decanter.**

"A bright, floral style, with violet and singed iron notes up front, followed by silky-textured red currant, black cherry and damson plum fruit. An iron note frames the finish."

90-93/100 points James Molesworth, Wine Spectator

2010 CHÂTEAU CANTEMERLE, 5ÈME CRU CLASSÉ HAUT MÉDOC XC \$46/BT [TTL COST \$59/BT]

This fine 87-hectare Estate in the Haut-Medoc region regularly produces vibrant, value-packed 5th growth showing plenty of spice and black fruit characteristics, with supple tannins and a soft texture. Cantemerle is a Grand Cru Bordeaux at an affordable price, making it a popular choice every year.

"A quintessentially elegant style of Bordeaux, the opaque ruby/purple-tinged 2010 Cantemerle possesses elegant floral notes intermixed with hints of blueberries, raspberries, sweet red cherries and currants. Medium-bodied with impressive purity, concentration and texture, it is not a heavyweight, but rather a well-proportioned, stylish red that should drink nicely for 15-20 years. Drink 2011-2031."

91-93/100 points, Wine Advocate (Robert Parker)

"Tasted twice with consistent notes the Cantemerle 2010 has a tertiary bouquet with ripe blackberry, plum and citrus peel. The palate is medium-bodied with a citrus thread lending fine freshness and vitality. There is a little hardness to the tannins but this should soften by the time of bottling. Good tension here. This is a sterling effort from Cantemerle." **90-92/100 points, Wine Advocate (Neal Martin)**

2010 CHÂTEAU SOCIANDO MALLET MOULIS XC \$48/BT [TTL COST \$62/BT]

A favourite of ours every year- Sociando-Mallet is one of those chateaux which makes a mockery of the 1855 classification of Bordeaux. Never entered into the classification of Cru Classé chateaux, and subsequently classified as a Cru Bourgeois in 1932, it has consistently turned out wines which outshine those produced by many of its more illustrious neighbours.

"The classic 2010 displays everything one expects from this over-achieving Haut-Medoc. A dense purple color is followed by aromas of blueberries, black currants, graphite and crushed rocks, a layered, full-bodied mouthfeel, stunning concentration and sweet, more polished and refined tannins than are normally found in barrel samples of Sociando Mallet. This cuvee should last for 20-30 years."

91-93/100 points, Robert Parker, Wine Advocate

2010 CHÂTEAU DU TERTRE AOC MARGAUX XC \$52/BT [TTL COST \$66/BT]

The du Tertre vineyards are remarkable for being in a single, coherent block adjacent to the chateau, covering about 55 hectares of the plateau in Arsac. This is a gravelly, pebbly mound typical of the region, planted with 40% Cabernet

Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot, raised in 50% new oak. The vines average about 35 years of age, with many dating from the 1950s and 1960s, the average age brought down by the planting of 4 hectares of Cabernet Sauvignon and a little Merlot in 1999. The same skilled winemaking team as at Giscours. Very good wines are becoming a habit here.

2011-2026." 87-89/100 points, Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)

"The du Tertre has no Cabernet Franc this year, made from 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and 10% Petit Verdot, the highest ever. The harvest started 28th September until the middle of October. Two samples, the first at the chateau discounted as it had been open too long. The second at the UGC has a very obdurate nose, tightly coiled and not as flamboyant as its peers, but that is not necessarily a bad thing. Blackberry, sous-bois, tobacco and a touch of graphite, good definition but it does not muster the same vivacity as Giscours. The palate is very tannic and a little austere, a hardness to the tannins that will soften with barrel age, nice grip, taut and just a little peppery towards the dry finish. Very classic in style and incongruous to many of its peers, but I think this could surprise a few people in bottle. I look forward to re-tasting it. Tasted April 2011." **91-93/100 points, Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)**

"This is velvety and very juicy with a blueberry, mineral and wet weather character that has hints of black truffles. Full and rich. Best du Tertre ever. Muscular. Not rustic like in the past. 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and 10% Petit Verdot."

91-92/100 points James Suckling (James Suckling.com)

2010 CHÂTEAU PHÉLAN SÉGUR ST-ESTEPHE XC \$59/BT [TTL COST \$76/BT]

This is such a well known estate today, that it is easy to forget that just 20 years ago it was a fallen star of Saint Estephe, when the property was bought by Xavier Gardinier, father of today's owner, and president of the Alliance de Cru Bourgeois, Thierry Gardinier. Today this great property which is sited between Meyney and Calon-Segur is producing delicious, age-worthy wines in a more elegant mould than one tends to expect from St-Estephe.

"A dense purple color along with rich minerality and sweet notes of boysenberries and raspberries are found in this 2010. The irrepressible Michel Rolland (the winemaking consultant at Phelan-Segur) has fashioned an impressively pure, deep, classic St.-Estephe with a supple personality as well as robust tannins. Cellar it for 2-3 years and drink it over the following 12-15 years. Drink 2013-2028" **89-91/100 points, Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)**

"A blend of 41% Cabernet Sauvignon and 59% Merlot raised in 50% new oak, the nose takes its time to reveille in the glass: blackberry, small dark cherries, a touch of smoke and cigar box. Good definition but very tight. The palate is medium-bodied with powdery tannins, good definition but perhaps like Calon-Segur, a little disjointed at this stage. Good weight on the sinewy finish with dense black tarry fruits, quite uncompromising at the moment but that is not such a bad thing in the long term. The Phelan-Segur 2010 has good potential and may surprise in bottle just as the great 2005 is doing. Drink 2014-2025+ Tasted March 2011."

90-92/100 points, Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)

"Fleshy and inviting, with bittersweet cocoa, roasted tobacco,

black currant preserve and warm fig sauce notes all defined and well-supported by dusty tannins."

90-93/100 points, James Molesworth (Wine Spectator)

2010 CHÂTEAU HAUT-BAGES LIBÉRAL, 5ÈME CRU CLASSÉ, PAUILLAC XC \$59/BT [TTL COST \$76/BT]

Claire Villars-Lurton of Chateau Ferrière has been producing some excellent and modestly priced wine at this small Pauillac property in recent years. There are 14 hectares of vines alongside Latour, overlooking the river, with 16 hectares behind Pichon Baron. A firm, structured and classic Pauillac that will benefit with time in the cellar. This is definitely worth a look

"The finest Haut-Bages-Liberal I have tasted in many years, this sleeper of the vintage exhibits a blue/purple hue as well as projected aromatics of blue and black fruits, spring flowers and subtle background oak. Full-bodied with moderately high tannins, a layered mouthfeel and a long finish, it should be at its best between 2017 and 2035. Drink 2014-2035."

91-93+/100 points, Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)

"Tasted at the chateau and at the UGC, cropped at 42hl/ha, the Haut-Bages-Liberal 28% Merlot and 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, this has a very well defined nose of blackberry, briary, wild hedgerow and a touch of crushed stone. With a little aeration there is a touch of oyster shell. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine, quite succulent tannins on the entry that belies the backbone underneath. Good grip, though showing more silkiness under sunny skies and high pressure the following week at the UGC. Tasted April 2011."

90-92/100 Points, Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)

"Well-extracted ripe cassis fruit both briary and rich, good fragrance and purity, structure and length, right up with its 5th growth peers. Drink 2017-28."

17 points/20 points, Decanter Magazine (Steven Spurrier)

"Shows friendly mocha and roasted tobacco up front, followed by a mouthfilling core of blackberry, plum and cassis. The dense but velvety finish has nice latent grip."

91-94/100 points. Wine Spectator (James Molesworth)

2010 CHÂTEAU HAUT BATAILLEY 5ÈME CRU CLASSÉ, PAUILLAC XC \$59/BT [TTL COST \$76/BT]

This property always produces classic Pauillac at a reasonable price. 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot. Classic Pauillac nose, great balance and freshness with spicy oak. This is proper Pauillac - linear and precise. Classic Cabernet nose with cigar box and cedar notes. Punching well above its weight. A great achievement.

"This is always the most St-Julien-like of the Pauillacs (although occasionally Pichon-Lalande possesses a suave, St-Julien character and less power than many Pauillacs). The dark ruby/purple-hued 2010 reveals sweet aromas of red and black currants, cedar and spicy background oak. It is an attractive, elegant, mid-weight wine with polished tannins as well as a restrained style. Drink it over the next 10-15 years. Drink 2011-2026."

88-90/100 points, Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)

"The Haut-Batailley '10 is a blend of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon and 22% Merlot. It has what you might describe as a very "natural" bouquet with wild blackberry, raspberry, just a touch of pencil lead and wet limestone. Not an intense nose, but very well defined. The palate is medium-bodied with very

precise tannins, good acidity, just a little hardness at the front-palate, but this will soften. The backbone is very impressive, the finish very masculine, classic, the Cabernet Sauvignon dominating and imparting great purity and expression of terroir. Superb. As always, one of Pauillac's over-looked gems. Drink 2017-2040. Tasted March 2011." **92-94/100 points, Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)**

"Very good depth of elegant Cabernet fruit and lovely fragrance and lift, a perfectly poised Haut-Batailley. Drink 2015-25." **17/20 points, Decanter Magazine (Steven Spurrier)**

2010 CHÂTEAU GLORIA, CRU BOURGEOIS SAINT JULIEN

XC \$59/BT [TTL COST \$76/BT]

Recommended! Another excellent value - this is a robust, powerful and structured effort in 2010 and as usual this wine performs like a classed growth. Gloria's somewhat harsh tannins of the past have been softened of late, though the wine retains its fine architecture. Generally a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot, it is aged in a combination of large oak foudres and small oak barrels (50% new). In short a generous and supple Gloria, with fullness and richness of flavour.

"A sensational effort, the 2010 Gloria may turn out to be the finest wine they have made since 1982, although the 2009 is a serious contender for that honor as well. A bigger than life as well as more backward than normal offering, the 2010 exhibits an inky/purple color along with an opulent display of black currants, jammy cherries, licorice, cedar and roasted herbs. Some serious tannin gives the wine grip, but this is a full-bodied, big, thick, well-proportioned, super-endowed Gloria that will benefit from 2-3 years of cellaring and keep for two decades. Drink 2013-2033."

91-93/100 points, Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)

"Tasted at a negociant, the Gloria '10 has a well-defined bouquet, very precise with ripe blackberry, raspberry, cedar and graphite. Good intensity, very crisp and focused. The palate is medium-bodied with chalky tannins, very good acidity, reserved and focused with a very powerful finish of blackberry, graphite and tobacco. Long in the mouth, this is a great Gloria for long-term ageing. Tasted April 2011." **94-96/100 points, Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)**

"Mouthfilling, with a core of plum and black currant fruit that expands in the mouth, while tobacco, graphite and roasted fig notes filling in. Long, with a dark tarry edge on the finish."

92-95/100 points, Wine Spectator (James Molesworth)

"Deep cassis fruit, already a fragrant and lifted nose, refreshing Cabernet flavours and good length, the quality of a Cru Classé. Drink 2017-28." **17.5/100 points, Decanter Magazine**

2010 CHÂTEAU PRIEURÉ-LICHINE 4ÈME CRU CLASSÉ, MARGAUX

XC \$80/BT [TTL COST \$102/BT]

Recommended! Etienne Charrier is the new technical director here with Stephane Derenoncourt employed as consultant. The blend is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot. The grapes were sorted by the revolutionary "La Vision" computerised system after harvesting at the very low yield of 30.5 hl/ha. Elevage in 50% new oak. This is a very fine and pure expression of Margaux with lovely freshness and balance. Prieuré-Lichine's relatively high Merlot content gives the wine litheness and elegance with the wines from the best years possessing a beautifully perfumed nose with a

firm structure and good depth of fruit on the palate.

"The strongest Prieure Lichine produced in many years, along with consultant Stephane Derenoncourt, the proprietors have fashioned a wine with true opulence as well as wonderful projected aromatics of blue, red and black fruits, licorice, flowers and subtle oak. Silky tannins, a sexy, generous, opulent attack, mid-palate and finish, no hard edges and well-integrated acidity, tannin and alcohol (14.5%) are all found in this impressive Margaux. Give it 2-5 years of cellaring and drink it over the following 25. It is potentially one of the longest lived wines made at Prieure Lichine since some of their classic efforts from the sixties."

92-94/100 points, Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)

"A blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, raised in 50% new oak, the Prieure-Lichine has intense blackberry, burnt toast and sous-bois on the nose, tobacco developing with time. The palate is better than the nose suggests with fine edgy tannins, a little hardness that will soften during elevage, cedar-infused, broody black fruit towards the tannic finish. Very masculine like many Margaux wine, but very well made. Tasted April 2011."

90-92/100 points, Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)

"Wow. This shows a wonderful core of intense, ripe fruit and velvety tannins. Loads of berry, chocolate and toasted oak. A joy to taste young. Hard to decide if it's better than 2009 at this stage." **94-95/100 points, James Suckling (jamesuckling.com)**

2010 CHÂTEAU D'ARMAILHAC 5ÈME CRU CLASSÉ, PAUILLAC

XC \$69/BT [TTL COST \$89/BT]

As many will be aware, Pauillac has had a terrific vintage. One of the Mouton Rothschild estates, since 1995, D'Armailhac has improved significantly over the last decade, and at under \$100 represents one of Pauillac's shrewdest buys. The estate is located immediately next to Château Mouton-Rothschild itself and is matured in a combination of new oak barrels (30%) and 2nd fill barrels from Mouton. This is classic Pauillac, firmly structured yet rich, fleshy and enticing.

"A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and the rest Petit Verdot, the 2010 achieved in excess of 14% natural alcohol. It exhibits a dense ruby/purple color along with a pronounced nose of underbrush, cedarwood, licorice and black currants. This attractive, elegant, mid-weight Pauillac should be drinkable early in life and last for 15+ years." **89-92/100 points, Wine Advocate (Robert Parker)**

"A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, delivering 13.85% alcohol with close 3.74 pH. The nose is a little muted at the moment despite rigorous coaxing, quite Zen-like with crushed stone, traces of blackberry leaf and cassis, gaining momentum with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with slightly abrasive tannins on the entry although they will soften. This is a relatively masculine d'Armailhac without the glycerine you often find at this stage. More masculine, the Cabernet Sauvignon driving along to a stern but fresh finish. Good potential, but it will require cellaring more than usual." **90-92/100 points, Wine Advocate (Neal Martin)**

"Beautifully concentrated black fruits, already has florality and spice, refreshingly elegant and classy, a wine with individuality, spice and (for Pauillac) charm. Drink 2017-28." **17.5/20 points, Decanter Magazine**

"This has a nice briary core, showing dark fig and plum flavors, with a backdrop of roasted sage and tobacco. Offers good muscle and heft, but also the rounded feel of the house style." **92-95/ 100 points, James Molesworth (Wine Spectator)**

2010 LAFON ROCHET GRAND CRU CLASSÉ, SAINT ESTÈPHE XC \$64/BT [TTL COST \$82/BT]

Recent vintages here at this classed growth St Estephe have been amongst the best ever and now the latest generation of the family, Basile Tesseron, has become involved with the management. Consultant oenologist and a professor of Bordeaux university, Denis Dubourdieu has been brought in to consult on vineyard management and wine-making. This striking property lies just along the road from Cos d'Estournel and overlooks the vineyards of Lafite. The percentage of Merlot in the vineyard here is one of the highest in St Estephe; 50%, with 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. The Tesseron's made the brave (and expensive) decision to relegate much of the Merlot into the second wine and the final blend of the grand vin now includes 64% Cabernet Sauvignon.

"Proprietor Basile Tesseron may have produced his finest Lafon Rochet to date. The 2010's inky/blue/purple color is followed by a distinctive bouquet of spring flowers, blueberry pie, blackberry liqueur and crushed rocks. Although a classified growth, this wine is an undeniable sleeper of the vintage as its price remains reasonable. The wine possesses terrific structure, ripe tannins and a voluminous, broad, deep impression on the palate. The fruit intensity, purity and richness suggest 4-5 years of cellaring will be required and the wine will last for 20+ years. Drink 2015-2035." **92-94/100 points, Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)**

"Tasted twice at the UGC and the Château, the Lafon-Rochet has a very lifted, pure bouquet with tarry blackberry, cassis and dark plum, all very well defined although needing time to coalesce. The palate has a tarry, graphite tinged entry, firm, slightly coarse tannins but very good definition on the fresh finish. Again, just a little disjointed at the moment, but the foundations are here for a great wine. Tasted April 2011." **92-94/100 points, Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)**

2010 CHÂTEAU TALBOT 4ÈME CRU CLASSÉ, SAINT JULIEN NEW XC \$84/BT [TTL COST \$108/BT]

A popular Chateau that always delivers good quality at reasonable opening prices. Like Beychevelle, this a wine that is well known throughout the world and has a huge following thus ensuring strong demand and increased prices when it is ready to drink. Talbot has a reputation for consistency and is one of the most carefully made and reliable of the St-Julien Cru Classé clarets. The best examples are richly aromatic with a bouquet of cedarwood and vanilla scented cassis fruits and a palate packed with well-delineated, ripe, black fruits and finely integrated tannins. A Bordeaux lovers wine and one which is always great value and reliable performer.

"Dark crimson. Delightful, rather floral fragrance. Medium weight. Polished and fine. A really very winning wine with great balance even if it is not the most intense 2010. For relatively early drinking." **17/20 points, Jancis Robinson MW**
"Tasted at the chateau and at the UGC, the Talbot was picked

from 29th September with the young vines and around the 4th October for the older. This is the second vintage under Stephane Derenancourt. A blend 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, the 2010 has a refined bouquet that for me, has better harmony and focus than the 2009 at this stage last year, a purity that perhaps has been missing from the estate in recent vintages. The palate is impressive: the Cabernet Sauvignon very pure and focused, a newfound sense of mineralité and elegance and precision towards the finish. One of the best Talbot produced in recent years...but there is still room to improve. Drink 2014." **90-92/100 points, Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)**

"Abundant amounts of sweet, up-front fruit give this wine a precocious appeal compared to many of its brethren. It exhibits a dense plum/ruby/purple hue along with sweet boysenberry, black currant, cherry, smoke and licorice aromas and flavors. This deep, medium to full-bodied, classic Talbot should be approachable when released, and age effortlessly for 15 or more years."

91-93/100 points, Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)

"Plump and rather open, with delicious plum, raspberry and black cherry fruit melded with spice and anise. This has a nice chocolaty finish, with a velvety feel."

90-93/100 points, James Molesworth (Wine Spectator)

"Rich, very ripe cassis Cabernet fruit, smooth, even succulent flavours, quite an open style in this vintage. Drink 2016-26." **17/20 points, Steven Spurrier, Decanter Magazine**

2010 CHÂTEAU GISCOURS 3ÈME CRU CLASSÉ, MARGAUX XC \$93/BT [TTL COST \$119/BT]

Serious improvements are taking place here (and also at sister property du Tertre) under the Dutch manager, Alexander Van Beek. Make no mistake; this Chateau has the ability to make really great wine. This year the blend is 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc. Fine and elegant despite its concentration. While 2000, 2003, 2005 and 2009 were all outstanding; this firm and concentrated wine could be the best Giscours yet. A magnificent wine from a magnificent estate.

"It is a little unsettling to realize that 2009 and 2010 may be the greatest back to back Bordeaux vintages produced in the history of the region. The over-achieving Giscours has turned in a great performance in 2010, which possesses an opaque purple color as well as notes of licorice, black truffles, sweet blackberry and cassis fruit, flowers and soil undertones. It is very full-bodied and exceptionally opulent, fat and round, but the vintage's acids, precision, high glycerin, alcohol and extract are all present. Give it 2-3 years of cellaring and drink it over the following 25-30 years." **92-95/100 points, Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)**

"Tasted twice at the chateau and the UGC, a blend of 71% Cabernet Sauvignon (the highest ever) and 29% Merlot that cropped at 25-27hl/ha. It has a pH of 3.6 and 13.7% alcohol. I must say, I really love the purity on this nose as dark cherries, cassis and crushed flower soar from the glass. Very fine delineation here. The palate is medium-bodied with very silky smooth tannins, almost Burgundian in texture. Lovely poise and focus, long in the mouth, this is the finest Giscours in a long time. Tasted April 2011." **92-94/100 points, Neal Martin, Wine Advocate**

"Blackish crimson. Quite complex and complete. Just beautifully balanced. This is ripe claret. The sort that Edmund Penning-Rowsell never encountered. Nothing forced nor self

conscious. Just great balance and confidence. Fresh finish. Real Margaux. Appetising and subtle. But no blockbuster. Even a little sinewy on the finish." 17.5/100 points, Jancis Robinson MW

2010 CHÂTEAU LANGOA BARTON 3ÈME CRU CLASSÉ, SAINT JULIEN

XC \$94/BT [TTL COST \$121BT]

A model of typical St Julien restraint and elegance this looks to be great Bordeaux of classic proportions from Anthony Barton. This 15 hectare sister château of Léoville Barton is all too often living in the shadow of the more famous 2nd growth Léoville. Another reason is that it is only available from one négociant. The vineyard is 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc. This estate has been in great form since 1995. While it may not have the reputation of its sister estate in Leoville Barton, it is grown and made exactly the same ways and it is sometimes the better wine. We make a practice of offering it every vintage now. *"Softer than I expected given the highly extracted, exceptionally tannic wines routinely produced by proprietor Anthony Barton, the oaky, powerfully concentrated, dense 2010 Langoa Barton possesses silky, well-integrated tannins. Nevertheless, the level of wood and the primary nature of the black currant and black cherry fruit suggest 7-8 years of cellaring will be essential. This is a 30-year wine."* **90-92/100 points, Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)**

"Tasted at the chateau and twice at the UGC, the Langoa Barton has a very ripe, well-defined bouquet with dark berried fruits and just a hint of oyster shell. The palate is silky smooth, cashmere tannins, very pure with dark cherries a touch of cassis, very refined and composed, slips down the throat beautifully. So pure and beguiling, there is a crystalline quality to this Langoa that is utterly compelling. Drink 2018- Tasted April 2011." **92-94/100 points Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)**

2010 CHÂTEAU GRUAUD LAROSE 2ÈME CRU CLASSÉ, SAINT JULIEN

\$95/BT [TTL COST \$122/BT]

A long time favourite second growth here in Australia from the days when it was owned by Cordier (along with Talbot and others). It is a large estate with 82 hectares planted to 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot and 2% Malbec. As you would expect, the blend in each vintage will vary. The style – rich, vigorous and full bodied – owes much to a higher clay content in the soil than elsewhere in St Julien. Our perception is that this Gruaud Larose is one of the finest and most classically styled Gruaud Larose ever made and represents good value in the context of this vintage.

"This gets my nod as the finest since the 2000 and 1990. The opaque purple-colored 2010 exhibits copious notes of Asian plum sauce, spice box, creme de cassis, loamy soil and a beefy/meaty character. It is full-bodied, dense and powerful, with stunning purity and no evidence of brett (a characteristic of the great Gruaud Larose wines made in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s). Given the 2010's tannin profile, it will require 5-8 years of cellaring and should keep for three decades thereafter." **92-94/100 points, Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)**

"A blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot, delivering 14 percent alcohol, the Gruaud '10 has a very intense nose with blackberry, cassis and a touch of

oyster shell. The palate is medium-bodied with very svelte tannins on the entry, a sumptuous Gruaud Larose that belies that structured underneath seamless towards the finish. This is a Gruaud Larose that is full of character and should age beautifully over 20 years. This may merit a higher score after bottling, hence the plus sign. Tasted April 2011." **92-94+ points, Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)**

"Big, typically smoky-spicy Gruaud nose, lots of fleshy fruit, lifted and almost exotic flavours harmonious depth and length, back on top form for the medium-long term. Drink 2018-30."

18/20 points, Decanter Magazine (Steven Spurrier)

2010 DOMAINE DE CHEVALIER ROUGE PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

XC \$101/BT [TTL COST \$130/BT]

Highly Recommended! This much respected property in Léognan is run with great care by Olivier Bernard whose family took it over from Claude Ricard in 1983. The highly esteemed Stéphane Deroncourt has been retained, bringing immediate benefits to the wines. During the 1980's and 1990's there was a massive programme of replanting and it is only in the last few years, with the vines reaching maturity, that the quality here has returned to that of the great vintages of the 1960's and before. Without doubt, the best vintages of Chevalier are the most recent ones, prices, however, have remained reasonable. Domaine de Chevalier is one of the few Graves estates to produce both first class reds and whites (offered above). Breed, balance and above all, elegance are the watchwords for these smooth, velvety and harmonious wines.

"Domaine de Chevalier, offers masses of beautifully concentrated fruit; nose is already very expressive of vineyard class and perfect ripeness, already richly smooth and the tannins will ensure a long and elegant life ahead." 18.5/20 points, Decanter Magazine.

"This is loaded, with layers of gorgeous plum sauce, linzer torte and blackberry fruit melding beautifully with charcoal, spice and anise. The long, dark finish has some power in reserve, but it's rounded and enticing." **92-95/100 points, James Molesworth (The Wine Spectator)**

"Consultant Stephane Deroncourt along with owner Olivier Bernard have done a fabulous job over recent years, but the tannic, backward 2010 Domaine de Chevalier seemed primary and difficult to assess when I tasted it on three separate occasions. The natural alcohol is 13.5% from a blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and the rest Petit Verdot. A youthful inky/blue/purple color is opaque to the rim and the nose offers elegant aromas of crushed rocks, acacia flowers, boysenberries, black currants and subtle toast as well as oak. This thick, rich, tannic, backward wine will require patience. I would guess 7-10 years of cellaring will be essential, but this is a 30- to 40- year wine." **91-93+/100 points, Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)**

2010 CHÂTEAU GRAND PUY LACOSTE 5ÈME CRU CLASSÉ, PAUILLAC

XC \$120/BT [TTL COST \$155/BT]

Highly Recommended. Xavier Borie now runs this excellent Pauillac, along with Haut Batailley. His brother runs Ducru Beaucaillou. In the top vintages, Grand Puy Lacoste produces magnificent wines – 1982, 1990, 1996, 2000, 2005 and 2009

being superb examples. Frequently a match for the top names of Pauillac but usually cheaper en primeur, its an extremely reliable property - with a great terroir - that the canny buyer should consider every year. The essence of Pauillac and extremely sophisticated, almost under-stated. A claret with great breeding and class.

"The greatest Grand Puy Lacoste since the 2005, 2000 and 1990, the fabulous 2010 reveals all the hallmarks of this estate. It boasts a dense purple color along with classic notes of creme de cassis, blueberries, blackberries, crushed rocks and flowers, sweet tannin and an exceptionally full-bodied and multilayered mouthfeel as well as a boatload of tannin. Cellar it for a decade and drink it over the following three decades. Proprietor Xavier Borie's 2010 recalls the 2005." **93-96/100 points Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)**

"A blend of 83% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17% Merlot, the Grand Puy Lacoste '10 has 13.6% alcohol with a total acidity of around 3.5gms/L. It has a very complex bouquet that I leave over 5 minutes to open, developing ripe blackberry, cassis, oyster shell and a faint tang of Japanese nori (seaweed.) Very good complexity. The palate is beautifully balanced, this GPL revelling in this vintage that countenances the Cabernet Sauvignon so much. Very refined, powerful, beautifully focused with an unerring sense of symmetry. This is a magnificent Pauillac...bravo Xavier. Drink 2020- Tasted March 2011."

97-99/100 points, Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)

"Dramatically intense colour. But both samples I tried were a little bit tired. Sweet start but without great intensity on the mid palate. Very chewy end. Just a bit awkward and unfocused. Correct balance though with good Pauillac character. I'm just a little worried about the freshness of samples... (Stupidly, I had the chance to re-taste this chez Dourthe but was dashing for a plane and missed both it and its stablemate Haut-Batailly. I may well have underestimated this usually very reliable wine.)" 17/20 points, Jancis Robinson MW
"Still rather reserved, but excellent depth of violetty-irony Pauillac fruit and great length and elegance, a fine classic wine that will repay cellaring over a long period. Drink 2017-35."

18/20 points, Decanter Magazine

2010 CHÂTEAU RAUZAN-SEGLA 2ÈME CRU CLASSÉ, MARGAUX NEW XC \$174/BT [TTL COST \$224/BT]

Now comfortably established in the super-second league. Huge efforts are being made by owners Chanel to make great wine at Rauzan, with production of the first wine only around half of the total harvest and the rest used for their excellent second wine - Ségla. Scotsman John Kolasa, formerly of Château Latour, is in charge here. In our view this 2nd growth is consistently the top wine of the appellation after Palmer and Chateau Margaux itself and has been the frequent winner of Margaux appellation blind tastings for recent vintages. This looks like a very distinguished Rauzan; very focussed with real purity and precision, a great Margaux with lift and vitality to balance the ripeness of fruit.

"Only 45% of the crop made it into the 2010 Rauzan-Segla, which is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. This wine has an average pH of 3.6, but at 13.9%, the alcohol is the highest ever measured. The tannin levels in this wine suggest the great 1986 Rauzan-Segla, while the personality of the wine comes close to mirroring the 2005. Dense purple, with hints

of menthol, blueberry, black currant and sweet, earthy notes, the wine is full-bodied and displays terrific purity, texture, and overall precision. The tannin levels are high, but the wine balances them out with its impressive level of concentration. This wine will probably need 5-10 years of cellaring when released and drink well for 30 or more years, given the fact that the 1986, at age 25, is still an adolescent."

92-94/100 points, Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)

"Cropped over four weeks instead of three because of the uneven flowering of the Merlot, the Rauza-Segla delivers 14% alcohol with a pH of 3.6, a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot 3.5% Petit Verdot and 1.5% Cabernet Franc. Tasted three times, it has a very "strict", tightly wound bouquet. It takes time to open up, with faint notes of shellfish inflecting the very fresh blackberry and graphite fruit. The palate is very well balanced with saturated tannins, vibrant acidity, that Cabernet Sauvignon (yet again) imparting graphite and mineralité into the wine. Quite linear towards the finish, long in the mouth. A great wine...though I suspect that the 2009 may turn out to be the pick of the two. Tasted April 2011." **92-94/100 points, Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)**

"What a wonderful wine with flower, currant and hints of minerals and wet earth with some smoke. Full bodied, with chewy and creamy tannins. The texture is incredibly long with notes of citrus, dark fruits, and ripe raspberries. Super distinguished style."

97-98/100 points, James Suckling (JamesSuckling.com)

"Deep expression of complex Cabernet fruit and fine aromatic lift of wild violets, the ripeness backed by perfect tannis, all in depth and harmony, a very exciting wine with a great future. Drink 2020-45." **18.5/100 points. Decanter Magazine**

2010 CHÂTEAU LÉOVILLE POYFERRÉ 2ÈME CRU CLASSÉ, SAINT JULIEN XC \$176/BT [TTL COST \$227/BT]

Very Limited and Highly recommended. This Léoville has made big steps forward in recent years. It, along with Barton, continues to be very good value for money. Léoville Poyferré traditionally produced the softest and most supple wine of the 3 Léovilles, yet in the last decade – with Michel Rolland's consultancy input, the wines have definitely put on weight and body. This is largely due to the grapes being harvested riper and later, and because of the increased exposure to new oak in the maturation process. Today Poyferré is smoother and fleshier than its seriously structured neighbours. It should be enjoyable earlier and also be able to stand the test of time. Made from a lower percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon than most Saint Juliens, this is 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Franc, matured in 100% new oak. The 80 hectare vineyard (20ha of which is for the 2nd wine Moilin Riche) is 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 9% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc.

"One of the prodigious wines of the vintage, the Cuvelier family has produced an outstanding 2010 that must tip the scales at 14.5+% alcohol. It boasts an opaque purple color in addition to a sweet perfume of spring flowers, black raspberries, creme de cassis and a hint of spicy oak. This seamlessly constructed St.-Julien possesses massive concentration, moderately high tannins, abundant glycerin, an unctuous texture, remarkably fresh acids and wonderful precision. It will benefit from 5-6 years of cellaring and last 30-35 years."

95-98/100 points, Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)

"Tasted at the chateau and twice at the UGC, the Leoville Poyferre is a blend of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc, a pH of 3.7 and alcohol at 14%. It has a spellbinding, extraordinarily pure bouquet that in an obtuse way reminds me of a Romanee St. Vivant. So much panache. The palate is medium-bodied with silky smooth tannins, one of the most sensual of all the 2010s that I have tasted. Seamless cashmere texture towards the finish with dark cherries, blueberry and crème de cassis all wrapped up in a veil of vanilla. Superb. Drink 2015- Tasted April 2011." **93-95/100 points, Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)**

"This is so velvety and beautiful with a juicy, orange peel, raspberries and currant character on the nose and the palate. Full with a long, long finish. Wonderful texture to this wine. Dense and yummy." **93-94/100 points, James Suckling (JamesSuckling.com)**

"Very concentrated and luscious looking. Exceptionally deep crimson. Very fine and sophisticated on the nose. Both concentration and lift but then perhaps just a bit too concentrated on the palate? Certainly very attention grabbing with lots of very ripe, very dry fruit. Lustrous. With some welcoming appeal. Pure, luscious Médoc Cabernet. Very long and vibrant."

17.5/20 points Jancis Robinson MW

"Fine extraction of black fruits, both richer and more tannic than the Barton, very good ripeness for long ageing. Drink 2020-40." **18.5/20 points Steven Spurrier, Decanter Magazine**

2010 CHÂTEAU PONTET CANET 5ÈME CRU CLASSÉ, PAUILLAC

XC \$207/BT [TTL COST \$266/BT]

Very Limited and Highly recommended. The dramatic rise in quality at this fine Pauillac estate has been one of most discussed topics amongst the Bordeaux cognoscenti in recent years. As far as we know this is the only fully biodynamic Cru Classé estate and this vintage is their first certified release. Whether the natural balance of the vineyard is solely responsible for the sharp rise in quality is hard to quantify but this we can be sure of: Pontet Canet is now consistently producing wine of "super-second" quality. Alfred Tesseron has been making classic Pauillac here every year since the excellent 1994 and recent vintages have been amongst the best ever, scoring impressively when shown in blind tastings. Pontet Canet is now pushing the Pichons as Pauillac's top non-first growth. The vineyard is now bio-dynamic and is being worked by horses; the grapes are fastidiously sorted manually by a team of 30 people on specially made sorting tables. 65% Cabernet Sauvignon - from the special, elevated Gunzian gravels - 30% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot in two thirds new oak. This is a powerful, voluminous and very exciting Pauillac with great ageing potential.

"Pontet-Canet's 2010 harvest took place between September 29 and October 17 (this vineyard is one of the few in Bordeaux that is fully certified as biodynamic) and the final blend was 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot that achieved nearly 15% natural alcohol. A remarkable, full-bodied effort (as was the estate's 2009 and 2008), like so many recent vintages from proprietor Alfred Tesseron, it is of first-growth quality (some may even argue that it eclipses several first-growths). Dense purple to the rim, it offers classic notes of creme de cassis, graphite, subtle smoke and spring flowers. Multidimensional with massive concentration as well as vivid purity, precision

and freshness, this is another astonishing effort from an obsessive/compulsive proprietor who is doing everything right. On the downside, this 2010 will require a decade of cellaring and should evolve for 50+ years. It will be fascinating to drink it side by side with the 2009 and 2008." **96-100/100 points, Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)**

"The Pontet Canet has a very pure bouquet that you could almost compare to a Burgundy. Blackberry, dark cherries, a touch of mint and graphite, exceptionally well defined, flowering with 3-4 minutes in the glass. The palate is full-bodied with very fine but firm, tensile tannins, perhaps even more purity than the 2009, not a million miles away (both geographically and stylistically) from Mouton-Rothschild. The finish is very smooth with a sorbet-like freshness, firm grip, long in the mouth towards the finish with some crème de cassis and blueberry towards the finish. The Merlot content lends this a little more opulence than some of the other Pauillac 2010s. There is a lot of volume to this wine, really fills the mouth with a sweet, sensual finish, but keep find myself yearning for more Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink 2020-2050. Tasted March 2011."

93-95/100 points, Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)

Dense, rich and minty on the nose with real density. Lots of luscious chew. This is clearly from a great vintage with huge vivacity. Heavy undertow. Long. Minerals and firm. Racy."

17.5+/20 points, Jancis Robinson MW

"Masses of concentrated cassis fruit, but already has wild violet fragrance of the greatest Pauillacs, superb middle sweetness, perfect structure and length, perhaps more elegant than Pontet-Canet's great 2009. Drink 2016-35." **18.5/20 points, Decanter Magazine**

2010 CHÂTEAU MONTROSE 2ÈME CRU CLASSÉ, ST. ESTÈPHE

XC \$272/BT [TTL COST \$350/BT]

Rightly hailed as a great, traditional name of Bordeaux. A La-tour of St Estèphe, it is probably true that it has not performed up to its great potential, despite some brilliant wines – like 1989, 1990, 2000, 2003 and 2005. It is now under new ownership, and there is an expectation that we will see even greater things in the future. The legendary Jean-Bernard Delmas (formerly of Haut Brion) is now in charge of winemaking and believes this to be one of the greatest wines that he has ever made - and remember that he was responsible for 1989 Haut Brion! Delmas compares it to Montrose 1961 and 1982. The 2010 continues the trend towards more elegance. A very classic Bordeaux from one of the great years for this Estate. *"Jean Delmas believes this is one of the all-time great wines of Montrose, comparable to the 2009, 1990, 1989, 1959, 1947, 1945 and 1929. The 2010 harvest took place between September 27 and October 15, and the final blend is 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot that achieved 13.75% natural alcohol, a fraction above the 2009's 13.7%. Somewhat reminiscent of the 1989, only even inkier and richer, the 2010 boasts a dense purple color along with glorious aromatics of blueberries, boysenberries, black currants and a crushed chalk-like minerality. The tannins are less intrusive than I would have suspected for such a young Montrose, but they are unquestionably ripe and well-integrated. Deep, full-bodied and massive, this beauty should be at its finest between 2018-2050."*

96-99+/100 points, Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)

"Tasted at the Château, Montrose is a blend of 53% Cabernet

Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot picked between from 27th September through to 15th October, cropped at 45hl/ha. It has 13.8% alcohol with a pH 3.65. The bouquet is tightly wound at first, pure blackberry, dark cherries, just a touch of coca with very good vigour. Very juicy, quite saturated with a very dense, impenetrable finish. Sinewy, structured and masculine, with a slight saline touch on the aftertaste. This is a great Montrose that will one day be fascinating to compare against the 2009. Drink 2020-2050. Tasted March 2011."

96-98/100 points, Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)

"This is really integrated and polished, with a full body and super layers of cashmere-like tannins. Goes on and on. 53 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 37 percent Merlot, 9 percent Cabernet Franc and 1 percent Petit Verdot." **95-96 James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, March 2011**

"53% Cabernet Sauvignon (75% last year! And expected to increase), 37% Merlot, 9% Malbec, 1% Petit Verdot. 64% of total production and remarkable for the unusually high proportion of Merlot in the grand vin blend - because of the purchase of vineyard from Phelan Ségur last year (did this help the Phelan purchase of restaurant Taillevent in Paris?) Very deep crimson. Quite different from most of these northern Médoc wines - much rounder and less fresh (presumably because of the Merlot). Very different from classical austere Montroses but soft and charming. As a wine, it is extremely well made with just a little furriness on the finish. As a Montrose it's a bit disconcerting but my mark ignores this. Rather unusual lack of freshness. Just a bit plodding, astringent and sweet on the end. 13.8%" **17/20 points, Jancis Robinson MW**

2010 CHÂTEAU PICHON-LONGUEVILLE LALANDE 2ÈME CRU CLASSÉ PAUILLAC XC \$284/BT [TTL COST \$366/BT]

Very Highly Recommended. One of THE great names of the Médoc and a true "super-second". Pichon Lalande is one of the most in-demand wines of Bordeaux. It is especially popular in Asia due to it's slightly exotic, spicy character and plump ripe fruit - Merlot represents 35% of the plantings here - and polished texture. The Chateau is now owned by Champagne house Louis Roederer. A classic Pichon Lalande of charm, elegance and velvety texture.

"I tasted the 2010 Pichon Lalande on three separate occasions, two consistent and one that underperformed, hence the question mark. A blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot, it reveals an opaque purple color as well as a thick, unctuous style with fresh blackberry and cassis fruit intermixed with hints of graphite, herbs and coffee. The vintage's tell-tale minerality is present in this structured, tannic, backward effort. It will require 5-6 years of cellaring and should age for 25-30 years."

92-95+ Robert Parker, Wine Advocate (194), May 2011

"A blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. The Cabernet Sauvignon dominates the nose with blackberry, rose petal, pencil box and a touch of cedar all with very fine definition. The palate is silky smooth on the entry, very harmonious and focused, fine mineralité coming through, sensual and velvety towards the ripe finish. Extremely pure but powerful, this is a precise, brilliantly executed Pichon-Lalande. I bet Sylvie Cazes is hoping that all vintages will be like this. Drink 2016-2040. Tasted March 2011."

95-97/100 points, Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)

"Very, very deep crimson. Savoury yet rich - a most attractive mix! Just a little raw; is there much Petit Verdot in this? (No, just 3%, and 7% Cabernet Franc.) Very drying tannins. Not sure it's quite as dense as it needs to be for the tannin content. Inky. The gap between grand vin and second wine seems unexpectedly narrow here this year. Perhaps this was just not a good day for the grand vin? I will taste it blind tomorrow... Tasted blind 8 Apr: Dark, intense crimson. Very rich and supple. Round and flattering. Mid weight and nicely balanced. Very easy, representative, succulent example of 2010. Lots of integrity."

17+/20 points, Jancis Robinson MW

"Lovely expression of supple, rich fruit, beautiful middle palate, lacks perhaps the power of some wines in this vintage, but makes up for it in polish and elegance. Drink 2020-40."

18.5/20 points, Decanter Magazine

ST EMILION & POMEROL

2010 CHÂTEAU DE FONBEL ST-EMILLION XC \$30/BT [TTL COST \$39/BT]

Highly Recommended! This property, owned by the Vauthier family, is situated below the Vauthier's other properties, Ausone and Moulin St Georges near Monbousquet. In Fonbel, Alain Vauthier has created a wine that offers more than a hint of the plush voluptuous Ausone style at a fraction of the price. Four grape varieties are grown for Château de Fonbel - Merlot (70%) dominates, supplemented by Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Carmenere (an unusually high 7% in 2010). The wines are aged in 30% new oak barrels. Forward and attractive with bright red fruits Fonbel is always a very affordable sure bet.

"Very dark berried, slightly herbaceous fruit on the nose that is well defined and quite rustic compared to recent vintages. The palate is full-bodied with firm, strict tannins, somehow reminding me of a Malbec. Good weight and length, but not as complex as the 2009. Tasted March 2011." **87-89/100 points, Neal Martin, Wine Advocate.**

"Bright and fruity with a lovely purity of cherries and berries, minerals and firm tannins. Lively acidity. The 7 percent Carmenère gives this a lively and unique style."

91-92/100 points, James Suckling (jamesuckling.com)

"Lively, fresh and accented towards the fruit. Has the originality of Cabernet Sauvignon, Carmenère and Petit Verdot in the blend. Good value, easy drinking. Drink 2013-2018."

15.5/20 points, Decanter Magazine.

"Taut with briar and blackberry flavors, this shows sappy black cherry on the finish, with buried minerality." **88-91/100 points, James Molesworth (Wine Spectator)**

2010 CHÂTEAU FONROQUE GRAND CRU CLASSÉ SAINT EMILION XC \$40/BT [TTL COST \$51/BT]

Perhaps the wines of Chateau Fonroque are best summed up by Alain Moueix himself, who says "I don't want to make big, impressive wines at Fonroque that stand out at tasting competitions. On the contrary, my goal is to produce wines that reflect the harmony I am working so hard to create in the vineyard...". This philosophy is indeed manifest in the wines; these are not rich, seductive, fleshy or indeed flashy wines. Rather they are more elegant & firm: attractive in a classic sense.

"Much softer than I would have expected given the past history of this St.-Emilion estate, Fonroque's 2010 has a dense plum/ruby color with notes of loamy soil and sandstone intermixed with black cherry and black currant. Round and generously endowed, but with impressive elegance and purity, this medium to full-bodied shows surprisingly sweet tannin and accessibility, which is generally uncharacteristic of a young Fonroque. This wine should be drinkable in 3-4 years and last for 15 or more. Drink 2014-2029." **88-90+ points Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)**

"Wonderful texture to this young wine, with silky tannins, minerals and dark fruits. Full and fresh. Subtle with finesse." **91-92/100 points, James Suckling (JamesSuckling.com)**

2010 CHÂTEAU FAUGÈRES GRAND CRU CLASSÉ, SAINT EMILION

XC \$49/BT [TTL COST \$63/BT]

What has perhaps really put Faugères on the map is high accolades from Robert Parker, not to mention the consistent value and quality this estate offers each year. The Château Faugeres is now producing text book 'new wave' Saint Emilion - typically 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon - sourced from vines that are 35 years old. The wine typically offers sweet-fruited, ripe and luscious texture with firm tannins that provide substance and longevity.

"This estate, which was purchased a few years ago by Swiss entrepreneur Silvio Denz, continues to push the envelope and improve on what was already an impressive group of wines from previous proprietress Corinne Guisez. From a 50-acre vineyard in the commune of St.-Christophe des Bardes, the 2010 is a blend of 85% Merlot and the rest mostly Cabernet Franc and a small amount of Cabernet Sauvignon. Perhaps the most powerful wine ever made at Faugeres, it tips the scales at 15% alcohol. Both Michel Rolland and Stephan von Neipperg consult at this estate. The 2010's dense blue/purple color is followed by notes of creosote, toasty new oak, licorice, blueberry liqueur and cassis. This dense, opulent, full-bodied, massive effort is surprisingly civilized and intense. It should drink well for 10-15 years." **91-94/100 points, Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)**

"This delivers a pure beam of raspberry and blueberry fruit that's nicely rounded, with plenty of stuffing on the back end. Violet and anise notes flutter through with buried minerality." **91-94/100 points James Molesworth (Wine Spectator)**

"This is rich and chewy with blackberry and licorice character. Firm and long tannins. Dark chocolate and very structured. A little New World but intense. Good potential for aging." **93-94/100 points, James Suckling (JamesSuckling.com)**

2010 CHÂTEAU L'ARROSEE GRAND CRU CLASSÉ, SAINT EMILION

XC \$58/BT [TTL COST \$75/BT]

Chateau L'Arrosée is a fabulous Saint Emilion vineyard situated on the slopes in the heart of the appellation just below Chateaux Ausone and Angelus. Sold at the beginning of the new millennium, the new owners, the Caille family, have made significant investments and since the 2002 vintage the property has been revitalised, producing wines of exceptional quality that are still sold at very modest prices. The brand new, high tech winery is very impressive and includes a unique circular sorting table where a team of 15 pickers painstakingly select every grape. The cepage is 50% Merlot,

25% Cabernet Franc and, rare for the area, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon. This gives the wine more structure and a certain "Medoc" edge, as does the 100% new oak. A very good l'Arrosee that will be very long lived.

"The dense ruby/purple-hued 2010 possesses copious notes of graphite, blueberries and black raspberry liqueur intermixed with subtle smoky oak. A more structured effort than other recent vintages, deep, pure, full-bodied and impressive, this property has regained its momentum over the last 4-5 years, and their 2010 is another powerful yet elegant effort that admirably translates its terroir. Give it 4-5 years of cellaring and drink it over the following two decades." **91-94/100 points, Robert Parker, Wine Advocate**

"A structured, weighty style, with dark blueberry, fig and blackberry fruit. There's ample toast, but it's well-embedded. Big but polished." **89-92/100 points, Wine Spectator**

2010 CHÂTEAU CLOS FORTET GRAND CRU CLASSÉ SAINT EMILION

\$150/BT [TTL COST \$192/BT]

Recommended. Situated in the heart of Saint Emilion, close to Canon, this is one of the great vineyards of the appellation. Recent vintages have been extremely good. Very polished and lavish in the modern style but never over-done. Clos Fourtet has 19 hectares of vineyards planted with Merlot (72%), Cabernet Franc (22%) and Cabernet Sauvignon (6%). The wine is vinified traditionally and is aged in oak barriques (60-70% new) for 18 months. It is bottled unfiltered.

"Although this superb 2010 is built differently, it is as impressive as the extravagant 2009 and the prodigious 2005. A blend of 85% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc made from yields of 31 hectoliters per hectare, with 14.5% natural alcohol, Stephane Derenoncourt is the consulting winemaker. One can not say enough about what proprietor Philippe Cuvelier has accomplished at Clos Fourtet over the last decade turning a perennial under-achiever into one of the great wines of Bordeaux. Production from this 50-acre vineyard is nearly 4,000 cases. The inky/purple-hued 2010 displays a beautiful bouquet of incense, blueberry and blackberry liqueur, licorice and camphor. Full-bodied and opulent with more tannin and glycerin than the massive 2009, the 2010, while less sumptuous than the 2009, is a huge effort that is undoubtedly capable of lasting 30+ years."

95-97/100 points, Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)

"Deep purple in colour, the Clos Fourtet has a very opulent bouquet with lifted black fruits laced with liquorice and mint. The palate is full-bodied with a ripe, oaky entry, missing a little freshness at the moment though there is a pleasing linearity on the persistent finish. This will show much better in bottle. Tasted April 2011." **90-92+/100 points, Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)**

"Very dark, lustrous crimson. Very interesting and intriguing nose with, already, many layers. Toast, orange peel, lustrous sheen, something akin to coconut milk (but not the cheap sheen of too-obvious American oak). Very winning and engaging. Breadth and length. Dry but not drying finish. Very vital on the finish - and long too." **17.5/20 points, Jancis Robinson MW**

2010 CHÂTEAU CANON 1ER GRAND CRU CLASSÉ (B) ST EMILION

XC \$187/BT [TTL COST \$240/BT]

Château Canon, a famous St.Emilion property is named after Jacques Kanon who bought the estate in 1760. Since 1996 it has been owned by Chanel, who also owns Château Rauzan-Ségla in Margaux. Located in the centre of the St.Emilion appellation, to the south-west of St-Emilion town, Canon has 18 hectares of vineyards split between the limestone plateau and the clay/loam côtes. They are planted with 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Franc. Vinification is traditional: up to 20 days in temperature-controlled wooden vats followed by 18 months' maturation in oak barrels (70% new).

"Along with the brilliant 2009, the 2010 Canon appears to be the finest wine made at this estate since the 1982. Aficionados of this 50-acre vineyard situated on the top of the St.-Emilion plateau will have fun comparing the 2009 and 2010 over the next 30 years. Composed of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc that hit 15% natural alcohol (a record here), the 2010 offers up perfumed notes of spring flowers, crushed chalk, black currants, black cherries, earth, forest floor and oak. Full-bodied as well as elegant and precise, this brilliant effort needs 5-8 years of cellaring and should drink well for three decades or more." **92-94+/100 points, Robert Parker (Wine Advocate)**

"Tasted at the chateau, the Canon is a blend of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc including 10% vin de presse, representing 70% of the crop. It was picked between 23th September and 6th October. It has a dark ruby colour. The nose is fairly high toned and primal with pomegranate, redcurrant and blueberry: a bouquet that is relatively "glossy" for Canon. The palate is very smooth on the entry; plush and rounded, lower acidity than I was expecting with rounded, very sweet crème de cassis, blueberry and plum on the svelte finish. I would like to see a little more backbone and dryness on the finish, a little too generous at this stage. Re-tasting the 2009, I find a little more tension and edginess on the previous offering. Drink 2013- Tasted March 2011."

90-92/100 points, Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)

"Blackberries and hints of spices and fresh herbs. This is so tasty. It has wonderful round and juicy tannins, with lots of fruit yet subtle and spicy, with chocolate and light coffee. So yummy. Hard not to drink it. This is a classic style of Canon, such as 1955 or 1959. Better than 2009."

95-96/100 points, James Suckling (JamesSuckling.com)

"I loved the '09 and this is as good if not better. Poised and elegant with great purity of fruit. Dense but long and linear. Beautiful texture and tannins. Drink 2018-2040."

18.5/20 points, Decanter Magazine