



INTERNATIONAL FINE WINES

# THE 2010 EN-PRIMEUR RESIDUAL OFFER



*"...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.*

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#### 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 REDS

### 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 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..." Chateau 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](http://www.jamessuckling.com)).

### 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](http://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 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 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 its 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, bril-

liantly 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**

### **2010 CHÂTEAU COS D'ESTOURNEL 2ÈME CRU CLASSÉ ST-ESTEPHE XC \$406/BT [TTL COST \$523/BT]**

Located in the south of the appellation on the border with Pauillac Cos d'Estournel is without doubt the leading estate in St-Estéphe. The vineyards are superbly sited on a south-facing gravel ridge with a high clay content, just north of Lafite. It's great to report the 2010 looks like a return to normality - whatever that is in Bordeaux - after a controversy surrounding 2009 release. In fact the recent trajectory of this searching, forward thinking estate suggests it's already within touching distance of the first growths. If you value truly great, glowing Bordeaux from the finest sources, this Cos will offer ample reward after a decade or so.

"Representing 55% of the production and cropped at 35 hectoliters per hectare, Cos d'Estournel's final blend in 2010 is 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot and the rest tiny portions of Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Compared to the massive 2009 (14.6% natural alcohol), the 2010 achieved slightly less alcohol, but also a lower pH, which accounts for its more tannic, backward, huge style. An inky/purple color is accompanied by aromas of damp earth, black currants, blackberries, licorice and charcoal. Firm, thick and super-concentrated, it is another outrageously impressive wine that will require 6-10 years of cellaring. It should keep for 30+ years. It is somewhat 2005-ish in its structure and palate impression."

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

"Tasted twice just to check, several days apart, the first under cloudy skies, the second under blue. A blend of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot cropped at 36hl/ha, delivering 14.5% alcohol with a pH of 3.5 (it was 3.68 for 2009), this has a very refined, focused bouquet with pure blackberry, blueberry, Dorset plum scented nose with wonderful tension and mineralité. I really like the precision on this 2010, far more than the exotic 2009. The palate is full-bodied with quite assertive dry tannins on the entry rendering this a slightly more masculine Cos d'Estournel that is quintessential Saint Estephe but nods southwards towards Pauillac. Touches of graphite and cedar interlace the pure blackberry and briary fruit with great ten-

sion towards the finish. Very fine sense of symmetry here with great length in the mouth. Back to the Cos d'Estournel I love. Drink 2018- Tasted March 2011"

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

"This is a classic Cos, with wonderful layers of ultra-polished tannins and wonderful character of spices, currants and minerals. I love the finish and raciness to this. Lots of pedigree." 96-97/100 points, James Suckling (JamesSuckling.com)

"78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot. 55% of total production. A real tonic. Very, very deep blackish crimson. Real energy and vitality and racy stuff. Pure, refined perfect Cabernet - pretty rich and alcoholic underneath but much, much drier and more appetising than either the 2009 - or the average Napa Cabernet, for example. Minerals and fruit in a lovely tincture. Such great texture and nobility. Racy thoroughbred Great balance and potential. Purity and energy - but you'll need to wait so long for it!"

**18.5/20 points, Jancis Robinson MW**

"Exotic tobacco leaf nose, superb ripe fruit and a violetty lift, more controlled and more classic than 2009, a great wine. Drink 2018-40"

**19/20 points, Decanter Magazine**

## **2010 CHÂTEAU LÉOVILLE LAS CASES ST-JULIEN 2ÈME CRU CLASSÉ, SAINT JULIEN XC \$95/BT [TTL COST \$122/BT]**

Highly Recommended. There is little doubt that Château Léoville Las Cases is one of the finest wines of the Médoc. Médoc. The largest of the Leoville's It's 97 hectares of vineyards are superbly sited on gravelly-clay soils with the largest plot - the grand enclos; the heart and soul of Las Cases - being surrounded by a stone wall and stretching between the village of St-Julien and Château Latour. The combination of south/south easterly exposure, the microclimate provided by the estuary - less than 1km away - and the deep gravelly soils make this a Garden of Eden for Cabernet. The 2010 is a blend of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc. Léoville Las Cases produces arguably the most exotically perfumed wine in the Médoc and this can be partially attributed to the must being fermented at lower than average temperatures, which leads to its youthful aromatic richness being retained. This looks to be a great Leoville Las Cases; an authoritative wine of almost Pauillac-like power and structure

"As one would expect, this is a powerful, concentrated wine with 13.7% natural alcohol (compared to 2005's 13.2%). The pH is quite normal at 3.56, and its relatively high total acidity gives it a classic, fresh, yet backward style. Given how long vintages such as 1982, 1986, and I suspect, 2000 are taking to reach maturity, prospective purchasers of this wine should easily invest in a decade of cellaring, although I suspect it will be closer to 15 or more years before it reveals secondary nuances. A good 40- to 50-year wine, it is a dense purple, full-bodied style of Las Cases, with classic sweet kirsch, graphite and black currant fruit as well as hints of new saddle leather and subtle oak. Backward, layered and multi-dimensional, the wine is stunningly rich, but brooding. Forget it at least until 2020 or later."

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

"Cropped at 36.7hl/ha, the Leoville Las-Cases is a blend of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc, offering 13.7% alcohol and a pH of 3.56. It will be raised in 75% new oak. The nose is very intense with notes of

blackberry, cassis, tobacco and a touch of black truffle, all very well defined and perhaps less generous, but more cerebral than the 2009. The palate is full-bodied with exceptionally silky smooth tannins, wonderful harmony and sense of beguiling composure and completeness. The finish is tannic, driven by the ripe Cabernet Sauvignon. I expect this Las-Cases to close down for a few years...it will need time to mellow and reach its drinking plateau. Drink 2025- Tasted March 2011."

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

"This is very silky, with a racy and fresh character of violets, currants and raspberries. Full with a super texture. Racy structure. Reminds me of the 1996"

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

"Excellent deep crimson. Very introvert and very dry. Super-sweet start and initially seems much rounder and less obdurate than usual. Though those dry tannins certainly creep up on you at the end! Some silkiness and glorying in the special ripeness of the Cabernet in this wine. Very dry end. Not that long funnily enough. A certain transparency that is not usually there."

**17.5/20 points, Jancis Robinson MW**

"Stunning concentration of fruit, precision and purity, a great vineyard expression and a totally great wine in the most simple sense of the term. Drink 2025-50."

**19.5/20 points, Decanter Magazine**

## **2010 CHÂTEAU PALMER 3ÈME CRU CLASSÉ, MARGAUX**

**XC \$440/BT [TTL COST \$568/BT]**

Back in top form for the last ten years or so, Palmer is second only to Château Margaux in this appellation. As many will know the quality Palmer these days well exceeds its 3rd growth 1855 ranking and today is rightly compared with the best 'Super Seconds'. In fact Palmer was established as a 'Super Second' long before Léoville Las Cases, Ducru-Beaucaillou and Pichon-Lalande, and in some it is as considered the equal of the 1st Growths. It is located in the centre of the Margaux appellation, and its vineyards (Cabernet Sauvignon 55%, Merlot 40%, Cabernet Franc 5%) lie on a sparse gravel plateau. Palmer's famously high Merlot content - 54% in 2010 - makes this the closest in style of any leading Médoc properties to the great wines of Pomerol and St-Emilion. Those who crave Palmer's opulence, quality of texture, freshness and fragrance will find all these qualities heightened in 2010. Simply, one of the greats.

"The 2010 Palmer, which is 50% Merlot and the rest mostly Cabernet Sauvignon except for 6% Petit Verdot, is a huge, inky/purple-colored wine with notes of camphor, incense, blackberry, espresso roast, and subtle barbecue smoke. Extremely full-bodied and unbelievably powerful (14.5% natural alcohol, but with a rather standard pH of 3.75), this wine is going to be one of the great classics ever to emerge from this iconic chateau. It is extremely tannic, but the tannins are eclipsed by the extravagant concentration of fruit, unctuousness, and density of this wine. This will be a Chateau Palmer to put away for 10 years and drink over the following 40"

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

"The 2010 Palmer is a blend of 54% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6% Petit Verdot, delivering 14.5% alcohol and a pH of 3.65. This has a very pure bouquet where the Cabernet Sauvignon is again, dominating the aromatics: blackberry, boysenberry and a touch of graphite. The palate is

full-bodied with mineral-rich black fruits, very linear and focused, but there is just a touch of alcohol blurring the finish and taken the edge off its precision. Tasted March 2011."

**92-94/100 points, Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)**

"This nose is crazy with treacle tart, dark fruits, spices and milk chocolate. I was in a state of amazement tasting this. Full bodied and very powerful with wonderful ripe tannins and intense nuts and dark chocolate on the palate. This is more powerful than 2009. I am blown away"

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

"54% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Petit Verdot. Very dark purple. Amazingly sweet and luscious on the nose. Incredibly sweet and distinctive - pure pleasure at first. Very round and luscious and has massive polish. Incredibly open at this stage - will it close up, I wonder? But underneath, a great stew of tannins lurk..! Great freshness but no leafiness. This is already carrying the Palmer hallmark in spades and its only on the finish that one sees the strong vintage character.

Nothing excessive. pH 3.65. 14.5%"

**18/20 points, Jancis Robinson MW**

"Superb richness and already showing a velvety texture, wonderful freshness and flavours that keep on growing, a magnificent Palmer. Drink 2020-50."

**19.5/20 points, Decanter Magazine**

## 2010 CHÂTEAU HAUT-BRION 1ERE CRU CLASSÉ, PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

**XC \$1345/BT [TTL COST \$1735/BT]**

Without doubt one of the world's greatest and most individual wine estates. The family traditions continue here with Jean-Philippe Delmas running the wine-making as his father and grandfather did before him and Clarence Dillon's great-grandson Robert de Luxembourg in overall charge of this wonderful property. Haut Brion - unlike the other First Growths - has never had a bad period and, for our money, is the most consistent great wine of Bordeaux.

"Following a harvest that finished on October 10, Haut-Brion produced a 2010 that should turn out to be one of its all-time greats ... an amazing feat given what they have accomplished over recent vintages. A blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc that came in at 14.6% alcohol, the 2010 boasts an opaque purple color as well as a gorgeous perfume of scorched earth/burning embers, blueberries, black currant liqueur and crushed rocks. Full and opulent with nobility, finesse, purity and elegance, this amazing effort possesses extraordinary levels of extract as well as formidable, but sweet, well-integrated tannins. It requires 8-10 years of cellaring and should drink well for 50+ years."

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

"A blend of 23% Merlot, 47% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Cabernet Franc, this has a quintessential Haut-Brion nose with that trait of fresh black olives defining the nose straight out of the blocks. It is a little less opulent than La Mission but with slightly better clarity at this stage. The palate displays very fine, succulent tannins and like the La Mission there is a Pauillac-like personality thanks to the graphite imparted by the ripe Cabernet Sauvignon. Wonderful definition towards the finish. This is a superb Haut-Brion. Tasted March 2011."

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

"Wonderful aromas of dark fruits with sweet tobacco and lilac character. Blackberries too. Amazing nose. This is tight and powerful with beautiful tannins and a racy structure. It lasts for minutes. Super refined yet muscular style of Haut-

Brion due to a much lower percentage of Merlot in the blend. I like the 2009 better. Its more typical. This is 57 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 23 percent Merlot and 20 percent Cabernet Franc."

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

"23% Merlot, 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc. 7,800 cases, not 10,000+ as in 2009. 42% grand vin (compared with 57% in 2009). Full, opulent nose in which the classic Haut-Brion aroma is well masked by lots of slightly austere fruit. Very fine tannins - very drying finish. An extremely slow burner. Much drier than La Mission, and at the moment not desperately expressive. Its lips are pursed at the moment, and so are mine tasting it. Unusual to come across such a long-term wine even here. This may not make a massive impact en primeur because it is keeping so much in reserve. I think it will eventually make a great wine but it's surly at the moment. 14.6%"

**18+/20 points, Jancis Robinson MW**

"Stunning aromas of beautifully concentrated red fruits, already expressive, even exuberant, a taffeta-like finesse hides great strength for the long term. Drink 2020-45."

**19.5/20 points, Decanter Magazine**

## THE WHITES

### 2010 CHÂTEAU REYNON BLANC, BORDEAUX BLANC

**XC \$14/BT [TTL COST \$18/BT]**

At this price, this is simply a no brainer for those looking for a value white Bordeaux. Denis Dubourdieu, the distinguished consultant and professor of oenology at Bordeaux University, took over running this, his family Estate in 1976. The site itself is situated in the Côtes de Bordeaux, a narrow sliver of vineyards stretching south from Bordeaux towards Cadillac in Bordeaux' south-east. This model Estate, in many ways, has been something of an experimental vineyard for Dubourdieu to fine tune his love affair with Bordeaux' white varieties.

Atypical in the region, being sauvignon rather than sémillon-based, Reynon Blanc is made by high-quality, modern methods (skin contact, élevage sur lie, bâtonnage, etc.) and with recourse to a minimum of sulphur. The 16.5ha vineyard is traditionally ploughed, no weed-killer is used and organic manures are made with vegetal-based composts. Hand harvesting is performed in two tries (selections) to bring in a spectrum of fruit ripeness and, after a phase of skin contact, a slow juice extraction is performed, protected from oxidation. The free run must is strictly separated from press must, then clarification happens by natural settling. Ageing on lees in tanks last 5 to 7 months before bottling. As you would expect from such a labour intensive élevage, Reynon's style is refined, succulent yet fresh and a flat out bargain for lovers of impeccable, lively whites that combine texture, style and drinkability. From a 'superlative vintage for dry white Bordeaux', this is a 2010 to buy by the dozen.

"Pretty, with notes of pear, tarragon and lime and a fresh, open finish. This has a gentle feel, but also nice purity and persistence."

**88-91/100 points. Wine Spectator.**

"Slightly reduced nose but very zesty and with good body. Lovely balance even if not that ambitious. Drink 2011-2014."

**15.5/20 points. Jancis Robinson.**

## 2010 DOMAINE DE CHEVALIER BLANC PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

**XC \$130/BT [TTL COST \$168/BT]**

One of the truly great names of dry White Bordeaux. The Chevalier white wine accounts for only 20% (just 1200 cases) of the estates total production and is typically a blend of 70% Sauvignon Blanc and 30% Semillon. The grapes are hand harvested and the juice is then fermented in 100% new oak casks. The wine remains on the lees in cask for 18 months, making it the longest aged and one of the most complex dry whites in Bordeaux - in our opinion only Haut Brion, Pape-Clement, De Fieuzal and Laville-Haut-Brion can match Chevalier for sheer quality and finesse. As you will have heard, 2010 is a great, great vintage for the dry whites so for connoisseurs of this underrated style this is a must buy.

*"Composed of 85% Sauvignon Blanc and 15% Semillon, and in need of 8-10 years of cellaring, this is one of the most backward dry whites of the vintage with unbelievable minerality and personality."*

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

*"This is a remarkable wine with a density of fruit that reminds me of a Montrachet from a great vintage. It's full bodied, dense and rich -- almost oily -- but then it turns bright and fresh with a powerful backbone of acidity. A marvel."* **99-100/100 points, James Suckling (jamesuckling.com)**

*"Quite discreet but supremely elegant white florality and fruit, great persistence and harmony, a beautiful wine, hard to imagine a better Domaine de Chevalier white. Drink 2014-25."* **18.5/20 points, Decanter Magazine**

## SAUTERNES/BARSAC

### 2010 CHÂTEAU DE MALLE 2ND CRU CLASSÉ SAUTERNES 750ML

**XC \$43/BT [TTL COST \$56/BT]**

Note: The price is down 6% on 2009.

This reliable Preignac château with 50 hectares planted to 75% Semillon and 25% Sauvignon Blanc lies between Sauternes and Graves, giving its wines a uniquely fresh and quite airy style. The château (formerly owned by the proprietors of Yquem), goes back to the 17th century and it is the only listed historic monument in Sauternes. Château de Malle has been one of the most consistent performers among the 2eme crus since 1990 and the style is of well-integrated richness and mineral tinged fruit; elegant, stylish and fine. Interestingly the estate overlaps two appellations, Sauternes and Graves, allowing its owners to produce their wonderful Sauternes wine as well as dry white and red wines. The vineyards consist of 69 percent Semillon, 28 percent of Sauvignon and 3 percent of Muscadelle and the vines are 30 to 40 years old, with a planting density of 6,000 vines per hectare. A fine vintage from a fine source.

*"Pale, well protected against oxidation by Sulphur Dioxide, seems more fluid because of that, but well balanced and lovely aftertaste. Will show better in six months time. Drink 2018-2030."* **16.5/20 points, Decanter Magazine.**

*"The bouquet on the 2010 de Malle demands some coaxing from the glass, but it is worth waiting for, as there is wonderful minerality waiting to surface. The palate is very well-balanced, with good acidity and botrytis. This is a clean, crisp,*

*precise Sauternes that revivifies the palate, ready for the next sip. De Malle has produced one of its finest vintages to date. Bravo!"* **92-94/100 Points, Neal Martin, The Wine Advocate.**

### 2010 CHÂTEAU DOISY-VÉDRINES 2ND CRU CLASSÉ SAUTERNES 750ML

**XC \$44/BT [TTL COST \$57/BT]**

**375ML ALSO AVAILABLE**

The 2010 looks to be another notable success for this Estate, so if you like your sweet wine in a typical Barsac style - opulence counterbalanced by acidity and vigour - you shouldn't miss out on this. The Doisy-Védrines vineyard remains the largest of the three Doisy Estates, with 30 hectares of vines with an average age of more than 30 years. They are situated on soils fairly typical of the region, dominated by the red soils of Barsac, a mix of argilo-limestone, sand and also some clay over a bedrock of limestone peppered with shellfish fossils. The vineyard is dominated by Semillon, accounting for approximately 83%, the remainder being Sauvignon Blanc 15% and 2% of Muscadelle. The harvest is manual, with a sequence of tries to select the berries most affected by botrytis, followed by fermentation in stainless steel vats. The wine then spends eighteen months in oak, 70% of which are new each vintage.

*"Mid gold. Very rich and heady on the nose. Quite exotic and interesting. Subtle and complex. Great weight and great sweetness. A freshness on the finish but green does not dominate this wine. Pear juice with a strong dose of lime juice. RS 145 g/l, TA 3.5 g/l. 13.65%."*

**17/20 points, Janicis Robinson MW.**

*"Thick and spicy, with unctuous, still slightly raw-seeming layers of apricot, peach and fig. Ginger cream and green tea check in on the finish. Rather backward still, but there's lots balled up."*

**92-95/100 points, James Molesworth, Wine Spectator.com.**

### 2010 CHÂTEAU CHATEAU DOISY DAENE 2EME CRU CLASSÉ BARSAC 750ML

**XC \$57/BT [TTL COST \$73/BT]**

*"Super, pineapple-like nose, wonderful texture, perfect balance, very long, so pure and true to great Barsac type, with the salty element that's so nice for appetitive consumption. Drink 2016-2040."* **18.5/20 points, Decanter**

*"Very pale greenish gold. Very tense. Still embryonic at the moment. In fact the acidity is rather dominant. Really gripped in there for future development. Residual Sugar 139 g/l, Total Acidity 4.05 g/l, Alcohol 13.7%."* **17.5/20 points, Jancis Robinson**

*"Denis Dubourdieu's Barsac cru has an attractive bouquet with subtle notes of cooking apple, pear and lime-flower, all with very fine delineation. The palate displays good weight and a fine thread of acidity, lending tension and poise that leads to a taut finish, showing good botrytis levels for the vintage. With its trademark minerality in place, this Doisy-Daene comes highly recommended."* **92-94/100 points, Neal Martin (Wine Advocate)**

### 2010 CHÂTEAU LAFAURIE - PEYRAGUEY 1ER CRU CLASSÉ SAUTERNES 750ML

**XC \$62/BT [TTL COST \$80/BT]**

Highly recommended. This Estate makes some of the richest and most concentrated Sauternes, though the wines are typi-

cally harmonious and elegant for such a powerful style. A wealth of sites across the communes of Bommès, Sauternes, Preignac and Fargès offer régisseur Yannick Laporte a spectacular palette of terroirs with which to build complexity into Lafaurie - Peyraguey. Today, the entire harvest - which is predominantly Semillon - is fermented using indigenous yeasts, in French oak barriques of which 30% are new each year, with the temperature controlled between 17 and 23°C. The wine is then aged for between 18 and 30 months, with a racking every 3-5 months as guided by tasting. The winemaking has evolved intuitively and it is a testament to Laporte's skills that Lafaurie - Peyraguey can deliver such beautifully balanced wines with 125 g/l of residual sugar at a modest 13.5%.

*"The Chateau Lafaurie Peyraguey has an ebullient nose of Tropicana, dried honey and quince that intensifies in the glass whilst maintaining impressive definition. The palate is very well-balanced with superb tension and focus, a Sauternes built of minerality and poise, leading to a citrus, almost spicy finish that leaves the mouth tingling with pleasure."* **91-93/100 Points. Neal Martin, The Wine Advocate.**

*"Very rich and pure aromas, mix of agrumes and white fruits, delicious balance, slightly less precise sample than Clos Haut Peyraguey, but very similar in overall balance and texture. Great future. Drink 2020-2050."* **18.5/20 points, Decanter Magazine.com.**

### **2010 CHÂTEAU LA TOUR BLANCHE 1ER CRU CLASSÉ SAUTERNES 750ML** **XC \$80/BT [TTL COST \$103/BT]**

This storied Estate has been on a rapidly rising curve since the late 1980s when the arrival of Jean Pierre Jausserand signalled a major quality refocus. New barrels and manual labour in the vineyards have brought a brighter intensity to the fruit, while the creation of a second label has served to further increase the quality from this fine Estate, which back in 1855 sat atop the 1er Cru Classes, second only to Yquem. The wine is quite unique amongst Sauternes with its signature spice and exotic fruit character provided by a high percentage of Muscadelle and Sauvignon in the blend. Selection in the vineyards is severe and the resultant yields, at around 13 hl/ha, are amongst the lowest in the region. The Muscadelle and Sauvignon are vinified in tank while the Semillon goes into 100% new oak. The fine balance of the three varietal components is testament to the blenders art and, in 2010, La Tour Blanche continues its fine run of form with this unctuous, pure and absorbing wine.

*"Green and coconut on the nose. Streaky green and massively sweet with the pear juice quality of botrytis. Dense and rich. A bit jagged. Very, very young. RS 130 g/l, TA 3.9 g/l. 13.8%."*

**17+/20 points. Jancis Robinson MW.**

*"Bags of acidity balancing the very high sugar content, impressive, and as always an intriguing touch of Muscadelle-like floweriness which is the signature of the growth. Marvellous finesse. Drink 2020-2050."* **19/20 points, Decanter.com**

*"Gorgeous apricot, ginger, green fig and honey flavors show lots of density, with a sweet, rich finish. A big one in the making."*

**93-96/100 points. James Molesworth, Wine Spectator.com**

### **2010 CHÂTEAU RIEUSSEC 1ER CRU CLASSÉ SAUTERNES 750ML**

**XC \$100/BT [TTL COST \$129/BT]**

*"Extremely rich and bright, with lots of green fig, honey and apricot. Very lush and round, with some serious weight and power in reserve. Remarkably fresh now. Tasted non-blind."*

**93-96/100 points, James Molesworth, Wine Spectator**

*"Some oaky, smoky elements dominating the fruity, juicy ones, but so impressive in the mouth. Great volume, great concentration, bags of refined and complex flavours, great length, and more Sauternes-like this time than Riesling. Drink 2020-2050."*

**18.5/20 points, Decanter.**

*"I love the botrytis spice character to this wine with dried apricots and tropical fruits. It's full bodied, medium sweet with a long intense finish. It's very layered. Sweet wine of the vintage."* **95-96/100 points, James Suckling (James Suckling.com)**

### **2010 D'YQUEM SAUTERNES 1ER CRU CLASSÉ SAUTERNES SUPERIEUR**

**XC \$857/BT [TTL COST \$1106/BT]**

This needs little introduction. In spite of its turbulent ownership struggles Yquem still lays claim to be, by a distance, the greatest sweet wine in the world. A truly great vintage for Sauternes and clearly a great vintage for this great estate, Yquem has kept the faith with its Sauternes brethren in offering their 2010 at a lower price than the 2009. In this case it's just over 20% less, ex-chateau.

*"Picked predominantly over 10 days from October 14, the 2010 d'Yquem has 141gms/L residual sugar and pH 3.80. It is a slow-burner, the nose understated at first but unfurling with each passing moment with subtle scents of freshly sliced apricots, Clementine, clear honey and white flowers. There is an underlying minerality that really defines this bouquet. The palate is similar to the nose, revealing hidden facets with almost each swirl of the glass - orange blossom, limestone, white peach and honeysuckle. This is such a precise d'Yquem; it is after you have swallowed the wine that one comprehends just how brilliant it is."*

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

*"2010 was a cool year for us.' Winter and autumn cold, good dry, warm summer. Very healthy grapes, though quite a bit of rain on the flowering, A bit of coulure on Sauvignon so less than usual in the blend, just 13% compared to the usual 20%. Pale gold with slight greenness. Gorgeous, classic nose. Pear juice a go-go. Absolutely stunning freshness as well as all the botrytis. Classic. Real punchy perfect savoury Sauternes. Zesty and lovely with some chew on the end. No shortage of botrytis. Very distinctive and much less sweet than 2009. (155 g/l in 2009, 141 g/l in 2010). Refined finish. Finished 5 Nov. Five passes. Real punch and zest. Grapefruit peel. But not a massive sweet bomb. 13.55%"*

**18.5/20 points, Jancis Robinson MW**

*"Extraordinary purity of aromas, with an airy power difficult to rival, a new brilliant example of the actual style of the property, with the vintage's monumental body completely hidden by the refinement of tactile sensations. Some are nostalgic for the epic oily bodies of the past, not I (even if I greatly admire them). Drink 2020-2070."*

**19/20 points, Decanter magazine**